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Temporary closure at Neighborhood Service Center through Oct. 26

The Waseca Area Food Shelf will remain open, but the Neighborhood Service Center thrift store will be temporarily closed from until Oct. 26 because the sidewalk leading to its entry doors will be removed due to street construction. The food shelf is located at 203 Third Avenue NW in Waseca. Phone number at the food shelf is 507-833-4119 Ext 302.

Mother-Daughter Book Club at Waseca Public Library Oct. 16

Girls in grades 3-6 are invited to bring a significant adult female to join them as we discuss great new books, do activities, and enjoy treats. Stop by the library to pick up this month's book, Cinderella and the Beast by Kim Bussing. Book club begins at 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 16 at Waseca Public Library.

Level Up: 3Doodlers at Waseca Public Library Friday, Oct. 17

Doodle in the air! Create projects in 3D with this cool pen by drawing whatever you like or using molds to create ready-to-make projects at the Waseca Public Library at 10 a.m. Friday, Oct. 17. This free event is geared for ages 7-12.

MEA Discovery Days at Farmamerica Friday, Oct. 17

There will be a MEA Discovery Day at Farmamerica from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday, Oct. 17. Self-guided farm tour, hands-on farm animal interactions and a variety of fun, fall-themed activities for all ages. Special guests llamas and alpacas.

Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center and Food Shelf Burger or Fish fry Oct. 17

The Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center and Food Shelf will be serving burgers or fish sandwiches with fries at the Waseca American Legion from 5:30-7:30 or until sold out on Friday, Oct. 17. Cost is \$10, bake sale items also available.

Waseca Hockey Association, Girls Try Hockey for Free Oct. 18

The Waseca Hockey Association will host a Girls Try Hockey for Free event at the Waseca Community Arena at 11:45 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 18. Learn about our MN Wild Skate it Forward Grant and how your child may qualify to play this season for free. Meet players, make bracelets and meet mentors. If equipment is needed, arrive one hour early.

Pumpkin Palooza at Aspyn Acres Oct. 18

Aspyn Acres will hold its Pumpkin Palooza from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 18. Celebrate pumpkin the spooky way. Carve pumpkins with animals by your side. Includes hay ride and tasty fall treats.

A word from The Word

I remain confident of this, I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

Psalm 27:13



STOCKED UP - Brandon Eder, assistant area supervisor with the Department of Natural Resources fish hatchery near Waterville, in the process of stocking walleye "fingerlings" into Clear Lake this week. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Clear Lake receives allocation of walleye

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Hundreds of pounds of "fingerling" walleye were stocked in Clear Lake this week. The fish spent the warm months of the year in a pond at the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) hatchery near Waterville, growing from "the size of an eyelash" to being somewhere between six and nine inches in length, according to Brandon Eder, assistant area supervisor with the facility.

Eder shares that Clear Lake receives walleye during October of odd numbered years, and northern pike in even-numbered years.

Under optimal conditions, this year's fingerlings are likely to be "keeper" size of about 14 inches or around 1 pound in 3 to 4 years.

Walleye are the state fish, Eder points out, and are a favorite with anglers for many reasons starting with the variety of ways they can be hooked, including with a bobber or jig, trolling, and through the ice. He says not only are they an attractive

fish, they can be an exciting challenge to catch. But perhaps most importantly, "they have a fantastic flavor" when prepared.

The process of producing this year's fingerlings, which have a target size of 25 to a pound, began soon after the Cannon River waterway was clear of ice.

Eder and other fishery staff members used electrofishing to capture both male and female walleye who move from Lake Tetonka into the Cannon River as spawning time approaches. They "milked" the fish of their reproductive cells and returned the adults to the water unharmed. The fertilized eggs were placed in an elaborate network of containers with gently circulating water. As eyelash-size fry hatch and swim away from as yet unhatched eggs, they are drawn through tubes and gradually arrive in a large tank. As more and more fry arrive, they create the appearance of a cloud in

Walleye continued on 10



RACE READY - Martin Luther College students were prepping for the collegiate-level marathon at the Calonett Estate on Saturday, Oct. 11, 2025. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Calonett Estate holds second Collegiate race

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Calonett Estate of Waseca held its second collegiate level 5K race featuring ten colleges the morning of Saturday, Oct. 11 titled "The Kent Finanger Invitational." There was no head count, but close to 250 vehicles filled both parking lots available on the property. There were also buses transporting people in from the dog park at the south end of Clear Lake. A free meal of sloppy joes, potato salad, coleslaw, chips, packets of veggies were all provided by Calonett for the athletes. Food vendors were on hand for spectators to purchase food if they wished. Attendees were encouraged to bring chairs if they wished to sit during the race.

The winners of the men's race were: first place, Mohammed Bati of Augsburg with 11:51.4; second place, Nick Brauer of Gustavus Adolphus with 12:26.9; and third place, Michel Heinrich of Luther with 12:30.4.

The winners of the women's race were: first place, Ella Dufault of Crown with 14:53.7; second place, Addison Enfield of Gustavus Adolphus with 15:10.0; and

third place, Eleanor Lindeman of St. Catherine with 15:18.6.

Before the first race, Cheryl Mishek, who graciously let her property be used for the days race, provided opening comments to the racers, "I absolutely love you guys; I'm jealous I can't be with you today, but just get out there, run your best race and have a ton of fun." During the race Mishek made sure music was played, the type of music that gets racing kids' blood pumping in excitement.

Marty Hoffmeister, part-time grounds keeper for the Calonett Estate said, "It takes a crew of three of us 28 hours to mow this yard every week, we use riders, push mowers. That's not counting the prep that was done to get the yard ready for today. All that work is so worth it because this is such a beautiful property." He was driving a golf cart down the driveway towards the entrance and passed the large pond with the fountain in the middle and said, "They stock that pond too, it's got northerns, sunfish and crappies." The golf cart came to a stop and a man named John Wuertz got on, he had gotten his taco to go and said, "I



Left: Taking first place in the women's division at Calonett was Waseca High School graduate Ella Dufault, who competed with the Crown College team on Saturday, Oct. 11, 2025. Right, Mohammed Bati of Augsburg took first place in the men's division. Pioneer photos by Ben Revermann

just need a ride to the bus, good race today, I'm glad I came, this place is awesome."

After the men's race, Mohammed Bati was requested to come to the announcer's tent and he said, "I graduated from Highland Park high school in St. Paul, this is a phenomenal course, I have been honored to race here today. These hills here are a reality we all have to accept.

Ella Dufault, first place for the women was interviewed and said, "I graduated from Waseca High School, I am studying nursing, this year is going well. Since cross



Left: Taking first place in the women's division at Calonett was Waseca High School graduate Ella Dufault, who competed with the Crown College team on Saturday, Oct. 11, 2025. Right, Mohammed Bati of Augsburg took first place in the men's division. Pioneer photos by Ben Revermann

country is such an extreme sport, we have to support each other, whether it's in racing, competing or whatever. Today my goal was to run and have fun doing it."

Colleges competing included Augsburg College out of St. Paul, Gustavus Adolphus of St. Peter, Luther of the Twin Cities, Crown College of St. Bonifacius, Martin Luther of New Ulm, University of Minnesota-Morris, North Central of Minneapolis, St. Catherine of St. Paul. To view the full results of this race and many others, go to www.wayzataresults.com.

WASECA CITY COUNCIL

Council approves Clearwater bid, funding option

By AMELIA ROESSLER
Editor

Northland Security presented members of the Waseca City Council with preliminary funding options for Clearwater Preserve Phase 1 construction during their regular meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 7. The council then approved acceptance of bids and the amount for bonds.

Jessica Green, Managing Director of Public Finance at Northland Securities, reviewed the Clearwater Preserve project with the council and then proceeded to provide three preliminary funding options.

The Clearwater Preserve Development consists of 42 acres of city-owned property split into three phases. Phase 1 will create 17 single-family housing lots; phase 2 will create seven single family lots and 22 twin home lots; Phase 3 will create nine single family lots and 12 twin home lots.

The council first approved the resolution of the development of the Clearwater Preserve Property, then known as the Gaiter Lake project, in 2016. To date, the council has passed resolutions approving residential development of a portion of the Clearwater Preserve area, the preparation of plans and specifications and the transfer of \$332,000 from the Northwest Commercial Development Fund to the Clearwater Preserve Development.

Green presented an "as-bid" total cost for phase 1 of \$1.58 million, about \$300,000 lower than the preliminary estimate.

She summarized funds the city has available to cover the costs. One, from Northwest Commercial Development Fund at \$332,035; the Clearwater Reserve Fund has \$308,900 and the Annexation and Growth Fund has almost \$1.4 million. Total available cash comes to nearly \$2 million; the investments are also accruing interest at a rate of 4.7 percent.

Green presented the council with three financial scenarios, all of which assume the general obligation bonds that would be tax-exempt, bank-qualified, 15-year amortization and an eight-year call date on the bonds, where the city is locked out for the first several years of a bond. Each scenario included different levels of cash provided by the city.

After Green summarized three different financing scenarios, council members selected the first one, referred to as "Scenario A." It includes a par amount of \$1,350,00 with a use of cash of \$800,000. It includes an average debt service payment of \$120,000 a year with a total debt service of \$1,750,000 and an average interest rate of 3.5%. Green said the scenario would be credit enhanced, meaning based on the proposed cash going into the scenario, the city can apply to a credit enhanced program, a benefit of the Pre-Filing Agreement (PFA) program that helps large businesses resolve tax is-

Council continued on 4



Compostings

by Al Batt

Having trouble with the circle flies?

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

Do you exercise?

I go to the gym almost every day.

Really?

Yes, I almost went to the gym today.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. A disheveled man shuffled by—a poor old sod with lots of creaky parts. I thought he was one scruffy dude until I realized I was looking at a hospital mirror. Inside every hospitalized person is a healthy person wondering what happened. I felt slow afoot, but grateful that medical research had been funded. Before my surgery, the anesthesiologist asked if I'd like to be knocked out with gas or hit over the head with a boat paddle. It was an ether/or situation. Later, I learned that whether they ripped the adhesive bandages off quickly or slowly depended on my insurance. If Wile E. Coyote made it through his troubles, why couldn't I make it through mine?

I made a corncob pipe with the aid of a buddy. It was a dandy, the best I'd ever owned, but I was only 12. For my youthful adventure, I crafted the homemade pipe from a corncob, hardened by drying, for a bowl, and a hollow piece of elderberry cane as a pipe stem. We didn't have any tobacco and had considered swiping a cigarette from his father's pack, but we worried he had counted them. Curly dock stands 3 feet tall in the ditches, and its rust-brown seed stalks look like tobacco. Behind the barn, we fired up the pipe filled with curly dock seeds by use of a Zippo lighter borrowed from my friend's father. It lit the first time every time. Unfortunately. We each took an unhealthy puff. No fields in the township had ever been as green as we turned. There was a reason Prince Albert didn't take curly dock seeds into the can with him.

I'VE LEARNED

A John Deere X9-1100 combine could harvest 7,000 bushels of corn per hour.

No matter what the problem was, my father thought a potato could make it better. It was good for what ailed you. He was a you tuber before there was YouTube.

Yellow jackets, no-see-ums and multicolored Asian lady beetles make eating outside no picnic.

BAD JOKES

DEPARTMENT

A Texas sheriff pulled a cowboy over for speeding. The sheriff

gave a long lecture about slowing down and swatted at the flies buzzing around his head as he tried to write the ticket. The cowboy said, "Having trouble with those circle flies, huh?"

The sheriff frowned and said, "Circle flies? Never heard of them."

The cowboy grinned. "They're as common as dirt on the ranches around here. They're called circle flies because they're found circling a horse's rear end."

The sheriff paused and asked, "Wait a minute, are you calling me a horse's rear end?"

The cowboy said, "Oh no, sir! I'd never disrespect a sheriff that way."

The sheriff nodded and said, "Glad to hear it," as he went back to completing the citation.

The cowboy added, "I'd never call you that, but it's impossible to fool them circle flies."

I am the genie of the lamp and I'll grant you three wishes.

I want a world without lawyers. Granted. You're done.

Wait a minute. I still have two more wishes.

So sue me.

NATURE NOTES

The silver maple is a fast-growing tree. The upper surface of its leaf is bright green, and the lower surface is silvery white. The pale underside gives the tree a "silvery" appearance in a breeze.

An adult male ruby-throated hummingbird has a metallic ruby-red throat (gorget) and a forked tail with feathers pointed and all dark (no white tips). An adult female has a white throat with an occasional faint tan streaking and a fan-shaped tail with rounded feathers and white tips on the outer three feathers on each side. An immature male looks identical to an adult female, including the white tips to a fan-shaped tail, except he has a noticeably streaked throat. A juvenile female looks similar to an adult female.

Wireworms are the larvae of several species of click beetles. Click beetles flip into the air with an audible click to right themselves when overturned. Wireworm larvae feed on beans, beets, cabbage, carrots, corn, grasses, lettuce, onion, ornamentals, peas, potatoes and radishes. Wireworms are thin, shiny, jointed, yellow to reddish-brown, 1/4 to 1 1/2 inch long, worm-like larvae resembling mealworms. Adult click beetles don't cause plant damage.

MEETING ADJOURNED

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"—Martin Luther King Jr. Be kind.

What if driving is causing the distraction?

I recently came across a problem of semantics.

Should it be called "distracted driving" if the matter distracting me IS the driving?

I have owned my current vehicle for five years or more, but in all that time, I have never let the fuel gauge touch the "empty" mark—until the other evening. I ran into town on a quick errand that, as many do, turned out not to be so quick. With the irritations of the complication and the satisfaction of overcoming it taken care of, I drove home—allowing myself to forget I meant to purchase fuel.

I was practically at my driveway when I remembered, at which point I decided I would have to wait until my morning run into Waseca—a distance of 10 miles or so—to purchase fuel.

I was "distracted" from the moment I sat in the driver's seat the next day. It was a case of cyclical considerations. I was quite certain there was plenty of fuel in the car to make it to the gas station without incident. BUT if that wasn't the case and I ended up stranded along the road, which hapless victim should I call for help? In my head, I speculated about which of my potential helpers was even likely to answer the phone. And then, when the per-



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

son did, how long would it take for assistance to arrive? How would things go at my appointment if I arrived 30 minutes late? Somewhere in there I breathed a sigh of relief that modern cell phones would allow me to call the establishment and explain. Then I thought how embarrassed I would be if I had to admit I had run out of gas. After that, I chastised myself again for being so forgetful the evening before.

I thought back to a time in my childhood when my father, apparently having some sport with us, pointed out to my brothers and me that the fuel gauge was below empty and we were nowhere near a gas station. He continued unfazed with the journey while I, at least, stewed about what would happen. When the car did finally gulp a few times and come to a stop, we kids looked at him in concern. Then he calmly walked to the trunk, fetched

a fuel can, and poured its contents into the tank.

I guess what had me thinking about that incident most was that "gulping" sound the car made as it used the last drops of fuel. Would my Chevy make the same sound?

Then I was back reassuring myself I needn't worry. By this time I was more than halfway to Waseca—surely there was enough fuel in the tank to get to the gas station. BUT, if I did run out, and I didn't want to admit I had run out of gas, how could I make an excuse for being late to my appointment without actually lying...

The good news is, all that speculation was for nothing; I made it to the gas station without incident. The rush of joy and accomplishment I felt as I saw the gas pumps from about half a block away rivaled the wonder of finding unexpected money in my wallet.

But then I wondered, if I heard

that gulping sound right here, would I still make it to the gas pumps?

So in one way, I was hyperalert that morning. Knowing, or at least believing, that high speeds would use more fuel, I drove a nice, sedate 55 miles an hour or less. I purposely took my foot off the gas well before stop signs and turns, coasting down to the lower speed or stop. You can be certain I referred to my dashboard often, glancing at the gas gauge perhaps five times every mile, even though, of course, it showed no movement.

On the other hand, of course, there was that cyclical dialogue in my head: Would I need help? Who would be available? What "dominos" would topple one after another on my schedule if this first one fell?

Well, it goes without saying I was glad not to have to find the answers to any of those...distracting...questions. And I have made an internal commitment never again to be so...distracted...that I forget to buy fuel when my tank gets low. In the meantime, though, I guess I've enjoyed the distraction of my question in semantics and at the same time reached a conclusion: I was probably a distracted driver, but I was also the most alert one the roadways have seen in a long time.

Experiencing an indoor gun range

Last weekend, I experienced another first. My first time at an indoor gun range.

Jack's dad was in town, had never been to one either, and expressed a curiosity to go. So we went.

I've had my fair share of experience with guns, but mostly long guns. I shot my first deer with a muzzleloader, my first turkey with a 12-gauge. And as a smalltown/rural kid growing up, of course I've had many experiences with a .22 — anywhere from shooting clay pigeons to a sick raccoon out of a tree.

But I don't think I've ever shot a handgun before.

Growing up, guns were almost normalized. My dad grew up on a farm, my entire family hunted, the gun safe in the basement was known not to be touched unless a grownup was around and my sister and I took the hunter education/firearm safety class when we were about 12 with everyone else. Guns were not regarded so much as a dangerous weapon, but rather something that when dealt with wisely and safely, could be used for protection and even as a hobby.

When I brought this class up dur-



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

ing conversation on the way to the range, those with me were surprised. Gun training? As a kid? I then remembered I was surrounded by people who grew up in a city. They had shot guns before and learned how to do so safely, but a fairly universal gun training course growing up wasn't part of their childhood.

Some things will still surprise me about the differences between the city and country folk and how each grow up in their own cultures.

I bring this up because I thought I had a certain mindset about guns: most everyone I came across knew how to use them safely and for fair enough reasons. It was a hobby, a protection, something I was okay with.

Handguns are a little different for

me, I learned. At the first shot fired, I jumped. Even with ear protection on, it was still much louder than I had anticipated. A couple rounds were fired into the target sheet however many yards away, and then the weapon was passed on to the next person. Eventually it was my turn.

After learning proper hand placement, I raised the handgun to the target. Feet set shoulder length apart, knees slightly bent, arms out and in front of me. Breathe.

The recoil was large, more force than I had expected, and I felt it as the shell flew up and pinged off my head.

Even though I knew what to expect, I felt myself almost flinching for the next shot before I had to remind myself that I was the one pul-

ling the trigger.

I ended my round and willingly stepped away, letting the others enjoy themselves while I watched. I couldn't quite figure out what was unsettling me. But then I watched as security guards came into the stalls on the other side and shot rounds into targets with human outlines—complete with a bright red spot for where the heart would be. And I remembered every single movie, every television show, every experience in the city watching those on the street threaten each other and hurt each other with guns. Handguns.

I realized in my mind, the association with handguns held more weight, more concerns for safety and wellbeing.

Standing in the indoor gun range, watching people practice, I knew of course I was safe. These people weren't bad people, they were practicing for their own safety and for others'. It was just a realization of an association I didn't know I had.

My Determination: "You can't help how you feel. Feelings are like breathing, they come in and go out." — Stephen King, Billy Summers



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

Vacation turned trip back in time

What I thought was a vacation to visit South Dakota's Badlands, National Parks and the Black Hills turned out to be an emotional trip back in time.

Four years ago I wrote a column about my second-grade teacher, Barb Lewison. A few weeks later, another former teacher, Mary Sack, mailed her the paper and a gift subscription to the Star Eagle.

Three years ago Barb's husband Phillip, who served as pastor at St. Peter Lutheran Church in New Richland for 32 years, called to renew their subscription. I answered the office phone and, as so often happens when I answer the phone, we got to chatting. Many minutes—maybe an hour—later, Phillip insisted that if I were to ever visit South Dakota, I have a place to stay.

I didn't forget that phone call (or Mrs. Lewison) and I saved their number and address in my phone.

Saturday night, we had our reunion.

I could tell you all of the incredible details of the splendid 5-day trip which started with an 8-hour drive Tuesday morning and ended Sunday evening at home, but it would all pale in comparison to how enjoyable, rewarding and loving the evening with Barb and Phillip turned out

to be.

My friend Madison asked me a couple weeks ago if I was interested in going to South Dakota for a vacation. I didn't hesitate and said yes. I immediately thought of Mrs. Lewison but didn't say anything right away.

I mentioned her once before we left and we agreed to leave the last day and night of our trip open "just in case."

Friday, staying in Lead, South Dakota, I asked Madi what she thought of seeing them Saturday.

She said absolutely, and even pushed me to call them and insisted we could visit with them anytime, day or night.

So I called their landline phone number around 7 p.m.

They didn't answer the phone and I'm glad they didn't. The message on their answering machine can only be described as the most charming and inviting one I've ever heard. All the anxiety I had left my body instantly as I heard Phillip's message, "You've reached the Lewisons.... We're so busy doing nothing we only get half of that done."

Phillip called me back around 9 p.m. and invited Madi and me to dinner at an excellent restaurant in Hill City, The Alpine Inn. They wer-



From left: Phillip and Barb Lewison, Madison Sladek, and Eli Lutgens

en't wrong, the food was divine. And the company? Even better.

Madi and I arrived early and after we walked in I told Madi none of us really know what each other looks like. I remembered Mrs. Lewison's hair and I had a mental image in my head but that was a memory from second grade. Turns out, she's still the same person!

After confirming with Facebook, we located each other quickly.

Many hugs and even more memories were shared.

Barb told me how she, a South Dakota native, met and married Phillip, a native of Iowa. They met at college and married in their twenties. Their union took them to Wisconsin, Minnesota and eventually New Richland where the couple resided for 32 years, raising their three children, Jenny, Martha, and Matthew. Told they could never have children of their own, the couple adopted two children before Barb became pregnant with their third. A miracle.

Today the 80-year-old couple have four grandchildren.

Phillip told me about his call to the seminary.

One day, while studying for tests, Phillip threw down his books, walked out of the study and told Barb he was going to be a pastor.

Before that, Phillip had only previously mentioned one time that he felt a calling to shepherd a flock—that had been when he was in middle school.

Barb took the change in stride.

In 2017, after 32 years preaching and 21 years teaching, the couple retired to Barb's home state. They have called Custar, specifically Boot Hill, home for almost a decade now.

Thank you, Barb and Phillip, for making this an unforgettable vacation.

I apologize for any small errors in my story telling as I went off of memory from our conversation.

I expect, next week, to share the details of the adventures Madi and I shared beginning with the Black Hills on Tuesday and ending at Wall Drug on Sunday.



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GOLDEN LINK: Previous Friday

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Books and Brews at Waseca Public Library Saturday, Oct. 18

Waseca Public Library has found the perfect combo for a book club: bookworm babble and beer. Stop by the library to pick up this month's book discussion selection, "We Used to Live Here" by Marcus Kliewer. Book club begins at 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 18 at Half Pint Brewing Company. Drinks and food not provided but can be purchased.

Dan Duffy Orchestra at Indian Island Winery Oct. 18

The Dan Duffy Orchestra will perform at the Indian Island Winery from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 18. An exciting group from Mankato performing swing and hot club music from the 20s on up to today.

Paper Ghosts at Janesville Public Library Oct. 20

Create a stylish, dapper ghost using pages from a book and googly eyes at the Janesville Public Library at 3:30 p.m. Monday, October 20. Will it wear a bow tie? A little hair bow? Use your imagination and give your ghost a unique personality. Ages 7-12.

Author Event: Loretta Ellsworth at Waseca Public Library Oct. 20

Loretta Ellsworth, author of historical fiction novels, will speak at area libraries about her books "The French Wine-maker's Daughter" and "Stars over Clear Lake" at the Waseca Public Library at 6 p.m. Monday, Oct. 20.

Pajama Story Time at New Richland Public Library Oct. 20

Get ready for bedtime with cozy stories, crafts, and activities at New Richland Public Library at 5:30 p.m. Monday, October 20. Kids are encouraged to wear their pajamas. This free event is geared for ages 0-5.

Romp and Rhyme Baby Lapsit Story Times at Waseca Public Library Tuesday, Oct. 21

Waseca Public Library will hold baby lapsit story times on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. through the end of November. From puppets to pumping music, from bubble machines to banging bands, these are not your average story time. The Library uses movement, STEAM activities, curiosity, imaginative play, and active learning to keep kids ages 0-3 engaged. Free and open to the public.

Waseca Area Caregiver Services Educational Session Tuesday, Oct. 21

Waseca Area Caregiver Services (WACS) will hold an educational session from 10-11 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 21. Keynote speakers include Pharmacist Dale Rudolf and WACS Executive Director Kelly Boeddeker for a discussion on Understanding Health vs. Wellness vs. Wellbeing as we age.

Farmamerica Fall Festival

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Farmamerica held its annual Fall Festival on Saturday, Oct. 11. By noon more than 600 guests had arrived, leading to more than a thousand by the end of the event at 4 p.m. New to this year's roster of events was a scarecrow decorating contest which led to some lively displays on the grounds. A quilt display at the country church was another special treat. Music was provided by the Marv Nissel Band; Leske Wood played piano music at the Country Church interpretive site..

A popular attraction was a corn maze for those brave enough to risk getting lost. Conveniently nearby were giant cow-shaped bounce houses. Trams served all day both as a type of entertainment in themselves since they were drawn by vintage tractors and as transportation among sites. Visitors strolled the various locations on the grounds, including the 1850s homestead, a one-room schoolhouse, a 1930s farm, and more. Volunteer tram driver Gary Johnson said, "This is my second year, they got us running all day. I'd say my tram has been full almost every time around, I will definitely be back to do this again next year." He had to go because some kids showed up needing a ride to the schoolhouse.

At the Blacksmith Shop site, children were invited to tour the vintage location and also enjoy free apple cider sponsored by Hertz Farm Management. A kid's scavenger hunt offered prizes that included stuffed animals and t-shirts. At the Feed Mill, children were invited to play bingo for prizes and candy, sponsored by the FFA. At a pumpkin area, teenage volunteers Jolee Larson and Dakotah Marik were helping children paint pumpkins they had picked out. Both agreed, "We like doing this kind of thing with the kids; they remember this



FAMILY FUN - Melissa and Khiel were picking out pumpkins with their baby at the Farmamerica Fall Festival on Saturday, Oct. 11, 2025.

when they get older and it's cool we're here for that."

Concessions included Auntie Wendy's Kettle Corn and the Sugar Shack.

Winners of the scarecrow contest were announced on Monday. The "Pink Enthusiasts" were selected as the "People's Choice" winners and received a trophy. The 4-H "Home Grown Explorer" was the winner selected by a panel of judges. The Judges' Panel winner receives a trophy and \$100.

For those visiting Farmamerica on Saturday, the Fall Festival also coincided with the new winter hours and location for the Waseca County Farmers Market. Those people selling produce, baked goods and much more can now be found at Farmamerica during the snowy season. Farmamerica expressed special thanks to Hertz Farm Management and Blue Earth County Corn and Soybean Growers, for supporting their event.



Sophie and Lexi Lewis were taking a break from jumping in the cow bounce house at the Farmamerica Fall Festival.
Pioneer photos by Ben Revermann

KICY Christian Radio visits Waseca Real Life Covenant Church

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

About 60 people gathered at Real Life Covenant Church in the 600 block of Waseca's West Elm Avenue the evening of Wednesday, Oct. 8, for a free salmon dinner and information about KICY Christian radio station located in Alaska. This event was free to attend but required registration in advance.

Presenter for the evening was Patty Burchell, KICY radio station manager. Waseca was one of seven destinations where she was scheduled to give a presentation. Still, she not only served the salmon but took the stage to share the story of her own journey to the organization's leadership, and provide information about the population the station serves. One of the leaders in frontier Christian ministry has been the KICY Christian Radio in Nome, Alaska. One thing that sets KICY apart from other radio stations, said Burchell, "In our basement recording studio we have the biggest collection of Native gospel music in the nation."

Burchell shared that KICY radio first began in 1960 and has grown to broadcast on three frequencies—one AM and two FM—across an area in Alaska about the size of the state of

Michigan. She referred to the music and Christian programming the station shares as "the background of life" for about 50,000 people who live in Nome, with its population of roughly 10,000, and many scattered coastline villages populated by indigenous peoples and the descendants of gold miners who arrived in Alaska early in the 1900s.

Burchell showed aerial photos of a number of the communities she was describing. Showing Nome, she mentioned that an individual could walk its length, parallel with the beach, in about 20 minutes, and its depth in about 5. She also pointed out that Nome is the only town organized on "a grid," in other words, with square blocks created by streets, since it is the only community KICY serves which was not originally a native village. The streets, however, are gravel.

"Residents of the villages live a subsistence lifestyle," she revealed, showing pictures of open structures where pink salmon filets were hanging to dry. The salmon, she mentioned, is often smoked and then kept for the winter. In contrast, the salmon cooked on Thursday night was stuffed with tomatoes and onions, baked in tinfoil.

In the summer, she told audience



DINNER FUN - Patty Burchell, KICY Station manager from Nome, Alaska, gave a fundraising speech and free salmon dinner on Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2025.

members, high temperatures are usually in the sixties, with relatively rare incursions into the seventies and exceptionally rare occurrences of the eighties.

Winter temperatures range between 20 degrees either above or below zero. The Bering sea is usually frozen solid from November to May, as are the streams and rivers which crisscross the tundra. As far as the people of western Alaska are concerned, Burchell commented, "anything above zero is downright warm."

Burchell mentioned that she and her fellow volunteers are pleased to serve the scattered population of western Alaska. Much of their programming is Christian music in English, however, the station has a recording studio where local musicians can record translated or original songs for broadcast, since their

audience speaks mainly indigenous languages. The station also provides coverage of local basketball games, the Iditarod, fishing reports, and regional and state-wide church conferences, to name a few.

Referring to the station as a "holy flamethrower," Burchell revealed the AM frequency of KICY reaches as far as 2,000 miles into Russia, especially overnight and when transmissions are purposely aimed eastward.

Burchell invited those in attendance to support the radio station in a number of ways, including donating funds, praying, volunteering at the station for some of its summer projects, and even joining the staff. "Give us a year and we can teach you radio," Burchell commented. More information about the station and its services available, or to donate, find them at www.kicy.org.

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Sheriff's office to receive "encrypted" radios

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

During the Oct. 7 meeting of the Waseca County board of commissioners, county sheriff Jay Dulas described his department as having become something of an "island" because most regional law enforcement agencies are already using the types of federally required portable radios capable of "encryption."

With this type of equipment, he explained, communications among department members can no longer be monitored using scanners and other devices which pick up unprotected radio transmissions. Dulas mentioned that, because curiosity seekers monitoring such transmissions could no longer hear staff exchanges from surrounding counties, larger numbers have begun arriving at Waseca County scenes.

After saying he had researched options extensively, Dulas requested approval to spend \$319,000 to replace the 54 portable radios his office is currently responsible for, and to purchase suitable chargers, holsters and other accessories. Dulas reported there are 15 deputies who will keep their radios with them full time. Radios will also be kept ready to be used by jailers, dispatchers, Sheriff's Posse members, and emergency management services. Two will be set aside as "backup" should any of the others be out of service.

He defended the purchase of 54 radios saying all of them contribute to smooth communication among responders when there is a large-scale event, or during community celebrations such as the county fair.

Dulas said radios currently in use with the department are about seven years old and are "aging out" of usefulness; repairs are no longer a possibility since replacement parts are not being produced.

Money has been being set aside for the eventual purchase since 2017, the sheriff reported, so more than \$217,000 is already covered; the remaining money is available in funds designated by the state for supporting the 9-1-1 emergency call line.

Commissioners approved the expenditure. Dulas estimated it would be a month or more before the equipment would be delivered and in operation.

County Engineer Jim Kollar was given board approval to spend \$21,000 in county funds toward a state-required update of the county's highway safety plan. The amount constitutes 20 percent of the anticipated \$105,000 cost; the remainder will be paid by state and federal agencies.

The plan currently in use was prepared in 2012. Kollar stated statistics and recommendations in the document are frequently used when applying for construction and improvement grants. Aside from paying its share of the cost and allowing access to current information, Kollar mentioned the county will have relatively little input as the updated plan is created. A consulting engineer will analyze pertinent data and supply recommendations. He estimated it will be a year or more before the finished plan is in place.

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DNR to host forum soliciting public input on Reeds Lake

A public forum is set to be held 6-7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 20 by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources regarding a Reeds Lake Association request to manage Eurasian watermilfoil with a whole lake treatment using Sonar (fluridone) herbicide. This treatment, if permitted, is proposed to take place late fall 2025 into spring 2026 in Reeds Lake. The meeting will be held at the Waseca County East Annex Conference Room (300 N. State St. in Waseca).

"The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is considering a request for an experimental whole-lake herbicide treatment using the aquatic herbicide fluridone on Reeds Lake in Waseca County," said Todd Kolander, DNR Ecological and Water Resources district manager. "This treatment aims to address the dense growth of Eurasian watermilfoil, an invasive aquatic plant that has become widespread throughout the lake. The goal is to suppress this invasive milfoil while allowing native aquatic plants to recover over

time."

Eurasian watermilfoil and its hybrids are invasive aquatic plants that are regulated by the DNR. The species causes ecological harm to lakes by reducing native aquatic plant diversity and impacts to recreation of boating, fishing, and swimming. It was discovered in Reeds Lake in 2014.

The meeting is intended to help the public learn more about the topic and provide input on the proposal. DNR Invasive Species Specialist Jeffrey Flory will present on what a whole lake fluridone treatment entails, along with its pros, cons, and risks. Staff from DNR Fisheries will present on the fish community and the data the DNR has on Reeds Lake.

For those who can't make the meeting but would still like to provide feedback on the proposal or ask questions, reach out to DNR Ecological and Water Resources District Manager Todd Kolander at todd.kolander@state.mn.us or 507-272-2154.

Council

from Page 1

sues proactively. Scenario A also includes a public offering method of sale instead of private placement so the city can solicit bids from underwriters.

Finance Scenario B included a par amount of bonds as \$1,245,000 with a use of cash of \$900,000. The average debt service payment would be \$110,000 a year with an average interest rate of 3.5%. The total debt service would be \$1,615,000 and the scenario also includes the credit enhancement and public offering method of sale.

Financing Scenario C included a par amount of bonds of \$1,095,000 with a use of cash of one million to buy down the project. The average debt service payment would be \$100,000 a year with an increased average interest rate of 4.4%. The method of sale for this scenario includes a private placement. Green said the city would prefer public sale of the bonds because of the access to lower interest rates.

She also said the city has a capital levy of \$100,000 reallocated to debt service on bonds discussed during the meeting. Green added in this set of scenarios, one of those lots would be sold per year based on a price of \$50,000, but that the estimate is very conservative and simply for discussion purposes.

The next step for the council was to consider awarding the construction bids, which the council approved in the first resolution of the meeting with a 4-3 vote. The lowest bid for Phase 1 construction was \$1.58 million.

Once all elements are selected, Green said the city staff will start to prepare a finance plan to bring back in front of the council in November and move to a bond sale in December.

After Green's presentation, councilmember Mark Christiansen asked about the higher interest rate with the lower debt. Green responded that the larger the bond issue, the better it is received by the market. The larger the maturity value, the easier it is to place with certain funds and banks, as the banks hold the

bonds with the private placement option.

Green then suggested using cash because of the credit enhancement program, which is only available to utility projects. She said having the borrowing authority related to various pieces of the project (water, sanitary, sewer, streets) will require some additional procedural steps and increase overall costs to the city.

Mayor Randy Zimmerman asked Green which option she would take if she were the council.

"If you are looking to finance, I would say you choose option A or B," she said due to the size being a little bit larger and working better for public sale, an option for better interest rates. "I think they're equally good options."

Green said the main question is whether the council wants to preserve more cash or issue less in bonds.

Councilmember Jeremy Conrath asked if this financing was just for Phase 1 or whether the city would be looking at this again for each of the following phases. City Manager Carl Sonnenberg responded that it depends on how quickly the lots sell.

After approving the resolution accepting the bids and awarding the construction bid for the Clearwater Preserve Residential Development Phase 1, the council voted on which financial scenario to go with. Christiansen moved for Scenario A, with the cash amount of \$800,000.

"I think this is the better scenario," he said. "I think right now with where we're at financially, this gets us a little leeway."

The motion carried unanimously.

City Finance Director and HR Manager Alicia Fischer then presented the resolution for reimbursement for the Clearwater Preserve Development. The resolution would allow the city to be reimbursed for construction costs or engineering costs related to the project that the city is bonding for if they spend any before they issue the bonds or receive the bond proceeds. Fischer said the council will still have additional resolutions and actions coming forward about the bondings in the future.



CLEAN UP CREW - The Exchange Club of Waseca completed its annual fall highway cleanup recently, gathering litter along the stretch of Highway 14 west of Waseca. Featured club members who helped include, from left, Jeanne Sexton, Jake Leiser, Perry Berg, President Mikhail Rostislavovich, Ann Staloch, and Tarin Kuball.

Exchange Club completes fall highway cleanup

The Exchange Club of Waseca recently completed its annual fall highway cleanup, continuing a proud tradition of community service that spans more than 25 years. Club members gathered to pick up litter along the stretch of Highway 14 west of Waseca, an effort the Club also carries out each spring as well.

Minnesota's Adopt a Highway program, established in 1990, invites citizens and organizations to take responsibility for keeping the state's roadsides clean. More

than 4,000 groups across Minnesota now participate, collecting an estimated 26,000 tons of litter each year. The Waseca Exchange Club was one of the early adopters of this statewide initiative, volunteering long before the "new" Highway 14 was even constructed.

Longtime Exchangeite Perry Berg has coordinated the Club's participation for many years, organizing both the spring and fall cleanup events. "It's a simple act of service, but one that makes a

big difference," said Berg. "We've been walking this same stretch of road for decades. It's a reminder that keeping our community clean starts with each of us."

Club President Mikhail Rostislavovich emphasized how this project reflects the broader mission of Exchange. "Community service is one of our core areas of focus," he said. "By giving back through projects like highway cleanup, we show pride in Waseca and set an example of

stewardship for others. It's about taking care of the place we all call home."

The Exchange Club of Waseca, founded in 1982, is part of the National Exchange Club, dedicated to strengthening communities through programs of Americanism, Youth, Community Service, and the prevention of child abuse.

For more information about the Exchange Club of Waseca or to learn how to get involved or visit the Club's Facebook page.



ORDER UP - Christ the King Lutheran Church's Women of the Word volunteers, from left: Marilyn Wilkus, Linda Henslin, Jane Guggisberg, Peggy Olson, Carol Thor, Linda Jenzen, Beverly Ishimaru, Cris Nev, Diane Munson, Karen Neu, Frank and Mary Shemonek, Naomi Easton, Deb VanderHorst and Sherrye Kuchenbecker put on a Baked Potato Bar on Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2025.

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Baked Potato Bar at Christ the King

"Women of the Word" organize their second annual event at Waseca Lutheran Church

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Christ the King Lutheran Church's Women of the Word held their second annual Baked Potato Bar and dessert over the lunch hour on Wednesday, Oct. 8. They help to raise money for groups on a mission and turn in their donations at the end of the year.

John Wilkus and his wife Marilyn were in the lobby; John was giving Uber rides and manning the elevator, helping any of those who needed assistance. Marilyn was at the ticket table, "We had upwards of 70 people come

through our line today, the busiest we got was during that first hour." In the dining room downstairs, a large steamer was filled with baked potatoes; patrons were instructed to unwrap the tinfoil themselves with help provided if needed. Among selections for toppings were chili, a mountain of Colby and cheddar cheeses, chopped green onions, sour cream, and as many bacon bits as would fit on the plate. Diners had water or coffee, and a pretty good selection of teas to choose from. For those able to finish their potato there were plenty of choices for dessert: cookie bars, coconut bars, pumpkin bars and more.

Beverly Ishimaru, wife of Pastor Ishimaru said, "All the potatoes for today were donated by Superior Catering; Jane Guggisberg did that. We also received donations from Thrivent Financial as well." A passerby inserted a question, "Why don't you guys have baked potato bars more often?" Her reply: "Because we want the numbers. Our women's group is pretty small; this event is a lot of work that is being done by committed people." She added about Superior Catering, which is based out of Ellendale, "Superior also helps out with a lot of the food for funerals. We help them by taking care of serving and cleanup after-

wards, they do a lot for us and we're grateful."

Last year the event drew 56 people, but the good news is this year they had 70, so it is growing. Beverly added, "We have done fundraising for local groups like Samaritan's Purse and Bethlehem House. We also donate to Child Outreach International which is a Christian charity and Heifer International helping children with schooling."

For those unable to attend the Baked Potato Bar in person, a Potato-to-Go option was also available. Light delivery service was also provided. Watch for this event in October 2026.

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FINISHER - Quinn Vanmaldeghem was the first place winner at the NRHEG Color Run fundraiser on Saturday, Oct. 11, 2025.

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

NRHEG Color Run, rainbows everywhere

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

About 170 people took part in the second annual NRHEG One Mile Color Run, Walk or Stroll which set out from behind the Ellendale elementary building on Saturday, Oct. 11. This fundraiser was for the school's inclusive playground, which is currently entering phase three in its completion. There were vendors, police, fire and ambulance; so far \$82,000 has been raised and spent. Donations were also being accepted. There was no timing or timers, just first, second and third place with a variety of messy colors on kids. First place was Quinn Vanmaldeghem; second place was Colton Lermon and third place was Collin Misgen. Go Panthers!!!

Wendy Schultz was the organizer for the run, "Phase one was the ordering of the equipment, phase two was the installation of what we had, phase three will finish everything up with the installation of the final piece and whatever ground cover we pick. The Sway Fun Glider is a wheelchair accessory. After that's installed we'll just have to settle on either wood chips, or those rubber pieces you get from tires, or we can do a flat rubber surface." MoeGeo's Events and Catering was nearby, selling food to those who were hungry; so was the Sassy Soda Co., selling mixed soda-like drinks. There was a line 10 deep for face painting, \$2 for a session with all proceeds going to the playground.

Mayor Routh of Hartland was there enjoying a Sassy Soda, "I think this is the cookies and cream one, tastes better than I thought it would," he observed.

Volunteer Jean Greenwood was headed to her station at Eighth Avenue. She explained she was station one and would be coating participants in blue. At four other stations along the route, four additional colors would be shared. "When everyone walks past, they get this powder thrown on them," she explained. "When they get to the end it's a colorful nightmare, the kids really seem to enjoy it."

Three high-schoolers were at the starting line ready to lead the pack. Freshman Colton Lermon said, "I'm here to lead so no one in the crowd gets lost. Besides that I want everyone to have fun and I really like it when people support cross country and track and field and there's cheering." Next to him was eighth-grader and schoolmate Violette Botten. She said, "I try to train until the end of cross country; the color run lines up perfectly with the end of the season." Seventh-grader Josie Tufte was also ready to help lead the pack. She said, "It's a good thing to help people; this is a fun thing, I'm glad so many people showed up." Once the race was run, the vendors started packing up and people started heading home with one parent telling her two children, "Take off your shirts before you get in the car."



LOYAL SUPPORT - Waseca County Historical Society (WCHS) executive committee chair Carol Raimann presented certificates of gratitude to long-term committee members Dale Groskreutz (left) and Marty Buum during the WCHS annual meeting the evening of Oct. 8.

Pioneer photos by Deb Bently

History Center reviews past, plans for future

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Two important meetings took place last week at the Waseca County Historical Society, according to executive director Amy Danielson.

One was the 2024 annual meeting attended by about 30 people. The event celebrated the society's accomplishments for the completed year, reviewed its financial status and took note of contributions made by organizations and individuals. Danielson stated in her report, "As guardians of

Waseca County's history, we collect, preserve, and share the stories of our past—sparking curiosity and connection for generations to come. Together, we are not only preserving history—we are making it."

Long-serving executive committee members Dale Groskreutz and Marty Buum were acknowledged, as were Diane Beckmann, who was last year's committee chair; Dawn Halgren, last year's treasurer; and committee member Gregg Johnson, who completed his term.

The 2025 executive committee includes Carol Raimann, chair; Marty Buum, vice chair; Dale Groskreutz, treasurer; and Linda Finley, secretary.

Also held recently at the WCHS was a leadership team meeting during which staff and select executive board members strategized future plans across the next decade.

"Celebrating Waseca County's rich history together" was proposed as the motto for the organization and its future activities.

According to Danielson, long-term goals included continuing to preserve history while simultaneously working toward increased community involvement that draws in people across all age groups. This would include growing the number of WCHS members, the percentage of the community which participates in organization events, and the number of volunteers and contributors.

Stormwater plan, shutdown discussed by council

By AMELIA ROESSLER
Editor

The Waseca City Council heard a presentation during the regular meeting on Oct. 7 regarding the city's stormwater pollution prevention plan and was assured funding from federal grants would not be affected by the federal government shutdown.

City Engineer Nate Willey presented the annual city stormwater pollution prevention plan (SWPPP) to the council as a part of the city's MS4 permit responsibilities. The city is required to provide at least one annual opportunity for public input on the adequacy of the city's SWPPP.

Willey also said the presentation is to educate staff and the public of the city's national pollutant discharge elimination system (NPDES) permit requirement and raise awareness of stormwater related issues facing the city.

There are three permit types: construction stormwater required for all projects disturbing one acre or more, industrial stormwater and the Municipal Separate Storm System (MS4) which covers the entire city.

Willey said the current five-year MS4 permit was issued in Nov. 2020, with official coverage beginning in Nov. 2021. He added the city is waiting for a new permit to be issued due to the expiration date of the current permit.

According to Willey, Waseca's SWPPP is essentially an MS4 permit application with six minimum control measures and best management practices.

The MS4 minimum control measures include public education and outreach, which Willey said is done through posting information on the city website; public participation and involvement, done through the annual public meeting and public access to all material posted online along with the Waseca lakes cleanup event; illicit discharge detection and elimination, which Willey said includes maintaining storm sewer systems, city code and penalties for illicit

discharge or anything not water; construction site stormwater runoff control, which is included under the city code and penalties for erosion control and site inspections; post-construction stormwater management, which is the inventory of private stormwater best management practices like ponds according to Willey; and pollution prevention and good housekeeping, including taking care of "our own stuff and sites" according to Willey, and annual inspections.

2025 MS4 improvements included Second Street NW storm sewer and water quality improvement, storm sewer improvements at the intersection of 4th St. SW and 7th Ave SW, street sweeping and fall leaf pick-up to reduce sediment and total phosphorus in the lakes and water systems, storm sewer inspections, and promoting park and lake clean up events.

Willey said future MS4 improvements include Second Avenue Southwest storm sewer improvements near the HR Block building; miscellaneous storm sewer pipe and outlet repairs; continuing to comply with all other MS4 permit requirements; providing access to stormwater information and opportunities for public involvement; and partnering with the Waseca Lakes Association and Waseca County to improve water quality in both Loon and Clear Lakes.

After the presentation, city manager Carl Sonnenberg asked Willey to explain why there is a backup of flow in the storm sewer system.

"From time to time, when we have to release waste water from the sanitary sewer system into the storm sewer system, people in town might think there are valves to turn or gates to open in the storm sewer system. Could you explain why there's a backup of flow?"

Willey explained there is a minimum requirement of a five-year storm event for the storm sewer design, which means having pipes that are large enough to handle roughly between two and three inches of rainfall in a 24-hour period. He said the intensity of the rain matters, as the intakes and pipes fill up and then the streets start to pond. It takes time for the water to flow out and then down. Willey explained that when the two to three inches of rain happens in 45 minutes instead of 24 hours, the system can't keep up.

Sonnenberg said that while they can try to get state aid funding to replace the system to be large enough to handle something more than a five-year storm event, the city would have to pay the difference and that public utilities currently don't have the storm sewer rates that could accomplish that.

During the meeting, City Finance Director and HR Manager Alicia Fischer updated council members regarding potential impacts of the federal government shutdown relating to Second Street Northwest reconstruction project funding. She said the city currently has over \$3.5 million in federal funding on an ongoing project, but that the staff is looking into it and staying on top of it. Fischer added the two-grant funding is not being impacted as they are funded differently, but that city staff is continuing to monitor the situation.

City Planner Jon Froke proposed an ordinance to rezone the properties at 2401 North State Street, formerly the Itron building. The address consists of two separate parcels currently zoned at I-2 (Limited Industry District) and the request was to rezone to I-2 (Moderate Industry District) in order to allow for development into a state licensed indoor cannabis cultivation facility.

The council also passed a resolution of a liquor license violation for Coborn's/Cashwise Liquor. The Police Department conducted alcohol compliance checks in December 2024, and citations were issued to Cashwise/Coborn's Liquor for the sale of alcohol to a minor. The company admitted the violation and prepaid a possible fine of \$250 along with re-educating their employees. The council passed the resolution of the \$250 fine, with councilmember Stacey Schroeder adding, "Kudos to them for re-educating and taking it seriously."

Parks Director Brad Dushaw presented the council with an ordinance adopting a policy for the naming and renaming of parks, facilities, streets within parks and public places. The council approved the ordinance, as there previously wasn't a policy. Councilmember Gary Conrath asked where the naming costs would come from, to which Dushaw replied it would be whoever brought the new name forward and wished it to happen.

Executive Director at the Neighborhood Service Center and Food Shelf Cindy Kolander spoke during the public comment section.

"I'm here tonight to stress the importance of considering our appropriation request for the 2026 funding," she said.

Kolander stressed that while some food is donated from places like Kwik Trip and Walmart, a majority of the food for the shelf is purchased. She said the shelf sent home 17,615 pounds of food to 585 families in September.

"We're afraid the need for families to utilize our foodshelf to provide food support will continue to increase throughout this year and well into 2026," Kolander said.

Along with that, she said the shelf has been impacted by the Second Street construction, which has reduced the thrift store's income by half.

Sonnenberg explained to the council that the city typically allocates \$5,000 dollars to the shelf in the budget, but that Kolander is requesting an appropriation of \$10,000.

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.; the next regular city council meeting is Tuesday, Oct. 21 at 7:00 p.m.

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The

Pastor's Column

Son of Encouragement

By PASTOR MIKE GRANNIS

St. Barnabas was the early mentor and missionary companion of St. Paul. While his actual name was Joseph, Barnabas (which means “son of encouragement”) was given this special nickname by the other Apostles because of his compassionate and conciliatory character. After St. Paul’s miraculous conversion to the Christian faith, many Christians still feared St. Paul. Having previously been known by the name Saul of Tarsus, St. Paul had zealously persecuted the Church, arresting and dragging Christians in to be tried, imprisoned, and even executed for heresy. It was St. Barnabas who encouraged the Apostles and other Christians in Jerusalem to accept St. Paul as a true believer in Christ (see Acts 9:26-28). St. Barnabas’s appointed day of commemoration is June 11th.

With that little bit of information you may be wondering, “Why is Pastor Grannis writing about St. Barnabas in October if his feast day is in June?” Well simply put, I often think of St. Barnabas when God has blessed me with particularly encouraging people. This past Sunday was Clergy Appreciation Day, part of the month long celebration of October as Clergy Appreciation Month. Having been blessed as I was with cards, gifts, and words of encouragement, I am feeling especially thankful as I sit and write this Pastor’s Note.

This year I celebrate 15 years in pastoral ministry. I have served the saints of St. Paul, Waseca for a little over 2 years. God has blessed my time here in many and various ways. But the greatest blessing has undoubtedly been the big and little encouragements I have received not just on Clergy Appreciation Day but week in and week out. I have been blessed with countless prayers. I have been blessed with many loving gifts of food for my rather large family (10 kids and an amazing wife). I have been blessed with words of encouragement by “Barnabases” who share how God is using me to bring His Word and Sacraments to bear in their lives of faith.

This is what a Pastor is meant to do – bring the things of God to bear in the lives of the congregation. It is nice to be liked. It is nice to be well thought of. But often times the job of a minister of God is hard and thankless work, filled with displeasure and anger toward the one who strives to be faithful to his calling. The Word of God shows people their sins and shows them the only way that those sins can be properly dealt with – through the forgiveness of sins purchased with the blood of Christ’s once-for-all worthy sacrifice. The pastor is a messenger of God called to a specific group of people to proclaim that Word of God in its truth, purity, and fullness.

When a pastor is faithful to his

calling, he is going to upset his people. Why? Because none of us like to have our sins called out. None of us like to be called to repentance. It doesn’t feel good. It exposes our guilt and (if the Holy Spirit is working in our hearts) it makes us feel ashamed of the wrong that we have done. Believe it or not, THAT IS A GOOD THING. It is good to feel ashamed of our sins. It is good to realize that we deserve God’s judgment and wrath because of our sins. Helping us to see our sin is part of the pastor’s job.

But THANKS BE TO GOD, that is not the only Word God has given to pastors, otherwise I’m sure I would have been run out of town a long time ago. God’s Word also reveals the Gospel of forgiveness through Jesus Christ our Savior. In fact, that is the main purpose of the Word of God, and the goal of all of Holy Scripture – to reveal our forgiveness, the promise of resurrection, and the blessed eternal life that is for all people through faith in Jesus Christ our Lord.

God has raised up pastors to learn His Word and to apply His Word to the lives of people so that they would know their need for salvation, and know Jesus Christ who is the means of their salvation. Pastors help us to see our sins and to see our Savior. Knowing our sins, they lead us in confessing our sins, they proclaim the Word of God’s forgiveness through Jesus Christ, and they ENCOURAGE us in leading lives of repentance.

The biggest encouragements I have received from congregation members have been those words of thanks when I have been faithful to the pastoral charge. And what is that charge? Pastors have the difficult task of leading their members to the confession of their sins. But that is not an end in and of itself. It is an uncomfortable task with a glorious goal – to fulfill the duty and honor of applying God’s Word of forgiveness on account of Christ to His repentant people. There is no greater encouragement than when a person has been shown his sin, has confessed his sin, and has been comforted with the Gospel promises of forgiveness, life, and salvation on account of Christ.

With all this in mind, I encourage you all to listen to God’s Word spoken by faithful pastors. Let the Word of truth shine into the darkest places of your life. Rather than hiding from the light, or denying your sins, confess your sins. Confess them to God. Go to your pastor and confess the sins that weigh on your heart. Ask him to speak God’s Gospel Word of forgiveness to you as is his honor and duty. And then having been encouraged by your pastor, encourage him in turn. Encourage him to continue to faithfully proclaim the true, pure, and full Word of God to you and to the rest of your congregation. In Jesus’ name. Amen.



WELCOMING - Front row, left to right: Adam Worke, Mikhail Rostislavovich, Katie Gonzales, Stacey Schroeder, Jim Boreboom, Ashley Kilday, Molly Hendricks, Kristie Biehn, Amy Potter. Back row: Left to right: Tiffany Lynch, Marcy Buchele, Jodie Thompson, Diane Beckmann, Larry Johnson and Colin Worke

Ambassadors welcome steering committee for Waseca Food Cooperative

The Waseca Chamber Ambassadors recently welcomed their newest member, the Steering Committee for a Waseca Food Cooperative, a community-driven effort to bring a locally owned grocery cooperative to Waseca County.

The Waseca Food Cooperative is guided by a powerful vision centered on community connections, supporting local farmers and producers, promoting healthy options and food security, and empowering members through democratic governance.

“Our goal is to create a welcoming space where people can gather, connect, and build community through food,” said Jim Boreboom a member of the Steering Committee. “We want to strengthen our local food system by providing direct access to locally grown and produced goods while offering educational opportunities for all ages.”

Katie Gonzales, Waseca Chamber Ambassador Chair, shared her enthusiasm for the new initiative:

“The Waseca Food Cooperative represents exactly the kind of community-focused vision we love to celebrate,” Gonzales said. “It’s inspiring to see local residents come together to strengthen access to healthy food, support area farmers, and create a space that brings people together.”

Mikhail Rostislavovich, President of the Waseca Chamber Board of Directors, added:

“This initiative aligns beautifully with Waseca’s spirit of collaboration and innovation,” Rostislavovich said. “The cooperative model not only invests in local agriculture but also empowers our residents to take part in shaping the future of our local food economy.”

The proposed co-op will feature local and organic produce, fresh fruits and vegetables, local dairy products, whole foods, and locally raised poultry and meats. It will also include a teaching kitchen, seasonal workshops, and a community apothecary section celebrating local food traditions. The co-op will accept SNAP/LINK benefits, ensuring access to nutritious food for all income levels.

Initial planning for the cooperative is supported by a \$25,000 grant from the Trust for Civic Life, a national grantmaking collaborative that supports community-led initiatives helping Americans connect and solve problems together. The grant, fiscally sponsored by the Region Nine Development Commission, will fund community engagement, technical assistance, and planning for the co-op’s next steps.

Community members are invited to get involved, share ideas, or learn about volunteer opportunities by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/WasecaCoop>.

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CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH 2200 4th St NE, Waseca 507-835-2235 Service times 9:30 a.m. * * *	620 W Elm Ave, Waseca 507-607-8245 Sunday worship 10 a.m. * * *	Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship * * *	ities, ages 12-18 * * *
4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH 605 4th St NE, Waseca 507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker) Worship Sundays 10 a.m. * * *	CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS 1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca 507-835-4640 Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m. * * *	VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Brian Schanil Pastor Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School Tuesdays: The Shepherd’s Robe Ministry, 1-3 p.m. 6-8 p.m.; Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 412 N. Main Street, Janesville Pastor Jason Wolter Rev. Timothy Contreras Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:30 a.m. Worship * * *
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 * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Smiths Mill, Minnesota Pastor Robert Harting Thursday - 7:00 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship * * *
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 E Elm Ave, Waseca 507-835-1709 Worship Sunday 9 a.m. * * *	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 * * *	NORTH WASECA LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA 404 30 120th St. Waseca Pastor Sarah Krolak 507-234-6463 Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship; Second sunday “Young at heart” Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. confirmation * * *
SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH 111 4th St NW, Waseca Father Glenn Ferichs 507-835-1222 Worship Sundays 10:00 a.m., Tues. and Wed. at 8:30 a.m. and Thurs. at 7 a.m.; Saturdays at 5 p.m. * * *	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 Activ-	NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION TO THE WASECA PIONEER.
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Janesville

1925

- The city dads have decided that slot machines will have to be put out of commission in Janesville. Numerous complaints have been made that the machines are doing too thriving a business with the result that considerable money that could be spent – or saved – more wisely is being taken from the pockets of a good many youngsters. Chief Klinder has been ordered to see that the devices are removed. A committee representing the Civic League appeared before the council and asked that steps be taken to acquire a site for a park in the city. The women reported that the club is willing to equip the park so as to provide tourists with a fair degree of comfort and convenience. At the same time it was pointed out that there is a pressing need for a place where local people might hold picnics and gatherings.

- Mr. and Mrs. Ed Gayer celebrated their silver wedding anniversary Tuesday evening, though the celebration was not of their ordering. It was on the concerted action of about 325 of their friends that the celebration took place, the popular couple having no more to do with the affair than to be the guests of honor during the evening and to go through another marriage ceremony in which dignity had a hard fight against the burlesque permitted in a mock ceremony.

- Regularly enrolled free classes in poultry, dairying, swine-raising, beekeeping, gardening, and flower growing will be taught by radio through WCCO, Minneapolis, and will be organized at once by the Agricultural extension Division, Department of Agriculture, University of Minnesota. Instruction in poultry raising will be given on Monday evenings, beginning October 19, and in dairying on Friday evenings, beginning Oct. 23; time, 7:45 to 8:00. Plans for the other subjects will be announced later.

1950

- The Janesville Hearty Workers 4-H club met on Monday evening, September 25, with Dean Cowdin and Keith Born acting as hosts. Eleven members were present. At this meeting the members signed up for the 4-H projects and activities that they wish to take for the year that begins now. John Morrill, president, presided. The new business for the evening was election of officers. Dean Cowdin was elected president; Pete Glynn, vice president; Clifford Gardner, treasurer, and Early Dimmel, secretary. It was decided that the member having the club meeting would furnish the recreation for the evening. Dean Cowdin gave a very instructive demonstration on the selection and cleaning of vegetables that are to be exhibited at a fair.

- An open house for residents of Waseca and surrounding communities will be held at Waseca Tuesday, October 17, at the Birds Eye-Snider packing plant to officially launch Birds Eye-Snider's own packing operations in the State of Minnesota. The Birds EyeSnider Division of General Foods Corporation purchased the Waseca, Madelia, and Mapleton operations of the Fairmont Canning Company last February. Fairmont continues to be a Birds Eye Co. packer at its other locations.

1975

- Seventeen year old Beverley Joan Hesom, Dundee, South Africa, will be Janesville Rotary's fifth exchange student, according to Cliff Gardner, Chairman of the Janesville Rotary Student Exchange Program. Beverley was born in Dundee, South Africa on November 8, 1957. Her father, Edwin Hesom, is a farmer. She has two sisters, Louise and Leslie. Her hobbies include horseback riding, all types of sports and singing. She is a member of the National Youth Choir. She plans to attend college and to secure a teaching degree.

- Wayne Warner likes to keep things that are simple and old. That's why he lives in a renovated chicken house, drives a 1951 Hudson, and farms 68 acres his great-grandfather, Bert Carpenter, bought in 1891. Warner, 30, lives with his mother and father, Verna and John Warner, on a beautiful, hilly farm on the northwest edge of Lake Francis. His grandmother, Lois, 79, lives with his parents. The Warners are a close family, but Wayne likes to keep late hours and finally decided the only way to live his own life was to move out of the big frame house. Since the old barn had blown down in a tornado, the only place he could move into was a chicken house that is built into a hill north of the farm house.

- The Janesville Jaycees have set October 25 as the date for their Yard Grooming Project. On that Saturday Jaycees will rake lawns and haul away leaves and branches for Janesville residents. A donation will be accepted upon completion of the yard work. All proceeds will be donated to Multiple Sclerosis.

2000

- If you don't count your political signs being moved as vandalism, or toilet paper hanging from trees and buildings as too annoying, Homecoming last week at Janesville-WaldorfPemberton High School went pretty well. Jack Eustice, JWP High School Principal, said he was very impressed with the student spirit and participation during Homecoming week. "Participation in 'Spirit' days was 75 percent," said Eustice. "The students were energetic at the pep fest, powder puff football games, volleyball games, and student relays."

- Janesville-WaldorfPemberton's balance and consistency were too much for Medford to overcome. The JWP volleyball squad whipped Medford for the second time this season, sweeping the Tigers 157, 15-6, and 15-2 at Janesville Oct. 3. The Bulldogs won the earlier meeting in four games. "We played consistent volleyball tonight," said JWP coach Scott Bernard. "Our serving was strong, and we spread the ball around among our hitters."

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Waseca

25 years ago

- The Waseca High School Social Studies Department would like to congratulate Amanda Gertz for being selected as the student of the week. Amanda is the daughter of Dave and Pat Gertz of Waseca. Both parents are employed at EF Johnson. She had two sibling, a brother Joshua who is 21 and a sister Andrea, who is 17.

- This is National Newspaper Week. It is a good opportunity to say "thank you" to our readers and it is also a good time to think about the important role which newspapers have played and continue to play in our lives. The theme of the observance this week is "Newspapers: Your link to the World Around You." This link began in the early days of this country when the seeds of revolution and independence were sown on the pages of newspapers.

- It's October, and with winter approaching, your furry pet may be getting ready for cold weather. Lauren Wagener, of Banfield- The Pet Hospital at PetSmart in Orlando, Fla., has tips on how to handle the transition: Shedding is a big factor when seasons change. Brush your pet's coat one to two times every day. Pets eat more as the days get cooler, and put on weight against winter's chill. Continue to feed them a balanced diet, but add a bit more to their food dish. Give pets their heartworm supplement regularly, and treat for fleas and ticks once a month. Even in winter, there's a risk of exposure to these pests. Cant's keep your pet off the furniture? Place and inexpensive slipcover or a clean sheet over the sofa or lounge chair to make cleaning shed fur easier. Set aside lots of play time! Your pet will be inside a lot more now, and always appreciates the attention.

50 years ago

- "Almost everything you can think of starts on a farm in some way or another. Even cosmetics, soaps, candy, coffee, inks, rubber and cements are made with soybeans," says Charles K. Baker of the Texas Agricultural Extensions Service. The scope of agriculture is so broad-encompassing the production, processing and marketing of food, fiber and related products-that all Americans have a vital stake in it.

- Daisy is coming! That's right. The Daisy Bakery Discount Store will be opening Monday at 111 2nd St. SW. Long-time Wasecans may remember the building as the old Dairy Treat. Now, manager Clifford Popp of New Hope won't have ice cream, but he'll have every imaginable type of bread, doughnut, pie, cake, cookie, prepared stuffing and bread cubes and a complete holiday line of fruit cakes, etc.

- In answer to Geroge Meany, President of the AFL-CIO, the Minnesota Agri-Growth Council issued facts concerning the wheat sale to Russia or any other country. "There's no need for consumers to worry about the shortage of bread or any rapidly increasing costs which might be the result of wheat sales," explained President Russel Schwandt.

75 years ago

- The Vista Mission church was the scene Sunday, October 9. Of the 50th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. August Frisk of Waseca. Ninety-five guests helped the couple celebrate their anniversary. In the afternoon, a program was given as follows: A song was sung by the guests, Mrs. Borglund sang, "When They Ring the Golden Bells." Mrs. Allen Born gave a reading, Reverend Fall followed with a reading.

- A 39-year-old New Richland man was killed about 12:30 a.m. Friday when a car left the Clear Lake drive, went through a guard rail and struck a tree. Gordon C. Johnson, a passenger in the car died instantly. The driver of the car, Harold Bakken, New Richland, route 1, was not seriously injured.

- Battered for more than eight hours by winds of hurricane velocity and lashed during part of this period by torrential rains that were driven in veritable sheets by the force of the gale, Waseca and the rest of the county were today counting up the damage cause yesterday by one of the most disastrous storms of recent years. Plate glass windows were blown in in the business section of the city, signs were torn loose, roofs were blown away in some cases.

100 years ago

- Judge F. W. Senn sentenced George Thompson of 224 Congress St., St. Paul, to serve a term of from one to five years in the state prison at Stillwater, when he pleaded guilty to a charge of bigamy at the district court session at Mantorville last Friday. The charge of bigamy was preferred by Miss Libibe Miller, an Owatonna girl, who was married to Thompson at Owatonna on May 12. A wedding trip to Milwaukee in a motor car, which was paid for by Miss Miller, a trained nurse, ended at Owatonna on July 4, when Thompson returned to St. Paul. Miss Miller followed the next day and discovered wife No. 1 living at the Congress St. address.

- On Saturday evening, Sept. 19th, a company of about fifty guests were entertained at the Lewis J. Priebe home in compliment to Miss Esther Priebe, an October bride. The rooms were decorated for the occasion in yellow and white. The guest of honor was the recipient of many beautiful and useful gifts. Dainty refreshments were served by her sister-in-law and Mrs. Ben Kaiser at the close of a very enjoyable evening.

- Plans are being made by the committees in charge of the Waseca Music club for an active year. Pres. E. L. Larson reports that Mrs. Patterson, who conducted the work last year will not return this season as she has moved to Minneapolis. The directors are endeavoring to secure an able successor. Old and new members are requested to get in touch with Mrs. Geo. Webb.



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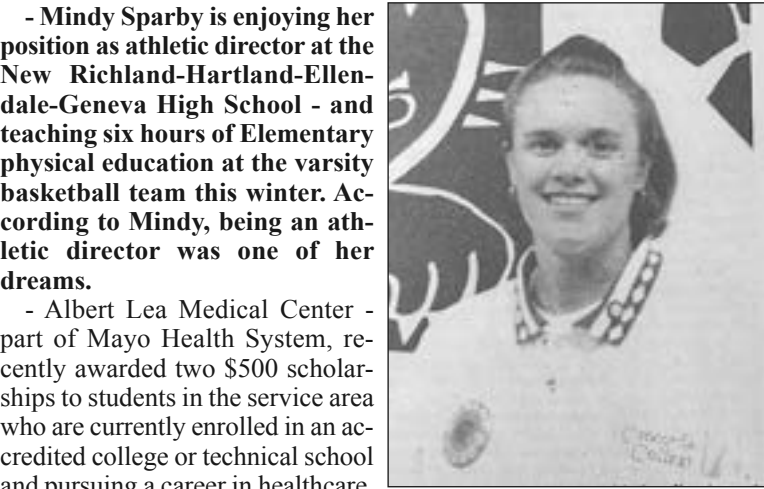


- New Administrator Sue Johnson is no stranger to the New Richland Care Center. She worked as a nurse at the Center in 1979. Since that time she has - gone back to school twice, becoming a registered nurse, the first time and receiving a bachelor's degree in health care administration, the second. Most recently she was assistant administrator at St. Johns in Albert Lea.

- Mindy Sparby is enjoying her position as athletic director at the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School - and teaching six hours of Elementary physical education at the varsity basketball team this winter. According to Mindy, being an athletic director was one of her dreams.

- Albert Lea Medical Center - part of Mayo Health System, recently awarded two \$500 scholarships to students in the service area who are currently enrolled in an accredited college or technical school and pursuing a career in healthcare. Recipients of the scholarships are Amy Nygaard, Albert Lea, who is enrolled in medical school at the University of Minnesota, Duluth, and Nicole Christensen, Ellendale, who is pursuing a nursing degree at St. Olaf College.

- The Panther ninth grade girls volleyball team defeated Alden-Conger 2-1, Tuesday, September 19 at Alden. Team scores were 15-19, 12-15 and 15-8. Coach Jill Schlaak noted that the girls played some good volleyball. Betsy Waldhauser served for nine points and had one kill and a tip kill. Kalisha Anthony served up six points and managed an assist kill and a tip kill.



- Robert Wenzel, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Wenzel and George Jessen, son of Mr. and Mrs. E. James Jessen, check a counter line. The two freshmen members of the New Richland FFA chapter took first in the District XIV Contour Line contest last week. They did exceptionally well with a score of 1.4" off. Second was the Blooming Prairie team with 1.7" off.

- New Richland Municipal Liquor Store shows the largest volume of sales of any of the municipal liquor stores within the area and exceeds the state net income average. According to a report received from Robert W. Mattson, state auditor, the volume of sales for New Richland was \$160,834.00 for 1974. Direct cost in the sales was \$100,420.00 and a gross profit of \$60,414.00.



- Marlene Tappe and Judy Tolleftson are pictured here presenting Inger Nordby, New Richland-Hartlands AFS student with a Cardinal Letter jacket. The jacket was a gift from the student body at New Richland-Hartland High School.

- Terence Lee Kent of Route 2 New Richland is among 4,177 students attending Bemidji State University this fall, according to President Dr. R.D. Decker. The University, which had an on-campus headcount of 4,062 last fall, has seen that number rise to 4,177 for the current quarter. The increase of 115 represents a 2.8 percent enrollment boost.

75 years ago

- Arrival of barber fixtures is all that is holding up the opening of Sid Fossum's barber shop in the hotel building. They've been shipped and when they are installed he'll open up. May be the first of next week.

- Their second daughter, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Joyce Heckes of Albert Lea, at the Naeve hospital Saturday, November 4. Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Heckes are the paternal grandparents.



BIG PLAYS — The WHS football team displayed its big play capability in a 35-10 triumph at Albert Lea last Friday. Above, the Bluejays’ Jordan Johnston (2) surges into the end zone on an 11-yard scoring run in the second quarter. Below left, Brady McKenna gets into the face of Albert Lea quarterback Teaghan Tolbers. Below right, Deron Russell hauls in a 42-yard touchdown pass from Kellen Klinger for the Bluejays’ first score.

Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens



Big plays buoy Jays past Albert Lea, 35-10

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

It was another impressive victory against a quality opponent for the Waseca High School football team.

It was also a night of huge plays for the Bluejays, who returned a punt and a kickoff for touchdowns while winning 35-10 at Albert Lea last Friday.

The biggest night of all belonged to senior Deron Russell, who totaled 126 receiving yards on five catches and one touchdown. He also returned a first-quarter punt 60 yards for a score.

Senior Jordan Johnston also had an impressive performance, running back a touchdown 91 yards on the final play of the first half.

Waseca improved its record to 7-0 while the much-improved Tigers dropped to 5-2.

“We were able to beat a very good Albert Lea team in a fun environment,” said Waseca coach Brad Wendland. “They have some very nice athletes and excellent team speed. We saw our leaders lead a night where senior captains Jordan

Johnston and Deron Russel both returned kicks for touchdowns. The last two minutes of the first half was sort of the pivotal part of the game.”

As was the Waseca defense, which Wendland said was excellent. “Stopping the run was a key for ushe said. “We have a short week to get ready for New Ulm and then we'll come up for air and see where we are at.”

The Bluejays led 14-7 after one quarter and 28-10 at halftime.

WHS quarterback Kellen Klinger finished with 11 completions on 15 attempts for 178 yards. Johnston ran the ball 13 times for 55 yards.

After finishing the regular season Wednesday at home against New Ulm, the Bluejays open the Section 3AAA tournament Tuesday, Oct. 21.

With last Friday’s win, the Bluejays clinched the No. 1 seed in the section.

Waseca 35, Albert Lea 10				
WAS	14	14	7	0 — 35
AL	7	3	0	0 — 10

First Quarter
WAS — Russell 42 pass from Klinger (Rupe kick)

WAS — Russell 60 punt return (Rupe kick)
AL — Schewe 14 pass from Tolbers (Diaz kick)

Second Quarter
WAS — Johnston 11 run (Rupe kick)
AL — Diaz 21 field goal
WAS — Johnston 91 kickoff return (Rupe kick)

Third Quarter
WAS — Johnston 2 run (Rupe kick)
Fourth Quarter
No scoring

	WAS	AL
Total plays	53	47
First downs	8	9
Rushing yards	75	64
Passing yards	178	137
Total Yds.	253	201
Penalties	11-109	7-45

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing — WAS: Johnston 13-55; Parpart 5-6; Russell 1-11; Klinger 14-3; AL: Groess 6-53; Rivera 1-9; Wacholz 6-6; Tolbers 9 —3
Passing — WAS: Klinger 11-16, 178; AL: Tolbers 10-24, 127

Receiving — WAS: Russell 5-126; Johnston 3-28; Long 1-9; Worke 1-6; AL: Conn 5-86; Groess 2-36; Teeter 1-2; Wacholz 1-14

Waseca Defense — Parpart 1T; M.Noble 2T; Mansfield 7T; Russell 2T; Mitchell 1T; Raje 1T; Glynn 6T; Rohl 4T; Kath 3T; Jeske 2T; Biddle 1T; Knutson 1T; Oviedo 8T; Veroven 1T; Selthun 1T; Garza 2T; S.Noble 1T; McKenna 5T; Brown 1T.

WHS CC teams run at Jordan Invitational

The Waseca High School cross country teams competed in the Jordan Invitational last Tuesday.

Bluejay places and times for the girls' varsity 5000-meter race: 14th Ellie Kopischke 20:57.1; 24th Maren Schimming 21:30.9; 47th Taylor Markeson 22:26.1; 50th Ava VanDenHemel 22:29.4; 51st Quinn Yoder 22:33.5; 55th Leah Wilson 22:40.3; 62nd Jenna Yoder 22:57.7

St. Peter won the girls' varsity division with 63 points. Waseca had 178.

Waseca girls' junior varsity results: 7th Kelsey Draeger 23:57.4; 14th Violet Rohwer 24:51.3; 52nd Najorie Lacy 35:23.0.

Results for Waseca boys' varsity 5000 meters: 45th Wyatt Hager 19:09.8; 53rd Keenan Collins 19:26.61; 78th Luke Feldkamp 20:40.6; 93rd Korbin Collins 21:51.4; 96th Ryan Yoder 22:18.7; 103rd Sam Feldkamp 25:00.1

Redwood Valley won with 54 points. Waseca had 361.

Boys' middle school 2500 meters: 5th Noah Love 9:48.6; 13th Kurt Erickson 10:22.2; 35th Will Deml 11:30.1; 40th Miles Popp 11:50.4; 48th Owen Fierka 12:50.3

Next up for the Bluejays is the Big South Conference meet Oct. 14, followed by the Section 1AA race Oct. 23.

Grizzlies second at No Frills Invitational

The WEM/JWP cross country teams competed in the No Frills Invitational hosted by United South Central last Tuesday at Oak View Golf Course near Freeborn.

Blooming Prairie won the boys' division with 34 points. The Grizzlies were right on their heels with 37. Medford totaled 56.

Places and times for the WEM/JWP boys: Wyatt Jans, second, 18:00.2; Teagan Mulder, fifth,

19:14.1; Auston Holicky, 11th, 20:43.4; Wesley Heinz, 14th, 20:53.7; Cash Wenker, 19th, 21:52.8; Dalton Ling, 30th, 24:50.2; Charlie Denis, 33rd, 27:36.8.

On the girls' side, Blooming Prairie finished first with 27 points, followed by WEM/JWP at 38, NRHEG 78 and Medford 100.

Individually for the Bulldogs: Mackenzie Westphal, fifth,

22:18.8; Norah Welsaert, sixth, 22:19.5; Madalyn Miller, ninth, 23:00; Lydia Coulsey, 10th, 22:33.1; Ellie Schlie, 11th, 24:29.7; Kwynn Krause, 13th, 24:37.3; Jaelyn Wilmes, 15th, 24:52.9; Abigail Crosby, 24th 28:24.3; Hailey Heinz, 29th, 31:56.4

The Grizzlies head to Hayfield for the Gopher Conference meet Oct. 14.

Quast, Bulldogs burn BP

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Caleb Quast and the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton football team didn’t just defeat Blooming Prairie last Thursday.

They burned them.

Quast broke his own school record with a remarkable 211 receiving yards on eight catches, scoring three touchdowns as the Bulldogs prevailed 39-15.

“Congratulations to Caleb Quast!” said JWP coach Ryan Luedtke.

Quast caught his first scoring pass from Daulton Bauer in the first quarter, adding two more touchdowns as the Bulldogs assumed a 20-7 lead as the first period concluded. JWP led 26-15 at halftime and 32-15 after three quarters.

Quast also caught a 62-yarder in the third quarter while Bauer finished the night with six touchdown passes. He threw for 293 yards on 20 of 23 pass attempts.

Chase Gerdts was JWP’s leading

ball carrier with 67 yards on 15 carries. He also led the defense with 11 tackles.

The Bulldogs finished the regular season Wednesday at Maple River.



Quast

JWP 39, Blooming Prairie 15				
JWP	20	6	6	7 — 39
BP	7	8	0	0 — 15

First Quarter
JWP — Quast 5 pass from D.Bauer (Peterson kick)

JWP — Quast 20 pass from D.Bauer (run failed)
BP — DenHerder 2 pass (Staloch kick)
JWP — Quast 48 pass from D.Bauer (Peterson kick)

Second Quarter
BP — McCarthy 7 pass from Staloch (Sorensen run)
JWP — G.Bauer 4 pass from D.Bauer (pass failed)

Third Quarter
JWP — Quast 62 pass from D.Bauer (pass failed)

JWP — G.Bauer 4 pass from D.Bauer (kick failed)

Fourth Quarter
JWP — G.Bauer 4 pass from D.Bauer (Peterson kick)

	JWP	BP
Plays	47	52
First downs	20	15
Rushing	124	101
Passing	20-23	14-27
Passing Yards	290	141
Passing TDs, int.	6-0	1-1
Total Yds.	414	242
Third down	3-7	8-13
Fourth down	2-3	0-1
Fumbles lost	0	0
Penalties	11-94	6-35

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
RUSHING JWP: D.Bauer 1-37; Gerdts 15-67; Quast 1-9; Kronbach 1-1; BP: Johnson 1-9; Clennon 2-5; Stalock 3-10; Miner 2-11; DenHerder 17-66

PASSING — JWP: D.Bauer 20-23, 293; BP: Johnson 2-2, 14; Stalock 12-25, 127
RECEIVING — JWP: Quast 9-211; G.Bauer 7-56; Schultz 1 — 3; Kronbach 3-8; Gerdts 3-18; BP Gimbel 5-67; Miner 1-13

JWP Defense — Hood 2T, 2A, Quast 1A; G.Bauer 5T; Scholl 2T; Weedman 3T; Gearity 2T; Dahlberg 2T; Sturdivant 1T; Wolff 1T; Kronbach 5T; Miller 2T; Gerdts 11T; Schultz 1T; Rolfson 4T; Rider 8T; Cummins 5T; Huber 2T; Johnston 1T; Wheelock 1T

NRHEG volleyball team improves record to 19-6

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School volleyball team started last week with a sweep at Maple River.

It was a sign of things to come.

The Panthers continued to pile up the wins, starting with Monday’s 3-0 triumph at Maple River, where the Panthers prevailed 25-21, 25-23 and 27-25. NRHEG won despite not playing its best.

“It was not our cleanest and/or best quality volleyball, but we pushed through momentum shifts to win in three straight sets,” said NRHEG coach Bethany Tennis.

Individual totals: Gabby Schlaak 10K, 9D, 1SA, 2B; Camryn VanMaldeghem 5K, 6D, 2B; Anika Laddie 4K, 6D, 1SA, 3B; Nora Flatness 1K 2D; Quinn VanMaldeghem 2K, 7D, 1A, 3B; Addy Stadheim 4K, 9D, 29SA, 1B; Chloe Stork 2K, 2D, 6B; Chloe Riewer 10D, 2SA.

The next night, the Panthers made the short trip to Waseca, where they made it a short match, winning 3-0 by scores of 25-12, 25-8, 25-18.

It was Dig Pink Night for the Bluejays, to celebrate and honor those who have fought, are fighting, or have been affected by cancer in some capacity within

their life.

"The girls took three sets with a commanding presence," said Tennis. "We continue to be flexible with lineup adjustments and different looks both on offense and defense.

Individually: Schlaak 10K, 7D, 1SA; C.VanMaldeghem 5K, 5D, 2A; Laddie 2K, 2B; Flatness 1K, 2B; Q.VanMaldeghem 3K, 4D, 1A, 4B; Kyera Eustice 1K; Kayden Warke 1A; Stadheim 1K, 3D, 20SA, 1A, 1B; Stork 1K, 1A, 1B; Meela Budach 1K; Kylie Olson 1B; Riewer 7D, 3SA.

The Panthers celebrated Senior Night Friday with a 3-0 victory over Randolph, winning 25-18, 25-18, 25-10.

According to Tennis, the Panthers showcased great energy and teamwork from start to finish while improving to 19-6 overall and 7-2 in the Gopher Conference.

Individually: Schlaak 9K, 7D, 1B; C.VanMaldeghem 7K, 3D, 1SA, 2B; Laddie 2K, 2D, 2A, 3B; Flatness 1A, 1B; Q.VanMaldeghem 3K, 4D, 1A, 4B; Eustice 1K; Stadheim 2K, 25 SA; Stork 2K, 5A, 4B; Riewer 4D, 2SA.

Season ends for WHS girls’ tennis

The top-seeded Lake City Tigers defeated No. 2 seed Waseca Bluejays 4-3 in Rochester on Monday in the Section 1A girls' tennis semifinals at the Rochester Athletic Club. No 2 seed Cannon Falls defeated No. 3 Red Wing 6-1 in the other semifinal. Lake City went on to defeat Cannon Falls 6-1 for the Section 1A championship.

Results in the Lake City/Waseca match: Singles: No. 1 - Vivian Mader, Waseca, def. Rylee Thieren 6-4, 3-3, Retired; No. 2 - Thèrèse Bauer, Lake City, def. Ava Miller 6-1, 6-2; No. 3 - Gemma Bauer, Lake City, def. Pearl Moore, 6-1, 6-0; No. 4 - Emma Siert, Lake City, def. Layla Keith 6-1, 6-0.

Doubles: No. 1 - Emily Mehrkens and Mary Kate Bauer, Lake City, def. Paige Dufault and Maddy Benson 6-2, 6-0; No. 2 - Hannah Rugger and Anna Benson, Waseca, def. Julia Huettl and Erica Wallerich 6-2, 6-1; No. 3 - Madison Rasche and Chloe Hagen, Waseca, def. Addie Thieren and Madyson Skifton 3-6, 1-3, Retired.

The Bluejays finished the regular season with a record of 10-9.

The Waseca girls returned for the Section 1A individual tournament that started Wednesday at the Rochester Athletic Club.

No Waseca individuals advanced to the section semifinals. Results from Wednesday:

Singles: Moore Waseca lost to Emma Siert, Lake City, 6-0, 6-0 in the opening round; Paola Sandoval lost to No. 5 seed Miranda Mandelkow of Cannon Falls 6-0, 6-0 in the first round.

Doubles: No. 5 seed Maddy Benson and Miller defeated Omji Errthum/Julia Johnson of Winona Cotter 6-0, 6-0 in the first round. Benson and Miller then lost to No. 4 seed Olivia Bungum and Ivy O'Rourke, USC, 7-5, 6-2.

Rugger and Anna Benson defeated Karen Hasegawa/LeYan Thean of Winona Cotter 6-0, 6-1 in the first round. They lost to No. 2 seed Mary Kate Bauer and Emily Mehrkens, Lake City, 6-3, 6-0 in the quarterfinals.

Congratulations to

DERON RUSSELL

Waseca Bluejay's

PLAYER OF THE GAME
Oct. 10, 2025



DIGGING PINK — The WHS volleyball team hosted a tough NRHEG crew last Tuesday, falling 3-0. Above left, the Bluejays’ Ellery Waldron (13) spikes over the Panthers’ Anika Ladlie (3). Above rightm, Savanna Vagts (4) spikes as Quinn VanMeldghem defends. Below, Bry’asia Mayberry (6) spikes as Nora Flatness (4) and Adalyn Stadheim (14) go for the block.



WHS spikers fall to NRHEG, LCWM

Despite a loss to a tough NRHEG squad, the Waseca High School volleyball team had a successful night last Tuesday.

The Bluejays hosted their annual Dig Pink Night, and there was a great turnout to help fight cancer.

The visiting Panthers won 3-0, with set scores of 25-12, 25-8, 25-18.

Avery Barto led the Bluejays with 17 assists. Tajha Nelson had a team-best 19 digs, with Alyssa Kilmer totaling 10 digs. Ellery Waldron registered a team-high eight kills.

"It was a great, fun turnout," said

Waseca head coach Krissy Plonske.

The Bluejays dropped a 3-0 decision to Lake Crystal Wellcome Memorial on Thursday.

The home team swept 3-0, topping the sets 25-16, 25-22 and 25-19.

Barto again led in set assists, totaling 16 for the match to go along with 10 digs.

Waldron registered a team-high seven kills, adding seven digs.

Nelson totaled 19 digs to lead the Bluejays while Kilmer registered 10.



Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

No frills

NRHEG CC girls 3rd at USC meet; Wobbrock wins

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School cross country teams were at Oak View Golf Course near Freeborn last Tuesday for United South Central’s No Frills Invitational.

The Lady Panthers finished third among four teams with 64 points. Blooming Prairie was first with 27, WEM/JWP second with 38 and Medford fourth at 81.

Julieann Wobbrock finished first overall for the Panthers with a time of 19:45.64 for 5000 meters.

Others:

Jodie Tufte	16th	25:15.92
Violette Botten	20th	27:04.4
Rylie Cromwell	23rd	27:54.68
Holly Bartness	25th	28:24.21
Amelia Duryee	27th	29:50.97
Tiffany Jewison	28th	31:01.46

Jacob Karl took third in the boys’ 5000-meter race in 18:11.23. Colton Leron was 18th with a time of 21:27.85.

"There was cooler weather, and no bugs!" said NRHEG coach Larry Nydegger. "This is a fun meet to attend since it is a precursor to the upcoming conference meet. We will be setting all of these teams in Hayfield next week. Julieann and Jacob continue to place at or near the top, and I was very pleased to see the younger runners have really strong performances today."

Season ends for WHS boys’ soccer

Top-seeded Faribault wins 10-0 in opening round of section tournament

The Waseca High School boys’ soccer team lost to Faribault last Tuesday in the opening round of the Section 1AA tournament.

The Bluejays, seeded eighth, fell 10-0 to the top-seeded Falcons, who led 9-0 at halftime.

Coach J.D. Delgado’s Waseca varsity finshed the season with a

record of 1-11.

Seniors graduating off the squad are Amin Sharif, Brady Tloutgan, Christian Rodriguez and Diego Toapanta.

Returning next fall are juniors Carson Harter, Tovin Grannis, Sunny Mei, Nolan McQuery, Edwin Aragon, Jacob Harguth and Justin

Toapanta, sophomores Matthew Nelson, Landon Rutt and Carlo Driessen, and freshmen Tomas Vasquez, Shylo Driessen and Sawyer Mairs.

Noone will graduate off the Waseca junior varsity. Players returning are sophomores Filiberto Caudillo and Kendrick Spies, fresh-

man Isaiah Adams, 8th-graders Ryder Oliver Froslan and Tobin Rutt, and 7th-graders Jose Gaona, Layne Nusbaum, Joe Harguth, Jackson Ling, Easton Schlueter, Brock Groh, Cayson Miller, and Macah Aboki, and Kelvin Aragon.

Panthers win big at Medford

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The NRHEG High School football team trekked to Medford last Thursday in search of a victory.

The Panthers got one.

NRHEG dominated the game from start to finish, blowing out the Tigers 56-28.

"It was a really good win for the boys to get us back on track," said NRHEG head coach Marc Kruger.

The scoring came from everywhere, with two kickoff return touchdowns, a fumble return touchdown, and multiple great drives on offense.

"The defense played great, created turnovers, and made big stops," said Kruger.

The Panthers pounced early, scoring on a 16-yard pass from Brooks Gilliland to Calvin Nissen and on a 45-yard fumble return for a score by Jordan Brouwers.

NRHEG led 14-8 after one quarter.

It was 35-14 at halftime as NRHEG scored on a 3-yard pass from Gilliland to Gavin Lewison and an 81-yard kickoff return by Nissen, who also scored on an 11-yard pass in the third quarter.

Nissen nabbed his third scoring pass of the night in the third period, after Tyler Piepho returned a kickoff 70 yards for a touchdown.

Lewison rushed for a game-high 125 yards on 10 carries.

Gilliland completed six of 16 passes for 146 yards and one interception. Nissen caught three passes for 91 yards.

Brouwers led the defense with 10 tackles and a sack.

The Panthers concluded the regular season Wednesday, Oct. 15 at home against United South Central.

NRHEG 56, MEDFORD 28

NRHEG	14	21	21	0	—	56
MED	8	6	8	6	—	28

First Quarter

NRHEG — Nissen 16 pass from B.Gilliland (two-point conversion failed)

"It was a really good win for the boys to get us back on track."

— NRHEG coach Marc Kruger

NRHEG — Brouwers 45 fumble return (Nissen run)

MED — 8 run (two-point conversion good)

Second Quarter

NRHEG — Lewison 3 pass from B.Gilliland (Wyrum kick)

MED — 22 run (two-point conversion failed)

NRHEG — Nissen 81 kickoff return (Wyrum kick)

NRHEG — Nissen 11 pass from B.Gilliland (Wyrum kick)

Third Quarter

NRHEG — Piepho 70 kickoff return (Wyrum kick)

NRHEG — Nissen 64 pass from B.Gilliland (Wyrum kick)

NRHEG — 50 run (Wyrum kick)

Fourth Quarter

MED — 9 pass (two-point conversion failed)

	NRHEG	MED
Total plays	42	56
First downs	13	16
Rushing Yds.	141	271
Passing Yds.	146	28
Total Yards	287	299
Third Down	2-6	1-10
Fourth Down	0-2	1-1
Fumbles lost	2	4
Penalties	4-85	2-10

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING — NRHEG: Lewison 10-125; R.Schlaak 5-14; M.Gilliland 3-10; Nissen 2-3; Piepho 1 —4; B.Gilliland 1 — 7; MED: Team 43-271

PASSING — NRHEG: B.Gilliland 6-16, 146, 4TD, 1int.; MED: 3-9, 28, 1TD, 1int.

RECEIVING — NRHEG: Nissen 3-91; R.Schlaak 2-52; Lewison 1-3; MED: Team 3-28

NRHEG Defense — Brouwers 10T, 1S; Larson 5T, 1A; Conroy 3T; Weller 3T; Beauvais 3T, 1int.; Bartlett 2T; D.Schlaak 2T; Baumann 1T; M.Gilliland 1T; O.Schlaak 1T; Hanson 1T; Degen 1T; Hanna 1T; R.Schlaak 1S



SEASON FINALE — At left, the Bluejays’ Reese Rodriguez (10) moves the ball upfield during the Waseca High School girls’ soccer team’s section opener at Kasson-Mantorville, where they suffered a heartbreaking 1-0 defeat. At right, the Bluejays’ Liz Aboke (12) defends against a K-M attacker.



Photos by Debbie Rodriguez

WHS soccer girls end season with tough loss

The Waseca High School girls’ soccer team saw its season conclude last Tuesday with a close 1-0 decision at Kasson-Mantorville.

The Bluejays, coached by Philip Bulfer, finished the 2025 season

with a record of 4-10-1.

Seniors on this year’s squad included Ella Bulfer, the coach’s daughter, along with Khloe Fuller, Ava Bruhn, Hope Nelson and Rylee Schaefer.

Underclassmen on the varsity are juniors Jesalyn Weise, Reese Ludwig, Angelica Lopez and Anya Gaona, sophomores Kelly Hernandez and Reese Rodriguez, 9th-graders Sheila Driessen, Liz

Aboki and Delilah Veroeven, and 8th-graders Aryana Garza, Rachel Mielke and Lilly Muff.

Historical Society offers four “eerie” October events

This October, the Waseca County History Center invites the community to experience an unforgettable lineup of eerie fun and fascinating history! From ghost stories to sideshow curiosities, our October Series offers something for everyone—curious minds, thrill seekers, and families alike. More information about all activities is available on the website.

For the week of October 28 to 31, visitors can peek behind the curtain of Victorian showmanship! Discover how nineteenth- and early twentieth-century entertainers fooled audiences with their strange “specimens” and unbelievable creatures. Learn the real story behind Waseca’s own Mermaid of Loon Lake and explore the art, deception, and imagination that made sideshow “gaffs” a nationwide sensation

The evening of October 30, join intriguing local ghost hunters from CAT Paranormal for a session

sharing information about the tools they use during investigations. If you dare, join us after the presentation for a live ghost exploration at the Bailey Lewer Research Library. Decide for yourself what lingers beyond the veil. Separate tickets are needed for the presentation and the demonstration. A limited number of tickets are available at wasecacountyhistorycenter.org/events. Purchase quickly, as this event packed the house last year.

On Halloween night from 6 to 9 p.m., bring the whole family for a bit of spooky fun by stopping in as you trick or treat! Dare to mount the museum stairs, and inside, explore the legend of the Mermaid of Loon Lake and a mysterious taxidermied Capricorn gaff. Enjoy the festive atmosphere of our historic halls after dark. Costumes are encouraged—make a memory and take a photo with our eerie exhibits before they disappear!

Sons of Norway, Nortonna welcomes Bill Fried

Please join the Nortonna Lodge 1-638 of the Sons of Norway as we welcome Bill Fried as he presents, “Peter Julius Rosendahl & Ola og Per Who was he? Where did his family come from in Norway? Where did he live? How did Ola og Per start? Why was he popular? Why did he blend Norwegian Ninorsk and English? What were his themes and interest in early 20th century America?”

These are a few of the questions that will be explored on Monday, October 20th, 2025 at the Owatonna VFW, 135 Oakdale Street. Peter’s weekly cartoon appeared in the Decorah Posten and was awaited by many in the upper Midwest Norwegian communities. Many artifacts curated by the Rosendahl family will be available for examination. Giants of the Earth Heritage Center in Spring Grove, MN hosts a permanent exhibit in Peter’s hometown. A farmer, poet, photographer, and iconic second-generation Norwegian immigrant, Peter provides glimpse into the pioneer life in the Driftless region on the Mississippi.

Bill Fried, Acting Executive Director of Giants of the Earth Heritage Center in Spring Grove, MN. He is

a retired educator, director of theatre, and speech at Spring Grove Public Schools. He has performed for over 50 years in regional theatre productions as well as a singer in many choirs in southeastern Minnesota. He is past president of the Luren Singing Society and the Norwegian Singers Association of America. He currently creates and manages services to multiage audiences on the immigration experiences of Norwegians Immigrating to America. He and his wife Karen live comfortably on the Iowa/Minnesota border just south of Spring Grove. Karen is the granddaughter of Peter Julius Rosendahl.

Dinner will be served at 6:00 pm for a cost of \$10, and the meeting will follow at 7:00 pm. This meeting will be our annual “Membership Meeting,” and current members are encouraged to bring guests who may be interested in joining our lodge. In addition, any community member with an interest in joining are welcome to come and learn more about the Sons of Norway organization.

If you are a prospective member interested in attending, please contact Janet Erickson at 507-390-1239.

words, too high a percentage of them become food before they have a chance to become fish. When there are sufficient numbers, Lakes Ballantyne and Frances are also stocked with fingerlings.

The delivery of the fish, Eder says lightheartedly, “is not an elegant process.”

It begins with emptying the rearing pond, netting the fingerlings, and placing them in transportation tanks. The hatchery has two portable tanks, one mounted on a truck and a second, larger one, on a trailer. The process requires considerable physical effort since the fingerlings are drawn into an enclosed “trap,” netted out, and deposited into buckets which are then carried to the tanks and emptied.

With hundreds of pounds of fish along with the water needed to transport them, that gets to be quite a few bucketloads, and so quite a few trips carrying them back and forth.

Harvest of walleye from on-site ponds typically happens at night. Fingerlings are transported from the pond to raceways inside the hatchery overnight and are transferred back onto the tank truck in the morning. Aerators in the tanks deliver extra oxygen to the concentrated populations until they are delivered to lakes the next morning, usually within 12 to 15 hours.

Once the fingerlings are in the lake, Eder points out, the numbers game continues.

“But hopefully we’ll have a strong survival rate,” he says, “and anglers will be pulling these walleye out of the lake for years to come.”

■ Walleye from Page 1

the water.

The millions of hatchlings are distributed in different ways.

Many are taken directly back to select lakes shortly after hatching. In the case of natural reproduction and of stocked fry, Eder says the estimated survival rate is only 1 to 5 percent, but the number of fry is large enough that those odds are sufficient to sustain lake populations. Eder summarizes the factors leading to the attrition as: “They have to find food, and they are food.”

He lists a number of reasons fry placed in the hatchery ponds have a higher survival rate. Perhaps foremost, there are no predators. The shape and size of the pond, and sometimes intervention from fishery staff, help regulate the temperature and oxygen levels in the water. Natural food levels are supplemented. Birds and other unavoidable predators are discouraged—loud noises are used to frighten them away and sometimes physical barriers may be employed, for example twine strung across the surface of the water.

“So we have a much higher survival rate because we’ve invested a lot more resources,” Eder says. “In other words, the fingerling fish are much more expensive.”

For that reason, only a relatively limited number of area lakes regularly receive the fingerlings, namely Clear, Fountain, and Beaver. He explains that strong panfish populations in these three lakes lead to unsuccessful survival rates when stocking fry. In other

Marching Jays at Youth in Music



YOUTH IN MUSIC- The Waseca Marching Jays placed seventh in Class AA and fourth place in Class AA State at the Youth in Music competition held at the U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis on Saturday, Oct. 11.

ZED by Duane M. Abel



www.corkeycomics.com

Mental Health & Resilience Conference

October 25, 2025 8:30 am- 4:00 pm

Location: West Hills Commons

500 Dunnell Drive Owatonna, MN

FREE Admission upon registration, Breakfast/Lunch Included

Topics Include:

- Keynote Speaker– In Their Own Words -Owatonna Mayor, Matt Jessop
- Self-Care: Learning From Lived Experience
- Courage to Be Heard: Empowering Yourself in the Mental Health System
- Understanding the Mental Health System
- Community Resource Fair



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Schluter joins Phi Kappa Phi

Allison Schlueter of Janesville, Minnesota, was recently elected to membership into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society, at Central Michigan University.

Schluter is among approximately 20,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence in all academic disciplines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 300 campuses in the United States and its territories. Its mission is to "cultivate a community that celebrates and advances the love of learning."

About Phi Kappa Phi

Founded in 1897, Phi Kappa Phi is the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. Phi Kappa Phi inducts approximately 20,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni annually. The Society has chapters on more than 300 select colleges and universities in the United States and its territories. Membership is by invitation only to the top 10 percent of seniors and graduate students and 7.5 percent of juniors. Faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction also qualify. The Society's mission is to "cultivate a community that celebrates and advances the love of learning." For more information, visit www.PhiKappaPhi.org.

JFD hosts annual pancake breakfast

By JANESVILLE JOURNAL

It's that time of year for the fire departments to prepare ways to educate the community on how to prevent fires.

To kick off Fire Prevention Week, the Janesville Fire Department hosted its annual pancake breakfast on Sunday, October 5, from 8 a.m. to noon. It was the usual fare you'd expect at a pancake breakfast; the star of the show, of course, was the flapjacks, with the supporting cast of eggs and sausage.

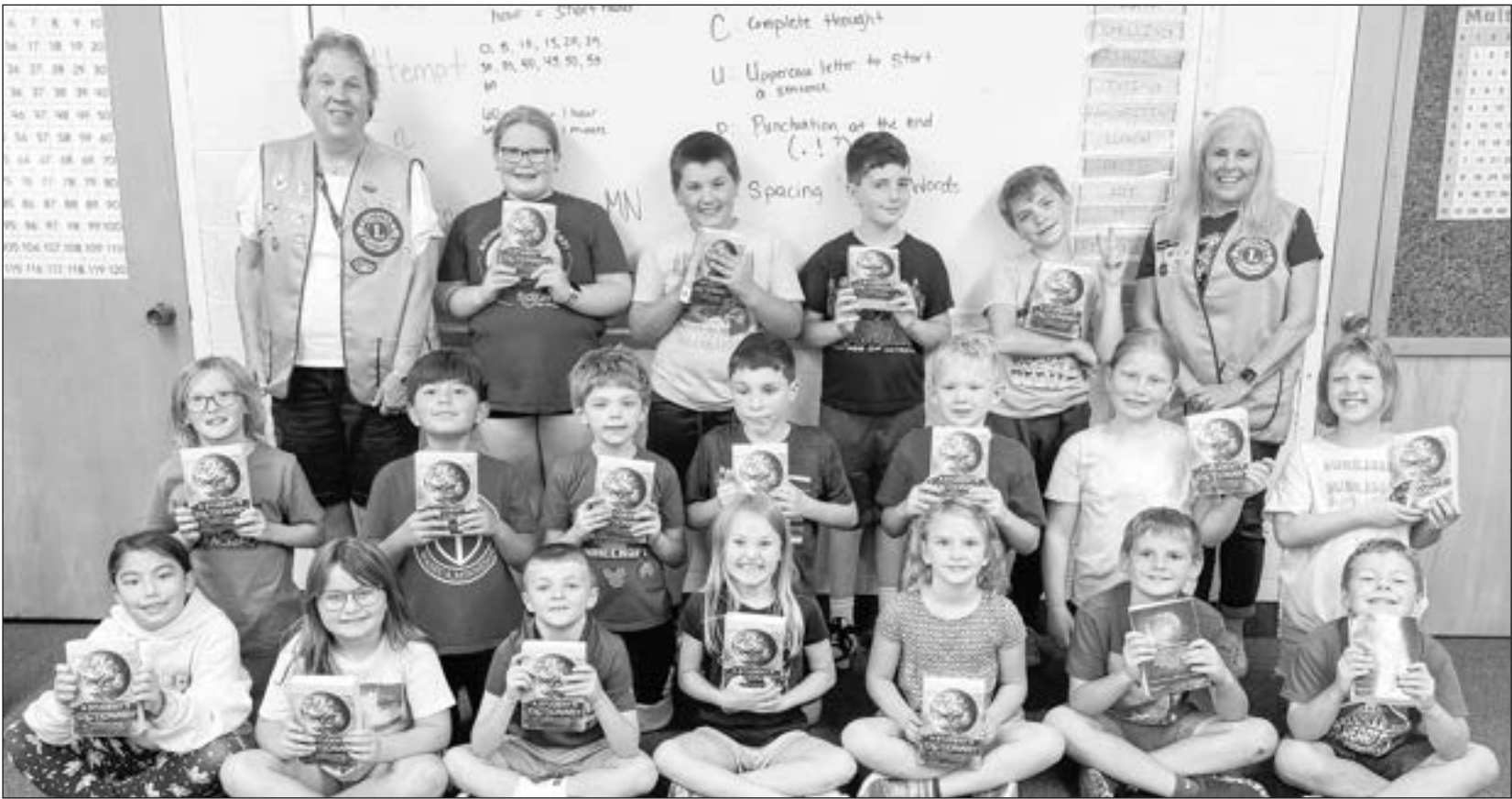
Like last year, the Minnesota Vikings were playing at the same time the JFD held the breakfast, as they were once again playing in London, this time against the Cleveland Browns. The Vikings fans out of the 40 in the fire hall were likely anxious, as the purple and gold scored a last-second touchdown to win ugly against the Browns 21-17. Oh well. At least the breakfast was good.

All proceeds from the breakfast will be donated to the Janesville Fire Department to support the purchase of necessary equipment and other essential items throughout the year.

The JFD also hosted a program on Fire Prevention at JWP on Tuesday, October 7.

The members would like to remind you to stay safe and take all necessary precautions to prevent an accidental fire from occurring. Oh, and they hope that you enjoyed the food.

Third graders receive dictionaries



DICTIONARY DELIVERY - Last week, Sacred Heart third graders in Waseca received dictionaries from the Waseca Lions Club as part of the Lions Dictionary Project. The project helps build essential literacy skills such as vocabulary, spelling and reading for students in our community and across the country.

County proclaims 4-H observation

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

During the most recent meeting of the Waseca County board of commissioners, a report summarizing activity in the Waseca County 4-H program provided a list of events the local Extension office has administered over the past 12 months. After hearing from 4-H participant Alexis Myers and local 4-H youth development coordinator Amy Nelson, board members gladly approved a proclamation acknowledging that National 4-H Week from Oct. 5 to 11 was also being observed locally.

Nelson's summary included an "immersive Summer Animal Science overnight trip which focused on biosecurity, sustainable agriculture, and meat and dairy production; a group of 35 youth and 10 adult volunteers taking part in a pizza-making workshop at Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm, and a new "Crochet Club." More than 30 community members, businesses and



OBSERVATION - County Commissioners signed a proclamation declaring 4-H Week in Waseca County. Pictured at center are 4-H participant Alexis Myers and University of Minnesota Extension educator Amy Nelson, along with commissioners (from left) Brian Harguth, Brad Milbrath, Brad Krause, De Malterer and Doug Christopherson.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

4-H alumni donated funds to create a Waseca County 4-H Legacy Fund; 4-H Ambassadors handed out almost 150 free trees courtesy of an organization called "Neighborhood Forest" during an Earth Day celebration in April.

Nelson also mentioned 4-H participants submitted more than 1,300 entries during the Waseca County Fair, a growth of 12 percent over 2024. She placed a value of more than \$28,000 on the value of service hours put in by 4-H volunteers during the fair.

The county's proclamation names both na-

tional and local accomplishments by the 4-H organization, including that it has offices in every city and town in the country, employs 3,500 professional leaders and draws contributions from 600,000 volunteers.

For the week-long observance, the organization has adopted the theme, "Beyond Ready," meaning to send the message that 4-H is working to build a ready generation in a world of change and to equip young people with skills for the future while meeting them where they are today.



CELEBRATING PROGRESS- Front Row Left to Right: Deanna Hiller, Patty Buehler, Ryan Ludwig, Julie Ludwig, Lori Underwood, Kristie Biehn, Mikhail Rostislavovich, Katie Gonzales, Marcy Buchele. Back Row Left to Right: Larry Johnson, Kevin Walter, Jodie Thompson, Diane Beckmann, Amy Potter, Tiffany Lynch, Colin Worke and Molly Hendrickson

Chamber Ambassadors present progress award to Ryan Ludwig

The Waseca Area Chamber Ambassadors recently visited Edward Jones – Ryan Ludwig to present a Progress Award in recognition of their new office location and continued growth in the Waseca community.

Financial Advisor Ryan Ludwig shared his enthusiasm for the move, saying, "We have been looking for a new location for some time now, and when this became available, we decided that it was the perfect spot for us to create a space to be able to expand our business and add to our team. I have always appreciated the

history of the office, and I'm happy that we were able to breathe new life into it and keep it around for years to come. The view is amazing, and I love how visible it is being right near Clear Lake. We are proud of how everything turned out and can't wait for all your clients to experience our new space!"

Edward Jones is a financial services firm dedicated to helping individual investors achieve their long-term financial goals. Through personalized investment strategies and one-on-one relationships, Edward Jones financial advisors help

clients with retirement planning, education savings, estate considerations, and wealth management.

Ambassador Chair Katie Gonzales shared, "It's exciting to see Ryan and his team continue to grow and invest in Waseca. Their new space reflects their commitment to both their clients and our community, and we're thrilled to celebrate this next step with them."

Waseca Chamber Board President Mikhail Rostislavovich added, "Edward Jones has long been a trusted presence in Waseca. This expansion is not only a sign of their success but

also a testament to the strength and vitality of our local business community."

The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce and its Ambassadors congratulate Edward Jones – Ryan Ludwig on this milestone and look forward to their continued success in Waseca.

Edward Jones – Ryan Ludwig
36050 Clear Lake Drive
Waseca, MN 56093
Phone: (507) 835-4062
Website:
www.edwardjones.com/ryan-ludwig

Faith Lutheran Church celebrates 60 years

By JANESVILLE JOURNAL

It has been 60 years since Lutherans in Janesville decided to establish a new church, founded on the values held by the Southeastern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA) in America. This past Sunday, October 5, the church held a celebration celebrating its 60th Anniversary, with the theme "Rooted in Faith, Growing in Grace."

With the celebrations taking place, Faith's sister church, North Waseca Lutheran, was closed. Instead, parts of the North Waseca Church choir joined the Faith Lutheran choir to form the "Anniversary Choir," which led most of the hymns and performed a piece called "Hold on to Hope". Melissa Schultz took on piano duties, also performing Claude Debussy's "Clair de Lune" during the offering. Reverend Emily Carson, director of the Evangelical Mission of the Southeast Minnesota Synod, delivered the sermon, while Rev. Sara Krolak of Faith Lutheran focused on the children's sermon.

Following the service, a brief cap accessible." The congregation officially program was held, featuring a presentation highlighting the church's 60-year journey, including interviews with founding members Ole and Jean Lundquist and Pauline Fenelon.

A lunch followed.

Faith's beginnings were in 1964, when Lutherans started forming a new church based on the American Lutheran Church branch of Lutheranism (known as the ELCA today). "Each couple had their own reason that they wanted to start a church," Jean Lundquist shared.

Fenelon highlighted during her interview, many felt that the values they were taught in their faith weren't being reflected; the only other Lutheran Church in Janesville was Trinity Lutheran, which was part of the Missouri Synod (LCMS).

Faith Lutheran's first worship took place in two classrooms at Janesville High School on February 21, 1965. "Superintendent Christianson was our contact man there," Olof Lundquist said. According to an excerpt in the church service program, the congregation voted to be officially recognized as the Faith Lutheran Church. Olof Lundquist was elected president.

Later in 1965, Faith brought the former Methodist Church (located on the southwest corner of Mott and Second Streets), where they held services until 2005.

Before the church's 40th anniversary, many decided that it was time for a new church. "We thought it'd be a good idea to build a new church," Fenelon explained. "It was tough for the elderly to attend church, and we wanted something more handicap accessible."

The congregation officially broke ground with a ceremony on August 28, 2005. Bishop Harold Usgaard gave the blessing for the site and the congregation. The 40th anniversary was the congregation's last at its former location.

On January 15, 2006, the community joined the congregation in a ceremony that marked the closure of their former location. For 132 years, the church building on Mott-2nd served as the site for Christian worship, starting with the United Methodist Church and ending with the Faith Lutheran Church.

The congregation took great pride in celebrating its 60th anniversary as a church. They will continue to follow the theme of their anniversary, staying rooted in faith while growing in grace.

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF WASECA
DISTRICT COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
PROBATE COURT DIVISION
Court File No.: 81-PR-25-644
In Re: Estate of
WAYNE E. BARBKNECHT,
Decedent
NOTICE AND ORDER FOR
HEARING ON PETITION FOR
PROBATE OF WILL AND AP-

POINTMENT OF PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE AND NO-
TICE TO CREDITORS

It is ordered and notice is given that on November 5, 2025, 9:00 a.m., a hearing will be held – via zoom, in the above named Court at Waseca, Waseca County, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the will of the above named decedent, dated May 8, 2002,

and for the appointment of Rosanne S. Barbknecht whose address is 38759 90th St, Janesville, MN 56048, as personal representative of the estate of the decedent, in an unsupervised probate, and that any objections thereto must be filed with the Court. That, if proper, and no objections are filed, personal representative will be appointed to administer the estate, to collect all assets, pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and ex-

penses, and sell real and personal property, and do all necessary acts for the estate. Upon completion of the probate, the representative shall file a final account for the allowance and shall distribute the estate to the persons thereunto entitled as ordered by the Court and close the estate.
Notice is also given that (subject to Minn Stat 524.3-801) all creditors having claims against the estate are required to present the claims to the

personal representative or to the court administrator within four months after the date of this notice or the claims will be barred.

Dated: 09/10/2025
/s/ Carol M. Hanks
Judge of District Court

/s/ Shannon Asselin
Deputy Court Administrator

PATTON, HOVERSTEN & BERG,
P.A.
Ellie J. James, #505790
215 E Elm Ave, PO Box 249
Waseca, MN 56093
507-835-5240
ellie.james@phblawoffice.com
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on October 9 and 16, 2025

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF WASECA
DISTRICT COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
PROBATE COURT DIVISION
Court File No.: 81-PR-25-695
In Re: Estate of
LYLE A. WALDRON,
Decedent
ORDER AND NOTICE OF
HEARING FOR FORMAL
PROBATE OF WILL AND AP-
POINTMENT OF PERSONAL

REPRESENTATIVE IN UNSU-
PERVISED ADMINISTRATION
AND
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO ALL INTERESTED
PERSONS:
It is Ordered and Notice is hereby given that on the 12th day of November, 2025, at 9:15 a.m., a hearing will be held in the above named Court at Waseca, Waseca County, Minnesota, for the formal

probate of an instrument purporting to be the will of the above named decedent, dated September 28, 2021, and for the appointment of Christopher A. Waldron whose address is 10335 280th Ave., Waseca, MN 56093, as personal representative of the estate of the above named decedent, in an unsupervised probate, and that any objections thereto must be filed with the Court. That, if proper, and no objections are filed, personal representative will be appointed to

administer the estate, to collect all assets, pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, and sell real and personal property, and do all necessary acts for the estate. Upon completion of the probate, the representative shall file a final account for the allowance and shall distribute the estate to the persons thereunto entitled as ordered by the Court and close the estate.
Notice is further given that ALL CREDITORS having claims against

said estate are required to present the same to said personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this notice or said claims will be barred.
Dated: 09/23/2025
/s/ Carol M. Hanks
Judge of District Court
/s/ Shannon Asselin
Deputy Court Administrator
PATTON, HOVERSTEN & BERG,
P.A.
Perry A. Berg, #135999

215 E Elm Ave, PO Box 249
Waseca, MN 56093
507-835-5240
perry.berg@phblawoffice.com
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on October 16 and 23, 2025

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF WASECA
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
Court File No.: 81-PR-25-663
In Re: Estate of
JAMES H. SCHMIDT,
Decedent
NOTICE AND ORDER
OF HEARING
ON PETITION FOR FORMAL
PROBATE OF WILL AND AP-
POINTMENT OF PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE IN UNSU-
PERVISED ADMINISTRATION
AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

thereto must be filed with the Court. That, if proper and no objections are filed, a Personal Representative will be appointed to administer the Estate, to collect all assets, to pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, to sell real and personal property, and to do all necessary acts for the Estate. Upon completion of the administration, the representative shall file a final account for the allowance and shall distribute the estate to the persons thereunto entitled as ordered by the Court, and close the estate.
Notice is further given that ALL creditors having claims against said Estate are required to present the same to said Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this Notice or said claims will be barred.
Dated: 09/15/2025
/s/Carol M. Hanks
Judge of District Court
/s/ Shannon Asselin
Court Administrator

PATTON, HOVERSTEN & BERG,
P.A.
Ellie J. James, #505790
215 E Elm Ave, PO Box 249
Waseca, MN 56093
507-835-5240
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on October 16 and 23, 2025

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City of Waseca
Board/Commission Vacancy

An opening exists on the following City Advisory Board.

Economic Development Authority

Applications will be accepted until November 3rd, 2025.

Anyone interested in serving on the board may apply at City Hall, 508 South State Street.

Applications can be obtained at City Hall or by emailing the City Clerk at JuliaZ@ci.waseca.mn.us or calling 835-9700

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE is hereby given that the Waseca City Council will meet at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, in the City Hall Council Chambers at 508 South State Street in Waseca to hold a public hearing, consider, and possibly adopt, the proposed final assessments against abutting properties for the 4th Street SW (CSAH 4) Rehabilitation Project (City Project No. 2025-02 – Assessment Roll #286).

The project improvements consisted of asphalt mill and overlay, full depth pavement replacement (7th Ave intersection and west parking lane), replacement of deficient sections of concrete sidewalk and curb and gutter, ADA sidewalk ramp upgrades (7th Ave intersection), pavement striping, and other related items of work in the following location:

▪ 4th Street SW between 5th Avenue SW and Johnson Avenue

The proposed assessment roll is on file for public inspection at Waseca City Hall. The total construction, engineering, and administration cost for this project is \$350,829.78. The total amount of the proposed assessments is \$59,550.38. Written or oral objections will be considered at the hearing. Adoption by the City Council of the proposed assessments may occur at the meeting. No appeal regarding the amount of the assessment may be taken unless a signed, written objection is filed with the City Clerk prior to the hearing or presented to the presiding officer at the hearing. The Council may take action to consider any objection to the amount of a proposed individual assessment at a future meeting.

An owner may appeal an assessment to the District Court pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 429.081 by serving notice of the appeal to the City Clerk within thirty (30) days after the adoption of the assessment and filing such notice with the District Court within ten (10) days after service upon the City Clerk. However, no appeal may be made as to the amount of the assessment adopted pursuant to subdivision 2, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 429.061 unless a written objection signed by the affected property owner(s) is filed with the City Clerk prior to the assessment hearing or presented to the presiding officer at the hearing.

Under Minnesota Statutes Sections 435.193 to 435.195, the Council may, in its discretion, defer payment of this special assessment for any homestead property owned by a person 65 years of age or older for whom it would be a hardship to make the payments in accordance with City Policy. Under this deferment, payment of the assessment plus accumulated interest would be delayed until the property is sold or transferred. Any assessed property owner meeting the requirements of this law may contact the City Finance Director for the deferral of payment form and apply for deferment of the special assessment on their property within thirty (30) days of confirmation of the assessment.

Nathan Willey, P.E.
Director of Engineering

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE is hereby given that the Waseca City Council will meet at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, in the City Hall Council Chambers at 508 South State Street in Waseca to hold a public hearing, consider, and possibly adopt, the proposed final assessments against abutting properties for the 8th Avenue NE (CSAH 13) Reconstruction Project (City Project No. 2024-01 – Assessment Roll #284).

The project improvements consisted of concrete street reconstruction, water and sanitary sewer main and service replacement, storm sewer improvements, ADA sidewalk and trail improvements, pavement striping, and other related items of work in the following location:

▪ 8th Avenue NE from 3rd Street NE to Clear Lake Drive

The proposed assessment roll is on file for public inspection at Waseca City Hall. The total construction, engineering, and administration cost for this project is \$5,271,940.52. The total amount of the proposed assessments is \$224,263.71. Written or oral objections will be considered at the hearing. Adoption by the City Council of the proposed assessments may occur at the meeting. No appeal regarding the amount of the assessment may be taken unless a signed, written objection is filed with the City Clerk prior to the hearing or presented to the presiding officer at the hearing. The Council may take action to consider any objection to the amount of a proposed individual assessment at a future meeting.

An owner may appeal an assessment to the District Court pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 429.081 by serving notice of the appeal to the City Clerk within thirty (30) days after the adoption of the assessment and filing such notice with the District Court within ten (10) days after service upon the City Clerk. However, no appeal may be made as to the amount of the assessment adopted pursuant to subdivision 2, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 429.061 unless a written objection signed by the affected property owner(s) is filed with the City Clerk prior to the assessment hearing or presented to the presiding officer at the hearing.

Under Minnesota Statutes Sections 435.193 to 435.195, the Council may, in its discretion, defer payment of this special assessment for any homestead property owned by a person 65 years of age or older for whom it would be a hardship to make the payments in accordance with City Policy. Under this deferment, payment of the assessment plus accumulated interest would be delayed until the property is sold or transferred. Any assessed property owner meeting the requirements of this law may contact the City Finance Director for the deferral of payment form and apply for deferment of the special assessment on their property within thirty (30) days of confirmation of the assessment.

Nathan Willey, P.E.
Director of Engineering



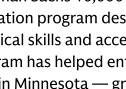
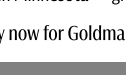
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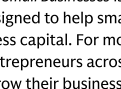
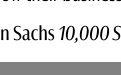
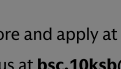
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Join us any time at one of our open house meetings—no formal presentations.

Date	Time	Location
1 Monday, Nov. 10	10 am – 12 pm	Windom Community Center, 1750 Cottonwood Lake Dr., Windom, MN 56101
2 Monday, Nov. 10	4 pm – 6 pm	Knights of Columbus, 920 East 10th St., Fairmont, Minnesota 56031
3 Tuesday, Nov. 11	10 am – 12 pm	Naseic Event Center, 789 Business Park Dr., Wells, MN 56097
4 Tuesday, Nov. 11	4 pm – 6 pm	Wedgewood Cove, 2200 W 9th St., Albert Lea, MN 56007
5 Wednesday, Nov. 12	10 am – 12 pm 4 pm – 6 pm	Events by Saker, 401 8th St. SE, Kasson, MN 55944
6 Thursday, Nov. 13	10 am – 12 pm	Hormel Nature Center, 1304 21st St. NE, Austin, MN 55912
7 Thursday, Nov. 13	4 pm – 6 pm	Zumbrota VFW, 21 E 1st St., Zumbrota, MN 55992
8 Friday, Nov. 14	9 am – 11 am	Grand 02 Event Center, 32057 64th Ave., Cannon Falls, MN 55009

* For additional dates and locations please visit PowerOnMidwest.com

CONTACT US

 PowerOnMidwest.com
 Connect@PowerOnMidwest.com
 888.283.4678

SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642				October 2025		
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6pm <u>BAR BINGO</u>	2 <u>7pm</u> <u>HALL BINGO</u>	3 <u>MEAT RAFFLE</u> <u>5:30pm</u> <u>HORSE races 6:30pm</u>	4
5	6	7 <i>Burger night</i> <u>5-7pm</u>	8 6pm <u>BAR BINGO</u>	9 <u>7pm</u> <u>HALL BINGO</u>	10 <u>MEAT RAFFLE</u> <u>5:30pm</u> <u>HORSE races 6:30pm</u>	11
12 <u>VFW BREAKFAST</u> <u>8am to NOON Your</u> <u>Host Waseca</u> <u>Hockey</u>	13 <u>7pm Post</u> <u>& AUX></u> <u>Meeting</u> <u>US NAVY</u> <u>BIRTHDAY</u>	14 <i>Burger night</i> <u>5-7pm</u>	15 <u>6pm</u> <u>BAR BINGO</u>	16 <u>7pm</u> <u>HALL BINGO</u>	17 <u>WALLEYE OR</u> <u>SHRIMP DINNER</u> <u>5:30 to 7pm</u>	18
19	20	21 <i>Burger night</i> <u>5-7pm</u>	22 <u>6pm</u> <u>BAR BINGO</u>	23 <u>7pm</u> <u>HALL BINGO</u>	24 <u>MEAT RAFFLE</u> <u>5:30pm</u> <u>HORSE races 6:30pm</u>	25
26 <u>VFW</u> <u>BREAKFAST</u> <u>8am to NOON</u>	27	28 <i>Burger night</i> <u>5-7pm</u>	29 <u>6pm</u> <u>BAR BINGO</u>	30 <u>7pm</u> <u>HALL BINGO</u>	31 <u>MEAT RAFFLE</u> <u>5:30pm</u> <u>HORSE races 6:30pm</u>	

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Child’s History of Waseca County

Continuing Chapter II, 1854-5: First White Settlement – Mr. A. G. Sutlief and Family – Journey from Dodge County, Wis. – Judge Green’s Narrative – Judge Lost and Prepared for Death – Sutlief’s Return – Big Boot Creek – Crossing the Mississippi on Ice

Judge Green in his reminiscences writes: “As we all desired to locate near together, it was decided to leave the women and children with a couple of men as guards and to watch the stock, while the rest of the company should go on to the Le Sueur river country. The next day we crossed Straight river with three wagons, four yoke of oxen and one cow. The men camped on the west side of the river that night, and I went back to the tent and stayed with my family. It rained a large portion of the night. In the morning we started, bearing southwest. It rained by spells and there was a well defined stream in every ravine. We went on to Beaver lake and struck our old trail made on the first trip. In crossing one of the head rivulets of Le Sueur river, then a roaring torrent, one of the men, with boots on as high as his knees, stood upon the back end-board of a wagon box, holding to the top of the wagon cover, and yet got wet; so this was called BIG BOOT CREEK.

“We looked over the prairie and woodlands through Sutlief’s claim and what was afterward Wilton. We liked the country and concluded to make claims there, which we did; but still it rained, rained! The men got wet and cold and finally homesick or sick of the country. They said the country would all overflow in a wet spell, and should they settle there, no one else would venture so far from civilization for the next 100 years, and for the rest of their natural lives and those of their families they would be there without bridges or other improvements, except such as they should improvise among themselves. So we went back to Straight river, reluctantly leaving Mr. S. and family alone on the Le Sueur. On the 20th of September I staked out my claim, at Owatonna, and my men went to work cutting hay. In two weeks our hay was cut and stacked, our log house laid up and covered with a “shake-roof,” with no chinking, no floors, no doors, no windows. I could not persuade the men to

stay another day. They said there would be no other person settling in there for the next fifty years, and that if I managed to live through the winter I would return to Wisconsin in the spring. So they started on their return trip, and there I was, left with an invalid wife and three small children, no stables for stock, no house suitable for cold weather, and apparently no help attainable. It seemed more than I could do to make things endurable through the winter, but the next day a wagon load of ten men arrived, and I got what help I needed from then on.” Mr. Sutlief, having obtained from Judge Green a supply of flour for winter and having made other necessary arrangements, was ready by the latter part of November to convey his wife and children to Wisconsin. They made their return trip in a covered ox-wagon. When they reached the Mississippi, opposite La Crosse, the first week in December, 1854, that stream was not yet frozen over, and they were compelled to wait until the ice King formed a bridge. On the fourth day after their arrival, although the ice was barely strong enough to bear up a man, Mr. Sutlief, in his rash, dare-devil way, crossed the stream by casting the oxen, tying their feet together, and sliding them across on the slippery ice by hand. The wagon was also taken over by hand, and Mrs. Sutlief and the children passed over on foot. The remainder of their journey was made without any incident worthy of note.

Editorial Note - Upon rummaging through the vast library of contents here at the Star Eagle, I stumbled across a very old blue book titled, “Child’s History of Waseca County Minnesota for Fifty Years, 1854-1904.” After thumbing through the first several pages it was determined this book was too interesting to go back on the shelf. So, it was used as a stand for a computer monitor. Several months later, after finding a more suitable stand, I opened the book to show a reader who stopped into the office. After reading about the Horse Thief Detective Association, I made the decision that this piece of history should not be lost to time. Since then the Star Eagle has included, “a little bit of this and a little bit of that,” from the book.

Eli Lutgens

Woodbury Chorus and Orchestra performing at Christ Community

The Woodbury Chorus and Orchestra will be presenting “Rhythms of Life,” a concert of orchestral, choral, and combined music at Christ Community Church in Waseca at 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 26. The Waseca Chorale will perform two numbers during the concert. All proceeds from a free-will offering taken that day will benefit the Waseca Area Food Shelf. Christ Community Church is located at 2200 Fourth Street Northeast in Waseca. The dozens of members of the Woodbury Chorus and Orchestra, including the director, are unpaid volunteers with extensive experience and training in music performance. The group gives between 10 and 12 concerts each year in Minnesota and western Wisconsin with the dual goals of helping people in need while also offering quality music to diverse audiences. In more than 41 years of operation, the group has drawn lis-

teners who have donated well over \$670,000 to food shelves. The Waseca Chorale is a non-profit community ensemble that has brought singers together for 51 years. Group members represent Waseca and several surrounding communities. Chorale conductors are Deb Wantoch-Yess and John Hoehn. The Woodbury portion of the concert will include familiar choral and orchestral music, including “Festival Gloria” by Craig Courtney; “Seven Bridges Road” by Stephen T. Young; “Hosanna” by Rene Clausen, “Glow” by Eric Whitacre; “You Raise Me Up with Be Still My Soul” arranged by Rolf Lovland and Brendan Graham; “Baba Yetu” by Christopher Tin; “Holy, Lord of Hosts” arranged by Maxcine W. Posegate; “Is He Worth?” by Andrew Peterson and Ben Shive, arranged by Dan Forrest; “Africa” arranged by Phillip Lawson; and “The Awakening” by Joseph Martin.

Waseca teacher Robin Tidd

Name: Robin Tidd

Family: I grew up in Rosemount, MN with my two parents and three siblings. I now live with my boyfriend, who works over in Owatonna at Kibble Equipment. We have two cats, two ducks, and four chickens! We are planning to get goats in the near future.

Hometown: I grew up in Rosemount, MN. I live in Hollandale (right outside of Albert Lea) with my boyfriend!

Where did you go to school and what degree(s) do you have: I attended the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, and graduated from there in 2021 with a degree in Agriculture Education.

Is this your first teaching job? If not, where else have you taught and how long?: I spent the past four years over at Mankato East and Mankato West teaching high school agriculture!

Why did you want to teach?: Growing up in 4-H, one of my favorite parts was helping younger members with their projects and watching them grow. I originally started college as a pre-vet major, but I always said that if that path didn’t work out, I would become an agriculture teacher. As I worked through my science classes, I real-

ized that veterinary medicine wasn’t where my passion was, and that there were many other ways I could work with livestock. When I switched my major to Agricultural Education, what I had once considered my “backup plan” quickly became something I truly loved. Now, I couldn’t imagine myself in any other career!

What led you to apply at Waseca?: I moved to Hollandale this summer and loved teaching, which made me eager to find another school district to continue my career in. I had always heard great things about this district and community, and that has been proven true. I’ve already felt so supported by both the school and community as I begin this role and work with FFA..

What is (or do you think will be) your favorite part of teaching?: I enjoy working on hands-on activities with students and find it rewarding to take what we’ve learned in class and apply it to labs and real-world experiences. I also enjoy getting to know each of the students in my classes.

What is one thing kids will leave your classroom with (hopefully)? I want students to leave with an understanding of how agriculture affects their lives and how it works, whether or not they pur-



sue a career in agriculture. Since agriculture is part of our everyday lives, it’s important to recognize its different aspects so we can all be informed consumers.

What do you like to do outside of school?: Outside of school, I enjoy spending time with my friends and family. I also enjoy

gardening and landscaping around our house.

Is there anything you could talk about forever if someone gets you started?: I enjoy talking about people’s gardens, landscaping, and livestock.



STATE VISIT - Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon (center) visited with about 50 local community members and leaders regarding election processes and business registration in Minnesota. He spoke at the Waseca County Annex the afternoon of Wednesday, Oct. 8. His visit was coordinated by the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism and by the Waseca Area Foundation. Shown here are organization members (from left) Jay Bulfer, Robin Dulas, Amy Potter, Steve Simon, Mikhail Rostislavovich, Penny Vought and Ann Staloch.

Secretary of State Simon visits Waseca County

By ANN STALOCH

Minnesota Secretary of State Steve Simon visited Waseca County on Tuesday afternoon as part of his ongoing statewide tour of all 87 counties. The event, held at the Waseca County Annex, was co-hosted by the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce’s Legislative Committee and the Waseca Area Foundation gathered almost 50 attendees.

The program opened with remarks from Mikhail Rostislavovich, President of the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism and Chair of its Legislative Committee, who welcomed attendees and emphasized the state’s civic strength.

“Minnesota consistently leads the nation in voter participation, and that’s not an accident,” said Rostislavovich. “It’s the product of engaged citizens, strong local partners, and steady leadership at every level.” Amy Potter, Executive Director of the Waseca Area Foundation, followed by thanking the Chamber and County for their partnership. “The goal is to bring people together to be informed and engaged,” she said.

Secretary Simon began his remarks by noting that this is his ninth tour of all 87 counties since first taking office, a tradition he says keeps him grounded in the perspectives of Minnesotans.

“The best ideas don’t come from St. Paul,” he said. “They come from local communities like Waseca.”

Simon highlighted that Minnesota once again led the nation in voter turnout during the 2024 elections, including the highest voter participation among young voters 18 to 29 years old. Regarding Minnesota’s turnout compared to that in other states, Simon summarized, “In Olympic terms, we’re always on the medal stand, usually gold or silver,” Simon said, smiling.

“Minnesotans take voting seriously, and that’s something we should all be proud of.”

He credited the state’s success to “good laws and a good culture of voting,” pointing to same-day registration, available since 1973, and the ability to vote from home as key reasons for Minnesota’s consistent voter engagement.

Addressing national concerns about election security, Simon emphasized that while his office oversees systems and procedures, it does not count votes. “We never lay a finger on anyone’s ballot,” he said. “That happens locally, in counties, cities, and townships. It’s your friends and neighbors doing the counting, and that’s by design.”

He also explained the safeguards in place for absentee voting, including requirements for

personal identification numbers and witness signatures. “We’ve built a system with multiple layers of verification,” he said.

Simon invited community groups, nonprofits, and chambers of commerce to partner with his office in spreading nonpartisan election information through customized toolkits and outreach materials. “We rely on trusted local voices to help Minnesotans know where, when, and how to vote,” he said. “It’s simple information, but it makes all the difference.”

In addition to overseeing elections, Simon noted that the majority of his office’s work involves business services, including managing filings, registrations, and public business records. He discussed the Minnesota Business Snapshot, an optional five-question survey that allows businesses to self-identify characteristics such as being veteran-owned, woman-owned, or minority-owned. The database, he said, helps communities and chambers better understand and support local entrepreneurs.

Simon also described new legislation taking effect in January 2026 to combat business filing fraud, empowering the Secretary of State’s office to remove false filings and restore rightful business ownership without requiring business owners to take legal action.

During a question-and-answer session moderated by Dr. Jay Bulfer, questions ranged from blockchain-based voting to noncitizen eligibility verification and federal data requests. Simon said that while online voting may one day be possible, current technology does not yet meet security standards. He also discussed Minnesota’s refusal to share private voter data with the U.S. Department of Justice without legal justification, noting that several other states have taken similar stands.

When asked about Minnesota’s business climate, Simon confirmed that business filings are at an all-time high, though his office cannot directly track relocations. “We’re seeing record numbers of new filings,” he said. “That’s a strong signal of entrepreneurial energy in the state.” Simon ended the discussion by inviting ongoing dialogue with Minnesotans. “This is my favorite part of the job, meeting with people face-to-face,” he said. “If you ever have a question, criticism, or idea, email me directly. I read every message myself.”

The event closed with applause from the audience, reflecting appreciation for the open exchange of ideas and reaffirming Waseca County’s commitment to both civic engagement and election integrity.

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