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WASECA
COUNTY
PIONEER

LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY

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Llamas

Mayo to end on-call labor and delivery in Owatonna

By MPR

Mayo Clinic Health System is ending on-call labor and delivery services at Owatonna’s hospital next month, Nov. 17, meaning patients who go into labor could be diverted to other hospitals that are at least 40 minutes away.

Mayo Clinic notified Owatonna’s mayor and officials in the city of about 25,000 people about an hour south of the Twin Cities on Thursday.

“We were absolutely dumbstruck,” Owatonna Mayor Matt Jessop said. “It just came out of nowhere.”

A Mayo Clinic spokesperson confirmed it will no longer provide obstetrics physicians to the Owatonna Hospital to deliver babies, telling MPR News Saturday that the medical care giant is unable to continue the service due to recent staffing challenges and an ongoing nationwide shortage of OB-GYN physicians.

“Mayo Clinic Health System (MCHS) remains deeply committed to supporting patients and serving the Owatonna community,” a Mayo Clinic spokesperson said. “MCHS care teams will continue working with each patient to support their needs through every stage of their pregnancy and ensure they receive safe, coordinated and high-quality care.”

Allina Health is set to take over responsibility for on-call labor and delivery staffing on Nov. 17. Allina operates Owatonna Hospital and Mayo operates the Owatonna Clinic — all on one health campus — as part of a joint operating agreement. Allina currently employs labor and delivery nurses, but not physicians who do obstetrics.

Mayo continued on 6

Veterans Day Photos

In observance of Veterans Day November 11, the Waseca County Pioneer will publish a section dedicated to our defenders of freedom. Area veterans or family members are encouraged to bring in photos of veterans in uniform from all branches of service for inclusion and the recognition they so justly deserve. If you submitted a photo for a previous edition, you simply need to call or e-mail the Pioneer to have the photo included.

The deadline for photo submission is noon, Thursday, October 30. For questions or more information, please call the Pioneer office at (507) 837-6767 or e-mail news@waseca-countypioneer.com.

A word from
The Word

Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.

Proverbs 3:3-4





NEW PHASE - Brad Connors of Waseca’s iWealth financial advising firm has authored “Fish Don’t Clap,” a book meant to help people consider how they can make retirement not just the end of their professional career, but also the beginning of a fulfilling new phase in their lives.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

‘Fish Don’t Clap’ sees large-scale release

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

“I’ve seen it happen again and again,” comments financial advisor Brad Connors, founder of Waseca’s iWealth. “People retire, and then they don’t know what to do with themselves.

“I want to share the information in this book so it can make people’s lives more purposeful.”

Connors is speaking about “Fish Don’t Clap,” a book he authored which tells the story of Hal, a retired public speaker who realizes his plan for retirement—fishing and playing golf—is not giving him any sense of purpose or fulfillment.

“As many people think of retiring,” Connors observes, “they concentrate on reaching a certain age or a certain amount of investment income. They think about what they’re retiring from, rather than what they’re retiring to.

“Instead of being relaxed and satisfied, they’re bored or restless.”

Connors explains the book walks readers through Hal’s process of discovery as he revisualizes how he will spend his time.

“Lots of people feel a real sense of loss when the expertise and experience they’ve been building all their lives is kind of suddenly set aside,” says Connors. “That’s because many people have to be productive to be happy.

“For folks like that, working part-time or finding a cause they want to support through volunteerism is a great option.”

In some cases, he goes on, the abrupt change in their schedules and habits can take a toll on a couple’s relationship. “The roles and routines they’ve been using for decades are suddenly changed,” he observes. “And they have to transition to whole new ones.”

Connors shares that the book was first written several years ago. It’s now been updated based on feedback from readers, and even has a workbook which can be used to accompany it. The new version was certified last week as an Amazon Number 1 best seller. It has been incorporated into a number of university classes at Minnesota State Mankato and Creighton, where Connors says he is greatly pleased to have met with students both in person and virtually.

“It’s really fulfilling to act as a mentor to some of these young folks,” he comments. “It means they’re entering the field with a wider perspective about what it means to transition from working full time to building a new ‘normal’ in retirement.” Connors comments that meeting and talking with those just entering the financial planning field helps him remember what it was like as he started his own career more than 30 years ago.

“I used to be the young guy in town,” he says lightheartedly. “Now my hair’s going grey and

Book continued on 12

C.A.T. Paranormal to present at Historical Society

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

“We’re not about sensationalism,” says Kimberly Juarez. “We’re in this to help people.”

Juarez is the founder and leader of the Waseca non-profit organization Coexisting [with the] Afterlife Team—almost always shortened to C.A.T. Paranormal. Also active in the group are Kari Haslip, Dorothy Blanco, Jamie Pentico and Jazmin Quevedo.

Members of the group will be presenters at an Oct. 30 session at the Waseca County Historical Society, where they will begin by showing and explaining the variety of equipment they use when performing a paranormal investigation. Juarez and Haslip list off 10 or more types of instruments which help them take a very scientific approach to reported phenomena.

“Most of our equipment is more about debunking things,” observes Juarez. “If there’s a natural, scientific cause for any of the things people are experiencing, we want to find it.”

Despite their best efforts, however, Juarez and Haslip have quite a list of scientifically inexplicable experiences.

“Nothing like they’re always showing in the movies, though,” says Juarez. “We’ve never seen anything like a ‘demon.’

“I’ve never told anyone they should move out of their house.”

She does mention, however, having sometimes suggested that people “take their house back” by burning sage, praying, and communicating their needs to any spiritual “roommates.”

Fellow member Haslip suggests that much of the time, feelings of unease

Paranormal continued on 12



INVESTIGATORS - Kimberly Juarez and Kari Haslip are two members of Coexisting with the Afterlife Team (C.A.T.) Paranormal, a Waseca non-profit organization which carries out investigations and offers consulting services. C.A.T. Paranormal will be giving a presentation at the Waseca County Historical Society the evening of Oct. 30.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Area lawn graced by 1941 GMC

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

On the morning of Oct. 17, Dan and Sherri Hrdlichka’s yard in Blooming Grove Township was bright with fall colors and sunshine. Adding to the character and beauty of their space is a 1941 GMC1500 single cab truck. With a max load weight of 4600lbs. and 76 horsepower, this now-retired machine stands as a testament to American ingenuity.

Dan stepped from around the back of his house for a handshake and a talk. It seems safe to assume the GMCs driving days are over, but just in case the engine is still inside and looks like it’s in pretty good condition.

Said Dan, “I’ve never worked on it, but it’s all there, just like the day I bought it. I got it out of Hastings from a private owner, not a business or anything, transmission and everything was included.” The windows are still there, maybe not as clean as they were on day one, but still structurally sound.

Dan relates the truck has been decorating the yard since August of 2019. To light it at night, he fashioned headlights from motorcycle parts. “The lights can be seen from as far away as the creamery, but I didn’t get the super bright ones because I didn’t want to affect anyone’s ability to pass my house without getting blinded.”

On the side of the truck doors is what looks to read in faded letters, “Triplett Auto Body.”

Near the single cab vehicle is an old-fashioned cupola, that’s the big metal vent that can still be found on the roofs of old barns and are often a prized item for collectors. The silver-colored cupola was acquired from an old barn near Meridan which, Dan reports, is no

longer standing. . There are also a waist high, sun-shaped lawn ornament and a few other knick-knacks scattered tastefully about.

Sherri placed the decorations and planted the garden which contains hostas, mums and black-eyed susans. The space which includes the flower garden, truck, and cupola, is outlined with red brick. The truck and plants are sitting on crushed rock called “South Dakota Pink.”

As a seasonal touch, Dan has added a skeleton named Butch seated behind the steering wheel. Dan explains soft LED lights illuminate the cab after dark.

Apparently Dan and Sherri’s work has been noticed, since Dan mentions, “Every now and then people stop to ask if they can take a picture of the truck and I always let them.”



HISTORY - Dan Hrdlichka in front of his 1941 GMC 1500 (with the engine still in it) on a warm autumn Saturday morning, October 17, 2025.

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann



Compostings

by Al Batt

Old age is a thing

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

The traffic was terrible this morning. It was backed up for miles, and every driver was honking a horn.

What caused that?

I couldn't tell. They were all behind me.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. It's the beginning of the heated car seat season. As farm equipment rushed around to counteract its fear of rusting, I recalled speaking at a thing in McAllen, Texas. Lyle "Rocky" Bergner, a former teacher, coach and ex-Marine, was wintering in the Lower Rio Grande Valley due to his fear of rusting, and told me he'd planned to attend my talk. That was until he learned the tickets were \$150 each. He told me he'd heard enough from me when he'd taught and coached me.

My family had an outhouse. We were recyclers before we knew recycling was a thing. Sears, Monkey Wards, Penney's and Herter's catalogs found a second use as toilet paper. Using catalogs wasn't without peril. I still get nervous when I walk past a box of staples in an office supply store.

I'VE LEARNED

I was in Florida on a hot, nervous day. I could tell by the trees. Sweaty palms.

During a recent surgery, I did all my own stunts.

I talked to Nancy and Linda, and we bemoaned the lack of young girls named Nancy and Linda. There aren't many little boys named Al, either. Parents fear they'd become known as Artificial Intelligence (AI).

A MarketBeat survey (<https://www.marketbeat.com/originals/which-national-chains-do-people-wish-were-in-their-state/>) found that what Minnesotans most wanted to see in the Gopher State was an In-N-Out Burger. The second most desired brand was Bojangles, followed by a desire to bring an H-E-B grocery store to Minnesota. Iowans would most like Shake Shack to open in their state.

My fear of tsunamis comes in waves.

Muffins spelled backward is what we do when they come out of the oven.

When you open the fridge and no light escapes, it's time to clean it.

Interested is interesting.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

If I die before you, I want you to marry Rupert.

What? I thought you hated Rupert?

I do.

"Which tomato smells the most?"

A Roma.

Old age is a thing. Last night. I was in bed for 20 minutes

when I heard the pizza guy cough. Then I remembered I'd gone into my bedroom to get my wallet.

NATURE NOTES

The Grasshopper Plague occurred in 1873-1877, beginning when southwestern Minnesota farmers saw what looked like a snowstorm coming from the west. There was a roar of grasshopper wings. In 1876, grasshoppers destroyed 500,000 acres of wheat, oats, corn and barley in 40 counties. Scientists called them Rocky Mountain locusts. Farmers destroyed grasshopper eggs, beat grasshoppers with flails, dragged heavy ropes through their fields, plowed and burned fields, raised chickens to eat the grasshoppers, dug ditches they hoped grasshoppers couldn't traverse and filled those ditches with coal tar and set them on fire, hoping the smoke might discourage them. Farmers made hopper dozers of sheet metal covered in coal tar or molasses, which they dragged through the fields. County governments made efforts to rid the state of grasshoppers, but were less prepared to help people experiencing poverty than were cities. The state provided small sums of state-funded relief but focused its efforts on encouraging charitable giving. Governor John S. Pillsbury didn't call for state-funded relief for farmers, believing poverty was a fact of life and providing relief would make farmers dependent on the state. Pillsbury focused efforts on eradicating the grasshoppers, which included a bounty measure requiring every able-bodied man in affected counties to destroy grasshopper eggs one day a week for five straight weeks. In the summer of 1877, the grasshoppers left. An April snowstorm damaged their eggs, but many attributed the end of the plague to divine intervention since Pillsbury had proclaimed April 26 a day of prayer. The grasshopper plagues left a mark on Minnesota culture, inspiring fiction like Laura Ingalls Wilder's "On the Banks of Plum Creek" and Ole Edvard Rolvaag's "Giants in the Earth." The Rocky Mountain locust species is evidently extinct, as the last recorded sighting of a live specimen was in 1902 in Canada.

Research from West Texas showed cattle prefer to graze where prairie dogs live, refuting persistent beliefs. Prairie dogs prevent larger plants from encroaching on grasslands by nibbling on woody shrubs, their constant digging aerates the soil, and their scat returns nutrients to the ground.

MEETING ADJOURNED

"The time is always right to do what is right."—Martin Luther King, Jr. Be kind.

The calendar months and their names

Thanks to some reading I've been doing, I've come across the information that indigenous people named the "months" by what happened at the particular time of year. The Hopi of the Southwest call October the "Wind Moon." The Ojibwe of the north call September "Changing Leaves Moon" and October "Falling Leaves Moon." Not surprisingly, June is the "Blossom Moon" and July "Berry Moon."

What is perhaps surprising is that they regarded each year as having 13 months. But really, that discrepancy from the "Gregorian" calendar—the one used to indicate a year with 52 weeks and 12 months—only shows the native American system makes more sense. The earth orbits the sun in 365 days: A full cycle of the moon is 28 days. The answer to 365 divided by 28 is 13. Thus, the native American way of measuring the year is supremely practical. The "Gregorian" way is riddled with politics and glory-seeking.

When the Romans began the calendar which preceded the current one, they divided the year into 10 parts. This is still visible in some of the month names. The prefixes "sept-," "oct-," "nov-," and "dec-" are all based on the Latin words for the numbers seven, eight, nine and ten, even though



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

the months named after them have become numbers nine, ten, eleven and twelve. The first six months were named after Roman gods or customs: Janus, the god of beginnings; Mars, the god of war. February was the time people would undergo a ritual of purification.

Politics came into it when Julius Caesar decided he was important enough to have a month named after him. Caesar Augustus made the same decision. I guess they were right, since we've continued to use their names—most of us without realizing it—for centuries. Along the way we've injected artificial elements, for example deciding some months are 30 days long, others are 31, and February only 28.

And while one set of humans was caught up in power plays and pretending their petty politics outranked the

sturdy consistency of celestial bodies, another set of humans was observing nature and adjusting their own movements and lifestyles accordingly.

But as I think about it, the names of the months are really only the beginning. Those of us dependent on a printed calendar build a rather rigid framework into our concept of the years and seasons.

The year "starts" on January 1. Spring is due by the date assigned to Easter. Summer belongs in the months of June, July and August. When nature doesn't comply with those deadlines, we express surprise and even displeasure.

The idea of a "spirit moon" at the depth of winter's cold leading to a "bear moon" and then a "sugar moon" while knowing there will be twelve full moons before each repeats itself re-

Reaching adult accomplishments: a job

After months of trying, I've finally accomplished what every adult wishes to accomplish. I have gotten myself a job.

Let me be frank, I did already have a job: taking each week's news stories, photographs, and other items and using them to "lay out" the pages of this lovely paper. I've been having a great time doing so; it's like putting together the pieces of a puzzle, but you get to create the puzzle. And I love puzzles.

But because I liked it so much, and of course with practice, I was able to cut down the hours it took me to put together both this paper and the NRHEG Star Eagle. I was left with plentiful time on my hands throughout the week. So what better way to accommodate than get a new job!

I started looking for another source of income months before I even graduated school in May. The only responses I ever received from my applications were either rejection emails or silence.

When I knew I was going to move to Denver, I started looking for Denver jobs, again with no success. I thought



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

it was because I didn't yet have a Denver address and had to continue to use my Minnesota address. Who wants to hire someone in Minnesota for a job in Denver? At least that's what I told myself.

So I relocated and kept looking. As my number of job applications continued to grow, so did the number of rejection emails. Even Starbucks didn't want me. At this point, it had been months without even an interview (although I will be the first to admit that there were points in time when I did not try to look very hard). Recently, finally, I got a message back.

"Thank you for applying! We're excited to learn more about you and your

editorial experience."

Yes! Step one of the interview process for a company called Family Resource Group, Inc. involved sending video responses to questions they gave me. I sent back my responses as to why I should be an Associate Editor for their Denver magazine, Colorado Parent, and waited.

It was two weeks later and I had given up hope of hearing from them when I got an email from the Managing Editor, asking to meet in person for an interview.

Finally, someone wanted to talk to me.

Needless to say, the interview went well, and now I have signed on to be

moves that grid of expectation and perhaps guides us to simply live with what this current moon brings.

The Ojibwe have a flood tradition in which the great spirit decided to cleanse the earth by covering it in deep water. I am purposely skimming over the details here so that you will have a reason to go online and read the legend in its entirety. I mention the story only to share one last point pertinent to my topic. In the legend, one tiny bit of earth is recovered at great cost from deep under the water and placed on a turtle's shell, where it grows back into the land humans and many animals need to survive.

The central raised mound of a turtle's shell has thirteen sections. The low rim around the outside has 28 markings. Thus, a turtle's shell could be used as a kind of calendar, with a small stone or other piece moving in turn to each of the 28 marks on the outside rim before another stone or piece could move to the next of the 13 larger sections on the raised center. Even the "calendar" aligns with something natural. It seems impressive to me that someone paid such close attention that they noticed the coincidence and built it into their not-quite-creation story.

the Associate Editor of Colorado Parent magazine, to start working in November. Don't worry though, I plan to continue to write my column and put together the paper, so you won't be hearing the last of me.

The only thing is, I feel like I should be more excited about a new job, no? Right now I'm more anxious and nervous. I don't know quite what to expect, what the workload is going to be. Besides working at the paper, it's my first real, after graduation, grown up adult job. One where I don't have to say, "Hey, just so you know I'm going back to school in the fall and won't be able to continue to work." This one's forever, or as long as I want it to be. Actually, the median tenure for those in their 20s and 30s right now is only 2.8 years at a job. So I guess I will see where this one takes me. Who knows, maybe in 2.8 years, I'll want to move back to Minnesota.

My Determination: "All your questions can be answered, if that is what you want. But once you learn your answers, you can never unlearn them." — Neil Gaiman, American Gods

South Dakota vacation adventures



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

by bringing all of my bags upstairs to my room and also by making my bed for me, all while I cooked. It was very thoughtful of her. I could not have asked for a better person to vacation to South Dakota with.

Wednesday morning we departed early for Mount Rushmore. Due to the government shutdown we were able to not only crowds, but also paying entry fees at national parks. Madi tells me the crowd at Mount Rushmore was less than a third of what she experienced during her three previous visits.

We walked a trail to the base of Mount Rushmore, which Madi had not done before. She said it was too strenuous before. I said, let's walk it "backwards" going in reverse of the suggested direction. This meant we walked a quarter mile on a paved surface to get to the base below the carvings. If we had taken the "correct" way, we would have walked quite a ways upward and then around behind the presidents before reaching this spot.

"Now I can bring my mom here!" Madi exclaimed. Meaning her mom could manage the easier portion of the trail.

After a scenic four-hour tour through Custer State Park which included our mix of driving, walking and climbing, we stopped for lunch in Custer. It was only one of two meals we stopped for on the trip. We both enjoyed fish followed by bread pudding for dessert. As I ordered, Madi said she wasn't much of a pudding person and would not partake. I explained (although I had never had it) that it wasn't really pudding.

When the dish arrived, Madi took a bite and exclaimed "Oh Eli, this is dangerous!"

She enjoyed her half of the sweet treat.

We drove by Crazy Horse next, which I felt was remarkable. The even-

ing concluded at Pactola Lake Reserve where we watched the sunset and skipped rocks. I felt like a kid sitting on the shore, skipping rocks as the sun went down. It was perfect.

It told us something about the ways other visitors had enjoyed the remote setting when we noticed an area where a group of people had somehow left not only a partially finished beer and an empty cigarette box among some rocks, but also a mixture of men's and women's clothing.

Thursday we visited Wyoming's Devil's Tower. A scenic hike of about two miles took us around the base of the giant natural structure. We stopped numerous times to lay on large rocks, catch our breath and enjoy the views.

A trip through Spearfish Canyon, a brief hike through a waterfall, shopping in Deadwood and much driving concluded our Thursday. Oh and homemade soup and burgers (with meat from Madison's farm) was dinner.

Friday we spent at the Reptile Gardens, Bear Country USA, Windcave National Park and finally a natural hot spring in the town of Hot Springs.

All of these parks, except the privately operated zoos mentioned above, were free of charge the entire trip. It was kind of crazy how much money we saved due to the shutdown.

I made dinner again Friday evening. I caramelized onions and bacon into a jam, mixed in tomatoes and ground beef and cheese and made a ground-up hot dish type dinner with everything left in our fridge Friday night. It was delicious.

As we had sketched out the itinerary for our trip, we had purposely left Saturday open for whatever we didn't get to.

We both slept in a little bit longer for the first time all trip, packed up for

Sunday before departing for another hike through Spearfish Canyon.

Afterwards we stopped in Deadwood one last time. This time, however, we made it while the visitor center was open. The nice lady behind the counter asked how much time we had. I said two hours. She circled on the map where we should go, and we went!

We saw a live reenactment of Wild Bill getting shot along with another live reenactment of a shootout in the town square. A trip through the museum and a final round of souvenir shopping were also accomplished.

Saturday evening we enjoyed dinner with my second grade teacher, Mrs. Lewison and her husband Phillip. That was my favorite part of the trip. Many memories, tears, smiles and hugs were shared.

Sunday we departed at about 8:40 a.m.

We stopped for church in Rapid City before getting on the road. We didn't get far before our first stop: You can't visit the Badlands without going to Wall Drug. I bought my final pin of the trip, a Badlands pin. We also enjoyed doughnuts and 5-cent coffee. If you know South Dakota, this will make sense: we counted 87 Wall Drug billboards during our trip. Yes, we counted them.

I arrived home at about 9 p.m. Sunday Oct. 12, concluding our memorable journey.

I purchased many souvenirs, including many gifts for friends and family.

For my dad: a Mount Rushmore hat and Devil's Tower playing cards. (We used them as we celebrated his sixty-fifth birthday last Tuesday.)

For various friends and their kids: stuffed animals, glass figures, a tool for smashing herbs and also small ceramic plates.

My biggest takeaways from this memorable trip are twofold:

1. Do things that make you feel like a kid.

2. Madi is an excellent friend. I appreciate everything she did which helped make this an unforgettable trip. Her thoughtfulness and big heart do not go unnoticed or unappreciated.



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AMELIA ROESSLER Editor
JIM LUTGENS Sports Editor/Dad
JON LUCCA Ad Design
BEN REVERMANN Staff Writer
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Waseca Treats on the Streets Oct. 23

Waseca businesses will be handing out treats “Trick or Treat” style in the downtown area from 5 to 7 p.m. the evening of Thursday, Oct. 23. Many businesses will be set up in the parking lot of the city safety building or will be handing out treats at their downtown locations between the railroad tracks and the courthouse.

Waseca American Legion Auxiliary Hot Dish Luncheon Friday, Oct. 24

The Waseca American Legion Auxiliary will hold a hot dish luncheon from 11 a.m. till 1 p.m., or till sold out. Cost is \$10 per person. Proceeds benefit the auxiliary.

Fall Festival at St. John’s Lutheran Church Oct. 25

St. John’s Lutheran Church will hold their Fall Festival from 11 a.m. till 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25 at 401 3rd Ave. NE. There will be dine in or take out. Cost is \$9 with Homemade Vegetable Beef with sloppy joe or sandwich. Cost is \$9.

Waseca Art Center celebrates 50 years at Starfire on Oct. 25

The Waseca Art Center will celebrate 50 years at the Starfire Black and White Room from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 25. Live auction, silent auction, games and door prizes, appetizers and full bar with music by Crista Bohlmann. Tickets are \$35 in advance or \$40 at the door.

Waseca Chorale at Christ Community Church on Sunday, Oct. 26

Rhythm of Life concert with guest performance by Waseca Chorale at Christ Community Church at 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 26. Free admission, free will offering accepted with proceeds going to the Waseca Area Food Shelf.

Level Up Osmo Masterpiece New Richland Public Library Oct. 27

Now kids can Level Up with the Osmo Masterpiece drawing assistance tool at 4 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 27, at the New Richland library. Pick any drawing outline and replicate it easily by hand using easy to follow directions. For ages 7-12.

Waseca Garden Club meeting Oct. 27

The Waseca Garden Club will meet at the University of Minnesota Southern Research and Outreach Center at 6:30 p.m. Monday Oct. 27. Topic discussion will be Spruce Tops by Pat Forshee with refreshments by Jolene Gundermann and Kathy Oftedah. This meeting is free and open to the public.

All-level pottery class at Art Center Tuesdays beginning Oct. 28

A class for pottery makers of any level will be from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Tuesday evenings from Oct. 28 to Dec. 16. Cost is \$235; less for members. To register, either visit the Art Center at 200 N. State Street or go online to www.wasecaartcenter.org.

Chorale voices to benefit food shelf

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

The Waseca Chorale will be debuting two of the numbers that will be included in the group’s Nov. 30 holiday concert during a special “Rhythms of Life” performance scheduled at Christ Community Church in Waseca at 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 26.

The 55-member local group will present “Nata Lux” and “Field of White.”

There are no tickets or admission fee for the concert; all free-will donations given that day will go directly to support the Waseca Area Food Shelf.

The majority of the concert will be performed by the Woodbury Chorus and Orchestra, a group of Twin Cities area vocalists and instrumentalists who give 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.

Oct. 26 will be the second time the Waseca Chorale has contributed to a



SINGING FOR GOOD - The Waseca Chorale will be debuting two of the numbers that will be part of the group’s holiday concert during a guest appearance Sunday, Oct. 26 at Christ Community Church in Waseca. The majority of the concert will be presented by the Woodbury Orchestra and Choir, a volunteer group which performs to benefit food shelves. All proceeds from the concert will benefit the Waseca Area Food Shelf. Here, we see the Chorale during its 2024 Holiday concert.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Woodbury concert.

Chorale executive committee members recall being very pleased with being part of a performance about two years ago. That concert, too, benefitted the food shelf.

“Since Waseca has no community orchestra, it’s a real opportunity to hear a group of adults performing orchestral music,” relates Chorale director John Hoehn.

Along with that, “Everyone en-

joyed it,” remembers Al Judd. “We got to hear some beautiful music, and it was an opportunity to sing.”

Furthermore, “We all have a soft spot in our hearts for the local food shelf,” observes Deb Vetter. “We know it helps people from all over the area.”

Judd, who has served on the executive board of the food shelf, says he knows the operation is experiencing rising need, and is searching for

assistance from every facet of the county-wide community.

“We hope many, many people come,” says Chorale director Deb Wantoch Yess. “It should be a beautiful, uplifting performance, all for the sake of a good cause.”

Chorale members began practicing the two holiday pieces already in September. The group’s annual holiday concert will be at Sacred Heart Church at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 30.



PALOOZA - Right, Dana Sellers and Alex Ayers of dRaeCakes in Waseca offered cottage industry baked goods during Aspyn Acres’ Pumpkin Palooza event on Saturday, Oct. 18. Half of the money they took in was donated to the farm. Left, Avery, 6; Ophelia, 8; and Peyton, 9 concentrated on decorating their pumpkins at Aspyn Acres on Oct. 18.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently



Aspyn Acres event is a Pumpkin Palooza

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

The large numbers of families and children at Aspyn Acres’ “Pumpkin Palooza” exceeded expectations and delighted event organizers the afternoon of Saturday, Oct. 18.

Aspyn Acres, located a few miles north of Waseca off county highway 22, is a not-for-profit organization with two purposes, explains organization executive committee president Kerstin Hartzler. One is to provide a haven for injured or homeless domestic animals. To offer examples, the barn and livestock structures on the property house a goat whose legs were frosted when it was born prematurely; a goose which can neither walk nor fly, but has very “pettable” soft feathers on its neck and head; a full-grown steer brought there in such an emaciated state it was uncertain whether it would survive; and many others which, for various reasons, did not have a home elsewhere.

The many visitors at the facility on Oct. 18 interacted with the animals on various levels ranging from simply watching them and walking

among them to buying small cups of feed and allowing them to eat from their hands.

According to Hartzler, 11 volunteers helped operate the activities offered to visitors. Perhaps most obviously, pumpkins were available in exchange for a donation and were decorated and painted. Halloween-themed coloring sheets the size of whole tables were set out as a form of entertainment, and a few other crafts and activities were offered, including a giant pumpkin bowling lane framed by straw bales. Volunteers introduced the various animals to visitors and supervised their interactions with them.

Hartzler expressed gratitude for the size of the crowd and for the pleasant fall weather which helped make the day an appealing one to spend outdoors.

The less visible side of the facility, she mentioned, is one which rescues and cares for wild animals in distress. Aspyn Acres is part of a statewide network of facilities allowed to take in injured or orphaned animals of all types and help them become independent before being released



Kayleigh, 13, volunteers regularly at Aspyn Acres, so she is well acquainted with Gretchen, a goose who can neither walk nor fly but is very friendly in interacting with others.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

back into the wild.

“All of our operations are funded entirely by donations,” she explains. “All of our day-to-day operations are carried out by volunteers.”

“Any money we raise goes toward housing, feeding, and caring for the animals.”

A current project at the facility, she shared, is building a shed specifically for the facility’s goats. “Our expected cost is \$10,000,” she said. “So far we’ve raised about half of that.”

Selling baked goods and contributing half their income for the day to the facility was dRaeCakes, a

Romp and Rhyme Baby Lapsit Story Times at Waseca Public Library Oct. 28

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.

New Richland law enforcement “Hide and Seek” Oct. 30

Members from the New Richland and other law enforcement agencies are offering a “hide and seek” game with members of the public who signed up by the deadline to take part in a nighttime game which will start about 7 p.m. at City Hall. Select public areas in New Richland will be designated and participants will be given time to hide. Law enforcement staff from numerous agencies will then come “seeking” using only flashlights as their equipment. The event is based on similar activities held successfully elsewhere.

Waseca Churches Trunk or Treat events on Halloween, Oct. 31

The following churches will hold a Trunk or Treat event in Waseca from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 31. First Congregational Church at 530 Second Ave. NE. St. Paul Lutheran Church at 314 Fourth Ave. NE. Christ the King Lutheran Church at 309 Sixth St. NE. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints at 1001 Ninth Ave SE. Christian Assembly Church at 900 Fourteenth Ave. SE. Real Life Church at 620 Elm Ave. West.

Trick or Treat at the Waseca County Historical Center Oct. 31

There will be trick or treating at the Waseca County History Center from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, Oct. 31 located at 315 Second Ave. NE. Admission free, one penny to see the Mermaid of Loon Lake and other sideshows.

Sohmer and Dale on Halloween at Indian Island Winery, Oct. 31

Musical guest Sohmer and Dale on Halloween will perform at the Indian Island Winery from 6-8:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 31. Enjoy live music playing a whole variety of genres of music.

Faith United Methodist Luncheon and Fall Bazaar Saturday, Nov. 1

Faith United Methodist Church, 801 Fourth Ave., Waseca, is accepting free-will donations for a luncheon featuring chicken wild rice soup, fresh baked bread and assorted pies from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 1. A bazaar offering a cookie sale, baked goods and craft and vintage items will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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OBITUARIES

Barbara Bloomer

Barbara Jane Bloomer entered her heavenly home on October 8, 2025, at the age of 91 years. A service in her memory will be held at 11:00 am on Friday, October 24, 2025 at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church, St. Cloud. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at church. Private interment of her urn will be in the Bethlehem Lutheran Church Columbarium. Arrangements are with Benson Funeral Home, St. Cloud, MN.

Barbara was born April 18, 1934, to Lloyd and Katherine (Luff) Bloomer in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Barbara grew up on the Bloomer family farm outside of Morristown, Minnesota attending public school there through 8th grade, and graduating from Waseca Central High School in 1952. She attended the Morristown Methodist Church which was originally founded at her grandparent's log cabin on the Pleasant Ridge Farm. She played the organ at church during her high school years and enjoyed music her whole life.

Barbara was an avid learner throughout her life and delighted in her education as well as educating others. She graduated from St. Olaf College with a Bachelor of Arts in English, a history minor and enough credits to be certified to teach German. Barbara was granted a Fulbright Scholarship. She headed off to Mainz, Germany to be an English conversation assistant for a year. She applied again for another Fulbright Scholarship and taught in Vienna, Austria. After returning to the U.S. and teaching for a couple of years in Wilmar, Barbara went to graduate school at the University of Illinois, Urbana to obtain her master's degree. That led to her vocation of 31 years as a professor of German at St. Cloud State University retiring in 1995. While there, Barbara helped organize and direct the study abroad program in Ingolstadt, Germany and was instrumental in developing the St. Cloud/Spalt, Germany relationship which led to the two cities becoming "Sister Cities."

She was extremely active at Bethlehem Lutheran Church where she served on several church boards and participated in many committees. She was awarded the Bethlehem Lu-



Barbara Bloomer

theran Church "Bold Woman" award in 2015. Barbara also delivered meals on wheels, brought her famous pea salad to the Community Meal that her church served monthly, read newspapers for the blind on the radio, taught German at the Whitney Senior Center, and held German conversation groups at the St. Scholastica Convent and the Good Shepherd Community. She was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star whose core beliefs include charity, truth, and loving-kindness which Barbara exemplified. She traveled many times to Germany and after retirement continued her love of travel to many other locations.

Barbara had a long love affair with rivers and took special joy in waking up every morning in her dream home its view of the Mississippi River. Every morning upon waking she would say, "Thank you, God, for another day of grace!" She deeply enjoyed all the flowers, birds and animals that visited her yard.

Barbara is survived by her sister-in-law, Harlean; nephews and nieces, Russell (Merry) Thaden, Dennis Mary Jo) Thaden, Beth (Bruce) Andersland, Diane Hulstein, Brian Bloomer, Sue (Jeff) Funk, Kathy (Jeff) Blowers; cousins, Rica (Jeff) Van, Mark Jensen, Curt Lang, Susan Myslicki, Karen Thorpe; dear friend, Michael Peterson-Burr; and many great nephews and nieces.

She was preceded in death by her parents; sister, Helen Bloomer Thaden; brother, Harold Bloomer; brother-in-law, Harold Thaden; nephew, Russell Bloomer, nephew-in-law, Brian Hulstein, and grandnephew-in-law, Mitch Olson.

Barbara was loved and respected by many people and will be dearly missed.

Arllys Fell

Arllys Jane Fell, age 83 of Waseca, died on the afternoon of Friday, October 17, 2025, at Foxdale in Waseca. Arlys was born in Comfrey, Minnesota on February 15, 1942, to parents Joseph and Loretta (Mathiowetz) Helget. She attended St. Paul Catholic School before graduating from Comfrey High School with the class of 1960. She then furthered her education in Mankato where she studied accounting. She worked for a time at Green Giant in Le Sueur and it was during that time she met the man that would become her husband. On April 27, 1963, Arlys was united in marriage to Raymond E. Fell at St. Paul Catholic Church in Comfrey. They made their home in Waseca. As a homemaker, she raised four children before taking on working roles at the E.F. Johnson

Company and later Sacred Heart Catholic Church. She ended her working years at Shady Oaks Nursery in Waseca. Arlys enjoyed flower gardening, quilting, and attending bluegrass music festivals with Ray. For over 25 years she enjoyed attending an annual cousin's weekend with her sister, Mary. She also had the opportunity to take a life-long dream trip to Italy with her brother, Jim, and loved repeated trips to Oregon with her family. Arlys was a member of the Catholic Daughters, the Secular Franciscan Order, the Birthright Organization, and the Waseca Quilting Club.

Arlys is survived by her devoted husband of 62 years, Raymond Fell of Waseca; four children, Teresa (Dan) Stettler of Farmington, Michael (Natalie) Fell of Waseca, David Fell of Waseca, and Chad (Rebekah) Fell of Corvallis, OR; three grand-

sons, Aaron Norman, Bradley Norman; and Evan Fell; two brothers, Ronald (Bernetta) Helget of Comfrey, James Helget of Rochester; one sister, Mary (Roger) Merritt of Freeborn; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by both of her parents; two brothers, Cyril and Myron Helget; and one son in infancy, Joseph Fell.

Visitation will be held from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 22, 2025, at the State Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Services in Waseca, and will continue for one hour before the Mass on Thursday. A rosary service lead by the Catholic Daughters will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 23, 2025, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca, with Father Glenn Frerichs officiating. Interment



Arllys Fell

will follow at Calvary Catholic Cemetery in Waseca. dsfuneral.com

Wanda's Daycare opens in Waldorf

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

City resident Wanda Hendrickson opened a new business in Waldorf as of Monday, October 13. Mechanics deal in cars, bankers deal in money. Hendrickson, 64, proudly deals in children at "Wanda's Daycare" where she is ready, willing and able to help with all childcare needs. She says she doesn't have a slogan, but if she did, "Honesty is a must at Wanda's, my life is an open book."

She certainly has to admit, "Waseca County does their licensing way faster than they do over in Blue Earth County." Hendrickson, a new resident to Waldorf is open for business, "I got the first inspection done and passed, then the fire inspector came out, then another inspection after a 10 day wait, but we got it all taken care of. I also have one licensed helper standing by as well who can sit in for me for doctor visits or whatever."

Hendrickson has a sign at the

end of the street and another in her yard, and wants everyone to know, "I live at 137 Second Avenue North, Waldorf. If anyone wants to stop by and take a look, they are welcome to but please call first, my number is 507-382-7441."

She is planning on being open from 6:30 a.m. through 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and wants to assure anyone who works with her during the winter, "You worry about yourself on the road, I got your kids safe here. Unless it's an emergency, I'm not going anywhere. That gives you plenty of time for driving whether you're coming from Mankato, Waseca or Pemberton." Hendrickson mentions she had originally planned on opening up in Pemberton, but found better accommodation in Waldorf. She says she can work with the Flex Plan or the Child Care Assistance Program. She is C2 Licensed to take as many as 12 children, and babies as young as six weeks old. She can work with whatever pay schedules parents need, and is happy to discuss it.



CARING - Wanda Hendrickson, a new resident in Waldorf has opened up Wanda's Daycare to help new parents who need to balance work and childcare. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Janesville tables paid medical family leave

By RACHAEL JAEGER
Staff Writer

During their meeting on Oct. 13., members of the Janesville City Council tabled making a decision about how the city will handle the newly implemented family medical leave (FML) which state law says employers must have in place by Dec. 1. The council remanded work on the topic to the personnel committee.

City administrator Clinton Rogers clarified a number of points saying the family leave is "a state-run program, benefits will be coming through the state," Rogers said. "If on paid leave, your check is not going to be one hundred percent of what your wages are, you know, it's a graduated percentage of what you're earning."

Under state law, he added, people on FML will receive somewhere between 55 and 90 percent of their usual wages. The state-wide program will be funded by a payroll deduction. Employees will have just under half a percent of their pay deducted toward it, and employers will pay a corresponding amount for each worker.

Earlier, he continued, the personnel committee talked about the city covering the entire 88 percent. After

JANESVILLE CITY COUNCIL

he looked into it a bit more, he discovered, if the employer pays more than the required minimum .44 percent, the employee has to pay additional income tax.

"I'm thinking that would be a payroll nightmare for software," Rogers added.

Council member Sarah Johnson expressed displeasure that the new law disrupts the Earned Sick and Safe Time (ESST) policy that she believed had been working well.

"We're kinda in a budget crunch right now," Johnson added.

In other business, the council approved a request from Jeremy Erler to increase the city's annual contribution to the Fire Department Relief Association from \$2,400 to \$2,800 after weighing other options. But effective fiscal year 2026, the council will determine whether the Fire Department Relief Association needs any additional increases.

"I love what the fire department does for the city, but we've constantly done \$100-200," Mayor Andy Arnoldt stated. "That's a big jump to \$400."

"While we project a conservative

five percent rate of return on our investments, this is not guaranteed and can fluctuate," Erler stated. "The other part is recruitment and retention. To remain competitive and properly reward the firefighters, we need to ensure our benefits remain robust. Current contribution level is no longer sufficient to keep pace with these factors."

Arnoldt said he had on paper in front of him how many times Erler has approached the city over the last five years and asked for increases.

"As mayor, I'm wondering if there's a simpler way to do it where we would set a percentage and just do it every single year like a cost-of-living type raise," he commented. "That way, you don't have to keep coming to us and increase a small percentage each year. What is council's thoughts on that?"

Johnson noted she served on the fire department for 24 years and couldn't pinpoint a negative investment since she has been on.

"Definitely firefighters shouldn't come and beg to be taken care of,"

Councilor Kyle Luitjens stated.

In other news, the council approved and adopted the ordinance for the exemption of the grain dryer from franchise fees which includes the recent example from Traynor Farms, LLC.

"I had some concerns and questions earlier, regarding the whole ordinance or when it was first proposed to us, talking about tariffs, why the city had to be part of it," Maas said. "CenterPoint Energy does pay royalties to the city to do business inside their community, along with all the other utilities - Clinton showed me the amount that CenterPoint has paid so far this year. It is a sizable amount, and it changes my opinion on the whole deal."

During the meeting, the council approved a permit for the Waseca Hockey Foundation to allow charitable gambling at Purple Goose.

The council approved \$9,000 for some sanitary sewer repairs on 125 North Main Street after the city received signatures for all involved parties.

Frances Hursh

Frances "Fran" Carolyn Hursh, age 94 of Waseca, died on the afternoon of Friday, October 17, 2025, at Whispering Creek Nursing Home in Janesville.

Fran was born in Waseca on March 14, 1931, to parents Franklin "Frank" and Elsa (Bartsch) Papke. After graduating summa cum laude from Waseca High School in 1949 she continued her education at Mankato Commercial College where she specialized in book-keeping. She worked for the E.F. Johnson Company and then concluded her career working at the Waseca County Courthouse. Fran's happiest moment was meeting Wayne, and her greatest joy was their marriage. They were married on June 10, 1967, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Waseca. The love and devotion they shared inspired everyone around them. Together, they spent time doing handicrafts like cross stitch, embroidery, and rug making. They enjoyed devotions together every day of their marriage. As active members of St. Paul Lutheran Church, they were involved in many church activities. When Wayne passed away in April 2023, Fran's heart broke. Her greatest desire was to be reunited with him in Heaven and so now, we rejoice that they are together with Jesus.

Fran is survived by her nieces and nephews as well as her great nieces and nephews who loved her deeply. She was



Frances Hursh

preceded in death by her husband, parents, sister, and her niece.

The family offers heartfelt thanks to the staff of Whispering Creek Nursing Home and St. Croix Hospice. Their tender and compassionate care ensured Fran's last years and final days were comfortable and peaceful. We are also grateful for the constant love and support for the constant love and support of Fran's devoted friends, whose loyalty and friendship she cherished deeply.

Funeral services will be held on Thursday, October 23, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Waseca, with Rev. Michael Grannis officiating. Visitation will be held for one hour before the service at the church on Thursday. A private family interment will follow at Woodville Cemetery in Waseca. Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Services in Waseca is handling the arrangements. dsfuneral.com

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The Pastor's Column

The colors of grace

By PASTOR RICK WULF

I don't know how you feel about fall. Whether you like it or not, I'm going to tell you how I feel about this season. To give you some context, we have a white birch tree right outside our front door. And as I look out my window, there's a moment every late September that I think, "What a beautiful sight." Along with that birch, the dozens of trees in the neighborhood are painted in those breathtaking shades of red, gold, and orange. The sunlight dances through the branches, and everything looks like a postcard from one of those landscape photographers that make us gasp with beauty. Then about five seconds later, reality hits: those leaves are all going to end up in my yard. Do you feel me?

Autumn has a way of humbling us. We go from admiring the trees to muttering at them under our breath. We wonder why they couldn't be pine trees or at least hold on a little longer. I don't mind raking...the first time. You know, the crunch of leaves underfoot and the cool air actually is pleasant. I like the smell of woodsmoke drifting from someone's fire pit down the street. But by the fifth round of leaves, I start questioning my theology of trees.

As I ponder these things, I imagine there must be a life lesson somewhere between the first and the fifth pile of leaves. The first time I rake, I think, "this is sacred. Look what God made beautiful." The fifth time, well, it's more like, "Lord, are You sure You meant for this to happen every year?"

But then again, maybe that's what God intended to teach us about Autumn. Maybe it was meant to remind us that beauty and mess often go hand in hand. The same trees that fill the trees with beauty also fill our yards with work. The same changing seasons that remind us of God's beauty also test our patience and the efficacy of extra-strength Tylenol. And yet, through it all, there's something deeply spiritual about it—something that whispers, "To see the beauty in change is to know the beauty of grace."

Is it possible that God intended for us to see our spiritual life through the lens of the seasons of earth. There's spring, when everything feels new and full of promise. Then there's summer, when things are warm and growing strong. We can't forget winter, when we hold on and long for better days. And then there's fall—the in-between season, when we know beauty, but we also know what's coming soon.

The truth is that fall is beautiful...and discouraging. We must remember, though, leaves die so that the tree can rest and prepare for spring. The season when everything is remade new. Could it be, in a similar way, God lets parts of our lives fall away—not because He's done with us, but because He's getting us ready for what's next? It's not always comfortable, but it's necessary, so that God can accomplish His good, pleasing, and perfect will in us.

Someone once said to me, "The older I get, the faster life seems to go." Is that true or what? And while it does seem like time is speeding up, this person continued to say, "I ap-

preciate the seasons because they remind me that nothing in life stays the same." As I write this, I wonder if this is why I autumn has always been my favorite—it's honest. It doesn't pretend to last forever...it's a passing glory, one last burst of color before the drab and hardship of winter. Maybe fall is meant to be that gentle reminder that change isn't the enemy; it's part of God's beautiful plan for His children.

As much as I know all these things to be true, I hate to admit I've had my moments with the rake in hand. Just as I finish raking, a strong gust of wind comes and there are dozens of freshly fallen leaves where I just finished raking. But even that small frustration carries a lesson. Every leaf I rake reminds me that I'm not in control. Gasp! I know. Maybe you need to say that with me. I'm not in control.

Nature doesn't wait for my convenience, and God doesn't always work on my timeline.. Is that hard for you to swallow? I had to clear the lump in my throat as I typed that last sentence. That's a hard truth for most of us—especially in a world where everything moves at the speed of convenience. Do you wish you could schedule the seasons? Kind of like our DVR: start and stop, pause, maybe rewind or fast forward a little. We know that's not how it works though. We can't have the autumn colors without the yard work, blessings without the waiting, faith without the difficulty. But God, in His wisdom, often works at the pace like that of the seasons. He's not in a hurry...so maybe we shouldn't be either.

So maybe this fall, what would happen if we were to see those falling leaves as an invitation, and not a nuisance? What would it be like if each one reminds us that God often works in cycles—life, death, renewal? What if we were to actually believe that He's not finished with us yet? What would happen if we looked at each leaf that falls is a quiet sermon: "Let go. Trust Me. I'm preparing new life for you?"

And when you're out there with your rake, grumbling under your breath and wondering how much a new chainsaw costs, take a moment. And look up. Notice the sunlight flickering through the branches. Feel the crisp air. Listen to God as He prepares the earth for a season. This is the sound of God's creation doing what it was made to do—changing, letting go, making room for what's next. Take in the colors of fall. These colorful leaves are a reminder of the colors of grace.

Now, just before I go, I can't promise your yard will stay clean. In fact, I can promise it won't. But maybe your soul will feel a little brighter, a little warmer. Maybe you'll remember that even in the hardest seasons, God is quietly at work—raking, redeeming, renewing, and ultimately remaking.

And if all else fails, just wait until the wind picks up. Grace has a way of blowing through when you least expect it. And then when your neighbor gets a little angry, feel free to pass this on to them. They'll thank you for it!

First Congregational serves luncheon, message

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The First Congregational Church of Waseca held a ministerial soup lunch and devotional over the lunch hour on Wednesday, Oct. 15. On the menu for the day was homemade cheesy vegetable or sausage tortellini soup with oyster crackers, bread and butter. There were also six different types of bars available for dessert. Close to forty people, both members of the church and non-members, were present.

Derrick Skoglund, Pastor for First Congregational stepped forward as everyone got closer to the end of their lunch and took charge of the devotional. The opening hymn was "How Great Thou Art." Pastor Skoglund then let everyone know "The Book of Psalms were the songs the Jews sang in the temple." He made reference to the 1950s and how people's problems back then weren't much different from problems everyone has today. "At the skating rink, a lost set of skates was a problem we probably don't have a lot of today.

But that doesn't mean we don't have a whole new set of issues to deal with." He spoke of the ongoing fight between Russia and Ukraine. He said, "I speak also of the blossoming peace and our hope that it lasts between Israel and Gaza." He also talked about unrest here at home, "The street fighting in Oregon and Chicago. With all the fighting we must remember this question, 'How would you praise the name of our great King?'"

While speaking, Pastor Skoglund was interrupted by a phone call from his wife, Ann. He explained, "She's in Greece right now. She's a nurse with Northwestern University and she's over there with a bunch of other nurses. They're meeting with refugees and doing the good work."

There were eight women volunteers on Tuesday who helped to prepare the soup and to get the bread and the bars ready. On Wednesday there were seven volunteers, only one of whom was willing to provide her name. Donna Henson was able to say after giving her name, "The



MINISTERIAL SOUP - The First Congregational Church of Waseca held a ministerial soup lunch and devotional over the lunch hour in the church basement on Wednesday, Oct. 15.

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

church pays for the food, we cover the cost, and the rest goes right back to the church."

The two soups were prepared in giant silver colanders which were being emptied in the kitchen into plastic containers to be taken as leftovers. Not a single dessert bar was

wasted either. The First Congregational Church of Waseca, located at 503 Second Avenue Northeast, has a luncheon like this once a month, usually on the third Wednesday but they are still ironing out the schedule. This is a free event, all are welcome; free-will offerings are accepted.

Polio survivor shares journey

The Rotary Club of Waseca welcomed polio survivor Linda Christianson for a moving program on living with purpose in the face of adversity. Christianson, who contracted polio as an infant and spent months in isolation at St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, reflected on decades of surgeries, braces, and rehabilitation, and the community that helped her thrive.

Christianson described discovering strength early, retelling that as a hospitalized six-and-a-half-month-old she saw her parents only on Sundays due to strict isolation rules of the era. She later underwent more than a dozen orthopedic surgeries, grew up using leg braces and crutches, and ultimately built a full life as a dental assistant for 42 years, a school van driver, and a devoted volunteer in church, library, and community projects.

"I try to live my life by the Four P's, Prayer, Patience, Prioritize, and Persistence," Christianson told Rotarians. "Everything hasn't been easy, but I am grateful. This is the life I was



GRIT AND GRATITUDE - The Rotary Club of Waseca welcomed polio survivor Linda Christianson for a program on living with purpose. Pictured here, from left, are Rotary Club Co-President Katie Gonzales, Past President Amy Potter, Linda Christianson, and Co-President Cassie Meister.

given, and I want my legacy to be one of resilience and service."

Christianson also highlighted the importance of polio vaccinations and Rotary's End Polio Now campaign; noting she proudly wears her End Polio Now pin, alongside of her Paul Harris Fellow pin a distinction of service and giving recognized in the Rotary world.

"Linda's story reminds us exactly why Rotary will not stop until polio is gone for good, and we are very close," said Club Co-President Katie Gonzales "Her courage and positive purpose inspire our club's continued commitment to service and to ending

this disease."

Christianson also shared memories of summer sessions at Camp Courage, meeting her former hospital roommate years later, and the tangible mementos, tiny braces and cast pieces, her mother saved that now help illustrate her story for students and civic groups. Though she moves more slowly today, she remains active, sewing daily, riding a tricycle for exercise, and speaking to youth about history, hope, and perseverance. She is the author of her book, "The Steps I Have Taken," where she tells her full story of growing up with Polio. "While this disease is so far out of reach for our

youth today, they still need to hear about its importance and impact on the world. It truly is only a plane ride away from making a terrible comeback."

World Polio Day is marked October 24 annually to honor the progress toward global polio eradication and to rally support for the final push. Rotary launched PolioPlus in 1985 and continues to mobilize volunteers and resources worldwide to immunize children and strengthen surveillance and response. It is a moment to recognize the progress made and the work still to do.

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507-835-2235
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* * *

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605 4th St NE, Waseca
507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker)
Worship Sundays 10 a.m.
* * *

FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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507-835-3167
Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m.
* * *

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.
* * *

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca
507-833-1703
Sundays 9:00 a.m.
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ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
314 4th Ave NE, Waseca
507-835-2647
Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m.
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503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca
507-835-4548 (office email: lcwaseca@hickorytech.net)
Worship Sunday 10 a.m.
* * *

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
300 E Elm Ave, Waseca
507-835-1709
Worship Sunday 9 a.m.
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111 4th St NW, Waseca
Father Glenn Ferichs
507-835-1222
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620 W Elm Ave, Waseca
507-607-8245
Sunday worship 10 a.m.
* * *

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS
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507-835-4640
Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m.
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GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
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507-835-2213
Sunday worship 10:45 a.m., 6:00 p.m.
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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
* * *

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Otisco, Minnesota
Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor
Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study
Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship
* * *

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
* * *

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
* * *

VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Dan Kordahl
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship
* * *

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
* * *

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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.
* * *

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
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IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Freedom Township
Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Worship
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ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Pastor Ava Adams-Morris
Waldorf, Minnesota
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship
* * *

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC
Waldorf, Minnesota
Father Sammy Pothiredy
Saturday - 5 p.m. Worship
* * *

TRINITY LUTHERAN
Wilton Township
Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor
Sunday - 8 a.m. summer worship; 10:45 a.m. Worship starting Sept. 1
* * *

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
Brad Donner, Branch President
Waseca, Minnesota
www.lds.org
Sunday - 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School
Wednesday - 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages 12-18
* * *

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
* * *

JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
401 N. West St., Janesville
Pastor Kathy King
Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship
* * *

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. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH
307 W. 2nd St. Janesville
Father Robert Schneider
Sunday - 8:30 a.m. - Mass
* * *

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
300 Owen St., Janesville
Pastor Sarah Krolak
* * *

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH
Alma City, Minnesota
Pastor Robert Harting
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship
* * *

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Smiths Mill, Minnesota
Pastor Robert Harting
Thursday - 7:00 p.m. Worship
Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship
* * *

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
* * *

NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE WASECA COUNTY PIONEER.



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Janesville

1925

- An indictment for murder was drawn by the Grand Jury against Frank Kratz, who has been held in the county jail at Waseca for the past several weeks after a hearing in Municipal Court. Kratz is accused by the state of the murder of Louis Minske, the Iosco recluse, early this spring. County Attorney Child and Attorney Henry M. Gallagher are to prosecute for the state, while Moonan & Moonan and Chas. Spillane, Waseca attorneys, have been retained by the defense.

- Mrs. Minnie Mellinger, 24, estranged wife of Chad Mellinger and former resident of Waseca, was shot and killed at Waukegan, Ill., last Thursday morning at three o'clock, says the Waseca Journal this week. It is believed by the police that John McGuire, a lover, committed the murder in a fit of jealousy and a warrant for his arrest has been issued and a \$1,000 reward posted. The remains were brought to Waseca Sunday and services held at the Pfaff Undertaking Parlors and at the Methodist Church. Burial took place in Woodville cemetery.

- Waseca County's share of the semi-annual appointment of the current state school fund will be \$11,352.00 based on a total of 2,838 pupils. Word to this effect was received this week from the state auditor with the additional information that distribution of the fund among various counties of the state will be made at an early date. Appointment of the current state school fund which is derived from the earnings of the permanent school fund and the receipts from the one mill school tax is made in March and October of each year and the present distribution is for the school period ending July 31st.

1950

- Ellendale defeated the Janesville Golden Bears Friday night by a score of 6 to 0 in a game marred by a heavy rain at Ellendale. The Indians' homecoming was made successful due to a great 43-yard return of Gerald Scheneman's punt on the last play of the first quarter. Junior halfback Kenneth Lunning took the punt on Janesville's 42 yard line, fumbled, picked it up and went through a swarm of Bear tacklers for the touchdown.

- Agriculture department officials in Washington said yesterday county price support rated for 1950 crop corn will run seven cents a bushel above last year's rates in the commercial corn producing areas of the country. Rates will average \$1.47 a bushel nationally, but will vary by countries. Generally speaking, counties nearest the terminal markets will have higher rates than those farther away from such markets. Officials said announcement of the support rates by counties is expected to be made next week.

1975

- 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.

- Wayne Abraham's old barn burned right to the ground Monday night, but Wayne wasn't going to lose any sleep over it. A year or two ago even the thought of losing his only barn would have made him nervous. But wayne sold the 120-acre farm last March to Herb Guse. All he kept was the five-acre farmstead, the house, and a few buildings. "I didn't need the barn," Warne told the Argus. "All we kept in it were car motors and a few parts. It was just used for storage."

- The pressure of field work kept Billie Quast and Bill Jewison from attending the school board meeting Monday night, but everything was going on pretty much as usual without them...until the fire whistle blew at 9 p.m. Board member Ken Johansen is also a fireman and had to leave. His absence left the board with only three members: Sib Joyce, Jim Keeley, and Al Trahms. At least four of the six members are required for a quorum, so no official action could be taken.

2000

- As a parent, there are few occasions that bring greater pleasure than watching your child open up Christmas presents. The wonderment and excitement they express as they unwrap just the gift they've been hoping for generates a happiness beyond words. Now imaging that, for whatever reason, you aren't able to afford those presents this Christmas. Thanks to the Janesville Rotary Club, a tradition in Janesville that was missing for the past two years is being revived to help fill this gap. "Sharing and Caring Christmas" will be there this year to offer assistance to those area families experiencing difficulty during the upcoming holiday season.

- When Traci Schuch started training to run a marathon, she thought she would be running with two friends - Jenny Meihak and Jodie Mogensen. When neither of them entered the race, she ran alone. Alone, that is, unless you count the 8,500 other marathon runners in the Twin Cities marathon. "It was fun," said Schuch. "I would definitely do it again." Besides running without her friends, there were other surprises in store for Schuch. Record low temperatures, a mere 30 degrees at start time, changed her outfit from shorts to tights and gloves. She ran with a chip in her shoe to officially record her time. At the finish she was so sore she couldn't even sit down. And, she ran some of the race next to a man wearing bunny ears. But all of it was an experience she is looking forward to repeating.

- Tom Herrick has just become the newest addition to the Janesville Police Department. Herrick, who lives in Austin and works in irrigation, will serve Janesville on an on-call, parttime basis. Janesville was in need of a part-time officer after the resignation of Bob Anderson, who was primarily involved with special events. Anderson has resigned to concentrate on a full-time position with MnDOT. Herrick is a welcome addition to Janesville for Chief Dave Ulmen, who worked with him in Madelia. "When we advertised for a part-time officer, Tom was the only one who applied who had the background and education we were looking for," said Ulmen. "I'm happy to have him aboard."

Waseca

25 years ago

- Oct. 3 marked the 10-year anniversary of the new unified Germany and 16 German students visiting Waseca as part of the German American Partnership Program (GAPP) could not be happier about the anniversary. The students visiting Waseca were only six and seven years old at the time, so they do not remember much about it, but they are sure grateful that the wall separating the east from the west was taken down in 1990.

- Leo Groebner emerged as the week four winner of the Waseca County News Football Contest. Groebner correctly picked 15 of the 18 games played last week, missing three upset winners. He failed to pick Iowa's win over Michigan State, the Mankato State victory over South Dakota State victory over South Dakota State and Mankato West's triumph over Owatonna.

50 years ago

- Adolph Kopischke is not exactly considered man's best friend. At least not when he is working at his part time job-that of repairing Waseca's parking meters. Many Waseca residents may think things would be easier if he threw a rock through the 'dam things' instead of repairing them. They may also think the city is making a bundle off the meter or mutter about what a nuisance they are.



-Girls tennis team that will be competing in the Individual Tournament at Blue Earth Saturday are front row left to right: doubles teams of Cindy Fowler and Leigh Skoglud; Karen Maki and Roxanne Mittelstaedt. In the second row left to right is the Bluejays singles team of Becky Oelke, Chris Lewer and Kathy Wirtz.

- The Waseca Fire Department spent a busy weekend answering two calls Sunday and spending a day and a half working on an old problem. Four men took some equipment and, with help from the railroad, which brought in some heavy equipment and two tank cars filled with water, worked on the remnants of the peat fire near Palmer. The department was on the scene from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday and from 7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sunday.



- UMW Cross Country Team will be in action Saturday in their Second Annual Invitational Meet at the Lakeside Golf Course. Right to left are: coach John Fulkrod, Lynn Abrahamson, Owen Dickey, Keith Housman, Dean Piehl, Rich Meyer and Dick Beardsley.

-Waseca merchants will feature Piggy Bank Days in Waseca this weekend with exceptional buys in all participating stores. The sale will be four big days, starting Wednesday and running through Saturday. The businesses recognized that this weekend during MEA vacation, is an excellent opportunity for those youngsters to get those winter clothes and other fall and winter merchandise this weekend. They have put together a 12 page tabloid section which will be issued in the JOURNAL tomorrow.

75 years ago

- Information has been received here of the death of Corporal Kenneth Earl Brady, 29, former Waseca county marine, who was killed in combat in Korea Sept. 25. General C. B. Cates, commandant of the marine corps, informed Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Brady, now of Rochester, of the death of their son.

-Today is the "Open House" day for the Waseca plant of General Foods, Birds Eye-Snyder Division. All residents of Waseca and surrounding communities are cordially invited to inspect the plant any time between 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.

- Because 4-H'ers learn by doing, scores of Waseca county 4-H club girls now make most of their own clothes, assist with the housework, do part of the family baking and canning. The training girls receive in home-making projects is one of the most valuable aspects of 4-H club work for girls, says Home Agent LaVerne Larson.

100 years ago

- The Four Corners Farm Club was entertained at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Erwin, last Wednesday evening. The following program as given: Roll Call. Music, Geo. Fell, Stanley Erwin. Song, Madeline and Leonard Brown. Talk, Werner. Reading, Alvina Wilkoski. Music, Geo. Fell and Stanley Erwin. Song, Madeline and Leonard Brown. Critic, S.E. Ballard. After the program, a lunch was served and a social hour was enjoyed by all. The next meeting will be at the home of the Kahnke Brothers, Wednesday, Oct. 21.

New Richland

25 years ago

- Last week Gail Johnson of New Richland (right) took over the duties of administrator at Royal Villa in New Richland. Janice Kulla, who served for nearly five years in the position explained the office responsibilities to Gail. Janice is now making her home in an apartment in Waseca.



- Jessica Marie Waldron the daughter of Joey and Lana Pick Waldron of Big Lake, Minnesota was born September 18, 2000. The little miss weighed 8 lb 5 oz. Maternal grandmother is Marie Pick of Waldorf. Paternal grandparents are Jane and Virgil Waldron of Buffalo, Minnesota.



- This Tower and Catholic church were built in Sexbierum, Holland, in the year 1096, three quarters of a mile from the North Sea. In the year 1100, a Norwegian fleet came ashore and destroyed the whole town except two houses and the tower and church, which still remain in use. Sexbierum is the village where Ed DeJong and his family lived.



50 years ago



- Mrs. Gordon (Carole Wenzel) Schroeder cuts the ribbon at the dedication of the restored Clinton Falls township bridge, Sunday, Oct. 12. Assisting her is Steele County Commissioner Dusty Rhodes.



- Brad Walstrom, left, is pictured accepting a \$25 savings bond from Tom Donovan, manager of Richland Coop Service. Brad's Essay on Cooperatives was chosen as the best in the contest run by Richland Coop Service, in which FFA members wrote essays. Brad is a junior at the high school and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Clayton walstrom of New Richland.

The New Richland-Hartland Cardinal football team shut-out the Janesville Bears, 21-0, last Wednesday night, to retain the "Gold Brick" trophy in their annual contest. In the beginning of the third period, the Cardinals staged a 62 yard drive down field, climaxed by a 32-yard run around right end into the end zone by Rod Smith. The kick by Adryn Peterson for the conversation point was good and the Cards led 7-0. Rod Smith led all rushing for the Cards with 101 yards for 10 carries and Getskow tossed six passes with two completions for 69 yards and a touchdown.

- A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Jessen of rural New Richland, Thursday, October 16 at St. Joseph's Hospital, Mankato. The husky little fellow weighed 8 lb 5 1/2 oz at birth and has been named Brian Paul.

75 years ago

- Harold Berg has purchased the farm known as the Wm. Verplank farm located about two miles east on Highway 30 from highway 13 of Mr. and Mrs. A. Theodore Nelson of Albert Lea this week.

- Leonard R. Burmeister and Miss Hilda E. Brinkmann of Little Fork in Northern Minnesota were quietly married Wednesday, November 8, at 2:30 pm at Zion Lutheran Church, International Falls. Rev. R. O. Evans officiated at the double ring ceremony. The bride was given in marriage by her sister, Mrs. Melvin Lee, who also served as her sister's bridesmaid and the groom was attended by Mr. Lee.

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SENIOR NIGHT ACTION — The Waseca High School football team defeated New Ulm 21-14 last Wednesday on Senior Night for the Bluejays. ◻rom left, Deron Russell (7) breaks free on a punt return for a touchdown. In the middle, Julius Oviedo (52) and Lucas Selthun (55) chase down a New Ulm ball carrier. At right, the Bluejays◻Cyrett Long (1) hauls in a pass that fell just short of a touchdown on the final play of the first half. Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

Bluejays nip New Ulm, end regular season 8-0

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Ask Waseca High School football coach Brad Wendland if his Bluejays took New Ulm a bit lightly last Wednesday and you'll get a one-word answer.

No.

"I don't think we took them lightly," said Wendland. "They deserve credit. They played well and are very good up front."

The Eagles also made a bid to hand Waseca its first loss of the season, but a second-half defensive effort and a fourth-quarter score propelled the Bluejays to a hard-fought 21-14 victory in the final game of

the regular season.

Waseca improved its record to 8-0 while the Eagles fell to 2-6.

After a scoreless first quarter on a windy night in Waseca, the Eagles put the first points on the scoreboard on a 7-yard pass in the second period.

The Bluejays answered it with a little trickery, with Jordan Johnston launching a halfback pass to a wide-open Owen Honstad in the end zone. Owen Rupe added the PAT kick.

The Bluejays took the lead when Deron Russell broke free on an 88-yard punt return for a touchdown, but New Ulm knotted it at halftime.

A scoreless third quarter was fol-

lowed by a 10-yard touchdown pass from Kellen Klinger to Russell about midway through the fourth.

"Defensively, in the second half, we held them off," said Wendland. "We found a way to win. Our energy to start the game was horrible. Our leaders and our top players did lead us in the second half."

Wendland credited New Ulm's physicality up front and the Bluejays' defensive line for several big plays for the Eagles.

"Our defensive line really gets upfield, and their counters and misdirection plays were hitting very well," said Wendland.

Klinger, named the IWealth

Player of the Game, completed 12 of 21 passes for 122 yards, four to Russell for 41 yards.

"We didn't click in the passing game as much as would like," said Wendland. "We just never got in a rhythm."

Still, he had praise for Klinger, his sophomore quarterback, who rushed 16 times for 58 yards.

"He's in the weight room all summer," said Wendland. "He's not afraid of contact. He was a big part of the game."

The Bluejays earned a bye in the opening round of the section tournament, and will open postseason play Saturday, Oct. 25 with a home

game.

"We'll take a little break, come up for air, and see where we go from there," said Wendland.

Waseca 21, Ne◻ UI◻ 14

NU	0	14	0	7	— 21
WAS	0	14	0	0	— 14

First Quarter

No scoring

Second Quarter

NU — Gag 7 pass from Castleman (Fruhworth kick)

WAS — Honstad 22 pass from Johnston (Rupe kick)

WAS — Russell 88 punt return (Rupe kick)

NU — Portner 9 run (Fruhworth kick)

Third Quarter

No scoring		
Fourth Quarter		
WAS — Russell 10 pass from Klinger (Rupe kick)		
	NU	WAS
Total plays	53	47
First downs	9	14
Rushing yards	121	152
Passing yards	37	144
Total Yds.	158	296
Penalties	0-0	4-44

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing ◻WAS: Johnston 19-94; Klinger 16-58; NU: Hubbard 6-111; Kral 5-10; Haynes 7-10; Castleman 3 —22; Brown 7-1; ◻ges 1-2; Portner 1-9

Passing ◻WAS: Klinger 12-21, 122; Johnston 1-1, 22; NU: Castleman 3-7, 37

Receiving — WAS: Russell 5-41; Long 3-53; Parpart 1-4; Honstad 2-27; NU: Portner 1-27; Gag 1-7; Kral 1-3



MARATHON MATCH — The WHS volleyball team dropped a marathon 3-2 decision to Medford last Monday. Above, the Bluejays◻Alyssa Kilmer dives to the floor for a dig. Below left, Remy Murphy spikes. Below right, Brooke Bartelt bumps a shot. Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens



WHS spikers edged by Medford

Last Monday was Senior Night for the Waseca High School volleyball team.

It didn't end up as hoped, but by all accounts everyone involved had a lot of fun.

The Blujays started strong, defeating Medford 25-14, 25-23 in the first two sets.

Sometime during set three, the momentum switched the way of the visitors, and the Bluejays never could regain it, with the Tigers taking sets three and four by identical 25-20 scores. The fifth and deciding set was as close as you could get, with Medford prevailing 15-13.

"It was a battle," said Waseca head coach Krissy Plonske. "But everyone had smiles on their faces and that's all a coach really cares about in the end, enjoy-

ing yourself on the court with your teammates."

Avery Barto had a big night from the setter position, totaling 40 set assists to go along with 13 digs.

Alyssa Kilmer led the Bluejays with 17 kills, adding 16 digs. Ellery Waldron had 12 kills and a team-high 20 digs.

Honored were seniors Audrianna Willingham, Kilmer, Remy Murphy, Waldron and Brooke Bartelt.

The Bluejays were the No. 15 seed in Section 2AA, facing No. 2 sed Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial Oct. 20 at Lake Crystal.

Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton drew the No. 12 seed, opening the playoffs Oct. 20 at fifth-seeded St. Clair. Southwest Minnesota Christian was the top seed.

Bulldogs fall at Maple River

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Things started slow for the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School football team in last Wednesday's regular-season finale against Maple River at Mapleton.

They never did get better.

The Eagles controlled the line of scrimmage from the opening kickoff, jumping to a 30-0 lead at the end of the first quarter on their way to a dominating 55-6 victory.

The Eagles, who outgained the Bulldogs 367-95 in total yards, converted four touchdown runs in the opening period, scoring twice more in the second to lead 43-0 at halftime.

The Bulldogs got on the board for the only time in the third quarter on a 15-yard pass to Gavin Bauer from his brother Daulton Bauer. The PAT kick was blocked.

Maple River's reserves tacked on two fourth-quarter scores.

Daulton Bauer finished 8-for-16 passing for 57 yards. The Bulldogs' top ball carrier was Chase Gerdt, who ran for 41 yards on nine carries.

Caleb Quast, who set a school record for receiving yards the previ-

ous Friday, finished with six catches for 18 yards. Gavin Bauer hauled in two passes for 22 yards.

Maple River's Anthony Orduna had a game-high 149 yards rushing on eight carries.

Parker Gearity and Yale Johnson led JWP on defense, each with three tackles and an assist.

Maple River 55, JWP 6

JWP	0	0	6	0	— 6
MR	30	13	0	12	— 55

First Quarter

MR — Proehl 47 run (Orduna run)

MR — Proehl 4 run (Proehl run)

MR — Trio 1 run (pass failed)

MR — Simon 3 run (Schneider kick)

Second Quarter

MR — Trio 2 run (pass failed)

MR — McCarthy 7 pass from Staloch (Schneider kick)

Third Quarter

JWP — G.Bauer 15 pass from D.Bauer (kick blocked)

Fourth Quarter

MR — Wishart 1 run (run failed)

MR — Braaten 5 run (pass failed)

Passing	8-17	6-11
Passing Yards	290	141
Passing TDs, int.	1-0	1-1
Total Yds.	95	367
Third down	2-10	2-8
Fourth down	0-3	3-4
Fumbles - lost	2-1	0-0
Penalties	4-25	3-35

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING — JWP: D.Bauer 1 —11; Wolf 1-7; Kronbach 2-4; Gerdt 10-41; Schultz 1-6; MR: Trio 4-7; Proehl 9-93; Harris 5-40; Simon 1-3; Fox 1-9; Wishart 3-24; Braaten 1 —3; Orduna 8-149; Sorensen 1-10

PASSING — JWP: D.Bauer 8-16, 57; Wolff 1-1, 0; MR: Trio 5-7, 33; Wishart 1-4, 2

RECEIVING — JWP: Quast 6-18; G.Bauer 2-22; Weedman 1-16; Kronbach 1-0; Gerdt 1-3; Schultz 1-0; MR: Caven 1-0; Proehl 4-24; Schneider 2-0; Gartner 1 —3; Orduna 1-11

JWP Defense — Hood 1T, 1A; Quast 1A; G.Bauer 3T; Scholl 1A; Weedman 1T, 1A; Gearity 3T, 1A; Schultz 2T, 2A; Wolff 1A; Harris 1T; Elliot 1T, 1A; Kronbach 1T, 1A; Gerdt 3T, 4A; Schultz 1T; Rolfsen 2T, 3A; Rider 2A; Cummins 2T, 1A; Huber 1T; Schoenrock 1T; Johnson 3T, 1A

Congratulations to

KELLEN KLINGER

Waseca Bluejay's

PLAYER OF THE GAME

Oct. 15, 2025

Bluejay CC girls finish fourth in conference meet

The Waseca High School cross country teams ventured to Luverne for the Big South Conference meet Tuesday, Oct. 14.

The Bluejay girls finished fourth in the large school division with 77 points. St. Peter won with 42, edging Marshall, which had 43. Belle Plaine totaled 65, Fairmont 177 and Worthington 164.

Eighth-grader Ellie Kopischke led the Bluejays, taking seventh in 20:00.97 for 5000 meters. Following for Waseca were Stella Omtvedt, 11th, 20:52.10; Maren Schimming, 14th, 21:02.99; Quinn Yoder, 23rd, 21:43.67; Ava VanDenHemel, 24th, 21:45.17; Taylor Markeson, 28th, 22:03.53; and Leah Wilson, 29th, 22:09.84.

The Bluejays' junior varsity squad was second with 54 points, behind first-place Belle Plaine with 29. Marshall had 59, Worthington 82.

Waseca JV girls' placewinners for 5000 meters: Jenna Yoder, second, 22:33.29; Kelsey Draeger, third, 22:56.9; Violet Rohwer, fifth, 23:51.82; Violet Hughes, 28th, 29:22.28; and Najorie Lacy, 32nd, 31:11.33.

The WHS varsity boys finished seventh with 187 points. Belle

Plaine won with 40, followed by Marshall at 47, St. Peter 76, Fairmont 98, Worthington 132 and Tri-City United 134. New Ulm had 160.

Waseca varsity places and times for 5000 meters: Wyatt Hager, 25th, 18:44.78; Keenan Collins, 27th, 18:50.77; Luke Feldkamp, 50th, 20:39.29; Noah Love, 53rd, 21:03.80; Korbin Collins, 54th, 21:08.34; Ryan Yoder, 55th, 21:09.7; Sam Feldkamp, 58th, 25:15.43.

The Bluejay boys were second in the JV 5000-meter race. Belle Plaine was first with 29, Waseca had 54, Marshall 59 and Worthington 82.

Waseca places and times: Kurt Erickson, 25th, 22:16.99; Will Deml, 32nd, 22:56.76; Miles Popp, 33rd, 23:01.48; Alex Lewandowski, 35th, 23:11.72; Owen Fierke, 55th, 26:59.18; and Tre Porter, 63rd, 35:45.22.

The Blujays return to action with the Section 1AA championships Thursday, Oct. 23 at Bancroft Bay Park in Albert Lea. The girls are seeking a second-straight trip to state. The top two teams, and the top six individuals not on the first two squads, advance to state.



THE LEADERS — Ellie Kopischke, left, and Wyatt Hager, right, led the Wseca High School cross country teams in last Tuesday's Big South Conference meet at Luverne.



THE LEADERS — Ellie Kopischke, left, and Wyatt Hager, right, led the Wseca High School cross country teams in last Tuesday's Big South Conference meet at Luverne.

Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens



DUEL FOR THE GOLD — WEM/JWP's Wyatt Jans, left, and 2024 conference champion Jacob Karl, right, had a battle for first in this year's Gopher Conference meet last Tuesday.

Photo by Larry Nydegger

Grizzly boys take conference title

WEM/JWP CC girls finish second

The WEM/JWP boys' cross country team captured the championship in the Gopher Conference meet at The Oaks Golf Club in Hayfield last Tuesday.

The Grizzlies won it with 57 points, besting second-place Blooming Prairie's 65. They were followed by Randolph with 86, Triton 82, Medford 101 and Hayfield 127.

Wyatt Jans, a junior, led the Grizzlies, placing first among a field of 51 varsity boys with a time of 17:24.7 for 5000 meters.

Following for the Grizzlies: Teagan Mulder, eighth, 18:41.1; Auston Holicky, 16th, 19:37.6; Brennan Welvaert, 19th, 19:55; Cash Wenker, 27th, 20:58; Parker Smith, 38th, 21:58.7; Dalton Ling, 45th, 24:48; and Charlie Denis, 47th, 25:20.8.

The Grizzlies' Eli Fall, an eighth-grader, finished ninth in the 2400-meter junior high race, clocking 15:24.7.

United South Central/Alden-Conger was the only team to field a full squad.

The Grizzlies finished second in

the girls' varsity race with 41 points. Blooming Prairie won with 24. NRHEG had 74, Medford 102.

Eighth-grader Norah Welvaert paced the Grizzlies, taking sixth in 21:16 for 5000 meters. Others: Madalyn Miller, 10th, 22:46.4; Lydia Coulsey, 11th, 22:50.8; Ellie Schlie, 15th, 22:33.7; Kwynn Krause, 16th, 23:34.1; Emma Huelsnitz, 18th, 24:04.8; Jaelyn Wilmes, 19th, 24:13.1; Anne Adams, 29th, 27:22.6; Abby Crosby, 30th, 27:27.4; and Hailey Heinz, 37th, 30:35.8. The winner of the girls' varsity race was Julieann Wobbrock, a freshman from NRHEG who clocked 19:17.2.

Grizzlies seventh-grader Emma Bittner took seventh in the 2400-meter junior race with a time of 15:06.5.

Next up for the Grizzlies is the Section 2A meet Thursday, Oct. 23 at Norwood-Young America's Baylor Park. The top two teams, and the top six individuals not on the first two squads, advance to state.



BIG STOP — NRHEG's Wyatt Larson (65) tackles a USC ball carrier in the backfield.

Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens

Panthers blanked by United South Central

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Points were tough to come by for the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School football team in last Wednesday's regular-season finale, resulting in a 20-0 victory for United South Central.

"It was an interesting spot," said Panthers head coach Marc Kruger. "Because no matter what, we are playing USC again now on Tuesday. We knew going in that whoever won would get the No. 4 seed and the home game."

The Rebels won by winning the battle up front, rushing for 239 yards while holding the Panthers to two. For the night, USC held a 257-99 edge in total yards, racking up 14 first downs to seven for the Panthers.

USC got on the board with a 20-yard touchdown run in the first quarter, tacking on a two-point conversion.

The Rebels scored on two short touchdown runs in the second quarter to go up 20-0 at halftime.

Panther quarterback Brooks Gilliland completed 10 of 25 passes for 97 yards with three interceptions.

Calvin Nissen had five pass receptions for 48 yards.

Gavin Lewison was the Panthers' leading rusher with 12 yards on seven carries.

Jordan Brouwers led the NRHEG defense with 10 tackles and an assist. Ryan Schlaak had nine tackles and an assist, Wyatt

Larson seven tackles and one assist.

"The Rebels are a big, tough team, and they did a great job of controlling the clock," said Kruger. "We did not capitalize well enough on our chances on offense. We will go try again and Tuesday, look at what went well and what we did not, and fix it."

USC 20, NRHEG 0

USC	8	12	0	0 — 20
NRHEG	0	0	0	0 — 0

First Quarter

USC — 20 run (two-point conversion good)

Second Quarter

USC — Peterson 3 run (two-point conversion failed)

USC — 1 run (two-point conversion failed)

Third Quarter

No scoring

Fourth Quarter

No scoring

	NRHEG	USC
Total plays	45	63
First downs	7	14
Rushing Yds.	2	239
Passing Yds.	97	18
Total Yards	99	257
Third Down	2-10	4-13
Fourth Down	1-4	4-6
Fumbles lost	0	1
Penalties	5-45	5-76

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING — NRHEG: Lewison 7-12; Nissen 1-1; R.Schlaak 1 —4; B.Gilliland 3 —7; USC: Peterson 17-50; Kayser 1-2; Rest of team 34-187

PASSING — NRHEG: B.Gilliland 10-25, 97, 3 int.; USC: Team 2-5, 18

RECEIVING — NRHEG: Nissen 5-48; R.Schlaak 1-28; Johannsen 2-11; Lewison 1-10; USC: Team 2-18

NRHEG Defense — Brouwers 10T, 1A; R.Schlaak 9T, 1A; Larson 7T, 1A; Conroy 5T; Deen 4T, 2A; Nissen 2T, 2A; Selover 2T; D.Schlaak 2T; Baumann 1T; Hanna 1T, 2A; Meyering 1T; Bartlett 1T; Johannsen 1A; M.Gilliland 1A

NRHEG spikers drop regular-season finale

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School volleyball team wrapped up the regular season against Triton at Dodge Center last Tuesday.

It was a battle from start to finish but the Cobras came away with a 3-0 sweep, with set scores of 25-21, 25-23 and 25-21.

"Despite losing in three straight sets, the Panthers played hard and battled through some adversity," said NRHEG head coach Bethany Tennis. "It was a competitive match

full of rallies and scrappy plays on both sides of the net."

Senior outside hittr Camryn VanMaldeghe led the NRHEG stats for the night with eight kills, 11 digs, two aces and three blocks.

"The Panthers needed to anticipate and get set a second faster than what was happening, as well as improve our serve receive," said Tennis. "We want to make sure we are doing our best so that setter Addy Stadheim can utilize her options across the net. The Panthers

look ahead to playoffs with high hopes and determination to play their best volleyball."

Individually for the Panthers at Triton: Gabby Schlaak 4K, 7D, 1SA, 1A; C.VanMaldeghe 8K, 11D, 1SA, 2A, 3B; Anika Ladlie 4K, 6D, 1A, 3B; Quinn VanMaldeghe 2K, 8D, 2A, 4B; Stadheim 3K, 10D, 16SA, 1B; Chloe Stork 2K, 2D, 1SA, 4B; Chloe Riewer 14D, 2SA.

The Panthers, who finished the regular season with a record of 19-7,

drew the No. 7 seed in Section 1A and will host No. 10 Lyle/Austin Pacelli Thursday, Oct. 23 at 7 p.m. The winner plays Tuesday, Oct. 28 at 6 p.m. against No. 2 Mabel-Canton, No. 15 Houston or No. 18 Schaeffer Academy at the Rochester Mayo Civic Center. The semifinals are Thursday, Oct. 30 at 7:30 p.m. at RMCC, and the championship is Saturday, Nov. 1 at noon at RMCC.

Wobbrock first, Karl second in conference CC meet

It was not quantity that set the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School cross country teams apart in last week's Gopher Conference meet at The Oaks Golf Club in Hayfield.

It was quality.

The Panthers captured the gold medal in the girls' race and the silver in the boys', with the girls taking third among four teams and the NRHEG boys not having a full squad.

Blooming Prairie won the girls'

meet with 24 points, followed by WEM/JWP at 41, NRHEG 71 and Medford 102.

Leading the way in the girls' 5000-meter race was NRHEG freshman Julieann Wobbrock, who crossed the finish line in 19:17.2, more than 10 seconds ahead of the runner-up.

Following for the Panthers: Josie Tuft, 17th, 23:50.1; Holly Bartness, 25th, 26:31.1; Violette Botten, 26th, 26:35.2; Rylie Cromwell, 28th, 26:56.0, Amelia

Duryee, 34th, 29:03.1; and Tiffany Jewison, 38th, 31:20.5.

"The weather conditions were not ideal, but the cold and the rain did not deter the runners from having a great day of competition," said NRHEG coach Larry Nydegger.

Placing first among varsity boys was the team from WEM/JWP with 57 points, followed by Blooming Prairie with 65, Randolph 66, Triton 82, Medford 101 and Hayfield 127.

Finishing second overall for the boys was NRHEG senior Jacob

Karl, who clocked 17:33.2 for 5000 meters. Wyatt Jans, a junior from WEM/JWP, won the race with a time of 17:25.2.

Also placing for the Panther boys was Colton Lermon, who finished 31st in 21:29.7. There were 51 varsity boys competing.

The Panthers run Thursday, Oct. 23 in the Section 2A meet at Norwood-Young America's Baylor Park. The top two teams, and the top six individuals not on the first two squads, advance to state.

NR Police sponsor community game

According to organizing officer Drew DeRaad, more than 40 children and a few adults have signed up for a game of “hide and seek” set for 7 p.m. the evening of Thursday, Oct. 30 in New Richland. He explains participants will meet at city hall, where they will hear the rules of the game, including that hiding spaces must be located only in specified public areas.

After a designated wait time, participating officers—including interested volunteers from a number of other area agencies—will go searching, using only their flashlights as tools. DeRaad expects the game to last about an hour. Afterwards, participants will be given a Halloween treat bag.

DeRaad goes on to note that similar events have been held around the country, and that members of law enforcement are persistently looking for ways to build positive relationships with community members. He mentions area residents have also requested opportunities for interaction between law enforcement and area youth. Participants who have signed up for the even-



Drew DeRaad

ing, he shares, are from the NRHEG area, Owatonna, and Albert Lea; nearly all are youths of varying ages with a few adults, some of whom are accompanying their own children.

He says both the young participants and other officers have expressed excitement as the event approaches. “We all think it’s going to be a lot of fun,” he comments. “The best part is we will be able to interact with everyone in a positive way. It will even test our abilities in finding others. We enjoy a good challenge, and we especially like the idea of a good training experience while we have fun with those involved.”

Historical Society to combine ‘humbug and wonder’

Step right up for a glimpse into the world of humbug and wonder! The Waseca County Historical Society presents The Mermaid of Loon Lake and Other Wonders, a limited-time Halloween popup exhibit exploring the art of the sideshow “gaff” — those strange, handcrafted curiosities that once astonished crowds across Minnesota. The Mermaid of Loon Lake isn’t a long-lost creature from the deep, but a learning exhibit showing exactly how sideshow gaffs were made to fool and fascinate. Visitors will see the creative process behind these Victorian-era marvels and learn the story that could have turned this playful fabrication into a full-blown local legend - while also discovering a little lesson in critical thinking along the way. Adding to the intrigue, Jana Rose Arts brings her own extraordinary creation - a taxidermy

gaff of a baby Capricorn - on display for those willing to part with a penny to see it up close. Such exhibits aren’t as disconnected from local history as they may seem. Traveling sideshows and curiosities once made regular appearances throughout southern Minnesota - even at the Waseca County Fair, where the tradition of trickery and spectacle continued well into the 1970s. Visitors are welcome to explore The Mermaid of Loon Lake and Other Wonders from October 28 to 31, and to join the fun on Halloween Night (from 6 to 9 p.m. Oct. 31) for Trick-or-Treat at the Museum. The event is free (except for one penny to view the Capricorn), and costumes are encouraged. Step inside, explore the eerie exhibits, and uncover the truth behind the tricks that once dazzled the crowds.

‘Ask a Trooper’: Turn lanes

Question: In your last article you wrote about “pavement markings.” Could you talk about “turn lanes” as I think there are quite a few people who get confused by this?

Answer: Turn lanes near intersections separate left-turning or right-turning traffic from through traffic.

White arrows, sometimes accompanied by the word “only,” indicate that drivers must stay within a designated lane while turning onto the cross street. If your vehicle is in this type of lane, you must turn.

Some turn lanes have multiple arrows, allowing you to turn left or right, or to go straight. To discourage drivers from changing lanes near an intersection, turn lanes are separated from through traffic lanes by solid white lines.

A center lane between lanes

of traffic traveling in opposite directions may be designated for left turns only. This type of lane is marked by parallel solid and dashed yellow lines. These lines are sometimes accompanied by white arrows on the pavement. Vehicles traveling in either direction can use these lanes to make left turns onto another roadway or a driveway.

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

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



WANNA LLAMA? - Brenda Zachrison, one of the owners of Llama Mama MN based out of Hamburg, supervises as children participating in Farmamerica's MEA Discovery Days brush the alpaca and one of the three llamas her organization brought to the facility on Friday. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Farmamerica Discovery Days features llamas

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

“The alpaca’s hair is so soft, she feels like a stuffed animal,” commented Brenda Zachrison, proprietor of Llama Mama Minnesota, based out of Hamburg, Minn. Zachrison was standing among a small crowd of children holding brushes, all of them simultaneously stroking her impressively calm animals from all sides.

During “MEA Discovery Days” at Farmamerica on Thursday and Friday, Oct. 16 and 17, the three llamas and the one alpaca supplied by Llama Mama Minnesota were featured guests, available only for a few hours at midday on Friday.

Groups of children and families attending Discovery Days were offered a range of activities on both days, including face painting, crafts, pumpkin painting, tram rides around the grounds and the opportunity to tour the organization’s numerous sites. Pumpkins used for the event had been raised

on the Farmamerica grounds.

Roughly 200 people took part over the two days. According to Kari Wadd, program coordinator, children attended with parents and grandparents, and sometimes as part of outings sponsored by day-care programs. This marks the third year the Discovery Days event has been held at Farmamerica.

Wadd mentions the forecast for the two days had been a source of concern, it was inviting to be outdoors most of the two days of the event. “We were glad to have welcomed families to Farmamerica this fall weekend. The llama and alpacas were new guests to Farmamerica and so much fun! The opportunity to share a type of farm animal we don’t normally have on site made for a unique and very fun experience.”

Out on the field, Zachrison described the differences between her two most docile animals, llama Graycee, and alpaca Coco. She mentioned that llamas tend to



PUMPKIN PAINTING - A.J., 8, and Teagan, 7, were among the many children who decorated pumpkins during Farmamerica's MEA Weekend events on Thursday and Friday, Oct. 16 and 17. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

be larger and have longer, curved ears which she described to the children as being shaped “like a banana” compared to the alpaca’s straighter appendages, which she said were more like carrots.

Zachrison said she has been working with llamas since her children leased them as project animals in 4-H beginning about 14 years ago. She has owned her animals for the past six years, and says she chooses the animals based on their demeanor more than their color or size. “We do our best to find the calm ones,”

she observes.

Three of her four animals are already “therapy registered,” and the fourth is in training toward that goal. Zachrison comments “Llamas have long necks, which make them perfect for hugging.” Llama Mama Minnesota offers its animals for a diverse range of uses, including visiting care facilities, delivering “Llama grams,” and in one case even as ring bearers at a wedding. They are available for birthday parties, family gatherings, and special celebrations.

■ Mayo

from Page 1

Under a separate contract, Mayo Clinic Health System has been solely providing all labor and delivery physician services in the Owatonna hospital and will continue to do so until next month. The hospital delivers about 400 babies in the Owatonna birth center each year.

Allina Health told MPR News Saturday that Mayo first informed them of the change, giving the required 30-day notice, on Sep. 9. Allina said they are in active discussions with Mayo to establish a viable model for sustainable labor and delivery coverage at the hospital to preserve these vital services in the community.

“The safety of our patients and care team members is Allina Health’s priority,” an Allina spokesperson said. “Recognizing the widely understood and significant challenges of physician recruitment, declining birth rates and reimbursement in rural communities, we have accelerated our planning and are assessing all options.”

Attracting and keeping obstetrics physicians in hospitals in rural areas can be difficult, and because birthing centers require doctors and nurses on duty or on call 24/7, due to the unpredictable nature of births, that staffing is expensive. And birthing services bring in less revenue into rural hospitals, because they see

fewer births on average and more patients who are on Medicaid, which reimburses hospitals less than private health insurance plans.

This Owatonna situation is unfolding amid a nationwide shortage of labor and delivery services which is hitting rural areas the hardest. The Minnesota Department of Health said since 2024 there have been three labor and delivery unit closures — Mayo’s clinic’s birthing centers in Fairmont and New Prague, and Essentia Health’s unit in Fosston. Last month, Mayo also announced it was closing six of its rural clinics in southeastern Minnesota.

Katy Kozhimannil studies rural maternity care as a public health professor at the University of Minnesota. She said it’s hard to know at this point exactly how Owatonna patients will be affected by this change. But her research shows that as rural communities lose hospital-based obstetric services, there’s an increase in the rate of out-of-hospital births and pre-term birth.

“Local access to childbirth care and to services and support for pregnant patients is really, really important to communities, and any changes to that need to be considered with a lot of care and attention,” Kozhimannil said.

Allina said they are working on plans to cover potential service gaps when Mayo’s coverage ends on Nov. 17. That will likely include Owatonna Hospital diverting patients who are in labor to other hospitals as of Nov. 17, until a viable long-term

solution is in place. It’s unclear how long that will take.

Allina officials said they will be working with other area hospitals, such as Faribault Medical Center 15 miles away, to ensure continuity of care for patients. Allina has no primary or specialty care clinics in Owatonna, except for a rehabilitation institute.

Mayo said expectant mothers will continue to receive prenatal and postpartum care from their MCHS teams in Owatonna, and that providers will work directly with each patient to review their birth plan and discuss delivery options. It’s unclear where Mayo will refer its patients for labor and delivery. Mayo operates clinics that offer this service in Austin and Rochester — both about 45 minutes away.

Jessop said there’s still a lot of confusion in the community, and he’s concerned that patients will experience gaps in care. He and the city council, along with the Chamber of Commerce, penned letters in opposition to the change last week. They plan to discuss it at the city council meeting Tuesday.

He said the city has been intentionally recruiting more and more people to Owatonna and has a goal of growing their population to 30,000 by 2030. This feels like a step back.

“It’s completely detrimental to every effort we’ve made over the last several years to draw people to Owatonna and to show them what a fabulous place this is to live and to raise

your family,” Jessop said. “That’s what brought me back to Owatonna. That’s what’s kept me in Owatonna, and now, all of a sudden, a part of that is gone.”

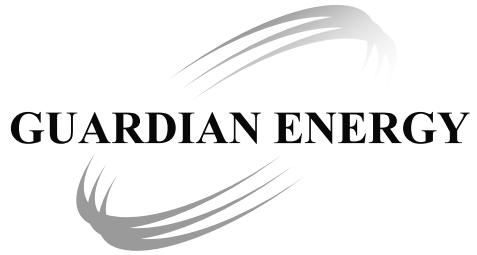
Chamber of Commerce CEO Brad Meier said he’s particularly concerned with how this could hurt the local economy. In recent years they’ve invested in new businesses and industry to revitalize the city, including reconstructing the downtown area and building a new high school.

He’s hopeful Allina and Mayo can come up with a solution to continue offering labor and delivery services in town.

But, U of M expert Kozhimannil warned that the logistics of building up new labor and delivery coverage could get complicated. Though Allina has some labor and delivery nurses, they will need other support and adequate clinic staffing levels and enough revenue coming in to cover the costs.

And she said she’s concerned, based on her research, that these changes will affect prenatal care in Owatonna, at least for the time being.

“They spend the time in their prenatal visits talking about the logistics of where they need to go to give birth and what things can be performed locally as opposed to addressing the clinical aspects of the pregnancy. The psychological burden and stress as well as the logistics, can be really challenging for people.”



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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

TO ALL INTERESTED
PERSONS:
It is Ordered and Notice is hereby
given that on the 5th day of No-
vember, 2025, at 9:15 a.m., a hearing
will be held via Zoom in the above
Court at Waseca, Minnesota, for the
formal probate of an instrument pur-
porting to be the will of the above
named decedent, dated October 11,
2012, and for the appointment of
Todd A. Schmidt whose addresses if
905 5th St SE, Waseca, MN 56093,
and Randy J. Schmidt whose address
is 424 7th Ave NW, Waseca, MN
56093, as Co-Personal Representa-
tives of the Estate of the above
named decedent in unsupervised ad-
ministration, and that any objections

thereto must be filed with the Court.
That, if proper and no objections are
filed, a Personal Representative will
be appointed to administer the Es-
tate, to collect all assets, to pay all
legal debts, claims, taxes and ex-
penses, 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 al-
lowance and shall distribute the es-
tate 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 No-
tice 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

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 UN-
SUPERVISED ADMINISTRA-
TION 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 instru-
ment 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 deced-
ent, 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 re-
quired 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

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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
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CITY OF WASECA
CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the City of Waseca City Council will hold a Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m., on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, in the COUNCIL CHAMBERS of CITY HALL located at 508 South State Street in Waseca, Minnesota.

The purpose of the public hearing is to gather information regarding the following:

- ORDINANCE NO. 1123:** Proposed revisions to various sections of City Code Chapter 154 pertaining to Shoreland Overlay regulations.

Complete copies of the proposed Ordinance are available in the office of the City Clerk located at 508 South State Street in Waseca, Minnesota.

Those interested in commenting may appear in person or by counsel or may submit written comments to the City of Waseca at 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093.

Upon request, accommodations will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Waseca services, programs, and activities.

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on Thursday, October 23, 2025.

Jon M. Froke
City Planner

Get your news in the Pioneer
• news@wasecacountypioneer.com

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

SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642 October 2025

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

HOURS OF OPERATION
SUN.-MON. CLOSED
TUE.-SAT.-1pm to 11 pm Tue. is Lady's night 2 for one-Men Busch light \$2.50 4 to 6pm
POST & AUX. MEETING 7pm club open 6pm MEMBERS only. Mn. Gambling license 00385

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
WASECA COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT
The Waseca County Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing at the Waseca County East Annex (Commissioner's Room), 300 N. State Street, Waseca, MN 56093 on Thursday, November 6, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. to consider the following items:

A. Request for After-the-fact Variances to have a septic system closer to the property line than required. Erin Edwards request for the parcel located at 37516 Clear Lake Dr., Waseca (PID 12.008.1335), zoned LR Limited Residential and SO Shoreland Overlay and in Section 8 of T107N R22W of Woodville Township are as follows:
I. Variances of 9ft and 6ft from the western property line.
II. Variances of 4ft and 5ft from the northern property line.
Section 5.02 and MN Rules Chapter 7080.2150 require SSTs to be setback 10ft from property lines.

B. Request for variances to allow an existing structure on Lots 5-11 Block 6 of Elks Park in Woodville Township. Matt Thompsen requests for variances to an existing structure on the property located in Elks Park Subdivision. The structure was an accessory structure but is now the principal structure. The requests include:
I. Variance of 15feet to allow the structure 15feet from the western property line. The UDC requires a rear yard setback of 30 feet. A variance of 9feet from the front yard setback was granted from the in 2023.
II. Variance of 4% to increase the impervious surface coverage to 30%. A variance was granted to increase the impervious surface coverage to 26% in 2023.
The applicant's parcels (12.251.0900, 12.251.0920, 12.251.0930 & 12.251.0950) are in the LR Limited Residential Zoning District and SO Shoreland Overlay District of Clear Lake.

The staff report on this item will be available at the Waseca County Planning and Zoning Office, 300 N State St., Waseca during regular business hours 8-4:30, and will be on the county website www.wasecacounty.gov at the agenda tab by October 31, 2025. Oral comments will be accepted at the meeting. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all Waseca County services, programs and activities.

Maame Quarcoo, County Planner.

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on October 23, 2025

Waseca County winter farmers market launches at Farmamerica

Farmamerica and the Waseca County Farmers Market are excited to announce the launch of the Waseca County Winter Farmers Market, a brand-new seasonal event bringing the best of local food, crafts, and community together—no matter the weather!

The Winter Farmers Market will take place every other Saturday, from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM beginning November 8, at Farmamerica’s Visitor Center. Admission is free and open to all ages.

Visitors can browse a wide variety of locally sourced and handmade items, including farm-fresh produce, baked goods, artisan crafts, and unique gifts—all from local growers, makers, and small businesses across Waseca County and surrounding communities.

“Farmamerica is proud to provide a warm, welcoming space for people to connect with local producers and support small businesses year-round,” said Kari Wadd, Farmamerica’s Program Coordinator.

For more information, follow both Farmamerica and the Waseca County Farmers Market on social media.

Farmamerica is a non-profit agricultural interpretive center that connects people with the evolving story of agriculture through educational hands-on experiences like historic farm tours, day camps, family-friendly events, partnerships, and community engagement. The 360-acre Farmamerica site is located right off Highway 14 on County Road 2, west of Waseca, MN.

Waseca County to host flu shot clinic at NRHEG High School

Waseca County Public Health is announcing an upcoming Influenza (Flu-Shot) Vaccine Clinic to provide vital seasonal protection to the community. The clinic will take place on Wednesday, October 29th, 2025, from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. It will be held at the NRHEG High School in the cafeteria/lower commons area. Getting a flu shot is the best way to prevent the flu and its serious complications, protecting not only yourself but also your family and community members, especially those at high risk.

Waseca County Public Health encourages all residents, six months and older, to get vaccinated before flu activity increases. Influenza Vaccine Clinic Details • What: Flu-Shot Vaccine Clinic • When: Wednesday, October 29th, 2025, 3:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. • Where: NRHEG High School (Cafeteria/Lower Commons) For questions regarding eligibility, insurance coverage, or general information, please contact Waseca County Public Health during regular business hours at 507-835-0685.

■ Book from Page 1

I’m the experienced one. It sure doesn’t feel like 30 years have passed.”

Another “update” to the book is that Connors “spent several hours in a sound booth” and recorded an audio version, so now anyone wanting to learn from “Hal’s” experience can choose among printed versions with either hard or soft covers and the “book on tape” option available from numerous online sources.

■ City from Page 3

cific course in grant writing which he is taking to “plug a hole” in his background knowledge for the position.

“There are some major tasks ahead,” Lendt acknowledged. “It’s going to take some difficult conversations to decide on the best process for overcoming those challenges.

Get your news in the Pioneer

• news@wasecacountypioneer.com

• Call (507) 837-6767

• Stop in person 111 West Elm Ave

Students of the Month:

Brilliant Bluejays

Patrick
Kindergarten

Maurice
1st Grade

Rowynn
2nd Grade

Sadie
3rd Grade

Raelynn
2nd Grade

Lane
2nd Grade

Staff of the Month:

Stellar Staff

Mr. Schmitt
Music Teacher

Mrs. Schultz
3rd Grade

Mrs. Hofmeister
1st Grade

Mrs. Roxanne
Paraprofessional

Mrs. Murphy
Media Clerical

Mrs. Anderson
Reading Intervention

■ Paranormal from Page 1

and fear are incidental—that is, no entities have set out to purposely frighten anyone. People simply react with discomfort because they are on unfamiliar ground.

Knowing that, however, seldom helps.

“I get this tight feeling in my neck,” she describes. “And then I know something unusual is going on.”

The two say that, on average, they hear from about one person or family a month asking for answers, assistance, or an investigation. C.A.T. does not have a fee schedule, but relies on people to donate what they can toward the expenses of any work the group does. Juarez clarifies one common reason people reach out is because children are experiencing discomfort or fright.

Having been sensitive to paranormal events since childhood, Juarez says she responds to these as quickly as possible. “I know what they’re probably experiencing,” she summarizes. “The children are seeing things other people can’t see, and they don’t understand, so they become frightened.

“I get there as fast as I can to help reassure them and explain things to them.

“They feel better when they know they’re not the only ones.”

“But when we checked with them, they said the gate stayed locked the whole time.”

In one case while on Maplewood, a member of the group heard a woman’s name. Another member discovered a few days later in a chance conversation that the ashes of a woman by that name had recently been scattered in the park.

In the Waseca County Courthouse, where they have also done a number of investigations, they saw an orb—a glowing ball of light—and recorded some spoken words and phrases. While moving through the building, group member Jazmin Quevedo was given permission to step into the judge’s chambers for a quick look around, but the door slammed before she could enter. She did not attempt to open it, but it was discovered the next day the door had not only closed, but also locked itself.

For the most part, Haslip says, investigations are straightforward efforts to collect information and evidence both with their own eyes and ears, and with the various types of equipment the group has acquired over time.

Only occasionally, she says, are group members frightened.

A few times, she says, team members have been “rushed.” She describes a sensation of fast, invisible motion followed by a perception of being unwanted. She recalls one time when she and another investigator found themselves standing back to back, circling as though they needed to protect each other. “That was a scary feeling,” she says.

But neither Juarez nor Haslip want to send an impression of persistent drama or fear. The incidents described here have occurred over time, and were mingled among a much higher number of quiet hours spent in the dark listening and watching instruments which often gave either indeterminate readings, or very few readings at all. Any feelings of uneasiness or fear are more likely to be caused by animals or people moving around in the dark than by anything supernatural.

When they have found evidence of paranormal happenings, it has often been a sort of residual energy. Juarez mentions one area home where the occupants would find the pots and pans in the kitchen rattling together inexplicably. “It was a new home,” she continues. “No one had ever died in it or anything like that.” Interestingly, she says, “sometimes the energy can be very old. It might go with the land where the house is standing rather than the house itself.”

A case like that one, she suggests, can be handled by simple techniques, usually including speaking plainly to the space and explaining the presence is not wanted.

Juarez and Haslip say if people in the area are encountering something they believe might have paranormal causes, the two of them hope folks will contact C.A.T. using the organization’s Facebook page. They also invite people to acquire tickets to the Oct. 30 presentation, which will benefit the Waseca County Historical Society (WCHS) financially. Tickets are available on the WCHS website.