



■ Inside:

- 4 - Obituaries
- 5 - Gift store mission
- 5 - Signing Day
- 6-7 - Veterans
- 8-9 - Sports
- 10 - 4-H Honorees
- 14 - Little Mermaid
- 14 - Bluejay Blast



LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY  
No. 45 Vol. I \$2 Office at 103 South State Street Waseca Friday, November 11, 2022

■ Pages 6-7



Veterans

## Programs honor veterans

There are numerous Veterans Day programs happening throughout Waseca County on Friday, Nov. 11, 2022. The Waseca VFW, American Legion, color guard, and other area veteran groups will be visiting various locations. Among the scheduled events:

**Waseca High School**  
9:37 a.m. program begins, with guest speaker Robert Tackett.

**Waseca Intermediate**  
8:15 a.m. Veterans Day program including posting of colors by the VFW with music by 6th-grade choir.

**Hartley Elementary**  
9:30 a.m. at the school  
**Team Academy**  
1:30 p.m. - Veterans program  
**Colony Court**  
2:30 p.m. - Veterans program  
**Janesville**

8 a.m. Veterans Day breakfast in the media room at the Janesville High School

8:30 a.m. - Veterans day program in the auditorium  
Nov. 13 at the Purple Goose will be the annual American Legion membership dinner.

**NRHEG High School**  
1:30 p.m. in the high school gymnasium.

\* \* \*

### Craft fair Nov. 12

Waterville will be hosting its fall craft and vendor fair on Saturday, November 12 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The vendors will be in the front and back areas of the Village, located on 205 N. 1st Street near downtown Waterville.

\* \* \*

### Backer Bingo will be November 18

The Bulldog Backers Association in Janesville will be hosting its first ever "Backer Bingo" at the Purple Goose Friday, November 18 from 6:30-10 p.m. Winners have a chance to receive a variety of prizes from local businesses ranging from Igloo coolers to merchandise. All proceeds will directly benefit the JWP School District.

\* \* \*

### VFW Turkey Bingo set for November 19

Waseca VFW Post 1642 will be hosting Turkey Bingo on Saturday, November 19, starting at 7 p.m. There will be 20 games played with a chance to win a turkey every game. Other prizes include a \$500 jackpot for game 10 and a \$1,000 jackpot for winning game 20.

\* \* \*

### Santa Anonymous at Boxcar Nov. 26

Saturday, November 26 at 5 p.m., the Boxcar will hold a live auction for the Santa Anonymous Program run through the Neighborhood Service Center in Waseca. The live auction has raised over \$20,000 in the past, and all proceeds stay in Waseca County and benefit kids who would otherwise not be able to get a present during Christmas.

*A word from The Word*

*Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. James 4:7*

## Waseca County election results

Dulas becomes new sheriff; Cornelius re-elected county attorney

By ELI LUTGENS  
Publisher

Election results are in for Waseca County. Your next Sheriff will be Jay Dulas. Your next Waseca County Attorney will be Rachel Cornelius.

Here are the results for every major local election in Waseca County. Vote totals appear in parentheses).

**County-wide Sheriff**  
Jay Dulas (5,630) defeated Trevor Kanewischer (2,513).

**Attorney**  
Rachel Cornelius won re-election (4,297) over previous county attorney Brend Miller (3,503).

**Commissioners, etc.**  
Blair Nelson, DeAnne (De) Malterer, and Brad Krause all ran unopposed for county commissioner.  
Matthew Sommers, Larry Muff

and Gregg Rosenthal all ran unopposed in the soil and water supervisor races.

**School board Waseca**

The top four vote-getters elected to Waseca School Board were: Charles Priebe (2,670), Alyssa Bowers (2,669), Theron Avery Kruger (2,389), and Dave Dunn (2,174). The next top vote getters were: Scott Deml (1,994), Andrew Isker (1,290), Robert Dickerson (896), and Jonathan Michel (817).

**JWP**

The top four vote-getters elected to the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton School board were: Katie Cahill (1,536), Kevin Born (1,393), Sherri Daschner (1,266), and Joan Olson (1,031). Tim Burke ran unopposed in the special election. Lauren Tester received 770.

**NRHEG**

The top four vote-getters elected to the NRHEG School Board were: Amy Ihrke (1,578), Richard Schultz (1,483), Pat Theuer (1,344), and Aaron Phillips (1,283). Rich Mueller received 1,261 votes; 26 votes were received for write-in candidates.

**City of Waseca**

Randy Zimmerman (1,398) defeated Gary Conrath (1,158) and Matthew Petsinger (589).

**Waseca City Council**

In Waseca Ward 1 Stacey Schroeder (672) defeated Robert Tackett (255).

In Waseca Ward 3 Daren Arndt won re-election (440) over Chad Schlueter (375).

Jeremy Conrath and James Ebertovskiran ran unopposed.

**City of Janesville**

Andrew Arnoldt ran unopposed

for Mayor.

Ivan Maas (558) and Melissa Korpachek (490) were both re-elected to the Janesville city council. Daniel Frenk received 468 votes and 12 votes were for write-in candidates.

**City of New Richland**

Councilperson Chad Neitzel (341) defeated Christina Petsinger (108) in the New Richland race for mayor.

Loren Skelton (353) and Jason Casey (279) were elected as councilpersons in New Richland. Robert Delafosse received 92 votes. There were 10 write-in votes.

**City of Waldorf**

Rob Wilkening ran unopposed for Mayor.

Carrie Ann Ferch (53) and Melissa Sorbo (47) both won reelection to the Waldorf City Council. Dave Dottin received 27 votes.



Roy Srp

## Sober 40 years

Srp shares story about addiction

By ELI LUTGENS  
Publisher

Waseca Mayor Roy Srp was a guest speaker in an NRHEG high school class which was covering the topic of addiction. Srp is an alcoholic who has been sober for 40 years and 1 month. He shared a powerful story.

Srp said his story began as an infant when his dad would soak cotton balls with whiskey to remedy his aching teeth. Well, according to Srp, he started to have a lot of toothaches. When he was 10, his family shared wine at Christmas. They felt it was fine for the kids to "just have a little." That's how it started for Srp: Just a little.

When he was 12 at an uncle's birthday party he enjoyed a Hamm's Beer. A family member snapped a photo which gave everyone a good laugh. At 14 he started sneaking beers home from family events and stashing them in the garage. Warm or cold, it didn't matter to Srp, he just enjoyed "a little."

Though he was introduced to the concept of "alcoholism" in his early teens, Srp said he spent a lot of time convincing himself he couldn't be an alcoholic, even though he could not deny he spent a lot of time drinking.

Though his then-self was sure he was fine—after all, he wasn't drinking any more than the people around him—Srp of today acknowledges he was spending much too much of his life under the influence. He said his addiction cost him tens—if not hundreds—of thousands of dollars. He was in half a dozen drunken car accidents, and nearly died on several occasions because of his drinking, including two suicide attempts.

"When I drank, I felt like I was 9 feet tall and bulletproof," Srp said.

As he got older, his relationship with alcohol intensified. Srp spoke of working for the railroad, which he did for 42 years, and believing "I worked better when I was drunk."

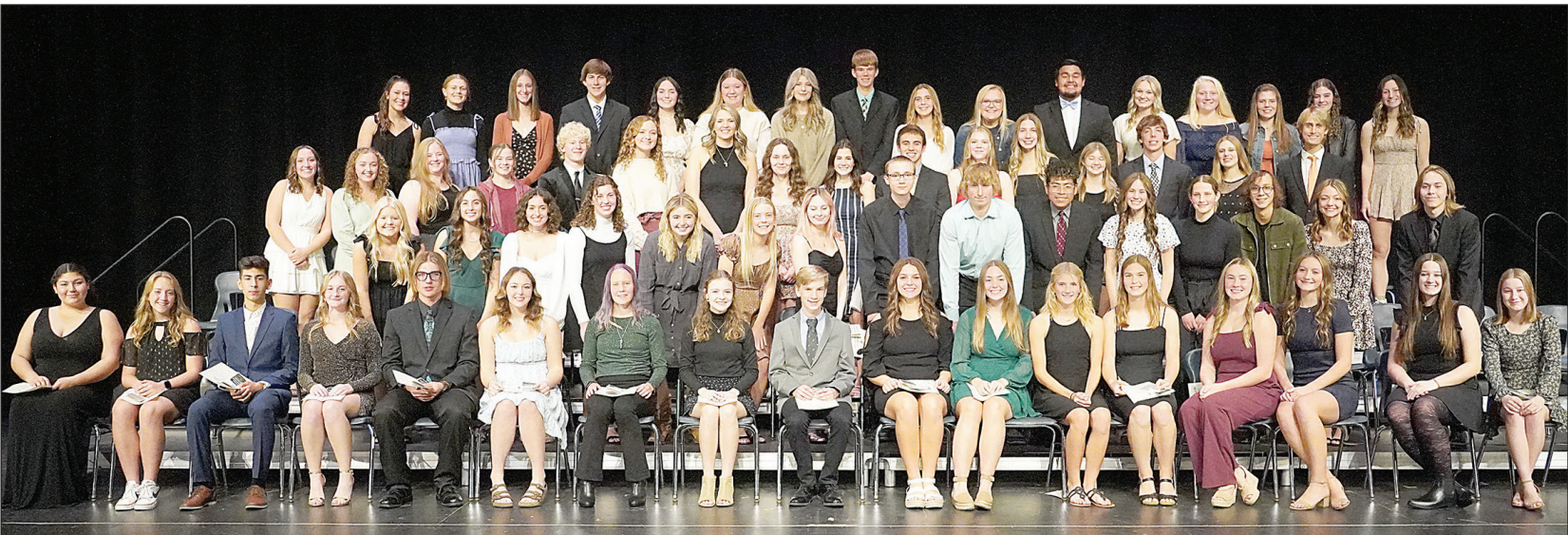
He shared a story of an Iowa state trooper who found him walking down the interstate, alone, at night.

In another incident Srp was pulled over and arrested after driving the wrong way on a one-way road in Iowa. This ultimately led to Srp getting sober. After watching a video of the arrest, provided to him after the fact, Srp couldn't believe the person he was watching. "It was pathetic and disgusting," he remembers. "I looked at that, and I could no longer deny that I had become an alcoholic."

A result of his DWI charge was attending "driver's school" again. During one session, a fellow named Cecil Botz, a recovering alcoholic, spoke on the topic. Thanks to Botz' influence,

Srp continued on 3

### Minnesota Honor Society



New and returning Minnesota Honor Society members after their induction ceremony on Wednesday, November 2. Names are provided on page 3 at the end of the article. Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

## Waseca Honor Society inducts 32

By ELI LUTGENS  
Publisher

The Waseca chapter of the Minnesota Honor Society (MHS) inducted 32 members the evening of Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2022 in the high school performing arts center.

Waseca counselor Paul Marlin welcomed dozens of friends, family, and parents to the ceremony, which began at 7 p.m. Following his introduction, MHS senior members Lindsey Kopetzki and Grace Lapidès spoke about leadership, integrity and service.

Integrity is the quality of being honest and having strong moral prin-

ciples; moral uprightness. "But how can we, as leaders, exemplify this?" Kopetzki asked.

"I've found that in most cases, showing integrity doesn't need to be via grand gestures. More often than not, the smallest actions we do every day show who we really are.

"These may seem arbitrary on the surface, but they are what's most visible to those around us," Kopetzki continued. "Our coaches, teachers, and community members see these parts of us displayed in all we do. My challenge for the returning and newly inducted Minnesota Honors Society members is this: To lead with

integrity and to be a positive role model within our activities, classrooms, and community."

Lapidès spoke about the work it takes to maintain a community. "By serving other people, we get to peer into lives different from our own," Lapidès said. "This helps create empathy and understanding in a world where that is what we need most. Everyone who has been previously inducted or is being inducted into the Minnesota Honors Society tonight has demonstrated a desire and ability to learn not just in the classroom, but in our community as well.

"These kinds of experiences are

what we will take with us when we exit high school and enter the vast world around us," Lapidès concluded. "For no matter where we go, one thing will always be the same: there will always be people to help, and there will always be people to learn from."

Teacher favorite, social studies instructor Andrew Hopkins, delivered the keynote speech.

"We're here to celebrate your successes," Hopkins expressed. "It is a challenge to balance the rigorous ac-

Honor continued on 3

## Little Women

Play led by Director Pollock

By MELISSA DUNN  
Contributing Writer

What do the theatrical productions *Little Women*, *How To Succeed in High School Without Really Trying*, and *Mamma Mia* all have in common? They are on the docket for the Waseca Drama department's 2022-2023 season. The first production, *Little Women*, will be presented at the Performing Arts Center at 7 p.m. on November 17, 18, and 19, and at 4 p.m. on November 20.

Anna Pollock, theater director at the Waseca Junior/Senior High School, says she feels fortunate on several counts: "My first production with the Waseca Drama Department as the director was winter of 2021.

Theater continued on 3

### Little Women cast and crew



Waseca High School's production of *Little Women* will be presented at 7 p.m. November 17-19 and at 4 p.m. November 20. Cast members are Lindsey Kopetzki, Josie Perrizo, Kiera Landrum, Katelyn Robeck, Grace Lapidès, Elaina Andrs, Esme Pearce, Sophie Farris, Andrés Vásquez, Nathanael Andrs, Alexander Kotz, Brandon Busse, Mason Wadd, Patrick Howe, and Adrian Arreguin. Stage crew members are Arianna Krogseng, Timothea Volkmer, Kacie Perrizo, Gabriel Beltran, Sadie Schimming, Layla Keith, Alyssa Kilmer, Mia Mitchell, Sunny Mei, Elliot Galle, Amber Hagen, Cody Sieberg, and Allen Kopetzki. Pioneer photo by Michael Roy





# Compostings

by Al Batt  
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## “Assaulting” readers

**ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS’ CLUB MEETING**  
I shouldn’t have eaten that fourth jelly doughnut.  
Wasn’t it just this morning when you told me you were going to start eating right and exercising regularly?  
It was, but that was 4 hours ago. I was younger then and had more energy.

**DRIVING BY BRUCE’S DRIVE**  
I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. As usual, the weather needed slight editing. It would have been a completely exquisite day if it hadn’t been for the fierce wind. How many days a year do I think that? A bunch, I betcha. It was all good, as the weather was nothing that an inspirational message on my tea-cup couldn’t improve. The patrons of husbandry were busy and their tractors and trucks provided the dull melody of harvest. I filled my car’s tank with gas. The screen on the pump required me to take an IQ test before it would allow me to use my credit card. I barely had time to grumble about that before I found a sandwich at a calorie distribution center to match my appetite. Each day has more twists than a pretzel factory. I got on an elevator at a hospital with a doctor I knew from England. He got on a lift. There was no music, which was nice. We both were headed up. Is there a point to this? Yes. We were on the same conveyance, but I rode an elevator up while he rode a lift up. We were raised differently.

**DIALOGUE FROM A MARRIAGE**  
Man to wife: What’s wrong?  
Nothing.  
Are you sure nothing is wrong?  
Do you really want to know?  
I guess not.  
**I’VE LEARNED**  
Voting would be easier if a liar’s pants did start on fire.  
What kind of truck is a curbside pickup?  
We talk to ourselves because some things are far too important to leave unsaid.  
Middle names are given to torture children.  
Mutual of Omaha’s Wild Kingdom wasn’t filmed in Omaha.  
Voting by homing pigeon hasn’t caught on.  
It costs too much money to lose an election.  
Never buy a box from a mime.  
If the Scarecrow would have had a smartphone, he’d have had no use for a brain.  
**BAD JOKE DEPARTMENT**  
Don’t throw sodium chloride at people. That’s a salt.

Why can’t you write with a broken pencil? Because it’s pointless.  
What is it that the more you take, the more you leave behind? Stairs.  
Keep your friends close and your enemies colonoscopy.  
It’s OK if you don’t know what “prefix” means. It’s not the end of the world.  
I’ve been going back and forth on whether or not to buy a new oscillating fan.  
I remember what my grandfather said right before he kicked the bucket. He said, “Watch me kick this bucket.”  
**NATURE NOTES**  
The woolly bear caterpillar is the larval form of the Isabella tiger moth, a white to orange to yellow moth that flies around lights on summer nights. The woolly bear is the Punksutawney Phil of insects. One folkloric belief is that the direction the caterpillar travels foretells the severity of the upcoming winter. If they’re headed south, they’re running away from the looming cold; if they crawl north, it means winter will be mild. There’s not much merit to that tall tale. More’s the pity. The more common woolly bear prognostication suggests the width of the caterpillar’s brown band can predict the severity of the upcoming winter. A wide band means a mild winter and a narrow band means winter will be harsh. Since the brown band typically grows wider with each molt the caterpillar completes, it’s more of an indication of age, nutrition and genetics. This caterpillar forecast has been around since colonial times, but it became popular in 1948, when the curator of entomology from the American Museum of Natural History, Dr. Howard Curran, did a study. He went to Bear Mountain State Park in New York and examined woolly bear caterpillars, paying particular attention to the brown bands. Based on those, he made a winter prediction, which was picked up by the New York Herald Tribune. The caterpillars had predicted a mild winter, which turned out to be correct and the story spread around the country. Woolly bears hibernate like bears, except the caterpillars stay cold—beyond cold; they freeze. Some people call them hedgehog caterpillars because they roll into a ball and play dead when disturbed. Please don’t blame them for the winter. Find a woolly worm that forecasts the winter you want.  
**MEETING ADJOURNED**  
“Kindness begins with the understanding that we all struggle.”—Charles Glassman.



# Music to my Ears

by Michael Roy  
copyright © 2022 by Michael Roy

## To Grandma: a strong, stubborn Irish woman

My grandma passed away last Friday morning. From what I know, she did so in her sleep, so I can find solace in that.  
She was a true stereotypical Irish woman: stubborn, headstrong, and opinionated. But at the end of the day, she was a tough lover and one heck of a fighter.  
Grandma Dorene lived with Crohn’s disease, diabetes, heart problems, and a plethora of other health problems. But she survived three heart attacks, breast cancer, skin cancer, and kidney problems. Near the age of 70, she was able to get a kidney transplant, and she wasn’t about to let cancer stop her from living.  
I remember that she and I didn’t have the best relationship. I’ll spare the details, but let’s just say the only way I responded to scolding when I was seven was to walk away and cry. I’ll admit, in those days, I could even act like a brat. (But who wouldn’t at the age of seven?) And if she didn’t like your attitude, she gave you all of the sass.  
I remembered the holidays - Easter, Christmas, or whenever - when we gathered at her and Grandpa’s house and she made a breakfast bake. The combination of eggs, sausage, bacon, and peppers was something I always got excited for. The only problem is, I was the first one up at eight in the morning, and I was usually the most impatient of all the cousins, wanting breakfast right away. My older brother Justin and cousin Brandon were up all night drinking and playing video games with my other cousin Kyle, who during most of those times was still too young to drink.  
Also, as a member of the Zimdahl family, you were obligated to receive a basket full of goodies at least once a year during Christmas. Sometimes, especially near the end of Grandma’s life, she sent off baked goods three times a year or even every other month. She loved to bake. She loved making scotcheroos, Russian tea cakes, the pretzels with Rolos and either a cashew or pecan on top, cream cheese cookies....If you were a member of the Zimdahl family, she made sure you kept on some weight.



I took this picture with my grandma when I wrote a story about her battle against breast cancer for the *Janesville Journal*.

I think the memories that stay with me most were the times both Grandma and Grandpa babysat me throughout my elementary and middle school years. A common meal for lunch was a turkey and cheese sandwich. I should probably credit Grandma for my love for cheddar cheese, because that’s what was the most common cheese she sliced up for the sandwiches.  
Then, while she was on the computer, I got to watch Boomerang, which featured old Cartoon Network shows like *Pink Panther*, the one with the roadrunner and that coyote, *the Jetsons*, *the Flintstones*, and my favorite one of all...*Top Cat*. No one seems to remember that cartoon as well as I do. But I always knew at 9 a.m. on a Saturday, it was on. Sometimes, my grandpa would even watch cartoons with me if I stayed overnight. Usually, by then, the cartoons were Johnny Bravo or Jonny Quest.  
I know near the end, things got tough for Grandma. As she lost her memory, I’m sure she felt she was losing her mind. But I think one thing is for certain. The Fighting Irish of Notre Dame should make her their mascot, because she was the embodiment of a fighting Irish lady. There were many times she could have lost her life and her way. But she had the will to keep going. And that’s what I’ll remember about my grandma. She was, until the very end, a strong, stubborn Irish woman.

## Already part of a built-in community

I think we all know that Waseca is a fantastic town. Between the schools, the small businesses and the churches, Waseca has a tight-knit community, and that’s awesome.  
Despite being a Big 10 school, I’ve found that there are also close-knit communities here at the University of Minnesota as well.  
For example, basketball. While I don’t play basketball (I have tried, trust me), I like to watch my friends play in their intramural games. I come for support, because that’s all I can give for basketball unfortunately. But it allows me the opportunity to be observant—and people watching is always fun.  
My friends play 5 v 5 basketball and it’s interesting to me how they can just pick up random people or people they barely know to play with them and still have a fully functioning team. For me, it’s always tough not playing with someone I know or am comfortable with, but I guess basketball is just different. One player on the intramural team is from one of the guys’ classes and another guy is some random person we met at a Halloween party. And yet these people get together and compete like they’ve been playing together for years. It’s really cool to see. We’ll be walking around campus as a friend group and we will pass someone and they’ll give the classic dude head nod that guys do and then one of my friends will be like, “Oh yeah, we played basketball with him once.” Apparently just like that, they’ve become friends from playing basketball together.  
But Waseca has that community too. When I worked at Ace Hardware, it was really cool to have a customer come in once and then after that, it was like I knew them. They would come in again maybe a couple days or weeks later and it would be like meeting an old friend, a familiar face. I’ll light up when I see them and then they smile when they see



To Be Determined  
by Amelia Roessler  
copyright © 2022 by Amelia Roessler

me and it’s awesome. Most of the time I don’t even know their name. But again, it’s that community piece that I really like about Waseca.  
My friends and I were talking the other day about how we sometimes run into people, possibly old family friends or old coworkers of our parents (that we had never met before) and they would say “Oh my goodness, you’ve grown up so much! I remember when I held you as a baby!” Our response would be, “And you are?” But it’s actually pretty cool when that happens, because once again it’s that community piece. And when conversations like those happen, it’s like stepping into a community already built and discovering we’re already part of the structure.  
My Determination: “To love another person is to see the face of God.” - Victor Hugo

And, well, he’s won a lot more awards for his writing than me. I’ve only won one statewide award. He’s won a dozen, including multiple years as sportswriter of the year in Minnesota. So, when Dad says jump, I ask how high?  
Dad watches the games via the online feed from home, while listening to the radio. (Sidenote, radio broadcaster Dale Kugath worked with my dad in the 2000s and I can picture him pulling into the office in his mustang convertible like it was yesterday.)  
So, Dad watches and listens to the games. I talk to the coaches and players after the game. Dad was surprised by Brad’s comments after the last game. “He’s so x’s and o’s during the season.”  
Dad read the comments Brad had after the game and finally understood how much the team, players, and Waseca football meant to Brad on a personal level. Part of that is my style of questions/writing. I wait until the end of the year to ask certain questions.  
My first question for Brad was for him to describe what it feels like to

## Honor, privilege, and responsibility

Congratulations to all of the candidates elected to office on Tuesday. It is an honor, privilege, and huge responsibility.  
That said, I spent more time following elections this year than ever before. I interviewed and spent hours with dozens of candidates running for various positions. It was a lot of fun. I’ve said before, and I’ll say again, I love connecting with people. I tend to think the point of life is to find your mission in life. What is important to you? My mission is to connect with people. I do so through my newspapers, through writing, and having conversations with folks. I’m truly blessed in these regards. A lot of people spend their lives not finding the thing they were meant to do, being unable to do what that is or being too scared to pursue their dreams and passions.  
But this was supposed to be about recent elections.  
I had a great conversation with Randy Zimmerman who was elected to be Waseca’s next mayor. I’m thankful he took time out of his day to talk to me. It says a lot.  
On another note, I watched Waseca play their final football game of 2023 last Friday in New Ulm. High school athletics are special. Friday was special. The boys lost. All good things must end, and as it was said, it wouldn’t hurt if it wasn’t so good. My dad kind of stole Waseca football writing responsibilities from me halfway through the season. He really wanted to write about them.



STAR GAZING  
by Eli Lutgens  
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watch your senior, your kid, your student, play their final game? In my time these past few years, I’ve learned that for those who don’t play sports, they don’t get it. For parents who never played sports the way their kids feel when they play their last game is completely foreign. And, for some, playing their final game after a decade or longer of commitment, the last one can be traumatic. Every day of my senior baseball season was spent with a sick feeling in my stomach knowing my days playing baseball were numbered.  
That’s what makes it special. Because it will end. And all but one team (in their respective classes) ends their season with a win.  
I had a conversation with a woman last summer. She asked, “Who cares about sports? Why does any of it matter?” I’ll tell you who cares. Your kids, your grandkids, and your friend’s kids. And those students’ parents and grandparents. It really, really bothered me that this woman belittled high school sports. But, as I say, things happen for a reason. The spark from that conversation is the reason I’m writing this today. It’s

part of, many reasons, why I try so hard to be the best writer I can be.  
I read something the other day after my best friend died. It said, people don’t always appreciate poems/writing during their regular everyday life. But in times of need, those words are comforting. In times of need, it’s appreciated. That’s why it exists.  
I kind of compare it to the existence of newspapers. Without a newspaper, the local government isn’t held accountable. The local Cross Country Team doesn’t get interviewed on their trip to state. Without a newspaper, there aren’t reporters to ask their local coaches how it feels to watch their son or daughter play their final ever game.  
“I am almost a hundred years old; waiting for the end, and thinking about the beginning.  
There are things I need to tell you, but would you listen if I told you how quickly time passes?  
I know you are unable to imagine this.  
Nevertheless, I can tell you that you will awake someday to find that your life has rushed by at a speed at once impossible and cruel. The most intense moments will seem to have occurred only yesterday and nothing will have erased the pain and pleasure, the impossible intensity of love and its dog-leaping happiness, the bleak blackness of passions unrequited, or unexpressed, or unresolved.”— Meg Rosoff, What I Was



**WASECA COUNTY PIONEER**

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including the communities of Waseca, Janesville, New Richland, and Waldorf

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**DEADLINES:** Pioneer: Noon Tuesday  
GOLDEN LINK: Previous Friday

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# New mayor for Waseca

**By ELI LUTGENS**  
Publisher

A hotly contested race for Waseca mayor was won Tuesday evening by lifelong resident, graduate of Waseca highschool in 1993, and former school board member from 2008-2018, Randy Zimmerman. As of Wednesday morning the vote totals were Zimmerman 1,398 votes, Gary Conrath 1,158, and Matthew Pet-singer 589. 106 votes were cast for write in candidates and/or Kevin Chindlund.

On the night of the election, Zimmerman, family and friends spent the evening together waiting for results to come in. “Honestly, I prayed about this a lot and left it in God’s hands,” Zimmerman told the Pioneer. “I truly believed that if this was his will, then it would happen... Oh gosh I have too many people to thank. First and foremost, literally thank you God. I put it in his hands. My wife has been extremely supportive. My kids. My many Waseca mentors. Business owners. Good close friends. And, of course, the people who voted for me. Thank you.”

Zimmerman said he appreciates the other candidates’ willingness to put themselves out there and run. “Their willingness to serve. I respect that a lot. We need more of that. It was clear that they both care about the community and about serving. I

appreciate that as well. Most importantly I appreciate that it was a positive, clean campaign from everyone.”

Zimmerman said the message from Waseca is clear. “Growth and change.

“We have some planning to do, relationships to build, and action to take.

With the help of his wife, and two kids, Zimmerman made it to every section of the town prior to election day. “I talked to a lot of people. Old, young, and in between and the common message was, “we need growth.” That was overwhelmingly the message I heard from people.”

Zimmerman said one of his underlying goals is to change the mindset of Waseca. “We need more willingness to serve in this capacity. Whether it’s mayor, city council, school board, or volunteering in general. I hope I can do that and I hope I can spark more interest in that... I had a good amount of success with the school district while I was on the school board and I believed that helped me here. I have a track record of doing what I say I’m going to do. I bring new ideas. A glimmer of hope.”

Zimmerman thanked mayor Roy Srp for his years of service to Waseca and said he looks forward to working with the new council.

## ■ Honor from Page 1

tivities these kids are involved with alongside their family relationships and friendships... It is a tremendous accomplishment to be here today. Be proud of yourself, be proud of your classmates.”

Following Hopkins, students Avery Madsen, Cecelia Huttemier, Megan Kanewischer, Christian Rodriguez, and Hanna Wilder lit the candles representing the “ideals of Minnesota Honor Society.” They were: the spirit of the torch, scholarship, service, leadership, and character.

Samantha Azure, Jenarao Delgado Jr. and Charlet Harguth introduced the new inductees, who received pins and certificates acknowledging their selection. The night closed with all the members reciting the MHS Pledge, followed by closing remarks from Counselor Marlin.

The current list of MHS, followed by the new inductees, are:

New MHS members are eleventh graders, Sage Barnett, Lylah Bauman, Grace Below, Addison

Bomsta, Mallory Bruhn, Tricia Cox, Noah Dahle, Quinn Dahle, Tarun Ewest, Tegan Flatau, Eduardo Gallegos, Sarah Haley, Emma Keith, Daniel Kohler, Ella Krautkremer, Suzanne Kuhns, Hannah LaCroix, Haydn Lynch, Preston Miller, Alison Mumme, Evelyn O’Brien, Ava Omtvedt, Andrew Robran, Elizabeth Roessler, Oliver Rohwer, Norah Schimming, Cameron Stagman, Ethan Stenzel, Trista Stinehart, Lucas Vasquez-Neigebauer, Addison Wieseler, Isabelle Wilhelmi, Kyle Ahlschlager, Sophia Krause, Thyme Lang, McKenna Miller, Camille Ring, and Jayme Sandbeck.

Returning MHS members are twelfth graders, Samantha Azure, Leah Bartelt, Maia Bartelt, Miranda Breck, Jersey Castle, Jenaro Delgado, Hailey Dettmer, Ella Dufault, Joseph Feldkamp, Isabella Hadley, Aubree Hansen, Charlet Harguth, Alexander Honstad, Kya Hoof, Cecelia Huttemeier, Megan Kanewischer, William King, Lindsey Kopetzki, Griffin Krautkremers, Grace Lapides, Avery Madsen, Jacqlyn Mathern, Christian Rodriguez, Chloe Schumacher, Haylee Sommers, Kloe Wadd and, Hannah Wilder.

## ■ Srp from Page 1

Srp started attending Alcoholics Anonymous. He still attends 40 years later.

“Some of my friends found other ways to quit drinking,” Srp shared.

Srp said he tried to end his life twice as a result of his battle with alcohol. “I would drive into the garage, shut the door and leave the car running.”

Srp said he’s lost more than one friend who couldn’t take their battle with alcoholism anymore and ended their lives as a result. “They quit drinking, but at what cost?”

Addiction, alcoholism, is a matter of life and death. Srp said if

he can help just one person choose not to go down the path he did, it makes his efforts as a speaker and AA member worthwhile.

“Standing in front of you here today, I feel like I’m 9 feet tall and bulletproof,” Srp beamed. “I now know that nothing can hurt me except for drugs and alcohol.”

A student asked Srp if he still feels the urge to drink.

“I’ve been sober 40 years, and I week,” Srp answered. “I’ve felt the urge to drink every day.

“If you’d asked my friends 40 years ago if they ever thought I would quit drinking, they would have laughed at you. Sometimes it takes sheer willpower to not have a drink. Through the grace of God, lots of prayers, and an incredible support system, I’ve remained sober.”

# Meet your neighbor, Jay

**Name:** Jay Dulas  
**Town:** Waseca  
**Birthplace:** Owatonna

**Hometown:** Medford

**Family:** Three daughters: Landi, Madison, and Keegan; and one granddaughter, Crue

**Occupation:** Waseca County Deputy Sheriff

**Hobbies:** Supporting our kids in all activities, anything outdoors, farming, and volunteering

**My dream vacation would be:** Alaska or Ireland

**The best thing about small town living is:** Knowing your neighbors and being involved in town.

**Last Good Book I Read:** Many leadership books

**Favorite TV shows:** Yellowstone and 1883

**Favorite Food:** Meatloaf

**All Time Favorite Movie:** *Top Gun*

**Favorite Sports Team:** All high school sports, especially Waseca

**Favorite musical artists:** Anything country

**My favorite activities when I was growing up:** Anything outdoors

**My biggest pet peeve:** Fingernail biters

**The best advice I’ve ever received:** Respect yourself, respect others, and take responsibility of your actions.

**If I could have lunch with any one person, living or dead:** My grandparents

**Something about me that would surprise people:** I drove a school bus.



Jay Dulas has loved hunting, fishing, hiking, and any other activities related to the outdoors since he was a kid.

# Wearing my “I voted” sticker with pride

Today’s election day! Or at least Tuesday was. By the time this gets out, it won’t be anymore. As someone who turned 18 before the 2020 election, this was my second time voting (and first in person). After a short walk to my designated polling place, I checked in, received my ballot, and voted—all in a matter of minutes. In total, voting probably only took maybe 20 minutes out of my day. In the grand scheme of keeping our democracy going, that’s a small time commitment! I keep up with politics to a moderate degree (not nearly as much as I did in 2020, but I guess a presidential race warrants more attention) so I felt prepared to cast my ballot. This election is just a midterm, but it is definitely an important one with two congressional



**Looking in the Mirror**  
*Looking in the Mirror*  
by Jonah Stafford  
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majorities on the line. Let’s see what happens! By the time this is printed, we’ll know the election results, but I don’t have that benefit of hindsight. Regardless, today, I’m wearing my “I voted” sticker with pride.

Besides participating in democracy, today I had a special meeting to discuss the publicity program of the Saint Mary’s Writing Center. Ideas ranged from events in the near future

to long-term goals like creating a social media presence for the WC, designing a logo, and merchandising. Lots of exciting things are going on, and I’m part of all of it! Because I’m just a student, I can’t really officially be in charge of anything, but in terms of what I can do, I at least feel like I’m spearheading positive change.

There’s lots going on in the cafeteria, too, with 6 special menus

planned for next week and the dining service providing catering for the Cardinal Fest event on Saturday. Cardinal Fest is going to be a country-western-themed student music festival and I’m pretty pumped for that. Last year, I was stuck on catering duty and couldn’t participate, but this year I’ll be early enough to scoop up the free shirt and hang out with friends. I’m doing a lot lately, so I deserve the time to relax.

I still have other ventures in the works, too, like my potential foray into merchandising and putting together an entry for a writing contest with a cash prize. But I also have homework, so let’s figure that out first!

## ■ Theater from Page 1

My father works as the Performing Arts Center manager, and after the fall play in 2021, there was a need for a new director. Since I had been back in Waseca for a little over a year, I jumped at the chance to work with these students. The new theater played a major role in this - I was extremely excited to work in such a beautiful facility!”

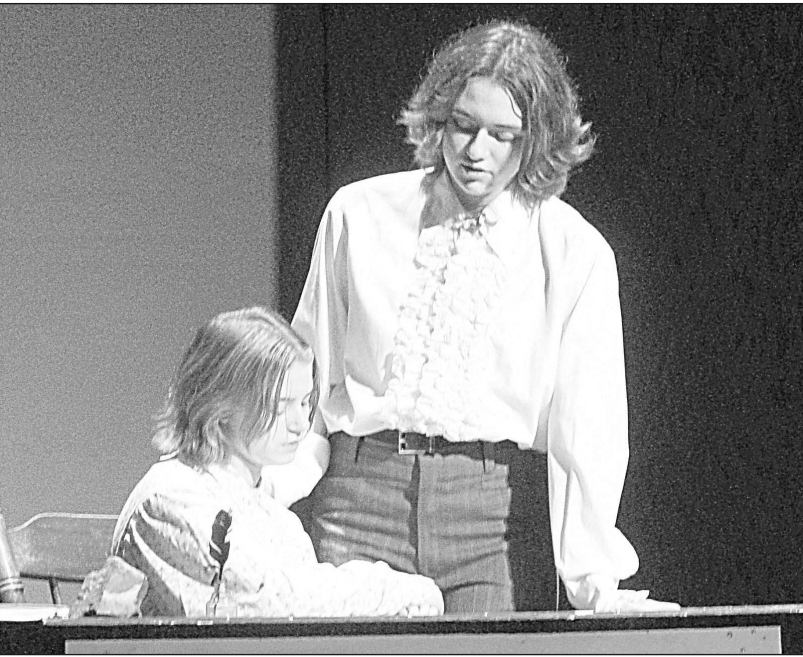
Born and raised in Waseca, Pollock came back to her hometown after eight years away to continue the line of work she is most passionate about: people. In a winding path that started with studying Music Business at McNally Smith College of Music, then became working at The Recording Academy, to eventually landing back in Minnesota at WCCO Radio, she finds fulfillment in community-driven work. In 2020, Pollock helped build Lead For Minnesota, a state affiliate of the national non-profit Lead For America, by developing and managing their state fellowship program. During her time there, she focused on supporting “Fellows,” college students far along in their programs, doing revitalization work in their own communities on projects ranging from child care access to grassroots community development in rural towns. Currently, Pollock calls the theater program at the Waseca Junior/Senior High school home and directs high school productions that evoke joy and thoughtfulness through storytelling on stage.

Along with creating fabulous productions, Pollock and her thespians are trying something new this year: 501(c)3 status for the drama department. “I spoke with the kids first and



Left, Grace Lapides brings out the “drama” of the play as Amy March. Right, Katelyn Robeck as Beth March and Kiera Landrum as Jo March open up the production in a school room scene.

Pioneer photos by Michael Roy



“Theater is expensive. Between licensing, set design and building, costuming, props, and salaries, it all adds up!”  
— Waseca Theater Director Anna Pollock

sponse from Legally Blonde: The Musical told her what folks in the community were craving. “I understood that we all wanted more joy, more fun, more theater to ease back into life with COVID-19. In came the Waseca Drama Department, a 501(c)3 booster program that’s sole purpose is to support theater in Waseca through fundraising, organizing, mentoring, and outreach. This nonprofit acts just like other booster programs, but will be fully dedicated to theater both in the school and the community as a whole.” Pollock is referring to the drama department website which states funds raised through the Waseca Drama Department will also be used to build a community theater program to utilize the beautiful performing arts center at the Waseca Junior/Senior High during the summer months.

The future looks bright for the Waseca Drama department; Pollock will be facilitating the group’s annual meeting in October, where parents and students will share their goals and plans for being involved.

“Alongside the booster program, the students and I have started a new Waseca Drama Club; our main goal is to hold workshops throughout the school year that allow students, in or outside of the productions, to learn more about acting, theater, production, and the technical aspects of shows,” Pollock says. “We’re always looking for folks with experience in this field to come speak, hold workshops, classes, or activities, and teach these passionate, talented kids.” For those wondering how they can best support the WJSH theater department, Pollock says it’s easy. “First and foremost, come to the shows! Our season was announced in July, and can be found at [www.tinyurl.com/wasecadramadept](http://www.tinyurl.com/wasecadramadept). Secondly, we are hosting fundraising events throughout the first year of our inception. Stay tuned!” Pollock can be reached at [pola@waseca.k12.mn.us](mailto:pola@waseca.k12.mn.us).

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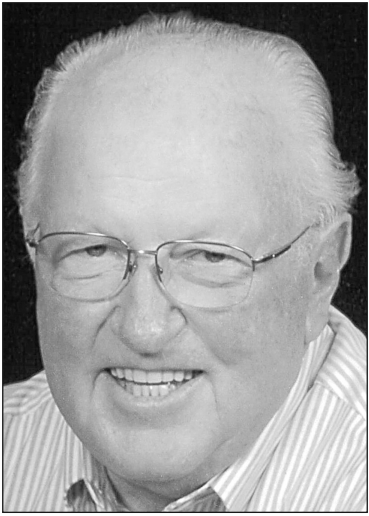
Wendell Joseph Armstrong

Wendell Joseph Armstrong, age 82 of Waseca, died unexpectedly following a short battle with cancer on Thursday, November 3, 2022, at his home.

Born on July 22, 1940, in Waseca to Benjamin and Agnes (Root) Armstrong. Wendell received his education at Waldorf Public School, graduating with the class of 1958. In 1961, he enlisted into the Army National Guard where he served for 6 years. On August 1, 1964, Wendell was united in marriage to Ruth Ann Swenson at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Waldorf. Together they made their home on the farm in Wilton Township, Waseca County while raising a family of five children. Wendell and Ruth continued to live on the farm up until this past year when they moved into town.

Wendell was lifelong farmer, tending to his crops and various livestock. Some of the livestock he raised over the years included: geese, pheasants, chickens, sheep, cattle, and hogs. As the years went on and the children finished 4-H, he mainly raised hogs. In the early 2000's Wendell decided to retire and rent out his farm. But as farmers often do, he continued to help on the farm with the Lewer Family for many years. Wendell was also active with his community, serving as a County Commissioner for 10 years, a member of the Waseca School Board, and various Coop Boards. He was also a member of the Knights of Columbus, Eagles Club where he was a past officer, and the Waseca American Legion Post 228. Wendell was active with Sacred Heart Catholic Church where he lectured and served as a communion distributor for many years. He enjoyed bowling, golfing, attending his children's sporting events and activities, and wintering in Florida with Ruth. Wendell is remembered for his great sense of humor, Wendellisms and his ability to make people laugh. Blessed be his memory.

Wendell is survived by his wife



Wendell Armstrong

of 58 years, Ruth; children: Richard (Dulcie) Armstrong of Stockbridge, GA, Sherene (Joseph) Holmquist of Cologne, Jon (Angeline) Armstrong of St. Cloud, Janene (Rob) Reding of Traverse City, MI, Ann (Chad) Fritz of Salt Lake City, UT; 12 grandchildren: T.J. (Ali) Peterson, Katelyn (Jake) Schultz, Megan Peterson, Sarah Marchant, Daniel Armstrong, Carter Fritz, Chloe Fritz, Olivia Reding, Abigail Reding, Alexandra Stanczyk, Leah Symanietz, and Brian Symanietz; two great grandchildren: Catherine Marchant and Isaac Varner; sister-in-law, Lorenza Armstrong; nieces, nephews other relatives and many friends.

Preceded in death by his parents; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Russ and Alice Swenson; brother, Wayne Armstrong; sister, Mavis (Bob) Wheelock.

Visitation was from 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM on Monday, November 7, 2022 at the State Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca. Visitation continued for one hour prior to the service at the church on Tuesday.

Mass of Christian Burial was 1:00 PM on Tuesday, November 8, 2022 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca with Fr. The Hoang as celebrant. Burial was at Calvary Cemetery in Waseca.

Memorials are preferred to Sacred Heart Education Endowment Fund or Waseca Area Food Shelf.

Gerald "Jerry" Slattery

Gerald "Jerry" Robert Slattery passed away on Friday, November 4, 2022 in Shakopee, MN at age 83.

Jerry was born in Waseca, MN on February 28, 1939 to Robert William and Luella Margaret Slattery (née Miller) and raised on the family farm with an older sister and two younger brothers, William ("Bill") and John at the end of the Great Depression.

As a child, Jerry had a deep love for cowboys and The Wild West, devotedly watching episodes of The Lone Ranger and creating colorful collages from magazine clippings. Jerry developed an interest in mathematics, architecture, astronomy, and engineering in his studies at Waseca High School (class of 1957), graduating with All-State honors. He participated in football, wrestling, and track-and-field at Waseca High School, and in his senior year, he found success as an athlete in three areas: in football, as a fullback and lead-scorer who brought an undefeated team to victory in the South Central Conference championship; in track, as part of a team winning the conference championship; and in wrestling, as the team's co-captain, undefeated the entire season before placing 3rd in the State Tournament.

Determined to leave his life on the

farm behind, Jerry enrolled at Mankato State College (class of 1961) where he continued to study math and sciences while maintaining a successful athletic career. Jerry was a three-time conference wrestling champion at Mankato State, wrestling at 177 lbs. In his second year, he won All-American honors and the Mankato State team won the NAIA National Championship, for which he and his teammates were inducted into the Mankato State Athletic Hall of Fame. In his third year, he placed 6th at 167 lbs in the NCAA Division I Tournament, and in his senior year, he was captain of the team.

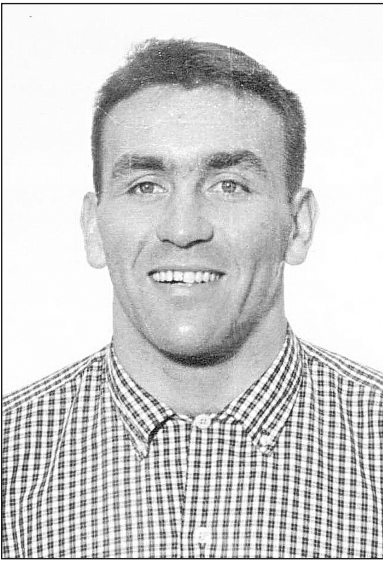
Jerry continued to wrestle after completing his undergrad, and in 1964, he won the zone trial at 171.5 lbs. He went on to compete in the final Olympic Trials at the 1964 New York World's Fair in freestyle competition, winning his first five matches before losing on "black marks", which counted as a penalty if the match was won by a decision rather than a pin. On his way to the trials finals, Jerry defeated four previous USA Pan-American champions as well as a wrestler who won a gold medal in the 1960 Olympics. Jerry retired from wrestling in 1967 at age 28.

In 1968, Jerry received his Master's Degree in Mathematics from Mankato State. He landed his first job teaching mathematics and

coaching wrestling at Willmar High School and Willmar Community College. He soon left Willmar for Richfield where he taught mathematics, coached, and officiated high school wrestling at Richfield High School for 32 years. During this time, he became a nationally ranked water skier in the trick-skiing events. Jerry was a six-time Minnesota State Trick Champion, and placed Second in the USA Nationals in Berkeley, CA in 1977. In the 1970s, he founded Jerry's Ski School in Prior Lake, MN, and he owned a commercial marina on the lake. In 1983, he retired from trick skiing as a result of injury at the age of 44.

Jerry retired from his final professional careers of teaching and coaching in 1999. He had a lifelong love for music and spent his retirement years singing and playing the guitar at local elementary schools and retirement homes throughout the Twin Cities. He enjoyed deer hunting, fishing, traveling, and always spoke his mind.

Jerry is survived by four sons, Shawn (Erica Shepard) Bachinski of Bloomington, MN, Eric (Angie) Bachinski of Elko, MN, Brent Slattery of Huntington Beach, CA, and Jacob (Matthew Hayden) Slattery of New York City; brother Bill (Jackie) Slattery of Crosby, MN and sister-in-law Jean Slattery of Waseca, MN; and several beloved nieces and



Gerald Slattery

nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Dorothy Kaupa, brother John, and numerous others on both sides of his family.

Visitation was from 4:00 – 7:00 PM on Thursday, November 10, 2022 at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral Homes in Waseca. Visitation continued for one hour prior to the service at the church on Friday.

Mass of Christian Burial was at 1:00 PM on Friday, November 11, 2022 at Sacred Heart Church in Waseca with Fr. The Hoang officiating. Interment will follow at Calvary Cemetery in Waseca.

Curriculum focuses on engineering

By MELISSA DUNN  
Contributing Writer

Industrial Technology instructor Bill Kuschel was spotlighted during the November 3 Waseca school board workshop. Kuschel, who began teaching the high school Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) program ten years ago, explained how his program (then called "Project Lead The Way") has been transitioning into a larger entity requiring more classes—a challenge for a district

Waseca's size. Unable to accommodate "Lead the Way" requirements, Kuschel explained how the district has transitioned to a program offered through engineering corporation Siemens. "If you don't know much about Siemens, it's the number two largest corporation in the world, second only to Walmart," Kuschel told board members. "They're huge in the engineering field, as well as automation, medical, energy—all of these types of things."

Kuschel shared that Siemens corporation became connected with an educational curriculum: the two originators of Project Lead The Way had been pushed out through corporate changes. They brought their curriculum idea to Siemens; the corporation now offers a three-year curriculum free to public schools. "We need more engineers," Kuschel stated. "Data that I've learned about and shared with my students—of the engineers [currently] in the United States, only 30% come from the United States." Kuschel told the board that Siemens doesn't charge for its in-depth curriculum because "they say we don't need to charge for this.

**WASECA SCHOOL BOARD**

"Of engineers in the United States, only 30% come from the United States."

— Bill Kuschel

Things."

"To me, this is very exciting. [The curriculum] ties in with our community, talking to Winegar's, talking to Camp Automation, talking to Itron, talking to Cinch... there's a need for the manufacturing industry, and automation, and I think this fits even better than what I was teaching before," Kuschel said. "It is cutting edge. It is the stuff which everyone else is trying to strive for which gives our students opportunities to learn cutting-edge stuff—which I think is really cool." Kuschel stated this program sets Waseca apart from other area schools. He told the board his own sons open-enrolled from the Faribault school district in order to take the Waseca engineering courses.

Kuschel praised the cross-curriculum abilities of the district, "I think we are doing a good job. We are really getting these kids prepared. If they're hungry and they want to work—I won't say it's easy, but if they're willing to work, we're setting the table for some great opportunities and some great futures for these young people."

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in



Signing with Bethany



**SIGNED** — During the school day Wednesday morning, November 9, Waseca High School senior Tyson Reger signed a contract to play with the Bethany Lutheran College baseball team.  
Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

Signing Day  
Reger commits to Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato

**By MICHAEL ROY**  
Publisher

After signing along the dotted line, Waseca High School senior Tyson Reger committed to playing baseball for the Bethany Lutheran College Vikings Wednesday, November 9. A short signing ceremony was held between 9:42 and 10:02 a.m. Several of Reger’s teammates over the years attended and congratulated him on his signing.

A Division III school, Bethany Lutheran College has a well-coached baseball program and competes with schools like St. Olaf and Gustavus. According to Reger’s mom, Andrea, he decided to commit to Bethany because of that.

“When he was looking at schools to commit to, Tink Larson recommended starting with the Division III schools,” she adds. “Bethany Lutheran was the first one to get back to him, and he accepted.”

Reger played a few positions on the Waseca Bluejays’ varsity baseball team last season, from pitcher to second baseman. He had a great season which included pitching a perfect game.

“He gets his talent from his dad,” Andrea Reger joked. “I just did vol-

leyball. But his dad was part of the Bluejays team when he was in high school and he also played for the Waseca Braves.”

Head Coach Taylor Phelps spoke briefly on his signing. “I am so proud of Tyson. He’s such a hard worker,” he said. “I’m excited to get back to playing baseball again in the spring where I can help him train for the next level.”

Reger was so ecstatic about his signing that he was lost for words. “I’m thrilled to begin playing for Bethany,” he said. “But I have to finish playing for Waseca first.”

In addition to playing for the Vikings, Reger plans on pursuing a degree in sports management. “I love playing sports, so I thought that degree was fitting for me,” he said.

When asked if it were possible that he’d coach the Waseca varsity team someday, his mother laughed. “It’s a possibility,” she replied. “He does love baseball a lot. You never know.”

We would like to congratulate Tyson Reger on his signing with Bethany Lutheran College. We wish him luck this spring and in the future as a Viking.



**ON A MISSION:** From left, Shepherd’s Robe volunteers Georgia Peterson, Pat Miller and Sandy Prechel sort through items before setting them out for display.

“Gift Store” mission at Vista Covenant

**By DEB BENTLY**  
Staff Writer

Up to 40 people each week are served by “Shepherd’s Robe,” a free “gift store” offered by the missions group at Vista Covenant Church in the New Richland area. Begun in April of 2021, the program is a continuation of one founded by retired pastor John Schultz, who gave away donated clothing and household goods from his New Richland home until January of that year.

“We were looking at the empty rooms in our downstairs, asking God to fill them,” says Vista Covenant pastor Brian Schanil of the congregation’s unused Sunday school classrooms. “He answered our prayers,” he admits. “Just not the way we were thinking.”

After learning that Pastor Schultz could no longer continue his service, and thinking of its value as a mission, members of Vista Covenant made the decision to take the project on.

Pastor Schanil tells that the group first looked for a location in New Richland, wanting to provide easy access to potential clients, but the search proved fruitless.

“At that point, we decided to make

use of our downstairs classrooms,” he says. “It’s been a wonderful revitalization for our congregation,” he continues, saying that church members who receive, sort, display and distribute the items being given away have expressed feelings of being richly blessed. “We don’t want to focus only on ourselves,” he says. “We need to address the needs and interests of our community.”

Shepherd’s Robe coordinator Pat Miller, a retired teacher, Waseca resident, and Vista Covenant member, is among those who feel blessed. “It gave us a jumpstart back into life after Covid,” she observes.

As it began, the mission collected and displayed the items still available at Pastor Schultz’s home, retaining the “Shepherd’s Robe” name Schultz had used. Additional donations were quick in coming. The empty Sunday school rooms became a workspace for the many tasks involved with the service.

Shepherd’s Robe is open to all comers every Tuesday from 1 to 3 p.m. and again from 5 to 7 p.m. Visitors are invited to view the displayed items and select whatever fills their needs. Clothing in all sizes is available, as are toys, small household

appliances, dishes, and personal care supplies such as shampoo, toothpaste and toothbrushes.

When donors ask what is needed, volunteer and “greeter” Sharon Possin says “We tell them to picture what might be needed to set up a new home, what kinds of things might be useful.” Another criteria is that nothing be given which the donors themselves would not want to make use of—and that items be recently cleaned and ready for use. Finally, Miller requests that people planning to make donations should notify the organizers in advance; potential donors can contact her at 507-461-0886.

In its first year of operation at Vista Evangelical, Shepherd’s Robe gave away nearly 7,000 pieces of clothing, 1,500 houseware items and more than 500 toothbrushes. About 1,100 individuals visited the shop.

Though the service is open only on Tuesdays, work is ongoing. About 15 church members put in dozens of hours each week to keep the shelves stocked. Not only do donations need to be sorted and displayed, but unusable items need to be managed either by being disposed of or re-donated to other agencies. New items, including the personal care products and under-

wear, need to be acquired.

“We encounter challenges,” admits coordinator Pat Miller, “but we change as God leads us to change.”

“We are more blessed than the people who come.”

Heartwarming stories abound.

There was the woman who had a job interview the next day and was moved to tears when she found an ideal outfit in her exact size.

An area couple donated this year’s government stimulus check, saying they could do without it and wanted to make it part of the mission.

There was the lone artificial Christmas tree which found its way to a family with small children.

Another lady, in her fifties, selected a winter coat which, because it was so beautiful, made her feel beautiful.

There are the children who leave Shepherd’s Robe thrilled to be clutching a new toy or new shoes.

Volunteer Sharon Possin gets a hitch in her voice when she speaks of the gratitude and pleasure she sees in others. “Sometimes we pray together, right here in the shop,” she says. “We let people know we care.”



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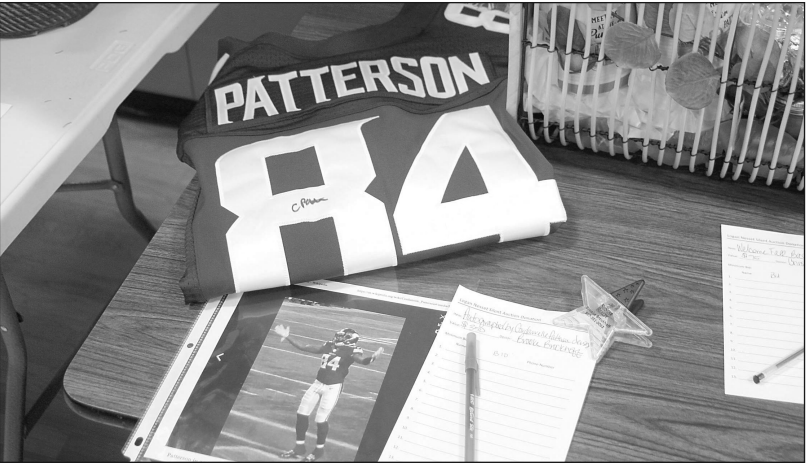
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**PRICELESS** — This signed Minnesota Vikings Cordarrelle Patterson jersey was one of several silent auction items at the Logan Nessel benefit last Sunday.

Overwhelming, insane support  
Hundreds attend Nessel benefit

**By MICHAEL ROY**  
Publisher

Logan Nessel was injured Sunday, July 17 in a diving accident, fracturing his C5 and C6 vertebrae. Since being hospitalized, he’s been going through therapy and rehabilitation for his injury.

To help Nessel pay his bills and purchase specialized equipment, the Janesville community and many businesses banded together and organized a benefit Sunday, November 6 at the Trinity Lutheran School Gym.

There were many ways to support Nessel’s recovery, from purchasing a pulled pork lunch to donating “grain” in a miniature wagon at the corner of the gym. Auction items lined three of the gym’s four walls, with prizes including gift cards, tickets to the Vikings-Jets game, a fishing rod set, and paintings.

Becky Gahler, event organizer, spent about six weeks in preparation.

Donations from nine area businesses helped make the benefit possible: Wiste’s Meat Market and Brew’d Awakenings from Janesville; Kwik Trip and Hy-Vee in Mankato; Neighbor’s Meat Market of New Richland; Mrs. Gerry’s in Albert Lea; Thrivent of Waseca; Backyard Bar and Grill out of Pemberton; and several other individuals who baked cookies and bars.

“They helped donate enough so we didn’t have to pay for the food,” Gahler said. “We are very grateful to them for helping us.”

Many more businesses and individuals contributed to the silent auction. “It’s been overwhelming, in a good way,” she said. “Talking with Logan’s mother and a couple of his sisters, they expressed the same thing. They’re just overwhelmed by all this support, and they’re appreciative of it.”

The plan was to serve meals to about 500 people. As soon as the



**GOOD SPIRITS** — Logan Nessel was feeling great as hundreds of people came to his benefit Sunday, November 6. He, sister Rachel Collins (left), and fiancée Jadyn-Nelson Spies (not pictured) were very thankful for everyone’s support throughout the past few months.  
Pioneer photos by Michael Roy

“You don’t realize how many people are there for you until you see all that support.”  
— Logan Nessel

benefit began at 10 a.m., there were already people filling up the tables in the gym.

Logan Nessel and his fiancée, Jadyn Nelson-Spies, were busy all morning talking to friends and family. “I’m feeling good,” Nessel said.

It’s admittedly been a long road to recover for Nessel. “I feel like a child sometimes,” he joked. “I’ve been getting lots of care, and it’s been pretty hard.”

But the support he received on Sunday made things a whole lot better for him. He called the amount of support he’s received “amazing.”

“With the GoFundMe and everything, it’s been crazy,” he explained.

“You don’t realize how many people are there for you until you see all that support.”

Nothing will come easy for Nessel in the short term, but the hundreds of people who showed up for the benefit will make the road to recovery from his diving accident a little easier to travel. “I just have to keep going through therapy and that’s about it,” he concluded.

His fiancée Nelson-Spies matched Gahler’s description of the community’s generosity and comfort. “It’s been overwhelming,” she says. “We couldn’t do it without the support we’ve gotten from everybody.”



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## HONORING ALL WHO SERVED



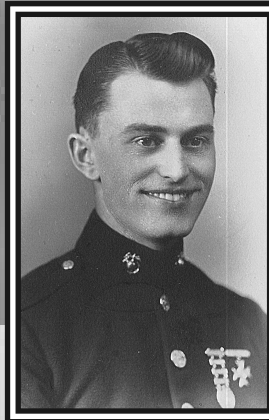
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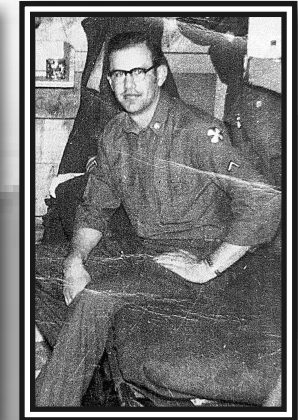
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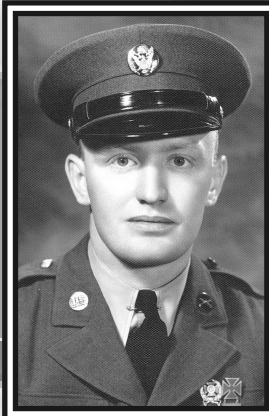
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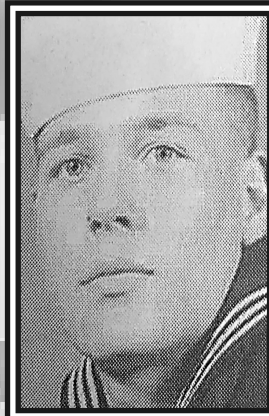
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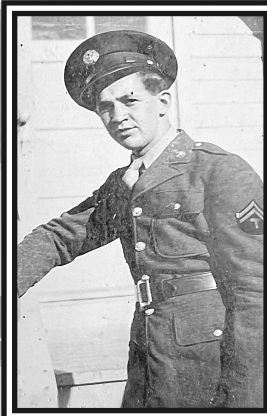
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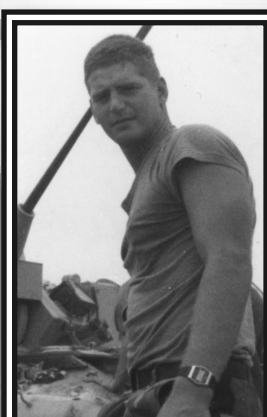
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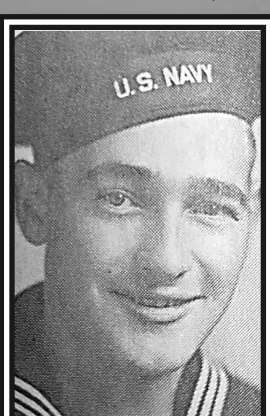
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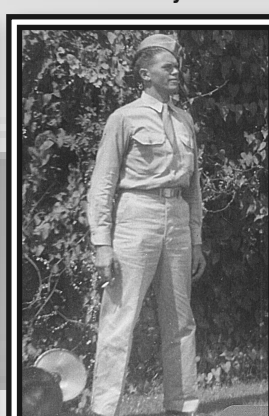
Ray Schroder



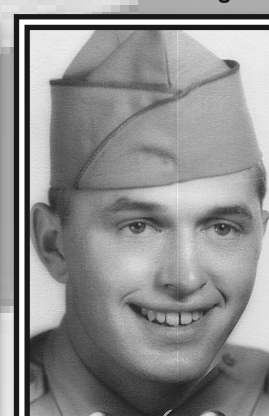
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**94 YEARS OF PRIDE** — Gene Amley, holding photos of his great-grandchildren, is proud to have served his country in Korea.  
Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens

## Respect, incentives, and proud to serve

By JIM LUTGENS  
Staff writer

When Gene Amley enlisted to serve in the Korean War, there was an incentive to joining the paratroopers: an extra \$50 per month in pay.

Amley willingly signed up. But he earned every penny. Now, at age 94, he's still willing and able to share war stories with about anyone who stops by his farm north of St. Olaf Lake.

On this day there was a female voice in the house, Jane Wagner, New Richland's most famous basketball mom.

"Tell me what you want and I'll bring you something good for supper," said Wagner before scurrying back to town.

He was asked, "Are you and Jane related?"

"No," said Amley. "She's just looking in on me."

Such are the perks of being one of the area's most beloved - if not flamboyant - veterans of a foreign war.

Amley isn't completely alone on the farm though. Todd Krueger, whom Amley at first called "foster son" before making it "just son," has lived there for 57 years.

Amley is a pleasure to speak with, easily recalling the events and details of his military service that began when he was about 18 with boot camp in Fort Campbell, Ken. It was there he signed up for the paratroopers and was sent to Fort Benning, Ga. for six weeks of training. It was a shock to the system, not at all enjoyable.

Take it from someone who's completed one parachute jump and will never do another - this reporter - it's not fun, at least not until your parachute opens.

Then Amley was off to Camp Drum, NY for pre-Korea training, also not fun.

All the hard work earned Amley a post in Alaska - before it was a state.

"That was to get us used to the weather," said Amley. "It was cold."

From there they shipped off to Korea, where Amley's regiment was assigned to clear caves occupied by aggressive enemy forces.

"My friend was a real good shooter with a bazooka," said Amley. "I spent a lot of time with him helping him load his weapon. I didn't get to come back with him. He was killed."

Amley figures he made about a dozen jumps with the paratroopers. All came off without a hitch - at least for him.

"I saw bad things happen when we made the jump in Korea," he said. "They were waiting for us, and they had ammunition."

Many lives were lost.

Among the things Amley remembers the most about Korea was the overall coldness they projected to the U.S. soldiers.

"Maybe that was because there were so many of them there before us," said Amley.

And maybe, Amley said, it was because of the way many of the soldiers carried themselves, young and scared inside, embroiled in a war they didn't totally understand on the other side of the globe.

Amley was discharged in December 1952, but not before being offered another two-year term in the military. This time, he readily declined, returning home to farm with his father for a short time.

"I didn't farm for long because I found a babe I liked," said Amley.

Amley sees his time spent in the military as something to be proud of.

"I'm just plain proud that I did serve," he said, agreeing that recognition to soldiers has been heightened in recent years.

Amley said the greatest thing he learned - or had re-enforced - in the military is old-fashioned respect.

"It really did me a lot of good in terms of respect," he said. "It was kind of like one of those things that you know it, but you don't use it until you get there."

And that respect was contagious.

"One thing about the service is that you had a lot of respect for each other, especially when you went to war," he said. "All of a sudden, it seemed like the sergeant was just like the rest of us."

Though he's outlived them all, Amley made some lifelong friends through the military.

"We'd have a reunion every once in a while," he said.

The last reunion? Twenty-two years ago.

Amley is a past commander of the New Richland American Legion, of which he's been a member for more than 60 years. He still laments the post's closing on No. Broadway Ave.

"That was hard to see that place closed," he said. "But it did."

If you talk to Amley, it's impossible not to ask the obvious question.

What's the secret to longevity?

"I did nothing to make it that long," he said. "I had some longevity in my family with my dad. Truthfully, I was just a little bit wild when I was younger."

But, he's seen a lot and done a lot in his 94 years, not the least of which were his years spent in service to his country.

"Yes, I did," said Amley. "And I got through it."

And, he's still getting through it.



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# Lowell Wadd: happy to do it

Navy veteran turns 97-years young

By TRISTAN JENSEN  
Editorial Assistant

Lowell Wadd, who just celebrated his 97th birthday, is one of eleven veterans currently living at Colony Court Senior Living in Waseca. Sharing his apartment is his wife of 67 years, Jan Wadd.

Wadd was born in 1925 to Anna and Oscar Wadd and grew up on a farm just five miles north of Waseca. He was the youngest of three boys, Edgar being his oldest brother and Marvin the middle child. "I was a little squirt," he said with a laugh. Wadd's family also took in "a young girl," Helen Powell, after the death of her parents and helped raise her for years. He was schooled at what he called a "regular" country school north of Waseca—a two-room schoolhouse holding four grades of students in each room. In 1942, as a seventeen-year-old finished with high school, Wadd enlisted. His brother Edgar was killed in the line of duty in Italy around the same time, while Marvin stayed home to help mind the farm. "Someone had to be there and I was just a young punk, I wouldn't know what to do anyway," said Wadd.

Wadd initially enlisted with the B5 Aviation program, but found this program was being phased out. He and another young man chose to join the Navy instead, and went to the Great Lakes Naval Station for training. Wadd ended up in Japan during occupation, where he stayed about two years. He was stationed on Tokyo Bay, working out of an old garage to maintain electrical generators and keep communications open between ship and shore crews. "At that time they were using teletype communication," Wadd explained.

"We had some help from locals," Wadd said about their garage set-up. "You know, they'd hire a few, and there was a young Japanese boy, I suppose he was about fifteen, Tanako Tatsuo. He was just a good, smart kid, and he liked to be around us Americans, so that worked out fine, and he'd kinda clean up where we had our bunkhouse and do different odd jobs. When it came time for us to go home, I called Tanako and talked to him, said I was going back to the United States - going home," Wadd told. "He sat down and cried. He didn't want me to go

home. Of course that wasn't meant to be. As time went on, I had to go home." Wadd continued, "He was pretty handy with making things: In our shop he'd find a piece of wood and he'd go out in the shop and he'd be busy - you know, if we didn't have something for him to do he'd be in the vise with his pocket knife, and by golly he was the handiest. He took a block of wood and kept whittling on it and he made me a model P38 bomber fighter plane, carved and glued together, and placed on a stand. A beautiful piece, stuff you'd like to keep around."

"He loved you, Lowell, and I know you loved him," Jan said. "Yes, I did," Lowell replied. "I wouldn't have minded taking him home with me. But it wasn't meant to be."

After returning home to the United States, Wadd worked on his family's farm and for Birdseye for a few years before getting into heavy construction, operating bulldozers and other large equipment. It was the career he'd be in until retirement, but that didn't mean staying in one place. "I got a little restless and I knew a lot of guys that were in construction, they'd go back overseas and work for contractors and air bases in different countries," Wadd explained. "I had the chance to go to French Morocco, so I of course signed up. We had to sign up for a couple years, and I worked over in French Morocco then, and when I came home just shortly after that I met this lady here. And it went pretty fast, didn't it?"

"Well, it was two years before we got married," Jan replied.

"Yeah, it was only two years," Wadd shot back lightly.

Lowell and Jan Wadd met in 1953 through mutual friends when she was still quite young. "There was this wonderful group of friends," Jan explained. "Most of them, except my one girlfriend, were all older than me. And all of us ended up getting married within a couple years of each other and being in each others' weddings, and that was beautiful." The pair married in 1955 and started their married life renting an apartment in Mankato. They lived there about a year and a half before buying a house in Waseca on East Elm Avenue, where they raised their two



**HONOR** — Waseca native Lowell Wadd recently celebrated his 97th birthday. For decades, it was the pride of Wadd's life to participate in the VFW honor guard, giving the traditional salute at funerals  
Pioneer photo by Tristan Jensen

"Rain, sleet, and snow. It was beautiful. You'd always come home and say you were so happy to be able to do it [Honor guard]."

— Jan Wadd

sons. Curtis Wadd was born in 1959; Craig 18 months later in 1960. Curtis now has two boys of his own, neither of whom are married. One owns Lakes Motorsports and Marine in Waterville, and the other is studying marine biology at St. Thomas, according to the Wadds. "He comes home for a visit Monday," Wadd said. Jan smiled at that. "We're very anxious to see him."

Once their children were grown, Lowell and Jan built a home on the north edge of Waseca in a line of new properties in a then-heavily-wooded area. The couple were among the first to move there. Both described that property as beautiful, with large oak trees and a walking bridge over the water behind their lot but no through-traffic. "We loved that house," Wadd said. Wadd retired from construction work at the age of 70. "Most people retire at 65, but I kind of liked to work. I thought it might be nice to, how do you say, kind of stack up a little extra in case I live awhile," he said of his long career. Eventually the burden of lawn care prompted them to move back into town, to a

smaller property, where they lived for some time before moving to Colony Court more recently.

Jan had high praise for life at Colony Court, as her husband nodded along. "It's hard when you have to leave your home," she said, but expressed that the level of comfort and accommodation at Colony Court made it easier. The activities director, she said, is "one of the best" based on her own experience working as activities director at Lakeshore Inn.

Lowell Wadd is remembered fondly at the Waseca VFW Post for his long membership. He participated in the VFW's honor guard, giving the traditional salute at funerals for those who had served for "at least" five years. "Rain, sleet, and snow," added Jan. "It was beautiful, you'd always come home and say you were so happy to be able to do it." He also sold tickets at steak and fish fries for years, "raising money so we would have a club of our own." Jan also got involved with the Auxiliary there. About the VFW, Wadd said "We gotta get down there soon."



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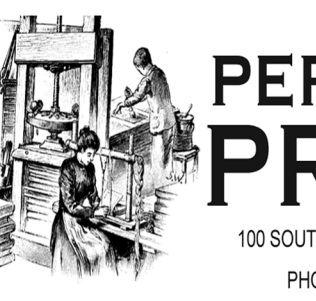
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# Too many obstacles

## Fairmont foils WHS football team in section title game

**By JIM LUTGENS**  
Sports Editor

You name it and it probably presented a problem for the Waseca High School football team.

In the end, there were just too many obstacles to overcome.

The Bluejays' 2022 season came to an end Friday, Nov. 4 with a 35-26 setback to Fairmont in the Section 3AAA finals at New Ulm High School. It was the fifth consecutive section final appearance for the top-seeded Jays, who finished the season 8-2. Second-seeded Fairmont, whom the Bluejays beat 32-14 earlier in the season, improved to 8-2 and advanced to the state tournament.

What was the difference this time? Waseca's quarterback/strong safety going down with an injury? Others running on wounded limbs? Getting a punt blocked? Or fumbling on your opponents' 15-yard line?

For the Bluejays, it was all of this and more.

"We lost the one guy we couldn't lose," said Waseca coach Brad Wendland. "Obviously, Fairmont challenges you with their defense backs. They've got good receivers. They've got a good scheme offensively in terms of their passing game. When Ollie (O'Brien) went down, he's our safety, our communicator on the back end. And he wasn't able to play back there. That really hurt us. And we're young on defense. Fairmont found those guys a couple times and with their matchups they did a nice job with it. And Max Neaves wasn't at 100 percent. We couldn't use him the way that we wanted to. And we made mistakes."

On top of that, Fairmont played a great game, and Waseca's season was suddenly history.

"Give a ton of credit to Fairmont," said Wendland. "They played very well today."

The game started great for the Jays, who fielded the opening kick-off and proceeded to march 53 yards in seven plays for a touchdown, Kyle Ahlschlager covering the final 20 yards. He also ran for the two-point conversion.

Fairmont answered with a 58-yard touchdown pass - a sign of things to come, and it was 8-7 about midway through the opening period.

The Bluejays' next possession saw them face third-and-28 deep in their own territory. The ensuing punt was blocked and Fairmont recovered on the Waseca 3-yard line, scoring two plays later to take a 14-8 lead.

The Jays responded with a perfectly-thrown 21-yard touchdown pass from O'Brien to Carson Ohnstad, but a two-point conversion try left the quarterback with a noticeable limp. He was replaced temporarily at quarterback and was unable to play defense the rest of the night.

Fairmont followed with a five-play, 80-yard drive that was capped by a 60-yard touchdown pass.

Waseca's next punt netted 11 yards, and the Cardinals used the opportunity to tack on another scoring pass and take a 28-14 lead into halftime, but not before the Bluejays fumbled on the Fairmont 15.

Fairmont's offense became more conservative in the second half, with the teams trading punts until the Cardinals made it 35-14 late in the third quarter.

The Bluejays didn't give up, but it was too little too late. Ahlschlager scored from 7 yards out to cap a seven-play, 78-yard drive, and Christian Rodriguez caught a 6-yard touchdown pass. Neaves, wounded leg and all, blocked a punt as the clock clicked down on the season.

Afterward, Wendland was asked what it's like to see the season end.

"As a coach, I'm just proud of them, and you're sad because they're so much fun to coach and there's nothing I'd rather do than go to practice on Monday," said Wendland. "It's hard to put into words the investment that these kids make. In a world where there's instant gratification all the time, high school football isn't like that. It's delayed gratification. And often it doesn't turn into what you hoped it would be. They

buy in and they invest so much. You can see the emotion. They're a part of something big and a part of something important and they always will be, but we're going to miss them. It's hard to explain."

Rodriguez was among the seniors who spoke up after the game.

"I just wanted to say I love you all," said Rodriguez. "Someone once told me that it wouldn't hurt it if wasn't so good. I love you guys."

"He's a young man who is a pleasure to coach, and for him to speak like that is important to all of the kids to hear that," said Wendland. "He's saying that as a senior, it's important for the younger kids to hear that and know what that means. We hope that there's a lot of future Christian Rodriguezes in the world."

Replacing those seniors, as always, will be a challenge.

"We'll take it one day at a time," said Wendland. "Our senior class had some high-end kids, but the overall number was small. We're definitely going to miss those kids. We're not going anywhere. We've got good classes coming up. We've got tough kids and good coaches."

"These are some of the toughest guys I've ever met," said Rodriguez of the 2022 Bluejays. "Some of the most loveable guys I've ever met. It's gonna hurt, but it is what it is. We'll get past this one."

Neaves said it meant a lot just to suit up in the blue and gold.

"It meant so much," he stated. "It's like the brotherhood we have. How we're always there for each other. We're always fighting for each other. It's unmatched by anything. It's truly a blessing to be playing for Waseca, Minnesota."

"This one's gonna hurt for awhile," said Wendland. "It's hard. We have to give Fairmont credit. We didn't do enough right tonight. We had some back luck and, yeah, that's football."

A tradition of all the Waseca seniors lining up on the goal line following their final game followed the awards presentation, where seniors and coaches shared hugs, laughs, smiles, and many tears. Players, coaches, family and friends, all stuck around the field for nearly an hour after the game.

Seniors graduating from the squad include Neaves, Ahlschlager, O'Brien, Ridriguez, Elijah Bieh, Leo Harguth, Eduardo Trejo, Payton Garza, Logan Hanson, Mason Droog, Brendan Brown, Jacob Kehler, Xavier Torres, Gavan George and Korbin Schumacher.

|     |    |    |   |    |    |
|-----|----|----|---|----|----|
| FMT | 14 | 14 | 7 | 0  | 35 |
| WAS | 8  | 6  | 0 | 12 | 26 |

**First Quarter**  
WAS - Ahlschlager 20 run (Ahlschlager run)

FMT - Pooley 58 pass from Schmidke (Burmeister kick)  
FMT - Johnson 3 run (Burmeister kick)

**Second Quarter**  
WAS - Da.Russell 20 pass from O'Brien (run failed)

FMT - Pooley 60 pass from Schmidke (Burmeister kick)  
FMT - Artz 8 pass from Schmidke (Burmeister kick)

**Third Quarter**  
FMT - Torsden 10 pass from Schmidke (Burmeister kick)

**Fourth Quarter**  
WAS - Ahlschlager 4 run (run failed)  
WAS - Rodriguez 2 run (run failed)

|             |          |         |
|-------------|----------|---------|
|             | FMT      | WAS     |
| First downs | 7        | 10      |
| Rushing     | 37-97    | 36-202  |
| Passing     | 8-16-180 | 4-12-79 |
| Total yards | 277      | 281     |
| Penalties   | 3-30     | 8-50    |

**INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS**  
Rushing - WAS: Ahlschlager 20-157; Rodriguez 8-25; O'Brien 7-15; FMT: Johnson 17-55; B.Meyerdirk 8-52; L.Meyerdirk 1-2; Schmidke 11 - 12  
Passing - WAS: O'Brien 4-12-79; FMT: Schmidke 8-16, 180  
Receiving - Da.Russell 3-68; Harguth 1-11; FMT: Pooley 3-133; Maakestad 3-29; Torsden 1-10; Artz 1-8  
Defense - WAS: Da.Russell 2 solo tackles; Neaves 6 tackles, 5 assists, 1 blocked punt; Ahlschlager 4 tackles, 3 assists; Keeton 12 tackle; Ohnstad 1 tackle, 1 fumble recovery; Mixteco 2 tackles; Rodriguez 5 tackles, 1 assist; Ellis 4 tackles, 4 assists, 1 sack; Thompson 7 tackles, 1 assist; Hager 2 tackles; Robran 3 tackles; Stenzel 4 tackles, 3 assists; Brown 3 tackles, 4 assists

Cardinals 35, Bluejays 26



**THE PLAYER THEY COULDN'T LOSE** — When Waseca quarterback/safety Oliver O'Brien (7) went down with an injury, things looked bleak for the Bluejays in the Section 3AAA championship game at New Ulm Friday, Nov. 4. A late rally fell short, ending Waseca's season. Also pictured for the Bluejays are Andrew Robran (63) and Jacob Kehler (73).  
Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens



**PASS PLAYS** — Passing proved to be the difference against Fairmont. At left, the Bluejays' Damarius Russell (3) fights for extra yards. At right, the Cardinals' David Maakestad (3) snares a reception despite the defensive efforts of Russell and Max Neaves (4).



**BIG PLAYS** — At left, the Bluejays' Max Neaves (4) and Kyle Ahlschlager (behind) team to tackle Elijah Johnson (8). At right, Christian Rodriguez (38) and Carson Ohnstad (18) take on Johnson.



**TOUGH LOSS** — At left, Kyle Ahlschlager and Carson Ohnstad sit on the field after the game. Middle, O'Brien is helped off the field by teammates. Right, O'Brien embraces coach Brad Wendland.



**END OF THE LINE** — At left, Brendan Brown hugs Kaeden Johnson. At right, Rodriguez follows the blocking of Benjamin Hagen (50) and others.



# Two years, two losses to WEM

## Sub-section runners-up again, Panthers finish 21-7

**By ELI LUTGENS**  
Publisher/Editor

An historic season for first-year head coach Ashley Tolzman and the NRHEG High School volleyball team came to an end Thursday, Nov. 3 in New Prague with a 3-1 loss to Waterville Elysian Morrissett in the sub-section championship at New Prague.

“This team fought for everything they did this year,” Tolzman said after the loss to WEM. “I told the girls to be proud of themselves. When they were crying I told them to be happy for what they’ve done this year... I’ve said all year that this team could coach themselves, they’re that good. I thanked them for allowing me to be their coach.”

It was close. The Panthers won game one 25-17, but lost the rest by scores of 25-10, 28-26, and 25-20.

After losing three games handily to WEM earlier in the season, the Panthers shocked the Buccaneers in game one. The Buccaneers came out flat-footed and committed many errors. That, in addition to exceptional play from the Panthers, led by seniors Bree Ihrke and Sarah George, led the girls in kills, including several in game one, leading to the dominant win.

Game two was equally dominant, but for the Buccaneers, who didn’t trail in the contest, going on a 5-0 run to go up 11-6. The Bucs scored the final eight points.

A long, decisive game three ultimately swung momentum. The deciding game saw four lead changes, and extra points. With the score tied at 24, the Panthers took their final lead on a dig from senior Sidney Schultz, followed by a kill from Bailey Ihrke. A timeout from the Buccaneers followed. The teams traded points with a block from Tayler Schmidt tying the game at 26 for the final time. A kill out of bounds from the Panthers, followed by a kill from the Buccaneers, ended the game.

A visibly tired Panther squad fought until it couldn’t anymore in their final game. The Panthers scored the first three points, but trailing 12-11, the Buccaneers scored seven straight over the girls that looked like they just ran out of gas. But, the girls didn’t give up. A block from Bree Ihrke ended the run and the Panthers made a late run, scoring five straight points to cut the lead to 23-20. It wasn’t enough as the Buccaneers scored the final two points to end the Panthers’ season.

“I don’t think we really did anything wrong, or made too many mistakes tonight,” Tolzman said after the game. “Give WEM credit, they played really well.”

“Good luck to WEM,” senior Sidney Schultz said after the game. “They have a really good strategy and know how to find the holes. They have really smart players. “I’m really proud of this group. Winning this game would have been really fun, but I’m very proud.”

Schultz, and most of the group, have played volleyball together since the third grade. “We’ve always had that energy. We had a lot of growth every year and we know we can do it every single game. The thing I’m going to miss most is playing volleyball with my best friends...”

Oh, and “watching Erin biff it (in practice). She can be so clumsy sometimes.”

The loss to WEM was the second year the girls’ season ended in the sub-section championship and the second straight year falling to WEM in such a game. Prior to the last two seasons, the Panthers last competed in the sub-section championship match in 2011 when they lost in four games.

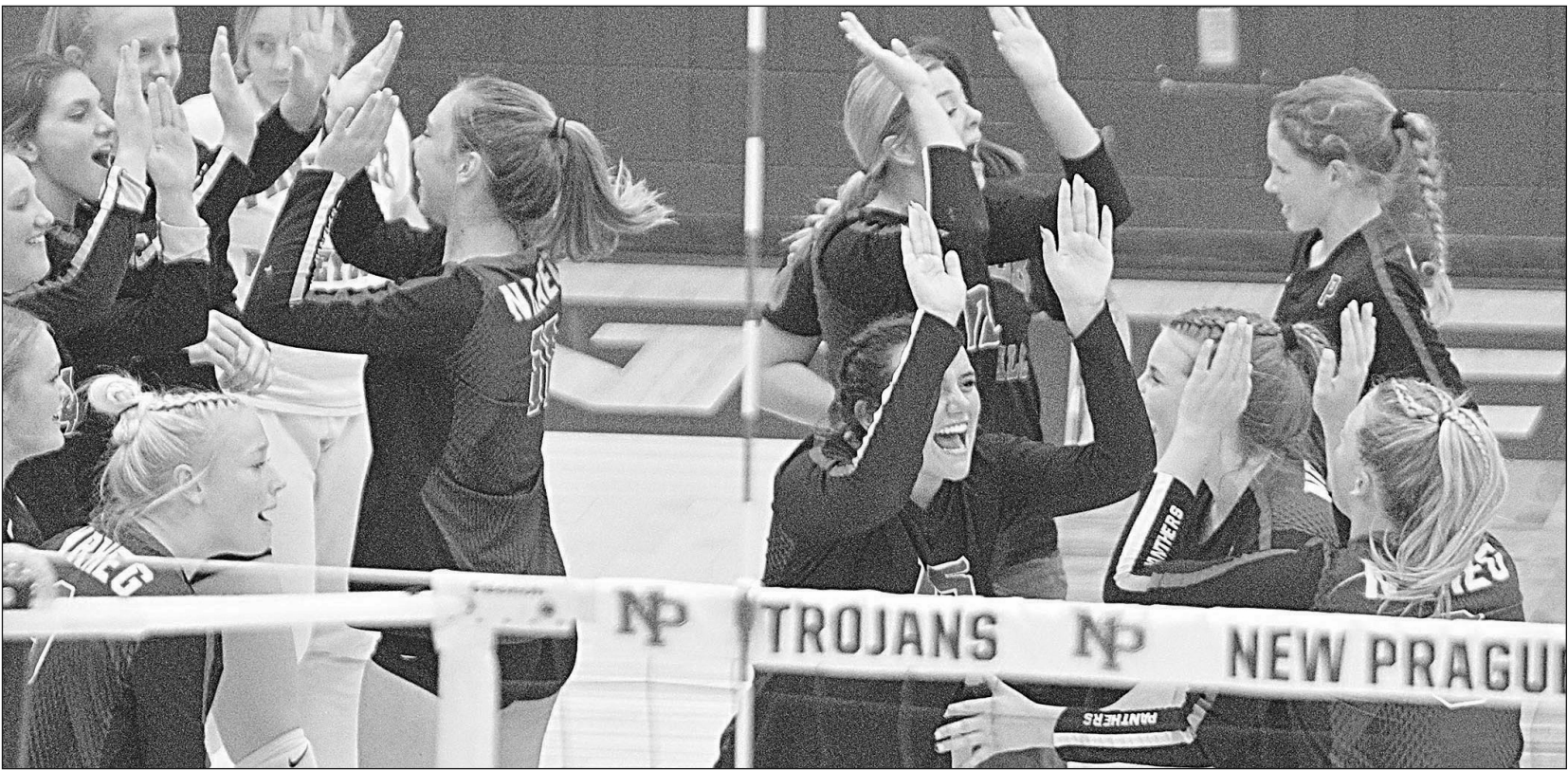
Individually against WEM: Hallie Schultz 1 kill, 10 blocks, 31 assists, 20 digs; Tayler Schmidt 3 kills, 3 blocks, 13 digs; Erin Jacobson 6 kills, 25 digs; Bree Ihrke 9 kills, 8 blocks, 7 digs; Faith Nielsen 1 assist, 8 digs; Sarah George 9 kills, 6 blocks, 2 digs; Bailey Ihrke 5 kills, 1 block, 4 digs; Sidney Schultz 1 kill, 2 assists, 48 digs.

Prior to the loss to WEM, the girls pulled out dominant wins in the first and second round matchups sweeping Minnesota Valley Lutheran and Waseca, both 3-0.

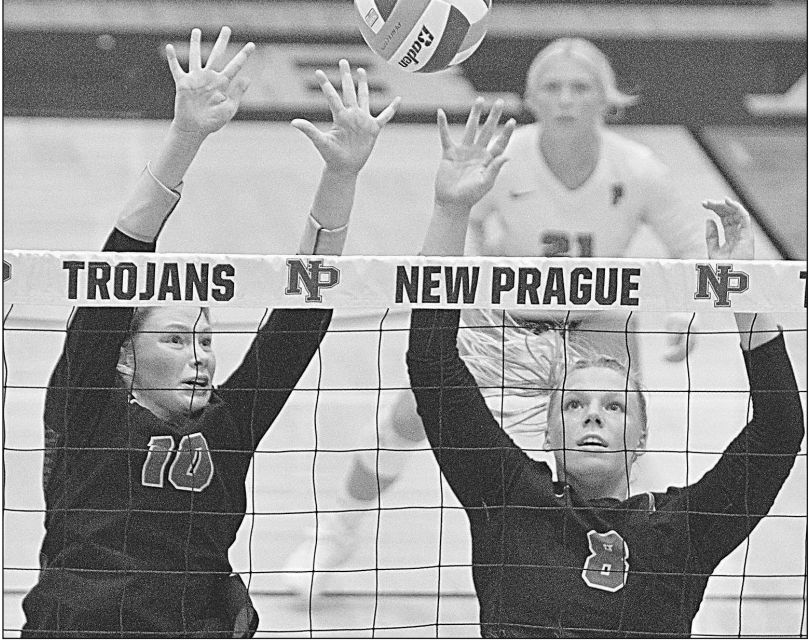
In the matchup of No. 1 and 4 seeds Tuesday, Nov. 1 at Mankato East High School, the Panthers won three very competitive games against the Bluejays, 25-21, 25-20, and 25-23.

In game one, with the game tied at 20, following a timeout, seniors Bree Ihrke and Erin Jacobson combined a key block, breaking the tie. Ihrke notched two more kills, including the decisive 25th point.

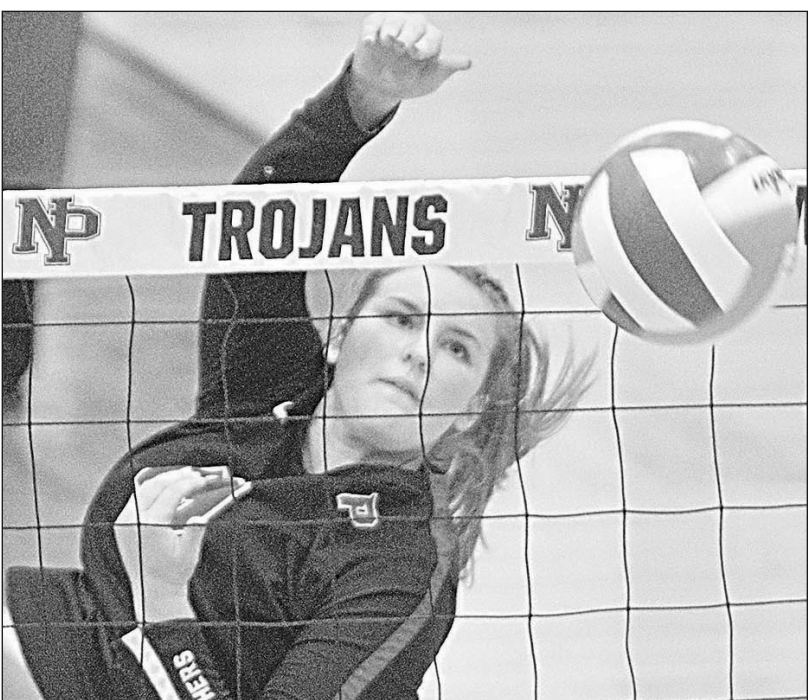
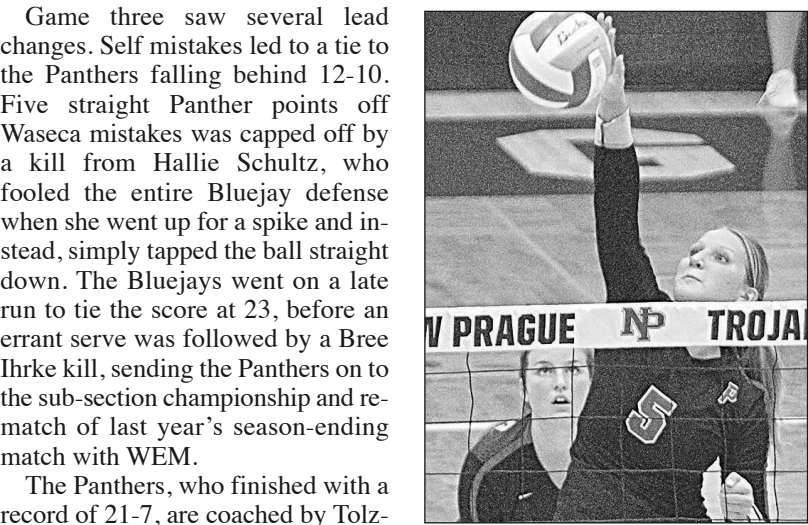
An ace from Hallie Schultz broke a 17-17 tie in game two, giving the Panthers a lead they wouldn’t relinquish. A Schmidt block put the Panthers up 20-18 and was followed by a kill from Bailey Ihrke. The Panthers scored the final four points.



**STRONG START** — Members of the NRHEG volleyball team celebrate after an opening-game victory over WEM in the sub-section title match. Unfortunately, the Panthers lost three straight games and saw their season end at New Prague Thursday, Nov. 3. Pioneer photos by Chris Schlaak



**AT THE NET** — The NRHEG volleyball season ended with a sub-section championship loss to WEM. Above left, the Panthers’ Hallie Schultz (11) and Sara George (12) go up for a block. Above right, Tayler Schmidt (10) and Bree Ihrke (8) go for a block with Sidney Schultz (21) in the background. Below right, Bailey Ihrke spikes. Below left, Erin Jacobson (5) on the attack.



Andy Briggs, Erin Jacobson, Bree Ihrke, Sarah George, Tatum Smith Vulcan, Bailey Ihrke, and Sidney Schultz.

# Waseca girls 13th in state meet; Felkamp finishes 35th

**By JIM LUTGENS**  
Sports Editor

The Waseca High School girls’ cross country team saw its season end where all teams would like to be: at the state level.

The Bluejays, who captured the Section 2AA championship by 18 points the previous week, finished 13th among 16 schools in the Class AA state meet Saturday, Nov. 5 at St. Olaf College in Northfield.

Senior Ella Dufault paced the Bluejays, taking 40th with a time of 19:41.9. Following for the Bluejays were sophomore Callie Dufault, 76th, 20:50.6; 7th-grader Maren Schimming, 122nd, 21:40; senior Kyla Hoof, 145th, 22:52.3; freshman Kelsey Draeger, 146th, 22:53.7; 8th-grader Taylor Markenson, 149th, 23:28.9; and 8th-grader Stella Omvedt, 172nd.

“Our girls were 13th in the meet, which is what I think we were unofficially ranked going in,” said Bluejays coach Grant Popel. “I told the girls we could be 10th or better and they really went out and competed. We probably got caught up in the excitement of state and were a little too aggressive at the beginning and then weren’t able to hold on. Sometimes, when a team isn’t expected to make the podium at state, it’s easy for them to just be happy to get there and go through

the motions. Our girls definitely didn’t do that, and I’m proud of their efforts at state and all season.”

St. Paul Highland Park won the Class AA girls’ state championship with 79 points, followed by Alexandria with 105, Marshall 125, Becker 157, Willmar 162, Monticello 241, Rock Ridge 242, Benilde-St. Margaret’s 243, Hibbing 246, Delano 259, Two Rivers 268, New Prague 275, Waseca 293, Chisago Lakes 293, Faribault 302 and Mahtomedi 372. Waseca defeated Chisago Lakes by tiebreaker.

Pope said the Bluejays will miss their graduating seniors.

“It’s always hard losing seniors who have been on our team for so long, but it was also good to see our two seniors have strong finishes at state,” said Pope. “Kya was our fifth runner and finished in under 23 minutes for the fifth time this season, something she only did a couple of times prior to this season. She really stepped up as a leader this year and helped out our younger runners in practice and in meets. Ella was our top runner, as she has been for the majority of the last six years. She was only four seconds off her season best, so she finished the season strong. It will be tough to lose Ella as runner who always finishes toward the front of a race, but it will be harder to lose the

competitive spirit she brings each and every time she steps out onto the course.”

The 2022 squad will be remembered for not only its success but its togetherness.

“This is one of the most close-knit groups of runners I’ve seen,” said Pope. “From 7th-grader to seniors, they really stuck together and supported each other. I will always remember the girls’ Section 1AA race, not just because they won it and went to state, but also because of how well they ran as a group. The varsity did exactly what they needed to, but then the JV came out and may have had an even better team race. Of the 15 girls we had running that day, nine had their fastest race of the season.

The lone competitor for the Waseca boys, sophomore Isaac Feldkamp, placed 35th in 18:05.3.

“Isaac wasn’t feeling 100 percent healthy leading up to the meet, and that affected his race,” said Pope. “He’s also had Joe running pretty close to him throughout the season and consciously or not, Joe helps him pace his races, so running without him may have kept him from finishing with one of his top times. Isaac still has a couple years left to put everything together and showcase his talents at the state level.”

# Westphal 73rd in Class A state meet

**By MICHAEL ROY**  
Publisher

Although the WEM-JWP Grizzlies cross country teams didn’t have as dynamic of a season as 2021, one individual had the honor to represent the two schools at the state competition: seventh-grader MaKenzie Westphal.

In her debut as a varsity runner, Westphal finished

within the top 15 in every meet this season and took first place in the Gopher Conference. After taking fourth in the Section 2A meet, she traveled to St. Olaf College, Northfield Saturday, Nov. 5 for the Class A state meet.

Out of 158 runners, Westphal placed in the top half of the runners in Class A. With a time of 20:45.12, she took 73rd.

## BLUEJAY FOOTBALL

Player of the Week  
**Kyle Ahlischlager**

Kyle rushed for 157 yds and 2 rushing TDs, and added 7 tackles on defense during the final game of the season. Congrats on a great season Bluejays!

Player of the week sponsored by:

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TEAM Candy Drive



Pictured above is the sixth-grade class. Front row: Karime Solis, Na’Riya Hinton, Carter Wernimont, Bryndal Grams, and Enrique Tovar. Back row: Gavin Hodgkins, Andre Hill, Isaac DeLeon, Wyatt Partain, Jude Adams, Devlin McWilliams, Allison Stencil, and Kaylee Harmer. Photo by Tristan Jensen



TEAM Academy fourth-graders brought in the most candy and earned ice cream treats as an award. Front row - Itzabella P., Avery P., and Riley M. Middle row - Joannamarie H., Alexandra V., and Alanis S. Back row - Zoey W., Tamyah J., Keira M., and Ayveon H. Photo by Jill Courtney

Charity is focus of candy drive

By TRISTAN JENSEN  
Editorial Assistant

“We wanted them to feel what it’s like to give of their own,” said Chris Hering, sixth-grade teacher at TEAM Academy, about the school-wide service project her class put on from November 1 to 3. In the wake of Halloween, students from kindergarten through sixth grade were asked to donate their candy – something which belonged to them, which they enjoyed and wanted to keep, and which called for them to decide how much they were willing to share. This was a significant difference for most students from typical donation drives, since the goal was not for their parents to buy something but for them to make a donations themselves. “I think it was a good lesson for them on giving,” said Hering. Some unopened bulk bags of candy were brought in, and the donations were accepted, but these did not count towards the weight donated.

About ninety pounds of candy was collected during the three-day drive, which Hering will take to the Minnesota State Veterans’ Home in Hastings, MN this weekend. Donating the candy to the home was suggested to Hering by Jeremiah Miller, who is very active with Waseca’s veteran organizations. Candy isn’t something typically collected, but the teachers and students at TEAM Academy hope that sharing theirs with the residents of the home in Hastings will bring them some joy this Veterans Day.

To incentivize giving, an inter-

“We wanted them to feel what it’s like to give of their own.”

— Chris Hering

class competition was held to see which class could bring in the most candy. The donations were measured by weight on a “per capita” basis, so the competition would be fair across the varied class sizes. The winning class was Alexis Thompson’s fourth-grade class, whose members donated 1.48 pounds of candy per student, for a total of 14.8 pounds. They celebrated with ice cream treats provided by Hering.

Hering regularly encourages her sixth-graders to engage in community service, and not only for veterans. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, she and her class served a breakfast for Waseca’s first responders – this is something Hering would like to bring back. While she is visiting the veterans’ home with the donation, Hering intends to ask about other needs which the students at TEAM Academy can help fill, as she plans to work with her students to do further service projects. In reference to giving back to those who’ve served, Hering said “I don’t believe that Veterans Day or a week should be it and it’s just over.”



SHOWMANSHIP WINNERS — Among the many award winners at the Waseca County 4-H celebration at the Mill Sunday, October 23 were the 11 showmanship honorees. From left: Angel M., Alexis M., Rylie C., Karley H., Hadley R., Hannah S., Orianna J., Maia B., Kloe W., Christopher H., and Luke F.



FEDERATION BOARD MEMBERS — Back row, from left: Joyce J., Travis D., Jennifer H., Gretchen S., Crystal M., Alexis M., Hunter M., Carly H., Rylee G. Front, Genevieve C., Olivia E., Karley H., Jacob L., and Avary H.



2021-2022 AMBASSADOR RECOGNITION — Hunter M., Karley H., Rylee G., Sam F., Bailey H., Angel M., Avary H., and Olivia E.

Waseca County 4-H celebrates achievement

Around 155 people gathered at The Mill in Waseca on Sunday, October 23 to celebrate Waseca County 4-H. Many awards were given to youth leaders, adult leaders and community supporters for their accomplishments and support.

Youth awards were given to: Alexis Myers, Hunter Myers, Karley Hamilton - the “I Dare You” Award for showing emerging youth leadership; Ezra Boerner - Outstanding Horse Project Member Award; Taylor Anderson - “Pat McNab Service Above Self” Horse Project Award; Isabel Anderson - Horse Project Most Improved Award; Teagan Tietje - Outstanding Club Secretary; Oriana Jewison, Addison Kelm - The “Matt Hines Spirit of 4-H” Award.

First-year members received a certificate for joining 4-H. They included: **Clover Clan** – Edward Bethke, Janeli Garcia Jemsslie Rugger, Ten-nysen Rugger, and Isabel Schoenfeld.. **Homegrown Explorers** – Ada Prehn, Jany Ramos, Evelyn Smith, Sophia Smith, Kinley Thostenson, and Mychel Tollefson.

**Independent** – Rylee Ahlschlager, Zuri Famodu, Elianna Ring, and Hope Ring; **Janesville Jacks & Jills** – Jaxson Lewer, Stetson Lynch, and Graham Peterson; **Palmer Sunbeams** – Cole Christensen; **Riverside Ramblers** – Brynn Bohlke; **Waldorf Peppy Peppers** – Emma Bittner.

Many youth were also honored for excellence in 4-H recordkeeping. Medals were awarded to youth who received a high score on their project records. They were Isaac Feldkamp, Luke Feldkamp, Sam Feldkamp, Rylee Gruenhagen, Karley Hamilton, Hannah Sommers, and Kinley Thos-

tenson.

Cloverbuds, who are 4-H members in grades Kindergarten through second grade, also completed 4-H records and were awarded a certificate. They included Ellie Adams, Emma Babcock, Lillian Berg, Alexis Feldkamp, and Abby Sommers.

Recognition was given to 4-H Camp attendees and counselors. Among 4-H Campers this year were Rylee Ahlschlager, Maya Christensen, Genevieve Coon, Olivia Eaton, Zuri Famodu, Violet Hughes, Mackenzie James, Madelynn James, Jaiden Johnson, Brayleigh Kuball, Jacob Lewer, Mikayla Lewer, Hadley Roeker, Kaitlyn Schoenfeld, and Hannah Sommers. Christopher Hopper was also recognized as attending as a Camp Counselor this year.

Youth recognized for participating in Arts-In were Jaxon Alvarado, Julia Alvarado, Claire Bartelt, Isabel Berg, Gemma Eaton, Olivia Eaton, Avary Hopper, Alexis Myers, and Angel Myers. Steve Scheffert was also recognized as the director of it all.

Youth receiving recognition for their contributions to the Waseca County 4-H program as graduating members included Theodore Carlson, Matthew Feldkamp, Cody Gartner, Rylee Gruenhagen, Brennon Hoffman, Buck Kuhns, Abigail Miller, Whitnie Norton, Erin Volkmer, and Ben Walechka.

The Waseca County 4-H Ambassadors are a group of youth in seventh grade and higher who serve the 4-H program by assisting at events and promoting 4-H. Our 2021-2022 ambassadors were Isabella Eaton, Olivia Eaton, Isaac Feldkamp, Joe Feldkamp, Rylee Gruenhagen, Ashley Hagen,

Karley Hamilton, Bailey Hodgkins, Alexis Myers, Angel Myers, Hunter Myers, Mark Myers, Quinton Myers, Stranton Oftedahl, Eliza Sankovitz, Kloe Wadd, and Benjamin Walechka.

Our 2022-2023 Waseca County 4-H Ambassadors are Isaac Feldkamp, Joe Feldkamp, Sam Feldkamp, Karley Hamilton, Bailey Hodgkins, Avary Hopper, Sydney Lewer, Alexis Myers, Angel Myers, Hunter Myers, and Kloe Wadd.

Adults and community friends of 4-H were also honored. Special awards were given to: Colleen Carlson - 4-H Alumni Award; Brad Rugg & Julie Tesch - Outstanding Adult Volunteer; Gretchen Sankovitz - Distinguished Service Award; and Sam Morgan - Friend of 4-H Award

An award was presented for the “4-H Family of the Year.” Receiving this honor were the Isaac and Melissa Eaton Family of Waseca.

First Year Adult Volunteer Certificates of Leadership were awarded to Jill Christensen, Britt Cromwell, Jody DeSart, Brian Knutson, Glee Merritt, Torunn Nelson, Angela Gehrke, Anne Harguth, and Dominique Jewison.

The 4-H Award of the Silver Clover for 5 years of serving as a volunteer was awarded to Laura Beckmann, Leslie Dann, Travis Dann, Kimberly Olson, and Heidi Wiitanen.

The 4-H Award of the Gold Clover for 10 years of serving as a volunteer was awarded to Sarah Frederick, Dave Hodgkins, Traci Hodgkins, Joyce Jahr, and Shawn Stoley.

The 4-H Award of the Pearl Clover for 15 years of serving as a volunteer was awarded to Colleen Carlson. The 4-H Award of the Ruby Clover for 30 years of serving as a volunteer was

awarded to Kathi Gruenhagen.

The 4-H Award of the Sapphire Clover for 35 years of serving as a volunteer was awarded to Brenda Harguth.

Recognition was also given to the 2021-2022 4-H Federation Board officers for their service and leadership: Eliza Sankovitz - President; Rylee Gruenhagen - Vice President; Karley Hamilton - Secretary; Hunter Myers - Youth Treasurer; Bailey Hodgkins, Olivia Eaton, Jonathan Gransee, Mark Myers, Paige Johnson and Ashley Hagen - Youth Club Representatives. Adult Representatives recognized for their service were Jennifer Hamilton - Adult Treasurer Advisor, Travis Dann, Joyce Jahr, Crystal Myers, and Gretchen Sankovitz

New youth officers were installed for 2022-2023. Leading the Waseca County 4-H Federation this year are Alexis Myers- President; Karley Hamilton- Vice President; Avary Hopper - Secretary; Hunter Myers - Youth Treasurer; Genevieve Coon and Jacob Lewer - Youth Club Representatives. Adult board members are: Jennifer Hamilton - Adult Treasurer, Joyce Jahr, Crystal Myers, and Carly Johnson.

Recognition was given to the community, business and parental support of the 4-H program. Thank you to all who continue to support the Waseca County 4-H Program in making the best better. The program ended with refreshments and a slide show.

For more information on joining 4-H or volunteering with the program, contact the Waseca County Extension Office at 507-835-0600.

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# Argus archives

100 Years Ago

- The crescent moon hung high in the heavens and the sheen of her silvery light filtered through the branches of the trees, and the mellow glory of an October night filled all the land, while white robed ghostly formed flitted about, witches with their tall peaked hats, broom sticks and black cats, a clown with wide flowing breeches, “and Satan was there also.” All these and many more filled the spacious halls of the hospitable farm home of Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Garlick, in celebrating that night of all nights, Hallowe’en. Not a word was spoken as the company assembled, when suddenly the ghostly silence was broken by a series of unearthly noises and out-cries coming from the inside of the stove. The door was quickly opened but nothing alive was visible there. Still the cries continued, seeming to be the voice of a disembodied spirit crying out in agony. It was the general opinion that Satan had brought a tortured soul from his realms below and shut him up in the stove.

- Anthony Munz returned Thursday evening from South Dakota, where he spent two weeks delivering nursery stock in five towns in the region about fifty miles north of Huron. He stated Friday morning that he found the work of collecting quite good as in former years and this despite the generally prevalent notion that farmers were without visible means on account of low prices. That part of the country is well developed where diversified farming has produced results altogether favorable to the idea of prosperous conditions.

- A proposition that has the support of fishermen is to have the date of the opening of the bass season revert to what it was a few years ago, which was on May 29. Northern resort keepers were instrumental in getting the date put off till June 15, when the law was changed, but it has been learned that June 15 is too late for the opening of the bass season in Southern Minnesota.

75 Years Ago

- One farm accident was reported last week by 4-H’ers in their efforts to make people conscious of the types of accidents which occur on farms and in homes and cause loss of time and often life. Palmer Hagen of New Richland had his right arm fractured just above the wrist when he was cranking his tractor at his home last week. The injury will make it impossible for him to return to work for some time. Tractors and power machinery caused more than 30 per-cent of all farm accidents in 1946 according to figures from the National Safety Council.

- Waseca county will open the fourth annual drive for funds to support the Sister Elizabeth Kenney Institute on Friday, November 7, with the Waseca Junior Chamber of Commerce sponsoring the county-wide campaign. The announcement of the drive was made Monday by Herbert J. Streitz, Waseca Jaycee president.

50 Years Ago

- A scantily clad half-man, half-animal was spotted by the Argus October 22 as he (or it) ran dripping from Lake Elysian and melted into the vegetation on the lake island. In the fading twilight, the Argus camera caught this glimpse of the “thing” as it came up from the depths and thrashed its way ashore. The temperature was in the low forties when a local man took the Argus cameraman out on Lake Elysian to get a last photo of a fading fall. After spotting “the thing” the local sportsman wheeled his speedboat around and refused to return to the island.

- Ten 8-track tapes were missing from Don Kump’s Main Street repair shop after it was burglarized sometime Monday night, October 30. Deputy Sheriff Jerry Splett told the Argus that the lock on the back door was cut with a bolt cutter to gain entrance. Splett is in the process of checking clues out now.

- “Musicians for hire” could be the title for an advertisement run by the Janesville High School Band in the next few months. Band members are job hunting in an attempt to help pay their way to Winnipeg, Manitoba, next June. While in Winnipeg, the band will take part in contests and tour the city. But right now the only thing that stands in their way is money. In search of the elusive green stuff, band members are willing to help area residents with almost any kind of work from lawn raking and cleaning to farm work or baby-sitting.

25 Years Ago

- The sudden appearance of snow and cold winds may be a surprise to Minnesota natives, but it is more likely a shock for Nicolas Heinen, an AFS Exchange student from Brussels, Belgium. Nicolas said in Belgium the summers are cooler than here, but the winters are not so cold. “There is not such a big difference between summer and winter.” Nicolas’ stay began in early August and will continue to July 1, 1998. As an AFS Exchange Student he will be spending the year with one family, Ron and Judy Olson and their children Beth, 17, and Reed, 15. Nicolas said many people have asked if he misses his family and he replies, “No, because I have a good family, and I like the area.”

- The city of Janesville is continuing its search to keep projects affordable for residents. With projects such as Teal and Second Street still needing to be done, the Janesville City Council is looking to make some changes to its current assessment policy. The Monday, Oct. 27 agenda gave the council the opportunity to discuss in length its current assessment policy. Paul Grabitske, city administrator, wrote, “The application of the current assessment policy to the potential Teal and Second Street project generated a number of concerns about the level of affordability of both the assessment on individual parcels and the size of the subsidy for the assessments paid out of other revenues.”

- Dennis Dinneen, emergency manager for Waseca County, has been named the Region I Outstanding Director by the Association of Minnesota Emergency Managers (AMEM). The award is presented annually by AMEM based on nominations from its membership statewide. The Outstanding Director Award reflects professional planning and administration of an emergency management program; public relations and community education on emergency management issues; positive representation of the association to the public and community officials; and continued professional development and expertise.

## Waseca archives

100 Years Ago – Waseca Herald

- A drive for funds to build a new school, conducted by members of the Sacred Heart parish of this city last Monday, resulted in subscriptions amounting to over 51,000. Considering the present stringent times, this is a record which will be found hard to equal in a church organization whose membership is no larger than that of the Catholic parish in Waseca. The need of a new school house to replace the one built more than 30 years ago has been apparent for some time past, but conditions for building were not favorable.

- The road grading crew on State Road No. 7, Waseca to Morristown, is now at work on the last lap of the road on the hill in Mrs. Lindel’s farm, about five miles northeast of town. Three or four more days should complete the grading, but the finishing will require a little more time.

- One of the most interesting and practical social affairs to be conducted anywhere in the county was a program and fair conducted by the teacher, Miss Dorn, and pupils in District 14 in Isoco. The program was in the nature of a Halloween affair and a number of splendid readings, songs, etc., were given by the pupils. After the program a social evening was enjoyed consisting of guessing contests and an enjoyable social hour was participated in by all present. The main attraction however was the school fair, which consisted of exhibits of corn, wheat, fruit, vegetables, sewing, drawings, penmanship, etc., the pupils having entered exhibits in each of these classes. The judges presented the awards and each winner was presented with a practical premium of some nature.

75 Years Ago – Waseca Herald

- The Rev. M. D. Hinderlie, successor to Rev. Ivar Ramseth who has served the Grace Lutheran and North Waseca Lutheran churches for the past 22 years, will be installed as pastor of the two parishes on Sunday, November 9. The Rt. Reverend Nils Kleven of Minneapolis, district president of the Evangelical churches, will be the officiating officer at the ceremony. Rev. Hinderlie comes from Lake Wilson, where he served three churches for the past five years. He also served the First Lutheran church and the Ellsborough church at Russell, Minn. For three years. He



In 1972 - The new Waseca Junior High School building was dedicated with a ceremonial ribbon cutting. Doing the honors were then Junior High Principal Bill Allaire, Jeff Lane, Rev. Gerald Krume-nacker, Senior High Principal Dick Hansen, John Bosshardt, Deb Hoelmer, Gary Owens, Junior High School Student Council Vice President Melaina Flattum and Assistant Superintendent Virgil Christianson.

was associate pastor at Chippewa Falls, Wis. Previous to that.

- For the past several years, the sportsmen of southern Minnesota have had considerable concern over the depleted supply of duck food in the lakes which used to provide good shooting. Under the Pitman-Robertson Bill it is now possible to receive federal aid in putting these lakes back into their previous suitable hunting condition. There is a very good possibility that Lake Freeborn, which is hunted by a number of Waseca county hunters, may be used as an experimental lake under this project.

- The Johnston Ice Company completed this week the purchase of business property owned by H. W. Christensen of the Christensen Battery and Electric Company at 106 Second street N. W. Mr. Christensen, who owns the property on the north-east corner of Second street and Elm avenue West, sold the north 44 feet which runs to the alley. The Johnston Ice Company expects to move into the building as soon as they have installed some new equipment which is expected to be done by December 1. The purchase of the property came through the need of more space by the company. Mr. Christensen will move his business into the location formerly occupied by the ice company at 104 Second street N. E.

50 Years Ago – Waseca Journal

- Because of the law which allows 18 year olds to vote and because there are so many questions about the entire voting question a Political Awareness Day will be held Thursday (tomorrow) at Waseca High School. All social studies classes will meet in the Little Theater. Each social studies teacher is leading a particular topic to be discussed each period. Governmental and political officials from the area will participate in the day.

- Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Priebe celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Oct. 22 at the Bruce Lundholm residence with an open house for a few friends, neighbors, and relatives. Mrs. Lundholm is the former Jean Ann Priebe. Their granddaughter Beth Lundholm served the anniversary cake and Mrs. Harold Boyd, Mrs. Seth Osborn and Mrs. Einer Iversen poured. There were out-of-town guests from Janesville, St. Peter, Waterville, Mankato, Northfield, Minneapolis, Burnsville and Hutchinson.

- A huge turnout of Waseca youth last Saturday evening resulted in a very successful Jaycee Halloween funfest. The evening began with a costume parade from the county court house to Central Middle school. Approximately 700 youngsters, preschool through grade 6, were then entertained with cartoons, free pop, candy and noisemakers plus organized recreation. Attendance by the older youth at the two Jaycee sponsored dances also was excellent. 200 seventh and eighth graders stomped to the music of Circus for three hours. The Senior high students, 400 of them, danced to the music of Urban Crisis at the Waseca County 4-H building.

25 Years Ago – Waseca County News

- And now, for something completely different, it’s the Waseca High School fall play, “Museum” by Tina Howe. The play, set in an exhibit in a museum, is a satiric take on modern art. It asks, in a humorous way, “What should be called art, and what shouldn’t?” Student Rachel Boehme, portraying a curator, explains three seemingly blank canvases to a touring group at one point in the play; the works are part of the movement “reductionism,” which goes beyond minimalism and brings art to its purest form, a blank, white

canvas. The students portray a variety of personality types which can be found wandering in a museum at any time, from the snobby elite types to the local yokels – from the people who love art to people who are obsessive over the next new thing. “It’s fun for the kids to play bizarre people,” said Director Jack Williams. “It gives an opportunity for the kids to actually act.”

- Casey Sather, the 18-year-old Waseca man responsible for setting a number of fires in three counties last year, had his final restitution hearing Tuesday in the Waseca County Courthouse. The defense had hoped to dispute a \$2,000 portion of the restitution asked for on the property owned by the Devall C. Yokiel Trust. But a signed affidavit disputing the claim was turned in too late. The law states a signed affidavit must be submitted to the prosecution and the court no later than five business days before the hearing. The respective parties didn’t receive copies until four business days before the hearing. Judge Renee Worke upheld the restitution requests of \$4,625 to the Yokiel Trust property in Faribault County and \$2,000 to Charles Gray of Waseca County for an Aug. 9, 1996 fire. According to court documents, Sather has accumulated over \$24,000 in restitution. He also has \$8,000 in fines.

- Car repairs have become more efficient thanks to a new addition at Dave’s Body Shop. Early this spring a \$75,000 expansion was made to the body shop. The reason for the addition is simple. Owner Dafe Kram-pitz said, “It was the best thing for my employees.” Building a new addition has not only helped his employees but his customers too. Now one part of his building can be devoted to frame and mechanical repair while the other part is used for paint work. “It’s like I have two shops in one.”

# Star archives, New Richland

100 years ago

- Two political rallies will feature the closing week of the election campaign in New Richland. Both rallies will be addressed by seekers of Congressional honors of the first district. Hon. Sydney Anderson will be in New Richland Friday afternoon, November 3, when he will deliver an address at the Faust Theatre. On the eve of the election, Monday, November 6, a final political rally will be held at the Faust Theatre at 8:00 o’clock. J. F. Lynn, Democratic candidate for Congress from the First District, will address the audience.

- Rev. Gm. M. Peacock and family arrived Friday night from Green River, Wyo. Mr. Peacock received calls from Congregational churches at Alteras, Calif., and Lewiston, Idaho, as well as from the local Society. During his stay at Green River, 57 united with the church, 43 were baptized, and 59 wedding ceremonies were performed.

- Five boys of Waseca County are impatiently waiting for the long days to pass between now and November 15, which is the opening day of the Fifth Annual Junior Livestock Show to be held at South St. Paul. These young folks, as champions of this county in juvenile cattle, pig and sheep raising and feeding, have entered their pets into the Junior Livestock Show. Going to the show from this county are: Arthur Berndt of Janesville with his grade Hereford yearling, John Wenzel of New Richland with his grade Hereford yearling, Arvid Sponberg of New Richland with his grade Shorthorn calf, Peter Wallin of New Richland with his grade Shorthorn

calf and Joseph Powell of Waseca with his pure bred Chester White pig.

75 Years Ago

- Duane Amundson, 19-year-old farmer living near Waldorf, driver of a death car in which James Joel, 23, Wells, received fatal injuries, was sentenced to 90 days in the Blue Earth county jail for failing to report the accident. He was arrested by Sheriff R. G. Loew last week and held for Blue Earth county sheriff E. F. Date, who returned him to Mankato.

- Mrs. Katherine Nesbit, who recently leased Doty’s Café, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Dan Kaufman, was obliged to give up the project because of her inability to secure sufficient help, and with the close of the month turned her lease over to Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Kormann. The Kormanns are more fortunate in the matter of help and start in on an even keel and are doing a good job.

- It is not easy to believe without due consideration that so many new houses have been built in New Richland in the last three years as the records indicate. The Star made an inventory and if someone has been omitted from the list of 17 new houses that have been built or are now being built in this village we would like to know it. That’s an exceptionally good showing for any town of comparable size to New Richland and in amount of investment, we believe represents the biggest boom ever seen here.

50 Years Ago

- Installation of a new pastor, the Rev. Rolf T. Storlie will be held at the West Freeborn Church, Hartland at 9:30 a.m. and at the Cross of Glory Lutheran Church, Hartland at 11

a.m., Sunday, November 5. The Rev. Richard Husfloen of Minneapolis, assistant to the president of the Southeast district of the American Lutheran Church will be in charge of both services. A parish potluck dinner will follow the services at the Cross of Glory Lutheran Church. Rev. Storlie and his wife and two children, Daniel Rolf, 4 and Kirsten Anne, two years old will be moving into the parsonage at Hartland. The Rev. Storlie replaces Rev. Eldon J. Underdahl who accepted a call to Dodge Center this fall.

- Ann Root and Gary Hagen, both of New Richland, represented the Waseca county 4-H’ers at the seventeenth annual Cooperative Conference for Youth on October 30-31. The event, held at the Leamington Hotel, Minneapolis, was held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Minnesota Association of Co-operatives. Ann and Gary were sponsored by the Steele Waseca Electric Cooperative. Youth representatives from the FFA, Future Farmers of America; FHA, Future Homemakers of America; DECA, Distributive Education Clubs of America; MOEA, Minnesota Office Education Association and 4-H all attend the meeting.

- The New Richland Volunteer Fire department was called to the Harlan Schlaak farm at 2:15 a.m. Monday when a corn dryer on the farm caught fire. The dryer was destroyed as were 900 bushels of corn in the dryer at the time. The firemen prevented the fire from spreading but were unable to save the dryer.

25 Years Ago

- A meet the candidates forum for the NRHEG School Board was sponsored by the Panther PTA last Thurs-

day evening in the New Richland school cafeteria. The forum was attended by members of the recently organized Panther PTA, the parents, faculty and administration. Moderator for the evening was PTA President Don Tomsche. Candidates for the 1997 election on Tuesday, November 4, David Eastvold, Ron De-Shanne, David Mangskau, Vicki Herbst and Bert Wiersma were introduced by Tomsche. “We’re not endorsing any candidate. It’s for the public to hear their views on issues,” explained Tomsche.

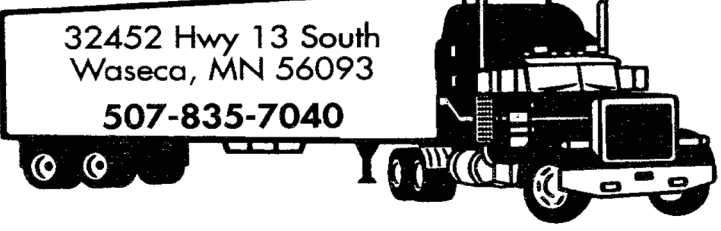
- The New Richland Area United Fund board met on Wednesday, October 8, to kick-off this year’s fund drive. The goal set for the 1997 drive is \$7,300 up \$300 from last year’s goal. On the completion of the 1996 United Fund Drive, \$8,100 was distributed to local charities and organizations.

- The school song “For old N.R., we’ll give out a cheer” was heard loud and clear as the 18 members of the New Richland High School graduating class of 1947 gathered for their 55th reunion, Saturday, October 18 at 3 p.m. An original song, “Class of ‘42” composed especially for the occasion was sung to the tune of “Clementine” led by Tad Doyle of Fresno, California, master of ceremonies. Before dinner at “The South State Eatery” at Waseca, Pastor Donald Brecke of Reno, Nevada gave the invocation remembering the nine deceased classmates by name. Members of the committee organizing the reunion were Betty Berg, Connie Hall, Dorothy Thompson and Marjorie Christenson of New Richland and Goldie Miller of Waseca and the secretary, Tad Doyle.

**THE S.H.O.P.**

32452 Hwy 13 South  
Waseca, MN 56093

**507-835-7040**



**BRIAN HARGUTH**      **KEITH JOHNSON**





The Pastor's Column

Defining success

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS

It seems that people have a goal to be successful and happy. How do we define success? What is happiness? Why do we chase things so elusive and unknowable? At the end of the day how do I know that I have done enough?

These questions haunt people through their everyday lives. The quest for meaning and purpose in life have become a desire to be successful and happy. Did you see that shift in the quest? It went from being about impact in the community to self-fulfillment. A shift from improving the community through action to acting for personal gain. Some would argue that all action fulfills a personal need, but I would argue that we should do all things for the glory of God.

So, I know I am making a few assumptions, I want to clarify a few things. First off, there is purpose to life and living, in the kingdom of God our purpose is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. Second that this life in community and relationship with others matters, God created us for community with Him and each other so that as many people as possible can come to know Him. Finally, that the things we do in life make an impact in this world and have an eternal effect in this world and the next.

Once we start to grasp that our life has purpose and intention to it, we must think about what God would want from our lives. Paul has some memorable verses about the purpose of our life and actions. 1 Corinthians 10:31

No whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

Colossians 3:17

And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.”

— Colossians 3:23

him.

Colossians 3:23

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men,

How do these verses fit into our desire for purpose to work and success in life? These verses change our entire perspective on life. Paul challenges the actions of our daily life that they should be about giving God glory. That our words and actions matter as they should be done in God’s name with thanksgiving. That the work we do is for God, not for our employers or those that hold us accountable for the work we do.

Our entire perspective shifts when we move and speak for God’s glory. Each action and word have intention and purpose for God’s glory. When people ask me what is my purpose, how can I be successful, or lament the fact that they just want to be happy I point them to these passages and ask, “What have you done for God’s glory? Are you faithful to Him in all things?”

No one likes to answer these questions, and they want an easier answer. If they take these questions to heart then everything changes, they find happiness in God’s glory, they find an eternal purpose in sharing the love of God with all people and discover that faithfulness to God is success.

TEAM recognizes October students

By TRISTAN JENSEN  
Editorial Assistant

TEAM Academy’s October Students of the Month, nominated by their teachers, were announced at the CARES Assembly on Friday, October 28. They are Liam Dagle, Zabella Wald, Brynlee Ahles, Rafael Reyes, Riley McGuire, Keira Homgren, and Wyatt Partain.

Partain, sixth grade, wants to work in IT when he grows up, and enjoys coding. About a month ago, he says, he started learning the coding language Python. His favorite subject is math, his favorite food is calamari, and his favorite color is blue. His best advice is “Just because you haven’t succeeded yet, doesn’t mean you won’t succeed.”

Homgren, fifth grade, wants to be a teacher, and her favorite subject is writing. Her favorite food is spaghetti and her favorite color is pink. Asked about advice she’d give, Homgren replied, “Somebody told me before, you can do whatever you put your mind to.”

McGuire, fourth grade, said his favorite subject is math because “you don’t have to do much reading.” He agreed he prefers numbers to words, though he added that he still enjoys reading books. His favorite colors are light blue and light green, and he wants to be a farmer when he grows up because he likes all the big equipment. His advice when someone feels stuck in life is “Just always try your best.”

Reyes, third grade, is a fan of learning multiplication and division in his math classes. His favorite food is pizza, his favorite color is red, and when he’s not in school he likes to

“...Probably a Lego person... but maybe... Spiderman.”

— Liam Dagle

play soccer and football with his dad and two brothers. When he grows up, Reyes wants to be a police officer.

Ahles, second grade, likes to be creative so her favorite subjects at school are art and music. Her favorite food is spaghetti, and her favorite color is “all of them”. She doesn’t know yet what she wants to grow up to be, she’s just enjoying being a kid. For fun she likes to play video games, have sleepovers, and spend time with her brother.

Wald, first grade, says her favorite subject is math, her favorite colors are pink and black, and her favorite foods are gummy bears and tacos. She likes new shoes, she said as she showed off her bright orange sneakers, and she’s a dancer. When she grows up she wants to be a ballet teacher.

Dagle, kindergarten, likes math when his class practices counting. His favorite color is red, and his favorite food is McDonald’s. For fun, he likes to play with Legos, and when he grows up he wants to be “probably a Lego person, but maybe Spiderman.”

Congratulations to the October Students of the Month at TEAM Academy.

By SANTIAGO RAMIREZ

I have been trying to find the right word to describe what I feel about this; last week was the second round of the presidential elections in Brazil, and I cite these elections as an example only because they are the closest, but, in the last three years I have experienced first hand the elections in the United States and closely followed those in my native country, Colombia. In the three elections, there has been a phenomenon that saddens me, and I am afraid that it is a global phenomenon: it is a cheap speech for the search of votes in the Christian community, speech accompanied by controversial issues and easy answers such as abortion, homosexuality, communism, among other things.

We are in the year 2022, in the 21st century, and I feel that the Christian community, in general, continues to believe that the Christianization of the states is the solution to all problems, hence the sad tendency to see candidates with easy answers to the aforementioned cheap speeches to gain followers. Look, there has been a considerable difference between the Christianized Roman Empire (from the 4th century) and the persecuted church of the first century, and it has been the way of living in the day-to-day. The book of Acts tells us that the Lord added to his church those who were to be saved (2:47), and even after the death of Stephen, in Acts, chapter 8 tells us that there was great persecu-

tion and the result of this persecution was that the scattered went everywhere announcing the gospel, the more they persecuted the church, the more it grew. It grew so much that over the years, Constantine, in the 4th century, decided to Christianize the empire boldly. The adage goes: if you can't beat your enemy, join him.

The consequences of the Christianization of the empire were several, and I would like to emphasize two. The first was the power that the church received; it came to be on par with or even above the kings. The second was secularization, in which being a Christian meant being a citizen, and being a citizen meant being a Christian. At that moment in history, very far from reality was the church described in Acts chapter 11 from verse 19, where Luke states that in Antioch, they called the disciples Christians (little Christs) for the first time; Christian was not synonymous with a disciple, it was synonymous with being born in what we know today as Europe.

We have reached the point of a new secularization in which we call ministry and church to almost any entity or organization that writes it in some papers; its way of acting comes and goes. At the time of the Protestant Reformation, the vast majority of people turned a blind eye so as not to risk their lives by denouncing the corrupt church, and that is precisely what I see today in churches and organizations, which leads me to make a reflection that I find raw and pain-

ful.

Five hundred years ago, it was not easy to rebel against the most powerful institution of those times: the church in Rome, the papacy. It was, in other words, signing your death certificate. There was [in theory] no way to stand up to such power, and the Reformers experienced that persecution firsthand. Although today there is no visible head [the papacy] to claim as in the times of the Protestant Reformation, I believe there are hundreds of thousands of leaders, depending on the country and the congregation. Unfortunately, around these heads, we have created a culture in which it seems a sin to question any of them, the lives of the communities revolve around the pastor and his leaders, and at the same time, it seems impossible that these heads can share their real struggles because as soon as they do, our double standards lead us to point them out as if we did not have a straw tail.

Consciously or unconsciously, this has created a system in which we have believed that lying is justifiable or easier and friendlier: omitting/hiding the truth is better than "harming" with the fact, and this is the flag that flies the highest in Christianity, the truth is so vile, disgusting, and sad that we have built institutions and people that appear clean and alive but are dirty and dead, as our Lord Jesus one day pointed out: they are like whited sepulchers.

This column is a voice raised against the hypocrisy of which I have

been a part and a victim. The snowball has not stopped growing to protect the good name of those who are dear to us, whether they are people, churches, or organizations, for what purpose? To keep their good name clean, as if hiding the truth would make it disappear. In all spheres of society, institutions have been placed above people, and I can understand that coming from godless hearts, but it grieves my heart that it happens within the Christian world. The goal has become to have an exemplary church, an excellent organization, and a respected institution that does things as God commands, even if that means taking away people's hearts.

I believe then that the airs of a new reform are not against the papacy or a head that has been perpetuated in power, but against ourselves who are part of churches, congregations, organizations, and institutions, but we are so comfortable in our reality being judges of the world while our tails are on fire, that why let the Lord restore us if at the end of the day what we believe is that our actions will save us and not the faith placed in him who has already done his work for me?

NO ONE IS SAVED; WE ARE ALL SINNERS. Let us build from that reality, not from the one we invent for ourselves, believing that what we need to be like our good God is another opportunity to start from scratch.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

**CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
2200 4th St NE, Waseca  
507-835-2235  
Service times 9:30 a.m.  
\* \* \*

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

**FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
801 4th Ave NE, Waseca  
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., 10:15 a.m.  
Sunday School/Fellowship  
\* \* \*

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca  
507-833-1703  
Sundays 9:00 a.m.  
\* \* \*

**ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
314 4th Ave NE, Waseca  
507-835-2647  
Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m.  
\* \* \*

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca  
507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net)  
Worship Sunday 10 a.m.  
\* \* \*

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
300 E Elm Ave, Waseca  
507-835-1709  
Worship Sunday 9 a.m.  
\* \* \*

**SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
111 4th St NW, Waseca  
507-835-1222  
Worship Saturday 5:15 p.m., Sundays 8:00 and 10:00 a.m., weekdays 8:30 a.m. Tues., Wed. and Fri., 7:00 a.m. Thurs.  
\* \* \*

**REAL LIFE CHURCH**  
620 W Elm Ave, Waseca  
507-607-8245  
Sundays 9 and 10:30 a.m.  
\* \* \*

**CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS**

1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca  
507-835-4640  
Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m.  
\* \* \*

**GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
1221 8th St SE, Waseca  
507-835-2213  
Sunday worship 10:45 a.m., 6:00 p.m.  
\* \* \*

**CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY**  
900 14th Ave SE, Waseca  
507-833-1082  
Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m., Sun Evening 6:00 p.m., Wed. evening 6:30 p.m.  
\* \* \*

**ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
New Richland, Minnesota  
Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor  
Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship  
Monday - 1 p.m. Quilters  
Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship  
\* \* \*

**ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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  
\* \* \*

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL**  
New Richland, Minnesota  
Pastor Pamela Jensen  
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship  
\* \* \*

**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  
\* \* \*

**ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
New Richland, Minnesota  
Father Brian Mulligan  
Saturday - 5 p.m. Mass  
\* \* \*

**FIRST LUTHERAN**  
Missouri Synod  
Waldorf, Minnesota  
Rev. Michael Mathews, pastor  
Sundays: Sunday School 9 a.m., Bible Study 9:20 a.m., Worship 10:30 a.m.  
\* \* \*

**IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Freedom Township  
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship  
\* \* \*

**ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
Pastor Ava Adams-Morris  
Waldorf, Minnesota  
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship  
\* \* \*

**ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC**  
Waldorf, Minnesota  
Father Brian Mulligan  
Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship  
\* \* \*

**TRINITY LUTHERAN**  
Wilton Township  
Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor  
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship  
\* \* \*

**THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS**  
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**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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| SWEET-SOMMERS VFW POST 1642 CALENDAR EVENTS                                                     |                                 |                                             |                     |                                                       |                                                                       |                                                       |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|--|
| November 2022                                                                                   |                                 |                                             |                     |                                                       |                                                                       |                                                       |  |
| Sun                                                                                             | Mon                             | Tue                                         | Wed                 | Thu                                                   | Fri                                                                   | Sat                                                   |  |
|                                                                                                 |                                 | 1 5-7pm<br>BURGER NITE                      | 2 6pm<br>Bar Bingo  | 3 7pm Bingo                                           | 4 Meat Raffle<br>5:30pm                                               | 5 BENEFIT for<br>FRANK J.<br>STENCEL<br>starts 5pm    |  |
| 6                                                                                               | 7                               | 8 5-7pm<br>BURGER NITE<br>get out &<br>VOTE | 9 6pm<br>Bar Bingo  | 10 U.S. Marine<br>Corps<br>Birthday 1775<br>7pm Bingo | 11 VETERANS<br>DAY<br>Meat Raffle<br>5:30pm                           | 12 Private event                                      |  |
| 13                                                                                              | 14 7pm Post &<br>AUX<br>Meeting | 15 5-7pm<br>BURGER NITE                     | 16 6pm<br>Bar Bingo | 17 7pm Bingo                                          | 18 Meat Raffle<br>5:30<br>WALLEYE OR<br>SHRIMP DINNER<br>5:30 to 7:00 | 19 TURKEY BINGO<br>starts at 7:00pm<br>MEAL Available |  |
| 20                                                                                              | 21                              | 22 5-7pm<br>BURGER NITE                     | 23 6pm<br>Bar Bingo | 24 THANKSGIVING<br>Closed                             | 25 Meat Raffle<br>5:30pm                                              | 26 Private event                                      |  |
| 27 All you can EAT<br>Breakfast VFW<br>8:00am to Noon<br>Your Host Fraternal<br>Order Of Police | 28                              | 29 5-7pm<br>BURGER NITE                     | 30 6pm<br>Bar Bingo |                                                       |                                                                       |                                                       |  |

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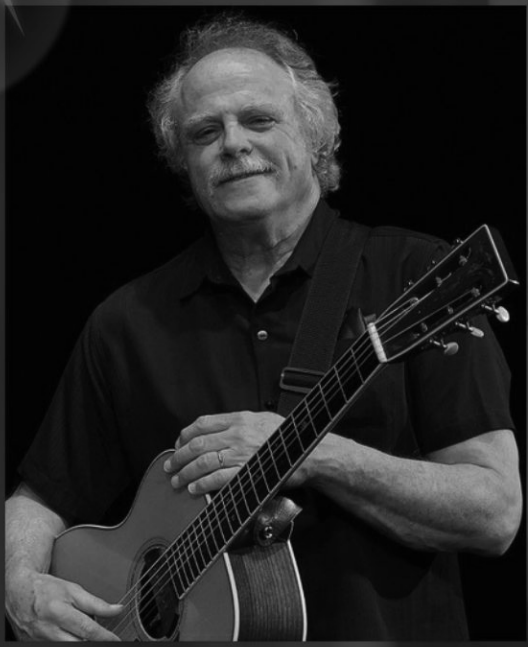
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COTTON CANDY FUN — Mr. Teders, Mr. Hanson & Mr. Turek had a “blast” with the cotton candy machine at the 2021 Bluejay Blast fundraiser.

# Have a blast 11th Annual fundraiser November 19

By **TRISTAN JENSEN**  
Staff Writer

The 11th Annual Bluejay Blast fundraiser, organized by the Waseca Parent-Teacher Organization, will take place Saturday, November 19. From 9 to 11:30 a.m., there will be a family-friendly silent auction and pancake breakfast at the Waseca Intermediate School (WIS). Starting at 5:30 p.m. there will be an adult-only live auction with entertainment, drinks, appetizers, and games at the Starfire Event Center. Money raised from this fundraiser is used exclusively for classroom purchases and events, never for sports programs or building expenses. Examples from past years include author visits to the schools, flexible seating options in elementary classrooms, microscopes for science classrooms, and a Courage Retreat for the high school. “The night is so fun – it kinda brings the school together with the community, with the families and everyone is there just to have a good time and to support the kids,” says Jackie Wolfe. “It’s really fun to see the connections between people, it’s just a really fun night.” She added that people now expect the Bluejay Blast to take place the Saturday before Thanksgiving break and save that date to be able to participate.

This year Wolfe, a kindergarten teacher at Hartley is co-chairing the Bluejay Blast committee with Laura DeWees, a fourth-grade teacher at WIS and parent of two Waseca Public Schools students, and Melanie Teders, a parent of one Waseca Public Schools student and wife of Eric Teders, a sixth-grade teacher at WIS and football coach. Previous chair Amy Potter, Executive Director of the Waseca Area Foundation, has stepped aside as her youngest child graduated from Waseca High School last spring. “It is time to let other young, energetic parents/staff take the lead,” Potter said of her departure. The committee is still looking for volunteers to help make the Bluejay Blast run smoothly, especially in the evening. Those interested can sign up at <https://www.signupgeenius.com/go/20f0c45aeaf29abf58-2022>.

The morning’s silent auction at WIS will feature auction baskets aimed both at kids and adults, with



Everly and Croix Kestel, students of Hartley Elementary, enjoyed hanging out with the Bluejay Mascot.

most grade-level teams and departments in the district creating a basket to donate – such as the “Snow Fun” basket full of winter toys donated by the kindergarten teaching team. An all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast will be served by Chris Cakes, a nationwide catering company which is famous for putting on a show as they flip their flapjacks. Serving stops at 11:00 a.m., in advance of silent auction winner announcements. For extra fun, there will be bingo, face painting, cotton candy, a “Grab for Grub” where choosing lots from a stockpot can win you gift cards for Waseca restaurants, and “Cupcakes for Cash” where the surprise filling in your cupcake may mean you win a cash prize.

The night out at Starfire Event Center will begin with a social hour at 5:30. The cost at the door is \$20, and includes unlimited appetizers, catered by Kendra Hoehn’s Infinity Catering, and entertainment. Drinks will be available for purchase. Groups and businesses may also choose to sponsor the event, reserving a table and gaining access to extra food and drink perks as well as the organizers’ public acknowledgements.

New this year there will be a ring toss, where players can try to loop a ring around their favorite “adult beverages” and take the bottle home if they do. There will also be two rounds of the “Heads or Tails” game, where contestants hope to avoid being eliminated on a coin flip and the last standing wins a \$200 prize. To enter the Heads or Tails game, contestants must purchase bead necklaces at \$5 each for the blue and gold games. There will be a “Half-

Photos provided by Jackie Wolfe

the-Pot” raffle, where the winner will take half of the total ticket sales and the other half goes to the school district, and prior to the start of the live auction at 6:30 will be the “Golden Ticket Raffle”. Tickets for this raffle are limited to 100 total, sold for \$50 each, and are on sale now. Golden Tickets will be available the night of the event only if any remain. When the winner of the Golden Ticket Raffle is drawn at 6:30, they will be able to choose to take home any single auction item or a \$500 cash prize.

The Bluejay Blast started in 2012, sparked by the creation of PTOs across all grade levels. Prior to then, there had only been an Elementary PTO and a Hartley fundraiser. Being district-wide, the Bluejay Blast can benefit students and teachers at all levels in Waseca. The event started smaller – the pancake breakfast, BINGO, cotton candy sales, and Grab for Grub, as well as some of the evening games and prizes have all been added since that first year – though Potter says the basic schedule has remained the same. Starfire Event Center started hosting the evening portion of the fundraiser about five years ago, when it moved from FarmAmerica. The Bluejay Blast has grown steadily in both attendance and money raised since its beginning, according to Potter. The first fundraiser ended with a total of ???, and last year’s event raised \$68,000. Everyone involved expressed their hopes to continue that growth this year and each year to come. According to Potter, “The overwhelming support over the years of this fundraiser is much appreciated! We all have to take care of our Bluejay students together!”



PREPPING — Before Monday’s full dress rehearsal of *The Little Mermaid*, lead director Teagan Knoblich (left) instructs the stage crew.



Junior Ali Olson, left, will be playing Ariel in JWP’s production of *The Little Mermaid*. Right, Ethan Born will play Prince Eric while James Bleess will play Grimsby.  
Pioneer photos by Michael Roy

# JWP presenting *The Little Mermaid*

By **MICHAEL ROY**  
Publisher

Cast members of Janesville-Wal-dorf-Pemberton’s musical *The Little Mermaid* were putting together the final touches in their dress rehearsals this week before hitting the stage for the first time Thursday, November 10. The cast will be performing four shows; three of them will be on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday night at 7 p.m. with an additional show Saturday afternoon.

This year’s directors include Lead Director Teagan Knoblich, who will be directing the musical for the first time; Adam Hille, who will direct the pit band; and Josh Sorenson, who has provided the cast with additional help practicing the music.

This year, the music department, along with Knoblich, decided to go with a more popular musical. “Last year, we did Brigadoon, which isn’t as popular of a musical,” Knoblich explained. “We wanted to do something more well-known and a bit more family friendly.”

It’s been a process getting to the point that the cast was at by this past Monday, November 7.

Another advantage of doing *The Little Mermaid* is that a lot of the cast members already know the characters. “They’ve thrown out a lot of cool ideas which has helped make this musical a fun one to direct so far,” he said.

They started doing readings of the script during the second week of school. Within the two short months of practice, the cast has been vigorously memorizing lines, the music, the choreography, and all the other little things that go into the musical.

“It’s great that we have a large directing group this year,” Knoblich said. “Because of that, the kids have been getting some exposure this week.”

This Monday was the day for *The Little Mermaid* cast to put it all together. It was the first time the group did a full run-through in costume with the pit band and the lights and sound director. Leading the lights and sound crew is senior Kelton Erler who is receiving help from Sam Ryan.

Many things have changed for the musical this season. Last year, the pit band was in front of the stage, which caused some issues for people in the front watching the musical. This year, the pit band will be behind the stage. The cast will still receive cues from Director Hille with the help of a TV

“We’re definitely trying a lot of new stuff this year. The kids are excited about it.”

— JWP Lead Director Teagan Knoblich

hanging on the wall below the sound booth called the “Hilletron” out of sight from the audience watching the stage. This configuration has also allowed the pit band to add sound reduction in the back, which gives them the opportunity to “play fully instead of feeling like they have to stifle their sound.”

“We’re definitely trying a lot of new stuff this year,” Knoblich admitted. “The kids are excited about it and I’ve gotten a lot of feedback from them for it.”

What’s been Knoblich’s favorite part of the musical so far? “The rehearsals. The kids are so hilarious and have great ideas. Seeing the stage and props come together is really cool, too. Any time even one thing comes in, they get excited.”

We asked some cast members how they’ve been enjoying the process. “It’s been fun for me,” sophomore Isaiah Berndt replied. “It was cool to be in the musical last year. And this year, I get to play Chef Louis. He’s a pretty crazy character, which is the opposite of who I am.”

Sophomore Eric Daschner, who will be playing Sebastian, said, “It’s been an exciting process. I have a pretty cool costume I get to wear.”

Sophomore Jaxon Miller, who was part of the stage crew last year, said he wanted to make his musical debut. “It looked pretty awesome,” he explained. “So, I wanted to be in the musical. He will be taking on the role of Scuttlery.”

“I think last year was pretty cool, but this year will be a bit more fun,” said junior Ali Olson, who will be playing Ariel. “I think this one will be an easier one for us to perform.”

Sophomore Ellah Oliver agreed. “Everyone knows *The Little Mermaid*. Because of that, the characters are much easier to act out.”

It will be great to see how the changes made to the stage will enhance the musical experience. In addition to the afternoon performance on Saturday, Knoblich claimed they will bring back the old tradition of hosting a meet-and-greet for elementary kids to meet the cast. An added addition to the tradition will be that kids will be encouraged to bring a present to Ariel and the other cast in exchange for seashells.

“I think they will make for nice keepsakes and memories for the cast,” she said.

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