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Jamboree

Council candidate debate Part II

By JESSICA LUTGENS
Staff Writer

Continued from last week.

Question three: What are the critical, non-negotiable services the city must continue to provide, and are there services that must be cut through financial times?

Conrath: Listed non-essential services that could be cut including leaf and brush pickup, which has been done in the budget in the past. He noted that he has heard community support for said services and therefore would not be in favor of cutting them. He also stated that parks would be one area that could be reduced, as there is an "overabundance of parks" in Waseca.

Ebertowski: Noted that reducing parks services would affect the draw to Waseca for families, adding that there are multiple essential services that need to be kept. He said that city employees should not have to "take a hit" from services being reduced or cut.

"If our middle class can live on a budget, I feel like our city should be able to as well."

Tackett: Mentioned the possibility of an "adopt a park" program that would utilize community volunteers to free up city employees for other tasks. He noted that there are many essential services that the city cannot do without - snow removal, law enforcement, trash removal, etc.

Schroeder: Talked about looking at ways to combine areas to increase efficiency of employees and services or possibly outsourcing services, either on a volunteer or paid basis. Agreeing with the other candidates, she noted that emergency and public safety services - police, fire, ambulance - are critical and cannot be cut or reduced.

Question four: Future of Waseca - what are the biggest challenges facing the City of Waseca in the next five years, and what would you do on the council to ensure that Waseca's quality of life is high for its citizens and appealing to potential citizens?

Ebertowski: Talked about the importance of focusing on lowering taxes, mentioning the empty building left by Delta that "with taxes being as high as they are, I don't see any blue-collar, family businesses that [would want] to move in." He noted plans for Gaiter Lake currently in progress with the council are a "step in the right direction" and suggested bringing in more voices from those with more knowledge to help lower tax burden.

Schroeder: "I would like to see the city stop spinning the proverbial wheel and put a little gas behind it. I would like to see

Debate continued on 5

A word from The Word

But let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious.
1 Peter 3:4



Waseca County Sheriff candidates Jay Dulas and Trevor Kanewischer shake hands following a debate at Waseca Senior High School, Friday, October 14, 2022. Photo by Eli Lutgens

Round three Dulas, Kanewischer debate

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

The third round of the Waseca High School Coffee Debates featuring County Sheriff candidates Jay Dulas and Trevor Kanewischer was Friday October 14, 2022.

Moderating the debate was high school senior Chloe Schumacher, who volunteered to be moderator. "I didn't just get thrown into this," she observed. "And I don't gotta take notes now."

Last week a last-minute change compelled senior Samantha Azure to moderate with only 15 minutes' notice.

Reminding sheriff candidates how much time they had via flashcards was senior Jacob Kehler.

The teacher in charge of these students, John Hanson, informed the crowd before the debate that,

"We don't pretend to be anything other than a student project."

"This is the most people from the community to join us here live," Hanson told the candidates prior to the start. "I don't take that as a reason to see me. It's highly likely they're here for another reason [to see the debate]."

Candidates began with opening statements which cited their long resumes and background in Waseca County, both having been in law enforcement for more than two decades.

Question 1: What do you believe are the biggest illegal activities taking place in Waseca County and how should they best be dealt with?

Kanewischer - Drug activity and burglaries. Kanewischer mentioned

Round 3 continued on 3

A soft landing

Gloria Butler retires

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

"I'm just trying not to fumble this retirement thing," says Gloria Butler lightheartedly of her departure after 39 years at the helm of Gloria Butler State Farm Insurance Agency.

"Last weekend I started cleaning out my office and getting ready. I don't know what's next and that's exciting."

Butler described retirement as a change of speed: "As business owners we are always racing. I'm not racing anymore."

Before landing in Waseca, Butler grew up in Parkers Prairie, a rural town in central Minnesota. She attended college at the University of Minnesota where she earned her BA in English and met her husband, Al.

"We met at a U of M singles swing dance," Butler recalls. "We were both from the same parts of the country. He grew up about 40 miles from my hometown. We had a lot in common."

When asked who asked whom out for the second date, Butler joked, "Well it wasn't me. I don't do that. We probably went out for a beer at the famous Stub and Herbs.... And the rest, as they say, is history."

Al has been gone five years now; the couple was married for 54 years.

Butler recalls that the entrepreneur inside her got the best of her in 1973.

"They say if you know too much about something [like starting a business] you'd never do it," Butler jokes. "We were kind of flying by the



Gloria Butler had a retirement party to celebrate her 39 years with State Farm. From left: Kayley Ruedy, Barb Draheim, Gloria Butler, Debbie Rodriguez, and Louis Roemhildt. Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

seats of our pants in those days."

The Butlers, after finding a building with a storefront downstairs and apartment upstairs in April, needed only a month to uproot their lives, officially opening Waseca Office and School Supply on May 4, 1973.

"I still think about that time in my life," Butler smiles. "We still get together with friends who came to town at the same time. Those people, the bustling community are what kept us here... We were close to family, parks, and lakes. So many great amenities and personalities. This was a great place to raise our family."

In 1979 the family moved the business to State Street, expanding with the addition of a shoe store and gift display.

And in 1983 life changed. Butler says she was in the right place at the right time.

"When I look back on my life, I say, 'What in the world were we thinking?' But you know why you do what you do? Because you can and you will and we did."
— Gloria Butler

In 1982 Archie Taxdahl, the previous State Farm Insurance agent for Waseca, was looking at retiring and wanted someone to start an office in Waseca. State Farm was looking to hire more minorities and Butler says she just happened to be the one State Farm approached.

Initially, Butler wasn't interested. "I was visiting my dad right after my mom died. Dad told me. 'If I were 20 years younger, I'd sign my name on the dotted line.'"

"So I told Archie, 'I think I can do that.' " Butler grins. "And that's where I parked for 39 years."

Although Butler said she didn't know much about insurance at the time, she again flew by the seat of her pants, learning as she went. That same office she opened 39 years ago remains the one State Farm operates out of today.

Landing continued on 3

Fields of Faith Students gather to share the Word

By MICHAEL ROY
Publisher

A group of over 40 students from Waseca, Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton (JWP), and New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva (NRHEG) schools gathered on the Waseca football field for "Fields of Faith," an event held simultaneously at more than 500 schools across the United States on Wednesday, October 12, 2022.

Fields of Faith is a movement started in 2002 by Oklahoma Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA)

Area Director Jeff Martin. Its purpose is for students to "challenge their peers to read the Bible and follow Jesus Christ." Student-led assemblies take place across America at local athletic fields, which are regarded as a "neutral rally point" where communities come together.

The Waseca FCA took part in the event the same year it became national, 2004, just two years after its founding.

Faith continued on 12



More than 30 Fellowship of Christian Athletes participants, including Bella Hadley and Andrew Robran (baseball cap) gathered for Fields of Faith at the Waseca football field on October 12, 2022. Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

WASECA CITY COUNCIL

Public comment dominates meeting Eighth Street Construction

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

A lot of public comment was heard regarding the completion of the \$1.75 million Eighth Street SE construction project during the regular meeting of the Waseca City Council Tuesday, October 18, 2022.

The project came in \$456,136 under the original estimated amount. Assessments for homeowners living along the street totalled \$240,025.44, or 13% of the entire project, with the remaining funds coming from a Local Road Improvement Program grant, street capital improvement funds, and water, sanitary sewer, and storm sewer utility funds. The project contract was with Hazelton Construction.

Comments began with Dave Wiscoski, an Eighth-Street resident, who declared his frustration with a letter he received from the city. The letter stated that, if he does not pay his street assessment fee of \$2,200, the cost will be levied on his home. Wiscoski said he felt like the letter was an attack. After clarification, he was informed that the levy goes onto his property taxes, paid with 4% interest over the course of 10 years. Wiscoski said he wished he had known about the 4% interest because he said he would have saved the money in order to avoid paying interest.

At 7:50 p.m. the meeting was opened for a public hearing prior to the council approving the final assessment roll for the Eighth Street project.

Councilperson John Mansfield's wife gave an objection to the project arguing the city should assess the entire city of Waseca for street repair projects rather than imposing additional assessments on those owning property along the street. "It is more reasonable for everyone to pay for public roads... The council has been asking in recent weeks how to bring new businesses and persons into town. What about the families already living here?"

Mrs. Mansfield said her property taxes each year are already \$10,000 and this assessment added another \$9,000. "You're pushing people away from this

8th St. continued on 4



Compostings

by Al Batt
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Sometimes a bigger hammer is the answer

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

I miss full-service gas stations. Why?

When the guy asked me if I wanted my pickup truck filled up, I'd reply, "No, I'm not the King of England."

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. It's the time of the year when crossing gourds help young pumpkins cross roads safely. The seasons change as if directed by a masterful magician's sleight of hand. It snowed in my yard on October 13. I was walking while dressed in a T-shirt and shorts (because I'm an idiot) when the snow joined me. The heat index was of little concern. A flock of dark-eyed juncos moved like blowing leaves on the grass, the white sides of their tails were evident in flight. The famed snowbirds brought the snow with them. The snow wasn't trackable. On October 14, the water in the bird-bath had an icy ceiling. It's Mother Nature's job to keep us hoping and guessing.

My car insurance company isn't one of the funny ones, but they handled my hail insurance claim nicely. I took my car for a drive to see if it handled differently without dents. I saw a sign on a man's lawn. It read, "I'm an (epi-thet). I'm not running for office. I just wanted my own sign."

A LIFT

I entered an elevator in a towering building. I recalled having bad boyhood dreams about wearing a necktie and working in tall buildings one day.

I curtailed my recollections when a man wearing a necktie got in the crowded elevator. He had an authoritative air, if you can get into an elevator with an authoritative air without being an elevator repairman, and bellowed, "Ninth floor!"

There was no "please" included and not a hint of a smile. He carried no pompoms, so he wasn't a cheerleader for that floor. He glared at us. Did he think we were a group of elevator operators? He repeated his order in a gruff voice that was both demanding and threatening. He wanted it done in a jiffy. A jiffy is 1/100 of a second.

A SECURITY GUARD PRESSED THE 21ST FLOOR BUTTON FOR HIM.

I got off on the 7th floor and watched a guy ahead of me walk with his head down while texting. He kept walking and texting until he ran smack dab into a wall.

Travel is entertaining. I'VE LEARNED

Monkey bars seemed nice, but they had a treacherous side.

Texting with a landline phone is difficult.

The chances of becoming lost with Gilligan, the Skipper too, a millionaire and his wife, a movie star, the Professor and Mary Ann are slim.

I don't know how most things work.

Sometimes the answer is a bigger hammer.

NATURE NOTES

Boxelder bugs are true bugs and belong to the same family as stink bugs, cicadas and other insects with piercing and sucking mouthparts. Adult boxelder bugs are black with orange or red markings. In late summer and fall, boxelder bugs leave the trees where they were feeding to find protected areas for the winter. They may stain draperies and other light-colored surfaces and produce an unpleasant odor when crushed. They like warm areas and are attracted to buildings with a large southern or western exposure and find buildings standing taller than surrounding structures or isolated on flat land enticing. Boxelder bugs are harmless. They don't bite or sting, they're not attracted to food, they aren't the alligators of the insect world, there isn't a single instance of anyone being mugged by a boxelder bug, they don't lay eggs in our homes or eat our fabrics. Compared to multi-colored Asian lady beetles, boxelder bugs are welcome houseguests. Masking or duct tape applied over any small opening will keep the insects from entering. A vacuum cleaner is an effective method of removing the sluggish, slow-moving bugs from the house. Box elder bugs suck the juices out of leaves and the developing seeds of boxelder and maple trees, but they don't siphon enough to hurt the trees. They winter in cozy crevices around your house and eat nothing during that time. Boxelder bugs can release bad-smelling/tasting chemicals to discourage predators. Like other insects with similar capabilities (monarch butterflies), they have bright orange or red markings to warn off predators. If you want them off the outside of your home, you could spray the boxelder bugs with a homemade concoction of 1/2 cup of laundry detergent mixed with 1 gallon of water and it would do them no good. Repeat the treatment as needed.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Kindness makes more sense.

Coming home after almost five years

Homecoming...a week during school when the energy of students is at its highest. Most schools celebrate each day of Homecoming week with a themed dress-up day, usually ending with wearing school colors on Friday. Many activities make up Friday afternoon when the students are at their rowdiest and it all comes to a head at the homecoming football game.

Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton had a pretty late homecoming this year. While most schools have theirs in September and early October, the Bulldogs' fell near the end of the fall sports season. Football schedules get a little weird as the season winds down, meaning that the homecoming football game did not end the week. Instead, the culminating event was a Friday-night volleyball face-off.

In the previous two years, I haven't really covered the in-school pep fests for the Janesville Journal. To be fair, I don't think there was one in 2020 because of Covid, and I think people were still being cautious in 2021. But this year I wanted to be part of it, not only because I was tasked to, but to see what traditions have been kept since I was in high school.

I was delighted to see that JWP still holds boys' volleyball and girls' football competitions. Before those games, there was a very competitive



Music to my Ears

by Michael Roy
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game of musical chairs in which the boys were pulling seats out from underneath everyone. (Check out this week's writeup on the pep fest if you haven't already.)

Although the homecoming games didn't turn out the way the Bulldogs wanted, it was still a great week of fun. I swear at the beginning of the pep fest, it almost felt like I heard my name every time I walked past a crowd of students. I'd hear folks saying, "Michael Roy! Come take a picture of us!"

I've come out of my shell quite a bit since starting at the Janesville Journal. Since starting the Pioneer, it seems I am really getting to know the students. I certainly enjoy not only covering, but being part of sports competitions and musical performances.

However, aside from the one or two students I knew from last year's graduating class, I felt awkward trying to interact with them, perhaps because I felt like someone caught

halfway between being one of them and being an adult. Since I graduated from the school only five years ago, I felt like the guy who never left—but whose classmates had already moved on. Although it was my job to cover my school, I didn't know how to feel about that.

This year, though, I decided that as a co-publisher of the Pioneer, I needed to push myself to be a little more interactive where I could be. And I thought that should start with wearing the Bulldog name with pride.

Now, it's not like I didn't cheer for the Bulldogs before. But this year, I wanted to take it to another level to make up for the times in high school that I didn't attend games. Instead of being shy about taking pictures of the student fans and writing a little piece about how well they traveled during away games, I wanted to help get them involved in the game.

When football hosted NRHEG for its first win of the season, I had so

much adrenaline that when a player from the Panthers got ejected, I coaxed the JWP student section to give me their absolute loudest cheer. I snapped a picture from that week that I plan on keeping for a while, maybe until I retire.

I think homecoming and the JWP Athletic Hall of Fame reminded me not only of some great memories, but somehow reassured me it's okay to live near my hometown and still interact with the students and staff from my alma mater. Maybe homecoming is really about...well, coming home and celebrating the new kids who are lacing on the shoes we used to wear. Once a Bulldog, always a Bulldog.

This Week in Music

Although history reminds us of some ugly things that were allowed to happen, we can always learn from it.

On October 18, 1979, the Buggles hit the top of the UK charts with their famous hit "Video Killed the Radio Star." While becoming the group's most well-known song, its music video gained notoriety as being the first-ever shown on MTV.

To those that like the song, I'm sorry for the first sentence of this section. Personally, I can't stand that number, perhaps because I've gotten its annoying chorus stuck in my head a few too many times.

What's your favorite Halloween candy?

Hello gals, ghouls, and anyone not celebrating Halloween.

This is that wickedly delicious time of year where the leaves change color, people pick out their costumes, I eat way too much candy, and the weather gets that beautiful cold nip in the air. I love this weather because I love wearing layers—including my classic combination of sweatshirts and jeans. Which I wear even during the summer.

As I picked out my Halloween costume for this year with my friends, I did a bit of reminiscing about costumes of the past. In high school, I didn't ever feel like dressing up. After I hit that age of being too old to trick-or-treat, I figured what was the point? I will say that one year I did put on a cowgirl costume of jeans, flannel, boots, and a hat. All I did was wear it to the end of the driveway to get the mail, but I



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler
copyright © 2022 by Amelia Roessler

figured that was good enough.

I don't remember many Halloween costumes from the years of my youth. Besides my bomb pumpkin carving skills, I do remember dressing up as a clown at one point and a devil at another. My dad even made me a little devil-like trident that year to match my sparkling red dress and horns. If I remember correctly, I also think I was a witch one year wearing an old witch hat that was too big for my head. But that's about the extent of what I recall.

If other families work the same as mine did, trick-or-treating consisted mainly of hitting homes of people my parents knew—relatives, family friends, some of my dad and mom's coworkers— you get the gist. Of course, there are those places in Waseca everyone knows to hit up because they have the best candy and decorations. But I won't tell the secrets. The gold mine for me, of course, was Grandma's house. My grandma has this big ceramic bowl that she would fill to the brim with

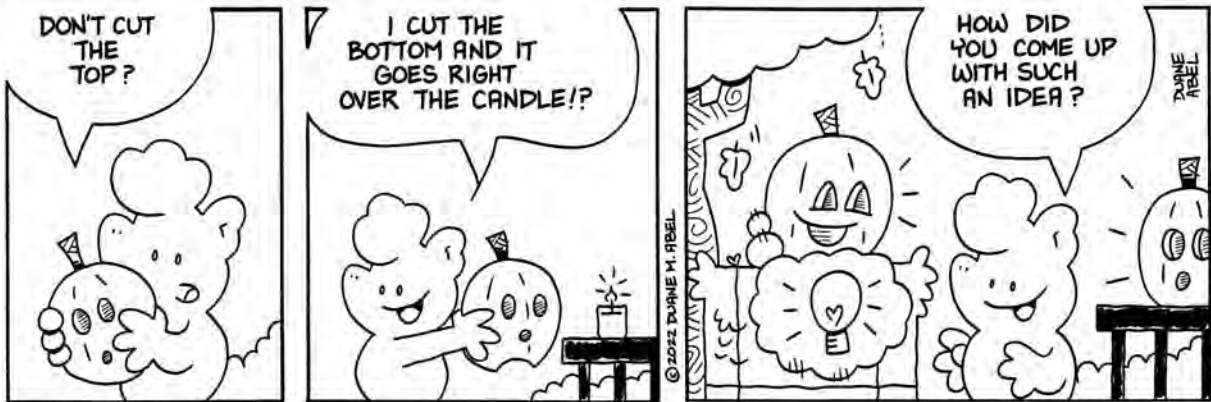
our favorite candies and chocolates. It was great.

Last year, my friends and I ranked all the types of Halloween candy, which led to some interesting discussions. Reese's Peanut Butter Cups will always be my favorite, which is something we all sort of agreed on. Laffy Taffy, on the other hand, required some conversation. See, I love banana flavored Laffy Taffy, and yet I was told it is disgusting and belongs in the bottom tier. I will never give up my love for banana flavored Laffy Taffy, but I was stunned to learn how serious some people are in their dislike. Weird.

Anyway, I hope that everyone has a very spooky Halloween and that they stay safe as they plan their amazing costumes.

My determination: "Dance, dance, dance, until you die!" —Winifred Sanderson, Hocus Pocus

ZED by Duane M. Abel



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To the Editor,

Waseca's Mayor Roy Srp is retiring after 31 years of outstanding dedicated public service as Waseca Mayor, former Waseca Council Member, and a Waseca County Commissioner.

Roy always provided leadership for the greater good for our community! Thank you for your dictated service these many years — you truly make a "positive difference" in Waseca and Waseca County.

Don Zwach

To Jim (Lutgens),
Eli is doing a great job with the Pioneer. You must have taught him well.
Coach



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A special corner of the world

Thank you to everyone for your kind words, letters, hugs, e-mails, texts, and other messages received this week.

Grieving is a difficult process. The death of my friend last Monday was the closest loss I have ever yet experienced. Bryant was as much a part of my life as breathing; I am left reeling by his absence.

I won't sugarcoat it, this week sucked.

Last Monday started with my best friend's dad calling me—sobbing—to tell me what had happened. My friend's dad also performs some vital weekly tasks here at the newspaper; I'm very grateful Michael, my co-publisher, was willing to take those on.

Even feeling as if part of me had been amputated, I had to work: The newspaper doesn't stop for personal tragedy.

Every day last week, I did what was essential and nothing more.



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens
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Even the basics, though, added up to more than 60 hours of work. I did take Saturday off to attend a get-together in my friend's honor, the first day I've taken off since July 2.

What I'm about to say isn't meant as a complaint, since I enjoy what I do and since performing the work acted as a distraction. But sometimes I wonder whether some lines should be drawn. For the past six years or so, my life and my work have been indistinguishable. Fortunately, I can list the parts of my job which feel like work on one hand, but that doesn't change the fact that I am hardly

ever not working.

I'm sure I'm not the only person who's ever worked too much and possibly overlooked other important elements of his life. My recent loss has forced me to take a look at relationships I may have neglected. I mention it here because I don't want other people to wait for a tragedy before considering the same question.

I really don't know how to rebalance my work life, other than to continue a process which is already underway: hiring more people, training others to do more, and asking less of myself by handing over more

responsibilities.

At the end of the day I love what I do. I enjoy writing, talking to folks and putting the paper together. If that's all it took to run a paper or a business, though, my life would be much less complicated.

On another note, thank you to Morgan's parents, Tae Born and Todd Schmidt, owners of The Boxcar. They put together a silent auction and donation which helped raise \$4,000. And thank you to Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral Home for everything they did. There is also a long list—too long to publish individually—of people whose thoughtful gestures made a real difference to me during this dark time.

We live in a special corner of the world here in Southern Minnesota. There really are no words.

"Yesterday is history, tomorrow a mystery, but today is a gift. That is why they call it the present."



Looking in the Mirror

looking in the mirror

by Jonah Stafford

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Pokémon Black and White is special to me

Today’s the day! In T-minus 5-6 hours, I’m departing Janesville yet again for Winona, where my sophomore year of college continues. But, rather than taking one last look at Canvas to see what is on the agenda this upcoming week class-wise, I will be firing up my electric blue Nintendo DS (2004 model) and starting a new save file on my copy of Pokémon Black Version. In a series that many will condense to a trading card game, first anime season, or Gameboy nostalgia, it is 2010’s soft-reboot that still has my heart after all these years.

The Pokémon Black and White era is special to me because it represents a time of transition in my life. It rolled out just as my family was settling into Hartland and I was beginning third grade at NRHEG Elementary school. And it was through my devout following of the Pokémon series that I gained some of my first friends at NRHEG. By the time middle school rolled around, I was one of the only unabashed Pokémon fans left, but I managed to find trade and battle buddies for Black (and its 2012 sequel) well into 2016.

Due to being a preteen with limited financial resources, I was

left with Black and White as the most recent generation Pokémon game I could play until I finally managed to get a newer gaming system around 2015. Ironically, I had to replace my 3DS not even 2 years later: I spilled super glue on the touch screen, then inadvertently destroyed its LCD display trying to clean it with Goo Gone. Still, even with continual upgrades and now being the owner of a Pokémon Sword and Shield edition Nintendo Switch, I have always found a reason to go back to the Unova version.

I guess all of us have something special that reminds us of a simpler time. Besides Pokémon, I have a lot of nostalgia for certain children’s movies, including direct-to-DVD ones that I thought were more popular and important than they are. I’m probably never going to pick up a Junie B. Jones book again, but if I see one at Barnes & Noble, I’ll be reminded of a time of innocent childhood. Later in adulthood, there’s probably going to be something that reminds me fondly of my college years. But until then, I’m just a 20-year-old college student with a Nintendo DS in the year of our Lord 2022.

■ Round 3

from Page 1

better legislation to hold people accountable and keeping patrol officers active and visible as possible ways to deal with the problem.

Dulas cited similar concerns, sharing how drug use often leads to theft and other illicit behavior. Dulas said communication with other agencies, sharing resources and working with the prosecutor's office all work together to minimize crime.

Question 2: What improvements would you like to see the county board approve and/or support with additional funding?

Dulas: Equipment, technology, and training. Dulas cited use of body cameras, as done by other area departments, as a need—one which has not yet been addressed in Waseca.

Kanewischer: Additional funding for a drug task force because of the opioid epidemic. Body camera systems to help protect against litigation.

Question 3: Describe a challenging situation which made you grow professionally and will make you a better sheriff.

Kanewischer: The Krueger murder south of Waseca. Kanewischer said it was close to home, and although the case was solved fairly quickly, it was a lengthy process which required relying on other departments. “You really have to be organized and meticulous in your work. Hundreds of hours of work, over 1,500 pages of reports and disclosures... Leave no stone unturned.” Kanewischer said this led to a successful prosecution and he was commended for his work on the case.

Dulas said working homicide cases, looking for evidence, and working together with other agencies are all experiences he draws on to learn from.

Question 4: What will you do as sheriff to establish a healthy relationship with the residents of Waseca County?

Dulas: “Doing this is something I’ve done for 25 years. It’s important to listen and be visible. I’m available 24/7.”

Kanewischer: Be involved outside of the office. Better community outreach with New Richland, Janesville, and Waldorf areas. “I’d like to see more involvement with deputies in the community.”

Kanewischer continued. “More event type of involvement (with the public). Good PR with facebook, social media, and informational articles in the newspaper.”

Question 5: What will noticeably be different in the sheriff's department under your leadership?

Kanewischer: Encourage new ideas from staff. Better management in the dispatch center.

Dulas: No big changes going forward. Open to fresh ideas. “We have a great department. We are always looking for improvements... Currently we have things working well.”

Question 6: What qualities are you looking for in your chief deputy?

Dulas: Experience, leadership, trust, passion, vision to lead, great ideas, motivator, well respected.

Kanewischer: Leadership skills, organized, well respected, and a good communicator.

Question 7: Some sheriff department employees have chosen to support one candidate or another. How will you work to unify your staff?

Kanewischer: Communication. “I think in the end of all of this, they will come together. We all want to see a safe community.”

Dulas: Communication. “Everyone working for the department has a passion for public safety, for what’s right... At the end of the day we all have the same mission.”

Question 8: Describe a law enforcement situation in your career that demonstrates good working relationships with other departments?

Dulas: Generally working with other departments as a result of crime sprees or burglary.

Kanewischer: The recent burglary ring involving 43 victims, multiple agencies, counties, and investigators. This case required multiple search warrants at the same scene from multiple agencies and required “a log of case organization with different departments.”

Closing statements

Both candidates thanked those responsible for the debate and reminded viewers to be aware of their websites, and public phone numbers.

After the debate both candidates shook hands and spoke with those in attendance.

The entire debate can be found on the Waseca school district home page, Youtube and the city of Waseca’s website.

Meet your neighbor, Robin

Name: Robin Dulas

Town: Waseca

Birthplace: Illinois

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

Occupation: Administrator for Grace Lutheran Church, Waseca

Hobbies: Watching the kids, walking, reading, and diamond art

My dream vacation would be: Number one is Australia, number two is Hawaii

The best thing about small town living is: You get to know people. We always know someone. You can do a lot more and get more involved in the com-

munty.

Last Good Book I Read: Any book from the *Redemption* series by Carrin Kingsbury

Favorite TV show: The Crown

Favorite Food: Pizza

All Time Favorite Movie: Both *Top Gun* movies

Favorite Sports Team: Waseca Bluejays and the 49ers (because of Trey Lance)

Favorite musical artists: Garth Brooks and Elvis

My favorite activities when I was growing up: Going outside

My biggest pet peeve: People who have their phone too loud



After wanting to be a “coyote” in Nashville for a few years, Robin Dulas has now settled into her administrator position at Grace Lutheran Church.

The best advice I’ve ever received: Stand up for what is right, and be honest and true to yourself.

If I could have lunch with any one person, living or

dead: My dad

Something about me that would surprise people: I wanted to be a “coyote” in Nashville.

Electric rate increase of 6.4% approved

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

Construction, dog parks, and utility rate increases were some of the topics discussed during the regular meeting of the Waseca City Council Tuesday, October 18, 2022.

The meeting began with another busy public comment portion, starting with Furry Friends of Waseca. In response to a request, the city agreed to cover the cost of event insurance for a one-day event and a \$205 portapotty fee, along with waiving admission fees at the Waseca Dog Park for a one-day fundraiser Oct. 29. The event will be from noon to 3 p.m. and includes a bake sale offering products for both people and animals.

A resident complained about concrete work done on the city curb outside his home. “It was patched inadequately. It’s substandard and I’m upset about that.”

After viewing photos the resident presented, the city agreed to investigate the issue.

Several residents discussed the street assessments and the construction project on Eighth Street SE, but the final roll was ultimately approved. Complaints were raised regarding the cost, whether residents living on the street should be individually assessed, and communication residents received about the project. An entire article detailing the public hearing can be found in this week’s edition of the Pioneer.

James Christiansen, father to Council member Mark Christiansen, brought several issues to the council’s attention.

1. Unfinished sidewalks, specifically on Second Street NE.

2. The need for a crosswalk at the intersection on Third Avenue NE. “It’s a dangerous place to cross. People think it’s a raceway,” James Christiansen said. “I would also say we have an excellent city staff. Our

utility department is top tier. We are fortunate in this city to have some excellent, excellent people.”

Another resident asked whether, when the city contracts out for street or sidewalk repairs, residents can make additional requests for the contractors to do work on their sidewalk. For example, this resident said she would like a walkout from her house, all the way to the street. The response was that, yes, at their own expense, residents can arrange for a contractor to take on additional projects. It is ultimately up to the contractor if they are willing to take on extra work.

The consent agenda was approved following public comment. It included the council meeting minutes from Sept. 20 and Oct. 4, payroll and expenditures, as well as a correction to a previously approved tax abatement for 308 22nd Avenue NW.

In the action agenda, the city held several public hearings, including:

1. Adopting assessment roll #283 for the Eighth Street SE Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Project

2. Assessment Roll for Miscellaneous Assessments

3. MS4 Permit-related code revisions.

All three hearings were followed by the approval of the discussed projects. The final roll for the rehabilitation project was approved. It was approved to add tax assessment for various nuisance violations to certain property owners. The MS4 permit related code revisions were approved.

The council approved adding a flag to create visibility of a new stop sign at the intersection of Eleventh Avenue and Sixth Street NE.

The State of Minnesota is testing for “forever chemicals” that could be polluting water supplies. The council approved allowing the testing at the water treatment plant.

The council approved a contamination cleanup grant application for 1340 South State St, the former

Corchran building. The new owners need to put in a new vent system for “environmental remediation” and the application needs to be filed by the city, although with no cost to the city.

Wholesale power rates to the city are expected to rise significantly beginning Nov. 1, with an expected increase of about \$37,000 per month. The council approved raising electric rates charged to residents by up to 6.4%.

The Pioneer previously reported the residential property tax abatement program for new construction had been extended. Although the council had instructed staff to do so, the action was not officially taken until the Oct. 17 meeting. A long discussion with council member Christiansen “playing devil’s advocate” took place in which council members examined the advantages and disadvantages of the abatement. In the past year, 13 homes have been built in Waseca; a majority took part in the program.

Council member Clemons reported that it is inaccurate to paint the abatement as “a loss of money” because if those homes are not built, the city gets no tax dollars. Council member Jeremy Conrath, who utilized the abatement program, said he really appreciated it and it was a factor in his decision to build.

The council agreed to replace the newly installed stop signs at the intersection of Seventh Avenue and Fourth Street NE with yield signs. Supposedly, this is the third time in the past 20 years the decision was made to switch to stop signs for safety reasons and the third time the decision has been reversed because of the buses using the street.

The council also directed city staff to look into the line of sight along the

street.

In reports, city manager Lee Mattson said workers at the Clear Lake Pavilion project are optimistic they will meet the deadline for the weather sensitive functions. The roof, for example, can be done during cold weather.

Fall leaf pickup started and the city will be doing this for six weeks.

A power outage Sunday was caused by an internet construction company nicking a line while working. The outage lasted about 45 minutes.

It was reported that the phone line problem which keeps some residents from being able to call certain numbers is caused by the phone companies and they are in the process of fixing the problem. It was reported there are no problems calling 911, but there are some with the dispatch number. There is no timeline on when the problems will be resolved.

The Economic Development Board is working to facilitate loan tracking software, similar to a bank, for businesses to track their loans. A daycare facility is considering opening in town and the board is working to facilitate a grant program.

A countywide burn ban is currently in effect and residents are only allowed to burn in a 3 foot by 3 foot radius.

A November work session will allow continued discussion of this year’s budget. The winner of the special election to fill John Clemons’ seat will take office at the Nov. 17 Canvas Board Meeting.

On Oct. 27 from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. the fire department will hold a burger and fry fundraiser for 23-year veteran firefighter Gary Mulcahey who lost his wife in a fire last month.

Treats on the streets will be Thursday night, October 27.

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

Little Theatre performances rescheduled

OWATONNA, MN –Due to positive COVID-19 cases within the cast and the recommendations from the CDC, Little Theatre of Owatonna must unfortunately cancel the first four shows of A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder, book and lyrics by Robert L. Freedman, music and lyrics by Steven Lutvak.

Little Theatre of Owatonna is committed to keeping our patrons, volunteers, cast, and crew safe. We are canceling our first four performances but will offer five shows the following week, with cast and crew

masking during the first three of the five performances. Masks for audience members will continue to remain optional but encouraged.

The following are the canceled performance dates:

Thursday, October 13; Friday, October 14; Saturday, October 15; and Sunday, October 16

The following are the updated performance dates:

Wednesday, October 19; Thursday, October 20; Friday, October 21; Saturday, October 22; and Sunday, October 23

The director of the show, Gordy Handeland, comments, “I’m disappointed that we will not be able to perform A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder this weekend. But, we hope you’ll join us next week for this very funny musical comedy.”

Executive Director, Victoria Bartkowiak, shares, “The health and safety of our cast, crew, and volunteers is something we take very seriously at LTO. Covid is still with us, and with live theatre, there is always the chance that it will pop up. We must do what is best for everyone,

just to see if they were okay. And people just wanted to talk. Remember how we all felt back then?”

“I like to say we’re in the reassurance business, not the insurance businesses, but REASSURANCE.”

As for retirement, Butler, says she’s trying for a soft landing. “I finished cleaning out my office. I’m really not sure what’s next... When I look back on my life, I say, ‘What in the world were we thinking?’ But you know why you do what you do?

and at this time, that is canceling productions. I sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused, and I kindly ask for your understanding. I look forward to seeing everyone in the theatre next week!”

If you are a current ticket holder for one of the canceled performances, you will be contacted to move your tickets to next week. If you have not been contacted or have any questions, please call the box office at (507) 451-0764 or by emailing us at ltomn@outlook.com.

Because you can and you will and we did.”

Butler said she plans to travel, spend time with friends, go to birthday celebrations for her 7 grandkids and 3 great-grandkids, as well as enjoy the change of speed.

“I think the message I want to send to people is that this community is a special place. They should settle in, stay awhile, and move forward, raise a family, be involved. Follow your heart.”

Debbie (Rodriguez) for 23. With them, we’ve probably had another 10-12 people who worked with us over the years. I’m grateful for all of them.

“And my clients,” Butler continues. “They are the best people in the world. That is what I loved most about this job. Sitting down across the desk from someone, you really get to know them. We learned the importance of those relationships during the pandemic. We called people

■ Landing

from Page 1

As things now stand, the current office will remain open, manned by Gloria’s long tenured staff, as the agency selects another full time agent to take her place.

“Barb (Draheim) has been with me for 35 years,” Butler adds. “And

OBITUARIES

Debra Hanson

Debra Ann (Lau) Hanson was born September 6, 1956, to Charlotte (Olson) Lau and Wilfred (Bud) Lau. She was raised in Janesville, MN where she attended school and graduated from Janesville High with the class of 1976. Debra's battle with serious medical issues in recent years showed her courage in facing life challenges with a smile. Despite the pain, Debra came out a hero and stayed strong until the end. Debra died at age 66 at Mayo Health in Rochester, MN on September 27, 2022, with her daughter, Carolyn, and son-in-law, Nathan by her side. Prior to her passing, Debra received many video calls from her siblings, mother, and children.

Debra worked a few jobs as a dishwasher, but her true passion was childcare. She loved kids and had a soft spot in her heart for them. She had four children: Justin, Jacqueline, Carolyn, and Ashley. She also helped raise Charles, a friend of Justin's as well as her nephew Joshua. Over the years the family lived in Wisconsin, Texas, Washington State, and Minnesota. Debra eventually returned to the Waseca area, which she considered home, to be close to her family and friends.

Debra enjoyed crocheting afghan's for her loved ones and spending time with family and friends. She was always trying to make people laugh and smile; even when she was sick. She had a love for Elvis and had an Elvis collection she was very proud of. Debra was a wonderful daughter, sister, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend.

Debra is survived by her mother, Charlotte Lau-Anderegg; children, Jacqueline Hanson-Lindeman, Carolyn (Nathan) Hanson-Graves, Ashley (Joshua) Hanson-Ramsey, Charles (Michaela) Dixon and Joshua Morgenstern; siblings, Gerald



Debra Hanson

(Carrie) Lau, James (Gloria) Lau, Dawn Santucci, Marjory (Michael) Gilsrud, and James (Kindra) Kostka; sisters-in-law, Cindy Lau, Becky Nelson and Trudy Hanson; grandchildren, Jordan (Aliza) Lindeman, Tyler Lindeman, Chloe Lindquist, Noah Graves, Nicholas Graves, Anthony Hakler, Audrey Hakler, Rayna Dixon, Sydney Dixon, and Elijah Dixon; great-granddaughters, Elena Lindeman and Jordin Lindeman; many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins; two Godmothers, Sharron Boyd and Doris Waknitz; and special friends, Sharron Comesflying, Julie Comesflying and Bud from the nursing home.

Debra was preceded in death by her father, Wilfred (Bud) Lau; son, Justin Hanson; brothers, Jeff Lau and Craig Schueneman; grandparents, Robert (Gladys) Olson and Wilbert (Erma) Lau; Godfather, David Olson; aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, October 29, 2022, at 5:00 PM at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral Homes in Waseca. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.

Waseca fall leaf pickup continues

The City of Waseca will continue to do fall leaf pickup, which started Monday, October 10. The program is in addition to the city's spring cleanup program which focuses on tree, branch, and shrub pickup.

The city requests that the remaining residents follow these guidelines:

- The city has been divided into 8 sections. Each section will have its leaves picked up by the city's leaf vacuum on a specified day. Leaf pickup is scheduled for four out of the five workdays.

This allows a "make-up" day each week in case of difficult weather or emergency work.

- Residents are allowed to rake their leaves into the street gutters no more than 24 hours prior to their scheduled pickup date. Leaves should be loose and not in bags. No sticks/branches/trees/etc. should be placed in the street; if staff determines that there is un-

wanted debris in the leaf piles, the piles will be left and the property owner will be contacted and required to remove the leaves and debris from the street and either separate the debris and wait for their next scheduled pickup day or dispose of the leaves themselves.

Residents are able to rake their leaves into a pile on their lawn prior to the scheduled pickup day, but the leaves should not be actually placed in the street until 24 hours prior.

-City crews will then vacuum the leaves as scheduled as part of our regular fall street sweeping and leaf pickup program.

-The leaf pickup program will run for six weeks starting the week of October 10th. It takes 2 weeks to complete the entire City, thereby over a 6 week program all properties will have 3 pickup days over the six-week program.

Any questions can be directed to City Hall at 507-835-9700.

sufficient.

Council member Mansfield expressed displeasure over \$50,000 in unexpected costs. At "the last minute" the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) informed the city that several curbs needed to be higher than originally specified, requiring the purchase of \$30,000 in additional concrete.

Mansfield expressed further displeasure with the council's previous decision for street assessments of individual property owners. "Would you want a \$10,000 assessment?"

"Been there, done that," Council member John Clemons responded.

Mayor Roy Srp, acting as moderator, said if that's something that needs to be discussed, then it needs to be carried forward, reminding everyone the next council can make a different decision if it so chooses.

The public hearing closed at 8:13 p.m. following which Mansfield abstained from a vote which unanimously approved the final adoption of the Eighth Street assessment roll.



A TOUCHING TRIBUTE — Chad Ziemke talks after his grandfather Bob Prail's posthumous induction. To his left, Ziemke's grandma stands by his side.



TRADITIONS — Waldorf-Pemberton graduate Layne Janike talked about how the football teams prepared for games by stretching in the dark in the WP high school gymnasium.



HEARTFELT MOMENT — Mike Niemczyk II embraces his mom Rene as he encourages banquet attendees to sing happy birthday to her. He also said the Hall of Fame should induct mothers for how much dedication they give to their kids' athletic careers.



MEMORIES — JWP teacher and wrestling coach Adam Roesler, left, gave an acceptance speech for his cousin Matt Richardson Jr's induction. The speech included a quick biology lesson on memories. After Roesler finished, Matt Richardson Sr., right, told stories about his son. Pioneer photos by Michael Roy

2022 JWP Athletic Hall of Fame

By MICHAEL ROY
Publisher

The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton Athletic Hall of Fame inducted two teams and seven individuals for 2022 during its October 15 banquet at Purple Goose. Started in 2018 by the JWP Hall of Fame Committee created by Mike Niemczyk, the banquet honors athletes and teams from all the schools which now comprise the consolidated district.

Anyone can nominate a team or individual by signing an application and a list of their accomplishments. The Hall of Fame committee comes together every spring and summer to select inductees for that year's hall of fame. Qualifications for the hall of fame include the amount of letters earned in athletics, accolades collected (all-conference honors, for example), and their records.

Teams inducted

The 1983 Waldorf-Pemberton football team was the first of the evening inducted into the hall of fame. The team had five straight shutouts on their way to winning their conference title with a 9-0 record and earning a #1 ranking in Class C by the Associated Press. However, their season was cut short with a 22-0 loss to Bird Island in the first round of playoffs.

Team members shared memories of that game, including a foggy, nearly three-hour drive to Bird Island. They figured that was what threw them off their game. However, the Colts still had a remarkable season.

The next team inducted was the 2003 JWP girls' basketball team. Coached by Mike Meihak, the team had a perfect 13-0 record in the Gopher Conference and had a record of 33-3. Highlights of the season included defeating Class 2A state contenders Belle Plaine and Minnesota Valley Lutheran, being ranked number one in Class A midway through the season, and defeating Mayer Lutheran in a comeback victory to make the State Tournament.

Individuals

Dave Eustice was a five-time wrestling letter winner with a 113-26-1 record. One of the best wrestlers to come out of Janesville High School, Eustice earned many accolades: 4-time all-conference and all-area, 3-time state

tournament qualifier, a state champion at 119 pounds in 1988, and being named to the Minnesota All-Star team in 1989.

Eustice stated that he wanted coach Mike Niemczyk's approval. "I wanted so badly for Mike Niemczyk to notice me," he stated. "He helped make me the person I am today. Some of the stuff he said might have gotten him thrown in jail today. But nevertheless, thank you."

Janine (Guse) Schubert was a 1983 graduate who was a seven-time letter winner, four of those in basketball. She was an all-conference selection and held the record for the most rebounds and blocked shots by any player. She was also a three-time letter winner in track and held the high jump record at one point. To end her career, she received the Outstanding Senior Woman Athlete award.

"Many people have asked if I've grown taller since high school," she joked. "No, I haven't."

Layne Janike had many memories to share as an 11-time letter winner for Waldorf-Pemberton, earning four in basketball, four in football, and three in baseball. He earned all-conference honors twice for basketball and once in football while being named all-area twice in basketball. Janike was the quarterback for 1987's state qualifying team.

"I don't know if this is still a tradition or not," he started, "but before we had our home games, we went into the gym and stretched without saying a word. When we walked out onto that field, we walked like we were a platoon of soldiers. We got that unison march down pretty good."

Mike Niemczyk II earned 13 letters during his time in Janesville High School and earned 9 conference honors. He was the halfback of the 1986 football team (inducted in 2021) that made it to the state tournament while also qualifying for the state tournament in 1988. His sports career in

college was just as impressive: He played in the NAIA baseball World Series in 1990 and held the record for stolen bases.

"We have such a great community here," Niemczyk shared. "When my family moved into town, we were accepted right away."

He then asked the audience to wish his mother, Rene, a happy early birthday. "It's five days away, and I'm too cheap to get her a birthday present," he chuckled.

Tim Oelke is a 14-time letter winner for Janesville where he earned three for football, five in wrestling, five in track, and one in baseball. He earned many all-conference honors in football, wrestling, and track, and he placed highly twice in the state wrestling tournament, once in 2nd and another time in 5th. He attended St. John's University where he played football for one year and wrestled for four years, earning All-American honors in wrestling in 1990.

He shared memories of when he was a kid and he played with many of his teammates. "There was always someone yelling at us to get home when the lights came on."

He then thanked all his teammates, his family, and his wife Jessica Oelke for supporting him throughout the years.

Three individuals were inducted posthumously. The first was Ken "Casey" Clausen who graduated from Pemberton High School in 1927 where he played basketball and baseball and earned his nickname. In 1934, he decided to add a school bus to his trucking company. He drove teams to away games and kept the score book for the basketball team for more than 25 years. Casey's family accepted the award in his honor.

The second to be inducted posthumously was Bob Prail, who was also inducted as a contributor. He drove the school bus for many years and especially loved driving for field trips and athletic events for Janesville, Trinity,

and eventually JWP. He was dubbed "the bus driver" for many years and was a constant fan of all the teams he drove, cheering them on when they won and providing comfort when they lost.

Prail's widow and his grandson Chad Ziemke accepted the award in his honor. Ziemke gave a heartwarming speech about his grandfather, sharing the times that he got to drive with him. As an added bonus, he always knew Prail had money for the concession stands.

"Whenever my kids and I see a bus, we always think of it as grandpa driving," he said.

The third posthumous induction was Matt Richardson Jr. He was a six-time letter winner, earning one in football, one in baseball, and four in wrestling. He was a two-time all-conference selection and a three-time state qualifier, placing third in state his senior year. His wrestling career in Janesville was 104-20-1. During his time at St. Thomas College, he was known as "Iron Man." He died after a tragic motorcycle accident in 1985.

Adam Roesler, cousin to Richardson Jr., current WEM-JWP wrestling coach, and JWP science teacher, shared a biology lesson about memories. Roesler remembered meeting his cousin Matt for the first time when he dressed up in a mask to scare him. Eventually, Matt had weightlifting competitions with Roesler and the other cousins in the family. Roesler remembers Richardson being a constant supporter to him during his youth wrestling years.

"Those will be memories that stick with me forever," says Roesler.

While current JWP students got to celebrate homecoming, JWP's Athletic Hall of Fame was a great way for alumni to relive the glory days of being a Golden Bear, a Colt, or a Bulldog. As Roesler said best, the memories they made in their athletic careers will be memories that stay with them forever.

■ 8th Street
from Page 1

good town," she argued.

Another point of contention was the mill and overlay south of railroad tracks crossing Eighth Street. Water was not draining properly so "edgemilling" was done in order to create a better crown for the road; the process was meant to improve water drainage, thus extending the life of the road.

Justin Bloom addressed the council regarding the depth of the blacktop. Bloom said he took measurements and the blacktop was not three inches, but between two-and-a-quarter and two-and-a-half inches. City Engineer Nathan Willy said core samples were taken and the project met specifications.

Another question was posed regarding whether the weight capacity of the road could support semi and large truck traffic. The response was that the road is built for a 10-ton capacity and should be

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NRHEG financial plans look strong

Financial auditing company Abdo, Eick and Meyers of Mankato complimented NRHEG on its strong financial planning and legal compliance during an audit report shared at the October 16 monthly meeting.

The audit, which covered the 2021-22 fiscal year, revealed numerous financial strengths, including an increase in the general fund balance and exceptionally low property tax rates compared to other districts.

Tom Olinger, spokesperson for the financial company, presented documentation which showed NRHEG persistently below expenditure rates for state and regional districts, including an average per-home property tax burden of \$338 for the year, as compared to \$612 for the Region 9 area and nearly \$800 statewide.

Olinger also mentioned that an “upward trend” in fund balances was nearly universal among school districts this past year thanks to federal monies distributed under pandemic emergency programs. He predicted that NRHEG’s falling “annual daily membership”—a way of expressing school enrollment numbers—will create financial pressure moving forward.

In a separate report, Steve Pumper of PMA Securities informed the board that, thanks to the district’s consistent record of strong financial management, an unusual number of companies had submitted “bids” to purchase the school’s debt bonds for upcoming projects, including enlarging and paving parking areas at both sites and upgrading air handling and ventilation systems. The board had voted at previous meetings to borrow around \$5 million so that

NRHEG SCHOOL BOARD

funds would be available for the large-scale projects.

Thanks to the unexpectedly low interest rates acquired through the bidding process, the district will now be borrowing nearly \$200,000 less than anticipated.

Secondary principal David Bunn reported that Homecoming events were successful and popular this year, with special activities held each day. He also shared that a malfunction in the fire suppression system had put the secondary kitchen out of commission for two days, but that because of the assistance of students in the school’s “ProStart” food serving certification program, and because of equipment available in the commercial-level Family and Consumer Sciences classroom, it was still possible to offer meals.

Elementary principal Craig Kopetzki reported that, class by class, all elementary students recently visited the Ellendale firehouse in observance of fire prevention week. Kopetzki also expressed gratitude to the homecoming royalty, cheerleaders, and band members who made homecoming observances at the elementary site more lively.

School board members voted to support continued work on the “therapy dog” program described during the September meeting by secondary school counselor Liz Stiernagle. Under her planned timeline, therapy dog Buxley may make some trial visits to the school during the spring, but would not be officially in place until next fall.

Seven appointed to logo committee

By JESSICA LUTGENS
Staff Writer

With Loren Skelton filling in as acting mayor in the absence of Gail Schmidt, the New Richland City Council held its first meeting of the month on Monday, Oct. 10, beginning with the 2021 audit report. Three recommendations were made in the audit report, including: implement written policies/procedures, document employee responsibilities and processes, and improve internal control/help with staff turnover. On taxes, the report showed that New Richland is slightly higher than other cities in Waseca County, but the tax rate has decreased slightly in the last couple years.

“There is a strong market value growth within the city to offset taxes,” noted the representative from Abdo. The report was approved and can be found in full on the City of New Richland’s website.

Sarah Sundve presented the ambulance report, stating that the ambulance has had 160 runs so far this year. A recent remodel of the ambulance room was showcased in an open house, and Sundve thanked all who helped make the remodel possible as well as those who turned out for the open house. A purchase request for two new

NEW RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL

ResQPODS at a cost of \$167 each was approved, and a quote for a new powerload and cot was presented. The report was approved.

The fire report stated that the New Richland Fire Department responded to one medical call in September. The report was approved.

Tanyce Bruegger presented the police report, stating that the NRPD responded to 105 calls for service in September, bringing the total number of the calls for the year to 1,040. A request to interview and hire two new part-time officers was approved, along with the report.

Following a recent inspection of roofs on city-owned buildings by Schwickert’s, the council approved repairs to the city hall roof at a cost of \$1,535 as well as repairs to the library roof at a cost of \$7,048.

Seven local residents, including two council members, three city staff members, and two New Richland residents, were appointed to the city logo committee to judge submissions for the logo contest held this summer. The meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

Waseca college alum scholarships available

The Southern School of Agriculture (SSA), and the University of Minnesota-Waseca (UMW) Alumni Association are offering scholarships of up to \$1,000 to current high school seniors, or to college students pursuing a two- or four-year degree, who have a an alum of the University of Minnesota-Waseca or the Southern School of Agriculture as a parent or grandparent.

Two scholarships will be awarded: requirements include being headed to college for a 2- or 4-year degree and having a

high school GPA of 3.0 or higher.

More complete information for applying can be found online at <http://sroc.cfans.umn.edu/about/alumni> or by writing to the Alumni Scholarship Committee, Southern Research and Outreach Center, 35838 120th St., Waseca, MN 56093. Questions can be directed to Deanne Nelson at (507) 837-5629 or Email: nelsol191@umn.edu.

Applications must be postmarked no later than January 9, 2023.

Mayo encourages new booster shot

A recently released “bivalent” COVID-19 booster shot provides protection from not only the original strains of the virus, but also the new “omicron” variants which have become the prevalent form across the country. The Mayo Clinic Health System (Mayo) and the national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) encourage every eligible person over the age of 12 to get the bivalent vaccine before winter weather keeps people indoors and leads to increased spread of respiratory viruses—including colds, the flu, and COVID.

The bivalent protection is available only as a booster for those who

have already completed the primary vaccination series and who have not had a booster shot within the past two months, according Dr. Nipunie Rajapakse of the Mayo system.

“We know that the COVID vaccines have done a really good job of preventing serious illness, hospitalizations and deaths from COVID-19,” says Rajapakse. “And we’ve seen new variants emerge which can get around the immunity provided by the original vaccines. We know that once you get these booster vaccines, you again have good protection from serious illness, hospitalization and death from some of the more recent variants.”

To be eligible for the bivalent booster, individuals must have completed the primary vaccination series. They must also not have had any other COVID booster shots within the past two months. Mayo and the CDC urge everyone who can to acquire this expanded immunity, since doing so not only protects the person receiving the vaccine, but also others around them by not spreading the virus to those who may be vulnerable.

Another advantage of vaccination is progress toward “herd” or “community” immunity.

“That occurs when most people in a population are immune or pro-

tected from infection,” says Rajapakse. “If you can’t get the infection, you can’t transmit it to someone else.” According to Rajapakse, high levels of community immunity protect people who have chosen not to be vaccinated, those who are not able to because of their health or eligibility, and those who are vaccinated, but whose systems did not “mount the same protective response.”

Mayo Clinic Health System patients in the Southwest Minnesota region can schedule appointments using Patient Online Services or by calling their primary care provider.

Waldorf housing examined

By TRISTAN JENSEN
Editorial Assistant

Monday, October 17 the Waldorf City Council hosted Jen Theneman and Jasmine Frias, representatives from Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership (SWMHP). SWMHP is a non-profit community development corporation which partners with communities and individuals to improve access to housing, and has offices in Mankato and Slayton, MN. SWMHP provides, among other services, community planning and technical assistance, homebuyer education and home ownership assistance, housing assessments and inspections, and construction and preservation of single- and multi-family residences. “We try to partner with communities to figure out what their housing needs are,” said Frias in summary.

Mayor Wilkening reached out to SWMHP in September as he considered what is necessary for Waldorf to grow and prosper as a community. Now that the city is completing its comprehensive infrastructure project, Mayor Wilkening hopes to attract businesses to the community. However, the population of Waldorf has been gradually decreasing, and prospects for attracting new residents are reduced

because there is little to no housing available for sale or rent. Wilkening believes the answer may be a city-owned apartment building, and so has been investigating construction and operating costs for a 24- or 36-unit building. Wilkening believes many of Waldorf’s older residents, or those whose children have left home, may be interested in moving to a one-, two- or three-bedroom apartment where they no longer have the burdens of maintenance and lawn care, thus bringing their existing single-family homes onto the market.

Based on recommendations from some residents, Wilkening says a likely location for the project is the community football field. However, others have expressed concern about preserving that area as a green space as the community of Waldorf grows. One possible solution is developing a park alongside the new apartment building in that area. Another option is to develop the former school building. Doing so would leave the football field intact, but is also likely to incur more costs for the city in terms of updating and extending infrastructure.

Decisions like these need to be made before the city and SWMHP can move forward with funding opportunities and other services. The

WALDORF CITY COUNCIL

next step will be a public hearing which SWMHP offered to moderate, since it is a less-invested third party. The organization’s architects will also supply mockups of the various options. Although it is not yet decided whether SWMHP will moderate it, the public hearing is tentatively planned for January, after Wilkening returns from a trip abroad.

Following the conversation with Frias and Theneman, the city council continued its meeting following the agenda which was originally set for October 10, when the council was unable to vote due to the government holiday. “I’m going to do this a little differently,” Wilkening said as the council transitioned, referring to the fact that the agenda items had already been discussed the previous Monday. The Water/Sewer Report, Pay Application #8 for the Water Treatment Plant, Fire Department Report and City Report were all approved without discussion. Mayor Wilkening did casually congratulate the fire department on the good work it’s done recently as the number of medical and fire calls has increased,

in part due to the ongoing harvest, before moving along with the agenda. It was noted that the agenda items which did not require a vote had been completed, including minor repairs to the community center and a request for improved speed warning signs on highways approaching town.

Jay Longnecker’s conditional use permit (CUP) to operate a shop on his property was approved, following the public hearing on the matter which took place October 10. Standard practice is to review a CUP after one year, to determine whether there is any undue impact on neighbors, and then every five years thereafter. However, Wilkening noted that rezoning is expected in the relatively near future, and that the affected portion of the property could most likely be rezoned as commercial to eliminate the need for continuing a CUP.

At the end of the meeting, Wilkening announced that he’s leaving next Wednesday to go overseas until December 26. In his absence, council member Kevin Lines will lead city council meetings. The mayor closed the meeting with the words, “Merry Christmas and Happy Halloween.”

■ Debate

from Page 1

growth within our housing and industry, and it’s very hard to attract a business to come in and pay those taxes if they don’t have an employee base to draw from or a place to bring their employees to.”

Schroeder stated she would like to see the city partner with private enterprises for something such as an enterprise fund or business incubator, sourcing outside of the taxpayer base. She also said Waseca needs to look at how it is marketing itself and look toward the future in terms of business and housing.

“I think things work better when you try to partner versus trying to take it on yourself.”

Tackett: Noted the empty buildings in historic downtown Waseca and discussed moving businesses into that area as a start. He discussed the importance of housing and multitasking rather than focusing on one project as well as looking at and making plans for making land available for larger businesses in the future. He said that private companies have the funds to take risks that the city does not, which is why bringing businesses in is so important.

“We have to be good stewards, friends, and neighbors, and talk to people outside of Waseca to convince them to be part of our family.”

Conrath: Agreed with the other candidates in terms of housing, mentioning a previous tax abatement and noting the importance of filling empty buildings with new busi-

nesses. Discussed infrastructure that is essential for Waseca to compete with communities surrounding it, and noted that multitasking is necessary to get taxes reasonable.

Question five: Business growth - do you agree with the decision by the City of Waseca last year to offer a generous tax abatement to Conagra in exchange for continuing to be a part of the Waseca economy? Do you favor this approach to encourage businesses to locate here?

Tackett: “I do agree with the tax abatement. We need them, and at some point they’re going to start getting that money back. Having Conagra stay here is going to keep people employed, and those people are going to be buying houses and paying taxes and hopefully we can entice more people and businesses to come.”

Schroeder: “I did agree with the tax abatement. BirdsEye/Conagra has been here for a long time, and if it meant keeping them here, I don’t see why we wouldn’t. I know other communities have been very successful in attracting businesses by offering such things as a tax abatement.”

Noted that investing in businesses results in them investing in the town, which is a benefit to the community.

Conrath: “I do agree, and I was part of it. The deal was not perfect. We hear on the city council that we don’t do enough for businesses and to keep businesses in town, and we kept them in town.”

Noted that some employees lost jobs through optimizing operations, but hopes that employment will be expanded in the future.

“In 20 years when that tax abate-

ment ends, you will be astonished at what a difference that makes to the levy.”

He also said that the impact of the tax abatement was similar to that of 52 new houses being built in the community, which along with keeping the jobs Conagra provides, would have made the 2023 tax levy impact 11% rather than 4.49%.

Ebertowski: Also agrees with the tax abatement, noting that while it wasn’t a perfect deal, it worked out and kept a big business in town that will hopefully help grow the community in the future.

“I think it was as good of a job as they could have done with what they were given.”

Added that he would like to see smaller businesses receive similar help and breaks and overall openness to work with by the city council.

In closing statements, Conrath noted that he has enjoyed serving on the city council for six years and would enjoy serving for four more. He said he’s most proud of not missing meetings and being available to the public.

“You are not going to please 100% of the people, but whenever I make a decision, I put my personal feelings aside and try to think of how the majority of people of Waseca would want it done,” Conrath said.

Ebertowski said that he enjoyed serving the community as a para-

medic and looks forward to serving the community on the city council.

“I hope to do a great job - I will do my absolute best,” Ebertowski said. “I’ve heard over and over again, ‘Listen to the people, make them feel heard’ - I may not always agree with you, but I will listen to you. I may not have all the answers, but I will ask thought-provoking questions and hopefully get people headed in the right direction.”

Schroeder noted that most can agree that quality of life needs to be maintained in Waseca, and that she is willing to ask questions and bring forth concerns of the community.

“I’m not only working for you, but I want to work with you,” Schroeder said.

Tackett mentioned that he and his opponent, Stacey Schroeder, share a lot of the same values. He believes council members need to work with the people in their ward in order to make positive change in the community.

“You’re not going to go wrong with either one of us that you vote for,” Tackett said. “You need to listen to people and hear their concerns, issues, and answer their questions as best you can. Sometimes you don’t always have the answers, but we can bring those questions to the city council. We need to be transparent in all of that.”



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Walleye and Shrimp Dinner

Friday, October 21st
(Served by the Honor Guard)

\$15.00 for Walleye, \$13 for Shrimp
5:30-7 p.m. (or sold out)

Wiste’s Meat Raffle at 5:30 p.m.
(2nd chance spin for a free drink)

Karaoke with Kozy 7-11 p.m.

It’s going to be a fun night!



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SCOREBOARD

South Central White District Football Standings		
	Dist.	Ov.
Waseca	3-0	6-1
Fairmont	3-1	5-2
Luverne	1-2	4-3
New Ulm	1-2	2-5
Worthington	0-3	0-7

Mid-Southeast White District Football Standings		
	Dist.	Ov.
St. Clair/Loyola	4-0	7-0
GFW	4-0	6-1
Blooming Prairie	2-2	4-3
Medford	2-2	2-5
WEM	0-4	1-6
NRHEG	0-4	0-7

Mid-Southeast Red District Football Standings		
	Dist.	Ov.
Lester Prairie	4-0	7-0
Mayer Lutheran	3-1	5-2
AC/GE	2-2	4-3
United South Central	2-2	3-4
JWP	1-3	2-5
Cleveland	0-4	1-6

Section 3AAA Football Standings		
	Seet.	Ov.
Waseca	4-0	6-1
Fairmont	3-1	5-2
Luverne	1-2	4-3
Tri-City United	2-1	3-4
New Ulm	2-3	2-5
Belle Plaine	0-2	2-5
Worthington	0-3	0-7

Section 3AAA Football Tournament		
Tuesday, Oct. 25 quarterfinals at high seed, 7 p.m.		
Saturday, Oct. 29 semifinals at high seed, 2 p.m.		
Friday, Nov. 4 finals at New Ulm High School, 7 p.m.		

Section 2AA Football Standings		
	Seet.	Ov.
St. Clair/Loyola	4-0	7-0
Blue Earth Area	2-0	6-1
Maple River	1-1	5-2
Blooming Prairie	2-1	4-3
Medford	2-1	2-5
LeSeuer-Henderson	0-2	1-6
WEM	0-3	1-6
NRHEG	0-3	0-7

Section 2AA Football Tournament		
Tuesday, Oct. 25 quarterfinals at high seed, 7 p.m.		
Saturday, Oct. 29 semifinals at high seed, 2 p.m.		
Friday, Nov. 4 finals at JWP High School, 7 p.m.		

Section 2A Football Standings		
	Seet.	Ov.
Lester Prairie	4-0	7-0
Gibbon-Fairfax-W.	2-1	6-1
Mayer Lutheran	4-1	5-2
Alden-Conger/GE	2-3	4-3
United South Central	2-2	3-4
Janesville-Waldorf-P.	1-3	2-5
New Ulm Cathedral	0-6	1-6
Cleveland	0-5	1-6

Section 2A Football Tournament		
Tuesday, Oct. 25 quarterfinals at high seed, 7 p.m.		
Saturday, Oct. 29 semifinals at high seed, 2 p.m.		
Friday, Nov. 4 finals at New Prague High School, 7 p.m.		

Big South East Conference Volleyball Standings		
	Conf.	Ov.
St. Peter	10-0	17-4
New Ulm	8-2	12-10
Waseca	5-5	9-10
Blue Earth Area	4-6	9-15
Fairmont	2-8	5-17
St. James Area	1-9	3-18
New Ulm Cathedral	0-6	1-6
Cleveland	0-5	1-6

Gopher Conference Volleyball Standings		
	Conf.	Ov.
Bethlehem Academy	10-0	15-7
Kenyon-Wanamingo	9-1	20-7
Hayfield	8-2	19-8
WEM	8-2	14-13
NRHEG	5-5	18-6
Blooming Prairie	5-5	12-11
Medford	5-5	12-15
Randolph	4-6	11-11
Triton	4-6	8-13
Maple River	2-8	11-14
JWP	0-10	5-18
United South Central	0-10	6-19

Section 2AA South Volleyball Tournament		
Thursday, Oct. 27 at high seed, 7 p.m.		
Tuesday, Nov. 1 quarterfinals at Mankato East, 6/8 p.m.		
Thursday, Nov. 3 semifinals at New Prague, 7:45 p.m.		
Saturday, Nov. 5 finals at St. Peter, 6 p.m.		

Section 2A South Volleyball Tournament		
Monday, Oct. 24 TBD		
Thursday, Oct. 27 at high seed, 7 p.m.		
Thursday, Nov. 1 semifinals at Sibley East, 6/7:30 p.m.		
Saturday, Nov. 3 finals at St. Peter, 6 p.m.		

Jays whip Worthington

Waseca wins 47-0 on Senior Night

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

How did the Waseca High School football team respond to allowing an improbable 36 points a week earlier at New Ulm?

With a shutout. The Bluejays continued their impressive offensive outpouring while stepping up the defense in a 47-0 whitewashing of winless Worthington on Waseca's Senior Night Thursday, Oct. 13.

"It was great to see our defense get back on track," said Waseca coach Brad Wendland. "We made some corrections and the kids really responded."

Waseca, 6-1, ended the regular season Wednesday, Oct. 19 at Luverne. Playoffs start Oct. 25, though the Jays are expected to earn the top seed and a first-round bye and host a game Saturday, Oct. 29.

On the opening kickoff against Worthington, sophomore Damarius Russell showed what kind of game to expect. Fielding the ball at the 18, he broke outside and left defenders in the dust on his way to an 82-yard touchdown return.

After the Trojans went three-and-out, the Jays covered 62 yards in four plays, with Christian Rodriguez waltzing in from the 6-yard line. The drive included a 33-yard run by Rodriguez. Max Neaves' PAT made it 14-0, still early in the first quarter.

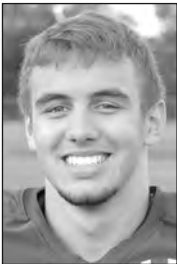
Carter Ellis looked to end Worthington's next drive, scooping up a fumble and taking it 44 yards for an apparent touchdown. It was, however, ruled an incomplete pass and the Trojans punted.

With Rodriguez and Oliver O'Brien running the ball, Waseca went 71 yards in seven plays, the final 6 on a Rodriguez rush. Neaves added the PAT and the Bluejays led 21-0 after one quarter.

But they were far from finished. After forcing another three-and-out, O'Brien broke loose on the first play, breaking several tackles en route to a 26-yard scoring run.

The Jays led 28-0 after dominating the first half.

It continued in the third quarter. Ellis picked off a pass on Worthington's third play and O'Brien proceeded to race 36 yards for a touchdown, but a penalty nullified it.



Rodriguez



Da.Russell

No matter. O'Brien ran 15 yards for a score on the next play.

A long pass on Worthington's first play was intercepted by Russell, who took it 47 yards for his second touchdown interception of the season. It gave Waseca a 41-0 led with 10:15 left in the third quarter.

Waseca's second-string players drove 47 yards in nine plays, Jose Mixteco scoring on a 6-yard run late in the third period. Neither team scored in the fourth.

"Damrius Russel made two incredible interceptions," said Coach Wendland. "He just keeps getting better and better. His kickoff return to start the game really gave us lots of energy. We have to be better and keeping our composure at key times, but overall it was a great night. We got to play lots of guys and send our seniors out with a big win on their last regular-season home game."

Waseca 47, Worthington 0				
WOR	0	0	0	0—0
WAS	21	7	19	0—47

First Quarter
WAS - Da. Russell 87 kickoff return (Neaves kick)
WAS - Rodriguez 6 run (Neaves kick)
WAS - Rodriguez 6 run (Neaves kick)

Second Quarter
WAS - O'Brien 27 run (Neaves kick)

Third Quarter
WAS - O'Brien 15 run (kick failed)
WAS - Da. Russell 45 interception return (Neaves kick)
WAS - Mixteco 6 run (kick failed)

Fourth Quarter		
No scoring		
	WOR	WAS
First downs	4	15
Rushing	29-2	39-371
Passing	7-17	1-3
Passing Yds.	81	4
Total offense	83	375
Penalties	5-35	6-65

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing - WAS: Rodriguez 13-142; O'Brien 8-108; Mixteco 7-46; No. 87 2-35; Da. Russell 2-24; Rupe 1-5; Balderas 4-4; Ludwig 1 —1; WOR: A.Opiew 2-9; Swinea



DEFENSIVE DOMINANCE — That's what Waseca established early against winless Worthington Thursday, Oct. 13 on Senior Night. Above, Jordan Johnston (40), Max Neaves (4), Brenden Brown (71) and others converge on the Trojans' Abagotte Opiew (5). Below left, Brown and Noah Thompson combine to stop Evan Neuburger. Below right, Christian Rodriguez (38) bulls for a portion of his 142 yards rushing. Far below: Neaves and Brown combine to tackle Jacari Swinea (11).

Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens



11-4; Dorcay 4-1; Jimenez 3-0; Stugelmeyer 1-0; Lia 1 —1; Bradner 4 —3; Neuburger 3 —8
Passing - WAS: O'Brien 1-3, 4; WOR: Bradner 6-14, 75; A.Opiew 1-2, 6; Stugelmeyer 0-1, 0
Receiving - WAS: Harguth 1-4; WOR: M. Opiew 1-35; A.Opiew 2-31; Bradner 1-6; Swinea 2-5; Lais 1-4
Defense - WAS: Neaves 4 solo tackles, 5 assists; Ahlschlager 4 solo, 1 assist; Keeton 2 solo; Ohnstad 1 assist; De. Russell 1 tackle, 2 interceptions; N.Engel-Mueller 1 solo, 2 assists; Johnston 4 tackles, 2 assists, 1 fumble recovery, 1 interception; Thompson 3 tackles, 1 assist; Hagen 5 tackles, 1 assist; Robran 1 tackle, 1 assist; Droog 1 tackle, 1 assist; Stenzel 4 tackles, 1 assist; Brown 5 tackles, 2 assists, 1 sack; S.Engel-Mueller 1 tackle, 1 assist; Torres 1 assist; Schumacher 1 tackle, 1 assist



Spikers rebound, outlast St. James

By MICHAEL ROY
Publisher

The Waseca High School volleyball team looked to even its 8-9 record when it hosted Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial Tuesday, Oct. 11. But the Knights weren't having it.

LCWM came into the matchup with a 15-6 record and was second to Cleveland in the Valley Conference. The Knights showed Waseca why they only had a handful of losses in the year with a 25-16 win in the first set.

Although Waseca leaned on Aliyah Taylor and Avery Madsen to supply the points, the team's combined 26 kills and four aces weren't enough to outscore the Knights. The Bluejays followed a valiant 25-22 effort in the second set with a harsh ending to the game, with LCWM taking the win with a 25-14 finish.

Individually for the Bluejays: Riley Ruedy, 4 kills and 3 digs; Haylee Sommers, 16 digs and an ace; Erika Bowers with 2 digs; Megan Kanewischer 1 kill; Avery Madsen 6 kills, 3 digs, 1 block, and a pair of aces; Siri Kuhns 2 kills, 21 assists, and 9 digs; Aliyah Taylor 7 kills and 10 digs; Takara Slattery 6 digs; Kloe Wadd 5 kills and 4 blocks; Tricia Cox, 6 digs and an ace; and Ellie Hoehn 1 kill and 2 digs.

Waseca traveled to St. James Area Monday, Oct. 17.

When the two teams met last time, the Saints gave the Bluejays



Ruedy



Wadd

some trouble, but it ultimately ended in a 3-1 win for Waseca. Since then, wins were hard to come by for St. James.

The Saints still presented Waseca with a challenge, winning the first set 25-22. Waseca then rallied back to tie it with a 25-22 victory in the second set.

"We kept our composure throughout the game and never gave up," Waseca coach Jolene Hauger said.

Waseca needed to, as once again, the team had an extra-long third set with St. James. The Lady Jays eventually ended it with a 30-28 victory. They called it a night after another close fourth set 25-21.

Individually: Kuhns 29 assists, 2 aces; Erika Bowers 1 assist and ace; Ruedy 10 kills and 12 digs; Wadd 7 kills and 4 blocks; Madsen 5 blocks; Sommers 15 digs; Taylor an ace; and Slattery with an ace.

The Lady Jays end their regular season hosting Minnesota Valley Lutheran Monday, October 24.

The Section 2AA tournament starts Thursday, Oct. 27 and continues Nov. 1, 3 and 5.

CC teams run at Mankato East

By MICHAEL ROY
Publisher

Waseca faced some of its toughest competition yet at the Mankato East Invitational cross country meet Wednesday, October 12. WHS was the smallest of nine schools.

The boys placed 6th out of the 10 teams with a score of 193, beating 7th-place Waconia by one point. Mankato East won with 48 points.

Isaac Feldkamp took 15th with a time of 16:58.17. Other finishers for Waseca: Addison Sampson (35th, 17:55.14), Joe Feldkamp (54th, 19:02.62), Tristan Godwin (56th, 19:06.31), Tyler Jellum (59th,

10:28.03), Colby Hoof (62nd, 20:02.5), and Bobby Mortensen (63rd, 20:03.85).

The girls took 5th place out of eight teams with 129 points. Marshall took 1st with 35 points.

Out of 65 runners, senior Ella Dufault cracked the top 10 with a 19:51.17 time. Other finishers were Stella Omtvedt (21st, 20:27.43), Maren Schimming (29th, 20:40.63), Kya Hoof (57th, 22:52.78), Taylor Markeson (58th, 23:01.6), and Melanie Krueger (63rd, 23:33.46).

The team participated in the Big South Conference Meet Oct. 18.

BLUEJAY FOOTBALL

Player of the Week

Brendan Brown

Brendan Brown had 7 tackles on defense against Worthington on October 13th. Great game Brendan!

Player of the week sponsored by:

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HOMECOMING ACTION — The JWP football team gave it a valiant effort but fell short 22-14 to United South Central at Janesville Thursday, Oct. 13. At left, the Bulldogs’ Dylan McWaters (21) and Isaiah Berndt (20) bear down on a USC ball carrier. Middle, JWP’s Karson Lindsay (3) makes a tackle while Michael Walker (10) and Michael VanRavenhorst (55) trail the play. Right, the Bulldogs’ Luke Cahill (12) breaks away from a would-be tackler.

Pioneer photos by Michael Roy

Bulldogs drop Homecoming game 22-14

By MICHAEL ROY
Publisher

The Homecoming game between JWP and United South Central may have been on an awkward Thursday night instead of the usual Friday. But it didn’t seem to affect the Bulldogs’ play...at first.

After a valiant 14-0 start and a dominant defensive first quarter, the Bulldogs let the United South Central Rebels score 22 unanswered points, and they couldn’t get it done on their final drive in the red zone Oct. 11 in Janesville.

Senior halfback Ryder Thissen led the team to two of its two scores of the night, running for a touchdown on the team’s opening drive and getting another on the ground in the beginning of the second quarter.

However, USC replied right away in the first half with two short runs to the end zone by Nick Bushlack and a pair of successful two-point conversions to make it 16-14 at halftime.

The Rebels didn’t hesitate to add more points to their lead as another short run by Bushlack gave USC another touchdown. But the JWP defense made a stop on the two-point conversion to keep it a one-score game.

After stalling on one red zone drive, the Bulldogs elected to attempt a field goal, which Ethan Born missed.

The JWP defense bent, but didn’t break as junior Gavin Krause got an interception.

However, Krause’s effort was negated when wide receiver Nolan

Morsching lost a fumble after catching the football.

Morsching made up for his mistake and got it back for the Bulldogs after recovering a fumble.

Karson Lindsay was automatic with most of his passes, switching from junior wide receiver Ryan Kronbach to sophomore Landon Johnson as his primary target. It looked like the Bulldogs could pull it off and potentially tie the game.

But the final drive stalled.

On first down, a pass to Kronbach was incomplete. A second-down pass to Ethan Born in the end zone was incomplete. On third down, a pass to Landon Johnson looked to be a touchdown, but the officials ruled him out of bounds.

And, on the final play for the Bull-

dogs, the crowd thought the flag was defensive pass interference. As they chanted, “You can’t do that,” the official stated it was offensive pass interference on the Bulldogs.

It was not the way , the Bulldogs wanted to end the Homecoming game. So close, yet so far.

The loss placed United South Central ahead of the Bulldogs in the Red Division of the Mid-Southeast district. The Bulldogs now have a 2-5 record (1-4 in-division).

They faced Alden-Conger/Glenville-Emmons Wednesday, Oct. 19 to conclude the regular season. Section playoffs start the following Tuesday.

JWP	14	0	0	0	14
USC	0	16	6	0	22

First Quarter

JWP: Ryder Thissen runs the ball for a 17-yard touchdown. The extra point is good!

Second Quarter

JWP: Ryder Thissen Runs the ball for a 12-yard touchdown. The extra point is good!

USC: Nick Bushlack runs for a 3-yard touchdown. The two-point conversion run by Bushlack is good.

USC: Nick Bushlack runs for a one-yard touchdown. The two-point conversion run by Bushlack is good.

Third Quarter

USC: Nick Bushlack runs for a one-yard touchdown. The two-point conversion is no good.

Fourth Quarter

No score

Passing: JWP: Karson Lindsay, 11/25, 146 yards, INT. USC: Nick Bushlack, 4/9, 7 yards, INT. Jon Martinez, 0/1.

Rushing: JWP: Ruder Thissen, 10 att, 56 yds, 2 TDs. Karson Lindsay, 3 att, 12 yds. Lucas Morsching, 9 att, 3 yds. Isaiah Berndt, att for -1 yd. USC: Nick Bushlack, 7 att, 25

yds, 3 TDs. Taybor Conley, 14 att, 141 yds. Jon Martinez, 9 att, 44 yds. Byron Getchell, 12 att, 34 yds. Isaiah Gonzalez, att for 5 yds.

Receiving: JWP: Landon Johnson, 4 rec, 59 yds. Ryan Kronbach, 3 att, 32 yds. Nolan Morsching, 2 rec for 42 yds, fumble lost. Lucas Morsching, rec for 13 yards. Ryder Thissen, rec for -1 yd. USC: Taybor Conley, 2 rec, 13 yds. Jon Martinez, 2 rec, -4 yds.

JWP Defense: Nolan Morsching, 3 tackles, 9 assists (one for loss), fumble recovery. Peyton O’Brien, tackle. Karson Lindsay, tackle and 4 assists. Kelton Erler with 5 assists. Gavin Krause, tackle for loss, 3 assists, and an interception. Ryder Thissen with an assist. Isaiah Berndt, 2 tackles, 3 assists (one for loss), Dylan McWaters, 5 tackles and 3 assists. Ethan Born, tackle. Chase Gerdts, tackle and 5 assists. Lucas Morsching, 2 tackles, 3 assists. Michael VanRavenhorst, 4 tackles, 4 assists (one for loss). Austin Quast, tackle, 5 assists (one for loss). Cole Schlueter, tackle and 4 assists.

Tennis Jays eliminated in section

By MICHAEL ROY
Publisher

After ending the regular season 14-4 with a first-round section exit as a team, the Waseca High School girls’ tennis players entered individual play Friday, Oct. 14 in Rochester.

Freshmen Lauren Drexler (No. 15 seed) and Maddy Benson (No. 16 seed) represented Waseca in singles, while the senior duo of Sarah Robbins and Cece Huttemier (No. 6 seed) and the team of junior Sarah Haley and sophomore Takya Schoenrock (No. 16 seed) represented the Jays in doubles.

Drexler had a tall order to face when she played senior Hannah Kosek of Red Wing, the team that gave them the first-round exit in section play the week before. Seeded No. 2, Kosek easily handled Drexler with a two-set victory (6-1, 6-0) to eliminate her from the tournament.

Benson faced an even tougher opponent in top-seeded Keira Kelly, a sophomore from Lakeville North. Benson lost both sets 6-0.

Robbins and Huttemier were the only ones with a chance to move on to the Section 1A quarterfinal. They defeated Albert Lea’s Hannah Wilner and Alyssa Jensen (seeded No. 11) in two sets (6-0, 6-4). In the second round, they had a good match against Lakeville North’s Molly Plotnik and Jasmine Woo (seeded No. 3), but they ultimately lost 7-5, 6-2.

Haley and Schoenrock played the No. 1-seeded duo Michaela Sullivan and Reese Burton of Lakeville South. They were eliminated 6-0, 6-0.

It was a much better season than anticipated for the Waseca girls. Graduating from the team will be Robbins, Breck and Huttemier.

Bulldog spikers drop 2

By MICHAEL ROY
Publisher

The JWP volleyball team fell to two conference opponents this past week, with a loss on the road to Randolph and another loss at home to Triton.

The girls are preparing to be on the road throughout Section 2A play, with their last game of the regular season at United South Central Tuesday, Oct. 18.

Randolph 3, JWP 1

A long road trip to the northernmost team in the Gopher Conference did not do the girls any favors Tuesday, Oct. 11. The Rockets were a team that JWP easily beat 3-0 last season.

But Randolph showed JWP the 2022 team was vastly different from the Rockets team the Bulldogs faced in 2021. They rallied for a 25-17 win. While the Bulldogs fought back to win a close second set 25-23, the Rockets took the final two sets 25-21, 25-22.

Individually: Brielle Bure, 5 aces, and 20 digs; Claire Walz, 6 kills, 3 blocks; Nevaeh Weimert, 11 assists, 4 digs; Jessa Westphal, 10 kills, 3 blocks, 5 digs; Lilly Strauss, 2 aces, 7 kills, a block, and 3 digs; Aubrey Weedman



CELEBRATE — Members of the JWP volleyball team celebrate an ace scored by Isabelle Rider (10) Triton Friday, Oct. 14 in Janesville. From left: Brielle Bure, Isabelle Rider, Ali Olson, Aubrey Weedman, Rauql Fischer (hidden), and Claire Walz.

Pioneer photos by Michael Roy

with an ace, 2 kills, 3 blocks, 23 assists, and 14 digs; Raquel Fischer with 8 kills, a block, and a dig; Izzy Rider 2 aces and a dig; Lexie Dahlberg 11 digs and an ace; and Ali Olson 4 digs.

Triton 3, JWP 1

The air was electric as JWP hosted Triton for its Homecoming game Friday, Oct. 14.

Fans decorated themselves in everything silver and blue, and the Bulldogs turned a 2-0 lead by

the Cobras and stormed to a five-point lead early. Senior Isabelle Rider called game with an ace to give the Bulldogs a 25-19 victory in the first set.

After that, however, it was all Triton.

The Cobras sent some laser-like spikes JWP’s way the rest of the game. While players like sophomore Brielle Bure and junior Lexie Dahlberg made fantastic efforts to dig the ball, it was not enough. Triton set the tone, win-

ning consecutive sets 25-16, 25-23, 25-16.

Despite a comeback attempt in the fourth set from JWP, with the score at 23-20, Triton prevented the Bulldogs from taking a 2-1 lead and at the very least forcing a fifth set.

The loss not only dampened Homecoming, but left JWP without a win in the Gopher Conference.

At the time of this writeup, individual stats were not available.

JWP’s record going into the last match of the season with United South Central was 6-17 (0-10 in-conference). The Rebels’ record before hosting the Bulldogs was 6-18 (also winless in the conference). The game against them on Tuesday determined who would be last in the conference between the two of them. The result of the game and seeding for the Section 2A tournament will be available next week.

Charge your batteries to fight influenza

PRESS RELEASE

Waseca County Public Health compares keeping vaccinations current to keeping a fresh battery in the household smoke detector. Just as being warned about accumulating smoke can keep a smoldering hotspot from becoming a flame, being fully vaccinated can reduce the chances that a random infection will lead to serious illness or even hospitalization.

The highest number of deaths from influenza during a single “flu season” in the U.S. is 52,000—vastly more than the average 2,500 people who die each year in house fires, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

While some groups dismiss the importance of being vaccinated for the flu, the fact is that between 2010 and 2020, 80% of youth

deaths due to influenza were in unvaccinated children. In 2018, data showed being vaccinated reduced a person’s overall risk of having to seek medical care for influenza by 40%.

Waseca County Public Health (WCPH) and other agencies are offering numerous vaccination options prior to the beginning of “flu season.”

WCPH offers a clinic on the

third Wednesday of each month. Both the influenza vaccine and Moderna’s bivalent COVID booster are available. Appointments, which are encouraged but not required, can be made by calling 507-835-0685.

A walk-in clinic is being offered through the Minnesota Department of Health at Janesville city hall from 3 to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 25. No appointments are

necessary.

In addition to maintaining current vaccines, WCPH recommends an everyday health regimen which includes getting daily exercise, regular hand washing, eating well, and getting enough sleep.

Story idea?
507-837-6767



THE BLOSSOMS WERE AWESOME — The NRHEG football team lost 53-12 on Senior Night Thursday, Oct. 13 in New Richland. At left, the Panthers' Carter Martens (51) zeros in on Blooming Prairie quarterback Brady Kittleson (9); also pictured is Lucas Loverink (21). In the middle, the Panthers' Jaylin Raab (5) and Sawyer Prigge (8) team to stop Alex Lea (12). At right, Andrew Phillips (29) runs the ball while a defender gives chase.
Pioneer photos by Chris Schlaak

Panthers can't contain Awesome Blossoms

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

It's been a long and painful season for the NRHEG football team - literally.

Injuries, according to coach Marc Kruger, have added up for the Panthers, who fell to 0-7 with a 53-12 loss to Blooming Prairie on NRHEG's Senior Night in New Richland Thursday, Oct. 13.

"It's really tough to have Senior Night end in a lop-sided loss," stated Kruger. "Blooming Prairie came in and played great and had a great game plan."

The Panthers again struggled on both sides of the ball. The injuries didn't help.

"Tonight, like all season, we saw how hard we have been hit with injuries," said Kruger. "It feels like as soon as one player comes back, two more get hurt. Injuries have been a huge disadvantage for us all season."

Thursday's game was typical of the season for the Panthers, who allowed only one first-quarter score but surrendered 28 points in the

second period.

The Awesome Blossoms lived up to their nickname, amassing 518 yards of offense, including 326 rushing yards on 43 carries. The Panthers finished with 216 yards, 203 of them passing as Alden Dobberstein completed nine of 20 passes with no interceptions. The Blossoms converted 28 first downs to the Panthers' 11.

After a three-and-out for the Panthers to start the game, the Blossoms drove 84 yards in 11 plays for a 6-0 lead.

On the first play of the second quarter, Blooming Prairie connected on a touchdown pass on fourth down and 17.

After a Panther punt, the Blossoms scored on their first play, a 33-yard touchdown pass. They scored again on a fourth-down touchdown pass before NRHEG got on the scoreboard, with Dobberstein connecting with Sawyer Prigge on a 58-yard touchdown pass. A 20-yard touchdown run - on fourth down, of course, produced the Blossoms' final first-

Injuries continue to pile up for NRHEG football team

half score.

The Panthers threatened late in the first half, driving to the Blossoms' 25, but a sack of Dobberstein ended it.

The Blossoms needed only three plays to cover 49 yards to start the third quarter.

The Panthers answered with a 70-yard touchdown connection from Dobberstein and Jaylin Raab, cutting it to 41-12, but the visitors scored twice more to put the game into running time.

The Panthers were held to 13 rushing yards on 27 attempts. Blooming Prairie had two 100-yard ball carriers and a standout performance by quarterback Brady Kittleson, who threw three touchdown passes and ran for a score.

BP - Lea 2 run (kick failed)

Second Quarter

BP - Kubicek 20 pass from Kittleson (Cooke kick)

BP - Lea 33 pass from Kittleson (Cooke kick)

BP - Christianson 9 pass from Kittleson (Cooke kick)

NRHEG - Prigge 57 pass from Dobberstein (run failed)

BP - Kittleson 20 run (Cooke kick)

Third Quarter

BP - Lea 7 run (Cooke kick)

NRHEG - Raab 70 pass from Dobberstein (kick failed)

BP - Lea 5 run (kick failed)

Fourth Quarter

BP - Anderson pass from Wacek (kick failed)

	BP	NRHEG
First downs	15	8
Total plays	64	47
Rushing	43-326	27-13
Passing	11-21-0	9-20-0
Passing Yds.	192	203
Total offense	518	216
Fumbles-lost	2-2	2-2
Penalties	6-60	3-20

Third down	4-10	2-11
Fourth down	3-3	0-4
Turnovers	2	2
Time of poss.	26:14	21:33

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing - NRHEG: Howe 2-12; Parpart 5-11; Flatland 1-11; Phillips 7-3; Staloch 3-1; Raab 3 -1; Olson 1 -8; Dobberstein 5 -16; BP: Lea 24-152; Christianson 8-103; Kittleson 5-16; Donnelly 2-5; Smith 1-2; Mullenbach 1-2; Wacek 2-1

Passing - NRHEG: Dobberstein 9-20-0, 203; BP: Kittleson 7-17-0, 137; Wacek 3-3-0, 51; Lea 1-1-0, 4

Receiving - NRHEG: Raab 1-70; Prigge 1-57; Olson 3-44; Loverink 2-32; Phillips 2-0; BP: Christianson 4-63; Anderson 3-58; Lea 1-33; Kubicek 2-32; Mullenbach 1-6

Defense - NRHEG: Raab 7 solo tackles; Loverink 6 solo; Prigge 5 solo, 1 assist; Thompson 5 solo, 1 assist; Routh 3 solo, 1 assist; Schlaak 2 solo, 1 assist; Parpart 2 solo; Misgen 2 solo; Ihrke 2 solo; Phillips 1 solo, Degen 1 solo; Olson 1 solo

Eustice leads clay target team

Adam Eustice recorded his career first 50-straight round to help lift the NRHEG clay target team out of the bottom of the conference standings last week. The team, which had a "Tale of Two Weeks," recorded one of its worst weeks in the team's history in a wind-whipped, score-dropping performance the prior week. But, with the aid of better weather and better scores, the team recorded nearly 50% more points and moved up a notch in the standings. Currently in 7th place for Conference 16, it has become the goal of the team to move up as far and as fast as possible for the remainder of the season.

"Mathematically, it is virtually impossible to catch the top teams," said coach Dan Sorum. "But, that does not mean we can't strive for other goals including to see how far we can climb."

Eustice, one of the team leaders who attends Waseca High School, was joined by Eva Wayne and Brody Mudgett who each recorded rounds of 25 straight.

For Mudgett, it was his career first as well. In the conference, Eustice is 6th among the male shooters for average.

On the ladies side, Eva Wayne is 2nd and Keira Lenort 5th.



Eustice



Mudgett



Wayne



SENIOR NIGHT SWEEP — The NRHEG volleyball team, shown in action in a recent home match, swept Nicollet in nonconference action Monday, Oct. 17. Above, left, Hallie Schultz (11) passes as teammate Faith Nielsen backs her up. Middle: Nielsen bumps. Above right, Grace Wilkenson goes low for a dig. Below left: Sidney Schultz. Below right, Sarah George spikes.
Pioneer photos by Chris Schlaak

Successful Senior Night

NRHEG volleyball team sweeps Nicollet

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Finally, the hard work paid dividends for the NRHEG High School volleyball team.

The Panthers, who stumbled as of late while facing some of their fiercest opposition of the season, hosted Nicollet for Senior Night Monday, Oct. 17 and swept the nonconference match 3-0, winning 25-20, 25-17, 25-14 in New Richland.

According to NRHEG coach Ashley Tolzman, it was a great win for the Panthers, who were able to give every senior playing time.

"We were able to get all of our seniors out on the court tonight and get the sweep against Nicollet," said Tolzman. "It was nice to see our girls come together and have fun after some tough losses."

The Panthers, 5-5 in the Gopher Conference, improved to 19-6 overall.

Individual leaders for NRHEG: Hallie Schultz 3 kills, 21 set assists, 3 blocks, 10 digs; Tayler Schmidt 1 kill, 1 block, 2 digs; Grace Wilkenson 1 kill, 2 blocks, 3 digs; Andrea

Briggs 1 kill, 2 blocks, 3 digs; Erin Jacobson 8 kills, 10 blocks, 4 digs; Bree Ihrke 11 kills, 5 blocks, 5 digs; Faith Nielsen 1 kill, 1 assist, 8 digs; Sarah George 3 kills, 11 blocks, 1 dig; Tatum Smith-Vulcan 1 kill, 1 block; Bailey Ihrke 2 kills, 1 assist, 2 blocks, 5 digs; Sidney Schultz 4 assists, 15 digs.

The previous Thursday, the Panthers volleyball team traveled to Medford and lost a long, tough 3-2 decision. Scores in favor of the Tigers were 23-25, 25-18, 21-25, 25-17, 15-6.

"It was a tough loss," said Tolzman. "Medford played really strong and it was a close match up until the fifth set."

Individually for NRHEG: H. Schultz 5 kills, 49 set assists, 15 blocks, 11 digs; Schmidt 6 kills, 7 blocks, 7 digs; Wilkenson 2 digs; Jacobson 11 kills, two assists, 4 blocks, 20 digs; Bree Ihrke 5 kills, 1 assist, 17 blocks, 5 digs; Nielsen 1 kill, 1 assist, 13 digs; George 12 kills, 19 blocks, 4 digs; Madison Murray 3 kills, 6 blocks, 2 digs; Bailey Ihrke 5 kills, 4 blocks, 4 digs; S. Schultz 3 assists, 23 digs.



Argus archives

100 Years Ago

-Fears that the paved highway on the trail will cut out the town are not well-founded. There is no cause to get needlessly alarmed relative to the report that the state will cause the Black and Yellow trail to run west of the town. The state is not locating the trail, but it does locate state roads. Even if the pavement goes west, the trail will not but will run directly through the town on Main street. We have good reason to believe that Mr. Babcock will run the paved highway through on the main thoroughfare as it is now located and as generally wanted. It is the policy of the department to comply with the wishes of the towns and villages so far as possible.

-Several young people were in attendance at the state fair this year. James Hawkins and Lawrence Rynearson attended the boys' camp as 1921 prize winners. Herbert Sponberg of Otisco township exhibited his Duroc gilt on which he won first in the boys and girls contest in Waseca County. Hazel Sheldon of Woodville with her Guernsey heifer and Pearl Lewer of Byron township with her Holstein heifer, represented the county as the two winners in the dairy calf project. Hazel Johnson and Virginia Mellinger composed the bread making team who also demonstrated at the state fair. Ursula Hartwick, Irene Goltz and Gertrude Storejohn of Janesville represented the county as canning team.

75 Years Ago

-Waseca county schools will have their annual tuberculin testing survey from Oct. 7 to 10, it has been announced by the Minnesota Public Health Association, state Christmas Seal organization. Dr. Kathleen Jordan, Riverside sanatorium, who is on the health association staff and well known in this county, will administer and read the tests. She will be in Waseca Oct. 7 and 9 and will visit the towns of Janesville, New Richland and Waldorf Oct. 8 and 10. Tuberculin tests are offered for grades not tested last year and to all new students in public and parochial schools, according to Dr. Jordan.

-No copy was given us in regard to the Freeborn-Janesville football game played here last Friday. In case you don't know it, the Golden Bears gave Freeborn a neat trimming by a count of 23 to 0. The boys all played heads-up football, but fumbling was more in evidence than in the game played with Loyola in Mankato two weeks previous.

-Suspensions of drivers licenses under the 1945 Safety Responsibility Act declined nearly 15 percent in the second year of operation of the law, the Minnesota Highway reports. This decline, in face of a 10 percent increase in the number of drivers and owners involved in accidents, indicates that more motorists are familiar with the law and making advance provision, through insurance or otherwise, for settlement of claims which may arise out of accidents, E. P. Lee, drivers license supervisor explained.

50 Years Ago

- When most people ride a motorcycle, they hold on like crazy. When Dale Sack straddles his bike, you get the feeling the cycle is holding on like crazy. The 140-poud Janesville dynamo doesn't ride a motorcycle...he propels it. That was the case a couple of weeks ago in Brainerd when he turned his lightweight Ducati cycle loose on a hill and hit the top in exactly 9.02 seconds. The climb was the fastest of the day in Sack's weight class and earned him the title of 1972 State Champion Hill Climber. Along with the title, and the satisfaction of hitting the top after only two years of competition, came a beautiful combination clock-trophy, the number one prize in the State Championship run.

-Homecoming activities got underway in earnest this week as seventh through 12th graders began work on homecoming floats, homecoming buttons urging the Bears to "Cage the Tigers" went on sale and six queen candidates started getting butterflies - wondering who will be elected 1972 Homecoming Queen. Vying for the coveted crown this year are seniors Barb Arnold, Colleen Jewison, Jodi Johansen, Barb Mulcahey, Sally Rose-seau and Roberta Wiste. Serving as queen attendants are junior Carol Bergmann, sophomore Holly Hendricks and freshman Diane Reibelung. -Robert Pluym, Dr. Dave Pope and Lloyd Simon were elected to the Janesville Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors at the regular monthly meeting of the organization last Wednesday. The new directors will serve three-year terms.

-Pressing business commitments is the reason Councilman Maynard Wilkening gives for not refiling for his seat on the Janesville Village Council. Wilkening, who is completing his first three-year term on the local governing body, has just been appointed district sales manager for Na-Churs Plant Food Company. He told the Argus Monday that his new position will not allow him time to serve another term on the council.

25 Years Ago

-The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton School District settled its teachers' contract for a two year 7.92 percent increase. During the Monday, Sept. 15 meeting the JWP School Board voted 5-0 in favor of the teachers' contract. Teachers voted on the 1997-99 Master Agreement on Monday, Sept. 15 and the board ratified it that evening. Teacher representatives were Mike Meihak and Tim Roemhildt. "The teachers are excited that we are done with the process, and we can move on and get started with the school year," Meihak said.

-Becoming an exchange student runs in the family for Anna Bengtsson of Vassmolosa, Sweden, this year's Rotary Exchange Student. Anna's brother traveled to the United States several years ago as an exchange student. "I like the United States," she said. "I wanted to learn English and get to know the language." Anna has studied English for eight years. However, at home she was taught British English, and she wants to learn American English. Anna arrived Tuesday, Aug. 12, and will stay until mid-July. She is currently living with Mike and Wendy Morton. She has no younger brothers and sisters so she is having fun with her younger host brother and sister Conner and Callie.

-Nathan N. Zimmerman has joined the U.S. Army under the Delayed Entry Program at the U.S. Army Recruiting Station, Mankato. The program gives young men or women the opportunity to delay enlistment into the Army for up to one year before reporting to basic military training. The enlistment gives the new soldier the option to learn a new skill, travel and become eligible to receive as much as \$40,000 toward a college education. After completion of basic training, soldiers receive advanced individual training in their career specialty. By enlisting, Zimmerman qualified for a \$12,000 bonus. Zimmerman, a 1997 graduate of Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School, will report to Fort Sill, Lawton, Okla., for military basic training Tuesday, Oct. 28.

Waseca archives

100 Years Ago – Waseca Herald

-The informal reception for the public school teachers, held in the high school assembly room last Friday evening, proved both interesting and enjoyable to the large number who attended. During the hour from 7:30 to 8:30 those who came had an opportunity to meet and greet the teachers, new and old, and discuss informally many matters of mutual interest. President Habein of the board of education, then called the meeting to order and in a brief talk urged the need of closer co-operation between parents and teachers in order to bring the highest measure of success to our school.

-Mayor W. C. Zamboni of Owatonna who is Sam. A. Rask's opponent for state senator from this district, was in Waseca yesterday and stated that he had brought suit for libel against the publisher of the Blooming Prairie Times, because of an article published in that paper on Aug. 17. The article was in part as follows: "Since Zamboni and his boosters have seen fit to raise the question of Rask's war record, it might be in order to inquire where Zamboni was during the Spanish-American War. He is practically the same age as Rask; he appears to have been robust, hale and hearty. Our country was in need and asked for volunteers. Where was Zamboni?"

-The Cubs finished up their home schedule for the season at the Fair Grounds last Sunday afternoon when they were credited with a 9 to 9 score, while the local score keeper registered a victory for the Cubs. Considerable discussion followed but the locals, feeling confident of a victory, left the field so the respective scores remained unchanged. Mankato scored seven runs in five innings and it looked like a one-sided affair for the visitors. It was in the first of the fifth that the score keepers failed to agree. Anderson circled third with-

out touching the bag and when H. Connolly touched the sack the umpire called him out, retiring the side. The visitors claimed that Hoffman was the man called out at third and that Anderson scored ahead of him.

75 Years Ago – Waseca Herald

-When Rev. and Mrs. Ivar Ramseth move to Northfield this week, it will mark the end of a 22 year long residence in Waseca and a record of activity in community service for them that they can well be proud of. Although they are taking up residence in Northfield, Rev. Ramseth will continue for September and October to occupy the pulpits of the Grace Lutheran and North Waseca churches until his successor arrives the first of November.

-Waseca's two polio patients who are now in the Sister Kenney Institute in Minneapolis are improving steadily, according to reports from the families. Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Poeschel were informed early this week that their son, Richard, had been taken out of the contagious ward on Tuesday after his temperature was normal for two days. They expect to drive to the cities Saturday and will be allowed to see him. Philip Lorig, five year old son of Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Lorig was seriously ill but the latest reports show that he is improving slowly. Sister Kenney, herself, has taken an interest in his case. He was placed in an iron lung several days ago. He has improved enough so it is expected that he will be taken out of it at intervals.

-Central high school football team won the opening game of the season Friday night when it played Mankato on the Community Athletic Field and the final score was 13-0. The Central team looked good to football fans with its drive and defense coupled with a passing attack which took the game from Mankato. Central made 112 yards with passes.

50 Years Ago – Waseca Journal

-Eleven Waseca County 4-H

members exhibited livestock at the State 4-H Market Livestock Show this week at St. Paul. Animals were evaluated live and will also have the animal carcasses evaluated. Final placings in the show will be determined by a combination of the live and carcass placing. Blue ribbons were awarded to the first 10 placings in each class. Participation ribbons were given to the remainder of the placings. In the swine show, Steve Kraus's entry received 2nd in his class, Rich Kraus's 4th, Dale Gehring's 7th, Kurg Hagen's 12th, and Make Kanne's - 16th in classes of over 30 animals.

-Waseca Cable TV withdrew its application for permission to build an antenna on a site 500 feet north of 7th St. N.W. last night at the Waseca County Zoning Board's meeting. Rock Leier, general manager of the cable company told the Journal today that "Because of the opposition from the city council and possible problems with the airport, I decided to withdraw that application and search for another site."

-The University of Minnesota Technical College Waseca and the Southern School of Agriculture began their Faculty Update Conference with a kick-off breakfast yesterday morning. Harland Hasslen presided at the breakfast. UMW Provost Dr. E. C. Frederick gave a welcome to those attending along with Dr. Robert Collins, head of the Southern School of Agriculture.

25 Years Ago – Waseca County News

-Before the Berlin Wall came down, meeting native English-speaking people was next to impossible for the people of East Germany. Through the German American Partnership Program (GAPP), of which Waseca School District is a new member this year, 16 students and two instructors from Neuhaus, in the state of Thuringen, Germany, are immersed in English, American culture, and are having a great time, they said. So far they have attended football and volleyball games, homecoming activities, visited the Mall of America, New Ulm, area lakes, and the Native

American reservation near Morton. Also parts of the plan are the Chanhassen Dinner Theater and a trip to the state capitol.

-After 20 months of negotiations, the Waseca Area Medical Center (WAMC) and Immanuel-St. Joseph's Hospital of Mankato Mayo Health System (ISJ) have reached an agreement that would effectively turn Waseca's health care operations over to ISJ. The agreement is coming before the Waseca City Council tonight for its approval. Dr. Jim Rundquist, chair of the WAMC board, said, "This moves us into a solid partner for long-term health care in our community." WAMC has operated under a management agreement with ISJ since 1989. ISJ became affiliated with the Mayo Health System in 1995. Mike Milbrath, administrator of the local facility, said, "It would have been very difficult to remain independent. This offers us a better opportunity to improve our future delivery of care."

-As the season marches on, the Waseca Marching Jays' performances become stronger. Saturday at the Sioux Falls Festival of Bands, the took first place in their class in the preliminary competitions - both parade and field show - and second place overall, missing first by a fraction of a point. "The kids came off the field and they were so excited. There was so much joy...There were tears, people hugging each other," said director Kim Cosens. "It was amazing. They were so joyful."

-With the Nov. 4 referendum just around the corner, the Aquatic Center Committee is in high gear to gain public support for bringing an aquatic center to Waseca. Members of the committee have stepped up to get the word out to the community. A display including brochures, photos, and an artist's rendition will soon be available for the public to view at major businesses throughout the city. The schools in the area declined to show the display because they want to express a neutral stand on the issue before citizens make a decision on Nov. 4.

Star archives, New Richland

100 Years Ago

- Sam A. Rask, candidate for reelection to the State Senate, addressed a large audience at the Faust Theatre Friday evening last week on the timely topic: "Taxes and the Legislature." His address lacked the usual campaign thunder, but was forceful for the reason that every statement he made in regard to the state's business was born out by written evidence. He not only made some rather plain statements in regard to our system of taxation, but proved them as well.

- Coach Woll's squad of gridders leave this afternoon for Waseca high school eleven for the former's first contest of the year. The Maroon and White squad has been bearing hard on the old pigskin for the past four weeks and they are now hardened into condition for the coming contest, despite the fact that there are only three first string men left from last season. The long standing rivalry existing between the two schools has caused both teams to bend every effort toward victory.

- The Janesville high school has a football team this year and incidentally took part in the first game of football ever played in Janesville last Saturday when they played Hayfield.

75 Years Ago

- Beaver Lake promises to be a fishermen's paradise again next year, thanks to the efforts of Game Warden Geo. Huber, of Owatonna, and "Buck" Kriez of the St. Peter Fish Hatchery. Officer Huber persuaded the "higher ups" in the State Conservation Commission to let him release 450 nice walleyes, 600

sunfish and 500 crappies at Beaver Lake. The walleyes were "beauties", each one of them 8 inches in length. The spawn was placed in the state rearing ponds at Owatonna where the "little fishies" remained for 4 ½ months before being brought to their new home. The sunfish and crappies were yearlings of good size.

- A former New Richland boy had a real experience with a holdup man in St. Paul the other day and saw \$125 vanish from the till of his boss, a St. Paul druggist. Orace Hanson, pharmacist, is employed in the Laska Drug Store. The bandit was let into the store after closing time by a girl employee on the pretense of wanting to buy cigarettes. On entering he pointed a gun at the girl and ordered her to give him the contents of the till. Seeing no bills, he ordered Orace to open the main cash register. He tried to open the register, but couldn't because the plug was broken. The gunman fired, the bullet striking the register and a splinter hit Hanson's leg. Despite his injury, Hanson was forced to get money for the bandit from the store safe.

- If materials were available, particularly cement, it would be possible to complete the Northern States Power Co.'s booster plant this week, so far at least as the building is concerned. Just a small portion of the machinery and other equipment is in the building. The J. E. Pritchard Co.'s building superintendent, Mr. McCready, expects to go from here to North Dakota where a manufacturing plant is to be built - a three-year job.

50 Years Ago

- Ground-breaking ceremonies

for the New Richland Housing Project for the elderly were held Saturday afternoon at the site, two blocks east of the village hall. A procession with the New Richland-Hartland high school band in the lead and dignitaries Congressman Ancher Nelsen and Lt. Gov. Rudy Perpich, other participants and residents moved to the site shortly before 2 p.m. Turning over the first shovel of dirt was Melvin Demmer, chairman of the New Richland Housing and Redevelopment Authority with the aid of Mr. Nelsen and Mr. Perpich.

- The New Richland chapter of the FFA participated in the District 14 Soils judging contest Saturday, September 30 at Faribault. The local chapter placed first with a score of 867, while Faribault and Waldorf-Pemberton tied for second and third with a score of 794.1/2. All three teams earned the right to participate in the State Soil judging contest at the State FFA convention at the University of Minnesota in May.

25 Years Ago

- The Panther football squad proved its worth, Friday night when they capped a successful homecoming week with a 37-6 victory over Madelia-Truman, their second victory of the season. All three of their losses came in contests with undefeated teams. Friday night NRHEG travels to Janesville where they will meet the JWP Bulldogs in their homecoming game.

- U.S. District Court Judge Paul A. Magnuson ruled last week that the hedge-to-arrive agreements between Grain Land Cooperative of Blue Earth and its farmer members were legally binding. However

David Taylor, a Mankato attorney representing about 160 farmers said he will appeal the decision. If the judge had ruled the contracts illegal, it would be most likely that Grain Land would be unable to collect debts it claims farmers owe. However, Taylor noted that the central issue is not whether Grain Land can afford to lose, but - who breached the contract. The farmers claim the contracts allowed them to hold off delivery of corn indefinitely, but Grain Land demanded the grain to meet commitments. Several farmers were sued by Grain Land in an attempt to force them to deliver the corn. A group of farmers answered with a countersuit.

- Nearly 1,500 Minnesotans gave something to the IRS this year, and they can't wait until next year to do it again. According to the Internal Revenue Service, what they gave wasn't money; it was time. They did it through volunteer programs sponsored jointly by the IRS and the Minnesota Department of Revenue. These programs provide free tax assistance to people who can't afford professional tax help. VITA - Volunteer Income Tax Assistance - primarily helps low-income people, senior citizens, people with disabilities, and those who have difficulty with English. TCE - Tax Counseling for the Elderly - is a companion program sponsored by organizations such as the American Association of Retired Persons. The two tax agencies are now recruiting volunteers for next year's programs. The most important qualification is a desire to help others by answering tax questions and filling out basic federal and state income tax returns.



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BRIAN HARGUTH **KEITH JOHNSON**



LOVE FOR MUSIC — Josh Sorenson decided to pursue music after his time in the U.S. Navy. He is pictured by an art mural near the choir room. Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

New choir director open to new ideas

By MICHAEL ROY
Publisher

New Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton (JWP) music teacher Joshua Sorenson followed a long path to get where he is now.

Sorenson originally comes from the small town of Walker in the northern part of Minnesota. His first career was in the Navy as a jet engine operator.

"I did my schooling in Chicago and was stationed in Hawaii for a while," Sorenson explains. "I was then stationed in the Westpac-Arabian Gulf for 14 months in 2011."

He also served as an education petty officer in the Navy and was in charge of teaching others about ship operations.

"Military life was good for me," he says. "But, I always felt like there was something more."

While in charge of fuel and waste offloads, he had time to think. "Music was always a constant in my life," he explains. "I was in stage band, marching band, choir, and musicals in high school. I also come from a family of educators. Both my parents teach and Grandpa taught."

To him, the switch of careers felt natural. He also realized that teaching was his calling when he saw the "light bulb" moments his peers experienced during training. "When I showed them how the light engine works and all of that, it made me think even more," he elaborates. "Between my time teaching and music being a constant in my life, it made sense to put the two together."

That's when he pursued his bachelor degree in music education at Bemidji State and received his dual license for band and music. After attending there for five years, he started his teaching career at Bertha-Hewitt schools as the 5-12 music teacher. "I taught choir, world music, and music theory," he states.

While finishing school at North Dakota State University for a master's degree in music, he was a music teacher at Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City High School where he helped start a chamber choir group. However, he was looking to get a bit closer to family.

"I have some family near the Janesville area," he states. "My grandparents are close to here, too. As opposed to being three hours away in Grove City, being here at JWP makes it so I'm only an hour away now. It also puts me closer to family near the Twin Cities."

Sorenson's favorite thing about teaching is seeing kids grasp concepts and move forward. "When a student understands something and they keep running with it, that makes the job fun," he explains. "When they also suggest stuff and are like, 'I saw this, we should do it. That'd be cool.' That is also a fun part of the job."

More specifically, Sorenson's favorite part of choir is the message within the pieces performed. "I love the text," he emphasizes. "Music as

"I'm excited to get to know the kids and for us to create music together."

— Josh Sorenson

a whole —the grandeur of it and the different situations it can be used for is great. And instrumental music can strike people. But the text is something universal. When you attach the text to a beautiful piece of music, it's another layer.

"What's great with choir is that we can use that text not only to teach students but communities," Sorenson continues. "Whether it's social commentary, emotional learning, history, or maybe even math, you pick all the things and we can talk about it. We talk about every subject level at some point."

Sorenson says one challenge as a choir teacher is finding a good repertoire for the students. "It's tough trying to relate older music to the kids," he admits. "Most contemporary music is often not school appropriate. Also, oftentimes, what they hear on the radio is not arranged for choirs. If you try Disney songs, if it doesn't sound exactly like in the movies, the kids might immediately disconnect."

That being said, Sorenson claims there are still plenty of good musical arrangements. "I plan to do some pop tunes arranged for our first concert."

When it was announced that Sorenson was the new choir teacher at JWP, he says he received overwhelming positivity and support.

"I've felt more welcomed here at JWP than in any other school district," he says. "I cannot say enough nice things about the administration, music faculty, and the rest of the staff in the district. It's been a super-smooth transition and I am thankful for that."

He had lots of praise for JWP band teacher Adam Hille. "He has been awesome to work with," he states. "I can tell he cares a lot about the students and loves his job as a music teacher."

Sorenson has stayed active in musicals, barbershop quartets, men's choruses, and the occasional brass ensemble. He's also been helpful at JWP: He marched with the school marching band at the Minnesota State Fair. "It was great meeting with them," he says. "I'm happy to help out where I can."

Sorenson wants to make the music department at JWP as good as it can be. He is open to taking any suggestions former alumni, teachers, students, and families within the district have for the choir program.

"I'm excited to get to know the kids and for us to create music together."

Pulling strings

Rugroden sends arrows flying

By TRISTAN JENSEN
Editorial Assistant

Rick Rugroden, owner of R-Strings and Cables in Waseca and coach at Waseca Archery Club, grew up in New Richland, spending most of his life there before moving to Waseca around 1984. He's married, with kids and grandkids, all of whom are proudly featured in pictures displayed above the counter in his shop. He went to New Richland High School, back when the school mascot was the Cardinals. After graduating, he attended Albert Lea VoTech. Rugroden started his working life at Design Homes, then Ramsey Plaster and Stucco before operating his own drywall business for 32 years. After about 20 years of being a side business from home, R-Strings and Cables opened with its own storefront in February of 2020. Just weeks later, March came calling with its now-infamous shutdowns. Orders for custom strings from string dealers in other states kept Rugroden's new shop afloat during that time, and he's grateful for it.

Rugroden's interest in archery started as a child. "Dad always shot, and he had a target in our back yard when we were at home. He would stand back in the lilac bushes, and we would have to be at the backside of the house and listen to the arrows fly by. When he was done he'd tell us and we'd run to see how he did." Rugroden got started shooting for himself at the age of twelve, using a recurve bow to shoot carp with his dad. They'd go to Mud Lake in New Richland, float in a duck boat or wear chest waders, and bow-fish. After graduating high school, however, there was a ten-year period when Rugroden didn't pick up a bow. He was busy with young adulthood — making ends meet, getting married, and establishing himself in the community. When his son was five, Rugroden's dad again drew him into the archery world and he shot a compound bow for the first time.

Later, Rugroden worked as the staff shooter representing Owatonna Archery Outfitters; it was in this role that he first shot competitively. Each weekend he and a carload of Wasecans would go to a 3D Shoot. The entry fee was only \$5 at the time, and Rugroden would do as many as three in a weekend representing his employers. He says that's where he learned "just how good people are" in the archery world. At his first 3D Shoot, Rugroden took all six of the arrows he owned, and felt he did well because he didn't lose any. He remembers his score was 168 out of a possible 300, and was astounded to learn that the top score at the shoot was 298. Bruce Barrie, of Rocky Mountain Broadheads, was someone Rugroden considered a friend and he recalls asking him how people shot like that. "You need to shoot what they're shooting," he remembers Barrie telling him.

It was during his time doing 3Ds as a staff shooter that Rugroden learned to make bowstrings. The pre-made string material on bows at the time was, Rugroden says, "garbage." Rugroden was getting his strings from a shop in Mankato and had to make the trip there prior to every tournament. Finally, the people around him convinced him to learn to do it himself.

"Do what they do," Rugroden says, is some of the best advice he's ever gotten. Quality equipment makes a huge difference in accuracy and consistency. High-level competitive archers combine their good equipment with many hours of practice. This was advice Rugroden clearly took to heart — he currently holds three Minnesota state records. At last year's Indoor USA Nationals, he placed third in the nation — the best he's ever shot at that level.

Recently, Rugroden shot at the Senior Games in Albuquerque, New Mexico where he placed fourth nationally in his age and category. The last event he attended was a qualifier for next year's nationals and he won the Seniors. It's the first year Rugroden has shot in the 60-64 category and he talks highly of the experience. "You get with a bunch of seniors, and most of them are retired. They don't care about money. They don't have a care in the world. They're just having a blast, it's so much fun." Scheduling for his indoor season this fall and winter is on hold until the Waseca Archery Club has its October meeting, where President Stacy Thompson will determine the league dates and other details for the Junior Olympic Archery Development (JOAD) program.

Much of Rugroden's current involvement in the archery community is through the Waseca Archery Club, the JOAD program, and coaching. He fell into teaching archery somewhat by accident — upon learning how much better he could be doing, he started paying a lot of money to go to weekend seminars taught by archery professionals. He remembers a clinic put on in Waseca by Alexander Kirillov, Olympic coach for the former Soviet Union, the United States, and Venezuela as particularly interesting. He bought instructional videos, and worked to incorporate everything he learned into his own practice until he'd developed the conscious and subconscious techniques that allow him to shoot at a top-three level. Once he started performing this way, people started asking him how he did it — just as he had previously asked others. It startled him, he said. He shared with people, over time, the mindset of constant change and development that he's accepted. He declares that coaching isn't a "job" for him, he just likes to help people get started on the right foot.

Youth classes at the Waseca Archery Club started twenty-five years ago through Community Education. Enrollment was initially free for a four-week class, with equipment provided. "We had more kids than we knew what to do with," Rugroden remembers. At the end of the course, participants had to decide whether they wanted to buy their own equipment and join the club or if they were finished. This pattern continued for several years until a parent asked for more classes — her son was interested, but not to the point yet where she could buy him the gear and set him loose. So, the club started a class running from January to November with the goal of preparing youth to shoot at the Minnesota State Archery Association. In this class they practiced the nuances of shooting and competing, etiquette, and scorekeep-



Rick Rugroden

ing, then took part at the MSAA State Championship with up to 1,000 competitors. In the beginning, registration for this second course was only \$20, but equipment costs necessitated an increase. According to Rugroden, several state champions have come out of this class. Zoie Thompson, a youth archer from Waseca who holds state and national records and is aiming to compete internationally next year, joined when she was young. She won a high score trophy among the youth at the club, and Rugroden says right then he could see "a real fire" in her.

Today, the Waseca Archery Club hosts classes through the JOAD program — typically offering one for beginners and one for advanced students. This year Chad Miexner, who has been leading JOAD classes in Medford, will be joining Rugroden and the others involved in Waseca's program. Rugroden observes that a major goal for these young archers is to get them used to shooting in the appropriate style, working on mental imaging and positive workflow. It can be difficult, because learners can be carrying a lot of mental baggage at the end of a day — Rugroden, like every coach, hopes his students can leave that behind at the door, but sometimes they can't. He doesn't hold it against them — they're young. One thing he likes to do to help them is write a quote on the chalkboard for them to see that represents the appropriate mindset. One of his favorites, by an unknown author, "Don't complain about the things that you didn't accomplish because of the work you wouldn't do."

At R-Strings and Cables, Rugroden sells bows, arrows, and other archery equipment, but spends the bulk of his time winding custom bowstrings. Doors open at 1:30 each day, but Rugroden can be found there as early as 7 a.m. working on custom orders. From August to December, first because of hunting season and then for gift-giving, is Rugroden's busiest time of year. Each day is different, he says, and people come in with problems, questions, or just stories. "I really enjoy getting photos from people who've bought something from me and seeing their success with the things they got, whether it be a string, arrows I made them, or a whole new outfit — the bow, everything."

To get custom strings, customers typically leave their bows at the shop for a few days. Rugroden asks them about the colors they want — and they're often surprised by how many

options they have, so he spends time showing them how different combinations can look. After winding and stretching the string, Rugroden sets it in the bow before calling the customer back — then, while they're in the shop, he works with them to test and fine-tune everything, ensuring proper draw length and weight. He says bows are typically range-ready when they leave the shop. He often gives mini-lessons to those who buy from him while he tunes the equipment — helping them learn how to better use their release, anchor their shots, and other details. He does it naturally, but also because for many people archery coaching isn't realistic — or they don't know it's an option.

Asked about arrows, Rugroden says, "There's way more to it than people really think." To fit customers with proper arrows, he needs to know their draw lengths and the poundage they shoot at, and the type of shooting they're doing. He takes all of this into consideration and gives them options. There are three quality tiers for arrow shafts — 001, 003, and 006, with 001 being the straightest and thus the highest quality. Sometimes for children and others with short draw lengths, Rugroden says he can use an 006 and cut off most of the bend, improving the shot considerably. For those getting full-length arrows, however, Rugroden always recommends the higher tiers. It's about quality — an 006 arrow at its full length won't consistently fly straight and allow for proper aim. Rugroden buys Victory arrow shafts, cuts them to custom length, and does the fletching himself in the shop, which allows customers to choose personalized colors so they can easily identify their own arrows when shooting in a group. Rugroden also repairs fletching when arrows are inevitably damaged. He can get any brand people want, he says, but people tend to be pleased with the Victory arrows he stocks.

Going forward, Rugroden says his goal is to keep making enough money to keep the shop open. He doesn't want to have to go back to drywall or another job, he says, because "this is too much fun." He wants to keep adding new stock to stay ahead of the curve. "I want this to be a place where people can come and know they're gonna get good service. To me that's the main thing. I try to go above and beyond what people would expect when they walk into an archery shop."

Courthouse lighting project update

By TRISTAN JENSEN
Editorial Assistant

A representative of Lenz Lawn Care attended the regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners October 18 to discuss the progress of the lighting project which will add spotlights to accent various features of the courthouse. A discussion of costs arose which led to a revised bid and installation schedule. When complete, the lighting will illuminate the tallest peaks and spires of the courthouse, including the clock tower and will reach from the sheriff's office to the veterans' memorial. A demonstration performed several weeks ago using temporary lighting received many positive comments from members of the public.

Commissioner DeeAnn Malterer stated that, while the cost of the project may seem "indulgent," the county courthouse is a 125-year-old building whose caretakers should rightly devote resources to maintaining and upgrading. The lighting, in

addition to being attractive, will make the clock tower visible, while also improving security and safety around the entrance.

A representative informed the board the Ditch Authority was ready for final hearings for redetermination of benefits in three matters, and asked that the board set those public hearings. They are CD 16, for a small tile system to the west of Waldorf; CD 28, for another small tile system southwest of Buffalo Lake; and CD 15-1, for a location in Waseca near Gaiter Lake. CD 15-1 also requires a public hearing for partial abandonment and partial transfer, which must be handled prior to redetermination of benefits for that county ditch. All four hearings will take place during the 9:30 meeting on November 15. The board also voted in favor of the findings of fact and order regarding CD 19, which will allow the final payments for crop damages related to that county ditch.

At 10:02 the board opened the public hearing to consider amend-

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

ments to statutes 6.16 and 8.03 of the Waseca County Unified Development Code (UDC), which regulate camping facilities. The issue first arose in August when a group had to seek a conditional use permit for a small camping area, as the definition of a campground provided in the UDC requires a minimum of five sites and no provision was made for smaller venues. The amendments include a definition for a "recreational camping area," which is nearly identical to that for a campground but allows for fewer than five sites and has less stringent requirements for connecting roadways. No public comment was shared: The board passed the amendments with little further discussion.

Ryan Engelstad of Baker Tilly, the tax and advisory firm employed for the county's yearly audit, presented the findings for the 2021 audit of the

county's financial statements, federal award program usage, and compliance with related state statutes. Engelstad reported that some corrections reflecting smaller dollar amounts are needed, but no "non-compliance" issues were noted.

Al Grams was reappointed for three more years to the Southcentral Minnesota Multicounty HRA Board, his term due to expire at the end of the month and Grams having expressed willingness to continue his service. The board also voted to accept a donation in the amount of \$2,222 from VFW Post 1642 for the purchase of a Dragon Eye Speed Lidar, which Sheriff Milbrath described as a handheld speed radar which could more accurately track one vehicle at a time in high-traffic areas. The donation will purchase one unit; all deputies will attend a free training on its use and will begin utilizing it when patrolling areas where traditional speed radar is less effective. The next meeting is scheduled for November 1st at 9:30 a.m.



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Police Association endorses Cornelius

PRESS RELEASE
(St. Paul, Minn.) – The Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association (MPPPOA) and its Board of Directors announce their endorsement of Rachel Cornelius for re-election as Waseca County Attorney.
MPPPOA Executive Director Brian Peters said, “The Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association endorses and hopes people will vote for Rachel Cornelius for Waseca County Attorney. Cornelius is a strong supporter of first responders and public safety officials and will promote public safety proposals that keep communities safe.
Cornelius was instrumental to the state legislature passing the “Matson Strong Bill” named after former Waseca Officer Arik Matson which strengthened penalties for deadly force assault of a police officers. She recognized current law was inadequate and there needed to be enhanced punishments to bring parity to the law to give appropriate consequences for crimes.”
The “Matson Strong” bill was signed into law during the 2021

Legislative Session. Rachel’s work was also recognized by the Waseca Police Department, who awarded and recognized her “commitment for seeking justice.”
Peters said, “We are grateful for the leadership of County Attorney Cornelius and the commitment she brings to the office each day, always putting the safety of the community first. She is an incredibly strong voice for victims of crimes and the county’s law enforcement officials. On behalf of the largest public safety association in Minnesota, we proudly support Rachel Cornelius for Waseca County Attorney.”
Waseca County Attorney Rachel Cornelius said, “I’m honored to have the support of law enforcement and my work to keep our community safe. I’m eager to continue this important effort.”

The Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association is the largest association representing public safety professionals in the State of Minnesota.

Clinic turns 100

PRESS RELEASE
Mayo Clinic Health System in Waseca is commemorating 100 years of health care in the community in conjunction with Mayo Clinic Health System celebrating the milestone of its 30-year anniversary.
Waseca Memorial Hospital was founded in 1922 to care for veterans returning from World War I. In 1998, the medical center joined Mayo Clinic Health System.
“The hospital may have moved locations over the years, but the dedication to providing top-quality health care to the community has remained over the past century,” says Mackenzie Miller, Mayo Clinic Health System in Waseca administrator. “We want to take this moment to honor our current and past employees and numerous volunteers who have contributed so greatly to that legacy.”
Mayo Clinic Health System was established in 1992 with a vision of delivering great care locally, with seamless access to Mayo Clinic in

Rochester for more complex health needs. Over three decades, the health system has expanded to include physical locations in 44 communities in Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin, including 16 hospitals and 53 multispecialty clinics. The health system also now offers a growing menu of virtual care options, as well as a mobile health clinic that brings quality health care to patients in rural communities.
“We are grateful for the trust our communities have placed in us and for the incredible service of our hardworking staff. Our model of care was built on the desire to bring personalized, outstanding Mayo Clinic care close to home in the communities we serve,” says Prathibha Varkey, M.B.B.S., president of Mayo Clinic Health System. “We began with one small site in Decorah, Iowa, and today, our integrated system serves more than 600,000 patients each year with primary, specialty, surgical, emergency and hospital care.”

Two recently hired attorneys at PHB

TRISTAN JENSEN
Editorial Assistant
Law firm Patton, Hoversten, & Berg, serving Waseca, Janesville, Owatonna, and Faribault, has recently hired Joe Heinrichs and Hayden Roslansky, both working as attorneys for the first time since graduating law school. The two started with the firm in August and November of 2021 respectively. Coincidentally, both originate from small towns near Okoboji in northern Iowa – Heinrichs from Estherville and Roslansky from Lake Park – but had never met before signing on to work for the same Minnesota law firm.
Heinrichs works out of the Owatonna location of PH&B, and currently lives in Rochester. He received his undergraduate degree from Briar Cliff University in Sioux City, Iowa, and attended law school at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul. He graduated law school and took the Bar exam in May of 2021. After graduation, while waiting for his Bar results, Heinrichs worked in a clerkship for Judge Carol Hanks, a District Court Judge for Waseca County. Judge Hanks suggested that Heinrichs contact PH&B while he interviewed for attorney positions, as it was the last firm she had worked for before becoming a judge. He already knew the firm by reputation through his work with Judge Hanks, so Heinrichs reached out. He said it didn’t much conversation with PH&B to reach an agreement that he felt would “give me what I wanted and let me chase what I needed to.” He says he also acquired an appreciation for the expertise and experience of attorneys he works with at the firm.
Heinrichs is the second oldest of five siblings. His older sister is the Assistant County Attorney for Martin County, Minnesota. His younger siblings include one sister and three brothers, the youngest of whom is sixteen. His mother still lives in Estherville, where she works at the Catholic Church. In his free time, Heinrichs likes to stay active. He grew up playing sports, and stays active through weight training, along with hiking and biking in the summer. He’s helped to coach Special Olympics athletes in Rochester, most recently for

the powerlifting team. When the weather is less favorable, or when he’s relaxing on the weekends, Heinrichs likes to watch football and spend time with friends and family. He also rides horses, which his family keeps. A favorite recent read is The Life We Bury, the first of seven novels published by local author and retired criminal attorney Allen Eskens.
Heinrichs wanted to be a lawyer from a young age. He recalls conversations with his father as a child that would evolve into debates. It was something they both enjoyed and which shaped his interests in the competitive and confrontational side of law. In school, sometime around fifth grade, he remembers being asked to create a “five-year plan” for high school and the first year after graduation – an assignment intended to have students set goals and consider what classes would help to achieve them. At that time, Heinrichs already wanted to be a lawyer. His teachers encouraged him to have a backup plan, but he says nothing else interested him. Now that he’s reached that goal? Heinrichs does most of his work in litigation – the cases that will go to court. He says it lets him combine his love of competition and his knack for solving problems. “I’ve got people to help,” he says, “It gets you excited for your day.”
Heinrichs hopes to build a reputation as an attorney who will show up and represent his clients to the best of his abilities. He intends to remain with PH&B long-term, as the firm has a reputation that speaks for itself, and a sustainable plan to serve the communities it’s a part of.
Roslansky is based in PH&B’s Janesville office, and moved to Mankato last month from the Twin Cities area. He attended Hamline University in St. Paul for his undergraduate degree, and then moved on to Mitchell Hamline Law School. Between law school and joining PH&B, Roslansky worked as a clerk for a Social Security and Disability firm and as a legislative assistant for the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities. At PH&B, the bulk of Roslansky’s work is in estate planning, along with adjacent fields



Hayden Roslansky



Joe Heinrichs

such as real estate and estate administration. He says he left law school and joined the bar at “the height of post-pandemic re-hiring,” when many experienced attorneys were being placed into positions that would typically be filled by new associate attorneys. PH&B, according to Roslansky, was specifically looking for someone young and new to the field, providing an opportunity he was glad to accept. The move south from the Twin Cities also brought him closer to home, and Janesville is similar in size to Lake Park. “The folks there remind me of the folks I grew up with,” he says – Janesville feels like home, without returning to his hometown. Roslansky says he hopes to stay in the Janesville area long-term, as it’s a good change of pace from the Cities and he enjoys working with farming families. His five-year goal is to build a strong relationship with the Janesville area community and his client base. Now that he lives closer, he also intends to become a part of the Janesville Rotary Club.
Roslansky lives with his girlfriend and their two cats at his home in Mankato, splitting the difference between his mother’s home in Brainerd, Minnesota and his grandparents back in Lake Park, Iowa. He enjoys golfing in the summers, and during the off season

spends his free time watching hockey – in particular he says he’s a big Wilds fan. Recently he finished reading Freakonomics by Stephen J. Dubner and Steven Levitt, which he says is an accounting of unusual or lesser-known things which influence economic development and was “a very interesting way to look at things.” He started his undergraduate career planning to go into politics, not law. He says, “The more I talked to people and did internships, the more it became clear that a good path to that would be to go to law school and learn about the legal system.” It was during his time at Mitchell Hamline Law School that Roslansky decided he’d actually like to be a lawyer, and that it would likely involve “less drama” than becoming a politician.

IN BRIEF

Waseca Coffee Break Debates end Oct. 26

Candidates for Waseca city government, school board, county sheriff, and county attorney positions have debated each other at the Waseca High School Performing Arts Center throughout the month of October. The last debate between the County attorneys will take place Wednesday, Oct. 26. The public is welcome to attend.
All debates will also be available to view by video within 24 hours on the school website, <https://www.waseca.k12.mn.us/15>, 6:30 p.m., City Hall
* * *

Halloween at Waseca Art Center Oct. 29

On Saturday, October 29, there will be a Halloween-themed event at the Waseca Art Center, including a live band and auction. Admission is \$35.

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The Pastor's Column

Surgical reading

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS

What passages mean the most to you? Do you have a verse that God has used to work in your heart or a situation you found yourself in? That is the power of God at work through the word, He is revealing Himself to you through His word to speak to your life or others in very specific ways.

Reading His word gives us hope for today and faith in God for the future. His word is described in Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints, and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

When we read His word, we are asking God to speak to us, our situations, and into the lives of others we come in contact within our communities. God is actively looking to communicate with His people to meet their needs in ways that He is only able to.

As His word speaks to us it cuts to the very heart of the matter. Sharper than anything we can imagine it separates spirit from

soul, and joints from marrow. In an almost surgical way, God's word gently and precisely divides right from wrong and works to restore us to right relationship with Him. It is surprising how often we read His word and it speaks to us and our situations, I love that God knows what we need to read at just the right time.

When there is question of right and wrong, or what we should do next, God is at work and wants to speak to us. He wants us to know His thoughts, even when the decision is ours. His word speaks to our heart, going into our thoughts and feelings, helping us determine what the next best step for us will be.

This is God at work, in and through all things, helping us become His people. He speaks to us, through His word, to be the people He has called us to be. He desires for us to know and be known by Him, leading us into a deeper relationship with Him. By encouraging us to read our Bibles.

Some of my favorite passages may be speaking to you today, Matthew 11:28-30, 2 Peter 2:3-11, Judges 3, or Daniel 1.



FAITH — Waseca track and field athletes Cole Schultz and Bella Hadley shared some tips for finding, time to read the bible.
Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

Faith

from Page 1

At similar events in the south, it's common for big-name Christian bands to provide music and draw thousands of students: Waseca had a smaller, more humble crowd. According to John Conway, one of the evening's organizers, the students had to start from scratch again.

"Covid shut us down for the past two years," he observes. "We usually can get near 100. But this year's the first time since 2019 that we have started up again. So we weren't expecting as many as we usually get."

The meeting place for Waseca's "Fields of Faith" has varied. Some years, it's warm enough to meet at the football field. Other years, it's been too cold to be outside, so the gathering is moved to the nearby Intermediate school. This year, Conway said the decision was a close call. "We decided to still have it outside but end it a bit earlier than usual," he said.

To start the evening, the students had half an hour of play time when most of them participated in football while others kicked giant stuffed footballs for fun or chatted with friends.

When the assembly gathered closer to the bleachers, people split into groups to introduce themselves. Then a few students shared bible verses, starting with Waseca senior Ella Dufault. She called attention to Genesis 1:27, which states, "So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them."

"God is real, and He wants you to personally experience His love and discover His purpose for your life through a relationship with Him," Dufault said.

Carter Miller, a JWP student, shared his verse, dubbed the "bad news" portion of the presentation. Romans 6:23, "For the wages of

sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

"People search everywhere for meaning and fulfillment," Miller spoke, "but not with God. Everyone has sin, which damages your relationship with God."

Camille Ring from Waseca shared Romans 5:8, "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

"Sin does not keep God from loving you," Ring added. "Jesus died for us so we can be forgiven."

Conway then used a football to describe being physically alive but spiritually dead. "Footballers need a good amount of air to go the distance," he said. "When Adam disobeyed God in the garden, we went flat like this football. Sin entered the world, and we were separated from God."

He then shared Romans 5:19, "For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous."

"We're born physically alive but spiritually dead," Conway added. "That's why Jesus says we must be born again, so we die physically but not spiritually. And that's what 'Fields of Faith' is about, that main message in the Bible. Just like air needs to go inside of the football, people must take in the Holy Spirit to be spiritually filled."

After the students discussed where they were spiritually with their peers, they ended the event with a cup of hot chocolate.

Other schools including Owatonna, Mankato West, Pine Island, Lewiston, and many more around the region have held or will hold a "Fields of Faith" event this year. NRHEG has scheduled an event on Wednesday, October 26.

Despite the lower-than-usual turnout, Conway was happy with Waseca's event. "We have some great Christians here in Minnesota," he shared. "We especially have a lot of student athletes who are dedicated to following Christ."

Pastor Jared Korb to preach in home church

Wilton Church 150th Anniversary celebration continues

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

"Compared to Worland, Waseca is a metropolis," observes Pastor Jared Korb, an ordained minister of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and 2004 graduate of Waseca High School.

Since 2013, Korb has been serving at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Worland, Wyoming. He is looking forward to October 30, when he will be preaching in a 10:30 worship service at his home congregation, Trinity Lutheran Church of Wilton, south of Waseca. The rural church has been holding quarterly special events to celebrate its 150th anniversary this year.

The October gathering, the celebration's culmination, features Korb as its preacher both because he is an ordained "son" of the church, and because his father, the Reverend Glenn Korb, served as the church's pastor from 1990 until retiring in 2013. Jared was ordained there by his father just prior to his retirement.

He was called to St. Luke's that same year and has been serving there

ever since as the sole pastor to the congregation of about 150 people. He has an array of stories to share about the many changes a Minnesota-raised individual experiences when moving to Wyoming. "For one thing, the Big Horn basin is considered a desert," he observes. "We typically get about 7" or less of rain a year."

But an even bigger element is distance. "The nearest Walmart is one-and-a-half hours away," he says, also noting it is the same distance to the nearest town large enough to have services and businesses most Minnesotans find readily available. "Around here," Korb observes, "someone from Waseca would be classified as 'big city folk.'"

Fewer than 5,000 live in the town of Worland, falling in line with the whole state, which has a population of about half a million spread across roughly 98,000,000 square miles. Minnesota, which is about 10,000,000 square miles smaller, has a population approaching 6 million.

"Not always, but often, it's possible to drive 40 or 50 miles and not

see another car," Korb comments. Not that he minds, by the way. He says the close-knit nature of a small town seems somehow magnified by the isolation. The area and the people have charms all their own.

"It took about 1 minute to get all the way down Mt. Kato when you were skiing," he remembers. "Here you can ski for 20 minutes and not reach the bottom." At an elevation of 4,065, the Worland area has a crisp atmosphere and a mile-high feel. He remembers a visit from his mother Linda, a former Waseca-area resident now living near grandchildren in Osage, MN. In 2017 Linda and some other family members came to Worland for the total solar eclipse whose path of totality crossed Wyoming that year. Thanks to the clear atmosphere, "It was surreal," he says.

Pastor Korb is looking forward to the nostalgia and familiarity of returning to the church where he attended Sunday School and listened to his father preach. He sees the 150th anniversary as evidence of God's on-going blessings and His promise to keep His word, the Gos-



Pastor Jared Korb will preach at a service scheduled for 10:30 a.m. Sunday, October 30 at Trinity Lutheran Church of Wilton, south of Waseca.

pel of Jesus Christ, and the sacraments available to worshippers.

"It's a blessed opportunity to preach the word of God to the people who first taught it to me," he says. Given that anticipation, the 14-hour drive needed to get him from Worland to a family member's home in Minnesota is not daunting to him.

He admits, though, to one cloud on his horizon. "I'm terrible with names," he says sheepishly. "I hope people won't mind when I have to ask them to introduce themselves."

All interested guests are welcome at the 10:30 worship service.

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ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 314 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-2647 Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m. * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Otisco, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship * * *	IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Freedom Township Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship * * *	FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 Owen St., Janesville Interim Pastor * * *
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net) Worship Sunday 10 a.m. * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Mary Iverson Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting * * *	ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Pastor Ava Adams-Morris Waldorf, Minnesota Sunday — 9 a.m. Worship * * *	ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH Alma City, Minnesota Vacancy Sunday = 1 p.m. Worship * * *
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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. * * *	LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN Wilton Township Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship * * *	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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9 All you can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am to Noon Your Host "CERT" County Emergency Response Team	10 7pm Post & AUX Meeting	11 5-7pm BURGER NITE	12 6pm Bar Bingo	13 U.S. NAVY Birthday 1775 7pm Bingo	14 Meat Raffle 5:30pm	15 PRIVATE EVENT
16	17	18 5-7pm BURGER NITE	19 6pm Bar Bingo	20 7pm Bingo	21 WALLEYE OR SHRIMP DINNER 5:00 to 7:00 Support our food shelf bring a donation	22 PRIVATE EVENT
23 All you can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am to Noon Your Host VFW Bantam Hockey	24	25 5-7pm BURGER NITE	26 6pm Bar Bingo	27 7pm Bingo TREATS ON THE STREET	28 Meat Raffle 5:30pm	29
30	31					

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TAKEDOWN — A Waseca fifth-grader slows down Le Sueur-Henderson's running back while two others prepare to finish the job. Pioneer photos by Michael Roy



EASY PLAYS — With great catches and walk-in touchdowns aplenty, Waseca and Kasson-Mantorville had successful days, with the Komets' fourth-graders and the Jays' fifth-graders taking first place in their divisions.

45 teams and a football jamboree Waseca fifth-graders prevail

By MICHAEL ROY
Publisher

Saturday, October 15 was filled with the sounds of cheering and the clash of shoulder pads at the Waseca Football Jamboree from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. A total of 45 teams from grades 3-6 faced each other on the high school football fields; schools as small as Randolph to as large as Faribault battled for the right to call themselves the top teams of their grade.

The Waseca Football Jamboree began when the Waseca Football Association was formed by its President Ed Hoehn around 2004. "My son was in fifth grade and that's how it all got started," he said.

The jamboree took shape within a couple years of the organization's founding. "We had a bunch of towns in the area that started Minnesota youth football," he explained. "At the end, the sixth-graders had a playoff game Tuesday night and played in the Minnesota Vikings dome on Sunday. We went from there to Rochester stadium."

While the sixth-graders traveled across the state to play on bigger football fields, those in fourth and fifth grade didn't have any special playoff spots. "We decided the solution was to hold a large jamboree on Saturdays."

Waseca playing fields offered an

ideal setting: along with the main football field where the Bluejay high school teams play, the district has four additional football fields in the same complex, allowing up to five games to be played at once.

Hoehn claims the event was so successful that the sixth-grade teams wanted to be a part of it, thus reducing travel and saving costs.

The celebration grew into a fantastic afternoon of football with four lucky teams taking home trophies. Randolph's third-grade team, Kasson-Mantorville's fourth-grade team, Waseca's fifth-grade team, and Hayfield's sixth-grade team took home the gold this year. As an added bonus, Waseca finished the season undefeated according to Hoehn.

"The jamboree went really well," he concluded. "We were pretty fortunate to have great weather. Lots of key people put in a lot of time, and that helped us out."

Hoehn is ecstatic about the future of the jamboree and Waseca's football program. "I feel fortunate being in this town," he said. "We have a great youth football program followed by a great high school team. It continues to only get better. Waseca is so successful because it's not just one group but everyone in the community working together. It's why we get to do the things we do."

JWP Homecoming Pep Fest and Spirit Walk



The volleyball team was one of three JWP fall sports teams participating in the spirit walk Friday, October 14. Walking, from left, are Makae Erdman, Katie Olson, Victoria Blomstrom, Brielle Dessner and Aubrey Weedman.



COMPETITIVE STREAK — Left, Cole Schlueter, Sam Carlson and Nick Johnson compete for two chairs in musical chairs. Right, senior Kennedy Jewison runs past two freshman defenders in football.



Senior Ian Barnes



Senior Kelton Erler is eliminated from a game of musical chairs.



Sophomores Ethan Born, Max Davis, and Lucas Morsching celebrate a big win against the seniors, securing first place in the boys' volleyball tournament.



Queen Jessa Westphal and King Jack Cahill hand candy out to elementary students during the spirit walk.

Pioneer photos by Michael Roy

Laughs shared and memories made

JWP's homecoming pep fest and spirit walk Friday, October 14

By MICHAEL ROY
Publisher

Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton's 2022 homecoming week was a little different from those in the past. This year, the annual celebration of Bulldog pride occurred near the middle of October—later than the usual homecoming in September or very early October. Perhaps because this year's fall sports was pushed back by the relatively late (Sept. 6) start of school, the homecoming football game was on a Thursday while volleyball took the Friday spot. (Check out this week's sports page for results.)

Following the coronation and crowning of Queen Jessa Westphal and King Jack Cahill, JWP celebrated homecoming with four days of dressing up like soccer moms, in various colors depending on the grade, and as surfer dudes. Activities such as FFA Fall Fun Day and lunch

karaoke made the week even more entertaining for the students.

But the pep fest was what had everyone's spirits high Friday, October 14. Starting at 1:15 p.m., the JWP pep band welcomed fans into the high school gym with classics like "Hey Baby."

The first activity was a game of "Musical Chairs," with Spanish and English teacher Jessica Oelke providing commentary and 2022 graduate Cory Scrabeck supplying the music playlist. About six or seven students from each grade participated, with bragging rights as the prize. Oelke and Jessica Keenan acted as referees to prevent the participants from cheating by stopping the circle from moving, sitting down prematurely, or placing hands on chairs.

A few of the students, especially the boys, took the game seriously. Girls were eliminated early, with

Sophomore Paige Walz as one of the final female holdouts. The final two competitors were senior Nick Johnson and junior Cole Schlueter, with Schlueter taking the win.

Boys' volleyball had four matches, with the seniors facing off against the freshmen and the juniors facing the sophomores. Each match was six minutes, or whoever got to 25 first. The seniors easily defeated the freshmen while the sophomores won a close match against the juniors.

A third-place match took place afterward, with the juniors squeaking a win. The championship matchup between the sophomores and seniors was extended to eight minutes. The sophomores scored a dozen straight before the senior boys found a way to get points on the board. Despite a valiant comeback effort, the sophomores held on to win the volleyball tournament among the four grades.

With such great matchups in vol-

leyball, the football games were sadly cut short. Both games played between the four grades went into overtime. The seniors won the first game 7-0 while the juniors won via a rock, paper, scissors tiebreaker. As the time came for the spirit walk, Oelke declared the seniors as winners because the juniors "took too long to get on the court."

The spirit walk took place about 2:45 p.m. Members of the homecoming court led the walk, accompanied by the cross country, football, and volleyball teams who handed out candy to the elementary students while circling the perimeter of the school.

Although the football and volleyball games may have not gone the Bulldogs' way, 2022 homecoming was one to remember with many laughs shared and memories made.

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