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LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY
No. 46 Vol. I \$2 Office at 103 South State Street Waseca Friday, November 18, 2022



Giveaway

Interim manager

Carl Sonnenberg to start Nov. 30

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

The Waseca City Council approved a resolution naming Public Utilities director Carl Sonnenberg as interim city manager to replace outgoing manager Lee Mattson, effective Nov. 30, 2022. A motion was also approved to postpone the hiring of a full time city manager until the new council is seated in January.



Sonnenberg

In the meantime, during the short special meeting begun at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2022 to discuss the city manager position, council members Jeremy Conrath and John Mansfield advocated that the council should consider switching from a city manager to a city administrator. A main difference between the two positions is the individual's control over the hiring and firing of city employees. An administrator typically does all the background work for hiring or firing and brings a suggestion to the council for final approval or rejection. A manager, on the other hand, has the ability to make that decision independently.

Prior to approval of the resolution, the topic of pay for the interim administrator was discussed. Initially Sonnenberg suggested his pay be \$3,400 per month in addition to his salary as utilities director during his period as interim manager. Councilperson John Clemons proposed the salary be set at \$1,000, the amount previously used for the interim position, but the amendment failed to pass. The majority of council members said the resolution, written by Sonnenberg, was well researched and they believed his recommendation was defensible. The decision to hire Sonnenberg was unanimous.

* * *

11th Annual Bluejay Blast November 19

The Waseca Schools PTO will be hosting its 11th Annual Bluejay Blast Saturday, November 19. A silent auction will take place from 9-11:30 a.m. at Waseca Intermediate School where "Chris Cakes" will serve pancakes until 11 a.m. A live auction will take place at the Starfire Event Center at 6:30 p.m.

* * *

Pat Donohue and Ron Arsenault at Waseca Art Center

Waseca Art Center will host Pat Donohue and Ron Arsenault for a concert Saturday, November 19 starting at 7 p.m. Donohue and Arsenault are long-time Minnesota singer-songwriters who will play an acoustic set. Tickets are available in advance at the Waseca Art Center or at the door.

A word from The Word

A time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.
Ecclesiastes 3:8

Recognizing and honoring

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

Waseca Junior and Senior High School hosted guest speaker Robert Tackett as it honored all veterans during its annual Veterans Day program in the high school gymnasium Friday morning, Nov. 11, 2022.

"Do not take their bravery for granted," Waseca principal Jason Miller said as he welcomed students, staff, and local veterans. "Bravery is not the absence of fear. Bravery is feeling the fear, the doubt, the insecurity and deciding that something else is more important. We are the home of the free because of the brave—thanks to the men and women

of our armed forces."

Senior class vice president Jenaro Delgado Jr. shared a story before the posting of the colors.

Delgado's brother Jesse Delgado served in the Army National Guard for six years, and two more with the reserves. He was stationed at Camp Ripley in Little Falls, MN. He was an artilleryman, he was a 13 bravo cannon crewmember and he was activated once for the national guard during the riots in Minneapolis. "I'm very proud of my brother because he is the first of our family to take the step into joining the military."

"We can never fully repay our debt of gratitude to the more than 650,000



RECOGNITION - During the playing of the Armed Forces Medley at Waseca High School's Veterans Day program, different branches of the military were recognized. Above Isaac Pfeifer holds the Marine Corps flag.
Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

American service members who died in battle or the 1.4 million who were wounded. We can, however, recognize and thank the 25 million vet-

erans still living today," J.D. Delgado

Program continued on 6

Waseca Area Foundation grant recipients



Waseca Area Foundation grant award winners from left: Lisa Weegman, Missy Dunn, Kelly Boeddeker, Afton Finley, Rhonda Priebe, Candy Picka, Gretchen Priebe, Dr. Jason Miller, Diane Roesler, Michelle Redman, Andrea Kronbach, Jessica Rollins, Eric Kehoe, Joe Feldkamp, Jessica Stuckmayer, Jean Keenan, Isaac Feldkamp, Gail Schmidt, Amy Nelson, Roger Ashland, Vanessa Jensen and Paul DeMorett.
Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

More than \$100,000 in grants delivered

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

The Waseca Area Foundation/EF Johnson Foundation held their annual grant awards program at the Central Building in Waseca on Wednesday afternoon, Nov. 9, 2022.

What started as a "\$6,000" pipe dream in the 80s, beginning with their first grant of \$600, has now allowed the organization to donate more than \$12.5 million—more than \$300,000 of that in 2021 alone.

"As you drive around town, you see things that make a difference in the community for people of all ages," former WAF chair David Oraskavitch said as the program began. "We make a difference in Waseca, New Richland, Janesville, and all of Waseca County. People continue to support us year after year; we wouldn't be able to do this without them. Thank you to every-

one here and for the continued generosity of those who live in this community, who continue to support these programs."

A long list of grant awards was given out. Each and every recipient present briefly explained their organization and provided the reason and story behind their grant application. Their stories follow, in order: Royal Villa, New Richland, \$1,600 for a raised garden; Lutheran Social Services, \$2,000 for foster family programming; Waseca Neighborhood Service Center, \$3,000 for food shelf purchases; Life Work Planning Center, \$2,200 for workshops/training for women in transition services; Big Brothers Big Sisters, \$7,500 for mentoring support programs; Waseca County Historical Society, \$2,294 for display bases; Waseca Area Caregivers, \$3,667 for caring hands program support; Waseca Arts Council,



Waseca Area Foundation board members present during their fall awards program held at the Central Building, Nov. 9, 2022, from left: Al Kingsley, Dave Dunn, David Oraskovich, Michele Priebe, Amy Potter and Emily Knudsen.
Photo by Eli Lutgens

\$4,000 for a ceramics studio; Waseca Public Library, 3 grants totalling \$8,000 for the summer concert series, for teen events, and the annual water carnival; Junior Achievement, \$3,000 for Waseca Schools Program; Waseca County 4-H, \$2,500 for programming enhancement; Farnamerica, \$3,000 for Ag Career Exploration; SW Metro Transition Program, \$400 for small business project; Waseca Community Educa-

tion received two grants, \$3,000 for Summer Youth Theatre, and \$10,000 for youth development grant scholarships; NRHEG High School received a grant for \$1,000 to purchase novels for the special education English department, taught by Melissa Dunn; On behalf of NRHEG's Distributive Education Club of America,

Awards continued on 4

Business of the year goes to...

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

For the third year in a row, the Waseca Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual Business and Industry Celebration at the Mill in Waseca, on Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2022. Five awards were given out, the most notable, the People's Choice award, going to 4-Seasons Apparel and More.

During Covid, 4-Seasons was in a difficult situation. Faced with the threat of closing, the company decided to rebrand instead, changing from 4-Seasons Athletic to 4-Seasons Apparel and More. This opened

the company's marketing opportunities to a wider area, something owners Jeremiah and Jayla Miller claim saved their business. "The name change gave us the power of a network to reach far and wide," Jeremiah said as he and Jayla accepted the award. "We want to say thank you. To Waseca, and our supporters."

The Millers joked that they had a feeling they would win after they weren't asked to be presenters for the program, a role they are accustomed to filling. "That kind of gave

Chamber continued on 5

Charges filed in Thursday shooting

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

Two Waseca men were charged with attempted murder Monday in Waseca County District Court following a car shooting which took place in the early morning hours of Thursday, Nov. 10.

Though an occupied vehicle experienced a shattered window and 7 or more bullet holes, no one was injured.

Charged with numerous felonies in Waseca County Court on Monday were Anthony Deshawn Coleman, 29, and Khalee Ahmad Fox, 27. Both are accused of attempted murder in the first degree-premeditated, and second-degree assault with a dangerous weapon. The first charge carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison, the second up to 7 years. Unconditional bail for the defendants was set at \$1 million, conditional bail at \$800,000.

Last Thursday at approximately 12:30 a.m., officers were dispatched in response to two back-to-back calls reporting gunshots in the area near Minnwest Bank in Waseca. The first 911 caller said she heard roughly seven shots, followed moments later by another three.

Shortly after, a second 911 caller stated that his car had been shot at near Barden's Bar. Upon arrival at the scene, officers found the second caller in his car in the parking lot near Barden's. The rear driver's side window of the vehicle was shattered, and there were what appeared to be several bullet holes in the passenger side panels. The victim reported that "Khalee Fox" and "Solo," later identified as Coleman, shot at him and his vehicle.

According to police, the victim had pulled into the back parking lot behind Barden's Bar, where Fox approached him. The complaint states that the victim and Fox had a history. The victim said he started to back his vehicle up, saw Fox run into the bar, then heard gunshots and saw Coleman firing at him. He then reported Fox came back out of the bar, put his arm through an open vehicle window, and proceeded to fire.

When police asked the victim whether he had seen a gun in Fox's hand, he replied that Fox was the only person he saw behind him after hearing the "booms" of the gunshots.

The victim also stated he had seen a "dark gun" in Coleman's hands, along with the muzzle flash, just as Fox's arm reached through the open window.

The bartender at Barden's confirmed that Fox and Coleman were outside the bar in the alley area when she heard gunshots. The bartender said Coleman came back into the bar after the gunshots to retrieve three females whose company he had been sharing beforehand; the four left in a black SUV.

After the 911 calls, the vehicle

Charges continued on 3



NEW NAME, SAME GREAT SERVICE - 4-Seasons Apparel and More was named Waseca's People's Choice business of the year.
Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens



Compostings

by Al Batt
copyright © 2022 by Al Batt

Good hide and seek players hard to find

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

I've got 20 goldfish living in my bathtub.

What do you do when you want to take a bath?

I blindfold them.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I was three days early in completing a task. Daylight saving time always throws me off. My neighbor Crandall is teaching his turkeys how to play the banjo. He hopes the turkeys will pluck themselves. Crandall and I used to share a water supply. We got a long well. He believes in paying it backward. He told the young woman at the drive-up window that the car behind him was going to pay for his food.

Grin and bear it

So there I was on a November day in Alaska. I was watching a brown bear catch salmon in Chilkoot Lake. I watched from a safe distance as I showed the bear to a couple from New England. The woman was interested but uneasy. Her husband tried to assure her, "That bear is more afraid of you than you are of it."

She responded quickly, "If the bear said that, it's lying."

MAKE DO OR DO WITH-OUT

"Use it up, wear it out, make it do or do without." The War Advertising Council coined that slogan during World War II at the time of victory gardens, saving kitchen grease and donating scrap metal for munitions. Its purpose was to promote the need to conserve scarce resources and to help keep prices down by not generating excess demand. Use it up, wear it out, make it do or do without.

The good folks who lived on my family's farm before us, resided in a granary while a house was being built. In a time when T-shirts were all white, a boy in my school turned his inside out and wore it with the dirty side in. A beloved aunt of mine, after becoming the lone resident of her house, used both the top and the bottom of a plate before washing it.

I pulled into my assigned parking space for a regular job I do in a city. My parking spot had been replaced by a large excavator and a temporary fence. Someone had taken my parking place and left a big hole. I parked on the street. It wasn't much of a sacrifice, but I did without.

ASK AL

"How can I tell if it's a horn or an antler?" If you hear the sound coming from a car, it's a horn.

"How could I find more free

time?" Anytime you see an email, text or social media post promising to shock or scare you, don't read it. It won't be true.

"What is the recommended safe distance to maintain from a grizzly bear?" 17 miles.

"What streaming service did you have when you were a kid?" It was called imagination.

I'VE LEARNED

I like B more than the L or the T in a BLT.

Inacupuncture is ineffective.

If all the insects are smashed onto the back window of my car instead of the windshield, I'm driving too slowly.

Good hide-and-seek players are hard to find.

My wife said I can be an idiot sometimes, so I've penciled in an hour on Thursdays for that.

Things to be thankful for at Thanksgiving
Stretchy pants.

That you haven't saved every twist tie.

Those who forgive without conditions.

Another reason for living in Hartland

Residents get free parking, which makes us feel like members of Congress.

NATURE NOTES

Squirrels were squirreling away the fallen acorns. Oaks can be 900-year-old trees—300 years of growth, 300 years of stasis and 300 years of decline. Most species of oaks begin producing acorns at about 20 years of age, with peak mast production occurring at around 50 to 80 years. Every two to five years, oak trees have a mast year when they produce many more acorns than they produce in other years. An oak tree is in the genus Quercus. "Quer" means "fine" and "cuez" means "tree" in Celtic. An oak's root zone extends beyond the drip line of the tree. The drip line is the outermost edge of a tree's foliage. Oak trees support 897 caterpillar species in the US. A single pair of breeding chickadees needs 6,000 to 9,000 caterpillars to rear one clutch of young birds, according to Doug Tallamy, a professor of entomology and wildlife ecology at the University of Delaware. A black-capped chickadee weighs as much as four or five pennies.

MEETING ADJOURNED

"Cultivate the habit of being grateful for every good thing that comes to you, and to give thanks continuously. And because all things have contributed to your advancement, you should include all things in your gratitude."—Ralph Waldo Emerson.

My best friend's quarter life crisis

I had a much-needed two-day vacation this past weekend.

My best friend since 3thrd grade celebrated his 25th birthday, or what he called his "quarter-life crisis," on Saturday, November 12. How bold of Eric to predict he'll outlive the average human by a couple decades.

The celebration of his 25 years on this Earth was pretty low key. I provided some champagne and orange juice to make mimosas and liven up the party a little bit. But it turned out only he and I would partake in the drinking of mimosas over a pancake breakfast. Fun fact: Mimosas are usually the drink of choice for breakfast.

Otherwise, we played board games with his family throughout Friday and most of Saturday. Then we went to a Mexican restaurant he always wanted to try since he and his wife moved down to Iowa. After that, we watched the new Black Panther movie Wakanda Forever. And that was all she wrote. Like I said, it was pretty low key.

I find it funny how Eric's mom Paula likes to give him a hard time. She recently moved down to Iowa to be closer to him and her granddaughter. Eric always bragged about how their



Music to my Ears

by Michael Roy
copyright © 2022 by Michael Roy

part of Iowa is consistently warmer than Minnesota. Well, at least while I was down there, there were some nights even their little slice of God's country was chillier than back home to the north.

Well, the joke's on us. As I sit here writing this, we are currently under our first winter weather advisory of the snowy season after most of us were wearing shorts in the morning four days ago. Our first measurable snow is at least powdery to start things off. It's much easier to deal with than that wet, heavy stuff that usually comes our way during the transition from fall to winter.

Speaking of jokes, Paula gave me a hard time about my lack of coverage on the Vikings. Last year, I had a lot to say about the team. She pointed out that I haven't said much since they've been

doing great this year. Well, Paula, here's your dose of a Vikings fan ranting about the boys in purple.

In 2021, I repeated many times that the team should be my pallbearers so they can let me down one last time. This year, this team makes me want to drink.

Yes, they are 8-1. But in their seven-win streak, all of their games have been decided by one score. And if memory serves, they have gotten behind in nearly all of them at some point in the matchup. Their game against the Bills was such a rollercoaster that I nearly lost my voice.

They were down by 14 at halftime, and with miracles such as the Bills quarterback Josh Allen fumbling the snap and us falling on it for a touch-down, Justin Jefferson making a one-

My immune system is better than this

Well, it finally happened. I got sick. Usually, I pride myself on my strong immune system because the last time I remember getting sick enough to miss class is high school.

The end of my junior year (about three years ago), I had to take off the two days of school right before the state shut down schools for two weeks because of COVID-19. At the time I had a fever of 103.6 (or something) and was almost hallucinating at some points. So there's that.

Then there was the fall of my senior year when I got bronchitis just before the indoor marching band concert. Having to perform in a concert with a fever and cough, while being absolutely exhausted was insane. I remember that I didn't even have enough energy to play my clarinet. It took all I had to just hold it and remember what my next spot was while marching.

Thankfully, this illness is not that



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler
copyright © 2022 by Amelia Roessler

bad. I didn't know I had a fever until I was waiting to play my Sunday night intramural cornhole game. My partner had to sub for another player on a different team that was playing before us, so I was just lying on the ground of the fieldhouse waiting. At one point when I put my head down on the ground, it felt like it was a belltower and it was time for church—Oh, she was ringing.

Let's just say we lost that cornhole game. We got back and I didn't even have energy to make dinner. Instead, I took a really long shower with the knob

almost fully hot and it was scalding. I loved it. I'm assuming that everyone else gets chills when they have a fever. I know that's what happens to me. I could be sitting on the couch with a long -sleeved sweatshirt and coat on and still need to have my winter hat on and be covered in a blanket. And I would still be shivering.

Anyway, I'm feeling a little better now with no fever but a slight cough, so we're chilling.

Can you believe that the midterm election was the first time I have ever

handed catch with the defender attempting to intercept it on a 4th and 18...I don't know how we won that game. All I can say is that this year's has to be a team of destiny to pull off that upset against the Bills. I don't care what the narratives will be about this team going forward.

Seriously, folks. If you deal with anxiety, maybe it's best if you don't watch the Minnesota Vikings and you let a friend summarize it for you instead. I can't even deal with this team some days. That Bills game put me over the top.

This Week in Music

On November 12, 1971, the band Yes released its fourth studio album, Fragile. The album reached double platinum, was their second-best selling album in the United States, and was their second-highest charting one in the US at number four.

Fragile features their signature song "Roundabout." The song was made popular again in the past few years when it became part of the "To Be Continued" meme.

voted? Yeah, me neither. It was exciting to drive down from the Cities Tuesday night, vote, have my mom put groceries in my trunk (thanks Mom and Dad), and then drive back up.

I want to say congratulations to the Marching Jays for what I hear was a highly successful Indoor! Sorry I couldn't make it, but I hear it was amazing. Good luck to the Waseca Theater Department in their performances of Little Women!

Also, if anyone knows someone who is looking for a sublease in the Cities from January to May (possibly even June), let me know! Since I am studying abroad in Spain, I'm looking for someone to live with three other amazing women.

My Determination : "I just want to lie on the beach and eat hot dogs. That's all I've ever wanted." — Kevin Malone, The Office

Giving student government a try

What an interesting week it has been! With just one week till Thanksgiving break, I'm still continuing to shake things up and make waves on campus. One way that I'm doing this is spearheading a small event for I Love To Write Day, which took place on Tuesday. In the spirit of the holiday, students and staff are invited to write a reason they love writing on a heart-shaped post-it note; with luck, I will receive enough to cover the entire Writing Center door. My press release for the I Love To Write Day festivities caught the attention of the holiday's founder, who sent us a message through the Saint Mary's administration. This is my latest way of bolstering the marketing efforts of the Writing Center. I'm still tutoring, but my skills are definitely getting put to use on that side of the operation as well. Later this week, I'm at-



Looking in the Mirror

by Jonah Stafford
copyright © 2022 by Jonah Stafford

tending a meeting to plan a proper, large-scale Writing Center event that will hopefully take place in the near future. The other major undertaking for the WC is the designing of a logo to be displayed on employee t-shirts. I've already figured out a relatively cheap way to get those printed, but now it's a matter of making the logo. With a potential first foray into merchandising already brewing, spearheading this operation is definitely within my realm.

Besides this, I have given a lot of

thought to my Student Senate run this week. With the position of Vice President for Multicultural Affairs open due to the resignation of the current officeholder, I figured I might as well give student government a try. My competitors are already in the senate, but I'm hoping that my visibility on campus and social skills can give me an upper hand. Even if I don't win on Friday, this could be a sign of things to come for me: It's decently likely I will run for hall or class representative next year.

Looking back at my 24 years

Thursday, I turned 25 years young. It's hard to believe I'm in my mid-20s. Talking with folks, as I like to do, I've learned that people typically regret the things they didn't do much more than things they tried and failed at. I feel like I'm doing a good job taking chances and attempting the things I would regret not trying. I think they say the perfect balance is to live a life your 80-year-old self can look back on with pride, but also, your 10-year-old self can look forward to and say, "That's going to be fun!"

Running a newspaper is a lot of work. And now I'm running two. I'm grateful for the kind words of our readers, my friends, and my family. Looking back at my 24th year of life, 2021-'22 is a whirlwind.

I lost more people close to me than at any other point in my life. My grandfather died. Linda Shell died. My best friend died.



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens
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It seems like every week an obituary comes through the paper that feels like a punch to the stomach. Living in a small town is a blessing and a curse. That's what Bonnerup's new funeral director, Kasie Watkins, told me. A blessing, because, in most places (not small towns), you're not close with enough people for this to happen. That said, I wouldn't trade our tight-knit community for anything.

At 23, I purchased the Star Eagle from my father. A month prior to my 24th birthday, I acquired the Southern Minnesota Golden Link. Also,

that October, Dad was diagnosed with his autoimmune disorder. I remember him calling me from the hospital that day. (This was the end of a two-year cycle of more hospital stays, visits, and doctor appointments than I can remember. It was a lot.) "Eli, they finally figured it out! I'm not crazy!"

We're all crazy. We're in the newspaper business.

Anyhow, I didn't believe it. A year later, Dad hasn't had one return hospital stint. This past year has been the best year I've had with my father since, well, ever. There were many,

many good, great memories with my dad, and my siblings, but, that said, this has been a struggle that started 12 years ago. I was 12.

My dad and I have gotten closer this year than really any other time. We spent an uncountable amount of time together when I was growing up, but, at that age, you don't really know how precious everything is. I just didn't know. I don't think any kids know how precious time with their parents is. When doing "Meet your Neighbor" interviews, I often hear that people, given one day, one more lunch with anyone, from any time, choose their parents. I have better context now.

I'm grateful for this past year. All the ups and all the downs. I believe everything happens for a reason, whether we know those reasons or not. Here's to my 25th year of life, starting, well, today, November 17, 2022.



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RINGING — Waseca Police Chief Penny Vought, State Representative John Petersburg, and Waseca Fire Chief Jason Forshee are three of many volunteers organizing the ringing for the Salvation Army in Waseca this year.

Salvation Army ringing in Waseca

By MICHAEL ROY
Publisher

The Salvation Army is synonymous with holiday spirit. Every year, ringers are stationed at Hy-Vees, Walgreens, and other businesses throughout the country to collect money to help people in need.

This year, a committee made up of State Representative John Petersburg, Police Chief Penny Vought, Fire Chief Jason Forshee, Sheriff Brad Milbrath, and many other members are preparing for another year of ringing in Waseca.

According to Petersburg, the prospect of forming a committee for a Waseca branch of the Salvation Army started two and a half years ago. In the first year of having ringers at the Waseca Walmart, \$1,000 was raised.

“Last year, we collected \$3,000,” Petersburg explains. “Our goal is to triple that this season.”

An important date for people to remember is December 3. To make the Salvation Army donation drive a little more competitive, there will be a friendly rivalry between the Waseca Police, the Waseca Fire, and the Waseca County Sheriff. During December 3, volunteers from all three departments will be ringing for two hours. The police department will ring from noon to 2 p.m., the sheriffs will take over from 2-4 p.m., and the fire department will close things from 4-6 p.m.

“We love competing against each other,” Police Chief Vought says. “It’s always fun, because we know we’re going to win anyway.”

Fire Chief Jason Forshee seemed confident as well, according to

“Last year, we collected \$3,000. Our goal is to triple that this season.”

— Representative John Petersburg

Vought. “When we were sending emails back and forth deciding which time slots our departments would take, Forshee responded that he’d be fine with whatever the fire department got since they would win the competition no matter what the time was.”

Whichever department wins will receive awards during a committee meeting about a week after December 3.

All donations received will go directly to Salvation Army programs such as providing clothing to those who need it. One service offered by the organization that is especially advertised by the City of Waseca is its HeatShare program, which helps those in the community by providing money for heating bills and heating-related repairs.

Petersburg encourages those who are interested in helping ring bells and collect donations at Walmart can register at registertoring.com and pick a time. “Anyone who wants to sign up can do so right away,” he adds.

Charges from Page 1

registration was identified as belonging to Amber Uballe. Deputy Johannsen located the suspect’s vehicle, which was found at Uballe’s residence. The male suspects were then arrested.

A search of the victim’s vehicle and the surrounding area discovered a spent slug in the grass near Second Street NE, a gun shell in the Waseca Agency building, and two spent slugs in the front passenger door of the victim’s car. Coleman reportedly had a 9mm bullet and shell casing on him at the time of his arrest.

The two charges of attempted murder carry a maximum sentence of 20 years.

Fox and Coleman’s next court appearance is scheduled for Nov. 28.

Waseca police Captain Kris Markeson said there are no other persons of interest being sought in the case. Officers within the department have reportedly expressed concern over a possible connection between Thursday’s shooting and the shooting in Janesville two months ago which left one man paralyzed. Markeson said although these four individuals may be acquainted with each other, there is no indication, and he has no evidence to believe the two incidents are related.

The weapons the two individuals supposedly possessed have not been found. Markeson said there is no reason to believe the weapons might be found by the general public. The department is still investigating; the motive behind the shooting is still unknown.

Markeson confirmed that officers have had dealings with these individuals in the past and that their criminal history is public record. As for what citizens should do in regards to public safety, Markeson encouraged people to call when they have concerns. “That’s what we’re here for. We respond to every call. We do take these things seriously.”

The number to reach Waseca County dispatch is (507) 835-0500.

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Veterans Day

Barb Klampe, center, introduces the winners of the Voice of Democracy essay contest. From left: Ashton Jenzen, Klampe, Will King, and Stormie Schmidt.
Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

Waseca students pen winning essays

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

Barb Klampe from the Waseca VFW Post 1642 and Auxiliary announced Waseca’s winners of the 2022 Voice of Democracy Awards. This year, Waseca high school had three students who entered, and three students who won. Senior Stormie Schmidt took first place, earning herself a \$200 scholarship and her essay was entered at the District 1 competition.

Senior Will King took second and earned a \$150 scholarship. Sophomore Ashton Jenzen took third, and brought home a \$100 scholarship.

Since 1947 the VOD has been the premier scholarship program for the VFW. Each year about 80,000 students compete for \$2 million in scholarships and prizes. Students were asked to write and record a 3-5 minute essay on the theme: Why is the Veteran important?

Judging is based on originality, content, and delivery.

Klampe, after giving her announcement, she she was grateful she was the person having to decide between the winners. Only one and two point separated the contestants.

Two of the three speeches can be found on this page of this week’s Pioneer. Next week, the winner’s speech from Schmidt will be printed.

Jenzen: Why is the veteran important?

By ASHTON JENZEN
Waseca High School

As stated by Benjamin Disraeli, “The legacy of heroes is the memory of a great name and the inheritance of a great example.” Loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, courage, commitment, discipline, confidence, empathy, and intellect; these are all attributes you will find in a veteran. Veterans set a prime example of what an American should be.

Veterans have fought for our freedoms and risked their lives for the sake of our country. Without their services, we would not have the freedoms or liberties we do today. There would be no United States. No Life, Liberty, Pursuit of happiness, and no way to ensure that our country will continue to be the “Land of Opportunity.” Writer and philosopher G.K. Chesterton wrote, “The true soldier fights not because he hates what is in front of him, but because he loves what is behind him.” They show that love by possibly sacrificing their lives for the greater good of our nation. They endured many hardships we aren’t aware of. They watched their fellow soldiers and friends die, and they did it for us. If true love is an unwavering, unbreakable, unparalleled fondness and devotion towards something, a soldier’s love for their country is the epitome of true love.

Veterans are people who have risked their lives in order to save ours. They could’ve stayed home with their families, but they chose to put their lives in danger to protect us. Good soldiers are able to demonstrate both physical and personal courage.

Physical courage means overcoming fears of bodily harm and doing your duty. Personal courage isn’t the absence of fear; rather, it’s the ability to put fear aside and do what is right. This bravery is what allows a soldier to take risks in combat in spite of fear. True bravery happens when soldiers display goal-oriented behavior in extremely dangerous situations. Soldiers are one of the greatest assets of any country. They are the guardians of the nation and protect its citizens at all costs. Moreover, they are a selfless lot who put the interests of the country above their personal interests. It takes a true hero to be one of those people who goes into battle.

America: Land of the free and home of the brave. However, we can only stay the “land of the free” if we remain the “home of the brave.” Our veterans are paving a phenomenal path for our current and future soldiers. They are astonishing leaders. With dedication to their work, they have shown what a good military looks like and how they act. Not only are they valued role models for our military, they are also model citizens that put in hard work, dedication, and determination in all the work they do. It has been statistically proven that employers are more likely to hire veterans over the average person. They are adaptable, have a strong work ethic, and are loyal; all of which are predominant characteristics that employers want in an employee. This is known as the “military talent.” All branches of service heavily invest in leadership development, and they thrive in incredibly demanding roles. Veterans must be able to work in teams, learn new skills quickly, rapidly adapt to changes, and always strive for ‘mission accomplished.’ Everyone can learn valuable lessons to a considerable extent from our veterans. They can teach us about the true meaning of purpose, leadership, work ethic, community, and adversity in civilian life. These life lasting lessons, that are learned in military service, are often neglected in our civilian lives. Reverend Dr. Cary Larson says, “I learned a great sense of loyalty to things beyond me; family, church, community. You might not get what you want, but you will receive good for bigger things. It was a million dollar experience you wouldn’t pay a nickel for. I wouldn’t change anything about it.” He served actively in the U.S. Navy for five years, and fifteen years as a reservist. According to Charles Sale, who served in the U.S. army for twenty-two years, “Being in the military helps you be a better person.” Captain Gregory Easton and Lieutenant Naomi Easton both served in the U.S. Navy. Naomi served for four years, Gregory for thirty. “Military experience and values create unique individuals capable of bettering themselves, society, and the nation,” states Gregory. He goes on to say, “With leadership, you cause things to happen. Leadership leads to team work and shared values, which leads to unity of effort, which leads to synergy, which leads to mission accomplishment by all involved.” When speaking about the core values instilled in service, Naomi declares, “Those core values are how we succeed and survive.” After speaking with these veterans, I have a greater appreciation for all of our service members, active and retired. Their profound acts of bravery alone are astounding.

Even though we don’t know them all, we owe every single one of them. Veterans have done and continue to do extraordinary deeds. Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in and out of service for our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. I hope their remembrance is as lasting as the land they honored.

King: Veterans’ value in modern society

By WILL KING
Waseca High School

The United States can easily be described as a mixing pot of people. Whether a person is a garbage collector, a school teacher, or a doctor, each and every person brings something different and important to the table. Perhaps the group of people who can offer the most is that of the veteran, who acts as a daily reminder that our country is worth fighting for, serves as an example for every American to base their behavior upon, and brings a unique and priceless perspective to the table.

The United States has fought many battles throughout its history, ranging from the Revolutionary War where we fought against Great Britain to gain our independence to the engagement in Afghanistan beginning in 2001 to seek justice for the American lives taken on 9/11. Furthermore, with the recent geopolitical climate, the talk of war has been heightened, with enemies such as North Korea constantly flexing their nuclear muscles. Thus, every day, the nineteen million living veterans wake knowing that they may also have to fight in a battle, defending innocent American citizens from evil. Think about that for a second. They are willing to lose their lives so that we can enjoy the liberty-abounding lives that we live every day in America. This willingness to go to battle for the country serves as a reminder to every citizen that America is truly worth fighting for. Not only that, they were willing to help in multiple other facets, such as providing humanitarian aid in order to help fellow citizens. Veterans remind us that even small actions, such as picking up a piece of trash on the sidewalk or setting aside political differences to help a neighbor, all help our country and continue to be of paramount importance in the continuation of our great union. No matter the differences in opinion, race, or creed, we must come together and support our country.

What descriptions come to mind when you think about a veteran that you know? Maybe an aunt, a grandpa, a teacher, or even a parent? Without a doubt that person is brave, displays integrity, and is loyal. As is the case, every veteran serves as a basis for all American citizens to use as an example for their own behavior, imploring us to demonstrate the same exceptional qualities that our veterans show every day. Take, for instance, Alec Toscani, who is a volunteer ski instructor for disabled Americans. Toscani was inspired by the sight of a veteran pushing through adversity and learning to ski even with a broken back. This inspiration led Toscani, a former ski racer from New Mexico, to volunteer as a ski instructor for disabled veterans, thus helping veterans push themselves and live better lives. Toscani, like many other Americans, was inspired by a veteran to make a positive impact in his community. In effect, the everyday actions of our veterans in which they invariably demonstrate the qualities of loyalty, bravery, and integrity, serve to be a basis for every American’s behavior, which undeniably makes our country a much better place.

A perspective is defined as the certain way that an individual looks at a topic. We all undoubtedly could have different perspectives on almost any issue, whether as simple as Coke vs. Pepsi or as complex as more vs. less military spending. The individual perspectives that we each bring to the table are all important because we each see an issue in a different light and the mixture of those differences may provide for a solution. Perhaps no more important is that of the veteran’s perspective; someone who has sworn an oath to defend and protect our country. They may well have seen the toll of the decision to call for war, the humanity in the way that citizens helped each other after natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina, or the joy on the face of a child after reuniting them with their parents. All of these experiences shape the perspective of a Veteran to a state that is different from that of your everyday American citizen, simply because they haven’t experienced those situations. For this reason, it is essential for the veteran’s perspective to be listened to and truly reflected on when making decisions as a country. They are the ones who have been truly affected by such decisions in the past and, as such, should be given a say in these decisions in the present.

Every veteran unquestionably adds to society by reminding every citizen that our country is worth fighting for. They also demonstrate the patriotic values of an American for every individual to see and bring a valuable perspective to society. Therefore, the value and importance of the American veteran within society has always been and will always remain priceless and incalculable.

Humbled, but ready to work

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

Waseca County's Sheriff Elect Jay Dulas waited anxiously with family and friends as a friend watched for the results of last Tuesday's election to be posted at the county courthouse. "Going tino the night we felt good," Dulas said of the evening. "I am elated with the results and looking forward to the transition and new challenges that will come with this next chapter in my career.

"I am truly humbled by the support from Waseca County," Dulas glowed. "A huge thank you to everyone who supported me and those who were involved in my campaign. I am committed to the people of Waseca County and will continue to lead the sheriff's office through trust, respect and accountability."

As sheriff, Dulas said he plans to continue to work with the people of Waseca to ensure a safe, inviting place for residents to live, work and raise a family. Dulas encouraged Waseca County residents to keep reaching out with questions, comments and concerns.

What made the difference in this campaign? What led to a blowout win with an almost two-to-one margin?

"Throughout this journey, I ran a positive campaign," Dulas answered. "I feel that my work ethic and relationships I have built with the citizens of Waseca County on a daily basis reflect who I am. I believe that my experience, the trust that I have established, and my commitment to serving and protecting were key factors in the outcome."

With the election over, Dulas said the next steps for the campaign will be the transition to establishing and developing the next leadership team. "The sheriff's office will continue providing excellent law enforcement

services to the citizens of Waseca County."

Dulas said he would like to thank his mentors, partners, and friends who supported him along the way. "I am truly grateful for their support and encouragement throughout my career."

The Dulas family, which includes daughters Landi, Madison, and Keegan, is incredibly proud of the sheriff-elect and provided the following messages to the Pioneer:

"We are thrilled with the outcome of this election and could not be prouder of our husband, dad, and grandpa."

The following message was posted to Facebook, and also sent to the Pioneer.

"It's 12 a.m. on November 9, everyone has gone home with happy hearts, the house is quiet. We sit down with Jay (the new Waseca County Sheriff Elect, in case you haven't heard) to recount the events of the last 24 hours.

"After congratulating him and telling him how incredibly proud of him we are, without hesitation, he says to my sisters and me, 'Work hard, and always do the right thing.' THIS, Waseca County, is the man you've elected to lead our community. Even after accomplishing a major life goal, he turns his experiences into a learning opportunity for others to work towards making a difference built on character and integrity. This is who you've elected, the man who will help teach your children the values of honesty, hard work, and respect.

"Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts."



Dulas

True hunting stories...so help me

By DAVE ZIKA

I was raised in Austin with two brothers in a small house. We shared one bedroom and had a one-car garage. Needless to say, I'm very close to my brothers. My dad was an avid hunter and fisherman who made sure we learned a lot about the great outdoors.

We had a duck hunting shack on Lake Geneva where we spent many fall weekends hunting—including having lunch in Ellendale. Back in the day, there were a multitude of ducks and pheasants to hunt, which will live in my memories forever. I was an athlete at Austin High and never became close to being an honor student.

Luther College in Decorah, IA was my choice for college after graduation. It's where I earned an elementary teaching degree and coaching certificate.

I got my first teaching job in Waseca and have lived here ever since, enjoying teaching sixth-graders and coaching boys' and girls' sports.

Hunting and fishing have always been a passion of mine. I still fish, but have given up hunting. My knees won't allow me to slog through sloughs or heavy grass, and I can't climb the ladder to the tree stand.

My wife Lisa, my friends, and especially my grannies tell me I am a gifted storyteller, but maybe include a bit too much hyperbole. My wish is to write to entertain both guys and gals. I've witnessed ladies shooting the best score at a trap shoot, fishing and setting up portables on the ice, and they always bring the best luck fishing in my boat.

'Tis the season—the hunting season. The fall is by far my favorite time of the year.

Geese, ducks, pheasants, turkeys, deer, squirrels, and rabbits can all be delicious — if prepared the right way — on anyone's menu.

Here are a few hunting stories I've participated in or shared over a cup of coffee — the truth, nothing but the truth, so help me God.

The pheasant report from the DNR was promising. The winter was mild and in the spring the pheasants had a good hatch. A friend, Dave, and his hunting partner Gary decided to head a couple of hours west of Waseca.

The Department of Natural Resources makes a walk-in access hunting atlas available to hunters for the state of Minnesota. In the atlas, there are many hunter walk-in sites and wildlife management areas shown to our west. These areas are open to the public and you don't have to knock on farmers' doors.

The lab and golden retriever were kenneled and ready to go. After a short stop for gas, coffee, and rolls, it was game on. The destination was a group of areas west of Marshall. The hunters arrived at the first targeted area at opening time: 9 a.m. What a great area: willows, cattails, fields of grass, and best of all, no other hunters. The dogs were released, did their duty, and began hunting and sniffing a short distance in grass close to the truck.

The dogs were already hot on the trail of birds and the hunters rushed to get out the guns and load them. Surprise. The ammunition box had been left back on the driveway in Waseca. No shells!

The hunters were distraught as they watched their dogs flush two big roosters, both of which cackled and exploded into the beautiful, blue morning sky. The two dogs looked back over their shoulders at their best buddies with a look of, "Are you kidding me?" But not all was lost. Dave and Gary had a top-ten home cooked breakfast in Ivanhoe. It was a great day for the pheasants.

Roger was hunting turkeys with his bow. He set out a big tom and two hen decoys. Roger entered his ground bling and began to chirp and call. Turkey calls aren't for Roger; he uses his mouth. In came a big Tom

only twenty yards away. Roger drew back his bow and missed not once but four times. Out of arrows, he watched the gobbler strut to within ten yards of his blind. No rocks were in the area to throw; he could only watch the turkey strut away.

Roger is a true outdoorsman and had shot a handful of turkeys before this encounter. He got more satisfaction out of the moment than putting a turkey on the table for Thanksgiving. It was a great day for the turkey.

Friends Dave and Terry went duck hunting. The hunters waded into the slough, knee deep in muck and threw out their decoys. They sipped their coffee and watched as the sky brightened to the east. Thousands of black-birds lifted from the cattails and began their migration south. It was legal time to shoot and in they came, a flock of mallards. They circled and silently hovered over the decoys. The two hunters emptied their guns and much to their dismay not a single bird laid belly up in the decoys. Terry said something that I used with hunting partners for many years to come. "Well Zeke, a perfect morning for shoot and release." It was a great morning for the hunters, but a better morning for the ducks.

The pheasants, turkey, ducks, and hunters had a great day. You have a great day as well. Until next time...

■ Awards from Page 1

Lisa Weegman accepted a grant for the DECA club in the amount of \$500; NRHEG Community Education received \$750 for youth development grant scholarships; JWP Secondary School received a \$1,000 grant for a new 3D printing class; JWP Community Education received a grant for \$3,000 for youth and development scholarships and preschool program support; Infants Remembered in Silence received a grant for \$5,000; The Waseca Arts Council received a grant for \$4005 for the creation of a ceramic arts studio.

It was the intent of the EF Johnson family to provide scholarships for local schools, with the majority going to Waseca. A total of \$20,000 was awarded to Waseca High School seniors; \$3,000 for JWP seniors, \$3,000 for NRHEG seniors; and \$10,000 for "non-traditional scholarships" awarded to Riverland (Austin), and South

Central College (Mankato and Faribault).

Former WAF chair David Oraskavitch concluded the program saying: "When you leave here today I hope someone says to you, 'What is Caregivers? What is Farmamerica doing?' Tell people what you remember about these different groups, organizations, and people. Please continue to apply for our grants. When you hear someone say 'I wish I could only...' tell them about the Waseca Area Foundation. People don't know what they don't know. A lot of people didn't know their dreams could come through by applying for a grant."

More than 25 non profit organizations benefited from this week's awards banquet, with more than \$100,000 given to benefit Waseca area citizens. Monday evening the Janesville Area Foundation granted \$12,000. "Keep doing what you're doing," Amy Potter added.

Looking forward, the spring grant application deadline for New Richland and Waseca will be March 31, 2023.

Waldorf Christmas Dinner November 1

By TRISTAN JENSEN
Editorial Assistant

The first accumulation of snow brought with it discussions of Christmas at the Waldorf City Council meeting November 14, 2022. The Community Christmas Dinner will be held December 1 at 12:00 p.m. in the Waldorf Community Center. Joann Kelling attended the meeting to ask permission to set up and decorate a sleigh in the Community Center for this event. Her hope is that the sleigh will contribute some additional cheer to the space. She also suggested it would make a nice photo opportunity for families, and that, the dinner being December 1, it could become someone's Christmas card. She hopes to leave the sleigh up in the Community Center at least until the following Wednesday, when Carols and Cookies is to take place. The only concern from the council members was whether another group or event would rent the space, but all agreed that Kelling's idea was a good one and gave their permission barring any conflict. Kelling did have to promise to take care with the floors, which are newly waxed. Related, the council also agreed to purchase felt pads for all the tables in the Community Center to prevent marking and damage when they are moved. The council also discussed the Christmas light situation in town. Two light posts were replaced during recent road work in Waldorf, and the new posts lack outlets for wreaths. Currently, only four wreaths can be hung. Council member Kevin Lines, serving as acting mayor while Mayor Wilkening is out of the country, is in favor of going further and adding outlets to more light posts in town that do not have them. The city has over a dozen wreaths which were acquired from Janesville and has previously used only six. The council will be looking into the past procedure and costs for having outlets installed.

A topic of discussion carried over from the last meeting was that of water rates and the city's financial

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obligations. Starting January 1, the city will need to maintain three additional bank accounts. The first is for bond repayment, the second for a USDA short-lived assets fund, and the third for a PFA Reserve. These three accounts will be funded by water and sewer revenue; concern was expressed at the last meeting that there may not be enough revenue at current rates. Calculations done since then based on estimated revenue show that, at current rates, the three accounts can be funded to meet the city's obligations with a remaining revenue of \$20,000 to cover water and sewer expenses that do not meet the requirements to be paid out of the Short-Lived Assets or PFA Reserve funds. No vote was taken at this time.

Township contracts for fire service were reviewed and approved. These contracts are between the City of Waldorf and the townships of Byron, Freedom, Vivian, and Wilton and are renewed every three years. The rate per section covered has been raised to \$250; this was discussed with the township boards at an annual meeting last January. Byron Township will pay a yearly sum of \$2,250, Wilton Township will pay \$3,000, Freedom Township will pay \$6,750, and Vivian Township will pay \$7,000. The bank reports for the fire department and for the City were approved without discussion.

On February 6, 2023, Mayor Wilkening is expected to hold a State of the City address, as requested by the county. Following the address, the city council has agreed to hold two public hearings expected to be scheduled early next year. The first is for the alleyway vacate requested by Dave Bottin, and the second is for the potential conversion of the football field into an apartment building and playground or picnic area. Both issues have been discussed at previous meetings and require public hearings to move forward.

Library bead making

By TRISTAN JENSEN
Editorial Assistant

Kathy Kronebusch, librarian at New Richland Public Library, led a workshop on paper bead making for adults the evening of November 10, 2022. Attendance numbers were small, but the workshop was a success as attendees enjoyed making beads from repurposed paper — including magazines, scrapbooking papers, and old book pages — to make unique bracelets and jewelry.

To make the beads, Kronebusch

instructed participants to cut various elongated shapes from the paper, then use a bamboo stick to keep a center hole while tightly coiling the paper until it built up into a bead, the shape dependent on the shape of the strip of paper. The next step is to secure the coil with glue, then slide the bead off the bamboo stick. Multiple beads were lost as participants learned the hard way not to allow the glue to dry onto the sticks. Then, seal with a decoupage and allow to dry completely before stringing.

The workshop was geared for adults, since the process is meticulous and the patience and fine motor skills required may be a barrier for younger participants. Kronebusch prepared toys and entertainment in advance for children who came along with a parent. Participants all left with the jewelry they'd made, and were offered materials and copies of instructions to continue or repeat the project at home.



Kathy Kronebusch and Melissa Gregg participate in a bead making craft at the New Richland Public Library. Gregg is wearing the bracelet she made, while Jensen starts a new bead.



Thank you,
WASECA COUNTY!

Thank you to the voters of Waseca County. I am truly humbled by your support and trust you have placed in me to be your 23rd Waseca County Sheriff.

Your Sheriff Elect,
Jay Dulas

A heartfelt
THANK YOU
To everyone who voted For me!

I feel incredibly grateful and proud to be elected to continue as the Waseca County Attorney. I am honored to carry on the hard and valuable work of the County Attorney.

Rachel Cornelius



Questions about golf association

By MICHAEL ROY
Publisher

The Janesville City Council granted Wendy Rykhus, landlord of apartments on 220 N. Main Street, an opportunity to reapply for her rental license after they revoked it for her not complying with the city ordinance to perform background checks on two of her tenants at their Monday, November 14 meeting. The motion passed 2-1; council members Andy Ahlman and Melissa Kopachek were not present.

Rykhus explained that she didn't take action right away on complying with city ordinances because she thought the envelopes she received from the city were her utility bill statements. "I usually do everything online," she said. "Had I known those were letters from the city about this issue, I would have complied right away."

She added that as soon as she realized that one of her tenant shad no undergone the background check, she took care of the matter and submitted the necessary paperwork to the city. "One of the two tenants that was a concern to the city already completed a background check. All other issues were taken care of."

Administrative assistant Sara Britton confirmed that Rykhus had done everything she needed to be compliant with the city ordinance on background checks. "I just need to know that those two tenants that did their background checks are the only ones living there," she said.

Rykhus said that as far as she knows, they are.

Council member John Sprengeler suggested that the city should allow her to reapply and follow City Attorney Jason Moran's suggestion. Moran suggested in his memo to the city that she should pay a \$1,000 administration fee along with her reapplication and be placed on one year of probation. Moran added that any failure to comply with paying utilities or following city ordinances within the probation period would be "grounds for revocation."

Council member Jim Mulcahey seconded Sprengeler's motion. "I'd be willing to give her a second chance."

Mayor Andy Arnoldt didn't agree. "I have a hard time circling back to these items all the time," he admitted. "I'm not sure anything's changed in the past two weeks."

Scott Allen of Prairie Ridge Golf Course answered a few questions from council members and the public. Ron Bruegger addressed the council about the Janesville Area Golf Association, a group that manages money received from the city and also from profits made at the golf course.

"JAGA should not be getting any

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of the extra money that the golf course has made," he suggested. "That money should stay with the city. With a double-digit tax increase possible next year, I don't want any money going to that group. I think the council needs to take serious consideration of how the money will be used."

Mayor Arnoldt agreed. "I do have a few questions about that," he said.

A major item of conversation at the meeting was the golf course's replacement of old golf carts. Allen explained that the course leased most of its carts while gradually purchasing newer ones. The goal, on schedule to be met next year, is to lease 16 carts while owning 8. "We tried finding a happy medium of owning and leasing so we could get the lease payment down while not paying too much for golf carts."

He addressed the concerns with JAGA, elaborating that back in 2011, the council suggested that the money earned from selling the carts could be managed by the group. "All in all, the money is still going through the golf course," he said. "But it allowed JAGA to have a couple more choices for where some of that money went."

Arnoldt emphasized that he had no problem with how JAGA and the golf course are managing their funds. But he did say, "I'm not sure if this should be done as much through JAGA as it should through the city."

"You're right, Andy," Mulcahey agreed. "I understand why things were done like this before. But to take away any semblance of impropriety, we need to be transparent and have a paper trail. It should come through the city's books."

Under the category of old business, Allen addressed further questions about the budget. The golf course had a record 152 members this past year, following a three-year trend of course finances being in the black. However, Allen is still taking a conservative approach with the budget.

The council approved a seventh pay estimate for the 2022 street and utility improvement project which totaled \$38,472.60. The Fire Department Relief Association requested the city increase its annual benefits for retired firefighters from \$2,100 a year to \$2,200, which the council supported. Council members also voted unanimously to enact the city's snow and ice control policy and procedures and approve the election results for 2022.

The meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Cornelius elected to second term

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

Waseca County Attorney Rachel Cornelius gathered at home with a small group of close friends and family as they waited for results to come in Tuesday evening. Cornelius defeated former county attorney Brenda Miller by about 800 votes, 4,297 to 3,503.

"I felt incredibly grateful and proud to be elected to continue as the Waseca County Attorney," Cornelius told the Pioneer. "Thank you to everyone who voted for me. I am honored to continue the hard and valuable work of the county attorney."

"I have always felt it was my mission to have this office be well respected, professional and approachable," Cornelius said in her message to voters. "It is important to me to have an office where everyone

feels welcome to call us, bounce ideas off of us, and collaborate to make the best outcomes for crime victims, the community and Waseca County."

Cornelius said she worked hard door knocking, talking to as many people as possible, and attending as many events as she could to spread her message during this campaign season. "I truly feel that the best connections are those made in person. I have always been transparent and approachable so that residents could ask me questions and get answers."

Cornelius said she would like to continue to pursue projects which make a difference.



Cornelius

A meeting, for the final two, for the final time

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

A short meeting of the Waseca City Council followed a special meeting and budget work session, Tuesday evening, Nov. 15, 2022.

Brian Danners, who owns 11 rental units in town, addressed the council during the public comment portion, and asked the council to reduce the rental inspection fee to what it was prior to January's increase. Rental inspections are every three years and cost \$45 or \$65 depending on the license, and \$20 for each unit. Danners was upset because three years ago the inspection and fees cost \$500, which he felt was too high then. The bill this year was for \$1,000 and Danners asked the council to revert the fees to what they had been and to reimburse all rental property owners the difference. The council took no action and thanked Danners for coming forward.

The consent agent was approved, including the previous meeting's minutes and work schedule, payroll and expenditures, and the 2023 liquor, tobacco and garbage license renewals.

The council approved having city staff apply for an active transportation grant by a vote of 5-2, with council persons John Clemons and John Mansfield opposing the project. The grant being sought is for \$500,000 for the construction of a bike path, extension of sidewalk and repaving of an existing path.

In September of 2022, city staff submitted a Letter of Intent for an Active Transportation (AT) Infrastructure Grant from the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT). City engineer Nathan Willey said the planned reconstruction of 8th Avenue NE (CSAH 13) in 2024 provides a unique opportunity to make trail and sidewalk improvements that qualify for funding under this grant. The proposed improvements consist of new 10' wide off-street bituminous trail between 7th Street NE and Clear Lake Drive, new 7' wide concrete sidewalk (back of curb) along the County Fairgrounds property between 4th Street NE and 7th Street NE, and the replacement of existing sidewalk between 3rd St NE and 8th St NE (please see the photo of the map). MnDOT indicated that these proposed sidewalk

and trail improvements are eligible for AT Grant funding and recommended submission of a full application.

As part of the application, a resolution of support from the city council is required. The completed application is due December 30; award notices are expected by the end of March 2023. Waseca County staff members have indicated they are supportive of these proposed improvements, and because these improvements would take place along a County roadway, the County Engineer will be presenting a resolution of support to the County Commissioners for approval of the AT Grant as well.

After some discussion the council gave their support. "I don't like building things we don't take care of," council member Clemons said. "We build sidewalks and don't take care of them. This will be just one more in 10 years."

Council member Mansfield appeared to be against the project because there could be more street assessments, which the councilman opposes.

City Engineer Willey said any cost over \$500,000, if the grant is even approved, would likely be covered through state aid.

The city council authorized city staff to execute all necessary paperwork to close the southwest Minnesota housing partnership (SCDP) rental rehab project. A number of years ago the City of Waseca received a grant from the Department of Employment and Economic Development's small cities development program. The grant was intended to assist in the renovation of the two apartment buildings located just west of the former Taco John's building. Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership was working to acquire both of those properties along with a number of other properties across southern Minnesota. The financing for this project is fairly complex and the process has taken considerable time, but Waseca has now been informed that SWMHP hopes to close on the properties at the end of the month. As part of the project, the City of Waseca will be injecting the SCDP grant into the project through a combination note and re-

WASECA CITY COUNCIL

payment agreement as well as a mortgage assignment from SWMHP to the City of Waseca. The funds are to be used for renovations of the apartment buildings. In exchange for the grant/loan, the apartment complex must comply with rental and income requirements throughout the term of the mortgage (30 years). The mortgage does not provide for any subsidized rent. If the property is operated in compliance with the conditions, the mortgage will be forgiven in 2052. The paperwork necessary for implementation of the SCDP grant was approved.

The city council approved the allocation of the final \$96,000 of American Rescue Act funds for use in the Water Utility account for the North State Street water main project. An important note, although this money qualifies for use, the previously budgeted money for the project now remains unused, and the city can use those funds however it chooses. This, in essence, allows the city to use its final \$100,000 of American Rescue Act dollars at its discretion.

In the city manager's report, Lee Mattson asked the city to not do a special assessment for the repair of a storm sewer in the intersection of 2nd Ave SW and 2nd St. SW. The council approved drawing the repair cost from the city's capital plan, which has funds already budgeted.

The last update of the year for the Clear Lake Pavillion was given by Mattson who reported, "Snow has caught us." The roof and final painting will be done in the spring. Sledging will be allowed.

City staff will continue to look into the sight line problem with the stop signs and yield signs next to Tink Larson Field. The possibility of relocation of the fence appears to have been ruled out, and a horizontal fence may be the next best option.

Council member Mansfield had previously asked about storm drainage east of Dairy Queen. Mattson said the buildup is because there are too few inlets in that area, allowing flooding during heavy rains.

Mayor Roy Srp said the Heritage

Preservation Committee is working on tweaks to the walking tour downtown in order to incorporate Waseca High School students.

Mansfield provided an update on the Economic Development Authority and spoke of possibly producing a monthly letter to update residents on their work. The yellow house torn down on State Street will be replaced with a coffee shop, Mansfield announced. He said Taylor Gates plans to build the shop. Discussion also occurred regarding the possibility of a grocery cooperative coming to Waseca.

Jeremy Conrath provided an update regarding Discover Waseca. Discussion begun during the November 8 meeting regarding the possibility of building a mountain bike trail at Maplewood Park was continued. Council members approved funding of Christmas lights at the fairgrounds, as well as funding to help Waseca Snowseekers snowmobile show on Clear Lake during the Sleigh and Cutter festival.

City election canvassing was 6 p.m. Thursday Nov. 17. Boy scouts are out and about selling Hedgies pizzas for \$18. The meeting between the city council and county commissioners was postponed until January because the the new council members will be seated by that time.

The meeting ended with several lighthearted farewells.

"John (Clemons) thank you. We've known each other up here for a lot of years," Mayor Srp said. "You're not only my colleague up here, but out there. You're an awesome friend who I've always been able to count on. It's meant a lot to me through the years... I've often said, to you, and others, that although people might not always agree with you, me included, you've always had the City of Waseca and the taxpayers' best interests at heart."

"Lee, it's wonderful to have you here," Srp continued. "We're gonna miss you. It's been a pleasure."

Mattson, whose final day is Nov. 30, returns to Dodge Center, where he lived for 18 years.

"Through all the years, to all the councils, thank you," Council member Clemons concluded.

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

■ Chamber from Page 1

it away," Jeremiah quipped.

Four other awards were announced during Wednesday's program. The event, which used to be a lunchtime ceremony, has roots going back to the '70s and originally only recognized one area company with the title "Business of the Year."

"Chamber members expressed an interest for change," President Ann Fitch told the Pioneer. "We opted for an evening program and now give out awards voted on by our members."

Of the five awards, two or three rotate each year, with the People's Choice and Legacy awards categories staying the same. President Fitch said the chamber is considering keeping the "young entrepreneur" award a constant as well.

More than 35 businesses were nominated for the different categories. A Chamber committee selects the year's categories; Chamber members vote to select the winners. The only publicly voted on category is the People's Choice award, which received more than 400 votes on the Chamber's Facebook page during the first week of voting alone.

This year's other award winners, and categories follow:

Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm

The Young Entrepreneur: award goes to a local business that is innovative, resourceful, imaginative, and also, owned by people under 40. "We've watched these guys grow up over the last 8 years," Fitch introduced. "They are a destination haven for friends, family and foodies. Congratulations Emily and Bill Knudsen."

"This is really great, but I really can't believe I'm gonna be 40," Emily joked. "Honestly we didn't think we were gonna get this. Thank you all for supporting the Pizza Farm all these years."

The Bar on Main

The "Social Media Rising Star" Award is a new recognition given to a business which "knocks it out of the park," a business known for being up and coming. This year's award went to two best friends, Ma-



IMPACT AWARD - Keen Bank members, posing with their award, from left: Alyssa Bowers, Ann Gaytko, Bernie Gaytko, Tom Gaytko and his wife Gretchen, and Steve Graff.



Award winners at the Chamber Business and Industry banquet, from left: Peggy and Scott Hildebrandt; and Makayla Selvik and Sarah Kay Hoffman.

kayla Selvik and Sarah Kay Hoffman, who came together to start a business. Selvik said the two like to let their employees have fun and "communicate what we have going on in our venues in a fun way."

"Sometimes Makayla gets embarrassed, but we do it anyway," Hoffman joked. "The girls have a lot of fun."

"Oh and our husbands help," Selvik poked back. "They help take care of the kids!"

As the pair left the stage, Fitch added, "You have no idea what it took to get them and their husbands here today (and away from work and their kids.)."

All of the awards are a complete surprise to those who win, so sometimes, Fitch and the chamber have to find creative ways to get chamber members to an event like this. "You can't tell them all my secrets!" Fitch told the Pioneer.

Connors Plumbing and Heating

More than 60% of businesses



don't make it past their first 10 years. The Legacy Award goes to a business which has been around more than 40 years. "This business crushed the odds and took their father's business to new levels," Fitch announced. "Connors Plumbing and Heating... Peggy was really wondering why Scott wanted to come tonight."

"I just thought he wanted a nice meal!" Peggy Hildebrandt gasped!

"Our customers make it possible to have our guys doing the great work they do," Hildebrandt said. "Thank you."

Keen Bank

"For this business, giving back is a way of life," Fitch said. "They have a long track record of giving. Their new name does not stop their generosity. Thank you Keen Bank."

The Impact Award highlights and recognizes a business for giving back to the community.

The Bluejay debit card program offered by Keen Bank has been around since 2003 and has given

back more than a quarter of a million dollars.

"Being a part of the community means giving back to the community," bank president Bernie Gaytko said. "We've been around since 1874 and hopefully a lot longer. We look forward to giving back to our community."

After all the awards were distributed, Chamber President Fitch thanked all of the night's sponsors, the Boat House for catering, and the Mill for providing a fantastic venue. The night's Title sponsors were Birds Eye Foods and ConAgra. Other event supporters were: Keen Bank, Cinch, United Prairie Bank, iCan, Mediacom, Suburban Furniture, MinnWest Bank, Rotary International, iWealth, The Mill, and Quality Print.

The next scheduled chamber event will be an Ambassador Bash community party featuring the Dueling Pianos, Jan. 14, 2023 at the Starfire Event Center.



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It's a great day

The following is a transcript of Robert Tackett's Veterans Day address at Waseca High School:

It's a great day!
Well, good morning, Everyone. And it is a great morning! Thank you so much for allowing me to speak here today. And thank you to each and every one of our veterans who have made this day possible! Do we have any veterans here today? Raise your hands, Vets! Let's give them a big round of applause and appreciation! Thank you, my Brothers and Sisters!

Veterans Day is a day to humbly remember our Veterans who have served and are still serving to keep our country free from those who wish us harm. You can thank the Veteran for their service or you can ask to hear one of their many stories about their service. Every Veteran has their own unique story to tell, and they do not always have someone to tell it to. You can be that person.

Every day that I wake up and have a chance to breathe fresh air, it's a great day. Every day that I wake up to feel my aging body's aches and pains, it's a great day. Every morning when I wake up and remember my loved ones who are no longer with us, it's still a great day. Every morning I wake up to the freedoms we have and can freely exercise, it's a great day. And I will tell you that no matter how bad things have been in my past, and they have been pretty bad sometimes, I got through it. And getting through those difficult times makes the next day a great day!

It is an absolute honor to be here today. I would like to talk to you about how my military career has impacted every aspect of my life. People always tell me I have such a positive outlook on life and they ask me how am I able to always be so positive? I have been witness to many horrible atrocities. I have done some very horrible things myself. And yet, I maintain a very positive attitude towards life. My career in the military has definitely helped change my outlook on life for the better.

I first joined the US Army in 1986 when I was 17 and my mother signed a waiver for me. I joined as a Healthcare Specialist. Or, what is respectfully known as a Combat Medic! My first unit was an air defense artillery unit with the Big Red One, out of Ft. Riley Kansas. I then went to the 816th Station Hospital out of Binghamton, New York. From there I went back to my home state of California and joined Charlie Company, the first of the 160th Infantry. I stayed with this unit for the remainder of my career in the National Guard.

I was activated to the Los Angeles Riots in '92. I saw a lot of strife. A lot of hurt people. I also saw a lot of hope. A lot of Love. I saw a community heal after devastating losses; that community came together to say "Enough. It's time to heal; it's time to learn from our mistakes and it's time to improve our situation." This is a lesson we can all learn from.

One thing the military loves is training! The military really pushes its training programs. It should. Lives may very well hang in the balance. I have always done quite a bit of extra training, myself. I practiced my first aid skills all the time. Every chance I got, I was practicing my IV placements—in the dark, on my family! I practiced splinting, and bandaging. I practiced everything I could think of to be the best. If anyone yelled "Medic!" I came running. I wanted them to know I was there and they had the best chance of living when I was the one who answered that call.

My military service has impacted my life so strongly that I know, without a doubt, that if I had not had the opportunity to join as a young adult, I would not be here today. I grew up extremely poor and we moved around a lot, from home to home. Joining the military gave me some stability, provided me with some structure to build upon. And taught me how to grow into a responsible and independent adult. For that, I will always be grateful.

Being a military veteran has helped shape my life in ways that are very difficult to explain. Those brothers and sisters I served with have my utmost respect and love. They are and always will be my family. They have promised to protect you and your family at any cost. That is not a promise to take lightly. And that is not a promise for you to easily forget. I learned at a young age that the world is not fair. You will also learn this difficult lesson. Hopefully, it won't hurt too much.

My lessons always seemed to hurt, though.

Some examples of my life lessons: once I stepped into a minefield and needed my battle buddy to guide my steps as I walked backwards to get out. I have held my fellow soldiers as they passed into the next world, when my efforts were in vain and there was nothing I could do except comfort and ease their passing. I have been chased through dusty alleyways by the Taliban of Egypt. I have helped infants breathe when they have had pneumonia by providing breathing treatments and antibiotics to clear their little lungs. As the Triage NCO of our CASH in Iraq, I once cut off a soldier's leg after he was mangled in an IED explosion. I have been shot in the face during a convoy ambush. I have looked through my sights at the enemy as I pulled the trigger. I have had the Bedouins of Egypt bring me their children when they were deathly ill or injured, because they trusted that Allah sent the best to aid them. I have survived numerous mortar attacks covered in dust and debris and still answered to screams of "Medic!" I was there for the bombing of Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, in 2005. I answered that call to help from more than 200 wounded civilians: men, women and children.

Through my military service I have traveled all over the US, New York, Washington, California, Texas, Kansas, North Carolina, just to name a few. I have had the opportunity to travel to other countries like, Spain, Germany, Amsterdam in the Netherlands, Kuwait, Egypt, Israel and Iraq. These travels have opened my eyes to the world and helped me realize how great America is. This greatness needs to be protected and nurtured so we can continue to grow and do great things for our own citizens and for the world.

My time in service taught me to be the best I can be. To try harder than everyone else. To be the one who is looked to for guidance, for help. My time in service has given me the confidence to handle the worst situations you can imagine. My time in service has given me the strength to bear any burden and the fortitude to never quit. As a medic I have learned the empathy to help my fellow man. I am extremely proud to be called a veteran.

And now that I am out, I continue to serve my community. The military has taught me and other veterans to be prepared, so I provide free first aid classes to those who understand how important it is to be prepared. The military has taught me and other veterans to always be ready, so I provide free self-defense classes to those who wish to protect their families and loved ones. The military has taught me to look out for those weaker than myself, to defend our future, to keep our freedoms secure. The military has taught me and other veterans to be leaders among the less fortunate, so I and others like me work to reduce the number of veteran suicides through outreach programs. I have been fortunate to learn many things that books cannot adequately describe. I have experienced things that many will only dream of. You have to live the life to really understand. So I ask you, do you dare walk on the razor's edge?

So, when you talk to your family member who may be a veteran, please give him or her the utmost courtesy. When you see that grumpy old vet wearing his faded cap and jacket, please show respect and dignity. They have made sacrifices for family and country that you will never know. Sacrifices including their time, missing out on family milestones, weddings, births and graduations, the things you take for granted. They may be missing some body parts and they may bear some scars that catch your eye. They have sacrificed their emotional and mental health to do indescribable things. So please give veterans your patience and understanding.

If you would like to be one of the elite, one of the few to answer that call to serve, if you would like the opportunity to suffer and sacrifice so that others may live in freedom, join us. If you would like a chance to improve every aspect of your life and the lives of those around you, join us. If you would like to live on the razor's edge, I would challenge you to see if you are up to joining one of our fine military organizations. If you do raise your right hand to swear yourself into military service, it will be a great day!

Thank you again for your time. If anyone would like to talk to me after this event, I will be close by.

Take care and God bless.

Veterans Day



Jeremiah Miller, Robert Tackett embrace



Veterans Day speakers, from left, Robert Tackett, J.D. Delgado Jr., Christian Rodriguez, Dr. Jason Miller and Barb Klampe. Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens

Program from Page 1

Jr. continued. "Today it is our privilege to say thank you to all of America's veterans.... The price of freedom is high. We cannot afford to forget those willing to pay it."

Following the posting of the colors, senior class delegate Christian Rodriguez led everyone in the pledge of allegiance.

Rodriguez said his father served in the US Marine Corps from '95-'99. He was stationed in Camp Pendleton, California, where he was assigned to a motor transport division. "I'm incredibly proud of my dad because of how hard he works every day, even when things get difficult. I hope that one day I will be able to work as hard as he does in everything I do. Thank you!"

Rodriguez introduced the marching band's rendition of the "Star Spangled Banner," followed by the choir's performance of a poem, "Who are the Brave?"

Delgado Jr. introduced the day's guest speaker, veteran Robert Tackett.

Tackett's military career began in 1986 when he joined the US Army 23rd Air Defense Artillery with the Big Red One. At that time he was promoted to specialist, fourth class.

In 1989 Tackett went to Stuttgart, Germany on Reforger 1999. A year later he joined the 816th Station Hospital with the Army Reserves in Binghamton, New York. In 1991 he went to California, joined the Army National Guard and was deployed to assist in the L.A. riots of 1992, after

which he was promoted to Sergeant, E-5.

Following the terrorist attack of 9/11, Tackett worked in Operation Noble Eagle, and was deployed to protect our chemical weapons depot in Tooele, Utah, as the Medical Platoon Sergeant. In 2004 Tackett was deployed on an MFO Peacekeeping Mission to Egypt for MFO#48, as the medical platoon sergeant. He was promoted to Staff Sergeant, E-6. In Tackett's words, he served as a combat medic.

"I have been shot in the face during a convoy ambush," Tackett said. "I have looked through my sights at the enemy as I pulled the trigger. I have had the Bedouins of Egypt bring me their children when they were deathly ill or injured, because they trusted that Allah sent the best to aid them. I have survived numerous mortar attacks covered in dust and debris, and still answered to screams of "Medic!" I was there for the bombing of Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, in 2005 and I answered that call to help over 200 wounded civilians, men, women and children."

From 06-10 Tackett was deployed in Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom and was promoted to Sergeant First Class E-7. In 2010 he retired. During his more than two decades of service to our country, he earned the following awards: Overseas Service Ribbon, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Reserve Components Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Army Achievement Medal.

"Through my military service I have traveled all over the US: New



FLAG BEARERS - From left, Patsty Sandovol, Ella Swindle, Kiyah Holver, Jacob Harguth, and Isaac Pfeiffer

York, Washington, California, Texas, Kansas, North Carolina, just to name a few," Tackett shared. "I have had the opportunity to travel to other countries like Spain, Germany, Amsterdam in the Netherlands, Kuwait, Egypt, Israel and Iraq. These travels have opened my eyes to the world and helped me realize how great America is. This greatness needs to be protected and nurtured so we can continue to grow and do great things for our own citizens and for the world."

Tackett said he's often been asked, throughout his time in the service and afterwards, how he can remain so happy and free spirited despite all the tragedies he has seen. "Every day that I wake up and have a chance to breathe fresh air, it's a great day. Every day that I wake up to feel my aging body's aches and pains, it's a great day. Every morning when I wake up and remember my loved ones who are no longer with us, it's

still a great day. Every morning I wake up to the freedoms we have and can freely exercise, it's a great day. And I will tell you that no matter how bad things have been in my past—and they have been pretty bad sometimes—I got through it. And getting through those difficult times makes the next day a great day!"

Following Tackett's speech, Barb Klampe of the local VFW introduced the winners of the Voice of Democracy Youth Scholarship writing contest: first place: Stormi Schmidt; second place, Will King; and third place, Ashton Jensen. Fewer than three points in the ranking system separated the three essays.

Following a recognition of local veterans, the program concluded with the playing of "Taps" by Noah Dahle and Joe Feldkamp. A copy of Tackett's speech, in addition to the letters in the essay contest, can be found in this week's edition of the Pioneer.

TEAM Academy hosts Waseca VFW

By TRISTAN JENSEN
Editorial Assistant

Four students, sixth-graders Wyatt Partain and Kailee Harmer and fifth-graders Kiera Holmgren and RJ Attenberger, led the Veterans Day program at TEAM Academy. Partain started the program by giving the welcome, introducing the VFW Color Guard, and leading the school in the pledge of allegiance. Harmer gave a short speech about the history of Veterans Day. Holmgren spoke about the presidential ceremony performed on this day, and Attenberger spoke about the purpose of Veterans Day, highlighting that the day is meant to be a celebration for the nation's living veterans.

Jeremiah Miller stepped up to the podium next, as the program's veteran

speaker. Miller is a warrant officer in the army national guard. He brought along "Willie," a puppet he brought to life during his second deployment to Afghanistan. Miller explained to the students that his children were very young when he was deployed, and during his first tour of duty in Iraq he struggled to connect with them during his calls home. Willie helped give him something to talk with them about and to communicate with them about his daily activities and experiences. During his presentation, Miller showed the students of TEAM Academy the process of training and deployment from Willie's point of view. Willie still serves, according to Miller, and is involved in projects to aid veterans.

After Miller's presentation, students



Four sixth graders at Team Academy in Waseca led their Veterans' day program, beginning with Partain welcoming the VFW Color Guard. Pioneer photo by Tristan Jensen

watched a short video explaining more of the history of Veterans Day and how it developed from Armistice Day. Afterwards, Attenberger collected letters the students of TEAM Academy had written to veterans to be distributed.

Following the collection, Taps was played and the VFW Color Guard retired the colors. Students were asked to take a moment of silence as they returned to their classrooms to honor our veterans.



Students gathered at Waseca Intermediate School for the first Veterans Day program of day, beginning at 8:30 a.m. Bottom left is 6th grade choir director Angela Andreen. Pioneer photo by Tristan Jensen

First program of the day

By TRISTAN JENSEN
Editorial Assistant

The Veterans Day program held at 8:30 a.m. at Waseca Intermediate School began with a slideshow of veterans with family ties to the WIS student and staff community, presented by Joey Wollenburg, followed by the posting of the colors by the VFW Color Guard and the pledge of

allegiance. Craig Brenden, WIS band director and National Guard veteran of 30 years, gave a short speech on the history of Veterans Day before all veterans in attendance were asked to stand and be recognized. The sixth-grade choir, directed by Angela Andreen, performed "Proud of Our Veterans" by Teresa Jennings. Jenny Graupmann then took the podium to invite the crowd

to pay tribute to fallen servicemen and women, observing a moment of silence while Taps was played. The program came to a close as the VFW Color Guard retired the colors. Members of the color guard greeted students in the hallway as they returned to class, reminding them to listen to their teachers and giving high-fives.

Post 281 annual dinner

First Commander, membership director guests

By MICHAEL ROY
Publisher

Janesville American Legion Post 281 held its annual membership dinner Sunday, November 13. According to Post Commander Gary Mittelsteadt, it was the legion's first in a couple of years due to Covid-19.

The evening started with a social hour at 4:30 p.m. and dinner being served by the Janesville Boy Scout Troop 89 an hour later. First District Commander Mary Hanson and First District Membership Director Dale Wellick were special guests at the dinner.

"We represent legion posts from as far west as Janesville to as far east as Wabasha," Hanson explained. "We've been doing dinners like this for years. But this is the first time in a while we've been in Janesville."

After the dinner, the post's usual business announcements were shared and reports were received from other affiliates of the legion. This year, the legion acknowledged Legionville school patrol captains Ava Anderson and Ashlynn Wolff. Boy Scout Troop 89 scoutmaster Mike Daschner and



Janesville Legion Post Commander Gary Mittelsteadt greets the guests.

American Legion Baseball coach Cory Jewison also received acknowledgement.

A new item announcement for next year is Post 281's endeavor to start a legion softball team. JWP softball Head Coach Megan Christopher was the proposed manager of the team.

During the meeting, the legion honored deceased members William Ewert, Marvin Kollos, and Milton Herold. Also acknowledged on the Post 281 roll of honor were Mike Mulcahey, Ray Riebeling, David Barbknecht, Otto Jensen, Herbert Guse, and Franklin Miller.

Legion members who are current residents at Oak Lawn Rehabilitation Center and Generations Memory Care in Mankato were provided takeout dinners. Special thanks was given to Boy Scouts Troop 89, the American Legion baseball team, and Team Manager for serving the dinner.

Veterans at Colony Court



Diane Cossette, director of activities at Colony Court, announced that there are fifteen veterans currently in residence there; five each from the army, navy, and air force. She asked Tammy Olmanson, a staff member whose son is a marine veteran, to read the poem "Veteran" by Lynne Cary, then acknowledged each veteran in the room and gave them all a chance to be thanked individually for their service. Residents were then given root beer floats to enjoy during a social hour.

Pictured from left to right are Lester Root, Marvin Kormaan, Max Lande, Pat Laird, Lowell Wadd, Mel Strand, Richard Olsen, Robert Tiede, and Paul Matthews. Not pictured are Don Mundal, Albert Denn, Brion Danzer, Ken Johansen, Cliff Strand, and Veston Carter.

Breakfast and a Veterans program

JWP hosts thirty service members

By MICHAEL ROY
Publisher

On Veterans Day, Janesville-Walldorf-Pemberton honored local veterans by providing breakfast and letting them share their stories about their time in the armed forces.

Starting at 8 a.m., veterans and their spouses gathered in the JWP media center for a breakfast of eggs, sausage, toast, juice, and coffee served by the student council. During their meal, there was a slideshow with all the local veterans displayed, including which branch of the armed forces they served in and when they served.

At 8:30 a.m., JWP High School students made their way into the high school gym for the annual Veteran's Day program. Leading the program was senior Regan Asselin.

Each of 30 veterans briefly shared experiences from their time in the service ranging from the Korean War era to the Gulf War conflicts of the 1980s and 1990s. This year's speaker was U.S. Navy veteran and current American Legion Post 281 Commander Gary Mittelsteadt. He briefly talked about his time in Vietnam before discussing a list of local veterans he's worked for years to ac-

cumulate.

"It's important to know history," he said. "It's why I've worked on getting information on our local veterans so we can know their stories about what it was like being in the service so you may learn from them. You may learn something about your grandparents' time in the service, too."

Mittelsteadt let audience members know they can go to www.janesvillemn.gov/veterans for more information on local service members who are currently living or deceased. "I would also like to leave this packet of listings here at the school."

He then updated the crowd on the Veterans Memorial Disc Golf Course in Lakeview Park. "Each hole is named after a war that a Janesville veteran has fought in," he said. "That was our way of commemorating and honoring those who served."

The program finished at about 9 a.m. Veterans stuck around to answer additional questions from students about their time in the armed forces. Many students shook the hands of the veterans thanking them for their service.



SERVING — JWP High School student council members Lexie Dahlberg and Caitlin Kieve helped veterans get their breakfast and coffee before the program.



Harlan Erdman was one of 30 Janesville veterans to speak at JWP's Veterans Day program. Right, student council member Regan Asselin emceed the program.



Photos by Michael Roy



Dan Economy and Don Loken



Last year NRHEG veterans attended virtually, this year they returned to NRHEG's Veteran's Day program in person for the first time since 2019. Above, from left: Rick Rottman, Gordy Loverink, Jack Pfeffer, Winston Evenson, Dennis Dinneen. Star Eagle photos by Deb Bently

NRHEG veterans program packed

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

There were very few empty seats in the NRHEG high school gymnasium on Friday, Nov. 11 as the district held its first public Veterans Day program since 2019. Veterans representing the local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) organization, all secondary school students, the third through fifth grades from the Ellendale building, and more than a hundred members of the public enjoyed a program organized and jointly sponsored by the district music department and the High School Ambassadors group.

Spectators arrived and departed to the sound of the band playing patriotic tunes including "America the Beautiful," "Stars and Stripes Forever," "My Country 'Tis of Thee," "Yankee Doodle," and "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

The program opened with the posting of the colors by the VFW representatives, just as it closed when the colors were retired.

Student leaders including Hallie Schultz, Tayler Schmidt, Erin Jacobson, Payton Bunn, Keira Le-

McKenzie Mueller and Evelyn Nydegger led various elements of the program including the pledge of allegiance, a recognition of veterans including those who work for NRHEG and those who were present at the ceremony, the reading of the poem "Freedom Isn't Free" by Kelly Strong in memory of departed veterans and service members, and a flag folding ceremony.

Elementary and secondary choir members led everyone in attendance in singing the national anthem and also performed a medley of anthems from each of the military branches, including the navy, army, marines, air force, national guard and space force.

District superintendent Michael Meihak shared some excerpts from President Biden's Veterans Day address. Included in some remarks shared by student leader Evelyn Nydegger was the acknowledgment, "We can never fully repay our debt of gratitude to the more than 650,000 American service members who died in battle or the 1.4 million who were wounded. We can, however, recognize and thank the 18 million veterans still living today."

Hartley, Veterans Day program

By TRISTAN JENSEN
Editorial Assistant

The Hartley Elementary Veterans Day program began with a parade: All veterans and their family members in attendance were invited to follow behind the VFW Color Guard as they marched the halls, where Hartley students and staff waited with their hands on their hearts. After the parade, the school gathered in the gym. The program was directed by a group of student speakers from third grade, led by music teacher David Schmitt. The students volunteered on a first-come, first-served basis, and Schmitt reminded them that by volunteering to speak they were making a commitment to be a part of the program. Nineteen students spoke a few lines each as they introduced each part of the program and gave a short history of Veterans Day. The



Nineteen students spoke during the Hartley Elementary Veterans Day program, Friday, November 11, 2022. Shown above are students gathered together as they listen to the program.

kindergarten classes led the pledge of allegiance, and the second- and third-grade classes led the national anthem. First, second, and third grades performed "My Country Tis of Thee." A slideshow of veterans in the community of Hartley families was presented; veterans' pictures were shown as the anthems of their respective branches were played. After the recognition of the veterans in the room, the second and third graders performed the song "One Nation" by Teresa Jennings to close the program.



Hartley Elementary students lined the hall for a "parade" to welcome veterans to their school Friday morning.

JWP's *The Little Mermaid*

SINGING — JWP's *The Little Mermaid* included four shows. Front: Lillian Ewert, Trista Bonnellfield, and Katie Olson. Back: Allie Hanks, Ava Appel, and Ellah Oliver.



Maddie Cowdin as Jetsam, Ariana Aguilar as Flotsam, and Lily Blaisdell as Ursula

“Under the Sea” at JWP

By **MICHAEL ROY**
Publisher

Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton presented four brilliant shows of *The Little Mermaid* this past week from Thursday, November 10 to Saturday, November 12.

A total of 59 students and five teachers contributed to this year's production of the JWP musical. It was lead director and producer Teagan Knoblich's first year directing a musical after band director Adam Hille directed *Brigadoon* in 2021. Hille took a more limited role as the conductor. Other helpers were choral director Josh Sorenson, stage manager Melanie Morrow, and choreographer Brook Ling.

After the group's first performance on Thursday night, stage manager Morrow called Knoblich to the stage where she and the cast gifted her with roses. The cast and crew also brought back some traditions from past performances after halting them due to the Covid-19 pandemic. One was having a cast meet-and-greet before the Saturday afternoon show to interact with children attending the performance. Another tradition brought back was holding a cast celebration after the closing show on Saturday night. This year, the restaurant of choice was Buffalo Wild Wings in Mankato.

Leading this year's cast was Ali Olson as Ariel, Ethan Born as Prince Eric, James Bleess as Grimsby, Ava McNair as Flounder, Jaxon Miller as Scuttle, Michael VanRavenhorst as King Triton, Eric Daschner as Sebastian, Ariana Aguilar as Flotsam, Maddy Cowdin as Jetsam, Lily Blaisdell as Ursula, and Isaiah Berndt as Chef Louis.

The other sixteen cast members took on multiple smaller roles. Katie Olson, Allie Hanks, Ellah Oliver, Trista Bonnellfield, Lillian Ewert and Ava Appel played Ariel's sisters and princesses. Mer-sister roles were Olson as Andrina, Hanks as Aquata, Oliver as Arista,

Bonnifield as Atina, Ewert as Adella, and Appel as Allana. Playing other sea creatures and maids were Victoria Blomstrom, Mikayla Wheelock, Kwynn Krause, Nevaeh Weimert and Mikiya Hermel. Lily Quast was the windward and a courtier while Mikayla Wheelock was the leeward and a courtier. Derek Gustafson, Eli Rolfson, and Shane Witts played three roles as sailors, seagulls, and chefs with Witts playing the pilot of the sailors.

A group of 16 students made up this year's pit orchestra, which was behind the stage for the first time in recent musical history. Members were Lexie Dahlberg and Lydia Sack on flute and piccolo; Mules Kruger on soprano saxophone; Lauren White on clarinet and bass clarinet; Luke Cahill on alto saxophone; Kaden Baker on French horn; Alex Kleve, Zach Groll, and Jake Olson on trumpet; Austin Carda on the kit; Erik Schauer on percussion; Kristina Marti and Josh Sorenson on keyboard; Jack Cahill on baritone saxophone; and Mike Berding on acoustic bass.

Another 16 students were members of the stage crew. Sophie Coulesy was a stage manager along with Melanie Morrow; Kelton Erler and Sam Ryan were in charge of sound and lights; and Anne Adams, Aubrey Adams, Haylee Appel, Abby Compton, Clare Groh, Chloe Kaiser, Ashlin Keyes, Ava Krause, Rachelle Oelke, Faith Olson, Hudson Miller, Leo Powell, and Stacia Zeiher were stagehands and helped create the set. Compton and Powell were also in charge of wardrobe.

This year, JWP was able to rent costumes from Minnesota State University of Mankato's Theater Department. Science teacher Erik Kehoe also contributed by 3D printing tiaras and other props. Many other staff members, parents, and other contributors to this year's production of *The Little Mermaid* received thanks for making everything possible.

NRHEG Fall Sports Banquet

By **ELI LUTGENS**
Publisher

The NRHEG Fall Sports Banquet was Tuesday evening, Nov. 8 in the high school gymnasium.

As is tradition, Athletic Director Dan Stork thanked the many people behind the scenes who make sporting events possible at NRHEG: staff, bus drivers, pep band, cheerleaders, office assistant Teri Kormann, parents, student athletes, coaches, and many more.

Normally, gopher conference academic awards are given out during the athletic banquet, but the first quarter of school had not concluded yet, so, these awards, based on first quarter grade point average, were not available on the night of the awards banquet.

With that, Stork introduced the various coaches and players of NRHEG.

Football

Although the record was disappointing, the NRHEG football season was not. “This season we're not gonna think about wins and losses, but the progress we made,” head coach Marc Kruger shared. “We did battle. This wasn't the season we wanted, but we found ways to have success.”

Kruger recapped the team's difficult battle with injuries, citing how Wyatt Groskreutz, a leader on the team, was absent on this night undergoing surgery. “Our young players stepped up. Our future looks really bright.”

This team graduates 13 seniors, two of whom weren't able to play this season due to injury. “We're incredibly grateful for those 13,” Kruger concluded.

The Panthers won one game, a blowout over rival Waterville-Elysian-Morristown, in their final face-off of the regular season.

Kruger thanked all of the coaches, staff, film guys, parents, custodians, administration, and “most of all, our players.”

The following awards were handed out:

Most valuable player, voted on by the players: Ethan Thompson

Most valuable offensive player: Alden Dobberstein

MV defensive back: Thompson

MV offensive lineman: Lucas Hanna

MV defensive lineman: Makota Misen

Scout player of the year: Gavin Wilkens

Captains: Andrew Phillips, Sawyer Prigge, Groskreutz

All Conference: Thompson, Prigge

All district honorable mentions: Lucas Loverink, Dobberstein, Phillips

The award Kruger said he regards as most important, the Count on Me Award, is voted on among players and coaches to select the player who can be counted on the most. This year's Count on Me Award went to senior Wyatt Groskreutz.

Kruger concluded the football team's portion of the banquet asking the players for one more, “Count on me chant,” one last time.

The Panther football team had 24 letter winners. Other coaches and/or football assistants are: Neil Fuchs, Shawn Larson, Jeff Jimenez, Chad Sykes, Aaron Gilliland, and Loren Skelton.

Volleyball

With first year coach Ashley Tolzman, the NRHEG volleyball team really didn't know where to set its sights this season. Last year the girls reached the sub-section championship match for the first time in a decade. This year, they did it again.

“We knew it was a tough confer-

ence,” Tolzman said. “I learned these kids are tough. We had no idea what to expect coming in. From our first win at Alden to our loss to WEM, these girls came to play.”

The 2022 NRHEG girls volleyball team finished with the fifth-best record in school history at 21-7, the best finishing record since 1996.

Tolzman thanked the team's many supporters throughout the season: the fans, the band, parents, athletes, and many more. She welcomed the entire team to the stage as the following awards, voted on by the players, were distributed:

Most improved - Madison Murray

“This player really came into their role as an attacker,” Tolzman said. “They started out playing middle on JV, and moved to the right side on varsity.”

Most valuable offensive player - Bree Ihrke

Ihrke finished the season with 206 kills, and was a big factor on offense, “always throwing the defense off.”

Most valuable defensive player - Sidney Schultz

Schultz finished the season with 509 digs, and 991 in her career. She is now the school record holder in career digs. “She was all over the court. We could always count on her on defense.”

Panther Award - Hallie Schultz

“Hallie Schultz is an all-around leader on the court.” She finished the season with 672 set assists, and during a TCU invitational tournament, she passed 1000 career set assists.

Team Captains - Erin Jacobson, Bree Ihrke, Hallie Schultz, and Sidney Schultz

Team All Conference first team - Hallie Schultz

Team All Conference third team - Bree Ihrke

Team All Conference honorary mention - Sidney Schultz

Sportsmanship award - Sarah George

Minnesota state high school volleyball coaches association Academic Awards: Erin Jacobson, Bree Ihrke, Sidney Schultz, and Tatum Smith-Vulcan.

Twelve volleyball players lettered this season.

“I'm incredibly grateful to be your coach,” Tolzman told her team. “Congratulations to all of you.”

Other coaches and/or staff who are part of the volleyball program are: Corrine Schuller, Jennifer Hatton, Bethany Tennis, and Kate Kruger.

Cross Country

First year cross country coach Colin Zidlicky brought new ideas and new ways of coaching to this year's squad. “We have a saying, ‘trust the process,’” Zidlicky said. “I'm really proud of these kids. Filling in and allowing me to turn over everything they knew before and just accepting it.”

The team motto this year was “fight the best.”

“They did that all this year,” Zidlicky shared. “They really are a family. For them the team aspect isn't just after school when we have set practice times and meets. This team and family concept is all the time. It never stops.”

Zidlicky said this season was full of memories he will hold onto. “Riding the baby bus, the baby bus not starting and needing a jump start. Wonderful nicknames... Super burpies.”

Although this injury-plagued season stopped this group from reaching



AWARDS - Members of the NRHEG girls cross country team accept awards during the 2022 NRHEG Fall Athletics Banquet. From left: Annabelle Petsinger, Holly Bartness, Alexis McGannon, and Mady Schlaak. Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens



SOCCER - Members of the Waseca girls' soccer team from NRHEG were, from left, student manager McKenzie Mueller, Anna Blatti, and Evelyn Nydegger.

its full potential, “We really did fight the best.”

The memories were plentiful: the boys' team finished third in the conference this season.

On that note, Zidlicky handed out the following awards:

200 mile club record: Annabelle Petsinger, Alexis McGannon, Connor Nelson, and Jacob Karl. All of these athletes ran more than 200 miles before the season even started.

Rookie of the year - Jackson McGannon

“Jackson won his very first race at the nature trail in Faribault, and has been great on varsity all season,” Zidlicky said.

Panther award - Petsinger, Karl

“Both of these athletes really showed dedication to the program. Cross country means a lot to them,” Zidlicky said.

Most improved - Petsinger and Devon Nelson

MVP - Sam Christensen and Petsinger

“I could really count on these two,” Zidlicky said. “Not only improving their race times, but they also were leaders in getting everyone to trust the process and fight the beast.”

1First Team All Gopher Conference - Nelson, Karl

Conference honorable mentions - Petsinger, Christensen

Sportsmanship awards - Petsinger, Christensen

Captain awards - Nelson, Petsinger

“I pulled these two aside at the beginning and asked where we should focus,” Zidlicky praised. “We could count on these two from the beginning of the year for everything.”

“Thank you for an awesome season,” Zidlicky concluded.

Seven cross country runners lettered this season.

Cheerleading

“You have a lot to be proud of,” Cheerleading head instructor Joni Churchill told her cheerleaders.

“We had a lot of fun cheering you on,” Churchill told everyone after she thanked the coaches, office staff, pep band, and lastly, the “cheer parents, for driving these kids around and sitting in the bleachers through

all these games.”

Churchill announced the awards for Fall cheerleaders:

Most improved - Addy Buenger

Spirit award - Ariel Anhalt

“Ariel is always encouraging, smiling, and always having a great time,” Churchill said.

Team player award - Julia Churchill

“Julie is great about pitching in and doing whatever needs to be done,” Joni Churchill said. “All around helpful and kind.”

Most Valuable Cheerleader - Payton Bunn

“Payton Bunn was fantastic this year about organizing captains' practices, homecoming, and driving people around,” Joni Churchill smiled. “We probably wouldn't have been able to function without her around. Thank you Payton.”

“That's it and go Panthers,” Joni Churchill concluded.

Girls Soccer

NRHEG soccer co-ops with Waseca soccer; two players from NRHEG participated this season: Anna Blatti and Evelyn Nydegger. They were important players on this team as the squad boasted only 21 players between varsity and JV. Oftentimes players played the entire match and many played on both varsity and JV just to field a full team. Despite small numbers, the group played great, having big results early on. The group finished second in the conference with a 11-5-1 overall record and 10-2 in conference. Their season came to an end in heartbreaking fashion with a 3-2 overtime loss at home. Blatti was praised as being “very strong,” with one of her high-lights a 30-yard goal against Worthington. Nydegger was praised for her versatility, and her ability to “excel at every single position.”

Nydegger received an honorable mention in the Big South Conference and was selected as a senior captain for the 2023 season.

The program concluded a little after 8:30 p.m. Letter winners collected their pins and letters and just about everyone stuck around for another half hour for photos and good conversation.

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Star archives, New Richland

100 years ago

- Thursday C. C. Sybilrud of Albert Lea shot a beautiful specimen of the bald eagle family two miles north of Emmons on Edd Free-mot's farm. The bird measured seven feet and eight inches from tip to tip of the expanding wings and three feet from the beak to the tip of the tail. It has a long and powerful bill the curve commencing at the cere. The wings reached to tip of tail and its legs are feathered to the toes. The body is dark brown, the feathers of head and neck pointed and of a golden hue. The eagle is being mounted.

- Lawrence Verplank, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. E. Verplank, accidentally got his hand caught in a corn shredder Wednesday of this week and as a result was rushed to the Naeva hospital at Albert Lea where it was found necessary to amputate two of his fingers.

- Peter, the eleven year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Christensen living four miles out of Freeborn was badly burned about the face and right arm while trying to start a fire in the range by the use of kerosene. On last Thursday the little fellow was alone, his parents having gone to town, and when dinner time came decided to start a fire with the above result. The explosion set his clothing on fire and he ran outside to the water trough where he succeeded in putting out the fire. The only people near were some tilers working in a field. Being in great agony the little fellow went to them for help.

75 Years Ago

- An auto accident that might have been more serious and even fatal occurred Monday night on highway 13. Rev. S. P. Hieb and his daughters, Misses Sheila and Doris, were returning from Albert Lea where the girls had been taking music lessons. At the Forsberg farm they were met by a car driven by Ragnar Nordass of Blue Earth, coming from Waseca, which plowed into the left side of the Hieb car, taking off the front wheel, front fender, and scraping the whole left side of the car. Mr. Nordass had another accident that day while en route to Waseca. His car skidded on a stretch of ice and rolled over, taking off the right headlight and badly damaging the car generally. In driving the car in this condition he evidently mis-judged the road, striking the Hieb car, swinging it around and leaving it crosswise of the road and headed for the ditch. It is remarkable that none of the passengers of the cars was hurt in so serious an accident.

- Clear and Reeds lakes will be open to winter anglers but dark house angling or spearing will not be permitted it was announced today by Chester S. Wilson state game and fish commissioner. St. Olaf lake will be closed to both open angling and dark house fishing and spearing.

- When Arthur Klessig received a weighty package by mail Monday he surmised a trick was being played by his brother, Leo, of Omak, Wash. He opened the package and what did he find? A western Russet potato. What did it weigh? A little matter of three pounds lacking one ounce. It was ten inches in length, a beauty if we ever saw one. Art is scouring his territory to find a bigger one to send to Leo.

ever seen here.

50 Years Ago

- Golden Valley Lutheran Cross Country team, rated one of the best in the Midwest, got outstanding performances from Gordy Benfield of Hastings and Brad Finseth of New Richland and finished seventh in the National Junior college meet last Saturday at Pensacola, Florida. Benfield, undefeated going into the meet, kept moving up during the

race and finally caught the track all-American three miler, Fred Carnahan from the Platte college, Nebr. In the dramatic finish, the two great distance runners ran stride for stride, far ahead of the field, with the Nebraska ace edging Benfield at the finish. Finseth also came up with a tremendous effort with an 18th place finish for his team. Both Finseth and Benfield were named to the All-American Team for their accomplishment.

- Federal revenue sharing has presented the opportunity for the State of Minnesota to maintain the tax reform gains achieved by the Governor and the Minnesota Legislature in 1971 and to avoid property, sales, or income tax rate increases in the 1973-75 biennium. In a resolution, adopted at a county wide meeting of the officers and leaders of the Waseca county Farmers Union concern was expressed that no steps be taken by the 1973 Legislature which would "nullify or dilute" the tax reform progress made in the 1971 session.

- Dr. Patricia Jean Olds, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. George H. Olds, has been invited to lecture at a workshop in Berlin, Germany, which will be held November 20th to December 2nd. The workshop on the topic 'Contraception: The Masculine Gender,' is being sponsored by the Schering Corporation of Berlin. Some fifty to sixty experts of various disciplines in biology medicine have been invited to attend the workshop; about 25 have been asked to speak to the group. Dr. Olds will lecture on 'Sperm Ultra-structure as an Indication of Sterility.' The aim of the workshop is to suggest new directions in research on contraceptives and their application to real-life situations.

25 Years Ago

- Halgren's Auto Sales & Repair has moved their automobile sales business to a new building at the intersection of Highways 13 and 30 on the east edge of New Richland. "This new site which is more visible gives us better exposure," Dale Halgren said. The former site of the A & W Root Beer Stand the building remained empty since The Family Affair closed a number of years ago. Dale Halgren said he had been trying to buy the property for more than a year and finally succeeded late this summer.

- Flying was Patrick Arnfelt's first love. From the time his cousin, Dan Sampson, gave him his first flying lesson in 1987, Patrick knew one day he would wind up in an airliner cockpit. Those of us who knew him well enviously watched him fly his own personal aircraft and marveled at the fact that at the young age of 20, and with only 1,000 hours of flying time, he landed his first job with a major airline, Continental Airlines. On July 29, 1995, Patrick married Jennifer Schwab. Less than a month later, on August 21, Patrick and Jennifer were returning home from a visit in Red Wing when, just a few miles from their home, their Jimmy slammed into the side of a gravel truck on a County Road 45 intersection. Recently, Continental did a rare thing by naming one of their aircraft "The Spirit of Patrick Arnfelt" in his memory. The plane, an ATR-42, in his memory. The plane, an ATR-42, was the type Patrick flew when he first became employed at Continental. Patrick Arnfelt was the grandson of Glen and Alma Routh of rural New Richland.

- The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5 have signed an agreement that describes the environmental commitments of both agencies in Minnesota over the next 21 months. Minnesota was the first state in the region to complete an environmental partnership agreement this year.

A look back at Waseca archives

100 Years Ago – Waseca Herald

- Defying a downpouring rain, and puddles of water and mud over one thousand people turned out to pay honors to Judge Senn Thursday evening after his election to the district judgeship. The fight had been one of the hottest in years and almost every one in the city and county took a personal interest in it and considered Judge Senn's victory, their victory. At 7:30 the Waseca band assembled at the court house and a torch light procession was formed. About two or three hundred men carried torch lights. The procession started down Second street, the band playing the music for which it is famous and the crowds surged the street. After marching up and down the street they turned on Lake avenue and went down to the high school grounds. A huge bonfire was started and in a minute or two it was crackling and leaping in flames. It was a time of jubilee everywhere, for Waseca county has just won the judgeship for the first time since the district was created.

- The total cost of the West Elm St. drain was reported at the city council meeting lasts evening to be about \$1261, figuring in interest charges and publication costs up to date. It was decided to make the assessments at \$20 a lot where there is but one house on a lot at \$35 where there are two houses, or a total of \$595 for the abutting property owners, excepting the C. & N. W., which was assessed \$200, making a total of \$795.

- Fifty years of married life is something of a record in these days when the divorce courts are working overtime and when the word home has lost some of its former charm. Yet Mr. and Mrs. Peter McLin celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary at their home in this city last week. This was an event long looked forward to in the

lives of these people. Fifty years of happy married life these days is an achievement.

75 Years Ago – Waseca Herald

- The number of Waseca county deer hunters topped all previous records, according to County Auditor Art. Brisbane, who announced that 397 Waseca people had purchased licenses to hunt deer. Reports from other counties show similar gains over last year and some 200,000 are hunting this season. Hunters returning from up north state that many have had trouble getting their deer, although this year there is snow on the ground. Far north the snow is heavy enough to make walking a hard process.

- Waseca may have had a fine fall, but snow and cold weather caught many farmers with soy beans and corn still in the field and the loss is liable to be sizable. Losses will run higher in soy beans than in corn, Cletus Murphy estimated, since soy beans will take less punishment than corn. Farmers waiting for combines and corn pickers will have trouble cleaning their fields. The first snow on November 7 brought ice and softened the fields so that farmers could not get out to finish work on soy beans and corn. The last snow of seven inches has increased the trouble for farmers as far as getting out in the fields and a weather report today forecasted four more inches on the way.

- The Waseca public schools at their annual open house entertained almost 500 parents last Thursday night who came to inspect the schools, watch different demonstrations by students and check exhibits prepared to show what their children are doing as they get an education. Parents numbered about 70 more than last year and about 150 more than open house in 1945, the first year the plan was started. There were 700 booklets mailed out to par-

ents explaining the open house plan and urging them to attend, talk with the teachers and check points on education with which they are not familiar.

50 Years Ago – Waseca Journal

- The Journal learned in a telephone call from the State Department Saturday that Dave Kunst should be home by Thanksgiving. Dave was to have left the American Embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan today (Monday) for his journey home to Waseca. Jan Kunst, Dave's wife, told the Journal today that Dave tires easily and his flight home will be "broken up" to allow him plenty of rest. Jan said she has no idea how Dave is coming home whether on a military or commercial flight. She also doesn't know if he is traveling on his feet or on a stretcher. Dave had been in the hospital 13 days and was given an average of two x-rays a day.

- Sunday was a cold bleak day in Waseca, but a great day for the elderly citizens of the Waseca area as groundbreaking took place for the new "Maple Terrace" housing project. Reverend Paul Knutson, present chairman of the Waseca Housing Authority, thanked the Sacred Heart Parish for what he termed "the best site in town" for the project.

- Dr. Loren L. Braun, a professor of chemistry at Idaho State University, has published a textbook on "Essentials of Organic Biochemistry." He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. August Braun, Janesville, and a brother of Mrs. Grove Brown, Waseca. He graduated from Waseca Central High School in 1947. "This book presents an overview of the fields of organic and biochemistry," Dr. Braun wrote in the preface.

25 Years Ago – Waseca County News

- Two Waseca residents were taken to the Waseca Area Medical Center and treated and re-

leased for smoke inhalation Sunday after a fire broke out in their kitchen. Waseca Fire Department investigators said the fire broke out in the kitchen of the Andersons' residence at 7:56 p.m. Waseca Fire Chief Bob Johnson said the cause of the fire was grease from a pan on the stove.

- Two goals by Kristi Petersen and the shutout goal-tending of Jessie Rose sparked the Waseca Junior Gold girls' hockey team to a 3-0 victory over the Mankato East Junior Varsity at Mankato Thursday and played a penalty-free game. The Waseca girls will be competing as an independent club team this winter and next, before becoming a high school team in 1999-2000. Seventh-grader Mandi Swenson got Waseca's first score of the year when she converted a pass from Katie Benson five minutes into the game. Petersen gave Waseca some breathing room in the middle period with two goals. Rose, who had plenty of help from her defense, was forced to make only 12 saves in the contest.

- With one fell swoop, over a century's worth of history came tumbling down. On Saturday, Nov. 8, a crane knocked down the granary that stood at the corner of State Street and Fifth Avenue Southeast for over 102 years. Gary Isker, who cares for the property with his wife Sally, said that the building needed to come down because it had become a liability. The property has been in the Isker family since this 1930s. They have no plans for the property at this time. According to a 1930 Sanborn fire insurance map, the granary was built in 1895 as part of the Everett, Aughenbaugh & Company's numerous grain elevators in the area. The building hasn't been in service since the mid-1970s. The granary had been a victim of arson twice in 1996, once in April and again in June.

Argus archives

75 Years Ago

- A series of outstanding concert and lecture events by nationally established artists and speakers is being planned for residents of Waseca County by the County Library and the Department of Concerts and Lectures at the University of Minnesota for the coming winter months. Everyone in Waseca County will be urged next week to enroll in the Waseca County Concert and Lecture Association and thus be able to attend the numbers which are scheduled for presentation at the Waseca High School Auditorium.

- Another farm accident was reported by Vera Prechel of the Woodville Hustlers 4-H club last week. George Klampe, 16 years old and son of Roy Klampe, Woodville township, had his arm broken while cranking a car. This accident will keep George from performing his regular duties for several weeks.

- Tuesday, November 11, was a big day for the American Legion of Janesville. A short Armistice Day program was presented at the school auditorium in the morning. Our Post

Commander, Erven Kopischke, gave a short talk. Harvey Kuhn and John Fury were the color bearers and Vernon Walther and Mike Raveling were the color guards. At six o'clock the Legion Auxiliary gave a Pot-Luck supper at the I.O.O.F. Hall. All the Legionnaires were invited and this really was a swell feed.

50 Years Ago

- Bradley Schnepf, a 12-year-old seventh grader at Trinity Lutheran school, is the top point man for the season in the four-cycle go-cart racing at the New Ulm Cart Club. Bradley accomplished the feat in his first year of competitive racing. One of four sons of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Schnepf, rural Janesville, Bradley also won a host of first place trophies. The go-carts raced every other Sunday on a dirt track.

- Randy Hoehn, Janesville's 171-pound junior back, was named to WCCO Radio's All-State Football Team of the Week for October 19. He was one of 27 players from all parts of the state named to the honorary squad on "Prep Parade", a 30-minute program devoted to high school sports and band ac-

tivity throughout the state. Hoehn's recognition came after the Golden Bears bombed Glenville 41-0.

- John Mulvaney, Jr. pled guilty in Waseca County Court Tuesday morning to firing a high-powered rifle within the Janesville city limits Saturday night, November 4. One of the bullets penetrated a building on the Alvin Rosenau place and wounded one of Rosenau's horses. Deputy Mert Schwartz was called out to investigate an alleged shooting in town Saturday night. The wounded horse was discovered by Rose-nau at 12:05 p.m. Sunday afternoon. It has been treated by Dr. Roy Hendricks for a head wound. In court Tuesday morning, Judge McLoone ordered a 30-day continuation of the case to check the condition of the animal. Mulvaney has agreed to pay restitution on the incident.

25 Years Ago

- It was a joyous occasion for the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton School Board when the results of this Tuesday, Nov. 4, special election were tabulated. The JWP School District will see both construction and remodeling in its future thanks to the passing of an \$11 million referendum. The referendum passed with 1,011 yes votes to 782 no votes. "I'm just so excited beyond words," said Roxann Zimprich, board member, after hearing the results. "I'm excited for the kids."

- The state 4-H Dog Show was held on Saturday, Oct. 18, in Hutchinson. There were 220 4-H members from across the

state participating in the show including Stacy Bethke and Liz Sonnenberg from Waseca County. Three types of events were held: obedience, showmanship and agility. To qualify to compete at the state dog show, the 4-H member and his/her dog must first earn a blue ribbon at their county fair. This qualifies them to participate in the regional dog show which was held in September. At the regional show, if the 4-H member places at the top of their class, they qualify for the state show. Both Stacy Bethke and Liz Sonnenberg received blue ribbons in the competition. Bethke received her blue in senior novice obedience, placing third overall. Sonnenberg received her blue in senior novice showmanship.

- Mankato, a local phone call away. This was the topic of discussion during the Janesville City Council's Monday, Nov. 10 regular city council meeting. Bob Alton, president of Hickory Tech Corporation, and Asim Saber, president of Mankato Citizens Telephone Company, presented a plan to bring telecommunications to Janesville. Currently the city is under the Frontier Telephone system. The proposed plan is to over-build Frontier's system with a municipal telephone system leased from MCTC. Along with caller ID, long distance and internet services, Hickory Tech's subsidiary company CRYSTAL is proposing a local link to Mankato. Currently, if a person wishes to call someone in Mankato it is a long distance charge.



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The Harvest Mission Festival is mainly comprised of a lunch served in Grace Lutheran Church's fellowship center, and a bake sale with baked goods donated by members of the Grace Lutheran Church congregation

Grace Lutheran Mission Festival

By **TRISTAN JENSEN**
Editorial Assistant

Grace Lutheran Church's Harvest Mission Festival was held Saturday, November 12, 2022. The festival is one of two major fundraisers put on by Grace Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (GWELCA), the other being their Spring Salad Luncheon. The event has been taking place longer than anyone on the GWELCA board can remember, according to board president Kathy Maxon. The event was able to be held this year after a two-year hiatus due to COVID-19 concerns. Angie Kaelberer, treasurer of GWELCA board, was one of many involved with the Harvest Mission Festival to express her joy and gratitude for its return. "It's an excellent way to connect the community — people coming from different churches, all having lunch together."

The Harvest Mission Festival includes a lunch served in Grace Lutheran Church's fellowship center, a craft sale, and a bake sale with baked goods donated by members of the Grace Lutheran Church congregation. The Scandinavian goods are always the most popular, and the sale once again included fresh lefse. GWELCA

gets the lefse from a group in Rushford, picking it up the day before the festival so that it's as fresh as possible — barely 24 hours old at the time of sale. Lefse has been a hit at the Harvest Mission Festival for many years. The return of the festival this year led to phone calls to the church from all around town confirming it was still scheduled: many callers reserved purchases in advance just to ensure they could get their share. "It's practically a service," said Marlys Monahan, secretary of the GWELCA board about the lefse sale. The Harvest Mission Festival also includes a craft sale: this year several quilts handmade by a member of the Grace Lutheran Church's quilting group were being offered.

All money raised at the Harvest Mission Festival is used to support missions, locally and beyond. Some of the charities that have benefited from past fundraisers include Lutheran World Relief, Lutheran Social Services, Crossroads Campus Ministry at Mankato State University, Bethlehem Inn, the Jeremiah Project, the Waseca Food Shelf and Neighborhood Service Center, LAMP Ministries, and the Marie Sandvik Center.

Waseca 5, Fairmont 2



AGGRESSIVE OFFENSE — Waseca freshman forward Madelyn Benson took one of the first shots of the night. The Bluejays outshot Fairmont 35-15 Tuesday, November 15.

Girls' hockey wins 5-2 over Cardinals

First season-opener victory in 10 years

By **MICHAEL ROY**
Publisher

The Waseca girls' hockey team had as good of a start as one could ask of them with a 5-2 victory against Big South opponent Fairmont Tuesday, November 17.

Waseca flew out of the gate taking 11 shots at the net for Fairmont's two. The Cardinals were first to score off a breakaway five minutes into the game. The Bluejays responded with

two goals scored in quick succession by Makayla Forthun (assisted by forward Madelyn Malecha) and Emma Keith (unassisted).

After a 2-1 score in the first, Waseca pushed harder on offense with 19 shots on net. Madelyn Malecha scored a goal 8:38 into the second period. Less than two minutes later, senior Cece Huttemier made a fantastic effort to sneak one past Fairmont goalie Ilana Moeller's blocker side as she was slipping on



BOARD BATTLE — Waseca senior forward Cece Huttemier tries gaining control of the puck along the boards with Fairmont's Hannah Goerndt on her back. Photos by Michael Roy

the ice. Waseca and Fairmont's offense slowed in the third period, each with five shots apiece. Waseca cemented their victory with a goal by Katlyn Schueller 11 minutes in. Fairmont replied less than two minutes later to end the game 5-2. The victory marked the first time

since 2012-13 the Waseca girls' hockey team won its season opener. Waseca traveled to Visitation Catholic School in Mendota Heights Thursday, November 17. They will go to Worthington for another Big South Conference game the following Saturday before returning home to face Windom Tuesday, Nov. 22.

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The Pastor's Column

Revealing Christ through politics

By **PASTOR KEN ANDRS**

As a Pastor I am often asked about politics and how a Christian is to interact with politics. "Are there any biblical mandates for politics or the way we should vote?" I know what you are saying right now, "Pastor, please don't talk to me about politics. I hear enough from the advertisements that I get everywhere." You are right, we do get enough of divisiveness and advertisements, but we also have a responsibility.

As followers of Christ, we have a responsibility to serve our fellow humanity, and see transformation happen in the world through our good actions. We have a biblical mandate that in every action and word we are to act for the Glory of God and the good of our community. Our responsibility is to reveal Christ in whatever we do.

Paul was concerned for his communities and churches and their influence in the world. He actively sought that people would share Christ and allow their actions to reveal who they were in the world. He spoke in 2 Corinthians 4:

5 For we do not preach ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the

knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

As we reveal Christ in all things, we are to let Him shine through us to every issue, concern, and politic. Every response and concern are to be made in the understanding that Christ is in all and being made known through all things. We reveal the love of Christ in our actions and encourage others to start or return to a right relationship with Him.

So how do we reveal Christ through politics? And the fact that our candidate did or did not win an election? Paul, in Romans, speaks to the biblical response of Christians to governing authorities. We are to submit to the authority that God raised up in our communities, but at the same time maintain the higher biblical moral responsibility to be like Christ in all things. Please spend time reading Romans 13 to discover the biblical perspective of governing authorities and actions in the community.

We, as followers of Christ, are to reveal Him in every situation. How we respond to crisis, change, or stress reveals our faith and trust in God and His sovereign plan. He desires that all would come to know Him and uses changes in the world to bring people to a saving knowledge of Christ. Jesus is at work, let us continue to worship and honor Him in every situation.

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