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WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY

No. 36 Vol. II \$2 Office at Office at 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca Friday, September 8, 2023



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Sports

Waseca Pioneer moves offices

The Waseca County Pioneer has relocated to its new office at 111 W. Elm Ave., next to the VFW, across from Keen Bank. Our office hours and mailing address remain the same. P.O. Box 578. Hours: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

* * *

Relay For Life of Steele/Waseca County. Sept. 23

Steele/Waseca County will be having a Relay For Life event from 5-10 p.m. at the Steele County Fairgrounds. There will be a silent auction, entertainment, survivor recognition, raffle, kids activities and food.

* * *

Circus Stella to perform Sept. 8

Circus Stella is coming to Christian Assembly Church on Sept. 8 from 4 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. The show promises to bring smiles and laughter to the audience. Tickets are on sale at circusstella.com

* * *

Senior card games 12:15 p.m. Fridays

Card playing enthusiasts should keep the Waseca Area Senior Center card game sessions in mind. The Center, located at 308 N State St. in Waseca, hosts them every Friday beginning at 12:15.

* * *

Tuscan Lodge Nr 77

Tuscan Lodge Number 77 holds meetings every fourth Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Masonic Temple in Waseca, 831 Third Ave NE.

* * *

Shredding event Sept. 16th

Thrivent Financial is offering a free offering shredding event on September 16 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Thrivent office located at 201 2nd St. NE, Waseca. Donations benefit Bethlehem Inn, Waseca.

* * *

Waseca Soil and Water to meet Sept. 14

The next meeting of the Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District will be September 14 at 6:30 p.m. at 300 South State St.

* * *

Keen Bank collecting donations for Bethlehem Inn

Keen Bank is collecting needed items and cash donations September 5-29 for Bethlehem Inn, a nonprofit organization based out of Waseca that provides a living environment for women and children in transition.

Donation requests include, but are not limited to toilet paper, paper towels, cleaning supplies, laundry detergent, dryer sheets, laundry baskets, dish soap, pillows, bath and kitchen towels, forks, spoons, knives, large and small garbage bags, socks of all sizes and more.

A word from

The Word 

"How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"

Romans 10:15

A significant milestone

Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District established in 1948



The First Waseca Soil Conservation District Board from 1948. From left: Earnest Marquardt, Ray Dinneen, Walter Rosenthal, Rueben Youngerberg, and Arnold Keller.

Open house held Thursday September 7

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

"Three quarters of a century is a significant milestone," observes Mark Schaetzke, manager of the Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) for the past 5 years. "It's good to celebrate what we've accomplished over that time."

The state of Minnesota authorized counties to establish local soil and water conservation districts in 1938. Over the next decades, local groups took action; in Waseca County, that happened in 1948. At that time, five area landowners became SWCD "supervisors," acting as advisors to hired staff. Waseca County's first supervisors were Reuben Youngerberg, Walter Rosenthal, Ernest Marquardt, Arnold Keller and Ray Dinneen.

Their contributions were among those celebrated during an open house this Thursday, Sept. 7, at the Waseca American Legion building. A 1 p.m. luncheon thanked past and present supervisors and SWCD employees.

Schaetzke notes that the state first authorized "soil conservation" districts, adding the term "water" in 1960; the programs were founded in reaction to the dust bowl conditions that developed in the US heartland in the 1930s.

"In those early days, the programs were focused on erosion," Schaetzke says. "The agency's purpose has definitely evolved since then." His agency continues to help individual farmers with erosion control, he says, but now also works to monitor and protect water quality, both above and below the ground.

The local office works with the state board of water and soil resources and the federal natural resources and conservation service. Among them they manage and oversee a wide range of pro-



The current Waseca Soil and Water board of supervisors. Back row from left: Keith Morgan, Wayne Cords, Larry Muff. Front: Matt Sommers and Gregg Rosenthal.

grams. Speaking loosely, their intent is to protect public resources by helping private landowners preserve their property.

"Think for a minute of a cubic foot of soil," Schaetzke says. "In the field, it's a resource that can benefit the farmer and be an asset to the economy."

"Now imagine that soil erodes into a nearby stream. There, it interferes with drainage. Sooner or later, that soil will find its way into the local watershed, even, eventually the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico. In those places, it's a liability-harmful to the watershed and to the vegetation and wildlife of those public waters."

For the past 75 years, the SWCD has been helping farmers and landowners keep soil in its place, sometimes by helping engineer and install im-

proved drainage. More recent programs aim to take marginal or low-producing land—often consisting of soils most prone to erosion—out of production. According to Schaetzke, of Waseca County's roughly 277,000 acres, more than 15,000 have been transformed into natural habitat using native plants. About 500 acres are in parks. Funding for SWCD projects, he adds, is roughly one-third local, two-thirds from the state, and ten percent or less from national sources.

Other programs overseen by the SWCD focus on "soil health."

"Our state and nation have made tremendous investments in protecting our resources," Schaetzke observes. "Those accomplishments are among those recognized during our celebration."



Area farmers Gregg and Annette Rosenthal live and farm on property acquired by Gregg's grandfather, Walter, more than 100 years ago. Photo by Deb Bently

Following in Grandpa's shoes

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

"Research shows that there are more microbes in a teaspoon of soil than there are people on the planet," says Gregg Rosenthal, a Waseca County farmer with a degree in agronomy. "That's how we can measure whether a patch of soil is 'healthy' or not."

Area farmers Gregg and Annette Rosenthal live on property acquired

by Gregg's grandfather, Walter, more than 100 years ago. The original 160-acre farm is still part of the land they farm today.

In addition to that connection, Gregg is also one of the county's five "supervisors" for the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). He was invited to put his name on the ballot last fall and elected to a four-

Shoes continued on 8



Brett Wickersheim

Waseca is home Wickersheim joins Waseca Dental Care

By TRISTAN GEHRING
Staff Writer

"I call Waseca my hometown," says Brett Wickersheim, the newest dentist at Waseca Dental Care. "My parents lived in St. Louis Park when I was born and we moved a couple of times when I was very young, but we landed in Waseca when I was four. This is where I went to school, played sports, made friends and grew up until I went to the Cities for college."

Wickersheim earned a bachelor degree in biology from the University of Minnesota and then was admitted to the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry, where he earned his Doctorate of Dental Surgery (DDS). While in undergraduate studies, Wickersheim met his wife; they were married in 2019. She is currently finishing a master degree program to work as a Marriage and Family Therapist. In 2022 the couple adopted a dog, Maverick. "He has kept us active and on our toes!" Wickersheim says. Wickersheim has recently moved back to his hometown along with his wife, and says they are enjoying the opportunity to re-join and become part of the community. "I am excited to be back in my hometown, and I am looking forward to the opportunity to serve the dental needs of the community!"

Wickersheim's parents still live in Waseca – his father has been a pastor at Christian Assembly Church for more than twenty years; his mother is closely connected with Waseca Public Schools, having served as a volunteer, paraprofessional, and kindergarten teacher at various times. Wickersheim also has two siblings, a younger brother and older sister. His brother has stayed in Waseca, while his sister is currently living in India where she teaches high school English.

"I, along with Dr. Thompson, have a wide range of responsibilities," Wickersheim says, "We do a lot, but we have an incredible group of assistants, hygienists, and a business team that are exceptional at their jobs and make our lives much easier."

Wickersheim's day at Waseca Dental Care typically starts with a morning huddle with the whole office. He then spends the day seeing patients. "Some days have a variety of procedures and a large number of patients, and other days we get to spend a lot of time with a few patients working through a big case with them." He adds that often people are added to the schedule throughout the day for emergency work. "It's nice that while the list of procedures generally

Dentist continued on 3



Compostings

by Al Batt

When someone holding a flyswatter says, “Don’t move!”

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS’ CLUB MEETING
My wife is always correcting me. I told her, “Judy, quit correcting me.”

I thought your wife’s name was Andrea.

You’re as bad as she is.

DRIVING BY BRUCE’S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. It had been so dry, the catfish had been carrying canteens. It’s been a long time since I’ve engaged in a staring contest with a catfish, but I believe their eyes are black. According to the World Atlas, 70 to 79% of the world’s human population has brown eyes, 8 to 10% have blue, 5% each have hazel and amber, 3% gray, 2% green, under 1% red-violet and fewer than 1% have eyes of different colors. This is called heterochromia.

“When the Weatherball is glowing red, warmer weather’s just ahead. When the Weatherball is shining white, colder weather is in sight. When the Weatherball is wearing green, no weather changes are foreseen. Colors blinking by night and day say, precipitation’s on the way.”

The Weatherball was a cultural icon perched atop the 14-story Northwestern National Bank in Minneapolis for 33 years and seen from 15 miles away at night. Unveiled in 1949, the Weatherball was hailed as the tallest lighted sign between Chicago and the West Coast with the sphere’s base 367 feet above the street and illuminated by 1¼ miles of neon tubing. The bank received a call from the National Weather Service at 4:14 p.m. each day to set the Weatherball color until 1977 when a direct line to the airport’s NWS allowed updating four times per day. The Northwestern National Bank building was destroyed by an arson fire on Thanksgiving Day 1982 started in an empty Donaldson’s Department Store. The Weatherball escaped unscathed and a crane lowered it gently onto the street. It was donated to the Minnesota State Fair with the hope it’d be restored and placed on the fairgrounds. It was stored for 17 years until it was scrapped.

I’VE LEARNED

The shoe store clerk told me that a particular shoe wasn’t good for walking. I think all shoes should be good for walking.

A long-term weather forecast is fall, winter, spring and summer.

When someone holding a flyswatter says, “Don’t move!” Move.

Efforts to move Minneapolis and St. Paul to Austin and Albert Lea have stalled. It’d been wonderful for the people living in Austin and Albert Lea. If they wanted to go to the Twin

Cities, they could just stay home.

You’re getting older if no one talks to you in the morning until after you’ve had your oatmeal.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

He lost all his money investing in Henry Winkler action figures. It was a Fonzie scheme.

If Wonder Woman married Howard Hughes and then married Henry Kissinger, would she be Wonder Hughes Kissinger now?

What’s the difference between a weird rabbit and an athletic rabbit? One is a bit funny and the other is a fit bunny.

I learned on social media that 98% of people are stupid. I’m glad I’m part of the other 5%.

COME CELEBRATE HARTLAND

There will be a big whoop-de-do to celebrate the resilience of the city of Hartland after the devastating tornado of December 2021. Arcadian Bank will celebrate their new building with tasty treats from Nancy Jane’s Bakery from 8-noon, and pulled pork and hot dogs from 3-7. All the food will be camera-ready. The celebration includes L&D Ag, Hartland University and others. Parking is available. You’re invited. Bring an appetite and a smile.

NATURE NOTES

A rabbit’s eyes are positioned high on its head. This lateral placement is common in prey animals. Rabbits can see behind, up, down, on both sides and ahead. Rabbits have monocular vision and can see two different objects at one time since their eyes point in two directions. They can see predators at impressive distances.

Common nighthawks roamed the sky over the yard, making sounds of a warm summer evening as they headed to their wintering grounds in southern South America.

Native to Asia, weeping willow trees get their common name from how rain looks like tears dripping off the curved branches. The roots often lie close to the soil surface, causing bumps in the lawn, which interferes with mowing and can lift cement patios. Weeping willow tree roots can also damage underground water, sewer and plumbing lines.

Opossums arrived in southeastern Minnesota sometime around 1900. They aren’t equipped for cold winters as their fur coats aren’t warm, and their thin ears and hairless tails make opossums vulnerable to frostbite. They don’t hibernate.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Happy anniversary to the love of my life, my wife.

“If you can’t think of anything nice to say, you are not thinking hard enough.”—Robby Novak.

No school for the first time in 3 decades

School began this week. For the first time in 30 or so years, I wasn’t there.

I retired last spring, but spent much of the summer at school because, as a drama coach, set builder, Jill-of-all-trades, and constant experimenter, I had a lot of “stuff” to try and organize before the next person could occupy my classroom.

I only felt I had genuinely finished the process very early in August. My thanks to those who helped me, and perhaps especially to those who endured my glacial progress.

Now that I do so much work for the newspaper, I hope to keep serving our schools and our students by letting the community know about them, and about the many exciting things going on.

Now, I enjoy the flexibility of working in many places at many different times, rather than keeping the schedule of the school day.

For any who are curious, I graduated from Waseca High School in 1977—I was a member of one of the largest classes the district had had to date, and the



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

first to have attended the “new” building for all four years of its high school career. I keep running into classmates who have gone on to be pillars of our community, so I am led to believe we were a pretty promising group.

I graduated from Winona State with a double degree in journalism and German, and went on to work for, I don’t know, six or so years for the Waseca Weekly, which eventually metamorphosed into the Waseca County News. Then I went to work for Walter Mishek at the Arabian Horse Times; I wasn’t a “horse person,” but I guess I was a good enough writer to be useful anyway.

At some point I realized I had come to a professional “wall.” I either had to move to a larger community where I could get a

higher-paid job as a writer, or I had to change professions.

I chose not to leave.

I can still see a movie in my head of the day I came home to my husband and declared I was going to become a teacher—and get my summers off.”

I still shake my head and laugh every time I think about that. Because the truth of the matter is, being a teacher is a “full time” job in the extreme sense of the word.

When teachers are not in front of their students or correcting homework, they are planning what they will teach, or evaluating how well the last lesson went and considering how it can be improved for the next time. Teachers stay up late finishing projects and wake up early thinking

about what needs to be done.

Last fall, for the “back to school” issue of the Pioneer, I wrote a piece about “start of year nightmares” teachers have as September approaches. The examples folks shared with me ranged from outrageous to outrageously funny. And they make a point: being a teacher is a demanding job. While the pay is good, it is not great; many who can leave their jobs “in the office” each day are paid much more. The biggest reasons teachers stay in the profession, if you ask me, rest on being there for their students. Just as others were there for them in their own formative years.

So as the school year begins, and as it continues, know those who teach the children in your life are dedicated, hard-working, caring people. Approach any exchanges with them knowing they do everything they can to meet their students’ needs—whether academic, social, or emotional—and want to work with you. Know that they’re good folks using their knowledge and talents to do good things.

What’s your favorite commercial?

Another week has gone and school has started. I’m taking four classes (two in psychology and two in journalism) and so far, I am enjoying them. But we will see. It is rare for me to dislike a class anyway.

One class I have is titled “Advertising in Society.” It’s a required class for my journalism major and coming into it, I thought I wasn’t going to enjoy it very much: I had assumed it was geared more towards strategic communications or PR majors. As it turns out, I was wrong and I did indeed like it. At least I liked the first day, that is.

The first thing our professor asked us after introducing herself and going briefly over the syllabus was, “What is an ad or an advertising campaign that is memorable to you?”

So that got me thinking. What ad has been memorable to me? Of course, my mind automatically goes to Super Bowl ads, and to the funny, popular Doritos commercial—you know, the one where



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

the woman is pregnant and the baby kicks when the guy holds the Doritos above her belly. She throws the Doritos bag out of his hand and the baby goes flying out. That commercial was funny. And then there were the beer commercials like the Budweiser one and the horse (obviously) that were really heartwarming.

But other people had more recent commercials come to mind for them. Like the Dove and body positivity commercials or the controversial Kendall Jenner Pepsi commercial. It was interesting to hear everyone’s thoughts. One girl even asked about the whole McDonald’s and Grimace fiasco. It started out as an adver-

tising gimmick for McDonald’s, but people took it to a next level that McDonald’s wasn’t expecting.

Anyway, our professor then posed the real question: “Do ads and commercials mirror society, or are they agents of change?”

In other words, are ads reflecting back what society is like so that the customers can relate? Or do ads have a goal of becoming agents of change and inspiring people with their product?

I turned to the girl sitting next to me, as we were told to do; I told her I think both are true. Ads mirroring society can also be agents of change. Think about it - if an ad is a mirror for one part

of society, showing it to the other part can cause it to be an agent of change for the other part. Maybe I’m wrong, but that’s what I told her. She agreed, but then we also used our partner time to talk about other aspects of the question.

Our professor eventually told us she leaned slightly towards the belief that ads are a mirror of society, but that she understands how it could easily be both.

These are the types of classes I enjoy, the ones where we question moral philosophies and why things are the way they are (hence the psychology major). I also like interacting with people who have interests similar to mine, so we can have nice, civilized conversations and discussions.

College. It’s crazy.

My Determination: “You can think what you want. Opinion is the wilderness between knowledge and ignorance.” - Misty Quigley, Yellowjackets

Many thanks for our new home

On my evening walk tonight I pondered many things.

Dave Zika requested I write about baseball. He’s been away on vacation the last couple weeks and took a fall on the way back from fishing. Since he’s returned, he’s been recuperating at home and ensures me he will resume writing his column next week.

Before I get to baseball, I must tell everyone we are officially moved into the new office at 111 West Elm Avenue. The property previously housed, most recently, The Ward House Brewery, and before that, a barber shop, and before that, a burger shop.

Renovating this property was a total team effort and one which took a lot longer than expected. Besides the perhaps obvious tribulations of converting a brewery into an office, the process wasn’t so bad. Surprisingly, a bar makes a pretty good customer greeting counter, and can be converted into a desk area, too.

The first step was to remove all of the appliances related to serving beer. Since there was a giant rolling cooler with bar taps on top of it, we faced a few challenges even simply to remove it. We had to disassemble the building’s front “air lock” entryway, then faced a question about whether or not to put it back. In the end, we decided we could do without it.



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

Then we realized we needed new sheet rock on the walls and new tiles in the ceiling. Then there was painting—including deciding on the colors. Thank you to Amelia and her mom for many things, including not only the final color scheme, but applying it to the walls as well.

And then a lot of cleaning, and—finally—moving offices. In retrospect it doesn’t sound like a lot. But, doing any additional work besides newspaper work takes a lot of time in the newspaper world. Through it all, we continued finding our news stories, writing them, and putting them together into a finished weekly issue.

Thank you very much to Gene and James for all of their help. (Deb Bently’s brother, and her son.) Thank you very much to Amelia for painting. Thank you to Amelia’s mom, Shane, for painting the mural/tree on the wall.

Thank you to Deb for pulling out so many nails. And thank you to the Waseca

County Recycling Center for being so accommodating with all of our garbage/recycling.

Oh, and I want to thank Barb and Mark Buker for selling me the building, along with everyone else who made this transition to a permanent home possible.

Finally, I’ll get to what I wanted to write about: baseball.

The Twins look all but set to win the division, up 7 games over the Guardians after a win Tuesday night.

Dave asked me what I thought, and my response made him beg me to write about it.

I have never seen the Twins win a playoff game.

I have seen the Minnesota Vikings win more playoff games than the Twins.

I have seen the Wild win more playoff series—and games—than the Twins.

I have witnessed the Lynx win more championships in person than I have seen Minnesota Twins playoff victories.

I’ve even seen more Timberwolves (basketball) playoff victories than the Twins have won

playoff games in my life.

I think I’ve made my point. The only other gripe I had with the Twins this year is that they don’t allow their starting pitchers to pitch further into games. Sonny Grey is a top 5 starting pitcher in Major League Baseball: He and Twins Manager Rocco Baldeli argue regularly because Grey wants to stay in and keep pitching, but Rocco pulls him.

All I would like to see the Twins do this year is win a playoff game. But we’ll probably get swept by the Texas Rangers despite beating them more than once during the regular season.

At least the Yankees won’t be in the playoffs this year. I hate them.

P.S. I hope our readers enjoyed their Labor Day weekend.

“You know, Steve, you get the feeling that Billy Chapel isn’t pitching against left-handers, he isn’t pitching against pinch-hitters, he isn’t pitching against the Yankees. He’s pitching against time. He’s pitching against the future, against age, and even when you think about his career, against ending. And tonight, I think he might be able to use that aching old arm one more time, to push the sun back up in the sky and give us one more day of summer.”

-Vin Scully

“For Love of The Game”

WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

SERVING THE WHOLE OF WASECA COUNTY
including the communities of Waseca, Janesville, New Richland, and Waldorf

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Jasinski honored by League of Cities

The League of Minnesota Cities has recognized 35 state lawmakers, including Sen. John Jasinski (R-Faribault), as 2023 Legislators of Distinction. Chosen legislators are honored for specific actions that aided efforts of Minnesota cities during the past year’s state legislative session.

Legislators of Distinction are approved annually by the League’s Board of Directors in recognition of the collaboration of state and city officials needed to successfully serve shared communities and meet the unique needs of rural, urban, and suburban residents across Minnesota.

To be eligible for the award, legislators must achieve one or more of the following criteria:

- Be generally and reasonably accessible to League representatives
- Seek input on issues of importance to cities
- Listen to League concerns and be receptive to League-provided information on issues
- Sponsor and/or support League initiatives
- Speak out on behalf of the interest of cities
- Demonstrate the importance of partnership between the state and cities

Sen. Jasinski was instrumental in securing long term funding for the Small Cities Assistance Account, which was a 2023 legislative priority for the League. The ongoing funding will benefit more than 700 cities in Minnesota with

populations below 5,000. He regularly checked in with League staff to identify and understand city concerns in a wide range of legislation and to discuss how those could be addressed.

"I am honored to be recognized by the League of Minnesota Cities with the Legislator of Distinction award," Senator Jasinski said. "As a former city council member and mayor of Faribault, I am acutely aware of the opportunities and challenges that cities both large and small face on a daily basis. That is why it is so important to have a strong partner like the League advocating on behalf of local communities at the state capitol. I look forward to continuing our partnership to shape policies that allow all Minnesota communities to thrive now and long into the future."

Award winners received a letter of appreciation and a certificate. A copy of the acknowledgement letter was also sent to the mayor of each city in the legislator’s district.

The League of Minnesota Cities is a membership organization dedicated to helping cities throughout Minnesota build quality communities through effective advocacy, expert analysis, trusted guidance, and collective action. The League serves its more than 830 members through advocacy, education and training, policy development, risk management, and other services. For more information, visit lmc.org.

Waldorf Donation



Donna and Tom Traynor donated a bench to the city of Waldorf; it now stands outside the Waldorf Community Center. The bench, revealed on Memorial Day, was hand-built by Aaron Adams of the Janesville area. Adams says he donated the piece to potentially make the lives of veterans easier, while also honoring his father and brother, both veterans. Tom’s father, Gerald Traynor, was held as a Prisoner of War. Tom’s twin brother, Terry Traynor, was a paratrooper in the Vietnam War. Tom and Donna also intend to see a memorial brick placed for his father at the memorial site in Waseca.

Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

WHS class of 1958



The Waseca High School class of 1958 met for their 65th reunion August 24 at Oscar’s in Waseca. Back row from left: Richard Robert, Roger Suemnick, Louis Bratton. Row 2: Kathy Rosenthal, Wayne Huntington, Lavoy Ebnet, Edgar Dinsey, Curtis Roemhildt. Row 3: Janet Priebe, Jan Prail, Myra Battenfeld, Bev Maas, Karen Harguth, Dorothy Clayton. Front: Wayne Johnson, Judy Geise, Carol Rosenthal.

Pioneer photo by Tristan Gehring

AM Radio on the chopping block

By SENATOR AMY KLOBUCHAR

There are 4,000 AM radio stations across the country – and over 300 of those stations are right here in Minnesota. Listeners turn to AM radio for everything from high school scores to crop reports to news and weather. In fact, during a weather emergency like a wildfire or a tornado, AM radio can serve as a lifeline, sharing critical and sometimes lifesaving information.

Despite this, AM radio is on the chopping block. Auto executives have threatened to pull AM radio out of newer models of some of their vehicles. Maybe from their headquarters it doesn’t seem like people care about AM radio anymore, but I bet if they took a drive through rural Minnesota, they would take a different view. I was at Farmfest in Redwood County earlier this month, and

the people I talked to agreed: AM radio is critical for rural communities.

AM radio is also critical for public safety. Seven former FEMA administrators from the Clinton, Bush, Obama, and Trump administrations have spoken out about the safety risks of eliminating AM radio from cars. They explained that the National Public Warning System relies on AM radio to deliver emergency messages to the entire country at once. In times of emergency or severe climate conditions, the car is sometimes the only source of power and news for many. Phasing AM radio out of cars would mean this public safety system will no longer function as intended.

Across Minnesota we see just how vital this system is. Stations from KASM in Albany to KWAD in Wadena regularly broadcast tornado

alerts, snow alerts, information about power outages, and more to their communities. And when there was flooding in Crookston in 2021 and 2022, KROX radio was there to help - working in partnership with the city’s Emergency Operations Center to share the latest about the flooding, including information about road closures and the opening of a storm shelter where residents could turn for assistance.

This is what AM radio does day in and day out for its communities, and it is why I am fighting to pass the bipartisan AM for Every Vehicle Act. This legislation would ensure that AM radio continues to be available in vehicles at no extra charge for those who want it during their daily commutes or their long-distance drives. We have a broad, bipartisan group of senators backing this bill that includes everyone from Ted

Cruz to Bernie Sanders and it is also endorsed by the National Association of Broadcasters, the National Association of Farm Broadcasters, and several members of the Federal Communications Commission. This is the kind of coalition that gets results, and the good news is that this bill already easily passed through the Senate Commerce Committee.

I am committed to working across the aisle to ensure that drivers can tune in to AM radio for the sports and entertainment they like as well as the traffic, weather, and safety updates they need. This benefits truckers, farmers, and commuters while offering stability to the thousands of AM radio stations we don’t want to live without. We shouldn’t have to sacrifice safety, news and a way of life simply because some car manufacturers want to make more profits. Let’s get this passed.

Dentist

from Page 1

stays the same, there ends up being a variety in the patients and schedule which can help keep work from becoming monotonous.”

To those who are nervous about the dentist, Wickersheim has words of reassurance. “It’s really not as bad as TV and movies make it out to be. Dentistry has come a long way and while there are still some things that may be uncomfortable, we do our very best to make sure our patients get taken care of while also having as good an experience as possible.”

Wickersheim first became interested in dentistry in high school. “I was already exploring what a career in dentistry might look like when I had the opportunity to visit the UMN dental school with some family friends who had adopted twins with

cleft lips and palates; they went to the school to work with a team that included oral surgeons and speech pathologists.” That experience was the push Wickersheim needed. He reached out to local dentists – including his own at the time, Dr. Thompson – to look for opportunities to “shadow” them in their work. “Every dentist I had the opportunity to spend time with expressed that it was a difficult and demanding job, but very rewarding. They all said they enjoyed what they did and encouraged me in my pursuit.”

Another factor in Wickersheim’s interest in dentistry is the intersection between a career in science and one where he can work with his hands. “There is extensive research and scientific knowledge involved in the practice of dentistry, but there is also a significant hands-on portion with procedures that must be tailored to each individual.” He then adds, “I also enjoy being able to help people, whether that is getting them out of

pain or giving them the confidence to smile again. It is very rewarding to serve a community in this capacity.”

Outside of work, Wickersheim has a variety of hobbies. He enjoys outdoor activities in all seasons, including hiking, camping, snowboarding, fishing, and pheasant hunting, as well as tabletop and family games, video games, and reading. “I enjoy spending time with family and friends at sporting events, concerts, or just hanging out,” he says. Something many find surprising is that he owns and rides a motorcycle, which he also enjoys spending time working on. “My college roommates and I took a motorcycle trip up the North Shore to the Canadian border and back a few years ago.” He has also taken on the restoration of an old

boat and is working on a number of do-it-yourself projects around his home.

“Dr. Thompson was a young dentist just getting started at Waseca Dental Care when my family moved to town in 2000,” Wickersheim adds. “As a kid I was a patient of hers and always enjoyed going to the dentist because she and the whole team did their best to make the dentist an enjoyable experience. There are several members of the team who I saw as a kid who still work here now. I was able to spend time shadowing in the office during high school and college. It has been a pleasure seeing that come full circle now as I get to be a dentist at the same office I went to as a child. It’s fun to think that a future dentist could be a current patient, like I was.”

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OBITUARIES

Rodney Brandt

RODNEY BRANDT, age 71 of Janesville died on Thursday, August 31, 2023 at Mayo Clinic Health System in Mankato.

Born on March 4, 1952 in Wells, Minnesota, he was the son of Robert and Agnes (Lienke) Brandt. He graduated from Waldorf-Pemberton High School. Rod was united in marriage to Linda Schubbe. Together they had one child and were later divorced. Rod later married Stacy Johnson on July 30, 1999 in Waseca and they had one child together. Through the years, Rod worked a variety of jobs including farming, hauling propane and grain, driving truck, delivering milk for JR Trucking, and tending bar. He had been a long-time employee at Winegar Inc. in Waseca. He was also a member of the volunteer Fire Department in Waldorf. Rod enjoyed hunting, fishing, tractor pulling and spending time with his family and friends.

He is survived by his wife, Stacy of Janesville; his children, Jess (Angie) Brandt of Waseca and their children, Kera, Erika, Kyle, and Jory; and Alli Brandt of Janesville; step-children, Cody (Christina) Coy of Janesville and their son, Joshua; and Brittany Wylie of



Rodney Brandt

Hutchinson and her children Rayne and Hanna. He is also survived by two sisters, Hazel (Gary) Owens of Waseca and Susan Kipp of Waldorf and many nieces, nephews, and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother-in-law, Bob Kipp; and his loving companion, Dexter.

Private family services are being held. A public visitation will be held at the Janesville Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service on Saturday, September 9, 2023 from 1:00 PM until 4:00 PM.

Ronald Campbell

RONALD PATRICK CAMPBELL, age 71 of Mankato, died on the evening of Tuesday, August 22, 2023 at Mayo Clinic Health System in Mankato.

Ronald was born in Saint Peter on June 29, 1952, to parents Robert and Florence (Meger) Campbell. He attended school in Le Center. On December 23, 1977, Ron was married to Connie Timme in Mankato. They later separated. Over the years Ron called several communities his home including Le Center, Mankato, Lake Crystal, Otisco, and Waseca, before finally landing again in Mankato. He held several odd jobs throughout his life, but most friends and family knew him from the many years he

worked at The Creamery Restaurant in Otisco. He enjoyed fishing, working puzzles, and playing video games. In recent years he had been diagnosed with multiple cancers but was always able to rally and beat them. Unfortunately, his last battle was an unwinnable one. Ron will be deeply missed by those that knew him best.

Ronald is survived by his son, Robert (Eileen) Campbell of Mankato; two grandchildren, Z and Colin Campbell of Mankato; four siblings, Robert "Greg" Campbell of Glencoe, Roxanne (Floyd) Propeck of Watah, IN, Gail Boes and her special friend Jeff Nelson of Austin, and Norman Campbell and his special friend Audrey Shepherd of Le Sueur; two sisters-in-law, Judy Campbell of

Le Center and Colleen Campbell of Mankato; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by both of his parents; his former wife, Connie; two brothers, Randy Campbell and William "Barry" Campbell; and one sister-in-law, Barb Campbell.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 14, 2023 at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Mankato, with Rev. Melanie Wallschlaeger officiating. Visitation will be held for one hour before the service at the church. A private family interment will take place at Calvary Cemetery in Le Center. Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Janesville is handling the arrangements. dsfuneral.com



Ronald Campbell

Gene Rosenthal

GENE EDWARD ROSENTHAL, age 84, died at Whispering Creek in Janesville, Minnesota on September 3rd, 2023.

Gene was born to Edward O. and Esther A. (Priebe) Rosenthal on April 26, 1939 in Waseca, Minnesota. He grew up on the family farm and graduated from Waseca High School with the class of 1957. He participated in many school activities, but especially enjoyed playing on the championship football team. After high school, Gene attended the University of Minnesota, graduating in 1961 with a Bachelor of Mathematics with distinction degree. He continued with graduate work in Physics at the University of Minnesota, but did not complete a degree. (He would much later earn an MBA from Mankato State University in 1991.)

On September 3rd, 1960, Gene

married Kathleen Ann Wright. In 1962, while continuing his graduate work, an opportunity to join the family farm operation arose, and the couple returned to Waseca County. Gene's heart was always in the rolling hills of Isosco township, and he and Kathy spent their working lives as partners in farming. Always an early adopter of the latest technologies, Gene was voted Waseca County Conservation Farmer of the Year in 1980 for his efforts in soil conservation. He was also given recognition by the River-Friendly Farmer program. Gene always maintained that good soil conservation practices made good economic sense. He loved the many dogs that were a part of the family over the years and cheering for Minnesota sports teams, particularly the Vikings and the Golden Gophers.

Gene is survived by his wife,

Kathy, daughter Kelly Ann, son Blair Allen, and four grandchildren: Emilio Aguilar-Rosenthal, Antonia Aguilar-Rosenthal, Paloma Aguilar-Rosenthal, and Catalina Aguilar-Rosenthal. Gene loved his family, including his extended family of many nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, four brothers-in-law, six sisters-in-law, three nephews and two nieces.

Visitation will be held from 4-6 p.m. on Thursday, September 14, 2023, at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca and will continue for one hour before the service on Thursday at the church.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. pm Friday, September 15, 2023, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Janesville, with Rev. Kristian Bjornstad officiating. Following a lunch-



Gene Rosenthal

con at church, interment will take place in Woodville Cemetery in Waseca. dsfuneral.com

Susen Hedberg

SUSEN FAYE HEDBERG, age 70, of Chisago City died peacefully on June 4, 2023 after a long battle with lung disease.

Born on September 27, 1952 in Albert Lea, Susen was the daughter of Chester and Sophia (Tesch) Hedberg. Sue grew up in the village of Waldorf in southern Minnesota. She was interested in sports and fishing as a teenager and remained passionate about fishing up until her death. Sue graduated from Waldorf-Pemberton High School in 1970 and later went onto earn a B. A. from Mankato State University. After graduating from high school, Sue enlisted in the U.S. Army and entered the military on her eighteenth birthday. She made lifelong friends during the three years she was in the service, many of whom connected with her often throughout the years. Whether living out of state or her home state of Minnesota, family was very important to her. She was always thrilled to learn of the birth of a new great-niece or great-nephew, and she made every effort to remember everyone's birthday, and would send Christmas cards to family and friends each year. It was a blessing that Sue was able to visit with many family members and friends the week before her



Susen Hedberg

death, this helped sustain her and ease her passing.

Sue is survived by her siblings, Rodney (Elizabeth) Hedberg of Chisago City, MN, Carter (Wayne) Hedberg Schmidt of Ketchum, ID, and Carol (John) Warner of Upsala, MN. She was preceded in death by her parents, Chester and Sophia Hedberg.

A graveside service will be at 2:00 PM on Saturday, September 23, 2023 at First Lutheran Church Cemetery in Waldorf with Pastor Michael Mathews officiating. Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service is handling arrangements.

Annette Bennett

ANNETTE JANE (MCCLUNE) BENNETT, age 57, of Waseca passed away surrounded by family at her home on Monday, August 28, 2023.

Born on September 29, 1965 in Waseca, Annette was the daughter of Gerald McClune and Joan Wobschall. She attended Waseca High School and graduated with the class of 1984. She was united in marriage to Tommy Bennett in 1990 in Waseca. She worked with the cleaning crew at First National Bank, EF Johnson, and Brown Printing, but her main job was being a mom. She was

a loving mother to Michael, Tommy Jr. and Tabitha.

Annette was a great cook and baker. She was known in her family to make the best chicken dumpling soup. She loved attending flea markets, auctions and garage sales to find the best deal. She enjoyed camping, playing bingo, and playing candy crush in her free time. Most of all, she cherished the time spent with her family, especially her grandchildren. She was a member of Sacred Heart Church. She will be dearly missed.

Annette is survived by her husband of 32 years, Tommy Bennett; children, Michael Rezac, Tommy

(Hayley) Bennett Jr., Tabitha Bennett; seven grandchildren; father, Gerald (Connie) McClune; brothers, Wayne McClune, Terry McClune; and many other cousins, nieces and nephews.

She is preceded in death by her mother, Joan Wobschall; grandparents, Myron and Jane Callahan; uncles, Harry McClune and Donny Wobschall.

Memorial service will be at 4:00 PM on Friday, September 8, 2023 at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the funeral home.



Annette Bennett

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Hunter Frank served in the United State Navy right out of high school in 2018. He was with the VP-26 Tridents when he was deployed to El Salvador. He was killed in the line of duty on Oct. 17, 2020. Photos from various points in his life are displayed. Top, Hunter Frank with his grandfather Bruce Frank following his graduation from Owatonna High School. Second photo, Indya Frank, Hunter Frank, and Brandon Flores shortly after Frank's enlistment in the Navy.

Third annual Frank memorial benefit Sept. 16

By TRISTAN GEHRING
Staff Writer

The third annual Hunter Alexander Frank Memorial Benefit will take place September 16 at the Steele County Beer Gardens. The gathering is hosted by the newly formed Hunter Alexander Frank Memorial Foundation; the organization's president is Brandon Flores, older brother to Frank who died on deployment to El Salvador on October 17, 2020 where he was an Aircrewman with the VP-26 Tridents. Frank was just 20 years old. "Hunter was always a beacon of joy to those around him, and he was always willing to drop everything to help out anyone in need," says a letter from the foundation. The organization's goal is to honor Frank's memory by providing support to service members and their families through donations to Wounded Warriors Family Support.

The first memorial event was held in 2021, when Flores hosted a motorcycle ride in memory of his brother. There was a larger turnout than Flores had anticipated, which inspired his family to expand its efforts. In 2022, the second memorial ride was followed by a dinner and

silent auction which raised \$10,500.

New additions to the event this year are a car and bike show, a cornhole tournament with cash prizes, live entertainment, and other family-oriented activities. Registration for the car and bike show will be open from 9-10 a.m. and the show will run from 10 a.m. to noon. Registration for the motorcycle ride will be open from 9 a.m. to noon; the ride will take place from 1 to 5 p.m. The cornhole tournament and family activities begin at 1 p.m., silent auction open from 1 to 7 p.m. and live entertainment will be from 5 to 9 p.m. Food trucks will be available throughout the day. Over the course of the 2023 benefit, the goal of the foundation is to raise \$15,000 for veterans and their families or caregivers.

Prior to the event on September 16, the Hunter Alexander Frank Memorial Foundation is accepting help in several ways. Monetary donations can be made online at www.givebutter.com/HAF2023. For further information, contact the foundation at hafmemorial@outlook.com.

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Scouts and leaders in Pack 86 and Troops 85 and 1085 volunteered to place flags on gravesites at Woodville Cemetery prior to Memorial Day this past spring.

Waseca scouts to hold open house Monday

The Waseca Cub Scout Pack 86 is holding an open house from 6 to 7 p.m. on Monday, September 11, at the Scout building at the Waseca County Fairgrounds. The whole family is invited for fun, snacks, and outdoor games. Both boys and girls in Kindergarten through sixth grade are eligible to join Cub Scouts, and the open house is a chance to find out more.

Area Cub Scout leader Becky Petsinger wants families to know, "We have a great group of Cub Scouts, and want to welcome more friends to join. That way we can all enjoy the fun and benefits of scouting."

According to Petsinger, pack and den meetings for Cub Scouts are held three times a month. Participants are offered a wide range of activities, including the annual Pinewood derby races, camping, playing games, completing Cub Scout adventures (badges), participating in volunteer activities such as a community food drive, the holiday lights display, and more! Petsinger assures that parents who come with their scout to activities also have a great deal of fun.

Coming up soon for Cub Scouts is the traditional fall Scout Popcorn Fundraiser starting at the end of September and lasting through October; during this drive, Scouts learn how to set goals, interact with customers and raise funds for all the great activities.

Cub Scouting revolves around building awareness and appreciation for the natural world, fitness, and fundamental topics including hiking, nature, science, citizenship, first aid, sports and more. Activities make learning into hands-on fun and achievement that puts kids in the middle of the action, says Petsinger.

In addition to local activities, Petsinger points out that Cub Scouts go to camps and adventures organized by the regional Twin Valley Council. Among these are shooting sports, Halloween fun, winter camp and baseball games, to name a few. Petsinger says the Cub Scouts also partner with Waseca BSA Troops 85 and 1085 for fun adventures and learning opportunities. Cub Scouts cross over to the BSA troop in sixth grade when they can participate in longer camps in



Cub Scouts at a summer campout at Farmamerica. From left: Michael Petsinger, Tucker Wilson, Annabelle Landru, Elliot Langr, Cullen Baxter, Everett Langr, Luke Landru, AJ Hinkhouse, Sam Love, Ethan Grunwald and Braxten Rowe.



Waseca's Cub Scouts were one of many area Packs at the Twin Valley Council's spring "Shooting Sports Camp" in St. Peter this past May. Scouts enjoyed learning about archery, sling shots, BB guns and outdoor games. Left to right: Everett Langr, Michael Petsinger, Braxton Rowe, Marrick Boeckman, AJ Hinkhouse, Ethan and Julian Grunwald, Mitchell Petsinger.

Northern Minnesota or around the country.

Anyone interested in more information is invited to contact Becky Petsinger at her email address, beckypetsinger@gmail.com, or to visit the Cub Scout Pack 86 Facebook page, "Waseca Cub Scouts Pack 86."

LSS seeks Foster Grandparent volunteers

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota (LSS) is seeking volunteers for its Foster Grandparent program, in partnership with AmeriCorps Seniors, a national service agency, to offer guidance and encouragement to children and youth in the community.

Foster grandparent volunteers are older adults who offer one-to-one mentoring and tutoring in the classroom and other settings to children and youth. Their presence and reassurance can help children and youth improve self-esteem, social and emotional development and literacy and math skills.

"So many children just need a little attention and understanding to make

a positive difference in their day. When I volunteer, I know that I have made a difference in their lives," shared foster grandparent Roberta Klekotka.

In a survey this year, Lutheran Social Service learned that over 90% of volunteers either agree or strongly agree that their volunteer experience at LSS has changed their lives in a positive way. Almost 85% say they feel more socially connected because of their service as a volunteer. More than 76% say they feel healthier because of their service.

"The program is a win/win for me and the children. I feel like I am making a difference in their lives in

many ways. They have also made a difference in my life with their smiles, hugs, honesty and joy in learning new things. Being a Foster Grandparent volunteer has given me joy and a new purpose in this phase of my life," Klekotka said.

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota is currently seeking volunteers age 55 and older who can commit to volunteering at least 10 hours per week. The service offers volunteers a tax-free hourly stipend, transportation/mileage reimbursement, orientation and ongoing training; no prior experience is necessary.

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota conducts background checks to

ensure safety. The statewide organization serves all Minnesotans and welcomes volunteers from various cultures, backgrounds and traditions. If you are interested in becoming a Foster Grandparent, call 888.205.3770 or visit lssmn.org/fgvolunteer.

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota also welcomes other nonprofits to become partner sites to support youth in a variety of settings, including public and private schools, Head Start locations, shelters, and daycare centers. To become a partner, visit lssmn.org/fgpartner or call 888.205.3770.



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SO CLOSE — The Waseca High School boys’ soccer team almost knocked off powerful New Ulm last Thursday on the Bluejays’ field, settling for a 3-3 tie. From left: Henry Huttemier (18) battles the Eagles’ Austin Krohn on a header; junior midfielder Christopher Badillo (15) maneuvers the ball; Mason Jes (19) moves the ball against Justin Thompson; Logan Heyer (4) goes high in the air in front of the New Ulm goal.

Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

WHS soccer boys almost knock off New Ulm

The Waseca High School boys’ soccer team knew it would be in for a challenge last Thursday as undefeated New Ulm came to town for the home opener.

The Eagles almost left Waseca with their first loss.

The Bluejays built a 3-0 lead just 25 minutes into it, but the visitors rallied with three goals to escape with a 3-3 tie.

New Ulm entered the match scoring 17 goals in three matches while only surrendering three on the season. Waseca came out with energy and pace early, taking advantage of the Eagles’ willingness to play the ball back to their keeper. Mason Jes won a 50/50 ball in the ninth minute and dribbled past the keeper to find that back of the net.

In the 17th minute, freshman Henry

Huttemier won another free ball in the box and eluded defenders and the Eagles keeper and buried the ball in the open net.

Lucas Vasquez scored on a sensational free kick from distance to make it 3-0.

New Ulm came roaring back. Sophomore Jackson O’Campo scored in the 27th and 66th minute. Junior Amoah scored the other New Ulm goal in the 63rd minute.

“It’s hard to put things into perspective when you prepare to achieve a goal, and the goal escapes you,” said Waseca coach J.D. Delgado. “It’s easy to fall prey into the scrutiny of opportunities missed, and the failure of execution. Our boys battled through the game effectively, graciously as a team.”

Delgado placed himself at the end of line

“Our boys battled through the game effectively, graciously as a team.”

— Waseca coach J.D. Delgado

greeting the New Ulm team.”

“We recognize a worthy opponent,” he said. “But we recognize our ability to grow and be stronger. Kudos for an amazing boys’ performance.”

Delgado praised several players, including goalkeeper Eddie Gallegos.

“He was extremely fast and on task,” said Delgado. “He dived to block some strong kicks. He look like ‘Superman’ on two

plays, flying to to reach the ball with his fingertips.”

The coach also cited defenders Isaah Johnson, Dominic Grunzke, Noah Dahle, Logan Heyer and Vasquez, midfielders Brady Tloutan, Adrian Arreguin, C.J. Badillo and Lucas McQuery, along with Jes, a forward captain, and Huttemier.

“What a player,” said Delgado of Huttemier. “He is a ninth-grader but is play-

ing like a senior.”

The Bluejays debuted seventh-grader Mahin Lad, eighth-grader Matthew Nelson, freshmen Jacob Harguth Sunny Mei, and sophomore Amin

“Our bench is formed with younger players, when the majority of the teams have juniors and seniors,” said Delgado. “Subbing gets extremely difficult. We are definitely getting there.”

Delgado thanked the fans and coaches. “This is a good learning opportunity,” he said.

The Bluejays are in action Saturday at home against Marshall at 11:45 a.m. They play Monday at Byron, hosting St. Peter Sept. 12 and playing Sept. 14 at New Ulm.

Stewartville stops Bluejays in opener

WHS football team falls 27-13

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

If it's one thing the Waseca High School football team learned from the season opener, it's this: Stewartville has a very talented squad.

The Tigers, section champions a year ago, handed the Bluejays a 27-13 setback Friday, Sept. 1 in Waseca.

Stewartville, led by quarterback Ayden Helder, threw for 260 yards and four touchdowns.

Waseca was led offensively by sophomore quarterback Jordan Johnston. He passed for 119 yards and two touchdowns, with one interception, while rushing for a team-high 30 yards.

Damarius Russell led the receivers with four catches for 80 yards and a touchdown. Kaeden Johnson caught two passes for 24 yards and a touchdown.

The Bluejays scored first, on a

20-yard touchdown pass from Johnston to Johnson in the first quarter. Brody Dufault kicked the PAT.

Stewartville tied it on a 6-yard touchdown pass.

The Tigers took a 13-7 halftime lead with another scoring pass late in the second quarter.

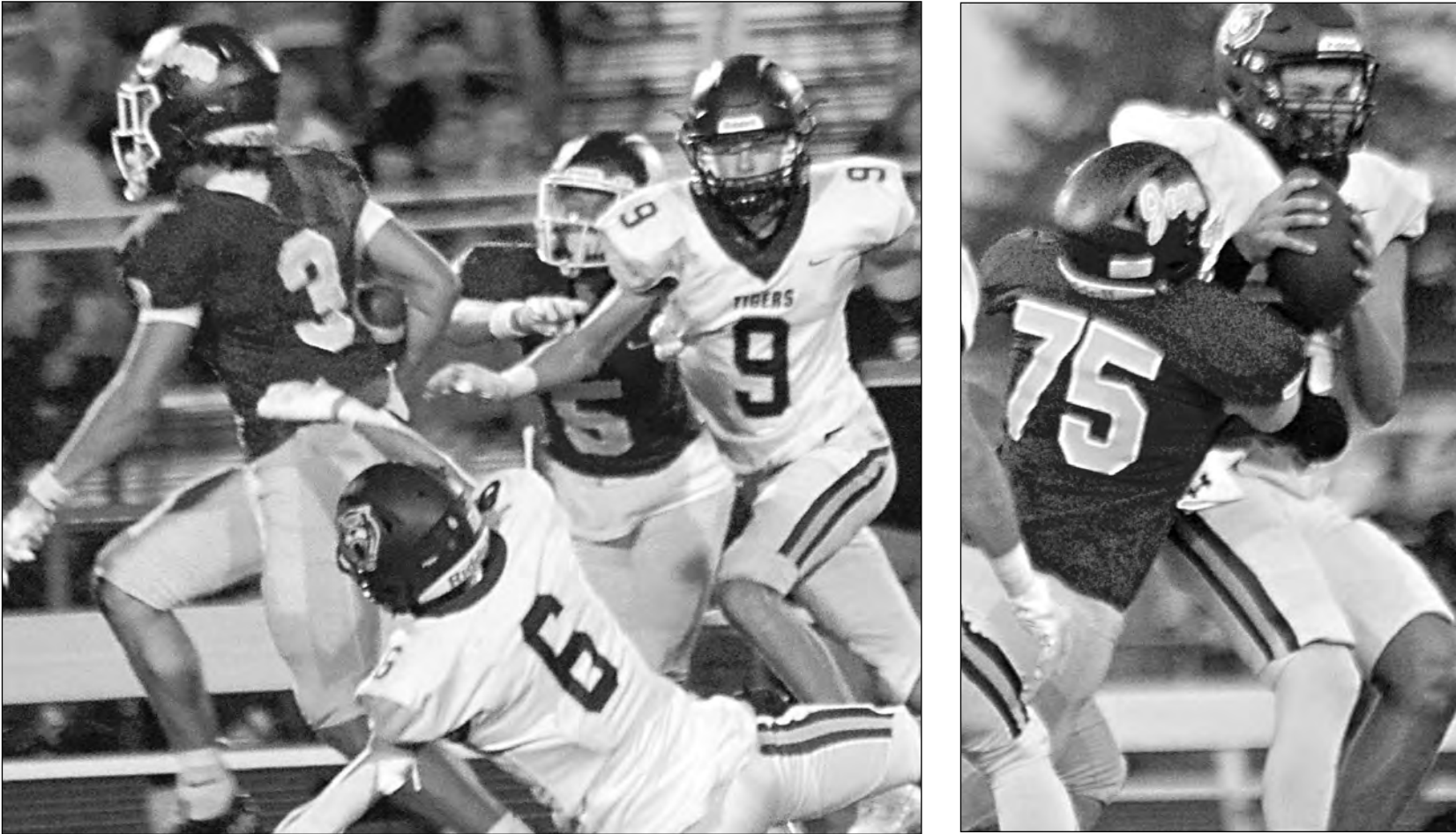
Stewartville received the opening second-half kickoff and marched to another score, this time on fourth-and-17 from the Bluejays’ 28-yard line.

Russell knotted it for the Bluejays with a 69-yard touchdown pass from Johnston.

The Tigers put it away with a 50-yard touchdown pass.

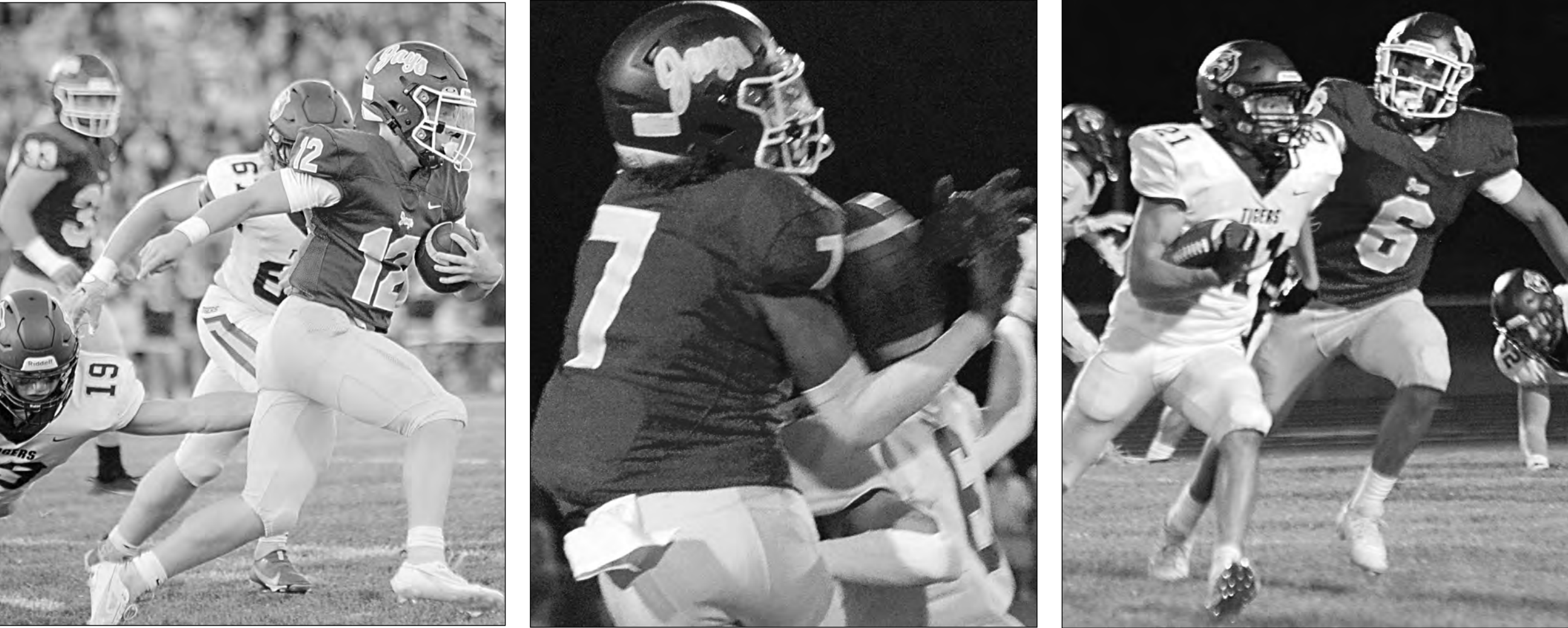
The Bluejays were led on defense by Carter Ellis with 10 tackles. Russell had nine, Tauston Rupe seven. Shane Engel-Mueller had two sacks.

The Bluejays play at 7 p.m. Friday at St. Peter.



TOUGH OPENER — The Waseca High School football team faced strong opposition in its 2023 season opener and lost 27-13 to Stewartville at Waseca Friday, Sept. 1. At left, the Bluejays’ Damarius Russell (3) eludes Tiger defenders Jayce Klug (6) and Isaac Larson (9) on his way to a touchdown. At right, Waseca’s Shane Engel-Mueller (75) registers one of his two sacks on the night.

Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens



2023 OPENER — From left: Waseca sophomore quarterback Jordan Johnston (12) escapes the grasp of Stewartville's Justice Deno (19); the Bluejays' Deron Russell (7) goes high in the air to catch a pass over Graysen Schnieder (6); Bluejay defender and leading tackler Carter Ellis (6) chases down Dylan Scanlan (21).

Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

WHS soccer girls start season with 3 straight wins

The Waseca High School girls' soccer team is off to a strong start in the 2023 season.

To date, the Lady Jays are undefeated with a weather-shortened tie against Mound Westonka (0-0) and wins against Marshall (2-0), Fairmont (5-3) and New Ulm (4-1).

The Lady Jays are led by a strong contingent of seniors this season: Evelyn Nydegger (forward), Ella Krautkremer (midfield), Addison Weiseler (midfield) and Mallory Bruhn (defender).

Leading the charge in scoring, so far this season, has been MSU-

Moorhead commit Nydegger. Verses Fairmont, she scored four goals and assisted on the fifth. Against New Ulm, she scored two goals and had an assist.

Also scoring this season have been Camilla Marquez and Gabby Lopez vs. Marshall, Rylee Schaffer vs. Fairmont, Ava Bruhn and Ella Krautkremer vs. New Ulm.

The Lady Jays have a home game against Marshall Saturday, Sept. 9 at 10 a.m. They play Tuesday, Sept. 12 at St. Peter and Thursday, Sept. 14 at New Ulm.



STRONG START — Evelyn Nydegger of the Waseca High School girls' soccer team, left, scored four goals and assisted on another as the Bluejays upended Fairmont.

Photo by McKenzie Mueller



STRONG OPENER — At left, the Bulldogs' Dylan McWaters (21) and Nolan Morsching (1) combine to stop a Lester Prairie ball carrier. At right, the Bulldogs' Avery Fall (52) delivers a block.

Photos by Leanne Lens



Lester Prairie rallies past Bulldogs

The Janesville-Waldorf Pemberton High School football team opened the season Friday, Sept. 1 when the Bulldogs fell 30-20 to visiting Lester Prairie.

JWP scored first, on a 71-yard touchdown pass from Dalton Bauer to Dylan McWaters, but Lester Prairie responded with three unanswered touchdowns.

In the second quarter, Lester Prairie engineered a drive that resulted in a rushing touchdown and

go-ahead two-point conversion. The visitors blocked a punt and recovered it in the end zone, giving them a 16-7 advantage at halftime.

Lester Prairie received the second-half kickoff and drove for another score and two-point conversion.

A 17-yard touchdown pass from Bauer to Ryan Kronbach cut the deficit to 24-14 as the fourth quarter began.

Lester Prairie put it away with an

impressive drive, eating up the clock before scoring with 4:42 remaining.

JWP's final score came on a touchdown pass from Bauer to Kronbach.

Lester Prairie totaled 370 yards on offense to JWP's 274. The visitors outscored the Bulldogs 230-23.

Bauer totaled 251 yards passing while going 18-for-26. He ran for 19 yards and threw one interception.

Kronbach had 10 catches for 91

yards while McWaters added 91 yards on two catches. Landon Johnson had 57 receiving yards on four receptions.

Nolan Morsching led JWP's defense with 12 tackles while Austin Quast had nine.

JWP returns to action Friday, Sept. 8 when the Bulldogs travel to Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop with the opening kickoff scheduled for 7 p.m.



OPENING-NIGHT ACTION — From top: the Panthers' Jaylin Raab (5); NRHEG linebacker Carter Flatland (41) tees off on a Randolph ball carrier; the Panthers' George Roesler chases J.D. Kuhn.

Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens

Panthers blanked 14-0 at Randolph

WHS tennis girls drop 2 matches

The Waseca High School girls' tennis team dropped a pair of matches in the past week, 6-1 at New Prague Tuesday, Sept. 5 and 5-2 at home against Red Wing Thursday, Aug. 31.

Maddy Benson, No. 3 singles, picked up the win against New Prague.

Waseca's junior varsity lost 3-1.

Against Red Wing, winners were Sarah Haley at No. 2 singles and the No. 2 doubles team of Paige Dufault and Vivian Mader.

The JV team won 5-2.

The Bluejays host a triangular on Saturday.

WHS CC teams take 2nd, 10th

The Waseca High School cross country teams traveled to Bear Cave Park South of Rochester to compete in the Bill Glomski Invitational Thursday, Aug. 31. The Waseca girls second with 89 points while the boys were 10th with 226 points.

Girls' results: Callie Dufault, eighth, 21:40.78; Stella Omvedt, 10th, 21:50.1; Maren Schimming, 14th, 22:31.46; Taylor Markeson, 32nd, 23:37.98; Melanie Krueger, 34th, 23:48.97.

Times for the boys: Isaac Fjeldkamp, fifth, 17:39.46; Tyler

Jellum, 20:51.76; Tanner Hanson, 22:02.41; Colton Schroder, 22:22.25; Bobby Mortenson, 22:23.90.

The Bluejays compete Thursday, Sept. 14 at Kasson-Mantorville and Tuesday, Sept. 19 at Albert Lea. Starting time for both is 4 p.m.

NRHEG runners begin season

The NRHEG High School cross country teams participated at the Trail Run meet hosted by Medford at the River Bend Nature Center on Aug. 25th.

The meet was attended by LeSueur-Henderson, NRHEG, USC/AC and Medford.

For the Panther girls, Holly Bartness finished the 5-kilometer course in fourth place with a time of 25:50. Teammate Annabelle Petsinger finished 10th at 28:13.

On the boys' side, Panther runners Jacob Karl and Devon Nelson took the top two spots, Jacob finishing in 19:52, Devon 20:17. Jackson McGannon finished 15th with a time of 25:00.

"It was a good first meet," said NRHEG coach Larry Nydegger. "We hope to get our younger runners more experience before bringing them up to the varsity level."

The Panthers run Thursday, Sept. 7 at Hayfield's Oak View Golf Course. They compete Tuesday,

Sept. 12 at Blooming Prairie.

NRHEG girls hang on to win

The NRHEG High School volleyball team upended visiting Martin Luther/Granada-Huntley-East Chain-Truman 3-1 Tuesday, Sept. 5. Game scores: 25-21, 25-23, 22-25, 25-22.

"This match was a rollercoaster," said NRHEG coach Ashley Tolzman. "We made some really great plays and some really great swings. We also had several mistakes and gave up points. Overall, it was a good competitive match."

Individually for the Panthers: Gabby Schlaak 12 kills, 3 blocks, 18 digs; Camryn VanMaldeghem 8 kills, 4 blocks, 4 digs; Izzy Stadheim 1 assist, 1 dig; Elsie Schultz 1 kill, 6 blocks; Tayler Schmidt 1 assist, 8 kills, 11 digs; Hallie Schultz 31 assists, 4 kills, 1 block, 15 digs; Keira Lenort 2 kills, 1 block, 1 dig; Madi Murray 4 kills, 3 blocks, 1 dig; Chloe Stork 1 block, 2 digs; Faith Neilsen 3 assists, 14 digs.

The Panthers play Tuesday, Sept. 12 at home against United South Central.

JWP spikers swept by AC

The JWP High School volleyball

team became the latest victim of a powerful Alden-Conger crew Tuesday, falling 3-0. Game scores were 25-19, 25-19, 25-17.

For the Bulldogs: Brielle Bure 1 assist, 22 digs; Nevaeh Weimert 2 aces, 5 assists; Katie Olson 2 kills, 1 assist; Lilly Strauss 1 ace, 2 kills, 2 blocks; Claire Walz 3 kills, 5 blocks; Aubrey Weedman 3 aces, 3 kills, 7 assists, 4 digs; Presley James 3 kills, 4 blocks; Paige Walz 1 kill, 1 block, 3 digs; Lexie Dahlberg 1 ace, 5 digs; Ali Olson 6 digs.

Grizzlies run at Mankato Loyola

The WEM/JWP cross country teams opened the season Aug. 31 at Mankato Loyola.

Maple River won the girls' meet with 60 points. GFW scored 67, Springfield 70, WEM/JWP 88, Mankato Loyola 94 and Lester Prairie 104. Scoring for the Grizzlies: McKenzie Westphal, fifth, 22:01.99; Kayann Krause, 19th, 24:29.27; Madelyn Miller, 27th, 26:17.52; Madaline Hoehn, 34th, 28:26.21; Lydia Couley, 39th, 31:17.05.

The Grizzly boys finished in last place with 121 points. Mankato Loyola won with 18.

Sports in brief

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Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens

Panthers blanked 14-0 at Randolph

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Two plays.

That was the major difference, according to coach Marc Kruger, as the NRHEG High School football team dropped its season opener 14-0 at Randolph Thursday, Aug. 31.

"It came down to two big plays for the Rockets in the end," said Kruger. "We played a good game, and had some great moments on defense."

But, aside from the passing of junior Alden Dobberstein, who threw for 130 yards, the Panthers' offense struggled, rushing for only 29 yards and producing just five first downs, one of which came on a pass interference penalty.

"We will need to do a better job on offense of getting the ball to our playmakers and making plays," said Kruger. "Alden did a great job in the passing game, and

was able to move the ball well."

The only score of the first quarter came on a 76-yard run by Randolph's Cris Flores-Miranda, who also carried for the two-point conversion.

It was 8-0 at halftime.

In the third quarter, Flores-Miranda scored on a nine-yard run. The conversion run failed.

The Panthers ran 44 plays while totaling 159 yards. They had one penalty for five yards.

The Rockets totaled 261 yards, 217 of them rushing. Flores-Miranda finished with 158 rushing yards on 19 carries. Randolph drew four penalties for 36 yards.

Dobberstein, who started last year as a sophomore, completed 12 of 27 passes, with no interceptions.

The Panthers are home for their next game, hosting Norwood-Young America Saturday, Sept. 9 at 1 p.m. in New Richland.



Miia Caballero, new sixth-grader at TEAM Academy, using the photo booth at the back-to-school carnival.



McKenna Eichhorn, dairy princess for Waseca County, volunteering at the TEAM Academy carnival.

TEAM holds back-to-school carnival

By TRISTAN GEHRING
Staff Writer

TEAM Academy held a Back to School carnival which served as a fun way to introduce students to the 2023-24 school year and allow them to familiarize themselves with their teacher and classroom. The event was held Monday, August 28 from 5 to 6 p.m.

Activities included a photo booth, bounce house, BINGO, a book walk, and many smaller carnival games. Each activity was led by one or more

teachers or faculty members, and prizes were available ranging from candy to small toys to books. McKenna Eichhorn, a dairy princess for Waseca County, volunteered at the event greeting families and passing out bags to hold kids' prizes.

The Back to School Carnival was the last summer event put on by TEAM Academy for 2023, preceded by Book BINGO and a night of Pop-sicles in the Park.

Waseca Football Association Burger Fry



The Waseca Football Association hosted a burger fry fundraiser Thursday, August 31, at the Mill in Waseca. Manning the grills were, from left, Ed Hoehn, Joel Pfeifer, Kevin McManamon, Andrew Graupmann, and Denny Hoehn.

Mueller rejoins school board

Building to be shortened for lot upgrade

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

At their August 21 meeting, members of the NRHEG school board acknowledged the efforts of district staff to be sure everything will be ready as the school year begins. Among the acknowledgments were the custodial staff for preparing the buildings. Also recognized as a major accomplishment was the work done by building principals Grant Berg and Craig Kopetzki to assure all needed staff members are in place as students arrive.

New staff workshops were held Monday and Tuesday. According to elementary principal Kopetzki, the only unfilled position was that of a new elementary music teacher, for which there had been no applicants. The job was created at districts state-wide when the legislature added it to a list of expectations last spring. Given the lack of applicants, the schedules of current music teacher Krista Reeder and newly hired band director Brent Schaefer have been modified so that they can cover the necessary classes.

Rich Mueller was thanked for his willingness to rejoin the school board, taking the place of Dan Schmidt who, having served since 2017, is stepping down because he has been hired to act as the district's transportation coordinator.

Superintendent Michael Meihak shared during his report that \$250 in donations had been received toward the cost of the fifth-grade trip to Eagle Bluff, which takes place annually over the MEA weekend in October. With this receipt, he summarized, the district has received \$14,500 in donations this year.



The driveway from state highway 30 into the NRHEG secondary school's student parking lot is shared by this structure, which actually extends 6 feet into school-owned property. The school is seeking bids to have those 6 feet of building removed and a new wall built outside the property line; the plan is that doing so will help facilitate upgrades on the parking lot scheduled to begin next spring.

Photo by Deb Bently

quired is a defined system for submitting objections or complaints regarding discipline processes.

The other action taken by the school board that evening was to approve receiving bids for a construction project related to next year's upgrades of the secondary school student parking lot.

The lot has one entrance which allows direct access from Highway 30 along its north side. This entrance is shared by a private garage which, after an agreement reached in 2009, has been allowed to remain where it is even though it extends 6 feet into property owned by the school.

After conversation with the property owner, Superintendent Meihak asked the board to consider using long term facilities maintenance funds to remove the western-most 6 feet of that garage and construct a new wall. Meihak stated the expen-

diture is allowed because the funds are being used to make improvements on property owned by the school. He also stated the change would help facilitate major expansion and repaving projects planned for next summer.

The school board consented to allow the district to seek construction bids for the project.

After a quick walking tour to see how some of the school gardens had been relocated near the Ag Education greenhouse, the board recessed into a private session during which members shared their assessment of superintendent Meihak's contributions to the district over the past year. The assessment was preparatory to negotiating his salary and benefits for the 2023-24 school year. All conversation which occurred during the closed session was confidential.

Shoes

from Page 1

year term in November.

His grandfather, Walter, was a member of the SWCD's very first board of supervisors, having been originally elected in August of 1948 and continuing to serve until 1962.

Gregg, 54, had his grandfather as a presence in his life until his freshman year of high school, when Walter died.

Gregg grew up on the farm operated by his father, Darryl, west of Waseca. He remembers that Darryl, now 84, made the decision to use the conservation practice of "ridge tillage" in the 1970s. "He got a lot of grief," Gregg remembers. "People said it would never work."

But it did work, and Gregg's college degree gave him a stronger understanding of why.

When he began farming, Gregg says, conservation practices were important to him. "You could say it's a passion of mine," he comments.

In addition to recently becoming an SWCD supervisor, he has worked with the SWCD on various conservation projects, including erosion

control through "terracing" and underdrainage, enrolling marginally producing land in set-aside programs, and purchasing plants and trees through the agency's offerings. He also has followed Darryl's footsteps in using conservation practices, in his case strip tillage and the use of winter cover crops including winter rye and tillage radishes.

"They're there to protect the soil," Gregg observes. "They guard against erosion and interact with the soil, giving the microbes something to munch on."

With the stronger understanding farmers have of the value of conservation methods, Gregg is not "given a hard time" about his use of strip tillage. But the fact that his fields look nearly identical both before and after planting make his father, Darryl, want to put up a sign that says "Yes, this field has been planted."

The combination of winter cover and erosion control, Gregg says, has allowed him to reduce his inputs of phosphorus by as much as 40 percent, and nitrogen by about 30 percent.

From his days as an agronomy major and his studies since, he describes how a corn plant actually releases enzymes into the soil which cause the microbes to provide more of the needed nutrients. The healthy

effects of the winter cover crops enable the microbes to follow through on the symbiotic exchange.

"Since the nutrients are already there, I don't need to add them," he says matter-of-factly.

Of his service on the SWCD board of supervisors, Gregg admits he enjoys the tradition and sense of connection to his grandfather. He also regards himself as a "newbie" to the role.

"The SWCD is an important agency that has accomplished many, many valuable things.

"I can't really take any credit for that since I'm still learning," he says. "But I'm glad to be contributing and hope to be more valuable as time goes on."

Gregg says he looks forward to the implementation of the "One Watershed One Plan" program, which will encourage SWCD agencies to work together on watersheds, for example the Cannon River, which extend across their service areas. He credits Mark Schaefer, SWCD Manager, and the agency's staff with most of the progress.

"Our role is, more or less, to let them know what we think of their plans," says Gregg. "And I'm glad to be of help where I can."

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Argus archives

100 Years Ago – The Janesville Argus, September 5, 1923

- On Sunday, the twenty-fifth anniversary of his entrance into the ministry was celebrated at the Freedom Lutheran Church in honor of its beloved pastor, Rev. E. H. C. Mueller. The usual services were held in the morning, when Mr. Mueller went to Waldorf to hold an afternoon meeting. Upon his return he found the church edifice full of people, friends and neighbors composing his congregation, and many others from other congregations. Very naturally he was taken wholly by surprise and his surprise was all the more pronounced when he learned the purport of the gathering. Other clergymen from other congregations were present.

- Recently a party of several people drove from Waseca to Janesville. Nothing significant or strange about an incident of this kind. But the mission was well calculated to arouse memories of olden times. Among those in the party were Mr. Dennis McLaughlin and daughter, Miss Emma, and Mr. Zack Martin. The trip was made in order that Mr. Martin might designate the place and show the father and daughter the exact spot where he landed when he came to Minnesota and where he lived for years as an early pioneer. The spot was midway between the top of the old town hill and the foot of the incline where the old outlet to the lake formerly was in evidence. Here Mr. Martin landed from the East in 1863 and here he resided for some years.

75 Years Ago – The Janesville Argus, September 9, 1948

- On Sunday, August 29th, Mr. and Mrs. William Lange celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary at the home of their daughter, Mrs. Wilbert Lau, in Janesville. Many of their old friends and neighbors gathered on this occasion in celebration of the event. Rev. M. J. Lenz of Alma City gave a short talk in honor of the happy couple. Betty Lau of Janesville and Janet Dimmel of London, Wisconsin sang “Beautiful Savior” and Mrs. Milo Marpe of Triumph sang “The Lord’s Prayer.” Mr. and Mrs. Lange were married in Janesville on August 30, 1898, with Rev. Strasen performing the wedding ceremony.

- Mayor Marpe of Waldorf reports that 92 per cent of the business places in Waldorf have displayed their flags during these days of Draft Registration as proclaimed by the Governor of Minnesota and Mayors of the county. Mayor Marpe states that if large flags were not available the businessmen purchased small flags and displayed them.

- While filling the silo on his farm yesterday afternoon, Gordon Keyes had the misfortune to step o one of the blower belts, with the result that two bones just above his right ankle were broken. The accident happened around 3 o’clock and he was then rushed to Immanuel hospital in Mankato for treatment.

50 Years Ago – The Janesville Argus, September 5, 1973

- “My dad has lived here and paid taxes for 50 years. Now he can't even open the window for all the dust.” That’s Irvin Stankey speaking. A partner at Stankey Livestock, Herb, Irv is one of 22 Smiths Mill residents who have signed a petition asking Janesville Township to surface 1600 feet of road that connects Highway 14 and the County Line road through the unincorporated village. According to Stankey, the road in question is “an old buggy road farmers used to come up to the creamery.” The creamery has long since been converted into a residential duplex, but the road hasn’t changed much, Stankey says.

- Willmer Davis didn’t let the fact that he was clad in pajamas stop him from shooting a white mink in his chicken house early last Thursday morning. Davis, who farms two miles northeast of St. Clair, was wakened about 1 a.m. Thursday morning when his dogs, cows and chickens started an uproar. So was his neighbor, Raymond Fitzloff, who ran ovr to see what was happening. After one futile search of the chicken house, the men returned with Fitzloff’s 16 gauge shotgun and Davis gunned down the mink as he hovered over a dead chicken.

- Bob Bergmann, son of Mr. and Mrs. Orville Bergmann, Janesville, is one of forty-two students named to the Provost’s List at the University of Minnesota Technical College-Waseca for Spring Quarter. A student, to display this high academic achievement, must carry at least twelve credits and earn a 3.25 grade point average.

25 Years Ago – The Janesville Argus, September 9, 1998

- For 42 years Patricia Loeffler has been a loya Waseca County employee. During her years at the courthouse, Loeffler has been responsible for part-time and full-time duties in several county offices. For the past four years, Loeffler has served Waseca County as its treasurer. When January 1999 rolls around, though, Loeffler will be saying good-bye to her workplace of more than 40 years. Anxious to begin her retirement, the very private Loeffler intends to spend time with her family and babysitting her grandchildren. “It will be a different pace; hopefully we will be able to travel,” Loeffler said. “I am looking forward to retiring.”

- Dawn Dimmel of Janesville has been selected to receive a \$600 Theater Arts Talen Grant from Mankato State University for the 1998-99 school year. Selection is based on demonstrated talent and experience, interest in theater, a portfolio review and/or audition expertise, as well as potential for continued success. The award is funded by contributions from MSU faculty, staff, alumni and other friends of the university. Dimmel is a graduate of Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School. Her parents are David and Laurie Dimmel of rural Janesville.

- What do the Waseca, Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton, New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva and Waterville-Elysian-Morristown school districts all have in common? They are all in search of a new special education director. Longtime director Phil Koprowski has accepted a similar position in Faribault. Koprowski has been associated with the four area districts for the past 22 years. His last day was Monday. “I thought the time was right for a career changed,” he said. “I think this will rejuvenate my career and my life. I am excited about the new opportunity.”



50 YEARS AGO - Dean G. Nissen has been awarded the Lutheran Brotherhood Lutheran Youth Leadership Scholarship. Rev. David Meisner presented the award at services on Sunday at Grace Lutheran Church. The scholarship is given in recognition of a high scholastic record and evidence of leadership in church, high school and youth organizations. It is awarded by the Lutheran Brotherhood of Minneapolis. The award is in the amount of \$300 and is valid when the recipient enrolls in a Lutheran College. Dean has enrolled as a pre-med student at Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter. He is a 1973 graduate of Waseca High School and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Nissen.

Robert Haarman introduced as new city manager

100 Years Ago – The Waseca Journal, September 5, 1923

- Last week just as the Journal was going to press word was received that Carl Overson had been arrested for stealing some chickens from Wm. Tews out in St. Mary. Hoverson had his hearing before Judge Sturner and since he had been implicated in other deals prior to this Judge Sturner sentenced him to 90 days in jail on Wednesday afternoon. Otto Sanders was also caught in the same deal. Sanders was sentenced to 30 days in jail. Judge Sturner suspended this sentence during Sanders' good behavior. With Sanders was a boy under 18. Judge Sturner turned him over for sentence to Judge Brown of the Juvenile court.

- John J. Coleman sold out his furniture business and stock to the Landkamer Brothers Company of Mankato after having been in this business for the past twenty-one years in Waseca. The deal was closed Tuesday afternoon and this company will take charge of the store at once. John Lindquist, a licensed embalmer and funeral director, and Earl Barden will manage the store. The latter is well known in this city, having been born and raised here.

- While C. L. Plummer was busy out in his potato patch Sheriff Wadd and Deputy Grant, County Attorney Spillane, Chief of Police Fischer and Policeman Connolly raided his laundry and home over the laundry in search for moonshine yesterday afternoon. After a thoro search they found considerable alcohol and many empty cans which smelled of moonshine. Mr. Plummer was immediately placed under arrest.

75 Years Ago – The Waseca Journal, September 8, 1948

- Enrollment figures released today by Superintendent K. O. Dahlager show that enrollment at the Public School is the highest since 1940. The total number to date is 837. Kindergarten enrollment in the district is again at such a high level that it is necessary to curtail any enrollment from outside districts.

- The directors of the Waseca County Soil Conservation District met at the County Extension office on Tuesday evening, with Matt Thoriffinson, Extension Soil Conservationist and elected officers and discussed plans for the district. Arnold Keller was elected chairman, Walter Rosenthal as vice Chairman, Ray Dineen as secretary-treasurer. Ruben Youngberg of New Richland and Earnst Marquardt of Janesville are the new new Directors.

- The last of the Waseca 4-H exhibitors returned from the State Fair on Monday. 4-H club members from Waseca County made a very good showing at the State Fair. Waseca County for the first time placed in the Blue Ribbon class on their booth. The booth was a county adaptation of the Iosco Live Wires who won the Championship at the county fair. It showed the steps in making good bread. In the livestock division: Dale Blank, with his Holstein heifer; Dale Schmidt, with his Hereford heifer; Duane McColley, with his lamb; Roland Berry, with his Hampshire red poultry, all placed in the blue ribbon group.

50 Years Ago – Waseca's Daily Journal, September 4, 1973

- City of Waseca residents will be given an opportunity to meet their new city manager, Robert Haarman, Thursday during an open house. Haarman, 35 and his wife Janet has three children, Michael, 10; Patricia, 8 and Robbie 5. They are still looking for housing in Waseca. He has been city administrative assistant in Worthington for the past several years. He started his new job in Waseca today.

25 Years Ago – Waseca County News, September 1, 1998

- The Waseca School Board and the City of Waseca announced Thursday that Waseca Police Officer Ron Koble has been hired as a school liaison officer. Koble's first day on his new job was Monday. Koble has been the police department's DARE program officer for the last eight years and with the force for the last 10 years. “Last year's graduating seniors were my first class of DARE students, and that is a good feeling to see those students graduate,” he said.

- Image 2000 has come to the Waseca Dominos. The main street pizza place has been completely remodeled to reflect the design and atmosphere mandated by Dominos' corporate headquarters. By the year 2001, all Dominos will look the way the Waseca restaurant does now. Kevin Bores, owner of Dominos in Waseca, New Ulm, St. Peter and Mankato said only about 15 percent of Dominos nationwide have been remodeled to reflect the new design. Both the Waseca and New Ulm locations were chosen for renovation because they had not been updated since the mid 1980s.

- One of Waseca's many home grown companies will be honored at the annual Business and Industry Luncheon on Friday, Sept. 11 at noon at the Eagle's Club. Clear Lake Press, Inc. will be recognized as the 1999 Business of the Year.

Looking Back

100 Years Back - 1923

The first semester of the New Richland schools opened with registration on Monday and the total enrollment to date is 275. Hereafter all automobile speeders in Minneapolis with have an opportunity to explain it to the judge while the matter is still fresh in his memory. No more cars will be tagged, but will be driven direct to the jail where the speeder will either furnish bail or go to jail.

The Waseca county tractor went into the ditch at the Jim Ungerman farm Tuesday of this week. It was necessary to come to New Richland for assistance in getting the big machine back onto the road. The county will build a new grade in that vicinity.

Thirty-five men reported to Coach Hargis for football at the Waseca high school at the opening practice this week. The first casualty of the season occurred at this turn out when Russell Spittler broke his left collar bone when falling on the ball.

Mail carriers Fred Harrington, Frank Crain and H. S. Kingsley took advantage of the Labor Day holiday to take in the State Fair Sunday and Monday.

Tom Callahan is certain he is going to have a fair crop of corn. Friday last he brought in three ears of corn picked at random from his field, each of which has 1,000 kernels and over. They are on display at the State Bank of New Richland.

A deal was made the latter part of last week between Frank Betchwars and Svend Svendson of Geneva, whereby Mr. Betchwars became the owner of the only hardware store in Geneva. The Betchwars residence in New Richland was traded to Mr. Svendson.

77 Years Back - 1946

When the family car at the Rudolph Querna farm just north-east of town caught fire Monday night, Mr. Querna, alone at home beginning his night’s slumber, was awakened by the sounding of the car’s horn. Rudolph managed to pull the burning car from the garage in time to save the building. Neighbors responded almost immediately and by the time the rural fire truck arrived the fire was pretty well under control.

Opening of the new Coast-to-Coast store being established by Wm. Gorman which was delayed last week by failure of the arrival of the goods is now making rapid strides toward the opening date.

Mr. and Mrs. John Kelleher, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Bolduan, Mrs. Martha Donovan, Mrs. George Eckart and Herman Moldenhaur visited Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rollenhagen and baby, Mrs. Fred Matthies, and were supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. August Rollenhagen Sunday at Wells. They also saw the damages done there by the tornado.

Mr. and Mrs. Timan Halland, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Stennes, Mr. and MRs. Sigvart Ruth, and Mr. and Mrs. I. E. King of Portland, Ore., helped Mrs. K. C. Hagen celebrate her birthday Monday evening.

Thursday supper guests at the Merlyn Munsch home were Mrs. John Munsch and granddaughters, Darlene and Mary Lou Munsch, Mrs. Lloyd Gehring, La Donna Kalis and Darlene Strand.

50 Years Back - 1973

Tim Wenzel was the winner of the New Richland FFA Safe Tractor Driving Contest. Tim participated in the State Fair contest which consists of 2-wheel and 4-wheel tractors, safety and maintenance and P.T.O. safety. Orlen Modene placed second in the local contest and Gary Hagen, third.

The Waseca County Vocational Center opened very successfully on August 27 with 133 Junior and Senior students from the five member districts. Enrollment in the Vocational Center Courses includes 58 students in three sections of Automotive and Related Mechanics, 48 students in three sections of Building Trades, and 27 students in two sections of Health Occupations.

Merrill Arnold of Clarks Grove was a Labor Day visitor at the C. W. Raymo home.

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Hokanson spent last Wednesday afternoon with their daughter, Mrs. Ronald Johnson at Madison, Wis.

Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Peterson were Sunday afternoon and supper guests at the Leonard Hanson home at Waseca.

Sunday afternoon and supper guests at the Walter Michaelis home were Mr. and MRs. Les Nuhring and Danny, Mr. and Mrs. Ron Nuhring and family of Lake City and Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Ziegler and family of Waseca.



25 Years Back - 1998

Lydwine Sisson and Troy Rosacker met after 25 years in mid-July. In 1973, Lydwine made the difficult decision to give up her son for adoption, and Troy was adopted by a young couple, Raymond Jr. and Kathy Rosacker of Waseca, formerly of New Richland. Pictured are Lydwine and Troy along with his sons, from left: Jordan, Casey, and Cory Rosacker.

New instructors at NRHEG this year are Sharon Ramaker, middle school mathematics instructor; Stacy Bauer, high school mathematics instructor; Sally Staloch, Family Service Coordinator; Jennifer Foley, high school Spanish language instructor.

Grand Marshal of the First Annual Hartland Festival, Saturday, August 29 was Orvin Morstad. Morstad led the parade of classic cars and restored tractors.

Fall Festival set for Sept. 15-17

By **TRISTAN GEHRING**
Staff Writer

Sacred Heart School is hosting its fifty-first annual Fall Festival September 15, 16 and 17. The Fall Festival is the school's biggest fundraiser of the year, and raises money for the general fund which pays for teacher salaries and other operating expenses. "It's a fun time. We've had people who aren't a part of the parish attend, from here, there and everywhere," said Angie Storvick, one of the organizers for the event. Storvick is working alongside Kellie Moselie, Marya Eustice, and Becky Petsinger. Petsinger is new to the committee this year.

Friday evening there will be a Fish Fry from 5-7 p.m., a Children's Dance from 6-8 p.m. and a live auction beginning at 6:30 p.m. The cost of the Fish Fry is \$12; admission to the Children's Dance is \$10. The dance focuses on children from preschool to fourth grade, but no one will be turned away. The Parent-Teacher Organization is providing music for the dance using a speaker system donated by the Neff family. The dance is supervised so that parents can enjoy the auction, which carries no fees beyond purchase costs. Friday at 5 p.m. is also the last chance to purchase entries for Super Bingo, which are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door.

On Saturday, festivities begin at noon with the opening of Bingo, and inflatables and "Touch a Truck" for the kids – Touch a Truck is an opportunity for kids to get up close and learn about local emergency vehicles. There will also be a Burger Fry from 4:30-7 p.m. and a Street Dance from 6:30-10 p.m. The cost for the evening's

meal is \$10; there is no charge for the street dance, which will have music provided by Los Tequileros.

Sunday begins with a Pancake Breakfast from 9-11:30 a.m., Bingo from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and the Kids' Carnival from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., featuring crazy hair, face painting, games, crafts, and inflatables. The breakfast is \$10. Wristbands for unlimited attractions at the Kids' Carnival can be purchased in advance for \$40, or punch cards are available for \$10. To purchase a wristband email pto@sacredheartschoolwaseca.com.

There are also a number of activities available all weekend, including a silent auction, country store, white elephant, book fair, concession stand, and a "spirit wall," where of-age participants can purchase a numbered ticket and win a bottle of spirits. The concession stand also has beer and wine available for purchase.

A well-known feature of the Fall Festival is its high-stakes raffle, with tickets available for \$100. Only 500 tickets will be sold. The top prize is \$15,000. To get a raffle ticket, visit the Sacred Heart Parish Office.

"Obviously it's a fundraiser but it's also a community event. We want people to socialize, support the school and the church and just have a fun time," says Moselie. For many, the Fall Festival is an opportunity to spend time with people they don't often see, and provides chances for socializing under the big outdoor tent. For those who wish to contribute in non-monetary ways, volunteers are always needed to keep the event running smoothly. Contact a committee member to volunteer.

Frerich installed at local parishes

By **MELANIE PILTINGSRUD**
Copy Editor

As of July 1 of this year, Father Glenn Frerichs is the new priest presiding over Sacred Heart in Waseca and All Saints Catholic Church in New Richland, two parishes which clustered for the first time just as Frerichs was installed there.

Frerichs, who grew up near Little Falls, Minn., and was raised Catholic, was ordained to the priesthood in Winona, Minn. in May 2000, 23 years ago.

Frerichs began with a degree in Industrial Technology and worked for the Bose company in Texas building prototype models of computers and other technologies. Then, in Jan. 1994 Frerichs had a powerful conversion experience that changed his life.

A secretary where he worked introduced Frerichs to Medjugorje, Bosnia, which Frerichs describes as a spiritual place. What he experienced there led him to start taking his faith seriously, and ultimately heed the call to the ministry.

Although Frerichs says he doesn't use the technological aspects of his former education in his current role as priest, he views the life experience of working in that field valuable. His degree also focused greatly on production management and supervisory positions. "I just think that it has helped me in relating with people," said Frerichs.

After Frerichs was ordained, he served two years in the Saint Francis Parish in Rochester, which had a strong Hispanic population.

Although Frerichs protests that he hasn't used it in 15 years, he was once proficient in Spanish. "I had to test out of it on Canon Law," said Frerichs. Both before and after he was ordained, Frerichs went to live in Mexico on three different occasions for about six weeks each time. There, he studied Spanish one-on-one with a tutor for four to five hours per day while also living in a Spanish-speaking country. "You learn it very quickly that way." It was a positive experience for Frerichs, but he adds, "It was very difficult actually, because even my teacher didn't know English very well."

From 2002 – 2007, Frerichs served the parishes in Janesville and

Waldorf. Then, in Jan. 2008, he began serving parishes on the eastern side of the Diocese, including Wabasha and Lewiston. He also served as the Judicial Vicar and the Chancellor of the Diocese. As Judicial Vicar, Frerichs worked with marriage annulments, which he still does, as well as other areas relating to church law, and assisted the Bishop in a variety of ways. The Chancellery involved archival work, policies and procedures.

About 11 years after being ordained, Frerichs went on to study and receive a degree in Canon Law at the Catholic University of America in Washington DC. Frerichs still works with Canon Law today.

"We have a school of about 80 students," said Frerichs of his current position, referring to Sacred Heart School, which serves K-4th grades in Waseca. Frerichs also ministers at the Federal Correctional Facility in Waseca, a role he is familiar with, since he worked with a men's facility when he worked at the parish in Janesville. "Now, it's all women," said Frerichs, "but I know that the people who come to those services – they're hungering for God, and so it's always for me been a very positive and affirming experience."

"When I entered into ministry," Frerichs said, "I just had a strong calling from God to celebrate the Mass and the other sacraments and to draw people close to God and help them to live holy lives, and that remains my primary mission today."

Unlike many pastors, Frerichs does not arrive with a list of changes he wants to implement in either congregation. "My approach has always been get to know people and learn how they do things," said Frerichs, "and then dialogue to see if there's anything we can do better or improve upon, but I don't come with any specific agenda."

Also unlike the pastors of many other types of congregations, Catholic priests do not choose where they will preside, although they stay within the Diocese in which they were ordained. Each Diocese is formed by the Pope, and the Diocese in which Sacred Heart and All Saints reside is the Winona-Rochester Diocese, which is about two counties high all across southern Minnesota.



Father Glenn Frerich

Staying within a Diocese helps priests to stay within the cultural region in which they were ordained.

"When we are ordained a priest," said Frerichs, "we make a promise to the Bishop of obedience. We consecrate our lives to God in that way, and so, where there's a need, which comes through the voice of the Bishop, that is where we see ourselves as called to serve."

Formerly, priests could stay with a congregation for as long as they liked, but Frerichs explained that, as of 1983, a priest stays at the same parish for a six-year term, which can be renewed once before they move to another parish. "If there's a genuine need for the Bishop to move the priest, that can sometimes happen before the six years is up," said Frerichs, "but they generally try to leave priests for six years for stability – for the priest and the parish." According to Frerichs, pastoral wisdom has generally shown that bringing someone new in every six to 12 years can bring fresh insights and be helpful to a community.

Having served in a variety of Catholic churches since he was ordained, Frerichs' view is that each church is very unique and has its own

personality. Each parish has things that it does well, while other things are less of a focus. "Smaller parishes oftentimes have that stronger sense of family or community because everybody knows everyone so well, and they need to work together to make things work," said Frerichs. "Large parishes can be that way, too. It just depends upon the community."

"I've been very happy and received very well by All Saints and Sacred Heart," Frerichs continued. "[There are] wonderful people in both parishes."

It is estimated that Sacred Heart serves around 800 - 900 households, and All Saints serves around 120 households.

While many have touted this has a 'post-Christian' era, Frerichs believes the Catholic Church offers people, "a deeper meaning to life, and a relationship with the God who created us and has reached out to us through his Son, and a greater sense of peace in that relationship with God and the people around us."

Besides studying Canon Law and serving God in his capacity as a parish priest, Frerichs enjoys walking, reading, and kayaking.

The Pastor's Column

From time to time in our lives

By **PASTOR KEN ANDRS**

Questioning our faith is something that happens from time to time in people's lives. We come to a crossroads and wonder if God has a plan, if Jesus truly did go to the cross for our sins, or if worship and prayer is more than just words.

John the Baptist experienced this questioning in His life. He knew the scriptures, he did the work of God in his community to see hearts and lives transformed for God's glory, and now finds himself in Herod's prison awaiting judgment. John questioned what God's plan was for him.

John heard the stories from his youth, about his parents and their visits from the angels. He heard about Mary and her pregnancy. He grew up talking to his cousin, going to temple, and studying God's word. He knew what God had planned but began to question his role in that plan.

It got really bad for John when he was in prison. He was in prison for speaking against Herod's unlawful marriage to his brother's wife. Herod feared John's influence in the community, was insulted by the public accusations, and wanted to hold onto his power. John questioned God's plan, why would Jesus allow him to languish in prison? When was Jesus going to establish his kingdom on earth and overthrow Herod?

John sent his disciples to ask Jesus about God's plan in Matthew 11:2-6,

2 When John heard in prison what Christ was doing, he sent his disciples³ to ask him, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?"

4 Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see:⁵ The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor.⁶ Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me."

Jesus used passages from Isaiah to reveal to John God's plan. Jesus' response to John's disciples was to reveal that hearts and lives would be transformed by God's work. Jesus reminded John through these passages that God would restore His people to relationship with Him. That restoration would be spiritual and personal, people would move from broken relationship with God and into right relationship by Jesus' work.

John questioned God's plan; Jesus revealed His plan of restoration on earth. John was anticipating the establishment of God's kingdom on earth, Jesus revealed that He would transform hearts and lives for God's glory. John wondered what would happen to his life's work, Jesus revealed His eternal plan to offer salvation to the world.

When we question God's plans, we may not know His eternal plan, but we can trust that He will use what we are going through for His glory. God's plan is to bring salvation to as many people as possible, let us join in with His work. Let's us be transformed in how we live our lives and work to see hearts and lives transformed for His glory. Join in the work of salvation and sanctification by sharing your faith and discipling one another to deeper relationship with Jesus.

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CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH 2200 4th St NE, Waseca 507-835-2235 Service times 9:30 a.m. * * * * *	CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS 1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca 507-835-4640 Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m. * * * * *	VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship * * * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 412 N. Main Street, Janesville Interim Pastor Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:00 a.m. Worship * * * * *
4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH 605 4th St NE, Waseca 507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker) Worship Sundays 10 a.m. * * * * *	GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 1221 8th St SE, Waseca 507-835-2213 Sunday worship 10:45 a.m., 6:00 p.m. * * * * *	VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Brian Schanil Pastor Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School Tuesdays: The Shepherd's Robe Ministry, 1-3 p.m., 6-8 p.m.; Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark * * * * *	JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 401 N. West St., Janesville Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship * * * * *
FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 801 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-3167 Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m. * * * * *	CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY 900 14th Ave SE, Waseca 507-833-1082 Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m., Sun Evening 6:00 p.m., Wed. evening 6:30 p.m. * * * * *	ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Saturday - 5 p.m. Mass * * * * *	BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 43089 180th St., Morristown Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Summer worship hours, (10:45 a.m. Worship, winter) * * * * *
CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH 309 6th St NE, Waseca 507-835-9176 Worship Sundays 9 a.m., 10:15 a.m. Sunday School/Fellowship * * * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship Monday - 1 p.m. Quilters Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship * * * * *	FIRST LUTHERAN Missouri Synod Waldorf, Minnesota Rev. Michael Mathews, pastor Sundays: Worship 9:45 a.m. * * * * *	ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH 307 W. 2nd St, Janesville 10 a.m. - Mass * * * * *
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca 507-833-1703 Sundays 9:00 a.m. * * * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Otisco, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship * * * * *	IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Freedom Township Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship * * * * *	FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 Owen St., Janesville Pastor Sarah Krolak * * * * *
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 314 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-2647 Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m. * * * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Mary Iverson Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting * * * * *	ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Pastor Ava Adams-Morris Waldorf, Minnesota Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship * * * * *	ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH Alma City, Minnesota Vacancy Sunday = 1 p.m. Worship * * * * *
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net) Worship Sunday 10 a.m. * * * * *	LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting * * * * *	ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC Waldorf, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship * * * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Smiths Mill, Minnesota Vacancy Thursday - 7:00 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship * * * * *
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 E Elm Ave, Waseca 507-835-1709 Worship Sunday 9 a.m. * * * * *	FIRST CONGREGATIONAL New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Pamela Jensen Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship * * * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN Wilton Township Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship * * * * *	NORTH WASECA LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA 404 30 120th St, Waseca Pastor Sarah Krolak 507-234-6463 Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship; Second Sunday "Young at heart" Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. confirmation * * * * *
SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH 111 4th St NW, Waseca 507-835-1222 Worship Saturday 5:15 p.m., Sundays 8:00 and 10:00 a.m., weekdays 8:30 a.m. Tues., Wed. and Fri., 7:00 a.m. Thurs. * * * * *	REAL LIFE CHURCH 620 W Elm Ave, Waseca 507-607-8245 Sundays 9 and 10:30 a.m. * * * * *	THE CHURCH of JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS Brad Donner, Branch President Waseca, Minnesota www.lds.org Sunday — 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School Wednesday — 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages 12-18 * * * * *	NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE WASECA COUNTY PIONEER. * * * * *



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NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION	NATIONAL SERVICE DOG				1 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	2 V-J DAY
3	4 LABOR DAY	5	6pm BAR Bingo	7pm BINGO	8 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	9
10 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am - Noon Your Host Relay For Life	11 7 pm Post & AUX. Meeting PATRIOT DAY	12	13 6pm BAR Bingo	14 7pm BINGO	15 NATIONAL POW/MIA DAY MEAT Raffle 5:30 pm Horse racing 6:30pm	16
17	18 AIR FORCE BIRTHDAY AIR NATIONAL GUARD BIRTHDAY	19 Burger nite 5-7pm	20 6pm BAR Bingo	21 7pm BINGO	22 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	23
24 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am - Noon Your Host Bantam Hockey	25	26 Burger nite 5-7pm	27 6pm BAR Bingo	28 7pm BINGO	29 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	30 VFW DAY

HOURS OF OPERATION
SUN.- MON. CLOSED
TUE.- WED.-3pm to 11pm Tue. Is Lady's nite 2 for one-Men Busch light \$2.50 from 4 to 6pm.
THUR.-1pm to 11pm
FRI.- SAT.-11am to 1 am
POST & AUX MEETING 7pm club open 6pm MEMBERS only. Mn. Gambling license number 00385



KUBOTA 4X4 TRACTOR - DODGE PICKUP - SNOWBLOWER - SHOP TOOLS - OUTDOOR ITEMS - MISC.

SATURDAY, SEPT. 9 2023 - 9:30 A.M.

LOCATION: From Meriden, MN 1 mile north on 92nd Ave. Or 8 miles west of Owatonna, MN on Crane Creek Rd.
Please Note: Bruce has sold his property and has decided to hold a public auction on his personal property items. Only a partial list of items. Tracy Holland

KUBOTA 4X4 COMPACT TRACTOR - DODGE PICKUP - SNOW-BLOWER - 3 PT BLADE - SHOP TOOLS - OUTDOOR ITEMS - MISC.

- Kubota B3200 Compact Tractor, 4x4, Diesel, Only 565 Hrs, 3 pt., 72" midmount deck, w/Kubota LA 504 Hyd. Loader (ONE OWNER) • 2008 Dodge Ram 1500 Pickup Quad Cab, 4x4, 96,963 miles, Auto, 4.7 engine • Buhler 600 snowblower, 60", 3pt. • 3pt., 6' Grader Blade • 2- Drag sections • Clarke H.D. Plus stackable tool chest • Sanborn 60 gal upright air compressor, 220 volt • Clarke 130 EN Mig. wirefeed welder • Sportsman 4000 watt generator, Duel Fuel, (never used) • Mr. Heater 30,000 - 55,000 LP Heater • Campbell 2200 PSI power washer, 6 Hp gas, (no wand) • Stihl MC290 chainsaw • Portable fish house • Coleman Industrial 10,000 watt generator, 20 HP • Craftsman 10" radial arm saw • Ryobi 1/2 HP grinder on stand • 16" Scroll saw • Craftsman 10", 2HP, table saw • Sears 10" Band Saw • 6" Disc. Belt Sander • Metal Band Saw • Router table • Cummins Drill Press • Craftsman router • 2- Bench vises • 3 - Aluminum Ext. Ladders • Auto stands • Electric tiller • 2 - Posthole diggers • 3 - Axes - 4 - Axes - 4 - Axes • Fishing rods • Old pedal sharpening stone • 2 - shop shelving, 3 tier • Patio outdoor heater • Misc. shop power tools • Old oil lamps • Charbroil Gas grill • 2 - 16 gal. shop vacs • Kitchen cabinet • chest freezer • Exercise Equipment • Nordic Track Audio Strider 800 • Iversion Flex Table system • Horizon T102 Treadmill

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Lori Pommerenke nexts to one of the native plants now growing on the boulevard near her home. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Lawns to Legumes initiative supports pollinators

Wasecan converts portion of lawn to garden

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

“You can be either an experienced gardener or a total novice and it will work for you,” declares Wasecan Lori Pommerenke, who has made it her summer project to convert 120 square feet of her traditional city lawn into a pollinator garden using only native plants.

Her inspiration for the change was the “lawns to legumes” grant program offered by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). She explains that any Minnesota resident can apply for the grants, which reimburse approved recipients for as much as \$400 in (verified) purchases and expenses.

According to a BWSR news release, more than 3,000 projects have been implemented since 2019.

The first step, of course, is to apply for and receive approval for the grant.

“Once the grant is approved, there are tons of resources,” says Pommerenke matter-of-factly. “There is no lack of information and guidance available to help plan and follow through with the planting.”

Since Pommerenke received approval for her grant last fall, she had the luxury of the entire winter to study and consider her options.

The BWSR offers complete plans which incorporate plants of widely differing types intended to help support pollinators throughout the growing season while also remaining manageable.

“Of course, all gardening takes time,” says Pommerenke. “A person has to be ready for some commitment.”

Grant recipients are expected to take part in two online training sessions which focus on planning the garden and then finding both in-person and online resources to move forward with the project.

For Pommerenke, her motivation was to introduce some new plant species to her neighborhood, reduce the amount of mowing her lawn required, and to stay true to her principles of using natural weed control while also “doing something good for the insects.”

Pommerenke chose to place her garden on the boulevard of her property on Third Avenue Northeast, in the same neighborhood as the Masonic Temple and Thompson’s Boat House.

Since one requirement of the

grant program is to submit “before” and “after” photographs of the project, she took pictures of her progress as she killed the sod by covering it with black plastic for a few weeks, then spaded up the dead grass and exposed the soil.

In May, she traveled to Landscape Alternatives in Schaefer, Minnesota, to purchase her selected native plants; the Schaefer nursery is one of several approved and recommended by the BWSR guidelines. She was delighted to come home with plants whose names ranged from “pearly everlasting” and “prairie dropseed” to cone flowers and wild strawberry. She placed the plants according to her plan, then mulched the area to prevent weed growth. She also placed a small fence around the garden to protect the plants and call attention to the project.

“It could have been anywhere on my lawn,” Pommerenke points out. “But I purposely placed it on the boulevard to help encourage others to give the program a try.”

She also admits that, although \$400 sounds like a lot of money, it will likely not cover the full cost of

the project. Despite that, she has found it worthwhile. “It lets me fulfill some of my values,” she says. “Be kind, do good, and live in harmony with the earth.”

Pommerenke wants others who might consider the “lawns to legumes” program to know there are a wide variety of ways to comply with grant expectations. One, perhaps the easiest, simply offers participants a way to seed a “bee lawn mix” of plants in among their existing lawn. The native plants, including fescues, Dutch white clover, and others, simply incorporate themselves into the sod and produce low visibility pollinator support.

The current round of grant applications is open until November 30 with funding provided to recipients for plantings done in spring 2024. The BWSR information invites homeowners and renters with “a yard, deck, or other outdoor space for planting” to apply for up to \$400 in reimbursement through its “Blue Thumb” program. Online applications can be submitted to the Blue Thumb website; further information is also available at the BWSR site.



A coneflower, native to Minnesota, getting its start in the Lawns to Legumes garden. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

DJ

Daniel J. Johnson
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- Fish Fry: 5 - 7 PM
- Children’s Dance: 6 - 8 PM
- Live Auction: 6:30 PM

SATURDAY:

- Bingo, Inflatables, & Touch-a-Truck: 12 PM
- Burger Fry: 4:30 - 7 PM
- Street Dance: 6:30 - 10 PM

SUNDAY:

- Kids Carnival: 11 AM - 2 PM (Games, Crazy Hair, Face Paint, Inflatables)
- Pancake Breakfast: 9 AM - 11:30 AM

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If you’d like to volunteer or pre-purchase wristbands, please contact the school.
Thank you for your support!

EVENT DETAILS

Saturday, Sept 16, 2023

Early Bingo Games: Noon

Location: UNDER THE BIG TENT at Sacred Heart Church-Waseca

Super Bingo Ticket Prices: \$25.00 (advance sale), \$30.00 (at the door)

Note: All advance sale tickets need to be purchased by 5:00 PM on Friday, Sept 15. Tickets available in the Parish Office.

Friday, September 15, 2023

Fish Fry: 5 - 7 PM

Live Auction: 6:30 PM

Location: Under the Tent at Sacred Heart Church, Waseca

Street Dance with
Los T!
Saturday, 6:30 - 10 PM

Concessions:

Available under the tent all 3 days

Schedules:

Fish Fry: Friday, 5 - 7 PM

Burger Fry: Saturday, 4:30 - 7 PM

Pancake Breakfast: Sunday, 9 - 11:30 AM

Polka Mass: Saturday, 5:15 PM

Mass: Sunday, 10 AM

Early Bird Bingo: Saturday, Noon

Super Bingo: Saturday, 2 PM

Sunday Bingo: Sunday, 11 AM - 1 PM

Raffle Drawing: Sunday, 1 PM

Children’s Games & Activities: All weekend

Live Auction: Friday, 6:30 PM

Spirit Wall/Cork Pull: Friday, 5 - 8 PM; Saturday, Noon - 7 PM

Silent Auction, Book Fair, Country Store & White Elephant: Friday, 5 - 8 PM; Saturday, Noon - 7 PM; Sunday, 9 AM - 1 PM

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