WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY

No. 46 Vol. V $2 Office at 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca Thursday, November 12, 2026

Inside:

- 3 - Faith United
- 3 - Caregiver session
- 4 - Obituaries
- 4 - New jump pad
- 5 - Dave Zika
- 6 - Brilliant Bluejays
- 8 - Sports
- 10 - K of C
- 12 - Waseca football

Page 3



Soup and Pie

Soil Water Conservation District (SWCD) Board Meeting Nov. 12

The SWCD will be holding its monthly board meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 12. The meetings will be held in the SWCD offices located at 300 North State Street - Door 4.

Red Cross blood drive at Trinity Lutheran, Janesville, Nov. 12

The need for donated blood is on-going. Donors are encouraged to take part in blood drives whenever they are eligible. A drive will take place at Trinity Lutheran Church in Janesville, at 412 N. Main Street, from 1 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 12. Sign up in advance on the Red Cross donor app, or walk in.

Waseca Marching Jays Indoor concert Nov. 13, 14, 15

The State Champion Waseca Marching Band will present its 2026 Indoor concert titled "Neon Lights" at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Nov. 13 and 14, and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 15 in the Junior Senior High School Gym. Tickets can be purchased in advance at Four Seasons and Waseca Music, or at the door. Adults $7; Students and seniors $4. Age 5 and under free.

Murder Mystery at Alexander House Nov. 13 and 14

The Waseca Exchange Club is sponsoring four live murder mystery performances at 610 N. State Street in Waseca at 6:30 and 8 p.m. on both Friday and Saturday, Nov. 13 and 14. Tickets are available at the Waseca Art Center: $35, payable with check or cash.

Winter Farmers Market at Farmamerica Saturday, Nov. 14

Winter Farmers Market events will be from 8 a.m. to noon at Farmamerica's indoor visitor center on most Saturdays through March. Consider shopping from local bakers, picklemakers, and crafters on Nov. 14.

Wreaths Across America Breakfast at Waseca Legion Sunday, Nov. 15

All-you-can-eat Breakfast for Wreaths Across America at the Waseca Legion from 8 a.m. thru noon Sunday, Nov. 15. Cost is $12 for adults, $8 kids 12 and under. Proceeds honor Fort Snelling National Cemetery Veterans.

Waseca County Ag Society annual meeting Nov. 17

The Annual Meeting of the Waseca County Agricultural Society will be at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 17, 2026 at the Waseca County Fairgrounds in the east gray building. All Ag Society members are welcome to attend.

A word from The Word

The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing.

Zephaniah 3:17



TRIUMPH - Senior Brady McKenna leads the Bluejays off the field after a tremendous come from behind victory.
Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

Headed back to state

Bluejays win Section 3AAA in thriller over TCU 28-24

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

Some might say the Bluejays football team ran out of feet to shoot during their tenth consecutive Section 3AAA Championship game Friday night in New Ulm.

Others might call it one of the craziest games of their careers.

What allowed the Bluejays to punch their tickets back to the state tournament?

A perfect 10 minutes.

The script was written for fans watching the 28-24 win over TCU which left spectators asking themselves, "Comeback or collapse?"

"We had special teams mistakes that were hard to take," Waseca head coach Brad Wendland said after the game. "The momentum in the third quarter and early fourth quarter was so heavily in favor of TCU. For the kids to persevere and believe in each other… You gotta love high school football.

"I am kind of in awe of the kids."

After more than three quarters of turnover, mistake-ridden football, here is how the Bluejays saved their season.

Trailing 24-14 the Bluejays methodically moved the ball downfield, punching it in from three yards out on Kellen Klinger's third rushing touchdown of the day from two yards out, with six minutes remaining. The drive capped off a long four-minute drive.

Next, the Bluejays had to get the ball back.

They did.

With their backs against the walls, literally and figuratively and under two minutes to play, Waseca stuffed the Titan run on a 4th and 1 from inside the red-zone.

Finally, the Bluejays needed to march the length of the field with no timeouts.

They did.

This time taking the lead for good.

Junior Samuel Selthun scored the go-ahead 3-yard touchdown run with 18 seconds remaining.

"When it was time to win the game, they connected and made plays," coach Wendland said. "It was an incredible night of high school football. I am really proud of this group."

With the win, the Bluejays earned their school's seventh trip to the state tournament.

"Our goal doesn't change," coach Wendland shared. "We practice and prepare to be one of the best 3AAA teams in the state and that's our mission statement that we show to the kids on the first day of fall practice. And it's what we show at the banquet at the end of the year. The goal doesn't change."

Seeded first in the south, the Bluejays hope to avenge last year's season-ending defeat in the title game. They play Zumbrota-Mazzepa Saturday at noon in Apple Valley.

County Board encourage courthouse security scanning

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

During their Nov. 3 meeting, members of the Waseca County Board directed county department heads to investigate the staffing and procedures that will be needed to begin consistent security screening of people entering the county courthouse starting the first week of 2027.

Grant funds awarded to the county more than a year ago allowed for the purchase of screening equipment, including a walk-through scanning portal and a unit to screen bags and backpacks. The equipment has been set up inside the entry nearest the veterans memorial a number of times in recent weeks with all other public entries closed.

County Attorney Rachel Cornelius pointed out that, of the eleven courthouses in Minnesota's third judicial district, Waseca's is the only one without security screening. Facilities Management Director Brian Tomford pointed out that any violent threat to court proceedings would also be a threat to county employees working in the courthouse, and that the employees deserve protection.

Sheriff's deputies who have staffed the screening equipment told of people approaching the courthouse

County continued on 5

WASECA CITY COUNCIL

Council moving forward on west water tower

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The State of Minnesota awarded Waseca a $1,000,000 bond to begin work related to the West

Water Tower. The State of Minnesota also awarded an $8,900,000 bond to continue work related to Inflow and Infiltration and reconstruction of the Nelson Lift Station on 13th Avenue northwest. The council will convene at 6 p.m. the evening of Tuesday, Nov. 10, in the Waseca City Council Chambers to review the election returns, verify the results, and formally declare the candidates elected to municipal offices.

Mayor Randy Zimmerman, Ward 1 councilman Jeremy Conrath, Ward 2 councilman James Ebertowski, and Ward 3 councilman Daren Arndt were all running unopposed.

Alyssa Rands, Waseca Human Resources Coordinator since July, gave a staffing update. Brian Svoboda and Keith Gedicke were hired for seasonal city maintenance. New on call Waseca Fire Fighters are Riley Lynch, Zach Pechacek and Michael Sexton. There were 46 election judges for the recent election.

City engineer Nate Willey summarized the status of work on phase 1 of the Clearwater Preserve subdivision. He stated that work originally slated to be complete by Sept. 25 is now expected to be finished by the end of November. Watermain, curbs and gutters, sewer, and stormwater management are complete. Councilman Gary Conrath asked about the streetside curbs, which are a higher curb and cannot be safely driven over. He was under the impression those types of curbs weren't to be used anymore. Willey said those are easiest to remove for new driveways.

Council members were informed erosion has occurred around a set of three culvert pipes which pass under Highway 13 in the vicinity of Walmart. Highway 13 will need to be closed for about two weeks next summer when a construction project will replace the three pipes with a single pipe. The intent is that the work will be complete before fall. Jeremy Conrath expressed concern that the closure should not coincide with the start of school

Polka Service finds new tunes for familiar liturgy

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

About 75 people enjoyed a meal of sausage, sauer kraut and fried potatoes after attending a "Polka Service" at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Waseca the evening of Saturday, Nov. 7.

There were no lederhosen or traditional German dresses, but the elements of the evening's liturgy were sung to familiar tunes: For example, the pre-service song "It's Time to Praise Our Savior" was to the tune of "Pennsylvania Polka." Psalm 103 was set to the Lichtensteiner Polka. Other elements of the service, including the confession and Apostles' Creed were sung to church-related tunes, but played on an accordion, trumpet, and keyboard ac-

Polka continued on 5



FAMILY TRADITION - Three generations of the Thiel family comprise the Jolly Ramblers, a band from Lester Prairie which specializes in Christian themed music played to a polka sound. Musicians at St. Paul Lutheran's polka service the evening of Nov. 7 were (from left) Noah, Ben, Jason and Chuck Thiel.
Pioneer photo by Deb Bently



Compostings

by Al Batt

A dry and mild winter

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

The sun will burn out in 5 billion years.

Oh no, in 5 million years!

No, in 5 billion years.

Oh, that's a relief!

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I was in a hotel in Milwaukee. There were so many people staying in that hotel it was difficult to find room in an elevator. The Milwaukee Brewers were playing a World Series game in Milwaukee. The hotel was filled with children aged 7 to 14 who were there to participate in the Pitch, Hit & Run skills competition. I talked to a friendly fellow who oversaw that. I asked him which stadium he found to be the nicest in the MLB. He didn't pause. He said it was the one in Toronto.

That weekend, I learned that Aunt Ingeborg, who was a teacher, tried bouncing a super ball in her classroom to show her students that she was as human as they were. The bouncing ball was super until it gave her a fat lip. She didn't win the Pitch, Hit & Run skills competition, but gave her students a lasting memory.

The Wisconsin Gas Building is a historic office building in downtown Milwaukee. It's a well-known building for its weather flame on top, which signals the expected change in temperature. A common saying is used to understand what the flame indicates. "When the flame is red, it's warm weather ahead! When the flame is gold, watch out for cold! When the flame is blue, there's no change in view! When there's a flickering flame, expect snow or rain! It was red and true when I saw it.

I gave two thumbs up to the Bronze Fonz statue, which was giving me two thumbs up. It's 5 feet six inches tall, just like Henry Winkler who starred as the Fonz (Arthur Fonzarelli) in the sitcom "Happy Days" set in 1950s Milwaukee.

I'VE LEARNED

My rule of dressing is that any shirt goes with any pants. It makes life simpler.

When I talk to myself, people listen.

"This butter could use more butter" is something you might hear at a lutefisk supper.

Montgomery Ward launched the world's first general merchandise mail-order company and catalog in August 1872. The first catalog was a single sheet of paper offering 163 products with ordering instructions.

Election ads on radio, online and TV make me appreciate junk mail.

If you give 110%, the check will bounce.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

What does a Minnesotan get if he flunks his driving test four times? An Iowa driver's license. What does an Iowan get if he flunks his driving test four times? A Minnesota driver's license.

I invented a new word–plagiarism.

I got a big envelope in the mail that had written on the front, "Photographs: Do Not Bend." Below that, someone had written, "Oh, yes, they do."

If you are feeling listless, drink a gallon of water before going to bed. That will give you a reason to get up in the morning.

IN LOCAL NEWS

Family of 17 sings "Happy birthday" song every day just in case. When asked why they had so many children, the mother replied, "We kept thinking we could do better."

Acme Cruises are priced as low as $30 a day, but it costs $5000 to get off the ship.

NATURE NOTES

The weather is good at what it does. The Farmers' Almanac predicts a cold, snowy and at times, breezy winter for the Midwest. The Old Farmer's Almanac says it will be mild and dry for most of Minnesota. Mild and wet for Iowa, most of Wisconsin and northeastern Minnesota.

Thomas Hood wrote, "No sun—no moon! No morn—no noon—No dawn—no dusk—no proper time of day. No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease, No comfortable feel in any member—No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees, No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds?—November!"

I saw a Minnesota rock band called The Trashmen perform their big hit "Surfin' Bird" to an appreciative audience of adolescents who hadn't a clue about surfing. The Trashmen were America's greatest landlocked surf band. "The bird is the word" was a significant part of that song. "A-well-a everybody's heard about the bird. B-b-b-bird, bird, bird, b-bird's the word. A-well-a bird, bird, bird, the bird is the word. Papa-ooma-mow-mow, papa-ooma-mow-mow." I'll bet The Trashmen didn't know they were singing to more future birders than surfers. Cornfields made for crummy surfing, unless you were a hunting marsh hawk able to surf grasslands, fields and marshes with the best of them.

MEETING ADJOURNED

"To speak ill of others is a dishonest way of praising ourselves."—Will Durant, historian. Be kind.





CAPTIVATING CREATIONS - Deb took these pictures of autumn leaves when their striking colors made her feel like their image should be preserved. In this column, she talks about how the beauty of autumn leaves is not the only way they are captivating.

Pioneer photos by Deb Bently

More than meets the eye in autumn



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

I know I've described moments before when I saw something and just had to stop and take its picture. Most recently it was a red tree along Highway 30. A maple, it was still holding on to about half its leaves while the other half had fallen and, apparently sheltered from wind, formed a large red carpet beneath the spreading branches.

Even though it was a cloudy day, the tree and its carpeting seemed to glow, almost as if someone had highlighted it and drawn an arrow with the words "look here." Or maybe "photograph this."

When I first spotted it, I was on my way to an interview and didn't have time to stop, so I left myself a note to be sure and return to it after my conversation. I am not posting the picture I took that day with this column, but have asked that it be posted on the paper's Facebook page, where you will be able to see it in color, if you are so inclined.

Remembering a column I wrote a few months ago about how tree branches droop when their leaves become heavy with water, I decided to find out a bit more about leaves in general.

According to one online source, a good-sized maple tree produces around 200,000 leaves which together weigh more than 500 pounds.

The components which create the fall colors we enjoy are always in the leaf, which is perhaps why the budding trees on springtime hillsides have a reddish tint to them. As the warming season brings more and more hours of sunlight, the tree pulls nitrogen out of the ground and out of storage in its trunk and sends it into the leaves, where an internal factory creates chlorophyll, the amazing substance that takes in sunlight and carbon dioxide, emits oxygen as a waste product, and produces sugars which are fed back to the trunk and roots of the tree. Chlorophyll is green, and so the yellows and reds of the leaves no longer show under its powerful influence.

The summer solstice arrives on June 21, and by a few minutes at a time, the days become shorter. Online sources say the tree recognizes this, and begins preparing for winter.

Some of the energy that's been stored over the past brightly-lit months is now invested in forming the buds for next spring's awakening. The tiny buds are protected by a waterproof coating: If you've noticed the ground under a tree peppered in spring by a pale green substance, that is probably the coatings being shed as the infant leaves expand.

I found it fascinating to read about this. The solidity of the tree's trunk has always left me with the idea it stays the same, changing only in that it adds a ring of growth each year. The summaries I found made it clear I've been looking at it all wrong. The roots and trunk are the executives of the tree, making investments when the sunlight economy is strong and cutting their losses as it weakens.

The leaves require "investment" in that the materials to make them and the water to keep them functioning must be pumped up through the woody parts of the tree. The vast surface area that comes with 200,000 leaves is a liability because so much water evaporates off it, forcing the tree to water its "crop" almost constantly. The sugars the leaves produce are the "interest" the tree receives.

According to my online sources, when the tree is no longer satisfied with its return on investment, it cuts off the leaves' water supply. No longer able to operate its internal power plant, the leaf stops producing chlorophyll, and the pigments which have been hidden all summer become visible. We humans get a one- or two-week display of color, then the leaves die and fall to the ground.

There, as they decompose, their nutrients seep back into the soil, becoming nourishment for growth in some future year.

The fascinating science behind it all only adds to my appreciation of autumn's beauty. Isn't creation an amazing place?



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

A little Winona getaway

I have just spent a very pleasant weekend in Winona. And as I write this, I am currently in Waseca watching the Denver Broncos play rather than being in Denver watching the Minnesota Vikings play. That might mean nothing to you, but it is funny to me.

Last weekend, I flew in to Minneapolis and spent a few days at my grandparents' house in Brainerd before piling into the car with them on Friday to head down to Winona. My younger sister, Lizzie, is in her third and final year attending Winona State University for elementary education. Since we had not spent time down in Winona with her since she started, we figured it would be a good time to do so before she graduates in the spring.

We rented an Airbnb that looked like it was straight out of the '70s and spent a lovely weekend together. For me, it was nice to be with the entire family again, having not seen them since the Fourth of July.

We arrived in the afternoon on Friday, dumped our belongings, claimed our rooms, and headed out for chips and salsa and margaritas at Mango's, a restaurant I guess my sister and her friends like to frequent.

Saturday morning featured a walk to Winona's popular morning destination—Bloedow Bakery. After standing in line, we walked out with our box of fresh donuts that smelled delicious and somehow made it all the way back before getting eaten.

The day was then spent boutique shopping and wandering around. We spent some time in Gabby's bar where, fun fact, I had my first legal drink more than two years ago; then we introduced my grandfather to frozen yogurt at the shop a block over. I walked away from the day with a new sweater and book, which I still have no idea how I'm going to pack into my backpack to get back to Denver. I might have to make some sacrifices.



Amelia, right, and her sister pose in front of Winona Lake as part of this year's family photos. Amelia was in Minnesota recently; along with other family members, she visited her sister who attends Winona State University.

Saturday afternoon my dad joined the party once he was done with work and then we all went for a walk by Winona Lake before dinner at Nosh, which is a farm-to-table restaurant my sister had been wanting to try.

Sunday was family picture day—which took roughly five minutes because the weather was chilly and windy, and because my family members have never had much patience with posing for pictures–to my mother's chagrin. But at least we got a photo for this year's Christmas card. And then I got to enjoy the bright, sunny afternoon in Waseca, and have a wonderful dinner with my grandma.

Every time I travel home to spend time with my family, it makes me realize just how fortunate I am to have them, how much I love them, and how my heart feels full.

My Determination: "Few of us ever live in the present. We are forever anticipating what is to come or remembering what has gone." — Louis L'Amour

Gotta love High School Football



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

I spent last Friday evening watching the Blue Jays win the section 3 AAA championship football game in New Ulm. As I stood on the sideline watching the action unfold, I had a chance to chat with many folks, one of whom was Ted Hammond.

As we approached the fourth quarter Ted and I were chatting about Waseca's chances.

I told him what was going to happen.

Waseca would drive down the field and score a touchdown.

After that, I said, they will get a stop on defense. We might even see a TCU fumble.

And then Waseca will go down and score the game-winning touchdown.

That is exactly what happened.

As the phases of the plan progressed, I joked, "We're one-third of the way there,"

And a few minutes later,, "Two-thirds now."

Finally, "Never a doubt."

I joked that you just have to manifest these things. But to be fair, I've been to five of these section championship games in the past five years. I had stories like this for every one of those face-offs, including when the Bluejays fell short. (Where I impractically manifested incorrect comebacks that didn't quite happen.)

After the game, I heard Coach Wendland tell his players that this is one of the craziest games he's ever coached.

I heard Eric Teders say they ran out of feet to shoot.

I don't know what will happen at the state tournament, but I look forward to seeing the Bluejays compete. Coach Wendland was correct when he said there really is nothing like high school football. You gotta love it.

WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

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

PHONE: 507-837-6767
email: news@wasecacountypioneer.com
Address: Office at 111 Elm Avenue West
Mail: PO Box 578, Waseca MN 56093

DEADLINES: Pioneer: Noon Monday
GOLDEN LINK: Previous Friday

ELI LUTGENS	Publisher
DEB BENTLY	News Editor
AMELIA ROESSLER	Editor
JIM LUTGENS	Sports Editor/Dad
JON LUCCA	Ad Design
BEN REVERMANN	Staff Writer
TERESA ROSACKER	Advertising Sales
MELISSA DUNN	Staff Writer

Contributing writers/photographers: Dave Zika, Al Batt, Darin Reese, Payge Rosacker, Rachael Jaegar, Rachel Loverink, Jessica Lutgens, Cassie Rupe, Debbie Rodriguez, Pastor Michael Coglan, Rev. Glenn K. Frerichs, Pastor Michael Grannis, Pastor Rick Wulf, and Pastor Jillene Gallatin

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
$59 Per Year, Waseca County Residents
$69 State of Minnesota • $79 Outside Minnesota

Waseca County Pioneer (USPS permit #25304) is published weekly on Thursday, by Pioneer Publications Inc., 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca, MN, 56093.Entire contents copyright © 2026 PIONEER Publications, Inc. and respective authors. Opinions expressed in editorials or letters to the editor are those of the individual authors, and do not necessarily represent those of the Waseca County Pioneer or PIONEER Publications, Inc. Letters may be edited for content or length. Periodicals Postage at New Richland, MN. POSTMASTER: send address changes to Waseca County Pioneer, P.O. Box 578, Waseca, MN, 56093.

Members Show featuring Joan Finnegan at Waseca Art Center Nov. 21

The Waseca Art Center will feature painter Joan Finnegan along with the WAC members' show from 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 21.

Turkey Trot at Farmamerica Nov. 21

Farmamerica's family-friendly Turkey Trot fun run/walk invites people to run, jog, walk, and even push strollers at their own pace for the 5K event, completing as many or as few laps as they wish. Advance registration is required; either use the Farmamerica website or stop by the facility in advance. To secure your T-shirt and fun race merch, register by Nov. 10.

Winter Farmers Market at Farmamerica Nov. 21

Winter Farmers Market events will be from 8 a.m. to noon at Farmamerica's indoor visitor center on many Saturdays through March. Consider shopping from local bakers, picklemakers, and crafters prior to the annual Turkey Trot.

IV Play at the Mill Event Center Wednesday, Nov. 25

IV Plan will be at the Mill Event Center from 9 p.m. till midnight Wednesday, Nov. 25.

Turkey Trot Family Fun Run at New Richland High School Thursday, Nov. 26

Join the Panther High School Team and Youth Wrestling club for a two mile Turkey Trot and Family Fun Run in New Richland at 8 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 26. They will depart from the back parking lot by the wrestling room. Donations are welcome and will directly support the New Richland Care Center - Flood Relief.

Thanksgiving Dinner by Christ the King Lutheran Church Thursday, Nov. 26

A Thanksgiving Dinner from Christ the King Lutheran Church for seniors and those alone for the holiday will be held with delivery beginning at 11:30 a.m., dine-in from noon through 1:30 p.m. This meal is free but donations are accepted. Reservations required by Nov. 16, call 507-835-9176 or email ctkwaseca@outlook.com.

Cook the Book: Brilliant Bites at Waseca Public Library Wednesday, Dec.2

Visit the library to choose a recipe from the selected cookbook. Then bring the finished dish on the day of the meeting at noon Wednesday, Dec. 2 to share. Meet other members of the community, trade recipes and try something new.

Achieving Dreams for Disabilities Cookie Dazzle Dec. 5

Achieving Dreams for Disabilities will be selling plates of 12 cookies for $8 at the Waseca Senior Center from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Dec. 5. Breads and other baked treats will also be available. Donated baked goods can be dropped off at the Senior Center from 5 to 6:30 on Dec. 4.

Variety, flavor are foundations of Faith United Methodist event

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Faith United Methodist Church in Waseca held its Soup and Pie Luncheon in the church basement on Saturday, Nov. 7. Along with the chicken and wild rice soup, there was a gently used sale, and a bake sale that featured more than a dozen different types of cookies. The event brought more than 250 guests through the church doors.

Janette Larson and Vada Dahnert were working with the cookies, and commented that sales had been brisk. Nearby were items located in what Dahnert called the "Avon" section. This included things like salt and pepper shakers still in their original box and other collectable items. Homemade and baked items offered for sale included pies, jams and jellies. The luncheon went till 1 p.m. but many of the bake sale items had been sold before then.

Roberta Walker was working the gently used section which included jewelry, vintage women's gloves, lots of cookware, grills, vases, fishing gear, golf clubs, children's toys, glassware, cutlery, puzzles and much more. Walker was looking at some of the George Foreman style grills and said, "Everything we get is usually pretty clean, but if it isn't, I clean it for them."

Emma Veazie, a teenager, was one of the helpers for the day. She collected money, made change, bagged up items, packaged breakables and carried things for those who could not carry themselves. Of her many tasks she said simply, "I do what I can."

Workers credited church member Janet Welch for planning and organizing the event. Welch said, "Everything that you see here today, from the gently used sale to the bake sale, to the ingredients in the soup, it was all donated." She added that all the people working were also volunteering their time. "We've gone through three big tubs of the soup already, and we still have a big pot left in case we get any more. I myself made a pumpkin pie and I bought a chocolate pie, and I made about eight dozen cookies. All proceeds for the day go to the Methodist women mission."



GOING FAST - Janette Larson and Vada Dahnert were working the cookie bar/bake sale at the Soup and Pie Luncheon in the basement of the Faith United Methodist Church on Saturday, Nov. 7, 2026
Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann



Robert Tackett

Army Veteran Robert Tackett dedicates life to serving

JANESVILLE JOURNAL

For Robert Earl Tackett, military service was more than just a duty—it was a life-transforming path out of poverty and a lifelong commitment to protecting others.

A U.S. Army veteran and 68 Whiskey medical specialist, Tackett spent 24 years in uniform, spanning nine years in the active-duty Army and 15 years in the National Guard. Along the way, he served as a medical platoon sergeant for the 185th Infantry, completed five deployments, and led 17 combat missions in Iraq—the most for anyone of his rank in his unit.

Yet, despite a decorated career packed with death-defying experiences, Tackett's ultimate destination became a quiet life in southern Minnesota, where he continues to serve his community today.

Growing up in California, Tackett's family moved roughly every two years to escape financial hardship. Seeking stability

Veteran continued on 10



Caregivers look at empowerment through health

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

People attending the Waseca Area Caregiver Services (WACS) educational session titled "Empowerment of mind and body as we age" the afternoon of Nov. 2 heard from two presenters. Dr. Jay Bulfer of Growing Roots Chiropractic Care, Acupuncture and More offered information about choosing a chiropractor and the types of treatment chiropractors typically provide. Linda Grant, a massage therapist, reiki master, and life coach is associated with the local Healing Hands Group.

Kelly Boeddeker, WACS executive director, welcomed Dr. Bulfer to the front first. He told those in attendance, his work with the elderly centers around, in his words, "The puzzle of it, figuring the pain out, taking the time to." He showed the group the sock on his right foot and revealed a photo of his one-year-old baby daughter knitted into the fabric.

Bulfer says 70 percent of his clientele are from outside of Waseca and that they admit, "It's not that I don't like my hometown chiropractor, but…" He continued, "My technique might not work for you, and it might not work for the next guy. All of us chiropractors have our own technique, and someone else in town might be better for you." He said working in a practice where it's insurance based, "I was only seeing my patients for roughly three minutes at a time. Speaking of himself and his wife Lindsey, who is also a chiropractic doctor, he said, "That's why we opened up a cash-based practice in Waseca. Not taking insurance allows us to focus on the patient. We do a time-based clinic, spending 30 minutes with every single patient. Back to the puzzle piece, taking time through muscle work, adjusting many ways, some heavy touch, some lighter touch." He says there are a lot of people and room for a lot of growth in Waseca.

He is also very big on posture, "The repetitive nature of us texting, bending over to get laundry, bending over your computer. No one looks up at the ceiling. Just try it for 30 seconds and you'll feel that stretch." He demonstrated stretches, breathing and other activities to help loosen up. He also warned everyone that the ice season is approaching and to be careful.

Linda Grant is a massage therapist, reiki master and life coach. She explained reiki is a Japanese healing energy practice. She has

Empower continued on 5



EMPOWERING ALL - Waseca Area Caregiver Services Executive Director Kelly Boeddeker, at right, welcomed Dr. Jay Bulfer and massage therapist Linda Grant for a presentation titled "Empowerment of Mind and Body as we Age" on Monday, Nov. 2, 2026.
Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

JB
JAMES BROS. CONSTRUCTION
507.267.4789
jamesbrosconstruction.com
Complete Septic Service and Installation • Excavation
Residential and Commercial Site Preparation and Utilities
Locally Owned and Operated since 1978

STEVE JAMES EXCAVATING D&M CONSTRUCTION
ELYSIAN, OWATONNA, WASECA & WATERVILLE
507-451-3080
SteveJamesExcavating.com
Offering Commercial & Residential Services
• Excavation
• Site Development
• Site Utilities
• Basement Digging
• Trucks & Hauling
• Landscape Supplies
• Rock, Sand, Gravel & Dirt
• Demolition
• Water & Waterline Repair
• Jetting, Camera & Locating
• Septic Services
• Snow Plowing

PH&B PATTON, HOVERSTEN & BERG, PA
www.phblawoffice.com
A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION / ATTORNEYS AT LAW
Waseca Office 215 Elm Ave E Waseca, MN 507-835-5240 888-835-5244
Janesville Office 216 N Main St Janesville, MN 507-234-5106 888-980-1210
Owatonna Office 150 W Park Sq Owatonna, MN 507-451-9000 866-451-9010
Faribault Office 415 2nd Ave NW Faribault, MN 507-332-7425
Your Trusted Local Law Offices for Over 50 Years

DENNIS STEFFEL OMTVEDT
FUNERAL AND CREMATION SERVICE
109 3RD STREET NE, WASECA, MN 56093
WASECA • JANESVILLE • WATERVILLE

USED BOOKSTORE
RECYCLE YOUR BOOKS WITH US
507-455-3440
eatonsbooks@q.com
Mon-Fri 10-5 Sat 10-3:30
602 North Cedar Ave Owatonna MN 55060

OBITUARIES

Shirley Adams

Shirley Ann (Fett) Adams, 88, of rural Glenville, Minnesota, passed away Wednesday, November 4, 2026 at Comforcare in Austin, Minnesota.

Shirley was born on May 18, 1938, in Iowa City, Iowa, and grew up in Clarion, Iowa. She married James Fett on June 24, 1954, and together they raised six children while living in northern Iowa. In 1974, they purchased a farm near London, Minnesota, where they made their home. James and Shirley shared 40 years of marriage until his passing in 1994. In November 1998, Shirley married Vince Adams, and they shared 20 years together until his passing in 2018.

Shirley lived her life with a heart devoted to God, her family, and serving others. Family was always at the center of her world, and she spent a lifetime caring for those around her. Whether raising her children, helping her husband on the farm, or providing care and companionship to individuals in their homes, Shirley found joy in serving others.

Her kitchen was a place of love, comfort, and cherished memories. She was well known for her delicious home-cooked meals, especially her famous chicken and noodles and homemade buns, which became a beloved staple at most holiday gatherings. She also enjoyed making and decorating cakes for birthdays, anniversaries, and weddings, sharing her talents and love through every creation. Shirley lovingly crocheted afghans for family and friends, giving pieces of her heart that will be treasured for years to come.

Shirley appreciated life's simple pleasures, including an ice-cold Pepsi and a Hershey bar. Above all, Shirley will be remembered as a wonderfully kind woman whose gentle spirit and selfless nature touched the lives of everyone she encountered. Though her presence will be deeply missed, the legacy of love, faith, kindness, and generosity she leaves behind will live on in the hearts of all who knew and loved her.

The family would like to extend



Shirley Adams

a heartfelt thank-you to the caregivers at Sacred Heart's Day Program, Comforcare, and Mayo Hospice for the kindness, compassion, and care they provided to Shirley.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Raymond and Marjorie Benson; step-father, Herbert Schauer; husband, James J. Fett; husband, Vincent Adams; infant granddaughter, Nicole Fett; grandson, Matthew Learn; granddaughter, Cheree Adams; grandson, Jacob Adams; sister, Janice Keenan; brother, Norman Benson; step-children, Linda Adams, Eric Adams and Terry Adams.

Shirley is survived by her children: Mike (Linda) Fett, Waseca, MN, Mark (Rose) Fett, St. Ansgar, IA, Julie (Leo) Learn, Lyle, MN, Joni (Roy) Attig, Loami, IL, Randall (Tami) Fett, Austin, MN, and Wayne (Linda) Fett, Glenville, MN; step-children: Sue Hilgendorf, Trimont, MN, Debra Sabin, Trimont, MN, Susan (John) Forstrom, Trimont, MN, and Jerry (Jayne) Adams of Watertown, WI; many grandchildren and great grandchildren; siblings: Joyce (Loren) Frink, Carol Beson, Bonnie (John) Haney, and Don "Unk" & Karolina Schauer; sister-in-law: Linda Benson; and brother-in-law: Ray Keenan.

A funeral service will be held at 11 am on Wednesday, November 11th at Clasen-Jordan Mortuary with Pastor Darren Scruggs officiating. Visitation will take place one hour prior to the service. Interment will be in Woodbury Cemetery.

Faye Haakinson

Faye Marilyn Haakinson, age 94, of Waseca passed away surrounded by family on Saturday, October 31, 2026 at Lakeshore Rehabilitation Center in Waseca.

Faye was born October 23,1932 to Delores (Wagner) and Peter Evans of Randall, MN. She grew up with her six siblings; Loren, Dariel, Doug, Audrey, Marion and Lois.

On December 26, 1950 she married Duane Haakinson in Long Prairie, MN. They lived in San Diego, CA while Duane served in the Navy. Neal was born there. After returning from CA, they farmed in rural Long Prairie where Nina, Julie, Les and Lola (who passed away in 2015) were born before moving into town. They lived there several years before moving to Waldorf, MN.

They later divorced and Faye moved to Waseca where she began her career at Brown Printing. She worked there for 26 years. Her hobbies included roller skating, bowling, snowmobiling, shopping and riding her Harley Davidson. She enjoyed collecting antique treasures in her later years.

She lived at Lakeshore Inn for the final years of her life, which she truly enjoyed.

She is survived by her children; Neal Haakinson of Waseca, Nina Bartelt of Belle Plaine, IA, Julie (K.C.) Neff of Waseca and Big Fork, and Les (Sharon) Haakinson of Sauk Centre; grandchildren, Amy Bennett, Chelsea Haakinson, Hunter Neff, Grayson (Sammie) Neff, Kyle (Tomi Jean) Haakinson, Kurt (Bobbi Jo) Haakinson, Colton (MaKayla) Haakinson, Tyler Fennert and Amber (Justin) Dywer; ten great-grandchildren; her brother, Doug Evans; sisters, Audrey (Mike) Illies, Marion Walter, Lois (Lee) Bosl; sister-in-law, Una Evans.

She was preceded in death by her parents; daughter, Lola Fennert; grandson, Arron Bartelt; brother, Loren Evans; sister, Dariel and brother-in-law, Roger Eberle, sister-in-law LaVonne Evans, brother-in-law Dave Walter, former husband, Duane; and sister-in-law, Virgina Kruger.

Memorial service for Faye will be at 3 PM on Saturday, November 21, 2026 at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca. Visitation will be two hours prior to the service at the funeral home. Burial will follow at First Lutheran Cemetery in Waldorf.

Following the burial, a celebration



Faye Haakinson

of Faye's life will be at 5 PM at Starfire Event Center in Waseca.

Dsofuneral.com

Lowell Nelson

Lowell Bertel Nelson, age 90, of Waseca, died on the evening of Thursday, November 5, 2026, at the Lakeshore Inn Rehabilitation Center in Waseca.

Lowell was born in Waseca on June 16, 1936, to Rueben Andrew and Anna Mary (Schwartz) Nelson. He attended school in Waseca and graduated from Central High School with the Bluejay Class of 1955. He then served with the United States Navy from 1955 until his honorable discharge in 1959. During his time in the service, Lowell married his high school sweetheart, Arlene Rudolph, on September 29, 1957, at Trinity Lutheran Church of Wilton.

Lowell grew up on a farm, but worked in manufacturing at Audio-Visual Research, Brown Printing and E. F. Johnson Company, where he worked for 25 years before his retirement. He assisted his father-in-law with spring planting and fall harvest. Lowell was a proud farmer at heart.

Lowell was a very outgoing man who enjoyed having coffee with friends. In fact, he would sometimes go to multiple coffee-group gatherings in a single day. He also enjoyed fishing, woodworking and repurposing items. He converted a school bus into a camper, used for camping with the family and fishing trips. He was a long-time member of Grace Lutheran Church in Waseca. He will be missed by many.

Lowell is survived by three daughters, Vicki Montgomery of



Lowell Nelson

Thurmont, Md., Tammy (Kevin Featherly) Nelson of Bloomington, and Debra (Cris Beal) Nelson of Andover; two grandchildren, Michael (Mary Beth) Montgomery of Frederick, Md., and Nathan Featherly of Bloomington; a great-grandson, Maxwell Montgomery of Frederick, Md.; a sister, Lois Bartz of Hermosa Beach, Ca.; and a sister-in-law, Janet Rudolph of Waseca. He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife; a son-in-law, James Montgomery and a grandson, Zachary Featherly.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, December 7, 2026, at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Services in Waseca. Visitation will be held for one hour before the service at the funeral home. Interment will follow at Woodville Cemetery in Waseca. dsofuneral.com

Farmamerica debuts jump pad

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Farmamerica debuted a 25- by 40-foot "jump pad" during its Fall Festival on Saturday, Oct 17. Bigger than a typical school classroom and about 3 feet above the ground, Farmamerica Executive Director Jessica Rollins describes it as "a spot where children can get the wiggles out while the adults take a rest and enjoy the farm landscape."

Rollins says Farmamerica plans to make the jump pad a permanent staple of warm-weather events, positioning it at the heart of an expanding recreation area directly west of the visitor center. The giant pad will sit alongside a modified corncrib sandbox; a five-hole, soy-turf miniature golf course is set to join the lineup in 2027.

The jump pad was a definite hit during the Fall Festival, Rollins states. About 20 or more children were able to use it at a time, and Rollins says some adults even stated they would like to give it a try.

The jump surface is inflated by a fan while the unit itself is staked to the ground. The pad is personalized with a green top, sporting the Farmamerica logo in the center.

"If it weren't for our sponsors," says Rollins emphatically, "we wouldn't have been able to get it." She expresses gratitude to the Waseca Corn & Soybean Growers, Compeer Financial, Profinium, CFS, Kwik Trip, Midwest Dairy Association, and Crystal Valley Coop, all of which stepped forward when the staff at Farmamerica realized it made sense to have the jump pad on site.

"We were spending thousands of dollars a year renting bounce houses," Rollins explains. "At one point we decided to look into what it would take to have something of our own."

A difficulty with the bounce houses, Rollins continues, is that, in addition to paying the rental fee, there were also costs to transport the units to and from the Farmamerica grounds. Along with that, if some other organization had rented it, it wasn't available. "We really enjoyed the cow-shaped one that we've had in the past," she elaborates, "but there was the extra cost and extra time of getting it here from over an hour away.

When the staff investigated what types of "wiggles out" options were available, they found that products offered by the Tennessee-based company The Jump Pad did the best at providing their desired features. Rollins says the decision to order a custom design was based on two factors. First, the "circus-like" colors of the standard product seemed out of line with the agricultural message of Farmamerica. Along with that, Rollins says, the cost difference for personalization seemed reasonable, while also allowing an opportunity to recognize the sponsors who made it possible.

Setting the giant jump pad up for the first time was a definite learning experience for Farmamerica staff, program director Kari Wadd observes. The vast amounts of heavy, vinyl-coated fabric add up to a



HUMONGOUS CUSHION - A giant jump pad 25 feet wide and 40 feet long will be a regular feature at future Farmamerica outdoor events, where it is slated to be part of a play area with numerous attractions for children. Farmamerica expresses gratitude to Waseca Corn & Soybean Growers, Compeer Financial, Profinium, CFS, Kwik Trip, Midwest Dairy Association, and Crystal Valley Coop for sponsoring the purchase of the pad, which made its debut during the Fall Festival on Oct. 17.
Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

weight of easily 500 pounds or more, making it a chore to unfold, place, and manipulate. The pad is held in place with long stakes which must be driven into the ground about every 5 feet around its perimeter.

Once it is placed, however, it is simply a matter of connecting the unit's giant fan to electricity and turning it on, then waiting for the inflation process to finish.

Rollins says the jump pad is in storage, now, for the winter, and will come out next spring, in time for the 10 days of school field trips offered at the facility in May. As the play area continues to take shape, the plan is to make frequent use of the space for summer programs and special events including Barnyard Babies and the Fall Festival.

"It's good to grow," observes Rollins. "We're excited to offer yet another activity for families to enjoy when they visit the farm."

Voting Day



VOTING - At the Wilton Township Hall the morning of Tuesday, Nov. 3, Marcia Haley accepted her ballot from Curtis Johnson while fellow voting supervisor Lester Krueger awaits his turn to be of assistance.
Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Waseca Music COMPANY
YOUR LOCAL MUSIC STORE
Band Instruments • Repairs
Guitars • CD, DVD, & Vinyl
507-835-2980
111 South State Street

Rick's Appliance
ricksappliancewaseca.com
Sales & Service
507-461-9615
MAYTAG Speed Queen Whirlpool AMANA
405 West Elm Ave, Waseca MN

GUARDIAN ENERGY
AMERICAN MADE, FARMER OWNED
www.guardiannrg.com
ETHANOL

H&J Fuel, Inc.
507-461-0604
On-Site Bulk Fuel Delivery
Waseca, Mn

2026 Waseca Minnesota Honor Society Induction



RECOGNIZED - The Waseca chapter of the Minnesota Honor Society inducted 29 new students in an induction ceremony on Wednesday, Oct. 28. New members are shown here with those who became members in 2025.

Klobuchar, Smith, Finstad urge Trump admin to approve request for disaster declaration

WASHINGTON – U.S. Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Tina Smith (D-MN) and Representative Brad Finstad (R-MN) urged the Trump Administration to approve Minnesota's request for a Major Disaster Declaration to help communities in southeastern Minnesota that are working to recover from severe weather and flooding this past September. If this disaster declaration is approved, the federal government will be able to provide disaster assistance for various recovery efforts.

"We write to you in strong support of the state of Minnesota's request for a Major Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance under the Stafford Act to assist our constituents recovering from severe storms and flooding. These natural disasters have caused significant damage, and we ask that you quickly grant approval for federal disaster assistance," said the lawmakers.

The lawmakers continued, "Time and time again, Minnesotans have stepped up to support their neighbors after natural disasters. When flood waters rise and homes are damaged, volunteers and neighbors are quick to fill sandbags, clean up debris, and lend a hand to those in need. Impacted communities will repair the damage and rebuild following these disasters, but rapid federal assistance will speed up this recovery effort."

Full text of the letter is available below:

Dear Mr. President:

We write to you in strong support of the state of Minnesota's request for a Major Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance under the Stafford Act to assist our constituents recovering from severe storms and flooding. These natural disasters have caused significant damage, and we ask that you quickly grant approval for federal disaster assistance.

In September 2026, south and southeastern Minnesota experienced severe weather events that caused flooding in the region. A line of thunderstorms formed late September 18 and repeatedly passed over the same communities into early September 19. Approximately 700 square miles across this region received six inches or more of precipitation within 24 hours, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. In the City of New Richland alone, more than three-quarters of homes are damaged and residents of a skilled nursing facility were evacuated and unable to return to the facility. Many homes across the impacted area suffered flooded basements and damaged furnaces and boilers which will need repair or replacement ahead of the Minnesota winter. This storm event has been assessed as at least as destructive as the July 2026 mega-rain that many of these communities experienced and were recovering from just months prior.

Joint federal and state emergency management teams have conducted preliminary damage assessments and have determined that the losses meet the threshold for federal assistance under the Stafford Act through a Major Disaster Declaration. Governor Walz has submitted an official request for disaster assistance for the period of September 18 to September 20, 2026. The request, dated November 2, 2026, covers Fillmore, Houston, Steele, and Waseca Counties.

Time and time again, Minnesotans have stepped up to support their neighbors after natural disasters. When flood waters rise and homes are damaged, volunteers and neighbors are quick to fill sandbags, clean up debris, and lend a hand to those in need. Impacted communities will repair the damage and rebuild following these disasters, but rapid federal assistance will speed up this recovery effort.

We strongly support Minnesota's request for a Major Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance, including for the Individuals and Households program and Disaster Unemployment Assistance, as well as Hazard Mitigation assistance to invest in disaster resiliency efforts. We ask that you grant its approval without delay.

Cookies, Cheetos and the Vikings



Bits and Pieces

by Dave Zika

Hard to believe that the first day of winter, the winter solstice, occurs on Monday, Dec. 21. I think for many of us, the psychological journey into the chilly season begins at different times. For some, that first step downward might be already in autumn. There are several possibilities. Maybe it's when most of the leaves have fallen, leaving trees looking lifeless and naked. If that's your beginning of winter, you've already got your heavy coats on the hooks next to the door, since raking and the city leaf clean up are now history. Maybe some mark the beginning of winter by the first hard frost. They, too, have their parkas ready for use: The first hard frost has occurred–all the perennials in our yards have gone to sleep for a long winter, and are now only matted, ugly leaves. For those who regard the end of October as the beginning of the end, the last trick or treater has rung the doorbell and we've turned off our outdoor lights for another Halloween. And oh yes, there's the first snowfall: folks with that for their marker are still wearing cool-weather gear. For me, the change to Daylight Saving time is a major step along the trail to winter. With the clocks set back an hour, sunset is now happening before 5 p.m., the amount of time we see the sun seems to become perceptibly shorter each day it rises.

Maybe some people regard Christmas as their beginning of winter, when they can nestle into a warm bed and dream about eight tiny reindeer, St. Nicholas and "Happy Christmas to all!"

Whatever marker we use to define their beginning, winters are long.

Because Lisa and I have physical limitations that make traveling at this time of year a poor choice, I have decided to learn some skills that are very timely at this time of year. Under Lisa's watchful eye, I am planning to spend more time in the kitchen. After all, I have a watchful hall of fame level chef to advise and guide me. Last week I decided to tackle making fresh baked cookies.

Monster cookies are an indisputable favorite: They are huge in size, full of M&Ms and chocolate chips, and yummy looking. I hope I am not giving away a secret when I reveal Lisa always doubles the amount of chocolate chips or M&Ms in the cookies she bakes. She sent me to Walmart for ingredients, including old fashioned oatmeal. My goodness, M&Ms and chocolate chips have gotten expensive! Under Lisa's supervision, I measured, mixed, and followed meticulous instructions to finally bake my first batch of this culinary wonder. Helpful hints, refrigerate the dough before baking, flatten the cookie before placing to bake. The Monster cookies turned out chewy, soft and thick.

A couple of days later I tackled a soft, chewy, chocolate chip. Lisa, once again, proved to me that she is right almost all of the time. The cookie called for blended oatmeal and butter brickle/toffee pieces; special ingredients for a special chocolate chip cookie. Lisa instructed me to once again pick up old fashioned oatmeal, I'd have to refine it in a blender. I was certain I could buy blended oatmeal and prove her wrong. Final verdict. No such thing as blended oatmeal. When the cookies came out of the oven and were taken off the sheet to harden, Lisa instructed me to use a metal spatula rather than a plastic one, warning that the butter brickle would cause the cookie to stick to the sheet. Time to show her–uhh, the first cookie crumbled when using the plastic spatula. The rest of the cookies, removed with the metal spatula, were all perfect. Now that I'm a qualified baker, I can share that my favorite part of baking cookies is the aroma that fills the kitchen during baking, and the joy of giving them to family, friends and others.

The colder weather also highlights football games every weekend. I enjoy munching on homemade cookies with a glass of milk or munching on handfuls of Cheetos as I watch or listen to football games.

The Vikings got off to a wonderful 6-0 start and lost their first game last week to the Lions. There are three major parts to every football team; in order to reach the playoffs or even a Super Bowl the Vikings have to be excellent in all three. So far the defense has been lights out and gets an A grade. The specialty teams feature the best kicker and return man in the NFL and also receive an A grade. The offense has been earning below average grades. No rhythm, no time possession, few touchdowns, no real QB, and no running back to bust a long yardage play. Every game Sunday all of the experts analyze the upcoming game, and conclude by each one holding up a sink or swim sign in response to questions which are key to a victory. Example: JJ Jeferson will have 100 yards receiving in the game?? I enjoy watching the pre game show every Sunday morning.

In order to keep winning, the offense has some work to do. The QB has to play better. The great offensive play makers have to begin making plays. Perhaps the coach and GM can make a trade for help before the Nov. 10 trade deadline. A great running back or a gifted blocking offensive lineman??? Maybe then all of the Viking fan base can hold up a sail sign.

I also enjoy watching the Golden Gopher pregame show. The pregame experts also hold up cards in regard to keys to victory. Their cards read either row the boat, or slow the boat. Example: The Gopher defense will hold the Indiana Hoosiers to under 21 pts. The gophers are now holding all three of rival game trophies. The little Brown jug, The 100 lb pig, Floyd of Rosedale, and the Axe. This is the first time since 1978 that the Gophers have had all three trophies in their case.

Our Waseca Bluejay football team is now making their annual fall victory runs into the state playoffs. I'm holding up a sign reading "Bluejays fly high."

Lisa and I are very thankful that the election is over and we no longer have to watch the attacking, mud-slinging, political ads. Whatever happened to kindness and decency? I look forward to the upcoming game show on TV. Political truth or lie consequences.

■ County

from Page 1

entrance, seeing the scanners, and returning to their vehicles where they "unloaded their pockets" before coming back to the door. "What was in those pockets that they didn't want us to find?" asked a deputy.

Also part of the conversation was the demeanor deputies at the scanners should show as people entered the courthouse. "They will be the first face people will see as they come in," pointed out commissioner De Malterer. "They need to be friendly, approachable, and willing to answer people's questions."

It was acknowledged during the conversation that any routine established for the scanning will need to be changed when the planned Justice Center, with an anticipated move-in date of summer, 2028, is operational.

Land and Water Resources director Chris Howard received board approval for the county "Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention Plan," a 17-page document that summarizes what invasive species have been identified in the county and what steps are taken to reduce their impact and prevent them from spreading.

The report states that Eurasian Water Milfoil has been found in Clear and Reeds Lakes. Curly leaf pondweed has been identified in Clear, Loon, Sibert, and St. Olaf Lakes. Numerous prevention, awareness, and removal strategies regarding AIS are listed in the report: These include posting inspectors at lake accesses and using the Blair Nelson Paddle Ship weed harvester to remove curly leaf pondweed in Clear Lake.

Filing an AIS prevention plan is required for the county to qualify for state AIS prevention funding. The county will be receiving just over $23,000 in 2027; because of cuts in state funding, the amount is about half what the county received in 2026.

■ Empower

from Page 3

also worked in hospice for 13 years. During her talk, she noted the importance of hydration and maintaining a healthy diet that includes a balance of protein, vegetables and fresh fruits, "I haven't had a pop in probably 30 years." For those who drink diet pop, she observed, "You have to put chemicals in them to make them diet."

She also suggests trying to meditate, saying "It's worth the piece of mind." She said she gives meditation at least 40 minutes every morning, after originally beginning with only ten. She noted that practice and consistency are important to getting the benefits of meditation. To stay focused, she suggested people could repeat the statements, "Just for today I will not anger. Just for today I'll do my work honestly. Just for today I'll be grateful for my many blessings. Just for today I will not worry. Just for today I'll love my neighbor and every living thing." She avoids the news and only turns the tv on for baseball and football.

As of December 31, Waseca Area Caregiver Services will close their doors due to lack of funding. All active support programs and client services will be provided through Friday, Dec. 11.

■ Polka

from Page 1

companied by percussion.

The musicians were the Jolly Ramblers, three generations of the Thiel family based in Lester Prairie. Patriarch Chuck played the accordion, his adult son Jason played the keyboard; grandsons Noah on trumpet and Ben on drums rounded out the group. Chuck did mention his oldest grandson Jacob was not present since he is currently attending college.

As the service came to an end, Chuck also shared that Sunday, Nov. 8 would be the end of the group's Polka Service season, and that after two months of persistent appearances, the musicians were all ready for a rest.

St. Paul Pastor Michael Grannis shared readings surrounding "the day of the Lord," the second coming of Christ. After reading the parable of the 10 virgins–five of whom were locked out of a wedding feast because they were late after failing to bring oil for their lamps–Grannis challenged those in attendance to decipher what the oil in the story symbolizes.

He offered a clue by rereading the Old Testament lesson from Amos 5:24, which says, "Let justice rain down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."

Both the offering taken during the church service and the $10 tickets for the dinner are being used to support an annual summer youth trip to "Higher Things," a theological conference held at various university campuses across the country.

The meal was prepared and served by church members Kristi Grannis, Angie Abel, Judy Waters, and Elora, Eliana, and Kina Grannis, with assistance from Pastor Michael Grannis.



A BLESSING TO SERVE - Helping prepare and serve a European-themed meal after St. Paul Lutheran's polka service were (from left) Kristy, Elora, and Eliana Grannis, Angie Abel, Judy Waters, and Kina and Pastor Michael Grannis. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

The Pastor's Column

Thanksgiving bridges the gap

By REVEREND MICHAEL GRANNIS
St. Paul Lutheran Church

The Second Commandment

You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not curse, swear, use satanic arts, lie or deceive by His name, but call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise and give thanks.

As we've entered the month of November and decorations are moving from Halloween to Christmas there is a significant cultural holiday that bridges the gap: Thanksgiving. In confirmation we have been working our way through the Ten Commandments, and right up near the front is The Second Commandment (by traditional Western counting): You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God.

God's name is misused and abused in all kinds of different ways. Perhaps you learned this commandment as "Thou shalt not use the name of the LORD thy God in vain." I like this translation a bit better, simply because it speaks to the "vain" use of God's name. What does it mean to do something in a vain manner? It simply means to do it as if it had no meaning at all. It is to act as though something has no real weight, value, or lasting worth. This seems to be the dominant usage of God's name in our culture. "OMG" (Oh, my God!) is not primarily at prayer anymore, but an exclamation of shock, taking God's name in a totally vain way.

But in this season of Thanksgiving, I thought it only appropriate to turn our thoughts toward the meaningful uses of God's name. For just as there are ways to misuse God's name, there are also right and good uses of His name. As written above, God has given us His name so that we may "call upon it in every trouble, pray, praise, and give thanks."

Jesus warns and comforts us that "In this world you will have tribulation, but take heart. I have overcome the world." When the trials and tribulations of this life are coming against us, we can indeed take heart in Christ. We can call upon our Lord in any and every trouble knowing that He is listening, He is with us, and He has redeemed us. Even if our troubles threaten death or take our very lives, Christ has overcome death, and promises us forgiveness, resurrection, and eternal life through faith in His name. That is truly something for which to be thankful.

Likewise, we are encouraged by Christ to pray to our heavenly Father. The Lord's Prayer (Our Father...) is not only a beautiful prayer, but by virtue of the fact that Christ gave it to us, we know that it is pleasing to God that we would pray to Him.

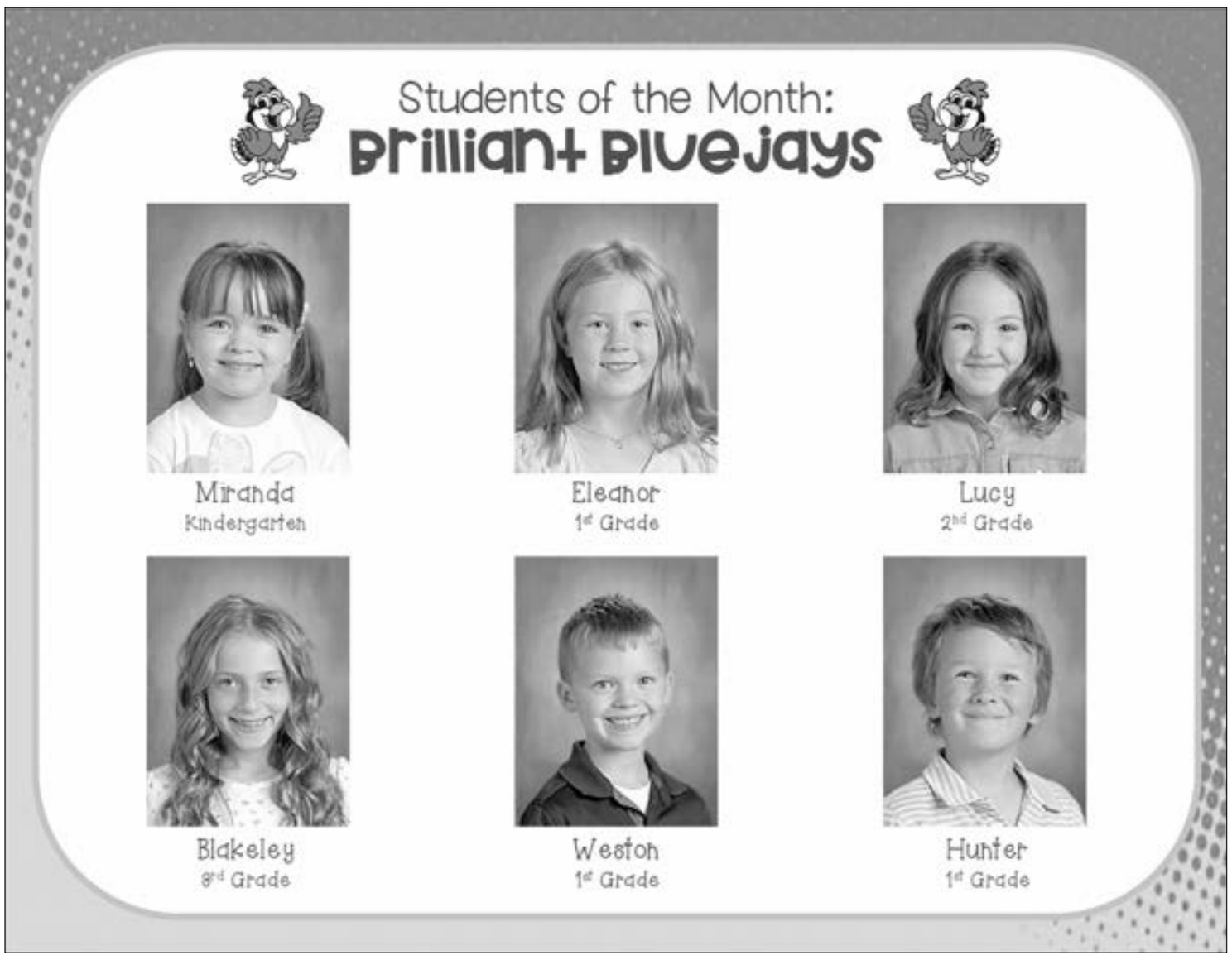
After all, if God didn't want us calling out to His holy name in prayer, Christ would not have given us those words and encouraged us to pray. How wonderful it is to know that God loves to hear our prayers. That's another thing to be thankful for!

Since our God is such a loving, faithful Savior it only makes sense that we who know His great steadfast love, and faithfulness would proclaim His praises to others. So yes, using God's name to praise Him to others is another great way to use God's name rightly.

Which leads us full circle back to giving thanks to God. God has blessed us in so many ways...countless ways. He blesses us daily with every breath, every meal... every good gift comes from above from our heavenly Father - our Creator. Even when times are at their most difficult, most sorrowful, most painful, there is always reason to give thanks to God.

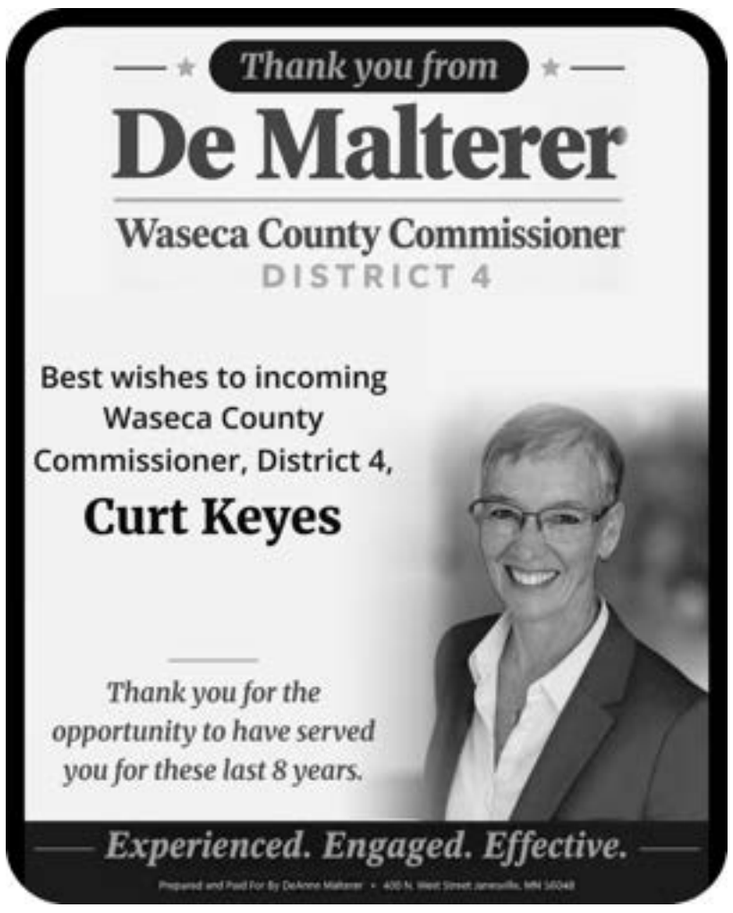
So as we head toward that big turkey day, remember the One to whom all thanks is due. Lift up your thanksgiving to Him. Praise Him to your friends and family. Pray to Him with meaning and purpose, for He knows your name and you mean more than life itself to Him. Even when times of trouble come (and they will come) know that you can call upon Him and He will deliver you, either here in time or in the life of the world to come; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Living Forever, Now,





Got news?
e-mail news@wasecacountypioneer.com



Attend the Church of your Choice!

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH
2200 4th St NE, Waseca
507-835-2235
* * *
4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH
605 4th St NE, Waseca
507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker)
* * *
FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
801 4th Ave NE, Waseca
507-835-3167
* * *
CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH
309 6th St NE, Waseca
507-835-9176
* * *
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca
507-833-1703
* * *
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
314 4th Ave NE, Waseca
507-835-2647
* * *
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca
507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net)
* * *
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
300 E Elm Ave, Waseca
507-835-1709
* * *
SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH
111 4th St NW, Waseca
Father Glenn Ferichs
507-835-1222
* * *
REAL LIFE CHURCH
620 W Elm Ave, Waseca
507-833-0017
* * *
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS
1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca
507-835-4640
* * *
GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
1221 8th St SE, Waseca
507-835-2213
* * *
CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY
900 14th Ave SE, Waseca
507-833-1082
* * *
ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor
* * *
ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Otisco, Minnesota
* * *
TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Peg Marose
* * *
LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Dan Kordahl
* * *
VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Dan Kordahl
* * *
VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Brian Schanil Pastor
* * *
ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Father Glenn Ferichs
* * *
FIRST LUTHERAN
Missouri Synod
Waldorf, Minnesota
Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Larry Sipe
* * *
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Freedom Township
* * *
ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Pastor Ava Adams-Morris
Waldorf, Minnesota
* * *
ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC
Waldorf, Minnesota
Father Brian Mulligan
* * *
THE CHURCH of JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
Brad Donner, Branch President
Waseca, Minnesota
www.lds.org
* * *
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
412 N. Main Street, Janesville
Pastor Jason Wolter
* * *
JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
401 N. West St., Janesville
Pastor Kathy King
* * *
BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
43089 180th St., Morristown
Pastor Kathy King
* * *
ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH
307 W. 2nd St, Janesville
* * *
FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
300 Owen St., Janesville
Pastor Sarah Krolak
* * *
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH (WELS)
1891 321st Ave., Janesville
Pastor Robert Harting
* * *
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH (WELS)
20574 631st Ave., Janesville
Pastor Robert Harting
* * *
NORTH WASECA LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA
404 30 120th St. Waseca
Pastor Sarah Krolak
* * *
NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE WASECA COUNTY PIONEER.

Janesville

25 years ago



- The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton first graders traveled to the Waldorf Fire Station to learn about fire safety during Fire Prevention Week, Oct. 7-13. Pictured are front row (from left): Dylan DeMarce, Carsen Trumblee, Devon Lynch and Michael Olson. Back row: Rodney Southwick, Dewey Zabel, Shane McDonough and Joel Meyer.

- Leroy Kleimola, son of David and Linda Kleimola of Janesville, has been selected as a member of the Dordt College Chorale fo the 2001-2002 academic year. Kleimola sings first bass with the chorale. The 94-member chorale, directed by Professor Ben Kornelis, performs twice this semester. Their first concert was during the Fall Music Festival at Dordt College in the B.J. Haan Auditorium on Friday, Oct. 19. This concert, during the annual Parents Weekend at Dordt College, also featured college's concert band, chamber orchestra and concert choir. The chorale will also perform a concert of lessons and carols on Sunday, Dec. 9, at 8:30 p.m. in the B.J. Haan Auditorium.



- Alec Mulcahey is shown holding a 3-3/4 pound sweet potato grown in the garden of his grandparents, Richard and Caroline Mulcahey of Janesville.

- Briand Finley and Bridget Kester, seniors at Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School, have been nominated to compete in the National Honor Society Scholarship competition sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals. Based on teachers' nominations, Finley and Kester are the senior members of the NHS that have demonstrated outstanding achievement in academic and service. In recognizing leadership in co-curricular activities as well as academic performance, the NHS scholarship recognizes the importance of a well-rounded education. Two hundred national NHS winners will be chosen this spring to receive $1,000 in college scholarships.

50 years ago

- Guests entertained at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Radke on Saturday evening, in honor of their daughter, Jennifer's second birthday were Mr. and Mrs. Orville Beelow, Bob Beelow, Paula Eustice, Mr. and Mrs. Dale Huelsnitz, Jeff, Laurie and Ronnie of Waseca. Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Radke, Mr. and Mrs. Chester Radke, Terrie and Tammie of Mapleton, Mr. and Mrs. Walt Schostag of rural Janesville. Mr. and Mrs. Dan Froelich of St. Clair and Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Nerstad of near Good Thunder. Jennifer received many gifts. Cake and ice cream were served for lunch.

- Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Hering, Janesville presented their infant daughter, Sarah Ann for baptism at the United Methodist Church Oct. 24 with Rev. Harold A Stuart officiating. Sponsors were Gloria Bartz, Wasea and Mark Hering, Waterville. Dinner guests at the Bruce Hering homer were Rev. and Mrs. Harold Stuart, Janesville; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dahnert, Mrs. Richard Bartz, Rickey and Randy, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Nelson, all of Waseca; Mr. and Mrs. Ben Hering, Mr. and Mrs. Ward Herling, Todd, Troy, Terry and Tyson, Mr. and Mrs. Mark Hering, Christopher, all of Waterville. Sarah was born Sept. 20.

75 years ago

- A contest has developed in the village election at Janesville Nov. 6 between Vernon Walther and Wilbert Lau for the office of trustee. Geo Schmidt has filed for re-election as trustee clerk. The deadline was Tuesday and there were no filings for the offices of justice of peach, assessor and constable.

- The Trinity Lutheran Walther League met in the church parlor last Wednesday evening with the Waldorf League as their guests. Serving were Sharon Lau, Steve Sonnenberg, Billy Mueller, Karen Knutson, Geraldene Drager and David Prail, Janice Manke, Delores Maas, Gary Mittelstaedt and Ray Storjohann were on the entertainment committee.

100 years ago

- On or before November 8, 1926, the Wm. G.D. Rigg Co., Steinway, Knabe and Baldwin factory tuners and rebuilders of Albert Lea, Minn., will be in Janesville for a limited time to service your instruments according to factory methods. All work is fully guaranteed. Examinations and estimates free. Leave orders at Hotel Sinnot at once and watch for solicitors. References: National Association of Piano Tuners, National Piano Technicians Association, Music Industries Chamber of Commerce. Registered inspectors for the Welte Mignon, Art Echo, Ampico, reproducing pianos.

- Did you ever stop to reflect that right here in our own home community is where our interests are; it is the community that supports us. Let's all boost for it in the right spirit, and it will reflect in more ways than one.-Ellendale Eagle.

Get your news in the Pioneer
news@wasecacountypioneer.com

Waseca

25 years ago



- These are the Sacred Heart Elementary School students who collected the most money and gathered the most pledges as part of the school's annual marathon school fund-raiser. They are (front row, from left): Nicholas Paczkowski, first grade; Abbe Hoehn, first grade; Kiley Harguth, second grade; and Hannah Flor, second grade. Back row: Kiersten Peters, third grade; Sophia Tuttle, third grade; Corey Harguth, fourth grade: Michael Monahan, fourth grade; and Rodney Wilson Jr., kindergarten. The school raised a total of $25,446.54 this year.

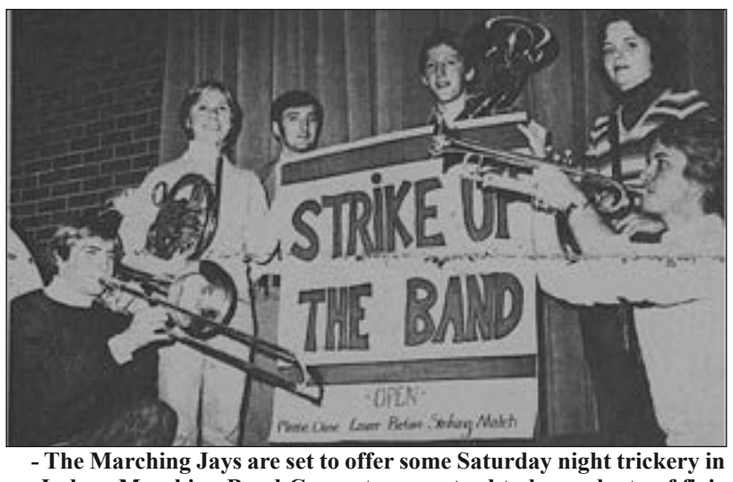
- Harry and Melissa Eytcheson are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Aurora Marie, born September 27, 2001. She weighed six pounds and was 19 inches in length. Pattern grandparent is Mary Eytcheso of Wells. Maternal grandparents are Trudi Barrie of Waseca and Al Bryant of Clarksville, Tenn. Aurora is welcomed home by her brother, Camrin, who is four years old.



- The fall athletic teams at Waseca selected their Most Valuable Players and announced them at Monday's Recognition Night. Front row (from left) are: Rachel Loonan (senior, swimming): Danielle Burke (8th-grader, giris' cross country) and Sarah Ketelsen (senior, cheerleading). Back row: Elizabeth Berg (senior, volleyball); Scott Rolfing (senior, boys* cross country) and Kyra Kingsley (senior, girts' tennis), The MVP in football will be announced at the end of their season.

50 years ago

- Kathy Eberline of Waseca will be appearing in the Bemidji State University theatrical production "Gypsy." Everline, who plays Rose, is a senior Speech Theatre Major. Based on the vaudevillian life of Gypsy Rose Lee the performance contains such show-stopping tunes as "Small World" and "Everything's Coming Up Roses." The BSU Theatre is the only theatre in the Upper Midwest whose annual musical comedy is entirely student produced and directed. Performances this year are Nov. 2-6 at 8:29 p.m. on the Bangsberg Main Stage. Tickets can be reserved by calling the Speeck-Theatre Box Office (218-755-3935) and the cost is $2.50 for adults and $1.50 for students.



- The Marching Jays are set to offer some Saturday night trickery in an Indoor Marching Band Concert guaranteed to have plenty of flair and fanfare. Pictured L to R are Tom Peters. Joyce Tadahl, director Richard Dufault, Joe Jeddeloh. Becky Harms and Steve Bosacker.

75 years ago

- The Sacred Heart parish council of the Winona Council of Catholic women met at the Sacred Heart parish hall Monday evening. Reports were given by the following chairmen; Home and School, Mrs. Joe Mihm; Welfare; Mrs. Robert Buckley, Shrines in the home, Mrs. Fancis Claven, Bishop's committee, Mrs. James Zimmerman. Library and literature, Mrs. Robert Waychick: Apostolate of the aged, Mrs. John Sampsell, and Discussion clubs, Mrs. Stuart Root. Guest speaker was Mrs. R.C. Hottingenger of Janesville deanery president, who spoke on the newly organized Vocations Committee. Members of the Holy Family circle served refreshments.

- The Waseca Central "C" squad, composed of youngsters in the 7th and 8th grades, closed out its football season last Tuesday night by dropping a close 7-0 decision to the New Richland "C" team. New Richland won the game with less than 14 seconds remaining on about a 40 yard pass play that went all the way. The Waseca youngsters made several mistakes which proved to be costly, but it was all part of the game. This was the first loss in five games for coach Tom Cole's charges. Their final season's record was three wins, one loss and one tie.

100 years ago

- Halowe'en pranksters committed a serious offense Sunday night when they drove over mail boxes along the highway of routes two and three out of Waseca. In some instances the mail box standard were knocked down. In other instances the truck was run back and forth over the mail box until it was ironed out flat. The offense is a very serious one and if the offenders are caught they will be taken into Federal court for prosecution.

- Carl Schultz of Waseca was very badly shaken and bruised Wednesday afternoon when his gravel ruck tipped over after hitting A.O. Martinson's car on county road No. 6 west of town. The injured man was brought to town and then taken to Waseca. Apparently no bones were broken. The accident happened just after the Ulrich auction sale on the Martinson farm. Another car obscured both Martinson's and Schultz's views of each other.-New Richland Star.

New Richland

25 years ago

- The LeSueur-Henderson volleyball team pounded Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton 3-0 in the first round of Section 2AA west subsection playoffs, Thursday night.

-New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Genevas volleyball team defeated Waterville-Elysian-Morristown 3-1 in the Section 2AA subsection quarter-final at New Richland, Thursday night. Game scores were 15-11, 15-9, 3-15 and 15-5.

50 years ago

- Officers for the New Richland Care Center Auxiliary were elected at their meeting on Friday, November 5. New officers are president, Myrna Raymo and vice president, Jean Horn. As stated in the constitution, two officers were to remain for an extra year. They were Lil Anderson, secretary and Edna Anderson, Treasurer.

- Four Winona State University graduates were elected to the 1977 Minnesota State Legislature in the recent November election.

- Ordwin (Buzz) Hagen, 34, a New Richland Native was elected mayor of Albert Lea last Tuesday in a two-to-one victory over incumbent Mayor Paul Larimore with decisive margins in every one of the city wards.

75 years ago

- Rex Cyrus, son of Mr. and Mrs. Rex Routh, was baptized at All Saint's Church Sunday morning with Miss Yvonne Striernagle, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Striernagle and Robert Striernagle, son of Mrs. Routh, as his sponsors.

- The 55th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Anton O. Martinson was observed Thanksgiving day at the home of their son, Lloyd Martinson, and family.

- Jean Marie Axelson became the bride of Clair C. Ellingson at a 3 pm ceremony in the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Axelson of Ellendale. The bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Erick Ellingson, also of Ellendale. Mr. Ellingson served in the armed forces in World War II, at which time he contracted malaria.

Child's History of Waseca County

Cont. Chapter XVII, 1856. Many new settlers in 1856—Those who settled in various towns that year—St. Mary named

Among others who settled in the county in 1856, were Patrick Kenehan, Yoah Lincoln, H. P. Norton and C. F. Lincoln, of Wil-ton; Joseph Manthe, Gottlieb Krassin, John Jordan, Anthony Gorman, Michael McGonagle, Sr., Geo. H. Reibling, and a lawyer, by name McCarthy, of St. Mary: J. W. Hosmer, H. P. Chamberlain, John F. Allen, Win. Lee, John Minske, Fred Minske, August Minske, Gottlieb Kanne, Fred Kanne, August Kanne, Gottlieb Kanne, Wm. Marzahn, John Reed, David Hutchinson, Thos. Bishop, Thos. Gibson, Wm. Allen, John G. Ward, Silas Ward, John J. Fell, Richard Toner, H. W. Peck, Geo. Leonard, Daniel Tripp, Benj. W. Gifford. A. A. Cotton, M. S. Green, William Long, Seth W. Long, Geo. Long, A. Wilsey, Jim Chadwick, S. J. Willis, Henry Thwing, Nelson Thwing, Jacob Hagadorn and Peter Farrell of Iosco; Hon. Lewis McKune, Hon. J. L. Saufferer, E. R. Conner, Geo. Dean, John Walker, James Walker, Wm. Donaldson, Hon. Philo Woodruff, Patrick Healy, Cornelius Hand and his sons, Hon. J. N.Powers and his father, John Gibson, Daniel Riegle, Andrew Nelson, Patrick Murphy and sons, Jacob Oory, Henry, Josiah, Joshua Smith, Samuel Smith, Wm. H. Young, Joseph Churchill, B. Sharp, Cyrus Ross, Andrew Oleson, Wm. J. Wheeler, Gottlieb 'etrich, John Remund, Samuel Remund, Rudolph Remund, Albert Remund, Keyes Swift, John Hackett and Gulick Knutsen, of Blooming Grove; H. A. Mosher, Asa Mosher, E. B. Stearns, Z. Holbrook, Hon. J. A. Canfield, Silas Grover and sons, Wm. Smith, W. S. Baker, M. D. L. Flowers, Parselus Young, H. G. Mosher, Adam Bishman, Jacob Bishman, Ben G. Northrup, Ole Pe-terson, Charley Johnson, Omer H. Sutlief, F. L. Goetzenberger, Wm. Schmidt and B. Bundshu, of Otisco; W. G. Allyn, Paul Wandrie, Charles Wandrie, J. W. Hosmer, Wm. Stanke, Martin Stanke, Michael Silkey, W. G. Mathews, Thomas McHugo, C. De Regan, W. H. Crawford, Alex Johnston, John Buckhout, "Uncle" Frank Johnson, Patrick Hackett, G. Grams, James Henning, Jas. Cooledge, David Cooledge, N. E. Strong, John Bradish, Esq., George Dreever and Richard Dreever, of Janesville; Obadiah Powell, Eri G. Wood, Loren C. Wood, Henry Watkins, E. K. Carlton, Jacob Myers, Wm. Dunn and Austin Vinton, of Woodville; Anthony Sampson, H. H. Sunde, K. O. Rotegard, H. T. Handgrud, Ole K. Hagen, W. Anderson, Chris Knudson, E. O. Strenge, N. C. Koffstad, Martin Anderson, August Miller, K. Christenson and Nels Christenson, of New Richland: E. S. Woodruff, B. F. Haines,

E. A. Clark and Mr. Edgerton, of Vivian; Christie McGrath, Wm. Bevans, David Bevans, Isaac Lyng and C. S. Weed, of Byron.



On to state

WHS football team rallies past TCU for section crown

By ELI LUTGENS and JIM LUTGENS
Editor/Publisher, Sports Editor

Some might say the Waseca High School football team ran out of feet to shoot during its 10th consecutive Section 3AAA championship game last Friday at New Ulm.

Others might call it one of the craziest games of their career.

What allowed the Bluejays to punch their tickets back to the state tournament?

A perfect 10 minutes.

The script was written for fans watching the 28-24 win over TCU which left spectators asking themselves, "comeback or collapse?"

Phase 1 - Score

Trailing 24-14, the Bluejays methodically moved the ball downfield, punching it in from two yards out with six minutes remaining. The score capped off a four minute, 80-yard drive.

Phase 2 - Get a stop

The Bluejays had to get the ball back.

They did.

With under two minutes to play, Waseca stuffed the Titan run on a 4th-and-1 from the Bluejay 14-yard line.

Phase 3 - Score again

With no time outs the Bluejays needed to march the length of the field with no timeouts.

They did.

This time, to take the lead for good.

WHS head coach Brad Wendland was asked what this win means for the program, players, coaches and community.

"Where do I start?" said Wendland. "Just the resilience of this group. They came through in every phase. When it was time to win the game, we connected and were able to win. It was an incredible night of high school football."

The Bluejays and TCU started with the type of game a lot of people expected — a defensive slugfest — with both squads forcing two straight punts by the opponent.

The Bluejays got on the scoreboard on a 43-yard run by quarterback Kellen Klinger with 3:59 left in the first period.

After a TCU fumble, the Bluejays covered 85 yards in six plays, the final 30 on a run by Klinger.

The Titans wasted no time answerving, returning the ensuing kickoff 94 yards for a touchdown.

It was 14-7 at halftime.

Adversity found the Bluejays on the opening third-quarter kickoff as they fumbled and the Titans recovered on the Waseca 36.

Five plays later, the score was 14-14.

TCU retained the momentum forcing a three-and-out by the Bluejays before rumbling for a first down on a fake punt. The Titans capped a nine-play drive and took their first lead of the night, 21-14.

> "When it was time to win the game, we connected and were able to win."
> **— WHS coach Brad Wendland**

It looked grim as the Bluejays lined up in punt formation on fourth and 15, and even worse when Klinger was stopped after about a 10-yard gain on a fake punt.

A 29-yard field goal meant the Bluejays were looking at 17 unanswered points by TCU as the fourth quarter began.

The comback started with an 11-play, 80-yard drive — with Sam Selthun and Klinger leading the way — culminated by a 2-yard scoring run by Klinger.

The game-winning drive started on the Waseca 14 and, while mainly fueled by Klinger and Selthun runs, saw the Jays mix in passes to Titan Rahe to Owen Honstad. Selthun skirted the left side untouched for the final three yards.

The Bluejays outrushed TCU 313-119 and outgained the Titans 433-145 on the night.

Klinger, named the iWealth Player of the Game, ran 18 times for 180 yards and threw for 120 on six-of-12 passing. Selthun finished with 124 yards on 25 carries.

Wendland said the Bluejays are more of a "blue-collar" team than the past two years when they were able to pass the ball to Damrius or Daron Russell, who both play Division I football.

"like what we're doing offensively," said Wendland. "I love to ground and pound. If that's our personality, I'm O.K. with that."

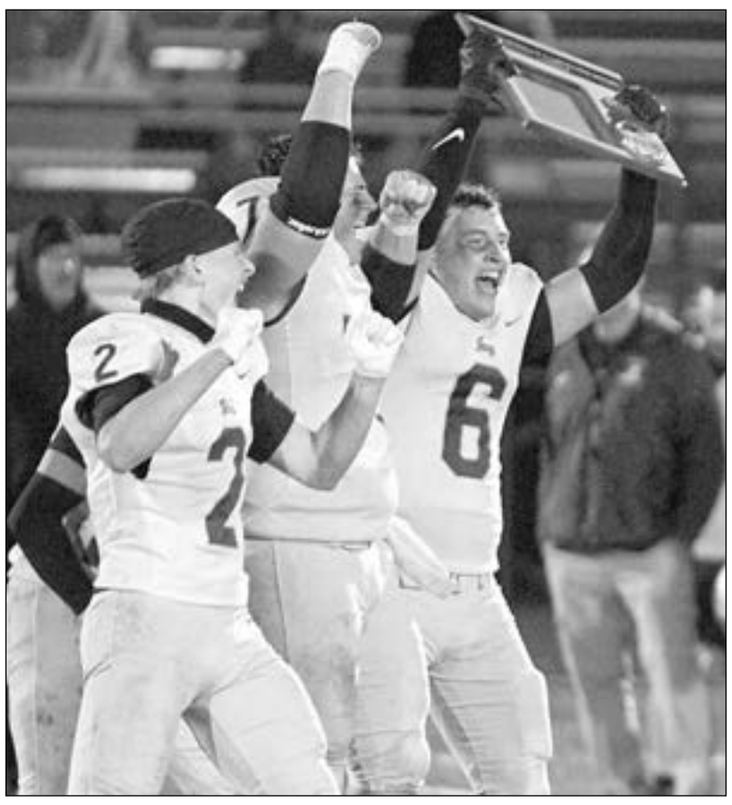
Wendland praised the play of his captains Brady McKenna, Kallen Glynn, Trey Jensen and Rahe, and said the Bluejays are looking forward for another chance to play at U.S. Bank Stadium.

The Bluejays drew the No. 1 seed in the south half of the Class AAA state tournament, and face No. 4 seed Zumbrota-Mazeppa at noon Saturday, Nov. 14 at Apple Valley. The winner faces No. 2 St. Croix Lutheran or No. 3 Dassel-Cokato Saturday, Nov. 21 at 4:30 at U.S. Bank Stadium. The north seeds, in order, are Pierz, Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton, Annandale and Albany.

"There's no doubt that last year's playoff run gave us confidence, gave the players the thrill of going to U.S. Bank Stadium, and there's nothing like that," said Wendland. "Being in the state tournament and being given the opportunity to play at U.S. Bank Stadium is the chance of a lifetime. I'm 53 years old, and there's nothing I would rather do."

The goals, it seems do not change for the Bluejays.

"Our goal remains the same," said Wendland, whose team finished second in last year's state tournament and this year reached a remarkable 10th consecutive section title game. "We practice and prepare to be one of the best AAA teams in the state," said Wendland.





IT NEVER GETS OLD — At left, Waseca captains Titan Rahe (2) and Brady McKenna (6) claim the championship trophy for Section 3AAA football last Friday at New Ulm. At right, Kallen Glynn (22) embraces Jacob Knutson (45). Photos by Eli Lutgens





KEY PLAYS — At left, Waseca quarterback Kellen Klinger (15) dashes for a touchdown. At right, Titan Rahe hauls in a pass.





ANOTHER SECTION TITLE — At left, co-captain Brady McKenna (6) and others run off with the Section 3AAA football title trophy. At right, Kellen Klinger (15) consults with head coach Brad Wendland.

Waseca 28, Tri-City United 24

TCU	0	7	14	3 -	24
WAS	7	7	8	14 -	28

First Quarter
WAS - Klinger 43 run (Rupe kick)
WAS - Klinger 30 run (Rupe kick)
Second Quarter
TCU - O'Malley 96 kickoff return (Smith kick)
TCU - Kelly 4 run (Smith kick)
Third Quarter
TCU - Smith 29 field goal
WAS - Klinger 2 run (Rupe kick)
Fourth Quarter
WAS - Klinger 2 run (Rupe kick)
WAS - Selthun 3 run (Rupe kick)

	TCU	WAS
First downs	x	13
Rushing Yards	119	313
Passing Yards	26	120
Total Yds.	145	433
Penalties-Yards	x-x	5-55

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing – WAS: Klinger 18-180; Selthun 25-124; TCU: O'Meara 18-87; Jirik 6-17; Kelly 5-15

Passing — WAS: Klinger 6-12 120; TCU: Jirik 1-4, 26

Receiving — WAS: Rahe 2-72; Honstad 2-24; Rupe 1-17; Kath 1-7; TCU: O'Meara 1-26

Waseca defense: Rahe 3T; Worke 1T; Rupe 3T; McKenna 4T, 2A, 1/2 S; Kath 7T, 1A, 1 int.; Jeske 5T; Castro 2T, 2A, 1 int.; Knutson 6T, 2A; Brown 3T; Sommers 1T; Ellis 1T; Madsen 1/2 S;

Wobbrock ends season at state meet

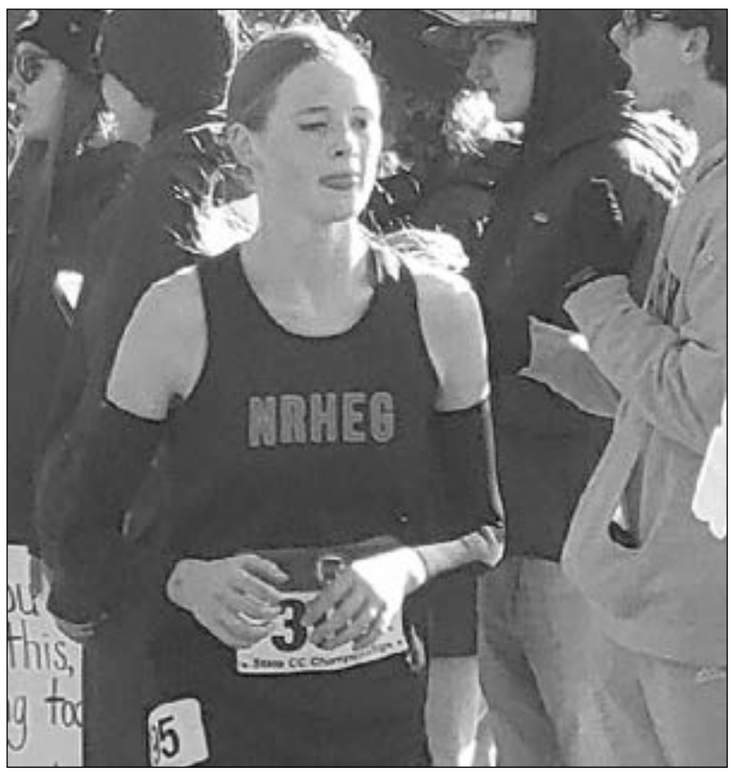
Panther places 42nd

NRHEG High School's Julieann Wobbrock competed at the Minnesota state cross country championship meet Saturday, Nov. 7.

It was a cool and comfortable day for a meet at Majestic Oaks Golf Course in Ham Lake.

Wobbrock got off to a strong start, settling into 18th place at the first mile marker. Things started to fall apart from there, however, and she ultimately finished in 42nd place with a respectable time of 19:48.8.

"Although this was not the way we were hoping for her last race of the year to go, I am very proud of her effort and her accomplishments throughout the season," said NRHEG coach Larry Nydegger.



AMONG THE ELITE — NRHEG's Julieann Wobbrock competes in the 2026 state cross country meet at Ham Lake, where she placed 42nd in Class A. Photo by Larry Nydegger



Council approves increases to 2027 sanitary and storm sewer budget

JANESVILLE JOURNAL

During the Janesville City Council meeting the evening of Monday, Oct. 26, public works director Joe Ziemke presented the 2027 sanitary and storm sewer budgets for the council's approval. Increases were made to the sanitary sewer monthly base rate, now $18 per connection; the sanitary sewer usage fee, now $15.50; and sanitary sewer monthly metered rate, now $4.25 per 1,000 gallons.

Ziemke told council members these higher fees are in line with cost increases anticipated in the budget, and are typical of increases which have taken place over the past few years.

HRA member Russ Wiebold provided an update regarding Park Road Plaza. The housing and redevelopment facility was formed in the eighties and has been a long standing opportunity for housing in Janesville since its foundation and a financial benefit to the city. Wiebold says that Park Road Plaza has maintained at least 90% occupancy in recent years.

Their current rent base is $677 for a single bedroom apartment and $973 for a two bedroom apartment. Maintaining an efficient budget with the reality of what tenants truly pay, speculated at ranges from $200 to the full $677 for example, and the money received from the Federal government in operating and capital funding.

The Park Road Board has worked to maintain success against the erratic nature of their budget and has a number of improvements planned for the building, including an estimated $456,000 window replacement project. The building was originally constructed with Anderson windows and Wiebold says the board has chosen to maintain the building's quality standard.

Other improvements include

JANESVILLE CITY COUNCIL

renovations to utilities in apartments and replacement of all the doors in the building to meet fire safety codes. Wiebold stated that the Board intends to acquire a loan through the Janesville State Bank once the window project has been completed in a month's time. The loan is meant to give the Park Road board more stability within their budget.

Waseca County commissioner De Malterer spoke during the public forum to give a brief update on happenings in the county around election time. Also speaking during the public forum were Janesville residents who wished to voice their opinions on the coming North Street improvement project. Once again the people of Janesville were present to speak on behalf of keeping the trees where they are despite the potential to add a new sidewalk. Council member Kyle Luitjens mentioned that he and the Park Board had a discussion during their regular meeting on the North Street project. They had speculated that ways to meet residents' needs on sidewalks while maintaining their ecosystem would be to incorporate bike lanes alongside the road.

City Administrator Clinton Rogers began his report with the September reconciliation and cash balance report for Oct. 9. Rogers also announced that Dan Peach would begin his service as Police Chief at the beginning of November. The city received a workers compensation dividend check from the League of Minnesota Cities in the amount of $18,191. Council members agreed to follow Rogers' recommendation that the Council meet once in November and December.

After nearly a year of discussion, the Snow and Ice Control Policy has been examined by Janesville city staff and Jason Moran who have determined that the city should maintain its current policy.

The MN POST performed a Board Inspection on the Janesville Police Department. Rogers congratulated the department for passing the review.

Sam Borneke attended the meeting to speak with the Council about the Borneke Subdivision. Borneke has determined to pursue Janesville as his preferred site for housing developments. However, he requested that the council consider a tax abatement that would help partially reimburse the "significant infrastructure costs" associated with the development. He said a tax abatement would not only improve financial conditions for his business, it would open the door for other developers to explore Janesville as a place to build more housing. He stated the city would also benefit from the increased tax base generated by the new homes and new families that move into them. The council did not seem to think a tax abatement would be possible at the time, but shared ideas regarding other options for assisting potential developers. No official action took place on the matter.

A contribution from the golf association was received to help cover the cost of cement for the renovated rain shelter. A previously spoken about black-topping project on East Front Street was pushed to next year as it became too late in the season to make the improvements. Ziemke stated the project should begin in the spring of 2027. Administrator Rogers thanked Ziemke and the budget team for their work preparing the budget over the years.





HONORED INDUCTEES - After the Nov. 4 induction ceremony, the members of the NRHEG chapter of the National Honor Society are (back, from left) Jack Bartlett, Brooks Gilliland, Fynn Baumann, Dominic Olson, JP Lynne, (center, from left) Madeline Schlaak, Scarlett Chance, Kylie Olson, Clara Buendorf, Ariel-Star Anhalt, Ezra Boerner, Brooklyn Sommer, Mallory Groskreutz, (front from left) Alexis Olson, Sophia Williams, Avary Riskedahl, Makenna Reeder, Kenley Gehrke, Faith Phillips, Izley Boerner, Alexandra Estrada Mejia. Right, NRHEG principal Grant Berg introduced NHS members during the ceremony.

Pioneer photos by Deb Bently

New members join the NRHEG National Honor Society

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

The NRHEG chapter of the National Honor Society inducted nine new members during a 2:30 p.m. ceremony the afternoon of Wednesday, Nov. 4. The nine joined 13 members who were inducted in 2025. Parents and family members of the Honor Society members, as well as students in grades 6, 9, 10, 11 and 12 attended.

Speaker Mark Domeier called attention to the original Star Trek, mentioning a statement attributed to the Vulcan culture and used by the character Mr. Spock: "Live long and prosper."

Domeier told students the blessing is actually drawn from Jewish tradition, where its message was one of finding personal peace.

Domeier went on to associate the saying with the four virtues of scholarship, leadership, service and character– all of which are central to being selected for the National Honor Society. He finished his comments with, "Congratulations on this tremendous honor. I hope that you all live long and prosper." He joked that he was "mixing sci-fi sayings," as he went on to advise members to "go boldly where no person has gone before," and shared his wish, "May the Force be with you."

Inducted this year were juniors Ezra Boerner, daughter of Beau and Ashley Boerner; Scarlett Chance, daughter of Deborah and Wade Chance; Alexandra Estrada, daughter of Oscar and Maria Estrada; Kenley Gehrke, daughter of Ryan and Angie Gehrke; Mallory Groskreutz, daughter to Adam and Jodi Groskreutz; Alexis Olson, daughter of Kim Olson and Kimberly Olson; Makenna Reeder, daughter of Krista Reeder and Deke Reeder; Avary Riskedahl, daughter to Ashley and Jade Riskedahl; and Brooklyn Sommer, daughter of Tony and Amanda Sommer.

Members previously inducted are Ariel-Star Anhalt, daughter to Randy and Anita Anhalt; Jack Bartlett, son of Jason Bartlett and Amie Bartlett; Finnegan Baumann, son to Ben and Meghan Baumann; Izley Boerner, daughter of Beau and Ashley Boerner; Clara Buendorf, daughter to Troy and Theresa Buendorf; Brooks Gilliland, son of Aaron and Lisa Gilliland; Caralee Koopal, daughter to Jason and Lacey Koopal; John Lynne, son to Mariah Lynne and Chris Lynne; Dominic Olson, son to Dustin and Amber Olson; Kylie Olson, daughter to Erik and Sheena Olson; Faith Phillips, daughter to Aaron and Jeanette Phillips; Madeline Schlaak, daughter to Ben and Erin Schlaak; and Sophia Williams, daughter to Scott and Melissa Williams.

Over the course of the year, the NRHEG National Honor Society plans and participates in service events that include holding a blood drive at the school, ditch cleanups, and volunteering time with Feed My Starving Children.

On the topic of scholarship, reader Clara Buendorf shared that "None of us are perfect, but when we make mistakes, we choose to learn from them." Regarding leadership, reader Izley Boerner stated, "Each of us has the ability to create positive change, to encourage growth, and to serve as a light in our communities. The true test of leadership is not what we achieve for ourselves, but how we inspire others around us to reach their full potential." Regarding character, JP Lynne shared with the gathered group that people who exhibit character "possess integrity, independence, respect and maturity. Personal traits include showing self-confidence and good judgment, along with being honest and courageous.

After the ceremony, NHS members and their guests were invited to a brief reception in the school cafeteria.

IN BRIEF

Winter Farmers Market at Farmamerica Dec. 5

Winter Farmers Market events will be from 8 a.m. to noon at Farmamerica's indoor visitor center on many Saturdays through March. Consider shopping from local bakers, picklemakers, and crafters on Dec. 5.

Soil Water Conservation District (SWCD) Board Meeting Dec. 10

The SWCD will be holding its monthly board meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 10. The meetings will be held in the SWCD offices located at 300 North State Street - Door 4.

Holiday Train to stop in Waseca on Dec. 11

The Canadian Pacific Kansas City (CPKC) Holiday Train is scheduled to make a brief stop in Waseca from 5:15 to 6:15 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 11. The stop will be in the vicinity of the public safety building located along State Street South.

Winter Market at Farmamerica Dec. 12

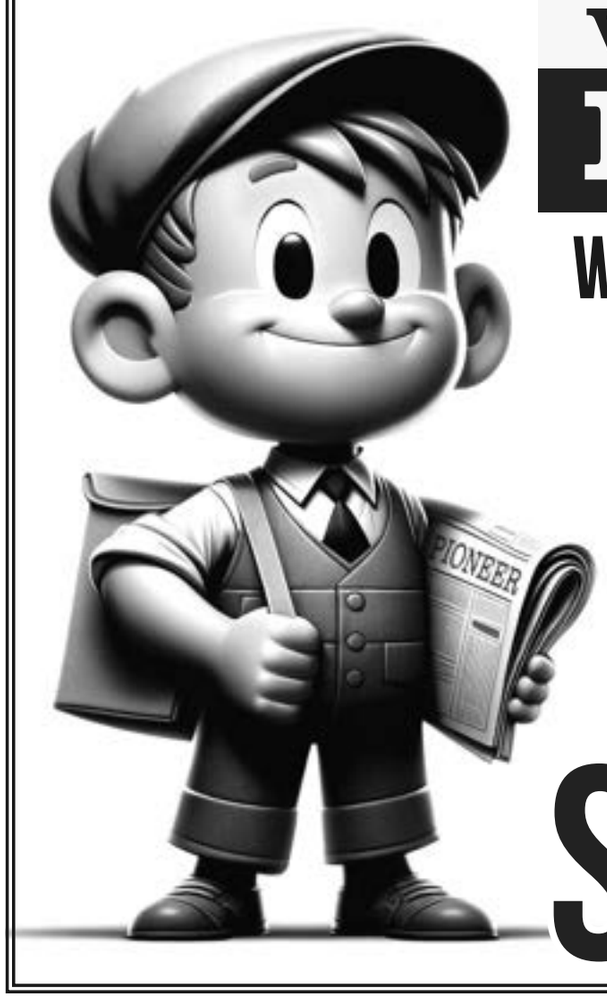
Winter Farmers Market events will be from 8 a.m. to noon at Farmamerica's indoor visitor center on many Saturdays through March. Consider shopping from local bakers, picklemakers, and crafters on Dec. 12.

Kinusaiga at the Indian Island Winery Saturday, Dec. 12

There will be a Kinusaiga class at the Indian Island Winery at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12. Similar to a framed quilt, this class teaches patterns, no sewing is needed.

Monroe Crossing at Waseca High School Performing Arts Center Saturday, Dec. 12

Monroe Crossing will perform "A Bluegrass Christmas" at the Waseca Performing Arts Center at 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 12. Cost is $20. The event will provide a fun evening filled with music and Christmas cheer. Performance sponsored by Waseca Community Education. For tickets, visit https://shorturl.at/sP3Ck.



WASECA COUNTY
PIONEER

WASECA'S ONLY LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED NEWSPAPER!

$59 ..... IN WASECA COUNTY
$69 ... IN STATE OF MINNESOTA
$79 ..... OUTSIDE STATE

NEWS FOR LOCALS BY LOCALS

CALL, EMAIL, OR STOP IN OUR OFFICE!

111 WEST ELM AVE, WASECA, MN
(507) 837-6767
NEWS@WASECACOUNTYPIONEER.COM

SUBSCRIBE

■ Veteran

from Page 3

and opportunity, he joined the Army in September 1986, becoming the first of his generation in his family to serve. His choice inspired two of his brothers to follow suit, leading to decades of combined military service across the family.

"I recommend it for anybody for a few years—it's a great, life-changing experience," Tackett said. "Yes, you take a chance going to war, but it'll make a warrior out of you."

Tackett completed basic training at Fort Dix, New Jersey, where his unit was among the last to pass through before the post closed its basic training operations. While his background in athletics made physical drills manageable, the infamous "Confidence Course" proved to be the ultimate test.

"That course had obstacles that challenge your brain more than your brawn," Tackett recalled, describing giant ladders, 20-foot drops, and ziplines into water designed to build mental fortitude. "It terrifies you, but it's meant to build your confidence to do dangerous tasks."

The rigorous training culminated in a final test: running 25 miles in full 40-pound gear while completing live-fire combat tests and low-crawling under barbed wire. "At the end, you're disgusting, dirty, muddy, and sandy, but very proud."

After basic training, Tackett completed Advanced Individual Training (AIT) to become a medical specialist (originally 91 Alpha, later reclassified as 91 Bravo and 68 Whiskey). He mastered advanced paramedic skills—EKG monitoring, chest decompressions, emergency tracheotomies, IV administration, and setting bone fractures.

Following the events of September 11, 2001, combat readiness became paramount. While stationed at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, Tackett began supplemental hand-to-hand combat training under Sensei Ryan Lowe. Over 25 years of training in Bujinkan Ninjutsu, Tackett earned a third-degree black belt—a skill set he credits with saving his life four times during combat operations.

Over his 24-year career, Tackett deployed five times: In 2001 (Utah), he guarded chemical weapons depots at Tooele Army Depot post-9/11. From 2004 to 2006 (California Border), he assisted with border patrol surveillance, ran first aid clinics, and provided medical support at Naval Air Facility El Centro. In the same time frame, he also served at the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt, where he served the with the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO 48). Following the 2005 Sharm El Sheikh terror bombings, Tackett and fellow EMTs rushed to local hospitals to stabilize hundreds of wounded victims and assist in casualty identification. From 2006 to 2008 (California Border) he helped with continuing medical and surveillance operations along the southern border. From 2008 to 2009 (Iraq), he served on the front lines, managing triage shifts, prepping wounded service members for surgery, and participating in 17 high-risk combat missions.

Tackett says his time in Iraq brought relentless pressure and unpredictable danger. During one overnight convoy, Tackett was unexpectedly called to step in for an injured medic at the last minute—leaving him in full body armor, but without any ammunition for his rifle after loaning his magazines to a fellow soldier earlier that night.

When a trailing vehicle broke down in the middle of a dark desert, Tackett was ordered to pull security on the perimeter with an empty weapon. Suddenly, the lights in the nearby town went out, followed by heavy small-arms fire and incoming tracer rounds.

"The laser show starts and it's like Star Wars, followed by the sounds of AK-47s firing," Tackett vividly recalled. As heavy .50-caliber machine guns returned fire, Tackett sprinted through the crossfire and dove through the closing hydraulic doors of an armored vehicle to safety. Upon returning to base, he discovered a piece of shrapnel had grazed his face just below his left eye, requiring another medic to superglue the wound.

Tackett credits his early commitment to sobriety and rigorous mental conditioning for keeping him grounded amid the pressures and terrors of his assignments. Early in his career, after witnessing a tragic alcohol-related traffic accident involving a fellow soldier, he swore off alcohol and drugs entirely.

"I needed to be available to help others whenever they needed me," Tackett said. "I understood what the job entailed… I helped save hundreds of people on the battlefield with my EMT training."

After returning from Iraq in 2009, Tackett retired from active service. To make up for lost time, he and his wife Mona took a road trip across the country. A stop in Minnesota to visit family convinced them to stay. Drawn by the peace and beauty of the region, they moved to the Waseca area in 2018.

"It's the longest time I've ever settled anywhere," Tackett said. "It's very peaceful here."

Now semi-retired, Tackett works as hospital security in Owatonna and performs armed security for homeless shelters in the Twin Cities. He remains active in local veteran and civic organizations, including the Waseca VFW, American Legion, Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association, and the Waseca County CERT (Community Emergency Response Team), recently helping with cleanup efforts following flooding in New Richland.

Tackett also teaches free first aid, emergency response, and self-defense classes to local students, churches, and seniors through his martial arts instruction at the Scorpion Den dojo.

A father of five—none of whom joined the military, as Tackett proudly vowed to complete five tours so his children wouldn't have to—he is also an author. He has written two published books on first aid and self-defense, with two more in development focusing on his life-threatening experiences and life skills for young adults, as well as a TV series pilot titled "The Adventure Club."

Looking back on a career represented by a binder overflowing with commendations, service ribbons, and medical certificates, Tackett says his focus remains firmly on the future of his community.

"Our future and the strength of the community rely on our youth," he said. "We should all use our talents to make our community safe."

Knights of Columbus



KEEPING THE COMMUNITY WARM - The Knights of Columbus gave away winter coats to area children at the Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center on Monday, Oct. 26, 2026. According to the Executive Director, Cindy Kolander, "We distributed 78 coats to children in the Waseca Community, along with 60 pairs of gloves/mittens and 58 winter stocking hats. Thanks to the Knights of Columbus Council 2768, they sent a very large group to assist the families during the event, which was so appreciated." Pictured from left: Todd Norton, Ben Burns, Scott Kassel, Matthew Petsinger, Mike Fell, Greg Dehn, Bob Cervenka, and Kevin Burns.

Photo by Cindy Kolander

Got news? • 837-6767



Giving Brings Us Together. Caring Makes Us a Community.

Contribute to the iWealth Holiday Food Baskets!

October 26th - November 15th

This holiday season, iWealth invites you to be part of our cherished Holiday Food Baskets tradition—bringing warmth, hope, and joy to neighbors in need.

We're proud to once again partner with the **Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center** to share the spirit of the season with our community. Thanks to your incredible generosity last year, we covered 100% of the Holiday Food Basket costs—and this year, we're aiming even higher!

The iWealth Foundation will contribute **$3,000** toward this effort, and every dollar you give will go directly toward filling baskets for families here in Waseca County. If donations exceed this year's costs, the extra funds will support the **WANSC Backpack Program**, which provides nutritious weekend meals to hundreds of local students from Pre-K through Grade 12. With the number of families needing assistance on the rise, your kindness matters now more than ever.

Let's come together and make this season brighter for our neighbors.

Give today. Share hope. Spread joy.

iWealth
Your Dreams Become Our Goals
Planning • Investments • Insurance

Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center

2025 Totals:

$9,695 Community Donations

$3000 iWealth Foundation Donation

$12,695 Total

Total Baskets = 250

All Individuals Served = 800

Additionally, funds raised helped WANSC deliver 325 food backpacks each week throughout the school year.

You can Help!

All tax-deductible donations should be made payable to: WANSC.

Write "iWealth Holiday Baskets" in the memo line.

Please mail your donation to:

WANSC
iWealth Holiday Food Baskets
203 3rd Ave NW
Waseca, MN 56093

WANSC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit.

Scan Here to Donate online. Select iWealth Holiday Food Baskets when donating

Securities offered through LPL Financial, Member FINRA/SIPC. Investment advice offered through iWealth Financial, LLC, a Registered Investment Advisor. iWealth Financial, LLC and iWealth are separate entities from LPL Financial. WANSC, iWealth Foundation and LPL Financial are separate entities.

THE WASECA CHORALE
PRESENTS:
LIGHT AND PEACE
A CONCERT OF FAMILIAR LESSONS AND CAROLS
UNDER THE DIRECTION OF
DEB WANTOCH-YESS AND JOHN HOEHN
ACCOMPANIST: NOAH WILSON
PERCUSSIONISTS: DEVON LAWRENCE
WITH GUEST INSTRUMENTALISTS
CRISTA BOHLMANN & HANNAH LACROIX
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2026
AT 4:00PM
SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH
111 4TH STREET NW, WASECA
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR
ADULTS $10 AND YOUTH 12 AND UNDER $7
This activity is made possible in part by grants from the Waseca Area Foundation through the EF Johnson Fund and Waseca County Arts Fund.

LEGAL NOTICES

Filed in District Court State of Minnesota 10/29/2026

State of Minnesota
Freeborn County
District Court
Third District
Court File Number: 24-JV-26-1676
Case Type: CHIPS - Permanency
Summons and Notice – Termination of
Parental Rights Matter

In the Matter of the Welfare of the Child(ren) of: Cora Charleen Griffen, Mother and Brett Lee Grant, Father

NOTICE TO: Cora Charleen Griffen**, Above-named parent(s) or legal custodian(s).**
A Termination of Parental Rights Petition has been filed in the Juvenile Court alleging that parental rights of the above-named parent(s) or legal custodian(s) to the child(ren) named in the petition should be permanently severed.
This is your notice that this Termination of Parental Rights case is scheduled for a hearing before the Juvenile Court located at 411 South Broadway Albert Lea MN 56007, on December 07, 2026 at 1:00 PM or as soon after as the case can be heard. Please contact court administration to get the hearing information.
YOU ARE ORDERED to appear before the Juvenile Court at the scheduled time and date.
You have a right to be represented by counsel.
If you fail to appear at the hearing, the Court may still conduct the hearing and grant appropriate relief, including permanently severing the parental rights of the above-named parent(s) or legal custodian(s) or taking permanent custody of the child(ren) named in the Petition.

Dated: October 29, 2026
Lacey Bartsch Court Administrator
Freeborn County District Court 411 South Broadway
Albert Lea MN 56007 507-668-6014

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on November 5, 12 and 19, 2026

Office of the Minnesota Secretary of State
Certificate of Assumed Name
Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 333

The filing of an assumed name does not provide a user with exclusive rights to that name. The filing is required for consumer protection in order to enable customers to be able to identify the true owner of a business.

ASSUMED NAME: iWealth Insurancy Agency
PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS: 213 15th Ave. NE Waseca, MN 56093, USA

APPLICANT(S):
Name: KC Group LLC
Address: 213 15th Ave. NE Waseca, MN 56093, USA

If you submit an attachment, it will be incorporated into this document. If the attachment conflicts with the information specifically set forth in this document, this document supersedes the data referenced in the attachment.

By typing my name, I, the undersigned, certify that I am signing this document as the person whose signature is required, or as agent of the person(s) whose signature would be required who has authorized me to sign this document on his/her behalf, or in both capacities. I further certify that I have completed all required fields, and that the information in this
document is true and correct and in compliance with the applicable chapter of Minnesota Statutes. I understand that by signing this document I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in Section 609.48 as if I had signed this document under oath.

SIGNED BY: Brad Connors

MAILING ADDRESS: None Provided
EMAIL FOR OFFICIAL NOTICES: matt@iwealth4me.com

Work Item 1674992500034
Original File Number 1674992500034

STATE OF MINNESOTA OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FILED
10/15/2026 11:59 PM

Steve Simon Secretary of State

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on November 5 and 12, 2026

Got news?
507-837-6767

SUMMIT ON SECOND APARTMENTS
FOR RENTAL INFO CALL 507-201-3474
We are accepting applications for:
1 bedroom apartments
Income guidelines apply
Vouchers accepted
2 bedroom & 3 bedroom
Rent based on income
Professionally managed by: BRUTGER EQUITIES, INC.

***Johnson* APARTMENTS**
507-456-9514
Operating in Waseca, Steele, Freeborn Counties
johnsonrents.com

Important Property Tax Homestead Notice

This will affect your 2027 property taxes and eligibility for Property Tax Refund.

Have you purchased or moved into a property in the past year?

Contact your county assessor to file a homestead application if you or a qualifying relative occupy the property as a homestead on or before December 31, 2026.

What is a qualifying relative?

For unoccupied agricultural property, a qualifying relative includes the child, grandchild, sibling or parent of the owner or the owner's spouse.

For occupied agricultural or residential property, a qualifying relative also includes the owner's uncle, aunt, nephew, or niece.

Relative applications are updated annually.

When do I apply?

You must apply on or before December 31, 2026.

Once homestead is granted, annual applications are not necessary unless they are requested by the county assessor.

Contact the assessor by December 31, 2026 if the use of the property you own or occupy as a qualifying relative has changed during the past year.

If you sell, move, or for any reason no longer qualify for the homestead classification, you are required to notify the county assessor within 30 days of the change in homestead status.

Waseca County Assessor's Office
(507) 835-0605

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the Waseca City Council, according to Resolution Number 26-65, will hold its public **Truth-In-Taxation Meeting on Tuesday, December 1, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.** in the City Hall Council Chambers, 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093.

If a continuation is needed, it will be held on Tuesday, December 15, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

Published in the *Waseca County Pioneer* on November 12, 19 and November 25, 2026.

SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642 November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 BURGER NIGHT 5 TO 7	4 6PM BAR BINGO	5 7pm HALL BINGO	6 MEAT Raffle 5:30 pm Horse racing 6:30 pm	7
8 Breakfast 8-12 Your Host Girls Soccer team	9 7 pm Post & AUX. Meeting	10 Marine Corps Birthday	11 VETERANS DAY 6PM BAR BINGO	12 7pm HALL BINGO	13 MEAT Raffle 5:30 pm Horse racing 6:30 pm	14
15	16	17 BURGER NIGHT 5 TO 7	18 6PM BAR BINGO	19 7pm HALL BINGO	20 Walleye or Shrimp Dinner 5:30 – 7 pm your host VFW AUX	21 TURKEY BINGO— SLOPPY JOE'S AND CHIPS FROM 5-7 PM
22	23	24 BURGER NIGHT 5 TO 7	25 6PM BAR BINGO	26 7pm HALL BINGO	27 MEAT Raffle 5:30pm Horse racing 6:30 pm	28
29	30					

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

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

GUARDIAN ENERGY
AMERICAN MADE FARMER OWNED
www.guardiannrg.com

PH&B Your Trusted Local Law Offices for Over 50 Years
PATTON, HOVERSTEN & BERG, PA
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
www.phblawoffice.com

Waseca Music COMPANY
YOUR LOCAL MUSIC STORE
Band Instruments • Repairs
Guitars • CD, DVD, & Vinyl
507-835-2980
111 South State Street

DJ Daniel J. Johnson ACCOUNTING
115 North State Street, Waseca
(507) 201-2484

WASECA FLORAL
810 N. State St. Waseca,MN 56093
(507) 835-3790
wasecafloral.com
rickmorris982@gmail.com

Rick's Appliance
ricksappliancewaseca.com
Sales & Service
507-461-9615
MAYTAG Speed Queen AMANA Whirlpool
405 West Elm Ave, Waseca MN

SUBSCRIBE
WASECA'S ONLY LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED NEWSPAPER!
$59 .....IN WASECA COUNTY
$69 ..... IN STATE OF MINNESOTA
$79 ..... OUTSIDE STATE
111 WEST ELM AVE, WASECA, MN
(507) 837-6767
NEWS@WASECACOUNTYPIONEER.COM

DAVE'S Body Shop
Waseca, Minnesota
715 S State St, Waseca, MN
(507) 835-8615

WASECA COUNTY PIONEER
NEWS FOR LOCALS BY LOCALS
SUBSCRIBE TODAY!
(507) 837-6767
NEWS@WASECACOUNTYPIONEER.COM

PERSONALIZED PRINTING & APPAREL
Bluejays Merch & Apparel
Custom Printing & Design
You Want It? We Make It!
Barb & Mark Buker
100 S. STATE ST - WASECA MN
PHONE: (507) 835-7565
INFO@PPRINTWASECA.COM

GWET GREG WILMES EXTERIORS
GREGWILMESROOFING.NET
(507) 202-7070

DENNIS STEFFEL OMTVEDT
FUNERAL AND CREMATION SERVICE
109 3RD STREET NE
WASECA, MN 56093

Tesch Service
321 Elm Ave W, Waseca, MN
Call Us! (507) 835-4610
teschservice@mediacombb.net

Check out our Eco-friendly, artful, Paper & Bamboo or Walnut cases for the iPhone, Handmade in Waseca, MN!
since 2011
twigcase.com

SWEET - SOMMERS VFW POST 1642
113 E Elm Ave
Waseca, MN 56093
(507) 835-1811

PHEASANT CAFE
• SINCE 1942 •
Great Home Cooking
Catering • Full Breakfast Menu
Daily Lunch Specials
104 State Street
Waseca MN
835-1259

BATTENFELD LAWN CARE
ZACH BATTENFELD
507-521-0226
ZACHBATTENFELD@GMAIL.COM

JOHNSON APARTMENTS
507-456-9514
OPERATING IN WASECA, STEELE, & FREEBORN COUNTIES
JOHNSONRENTS.COM

WASECA FLORAL
(507) 835-3790 wasecafloral.com

GEORGE'S CARS.COM INC
(507) 267-3962

GUARDIAN ENERGY

Tesch Service
321 Elm Ave W, Waseca, MN

KRAUSE
FEEDS & SUPPLIES
9352 SW 37th Ave,
Hope, MN, 56046

RE/MAX
BLAIN NELSON
Owner/Realtor
(507) 837-9851
• call or text •
BlainNelson1@gmail.com
Each REMAX® office is independently owned and operated.

MINNWEST BANK®
Commercial, agricultural and personal banking
102 South Main St
Waldorf, MN 56091
PH: (507) 239-2166
FX: (507) 239-2249
WALDORF Member FDIC

iWealth
Your Dreams Become Our Goals
Planning • Investments • Insurance
(507) 835-9111
info@iWealth4me.com
213 15th Ave NE
Waseca, MN 56093
Securities offered through LPL Financial, Member FINRA/SIPC. Investment advice offered through iWealth Financial, LLC, a Registered Investment Advisor. iWealth Financial, LLC and iWealth are separate entities from LPL Financial.

thrivent
DIANE BECKMANN
LUTCF, FICF, FIC
Financial Associate
201 2nd St NE,
Waseca, MN 56093
%'$ &#%' &' '

Edina Realty
a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate
Jodie Thompson
REALTOR
507-317-7064
jodiethompson.edinarealty.com
jodiethompsonsedinarealty.com

MINNWEST BANK®
Commercial, agricultural and personal banking
200 2nd Street NE
Waseca, MN 56093
PH: (507) 835-4220
FX: (507) 835-7751
WASECA Member FDIC

Ameriprise Financial
Kevin W. Walter, CRPC®
Financial Advisor
Tel: 507.835.7080
Cel: 507.521.1360
Fax: 507.835.7082
An Ameriprise Financial franchise



Tuesday, October 27, Section 3AAA Quarterfinals
Albert Lea (Waseca) - **W 34-16**
Saturday, October 31, Section 3AAA Semifinals
Luverne (Waseca) - **W 42-21**
Friday, November 6, Section 3AAA Championship
TCU (New Ulm) - **W 28-24**



The Waseca Bluejays Football team improved its overall record to 10-1 following a win against TCU 28-24 in the 3AAA Section Championship game. With the win, the Bluejays move on to the State Quarterfinals for the seventh time in school history and will play Zumbrota-Mazeppa at noon on Saturday in Apple Valley.
Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens