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WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY

No. 38 Vol. III \$2

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Thursday, September 19, 2024

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Grand Marshals



The Federal Emergency Management Agency has set up a disaster relief center in the Waseca municipal safety building at 303 S. State Street. About a dozen representatives are available to help homeowners and renters who experienced losses during the storms and flooding that occurred in the county between June 19 and July 4 as they apply for grants to help cover the cost of repairs and reconstruction.

Disaster recovery center open in Waseca

A Disaster Recovery Center offering options to access funding from state and federal sources to help repair damage or replace items ruined during storms and flooding earlier this summer is now operating in Waseca. The center opened Friday, Sept. 13, and will remain open through Friday, Sept. 27, 2024, to help county residents apply for funds to kickstart their recovery after the severe storms and flooding of June 16 to July 4.

Specialists from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the state of Minnesota and the U.S. Small Business Administration will be at the center to help survivors apply for federal disaster assistance, upload documents, get their questions answered in person, access other types of help that may be available and learn ways to make their property more disaster resistant.

The center will be open at the Waseca Public Safety Center, 303 S. State Street, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. It will not be open the weekend of Sept. 21 and 22; it will close permanently Friday, Sept. 27.

Other centers are also open across the state; they are listed at FEMA.gov/DRC. Survivors may



The relief center will be open through September 27: Hours are from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on weekdays. No appointment is needed. Disaster relief funds can also be requested online.

Pioneer photos by Deb Bently

Disaster survivors who have not yet applied for FEMA assistance should apply online at DisasterAssistance.gov, use the FEMA App on their phones, visit a disaster recovery center or call 800-621-3362.

WAF Anniversary 4 to 7 p.m. September 19 at Northeast Park Pavilion

The Waseca Area Foundation will be celebrating its thirty-fifth anniversary from 4 to 7 p.m. the evening of Thursday, September 19 at Waseca's Northeast Park. Food trucks and live music will be featured. More information is available from the Waseca Area Foundation at 507-835-5990.

History Center Trivia contest 6:30 to 8 p.m. September 19

The Waseca County History Center is highlighting its fall theme "The Charlatan's Cabinet" with "Dr. and Mrs. Forthwright's Quacks and Cure Alls Trivia Night" from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on September 19. Compete with friends and family for prizes while learning about early 20th-century medicine. Entry fee is \$7. Contact WCHC with questions: 507-835-7700, or visit the website: Wasecacounty-historycenter.org.

Kiddie Yoga 5:30 p.m. Sept. 19 at Janesville Public Library

On Thursday, September 19 at 5:30 p.m. yoga instructor Tiffany Reintz will introduce little ones to the basics of yoga through interactive storytelling. This free event is geared for ages 0-5. This is a Romp 100 Event.

Waseca Public Library Mother-Daughter Book Club on Thur., Sept. 19 at 6 p.m.

Girls in grades 3-6 are invited to bring a significant adult female to join them to discuss new books, do activities, and enjoy treats. This month's book is 'Closer to Nowhere' by Ellen Hopkins. Book club begins at 6 pm on Thursday, September 19 th at Waseca Public Library.

Pinnacle Pro Wrestling at The Mill in Waseca Saturday September 21 from 6 p.m.

The Pinnacle Pro Wrestling group will be wrestling in front of spectators on Saturday, September 21 at The Mill, doors will be open at 6p.m. Ringside tickets are \$20 while regular tickets \$15, kids are \$10. You can purchase tickets early online at www.pinnacleprowrestling.com. Wrestlers such as Paul Virk, Joey Jet, Sierra, Ares Creed will be in attendance.

A word from The Word

Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him.

Psalm 37:7

2024 WHS Royalty

Coronation will be September 26 at 7:30 p.m.



WHO WILL REIGN? — Candidates for this year's Waseca Homecoming Court, front from left: Kendall Bowers, Lexi Kanewischer, Addison Pfeifer, Sophie Chanra, Lucia Mansfield and Mia Kanewischer. Back from left: Joseph Mixteco-Perez, Ben Hagen, Damarius Russell, Tauston Rupe, Braydon Hoof and Carson Ohnstad. Coronation will be Thursday September 26 at 7:30 p.m.

Homecoming parade September 27 at 2 p.m.

Waseca Homecoming 2024 kicks off next week. Coronation is set for 7:30 p.m. Thursday, September 26 at Waseca high school, when royalty will be crowned based on a vote of the student body grades 9-12. The new king and queen will reign over homecoming activities including the parade scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. Friday starting at the Waseca County Fairgrounds. The homecoming football game will be at 7 p.m. Friday against the Jordan Hubmen.

This year's king and queen candidates are:

Queen Candidates

Kendall Bowers, daughter of Michael and Alyssa Bowers

Sophie Chawra, daughter of Izzy Chawra and Rebecca Thompson

King Candidates

Ben Hagen, son of Brad and Allyson Hagen

Brayden Hoof, son of Dana Hoof

Joseph Mixteco Perez, son of Jose Mixteco and Marisol Perez

Carson Ohnstad, son of Anthony and Rachelle Ohnstad

Tauston Rupe, son of Brian and Cassie Rupe

Damarius Russell, son of Derrick Russell and Bambi Jes

Prior to homecoming week, a kick-off pep fest will be held during the school day on Friday, Sept. 29.

Schedule

Sunday, Sept. 22: A Bluejay Booster breakfast will be served at the American Legion Hall. Boosters, student council members and the homecoming court will be the hosts, offering a wide variety of breakfast staples from 8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children; toddlers are free.

Monday, Sept. 23: Dress Up Day – Class Colors

Tuesday, Sept. 24: Dress Up Day – Decades Day

Wednesday, Sept. 25: Dress Up Day – Dynamic Duo

Thursday, Sept. 26: Dress Up Day – Anything but a backpack; Coronation practice (during Connect); 7:30 p.m. Coronation, \$2 admission; Court pictures after coronation in PAC; Student dance in the commons from 8:30 p.m. to 10:45 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 27: Dress-up day theme - Blue and gold day. 12:50 p.m. Pep rally. The homecoming parade begins at the Waseca County fairgrounds at 2 p.m. The Homecoming football game versus Jordan begins at 7 p.m. The Waseca Choir will serve walking tacos from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. prior to the homecoming game. The \$8 cost includes a walking taco with toppings, cookie, and bottle of water.

37th Annual Marching Classic set for Saturday

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

"Our focus is to provide an educational and fun day for high school marching band students and to make this a community event," says Mary Williams, a member of the Waseca Marching Classic Committee. This year's Classic is Saturday, Sept. 21. Mary and her husband Jack Williams have been active with the planning and execution of the Marching Classic since the inaugural event 36 years ago. Across the decades, the Marching Classic has evolved into what it is today. It is now, to the best of their knowledge, one of only two regional band competitions which features both a parade and a field competition. "We do what we can to give community members special opportunities," says Mary.

Among those "opportunities," she explains, are the \$8 wristbands available from local businesses prior to the event. Buying one in advance saves area residents \$2 on the admission fee for the field competition—a very popular event filled with showmanship, energy, and fun.

Another opportunity is for local businesses. Mary explains that, with the parade at noon and the field show at 5:30, perhaps as many as 3,000 adults have free time to spend in the community. Businesses in the parade have a chance to entice some of those visitors into becoming customers.

The parade at noon will include bands from eight different school districts: Eagle Grove, Iowa; the Lakeville North Panthers (who are appearing in the event for the first time); the Lakeville South Cougars; the Luverne Cardinals; the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva "Pride of the Panthers" band; the Pipestone Marching Arrows; the "Spirit of Worthington" Trojan Marching Band from Worthington; and Waseca's Marching Jays, who will be participating in the parade but not competing for any of the awards.

As they navigate their way through the day, members of each band will have the company of local "hosts," area residents who act as guides and liaisons.

During the parade, bands will be observed and evaluated by qualified judges. Groups will assemble at Trowbridge Park at the end of the parade route. After the results are tabulated, winners will be announced and trophies presented in a wide range of categories.

Hundreds attend annual Fall Festival

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Well over 700 people attended the events and activities of the Sacred Heart Church annual Fall Festival the weekend of Sept. 13, 14 and 15. As usual, the street in front of the church was closed to traffic and covered over by a giant tent. Activities took place there and in other locations on the church grounds.

The first public event was the Friday evening fish fry from 5 to 7 p.m.; organizers estimate about

200 people took part. A concession stand was operational all weekend.

Saturday things got started at noon with "early bird" bingo games at noon followed by "Super Bingo" at 2 p.m. Volunteers began serving a pork loin sandwich dinner from 4:30 to 7 p.m. with a Festival Children's Choir church service at 5. All through Friday evening, Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning, a



Elaina Berg, 7, was busy painting her rock for arts and crafts at the Sacred Heart Fall Festival on Saturday, Sept. 14, 2024.
Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Festival continued on 12

Classic continued on 6

Waseca American
Legion pancake break-
fast 8 a.m. till noon
Sunday, Sept. 22

For the Homecoming Week Kickoff, the Waseca Legion will host the Bluejay Booster Breakfast at 8 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 22. Adults \$10, kids \$12 and under 5 free. Pancakes, eggs, sausage, milk, juice or coffee. Get your tickets from any student council member or at the door.

Nineteenth Annual
Classic Car Show
Saturday, Sept. 21 at 9
a.m. at Club 57

Club 57 will host the Nineteenth Classic Car Show on Saturday, September 21 at 9a.m. This will accompany the annual Marching Classic in Waseca.

Half Pint Brewing Com-
pany Books and Brews
Sat., Sept. 21 at 4 p.m.

On Saturday, September 21, the Half Pint Brewing Company will host Books and Brews. This month's book selection, 'I Cheerfully Refuse' by Lief Enger. Drinks and food can be purchased the day of. Half Pint Brewing Company is located at 40099 150th St, Waseca.

All You Can Eat
Dad's Belgian Waffles
& Big Tent Events
Sunday, Sept. 22

Please join us at Church of All Saints, New Richland, from 9 a.m. -12:30 p.m. for waffles with all the toppings, sausage and beverage | \$10 each | 5 & under eat free (takeout available) | \$\$ Prize Bingo \$1/card, Country Store, Silent Auction, Beer & Raffle Drawings. All are welcome! Mass at 8 a.m.

Waseca Mayoral De-
bate 7 to 8 p.m. Sept. 24
at Waseca high school

Incumbent Waseca Mayor Randy Zimmerman will debate opposing candidate Milton Madison at the Waseca high school performing arts center from 7 to 8 p.m. Sept. 24. Debate organized by Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce; free, open to the public.

Waseca High School
Choir's Walking Tacos
Friday, Sept. 27

The Waseca High School Choir will be selling walking tacos in the high school commons on Friday, Sept. 27 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Price is \$8 per ticket and will also include a cookie and bottle of water.

Waseca American
Legion breakfast
fundraiser from 8 a.m.
to noon Sunday,
September 29

The Waseca Sons of American Legion is hosting a breakfast fundraiser from 8 a.m. till noon to support the Avenue of Flags on Sunday, Sept. 29. Cost is \$12 for adults, \$8 for kids 12 and under. Unlimited pancakes, eggs, biscuits & gravy, sausage, milk, orange juice, and coffee.

Farm America Open
Corn Maze every Sat
night in Oct.

Every Saturday night in October from 6-9p.m. Farm America will host a maze under the stars. The cost is \$5 per person and there will be food trucks, yard games and entertainment. Farmamerica is partnering with local FFA chapters for these nights.

Janesville approves equipment bond

By RACHAEL JAEGER
Staff Writer

During their regular monthly meeting on Sept. 9, members of Janesville's city council approved acquiring a bond to purchase a transformer needed at the city's power plant; through the bond process, the city will essentially be borrowing \$2.5 million for the project. City Administrator Clinton Rogers explained to council members the necessary steps for the process include adopting the resolution to bond for the money, publicizing it, and arranging a hearing to receive com-

ments or concerns from the public before taking any further action.

"If we don't have any comments, then at a future city council meeting, we'll actually adopt a resolution after we open bids," Rogers stated, adding that the city hasn't opened any bids yet. "I want to reiterate as well, as we talked about earlier, the debt service payments will be made from the electric bill revenue, not from taxes."

In answer to a question posed by council member Jim Mulcahey, Rogers explained government agencies like the city of Janesville look for bonds "in the market." That

JANESVILLE
CITY COUNCIL

is, the city lets potential lenders know of its desire to "issue a bond"; lenders look at the city's credit history and "bid" by declaring what interest rates they would require the city to pay.

On a related matter, Rogers informed council members that \$246,000 in federal "Safe Routes to School" money received back in 2020 had been spent improving sidewalks, trails and street crossings. The

money, Rogers added, needed to be used before the end of the year so the city essentially spent the money as it was intended. Rogers promised to have a report drawn up for the council within the next couple of meetings; he must also submit a report to the federal government by April 2025.

During the meeting, council members also reviewed the street and sewer budgets. It was announced that the street and park departments'

Janesville continued on 7



Deb and Wally Werling in the convertible they will be riding in during this week's parade. They are wearing hats given to them by the Rochester Lourdes High School marching band, a group for whom they have served as event hosts many times.

Werlings are Classic's Grand Marshals

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

"Whatever they need, we try to help them out," comments Wasecan Wally Werling who, with his wife Deb, has served as a "host" to visiting bands during the Marching Classic.

The Werlings were named this year's grand marshals for the Classic's parade, scheduled to begin at noon this Saturday in downtown Waseca.

Mary Williams, a member of the Marching Classic organizational team, mentioned the couple's selection is meant to honor the decades of service the two have provided. Wally

hosted for the first time in 1996; Deb began assisting within a few years afterward.

For most of their time as hosts, the couple has been assigned to spend the day with the Rochester Lourdes marching band, although there have been occasional years they assisted other groups.

Wally and Deb explain that, aside from an organizational meeting prior to the Classic, the assignment consists—officially, anyway—of a one-day commitment.

"You get on the bus with them when they arrive in town," Wally explains, "and you stay with them the rest of the day. All the way through

until after the fireworks."

The couple says the tasks performed depend on several circumstances. "Some bands are in the parade and the field show," elaborates Deb. "Some are in only one event. What the hosts have to do depends on what the band needs to do, and where it needs to go."

Wally and Deb also say having a locally based host is tremendously helpful to the visiting groups. "We help them find the places they have to go," says Wally. "We answer their questions about street routes, about local places to get food—all the things it's good to know when you're in a new town."

Hosts also act as liaisons: event leaders disseminate information to band leaders by sharing it with the hosts, including having them deliver the itinerary packets for the day. Deb and Wally remember a time when E.F. Johnson would supply the Classic with handheld radios for the many updates and exchanges that would occur throughout the events. Nowadays, though, smartphones are the platform for on-going communication; all hosts are provided with each others' numbers.

The Werlings emphasize that,

Marshals continued on 4

Minnwest
named "Friend
of the Classic"

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

"Minnwest started the tradition of paying for the trophies given during the Waseca Marching Classic back when we were Roundbank," says Melissa Olson, a mortgage lender with Minnwest. "It is a wonderful community event that we are honored to contribute to."

Marching Classic organizers explain that Minnwest Bank and Minnwest Bank Insurance of Waseca have been named this year's "Friends of the Classic" in honor of the fact the organization has continued the annual contribution of supplying the dozens of plaques and trophies distributed during the event. The tradition began with the very first Marching Classic 37 years ago.

Friend continued on 6



From left) Heath Miller, marketing president; Larry Johnson, mortgage lender; Melissa Olson, mortgage lender, and Jenna Ferris, retail manager at MinnWest Bank, Waseca.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Farmamerica
Agricultural
Exploration Field
Trips, Oct. 1-4 from 9
a.m. till 1:30 p.m.

Available to students in grades 3-6 and homeschool groups, this immersive journey takes participants from the 1800s Minnesota to the present day, exploring our farming legacy. farmamerica.org/event/field-trips

Free Salmon Dinner
fundraiser 6 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 4 at Real
Life Covenant Church

The Real Life Covenant Church is offering a free-will salmon dinner fundraiser beginning at 6 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 4. The salmon is coming directly from Alaska. Real Life is located at 620 Elm Avenue West in Waseca. More information is available at pastor@reallifecov.com.

Benefit breakfast for
the family of Kialyn
Quillen from 7:30 a.m.
to 12:30 p.m. at
Waseca American
Legion Sunday,
October 6

A benefit for the surviving family of Kialyn Quillen will take place at the American Legion from 7:30 a.m. -12:30 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 6. It will be \$10 per place and will have pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, juice and coffee.

Woodville Cemetery
Tour Sunday, Oct. 6

Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service is planning a walking tour of Woodville Cemetery for the afternoon of Sunday, October 6. The organization invites interested individuals to keep an eye on the company Facebook page for more information and "sneak peeks."

House of Rep. seat 19B
debate 7 to 8 p.m.
Tuesday October 8

Edel Fernandez and Tom Sexton, both running for open Minnesota House of Representatives seat 19B, will face off in a debate from 7 to 8 p.m. Oct. 8 at the Waseca High School Performing Arts Center. Sponsored by the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce, this debate is free and open to the public.

Christ the King Baked
Potato Bar Friday
October 11 from 11
a.m. until 1 p.m.

Christ the King Lutheran Church, Women of the Word (WOW), will be holding a Baked Potato Bar luncheon with all of the delicious toppings--plus dessert, on Friday, October 11, from 11 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at 309 6th St. NE, in Waseca. Cost is \$8/person. Proceeds will go to Missions. A drawing will be held for a mission quilt that has been donated by the Ctk Quilters. Supplemental funds provided by Thrivent. All are welcome!

Farm America Fall
Festival Saturday
October 12 from 10
a.m. to 3 p.m.

On Saturday, October 12 from 10-3p.m., Farm America will hold a Fall Festival. There will be tram rides to view historic sites, a corn maze, concessions, bounce houses, puppies and farm animals. There is a \$7 entrance fee, members get in free.

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Renewal

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WASECA COUNTY
PIONEER

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OBITUARIES

Sandra Jean Rauchman

SANDRA JEAN RAUCHMAN, age 85 of Janesville, died peacefully on the morning of Thursday, September 12, 2024 at Mayo Clinic Health System in Mankato.

Sandy was born in Mankato on February 24, 1939 to parents Gustav and Helen (Bucholz) Lundgren. She attended school in Eagle Lake as a young girl. She was married to Maynard Omar Rauchman on October 19, 1957 in Mankato. Sandy worked as a warehouse manager at Midtex in Mankato for over thirty years, and later worked for the E.F. Johnson Company in Waseca. In her younger life she was involved with the Eagle Lake Saddle Club and the Janesville Bowling League, and she was a long-time member of St. Ann Catholic Church. She enjoyed gardening, cooking, reading, puzzles, and following all Minnesota sports as well as her children and grandchildren's sporting events. Sandy was a people-person that loved to visit or get coffee, and she was always overjoyed to spend time with her family.

Sandy is survived by two children, Darrell (Diane) Rauchman of Mankato and Vicki (Grant) Davis of Mankato; five grandchildren, Thomas (Janelle) Rauchman of North Mankato, Daniel (Kate) Rauchman of Minneapolis, and Cody (Kelly)



Sandra Rauchman

Rauchman of Cottage Grove, Samantha Gruis of Waseca, and Amanda Gruis of Mankato; six great-grandchildren; and three siblings, Richard Lundgren of St. Peter, Michael Lundgren of Mankato, and Luverne (Bernice) Lundgren of Cleveland. She was preceded in death by both of her parents; her husband; one son, Steven Rauchman; one sister, Donna (Marvin) Passon; and three brothers, Duane (Kathy) Lundgren, Robert (Bonnie) Lundgren, and Gary Lundgren.

Visitation will be held from 4-7 p.m. on Thursday, September 19, 2024 at the Janesville Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service. A closing prayer service will begin at 7:00 p.m. led by Pastor Kathy King. Interment will be held at the Janesville Cemetery at a later date. dsfuneral.com

Bradley Morris

BRADLEY DONALD "BRAD" MORRIS, age 58 of Waseca passed away from a sudden and unexpected battle with cancer on September 12, 2024, at Mayo Clinic Hospital – Methodist Campus in Rochester.

He was born on March 8, 1966, in Mankato. He was the son of Glen Sr. and Velma (Bluhm) Morris. He graduated from Waseca High School in 1984. He attended Albert Lea Technical College for Diesel Mechanics and worked for the Department of Transportation in Owatonna as a heavy equipment mechanic for 29 years.

Brad loved the outdoors. He was an active member of the Wilderness Inquiry Team that connected people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities to enjoy the outdoors, with ac-

tivities of canoeing, kayaking and dogsledding. Brad enjoyed ongoing friendships from the people he met. He enjoyed hunting and camping, making several trips to Montana to visit relatives and to hunt and enjoy the beautiful country there. Brad really enjoyed 4-wheeling; he was often the "Trail Boss", adventuring to South Dakota, and Minnesota's North Shore. He enjoyed fishing and boating on Leech Lake for rest and relaxation with family and friends, making many wonderful memories. He was an active member of the Owatonna Scuba Diving Club. He enjoyed scuba diving and the extra diverse social activities that the club held, along with all the bonds built with his scuba families for the past 30+ years. Brad was a true lover of nature.

He is survived by his siblings,

Chuck (Melodie) Morris, Bruce (Brenda) Morris; nieces and nephews, Moranda Morris, Marissa (Ian) Pringle, Glen Morris III (fiancé Adam Dachowics), Bryan Morris (fiancé Sara Weed), and BreAnna Morris. He is preceded in death by his parents.

Visitation will be held, Friday, September 20, 2024, from 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM, at the Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service - State Street Chapel in Waseca. Funeral service will be held at 11:00 AM, Saturday, September 21, 2024, at the funeral home, visitation will continue for one hour prior to the service. Interment will be held at the Sakatah Cemetery in Waterville. Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service is handling the arrangements. dsfuneral.com



Bradley Morris

Marshals

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given the number of people and the many logistics involved with getting about a thousand young musicians, their instruments and equipment, their uniforms and their accompanying adults into town, to the parade, to the clinics and to the field show, the number of emergencies has been small—but they do happen.

"Jim Kozan and the Waseca Music Store are so valuable to the music programs in our town," comments Wally. "We're lucky to have him." Although they feel fortunate to have experienced very few emergencies,

they comment that Kozan is usually called upon a fair number of times during every Classic to find instrument parts or even "loaner" instruments.

There have also been difficulties with vehicles, including a van breaking down near Owatonna while pulling a trailer full of needed supplies; a Marching Classic volunteer drove over to pull the trailer to Waseca while the van went in for repairs.

"Whatever they need, we try to get it done," Wally repeats.

In addition to being challenging, though, the Werlings say the job is richly rewarding. Deb and Wally raised four children, two of whom were members of the Marching Jays: Their oldest daughter Dawn (now Erickson) played flute and, Deb mentions, still plays. Dawn gradu-

ated in 1996. Their youngest son Brad played clarinet and bass clarinet. He graduated in 2003, having been in band all four years.

"It's great for our Waseca kids to have the strong band program we do, and to be able to be in an event like the Classic," says Wally. "It feels good knowing we're part of that."

Especially because they have been assigned so consistently across time to one specific band, the Werlings say they have made many new connections and even become friends with some of the Lourdes staff and volunteers who regularly come to the Classic.

One, former Lourdes band director Lee Krueger, observes. "The Werlings are not only part of the Waseca program, we came to regard them as part of our program. They would

contact us ahead of time to see if we had any particular needs, they would be there waiting for us when they arrived..."

"And they would always greet us with a smile, that was maybe the best part of it. We could tell they were happy to be there helping us."

Krueger called their selection as grand marshals "well deserved," and said he plans to attend the Classic this year mostly to show his congratulations and goodwill, since he is no longer part of the Lourdes marching band program.

Krueger remembers making a point of presenting the Werlings with hats which sport the Lourdes Eagle mascot, saying. "There was never any doubt they were part of our team."

Gary Johnson

Gary took his flight home at the age of 73 after a strong battle with an infection along with his fight with Lewy Body Disease.

Funeral service will be 10:30am Friday, September 20, 2024 at Trinity Lutheran Church, New Richland with burial at the St. Olaf Cemetery, New Richland. Visitation will be 4:00-7:00pm Thursday, September 19th, and 9:30am Friday, all at the church. To leave a condolence for the family or view the service livestream, visit www.saintpeterfuneralhome.com.

He was born to Raymond and Mildred Johnson and raised and lived on the family farm all his life. He met the love of his life and married Jackie on February 14th 1976. They blessed their marriage with two sons. After having his heart attack Gary lived with his son Jeff and Jennie in their home still on the family farm until he needed more care with his Lewy Body Disease. He was then moved to New Richland Care Center where he was until he flew home.

He attended school in New Richland. After graduation he served in the Army Reserves and attended trade school in Austin Minnesota. Gary lived on the family farm with his family helping his father farm and later farmed himself, he then in his later years proudly watched Jeff farm. Gary also worked at OMC, Mustang, and Viracon in Owatonna for a few years while farming. He enjoyed driving truck with Jeff hauling Peas, Sweet Corn, Corn, Beans, and many other things. He enjoyed helping with the animals on the farm, especially the mini donkeys that magically appeared! He was most recently excited about earning the title of great



Gary Johnson

bumpa to his first great granddaughter arriving in October.

Left here on earth to miss and grieve him are his sons and daughters-in-law Jeff & Jennie Johnson and Joe Johnson & Emma Schneider, grandchildren Samuel (Gretchen) Jewett and Robert (Addy) Jewett and Olivia & Paige Johnson, Sister and brother-in-law Barb & Dayton Draheim, Sister-in-law and husband Kathy & Ken Ryks, Brother-in-law's wife Sue Stark, four nieces (Nicole, Chantell, Ashley, & Toccara), eight nephews (Nathan, Ryan, Charlie, Jeremy, Joe, Josh, Mike, & Matt), fourteen great nieces and nephews (Gennie, Miles, Caleb, Brianna, Adrianna, Christian, Addison, Haley, Levi, Criox, Hannah, Hunter, Hazel & Callum)

Flying home before him was his wife Jackie, his parents Raymond & Mildred Johnson, his father and mother-in-law Marv & Bev Stark, his sister and brother-in-law Marie & Delbert Johnson, his brothers-in-law Roger, Wayne, and David Stark, and his great nephew Daniel Piepho.

Waldorf

from Page 5

members expressed displeasure that Mayor Wilkening never brought the amount before them for approval, even implying that proper protocol had been overlooked. During the heated discussion, two members of the audience spontaneously spoke in defense of Fisher, saying he is a trustworthy individual who would not overcharge the city.

The Christmas light situation was tabled until next meeting. The city's website is still under construction. The exhaust fan in the fire hall needs an update because when fire trucks go on a call, exhaust is seeping into a city office and the library. It was suggested that the exhaust fan be given a carbon dioxide sensor or have a control system others in the building can access.

The Twin Cities based design and consulting firm Short Elliott Hendrickson (SEH) was to have given an update regarding about \$8000 worth of repairs needed in the basement of St. Joseph Catholic Church on Third Avenue, but no one from SEH was present. Contractor "Work Completed Form" certificates were mailed to residents/businesses along with a letter of explanation. Residents: out of 36 total, 26 done. Businesses, six total, six done. A grace period was allowed if someone had a contractor lined up but unable to complete work before 9/1/24, there were three of these.

Council members were told the Waldorf Fire Department's sweet corn and burger feed was well attended. It was mentioned that, although 500 cookies were too many

last year, 300 were not enough this year. So many people came that pretty much all of the food was served. The Waldorf Fire Department won the evening's "Water Wars" competition. The car show was a big hit, and the band Red Dirt Road performed.

A motion was made to open a bank account to hold \$20,000 earmarked

for the park. -This item was tabled until the next meeting.

The area in town known as "Veterans Park" is now owned by the city. There is a plan to build a gazebo on the property next year.

Council members learned that more than \$2,000 in water and sewer bills had not been paid at the end of August. Seven residents made no

payment whatsoever; two paid only part of what was owed. One city residence has had its water cut off; another will also be cut off if payment is not received by Sept. 15.

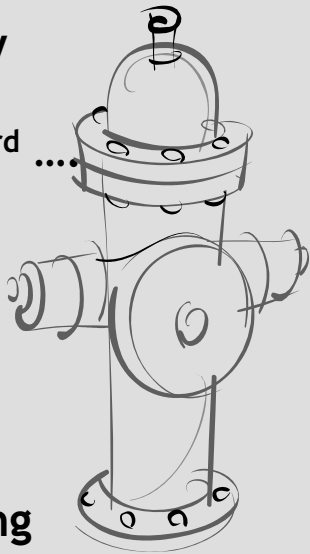
August documents including city council minutes, the fire department and city bank reports, a fund transfer summary and workshop minutes for August 26 were approved.

Water Hydrant Flushing!

The City of Waseca's Water Utility will be flushing fire hydrants beginning Monday, September 23rd

Utility workers will be moving: Southwest to Southeast, then Northwest to Northeast...

Rusty water may be evident during this time and shortly after...



MORE INFO → Call Utilities Offices @ 835-9718



SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642
September 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 6pm BAR Bingo	5 7pm HALL BINGO	6 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	7
8 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am - Noon Your HOST BANTAM HOCKY	9 7 pm Post & AUX. Meeting	10	11 6pm BAR Bingo	12 7pm HALL BINGO	13 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	14
15	16	17 Burger nite 5- 7pm	18 6pm BAR Bingo	19 7pm HALL BINGO	20 WALLEYE or SHRIMP DINNER 5:30 to 7pm	21
22 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am - Noon Your HOST HOPE CHAP- TER EASTERN STAR	23	24 Burger nite 5- 7pm	25 6pm BAR Bingo	26 7pm HALL BINGO	27 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	28
29	30					

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

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Pub & Grub Comedy Tour at Starfire Event Center 7 p.m., Oct. 12
Andrew Wegleitner will be performing his comedy show beginning at 7 p.m. Saturday, October 12, at the Starfire Event Center in Waseca. Also performing will be Dave Kousgaard. Ticket info is available at www.BarComicTix.com

Kenneth Brae prison camp survivor at 6 p.m. Oct. 13 at Christ Community Church
Missionary Kenneth Brae was held prisoner in a North Korean prison camp and will share information about his experience beginning at 6 p.m. Oct. 13 at Christ Community Church, 2200 Fourth St. NE, Waseca. Korean snacks will be available. Admission cost is a free will donation.

Farmamerica will host MEA Day Camps October 17-18
Farmamerica will host an MEA Day Camp for kids in kindergarten through fifth grade Thursday and Friday, October 17-18 from 8 a.m. till 3p.m. They will meet live animals, enjoy outdoor exploration and hands-on crafts. Lunch will be provided, cost is \$60 and spots are limited.

History Center “Snake Oil” Show 6:30 to 8 p.m. October 19
The Waseca County History Center is offering a “Snake Oil” show from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on October 19. The program will demonstrate both the “dark” and the “entertainment” sides of medicine around the start of the twentieth century. Fee is \$20. For more information contact WCHC at 507-835-7700.

Waseca City Council candidate debates 6:30 p.m. Oct. 22
Debates among candidates for City of Waseca wards one, two and three will begin at 6:30 p.m. October 22 at the Waseca High School performing arts center. Ward one candidates Adam Jensen and Stacey Schroeder and ward two candidates Gary Conrath, Marty Johnson and Nicholas Meister will be on deck from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Ward 3 candidates Mark Christiansen, Theresa Riecke, Chad Schlueter and Koby Wright will speak beginning at 8 p.m.

Waseca State of the City address 7 p.m. Nov. 12 at WHS
The Waseca “State of the City” address will be 7 p.m. on Nov. 12 at the high school performing arts center. Those present will hear from Mayor Randy Zimmerman and city manager Carl Sonneberg.

State of Waseca County address 7 p.m. Nov. 19 at WHS
The Waseca “State of the County” address will begin at 7 p.m. on Nov. 19 in the high school performing arts center. Speakers will be county board of commissioners chair Brian Harguth and county administrator Michael Johnson.

Jacobson joins New Richland council

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer
During the Sept. 9 meeting of the New Richland city council, Brandy Jacobson was sworn in as the newest council member. She replaced council member Janda Ferguson who became acting mayor after Loren Skelton stepped down for health reasons. Resident John Mrozek was appointed to the city’s housing and redevelopment authority; he will serve a five-year term.
City ambulance director Sarah Sundve was not present at the meeting, but submitted a report letting council members know a mock crash has been scheduled for the morning of Sept. 20 along Ash Avenue South, near the secondary school. Participating agencies will include the New Richland ambulance, the city police, the county sheriff’s office, and North Ambulance service. The event will even include a mock helicopter transport.
Sundve’s report also recommended changes to her department’s policy manual. She suggested new expectations for emergency medical technicians (EMTs) working for the service should now require them to work a minimum of 60 hours a month; 30 hours to be scheduled on weekdays, 30 on weekends: EMTs would also be expected to work at least 60 hours on designated holidays each year. Each team member would be

NEW RICHLAND CITY COUNCIL
required to sign up for their hours by the first day of each month.
City police chief Tanyce Bruegger let council members know her staff responded to 147 calls in August. Total calls for August: 1,653. She classified the “Night to Unite” as a big success, mentioning nearly all the give-away items were distributed. Print paper was purchased for the squad cars. Bruegger requested that the department receive funding to purchase three or four “Taser 10” weapons in 2025 at an estimated cost of about \$16,522. The price includes an in-

structor sent to certify officers in Taser 10 use. These tasers have a shooting distance of about 45 feet, almost double the 25 feet of current equipment.
Schwickert’s Tecta America will inspect the roof of every city-owned building in New Richland for \$1,900, this is an annual cost. All council members voted in favor of upgrading the city-issued electronic equipment they use. New tablets for all five council members will cost slightly more than \$1,775.
The next city council meeting will be Monday, Sept. 23. The focus of a September 24 council work session will be the evening of Tuesday, Sept. 24, will be the city’s worker compensation insurance policy.

WALDORF CITY COUNCIL

Majeski sworn in

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer
The first order of business at Waldorf’s monthly city council meeting the evening of Monday, Sept. 9, was to swear in the newest council member, Jim Majeski. Majeski takes the seat of former member Jay Longenecker who moved out of town.
With the state office of cannabis management pressing for local communities to establish rules and laws surrounding cannabis use, Mayor Rob Wilkening suggested the city might follow the same system as that recently implemented in the town of Hutchinson. Namely, adding cannabis into the already existing laws regarding tobacco use. For example, no smoking indoors, no use of the substance near a school, and use only in designated locations. There will be a public hearing for this issue during the next council meeting at 7 p.m. Oct. 15.

During the public comment portion of the meeting, a resident told council members the emerald ash borer problem in Waldorf has been growing worse and claimed the city should not keep ignoring the situation. Another matter regarding trees was also discussed Sept. 9; tree stumps in the ballfield and park should be scheduled for removal at a cost of \$220 each. Council members were also told of various projects around town which must be looked into, including concrete repair in sidewalks and around street lights as well as a few street repairs. Mayor Wilkening reported city staff is working to get cost estimates.
Regarding the replacement of one streetlight, Wilkening suggested taking part in a pilot program to install a unit which stores solar energy for use overnight, an Evergreen Series solar paneled streetlight by Sunna Design. Wilkening reported the city has already submitted an application to take part in the pilot program; he expects there to be only minimal cost to the city for the new light.
Council members were also told the number of citizens dumping their grass clippings is increasing, it was suggested a tax to clean up the street be introduced, or that a \$25 fee be charged to residents who leave clippings in the street.
Concern was raised about the origins of a \$4,000 payment for overtime to city maintenance worker Ron Fisher. Council

Waldorf continued on 4

2024 NRHEG Royalty

Coronation will be September 24 at 7:30 p.m.



WHO WILL REIGN? — Candidates for this year’s NRHEG Homecoming are, front: Mallory Schlenger, Tayla Sandry, Lia Johannsen, Sierra Misgen, Hannah Brunsen, and Violet Elise Aronson. Back: Jayden Fleming, Harbor Cromwell, Owen Bartlett, Cole Hutchens, Alden Dobberstein and Jase Knudson
Coronation will take place Tuesday, September 24 at 7:30 p.m. at the high school gymnasium in New Richland.

Homecoming parade Friday at 2:15

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor
NRHEG Homecoming week 2024 kicks off next week. Coronation is set for 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 24 at the high school gymnasium in New Richland. Parades are scheduled for Friday at 12:30 p.m. in Ellendale and 2:15 p.m. in New Richland. The homecoming game will be Friday at 7 p.m. against Medford. Royalty will be introduced at halftime. An evening homecoming dance from 9 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. in the High School gym will follow the game.
Royalty will be crowned based on a vote of the student body, grades 9-12 – and will reign over Homecoming week.

This year’s Princess and Prince are Princess Leni Routh, daughter of Adam and Missy Routh, and Prince Beckett Budach, son of Nick and Erin Budach.
Schedule
Monday: dress up day; Country vs Country Club; Homecoming Royalty introduced at 6:45 p.m. before the varsity volleyball game at 7:15 p.m.
Tuesday: dress up day; Tacky Tourist Day/Hawaiian; Student volleyball tournaments; 7:30 pm - Coronation in the HS gym *Fall sports coaches will speak.
Wednesday: dress up day; PJ Day; student assembly during school day.
Thursday: dress up day: Color Wars (color assign to each grade);

football, volleyball and cross country all compete.
Friday: dress up day; Panther Spirit day; 8:45 Pep Fest K-5 in Ellendale; 12:30 p.m. parade in Ellendale; 1:30 Pep Fest in New Richland; 2:15 Parade in New Richland; 7 p.m. football game vs. Medford with pep band and alumni. Homecoming Royalty will be introduced @ halftime;
9 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. Homecoming Dance in the High School gym Cost = \$3 per individual, \$5 per couple; Admission through the Entrance #17E only. *Students will not have access to the rest of the school or lockers. *Admission closes at 10 p.m.



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■ **Classic**
from Page 1

gories including overall performance, horn line, drum major, drumline and color guard. Awards will be on three levels based on the size of the band and the school : A, AA, and AAA.

Along with the trophies and awards, those bands which registered by an August 15 deadline are eligible for a cash prize drawing. Eligible groups who register for either only the parade or only the field competition have a chance of receiving a \$250 registration incentive prize. Those registered for both are eligible to win a \$500 incentive. "Adding that drawing changed everything when it came to registration," recalls Mary, mentioning that the \$1,000 in prize money is provided by Katie Gonzales of State Farm Insurance.

"All participating bands go home with at least one award, if not more," says Mary Williams.

Through the afternoon, bands will be scheduled for "clinics."

"The hope is they can use the input of the judges to strengthen their performances for the rest of the season," explains Jack Williams. The Marching Classic, he and Mary explain, is fairly early in the marching band competition season, so the clinics can be quite valuable. The "season," Jack elaborates, begins at the start of the school year and culminates with the Sioux Falls competition in October.

The field competition begins at 5:30 p.m. Weather permitting, it takes place in the football stadium west of the junior/senior high school. If there is any uncertainty about the weather, the situation will be reviewed around 3 p.m.; a decision will be issued shortly afterward as to whether the competition can take place as intended or must be moved indoors.

Wind, rain and lightning sent the show indoors in 2023, but Jack and Mary are pleased to report things ran smoothly.

"One director told us we had taken something that seemed bad and made it good," remembers Mary. She mentions that, with bands stationed in hallways outside the gym, band students reported last year they enjoyed the opportunities to mingle with musicians from other schools.

Whether indoors or out, seating for the field competition begins about 3:30 Saturday afternoon with the introduction of honored guests at 5:30, and the first routine performed about 5:45. This year's field show will include 12 bands.

"The field shows are truly excit-

ing to watch," says Jack, explaining one of his major jobs is to keep the sequence of events moving as smoothly and quickly as possible so the 9 p.m. award ceremony can take place on schedule.

"We also want to keep the mood light," he adds, mentioning that he likes to incorporate spontaneous moments of humor wherever he can.

Another, personal goal for him, he says, is to "introduce each group as if they were the home band."

After all the awards and winners are announced, the Classic closes with a bang—fireworks, that is. Band members seat themselves on the football field, since the bleachers are full of spectators, to watch the show.

"It's a chance for them to mingle," mentions Mary. "They can sit together, talk, and learn from each others' experiences." The fireworks display typically lasts between 20 and 30 minutes.

The Marching Classic uses part of its proceeds to provide scholarships to band students. Mary says that, during the interviews, seniors are asked about their experience at the Marching Classic.

"The fireworks are almost always one of the top favorites," she says.

Through the 36 different Marching Classics Mary has been involved with, she says they have always met her personal standard of being "family entertainment at its best!"

"We committee members always have in mind what we can do to make the event better for the students, the directors, the visitors, and the community," says Mary. "We're always reviewing, always evaluating, always considering ways we can improve."

"Still, we think we've got a good product here that benefits everyone involved."

"We encourage everyone to come out and enjoy as many of the events as they can."

The 12 groups in this year's field competition include two bands taking part in the Classic for the first time. Routines will be from Blaine Marching Bengals; Coon Rapids Marching Cardinals; Eden Prairie Eagle Marching Band; Lakeville South Marching Cougars; Luverne Cardinal Marching Band; Mankato 77 Lancers Marching Band (first time); Okoboji Pioneer Pride Marching Band from Milford, Iowa (first time); Spirit Lake "The Force" from Spirit Lake, Iowa;

Spirit of Madison Marching Band, Madison, SD; Pipestone Area Marching Arrows, Pipestone;

Rochester Lourdes High School Marching Band, Rochester; and the Waseca Marching Jays, (Exhibition only).

tainment at its finest."

Acknowledgments and trophies at the Classic are provided in a wide range of categories. Not only for each group's placing within its class (A, AA, and AAA), but also for sweepstakes, people's choice, and for specific elements of their presentation including drumline, color guard, drum majors and others. Many categories are double—once for the parade and once for the field show competition.

Acknowledgements are also given to the grand marshal, the friend of the classic, and other dignitaries.

"It's quite a commitment," organizers say of sponsoring the trophies. "We're deeply grateful Minnwest has consented to carry on with this long-standing tradition."

United Way raises \$3000 for area charities

By **DEB BENTLY**
News Editor

The matter at hand was serious. The Greater Mankato United Way (GMAUW) began a fundraising effort last week with the goal of raising \$2,350,000 to meet regional needs in 2025. Barb Kaus, GMAUW chief executive officer, told a group of about 40 people assembled at the Mill in Waseca the afternoon of Thursday, Sept. 12, the organization distributed more than \$200,000 in the Waseca area in 2024.

A list shared during the gathering indicated Waseca area organizations which received support included Bethlehem Inn, the Waseca Area Senior Citizen Center, Achieving Dreams for Disabilities, a number of programs offered through Waseca Public Schools, and the Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center (WANSC).

Cindy Kolander, WANSC director, told the group, "We would not be able to operate some of our programs without the funding given to us by the United Way." Kolander specifically mentioned the organization's school-year "Backpack" program, which sends two days' worth of strategically chosen snacks and food items each weekend with children who live in food-insecure environments.

Waseca Area United Way leader Diane Beckmann encouraged everyone present to consider donating, and suggested they support upcoming United Way efforts by encouraging others to take part. Beckmann thanked teams for signing up and mentioned The Mill was providing

its location and cornhole equipment at no charge. She thanked Mis Tres Flores owner Pablo Rivera for donating the food.

With that news shared, Michael Johnson, the organizer of the afternoon's central event, informed team members present they were going to spend the next hour "throwing like crazy" in a cornhole tournament which had, he warned, "a little different format."

Ten teams were signed up for the event. Players came from local businesses and organizations including Thrivent, the Neighborhood Service Center, Waseca schools, Cinch, FM Bank, Keen Bank, and UP Bank.

In keeping with the fundraising theme of the day, the tournament prize was a traveling trophy—and "bragging rights for the next year." Rounds would be limited to 5 minutes each. Scores would be tallied without any of the usual reductions. At the end of each round, the team with the lower score would rotate to the next station.

But perhaps most interestingly, "If a round is going badly for you, you can purchase points," Johnson announced.

In addition to simple and "package" deals on points, Johnson went on, anyone present—players and non-players—had some lighthearted options that included paying to have a selected competitor throw three sets of tosses "backwards" over his or her shoulder or to use a non-dominant hand.

Johnson announced the first round was about to start, reminded everyone it would last only five minutes,



(From left) Greater Mankato Area United Way (GMAUW) executive director Barb Kaus, Waseca United Way leader Diane Beckmann, and chair of the 2025 GMAUW fundraising campaign, Maria Brown. Pioneer photos by Deb Bently



To help her team advance in the United Way fundraising tournament held last Friday at The Mill in Waseca, participant Marcy Buchele purchases points from organizer Michael Johnson. All proceeds went to GMAUW.

then counted down to the pronunciation, "Begin."

As rounds continued, Johnson circulated with the microphone, encouraging competitors and reminding them of the ways they could turn the tide of the current match. At least partly thanks to the "creative" score-keeping options, the winning team consisted of Marcy Buchele and Nate Bastian from UP Bank.

The biggest "win" of the day, though, according to Beckmann, was \$3,000 raised to support GMAUW.

In a rare moment of calm, during the tournament, Johnson told the Pioneer this was the fourth year the United Way kickoff has been formatted as a tournament. He agreed the rules were a bit extraordinary and admitted, "I kind of made them up as I went along."

Ambassadors celebrate Waseca businesses

Waseca, MN – September 12, 2024 – The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors, fondly known as "The Red Coats," recently welcomed two new members and honored a longstanding local organization as part of their ongoing efforts to strengthen ties within the community.

The Ambassadors paid a visit to The Redemption Project, a statewide initiative that has joined the Chamber. CEO Dwight Tostenson stated that, "The Redemption Project is committed to eliminating recidivism through education, mentorship, and employment" They currently teach their effective Virtues for Success program in the Waseca FCI. The Chamber is excited to see their contributions make a positive impact in the area. If any women are interested in being part of the mentoring program, please email Mentor Coordinator John Williams at jwilliams@redemptionproject.org.

The Red Coats also visited FarmAmerica, a fixture in Waseca for well over 30 years, to present the organization with the prestigious Roots Award to their Executive Director, Jessica Rollins, Program Coordinator, Kari Wadd, and staff. This award honors businesses and organizations that have demonstrated long-term dedication to the community. FarmAmerica continues to play an essential role in educating the public about agriculture and rural history, making it a cornerstone of Waseca's identity. The FarmAmerica Board was in attendance to accept the award; their Board is a cross-section of agricultural entrepreneurs and producers from Southern Minnesota. The Chamber is grateful for their service to our community.

The Ambassadors also welcomed First Financial Title Agency as a new Chamber member. This new addition to the Chamber promises to enhance



First Financial Title Agency

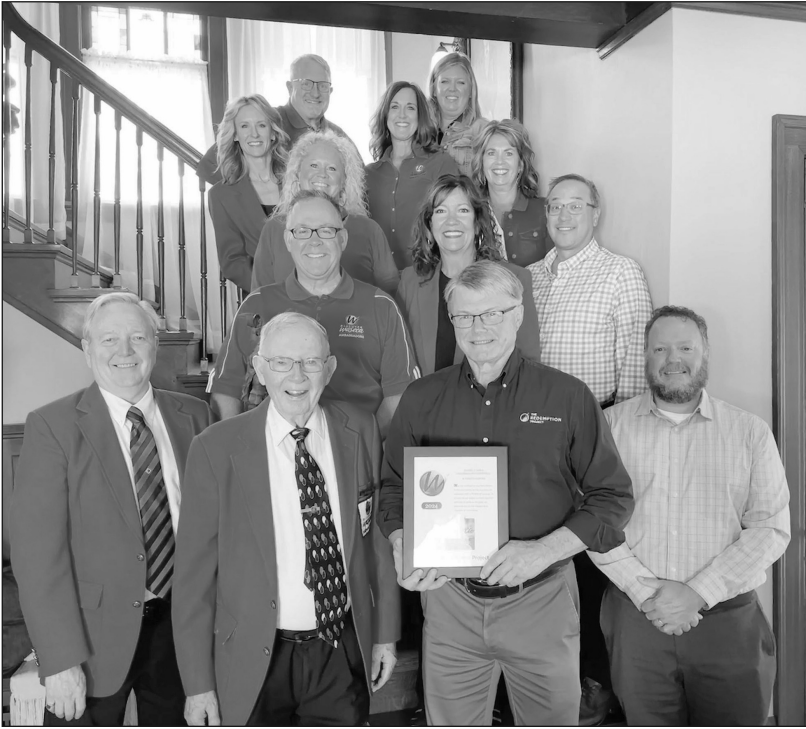


FarmAmerica

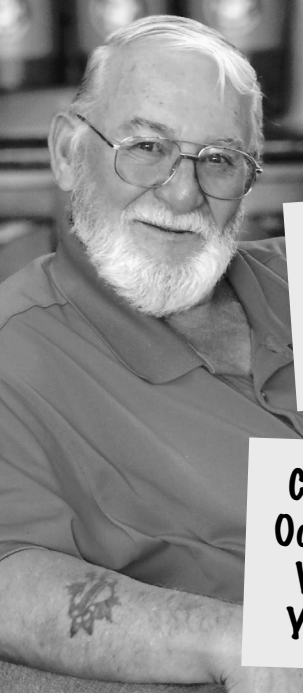
the financial service offerings in the region, providing high-quality title and closing services to commercial, agriculture, and residential customers alike. With this family run office, you will find an expansive depth of knowledge in Teri Menard who has been in the real estate business for over 30 years. Daughter Nicole is on a matching career path, she's an executive closer and is well versed in property transactions.

President of the Ambassadors, Kristie Biehn said, "The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce is thrilled to recognize and support the growth of local organizations through these visits. The continued collaboration between the Chamber, its members, and the community will ensure a prosperous future for Waseca."

For more information on Chamber activities and how your business can get involved, visit www.waseca-chamber.com or contact 507-835-3260.



Redemption Project



What do Smokey the Bear & Norm Eckart have in common?

They're both turning 80!

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Janesville

1924

- Last week these columns contained a short article giving particulars of what E. L. Paddock saw and heard during his stay in Boston where he went to attend the annual G. A. R. encampment. This week Friday he called again at this office and spoke of his Montana activities. He is still on his double section of land a hundred miles north of Miles City. When he left his harvesting was being done by the renter, a splendid crop being cut. He has forty acres of corn. Two miles distant from his home is the residence of Thos. Cahill who is doing well. Last fall the latter turned off 110 head of cattle and received a good bunch of money. Other former residents of Janesville are doing well but most of them have left, several of them being in Miles City.

- The proposed gasoline tax amendment to the state constitution, which will put the money from any such tax that may be levied on the roads if adopted by "yes" voted in November, was approved by the county directors of the Minnesota Farm Bureau federation at a state fair meeting in St. Paul. The ratification is expected to result in a big favorable vote, such as was given by the Wisconsin federation.

- Last week the District Conference of Southern Minnesota of the Evangelical Lutheran Missouri Synod met at Janesville. Several papers were read in which doctrinal matters were treated and biblical truths set forth and besides a number of practical questions pertaining to Christian life and church, polity were discussed. The keynote of all the discussion was sounded in the sermon of Rev. Pfothenauer. He based his remarks on the words of the 19th Psalm: "The statutes of the Lord are right; more to be desired are they than gold, yea, thou much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb."

1949

- Trinity Lutheran School opened its new school year with a brief service at the church on Tuesday morning of this week. Mr. Schulenberg, principal of the school, reports 153 pupils enrolled at present which are distributed as follows: 1st grade, 13; 2nd grade, 16; 3rd grade, 16; 4th grade, 19; 5th grade, 22; 6th grade, 20; 7th grade, 18; 8th grade, 22; and 9th grade, 7. No changes have been made in the faculty since the previous school year.

- The newly inaugurated mail service to acquaint employers with the variety of job seekers registered with the Minnesota State Employment Service has proved to be a worthwhile experiment, according to Benjamin A. Iverson, Manager of the local office in Mankato. A listing of qualifications for seven outstanding job applicants was mailed to approximately 200 employers with the suggestion that they scan the group to see if there might be someone with the background necessary to fit into their organization. The result was that two applicants were called in for an interview with two employers and were hired. In addition, several requests for more specific information for other applicants listed were received, though actual placements were not made.

1974

- After last Friday night the Golden Bear gridders know what it is like to slaughter and be slaughtered. After whitewashing Waldorf-Pemberton 42-0 in their home opener, they traveled to Lake Crystal and had all they could do to come home with their Bear skins after a 25-0 loss. This week Janesville coaches are turning their attention to Friday night's Gopher Conference opener with Morristown. It will mark the first of seven conference games that will determine the conference champion, the club that will playoff with the winner of the Centennial Conference.

- Twenty-one local and national health agencies will benefit from the Community Chest Drive which opens here today, September 18, and continues throughout the month of October. The 18-member Community Chest Board met at the school Monday night to make final preparations for this year's drive. As in past years, the Chest Board assumes the responsibility of going door-to-door in the City of Janesville and also canvasses the business district.

- Immanuel Lutheran Church of Freedom Township is celebrating their Centennial this Sunday, September 9. A service of thanksgiving and mission will be observed at 10 a.m. with the Rev. Herbert Mueller, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, officiating. The Rev. Walter Mueller, Austin, Minnesota, will be the guests speaker at the 2 p.m. service. Both of these men are sons of the congregation. Special music by the Sunday School and the band will be provided. The Rev. Stanley Rosenau currently is pastor at Immanuel.

1999

- Waterville-ElysianMorristown football coach Jon Bakken said he hoped to throw the ball a little more this season. Veteran Buccaneer quarterback Cory Hackett helped solidify Bakken's decision as he fired five scoring passes to lead the Buccaneers to a 49-0 thumping of Janesville-WaldorfPemberton at Janesville Friday. The contest was the season and Gopher/Valley Conference opener for both teams. WEM, which defeated JWP 40-8 a year ago on the way to an 11-1 season, took advantage of JWP miscues to bolt to a 43-0 halftime lead. JWP, which hopes new coach Mike Muedeking can turn things around after a 1-7 campaign in 1998, saw some signs of hope defensively, but struggled the entire night on offense.

- The Janesville-WaldorfPemberton School Board will be seeking to renew its general education operating referendum on Tuesday, Nov. 2. During a special meeting on Monday, Sept. 13, the JWP School Board agreed to put a \$613,800 referendum on its upcoming election ballot. This total, which is a combination of state aid and levy, can be broken down into \$731 per pupil unit. In making its decision the school board also agreed to extend the upcoming referendum to a 10-year period so that once it is in place it can maintain the status quo.

■ Janesville from Page 3

expenditures were actually down somewhat from last year's. Regarding the condition of city streets, council members shared the impression the city's main streetways are now satisfactory, then stated their intent to focus on improving some of the alleyways.

Park Director Joe Roeker reminded council members of a request he had placed previously to purchase a utility vehicle to be used while performing spraying and maintenance work in the parks and along streets. Roeker suggested costs for the vehicle could be shared by the two departments.

Council members arranged for the hire of Nov. 5 election judges: Andrea Moen, Marcia Anderson, Marlis Olson, Sara Britton, Diana Gahler, Teresa Schultz, Ivan Maas, Patti Schuch, Donna Wiebold,

Marlene Dimmel, Tony Staloch, Terry Gardner, Mary Okins, and Sara Jo Vulcan.

In new business, the council accepted two separate donations from Allen Starke, who gave \$50 each to the city police department and the Fire Department Fund.

Council members agreed with Rogers' recommendation that the council's monthly meetings, normally held on the second Monday of the month, be moved to the second Tuesday in both October and November. He pointed out Oct. 14 is Indigenous People's Day and Nov. 11 will be Veterans Day; since both are considered holidays and land on Mondays, governments are forbidden from carrying out meetings on those dates.

Rogers also announced the council will hold a second meeting for the month on Monday, Sept. 23, to examine the intended 2025 budget a final time before the statewide Oct. 1 deadline for submitting a required "preliminary" budget and tax levy.

Waseca

25 Years Ago



-**Duke Terrell is the new associate warden at the Waseca Federal Correction Institution (FCI). He was the chief psychologist at FCI Butner in North Carolina before coming to Waseca.**

-Waseca area churches are teaming up to bring Waseca youth together on Wednesday for a global day of prayer. The annual prayer event called "See you at the Pole" has taken on a renewed sense of urgency in the wake of the shootings in Littleton, Colo., and the murder of a Waseca girl, Cally Jo Larson, on the same day, April 20.

-The law firm of Patton, Hoversten, & Berg, P.A. of Waseca extends their appreciation and congratulations to Laurie Woitas on the anniversary of her fiftieth year with the firm. Laurie joined the firm on August 13, 1984 as a legal secretary and has worked primarily in the areas of office management and accounting.

50 Years Ago

-**TOM HAGEDORN, Republican winner in Tuesday's Second District primary, visits with fellow state rep. Rod Searle of Waseca and his wife Jane, both standing, and County Republican Women Chairperson Grace Rifenbergh and Dorothy Blashack (right) of Waldorf this morning. Some 50 members of the GOP women's group jammed the Searle's**



front room to hear the Truman farmer touch on a wide range of issues today. Hagedorn places special interest contributions among the major points he will use to battle DFLer Steve Babcock in the upcoming congressional campaign.



-**Two-wheel dog – MITSIE, a miniature poodle owned by George and Mary Haage of 716 2ND AVEN. N.E. goes cycling with a grin, in a basket on the back of a ten-speed. The family was among a large number of Wasecans taking to the streets with foot-powered vehicles to enjoy Sunday's balmy fall weather.**

75 Years Ago

-Sacred Heart's new athletic coach, Hugh Miller, should almost feel at home here – he's lived in this area all his life with the exception of two years spent in the army. Hugh comes from Owatonna and was just graduated from Mankato Teachers college this summer. Besides coaching all sports, he'll teach 8TH grade history, 7TH grade history, 7TH grade geography, 8TH grade science and all physical education at Sacred Heart school.

-When entered in the Goodyear Soil Conservation contest, the Waseca County Soil Conservation district governing board also selected three county farmers who showed outstanding performances in soil conservation. These farmers are Dave Zimmerman from Woodville township, W.L. Draheim of Blooming Grove and Elmer Gossman from Alton.

-Joseph H. Friedel, Captain, Judge Advocate Reserve, has just returned from Military Police and Judge Advocate School at Fort Sheridan, Ill. Term of the school was from August 13 to 30. Captain Friedel relates that the school curriculum consisted of lecture and practical trial work. The lectures were on military evidence, circumstantial evidence, pleas, sentences, brief on military law.

100 Years Ago

-Theodore Christianson, of Dawson, republican candidate for Governor, spoke from the stand in front of the grandstand at the Waseca County Fair Friday afternoon. George Godspeed introduced Mr. Christianson. "Instead of a total of appropriations of \$15,200,000 by the legislature of 1915, instead of a total of \$44,500,000 in appropriations by the last legislation as you were told from this stand yesterday afternoon, the facts in the case are that in 1913 the total of the legislative appropriations was \$19,000,000 and in the last legislative, \$40,000."

-Waseca baseball fans are indebted to the boys who took it on themselves to carry Waseca through the schedule of games in the Southern Minnesota League this summer. It will be remembered that the end of the first half saw league baseball in this city at the end of its rope with an exhausted treasury and with its team standing at the bottom of the averages column.

-The farmer has every reason to take a more optimistic view of his vocation. The thinking farmers, with whom we have come in contact the last thirty days, show a decided improvement in state of mind. They observe advances in prices of wheat, corn and hogs and comprehend their morning. Even men who do not raise these crops feel good over the improvement of prices for they know they will indirectly affect the prices of dairy products.

New Richland

25 years back

• **Karen Chicos is the new Superintendent Secretary at NRHEG High School. Karen Chicos was hired as the new Superintendent Secretary at NRHEG High School.**

Karen graduated from Mankato Technical College in the secretarial program and specialization in Data Processing. She also attended a two-year program at Rochester Community College specializing in Nursing.



• **Sara Ihrke is the new Kindergarten Teacher in Ellendale. Sara Ihrke joins the staff at NRHEG as the new kindergarten teacher in Ellendale. Sara is a native of the area. She attended and graduated from NRHEG. Sara attended St. Olaf for a year and six months. She then transferred to Gustavus Adolphus College and graduated with a B.A. degree in Elementary Education in 1998.**

• The following local students are among the 688 full-time first-year and transfer students who have accepted an offer of admission and are coming to Gustavus Adolphus College. This year's total enrollment of 2,450 at Gustavus Adolphus is the second highest in college history. The 138th academic year at Gustavus began Wednesday, September 8. Local students include, from Ellendale, Cassandra Hill, and from New Richland, Cambria Hलगren. Gustavus Adolphus College is a residential, liberal arts college that grants undergraduate degrees in 65 majors.



50 years back

• **Herdina, Toft wed July 26. Andrea Herdina and Timothy Toft were married Saturday, July 26 at St. Columbanus Catholic Church in Blooming Prairie. The double-ring ceremony was performed by father Donal Zenk at 3:30 p.m. Soloists were Kristin and Karla Ressler, and Anita Bunne, sister of the bride. Karla Ressler also was the organist. Russell Aldinger, uncle of the bride, was the lecturer.**

• There will be an open house bridal shower honoring Connie Anderson, bride to be of Craig Miller, on Monday, September 8 at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of first Lutheran church in Ellendale.

• A son has been born to Steve and Rhonda Christensen of Geneva on Sunday, August 24 at Health Central of Owatonna. He has been named Nicholas Jon and joins brother Mathew in the Christensen family. Nicholas weighed a little over eight pounds.



• **Bates Celebrates 40th Anniversary. Marvin and Joyce Bates, rural Blooming Prairie, will be celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary on September 7 with an open house at the Hayfield Country Club from 2:30-5:30, hosted by their children and grandchildren.**

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Vista church celebrates 60th anniversary of building

By **DEB BENTLY**
News Editor

In 1962, the congregation of what was then called the “Swedish Evangelical Mission Church” was experiencing growing pains. The wooden structure that had housed their services since 1878 did not have enough space for Sunday School classes; the building’s “auditorium” was not large enough to provide comfortable seating for those attending services.

The church owned five acres of land located along what is now known as 275th Avenue in Otisco Township; it had been purchased in 1882 for \$100.

In May of 1962, members voted for two significant changes: they would rename their congregation “Vista Evangelical Lutheran Church” and would begin assembling funds for a new structure to be built on their existing site. The objective was to raise at least half of the needed money before the work began.

By December of 1962, the congregation had received about \$23,500 in donations. In September of 1963, a special “building fund” service included choirs performing in German, Swedish and English. Funds raised then, including a \$5,000 donation from Edgar F. Marvin L. and Everett Johnson and their wives, energized the group’s efforts. A building committee was formed and groundbreaking took place in October of 1963.

Otisco-based construction contractor and Vista Covenant member Rolland Swenson was selected to lead the project. His company agreed to coordinate the construction schedule in a way which allowed church members to volunteer their time and save on costs.

Swenson remembers traveling to Kansas with fellow construction committee member Reuben Youngberg. The two visited a recently-constructed church build-

“Do you think God wanted to see our building built?”

— Paula Hansen

ing and decided its design could suit Vista Covenant’s needs. Swenson began taking measurements and recording notes when the members of the church simply offered him a copy of their blueprints.

Another astounding timesaver was the process of ordering the laminated arches needed to support the church’s high, open interior. Swenson says that when he went to an Albert Lea company which specialized in the process, he was informed someone else had placed an order for arches meeting the needed specifications and then canceled: the company had the needed materials on hand, ready to deliver, saving the project a four-month wait.

Another example of what members regarded as divine intervention was the range of skills represented among the congregation. Reuben Youngberg coordinated the construction of the pews with a company in Mankato. Lloyd Peterson, an electrician, was able to lead that phase of the project. Bricklayer Darold Steen had the knowledge and skills to coordinate the raising of the walls. Church member Floyd Calhoun was familiar with using fiberglass in construction—a skill needed to build and connect the church’s steeple.

“Do you think God wanted to see our building built?” asked church member Paula Hansen during a special anniversary celebration held at the church on Sept. 15. “God knew what we would need in 1964, and began putting it in place years ahead of time. We only had to follow the path that had been laid out for us.”

Another remarkable coincidence was the weather. Hansen described the harvest season as providing opportune, even “beau-

tiful” fall weather, making it possible for farmers to spend the necessary time in their fields and also have free time to volunteer. She mentioned that on the December day workers were about to finish putting shingles on the roof, they were in a race against a snow-storm forecast to reach the area any time.

“Soon after they nailed down the last shingle,” Hansen said, “it began to snow.”

About 50 people were present in church for the Sept. 15 celebration and for a dinner which followed.

Gratitude was expressed to the construction committee members who are still church members: Carol and Rolland Swenson, Harriet and Ken Eaton, and Lloyd Peterson.

Hansen also pointed out many “youth” members of the church performed unskilled tasks to assist in 1964, including cleanup projects around the site and unloading sod for the new building’s lawn the next spring. Hansen asked those youth members, including herself and sister Pam Coyer, to raise their hands: about 10 individuals, now in their 60s and later, made themselves known.

Hansen also mentioned an observation shared by the still-living construction committee members. “They said the enthusiasm, the collectedness, and the dedication of the volunteers was truly a blessing,” stated Hansen. “They said it was a blessing to be part of the work.” Thanks to the many remarkable coincidences and to the dedication of the workers and volunteers, the 1964 structure was completed in less than 10 months, holding its inaugural open house in August of 1965.

That original building was ex-



Front are Harriet and Ken Eaton. Back: Carol and Rolland Swenson. Rolland was the general contractor for the building project. Ken, along with many men of the church, donated their labor to complete the building. The women provided coffee and meals as well as kept things going at home.



The Vista Church's original building was in use from 1878 until 1963.

panded with an addition completed in 1977.

Planning committee members for the Sept. 15 observance were Hansen, Coyer, Laurie Hendrickson and Sharon Robran.



Ceiling tiles were removed to see the signatures of everyone who had worked on the building.



The Pastor's Column

Injuries resulting from impatience

By **PASTOR KEN ANDRS**

My life slowed this past week. I was forced to do things differently and try to manage my life. I was in pain, everything was inconvenient, my anger was right under the surface, and nothing was working right.

I have taken my health and strength for granted, oftentimes forgetting to stretch or warm up properly for an activity, then I do something stupid and hurt myself. My main chore day at my house is Friday. I try to get everything done on a Friday so on Saturday I can sleep in, drink coffee, and enjoy time with my family. Unfortunately, on a Friday a few weeks ago I was ready to get stuff done, but my schedule did not work the way I wanted it to, so I rushed and didn't wait for help.

I had help to bring this heavy object downstairs, I had help to bring it back upstairs, then it sat in my garage for a few days. I wanted this heavy object out of my house and life, I called for help, but no one was able to help at the time. I decided to lift it into my truck myself. It was heavy, that hadn't changed, but my mindset had. Surely, I could lift it into the truck and drop it off at the dump without an issue.

I am often reminded of Romans 12:3-5

3 For by the grace given to me, I tell everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he should think. In-

stead, think sensibly, as God has distributed a measure of faith to each one. 4 Now as we have many parts in one body, and all the parts do not have the same function, 5 in the same way we who are many are one body in Christ and individually members of one another.

The application to my life is to be humble and seek help, my aching back and hip from lifting heavy awkward objects reminded me that I need others. We need mutual support and encouragement from others in our faith as well. We grow in faith the best when the church as people offer to work alongside one another in our own strengths.

There are a variety of reasons why people don't want to walk with others in their faith journey. People have said, I don't have time, I am not an expert, I don't know what to do, or even, I don't like them. Paul reminds us in Romans that we need one another and we are each equipped differently to do different things, but if we are unwilling to do anything when people ask then we are not functioning as the body of believers.

My injuries are the result of my impatience, sometimes we try to force things when it would be better to wait for help. We need to be humble enough to ask for help and bold enough to offer it. Don't let your pride stand in the way of doing good, no matter how great or small that good is.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

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

Football Panthers avenge last year's loss to Mayer Lutheran

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

After starting the season 0-2, the NRHEG High School football team faced a team that defeated the Panthers a year ago.

This time, the results were different.

The Panthers played their best football of the year, defeating Mayer Lutheran 38-15 at New Richland last Friday.

"We had a great game," said NRHEG head coach Marc Kruger.

From a big opening kickoff, the Panthers were off to the races.

"A big kick return from Alden Dobberstein set up an early touchdown," said Krueger after the game. "We ran the ball extremely well and our defense really stepped up. They played lights out."

The offense registered more than 300 yards on the ground and the defense forced three turnovers, limiting the Chargers to 77 rushing yards.

The Panthers' opening drive ended with a 2-yard touchdown run from Owen Bartlett. Carter Martens was good on the PAT, the first suc-

cessful kick by a Panther this season.

Following a four-play drive from the Chargers, the Panthers needed only one play to tally their second touchdown of the game, a 44-yard scamper from Harbor Cromwell.

A touchdown pass on 4th-and-2 from the Chargers cut the Panther lead to 13-7, the closest the score would be the rest of the way.

The Panthers answered two possessions later with a 19-yard touchdown scramble from Dobberstein.

The next Charger possession ended in a leaping pick by Seth Staloch at the Panther 40-yard line. It was capitalized on with another touchdown run, this time of 14 yards, by Dobberstein. It extended the Panther's lead to 25-7 at half-time.

The Panthers added scores in the third quarter on big runs from Ryan Schlaak (63 yards) on a gorgeous cutback across the field, and another impressive carry from Cromwell of 26 yards.

The Chargers added a late 4th-quarter touchdown run of 8 yards and a safety, both with many bench



KEY PLAYS — At left, NRHEG's Seth Staloch goes high in the air for an interception during the Panthers' 38-15 victory over visiting Mayer Lutheran last Friday. At right, Harbor Cromwell (23) looks for an opening as teammate Owen Bartlett (11) throws a block. Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens

players in for both teams.

Cromwell ran 12 times for 154 yards, Schlaak four for 84. Dobberstein, who gained 54 yards rushing on six attempts, only had to pass six times — and had the distinction of catching his own pass. The other completion went to Aiden Hanna.

Jordan Brouwers led the defense with seven tackles and two sacks. Cromwell had six stops.

The Panthers moved to 1-2 and the Chargers fell to 0-3.

Up next, the Panthers travel to face St. Clair/Mankato Loyola this

Friday.

NRHEG 38, Mayer Lutheran 15							
ML	0	7	0	8	15		
NRHEG	13	12	13	0	— 38		

First Quarter	
NRHEG	Owen Bartlett 2 run (Carter Martens kick)
NRHEG	Harbor Cromwell 44 run (kick failed)
Second Quarter	
ML	16 pass (kick good)
NRHEG	Alden Dobberstein 19 run (two-point conversion failed)
NRHEG	Dobberstein 14 run (kick failed)

Third Quarter		
NRHEG — Ryan Schlaak 63 run (Martens kick)		
NRHEG — Cromwell 26 run (kick failed)		
Fourth Quarter		
ML — 8 run (two-point conversion failed)		
	ML	NRHEG
Total plays	63	42
First downs	12	13
Rushing	77	334
Passing	15-27-2	2-6-0
Passing Yds.	101	8
Total Yds.	178	342
Third Down	3-15	0-4
Fourth Down	2-5	1-4
Fumbles lost	1	3
Turnovers	3	3
Penalties	3-20	2-15

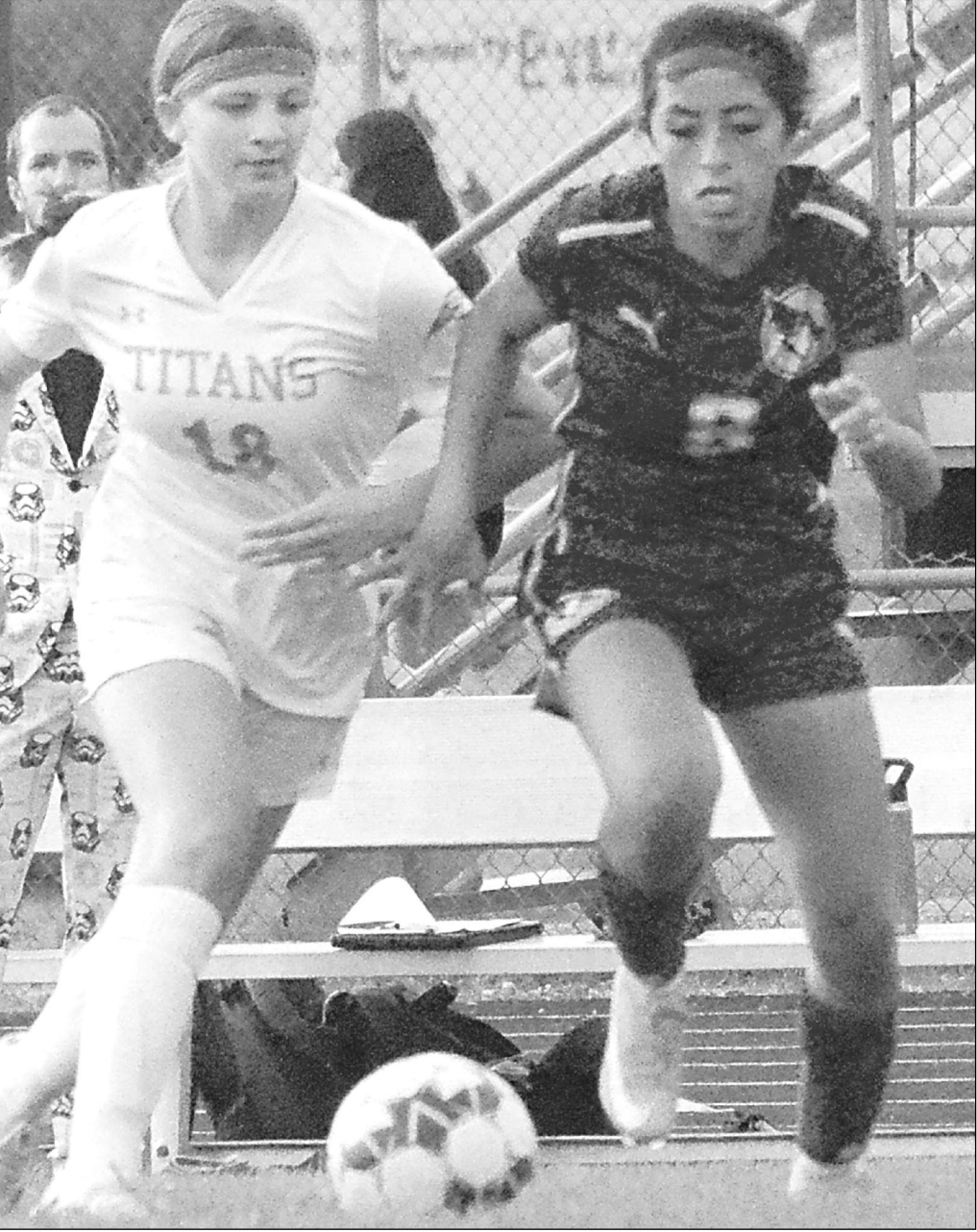
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing — NRHEG: Cromwell 12-153; Schlaak 4-84; Dobberstein 6-54; Bartlett 1-2; Rest of team 11-41; ML: No. 88 2-4; C.Hayes 1-3; Rest of team 31-70

Passing — NRHEG: Dobberstein 7-15-0, 154; ML: 15-27-2, 101

Receiving — NRHEG: A.Hanna 1-21; Dobberstein 1 — 13; ML: No. 88 3-14; Hayes 1 — 2

NRHEG Defense — J.Brouwers 7 tackles, 2 sacks; Cromwell 6 tackles; F.Baumann 5 tackles; Bartlett 4 tackles; J.Ihrke 4 tackles; J.Fleming 3 tackles; Schlaak 2 tackles; Knudson 2 tackles; Dobberstein 1 tackle, 1 interception; C.Hutchens 1 tackle; Martens 1 ackle; S.Staloch 1 interception; Z.Hanna 1 assist; Rest of team 16 tackles, 1 assist



WINNING WAYS — The Waseca High School girls' soccer team won twice last week, shutting out Tri-City United and Worthington. At left, the Bluejays' Camila Marquez (8) jostles with TCU's Aubrey Heller (18). At right, Rylee Schaffer is congratulated on a first-half goal by Angelica Lopez (5). Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

WHS girls dominate opponents

Bluejays blank TCU 9-0, Worthington 8-0

The Waseca High School girls' soccer team twice won big last week, shutting out Tri-City United 9-0 and blanking Worthington 8-0.

Among the goal scorers in the TCU game, which Waseca led 5-0 at halftime, included Camila Marquez, Rylee Schaffer, Peyton Kalbow and Gabriela Lopez. The Bluejays also hit the goal post in the first half.

The goalie was Ella Bulfer.

No statistics were available for the Worthington game.

The Bluejays, 2-1 in the Big South Black Division, improved their overall record to 6-1-1. St. Peter leads the conference at 3-0.

After a Tuesday home game, the WHS girls play Thursday at Ulm at 6:45 and Tuesday at St. Peter at 7 p.m.

The Waseca boys lost twice last week, 9-0 to TCU and 9-0 to Worthington, leaving the squad 0-3 in conference play and 0-7-1 for the fall. New Ulm sits atop the conference at 3-0.

The Bluejays host New Ulm today and St. Peter Tuesday, both games at 7 p.m.



FIRST OF TWO — The WHS girls' soccer team en route to an 8-0 shutout of TCU last week. At left, Payton Kalbow maneuvers the ball around the Titan's Kirra Flicek. In the middle, Emily LeMieux battles a TCU defender. At right, Khloe Fuller sends the ball upfield.

The Bluejays go for it at Marshall

Ohnstad's 4th-down touchdown run helps Jays to 20-14 triumph

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

After last year's 28-0 shellacking by the Waseca High School football team, the 2-0 Marshall Tigers — coming off a pair of lop-sided victories — had to be gunning for revenge as the teams met last Friday at Southwest Minnesota State's Matke Field.

They didn't get it. It was much closer this time, but the Bluejays controlled the action most of the night and never trailed during a 20-14 victory. Waseca improved to 2-1 after a season-opening loss at defending state champion Stewartville and last week's home-opening 36-0 romp over St. Peter.

"It was a great team win," said Bluejays head coach Brad Wendland.

The atmosphere was alive as Marshall honored the 50th anniversary of its 1974 squad, introducing community members with players in a pregame ceremony.

"It was a great high school football atmosphere with two really good teams," said Wendland.

The defense picked up where it left off against St. Peter, forcing a three-and-out on the game's first possession.

Then the offense went to work, with big plays from Damarius Russell, Deron Russell and Ethan Hiller propelling the Bluejays into Marshall territory.

On fourth down and 2, Wendland opted to go for it and the Bluejays converted, with quarterback Carson Ohnstad scoring on a determined 14-yard run.

It was 6-0 after one period. Late in the second quarter, Damarius Russell carried tacklers along the way to Marshall's 10. A few plays later Ohnstad fired a 4-yard touchdown pass to Damarius, who dove for it in the right corner of the end zone.

Waseca led 13-0 at halftime. After a scoreless third quarter, which ended with Marshall driving, the Tigers cut it to 13-6.

It didn't take long for the Jays to light up the scoreboard again, with Damarius racing up the Waseca sideline for an easy touchdown and a 20-6 lead with 9:13 remaining.

Marshall scored again with 5:17 left and had some chances late, but the Bluejay defense came through, just as it had most of the night. Special teams shined throughout the game.

"I thought we matched their special teams, which was a huge key for the game," said Wendland. "They have a tremendous defense and are very well coached. Protecting the ball was a very important part of the game as well. Damarius Russell basically took over the game with two touchdown catches and an interception to seal the victory."

Wendland said the Waseca seniors provided great leadership. "That's a really good team that we

"That's a really good team that we beat."
— WHS head coach Brad Wendland



Hiller



Jascha



T. Rupe



Selthun

beat," said the coach.

Ohnstad finished 22-for-30 for 239 yards and one interception.

The Bluejays are on the road again this Friday, traveling to Belle Plaine for a 7 p.m. clash.

Waseca 20, Marshall 14	
WAS	6 7 0 7 — 20
MAR	0 0 0 14 — 14
First Quarter	
WAS	— Carson Ohnstad 14 run (kick failed)
Second Quarter	
WAS	— Damarius Russell 4 pass from Ohnstad (Rupe kick)
Third Quarter	
No scoring	
Fourth Quarter	
MAR	— Gavn Schaefer rushing touchdown (kick failed)
WAS	— Da. Russell 61 pass from Ohnstad (Rupe kick)
MAR	— Schaefer rushing touchdown (two-point conversion good)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS	
Rushing — WAS: Bennett Ludwig 10-21; Ohnstad 5-18; MAR: 24 14-47; 5 9 29; 2 4-5; 1 1-3	
Passing — WAS: Ohnstad 22-30-1, 239; MAR: Levi Maeyaert 8-19-2, 67; Josh Kraft 1-1-0, 36	
Receiving — WAS: Da. Russell 10-147; Ethan Hiller 2-42; Deron Russell 8-39; Max Wirtz 2-11; MAR: 86 2-47; 24 3-27; 1 1-13; 2 2-9; 10 2-7	
Waseca Defense — Brady McKenna 1 tackle, 1 assist; Brandyn Jascha 4 tackles, 2 assists; Tauston Rupe 5 tackles, 3 assists, 1/2 sack; Micah Allen-Haas 2 tackles, 2 assists, 1 sack; Lucas Selthun 7 tackles, 4 assists; Koltyn Quillen 3 tackles, 2 assists, 1/2 sack; Jacob Root 2 tackles, 1 assist; Kyle McGuire 2 tackles, 1 assist; Damarius Russell 1 tackle, 1 interception; Deron Russell 1 tackle, 1 assist; Ethan Hiller 2 tackles, 1 assist; Ohnstad 2 tackles, 2 assists; Wirtz 1 tackle, 2 assists; Malachi Noble 1 assist; Deven Parpart 1 tackle	



GREAT GAME — The Waseca High School football team prevailed 20-14 against an always strong Marshall crew at Marshall last Friday. At left, quarterback Carson Ohnstad (18) drags tacklers on his way to a fourth-down touchdown run. Also pictured: Max Wirtz (22) and Tauston Rupe (52). At right, Damarius Russell (3) reaches for a catch. Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens



BIG PLAYS — At left, the Bluejays' Ethan Hiller (5) is dragged down by his jersey while 1 goes in for the tackle. At right, Koltyn Quillen (6) dives to stop Marshall's Gavin Schaefer (24) for a loss.



MORE BIG PLAYS — Above, Bennett Ludwig (2) displays his elusiveness in the open field. At right, Micah-Allen Haas (45) and others stop Tigers quarterback Levi Maeyaert (5).



DOMINATING D — At left, Micah Allen-Haas (45) knocks the helmet off a Marshall ball carrier. At right, Jacob Root (30), Tauston Rupe (52) and others combine to stop Tigers quarterback Levi Maeyaert.



MORE DOMINATING D — At left, Micah Allen-Haas (45) puts pressure on Marshall quarterback Levi Maeyaert. At right, Tauston Rupe (52) throws Mason Eickhoff for a loss. The Bluejays play this Friday at Belle Plaine.

BLUEJAY FOOTBALL



PLAYER of the WEEK

Damarius Russell

had 11 catches for 156 yards and two touchdowns

Bluejay Football Player of the Week Sponsored by:



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Bulldogs do everything except win at Cleveland

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

After perusing the statistics from last Friday's Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School football game at Cleveland, you have to ask yourself one question.
How did the Bulldogs not win the game?
JWP controlled most of the statistics, running 64 plays to the Clippers' 45 and out-gaining them 255-200 in total yards, but lost 27-7 at Cleveland. It left JWP 0-3.
Despite the final score, it was close early with the Bulldogs trailing 7-0 at halftime.
A 15-yard touchdown pass from Daulton Bauer to Landon Johnson and PAT kick by

Ethan Born cut it to 14-7 in the third quarter, but the Clippers added a third-period score and two fourth-quarter touchdowns.
Lucas Morsching led the offense with 53 yards rushing on 15 carries. Johnson, who caught eight passes for 58 yards, ran once for 51 yards.
Bauer was 17-for-35 passing for 127 yards and three interceptions.
The Clippers did not commit a turnover.
Born had a good game punting, averaging of 40.5 yards on four kicks.
The Bulldogs play Saturday at 3 p.m. against WEM in Waterville.

	Cleveland 27, JWP 7
JWP	0 0 7 0 — 7
CLE	7 0 7 13 — 27

First Quarter

CLE — Brennan Kourtuem 65 pass from Carson Lyons (kick successful)

Second Quarter

No scoring

Third Quarter

JWP — Landon Johnson 15 pass from Daulton Bauer (Ethan Born kick)

Fourth Quarter

CLE — Kale Kelley 15 run (kick unsuccessful)

CLE — Tanner Simonette 10 pass from Lions (kick successful)

Total plays	64	45
First downs	12	10
Rushing	30-128	84
Passing	17-35-3	12-22-0
Passing Yds.	127	116
Total Yds.	255	200
Third Down	5-16	6-12
Fourth Down	2-6	0-1
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	0-0
Turnovers	3	0
Penalties	6-77	4-27
Punts-Avg.	4-40.5	5-30.0
Time of Poss.	28:19	19:41

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing — JWP: Lucas Morsching 15-53; Johnson 1-51; Bauer 7-23; Chase Gerdt 6-8; Isaac Gahlon 1-0; Dahlberg 1 —7; **CLE:** Kelley 11-66; Kourtuem 11-11;

Caleb Possin 11-8; Lyons 1-5

Passing — JWP: Bauer 12-28-3, 101; Seth Dahlberg 5-7, 26; **GFW:** Lyons 12-22-0, 116

Receiving — JWP: Johnson 8-58; Morsching 4-23; Caleb Quast 4-14; Gahlon 2-14; Born 2-9; Gavin Bauer 1-7; Gerdt 1-6; **CLE:** Kourtuem 10-105; Bode Bartell 2-11; Simonette 2-7; Sam Ternes 1 —1; Kelley 1 —6

JWP Defense — Peyton O'Brien 1 sackle, 4 assists; Quast 1 tackle, 1 assist; Rocco Scholl 1 assist; Zander Terbeest 1 tackle; Gahlon 2 tackles; Isaiah Berndt 2 tackles; Born 2 tackles, 2 assists; Gerdt 3 tackles, 4 assists; Morsching 4 tackles, 8 assists; Jaxon Miller 1 assist; Aiden Cummins 1 tackle, 2 assists; Luke Cahill 1 tackle, 1 assist; Max Davis 1 tackle; **CLE:** — Lyons 5 tackles; Kourtuem 5 tackles; Possin 5 tackles; Kelley 5 tackles, 4 assists; Simonette 2 tackles, 1 assist;Braeden Smith 4 tackles, 1 assist; Jackson Shoulder 4 tackles, 2 assists

Streak snapped

St. Peter stops WHS tennis girls

It had to end sometime.
For the Waseca High School girls' tennis team, that time was last week.
The Bluejays' seven-match winning streak was snapped with a 5-2 loss at St. Peter, which improved to 14-0.
Wins for the Bluejays were at No. 2 singles, with junior Vivian Mader prevailing 6-4, 6-2, and No. 2doubles, where Paige Dufault and Ava Miller were victorious 3-6, 7-6 (5), 10-7.
Addie Pfeifer and Mia Kanewischer lost for the first time this season at No. 1 doubles, 6-1, 6-1. Maddy Benson took her first defeat at No. 3 singles, 6-3, 6-2.
Takya Schoenrock was swept at No. 1 singles, as was Hannah Rugger at No. 4. Kennedy Lynch and Layla Keith went down in straight sets at No. 3 doubles.
The Waseca junior varsity lost 6-1.
The Bluejays bounced back Thursday to defeat visiting New Ulm 6-1.
Mader, Benson and Rugger took straight-set decisions at singles. Pfeifer and Kanewischer won at doubles, as did Dufault and Miller, and Keith and Lynch.
The junior varsity tied 4-4.
The action left the Bluejays 9-2 overall and 2-2 in the Big South East.
The Jays play today at Blue Earth Area, Monday at Cannon Falls and Tuesday at home against Rochester Lourdes, all at 4:30.



TOUGH OUTING — The Bluejays' Layla Keith, left, and Paige Dufault, right, return shots during a recent home match for the WHS girls' tennis team, which had a seven-match winning streak snapped at St. Peter last week.



Dufault, Feldkamp lead WHS CC teams at Rochester

There was more tough competition for the Waseca High School cross country teams in Rochester last week.
The WHS finished a very respectful fourth with 166 points. Faribault won with 90. Eighteen teams scored.
Bluejay places and times for

5,000 meters: Callie Dufault, 12th, 21:01.7; Ellie Kopischke, 22nd, 21:54.6; Maren Schimming, 23rd, 21:57.2; Taylor Markeson, 53rd, 23:08; Quinn Yoder, 56th, 23:24.6; Ava VanDenHemel, 61st, 23:36. The race was won by Abigail Tri of Rochester John Marshall in 19:13.2. Waseca's Megan Tegmeier finished second in the junior varsity race, clocking 23:10.4.

The WHS boys were 13th among 20 schools with 378 points. Rosemount won with 29. Stillwater Area had 31.

For the Bluejays: Isaac Feldkamp, 21st, 17:07.1; Tanner Hanson, 77th, 19:09.6; Tyler Jellum, 83rd, 19:15.1; Tristan Godwin, 94th, 19:28.9; Luke Feldkamp, 107th, 20:01.1; Wyatt Hager, 114th, 20:33.1. Winona Cotter/Hope Lutheran freshman won it in 16:00.7.

The Bluejays are off until the Sept. 26 Zumbrota-Mazeppa Invitational at 4 p.m.

Grizzlies 2nd, 3rd at Daly Park

The WEM/JWP Grizzly cross country teams ventured to Daly Park near Mapleton for the Maple River Invitational last Thursday.
The girls won with 30 points. Minnesota Valley Lutheran had 52, Blue Earth Area 69, Medford 85.
MaKenzie Westphal, a freshman, was second in the girls' race with a time of 22:37. Following were Onikia Herme, sixth, 25:18; Madeline Hoehn, eighth, 25:30; Emma Huelsniktz, 13th, 25:56; Madalyn Miller, 15th, 26:26; Kwynn Krause, 16th, 26:27; and Lydia Coulsey, 21st, 28:14.

The boys were third with 79 points. MVL had 24, United South Central 60, Medford 91 and Blue Earth Area 100. MVL took the top three places individually.
WEM/JWP showings: Teagan Mulder, fifth, 20:38; Alexander Kleve, 12th, 21:48; Auston Holicky, 24th, 23:59; Wesley Heins, 25th, 24:00; Avery Fall, 35th, 25:54; and Maddox Moreno, 42nd, 27:52.
After Tuesday's NRHEG Invitational, the Grizzlies are back in action Sept. 26 with their own invitational at 4:30.

NRHEG spikers keep it close, but fall 3-1 to WEM, USC

The competition got a little tougher for the NRHEG High School volleyball team last week.
The Panthers kept the games close but lost 3-1 both times, to WEM at home and at United South Central.
Against WEM last Thursday, the Buccaneers lost 25-21, 23-25, 25-22 and 25-15 in New Richland.
"It was another close match tonight against WEM," said Panthers coach Bethany Tennis.
Individually for NRHEG: Gabby Schlaak 10 kills, 14 digs, 3 sets, 1 set assist, 3 ace serves; Camryn VanMaldeghem 7K, 5D, 8A; Anika Ladlie: 8K, 1D, 4A; Mallory Schlinger 6D; Izley Boerner 4D; Aryanna Howe 5K, 8D, 1SA, 2A; Addy Stadheim 1K, 10D, 34S, 3A, 4A; Chloe Riewer 17D, 1SA; Chloe Stork 3K, 14A.
"Stork and VanMaldeghem held a presence at the net," said Tennis.

"As a team, we need to be able to finish games stronger and with more intensity. The Panthers brought good energy to the court, but we need to practice sustaining that energy through the entirety of the match. Looking ahead, we have a lot of season left to make sure our team is running on all cylinders."
Two nights earlier, the Panthers traveled to Wells to face USC and fell 25-22, 21-25, 25-19 and 30-28.
"It was a tough loss," said Tennis. "We lost our momentum after the first set and couldn't quite get it back in time. Both teams battled hard in the fourth set. Addy Stadheim had 33 assists throughout the match and will continue to play a key role in our offensive success. We have some game aspects to continue to improve upon."
Individually: Schlaak 12K, 6D, 2SA, 2A, 2B; VanMaldeghem 6K, 4D, 2A, 4B; Ladlie 5K, 2B;



ACTIVITY AT THE NET — The Panthers' Camryn VanMaldeghem spikes against WEM. Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens

Schlinger 7D, 1SA; Boerner 6D, 1A; Howe 6K, 5D, 1A, 2B; Stadheim 2K, 6D, 33SA, 2A, 3B; Aspyn Stenzel 1K, 1D, 1A; Riewer 14D, 2SA, 5B; Stork 3K, 2D, 1B.

After playing Thursday at home against BA, the Panthers return to Wells for the USC Invitational Saturday at 9 a.m.

St. Peter subdues WHS spikers

The Waseca High School volleyball team has experienced a resurgence this season.
Last week, the Bluejays took a (hopefully) rare step in the wrong direction.
The WHS girls traveled to St. Peter and lost 3-0. After a 25-12 loss in game one, the Bluejays kept it close, dropping the final two contests 25-21 and 25-23.
It dropped the Bluejays' record to 7-4 overall and 1-1 in the Big

South East.
Aliyah Taylor totaled 14 kills and 12 digs against St. Peter. Siri Kuhns had 20 assists and 11 digs, Kendall Bowers 16 digs.
St. Peter, 1-0 in conference play, improved to 9-3 for the season.
The Bluejays play tonight at 7:15 and Saturday in the Austin Invitational starting at 8 a.m. They play Monday at Fairmont at 7:30 and host St. James Area Tuesday at 7:15.

Karl, Wobbrock 2nd at BP

The NRHEG High School cross country teams were more than a little short-handed for last week's meet at Blooming Prairie.
Neither the boys or the girls fielded a full squad.
Jacob Karl was the lone entry for the NRHEG boys, finishing

second with a time of 19:09 for 5,000 meters.
The girls had three runners. Julieann Wobbrock was second in 22:37.3, Ella Jen 11th in 24:54.4, and Sierra Misgen 21st in 30:01.8.
The Panthers are off until the Sept. 26 WEM/JWP Invitational.



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West Lawn Farm
Wilbur-Ellis
Wireless World-Verizon
Wolff and Sons

Apologies to anyone we may have missed!



See You At The Fair!

■ **Festival**

from Page 1

wide variety of items were for sale inside the Treanor-Campion Building (Parish Center): budding plants, pickles, doilies, knitted goods, fresh vegetables, apples, as well as baked goods including pies and bars. Lori Mickelson, Regent for the Sacred Heart Catholic Daughters of the Americas said, "We encourage all our members to donate to the Country Store. It really helps." Donated items came not only from members of Waseca's Sacred Heart, but also sister church members who attend New Richland's All Saints Church; the two congregations have been associated for about a year.

The Silent Auction, available all weekend, offered donated baskets filled with candy, coffees, fresh fruits, media items like movies or mugs were there to bid on. There was a Bethany Lutheran clothing basket, an RC racecar basket, a teddy bear basket and a stain-remover basket with assorted cleaning chemicals and tools. Across from that in the TC Building gymnasium was the Book Fair where kids and adults could go and find a book they're interested in, there was also an assortment of candy for sale and novelty items like 3-D book-marks.

At the White Elephant sale, lightly used goods were available for purchase. Buyers were offered a rich variety of options including Christmas lights, clothing, or woodworking items, kitchen

utensils and framed pictures.

Many options for children were open all weekend. At the kid carnival there were bounce houses, crafts such as rock painting, and games like Lion's Mouth, Minnow Races, Car Racing, Dice Roll, Ring Toss, The Lucky Lock House, Bag Toss, Sucker Tree, Fruit 'n' Stein, Sling Shot, Fling a Thing, Catch a Critter, Snipers Edge, a Basketball Challenge, Cristen's Putt Putt. There was also face painting, crazy hair and a Build a Bear trailer.

Becky Petsinger was on the Fall Festival Committee, working the concessions under the tent. She has been pleased with this year's turnout, "On Friday we had around 200 people, Saturday was upwards of 300 and Sunday with the church attendance there have been 200 people so far."

Petsinger credited the cooperative, giving approach of event volunteers for much of the weekend's success, commenting that experienced workers were happy to share their knowledge and understanding with beginners.

"It's a lot of work," Petsinger admitted, "but people see the fellowship and community this brings in and the benefits that come with that for the school. We're all gears working and grinding together, and it really has worked out well this year."

Besides all that, she observed, "The weather has been perfect." Saturday alone sold 188 pork loin dinner tickets, that's not counting concessions, the stores or kids' carnival, with all proceeds going to the school.



Elaina Berg (7) was busy painting her rock for arts and crafts at the Sacred Heart Fall Festival on Saturday, Sep 14
Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

25 years and counting

Boxcar Bar celebration set for this weekend

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

The Boxcar Bar of Waseca is honoring owner Todd Schmidt, 70, for his 25 years as proprietor of the decades-old establishment.

On September 20, 1999, Schmidt purchased the bar located at 202 W. Elm Ave, along Waseca's now "Old highway 14." To mark the milestone, the Boxcar is inviting members of the public to visit during a two-day celebration on Friday and Saturday, September 20 and 21. All-day specials along with various give-aways await those who attend.

"It happened fast," Schmidt recalled, telling of approaching then-owner Gary Ross after seeing a sign stating the business, which first opened in 1977, was for sale.

"Doesn't every guy say they wanna own a bar?" Schmidt joked when asked the reason behind the purchase.

"I stopped in on a Sunday, talked to him and we ended up making a deal.

"I knew I wanted to do something on my own," Schmidt continued. "I just felt it had to happen. I wanted to be here."

A lifelong resident of Waseca, Schmidt has worked in downtown Waseca retail for 54 years.

The 1972 graduate of Waseca High School attended Sacred Heart until his senior year when the schools merged.

His working career began at Kritzer Oil Company in 1971, a job he held until 2001; after that he moved to the John Deere implement, where he worked until 2004, overlapping his ownership of the bar by five years.

Schmidt said he wasn't worried the business wouldn't suc-

"I remember locking up some nights and thinking other people will get more sleep while sleeping in, than I got the entire night." — Todd Schmidt

ceed because he maintained full-time employment outside of the bar. Taking that precaution, however, meant he was regularly working 18- to 19-hour days.

"I remember locking up some nights and thinking other people will get more sleep while sleeping in, than I got the entire night," Schmidt recalled. "It got to be too hectic and I ended up leaving my other other job in 2004."

To this day, Schmidt remains an active farmer. One of seven siblings, a son of Harold and Audrey Schmidt, Todd is the owner of a 300-acre operation. In 1991, the farm was awarded a century farm acknowledgment.

The Boxcar Bar remains a local family operation.

Tae Born, 46, and Todd Schmidt, have been together since 2005 and worked together since 2001. Between the two they have four adult children and three grand-kids with another on the way.

"It's a family affair," Tae said. "It takes a village."

"They say bar ownership usually lasts ten years," Tae continued. "Twenty-five years is an accomplishment."

"The secret to success is to be here," Todd states. "Be here. Be open. People like to see the owner. And make sure you put in very good employees."

At any given time the Boxcar employs 12 to 15 people due to the "weird" hours of operation: 365 days a year, 8 a.m. to 1 a.m.

What's the Boxcar's message to its patrons?

"Thank you." "We joke with them a lot," Tae said. "They've been here through thick and thin. With holes in the building or not. They're more like family than customers. Bar people have good hearts."

"We just want to thank them."

The "thick and thin" includes a Thursday afternoon in the mid 2000s. Tae, moments after leaving her office in the front, witnessed a car come through the front of the building, right where her desk was.

"If I was in there, I wouldn't be here today," Tae said. "So the front's been changed and I think everything in the building has changed or moved."

And no, they didn't close when the car went through the front.

"We boarded up and used one of the other five entrances," Tae joked. "Just pick one!"

"This guy is open 365 days a year and sometimes 366. He never closes... Make hay when the sun shines, they say."

Of the good times, Tae and Todd list many good moments.

Their favorite by far is the Waseca area's annual Santa Anonymous auction, a fundraiser which takes place every year on the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

What started out as an auction raising \$800, has grown into an event which brings in more than



Tae Born and Boxcar Bar owner Todd Schmidt. A two day celebration of the anniversary of the day Schmidt purchased the bar is set for Friday and Saturday.

Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

\$30,000 every year. "It's built up to be a great thing," Todd said. "That's a Boxcar event we're very proud of."

The Boxcar draws people together for many reasons throughout the year. Funerals,

anniversaries, weddings, and many celebrations.

Other annual events include the Outdoor Bash held the final weekend in July, Beer and Brats the first Thursday in October, and somewhat spontaneously arranged live music periodically

throughout the fall and winter seasons.

Asked about the future, Todd says he doesn't anticipate any major changes.

"I think I have 10 good years left in me," Todd concluded. "Thank you."



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern MN visited the Waseca County Exchange Club last week. From left: Mikhail Rostislavovich, Lyndsea Bulfer, Jess Crotser, Makayla Sletten, Mark Butterfield.

Big Brothers Big Sisters visits with Waseca Exchange club

The Waseca Exchange Club hosted a luncheon with guest speakers Makayla Sletten and Jess Crotser of Big Brothers Big Sisters Of Southern Minnesota. The message was "It Takes Little To Be Big."

Sletten who serves as a Match Specialist said "We are currently serving over 850 young children across a 5-county area. And are trying to find matches for many of the children in our program."

Her colleague Jess Croster is the Mentor Recruiter for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Southern Minnesota. Her area focuses on Community-Based Mentorships which is the traditional one-to-one mentoring model. She went on to say "We look for caring adult mentors whom we call "Bigs" and children "Littles" who can spend time together in their Communities doing activities that they can enjoy together. Bigs and Littles are encouraged to spend time together twice a month. Every match is unique and together they are encouraged to develop a schedule of activities that works for them."

Another program is called School Site Mentorship she said this is one of the unique ways the Bigs can make the most of their work days. In this program caring adults or High School students, Bigs, and younger students Littles are matched together and meet

at the child's school for just 30 minutes a week. Sletten encouraged the Exchange Club to apply for their mentor program and join the movement she said "It's time to be a part of something BIG."

Mikhail Rostislavovich President of the Waseca Exchange Club encouraged his members and their guests to think about becoming a mentor. He

said, "Please think about it, by taking only 60 minutes a month out of our time could allow us to help change a child's life for the better." He ended with

If you're interested in becoming a mentor or have questions, please call 507-451-5922 or contact Big Brothers Big Sisters at info@bbbssmn.org or www.bbbssmn.org

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