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First day of School



John Hanson, Ann Fitch and Mikhail Rostislavovich tour the high school performing arts center as they make plans for an updated format for this year's local political debates.

A new kind of debate

New schedule, style coming this year

The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce's new Legislative Committee is excited to announce a collaboration with Waseca High School's American Government and Political Sciences classes to host upcoming candidate debates. Chamber executive director Ann Fitch states this partnership will modify the longstanding WHS Coffee Break Debates program and "create an even more valuable community event that will benefit the voters of our area."

"This collaboration is an exciting opportunity to enhance the debate format," said Mikhail Rostislavovich, legislative committee chair and

chamber vice president. "We're introducing a rebuttal period for candidates, as well as a segment for questions from the audience, which will lead to more dynamic and informative discussions." In the past, debates were held during the school day and had significant time limitations due to student class schedules.

In another effort to increase community engagement, the debates will be held in the evening at the high school's Performing Arts Center, providing more opportunities for residents to attend and participate in the

Debate continued on 4



From left, Waseca High School social studies department chair John Hanson; Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce executive director Ann Fitch, and Chamber legislative committee chair Mikhail Rostislavovich.

Crumb and Blythe displays at Waseca Art Gallery to close after final showing from noon to 5 p.m. Sept. 12

Displays of work by Dick Crumb and Abigail Blythe will end after a final day of showing from 12 to 5 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 12. Dick Crumb focuses on photographic work while Abigail Blythe has paintings.

Indian Island Winery Grape Stomp and Beer Fest Saturday, from noon to 9 p.m. Sept. 14

The Indian Island Winery will be hosting a Grape Stomp and Beer Fest from noon to 9 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 14. The beer tent will be open from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. with sample beers offered by vendors from various local breweries. Music from the Ryanne Noelle Duo from 12:30 to 3 p.m.; GTX from 3 to 5:30 p.m. and Rain Kings from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Among the day's events will be a Grape Stomp and costume contest.

Fred the Bear at Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm from 5 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 14

The Classic Rock/Alternative Band Fred the Bear will be performing a Tom Petty Tribute from 5 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 14 at Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm. The band's website describes its style as "rich harmonies, emotive dynamics, personally crafted lyrics and driving rhythms."

Waseca High School Class of 1984 40-Year Reunion Sept. 14

The Waseca High School Class of 1984 will hold a 40-year anniversary celebration from 5 to 10 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 14 at the Second Ave Event Center (former Eagles Club). All WHS class of '84 students and guests are welcome. To register early go to <https://www.eventcenter.com/e/whs84>

Briefs continued on 3

A word from The Word

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.

Revelation 21:4



Team USA beat China in the women's gold medal match of sitting volleyball at the 2024 Paris Paralympics on Saturday, September 7, 2024, winning 3-1. Waseca native Alexis Shiflett-Patterson (wearing the number 3 jersey), returned for her third Paralympic Games. Her previous two trips were also successful, with the U.S. team securing gold medals at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Paralympic Games and the 2020 Tokyo Paralympic Games. Shiflett-Patterson is the daughter of John and Katie Shiflett.

MPR photo by Dimitar Dilkoff

Reins to Memorial Day program in new hands

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

The records and notes for Waseca county's annual Memorial Day program go back to 1933. They summarize the many ways local communities and organizations have honored the region's deceased veterans going back even to the Civil War.

Waseca resident Grant Whissemore has been the volunteer organizer for the past 19 programs. Now 78, he has passed the records and the responsibility on to fellow Memorial Day volunteer Kevin Dickie, 68.

Since he has volunteered with a number of the different annual Memorial Day initiatives over the past decade or so, Dickie admits he knew what he was getting himself into, and decided to take the leadership position only after considerable deliberation. Dickie has helped for the past 10 years or so with the Sons of the American Legion group "Avenue of the Flags" displayed at Woodville and Calvary cemeteries through the early part of the summer. He has been part of the Memorial Day program planning committee for the past four.

Whissemore explains he decided the timing



Grant Whissemore (left) hands over the record book which contains information from Waseca County Memorial Day programs spanning nine decades. Going forward, fellow event volunteer Kevin Dickie (right) will have the leadership role.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

is right for passing along the leadership role. "I wanted to be sure a new committee chair would have time to learn the ropes while I was still around to answer questions," he said. He adds that it's imperative the Memorial Day program continue to convey the honor and dignity due to deceased veterans.

"It's been a labor of love." — Grant Whissemore

Program continued on 6

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Board considers budgets, broadband

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

During the budget review process which has been underway for about two months, members of the Waseca County board of commissioners heard from the University of Minnesota Extension office and from the Soil and Water Conservation District regarding anticipated expenditures for 2025.

Both departments receive a substantial portion of their funding from other sources while being supported partially by county funds.

Board members heard from Extension's Southeast Regional director Christy Kallevig, who mentioned the Extension service typically makes a three-year "agreement" with the county for the services it delivers. Kallevig requested a "total investment" from the county of \$159,000 for 2025, a number which constitutes almost a 24-percent increase from 2024. The largest factor in the request is staff pay. The Extension office indicated its desire to add a half-time agriculture educator to its Waseca office, while also giving a 20-percent pay increase to the county's current youth development coordinator, Amy Nelson.

Commissioners mentioned during discussion that the Extension service has decided on a 20-percent increase for its educators statewide beginning in 2025; the decision is based on an apparently unacceptable level of turnover. Educators leave their positions to take jobs with other organizations. Recruiting and training their replacements creates a financial burden while also leaving positions temporarily vacant, which sets programs back and leads to lost progress.

While commissioners agreed with Kallevig's observations that Waseca County's 4-H and Extension programs are exceptional—to a great degree because of Nelson's skill and dedication—a number of them observed the nearly 24-percent increase is an unpleasant prospect: one commissioner referred to the situation as "a double blow," between the addition of the half-time educator and the 20-percent increase to the wages both will

County continued on 8



Compostings

by Al Batt

Dashing to Kiester

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
If I won \$1 million, I'd give a quarter of it to charity.

That's mighty generous of you. It's no big deal. I'd still have \$999,999.75 left.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Deep thoughts occur as I drive past his drive. It's shorts and hoodie weather. It surprised me to receive the Pole-to-Pole badge from Fitbit for reaching 12,430 lifetime miles, not counting the miles I'd put on a broken watch. I wish I'd gotten a Fitbit earlier as I enjoyed dashing through the snow from the North Pole to the South Pole. Instead of making another trip between the Poles, I dashed to Farming of Yesteryear (FOY) in Kiester. FOY is a place that remembers. I told stories on stage, bought a few books, visited with friends and wondered how those tractors had become so old.

I REMEMBERED

I'd been a lucky hitter all tournament and expected that to continue when I stepped into the batter's box. The opposing pitcher, Bernie Waldhauser, delivered the pitch. I closed my eyes, swung and hit a grapefruit Bernie had substituted for the softball. Everybody found it funny except the umpire, who got squirted by the grapefruit.

How to ruin a knock-knock joke
Knock, knock.
I'll get it.

I'VE LEARNED

Neither John Wayne nor Clint Eastwood was from Texas.

Stonehenge was the first Lego set

I enjoy hot showers more than hot weather.

Procrastinators are the leaders of tomorrow.

A birthday cake is a participation trophy.

If someone tells you how intelligent he is, he isn't.

We complain more about road construction than we do about bad roads.

ASK AL

"When you milked cows, how did you make sure you got all of a cow's milk?" We tilted the cow by lifting her front end.

"Where's the best place to find perch?" Under a parakeet.

"Where can I find the best beef stomach?" Try Tripe Advisor.

"How does a skunk smell?" With its nose.

"If crows are so smart, why can't I understand what they're saying?" It's because they are so smart.

"How can I stop a coyote from coming onto my deck?" Stop ordering things from Acme.

"Why don't they teach kids curse-ive?" It's because the kids learn to curse online.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

Sarah left her Pepsi 60 miles south of Tampa. That's where Sarah's soda is.

My wife told me I've grown as a person. She said, "You've gotten fat," but I know what she meant.

I have four legs, eight arms and three heads. What am I? A liar.

Where do you find an ocean without water? On a map.

NATURE NOTES

What will the winter bring? I predict cold and snow every year and, if I say so myself, I've nailed the forecast each year. Mild and dry. That's the winter forecast for Minnesota from the Old Farmer's Almanac. The Farmers' Almanac's prediction is for a cold winter with average snowfall in Minnesota, which I think is the same thing they predicted last year. The Old Farmer's Almanac thinks the winter of 2024-25 will be kind and resemble last winter, which it had predicted would have average to colder-than-normal temperatures in areas that typically receive snow.

When northern cardinals and blue jays finish nesting, it's time for them to molt and replace their old feathers. Some lose all their head feathers at once in a normal molt.

Not all gulls are eating pilfered pizza in a parking lot. The Bomgaars store in Albert Lea had a large flock of ring-billed gulls on its roof. The Latin word "arena" means sand, and the stage where the gladiators and exotic animals engaged in mortal combat was covered in a thin layer of sand. The store's roof might be a gull arena. Now, the gulls are molting. Feathers are flying, and the sidewalk in front of the store appears to have hosted the state's largest pillow fight. Like many birds with brilliant white feathers, the gulls were hunted for the millinery trade and their eggs were stolen from nests for use in restaurants. Many farmers, wrongly believing the gulls were pests, shot them in large numbers, causing gull populations to plummet. Ring-bills are omnivores that go where they can find food—eating fish, worms, insects, grains, small rodents like mice and voles, human garbage and enjoy french fries spilled outside fast-food restaurants. They frequent landfills, farm fields, shopping malls, parking lots and beaches. A black band around a yellow bill identifies the adults.

MEETING ADJOURNED

"It's not the load that breaks you down. It's the way you carry it."—Lena Horne. Be kind.

My place in the progression of time



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

the pickup truck.

I can't speak to the effort of using the saw—I've never done it. I can say it appears to be a physically demanding task, accompanied by the technical understanding of the machine and its blade. So I will restrict my comparisons to myself.

My son did at least twice as much work as I did, probably more.

Watching all he could do reminded me of how much I could once do. (Perhaps now is a good time to mention I was a complete "tomboy." I was the middle child with a brother on either side of me. Growing up, that got me my own bedroom, but I wasn't deferred when it came to physical tasks. I "made" lots of wood in my time. I dug potatoes. I carried buckets of water. I helped bale hay, stacking the rectangular bales on a hayrack in the heat of summer, then helping transfer them to the "hay mow." I did the kinds of work that used to be needed on a farm.)

So watching my son perform the numerous physical tasks to set in some firewood filled me with nostalgia.

I was once something of a powerhouse, too. And along with that, I was part of a trio. My brothers and I were doubtless an impressive team. I believe I now understand why my grandmother seemed to always have some sort of homemade treat ready for us, despite our incredible appetites. We attributed it to grandmotherly love and generosity; thinking of this past week, I can't help thinking she was proud of who we were and what we could do, and wanted to thank us.

Like I did while gathering firewood, she doubtless watched us working and was reminded of other times.

You see, yes, I felt tremendous love and appreciation for all my son was doing. But mostly I felt my place in the progression of time. Each of

us lives and grows, fulfilling the roles we take on day by day. Every once in a while, we stop and look around to discover a decade or more has passed. Lifetimes are lived a minute a time, but oh, they pass quickly. The people younger than we are serve as monuments to the people we once were: We have no option but to watch their actions and choices, knowing they are likely to disregard any warnings and advice we want to offer just as off-handedly as we dismissed input from our elders, telling ourselves they didn't know how things are "these days."

They may venerate and appreciate us, but they will not understand us until they are in the place I was this past week—watching someone younger than themselves and remembering what it was like to be in that place.

Like a traveler on a long and winding road, it's not that I miss those days. They are a place I have moved on from, bringing me to this new one filled with its own occupations and fascinations. It's not that I wish to go back, rather, I am grateful to have found a way to look back and be reminded of that portion of the journey.

I guess all I can say in conclusion is that, in addition to "making wood" that day, I spent the afternoon studying philosophy and traveling through time.

The little 'M' sitting on my shoulder



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

the summary I hope my boyfriend will provide.

Either way, I had a great time, and the round trip flight was only \$50, which I thought was pretty cheap. Maybe I'll have to take more trips this year, be spontaneous, "YOLO" it; live the vida loca. Seems reasonable, right? I'm only 21 once.

In my mind, all of you are sighing and saying how nice it was to be 21 or how the time flies or telling me to enjoy myself while I'm this age. Well, I'm trying. In my head you guys are also saying, "Oh my gosh Amelia, you write such amazing columns, I love reading them every

week." Aw, thanks! You're all so sweet. But it's ok, I know this hodgepodge of a column where I am just spitting out my random thoughts isn't always fun to read, I get it. Try living in my head.

Fun fact, as a child, I used to have a little imaginary friend, as all children do. However, my friend was miniature and used to sit on my shoulder like my conscience. I forgot her name (I think it started with an M?) but she would wear a bright shirt with a large yellow smiley face on it because I guess I wanted to remind myself to be happy. She used to come to church with me and jump

between all the light fixtures until I would "get mad" and tell her to come down to sit with me. When Child Amelia had to sit through a long sermon she couldn't understand, it only seemed right my imaginary friend had to sit still as well.

I asked my friends if they had imaginary friends and they said yes, but then one girl went on telling us about how much her dad talks to himself, which is a lot I guess. We didn't think it was weird until she said he calls them his "Executive Board Meetings." So, yeah. My executive board meetings meet daily, sometimes multiple times a day in that case.

My Determination: "It takes courage to let down your armor, to welcome people to see you as you are. Sometimes I feel the same as you: I can't risk having people behold me as I truly am. But there's also a small voice in the back of my mind, a voice that tells me, "You will miss so much by being so guarded." - Rebecca Ross, Divine Rivals

Baseball memories shared during football game



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

talking to me beforehand. He suggested the pitcher would throw me a first pitch strike in the heart of the plate. I almost never swung at the first pitch, but that day I did. It was low and on the corner. I connected hard, a ground ball to deep third.

After that clean hit, I believe I ran my fastest speed ever to first base. The jump, my speed—I don't believe I could have been one step faster.

I was called out as my foot came down on the bag. The run from third didn't count and I was out number three.

Dempsey Tucker made the final out of that game as I watched from the on-deck circle.

I'll never forget the way Coach Drew Paukert reacted when he learned and subsequently informed us Jack threw a no-hitter.

I think Ryan Tri walked up to him, Paukert turned to us, scoffed and said, "And Jack Schultz threw a no-hitter."

That was part way through his speech. It made me cry even harder. I was saddened by the fact we lost, but mostly I was struck by the realization my final high school baseball season had ended.

And then coach Tri said something I'll never forget, something I try to tell young athletes to this day: "If this is the saddest moment in your life, think about how blessed your life must be."

And that helped. Truly, I cannot think of a better way my baseball career and high school career could

have ended. It became truly storybook-esque.

While I'm here I must share one more Jack Schultz story.

Jack almost lost me my first high school win as a pitcher for the Panthers.

We were losing to Tri-City United, ranked third in the state at the time, with a score of 4-1. Dempsey had started on the mound and pitched the first three innings. He was pulled from the game after he came off the mound and chucked his glove, in frustration, in the dugout.

I pitched the next three innings. I didn't allow a run and the most exciting part of the three innings, for TCU, was a bunt single.

Then the bottom of the sixth inning came around.

I'm pretty sure Paukert figured we were toast because he brought in a pinch hitter for the batter in front of me—one who had had zero hits and was a bench player. Well, he got on base. And then so did I.

Suddenly we had a rally.

Paukert brought in alternate runners for the both of us and my day was done.

Well, nine batters later, we were up 7-4 going into the last inning.

In comes Wild Thang Jack Schultz.

Wild Thang goes on to walk the bases full, allowing two runners to score.

Somehow, by prayers and the raw talent of "Wild Thang," we somehow recorded two outs.

I'm pretty sure my pacing in the dugout had something to do with what happened next.

With the count full, bases full and the score 7-6 (thank all that is good) the TCU hitter swings at what surely would have been ball four and bashes the ball right in the dirt to good old Mr. Jack Schultz, who calmly, doesn't step on home plate, but instead tosses the ball to first base for the third out.

Win secured.

My high school varsity career began in tenth grade when coach Paukert surprised me by asking me to start a noon game on a Saturday.

It gave me a great moment. When I went home from practice that Friday I asked my dad whether he was going to come to the game on Saturday. "No, why would I," he asked. "You're not playing."

You can imagine how I felt telling him I was starting on the mound.

I always had to get through my first inning of work and I would be fine. My first start would have been no different. With two outs, one run in and two on, I induced a lazy fly ball. I exhaled, relief. I made it through. I watched our center fielder, Carson Field, put his glove up and do the old "major league" catch. But instead of staying in the glove, the ball popped out right onto the ground.

I will not describe the rest of the inning, other than to say 8 runs total were scored. Including a homerun from the next hitter. (The only home run I allowed in my career.)

I find myself saying often, lately, that I would not choose another time to be alive. Another profession to be in. Or even a different part of the world to call home. I consider myself incredibly blessed, fortunate.

I'm glad I ran into Jack. And I'm glad whenever I have the opportunity to entertain good conversation and even better company.



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Correction
An article from the August 29, 2024 edition of the Pioneer contained an error. The story on Page 4 contained the name of Linda Joy and was spelled wrong.

Flood relief lunch and silent auction at St. John Lutheran 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Sept. 15
A free will lunch and silent auction fundraiser will be from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church, 401 Third Ave NE, Waseca, on Sunday, Sept. 15. The meal will include hot beef sandwiches, salads and chips. Money raised will benefit three Waterville families who are members at the church and whose homes were damaged by flooding.

“Charlatan’s Cabinet” display beginning Sept. 17 at the Waseca County Historical Society
The Waseca County Historical Society is located at 315 Second Avenue NE in Waseca, and is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays through Fridays. The new fall exhibit, “The Charlatan’s Cabinet” features “the dark side” of medicine and some of the tricks and deception used to market medical products early in the twentieth century. Visit the display any time during the museum’s open hours at no cost. Visit the wasecacountyhistory-center.org website for more information or call 507-835-7700.

Nate Klemp Virtual Author Event at Waseca-LeSueur library Wednesday, September 18 at 1 p.m.
Klemp will explore pathways back to open-minded living when he shares the core tenets in his book, ‘Living with an Expansive Mind in a Distracted World’, on Wednesday, September 18 at 1p.m. This event will be online and recorded, people can register at the library or online at www.wasecalesueurlibraries.com/getregistered.

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.

Waseca Public Library Cook the Book event will be held Thursday, Briefs continued on 5



New Richland Mayor Janda Ferguson

Ferguson steps into new role

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer
New Richland city council member and deputy mayor Janda Ferguson became the city’s acting mayor following the resignation of Loren Skelton during the council’s July 22 meeting. Citing health concerns, Skelton stepped down so he can move to be closer to family. With his resignation, Ferguson acquired the leadership role through December 31, when the current term ends. Brandy Jacobson was appointed by

the city council to fill her open seat. Ferguson grew up in the Otisco area and graduated from the NRHEG school system in 2000. After graduating from the Rochester Community Technical College and living in Rochester for about 15 years, she returned to New Richland in 2020 during Covid. Said Ferguson, “After living in Rochester for so many years, I really missed that small town connection and wanted that for my child who also attends NRHEG.” She has family members in the area as well,

including one sibling, and enjoys being a part of the New Richland community. Both her mother and father graduated from New Richland High School. Ferguson has been in public service for the past one and a half years. When she’s not busy being mayor, she works for Waseca Utilities. Said Ferguson, “Working there has helped me learn the in’s and out’s of city government. I also hope my contribution brings a lot to the table and I have learned so much from the staff

there. I think I can bring that experience to improve my work as mayor.” Having become acting mayor of New Richland, she says she will work to be elected to the position for the next term, which will begin in January of 2025. The New Richland city website states that mayors serve a two-year term, while city council members serve for four years.

“Right now, my biggest concern is

Mayor continued on 5

A year of growth Sportsman’s Campground in rural Janesville

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer
Sportsman’s Campground is a little country hideaway located two miles north of Janesville, just a block south from Lake Elysian. With a cloudless sky above and a perfect temperature for swimming and a light breeze, owner Grant Wildgrube was found handing out root beer floats by the pool. Wildgrube is now in his third season of owning Sportsman’s Campground. As he washed his somewhat sugary hands, he explained, “It’s my son’s sixteenth birthday, so we are giving out free root beer floats to celebrate.” His son Reid works at the campground, performing tasks including mowing lawns, small repairs, or anything else that needs doing. Wildgrube’s other child, 12-year-old Claire, works there too. The campground was originally owned by the Sportsman’s Clubs located in Janesville and Smith’s Mill; the organizations sold it to Rick and Jerri Reinbold, who sold it to Wildgrube and his wife Anna in 2022. In addition to assisting with the campground, Anna works as a veterinarian in Owatonna. This has been a growth year for Sportsman’s Campground. The addition of 13 new campsites has brought the total to 65. Other planned improvements were delayed by the wet spring. Said Wildgrube, “We started to mow a trail through the



Left to right: Reid, 16, with his sister Claire, 12, and their father Grant Wildgrube, owner of Sportsman’s Campground in Janesville.

woods so people could go hiking, but had to hold off on that up through July 4 because there was water from all the rain. But even with the wet weather, people were still eager to camp here: That means something.” Wildgrube recorded more than 14 inches of rain early in the summer. Wildgrube grew up in New Richland. He says what attracted him to the Janesville area is how much it looks like northern Minnesota. “All this old growth, wooded area looked amazing when I first saw it, what a getaway.” Other than the rain earlier in the year, Wildgrube said the summer has been fairly calm. He did end up hiring James Brothers Construction to bring in gravel to restore smooth access to some parts of

the campground, but other than that, he felt fortunate the grounds escaped much damage. Wildgrube said when work is needed on the site, he does everything he can to hire locally. Wildgrube says his plans for next year include adding some short-term sites in contrast to the many customers who park their recreational vehicles for the summer and come and go to them almost like cabins. He hopes to add “walk-in” sites for those who want to camp in tents for a weekend; preparations will begin as soon as the weather allows in spring. Anyone looking for more information about Sportsman’s Campground in Janesville can reach Wildgrube at 507-234-5440.

Constitution week declared in Waseca

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor
At the most recent Waseca City Council meeting, Sept. 17 through 23 was declared Constitution Week in Waseca. Marilyn Wilkus, from Daughters of the American Revolution gave a short presentation during the regular meeting of the Waseca City Council Tuesday, Sept. 3. This year will mark the 237th anniversary of the framing of the Constitution of the United States. A press release detailing more about the organization and its goals can be found in this week’s edition of the Pioneer. Aside from Mayor Randy Zimmerman’s proclamation, the evening’s agenda was relatively light. An early access agreement extension until April 1 was approved for the Waseca Real Estate Fund. The group is working on a potential 70 unit market rate housing project at the city owned, “Marketplace Property” near Walmart.

WASECA CITY COUNCIL
The most lengthy discussed topic came from Chris Howard, Waseca County Land and Water Resources Director. The Waseca County Weed Lake Harvester has harvested both Eurasian oil and Curly Leaf pond leaf from Waseca’s Clear Lake over the past three years. More than 500 tons, 400 truck loads, of material have come off of the lake over that time. The question before the council is whether the city would be willing to participate in the extension of the program which was initially paid for from a grant which ends this year. There was no formal request made, simply a presentation on the benefits of the program. Howard said anything the city can put forward would

Council continued on 5



Marilyn Wilkus of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) with Waseca Mayor Randy Zimmerman. Wilkus spoke on behalf of the DAR encouraging the city of Waseca to mark the Sept. 17 anniversary of the signing of the U.S. Constitution. Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

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OBITUARIES

Ralph Nusbaum

RALPH STANLEY NUSBAUM, age 85 of Waterville, died on the morning of Tuesday, September 3, 2024, at Foxdale in Waseca.

Ralph was born in Faribault on July 3, 1939, to parents Everett and Ethel (Theilbar) Nusbaum. He attended Waterville High School before continuing his education at vocational school in Faribault. In 1957 he was married to Carol Jean Weilage, and they divorced twenty-five years later. For most of his working years he owned and operated Ralph's Service station. He loved his work as a mechanic until an automobile accident forced his retirement in 1983. He was a long-time member of the Elysian Fire Department and served as the Fire Chief for 16 years. He was an avid Twins fan, and he enjoyed woodcarving and playing cribbage. He also loved to travel (often solo) and had visited most of the 50 states as well as Canada and Mexico... his wheelchair not slowing him down a bit. Spending time with his family was his most loved activity of all.

Ralph is survived by three children, Michael (Melanie) Nusbaum of Portugal, Teri James of Elysian, and Laurie Danberry of Waterville; a daughter-in-law, Deana Nusbaum of Kentucky; a brother, Dale Nusbaum of Waterville; twelve grandchildren, Ian Nusbaum, Shannon (Nathan) Kuball, Lisa (Elliott) Cage, Justin (Stephanie) James, Jacob (Ellie) James, Matthew (Katrina) Routh, Jeremy



Ralph Nusbaum

Routh, Brandon (Danae) Nusbaum, Katy (Nathan) Andregg, Steven (Jennifer) Nusbaum, Tina Nusbaum, and Jackie Nusbaum; many great-grandchildren; special nephews, the Larson Boys; and countless other special relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by both of his parents; two sons, Doug Nusbaum and Curt Nusbaum; siblings, Bernard Nusbaum, John Nusbaum, Jerome Nusbaum, Marie Larson; and one son-in-law, Wayne James.

A public visitation was held from 2-3 p.m. on Monday, September 9, 2024, at the Waterville Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service. Following a closing prayer, interment followed at Cedar Hill Cemetery in Elysian. Friends and family are welcome to gather at "The Main Street Venue" in Elysian following the cemetery.

Betty Flitter

BETTY ROSE FLITTER, age 93, of Janesville, died on Sunday, September 8, 2024 at Whispering Creek in Janesville.

Born on July 26, 1931, in Waseca, she was the daughter of George and Dorothy (Herrley) Willock. Betty was baptized as an infant and later confirmed in her Lutheran faith as a youth. She attended country school and graduated from Waseca Central High School in 1949. On May 1, 1951, Betty was joined in marriage to Ervin Flitter at Trinity Lutheran Church in Janesville. Together, they

raised their two daughters, Faith and Brenda, and enjoyed 70 years of marriage before Ervin's passing on October 31, 2021. Betty instilled her strong faith in her daughters and was a dedicated member of Trinity Lutheran Church.

Throughout her life, Betty worked for Birdeye, E.F. Johnson Co., and the elevator in Janesville. She took time off to raise her children and later embarked on a 24-year career with Brown Printing. Known affectionately by Ervin as "The Cook," Betty loved preparing meals for her family. She was an avid reader and

enjoyed watching Jeopardy in her spare time.

Betty is survived by her daughters: Faith (Jim) Bowers and Brenda Spitzack, both of Janesville; grandchildren: Jessica (Jim) Sutherland and Robert Bowers; great-grandchildren: Addison and Evan Sutherland. She is also survived by her sisters: Patricia Holcomb of Kingman, AZ, George (Norma) Willock of Auburn, AL, and Polly (Larry) Schake of Madison, MN; sister-in-law, Sandra Flitter of Elysian; brother-in-law, Delfon Flitter of Janesville; numerous nieces, nephews, and other relatives

and friends.

Betty was preceded in death by her parents, husband, sisters: Georgeda Wilker and Marie Crandell; brothers-in-law: Orville, Marvin, Ivan, and Kenneth Flitter.

A Funeral Service will be held at 11:00 AM on Friday, September 13, 2024, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Janesville, with Pastor Kristian Bjornstad officiating. Interment will follow at Janesville Cemetery. Visitation will take place for one hour prior to the service at the church on Friday.

DSOFuneral.com

Class Reunion



Taking part in the Waseca High School Class of 1954s seventieth reunion at Oscar's on Sunday, September 7, were Bud Ostebee, Ramona Wilkening, Pat Wuger, Bev Guse, Ardyce Meyer, Darlene Prestegard and Wayland Kormaru. Photo by Ben Revermann

Brenda Atkisson

BRENDA JEAN (DEWITT) ATKISSON, age 73 of Waseca, died Sunday, September 8, 2024, at her home.

She was born on March 26, 1951, in Beverly, West Virginia. She was the daughter of Charles and Frances (Bennett) Dewitt. At a young age, her family moved to Lancaster, Pennsylvania. She attended McCaskey High School in Lancaster. She was married three times before meeting Lloyd Eugene Atkisson, whom she married in 1992. Together they went on to live their lives until Lloyd's passing in December of 2010. Brenda worked at Wal-mart until her retirement. She enjoyed camping and collecting fenton baskets.

She is survived by her children, Paul (Roxanne) Spangler of Waseca, Sumner Brien of California, John Gockley of Waseca; nine grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; siblings, Sherry Dewitt, Patty



Brenda Atkisson

(Mike) Wilds, Heidi (Jim) Bushong, Chuck (Tammy) Dewitt, Bret Dewitt, Kevin (Tina) Dewitt, Brian (Lorrie) Dewitt, and Keith Dewitt. She is preceded in death by her parents and husband, brother Shawn Lefever, and grandson Romey Gockley. Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service is handling the arrangements. dsfuneral.com

Class of '54 holds 70-year reunion

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The final class reunion for the Waseca High School class of 1954 was held over the lunch hour at Oscar's restaurant in Waseca on Saturday, September 7. The arrival of this 2024 anniversary constitutes 70 years since the group graduated.

Out of the original graduating class of 62 students, 20 are still living. Seven were in attendance; five others had made reservations, but then were unable to be there for health reasons. Eight live out of state

or were simply unable to come.

Ramona Wilkening, 87, was the reunion's organizer. All seven attendees were at the table in Oscar's and all had smiles. Said Wilkening, "I've done this for 70 years, I'm not doing it anymore."

Also in attendance were Bud Ostebee, 88; Pat Wuger, 88; Bev Guse, 87; Ardyce Meyer, 87; Darlene Prestegard, 88; and Wayland Kormaru, 87.

Those who wanted to attend but were not there, Diane Bluhm, Ginger Minske, George Winegar, Clifford Quinney and Marlys Keane. The

name Darlene Prestegard may seem familiar because she is still a Waseca local. She spent 37 years in Morris-town but came back to Waseca because, as she put it, she "belongs here" and missed it.

The majority of 1954 graduates were born in 1936, which means they lived under 15 United States Presidents. Within their lifetimes were the Spanish Civil War, 1936-1939; WW II, 1939-1945; the Korean War, 1950-1953; the Vietnam War, 1955-1975; the Six Day War (Arab-Israeli War), 1967; the Yom Kippur War, 1973; the Falklands War, 1982; the

Gulf War, 1990-91; the Bosnian War, 1992-95; the War in Afghanistan, 2001-2014; the Iraq War, 2003-2011; and the Syrian Civil War, 2011-present.

Other people worthy of mention born in 1936, besides the class of 1954 that is, are Glen Campbell ("Rhinstone Cowboy"), Dennis Hopper (Easy Rider), David Carradine (Urban Cowboy or Kill Bill), Alan Alda (MASH), singer Roger Miller, and, of course, Burt Reynolds.

■ Debate

from Page 1

democratic process. "This partnership will continue to be a valuable educational benefit to our senior students. They will have the chance to work with multiple community leaders and contribute to the process of providing voters the opportunity to get to know the candidates and issues on an even deeper level," observed John Hanson, head of the Waseca High School social studies department.

The Waseca Area Chamber of

Commerce and Waseca Public Schools invite all community members to attend these important events. "The Chamber has a long history of working closely with the school district," stated Fitch. "We are thrilled to take on this endeavor with them and give students an opportunity to learn more outside of the classroom."

The mayoral debate will be at 7 p.m. Tuesday, September 24, between incumbent mayor Randy Zimmerman and candidate Milton Madson. On deck at 7 p.m. Tuesday, October 8 will be newcomer candidates for the Minnesota House District 19B seat, Edel Fernandez (D) and Tom Sexton (R). Candidates for

city council wards I and II will debate from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 22; after a short break, candidates for ward III will be in the limelight beginning at 8 p.m. Ward I debaters will be incumbent Stacey Schroeder and challenger Adam Jensen. Vying to represent Ward II will be Gary Conrath, Marty Johnson, and Nicholas Meister. In Ward III, the audience will hear from incumbent Mark Christiansen, and candidates Theresa Rieke, Chad Schlueter, and Koby Wright.

The Legislative Committee of the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce aims to foster effective communication and collaboration between the Chamber, local businesses, and all

levels of government. By organizing key events and facilitating engagement with policymakers, the committee ensures that the voices of our members are heard and considered in legislative processes.

In addition to collaborating with Waseca Public Schools on these newly formatted debates, the committee will also be hosting a "State of the City" address at 7 p.m. Tuesday, November 12, a "State of the County" address at 7 p.m. Tuesday, November 19; and a "State of Education" address at 7 p.m. Tuesday, December 10. All of these events will be at the Performing Arts Center at Waseca Jr/Sr High School, 1717 2nd St NW.

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ETHANOL

Collegiate race honors coach Kenton Finanger

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

A collegiate level 5k track and field event featuring six colleges took place at the Waseca County Calonette Estate in rural Waseca the evening of Sept. 6; Wiste's Meat Market was the vendor. Organized by Walter (75), and Cheryl (70), Mishek, the Coach Finanger Invitational was in honor of Cheryl's mentor and college cross country coach Kenton Finanger, 92, who was a collegiate coach at Luther College for almost three decades.

Before the race Cheryl got a chance to speak from the heart when she addressed the day's racers, "I just gotta say guys I'm jealous you all get to run and I can't be with you." Directing the day's meet was Scott Stallman; head referee for the event was Josh Gerber. Official timing was provided by Wayzata Results, LLC. Six colleges were in attendance at this officially sanctioned NCAA event. The Gustavus Adolphus team consisted of 16 women and 17 men. Luther College brought 16 women and 30 men. Hamline University's team featured 11 women and 8 men.

Bethany Lutheran College brought 8 women and 5 men. St. Catherine University's team was 8 women. Martin Luther had 8 women and 20 men. Bruce Sundet of Luther College, who was an All American in 1967, was a guest speaker.

The starter for the day's race was Steve Hasse, who's been starting races for the past 44 years. When asked what his favorite part about these races were, he replied, "The great athletes, like last year at MSU, it's just fun." Hasse was in front of the starting line with his starter pistol in his back pocket; he's certified by the State High School League and the US Track and Field League. When asked if there's a lot of competition among starters for jobs like this, he said, "No, we don't compete, if anything there's a shortage of officials to head these things."

The women's race began at 6 p.m. and included 71 competitors. Amanda Mosborg, who was competing as an independent, came in first with a time of 17:53.3. In second place was Molly Liston of Gustavus College with 19:03.9. Third was Alysa Blankenship of Luther with



Runners in the Coach Finanger Invitational 5K leave the starting line at Calonette Estate on September 6.

19:55.8.

The men's race began at 6:30 p.m. and had 76 competitors. Tyler Smith of Gustavus came in first with a total time of 16:13.4. Michel Heinrich of Luther came in second with 16:24.6 and third was Garrett Seppanen of Luther with 16:27.2.

Mosberg was requested to come to the announcer's tent when she caught her breath. Asked for her assessment of the day's event and the location,

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann she replied, "This location is beautiful, we should do more races here because I love it."

The Calonett Farms personal chef Bradley Blackhawk provided a complimentary dinner to volunteers and athletes. On the menu were sloppy joes, potato salad, coleslaw, potato chips, cookies and an assortment of cakes and pies. To view a complete list of winners, sponsors or organizers go to www.wayzatarresults.com.



Iker Barron, kindergarten, walking hand-in-hand with social worker Ashlee Conley. Pioneer photos by Tristan Gehring



Third graders Joaquin Alvarez, Julian Grunwald, Alejandra Arias Salinas, Jason Oviedo, and Ridley Pechacek parade past teacher Kelvin Nelson, giving high fives as they go.

TEAM Academy’s third annual walk-a-thon

By TRISTAN GEHRING
Staff Writer

TEAM Academy held its thirteenth annual Walk-a-Thon to raise money for equipment the afternoon of Friday, September 6. The event was moved indoors due to heavy rain and thunder.

Each year the students of TEAM Academy commit to walking continuously for one hour in exchange for donations. Every student who does so is eligible for prizes, with the grand prize each year being a

new bicycle. This year’s bicycle winner was fifth-grader Kiara Moen. Smaller prizes included “swag bags” from Delta Dental, t-shirts, jump ropes and small toys.

The 2024 Walk-a-Thon raised \$1,343. The funds pay for replacement and updated equipment for physical education classes and recess. Items on the wishlist this year include a new Gaga Pit - a permanent one with wooden walls to replace the plastic one currently in use - and new basketball hoops.

■ Mayor

from Page 3

good budget outcome,” said Ferguson. “New Richland has had many issues with floods—they’re no over-night fix. We can’t keep pushing

this back or it will create more problems later.” She then stressed that a lot of people in government positions, not necessarily New Richland, but people in city positions, tend to answer every problem by raising taxes. She emphasized that she would rather find another path.

Ferguson is the youngest person on the city council at 43 years old.

DAR celebrates founding of America

WASHINGTON, DC – The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution urges Americans to reflect on the United States Constitution during this month’s annual observance in honor of this foundational document of national governance.

The DAR initiated the observance in 1955, when the service organization petitioned the U.S. Congress to dedicate September 17–23 of each year to the commemoration of Constitution Week. Congress adopted the resolution, and on August 2, 1956, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed it into Public Law #915. The celebration’s goals are threefold: to encourage the study of the historical events that led to the framing of the

Constitution in September 1787; to remind the public that the Constitution is the basis of America’s great heritage and the foundation for its way of life; and to emphasize U.S. citizens’ responsibility to protect, defend and preserve the U.S. Constitution.

“We are so proud DAR led the way in making Constitution Week an official commemoration and our members enthusiastically promote the celebration annually in communities across the country by erecting community displays, sponsoring municipal proclamations, ringing bells and staging programs to raise awareness of the Constitution’s tenets and importance,” said DAR President General Pamela Rouse

Wright. “We encourage all citizens to join us in celebrating this powerful document that is so important to American history and to reflect on the impact the Constitution has had on the lives of American citizens past and present.”

DAR has been the foremost advocate for the awareness, promotion and celebration of Constitution Week. The annual observance provides innumerable opportunities for educational initiatives and community outreach, two mission areas of crucial importance to the National Society. By fostering knowledge of, and appreciation for, the Constitution and the inalienable rights it affords to all Americans, DAR helps to keep alive the memory of the men and

women who secured our nation’s foundational liberties.

One of the largest patriotic women’s organizations in the world, DAR has 190,000 members in approximately 3,000 chapters across the country and several foreign countries. DAR members promote historic preservation, education and patriotism via commemorative events, scholarships and educational initiatives, citizenship programs, service to veterans, meaningful community service and more. For additional information about DAR and its relevant mission, visit www.dar.org.

VFW and Auxiliary announce writing contest

VFW Post 1642 and Auxiliary have announced the 2024-25 Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen contests.

Any student in grades 9-12 may enter the Voice of Democracy program to compete for prizes and scholarship money. Each year nearly 27,000 students compete for more than \$2 million in scholarships and incentives. Students are asked to

write and record an audio script on an annual patriotic theme. This year’s theme is: “Is America Today Our Forefather’s Vision?” Entrants should record their original three-to-five minute essay on CD or a flash drive, include their neatly typed essay with their name, and complete the entry form. An entry form may be obtained online at www.vfw.org/VOD. Entrants may also contact Barb

Klampe, VFW chairperson, or Karen Pfarr Anderson at the Waseca Junior Senior High School. The deadline is October 31.

The Patriot’s Pen is a VFW youth essay competition open to students in grades 6,7, and 8. This contest gives students the opportunity to express their views on democracy. The theme this year is: “My Voice in America’s Democracy?” Interested students

should write and type an essay 300 to 400 words and attach it to the entry form. The top essays are eligible for cash prizes and may be entered at the district level of competition. For details contact Barb Klampe or visit [www.vfw.org/Patriot’s pen](http://www.vfw.org/Patriot's%20pen). The deadline is October 31.

■ Council

from Page 3

be greatly appreciated. The annual

cost share would be about \$40,000 if approved.

Michelle Oswald spoke during the public comment portion of the meeting to bring attention to a downtown walkway project. She suggested the city think more strongly about the project before spending over

\$100,000 on the project in order to sell the land to a Waseca investor for \$1. Oswald asked the city to set aside a work session. Currently, the project is in discussion with the park board and has not been presented to the council.

It was also announced that Kris

Markeson is acting as the interim public safety director for Waseca Fire Relief. At Waseca Airport, the T-Hangar project is moving along and is on track to finish.

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

■ Briefs

from Page 3

September 19 at noon

A Cook the Book event will take place at the Waseca Public Library Thursday, September 19 at noon. Visit Waseca Public Library to choose a recipe from ‘Cooking in Real Life’ by Lidey Heuck. Then bring the finished dish to Waseca Public Library on Thursday, September 19th at 12 p.m. where the cooks will sample all the dishes.

A Kiddie Yoga event will take place September 19 at 5:30p.m. at Janesville Public Library

On Thursday, September 19 at 5:30 p.m. yoga instructor Tiffany Reinitz 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 is holding a Mother-Daughter Book Club on Thursday, September 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.

History Center Trivia contest 6:30 to 8 p.m. Sept. 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: Wasecacountyhistorycenter.org.

The Annual Waseca Marching Classic is at noon on September 21, 2024

The 37th Annual Waseca Marching Classic will hold a 75-100 unit parade in downtown Waseca. 8 area marching bands will be there including the Waseca Marching Jays, a Classic Car Cruise, dignitaries, royalty and more. Parade awards will be held immediately after at Trowbridge Park. At 5:30 p.m., the Marching Band Field Show Competition at Waseca Jr./Sr. High School will start the introductions of dignitaries, then 12 Bands will perform their field show routines. Wristbands are \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door. Gates

open at 3:30 p.m.

Pinnacle Pro Wrestling will be performing 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.

The Nineteenth Annual Classic Car Show will be Saturday, September 21 at 9a.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.

The Half Pint Brewing Company will host Books and Brews on Saturday, September 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.

Farm America will hold an Open Corn Maze every Saturday Night in October from 6-9 p.m.

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.

Farm America will host Agricultural Exploration Field Trips, October 1-4 from 9 a.m. till 1:30 p.m.

Available to students in grades 3-

Briefs continued on 7

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Polka Service



Pictured left to right, Donna Hildebrandt, Betty Prechel, Kelly Thompson and Leo Prechel enjoying the Polka Service and meal at St. Paul Lutheran Church on Saturday, September 7

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

■ Program from Page 1

“We need the community to be involved as we draw attention to the veterans who have passed on. We need to honor them with the flags posted on their graves and with the program,” said Whissemore.

Of his own work, he said “It’s been a labor of love.” Whissemore served in the U.S. Army in Korea from 1968 to ’70 and was part of the National Guard as a “ground pounder” for five years.

Dickie is not a veteran, but says he believes strongly in honoring veterans because family members in the generations above, beside and below him have served and are serving in the military. Dickie recently attended a graduation ceremony from basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, which included two of his grandchildren.

Dickie says he feels comfortable taking on the planning of the Memorial Day program because even with Grant’s departure, the committee has numerous dedicated, experienced members who will continue to support the preparations. Whissemore’s consistent work improving the communication, planning and available equipment for the yearly events, he says, also bolster his confidence.

The annual Memorial Day program takes place the morning of the first Monday in May. Weather permitting, it is located on the county courthouse lawn and often features a brief parade which includes the Waseca High School marching band and units from American Legion and V.F.W. posts located in area communities.

According to the two, planning for the day begins in February and continues with frequent committee meetings and ongoing tasks even somewhat after the program is completed and everything is put away. “The last meeting is our follow-up,” explains Whissemore. “We get together and talk about what went well and what we might want to change in the future.”

Tempting tamales every Saturday

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

For the past two months, Jameson and Brooklyn Rowe have set up shop at the Waseca Farmers Market every Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon. They can be found under a banner labeling them “Tamale Temptations.”

Jameson says he has always enjoyed not only making, but also sharing, his tamales. The idea of setting up a booth at the farmers’ market can perhaps be traced to the many compliments he’s received, and the suggestion they are even better than those sold in many restaurants. Wherever his pleasure originates, he says, “I wanted to share my tamales with everyone.”

Originally born and raised in Cheyenne, Wyoming, Jameson traveled around for about 19 years before he met Brooklyn in her home town of New Ulm, where she was born and raised. For the past two years, these two have been local residents in addition to being the parents of youngsters Addyson and Braxton, who usually accompany them to the fairgrounds for the farmers market.

Jameson had been making his tamales for a long time and says he was repeatedly asked why he didn’t sell them. Once he did start selling at the farmers market, Brooklyn, who had been making crocheted items and had a good stock of them set aside, decided she would join him with her products. Crochet bunnies, octopuses, cupcakes, hippos, unicorns, whales, donuts and any type of mer-creatures, mermaids or mermen.

Brooklyn is also ahead of the game by making Halloween merchandise available now before the season hits; she offers ghosts, pumpkins, spiders and will probably take requests. This wasn’t a passed-down skill from her mother or grandmother; she describes having acquired her craft from online sources. “I learned it on my own, I started looking it up on Youtube and I just ran from there. Been crocheting for nine years now.” With the upcoming winter and some free time on her hands, Brooklyn says she expects to have a renewed selection of crocheted pieces ready for market next spring.

Jameson was the one to come up with the farmers market idea. Since Brooklyn is a stay-at-home mom, her coming along to help sell made perfect sense. When he is not selling tamales, Jameson works full time for Daiken Applied out of Owatonna.

His tamales come in pork or chicken, both flavored with red and green chilis. Customers have options ranging from buying only one at a price of \$3, or going whole hog to take advantage of a discount by purchasing 12 for \$25.

Another choice customers face is how they like their salsa: salsa verde, pineapple habanero and even “fear the reaper.” Salsas come in eight-ounce and pint-size jars. Jameson’s jams offer equally intriguing, and somewhat unexpected, options including hot pepper and “raspberry reaper.” Jams are offered in four- and eight-ounce sizes.

Of their booth at the Farmers Market, both Jameson and Brooklyn are



Selling “Tamale Temptations” and hand-crocheted items at the Waseca farmers market are, from left: Jameson and Brooklyn Rowe with their two children, Addyson and Braxton.

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

chasing 12 for \$25.

Another choice customers face is how they like their salsa: salsa verde, pineapple habanero and even “fear the reaper.” Salsas come in eight-ounce and pint-size jars. Jameson’s jams offer equally intriguing, and somewhat unexpected, options including hot pepper and “raspberry reaper.” Jams are offered in four- and eight-ounce sizes.

Of their booth at the Farmers Market, both Jameson and Brooklyn are

unequivocal: “One-hundred percent, we will do this next year, no question.” Both wish they had gotten started somewhat earlier in the summer, and have turned their energy toward being sure to hit the ground running next spring. Tamale Temptations also takes part in the Power of Produce (POP) program available for children who visit the Waseca Farmers Market; POP provides a \$5 credit to registered participants 18 years old and younger.

Input wanted as county updates hazard mitigation plan

Waseca County residents, community leaders, business owners, area agencies and organizations now have an opportunity to share how severe weather events impact their property and lives. There is also an opportunity to share their ideas on how to reduce local impacts in the future.

The Waseca County Office of Emergency Management is working with U-Spatial at the University of Minnesota Duluth to update the county’s Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP). The plan assesses the natural hazards that pose risk to the county, such as tornadoes, straight line winds, ice storms, blizzards, wildfire, flooding, and extreme temperatures and identifies ways to minimize the damage of future events. As the county works to update the plan, it wants to hear from the public.

The Waseca County HMP is a multi-jurisdictional plan that covers Waseca County, including all cities and townships within the county. The Waseca County HMP also incorporates the concerns and needs of school districts, watershed districts, and other related agencies, organizations, or businesses participating in the planning process. The plan will be updated by a planning team made up of representatives from county departments, local municipalities, and other key stakeholders. When completed, the plan will be submitted to the Minnesota Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for approval.

“Hazard mitigation planning is a central part of our emergency management program,” said Denise Wright, Waseca County Emergency Management Director. “Understanding the natural hazards that can cause serious impact to our communities and taking action to reduce or eliminate the impact of future disasters makes us more resilient. Hazard mitigation helps us to break the cycle of damage and repair caused by things like flooding, ice storms, and

severe wind events that can damage property, stress economies, and threaten life safety in our county.”

Examples of hazard mitigation include:

- Conducting public outreach on severe weather awareness and preparedness
- Improving stormwater management systems to better handle high-rain events
- Removing existing buildings from flood or erosion prone hazard areas
- Increasing defensible space around homes in high-risk wildfire areas
- Constructing tornado safe rooms in vulnerable areas such as mobile home parks
- Burying overhead powerlines that may fail due to heavy snow, ice, or windstorms

Some mitigation activities may be eligible for future FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance grant funding.

Public input is an essential part of the plan update. As part of the planning process, Waseca County is seeking feedback from residents and businesses to incorporate into the plan. Your input will be recorded and incorporated into the planning process:

- What are the natural hazards you feel pose the greatest risk to your community?
- Are there specific populations or assets in your community that you feel are more vulnerable to future storm events?
- What concerns do you have, and what sorts of actions do you feel would help to reduce damages of future hazard events in your community or the county as a whole?

Your feedback is wanted. Comments, concerns, or questions regarding natural disasters and your ideas for mitigation projects should be submitted to Waseca County Emergency Management by phone, email, or by posting a comment via a social media posting of this article.

There will be additional opportunities for public feedback throughout the planning process. A draft of the plan will be made available for public review prior to submission of the plan to the State of Minnesota. Future news releases will be shared with the media to notify the public of these opportunities.

The Federal Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) requires counties to update their plan every 5 years to maintain eligibility for FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant programs.

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Janesville

1924

- The deal involving a chance in the ownership of the Hotel Dunham which had been in progress of negotiation for some time, came to a close last week when the property was turned over to the purchaser, Mr. P. E. Sinnett, of Minneapolis. The consideration is not stated but is understood to be in the neighborhood of ten thousand dollars. The date as to when Mr. Sinnett will take possession has not been settled definitely but it will be within a few weeks, possibly by the middle of the month. In the meantime Mr. Dunham will continue to run the hotel until possession is given. The proprietor is said to be a first class hotel man who thoroughly understands the business and who has a very clear perception of the needs of the public.

- The most interesting meeting in its history was held by the Old Town Farm Club on Friday evening last at the home of Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Cahill. The program was a stimulant to the mind and an inspiration to the soul. The meeting opened with the singing of America, followed by a piano solo by Miss Esther Berndt, recitations by little Miss Irene Cahill and Melvin Marsh, two songs by H. H. Storejohn. Our old friend, Mr. E. L. Paddock, being present gave a description of his trip from Smoky Butte, Montana, to Boston, where he attended the National Encampment of the G. A. R. Mr. Cicero Stark delighted the company with the old darky dialect song, "Kingdom Come."

1949

- Hold everything! Get set for the big Benefit Baseball Game to be played here on Sunday afternoon, September 11, Northside Park at 2:30. The contest will be played between the Janesville Merchants and the Janesville Red Sox to help defray expenses for the past baseball season. Manager Archie Menk says he has picked a former gang of stars and they will go all-out to battle the Sox for city honors. We have no report on who will do the twirling for the Red Sox, but no doubt a high class slab artist will perform on the mound.

- Continued hot and humid weather, which left drivers tired and listless, may have been the blame for an epidemic of traffic deaths in the first half of August, reports to the Minnesota Highway Department indicate. Many of the fatal accidents were due to obviously unsafe acts, difficult to explain in any other way. A let-up in accidents the latter part of the month kept the August death total down to 51, or 8 less than August, 1948. Year's total to the end of August was 320, compared to 348 in the same months of last year.

- The Janesville Public Schools reopened for the school year 1949-50 on Tuesday morning of this week at 830. A full staff with the exception of the Music Instructor were available. It is hoped that a suitable replacement will be found immediately. Mr. Bizal, the Music Instructor, was unable to secure suitable living quarters and consequently refused to carry out his contract.

1974

- Rob Johnson, 23, Janesville, has purchased the Marigold dairy route from Glenn Storjohann. He took over the business September 1. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Johnson, Rob graduated from Janesville High School in 1969. He has been working at Ramy Seed, Mankato. The local man has named the business Johnson's Dairy. The business sale includes trucks, cooling system and the garage owned by Storjohann. Johnson told the Argus that he will continue to be associated with Marigold Dairy, Mankato. Johnson and his wife, Jill, the former Jill Santo, live at 406 N. Main. He told the Argus that he will continue home deliveries on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday and that he hopes to meet all his customers in person in the near future.

- Members of the Janesville Area Chamber of Commerce learned Wednesday night that a group has received preliminary approval of a \$206,000 federal grant for the acquisition and development of 35 acres of lakeshore and adjacent land on the southeast edge of Lake Elysian. Janesville City Clerk Chuck Brandmire told the Chamber that the project, if finally approved, would provide a high quality outdoor recreation area for area residents and interstate tourists. In its application for the grant, the local group said the purpose is to provide facilities for picnicking, camping, tennis courts, a marina, nature trails, swimming and parking areas.

1999

- The changing of the guard has taken place at JanesvilleWaldorf-Pemberton. Longtime coach George Tuvey has stepped down, and 14 players have moved on from a year ago. This leaves first-year coach Mike Muedeking with just three returning starters and plenty of holes to fill on a team that is trying to rebound from a 1-7 season. Muedeking has been an assistant coach at JWP for a number of years and was a former head coach at Waldorf Pemberton.

- Minnesota First District Congressman Gil Gutknecht met with several Waseca area agriculture leaders Tuesday, August 31, at the Mary and Gene Scheffert farm west of Waseca, to discuss problems facing corn and sobean growers, as well as possible actions the federal government could take to help the situation. Gutknecht has held 11 similar meetings throughout the district this summer. "The purpose of these meetings is to bring agricultural leaders together to talk about where agriculture is and where it is going in the future," Gutknecht said. "We need to realize that all of the answers are not in Washington." Gutknecht and members of his staff asked for input from local producers and their ideas for short and longterm solutions.

- Janesville reached a lottery milestone in July. The city's total lottery ticket sales topped \$2 million since the lottery began in April 1990. Thirty-seven percent of the Minnesota cities that have lottery retailers (258 of 681) have crossed that sales mark. Janesville's July lottery sales totaled \$18,602. Like most Minnesotans, Janesville resident like to scratch. Scratch games accounted for 83 percent of the city's sales last month. Number ticket sales (Powerball, Gopher 5, Cash4Life and Daily 3) were \$3,002.

■ Briefs from Page 5

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.

Woodville Cemetery Tour Sunday, October 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."

Farm America will host a Fall Festival on 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.
Learn more at farmamerica.org/event/fall-festival/

Waseca

25 Years Ago



-Pictured is the new entrance to the Waseca Medical Center. The public is invited to see the results of the 10-month construction project on Sunday, September 12 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. There will be refreshments, prizes, tours and a very short program at 2 p.m.



-Waseca native, Mary Jenatscheck, is the new Waseca elementary principal. She is a 1974 graduate.



-The Waseca Police Department has recently received one defibrillator through a state grant and three more from an anonymous donor. Members of the department have recently completed eight hours of training on the devices. Pictured are Brad Zinnel (left) of North Ambulance, Waseca Police Officer Steve Luther and Dave Rotty of North Ambulance.

50 Years Ago



-Members of the Janesville Rescue Squad and North Ambulance responded to this mock farm accident held as part of Waseca County Farm Safety Day held at Farmamerica.

75 Years Ago



-METER MAID Rita Schewe entertained a lost child and his dog "Bootsie" with peanuts Wednesday afternoon as she and Waseca policeman Bruce Stauffer (with pipe) puzzled over whether they had a boy or a girl on their hands. Shannon Scott, age two and a half, was discovered in the downtown business district with his dog around 2 p.m., after narrowly escaping vehicles on city streets. Shannon, identified as the son of Larry Scott of 314 2ND Ave. S.E., appeared less than concerned over the predicament.

New Richland

25 Years Back

• Stan Nelson of Clarks Grove saved 10 year old Matt Hacker from drowning in Albert Lea Lake. On Tuesday, July 22, Stan Nelson of Clarks Grove was standing along the shoreline by the channel near Albert Lea Lake, and was about to put the bait on his fishing line, when there was a splash! Stan's friend, Jon, shouted that a kid was in the water. Upon hearing this, Stan threw his fishing pole, got his car keys out of his pocket and threw them onto the ground. Nelson was about 30-40 feet from the young boy. "I dove into the water right away and swam as hard as I could against the fast moving current," he said. "I got to him as he was starting to go down for the third time, and I grabbed him and pulled him up and held him up with all the strength I had, so he could get some air," Nelson said.



• Francis Panos and Deeann of Medford are the proud first time parents of triplets born on Saturday, August 14, 1999 at Abbott Northwestern Hospital, Minneapolis. Dominic Daniel was born at 9:01 a.m. and weighed 3 pounds, 3 ounces. Dakota Lee was born at 9:02 a.m. and weighed 3 pounds, 14 ounces. Jasmine Jade was born at 9:03 a.m. and weighed 3 pounds, 4 ounces.

• Shane Berg, who attends the Advanced Technology Computer School in Tempe, Arizona made the Dean's List with honor last semester. He had a 4.0 average. Sahne is the son of Rodney and Barb Berg.

• Helen Johnson was selected as "the most versatile player on the floor." Scoring records show that she scored 63 points in the three games, 23 points more than her nearest scoring rival, Jacobson of Kenyon. Violet Jensen was picked as a guard on the all tournament team. Her selection was based largely on her work in the final game when she was pitted against Evjan, the best Hayfield forward.

50 Years back



• Underlands Meet Son In Hawaii - On Tuesday, August 5, Paul and Kathy Underland of Ellendale flew to Hawaii to meet their son, David, who is stationed on the U.S.S. Arkansas. The fleet had just returned from a seven month tour in the Pacific visiting such ports of call as France, Italy, the Philippines, Pakistan, Monaco, Australia and Hawaii.



• Debra Clausen and Michael Singelstad. Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Clausen, Blooming Prairie, announce the engagement of their daughter, Debra Jean of Geneva, to Michael John Singelstad of Northwood, IA, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Singlestad of Northwood. Debra is a 1979 graduate of Blooming Prairie High School. She is Employed at the Federated Insurance, Owatonna. Michael is a 1978 graduate of Lake Mills High School. He is employed at the Farmstead Foods, Inc., Albert Lea. A September 20 wedding is being planned.

• Helen Weller and Rose Norby took in the horse races at the Steele County Free Fair on Wednesday of last week.

• Kathy Lunder spent the August 16-17 weekend participating in the Northfield Ladies Invitational Golf Tournament. She carded a 36 hole score of 208- good enough for the third place in the Fifth Flight.



• The North Freeborn Church marked 125 years last month. The history of the North Freeborn Lutheran Church began back in 1861. It was the first Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran congregation organized in Freeborn County. On March 5, 1874, the motion was made to build a church, and the site chosen was the Endre Stadheim farm in the Southwest of Bath Township. It was on September 3, 1877, the contract for the construction was given to Jackivitz Contractors of Decorah, IA, at the cost of \$2,100. Nora Egge was the first baby baptized and the first marriage was that of Endre Stadheim and Gertrude Olson Laaven.

Indian Island Winery



Christa Bohlman singing 'Make You Feel my Love' by Bob Dylan at the Indian Island Winery on Saturday, September 8. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

JWP hosts back-to-school open house

JANESVILLE JOURNAL - The Janesville-Walldorf-Pemberton school district held a number of events the afternoon of Wednesday, August 28. Area residents were invited to an open house where students could get information on classes, parents could learn what their children need for supplies, and general information was posted about different programs and resources available.

A cardboard cutout of a bulldog with additional props greeted the students and their families out front, making for a fun photo opportunity. Many staff members, including social workers, interventionists, and other teachers, were among the first to welcome students as they walked into the commons. And if any high schoolers or new students were looking for a tour of the building, senior National Honor Society members were more than willing to guide them.

For those on the elementary side, art and music teachers Taylor Sonnek and Erin Nordstrom were ready to provide information on scheduling and all the fun projects and concerts that the elementary art and music departments are preparing for the year. The two had a table with hearts made of construction paper and a banner that students were encouraged to sign.

As nearly all the staff in the commons said, the open house was somewhat "lowkey" as students said hello to awaiting teachers welcoming them back into the building. The event laid foundations for the beginning of classes after Labor Day.



Pictured above: Elementary art teacher Taylor Sonnek and music teacher Erin Nordstrom. Below: National Honor Society Seniors offered tours during the open house. From left: Isalah Berndt, Ethan Born, Brielle Dessner, Paige Walz, and Madyn Holland.



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County from Page 1

be paid.

Kallevig said the three-year agreement with the county will entail only a 3-percent increase over the next two budget years, and pointed out that the state extension service takes on the roles of hiring and supervising its staff with the aim of keeping programs broad and research-based. It also takes care of distributing wages, accounting, and the cost of mileage.

The second budget proposal of the work session was from Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) manager Mark Schaeetzke, who shared that his office's total 2025 budget will be more than \$1.2 million. He explained a significant portion of that is "pass-through" money: It is put in the District's control solely for the purpose of being distributed to end recipients.

Noting part of the District's income is from the LeSueur River "One Watershed, One Plan" budget, commissioners asked whether the weed harvester currently used in Clear Lake could fall under that funding: Schaeetzke responded the possibility could be considered as part of the next two-year project list.

Commissioners asked Schaeetzke about the significant level of "reserve" funding his office has set aside as part of the budget. Schaeetzke revealed it has built up since 2017. At this point, the balance is enough to bring the District about \$20,000 in

interest each year.

Commissioners suggested the funding amount expected from the county could be reduced, given the significant amount of interest income. Schaeetzke's request is that the county put \$50,000 toward SWCD funding for 2025.

County Facilities Director Brian Tomford informed commissioners that Waseca County has received a \$13,000 grant from the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) for improvements to be made in Courthouse Park. According to Tomford, the money will be used to place three hydration stations, six benches, a bench swing, a bike rack and a bike repair station in various locations in the 170-acre park. The county's responsibility, under the terms of the grant is to provide more than \$2,000 in "in-kind" services; in this case, they will take the form of staff labor toward the preparations and installation of the new features.

Along with the SHIP-funded improvements, a new picnic shelter about 36 by 54 feet in size is under construction at the park and will likely be completed this fall. The new shelter will have electrical outlets and counter space for serving food and will have new picnic tables.

Tomford introduced Jennifer Grommes from the Twin-Cities-based organization Great River Greening (GRG). The group's Facebook page describes it as "Minnesota's leader in nature-based climate solutions through land restoration."

GRG has offered to undertake a significant restoration project at Waseca County's Goose Lake Park.

The park is about 50 acres in size and is located roughly three miles east of Waseca; it includes a portion of shoreline of its namesake lake. Aside from meeting and planning time with county staff, GRG has offered to undertake all expenses and contracting costs for a number of projects within the space. These include clearing invasive buckthorn and honeysuckle from along the shoreline and within the boundaries of the wooded area. GRG's presentation included the intent to clear out the "middle canopy" around some select stands of cottonwood and oak trees, thus making it easier for those trees to expand into a wider area.

Work on removing buckthorn is likely to begin this fall after the ground has frozen.

The organization also plans to hold a "volunteer event" at the park, inviting members of the public to help remove invasive areas of white mustard plants while also becoming acquainted with the area and its natural beauty.

Bevcomm CEO Bill Eckles updated commissioners regarding the high-speed internet installation taking place in the county's four southwestern townships. Bevcomm is the Blue Earth-based company which cooperated with the county in seeking and receiving a \$5.9 million broadband grant. He reported that crews have been burying fiber lines throughout the designated area during the summer, and will continue to do so until the ground freezes. He anticipates that, of the 190 miles of line needed, about 150 will be in place this year. With the major lines buried, the next step is to have "splicing crews" put lines in place to connect individual homes and businesses. Actually connecting the lines and bringing the system to operational readiness should be complete by next fall, he said.

The project underway will provide 492 homes with the option of fiber-based internet, telephone, and cable. As of Sept. 3, the county had not yet heard whether an additional grant request to do the same for St. Mary's township had been approved.

Also speaking at the September 3 meeting was Sam Ziegler of the Mankato-based organization Greenseam. Ziegler said he started the organization in 2016 after observing the south central region of Minnesota seemed to show significant economic resilience even when other regions of the country were going through hard times.

Ziegler said he attributes that resilience to the very strong foundation created by agriculture and ag business, saying the "Greenseam" area is to agriculture what Silicon Valley is to technology and Wall Street is to finance.

Ziegler stated Greenseam had provided various types of assistance to projects in Owatonna, Trimont, and Marshall, in addition to giving "technical assistance" to the City of Waseca as it facilitated the ConAgra plant.

Ziegler asked county commissioners to consider making the county one of the organization's contributors, saying he wanted them to decide internally what amount would be appropriate.

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NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the Waseca City Council will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, October 1, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.** in the City Hall Council Chambers, 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093 to consider the following Resolution:

Resolution 24-52 – Resolution of the Waseca City Council on Proposed Assessments

A complete copy of Resolution 24-52 and Assessment Roll 24-99 is available for public inspection in the office of the City Clerk, 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093. Information for the meeting can be found on the Website Calendar at www.ci.waseca.mn.us.

Published in the *Waseca County Pioneer* on Thursday September 12, 2024.

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8 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am - Noon Your HOST BANTAM HOCKY	9 7pm 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					

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STATE OF MINNESOTA
WASECA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SITTING AS THE DRAINAGE AUTHORITY UNDER STATUTES CHAPTER 103E
FOR THE REDETERMINATION OF BENEFITS AND DAMAGES
OF WASECA COUNTY DITCH 47

NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING

Please Take Notice: The Waseca County Board of Commissioners, Drainage Authority for Waseca County Ditch 47 (“CD 47”), will hold a final hearing on the viewers’ report of benefits and damages for the pending redetermination of benefits and damages of CD 47. The viewers’ report has been filed with the Drainage Authority. The hearing will be held on September 20, 2024, at 10:00a.m., or thereafter as the agenda allows, in the Commissioners’ Room of the East Annex, 300 North State Street, Waseca, Minnesota 56093. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

CD 47 consists of open ditch and subsurface tile. CD 47 starts with subsurface tile just south of the north quarter section line of the Southeast Quarter of Section 32, then drains northeasterly across the Northeast Quarter of said Section 32, then across the southeast corner of Section 29 and the southwest corner of Section 28, then draining northwesterly across the West Half of Section 29 where it outlets into the open ditch portion of CD 47, then continues north and northwesterly across Section 20, where the open ditch outlets into subsurface tile draining northeasterly across the Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of said Section 20 and into the southeast corner of the Southwest Quarter of Section 17, where the tile outlets into an open ditch portion of CD 26 that drains northerly, then westerly across the Southwest Quarter of said Section 17, then westerly across the Southeast Quarter of Section 18 where it terminates at State Highway 30, all in Township 105 North, Range 22 West (New Richland Township), Waseca County, Minnesota. CD 47 includes branches and laterals in the West Half of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 33, the southwest corner of Section 28, the Northeast Quarter of Section 29, and the East Half and Northwest Quarter of Section 20. CD 47 provides an outlet for drainage for the Waseca Freeborn JCD 6 drainage system which confluences with CD 47 in the Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of said Section 17.

The viewers’ report, along with amendments, if any, all property owners’ reports, and records describing the drainage system are available for inspection by contacting Chris Howard by email or phone chris.howard@wasecacounty.gov or (507) 835-0534.

At the final hearing, the Drainage Authority will accept public comment regarding the viewers’ report. Any party having an interest in the proceedings may appear and provide comment per the instructions above. Written comments may be submitted by email or by U.S. Mail to Chris Howard (chris.howard@wasecacounty.gov or Land & Water Resources Director, Chris Howard, at 307 North State Street, Waseca, MN 56093). Written comments received before the final hearing will be submitted into the record.

The following properties are affected by the redetermination of benefits and damages for CD 47:

New Richland Township, T105N-R22W, Sections 17, 18, 20, 28, 29, 32, and 33, Waseca County.

The following owners of property are affected by the redeterminations of benefits and damages for CD 47:

BAYERKOHLER, DALE & CAROL; RAUSCH, DONNA TRUSTEE; AMUNDSON, BLANE L TRUSTEE; WENZEL, DENISE; BADEN FLP; SCHLAAK, KEITH & KELLY; MOXON, MICHELE ETAL; WANGEN, TRENT/KUHNS NICOLE; MOXON, JEFFREY A & MICHELE A; PROEHL, KARL D & TAMARA J; WACHOLZ, LANE & LYNN; IND SCHOOL DIST 2168; DAWSON, CLAYTON G & SHANNON P; THOMPSON, TROY W/ERICKSSON, JENNIFER S; REESE, JOYCE TRUSTEE/REESE, MARY THERESA TRUSTEE; JOHNSON, JEREMY; GUARDIAN CHARITABLE TRUST; SCHLAAK, CAROL J TRUSTEE; RJP PROPERTIES LLC; CARGILL INC; WACHOLZ, LANE A TRUSTEE/LYNN M WACHOLZ TRUSTEE; SCHLAAK ACRES LLP; WACHOLZ, LYNN M & LANE A; PECHACEK, TERRY D/EVONNE MARIE MEADE PECHACEK; BERG, NIEL E TRUSTEE/RANAE L BERG TRUSTEE; ROUTH, LUCAS R; DM&E RAILROAD; FLOR, BRADLEY; PETERSON, THOMAS & TAMARA; PEDERSON, CORBIN D & SAMANTHA L; FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF NR; VERTIN ACQUISITION ENTITY; SNOW CONSTRUCTION; NEIGHBORS MEATS; NEW RICHLAND BUILDING SUPPLY & HARDWARE; FLOR, DAVID A; LAUE, JUSTIN D; LEONARDO, KEITH R & MELISA K; BESSER, MARK; WALLER, REED DOUGLAS; STOLTZMAN, LYNN & BAUMAN, JEROME.

The following governmental entities are affected by the redeterminations of benefits and damages for CD 47:

CITY OF NEW RICHLAND; STATE OF MINNESOTA/ DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION; WASECA COUNTY ROADS; NEW RICHLAND TOWNSHIP.

Outlet Charge Determination for Waseca Freeborn Joint County Ditch 6

The following properties are affected by the redetermination of benefits for CD 47 because of an outlet charge recommended by the viewers to Waseca Freeborn Joint County Ditch 6:

New Richland Township, T105N-R22W, Sections 16, 17, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, 33, 34, 35, and 36, Waseca County.

Hartland Township, T104N-R22W, Sections 1, 2, and 3, Freeborn County.

The following owners of property are affected by the redetermination of benefits and damages for CD 47 because of an outlet charge recommended by the viewers to Waseca Freeborn Joint County Ditch 6:

PETERSON, GEORGIA M. TRUSTEE; JOHNSON RICHARD A/NANCY JOHNSON; JOHNSON, RICHARD A; QUERNA, MARK T; STENNES, PAUL C; WENZEL, TODD J; SCHLAAK, KEITH DEAN/KELLY LEE SCHLAAK; NEW RICHLAND AREA SPORTSMAN CLUB; WACHOLZ, SARAH A TRUSTEE; WACHOLZ, LANE A TRUSTEE/LYNN M WACHOLZ TRUSTEE; SCHULTZ, RICHARD N; WACHOLZ, LANE & LYNN; THOMPSON, TROY W/JENNIFER S ERICKSSON; CROSS, BOBBY L; BUDACH, KRISTINE K; FLOR, A DAVID TRUSTEE; JOHNSON, RICHARD A ETAL; FREEBORN COUNTY COOP; JOHNSON, BRIAN C; SUPALLA, MICHAEL L/GRETCHEN SUPALLA; MIDWEST PROPERTIES OF NR SOUTH; TOMSCHE, DONALD G & LORI L; KLIMMEK, RICHARD P & BARBARA A; HOLZ, RYAN R & SUE ANN E; REESE, JOYCE E TRUSTEE/MARY THERESA REESE TRUSTEE; NORTHERN NATURAL GAS CO; SWENSON, DUANE & DONNA; KOFSTAD, ISAAC H & MARTHA J; SUPALLA FAMILY ACRES LLC; POSSIN, CHERYL M; KLIMMEK, RICHARD P ETAL; KULLA, RICHARD R; HAGEN, RANDY & CHARLES; GOETTE, MARCELLA R; MILBRETT, MARK/PATRICIA MILBRETT; STALOCH, NICKLAS R; NEUMANN, OTTO E TRUSTEE; KLIMMEK, HARLIN K & RICHARD; WAKEFIELD, KYLE R & EMILY B; KYLE R & EMILY WAKEFIELD; THOFSON, ARLENE I TRUSTEE/VIRGIL D THOFSON TRUSTEE; ROUTH, DAVID A TRUSTEE; ROUTH, LUCAS R; HAGEN, CHARLES & BARBRA & RANDY; MUCHA, ROBERT A/DARLENE

Continued from bottom left

D MUCHA; PETERSON, JEREMY/ STEPHANIE WECKWERTH; SERVICE, SHANE M; ROUTH, DAVID & PAULA; WAKEFIELD, KYLE R; MILBRETT, PATRICIA A; HINZ, MARCIA; RATH ACRES LLC; HANSEN, RAQUEL S/TODD A HANSEN/HANSEN, RAQUEL/TODD A. HANSEN; ERIC HANSEN; PETERSON, CURTIS; TUKUA, ORIALE; KRUEGER, RAYMOND E TRUSTEE/EVON I KRUEGER TRUSTEE; PHILLIPS, JOANNE P; DM&E RAILROAD; THOFSON, ARLENE I; BIAS, ALOYSIUS; GOSKESEN, ROGER K/PEGGY A GOSKESEN; HAGEN, CHARLES &/RANDY HAGEN; GOETTE, VERNON F &/ALICE I GOETTE; KRUEGER REVOCABLE TRUST; BIAS, JOHN K; ECKSTROM PROPERTIES LLC; LEWER, DANIEL R & AMBER M/OLSON, CHRISTOPHER; DOKKEN,RANDY; BOHLEN, RICHARD J & JAMES E; BERG, BURTON D/CONNIE J BERG; PRIEBE, TYLER G/SHELBY E SHLIE; SNOW, BRIANNA PAIGE; OLSON, ALLYSON & DAVID; WILDGRUBE, DAVID S & BARBARA R; CHRAPLIWY, PHILIP C; SCHROEDER, KELLY/ DAKOTA SORGATZ; CMD EXPRESS.

The following governmental entities are affected by the redetermination of benefits and damages for CD 47 because of an outlet charge recommended by the viewers to Waseca Freeborn Joint County Ditch 6:

STATE OF MINNESOTA/ DEPT OF REVENUE; CITY OF NEW RICHLAND; STATE OF MINNESOTA/ DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION; WASECA COUNTY; NEW RICHLAND TOWNSHIP; HARTLAND TOWNSHIP; WASECA FREEBORN JOINT COUNTY DRAINAGE AUTHORITY FOR WASECA FREEBORN JOINT COUNTY DITCH 6.

Dated: August 20, 2024

WASECA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WASECA COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
CD 47 DRAINAGE AUTHORITY

/s/ Brian Harguth, Chairperson /s/ Michael Johnson

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer Aug. 29, Sept. 5 and 12, 2024

STATE OF MINNESOTA
WASECA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SITTING AS THE DRAINAGE AUTHORITY UNDER STATUTES CHAPTER 103E
FOR THE REDETERMINATION OF BENEFITS AND DAMAGES
OF WASECA COUNTY DITCH 32

NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING

Please Take Notice: The Waseca County Board of Commissioners, Drainage Authority for Waseca County Ditch 32 (“CD 32”), will hold a final hearing on the viewers’ report of benefits and damages for the pending redetermination of benefits and damages of CD 32. The viewers’ report has been filed with the Drainage Authority. The hearing will be held on September 20, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., or thereafter as the agenda allows, in the Commissioners’ Room of the East Annex, 300 North State Street, Waseca, Minnesota 56093. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

CD 32 consists of subsurface drain tile starting in the Northeast Quarter of Section 17, then flows south and westerly through the North Half of Section 17, then northwesterly across the Northeast Quarter of Section 18, the northwesterly across the East Half of Section 7 and the northeast corner of the Northeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of said Section 7, then northwesterly and westerly across the South Half of the Southwest Quarter of Section 6, where it terminates into Boot Creek in the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of said Section 6, all in Township 105 North, Range 22 West (New Richland Township), Waseca County, Minnesota. CD 32 includes Branches A-F, with Branch A starting in the Southwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter of said Section 7 and draining northwesterly across the North Half of said Section 7 and the South Half of the Southwest Quarter of said Section 6 where it confluences with the main tile. Branch B is in the Southeast Quarter of said Section 7. Branch C is in the West Half of the Northeast Quarter of said Section 17. Branch D is in the Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of said Section 17. Branch E, and Branch E-1, are in the South Half of the Northwest Quarter and the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of said Section 17. Branch F starts in the Northeast Quarter of said Section 17 just south of the north section line, then drains southeasterly where it confluences with the main tile.

The viewers’ report, along with amendments, if any, all property owners’ reports, and records describing the drainage system are available for inspection by contacting Chris Howard by email or phone at chris.howard@wasecacounty.gov or (507) 835-0534.

At the final hearing, the Drainage Authority will accept public comment regarding the viewers’ report. Any party having an interest in the proceedings may appear and provide comment per the instructions above. Written comments may be submitted by email or by U.S. Mail to Chris Howard (chris.howard@wasecacounty.gov or Land & Water Resources Director, Chris Howard, at 307 North State Street, Waseca, MN 56093). All comments received prior to the final hearing will be submitted into the record.

The following properties are affected by the redetermination of benefits and damages for CD 32:

New Richland Township, T105N-R22W, Sections 6, 7, 17, and 18, Waseca County.

The following owners of property are affected by the redeterminations of benefits and damages for CD 32:

PETERSON, SHARON K/SANDRA L RANKIN; RUSSELL, DAVID; SCHLAAK, LYLE; ROOT, RICHARD L; NELSON, MILTON C & PHYLLIS I; NELSON, PHYLLIS I; WACHOLZ, LANE A TRUSTEE/LYNN M WACHOLZ TRUSTEE; RAUSCH, DONNA L & JOSEPH BRITTON/W L SCHUE TRUST TRUSTEES; SCHUE, TROY TRUSTEE/CHRISTINE L SCHUE TRUSTEE; SCHLAAK, LYLE W/DIANE M SCHLAAK; ST. PETER CEMETERY ASSN; WACHOLZ, LANE & LYNN; WESTRUM, KIPP A & BRENDA J; 13188 24TH AVE NEW RICHLAND LLC; SCHULTZ, RICHARD N; PFEFFER, JOHN H & KRISTINE A; CALVARY CEMETARY; CONDON, DONALD G & CAROLYN; JACOBSON, GREG A/JAN J JACOBSON; WHEELER, CATHERINE E; RAUSCH, DONNA L TRUSTEE; SCHULTZ, RICHARD N/JACQUELINE SCHULTZ; NELSON, DELANE R & DAWN I; ANDERSON, JASON T; AMUNDSON, GORDON TRUSTEE; WACHOLZ, KRISTIE K TRUSTEE; AMUNDSON, BLANE L TRUSTEE; DM&E RAILROAD.

The following governmental entities are affected by the redeterminations of benefits and damages for CD 32:

CITY OF NEW RICHLAND; WASECA COUNTY; NEW RICHLAND TOWNSHIP.

Dated: August 20, 2024

WASECA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WASECA COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
CD 32 DRAINAGE AUTHORITY

/s/ Brian Harguth, Chairperson /s/ Michael Johnson

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on Aug. 29, Sept. 5 and 12, 2024



Mike Salic of Winnebago competes in the tractor pull competition at the Blooming Grove United Methodist Church of Morristown on Saturday, September 7.

Morristown church hosts annual 4K and cook-off

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Blooming Grove United Methodist Church of Morristown held a 4-mile walk/run event with categories for men, women and children the morning of Saturday, September 7. Entry fees were used as donations to support area food shelf organizations.

Athletic competitions were followed by a “Holy Hog” BBQ Ribs cookoff which had teams from 3 different area Methodist churches. There was also a tractor pull with the slogan, “We’re pulling for Jesus.”

This was the church’s fourteenth year for the run, the Owatonna boys’ and girls’ cross country team showed up for the event. The winners for the 4-mile were Melissa Morris in the 50-59

age range; Kelli Prechal for the 40-49 age range and Youngmin Chu for the 30-39 age range. For the males, Dan Leer took the title in the 50-59 age range. Chris Schaitberger won in the 20-29 age range. The walk/run was over by 10:30 a.m.

The Holy Hog BBQ Ribs Cook-Off began at noon. There were four BBQ competitors, listed here according to their placing: Team Top Chelf from the Waseca area food shelf, Stang Good BBQ out of Morristown, Trojan Meats from Owatonna, and Achilles Ribs out of Minneapolis. Lunch goers were to sample from each of the four choices and cast their vote by donating cash to the rib table they liked best. Over \$3,700 was raised for the event and was given to the Waseca Area Food Shelf and the

Steele County Area Food Shelf.

After the rib competition, lunch goers were then directed to the lunch tables. There was a choice of burgers, brats or a pulled pork sandwich. French fries, beans and cookies were available with water or pink lemonade. Judy Mahler, a cheerful and energetic volunteer and 68-year member of the Blooming Grove United Methodist Church of Morristown was wiping tables and cleaning up. Said Mahler, “Community. It’s all about us being open and welcoming to our community.” All the food was donated and all proceeds went to the food shelf.

As the children finished their lunches and began running around the playground, a blessing was offered requesting protection for the competitors in the tractor pull.



Winning the “Holy Hog” barbeque cook-off was “Team Top Chelf” representing the Waseca food shelf. From left, team members were Melissa Morris, Kelli Prchal, Youngmin Chu and Chris Schaitberger.

There were 25 drivers from 13 different towns competing in 11 classes. Mike Salic on a super H won the 4500 with 184 feet. Dennis Zeise, on a Massey Harris, won 5500 with 242 feet. Bob Jensen, driving a John Deere, won three categories: 6000 with 290 feet, 6500 with 291 feet and 7000 with 179 feet. Wayne Urban, International Harvester won 7500 with 230 feet. Jim Sathworth, MTA Farmall, won 8000 with 173 feet. Wayne Urban, International Harvester, won 8500 with 227 feet. Wayne LeCann, with his Oliver won 9000 with 172 feet. Tom Wacek, International Harvester won both 9500 with 183 feet and 10,000 with 185 feet. Medals were given to the winners who all agreed “We’re pulling for Jesus.”



Those attending the charity event at Morristown’s Blooming Grove United Methodist Church were asked to vote for their favorite barbeque ribs, enjoyed lunch served on the grounds, and then enjoyed an exciting tractor pull competition.

Pioneer photos by Ben Revermann

The Pastor’s Column

Don’t stop growing, learning, understanding

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS

Things are almost “back to normal” at my house. Four out of the Five of us are back in school, except for me. I am at my desk with three commentaries and seven applications open trying to learn something and figure out how best to communicate what I am learning with others.

I may have graduated from seminary more than 15 years ago, but my learning never ceases. Between the personal development studies that I am doing and the exegesis for weekly Bible Studies I am wearing out my reading glasses and the keys on my keyboard. There is always another book to read, scripture to dissect, and skills to develop.

When I was younger, I was taught to never stop learning. Understanding that I can still grow and develop as a Father, Husband, Pastor, Coach and Friend is part of my personal make up. There is always something I can learn and I desire to know what other people are learning or enjoy in their free time.

Part of this learning comes from a conviction of scripture from Philippians 3:12-14,

12 Not that I have already reached the goal or am already fully mature, but I make every effort to take hold of it because I also have been taken hold of by Christ Jesus. 13 Brothers, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is

ahead, 14 I pursue as my goal the prize promised by God’s heavenly call in Christ Jesus.

As much as I desire to learn, I realize that there are things that are more important to learn in this life, those things of spiritual value. It is my desire that each person I meet would take one more step closer to Jesus and God each and every day. We are not fully mature in our faith, we will not reach that goal until heaven, but right now we can learn something more about God and how we relate to Him. We have things to learn that are of spiritual value.

Our maturity in faith is not always measurable in quantitative ways, rather it is subjective to God’s judgment through the Holy Spirit. We are given gifts by the Holy Spirit to use in the edification of the church, we are to produce the fruit of the Spirit in our daily lives and learn to rely on the strength of the Spirit to accomplish those tasks. How do we measure maturity in our faith when it is dependent on things we may not be able to see?

We measure maturity through looking ahead at Christ, when good things come, do we give glory to God? Do ask for God’s guidance and support when difficult decisions come up in our lives? Are we studying scripture and engaging in worship when we are not at church? In these ways we measure our maturity in God. Let us pursue God and His eternal glory in every area of our lives.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH 2200 4th St NE, Waseca 507-835-2235 Service times 9:30 a.m. * * *	REAL LIFE CHURCH 620 W Elm Ave, Waseca 507-607-8245 Sunday worship 10 a.m. * * *	Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship * * *	* * * TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 412 N. Main Street, Janesville Interim Pastor Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:15 a.m. Worship * * *
4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH 605 4th St NE, Waseca 507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker) Worship Sundays 10 a.m. * * *	CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS 1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca 507-835-4640 Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m. * * *	VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Brian Schanil Pastor Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School Tuesdays: The Shepherd’s Robe Ministry, 1-3 p.m., 6-8 p.m.; Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark * * *	JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 401 N. West St., Janesville Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship * * *
FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 801 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-3167 Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m. * * *	GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 1221 8th St SE, Waseca 507-835-2213 Sunday worship 10:45 a.m., 6:00 p.m. * * *	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. * * *	BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 43089 180th St., Morristown Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Summer worship hours, (10:45 a.m. Worship, winter) * * *
CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH 309 6th St NE, Waseca 507-835-9176 Worship Sundays traditional 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m. Sunday School/Fellowship; 10:45 a.m. contemporary service * * *	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. * * *	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 * * *	ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH 307 W. 2nd St, Janesville 10 a.m. - Mass * * *
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca 507-833-1703 Sundays 9:00 a.m. * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 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 * * *	IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Freedom Township Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Worship * * *	FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 Owen St., Janesville Pastor Sarah Krolak * * *
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 314 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-2647 Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m. * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Otisco, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship * * *	ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Pastor Ava Adams-Morris Waldorf, Minnesota Sunday — 9 a.m. Worship * * *	ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH Alma City, Minnesota Pastor Robert Harting Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship * * *
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net) Worship Sunday 10 a.m. * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Mary Iverson Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting * * *	ST. JOSEPH’S CATHOLIC Waldorf, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Sunday - 8 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 * * *
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 E Elm Ave, Waseca 507-835-1709 Worship Sunday 9 a.m. * * *	LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting * * *	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	NORTH WASECA LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA 404 30 120th St. Waseca Pastor Sarah Krolak 507-234-6463 Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship; Second Sunday “Young at heart” Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. confirmation * * *
SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH 111 4th St NW, Waseca 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. * * *	VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota		NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE WASECA COUNTY PIONEER.

Daniel J. Johnson
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Bluejays stifle St. Peter, 36-0

Defense holds Saints to 56 yards, Russell brothers shine on offense

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

On a night in which a solemn ceremony was held in honor of former player Brian Sommers, the Waseca High School football team had a lot of fun.

After a sluggish start, the Bluejays seemed to move the ball at will while holding visiting St. Peter to almost nothing offensively, resulting in a 36-0 victory in Waseca's home opener last Friday. It evened the Bluejays' record at 1-1 after a season-opening loss at defending state champion Stewartville. The Saints fell to 1-1.

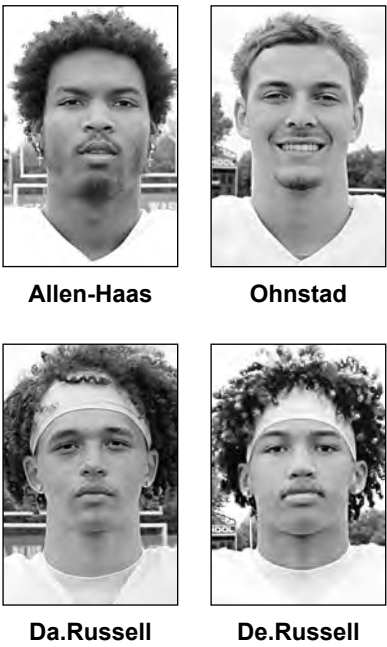
"I thought we made progress in a number of areas," said Waseca head coach Brad Wendland. "Our special teams took a step in the right direction. We're going to need to continue to improve there against Marshall."

It's tough to argue which performed better, the offensive or defensive unit. Waseca totaled 372 yards, 122 rushing, while holding the Saints to 26 yards on the ground and 56 yards for the night. St. Peter did not get a first down until reserves were on the field during running time in the second half.

"It was a fun night in a great environment in Waseca, a great home-opening crowd on a beautiful night," said Wendland. "We honored Brian Sommers and got better in all three phases. It was a dominating performance by the defense. This team is going to continue to get better."

After a scoreless opening quarter, the Bluejays led 14-0 at halftime thanks to some spectacular plays by Damarius Russell and his brother, Deron, who both came up with circus catches. Damarius finished with eight grabs for 105 yards and two touchdowns. Deron caught three for 45.

It was 29-0 after three quarters. Bluejay quarterback Carson Ohnstad, a former wide receiver who struggled with interceptions in the opener, completed 20 of 27 passes for 250 yards and no interceptions. He completed passes to seven different receivers. Deven Parpart caught three passes for 76 yards. Ohnstad ran for two touchdowns.



Bennett Ludwig was the Jays' leading rusher with 46 yards on nine carries. Ohnstad ran for 34.

Micah Allen-Haas returned from an injury and made his presence known on offense and special teams.

The Bluejays are at Marshall this Friday at 7 p.m.

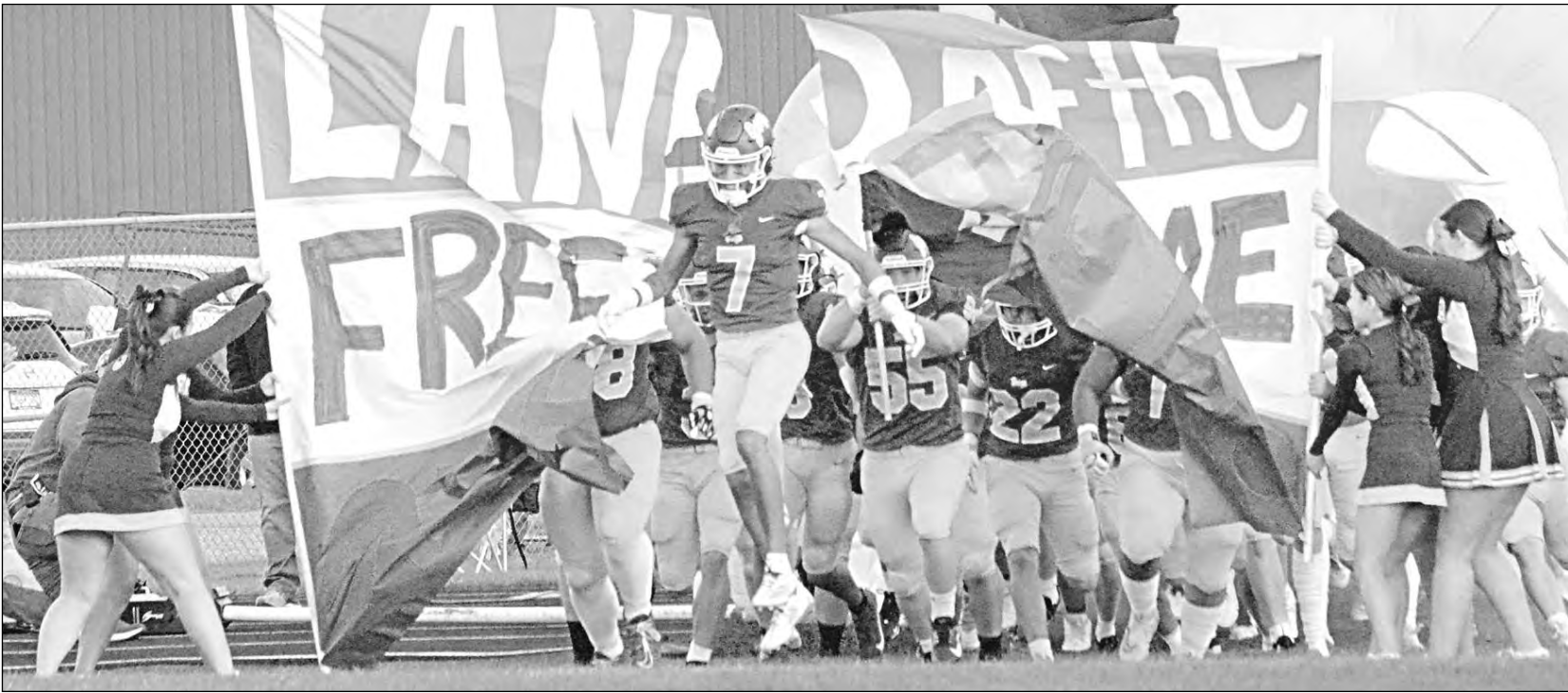
Waseca 36, St. Peter 0					
SP	0	0	0	0	0-0
WAS	0	14	15	7	36

First Quarter		
No scoring		
Second Quarter		
WAS — Damarius Russell 14 pass from Carson Ohnstad (Owen Rupe kick)		
WAS — Ohnstad 2 run (Rupe kick)		
Third Quarter		
WAS — Ohnstad 2 run (Rupe kick)		
WAS — Micah Allen-Haas 4 run (Rupe kick)		
Fourth Quarter		
WAS — Damarius Russell 20 pass from Ohnstad (Rupe kick)		
First downs	SP 1	WAS 18
Rushing	15-26	32-122
Passing	1-4-0	20-27-0
Passing Yds.	30	250
Total Yds.	56	372
Turnovers	0	1
Penalties	6-32	7-60

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing — WAS: Bennett Ludwig 9-46; Ohnstad 8-34; Allen-Haas 5-18; Deven Parpart 3-16; Kallen Glynn 4-1; Cyrett Long 2-1; Da.Russell 1 —3; SP: Ryan Moelter 3-19; Alex Korir 3-10; Derek Guth 1-7; Kaden Throldahl 1 —7; Cole Suska 1 —10

Passing — WAS: Ohnstad 20-27-0, 250;



HOME OF THE JAYS — Members of the Waseca High School football team storm the field for the Bluejays' home opener last Friday. Waseca won, 36-0.



EARLY IMPACT — Micah Allen-Haas (45) made his presence felt early, slamming the return man on the opening kickoff.



SENSATIONAL — Deron Russell (7) makes a spectacular catch, hanging on after being sandwiched by two defenders.

"This team is going to continue to get better."

— Waseca coach Brad Wendland



AMPLE SEPARATION — Damarius Russell (3) got plenty of separation from the defender on a first-half catch against St. Peter.



FUN TIME AT THE STADIUM — At left, the Bluejays' Deven Parpart (25) breaks into the open field. In the middle, Damarius Russell and Tauston Rupe (52) combine on a tackle. At right, Bennett Ludwig (2) enjoys running room following the blocking of Max Wirtz (22).

BLUEJAY FOOTBALL

PLAYER of the WEEK

Tauston Rupe

8/30/24

Tauston Rupe lead the way with 11 tackles on defense.

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BLUEJAY FOOTBALL

PLAYER of the WEEK

Carson Ohnstad

9/6/24 Carson Ohnstad (Senior): 235 passing yards, two passing touchdowns, plus two rushing touchdowns.

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SINGLES SWEEP — The Waseca High School girls’ tennis team won all four singles matches en route to a 6-1 nonconference victory over visiting Northfield Tuesday. Holding down the top three singles slots for the Bluejays were, from left, Takya Schoenrock, Vivian Mader and Maddy Benson. Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

Waseca girls’ tennis team enhances record to 8-1

The Waseca High School girls’ tennis team defeated the Northfield Raiders 6-1 in Waseca on Monday. The JV tied 3-3.

The Jays won all the singles matches, led by Takya Schoenrock at No. 1 who rallied to win 1-6, 6-3, 6-2. Vivian Mader cruised 6-1, 6-0 at No. 2, Maddy Benson prevailed 6-4, 6-2 at No. 3 and Hannah Rugger swept 6-3, 6-1 at No. 4.

Waseca’s No. 1 doubles team of Mia Kanewischer and Addie Pfeiffer were victorious 6-4, 6-2. Layla Keith and Kennedy Lynch won 6-3, 7-5 at No. 3. Northfield’s victory was at No. 2 doubles, where Paige Dufault and Ava Miller dropped a close decision, 6-3, 5-7, 10-8.

The win improved the Bluejays to 8-1.

On Saturday, the girls upended LeSueur-Henderson 4-3 on the WHS courts.

Singles winners: Mader 6-0, 6-1; Benson 6-3, 6-1; and Miller, 1-6, 6-4, 6-0. Kanewischer and Pfeiffer combined to win 6-4, 6-3 at No. 1 doubles. Schoenrock fell in three sets at No. 1 singles while Pearl Moore and Lynch dropped a close one at No. 3 doubles.

The Bluejays had another close one at home against Fairmont last Thursday and again emerged the victors, 4-3. It was tied 3-3 with only the No. 3 singles match remaining. In a match that lasted almost two and a half hours, Benson prevailed in a third-set tiebreaker after falling behind 4-1 in the third set. Fairmont won the other singles matches.

Winning at doubles were Kanewischer and Pfeiffer, Keith and Lynch, and Moore and Miller.

The Jays traveled to Faribault last Tuesday and won 7-0. The JV tied 2-2.

Playing singles were Schoenrock, Mader, Benson and Dufault, with doubles teams of Pfeiffer and Kanewischer, Keith and Lynch, and Miller and Hannah Rugger.

After a Tuesday outing at St. Peter, the Bluejays host New Ulm today at 4:30. They’re at St. James Monday and at Tri-City United Tuesday.



SOCCER ACTION — At left, Waseca’s Diego Toapanta (10) races New Ulm goalie Jens Quist (47) to the ball during a Big South boys’ soccer game at Waseca last week. At right, Christopher Badillo (15), under the watchful eye of coach J.D. Delgado, maneuvers against Levi Johnson (1). Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

Soccer girls run record to 4-1-1; boys still looking for win No. 1

The Waseca High School girls’ soccer team won 2-0 at New Ulm last week before falling 2-1 at St. Peter and tying 3-3 with Fairmont Area.

The Bluejays ran their record to 4-1-1 overall and 1-1 in the Big South Black Division, which St. Peter leads at 2-0.

The Bluejays host Worthington tonight at 7 p.m., play Monday at 7 at Byron and Tuesday at St. James/Windom/Madelia at Madelia High School, also at 7.

The WHS boys’ soccer team fell to 0-5-1 overall and 0-2-0 in conference play. The boys play tonight at New Ulm, Monday at Fairmont and Tuesday at home against St. James.

JWP/WEM girls 6th at Hayfield; boys 11th

The WEM/JWP Grizzly cross country teams competed in the Hayfield Invitational Tuesday, Sept. 5.

The girls finished sixth out of 11 squads with 155 points. Pine Island’s girls won with 63.

Grizzly places and times for 5000 meters: MaKenzie Westphal, 13th, 23:01.3; Onikia Herme, 36th, 24:52.9; Madalyn Miller, 40th, 25:33.8; Madeline Hoehn, 43rd, 25:52.1; Kwynn Krause, 53rd, 26:12.2; Emma Huelsnitz, 58th, 26:38.7; Jaelyn Wilmes, 68th, 29:28.8. Lexi Kivimagi, Chatfield, was first in 20:44.5.

The Grizzly boys placed 11th with 210 points. St. Charles was first with 49.

For WEM/JWP: Wyatt Jans, 12th, 18:35.9; Alexander Kleve, 45th, 21:11.8; Teagan Mulder, 46th, 21:19.8; Auston Holicky, 71st, 24:56.3; Maddox Moreno, 75th, 27:05.0. Ivan Daood of St. Charles won with a time of 17:26.8.

The Grizzlies run today at 4:30 at Daly Park near Mapleton. They travel to the NRHEG Invitational Tuesday, Sept. 17 at 4:30.



ANOTHER WIN — At left, Waseca High School senior Siri Kuhns bumps a shot during the Bluejays’ 30 triumph over Fairmont last week. At right, Ellery Waldron goes up for a block. Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

Surprising spikers sail past Fairmont

After stopping an always pesky NRHEG squad on the road, the Waseca High School volleyball team was at home for a Big South meeting with Fairmont last week.

The end result was the same.

The Bluejays swept the Cardinals 3-0, winning 26-24, 25-16 and 25-14.

Siri Kuhns led the Jays with 41 set assists. Aliyah Taylor totaled 14 kills and 21 digs, Ellie Hoehn six kills, Ellery Waldron 14 kills and Kendall Bowers 24 digs.

At New Richland, the Waseca girls rebounded from a 25-17 loss in game one to take the final three, 25-18, 25-18 and 26-24.

“It was a nail-biter at the end,” said Waseca coach Krissy Plonske. “There was great play on both sides of the court.”

Individually: Taylor 12 kills, 11 digs; Kuhns 27 assists, 20 digs; Bowers 12 digs; Hoehn nine kills.

After a Tuesday match at St. Peter, the Bluejays host Tri-City United Tuesday, Sept. 17 at 7:30. They’re at New Ulm next Thursday at 7:15 and play in the Austin Invitational Saturday, Sept. 20 at 8 a.m.

The Bluejays, 1-0 in the Big South, improved to 7-3 for the season.

Bulldogs edged in home opener

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The chances were there for the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School football team last Friday. The Bulldogs just couldn't cash in. JWP fell to 0-2 with a 14-7 decision to Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop in the home opener at Janesville.

The Bulldogs' best opportunities came in the fourth quarter, when they were stopped on downs after five and 10 plays.

The lone score of the night for the home team came on a 58-yard pass to Caleb Quast in the second period.

The Thunderbirds outgained JWP 265-165 in total yards, including 224-73 on the ground. They ran 60 plays to the Bulldogs' 34 and held a 19-9 margin in first downs.

Quarterback Daulton Bauer was 8-for-15 for 92 yards and no interceptions. Quast caught three. Bauer was also the Bulldogs' top rusher with 34 yards on seven tries.

The Bulldogs look to get on the winning track at Cleveland this Friday. Kickoff is at 7 p.m.

Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop 14, JWP 7				
GFW	8	6	0	0
14				
JWP	0	7	0	0

First Quarter
GFW — Owen Swenson 1 run (Swenson pass from Cole Jacobson)

Second Quarter
GFW — Reggie Mattes 1 run (two-point conversion failed)

JWP — Caleb Quast 58 pass from Daulton Bauer (Ethan Born kick)		
Third Quarter		
No scoring		
Fourth Quarter		
No scoring		

	GFW	JWP
Total plays	60	34
First downs	19	9
Rushing	56-224	22-73
Passing	3-5-0	8-15-0
Passing Yds.	41	92
Total Yds.	265	165
Third Down	7-11	3-9
Fourth Down	0-1	0-2
Fumbles lost	5-2	1-0
Turnovers	3	2
Penalties	6-46	3-51
Punts-Avg.	2-40.0	4-
43.75		
Time of Poss.	32:36	15:34

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing — JWP: Daulton Bauer 7-34; Lucas Morsching 7-28; Isaac Gahlon 2-21; Chase Gerds 4-9; **GFW**: Swenson 17-93; Garrett Stegeman 13-63; Mattes 15-57; Mason Ahlbrecht 3-27; Easton Taylor 6—20
Passing — JWP: Daulton Bauer 8-15-0, 92 **GFW**: Jacobson 1-3-0, 5
Receiving — JWP: Quast 3-52; Gavin Bauer 2-18; Ethan Born 1-8; Gerds 1-5; Gahlon 2 —3; **GFW**: Swenson 2-26; Dominic Krumwiede 2-1; Stegeman 1-0
JWP Defense — Peyton O'Brien 4 solo tackles, 6 assists; Quast 2 tackles; Davien Weis 2 tackles, 2 assists; Michael Walker 3 tackles, 3 assists; Gahlon 2 tackles, 3 assists; Isaiah Berndt 3 tackles, 1 assist; Carter Hoehn 1 tackles, 2 assists; Born 2 tackles, 6 assists; Rylan Rolfsen 1 assist; Gerds 2 tackles, 4 assists; Morsching 3 tackles, 11 assists; Jaxon Miller 4 assists; Luke Cahill 1 tackle, 2 assists; Max Davis 1 tackle, 1 assist; **GFW** — Swenson 5 tackles, 1 assist; Krumwiede 3 tackles, 1 assist; Luke Bastian 3 tackles



HERE COME THE BULLDOGS — Above, members of the JWP High School football team take the field for the Bulldogs' home opener last Friday. Below left, Lucas Morsching (42) runs the ball. Below right, Leighlan Harris (80) puts the clamps on a GFW ball carrier. Photos by LeAnn Kavitz



Panthers run into buzz saw at Norwood

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

A humbling experience awaited Panther fans and players who made the long, winding drive to Norwood-Young America Friday night.

"We battled a loaded squad from Norwood-Young America," NRHEG head coach Marc Kruger said. "I imagine the Central Raiders will have another great season, likely undefeated throughout."

The Panthers were defeated 42-6. Falling behind early 21-0, the Panthers had one successful drive of the night. Taking almost as much time as the bus ride, the Panthers traveled 96 yards, on 24 plays on their lone scoring drive of the game.

"We had a fantastic 96-yard drive to end the first half where we saw how good of a team we can be," Kruger said.

The possession ate up 8 minutes and 26 seconds of the second quarter, included multiple third and fourth-down conversions and concluded with a touchdown connection of 14 yards from senior Alden Dobberstein to senior Jase Knudson. The drive was highlighted by on-target passes and timely scrambles from Dobberstein.

The score at halftime was 21-6. "I am extremely proud of our boys," Kruger added. "They (NYA) have talent all over the place with many players who will go on to play at the next level. We really battled, and truthfully the score does not show how close the game actually



LONG NIGHT— After trailing 21-6 at halftime, things fell apart in the second half for the NRHEG High School football team at Norwood-Young America last Friday. At left, the Panthers' Alden Dobberstein (6) goes back for an interception. At right, Aidan Schlaak (1) makes a pass reception. Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens



"I imagine the Central Raiders will have another great season, likely undefeated throughout."
— NRHEG coach Marc Kruger

was. We played really well, were able to move the ball and had some nice defensive stops. Their passing game ultimately did us in."

With the loss the Panthers fall to 0-2 on the season. They play next on Friday, Sept. 13 at home against

Mayer-Lutheran at 7 p.m.

Norwood-Young America 42, NRHEG 6				
NRHEG	0	6	0	0
NYA	21	0	14	7
First Quarter				
NYA — 13 pass (kick successful)				
NYA — 26 run (kick successful)				
NYA — 47 pass (kick successful)				

Second Quarter		
NRHEG — 14 pass (two-point conversion failed)		
Third Quarter		
NYA — 16 pass (kick successful)		
NYA — 20 pass (kick successful)		
Fourth Quarter		
NYA — 31 pass (kick successful)		
Total plays	NRHEG	NYA
First downs	49	53
Rushing	9	18
Passing	110	126
Passing Yds.	5-17-2	15-20-1
Total Yds.	56	230
Third Down	166	356
Fourth Down	3-10	3-8
Fumbles lost	1-3	2-4
Turnovers	0	0
Penalties	2	1
	6-48	4-27

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing — NRHEG: S.Lassahn 5-36; Dobberstein 3-32; Cromwell 10-32; R.Schlaak 4-5; Bartlett 2-5; S.Staloch 1-0
Passing — NRHEG: Dobberstein 5-17-2, 56
Receiving — NRHEG: A.Schlaak 1-23; Knudson 1-14; R.Schlaak 1-9; A.Hanna 1-9
NRHEG Defense — Brouwers 6 tackles, 2 assists, 1 sack; R.Schlaak 5 tackles, 3 assists; Hanna 5 tackles, 1 assist; Bartlett 4 tackles, 3 assists; A.Schlaak 3 tackles, 2 assists; Knudson 3 tackles; Cromwell 3 tackles, 2 assists; Lassahn 2 tackles; Larson 2 tackles, 1 assist; Ihrke 2 tackles, 2 assists; Johannsen 1 tackle; Staloch 1 tackle, 1 assist; Hudson 1 tackle; Conroy 1 tackle, 1 assist; Gilliland 1 tackle; Dobberstein 1 interception; Fleming 2 assists; Meyering 1 assist;

WHS CC girls 4th at Montgomery

The competition was deep and talented as the Waseca High School cross country teams competed in an invitational at Montgomery last week.

The WHS girls held their own, finishing fourth among 25 scoring teams with 181 points. Waconia won it with 61.

For the Bluejays, sophomore Stella Omtvedt led the way, taking 11th in 20:22.8. Following were Callie Dufault, 16th, 20:38.1; Maren Schimming, 42nd, 21:49.6; Ava VanDenHemel, 62nd, 22:41.1; Quinn Yoder, 66th, 22:50.1; Taylor Markeson, 75th, 23:07.6; Kelsey Draeger, 107th, 24:39.8. The overall girls' winner was Fairmont's Macy Hanson in 18:20.7.

Isaac Feldkamp, a senior, led the WHS boys with a 14th-place showing, clocking 17:24.1. Following: Tristan Godwin, 52nd, 18:43.8; Tanner Hanson, 66th, 19:04.6; Tyler Jellum, 73rd, 19:13.8; Luke Feldkamp, 90th, 19:48.2; Wyatt Hager, 101st, 20:10.8. Soren Kelly, a Mankato Loyola-Cleveland junior, won it in 16:37.7.

The Waseca boys totaled 286 points, good for 10th among 29 schools who scored. Nova Classical Academy won with 72.

The Bluejays are at Rochester today at 4 p.m.

JWP spikers fall to WEM

The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School volleyball team kept it close at home against WEM Tuesday, Sept. 10.

But the visitors prevailed in three games, 25-19, 29-27 and 25-22.

For the Bulldogs: Brielle Bure 3 aces, 1 assist, 16 digs; Brielle Dessner 1 dig; Lilly Strauss 6 kills, 20 digs, 1 block, 2 assists; Aubrey Weedman 5 kills, 15 assists, 11 digs; Katie Olson 4 kills, 2 blocks, 5 digs; Claire Walz 2 blocks; Ava Appel 1 ace; Ellah Oliver 9 digs, 1 ace, 1 assist; Nevaeh Weimert 9 assists, 10 digs, 1 kill; Presley James 100% serving, 8 kills, 7 blocks, 4 digs; Hope Dimmel 1 kill; Paige Walz 5 kills, 6 blocks, 1 assist, 1 dig.

The Bulldogs host Bethlehem Academy tonight at 7:15, play at Alden-Conger Monday at 7 and travel to Blooming Prairie Tuesday at 7:15.

Karl, Wobbrock finish in top 10 at Hayfield Invite

The NRHEG High School cross country teams competed in the Hayfield Invitational Thursday, Sept. 5.

The boys' lone representative in the field, Jacob Karl, performed admirably, placing eighth overall with a time of 18:08.9.

For the girls, Julieann Wobbrock once again lead the team, finishing fifth overall with a time of 21:35.

Teammates Elle Jenno (4:30), Sierra Misgen (28.05), Amelia Duryee (30.36) and Holly Bartness (30.44) rounded out the scoring for a ninth-place finish out

of 11 scoring teams.

"It was nice to see our Jacob and Julieann finish in the top 10 today," said Panthers coach Larry Nydegger. "It is also encouraging to see the girls' team working well together to score and improve their times. I am extremely happy for the team's only senior, Sierra Misgen! She set a challenging goal time for herself today, and she achieved it!"

The Panthers on Tuesday at Blooming Prairie. They host the NRHEG Invitational Tuesday, Sept. 17 at 4:30 at Riverview Golf Course east of New Richland.

NRHEG spikers top Triton

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

The Panther volleyball team quadrupled its total number of game wins en route to their first match victory of the season last Thursday night over Triton.

After winning game one 25-23 the Panthers stormed back in game two, scoring the final six points to win 26-24. After dropping game three 25-15, the Panthers won the deciding fourth game 25-22.

"Panther volleyball got a win they needed tonight," NRHEG head coach Bethany Tennis said after the game. "The girls did a great job keeping energy throughout the sets. They were able to come back together after a tough third-set loss to win the last."

Unforced errors have been the struggle early in the season for the young group. Tennis said the passing and defensive coverage continues to improve.

"I hope to see more growth in these areas," Tennis said. "We had some great hustle plays today and the girls played with a don't-quit attitude. Libero Chloe

Riewer led the way in defensive digs and while outside Gabby Schlaak put down 14 kills on offense."

Total statistics: Schlaak 22 kills, 16 digs, 2 set assists; Chloe Stork 5K, 3D; Camryn VanMaldeghem 4K, 8D, 3 ace serves; Anika Ladlie 6K, 1D, 2A; Aryanna Howe 5K, 1D, 5S; Izley Boerner 9D, 2A; Riewer 13D, 3A; Mallory Schlinger 3D, 2S; Addy Stadheim 2K, 10D, 31S.

"We came out with high energy and a quick offense firing on all cylinders," said Tennis. "As a team, keeping the energy high throughout all sets is important and something we are continuing to work on. We had a lot of good things happening tonight and it's as simple as putting everything together on the court come game time. Addy Stadheim's 31 assists utilized a lot of our offensive players and is something we look to diversify further by taking advantage of our on target passes."

After a Tuesday clash at USC, the Panthers are home Thursday against WEM and at Medford Tuesday, Sept. 17.

First day of school



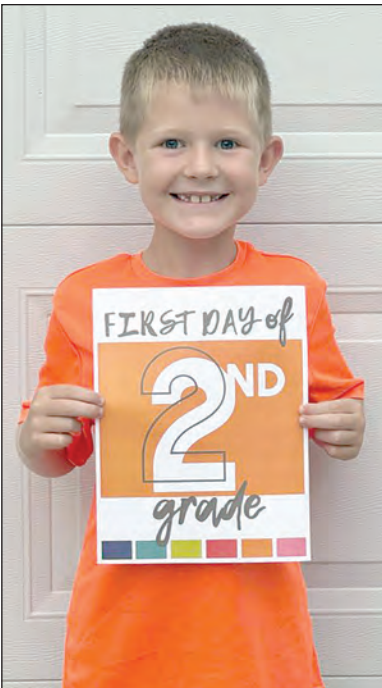
Brayleigh Kuball is attending Waseca Intermediate School. She is 11 years old and this is her first year at Waseca after transferring from WEM. Kuball is pictured before her first day of the 2024 school year.



Brynn Huber, 5, is pictured before the first day of the 2024 school year at Waseca's Hartley Elementary.



Mallory and Taylor Schulz stand together before their first days of the 2024-25 school year as 10th and 2nd graders in Waseca.



Eli Janike, 2nd grade, is pictured before the first day of the 2024 school year at St. Clair.



Madelyn McClain, 9, 4th grader, is pictured before the first day of the 2024 school year at Waseca's Intermediat School



Norah McClain, 7, 2nd grade, is pictured before the first day of the 2024 school year at Waseca's Hartley Elementary.



Riley Root, 6th grade, is pictured before the first day of the 2024 school year at Waseca Intermediate School.



Mila Mens, 1st grade, is pictured before the first day of the 2024 school year at Waseca's Hartley Elementary.



Henrik Janike, Pre-K, is pictured before the first day of the 2024 school year in Waseca.



Harper Janike, kindergarten, is pictured before the first day of the 2024 school year at St. Clair.



Emmett McClain, pre-school, is pictured before the first day of the 2024 school year at Waseca's Family Education Center.



Lillianna, 9, and Grace, 7, Schwichtenberg stand together before their first days of the 2024-25 school year. Lillianna is attending Waseca Intermediate School. Grace is going to Hartley Elementary.

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The JWP marching band played at the Minnesota state fair for the fourth consecutive year on August 26. The group is under the leadership of JWP music instructor Adam Hille.

JWP band has memorable state fair trip

JANESVILLE JOURNAL - The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton band program has increased in popularity and student involvement since Director Adam Hille’s arrival years ago. The program has also led to an increase in events, including local town fairs and festivals like Janesville’s Hay Daze.

On Monday, August 26, the JWP marching band had the opportunity to play at the state fair for the fourth consecutive time during a street parade. Although it turned out to be arguably the hottest day of the year, followed

by severe storms, the band had an overall positive experience, including being featured on Kare 11.

Hille explained he knew the state fair includes parades involving marching bands and wanted JWP to participate. Theresa Wein-furtnner, one of the people in charge of running the state fair, sends a mass email to schools across the state inviting them to play in the state fair’s parade. As compensation for playing in the parade, the Minnesota State Fair provides a stipend for transportation.

“Four years ago, we decided to check this opportunity out,” Hille said. “And the rest, they say, is history.” This year, the band focused more on the execution of both the visual and the musical aspects of performing as a marching band. “We worked on lines, feet placement, things of that nature,” Hille elaborated. “We picked the music a bit sooner than we had in the past so we could be memorized for the state fair.”

Hille said this year’s experience was similar to that in the three previous years. The group’s performance was enhanced, he said,

because the band had the opportunity to hire a color guard and percussion coach, allowing the drum line and color guard to receive instruction from their own respective coaches.

Hille highlighted community, teamwork, dedication, and determination as four things the band learned from playing at the state fair. “Marching band is like a sport; it has the same fundamental concepts,” he said. “For all intents and purposes, marching band is a musical sport.”

Although band members mingled with students from other

schools in years past, there wasn’t much opportunity to do that this year. The day JWP played was one of the hottest of the year, with heat warnings all over the state. So, most bands were focused on staying cool instead of being social.

“We did a little bit of visiting in the parking lot beforehand with Lakeville North,” Hille explained. “But it was so hot, we ended up staying in our track tent. Lakeville North came to sit by us, but they huddled under the shade.” Band members had some time between activities to check

out the state fair. Although they did end up having to drive through some severe storms in the Twin Cities, they made it home okay and were excited about being featured on Kare 11. “That was fun,” Hille said.

Overall, Hille said that the marching band put on a solid performance. It was a great way for them to end the summer season. Now, the students will focus on learning new material in the band room while getting fans energized at home volleyball and football games.



In tribute to their husband and father Brian Sommers, Kirsten Sommers and her children Jameson, Evelyn, Caden, and Owen served as honorary captains during Friday’s home opening Bluejays football game. Head Coach Brad Wendland is pictured on the right.



Sommers family named honorary captains

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

Kirsten (Muotka) Sommers alongside her children Jameson, Evelyn, Caden and Owen Sommers all served as honorary captains during Friday’s home opening Bluejays football game. Kirsten’s late husband, Brian Sommers, was a 2007 graduate of Waseca High School and a member of the Bluejay football team. Brian died in a tragic accident this past January.

“He was a true Waseca Bluejay,” head football coach Brad Wendland told the Pioneer. “He represents everything good about our community. He was hard working, loyal, and tough. He’d give you the shirt off his back in a heartbeat. His family is a pillar of our community.”

“Last winter when there was that terrible accident I started getting calls and texts about what happened to Brian,” Wendland said. “It was really hard. At first I thought about his wife and his kids.”

Wendland said his next thoughts were about what the Waseca community could do for Brian and his family. He referenced other community events and said he later approached Kirsten about honoring Brian during the Bluejay’s home opener.

The September 6 evening featured a number of moments honoring and recalling Brian’s impact on the community.

“I moved here in August of 2006,” coach Wendland explained. “Brian was a senior captain—one of the first players I met. He loved football. He loved all of his activities. He was a hard-working kid.”

Wendland said that first group of kids he coached was better than they realized.

“It was a memorable, special year,” Wendland continued. “Throughout the course of that season it was really fun to watch those kids get confidence and play hard and learn how to win while being great teammates. I think those guys deserve, to this day, some of the credit for the success our program is having.”

In addition to being honorary captains, the Sommers family was presented with a game-worn Brian Sommers jersey from his high school playing career.

While prepping for a move across town this summer, Coach Wendland found, in his possession, old jerseys from that 2006 season—including the number 32, the jersey Brian wore.

“I thought, ‘Well, this is meant to be,’” Wendland recalled.

While the Sommers family walked to the field, a speech, found in its entirety at the end of this article, was read aloud. Owen Sommers performed the official coin toss.

After the opening ceremony, Kirsten gave Coach

“He was a true Waseca Bluejay.” — Brad Wendland

Wendland a memento on the sideline with an inscription meant to signify her family’s gratitude for the impact coaches have.

Wendland had one final thing to say of the night: “I miss Brian.”

The speech, in its entirety, follows:

“Brian Sommers was born on June 23, 1988, to Mark and Becky Sommers in Waseca. He was raised on his family’s dairy farm alongside his two older brothers, Brandon and Mathew, and one younger sister, Mindy. Brian passed away as a result of injuries sustained in a work accident on January 9, 2024.

“[During his school years], He was involved in Youth Service League, 4-H, FFA and anything related to farming. He was a senior captain for both football and wrestling.

“[After graduating], Brian remained involved in the community through custom baling, crop farming, dairy farming, raising dairy heifers, 4-H and volunteering. He enjoyed playing sports, especially football and wrestling.

“Brian met Kirsten Muotka in kindergarten; they graduated together as part of Waseca High School’s class of 2007. They were united in marriage on February 21, 2015. His wife and their four children, Owen, Caden, Evelyn and Jameson, were his entire world. The life Brian and his wife built together was his greatest accomplishment.

“Brian remained connected to the sports he loved by being a coach and mentor to the youth wrestlers. He shared his passion for football by coaching Owen’s and Caden’s youth football teams. He could also be found playing catch with his kids and the neighbors’ children. He was the designated “all-time quarterback” and encouraged the neighborhood kids to go out for football if they weren’t already signed up. Brian knew that investing in youth is the key to a successful athletic program.

“Brian’s senior year was Coach Wendland’s first season as the head football coach in Waseca. The 2006 football season was memorable. The Jays started the season breaking a 14-game losing streak that dated back to 2004 with a 28-12 victory over St. Peter. They won the school’s first homecoming game since 2002 in an exhilarating 14-13 win over New Ulm. That was the first of a five-game winning streak where the Jays outscored their opponents 145-47. The team exceeded all expectations with a regular season record of 6-2 which placed them third in the Southern Minnesota Alliance conference rankings. They advanced to the section IAAAA playoffs where they defeated Albert Lea 27-0 in the first round, then lost to Northfield, the eventual section champions, 33-0. Brian was quoted in the yearbook describing the team’s 7-3 record season as saying, ‘The best part about the season was having a winning record.’

“Not only did Brian have a lasting impact on Coach Wendland, but Coach Wendland had an impact on him. Coach Wendland started a tradition of great work ethic and athletic excellence that persists today. Brian’s leadership as an athlete transferred to parenting, the workplace and the community. He put his all into everything life had to offer. His legacy will be carried on as the community remembers the impact Brian made.

“Once a Bluejay, always a Bluejay!”

Miller Armstrong Center

UPCOMING EVENTS

CLUB 57

204 2ND ST SW - WASECA

9/12 - PAINT & SIP

9/21 - CLASSIC CAR SHOW

9/26 - HORSERACES

10/10 - PAINT & SIP

JONNIE BEANS

204 2ND ST SW - WASECA

TUESDAYS - DOUBLE PUNCH CARD DAYS!

SCAN FOR DETAILS







STARFIRE EVENT CENTER

206 2ND AVE SW - WASECA

GOLF SIMULATORS OPEN IN OCTOBER!

10/5 - SPOOKY DOORMAT PAINT & SIP

10/12 - COMEDY SHOW

New Subscription

☐ 6 months - \$25

☐ 12 months - \$40

Renewal

☐ 12 months - \$47

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