



■ Inside:

- 3 - English classes
- 3 - Beers and brats
- 4 - Obituaries
- 4 - Oktoberfest
- 5 - Homecoming
- 6 - Compost site
- 8-9 - Sports
- 10 - Lakeside
- 12 - Farmamerica



LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY
No. 41 Vol. IV \$2 Office at 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca Thursday, October 9, 2025



Homecoming

Scarecrow Decorating Contest at Farmamerica

Farmamerica is calling on individuals, families, organizations, classrooms, and businesses of all kinds to showcase their creativity in its Scarecrow Contest. Once registered, entrants will receive a link to choose a time to decorate their scarecrow on-site on Oct. 8, 9, or 10. The scarecrows will remain on display through October 17. \$25 for entry, nonprofits enter

“Proofing Family Stories to Connect” led by Gary Heyn Oct. 9

“They were Related Somehow!” Proofing Family Stories to Connect is a session about learning the genealogy which connects people with distant relatives. Gary Heyn is known in the region for his work as a genealogy researcher. Session at 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 9 at the Rice County History Museum, 1814 2nd Ave NW, Faribault. Admission is \$5 for non-members. Register using phone or email: 507-332-2121 or emailing rchs@rchistory.org.

Clarks Grove Historical Society meeting and Potluck Oct. 9

The Clarks Grove Historical Society will hold their monthly meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 9. Alongside their annual indoor potluck picnic at the Clarks Grove Museum. This will be their last gathering until spring of 2026.

Virtual Author Event: Leigh Bardugo at Waseca Public Library Oct. 9

Celebrate ten years of daring heists and loveable outcasts with bestselling author Leigh Bardugo at a virtual Waseca-Le Sueur Regional Library System event at 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 9. The complex fantasy setting, thoughtfully-structured magic system, and deliciously morally gray characters all collide in a world readers have flocked to! Pick the brain of the author herself, celebrating the release of her Six of Crows.

Date Night at the Farm at Autumn Acres Farm Friday, Oct. 10

Autumn Acres Farm will host Date Night at the Farm starting at 6 p.m. Friday, Oct. 10. Enjoy a lighted hayride, community bonfires, music and ambient lighting, pulled pork sandwiches, hot cider with sides.

Magna-Tile Villages at Waldorf Public Library Oct. 10

The mayor needs a village up and running as soon as possible! Create design plans and speed build with an amazing assortment of Magna-Tile sets at Waldorf Public Library at 3:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 10. Geared for ages 7 to 12.

A word from The Word

In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.

John 16:33



HALL OF FAME - The 2000 JWP Golf Team consisting of Levi Mulcahey, Brian Finley, Sean Mulcahey, Sean Finley and Evan Holmes accepted their award at the Eighth Annual Athletic Hall of Fame ceremony on Saturday, Oct. 4, 2025.

Pioneer photos by Ben Revermann

JWP Hall of Fame banquet honors individuals, teams

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Janesville Waldorf Pemberton (JWP) school district held its eighth annual Athletic Hall of Fame ceremony at the Purple Goose ballroom in Janesville on Saturday, Oct. 4. Mike Niemczyk and Lance Nelson were the masters of ceremony. There were eight individual inductees for 2025 along with three teams. Those being acknowledged were in one of three categories, athlete, coach or contributor. In addition to exceptional accomplishments in sports and activities, another requirement for being inducted to the hall of fame is to show good moral character.

Summaries provided here do not necessarily list all individual or team accomplishments.

Mike Cummins, athlete, a 1991 graduate of JWP, earned nine varsity letters in football, basketball and baseball. He was also a bas-

ketball captain during his senior year. He played basketball for Bethany; also attended Mankato State College; and coached various levels at JWP, Waterville and Mahtomedi. His favorite memory is a 60-yard punt for a touchdown his senior year. Mike and his wife Ann have three children, Aubree, Carsten and Kennadee.

Travis Gunsolus, athlete, a 2001 graduate of JWP, played football and wrestled at JWP. He took third at state as an individual in 2001 and wrestled at 125 lbs. on the 1998 second place state team. Travis and his wife Kristin have two children, Colin and Lucas.

Trent Gunsolus, athlete, a 1999 graduate of JWP. He participated in football, wrestling and baseball and was an eight-time letter winner, as well as a five-time all-conference recipient in wrestling and two-time all-state wrestler placing fourth and first in his state



appearances. He attended Itasca Junior college and coached JH wrestling at JWP for five years. He has two daughters Paige and Brielle. With emotion in his voice, said Gunsolus, “Travis and me being inducted the same year, that’s pretty awesome.”

Tim Johnson, athlete, a 1990 graduate of JWP took part in track for four years and in football and basketball for three years. Tim still holds the JWP pole vault record. He coached pole vault at UW-Stout in 1996 and continues to coach at JWP. Said Johnson, “I

want to thank my dad, it makes it easier when you have a parent in track and field.”

Josh Melchior, athlete, was a 1991 grad of JWP earning 11 varsity letters, four in football, four in wrestling and three in basketball. He held the single season rushing record in football for 25 years. Josh and his wife Lisa have two children, Tayna and Ty. Said Melchior, “In the 90s, Janesville pretty much dominated in sports. I’d like to think we’re responsible

JWP continued on 10

Ross Delory battles cancer with ‘Courage’

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Waseca resident Ross Delory can name a considerable list of losses. One of the few he’s pleased with is the removal of an “itchy lump” from the left side of his neck—a very localized case of skin cancer.

Cancer free for the past three months after a seven-month journey that included chemotherapy and more than seven hours of surgery, Delory, 68, is a noticeable figure around town for at least three reasons.

His face features a white, nine-inch beard.

He has a boisterous, outgoing personality.

He wears a wide-brimmed hat with a duck on top.

Delory explains that soon after he was diagnosed with cancer, a nurse suggested he should acquire a wide-brimmed hat to protect his skin from exposure to the sun and, since he is single and lives alone, that he might benefit from a support animal.

Delory said he couldn’t argue with

ment. So instead, he acquired a dog toy—a fabric mallard duck meant to be thrown and fetched. Over time, he actually ended up with two. The first is about 18 inches long. Delory carried it to chemotherapy sessions and kept it nearby during infusions. After a while he changed to one small enough to fit in his pocket.

During one session, a nurse suggested he should keep it out where he could see it rather than tucking it away. He recalls, “I decided she was right, and I fastened it to my hat.”

Along with its connection to his love of the outdoors, Delory says he enjoys the duck’s role as a conversation starter.

“I’m a people person,” he elaborates. “I love giving people an excuse to come talk to me.”

One spontaneous conversation with an 11-year-old girl with down syndrome pertained to the duck’s name. “I told her it was my support animal and it helped me when I had to go through treatments,” he describes. “And she told me I should name it ‘Courage.’”

Delory said he couldn’t argue with

Delory continued on 5



COURAGEOUS - When he was diagnosed with skin cancer, Waseca resident Ross Delory was advised he might have use for a wide-brimmed hat and a "support animal." Since having a dog was impractical, he chose a dog toy to remind him of his connection to the outdoors.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Neighborhood Service Center temporarily closed

Food Shelf to remain open; Center to close from Oct. 13 to 25

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

According to Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center director Cindy Kolander, the thrift store has been notified the sidewalk along the building’s east side will be removed sometime during the week of Oct. 13 and work along that wall will continue for as much as the next two weeks. With access to the thrift store closed off, “We’ve decided to close the store for that week and through the following week, opening again the week of Oct. 27,” shares Kolander.

The store is located at 201 Third Avenue Northwest in Waseca; because that is deep in a zone that has been undergoing construction for the past several weeks, operations there have been interfered with for some time.

She emphasizes that the food shelf, which has been using its back door usually used for deliveries as its public access during the construction, will still be accessible to customers and will not be affected by the closure.

Kolander says the staff has decided to make use of the down time in the store to “refresh” some elements of the operation. “We should have some exciting changes in place when we open back up,” she observes.

Osmose crews inspect Xcel Energy poles

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

More than 50 workmen have been in Waseca County for the past couple of weeks with the utilities service company Osmose, based out of Peachtree, Georgia. Crew supervisor Jerry McCarty explains Osmose has been contracted by Xcel Energy to perform inspection and maintenance services on wooden powerline poles across the southern portion of the state, and even beyond into the Dakotas.

Some 13 crews of 4 or so people have been dispersed through the county to check the integrity of poles especially from ground level to about 18 inches below. McCarty reveals that, if a pole is going to break, the most likely location of the failure will be in that region, since the amount of water, warmth, and oxygen available there is most conducive to decay.

McCarty said there are unquestionably “thousands” of poles in Waseca County alone. Crews work their way along their assigned line. Workers out front open up the ground to at least 18 inches in depth around the circumference of the pole and place the dirt on a tarp for easy retrieval. A crew foreman inspects each pole to check for hollowness or signs of decay.

Crews continued on 4



Compostings

by Al Batt

Growing up to be good, nervous men

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
I don't drive on roads that are under construction.

Where do you go?
Nowhere.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. We had a fellow in the neighborhood who had a lot of dogs on his farm. When I say a lot, I mean more multitudes than I could count with a slide rule. There were no Chihuahuas in the pack. The gargantuan canines probably ate them. That was a farmyard where a stranger was once heard to say, "Why is the rain falling only on my leg?" The owner of the dogs was a good guy, and I liked him, but one rite of passage for boys in the community was to ride a bicycle past the drive where all those snarling, aggressive dogs lived. The central part of that rite of passage was to live through that passage. That was an exceedingly important part. We rode like the wind. The dogs might have eaten a bicycle or two, but collateral damage was to be expected. Thanks to participating in high-speed chases involving vicious dogs, we grew up to be good but nervous men.

I'd recently come out of major surgery at a major hospital. Minor surgery is what someone else has. It was time for me to order something to eat. I ordered ginger ale and saltine crackers. I think of ginger ale as ginger ail, and its combination with saltine crackers was the family health plan while I was growing up. There was no deductible required. When I felt poorly or looked peaked, my mother prescribed ginger ail and saltines. My mother could detect a peaked look at 100 paces.

I'VE LEARNED

I've enjoyed visits to the Harkin Store, located in what was once the town of West Newton, about 9 miles from New Ulm. It began in 1870 and closed in 1901. You could get a pinch of chewing tobacco for a penny in 1870. That price must have gotten too high by 1901.

DIY is an abbreviation for Destroy It Yourself.

Heated seats are rear defrosters.

Enjoy your knees and hips while they're young.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

The CEO of IKEA was elected prime minister in Sweden. He should have his cabinet together in

a couple of weeks.

Scientists have grown human vocal cords in a petri dish. The results speak for themselves.

Last night, I yanked out a couple of nose hairs to see if that hurt. Judging by how fast my wife woke up screaming, I'm guessing the answer is "Yes."

My cousin's wife said he had no sense of direction. So he packed his things and right.

NATURE NOTES

It's difficult to keep an opinionated blue jay a secret. Blue jays have an impressive vocal repertoire, and they're not afraid to use it. Jays are excellent mimics that impersonate red-tailed, red-shouldered and broad-winged hawk calls. I heard one doing a broad-winged. Why? The jay might have been alerting other birds of a hawk's presence, or it was trying to trick other birds into thinking that a hawk was nearby, which allowed the jay access to a feeder that lacked a crowd. Or maybe it made the call just because it could.

Great horned owl fledglings scream in the darkness. That's not dipping into a reservoir of charm. They aren't screaming for ice cream, but they are screaming for food. They want their parents to feed them. Mortality is high for the immature owls trying to find their place on the planet.

Orb web spiders regularly take down and eat their webs to recycle the silk proteins. As I admired a web's engineering, a dried raspberry cane snagged my pant leg and held on for dear life. "The Giving Tree" is a lovely book by Shel Silverstein that teaches generosity and unselfishness. It's a story of a tree willing to do anything for the boy it loved. Maybe I'd encountered "The Giving Raspberry Cane." Later, I ran into "The Giving Burdock," which generously endowed me with its Velcro-like burs.

Grasshoppers have short antennae, auditory organs (tympanal organs) on their abdomens and call (stridulate) by rubbing their hind legs against their forewings. Crickets and katydids have long antennae, auditory organs on their forelegs and stridulate by rubbing their forewings together.

Mourning cloak butterflies fly early in the spring while there's still snow on the ground. They hibernate through the winter as adults, under bark or in other small crevices.

MEETING ADJOURNED

"There is no greatness where there is not simplicity, goodness, and truth."—Leo Tolstoy. Be kind.

My time volunteering at Farmamerica

Two weeks ago, I wrote an article about how Farmamerica is looking for volunteers to fill various roles during the facility's round of fall school field trips. I had the chance to speak with volunteers Ron Wood and Rita and Jerry Janish about the sense of personal fulfillment it brings them to help in various ways for various events.

Their enthusiasm and goodwill inspired me.

I added my name to the roster of volunteers for the field trips and signed up to be on site on Tuesday and Thursday, Sept. 30 and Oct. 1.

Everything was as rewarding and fulfilling as my interviewees had claimed, although my role differed from the ones they like to fill.

As a person with experience as a teacher, it was suggested I could be a "tour guide" at one of the interpretive sites. You are likely aware there are a blacksmith shop, a country school, a country church, a 1930s dairy farm, a feed mill, and an 1880s pioneer homestead. Groups of students cycled through those locations and the interpretive center to learn about the various aspects of farming and agriculture in southern Minnesota across time.

I was placed at the 1880s site. I was provided with a useful overview of the location and important information about the five structures located there. I was given a



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

schedule regarding when groups would arrive and when they should depart. About 25 students and accompanying chaperones arrived at a time; I had 30 minutes with each set. I would be giving my tour five times across the four hours between 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

By the end of the day on Tuesday, I was grateful it had been good weather, but wished it had been about 20 degrees cooler.

Among the five groups were students ranging from third-graders to middle-schoolers. And I must admit by the fourth and fifth times, I kept asking myself inside my head "Did I already say that to this group?"

Now, I want to make it perfectly clear, the experiences and challenges faced by those settlers who came to Minnesota for "cheap" or even "free" land were fascinating. If the tour participants had been adults, I believe I could have kept them enthralled with the information regarding how a pioneer family would arrive, settle in to

survive the winter, and then gradually acquire more weather-resistant and more comfortable housing as their own efforts allowed them to establish their farm and their lifestyle.

I believe we would have had fascinating discussions based on history from within each of our families and even based on some of our experiences.

I like to think all the children who took part in the tours I presented took home a few interesting facts or observations about that time in history.

As for me, I learned an important lesson very quickly. Careful what questions you ask groups of young children—you can never be quite certain how on-task the answer might be.

After I asked one group what they thought it would be like to spend a winter based out of a small "dugout" living space carved into a hill, I was informed "They sure had a lot of frogs." A part of the group had distracted themselves with

some young grass frogs that happened to be nearby. Asking what type of meat might have been smoked in the smokehouse, I received the suggestion it might be the pioneers' horses.

When we took a look at a hand-operated scythe, a student asked whether pioneers used it for killing deer. I kept myself from saying, "only if they could catch it."

When I told students pioneers sometimes used the sod roof of one type of structure both as a garden and as a place to keep their chickens, I was asked more than once "what if the chickens fell off?"

The younger children provided all sorts of entertainment, the trouble was, I didn't dare laugh. Young egos can be rather fragile. There were a few times when I wished I had phrased myself a little differently, but once said, the words couldn't be taken back. Not that anyone broke into tears or anything, only that I wished I had been more diplomatic. It was probably clear to all the adults in the groups that, yes I had been a teacher, but not a teacher of elementary students.

I comfort myself with the belief I provided much more benefit than harm. I know I had fun, I know I learned a few things, and I know I plan to volunteer again.

Giving blood and meeting new people

I donated blood for the twelfth time on Friday. That puts me at about a gallon and a half of blood I've given that has been sent to hospitals. What's cool is the American Red Cross lets me know exactly which hospital has received my blood and when. It's nice to know I'm actually making a difference in someone's life, although I tell people I just go for the fruit snacks and juice boxes.

This time was the first time going in Denver, although I've gone in numerous communities including Minneapolis, Waseca, and Faribault, and the procedures are always pretty much the same. The woman attending me had just finished her training and was on her first week as real blood collection staff. We got to talking and she explained to me she had gone to school for some sort of biology, but after a terribly awful work experience this summer, she made a career change that seemed to be going well.

I could tell she was inexperienced because she worked at a slower pace, made me read things I already knew, and explained every step she was doing. Granted, a first-time donor might like to know all those things, but after twelve times, I already know. Not to mention I had to remind her she



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

wants me to squeeze the little red ball before she puts the needle in.

I've had some not great experiences in the past with phlebotomists trying to find my vein with the needle. For the sake of any sensitive readers, I won't get into detail, but let's just say a couple of tries with a needle in your arm is not the most comfortable thing to experience. It usually always is the newer workers who can't find it the first try or don't have the ease or grace with the needle that the veterans have.

I would like to think I'm the perfect type of person to practice on. I will sit there with my mouth shut, take everything given and be as supportive as I can. But it seems almost every time I go in to give blood, it's a newer person. And that's okay, I love to see people learning.

So needless to say, I was a bit nervous as we approached the point where the needle would be

inserted into my arm.

I looked away when she recommended it, but to my surprise, there was no adjusting. Just in and done. Granted, I looked down to see a drop of blood had escaped, which I'm sure isn't what they want, but I'll take that any day over needing to adjust the needle.

The best part of giving blood though, is the people.

Sitting in the waiting room afterward, munching on pretzels with my fruit snacks lined up next and my apple juice box in my hand, I watched as the kind volunteer lady who checked us in went over to the guy who had finished before me.

"Do you want to schedule your next appointment?" she asked him.

He said he was to start a new job and move soon, so did not want to schedule anything currently. She then turned to me to ask the same and I said, "Sure, why not? What dates do you have?"

The only day that worked for me

was a Monday, which is one of the days when I hunker down and crank out the newspaper pages. So I, ashamed I also had to reject her, said I would think about it, but sign up when I got the notification on my phone I was eligible again.

The lady sitting across from me then raised her hand. "I'll do it that day! Give me whatever time you have earliest."

Excited, the older lady went over to get her signed up. However, she was still logged into my name, so a notification came through on my phone I had signed up for Dec. 8 at 9 a.m. I let her know that she had accidentally signed me up instead of the other lady, but I took it as a sign. I needed to give blood at 9 a.m. on Dec. 8. Sarah, the lady who had originally wanted to be signed up for that time, laughed and said she would happily take the next slot.

"See you on Dec. 8!" she told me as she left.

Long story short, please go out and try to give back. You don't know which amazing people you'll meet.

My Determination: "Well look at that, I've never been an inspiration before. I don't like it, it's too much responsibility." — Nick Miller, New Girl

Child's History of Waseca County

Continuing Chapter II, 1854-5: First White Settlement – Mr. A. G. Sutfiel and Family – Journey from Dodge County, Wis. – Judge Green's Narrative – Judge Lost and Prepared for Death – Sutfiel's Return – Big Boot Creek – Crossing the Mississippi on Ice

"From that place we proceeded to Beaver lake, just east of New Richland, crossing its outlet where the road now runs. Here we saw an Indian and tried to get some idea from him what course to take to reach the Minnesota River, but failed to secure any correct information. Crossing some of the rivulets that unite to form the Le Sueur river and following along down that stream, we forded it near where the village of St. Mary was afterwards built. We wandered on, we knew not whither, until we struck Minnesota lake. Here we stayed two days and looked for signs. At last, about three miles west of the lake, we found a freshly-made Indian trail going southwest. We concluded that the Indians had gone on a hunting expedition and that they had congregated at the Minnesota river, starting en masse from there. Not knowing anything better to do, we took this trail back and struck Mankato July 4th, 1854.

Mankato then consisted of one family, who kept a log boarding house, and one man, who presided

over a saloon made of small poles. No other evidence of civilization (?) met our gaze. From this point we proceeded to Sutfiel's claim which he made about six miles west of St. Peter, remaining with him one day. We then followed the trail down the Minnesota river to St. Paul, which was at that time little more than an Indian trading post, not as large as St. Anthony then was, and Minneapolis had not yet been spoken of. Here we boarded a steamer for La Crosse, from which point we took our way homeward by our own conveyance.

At the time of this trip, the prairies were covered with luxuriant grasses from three and a half to four feet high. Deer and elk roved at will, several large herds coming within our view. After leaving Potter's house, before mentioned, we saw no other house until our arrival in Mankato.

I made no definite location on this trip, but concluded to return to the vicinity of the Straight or Le Sueur river, with my family, and then make my location. G. W. GREEN"

The following August judge Green returned with his family and settled at Owatonna, as will more fully appear in these annals.

Mr. Sutfiel had been staying only a few days on his claim, near St. Peter, when he accepted an offer of \$100 for his "right of possession."

He then returned to Mankato, where he left his family and stock, and sought a new location "far from the haunts of busy men." After much traveling and a thorough inspection of a large extent of country, he selected a portion of section 32, town of Wilton, as his future home. The most of his family still reside there. He arrived at this claim with his family and stock early in August, and at once broke about two acres of prairie. He then set about building a "shanty" for himself and family, and providing shelter for his cattle and sheep. It was a work of some magnitude to prepare for winter, but his energy and industry with the efficient aid of his worthy wife, overcame all obstacles, and, in a few weeks, he was ready to return to Wisconsin with his wife and children to remain during the winter. But before starting for Wisconsin with his family, he planned to go to La Crosse to get a supply of provisions for Luther Barrett, a hunter and trapper, who was to stay on the claim and feed and care for the sheep and cattle until Sutfiel's return the following January.

On his trip to La Crosse, he met Judge Green, on Ashland prairie, who, with his family, eleven men, seven ox teams and wagons, and eighty head of cattle, mostly cows and young stock, left Beaver Dam,

Wis., August 12th. Judge Green, having more supplies than he could easily haul, mr. Sutfiel concluded to return with him. Arriving at Straight river, where Owatonna is now located, they found that stream so swollen with recent copious rains that they could not cross it with their heavy loads. Here they found A. B. Cornell and family, the first settlers of Steele county, and here they pitched their tents and took counsel with each other.

Editorial Note - Upon rummaging through the vast library of contents here, I stumbled across a very old blue book titled, "Child's History of Waseca County Minnesota for Fifty Years, 1854-1904."

After thumbing through the first several pages it was determined this book was too interesting to go back on the shelf. So, it was used as a stand for a computer monitor. Several months later, after finding a more suitable stand, I opened the book to show a reader who stopped into the office. After reading about the Horse Thief Detective Association, I made the decision that this piece of history should not be lost to time. Since then the Pioneer and Star Eagle has included, "a little bit of this and a little bit of that," from the book.

Eli Lutgens



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GOLDEN LINK: Previous Friday

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OBITUARIES

Ruth Eustice

Ruth L. Eustice, age 85 of Janesville died on Monday, September 29, 2025 at Mayo Clinic Health System in Mankato.

Born on January 21, 1940 in Janesville, Minnesota, she was the daughter of Leonard and Stella (Nelson) Torgerson. Ruth graduated from Waseca High School in 1958. Ruth was employed at several local businesses over the years, including the Busy Bee Café, Herter's, and the E.F. Johnson Company, all in Waseca. She also worked one memorable season at Birds Eye during corn pack—just to prove to her sisters that she could do it.

In 1962, Ruth married Richard Eustice. After starting their family, she chose to stay home and devote herself to raising her children. She enjoyed gardening, shopping, yard work, bird watching, and reading. She also enjoyed playing solitaire on her iPad and keeping up with her favorite soap operas.

Ruth is survived by four children, Linda (Darrel) Flemming of Janesville, Rich (Kris) Eustice of Janesville, Kim Mayieka of Mankato, and Scott (Lori Daschner) of Janesville; grandchildren, Katelyn (Aaron Brau) Flemming, Alex (Haley) Eustice, Olivia Eustice, Kenya Mayieka, Jerimiah Eustice, and Jersi, Allie, and Travyn Shultz; and five great grandchildren. She is also survived by her sisters, Eleanor (Gary) Lienke of



Ruth Eustice

Pemberton, Judy Koziolk of New Richland, and Mona (Butch) Furst of Mankato; sisters-in-law, Pat Johnson and Monica (Charlie) Priebe, brother-in-law, Larry Wakefield; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; grandson, Andrew Eustice; sisters, Shirley (Ray) Snow and Ann Torgerson; brother, Larry Torgerson; sisters-in-law, Joyce Wakefield and Jan (Ray) Schwamberger; and brothers-in-law, Dennis Eustice, Marvin Koziolk, and Jesse Johnson.

Visitation was held on Monday, October 6, 2025 from 4:30-7:30 PM at the Janesville Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service. Private family burial was held at St. Ann's Cemetery in Janesville.

Mary Gregor

Mary Jane Gregor, age 66 of Elysian died on Thursday, October 2, 2025 at Mayo Clinic Health System in Mankato.

Born on April 9, 1959 in Faribault, Minnesota, she was the daughter of Ernest and Myrtle (Schwartz) Gregor. Mary graduated from Waseca High School in 1977. Early in her working life, she delivered the Waseca County News and Shopper, but her true calling was in caregiving. She spent the majority of her career at the Waterville Good Samaritan Center as a dedicated caregiver and TMA, offering compassionate care and comfort to countless residents. When the center closed, she continued her work at Nu Horizons in Elysian and most recently Whispering Creek in Janesville.

Outside of work, Mary enjoyed flower gardening, reading, crafts, and attending craft shows. She also loved to travel—especially trips to the mountains. Mary especially loved her two beloved cats, Bert and Peanut. She was member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church and the CCW.

She is survived by her sisters, Marilyn (Neil) Deden of Northfield, Donna Atherton of Kasson, Bev (Reggie) Muellerleile of Elysian, Karen (Denny) Hoy of Janes-



Mary Gregor

ville; brothers, Dennis Gregor of Morristown, Jim (Vicki) Gregor of Waterville, and Jeff Gregor of Janesville; and many nieces, nephews, and great nieces and nephews. Mary was preceded in death by her parents; brother-in-law, Doug Atherton; and niece, Kelly Muellerleile.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, October 11, 2025 at 11:00 AM at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Waterville. Visitation will be held on Saturday from 9:00 AM until the time of services at the church. Burial will follow at Calvary Cemetery in Waterville.



A crew foreman with Osmose Utilities Services carries out an inspection on a powerline pole along Hwy 13. About 13 crews of four people each have been working on similar inspections throughout the county for the past two weeks or so.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

■ Crews

from Page 1

The process of inspection includes pounding on the pole with a hammer to detect any anomalies in the sound, drilling into the pole to check for hollowness or softness, scraping the exterior to check integrity just below the wood's surface, and possibly more depending on the results of the initial tests.

Once the inspection is finished, other members of the crew follow behind. This group applies a preservative to the wood and wraps the base of the pole in a waterproof shield. The hole is filled in and the area around the pole is returned to a presentable appearance. With the

work completed, a metal tag is fastened to the pole for future reference.

McCarty says the results of the inspection are recorded and Xcel Energy makes decisions whether to replace or repair any poles, each of which is identified by its global positioning system (GPS) coordinates. He says poles are inspected every 10 years or so, and mentions information on the tags indicates Osmose performed previous inspections in Waseca County in 2017.

He predicts workmen will finish their work here and move on within the next one to two weeks; crews will be leaving the northern portion of the country around the end of October. Osmose, he said, performs utility services nationwide.



OKTOBERFEST - Left, the band Los T played at the St. Paul Lutheran Church's Oktoberfest on Saturday, Oct. 4, 2025. David Ziegler and Mallorie Gehloff, right, played tournament bean bag toss at the Oktoberfest celebration.

Pioneer photos by Ben Revermann



St. Paul's Oktoberfest features Hammerschlagen, Steinholding

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The St. Paul Lutheran Church of Waseca held its Oktoberfest into the night on Saturday, Oct. 4. There was live music, food, refreshments, a bounce house, hammerschlagen and more. All proceeds were slated for a church youth group mission trip and attendance at the "Higher Things" conference. The event raised \$940.

John Lucca, member of the band Los T was taking a break from playing in the heat to grab a drink, "We've been playing since one and will play till four, then the musical group Marv and Kaat will take over till 7:30 p.m. tonight."

As he spoke, a few children walked past dipping giant pretzels into nacho cheese, the occasional giant white grain of salt dropping to the parking lot. Mark Pehrson, President of the congregation said, "I accompany everyone on the mission trips, we went to Washington D.C. last year; this year we're going to San Juan, Puerto Rico." He also helps to organize events and raise funds, and helps with the festival itself when there's time.

In the middle of the parking lot, not far from the concessions, people were pounding big nails into stumps. Upon further inspection, it was found these people

were playing a German game called Hammerschlagen, according to an online source, "Hammerschlagen (also called Stump or Nagelbalken German for, 'nail beam', is a game in which participants compete against each other to drive nails into a wooden beam." The stumps are set up to be waist high. Using hammers, players prove their strength by being the first to pound their nails in. There were cash prizes passed out to the top three winners for the bean bag toss and hammer-schlagen.

For the game of Steinholding, there was a line of large German-style beer mugs, but instead of fill-

ing them with beer, players were using water. With both a men's and women's competition; while using the filled mugs, players held them straight out, the last one to lower their arm was the winner. There were cash prizes for this competition as well. These competitions took place while the bands were on break to give the competitors some serious stage time. The event continued through 8 p.m. when staff finally started putting things away and cleaning up.

St. Paul's will hold a Friday night turkey commercial dinner to continue fundraising efforts for mission trips, on Oct. 17, Nov. 14, and Dec. 12.

Cinful Delights are 'sinful' in a good way

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

There was a record breaking 90-degree sun filled day on Saturday, Oct. 4 at the Waseca Farmers Market. Along with was a heavy wind accompanied by the sound of dead leaves tumbling along the street. But all that did nothing to deter Cindy Gilmore, owner and proprietor of Cinful Delights.

A lifelong Wasecan raised about 10 miles south of town, Gilmore has been bringing her produce to the farmers market in Waseca since 2012. What started out years ago to solve the problem of having too many tomatoes and nothing to do with them turned into a hobby to busy her Saturdays while providing a healthy snack for her kids after school. "I found an old bunch of recipes that belonged to my mother-in-law for salsa. My kids needed a healthy after school snack, so I found them one."

Gilmore says she has four different salsa flavors: "blazing," "fiery," "hot" and "mild."

Her inventory is not as varied as it was earlier in the season. She notes the problem of having too many tomatoes doesn't last forever. Said Gilmore, "I am out of tomatoes and pickles for the year, but will for sure have them again next year." While her cucumbers were prolific, she had three types of Russian dill pickles: spicy, horseradish and plain. She also had baby dills, cinnamon pickles, bread and butter and candied jalapeno. The pickles also come in spears and slices, but for those willing to take a risk there was also pickled garlic.



CINFULLY DELICIOUS - Cinful Delights can be found at the Waseca Farmers' Market with delicious goods. Pictured here are, from left, Andrew, Madison, Audrey, Cindy, and Harper Gilmore of Cinful Delights were staffing a booth on Saturday, Oct. 4, 2025.

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Another product Gilmore offered was corn relish.

On the sweeter side, she offered an impressive variety of jams and jellies including a surprising one titled, root beer jelly. There were also raspberry, grape, apple, elderberry, strawberry rhubarb, blueberry, pineapple or strawberry rhubarb and just plain rhubarb. On her table she had some crocheted items provided by her sister Dawn Schroeder. Said Gilmore,

"We used to do a lot of craft shows as far away as Mankato but haven't had the time. In the winter I switch over to holiday baking, Christmas cookies and such." More information about Cindy's Cinful Delights is available on Facebook or by calling 507-202-8905

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Local educator announces run for MN House

Dr. Martha Brown, an educator, small business owner, author, musician, and resident of Warsaw Township is running as a DFL candidate for the Minnesota House of Representatives in District 19a.

Brown stated, “Everyone I’ve spoken with is tired of the extremism on both sides. They know that the only way our systems can truly work for the people is to meet in the middle, ensure every voice is heard, and develop policies that benefit everyone, not just the wealthy. As a moderate, I am listening to everyone, and will represent all residents of HD19a. That’s how the job is supposed to be done - and that’s the job I’ll do.”

Dr. Brown is an active community member. She is a member of the Faribault Rotary Club, and is on the Board of Directors for the Paradise Center for the Arts and Friends of the Buckham Library. She intentionally plants an extra large garden so that she can donate fresh produce to the Community Action Center (CAC) Food Shelf. She also accompanies the FHS and FMS choirs, and coordinates Rotary’s Annual Youth Services Benefits concert and Rotary’s Vi-



Dr. Martha Brown

sual and Performing Arts scholarships at Faribault High School.

“One of my efforts of which I am most proud is working with the HOPE Center, local law enforcement, the County Attorney’s Office, and other agencies on the Rice County Blueprint for Safety. We continue tracking domestic violence in Rice County and work to improve inter-agency cooperation so that victims experience more satisfactory outcomes for themselves and their children,” says Brown.

■ Delory from Page 1

the girl’s logic, and so “Courage” has been the duck’s name ever since.

Regarding the highly localized nature of his cancer, Delory speculates it is because he spent 41 years as a truck driver in and around Albany, New York, where he was born and raised.

He owned his own truck, and would haul “anything that’s legal” for “anyone who needed it.” During those many hours of driving, he would nearly always have the driver-side window open “with the sun beating down on my neck.”

Delory’s connection to New York became gradually weaker as “I lost four important people in my life to cancer in four years.” After the death of his 91-year-old mother, Delory says he was invited by a cousin to come to Minnesota. “He told me I might as well, since I didn’t really have any close connections left back in New York.”

Then, after a four-year string of losses, Delory was diagnosed with skin cancer in the fifth year. “Courage” the duck aside, he says his largest defense, the one he’s used in facing tragedy for most of his life, is humor.

“I don’t make light of suffering,” he assures, mentioning how his heart went out to those around him during chemotherapy sessions. “Cancer sucks, and I wish people didn’t have to go through that pain and uncertainty.

“But for me, the way I get through it is to make a joke.”

He tells the story of completing a survey shortly after his surgery in which he claimed he had not been warned of a side effect, “that the surgery would give me three chins.”

The surgeon, with whom Delory had consistently exchanged light-hearted gaffs, called his cell phone after reading the feedback. “He only said one sentence,” re-

members Delory. “ ‘In my defense, you already had two of them.’ ”

Delory mentions he has coupled humor and human connection as his defenses ever since acquiring self-diagnosed post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) at the age of 12, when his alcoholic father held a shotgun to his face and “threatened to blow my head off.”

“I had my first beer when I was 14, on the day of my father’s funeral,” he recalls. Both an alcoholic and a four-pack-a-day smoker, he says he traveled a very rough path until someone in his life pointed out “you’re not going to live to see 30 at the rate you’re going.”

Delory shrugs and says, “So I quit.” A recovering alcoholic since 1983, he went on to become an informal mentor to others. He describes a late night phone call when a fellow person in recovery pleaded for a ride home. The man explained that, although he was sober, he knew that if he drove himself he would not be able to resist stopping at “any bar he passed.”

“All right,” Delory says he responded. “Where are you?” The caller answered, “In the passenger seat of your car.”

Along with humor and human connection, Delory enjoys writing. He says his poems and stories center around nature and natural settings. He mentions having had two items published, one in “Cosmo” and one in an outdoor magazine, although both were years ago. He writes by hand in spiral-bound notebooks and has amassed quite a collection over time. With his life now in less upheaval, he says he hopes to review and perhaps reorganize some of his writings.

Even as he moves forward, though, he says he plans to retain his “courage.”

“I think some form of hat with a duck on it will be part of my life from now on,” he speculates. “I like it, and I like the way it gets conversations started.”

2025 NRHEG Homecoming



2025 NRHEG High School Homecoming royalty: (front, from left) Prince Holden Arnold, King Jordan Brouwers, Queen Chloe Riewer and Princess Rae Phillips. Back: Owen Wayne, Quinn VanMaldeghe, Gavin Lewison, Adalyn Stadheim, Camryn VanMaldeghe, Hudson Chrz, Chloe Stork and Wyatt Tuttle.

Pioneer photos by Deb Bently

Community enjoys festive week, game

NRHEG celebrated Sept. 29 - Oct. 4

NRHEG Homecoming 2025 brought a week full of activities, themed dress up days, coronation, and parades coming to a close Friday.

Monday evening, Jordan Brouwers, son of Jessica Brouwers, alongside Chloe Riewer, daughter of Jodi and Andy Riewer, were crowned King and Queen.

Serving as the night’s Masters of Ceremony were Winter Pederson, Gabby Schlaak and Devon Nelton.

Homecoming candidates were introduced in pairs, and the activities they participate in were listed;

that information follows at the end of this article.

The students’ week was busy with various observances, including a trip to Ellendale for the parade route on Friday. Dress-up themes included: “Blaze orange and camo,” “PJ Day,” “Mean Girls day (pink),” “Class Colors,” and of course, “Panther Spirit Day.”

The Homecoming parade concluded the afternoon activities Friday. The football team played in an unfortunate 6-63 loss against Fillmore Central. A student dance was held on Saturday to conclude the homecoming festivities.



NRHEG’s 2025 Homecoming King and Queen, Jordan Brouwers and Chloe Riewer

2025 JWP Homecoming



JWP’s 2025 Homecoming King and Queen, Caleb Quast and Brielle James, celebrated with this year’s court during homecoming festivities Sept. 29 through Oct. 3.



Queen James and King Quast reign

By JANESVILLE JOURNAL

Janesville-WaldorfPemberton’s homecoming began with a bang on Monday, September 29, as the seniors enjoyed the sunrise together over breakfast at the JWP football field. But the main event everyone was waiting for was the crowning of homecoming king and queen. Out of all the candidates, Brielle James was crowned queen with Caleb Quast serving as the homecoming king. Along with James, the other members of the home-

coming court are Tiera Anderson, Katie Olson, Lily Quast, and Nevaeh Weimert. Representing the boys are King Quast, Aiden Cummins, Dylan Hood, Rocco Scholl, and Michael Walker. Class Attendants included Marin Demarais and Blake Neegaard, 7th grade; Aubrey Anderson and Brydon Olson, 8th; freshmen Lyric Morgan and James Morgan; sophomores Avery Carda and Tyson Kronbach; and juniors Grace Sanny and Trenton Huber. Crown Bearers for this

year’s homecoming were Lyda Quast and Huxley Weimert.

As is tradition, a queen and king candidate also gets a chance to win Mr. and Mrs. Lips, which the JWP FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America) sponsors. Candidates pucker up with red lipstick and kiss a piece of paper, and the high schoolers vote on who has the best lips. This year’s Mrs. Lips is Tiera Anderson, with Aiden Cummins joining her as Mr. Lips.

While another tradition in years past was a guessing game, which revealed some fun facts about the candidates, that didn’t happen this year. Instead, they allocated more time for the clubs and sports teams to share information about their seasons and upcoming events. The cheerleaders opened the coronation with a cheer, starting with the school song, and performing one of the numbers they regularly do at football games.

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- Miss Miller and La Verne Sebersen of New Richland will be married at the Trinity Lutheran Church of New Richland Sunday evening, November 5, at 8:00 o'clock.



STILL UNBEATEN — The Waseca High School football team improved to 6-0 last Friday with a big win at Worthington. At left, the Bluejays’ Sam Selthun eludes a Worthington defender. In the middle, Waseca’s Sawyer Ellis (44) and Deven Parpart (3) celebrate a big play. At right, Owen Honstad (19) runs the ball as Parpart and Titan Rahe (12) look to throw blocks. Waseca Football Assaoiation photos

Bluejays win big at Worthington, improve to 6-0

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

It was not a huge surprise what happened last Friday.

The Waseca High School football team entered the game unbeaten while Worthington was still looking for its first win of the season.

Both trends continued. The Bluejays waltzed to a 42-13 victory at Worthington for their sixth consecutive victory.

“We did some good things tonight but continue to have problems with penalties,” said Waseca head coach Brad Wendland, who added he doesn’t put any thought or concern about the rankings.

“I’m glad that we’re ranked,” said Wendland, whose team remains among the top 10 Class AAA teams in the state. “That stuff is great for the fans.”

More importantly, Wendland was able to put plenty of players on the

“We did some good things tonight but continue to have problems with penalties. We’re excited to be 6-0.”
— WHS coach Brad Wendland

field, and as a result the Bluejays came out healthy.

“We had a good week,” said Wendland. “We’re excited about being 6-0.”

The Bluejays lit up the scoreboard early, with Kellen Klinger scoring on a pair of runs and tossing a 60-yard touchdown pass to Deron Russell, who finished with three receptions for 68 yards. Jordan Johnston added a 55-yard first-quarter touchdown run, and Owen Rupe added the PAT kicks.

Waseca went up 35-0 at halftime as Russell caught a 7-yard touch-

down pass from Klinger.

In the third period, Devon Parpart hauled in a seven-yard scoring pass from Klinger before Worthington finally got on the scoreboard on a 59-yard pass, the lone completion of the night for the home team. Worthington concluded the scoring on a 36-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter.

The Bluejays totaled 13 first downs to just three for Worthington. Waseca totaled 295 yards of offense while limiting Worington to 107.

Penalties continued to be a concern for Wendland and the Bluejays,

Friday night.”

						WAS		WOR
						First downs	13	3
						Total Yds.	395	107
						Penalties	10-86	2-15

Waseca 42, Worthington 13

WAS	28	7	7	0	42
WOR	0	0	7	6	13

First Quarter

WAS — Klinger 8 run (Rupe kick)

WAS — Johnston 55 run (Rupe kick)

WAS — Russell 60 pass from Klinger (Rupe kick)

WAS — Klinger 1 run (Rupe kick)

Second Quarter

WAS — Russell 7 pass from Klinger (Rupe kick)

Third Quarter

WAS — Parpart 7 pass from Klinger

WOR — Dailey 59 pass from Schroeder (Carranza kick)

Fourth Quarter

WOR — Fernandez 36 run (kick failed)

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing — WAS: Johnston 8-101; Parpart 10-70; Klinger 5-25; Rohl 2-19; Selthun 5-14; WOR: Schroeder 2 — 11; Fernandez 12-53; Moreno 6-0; Htoo 1-1

Passing — WAS: Klinger 11-13, 138; Kath 2-2, 28; WOR: Schroeder 1-6, 59

Receiving — WAS: Russell 3-68; Johnston 2-26; Worke 1-2; Long 1-20; Parpart 3-16; Rahe 3-34; WOR: Dailey 1-59

Waseca Defense — Mansfield 1T; Mitchell 2T; Powell 1T; Rivera 1T; Honstad 1T; Glynn 3T, 1A; Rohl 3T; Kath 2A; Jeske 1T; Biddle 2T; Sommers 1A; Ellis 1A; Knutson 1T, 1A; Bethke 1T; Oveido 1T, 1A; Garza 3T; Noble 1T; McKenna 3T; Brown 2T, 2A



RUNNING ROOM — Ryan Schlaak of NRHEG (2) gets the football up the field after taking the handoff from Brooks Gilliland (4) during the Panthers’ Homecoming game last Friday. Fillmore Central beat the Panthers 63-6. Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens

Fillmore Central spoils NRHEG Homecoming, 63-6

Last Friday was Homecoming for the New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale Geneva High School football team.

The Panthers couldn’t have scheduled a tougher opponent.

Fillmore Central improved its record to 6-0 as they dominated the Panthers 63-6.

“They are one heck of a team,” said NRHEG head coach Mark Kruger. They ran the ball very well to the outside and the inside. They do not do a lot, but what they do, they do well.”

The Falcons doubled up the Panthers in total yards, 478-205. They converted 21 first downs to 10 for the Panthers.

Fillmore Central scored early and often, leading 14-0 after one quarter and 42-0 at halftime.

Calvin Nissen scored the Panthers lone toughdown in the third quarter on a 28-yard reception from Brooks Gilliland, who completed six of 27 passes for 90.

Nissen caught four passes for 55

yards.

Ryan Schlaak was the Panthers’ rushing leader with 44 yards on 11 carries.

Nissen, Bynn Bauman, Dustin Schlaak and Jordan Brouwers led the NRHEG defense with four tackles apiece.

The Panthers, 1-5, travel to Medford Thursday.

“We need to come back on a short week and get ready for Medford,” said Coach Kruger.

FC 63, NRHEG 6					
FC	14	28	7	14	— 63
NRHEG	0	0	6	0	— 6
First Quarter					
FC — 1 run (two-point conversion failed)					
FC — 1 run (two-point conversion good)					
Second Quarter					
FC — 3 run (kick good)					
FC — 8 run (two-point conversion good)					
FC — 2 run (kick good)					
FC — 37 pass (kick good)					
Third Quarter					
FC — 9 pass (kick good)					

NRHEG — Nissen 28 pass from B.Gilliland (kick failed)	
Fourth Quarter	
FC — 1 run (four-point conversion failed)	
FC — 10 run (two-point conversion good)	
Total plays	54
First downs	10
Rushing	166
Passing	90
Total Yards	206
Third Down	2-12
Fourth Down	1-5
Fumbles lost	0
Penalties	2-10
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS	
RUSHING — NRHEG: R.Schlaak 11-44; Nissen 1-17; Lewison 5-23; M.Gilliland 3-4; Piepho 1-4; B.Gilliland 1-2; Holland 1-2; FC: Buhl 4-22; Rest of team 12-154	
PASSING — NRHEG: B.Gilliland 6-27, 90; Holland 0-1; FC: Buhl 12-18, 154	
RECEIVING — NRHEG: Nissen 4-55; Meyering 1-22; Lewison 1-13; FC: Team 12-154	
NRHEG Defense — Bauman 5T; Nissen 4T; Brouwers 4T; D.Schlaak 4T; Larson 3T; Conroy 3T Bartlett 3T; Hanna 2T; Weller 2T; Hanson 2-T; Piepho 1T; Meyering 1T; Johannsen 1T; Schroht 2A	

Successful Homecoming as Bulldogs thrash Medford

It wasn’t just a mediocre effort for the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School football team.

The Bulldogs celebrated Homecoming with a big win, humbling Medford 53-6 last Friday.

How dominating was it?

The Bulldogs jumped to a 20-0 lead after one period and led 33-0 at the intermission. They outgained the Tigers 377-43 in total yards, and had 12 first downs to five for Medford.

“It was a great Homecoming effort,” said Bulldogs coach Ryan Luedke.

Daulton Bauer completed seven of nine passes for 140 yards, and backup quarterback Seth Dahlberg connected on three of four for 60 yards. Caleb Quast caught two balls for 68 yards. Jaxon Wolff

racked up a game-high 58 yards rushing on two carries	
The Bulldogs travel to Blooming Prairie this Thursday.	
JWP 53, Medford 8	
MED	0 0 0 8 — 8
JWP	20 13 6 14 — 53
First Quarter	
JWP — Gerdts 1 run (Peterson kick)	
JWP — Quast 46 pass from D.Bauer (kick failed)	
JWP — Kronbach 35 run (Peterson kick)	
JWP — Quast 22 pass from D.Bauer (kick failed)	
Second Quarter	
JWP — Quast 28 run (Peterson kick)	
Third Quarter	
JWP Scholl 45 pass from Dahlberg (kick failed)	
JWP — Anderson fumble recovery in end zone (Peterson kick)	
Fourth Quarter	
JWP — Wolff 58 run (Peterson kick)	
MED — Burr 4 run (Burr run)	

	MED	JWP
Plays	36	43
First downs	5	12
Rushing	44	172

Passing	21-29	11-13
Passing Yards	— 1	205
Passing TDs, int.	0-2	3-0
Total Yds.	43	377
Third down	1-9	2-9
Fourth down	0-0	3-4
Fumbles lost	3-3	0-0
Penalties	0-0	2-20
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS		
RUSHING — JWP: Hood 8-55; Quast 1-28; Wolff 2-58; Morgan 1 — 8; Morgan 2 — 7; Kronbach 2-36; Gerdts 5-8; Schultz 5-5; Cummins 1 — 3; M: Vatnaas 1 — 11; Ahrens 3 — 6; Arana 1 — 8; Limon 2-2; Jones 1 — 3; Burr 5-22; Krenz 14-50		
PASSING — JWP: D.Bauer 7-9, 140; Dahlberg 3-4, 66; Wolf: 1-1, 1; M: Vataas 1-0; Ahrens 2-7, 2		
RECEIVING — JWP: Quast 2-68; G.Bauer 2-29; Scholl 3-55; Weedman 2-28; M: Arana 1-0; Limon 1-0; Jones 3-2; Cole 1-0		
JWP Defense — Hood 2T; Quast 1T; Scholl 4T; Weedman 1T; Walker 1T; Gearity 5T; Wolff 1T; Elliot 1T; Kronbach 1T; Miller 1T; Gerdts 9T; Rolfson 3T; Rider 4T; Cummins 1T; Huber 2T; Schoenrock 2T; Blasing 1T; Wheelock 1T; Ruschmeyer 1T		

3x5

Panthers top JWP for Homecoming victory

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School volleyball team celebrated Homecoming week in the usual way last Tuesday: with a win.

The Panthers hosted JWP and prevailed 3-0. Match scores in favor of NRHEG were 25-14, 25-16, 25-15.

"The girls stayed grounded and focused amidst some last-minute lineup changes," said NRHEG head coach Bethany Tennis.

Setter Addy Stadheim eclipsed her 1000th set assist milestone to end the first set.

Chloe Stork was hot behind the service line with six aces.

Gabby Schlaak led the team with 9 digs and Camryn VanMaldeghem led the offense with 13 kills.

Panther individual statistics: Schlaak 3K, 9D, 2SA, 2A, 1B; C.VanMeldeghem 13K, 6D, 1SA, 2A, 1B; Anika Ladlie 5K, 4D; Nora Flatness 3K, 2D, 1A, 3B; Quinn VanMaldeghem 5D, 3B; Stadheim 1K, 3D, 25 SA, 2A; Stork 5K, 6A, 3B.

The Panthers lost in four sets at Kenyon-Wanamingo two nights later, falling 13-25, 25-23, 25-15 and 25-21.

Despite the loss, the Panthers

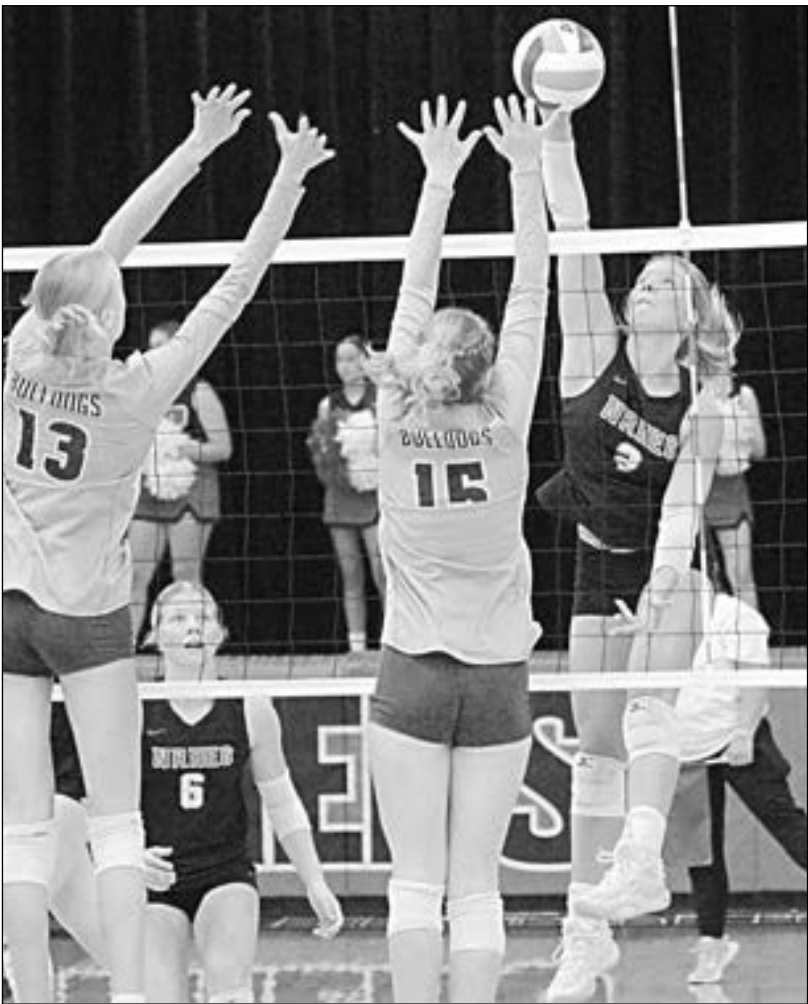
showed their strength at the net, with more than 30 blocks for the match.

"The girls continued to prove their grit in challenging matchups," said Tennis. "We weren't quite playing our best early on, but the girls battled through adversity, especially with senior outside hitter Camryn VanMaldeghem sidelined by injury."

NRHEG leaders: Schlaak 7K, 11D, 2A, 5B; Ladlie 13K, 3D, 5B; Flatness 4K, 7B; Q.VanMaldeghem 11K, 13D, 9B; Kayden Warke 5D; Stadheim 1K, 6D, 29SA, 3A, 3B; Stork 5K, 5B; Chloe Riewer 12D, 2SA.

"Even with this loss, the girls continue to show their ability to compete and play quality volleyball," said Coach Tennis. "I feel confident in what this group can do when it matters most, especially as we approach section play after the regular season. We'll use this weekend to reset and prepare for a busy stretch ahead, with three matches on the schedule next week."

The Panthers play Oct. 6 at Maple River, the next night at Waseca, and Friday at home against Randolph.



PUTTING IT DOWN — NRHEG's Chloe Stork, right, spikes over JWP's Mikayla Wheelock (15) Ashlynn Wolff (13) during last week's Gopher Conference match in New Richland. The Panthers won 3-0.

Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens

WHS girls reach section semifinals

The Waseca High School girls' tennis team defeated the Rochester Lourdes Eagles 4-3 in Rochester on Tuesday. The JV tied 2-2.

Singles:

No. 1 - Maddy Benson def. Tatiana DuVaught 0-6, 7-5, 6-4

No. 2 - Ruby Bedard def. Ava Miller 6-4, 5-7, 6-3

No. 3 - Pearl Moore def. Marie Noser 6-4, 6-3

No. 4 - Queen Berry def. Chloe Hagen 3-6, 6-2, 6-1

Doubles:

No. 1 - Anna Benson and Hannah Rugger def. Gaby Pham and Vivienne Campbell 7-6, 6-4

No. 2 - Paige Dufault and Madison Rasche def. Noor Tareq and Lauren Brummer 6-1, 6-1

No. 3 - Nicole Hedstrom and Maia McKenzie def. Lucy Deml and Abby Jackson 6-2, 6-2

Waseca, seeded fourth in Section 1A, defeated fifth-seeded United South Central 4-3 last Thursday in the first round of the Section 1A playoffs.

The Bluejays jumped out to an early 3-0 lead with wins at third and fourth singles and first dou-

bles. The Rebels picked up wins at No. 2 singles and No. 3 doubles.

The fourth and deciding point was won by Waseca's No. 2 doubles team of Hannah Rugger and Anna Benson.

At singles:

No. 1 - Ivy O'Rourke def. Vivian Mader 1-6, 7-5, 2-4 (retired due to injury)

No. 2 - Olivia Bungum def. Maddy Benson 6-2, 6-2

No. 3 - Moore def. Claire Schimek 6-0, 6-1

No. 4 - Layla Keith def. Brooke Hupe 6-1, 6-0

Doubles:

No. 1 - Dufault and Ava Miller def. Caitlin Rheingans and Elise Hansen 6-0, 6-1

No. 2 - Rugger and Anna Benson def. Julianna Clore and Kylee Koziolk 6-0, 4-6, 6-4

No. 3 - Gretchen Bungum and Tori Stevermer def. Hagen and Rasche, Waseca 7-5, 7-5

Waseca (10-8) ran into No. 1 seed Lake City on Monday, Oct. 6 at the Rochester Athletic Club in the Section 1A semifinals.

No. 2 Cannon Falls met No. 3 Red Wing in the other semifinal.

NRHEG girls 5th at Waseca Invitational

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School cross country teams ran in the Waseca Invitational last Thursday at Lakeside Golf Club.

Julieann Wobbrock again led the Lady Panthers and, according to NRHEG coach Larry Nydegger, ran a very aggressive race to register a time under 20 minutes. She finished second overall in 19:41.4.

As a team, the Lady Panthers finished fifth. Josie Botten was 32nd in 27:18.4, Rylie Cromwell 34th in 28:05.8, Violette Botten 35th in 28:14, Amelia Duryee 39th in 30:28, and Tiffany Jewison 40th in 30:36.2.

Jacob Karl paced the NRHEG boys, finishing fourth overall with a time of 18:12.3. Colton Lermon took 30th overall with a personal-best time of 22:15.5, improving by 25 seconds.

"It was a warm day, but the breeze made for good running conditions," said Coach Nydegger. "We are approaching that time in the season when runners are getting to their peak level for the big races coming up, conference and sections. The hard work is paying off. I am really proud of these runners."

The Panthers compete Oct. 7 at USC. Then it's the Gopher Conference meet Oct. 14 at Hayfield.



THE HEAT IS ON — Waseca's Maren Schimming braved warm temperatures at Lakeside Golf Course to finish fifth. The Bluejay girls won.

Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens

WHS CC girls win invitational

Omtvedt, Schimming lead Bluejays

The Waseca High School girls' cross country team topped five-team field in the Bluejay Invitational Thursday, Oct. 2 at Lakeside Golf Club.

The Bluejays won it with 37 points, followed by Faribault at 46, WEM/JWP 80, Maple River 102 and NRHEG 108.

Waseca was paced by junior Stella Omtvedt, who finished fourth with a time of 20:27.7 for 5000 meters. Maren Schimming was right behind, taking fifth in 21:06.6.

Ellie Kopischke placed seventh in 21:41; Quinn Yoder, 11th, 22:39.3; Ava VanDenHemel, 12th, 22:43.3; Taylor Markeson, 15th, 23:18.5; and Leah Wilson, 17th, 23:46.5.

Jenna Yoder won the girls' junior varsity race in 24:09 for 5000 meters. Kelsey Draeger was second in 24:20.9; Violet Rowher, third, 25:28.1; and Narjorie Lacy, 8th, 35:30.5. Violet Hughes finished fourth in the girls' 3000-meter

junior high race with a time of 17:18.

Keenan Collins, a freshman, paced the WHS boys' varsity for 5000 meters, finishing 10th in 19:32.9. Senior Wyatt Hager was 11th with a time of 19:38.7. Also: Luke Feldkamp, 23rd, 21:52.5; seventh-grader Korbin Collins, 27th, 22:35.4; Sam Feldkamp, 34th, 24:08.6; and Tre Porter, 44th, 34:21.

Faribault won the boys' division with 29 points, followed by Tri-City United with 48, WEM/JWP 67, Waseca 91, USC/Alden-Conger 131 and New Ulm 173.

Waseca's Noah Love finished first in the boys' 3000-meter junior high race, clocking 12:16.4. Kurt Erickson was second in 12:41.9, Will Deml, ninth, 13:51.8, Owen Fierke, 12th, 16:02.8; and Colin Guggisberg 16th in 19:04.8.

The Bluejays are off until the Jordan Invitational Tuesday, Oct. 7.

WEM/JWP cross country teams third at Waseca Invitational

The WEM/JWP High School boys' cross country team placed third in the Waseca Invitational last Thursday at Lakeside Golf Club.

Faribault won with 29 points. Tri-City United had 38, the Grizzlies 67, Waseca 91, United South Central/Alden-Conger 131 and New Ulm 173.

Wyatt Jans led WEM/JWP, placing sixth in 18:47.6 for 5000 meters. Following were Teagan Mulder, 12th, 19:54.8; Brennan Welvaert, 17th, 20:40.2; Auston Holicky, 18th, 20:43.5; Wesley Heinz, 24th, 21:56.4; Cash Wenker, 28th, 23:07.6; and Parker Smith, 30th, 23:36.5.

Dalton Ling led in the boys' 5000-meter race, taking 12th in 25:29.1, followed by Charlie Dennis in 16th in 28:43.7 and Eli Fall in 17th in 32:04.9.

Norah Welvaert, an eighth-grader, led the Grizzlie girls' varsity with a 13th-place finish, clocking 22:43.5 for 5000 meters. Sophomore

Madalyn Miller was 16th in 23:26.5, Lydia Coulsey 20th, 24:07.4; Kwynn Krause, 22nd, 24:33.7; Emma Huelsnitz, 23rd, 24:34.6; Jaelyn Wilmes, 25th, 24:37.6; and MaKenzie Westphal, 26th, 25:02.

For the girls, Waseca won it with 37 points, followed by Faribault with 46, WEM/JWP 80, Maple

River 102 and NRHEG 108.

Ellie Schlie paced the Grizzlies in the girls' 5000-meter race, finishing fourth with a time of 25:42.6. Abby Crosby was fifth in 30:09, Anne Adams, sixth, 30:09.1; and Hailey Heinz, seventh, 33:23.3.

They made the parents proud



At left, the Bluejays' Jacey Jensen celebrates a goal during the Waseca High School girls' soccer team's 4-1 triumph over Tri-City United last Tuesday. In the middle, Delilah Veroeven (16) battles a TCU player. At right, Rylee Schaffer (17) controls the ball. It was Parents Night for Waseca.

Photos by Debbie Rodriguez



Bernie Gaytko

Bernie Gaytko named to ICBA Federal Delegate Board

The Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA) announced that Bernie Gaytko, President & CEO of Keen Bank, has been re-elected to the ICBA Federal Delegate Board. ICBA is the nation's voice for community banks.

"It's a privilege to be elected to represent our industry and shine a light on the work of the nation's community banks, which build better communities," Gaytko said. "As relationship-based lenders, community banks offer hands-on personal service and invaluable financial expertise to local consumers and entrepreneurs. I look forward to working alongside ICBA as we serve their mission to create and promote an environment where community banks flourish."

In addition to helping shape and advocate ICBA's national policy positions and programs, Gaytko's duties include grassroots engagement, member recruitment efforts and making sure community bankers in Minnesota have a voice in ICBA's work in Washington.

ICBA is the only national organization dedicated exclusively to promoting the interests of locally operated community banks and

savings institutions. With trusted financial expertise and high-quality customer service as their hallmarks, community banks offer best-in-class financial services for millions of consumers, small businesses and agricultural enterprises.

"Bernie is an esteemed community leader and a passionate champion for our industry," said ICBA Chairman Jack Hopkins, President and CEO of CorTrust Bank in Sioux Falls, S.D. "We are fortunate to have Bernie's voice and vision on our Federal Delegate Board, where his experience and insights will help advance our mission in service to the nation's community banks."

About Keen Bank

Keen Bank is a local, family-owned and managed bank that has been proudly serving southern Minnesota since 1874 with three locations in Waseca, Owatonna and Ellendale. Keen Bank meets the needs of customers while maintaining the personal aspects of service that are synonymous with community banking. For more information visit keen.bank. Member FDIC.

Mediacom closes front counter in Waseca

By AMELIA ROESSLER
Editor

Mediacom in Waseca is closing its front counter and payment center Dec. 31 due to a decrease in customer visits.

In a letter to the city of Waseca regarding the decision, Mediacom Director of Government Relations Theresa Sunde said a long-time employee is retiring and due to the lack of customer traffic it was decided she would not be replaced. The company's location in the 1500 block of Second Street Southeast will continue to house a number of departments including the call center, marketing, and technical operations, said company Vice President of Government and Public Relations Phil Skinner.

Mediacom first purchased the Waseca cable system in 1999, though the office had been operat-

ing there for many years prior, according to Skinner.

He said over the past few years, Mediacom has seen similar front counter closures in other markets as customer interactions have steadily shifted from in-person visits to phone calls, online and other digital options. Skinner added customers will begin receiving notifications about this change on their billing statements starting with the Oct. 22 billing cycle.

"Everyone is excited for and supportive of our front counter employee, who is retiring after many years of dedicated service. We wish her the very best in this new chapter of life," Skinner said.

Mediacom customers can call the Customer Service Department at 855-633-4226 and make payments online, through the Mobile-Care App or at Kwik Trip, Dollar Tree or Wal-Mart in Waseca.

Waseca Lakeside begins winter prep

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Waseca Lakeside Club on the north end of Clear Lake has been a pillar in the local community since 1922. Along with more than 25,000 games of golf being played every summer season, the clubhouse sees a lot of activity in the form of private parties and corporate events. With the seasonal nature of the sport, the organization begins the process of winding down each year as the weather begins to cool.

Corey Edholm, Waseca Lakeside Club superintendent, says the process begins when the club swimming pool is closed after Labor Day. The Lakeside Club doesn't empty the pool themselves, "We outsource for that sort of thing, that way the professional pool people who know what they're doing are in charge of it." But the pool is the least of Edholm's worries, "Over the summer I have 10 to 12 guys working maintenance, that's



LAKESIDE - The superintendent for the Waseca Lakeside Club has many steps to get ready for the winter months, with plans to be wrapped up by either the first or second week in November.
Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

lawnmowing, keeping and maintaining the greens and the mowers, the driving range. We have a full driving range and 18 holes and are looking to expand some of our facilities sometime next year.

He mentioned plans to add a practice complex. "We've started that this fall to be ready sometime in the 2026 season. It will include a 4,800 square foot practice and putting green, as well as a chipping complex." He also wanted to let Waseca residents to know there will be an assistant superintendent's job open for the 2026 season.

Edholm is no stranger to proper golf course care; he has a bach-

elor's degree in Parks and Recreation, and worked at a number of professional golf courses before he settled in Waseca, including Perry Park Country Club in Larkspur, Colorado, the Broadmoor Golf Club in Colorado Springs, and North Links in Mankato.

In the 1920s, the Lakeside Club golf course consisted of nine holes; holes ten through eighteen were added in the 1970s. In more recent history, large parts of the golf course were underwater during major flooding in 2016. Edholm, however, arrived in 2017, "My wife and I wanted to raise our kids in Minnesota. I have parents here, and we wanted to be around family and that's been

working out. I also coach youth football." On mornings during the busy season, Edholm gets his start on the course at 4:30, an hour before official opening time of 5:30. Overseeing maintenance of the grounds and facilities is clearly a big job, since a ten-hour day is typical for him.

Keeping the grounds means adjusting to circumstances to make golfers' experience pleasant. This year, mosquitoes were out in big numbers. Professionals were hired for mosquito control, and sprayed the grounds five different times. The bugs were so thick, though, Edholm describes wondering the next day whether more spraying was needed.



Dr. David Pope accepted his contributor award at the eighth annual Athletic Hall of Fame ceremony at the Purple Goose in Janesville on Saturday, Oct. 4, 2025.



Josh Melchior accepted his athlete award at the Purple Goose during the eighth annual JWP Athletic Hall of Fame banquet on Saturday, Oct. 4, 2025.

JWP from Page 1

for every win then and since."

Greg Strauss, athlete, was a 1971 grad and participant in football, basketball, baseball and track. Strauss set a conference record in the long jump and a school record of 22 seconds in the 220. He was all-state track in 1970 and 71. Said Strauss, "I was supposed to write a speech for this, but just like when I was younger, I didn't." Greg and his wife Cindy have six children, 20 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Dr. David Pope, contributor, started teaching in the science department in Janesville in 1960. In '64, he started a medical practice and in '69 he opened his medical practice. By 2005 he had performed a few thousand pre-participation physicals. He also attended many athletic events as emergency help, and remembers treating at least two broken arms, a shoulder separation, a heart murmur and a dislocated knee cap. Said Dr. Pope, "I'm blessed I get to enter this with my best friend, Bob Hendricks, my wife Annette, daughter Amy and Tammy." His brother once tried out for the Chicago Cubs but due to a hunting accident and loss of one eye that didn't pan out.

A posthumous award was presented for Bob Hendricks, contributor. Originally from Wattertown, where he was all conference in football, on the student council, FFA president and

received State Vocal Music Awards. He graduated from St. Cloud State and earned a masters from Mankato State University before moving to Janesville and being the announcer for many years during sporting events. His son Kirk spoke on Mr. Hendricks' behalf, "In the 60s we played at Lakeview Park, which was long before the other park was built. It was really wet over there. That wasn't the only problem; people selling tickets, weren't able to watch any of the game. My dad wanted to start announcing so everyone got to hear what was happening. The first effort to announce was by parking a big yellow bus near the field and announcing from the roof." Mr. Hendricks was married to Linda, he has two children, Kirk and Kristin.

Also inducted into the JWP Hall of Fame was the 2000 JWP Golf Team consisting of Sean Mulcahey, Levi Mulcahey, Sean Finley, Brian Finley, Reid Olson and Evan Holmes. Coached by Mike Muedecking.

The 1996-'97 JWP Boys' Basketball Team, Travis Anderson, Josh Berndt, Tim Burke, Brent Fury, Chris Gardner, Travis Hinze, Dave Jewison, Dan Jorgenson, Tim Sheehand, Justin Stanke, Clint Westphal, Ben Wheelock, Jared Ziemke, Josh Ziemke and Jake Zimmerman. Manager John Schultz and Jacob Hoehn, coached by Dave Tonolli. The team lost a tough first-round draw at the state tournament to Caledonia by 5 points, finishing with a 25-2 record.

The 1996-'97 JWP Wrestling Team which included Jeff Adams, Bob Beelow, Ben Blegen, Dave Carleton, Aaron Duenes, Mike



Kirk Hendricks, son of Bob Hendricks, accepted a contributor award on his father's behalf at the eighth annual JWP Athletic Hall of Fame dinner on Saturday, Oct. 4, 2025.
Pioneer photos by Ben Revermann

Fasnacht, Dana Gostomczik, Trent Gunsolus, Andy Krause, Joe Johnson, Jake Kaiser, Jason Lueders, Karl Mettler, George Phillips, Adam Roesler, Mike Schuch and Joe Weimar. Coaches Mike Niemczyk, Gary VonHoltum, Bruce Manthe, Tim Oelke and Willie Eustice. Gopher Conference and Section Champions and qualified for the state tournament for a second year in a row and placed sixth in the state tournament to end that season with a 19-4 record.

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