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WASECA
COUNTY
PIONEER

LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY

No. 44 Vol. IV \$2

Office at 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca

Thursday, October 30, 2025



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Treats on the Streets

Two teens airlifted after early morning crash

Two teens are airliftd following a crash early Sunday morning in Waseca.

Waseca Police said it happened just after 3:20 AM on 7th Ave NW where it appeared the vehicle hit parked cars.

Two victims of the crash, ages 19 and 18 were flown via helicopter for further medical treatment. Initially it was believed that a second driver had run from the scene, but during the investigation it was revealed that was not the case.

The Minnesota State Patrol was contacted to reconstruct the crash and that has been completed. The investigation is still ongoing and no further information will be released at this time.

The Waseca County Sheriff's Office, Waseca Fire, North Ambulance Helicopter, Mayo Helicopter and the Minnesota State Patrol assisted on scene.

Paranormal Tour at Waseca History Center Oct. 30

CAT Paranormal, will conduct a Paranormal Tour at the Waseca History Center at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 30 including both a talk and investigation. With an additional investigation at the Bailey-Lewer Research Library at 7 p.m. The investigation portion is sold out but the talk is still available for \$7 per person.

New Richland law enforcement "Hide and Seek" Oct. 30

Members from the New Richland and other law enforcement agencies are offering a "hide and seek" game with members of the public who signed up by the deadline to take part in a nighttime game which will start about 7 p.m. at City Hall. Select public areas in New Richland will be designated and participants will be given time to hide. Law enforcement staff from numerous agencies will then come "seeking" using only flashlights as their equipment. The event is based on similar activities held successfully elsewhere.

Waseca Churches Trunk or Treat events on Halloween, Oct. 31

The following churches will hold a Trunk or Treat event in Waseca from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 31. First Congregational Church at 530 Second Ave. NE. St. Paul Lutheran Church at 314 Fourth Ave. NE. Christ the King Lutheran Church at 309 Sixth St. NE. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints at 1001 Ninth Ave SE. Christian Assembly Church at 900 Fourteenth Ave. SE. Real Life Church at 620 Elm Ave. West.

A word from
The Word

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.

Proverbs 17:17

Waseca Caregivers Services advises proper health and wellness

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Waseca Walmart pharmacist Dale Rudolph addressed the topic "Understanding Health vs. Wellness vs. Wellbeing as we Age" during a session the morning of Oct. 21. Also addressing the topic was Waseca Area Caregiver Services Executive Director, Kelly Boeddiker.

With 15 members of the elderly community gathered in the upstairs meeting room of the Caregiver Services building, Rudolph began, "I was born and raised in Waseca, I have a strong family legacy here in town." After attending North Dakota State, he spent his first 15 years in the pharmacy health care

field at Thrifty White Drug, then ten years at the Cub Foods pharmacy in Mankato. He's been with Walmart in Waseca for the past 9 years. "But," he adds, "Walmart puts me everywhere in southern Minnesota, my domain pharmacy changes a lot."

Among the topics Rudolph addressed is the term body mass index (BMI). "Body mass index is a tool healthcare providers use to estimate the amount of body fat by using your height and weight measurements. It can help assess risk factors for certain health conditions." He spoke of both good and bad cholesterol and how to tell the difference: "HDL is good for you and LDL is bad," said Ru-



WELLNESS LEARNING - Walmart Pharmacist Dale Rudolph and Waseca Area Caregiver Services Executive Director Kelly Boeddiker presented at the educational session on Tuesday, Oct. 21, 2025.

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

dolph. "LDL cholesterol is considered the 'bad' because it contributes to fatty buildups in arteries." This narrows the arteries and increases the risk for heart attack,

Caregivers continued on 4

Food Shelf supplies far from 'free'

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Even though they hear it fairly often, members of the Waseca Area Food Shelf leadership board are taken aback each time somebody claims the produce, frozen food and shelf stable goods available at the food shelf are "free."

"Of course we know we don't charge anyone for it," clarifies board member and county commissioner Brad Milbrath. "But we also know it takes a lot of money and time to make sure that food is available."

Cindy Kolander, executive director for the Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center and the Waseca Area Food Shelf, says she and board members are given cause for deep concern when they see how sharply need is rising. In September, costs exceeded what had been budgeted by more than a third when a total of 585 households—about 1,200 individuals—were served during the month, taking home 17,000 pounds of food.



HELPING HANDS - Angela Motz (left) and Cindy Kolander stand near the temporary access to the Waseca Area Food Shelf. The double-wide door is on the south face of the building. The large white sign indicates the path to the front entry of the Neighborhood Service Center's thrift store, a business which helps pay many of the costs incurred by the charitable organization.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Operating hours for the food shelf, she mentions are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m to noon and then from 1 to 4 p.m. Workers at the shelf eat a quick lunch at the midday break, then spend their time restocking shelves.

Customers must make an appointment to "shop" for and may do so once a week. With six time slots an hour, representatives from 36 households are picking up supplies each day. The amount of food each shopper is permitted to take depends on the size

of his or her household.

Kolander is quick to express her gratitude to all the individuals and organizations that donate to the food shelf. "We're grateful for everything people give us and for the ongoing good will of the community," she says energetically.

She goes on to explain that donations of money are more efficient than of purchased food mostly because there are wholesale vendors which work to acquire supplies at bulk rate pricing and then sell them, again at bulk prices. The primary supplier of bulk food supplies to food shelves in Waseca County is Channel One Regional Food Bank, located in Rochester.

Kolander offers the example of frozen beef recently available through Channel One Food Bank at \$2.75 a pound. "That's a great price of course,

Food continued on 4

Career Fair at the Mill introduces students to the future

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

High school juniors from the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton (JWP) and Waseca Junior Senior High School, along with those from the Waseca Alternative Learning Center (ALC), attended a college and career fair organized by the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce at The Mill in Waseca during the business day on Tuesday, Oct. 21. A lineup of 35 different businesses, colleges and organizations helped students to consider their future employment and learning. The opportunities to collect information and ask ques-

tions came alongside participating in mock interviews.

Representatives from seven colleges were on hand: Winona State University, South Central College of North Mankato, University of Minnesota Rochester, Bethany Lutheran College of Mankato, Riverland Community College of Austin, Southwest Minnesota State University of Marshall and University of Wisconsin River Falls.

Organizing team member Shannon Kuball of James Brothers Construction, explained "Overall we wanted to engage and introduce

Careers continued on 5



HOPE FOR THE FUTURE - From left: Ryan Berg, Philip Bolfer and Jason Reger were present on behalf of Greener World Solutions at the job fair at the Mill on Oct. 21, 2025.

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Major milestone Groundbreaking held for Marketplace Commons

Community leaders, investors, and local officials gathered Monday afternoon, Oct. 27, 2025, to celebrate the groundbreaking of Marketplace Commons, a new multi-unit apartment complex that marks a transformative step forward in Waseca's housing and economic development.

This long-anticipated project represents a collaboration between the City of Waseca, Waseca County, private investors, and the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce. Together, these partners have worked to bring new housing options to the area, creating space for residents, workers, and families who want to call Waseca home.

"The success of Marketplace Commons shows what can happen when public and private partners work hand-in-hand for the good of the community," said Mikhail Rostislavovich, President of the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce. "This project is more than new construction, it's a statement that Waseca is ready for growth, investment, and opportunity."

Behind the scenes, the Chamber of Commerce played a central role in connecting investors, facilitating key conversations, and keeping the project on track. For more than the past seven months, Chamber leadership has convened city, county, and developer partners, aligning local needs with regional strategies to ensure the project's success.

"This project truly reflects the best of Waseca," said Chris Kennelly, investor and project partner. "From the very beginning, we've seen the passion and persistence of this community come to life. Everyone, public and private, brought something to the table to make this possible."

That kind of collaboration is rare, and it's the reason this project is moving forward."

The Marketplace Commons development brings new housing options to the region at a time when workforce growth, infrastructure, and community revitalization are top priorities. It also represents the strength of partnerships between local government and business leaders who share a commitment to building Waseca's future.

"The groundbreaking is a celebration of teamwork," said Rostislavovich. "Every person, department, and organization involved believed that Waseca deserved modern, attainable housing, and together, we made it happen."

Construction on Marketplace Commons is underway, with completion projected for 2026.

During Monday's groundbreaking ceremony, Amy Potter of the Waseca Area Foundation, Waseca Mayor Randy Zimmerman and County Commissioner De Malterer all took turns speaking to the crowd of about 50 who gathered for the occasion.

Amy Potter

"The Waseca Area Founda-

Market continued on 6



Compostings

by Al Batt

The junk drawer

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
I have three chickens in my backyard. One hen lays brown eggs. That's not unusual.
Oh, no? Could you do it?
DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. Another wonderful neighbor, Jared Knutson, sent me a video of an eastern cottontail trying to hide in a harvested cornfield. What was it hiding from? It feared the two adult bald eagles that had a hankering for a bunny meal. The rabbit didn't initiate the attack. Those two eagles, with white heads and white tails, made several attempts at capturing the rabbit, but were unsuccessful. The eagles have been followers of Jared's harvest activities for several years, knowing that Jared would roust rabbits from their hiding places.

Years ago, a red-tailed hawk followed my farm equipment around the field, hankering to take the voles and mice I'd exposed out to lunch. Farm equipment is much larger today, necessitating Jared's upgrade from a hawk to two eagles.

CORNELIUS ROOSTER
As I drove through Northfield, the smell of toasting grain wafted my way. Post owns the MOM (Malt-O-Meal) Brands of cereals produced in Northfield, but it's Battle Creek, Michigan, that's known as the "Cereal Capital of the World" because it's the birthplace of two major cereal companies, Post and Kellogg's.

A mascot for Kellogg's, Cornelius "Corny" Rooster, has a green body, red comb, yellow beak and multicolored tail. He promotes the advantages of a Kellogg's breakfast with his friendly attitude and healthy appearance. "Nothing gets you crowing in the morning like Kellogg's Corn Flakes!"

Wheaties was invented in 1921 when a clinician for the Washburn Crosby Company (Minneapolis) accidentally spilled wheat bran onto a hot stove. After many attempts to fortify the cereal to withstand shipping, Gold Medal Whole Wheat Flakes were released in 1924. A contest led to the name Wheaties. In 1926, Wheaties was featured in the first prerecorded radio jingle, "Have You Tried Wheaties?" on station WCCO (named for Washburn-Crosby Company). Washburn-Crosby merged with three other mills and was renamed General Mills in 1928. The cereal was featured on a billboard, with the tagline "The Breakfast of Champions," for the Minneapolis Millers baseball team and sponsored that team's broadcasts on WCCO.

I'VE LEARNED

Our clocks go back soon, but I don't remember where I bought them.

If you want a dollar's worth of gas, buy a few radishes.

If you see lions, tigers and bears, you're at an animal sanctuary or a zoo.

I needed a twist tie. I found one in the junk drawer next to the broken pliers and an ancient, floppy, round piece of textured rubber meant to help open jars while promoting a funeral home.

Dr. Frankenstein found the brain for his monster in the junk drawer.

Age isn't just a number. It's a word.

We need conspiracy theories that promote joy and optimism.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

Robert E. Lee had a brother who was never late. His name was Earl Lee.

My neighbor was fired from his job at a dairy farm because he was a danger to himself and udders.

What's the difference between a pickpocket and an umpire? One steals watches and the other watches steals.

Whoever came up with "a penny for your thoughts" and "I'm being nickel-and-dimed to death" certainly knew how to coin a phrase.

Singing in the shower is great until you get shampoo in your mouth. Then it's a soap opera.

NATURE NOTES

A monarch butterfly was in my yard on October 24. Monarchs migrate between 50-100 miles a day; it can take up to two months to complete the journey. The farthest-ranging monarch butterfly recorded traveled 265 miles in one day. Their arrival in Mexico coincides with the celebration of the Day of the Dead on November 1 and 2. Monarch butterflies cluster in the treetops of sacred fir at the El Rosario Sanctuary, Michoacan, in central Mexico. My yard butterfly is unlikely to join that gathering.

Four young opossums (joeys) fed under the bird feeders. They were cute, and they had 50 teeth each, more than any other American mammal. Opossums are omnivores and eat just about anything, even mustard and sugar sandwiches. I don't know for sure that they'd eat those sandwiches, but I bet they would. The Virginia opossum is the only marsupial native to North America. Playing possum is an involuntary response to potential predators. An adult opossum weighs 4-14 pounds, and opossums are found from Costa Rica to Ontario and British Columbia.

MEETING ADJOURNED

If we judge others, it reveals more about ourselves than others. Be kind.

Technology allows for family fun

You are going to question my sanity after you read this.

In order to allow my granddaughter to visit with some of her cousins, and also to visit "Fright Fest," a spooky celebration at the Six Flags Great America theme park in Gurnee, Illinois, I drove from Grand Marais, Minnesota, where she lives, to the northern edge of the Chicago urban area. For two days we had an orgy of fun riding roller coasters, seeing shows, and taking part in other entertainment.

Then I drove back to Grand Marais. The distance, one way, is about 550 miles: eight hours of driving, plus stops for meals and stretches.

I suppose it's possible I might have been willing to make the drive back in a time before GPS navigation, but I was a whole lot more confident about it thanks to modern electronic support.

My "phone"--I put the word in quotes because it's a word whose meaning has expanded a thousand-fold over the past 15 to 20 years--made the drive smoother, faster, and more inviting than it would have been in times past.

First, and most obviously, it supplied navigation. Not only did it show the route I should take to get from starting point to destination, it estimated with impressive accuracy how long it would take me to get there. Had I needed it, it would have suggested alternate routes made more appealing because of traffic or construction.

It was able to tell me whether there was a particular restaurant in the



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

town I happened to be approaching at about lunchtime.

It willingly created a new route if some circumstance changed--for example, if I wanted to add a "stop."

Perhaps best of all, if I failed to follow the provided instructions for one reason or another, it calmly adjusted and continued supplying guidance to get me to my destination.

As important as all those elements are, they were only the fundamental beginning.

My phone supplied distraction and entertainment on the drive. I have an app which allows me to listen to "books on tape." Let me just say, it really helps pass the time on a long drive. Along with that, because I'm a nerd who listens to "that sort" of book, it offered tremendous food for thought. If you've never read "Mere Christianity" by C.S. Lewis, you might consider doing so. In addition to addressing fundamental elements of Christian faith, it broadens one's perspective on a remarkable number of everyday matters as well.

When the driving was a bit more tense and so did not allow me to pay attention to the book, it also lightened the mood by supplying other distractions--perhaps most notice-

ably, music. My granddaughter and I had a music exchange, in which we took turns choosing a song we like, playing it for the other, and then saying why we selected it. I was pleased to learn that, along with some of the noisier types of music not suited to my ears, she is fond of instrumental numbers and show tunes as well.

Then there was the app for the amusement park. It revealed when the park opened and closed each day; it laid out what shows were available at what locations and at what times. When some of my nieces and nephews decided to join us at the park, I was able to send a "pin" providing our location. Though I have never had much luck following "pins" it apparently worked very well for my nephew; he and his children arrived just in time to join us for a show.

And along with all that, electronic connectivity provided "phone" service as never would have been dreamt of in the past.

While I was coming from Grand Marais and my son and his family from home territory near Waseca, we were nonetheless able to coordinate our arrival at a stop partway along the route to have a late lunch with

family members. As I drove toward Mac's Pizza Joint in Janesville, Wisconsin, fully informed as to where the other car was and when it would be arriving at the lunch, I thought to myself of long drives taken in the past when the only information available to each party was the other's intended departure and arrival times, with pretty much every other element of the drive made on faith alone.

I made and received phone calls, most of which related to the trip and our weekend activities, and some having to do with my work with the newspaper. I spoke with people who were literally hundreds of miles away while they had no reason to believe I was anywhere other than on home territory.

While it had little to do with my phone, I was also able to connect my computer to WiFi and submit pieces I had written as though I had been working in my home office. I used email to make and confirm some future appointments.

Mostly, I spent my long weekend enjoying the company of family and friends while also enjoying the excitement of thrill rides and frightening actors. But the conveniences of technology pushed their way into my consciousness often. I was grateful for the many ways connectivity made my weekend simpler and easier.

As a child of the twentieth, rather than twenty-first, century I was astounded at how far human ingenuity has brought us.

Cozying up with fall and appreciating family

As the fall weather rolls in, it's time to settle in and get nice and cozy. With each day, more leaves fall, Halloween grows closer, and I grow more frustrated with my dim selection of fall and winter sweaters. Not only that, but people start to gather with friends and family to enjoy the holiday cheer.

With Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas inching closer each day, my thoughts have turned more and more to family and those I care about.

Since moving in August, I have yet to experience the gut wrenching of homesickness. I think it's because I'm used to leaving in the fall for school and not seeing my family again until the holidays. But now here come the holidays, and with it, the warm and fuzzy feeling of loving and wanting to be with family.

Jack's family has been visiting Denver the last couple of weekends, and it's been nice. I've been able to



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

be there as he has been able to reconnect with distant relatives and catch up with those in his family. And although they aren't technically my family, everyone has opened their arms to me and welcomed me as a member, which I very much appreciate. Sometimes when your family can't be there with you, you realize there are other people in your life who care about you as family.

Which makes me miss my best friend, who still lives in Minneapolis. She was always there for me -- for four years, she was always just a few steps down the hall. Now, she's

hours and miles away and that part of my family feels far as well.

So I'm still learning to be apart from my family. I may have booked flights for Thanksgiving, middle of December, and Christmas to come home and visit my family though. I am quite excited to spend time with them and really appreciate the time together. Especially when big, life-changing things make me pause and take stock. My cousin and his wife just had their first baby, the first child born of my generation, making my grandma a great-grandma! In sad news though, my grandma also had

a close friend from college die recently.

Things happen in our lives that change it every day. We are affected by so many things, in little or big ways. My moving to Denver is big, my cousin having a baby is small, but each means so much to me.

This ramble is due to me curling up on the couch with a warm pumpkin latte, watching cheesy movies and rom-coms and getting in my feels. I love my family, my friends, and everyone in my life. Well, obviously there are people I do not love as much as others, but they are still part of my life that makes it so unique and fun.

My Determination: "How can you prove whether at this moment we are sleeping, and all our thoughts are a dream; or whether we are awake, and talking to one another in the waking state?"

— Plato

South Dakota scrapbook



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens



TRAVEL FUN - Highlights from Eli and Madison's South Dakota adventures from Oct. 7 through 12, 2025. Highlights included the Badlands, Mount Rushmore and dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Lewison.

Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens



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DEADLINES: Pioneer: Noon Monday
GOLDEN LINK: Previous Friday

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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

Waseca County Pioneer (USPS permit #25304) is published weekly on Thursday, by Pioneer Publications Inc., 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca, MN, 56093. Entire contents copyright © 2025 PIONEER Publications, Inc. and respective authors. Opinions expressed in editorials or letters to the editor are those of the individual authors, and do not necessarily represent those of the Waseca County Pioneer or PIONEER Publications, Inc. Letters may be edited for content or length. Periodicals Postage at New Richland, MN. POSTMASTER: send address changes to Waseca County Pioneer, P.O. Box 578, Waseca, MN, 56093.

OBITUARIES

Paul Byron

Paul Donald Byron, age 99, of Waseca, died on Monday, October 13, 2025, at Oak Terrace in North Mankato.

Paul was born on March 31, 1926 to William and Elmira (Conway) Byron in the family farmhouse in St. Mary Township, Waseca County, Minnesota. He was baptized and later confirmed in the Catholic faith at St. Mary Catholic Church in St. Mary Township.

From a young age, Paul was immersed in agriculture, spending early mornings milking cows. He attended the country school in St. Mary Township and later graduated from Sacred Heart Catholic School in Waseca with the Class of 1944.

In 1945, Paul was drafted into the military and served in the United States Navy. He was stationed at Great Lakes, Chicago, and Farragut, Idaho, before receiving an honorable discharge in 1946. Upon his return home, Paul began his farming career.

On April 2, 1956, Paul was united in marriage to Mayone Miller at St. Canice Catholic Church in Kilkenny. Together, they raised nine children and shared 68 years with one another until Mayone's passing on October 5, 2024.

More than a livelihood, farming was Paul's primary passion and way of life. He raised cows and pigs, registered Black Angus bulls with his brother Jim, and worked tirelessly in crop farming alongside his sons. Paul spent the majority of his life tending to the family farm, continuing to drive his truck into the yard well into his nineties to lend a helping hand. He was dedicated to the land and his livestock, finding joy in every part of farm life.

Paul was a long-standing member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca and a proud member of the Southern Minnesota Irish American Club. In 2006, he and Mayone were honored as Mr. and Mrs. Emerald Isle. He will be remembered for his quick wit, a keen sense of humor, and the strong example he set for his children as a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather.

He is survived by his children: Vince (LeeAnn) Byron of Cave Creek, AZ; Paul Byron of Waseca; Edward (Anne) Byron of Waseca;



Paul Byron

Marie Byron of Maple Grove; Leo Byron of Waseca; Don (Jollette) Byron of Waseca; Joan (Tim) Biegert of Owatonna; and Carol (Murray) McCartan of Richfield; seventeen grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; sisters-in-law: Donna Murphy, Ethel Kotchevar, Cathy Collins, and Christina Miller; and many nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his beloved wife, Mayone; daughter, Patricia Byron; daughter-in-law, Pamela Byron; siblings: Mildred Marple, James (Rita) Byron, George (Mary Jane) Byron, Helen (Ray) Curran, Sr. Colleen Byron, and Bill (Mary Ann) Byron; and brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Sr. Janice Miller, Jack Murphy, Harry Miller, Jim Kotchevar, and Jerry Collins.

Paul's family extends their sincerest gratitude to the care takers at Oak Terrace for the support and compassionate care they provided for Paul.

Visitation was held on Thursday, October 23, 2025, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the State Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral Homes in Waseca, followed by a parish prayer service. Visitation continued for one hour prior to the service at the church on Friday.

Mass of Christian Burial were celebrated at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, October 24, 2025, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca with Fr. Glenn Frerichs officiating. Interment followed at Calvary Cemetery in Waseca.

Memorials are preferred to Sacred Heart Endowment Fund or Sacred Heart Catholic School.

then transport the produce. Those are costs, too."

She mentions with gratitude that area retail stores frequently supply food at no cost when it is nearing its expiration date or, in the case of produce, approaching the end of its usable timespan. "Even though they give it to us for free," she observes, "we still have to find a way to transport it, many times driving to neighboring towns such as Owatonna or Mankato, including loading and unloading it.

"There is essentially nothing on our shelves that came to us at absolutely no cost. And even if there were, there are costs associated with the building itself, including electricity to keep the freezer running and lights turned on."

Regarding the clothing, household items and furniture donated to the Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center (WANSC), Kolander acknowledges the thrift store does provide income for the non-profit-although that has been significantly reduced by this summer's construction.

She explains money from those sales is used to meet ongoing expenses for the site (including the food shelf). Cost of business expenses include paying for business insurance, utilities and trash removal services, meeting payroll, and upkeep on the building, grounds, and equipment. Only after those fundamental costs are met can any money go toward purchasing supplies for the food shelf.

"All this is simply how things are when you run a non-profit food shelf," Kolander says calmly. "Sometimes it can be rather hectic around here. Neither I nor the board members are complaining. We are so thankful we are able to offer this service.



LIVE GENEROUSLY - The St. John's Lutheran Church Fall Festival took place on Saturday, Oct. 25, 2025. Pictured from left: LuAnne Huber, Carol Randall, Rhonda Conrath, Pat Scholljegerdes, Kate Bartz, Marsha Sommers, Jenny Kløver, Lynne Gorell, Carol McColly, Nancy Graumann, Lonnie Kuhns, Mary Conway, Doreen Bathke and Janet Wichman. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

St. John's Fall Festival draws satisfying crowd

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The St. John's Lutheran Church's Fall Festival took place on Saturday, Oct. 25 over the lunch hour. There were numerous different items being sold or given away, and a full house in the basement, with volunteers just about everywhere. More than 125 guests came through the lunch line, adding to the success of the event.

One of the first sights visitors saw as they entered the event was Ann Ruedy, a member of the St. John's Quilter's club, with quilts available for sale. "We're just 25 gals making quilts, we also donate them to the Pine Ridge South Dakota Indian Reservation, Lutheran World Relief, Santa Anonymous, the Linus Project and the Bethlehem Inn. We gave a

hundred quilts to all of them; we also give to any area hospitals when they are in need." Kim Groskreutz, another quilter, was asked how long it takes to put a quilt together, she replied, "Some of the quilts with a simple pattern can take as long as two and half hours, the more complicated the quilt, the longer it takes to sew. We all get together every Monday so we can sew. We learn so much each time we do."

Quilts were only one type of item for sale on Saturday. There was also both a used puzzle table sale and a book giveaway table. There were assorted home grown pumpkins for a last minute Halloween decoration. There were homemade handbags and purses, and handsewn washcloths, used lamps, and assorted coffees and teas. The bake sale offered bags of

kettle corn, cherry crunch pie, raspberry donuts, pumpkin bread, granola mix, monster and chocolate chip cookies, blueberry muffins, homemade syrups, salsa's, blackberry jam and jellies, spiked peach bars, homemade salted nut rolls and zucchini bread. Also for sale was a giant bucket of mini candy bars.

Amy LeCocq donated her entire collection of collector plates and dinnerware, some of them were signed. Bev Elliot was selling them and said, "Some of these plates have been signed by the designer, this is a really special collection and we're grateful her family donated this."

In the basement of the church was a flurry of activity, not just the hungry lunch goers who were coming and going, but many blue-shirted volunteers were busy jetting back

and forth from the kitchen, busing empty dishes and bringing back fresh ones. LuAnne Huber was there, she helped to identify all the ladies in the photo that was taken and added, "We have 30 volunteers helping with lunch today, we had over 60 people come through the line before noon, and there are more on the way. On the menu were sloppy joes and vegetable beef soup, with options for dine in and take out. There were also pickles and crackers. For dessert, Nancy Graumann said, "We have 14 separate pies that were donated for today." She took time and said, "Blueberry, apple, pecan, orange flan, chocolate cream, cherry, pumpkin, boysenberry, toffee, lemon custard, strawberry rhubarb, coconut cream and French silk."

NRHEG receives strong audit report

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Members of the NRHEG school board were given a positive audit report during their regular meeting the evening of Monday, Oct. 20.

Chad Guse, a senior associate with Abdo accounting firm out of Mankato, attended Monday's meeting remotely, and announced NRHEG's required annual audit is "clean," that is, substantially free from errors or elements which would cause concern. While there are dozens of expected steps and requirements for tax-funded entities, only a few minor missteps were noted: one example is that the letting of a contract which, based on state-set procedures, should have been handled using sealed bids, was instead decided based on quotes provided by the interested companies.

Guse, whose company performs hundreds of similar audits all around the state, complimented the district on its frugality, noting that its costs per student are lower than most other districts, its debt load is lighter, and its dependence on property taxes is lower. Many districts statewide have what are called "operating levies," that is, they have requested special income from area property tax payers in order to "keep the doors open." NRHEG has no such levy.

A significant element affecting the district's finances, Guse indicated during his report, is its gradually falling average daily membership (ADM), a figure the state uses to determine how much funding it will provide to districts. ADM is meant to



indicate not the school's official enrollment, but how many learners are present in the district's buildings on any given day. The state provides a bit more than \$7,250 in funding each year for every "member" the district serves.

Guse also mentioned that, because of the federal government shutdown, certain procedural steps for the audit have not been completed. While the numbers and findings in the report are all finalized, the audit is still technically only a "draft" until those procedural steps have been satisfied.

Board chair Rick Schultz also announced the results of a recent annual review of district superintendent Michael Meihak's job performance. His summary stated Meihak "meets or exceeds the board's expectations" when it comes to four target areas of communication and information sharing, general environment, pro-

viding professional development and maintaining positive public relations, he "meets or exceeds" board expectations.

Schultz's statement indicated, "It is the board's belief that staff relationships continue to remain strong. Compliments were given about the maintenance and general appearance of our district. Mr. Meihak shared with the board of education that he will continue to learn and grow with the district.

"The board of education appreciates the good working relationship with him." Meihak informed the board he had been notified by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) that the work originally scheduled on Highway 30 for the summer of 2026 has now been rescheduled to 2027.

Meihak informed the board he had been notified by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) that the work originally scheduled on Highway 30 for the summer of 2026 has now been rescheduled to 2027.

■ Food
from Page 1

better than you'll find in a retail store," observes Kolander. She goes on to say that, because usage at food shelves all over the country is rising, and because Channel One works to distribute its products fairly across its whole region, the Waseca shelf was given the option of purchasing only 50 pounds when it placed its most recent order.

"Well, 50 pounds is not enough to fill our need to provide a pound of hamburger to 585 households (the count from September)," she points out, "so we had to go out and buy the rest at prices closer to retail." She mentions that area suppliers are willing to offer the food shelf reduced prices, but only to a point. "That additional meat cost thousands of dollars," she summarizes.

"For anyone to say it was 'free' is obviously far from the truth."

Kolander goes on to mention that board members, volunteers, supporters and others are persistently hustling to bring in money from various types of sources. She offers the example of a mid-summer invitation from the University of Minnesota Extension Southern Research and Outreach Center (SROC) at the southwest perimeter of Waseca. The SROC had planted a field of green beans to test growing conditions. When the produce was ready for picking, area charitable organizations were invited to help themselves.

"So no, we did not have to pay for the food," Kolander points out. "But we had to find volunteers or send some of our employees, in some cases transport them to the field, and

■ Caregivers
from Page 1

back to the liver, where the LDL is broken down and passed from the body. But HDL cholesterol doesn't eliminate all LDL cholesterol.

Rudolph also spoke of a surprise, "Coming in January, Waseca residents will be able to get their colonoscopies in town at the hospital, so that'll be good instead of having to drive to Mankato or Rochester or in some cases even further." He was also quick to pass out some fun facts, for example, "One in five covid deaths were related to blood pressure. Immunizations didn't

start in the pharmacy until 2006. If you were born before 1957 you don't need a measles shot."

Kelly Boeddeker was next to speak. She covered both caregiving and caregivers and started with the line that refers to everyone, "Either you've been a caregiver, you are a caregiver, or you will be a caregiver." She went on to explain about how caregivers can be both emotionally and mentally exhausted and not even know it. Said Boeddeker, "They can become depressed which lessens productivity and care." She urged anyone who

is a caregiver who is feeling these things to reach out to Caregiver Services. "There are stress tests, we can refer psychologists. There are also caregiver support groups where you can find relatable people who are going through similar experiences and can not only offer support, they can direct people to support services they may not be aware of.

"One of the hardest things to do in a caregiver situation is to ask for help, but once you do it can make things much easier. If additional assistance is needed, there are options

like Colony Court." She also emphasized avoiding 'caregiver guilt' and 'caregiver burnout,' warning they are very common. She advised caregivers they should set some time for themselves.

"Write a daily routine and maintain it, keep your sense of purpose to navigate your life and your loved one's."

To reach out to Caregiver Services of Waseca, call Kelly Boeddeker at 507-833-0015, or email at waseca@outlook.com. Or to simply stop by, their address is 113 Second Street NE in Waseca.

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District piloting new math curriculum

By MELISSA DUNN
Staff Writer

During the October 23 Waseca school board meeting, Superintendent Eric Hudspith gave the board a brief update on the district's strategic plan. Under Learning For All, fall assessment data shows growth, demonstrating the effectiveness of both instructional strategies and interventions. He said staff listening sessions are underway where feedback is gathered to improve processes and programming. The district is also piloting a new math curriculum, and will implement it in the fall of 2026. Waseca continues to implement Minnesota's Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MnMTSS) Framework to ensure academic success.

Hudspith also said the district is part of a steering committee working to implement an additional robotics curriculum as well as partnering with Perkins funding to identify career and technical pathways for students.

Community engagement practices for the school district for the purpose of creating opportunities for families and community members to engage with and provide feedback include the college and career fair, school finance learning sessions, website improvement plan-

WASECA
SCHOOL BOARD

ning, and a communications survey.

Under the category of "efficient and effective use of resources," Hudspith spoke of developing comprehensive strategies for the maintenance and improvement of buildings, and allocating staff to the highest need areas to support improvement. Sustainable budget planning and refinancing bonds to reduce debt service costs are also being examined.

The category of "ensuring safe and welcoming environments" includes the current focus areas of a building conditions assessment, grounds maintenance, and winter weather planning.

The board approved the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 school year calendars. Other action items addressed were the approval of the resolution establishing parameters for bond refunding, and the approvals for both the 2025-2027 agreements with independent contract employees and the 2026-2029 superintendent contract.

The next work session is Nov. 6 and the next regular meeting is Nov. 20.

County approves cybersecurity coverage

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

At the request of the county Information Technology (IT) department, county commissioners voted during their Oct. 21 meeting to approve about \$12,500 for additional annual cybersecurity insurance coverage.

IT department head Judy Hiller placed the request based on information shared by the IT department in Mower County, which experienced a ransomware attack in June. The Mower County official had shared at a recent conference that the coverage common to many counties in the region through the Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust (MCIT) was insufficient given the many demands and costs associated with the attack.

According to information shared during the meeting, MCIT coverage includes sending a response team to the location. Mower County discovered nearly instantaneous response is needed to mitigate the difficulties which arise once internet security is breached. The attack in Mower County resulted in confidential medical records being taken for "ransom," and Mower County eventually determining it had little choice but to pay.

The amount paid has not been released.

County administrator Michael Johnson took advantage of the conversation to remind everyone that the human element is the greatest cybersecurity risk—whether it is because someone clicks on a malicious link or uses a weak password. He mentioned that the county is repeatedly attacked and that cybercriminals use sophisticated algorithms to try to find a way into the system.

County Public Health Nurse Sarah Berry let commissioners know that the 16-member "Opioid Settlement Advisory Council" will be sending out "requests for proposals" to the community in the near future. The advisory council will make recommendations to the county board regarding how money

WASECA COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

allocated to Waseca County under a number of national lawsuits should be used.

Stipulations for the money, more than \$1 million to be received over the next 14 or more years, include that it should be used to help prevent people from misusing opioids or mitigate problems caused by illicit opioid use.

Berry also sought permission to have public health staff investigate the possibility of offering testing for sexually transmitted infections. Berry told commissioners staff have noted a slow response time for testing at the designated regional clinic in Mankato, and believe county residents could be better served if testing were available locally.

Conversation surrounding this topic revealed that sexually transmitted infections have risen sharply among people 55 and older in the past few years.

Commissioners voted to allow investigation into the possibility of testing, and will make a decision on the matter after hearing what staff members have learned regarding costs for supplies and the amount of staff time that might be needed.

Also during the Oct. 21 meeting, board members heard from Don White, operations manager for the Waseca SMART transit system and Curt Kuchera, the regional manager for the organization.

The two reported the Waseca organization has been in the community for 11 years. There are currently three full-time and four part-time drivers with one "route" bus in service from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and two "demand response" buses running from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The "Southern Minnesota Area Rural Transit" service has delivered about 11,000 rides so far in 2025 and is currently servicing 35 school age students for whom regular school bus transportation is not practical.



Pictured here are those who organized the Great Fall Get Together on Saturday, Oct. 25 at the Starfire Event Center. From left, Molly Hendrickson, Brad Milbrath, Penny Vought, Christy Easton, Ann Staloch, Monica Priebe, Tara Bjerke, Ann Johannson, Diane Beckmann, Katie Youngberg, and Mikhail Rostislavovich.
Pioneer photos by Melanie Piltingsrud



Charlie Priebe and Brad Milbrath looking stylish.



Sue Harguth's key fits the lock for the \$1,600 earrings donated by Williams Diamond Center.



Missy Donner serves up Waseca area gift certificates in champagne glasses.



Jennifer and Mike Bartelt join the Art Center soiree



Sally Takala and Bruce Boyce stop by the bar for a snack.

Art Center's Great Fall Get Together

By MELANIE PILTINGSRUD
Staff Writer

The Starfire Event Center saw a veritable who's who of Waseca County walk in the door on Saturday, Oct. 25 for the Waseca Art Center's Great Fall Get Together, and this year's celebration, which took place from 6 – 9 p.m., was a truly gala event, as the Waseca Art Center began celebrating 50 years (1976 - 2026) of bringing art to the community.

Crista Bohlmann and Jeremy Bohlmann-Little provided live entertainment, playing classical music on violin and cello, respectively. The Starfire Event Center entertained with an array of eateables that looked as though it could have collapsed a less robust buffet, and, after picking up their auction numbers and drink tickets at the door, many guests lined up for the delectables with enthusiasm, while others mingled at the tables until the line decreased.

While some got drinks at the bar, others perused the tables of silent auction offerings, which included quite a number of gift baskets, paintings by local artists, and even a baseball, signed by Rod Carew, who played for the Minnesota Twins from 1967 - 1978. Still others tried their luck at any of several games. Purchasing a \$15 playing card from Brad Donner or Ann Johannsen earned the purchaser a chance to win a SOLO Stove smokeless fire pit. With only 52 chances to win, people bought quite a number of cards. A Pyramid of Wine contained bottles of choice wines donated by members of the Waseca Art Center board and others. Jeanne Sexton, ever ready to volunteer, happily sold \$20 corks to interested persons. Each numbered cork earned the purchaser a designated bottle of wine, all of which quickly sold out. Missy Donner took up her usual role in helping with the games, selling for \$10 each the contents of ritzy champagne glasses: gift certificates hidden in elegant dinner nap-

kins. The popular Key to My Art also quickly sold out. Charlie Priebe, Waseca County Republican Party treasurer, and Brad Milbrath, Waseca County commissioner, sold keys for \$30 each. All 35 keys were sold, and ladies lined up in the hope of unlocking a treasure chest. To her evident astonishment, the prize of a \$1,600 pair of earrings, donated by Williams Diamond Center, went to Sue Harguth, as her key opened the chest.

Following the games, retired auctioneer Larry Born volunteered his time to sell off a dozen more items in a live auction. Tara Bjerke announced each item, and Monica Priebe helped to display them. Items up for bid were a homemade wine rack with capacity for 100 bottles of wine, two vintage handmade Ravca dolls, attributed to Italian doll maker Yvonne Spaggiari, a custom watercolor painting by Grace Galvin, a bourbon lover's basket, a Bradley Donner original painting of a warbler bird, a PIT BOSS 4 Burner Deluxe Portable Gas Griddle,

two batches of homemade caramels, two separate offerings of classes in clay modeling for up to six people, one by Jenny Butler and the other by Missy Donner, and a Kate Spade Weekender Package, including a weekend tote bag with four tickets to the Minnesota zoo and four tickets to a Stages Theater performance.

Of the 150 attendees, a number of newcomers enjoyed the evening's events at the Great Fall Get Together this year, including Erica Forsythe, who works at the Waseca Le Sueur Library, and came accompanied by her mother Diane Forsythe. Mike and Jennifer Bartelt came sporting stylish cowboy hats that they had just made on a trip to South Dakota. Abigail Schumacher and Kyle Manderschied received a pair of tickets from Schumacher's employer, who couldn't attend. Ben and Elizabeth ("Biz") Janike have been new faces in the

Fall continued on 6

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Careers

from Page 1

these kids to local businesses, give them a chance to see what's out there." She continued, "We also wanted to bring some colleges in, hopefully put the idea of higher education in their minds. Waseca County has a lot of talented kids, if they do go away to college or whatever, we want them to come back, their families want them to come back and use that talent here." Ku-

ball said she was impressed with the turnout but acknowledges, "Not everyone who wanted to be here today could make it, there were time conflicts with other schools. The good news is we have next year's date set, so that will give those other schools ample time to commit and get their kids over here next year so they can check it out as well."

As students arrived, they were handed a college and career fair bingo card to win prizes for completing tasks like 'Get a business card' or 'Shake hands with a business representative' or 'Find a gov-

ernment career.' There was also plenty of stuff we all get (SWAG) ranging from pens to notebooks to chip clips to candy. something for everyone at every table. There was also a list of questions on the backs of the bingo cards for students to contemplate like, "Are your facilities up to date?" "Are there work-study programs available?" "Can I go to school while I work for you?"

Booths at the fair included ALC Companies Inc., Mayo Clinic Orthopedics and Sports Medicine, Greener World Solutions, James card' or 'Shake hands with a business representative' or 'Find a gov-

ance, Big Brother's Big Sisters, Cinch, Colony Court, Crystal Valley Cooperative, Farmamerica, Ican, Inc. of Waseca, Waseca County, Matthew R. Petsinger Agency LLC., Lenz Lawn Care and Landscaping, Edina Realty, Banco McDonalds, Dennis Steffel Omtvedt Funeral Home, Mediacom Communications, Waseca Public Library, United Prairie Bank, Palmer Bus Service, H&R Block, Blaze Credit Union, Fernbrook Family Center, Patton Hov-ersten & Berg, PA., Leo A Hoffmann Center and the City of Waseca.

The

Pastor's Column

Unexpected graces

By PASTOR GLENN FRERICHS

Life passes so quickly, and graces often come to us in ways and at times that we least expect. Jesus tells us to "Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him."

There is a story that has been printed many times about a son who was unable to see his father's blessing for many years. A young man was getting ready to graduate from college. For many months he had admired a beautiful sports car in a dealer's showroom, and knowing his father could well afford it, he told him that was all he wanted. As Graduation Day approached, the young man awaited signs that his father had purchased the car. Finally, on the morning of his graduation, his father called him into his private study. His father told him how proud he was to have such a fine son, and told him how much he loved him. He handed his son a beautifully wrapped gift box. Curious but somewhat disappointed, the young man opened the box and found a lovely, leather-bound Bible with his name embossed in gold. Angry, he raised his voice to his father and said, "With all your money, you give me a Bible?" and stormed out of the house, leaving the Bible. Many years passed and the young man was very successful in business. He had a beautiful home and a wonderful family, but realized his father was very old and thought he should perhaps go to him. He had not seen him since that graduation day. Before he could make arrangements, he received a telegram telling him his father had passed away and had willed all of his possessions to his son. He needed to come home immediately and take care of things. When he arrived at his father's house, sudden sadness and regret filled his heart. He began to search through his father's important papers and saw the still-new Bible, just as he had left it years ago. With tears, he opened the Bible and began to turn the pages. And as he did, a car key dropped from the back of the Bible. It had a tag with the dealer's name, the same dealer who had the sports car he had desired. On the tag was the date of his graduation, and the words PAID IN FULL. As a Pastor, one of the wonderful things I sometimes hear is the story of the last moments with a loved one before they unexpectedly pass away. Grace can be a word spoken, a gesture received, or something similar. Although grace sometimes comes through events, it is most often connected to people; God works through people; we can never go wrong by valuing the person and circumstances before us. Jesus says: "I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (Jn. 13:34-35).

■ Fall

from Page 5

Waseca community since 2021, when they moved from Mankato to Waseca to raise their family and continue Ben's online fitness business, Crossroads Training, Inc. Julie and Jon Froke, Waseca city planner, also graced the occasion with their presence. They moved from Phoenix, AZ to Waseca 16 months ago to be closer to their sons and their families, and are finding the Waseca community to be a pleasant fit. Regular attendees at Waseca Art Center events included Robin and Jay Dulas, Waseca County Sheriff; and Deanna Bendex, local artist and author, who came with her two grandsons. "They brought me," said Bendex, clearing up any misconception that it was the other way around. Carol Wobschall, too, another local artist, was seen bidding on items at the silent auction. Pete Madel and Liz O'Brien were also there. Although O'Brien has taken a step back after four years on the Waseca Art Center board, she still enjoys attending the events. After the auction concluded, Mikhail Rostislavovich, Waseca Art Center president, expressed his appreciation for the Waseca Art Center's 50 years of providing the wider Waseca County area with a locus of activity for local artists and art lovers, for the members of the Waseca Art Center board and volunteers for their hard work in making it all possible, and to all the people who contribute to the continued success of the Waseca Art Center, not least of which are those who generously support it with their donations. "Tonight's generosity ensures that art will continue to inspire the next generation," he said. Tara Bjerke rounded out the evening with her own speech in appreciation for the Waseca Art Center's 50 years, and encouraged attendees that, if they hadn't won anything, they had yet another opportunity to contribute for the many supplies that the Waseca Art Center needs in order to continue offering art classes to the community at a reasonable cost. She sold the star balloons that decorated the stage, beginning with the gold starts for \$25, and continuing with silver and black balloons, all of which had served as a backdrop to the evening's theme of black and gold. If you would like to know more about the Waseca Art Center, including their class offerings, visit their website: www.wasecaart-center.org or better yet, stop in to see the exhibits. Their hours are Tues – Sat from 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.

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NEW BEGINNINGS - Waseca leaders, investors and local officials gathered on the afternoon of Monday, Oct. 27, to celebrate the groundbreaking of Marketplace Commons.
Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens



FUTURE HOPES - County Commissioner DeAnne Malterer spoke to the crowd of 50 about housing being an essential component to economic development. Right, Amy Potter of the Waseca Area Foundation spoke of the earnings of the investment that will allow future economic growth.
Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens

■ Market

from Page 1

tion is very excited to be part of this community project, due to the gift made to us by the Waseca Development Corporation (WDC). We happily invested in Marketplace Commons. The earnings from this investment will allow the Waseca Area Foundation to create a new endowment fund that will support future economic growth."

Mayor Randy Zimmerman "It is an absolute privilege to be here and to participate in what I hope is the first of many, many more, groundbreaking events for our community. It took tremendous effort and commitment to get this housing project across the finish line, but here we are; the first apartment building to be built in our city in over 25 years. I hope and intend for this to be the beginning of sustained growth for the city of Waseca. "On behalf of the city, I would like to thank everyone who has made this investment and created partnerships. Thank you to Revocity for coordinating and administering this project. Thank you to the city EDA, and Waseca County for their partnerships and investment. And thank you to our city staff for all of their hard work in facilitation and administration. This truly could not be happening without all of these partnerships and everyone's commitment to seeing this

through. Waseca's future is bright and full of opportunity, we're just getting started."

Commissioner De Malterer "Today we are here to celebrate the groundbreaking of this wonderful new 36 unit apartment building in Waseca. It has been many, many years since new apartments have been built here. We know that housing is an essential component to economic development. "This is not a case of 'build it and they will come'. It is a case of, 'They can't come if we don't build it.' There is no place for 'them' to live. Established companies can't grow and new companies won't come here if we can't house workers; this will help us do just that. We are also celebrating the work and collaboration it took to get us to this day. The city of Waseca's wise investment in the housing study has provided foundational data and city staff have worked hard to make this a reality. People invested. Rebound Partners have guided and supported the investment. The City of Waseca and Waseca County have both supported this effort. "It's an honor to be here. I'm excited to move a little dirt to get things started here at Marketplace. It will be even more exciting to watch this building be completed and filled with residents who will be part of our great community. "Representing Waseca County and its Board of Commissioners, I want to congratulate everyone involved!"

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CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH 2200 4th St NE, Waseca 507-835-2235 Service times 9:30 a.m. * * * * *	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 Pastor Jason Wolter Rev. Timothy Contreras Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:30 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 9 a.m., Sunday School/Fellowship 10:15 a.m., Wednesday evening worship 6:30 p.m. * * * * *	CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY 900 14th Ave SE, Waseca 507-833-1082 Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m., Sun Evening 6:00 p.m., Wed. evening 6:30 p.m. * * * * *	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 Father Robert Schneider Sunday - 8:30 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 Sammy Pothiredy Saturday - 5 p.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* * * * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN Wilton Township Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor Sunday - 8 a.m. summer worship; 10:45 a.m. Worship starting Sept. 1 * * * * *	NORTH WASECA LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA 404 30 120th St. Waseca 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 * * * * *	THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS Brad Donner, Branch President Waseca, Minnesota www.lds.org Sunday — 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School Wednesday — 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages 12-18 * * * * *	NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE WASECA COUNTY PIONEER.

Janesville

1925

- The jury in the case of the state vs. Frank Kratz for the murder of Louis Minske, Iosco recluse, last March, got under way Monday. After exhausting the regular panel with six jurors accepted a special venire was called and the balance of the jury selected Tuesday. In opening the case for the state, County Attorney Child stated that the prosecution would attempt to prove that in the summer of 1924 Kratz had a conversation with Louis Fell in which the former had asked Fell about Minske's habits, his financial condition and whether he was known to have firearms in his house. Mr. Child also said that he would introduce evidence that similar questions were asked of R. J. Ristau. The state would also present evidence that Kratz was not at the Faber residence during the house when the murder was committed as determined at the coroner's inquest, and that he returned to the Faber residence between 10 and 11 p.m. of that day.

- Janesville lost no time in last Friday's game at Waseca in rolling up a count of 13 points against Waseca High School. After the two touchdowns had been scored early in the first quarter, the game developed into one of the hardest fought battles ever recorded between the two teams, neither team scoring despite the terrific play on both sides.

- What are you figuring on doing from now until Saturday, November 28, 8 p.m.? Will you have time to earn a Ford Tudor Sedan, one of the newest models, with balloon tires? Or will a \$175 diamond ring satisfy you? Probably one of the two fine radios will be enough to interest you. Here's the point - the Janesville Argus wants to enlarge its circulation and it is willing to make it well worth the while of the persons who are most successful in building up our list.

1950

- Lyle's Merrymakers, the popular dance orchestra from Janesville, has been selected to furnish music for the Legion benefit dance to be held at Hardegger's Friday evening, Nov. 17. A new Winchester pump gun, as well as a large selection of other prizes, donated by Janesville merchants, will be given away as door prizes.

- The Janesville Volunteer Fire Department answered two calls during the past three days, both in the rural area. Monday afternoon the firemen were called to the I. F. Thissen farm, about nine miles south of Janesville, to extinguish a blaze caused when dripping gasoline from a tractor ignited, causing considerable damage to the tractor. The second call came just before 11 o'clock Wednesday morning when the boys hurried to the Ada Cahill farm, 3 miles northeast of town, where a fire, which started in a rubbish pile, spread to a large pile of corn cobs and then to an empty corn crib. At the latter farm, the water supply was exhauster just after the fire was brought under control but a hurried trip to a neighboring farm for more water soon remedied the predicament.

1975

- A report released by the Mankato State University Geography Department this week indicates that by 1990 the population of many south central Minnesota school districts should stop falling and in most cases rise. Janesville's school district, for example, is expected to grow by 572 people by 1990. The report covering all school districts in Region Nine, also projects a continuing rapid population increase for larger school districts in the region - Mankato, New Ulm, and Fairmont - and for school districts in "bedroom" communities near this cities. Janesville is considered a bedroom community of both Mankato and Waseca.

- For the first tie since 1937, Janesville's American Legion Post 281 is hosting a First District Fall Rally. Over 200 Legion and Auxiliary members from southeast Minnesota will be in town Saturday afternoon and evening for the meetings. The last time the local Legion Post hosted a Fall Rally was when Jack Kiner, father of Dr. Tom Kiner, was District One Commander. Now that Janesville's Sylvester Priem holds the same office, the local post brought the rally back to town.

- Jack Frank, 302 W. First Street, Janesville, will be honored at a three-day convention for outstanding State Farm agents at the St. Francis Tower Hotel in San Francisco, California, October 22 through October 25.

2000

- The Janesville Fire Department was honored last weekend at the annual MEMSA Fall Conference by receiving the EMS of the Year Award. This award, presented annually to one EMS service in the state of Minnesota, is to recognize one team for outstanding service to the community and is based, in part, on the recommendation of one of its members. Bruce Manthe submitted the nomination this year for the Janesville Fire Department, stating that although they are officially called a fire department, they are also a non-transport first-responder unit. The department consists of 25 members, including 9 EMTs, 8 of which are national registered, and 16 first responders.

- When Capstone Press in Mankato was looking for a child to put on the cover of one of their books, they called the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton Elementary School and spoke to the first grade teachers. They described what they were looking for, and first grader William Maas fit the bill. "They called us to get our permission," said Janice Maas, William's mother. "We made arrangements to meet at Pet Expo on Mankato, and William played with the bunnies while they took his picture. William is featured on the cover of the book, "All About Pets" by Helen Frost.

- The Janesville City Council voted at Monday night's meeting to table the proposed south side drainage improvement project. The proposal was originally introduced at the council meeting on Oct. 16, where it was first tabled for consideration on Oct. 30. The project, which carries a price tag of \$1.1 million, was moved up a year on the schedule of city improvement projects in response to requests from Janesville residents to do something sooner rather than later to help them with flooding problems.

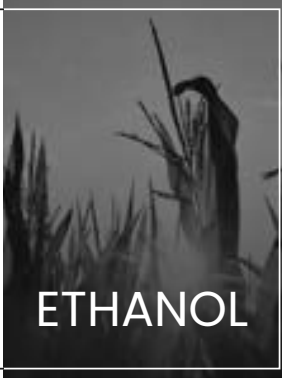


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ETHANOL

Waseca

25 years ago

- Congress shipped President Clinton a compromise \$58 billion transportation package earlier this month that would set a national drunken driving standard. Local lawmakers blasted the move saying that the federal government overstepped its authority. "That decision should be left up to the individual states," said Minnesota First District Congressman Gil Gutknecht.

- Waseca High School senior Kelly Wilder has been selected as "Student of the Week" by the Language Arts Department. Kelly is the daughter of Ken and Sheryl Wilder. Her father is a pharmacist and her mother is a school teacher. She has three brothers, Jesse who is 20 and in the US Navy, Tom who is 15, and Danny who is thirteen. Kelly has done very well in her language arts classes and classes as a whole at Waseca High School where she presently has a 3.6 grade point average.

- Krista Berger and Erik Kern were united in marriage on June 3, 2000, at St. Francis Xavier Church in Buffalo, MN. The Rev. Charles Froehle officiated at 2:00 p.m. double ring ceremony. Parents of the couple are Hal and Bonnie Berger of Buffalo, and Ralph and Shirley Kern of Waseca. The bride wore a candlelight white empire-waist, sleeveless gown. She carried a bouquet of white roses, and yellow and purple delphinium.

50 years ago

- The Ford administration asked Congress today to deny food stamps to families whose income exceeds the government's poverty level. Under the administration proposal, presented to a Senate subcommittee by Agriculture Secretary Earl L. Butz, food stamps would be denied to a family of four whose income exceeds \$6,250 a year if all its members are under 60 years old.

- The Pan-American Games is a mini-Olympics held for Western hemisphere athletes once every four years the year prior to the Olympic Games themselves. Like the Olympics, the Pan-American Games have made a great show of the goodwill, sportsmanship, and the better understanding between nations which come out of such events. Like the Olympics in Munich, the Pan-America Games currently being held in Mexico City have been having a difficult time getting those points across.

- The Waseca Bluehay football team was on the road to Fairmont, last Friday night and seemed to have the game well in hand with a 14-0 lead at the half, but a strong and big Cardinal team pulled out a 20-14 victory over the slow sinking Bluejays. The Bluejays now support a 2-3 conference record and 3-5 over-all going down to the final game of the season when they close at home with New Ulm.

75 years ago

- Claude Breed, 29, of Mankato, former Waseca man who was injured in an automobile accident between Morristown and Faribault Oct. 13, died of his injuries early Saturday in the veterans hospital in Minneapolis. Breed sustained multiple injuries and had been in a semi-conscious state since the crash. James Farrel of Waseca, injured in the same accident, is improving in Veterans hospital. Robert Somers, also of Waseca was slightly shaken up in the crash.

- A reporter checking hunting results in the Waseca area can get just about as many opinions as there are hunters, on the basis of opening week and shooting. "And that's a great plenty." Reports all the way from "lousy" to "wonderful." Generally, results were fairly good, according to stories from hunters. Most gunners got birds the opening day and many had good shooting Sunday.

- Many motor vehicle owners make application for a request number in September. Thus they are able to get the same license plate figure year after year. Since 1940, when the deputy registrar's office was established in Waseca, attendants speculated on whether or not some motorist would receive the same number he had the year previous, as the plates were being issued in numerical sequence. Friday, after ten years of waiting, it happened. Leo Gostomezik, R.1. Medford, made application for his 1951 plates on his 1947 Plymouth. When the envelope containing the plates was taken from the top of the pile it bore No. 286-433. It was the same plate number Gostomezik had in 1950.

100 years ago

- Ed. Webber, a barber of this city, had his right arm badly mangled by the accidental discharge of a shot gun while hunting at Lake Geneva with Melvin Grant yesterday afternoon. He had brought down some ducks and was walking over to get them when the accident occurred. Evidently he was carrying his gun near the end of the barrel when something caught the trigger and discharged the firearm. The shot tore through his right elbow and down about half-way through the forearm and about stripping the forearm of flesh. Some of the elbow was shot away and several splinters had to be removed.

- Last fall Waseca was represented on the gridiron by a fast football team which had a large host of followers. Some talk has been made of reviving the team this year but no action was taken until this week. A call has been issued for a meeting at the city hall at 7:30 Thursday evening of all football players and all those interested in the team. Several nearby towns have teams this year and it is hoped to have games scheduled within a very short time. Come to the meeting tomorrow night without fail.

- The grand jury made an inspection of the Waseca County Jail Friday afternoon and according to their report "found it clean and well kept." The report states: "However the sheriff's office is badly in need of redecorating as the ceiling paper is loose and hanging from the ceiling and walls, giving the room a disorderly appearance. "The grand jury recommends that the outside woodwork of the jail be painted. It would add much to the appearance. Cement walks are broken an in need of repairs. Also the basement has a floor of part dirt and part rough stone which is hard to keep clean. It is recommended that a cement floor be put in the basement of the jail and the walks repaired."

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PIONEER



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New Richland

25 years ago



- When it was Betsy Johannsen's turn to help Mike Moen operate the first hose at the New Richland Fire Department's garage during Fire Prevention Week, she squealed with delight. Perhaps it was because a wind gust blew some of the spray back in her face.



- Among the many shoppers at the New Richland Care Center's annual White Elephant Sale, Saturday afternoon were Vi Hower, Lenore and Kenneth Fineseth. Funds raised are used by the Resident Council for special events at the center.

- The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva ninth grade girls volleyball team defeated Medford 3-0, October 10. Leading the team with kills were Kalisha Anothony and Brittany Patterson with three each. Jessica Hendrickson and Chelsy Quiram shared two kills. Betsy Waldhauser and Mollie Flor claimed one kill each. Top servers for the match were Andrea Perkins with 15 points and Kristi Thompson with seven.

50 years ago



- Inger Nordby, New Richland-Hartland's AFS student, is pictured here with her American family, the Darrel Lundbergs. They are from the left, seated: Mr. Lundberg, Mrs. Lundberg, Inger, Julie; standing: David and Kenny. Inger came August 5th by plane to Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport, where she was met by the Lundbergs. She is enjoying her stay here and says the people in the New Richland-Hartland area are some of the nicest and friendliest she has ever met.

- The New Richland-Hartland Cardinal Girls Volleyball A team defeated Hayfield 2-1, winning the match, Thursday, here. The Cards B squad also won. All of the girls really played well and everyone on the squad had the opportunity to get in the action. The Cards took the first game, 18-6, with 10 points on Marsha Herbst's serves, five on Marlene Tappe's and three on Lori Smith's.

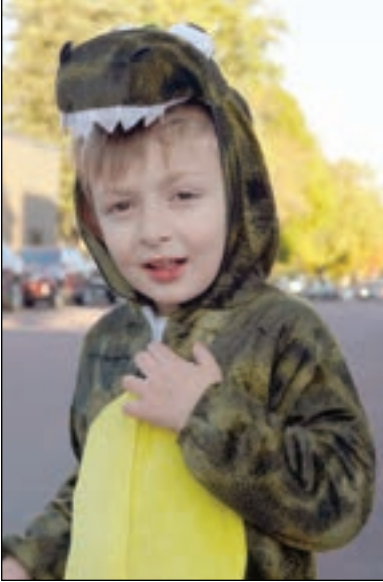
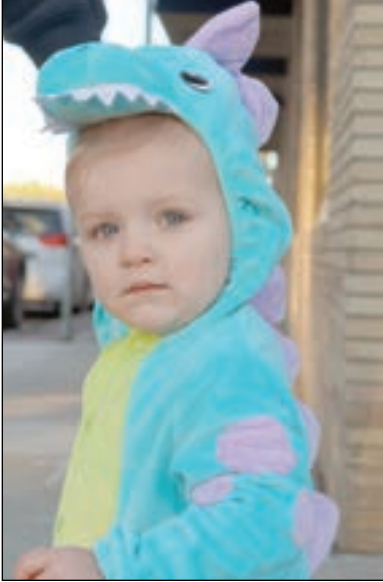
75 years ago

- Employing his musical talents with the Recruit Training Command Band at the Naval Training Center Great Lake, Ill., is Richard Proehl, son or Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Proehl, who has volunteered as a musician during his 12 week Naval indoctrination period. The recruit band marches at all recruit center, and also make occasional trips to nearby communities to participate in civic events requiring a musical aggregation.

- Mr. and Mrs. Henry J Becker announce the marriage of their daughter, Irene Agnes, to Jonathan J. Stevens of Chicago, Illinois. The wedding took place Saturday September 23, 1950 at St. Catherines church, Denver, Colorado.

- Pvt. Stanley (Bud) Tollefson, 22, son of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley N. Tollefson, has completed his AF basic airmen indoctrination course at Lackland Air Force Base, the "Gateway to the Air Force."

Treats on the Streets



Pioneer photos by Ben Revermann

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SUFFOCATING DEFENSE — The Bluejays’ defense was again stellar last Saturday, here stopping a TCU ball carrier on a return. Among those pictured are Lucas Selthun (55) and Liam Biddle (32).
Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens



STEPPING UP — The Bluejays pulled away from TCU in the second half. At left, Julius O’Jedo (55) tackles Kellen Jirik for what appeared to be a safety. At right, Malachi Noble goes high to break up a pass.
Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens



SECTION INTENSITY — At left, coach Brad Wendland discusses a play call with his quarterback, Kellen Klinger. At right, Jordan Johnston runs for tough yards.
Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens



Bluejays stifle TCU 21-0, advance to section finals

Jays to face Luverne Friday for section crown

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

It has been said many times that the farther you advance in post-season play, the tougher the opponents get.

That was certainly reinforced last Saturday at the Waseca High School football stadium.

The Bluejays, who shellacked Tri-City United 49-6 a month ago, had their hands full for much of the game, playing to a scoreless tie in the first half before the Titans succumbed to Waseca’s suffocating defense and the Jays found the end zone three times in the second half to walk away with a 21-0 victory.

The win lifted the Bluejays’ record to 9-0 and advanced them to their fifth consecutive section championship game set for Friday at 7 p.m. against Luverne on the artificial turf in New Ulm. There is, of course, a state tournament berth on the line.

The Titans, who defeated Fairmont 21-14 in their section opener — their second win over the Cardinals this season — came into the game with four straight victories.

“Give TCU credit,” said Bluejays head coach Brad Wendland.

“They’re very well coached. They changed their scheme a little bit, and did some things that gave us problems. They were definitely not the same team we played a month ago.”

The first half was a defensive battle.

“For the second game in a row, we started off terrible offensively,” said Wendland.

But the Bluejay defense, as it has all season, slammed the door in the second half, allowing the Titans —7 rushing yards in the second half and —3 for the game.

Jacob Root ended the Titans’ final bid for a touchdown with an interception late in the fourth quarter.

“Our defense, again, was tremendous,” said Wendland.

Jordan Johnson had a great day running the ball, totaling 174 yards on 26 carries and a touchdown.

Klinger was 5-for-14 passing for 29 yards, also running the ball well despite not totaling impressive numbers. Deron Russell caught three passes for 20 yards to go along with 44 yards rushing and a touchdown run.

William Manfield and Brady McKenna led the Waseca defense, each with four tackles and two assists.

Waseca 21, Tri-City United 0

TCU 0 0 0 0-0

WAS 0 0 7 14-21

First Quarter

No scoring

Second Quarter

No scoring

Third Quarter

WAS — Russell 10 run (Rupe kick)

Fourth Quarter

WAS — Klinger 1 run Rupe kick)

WAS — Johnston 31 run (Rupe kick)

TCU WAS

First downs 8 6

Rushing yards 226 —3

Passing yards 29 68

Total Yds. 255 65

Penalties 5-14 6-51

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing — WAS: Johnston 26-174; Parpart 2-2; Russell 4-44; Klinger 8-6; ; TCU: O’Meara 6-4; Blaschko 4-9; Jirik 5 —23; Borchardt 1-1; Kelly 7-6

Passing — WAS: Klinger 5-14, 29; TCU: Jirik 6-20, 68

Receiving — WAS: Russell 3-20; Long 2-9; TCU: O’Meara 1-6; Neubauer 1-5; Factor 2-15; O’Keefe 2-42

Waseca Defense — Parpart 1T; M.Noble 2T; Mansfield 4T, 2A; Russell 1 int.; Mitchell 1T, 1A; Rahe 2T; Glynn 5T, 2A; Rohl 1T; Kath 4T; Root 2T, 1A, 1 int.; Jeske 3T; Ovedio 3T, 2A; Veroeven 1T; Selthun 1T; Garza 3T; McKenna 4T, 2A

Kopischke advances to state

8th-grader takes 10th in section cross country

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The Waseca High School girls’ cross country team fell short in its bid for a second-straight state meet.

But that doesn’t mean the Bluejays won’t be represented there.

Ellie Kopischke, an 8th-grader, advanced to state as an individual after placing 10th in the Section 1AA meet last Thursday at Bancroft Bay Park in Albert Lea.

“The section meet was a microcosm of our season this year,” said WHS head coach Grant Popp. “We had some girls run really strong races, but we also had a number of our key athletes battling through injuries.”

Kopischke clocked a season-best 20:07.1 for 5000 meters to punch her ticket to state. Also running well on a challenging course, according to Popp, was Taylor Markeson, who turned in a season-best time of 22:00.3, good for 39th place.

Other places and times for the Bluejay girls: Maren Schimming, 29th, 21:17.6; Quinn Yoder, 36th, 21:54.7; Ava VanDenHemel, 42nd, 22:14; and Leah Wilson, 57th, 23:16.6

The girls’ section champion was Makayah Petricka of Northfield with a time of 19:01.6. A total of 68 girls ran in the varsity race.

Northfield took the girls’ team title with 24 points, followed by Winona with 58, Byron 132, Austin 140, Pine Island 141, Waseca 145, Red Wing 174, Faribault 175 and Stewartville 176.

Kopischke will run in the state meet Saturday, Nov. 1 at the University of Minnesota’s Les Bolstad Golf Course. The Class AA girls’ race starts at 1 p.m.

The Bluejay varsity boys were led by senior Wyatt Hager, who placed 53rd in 18:58.9. Following were Keenan Collins, 57th, 19:13; Luke Feldkamp, 74th, 20:24.6;



REASON TO SMILE — Waseca 8th-grader Ellie Kopischke was all smiles after qualifying for the state cross country meet.

“The section meet was a microcosm of our season this year.”
— Coach Grant Popp

Korbin Collins, 79th, 21:18.2; Noah Love, 80th, 21:58.9; and Ryan Yoder, 81st, 22:03.0. Feldkamp posted a season-best time.

“Our top guys have been very consistent,” said Coach Popp.

The race was won by David Obst, a senior from Kasson-Mantorville who completed the course in 15:46.6. Eighty-three varsity boys competed.

Team scores for the boys’ varsity: Northfield 83, Winona 84, Stewartville 90, Kasson-Mantorville 93, Zumbrota-Mazeppa 93, Kenyon-Wanamingo 139, Pine Island 150, Austin 161, Red Wing 200, Albert Lea 219, Byron 229, Faribault 265, Waseca 343.

The WHS junior varsity boys finished 11th out of 12 teams but, according to Popp, turned in a strong performance.

“Our JV guys had a great race, top to bottom,” said Popp.

Bluejay places and times: Kurt Erickson, 77th, 21:24.5; Alexander Lewandowski, 88th, 21:46.4; Miles Popp, 130th, 23:27.7; Will Deml, 134th, 23:51.5; Owen Fierke, 148th, 25:56.4; Tre Porter, 155th, 35:13.6.

A total of 155 JV runners completed the race.

The Waseca JV girls did not field a full squad. Places and times for the Bluejays: Jenna Yodr, ninth, 22:24.4; Kelsey Draeger, 20th, 23:47.6; Violet Rohwer, 34th, 24:44.1; Najorie Lacy, 91st, 30:54.2. Ninety-four runners competed.

“This has been a really great group to work with,” said Coach Popp. “I’m looking forward to seeing the young runners continue to improve.”

WHS spikers drop section tourney opener to LCWM

The Waseca High School volleyball team managed to keep it close in sets two and three of their Section 2AA opener at Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial last week.

But the match belonged to the home team.

LCWM, seeded second, dispatched the 15th-seeded Bluejays 3-0, with set scores of 25-13, 25-19, 25-22.

It brought an end to the season for the Waseca girls, who posted an overall record of 3-21 and 1-6 in the Big South Conference East.

Leading the Bluejays in set assists at LCWM was Avery Barto.

Ellery Waldron had a team-high nine kills, with Savanna Vagts netting five.

Leader in digs were Tajha Nelson with 13 and Madalynn Root with eight.

The Bluejays will graduate five seniors in Waldron, Audrianna Willingham, Alyssa Kilmer, Remy Murphy and Brooke Bartelt. Captains were Kilmer, Waldron and Murphy.

Underclassmen on this year’s squad were juniors Vagts and Nelson, sophomores Root, Ashley Fliflet, Bry’asia Mayberry, Addison Zimmerman and Brier Hayes, freshman Barto, and 8th-grader Kaia Sartori.

The Bluejays were coached by Krisss Plonske, assisted by Elizabeth Prostrollo and Abbie Wobschall. The manager was Emily Mumme.

BLUEJAY FOOTBALL



PLAYER of the WEEK

William Mansfield

6 solo tackles, 3 assists and 2 tackles for losses on defense, creating havoc for the TCU offense in the Bluejays 21-0 playoff win

Bluejay Football Player of the Week Sponsored by:



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Bulldogs advance with win over BP

JWP football team then falls to MR

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

With the wind blowing steadily and gusting up to 40 mph, it was not a night conducive to throwing the football.

So the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton Bulldogs turned to their running game.

The fourth-seeded Bulldogs amassed more than 200 yards rushing to defeat No. 5 seed Blooming Prairie 22-6 last Tuesday in Janesville.

"It's always great to pick up a playoff win regardless of how the game goes," said JWP head coach Ryan Luedtke. "Our offensive line grew up a lot last night as the conditions didn't allow us to throw like we usually do. Chase (Gerdt) did a great job of picking up the tough yards all night, and it allowed us to get the ball to Caleb (Quast) and do what he does best with the ball in his hands."

The game started on a rough note for the Bulldogs, who threw a pick-six interception on their opening drive for what would eventually be the Awesome Blossoms' only score of the night.

The Bulldogs took a 7-6 lead as halftime as Gerdt caught a 6-yard touchdown pass from Daulton Bauer and Ayden Peterson kicked the PAT.

JWP added a 42-yard scoring run by Quast, who also scored on a 3-yard run as the Bulldogs pulled away in the second half.

Quast finished the night with 127 yards rushing on only eight carries. Gerdt ran the ball 27 times for 73 yards.

Daulton Bauer finished 5-for-15 passing for 81 yards. Gavin Bauer caught eight passes for 72 yards.

With the win, the Bulldogs earned the right to face second-seeded Maple River Saturday in Mapleton.

"We are looking forward to another opportunity to play a well coached and quality team," said Luedtke.

Unfortunately, that game did not go as hoped for JWP.

The Bulldogs took a 7-0 lead in the opening quarter, but the Eagles also scored and added a two-point conversion.

Daulton Bauer passed to Gavin Bauer for a 37-yard touchdown in the second quarter and the Bulldogs

led 13-8 at halftime.

The second half, however, belonged to the Eagles, who reeled off 28 unanswered points before the Bulldogs finally scored in the fourth quarter on a 76-yard pass from Daulton Bauer to Rocco Scholl.

The Bulldogs were edged in total yards 343-330, but Maple River was able to run the ball effectively, especially Lucas Proehl, who gained 243 yards on 15 attempts.

The Bulldogs were held to 74 yards rushing.

Daulton Bauer finished 22-for-36 passing for 266 yards.

Gavin Bauer was JWP's top receiver with 11 catches for 119 yards. Scholl caught four passes for 81 yards, Quast eight for 42.

Parker Gearity led the JWP defense with seven total tackles.

JWP 22, Blooming Prairie 6				
BP	6	0	0	0-6
JWP	0	7	7	8-22
First Quarter				
BP — Clennon interception return for touchdown (Kick failed)				
Second Quarter				
JWP — Gerdt 6 pass from D.Bauer (Peterson kick)				
Third Quarter				
JWP — Quast 42 run (Peterson kick)				
Fourth Quarter				
JWP — Quast 3 run (D.Bauer run)				
BP				
Plays	34			58
First downs	6			14
Rushing	36			202
Passing	9-18			5-15
Passing Yards	57			87
Passing TDs, int.	0-0			1-1
Total Yds.	93			283
Third down	2-9			6-15
Fourth down	0-2			4-5
Fumbles - lost	0-0			0-0
Penalties	3-20			4-35

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS	
RUSHING — JWP: D.Bauer 5-6; Quast 8-127; Krobach 2 —2; Gerdt 27-73; Cummins 1 —2; BP: Clennon 7-36; Staloch 2-2; DenHerder 6-7	
PASSING — JWP: D.Bauer 5-15, 81; BP: Staloch 9-18, 57	
RECEIVING — JWP: Quast 2-0; G.Bauer 8-72; Weedman 1-1; Gearity 1-0; Gerdt 1-8; BP: Clennon 5-17; Gimbel 3-23; Meier 1-4; Sorensen 6-13	
JWP Defense — Hood 1T; Quast 1T, 1A; G.Bauer 2T, 1A; Scholl 1T, 1A; Weedman 2T, 1A; Walker 1A; Gearity 1T, 2A; Kronbach 1T, 2A; Gerdt 2T, 2A; Rolfsen 3A; Rider 2T, 3A; Cummins 3A; Winters 1A; Johnson 1T; Wheelock 2T, 2A	

Maple River 36 , JWP 20				
JWP	7	6	0	7-20



LISTEN UP! — JWP football coach Ryan Luedtke addresses his team during a first-half time out during last Tuesday's section-opening victory over Blooming Prairie.
Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens



SECTION ACTION — At left, the Bulldogs' Caleb Quast eludes Blooming Prairie's Kelvin McCarthy during last week's Section 2A victory for JWP. At right, the Bulldogs' Gavin Bauer battles for a pass. Also pictured are JWP's Parker Gearity (11) and the Blossoms' Gabe Staloch (5), Eliot Gimbel (7) and Kelvin McCarthy (16).
Pioneer photos by Jim Lutgens

MR	8	0	14	14-36	MR — Proehl 92 run (Orduna run)		
					MR — Orduna 26 run (pass failed)		
					JWP — Scholl 76 pass from D.Bauer (Peterson kick)		
First Quarter							
JWP — Gerdt 3 run (Peterson kick)							
MR — Proehl 30 run (Proehl run)							
Second Quarter							
JWP — G.Bauer 37 pass from D.Bauer (PAT failed)							
Third Quarter							
MR — Orduna 3 run (Orduna run)							
MR — Proehl 6 run (run failed)							
Fourth Quarter							
					JWP	MR	
					Plays	56	40
					First downs	15	15
					Rushing	74	343
					Passing	22-32	0-3
					Passing Yards	256	0
					Passing TDs, int.	2-1	0-0

Total Yds.	330	343	RECEIVING — JWP: Quast 8-42; G.Bauer 11-119; Scholl 4-81; Walker 3-10; Gerdt 5-39; MR Caven 1-0; Proehl 2-0
Third down	4-13	2-4	JWP Defense — Hood 1T; Quast 1T; G.Bauer 1T, 1A; Scholl 1T; Walker 4T, 1A; Weedman 1T, 1A; Gearity 1T, 6A; Wolff 1A; Kronbach 2T, 2A; Gerdt 4A; Rolfsen 2T, 2A; Rider 2T, 3A, Cummins 1A; Huber 1T, 2A; Wheelock 2T, 4A
Fourth down	2-4	0-2	
Fumbles lost	0-0	1-1	
Penalties	9-75	8-84	

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS	
RUSHING — JWP: D.Bauer 1 —4; Quast 1-1; Kronbach 2-2; Gerdt 17-76; MR: Heins 1-1; Trio 7-16; Proehl 15-243; Orduna 14-88	
PASSING — JWP: D.Bauer 22-32, 266; MR:Trio 0-3, 0	

Season ends for JWP spikers

12th-seeded Bulldogs finish season 9-15

The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School volleyball season came to a close last week with a first-round loss to St. Clair in the Section 2AA tournament.

The Bulldogs lost 25-21, 25-13 and 26-16 to finish with an overall record of 9-15. They were 3-7 in the Gopher Conference. The Bulldogs were seeded 12th in the section, St. Clair fifth.

Graduating off this year's squad will be Lillian Ewert, Victoria Blomstrom, Nevahah Weimert, Ellie Morsching, Lily Quast, Brielle James, Mikayla Wheelock, Katelyn Olson and Aubrey Adams.

Underclassmen on the 2025 team included juniors Raylen Blasing, Chloe Kaiser, Sophia Okins and Rachelle Oelke, sophomore Haylee Appel, and freshmen MaKaela Westphal, Ashlynn Wolff and Kaitlyn Cowdin, and 8th-grader Erika Eilertson.

The Bulldogs were coached by Toryn Richards, who was assisted by Jolene Hauger and Carrie Jo Richards.



TOP FINISHER — Wyatt Jans led the WEM-JWP cross country runners in last week's Section 2A meet at Norwood-Young America, placing 15th in the boys' race. Jans is pictured in this year's Waseca Invitational.
Pioneer photo by Jim Lutgens

Grizzlies' season ends at section

Jans takes 15th, Welvaert 19th to lead WEM-JWP cross country teams

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

It's a wrap for the 2025 WEM-JWP High School cross country teams.

The season concluded last Thursday with the Section 2A meet at Norwood-Young America's Baylor Park.

Eighth-grader Norah Welvaert paced the Grizzly girls, finishing 19th in a personal-best 21:01.01, good for 19th place. Following for WEM-JWP were Lydia Coulsey, 43rd, 22:58.48; Madalyn Miller, 44th, 23:03.07; Kwynn Krause, 54th, 23:30.52; Ellie Schultz, 59th, 23:40.65; MaKenzie Westphal, 61st, 23:54.69; and Emma Huelsnitz, 73rd, 24:41.09.

Valerie Quast, a senior from Mankato Loyola-Cleveland-St. Clair, topped a 105-runner field with a time of 17:53.09.

Loyola-Cleveland-St. Clair ran away with first place among girls' teams with 35 points. Following: Mountain Lake-Comfrey 104, LeSueur-Henderson/MNCS 114, St. James 156; Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop 177, Minnesota Valley Lutheran 183, WEM-JWP 187, Glencoe-Silver Lake 192, Maple Rivr 221, Martin County West/Butterfield-Odin 226, NRHEG 210, LCWM/Nicollet

267, Central of Norwood-Young America 294.

Wyatt Jans, a junior, led the WEM-JWP boys, finishing 15th in a personal-best 17:17.84. Following for the Grizzlies: Teagan Mulder, 52nd, 18:57.69; Auston Holicky, 64th, 19:26.04; Brennan Welvart, 67th, 19:33.78; Wesley Heinz, 75th, 19:51.29; Cash Wenker, 89th, 20:16.23; and Parker Smith, 112th, 22:22.43.

The winner of the boys' race was Soren Kelly, a senior from Loyola-Cleveland-St. Clair in 16:06.77. There were 117 varsity boys running.

Boys' team scores: Loyola-Cleveland-St. Clair 76, Sibley East 92, Glencoe-Silver Lake 114, Madelia 133, Mountain-Lake Comfrey 139, Minnesota Valley Lutheran 161, LeSueur-Henderson 189, St. James 202; Sleepy Eye St. Mary's/Sleepy Eye/New Ulm Cathedral 202; LCWM-Nicollet 242, WEM/JWP 250; MCW/BO 300, Central 312, Lester Praitie 361, Maple River 393, Blue Earth Area 450.

The top two teams and the next six individuals advanced to the state meet Saturday, Nov. 1 at the University of Minnesota's Les Bolstad Golf Course.



BIG PLAYS — Action from last week’s section opener at United South Central. At left, Gavin Lewison runs for his second touchdown of the night. In the middle, the Panthers’ Calvin Nissen hauls in a pass on fourth down. At right, Fynn Baumann makes the catch for a two-point conversion.

Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens

Football Panthers drop rematch with USC

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

This time was much closer. But it still went the way of the United South Central Rebels.

In a rematch of the regular-season finale, the Rebels defeated the Panthers 28-21 in their section opener last Tuesday at Wells.

“The team battled and made some good adjustments from last week,” said Panthers coach Marc Kruger. “We started with a great first half, but could not finish in the second half. I am proud of how these boys battled all year. They made a lot of improvements, and we have a lot of young players to look forward to in the future.”

Early on, both teams had trouble

hanging onto the ball on an extremely windy night last Tuesday.

After the Rebels fumbled on their first possession, the Panthers took a 7-0 lead on an 8-yard touchdown run by Gavin Lewison. Alec Wyrum added the PAT kick.

After USC took an 8-7 lead, the Panthers drove 60 yards, capped by a 3-yard scoring run by Lewison. Fynn Baumann caught a pass for the PAT.

Also in the second quarter, Ryan Schlaak caught a 7-yard touchdown pass from Brooks Gilliland. NRHEG led 21-16 at halftime.

USC took the lead with a third-quarter touchdown, tacking on another score in the fourth.

Lewison led the Panthers with 43

yards rushing on 17 carries. Gilliland ran five times for 29 yards, Schlaak six for 29, and A.J. Deen eight for 27.

The Panthers outgained the Rebels 190-181 in total yards.

The Panthers will graduate seniors Lewison, Quen Meyering, Justin Beauvais, Jordan Brouwers, Trevor Selover, Wyatt Larson and Devlin Hudson. Underclassmen on this year’s team were juniors Brooke Gilliland, Chase Johannsen, Ryan Schlaak, Deen, Jack Bartlett, Colton Conroy, Baumann and Shane Service, sophomores Dakota Quinn VanMaldeghem, Kyera Eustice, Kayden Warke, Addy Stadheim, Chloe Stork, Meela Budach and Chloe Riewer, juniors Anika Ladli, Izley Boerner, Clara Buendorf, Sierra Fish, Clara Stenzel and Kylie Olson, and sophomore Brooklyn Summer.

Lyle/Pacelli did not have a senior on its roster and only one junior.

Quade, Connor Louks, Corey Seedorf, Dylan Schroht, Hunter McMann, Ajay Arndt, Mason Christenson, Reid Sandry and Kailin Hudson, and freshmen Brock Holland, Owen Schlaak, Lucas Degen, Charles Buenger, Jamisyn Vallejo, Memphis Schlaak, Wyrum, Tyler Piepho, Eli Hendrickson, Mack Gilliland, Aidyn Groth, Brayton Kruger, Brayton Kruger, Mason Peterson, Preston Hanna, Wyatt Hendrickson and Cooper Cords.

The captains were Brouwers, Ryan Schlaak and Brooks Gilliland.

Kruger’s assistants were Jeff Jiminez, Chad Sykes, Dan Bell, Jacob Schuller and Nick Goette.

USC 28, NRHEG 21					First downs		9	13
					Rushing Yds.		2	239
NRHEG	7	14	0	0 — 21	Passing Yds.		142	181
USC	8	8	6	6 — 28	Total Yards		190	181
					Third Down		3-11	7-10
					Fourth Down		2-5	2-2
					Fumbles lost		2	2
					Penalties		4-15	0-0
First Quarter								
NRHEG — Lewison 8 run (Wyrum kick)								
USC — 1 run (two-point conversion successful)								
Second Quarter					INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS			
USC — Peterson 10 run (two-point conversion successful)					RUSHING — NRHEG: Lewison 17-43;			
NRHEG — Lewison 3 run (Baumann pass from B.Gilliland)					B.Gilliland 5-29; R.Schlaak 6-29; Deen 8-27;			
NRHEG — R.Schlaak 7 pass from B.Gilliland (two-point conversion failed)					Nissen 3-14; USC: Peterson 18-97; Steinhauer 1-0; Rest of team 24-84			
					PASSING — NRHEG: B.Gilliland 4-10, 48, 0 int.; USC: 0-0, 0			
Third Quarter					RECEIVING — NRHEG: Nissen 1-25;			
USC — Peterson 19 run (two-point conversion failed)					R.Schlaak 2-16; Lewison 1-7; USC: Team 2-18			
					NRHEG Defense — Brouwers 6T, 1A;			
Fourth Quarter					Deen 5T; Conroy 5T; R.Schlaak 3T;			
USC — 6 run (two-point conversion failed)					D.Schlaak 3T; Nissen 3T, 1A; Selover 2T;			
					Larson 2T, 2 fumble recoveries; Bartlett 1T;			
					Hanna 1T; Meyering 1T; Rest of team 2T			
					</			



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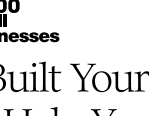
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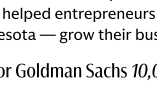
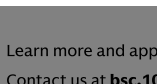
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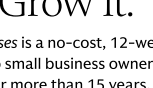
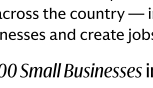
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**CITY OF WASECA
PLANNING COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

NOTICE is hereby given that the **City of Waseca Planning Commission** will hold a public hearing at **5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 12, 2025**, in the **COUNCIL CHAMBERS of CITY HALL** located at 508 South State Street in Waseca, Minnesota.

The purpose of the public hearing is to gather information regarding the following:

- **VARIANCE REQUEST:** Ann Staloch is requesting the following Variance from Section § 154.159 of the Municipal Code:

Granting construction of a fence that is eight (8) feet in total height, whereas the maximum allowable fence height in a residential district is six (6) feet.

The property is Parcel ID No. 173760280, which is located at 105 7th Avenue NE and is currently zoned R-2 (Urban Residential District).

Complete copies of the proposed variance are available in the office of the City Clerk located at 508 South State Street in Waseca, Minnesota.

Those interested in commenting may appear in person or by counsel or may submit written comments to the City of Waseca at 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093.

Upon request, accommodations will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all City of Waseca services, programs, and activities.

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on Thursday, October 30, 2025.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6pm <u>BAR BINGO</u>	2 <u>7pm</u> <u>HALL BINGO</u>	3 <u>MEAT RAFFLE</u> 5:30pm <u>HORSE races 6:30pm</u>	4
5	6	7 <i>Burger night</i> 5-7pm	8 6pm <u>BAR BINGO</u>	9 <u>7pm</u> <u>HALL BINGO</u>	10 <u>MEAT RAFFLE</u> 5:30pm <u>HORSE races 6:30pm</u>	11
12 <u>VFW BREAKFAST</u> 8am to NOON Your Host Waseca Hockey	13 <u>7pm Post & AUX> Meeting</u> <u>US NAVY BIRTHDAY</u>	14 <i>Burger night</i> 5-7pm	15 <u>6pm</u> <u>BAR BINGO</u>	16 <u>7pm</u> <u>HALL BINGO</u>	17 <u>WALLEYE OR SHRIMP DINNER</u> 5:30 TO 7pm	18
19	20	21 <i>Burger night</i> 5-7pm	22 <u>6pm</u> <u>BAR BINGO</u>	23 <u>7pm</u> <u>HALL BINGO</u>	24 <u>MEAT RAFFLE</u> 5:30pm <u>HORSE races 6:30pm</u>	25
26 <u>VFW BREAKFAST</u> 8am to NOON	27	28 <i>Burger night</i> 5-7pm	29 <u>6pm</u> <u>BAR BINGO</u>	30 <u>7pm</u> <u>HALL BINGO</u>	31 <u>MEAT RAFFLE</u> 5:30pm <u>HORSE races 6:30pm</u>	

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NATIONAL BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH





CHEERING LOUD - Waseca resident Kathy Youngberg completed a treatment regimen this month that included chemotherapy, surgery and radiation. She is pictured here with the team of nurses who helped her through chemotherapy, ringing a bell that celebrates the end of that type of treatment.
Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Kathy Youngberg rings the bell

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

“I wouldn’t wish it on my worst enemy,” says Kathy Youngberg about the past 13 months. “It’s scary, it’s uncomfortable, it can lead to embarrassing moments.

“But it’s not the end of the world. You can get through it.”

Youngberg, 54, is a lifelong area resident with two grown sons: Oliver, 25; and Henry, 26. She says she had noticed some discomfort and located a lump during self-examination the summer of 2024, and so wasn’t surprised when her regularly scheduled mammogram indicated some suspicious tissue in her breasts. After a biopsy and further tests indicated she had stage one breast cancer that had not yet spread to her lymph nodes, she embarked on a three-part treatment program that September.

“My reaction wasn’t anger and it wasn’t self pity,” she remembers. “It was that I wanted to get it taken care of and then continue my life so I can be here for my loved ones.

“My personality is that I like to cope with things using humor. I also believe it doesn’t do any good to worry, so I moved ahead the best way I could. You have to take every thing day by day.

“I made a lot of new friends,” she says lightheartedly of the many people from various fields of expertise she spoke with after being diagnosed. In addition to oncologists, she names a dietician, a financial aid advisor, a social worker and a physical therapist.

The first 8 months or so of treatment were chemotherapy.

“It’s not one size fits all,” she mentions. “The ingredients in the chemo are specially chosen for each per-

son’s situation.”

For 12 weeks, Youngberg reported for chemotherapy once a week; for the next 12 it was once every three weeks. Youngberg expresses gratitude that her mother, Deanna Bendix, was able to provide company and comfort during many of her sessions.

She describes another personalized element of her treatment. “I didn’t lose my hair,” she describes, “because I wore a cold cap.” She explains a custom-fit cap with circulation channels all through it was placed on her head and hooked to a machine which kept cooled fluids flowing throughout the session. The process lowered the temperature of her scalp beginning a few hours before chemicals were delivered through her port, and continued for a few hours afterward. The lower temperature meant circulation to the skin and hair follicles there was reduced, and so she retained much of her hair.

She expresses gratitude to her employer, Federated Insurance in Mankato. “They were wonderful,” she observes. “They let me take time off when I needed to, and they allowed me to work from home part of the time.”

Though the sessions and her body’s reactions to the chemicals were difficult, Youngberg says she feels they went as well as could be hoped for. The major after effect she remembers is fatigue. “I would be sore and tired, and I would want to sleep all the time,” she recalls.

After the 24 weeks of chemotherapy, surgery removed the lump, which had decreased in size by half since it was first measured. A lymph node was also removed; testing showed the cancer had not infected it.

Youngberg says it was her decision to have a “lumpectomy” rather than more radical surgery. She said she felt comfortable with the choice after she had conferred with her doctor and been able to consider his input. Recovery time for the lumpectomy was one week, she mentions. Typical recovery time for a mastectomy is about a month.

She shares that much of her treatment took place at the Andreas Cancer Center in Mankato. She says she appreciated the consistency of traveling to the same location and working with the same nurses and staff.

The Andreas Center has the custom of inviting patients to ring a bell when they complete crucial phases of their treatment. In Youngberg’s case, after chemotherapy, after surgery, and after radiation.

Her radiation treatments were daily for 19 days. “It took more time to undress for the treatments than it did to finish the session,” she remembers, estimating treatment time was about three minutes.

She mentions that, since she has fair skin, technicians had to take precautions to prevent “sunburn-like” burns.

Radiation also came with a different type of fatigue. “It would be like ‘boom,’ I have to sleep right now,” she remembers. “I would just unpredictably shut down.”

Youngberg rang the bell on her radiation treatments on Oct. 14. She is immensely grateful she is now cancer free. She says she will be monitored closely for the next six years to see whether there are any signs the cancer might be returning. This will include more frequent mammograms and certain lab tests.

Youngberg expresses gratitude for

her health insurance, mentioning that the surgery and treatments which took place during 2025 came to a cost of more than \$400,000.

She offers some advice to others.

Her first point is to be consistent about performing self examinations and about getting mammograms regularly. “Breast cancer is not hereditary, so you can’t think that, just because no one in your family has had it, you’ll be okay,” she comments. “If cancer is going to turn up, you want to know about it as soon as possible and get it taken care of.”

She also recommends finding a broad-based support system. She says people will want emotional support from family or friends, and shouldn’t feel shy about looking for financial support from the many agencies that offer it. She notes that, despite the high costs involved, money should not be people’s biggest worry.

She also suggests not using an on-line search engine to look up information. She describes a couple of times when she encountered unfamiliar terms and referred to an electronic source for more information. “It was shocking. I was confused and frightened because the information was sort of a worst case scenario.

“I say, use the official information they give you, and ask your care team. Don’t look it up online.”

As much as possible, she also recommends maintaining a positive outlook. “Worrying won’t help,” she points out. “Being optimistic and finding the bright side will help.

“It’s not the end of the world. Ask questions. Find people you can talk to. Find all the positives you can and plan to stick around for the life you are meant to have.”

Donate for Breast Cancer Awareness Month

This Breast Cancer Awareness Month, it's time to RISE.

When it comes to breast cancer, it has never been about the challenge we face, rather the ways in which we rise to meet that challenge. Your donation helps women get access to the education, screening, and support they need. This is our moment to rise up and do even more.

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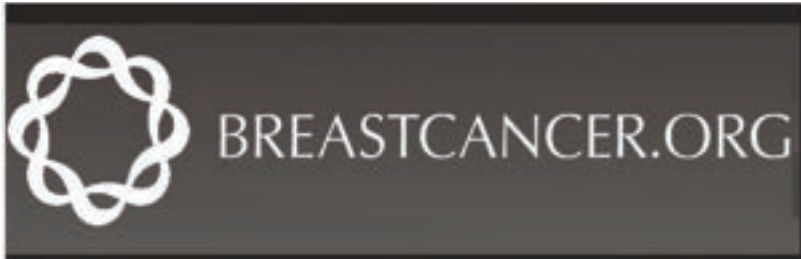
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