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Fall Festival

Preliminary county levy set at 3%

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

The Waseca County Board of Commissioners approved a preliminary tax levy increase of 3%, during its second regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 20.

After approval of the agenda, an amendment to the minutes from the June 7 meeting, regarding the cost of crop damage, was approved. Accounts payable (bills) were approved.

A Riparian Protection cost-share contract for the Water and Sediment Control Basin system for 64 acres of cover crops in Alton Township within a ½ mile of County Ditch 30, for a total cost of \$2,564 was approved with funds coming from the Department of Revenue for “buffer law implementation and riparian protection.”

Waseca County Emergency Management has been awarded \$19,077.00 for the 2021 Emergency Management Preparedness Grant (EMPG) from Minnesota Homeland Security. The grant requires a 50% match which goes toward emergency management wages. The commissioners approved the agreement and the matching funds.

The board approved a request for the removal of 158 acres of land owned by Timothy E. Fischer and 7 acres of land owned by David W. and Deanna Kuhns from the Exclusive Agricultural Use Zone Restrictive Covenant. Properties enrolled in the program received a reduction in real estate taxes equal to \$1.50 per acre per year. The amount of the reduction is reimbursed by the state of Minnesota.

During a public hearing reviewing a Waseca County swimming pool ordinance, the county repealed language which would have exempted the City of Waseca from some required water testing parameters, which would have left the pool in a state of noncompliance. The new language of the ordinance was reviewed and approved by the Minnesota Department of Health and will correct the deficiency.

Traffic Marking Service has completed the re-stripe of selected county roads and County State Aid Highways, an annual maintenance effort. The board approved a final payment of \$6,600, bringing the total amount paid to \$67,351, which actually came in less than the estimate of \$88,465, thanks to the paint being less expensive than anticipated. All work has been completed in accordance with the project specifications: Approximately 81 miles of county roadways were re-striped, including the pavement messages on CSAH No. 14 between Janesville and Waseca.

The original contract funding was proposed to utilize approximately \$27,000 of Coronavirus Response & Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) to fund the amount

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A word from The Word

And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

Colossians 3:15

Waseca woman dies in fire

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

Debra Jean Mulcahy, 58, died at the scene last Wednesday after what is believed to be an electrical short caused a fire in the garage attached to her residence at 500 Ninth Avenue NW, filling the house with smoke. Mulcahy was extracted from the home by Waseca firefighters responding to a 9-1-1 call from her husband, Gary, who, according to unnamed sources, had returned home shortly after 6 p.m. to find the door-knob hot to the touch.

The reported cause of the fire is

still under investigation.

According to the Waseca Fire Department, officers of the Waseca Police Department arrived and were unable to enter the home because of heavy smoke. When members of the Waseca Fire Department arrived, they entered the home and extricated Mulcahy, who was unconscious and could not be revived by emergency responders' efforts.

After emergency responders left the scene, calls were received at 3 a.m. and 10 a.m. claiming that the fire had reignited and smoke was coming from the house; the first report was accurate, but the 10 a.m. re-

port proved to be mistaken.

The fire and related death are being investigated by a number of agencies including the Minnesota State Fire Marshal's Office, the Waseca Police Department, Waseca Fire Department and Ramsey County Medical Examiner's Office. The Waseca Fire Department was assisted on scene by the Janesville Fire Department, North Memorial Ambulance, Waseca Police Department, Waseca County Sheriff's Office, Minnesota State Fire Marshal's Office, and Waseca County Sheriff's Office 9-1-1 Dispatchers. “We express our deepest condolences to the

family and friends of the victim in their time of loss,” the Waseca Fire Department said in a press release.

Numerous heartfelt comments were posted on Facebook, as well as on a tribute wall for Debra found on Dennis Funeral Homes' website. Gary and Debra had reportedly been married since shortly after high-school.

“My sympathy to Gary Mulcahy. I'm at a loss for words,” one comment read. “Hugs to you and your family, Gary,” another comment said.

Keen history

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

“It is time our own name uniquely identifies ourselves in the marketplace,” explained Bernie Gaytko, president and chief executive officer regarding the recent announcement that First National Bank of Waseca is now doing business as Keen Bank.

This is the third name change in the history of the bank, which opened as The Bank of Waseca in 1874. In 1892 it became Citizens Bank, before becoming First National Bank of Waseca in 1903.

The name change is not expected to cause disruption for those who use the bank's services. Account numbers, card numbers and routing number will remain the same.

“We did not want our name change to negatively impact our customers,” Gaytko declares. “Customers will receive new debit cards in the near future and will be asked to re-login into their mobile application, and we are eager to help them do that if needed.”

According to bank representatives, the announcement of the new name is among the final steps of a process which began more than four years ago.

“We're a family owned and managed community bank,” Gaytko explained. “But people got the impression from our name that we were part of a chain. The bank board decided they wanted a name that reflected our independence and show the community that we are invested and will be around for a long time.”

Selecting the new name meant a lot of research to get to what is the heart and soul of the organization.

“That meant identifying our core strengths—Responsive, Committed, Caring,” observed Gaytko.

After many Google searches and



KEEN - First National Bank of Waseca is now officially Keen Bank. Above from left: President Bernie Gaytko, Ann Gaytko, bank CFO Tom Sankovitz and Richard Sankovitz.

Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

trademark checks, with the help of PresenceMaker, a branding firm out of Mankato, the board landed on Keen, a name it approved unanimously early in the process. The word Keen portrays enthusiasm, intelligence, perceptiveness and the ability to think clearly.

“In a world of change, we [the bank] have been a rock since 1874,” Gaytko said. “We have a new identity now, but our heart and soul as a community bank remains the same.”

Part of being “the same” means the current staff and locations are here to stay. The Waseca location is undergoing interior renovations and Keen's new name and logo now appears on the signs in Waseca, Ellendale and Hope.

“More than half our staff has been with us for 15 years or more,” Gaytko says with a smile. “With one employee celebrating her 45th anniversary with the bank this past summer. Our great staff is the secret to our success and growth.”

“We're a family owned and managed community bank.”

— Bernie Gaytko, Keen Bank

Gaytko provided some history of the bank, which truly is family owned and operated. Dating back to 1958, Richard Sankovitz came back to Waseca and started working at the bank with his father Frank, who had been there since 1943.

“I told my dad if we were going to work here and have a future here, we should buy the bank,” Sankovitz remembers. “It was really perfect timing. Bremer [the previous owner] was purchasing banks in Wisconsin and needed capital. We borrowed from American National out of St. Paul and used the bank stock we purchased as collateral. By 1966 we owned a controlling share. Today we own 100 percent.”

In 1992 Sankovitz son, Tom San-

kovitz, join the bank as chief financial officer. Then, in 1995, Gaytko join as vice president of marketing and later was named president of the bank. His wife, Ann joined the bank in 1997 and works in various roles including payroll and as the Life Perk travel coordinator. In addition, two additional siblings, Jim and Liz, are involved with the bank and serve as directors on the board.

“We're continuing the legacy,” Gaytko shared. “Richard and Frank wanted the bank to remain a local, family-owned and managed community bank. Changing our name and identity to better represent ourselves is building on the foundation that was established.”

For the first time

Jay Walk kicks off homecoming week

By MICHAEL ROY
Publisher

The Waseca School District is kicking off homecoming week in a different way this year. On Sunday, Sept. 25, the school held its first-ever community Jay Walk.

Around 50 participants set out on the paved city trail that connects to the high school's west parking lot, then walked roughly 3 miles (5k) round trip to Loon Lake Park and back. The Waseca 2022 homecoming court offered walkers blue and gold beads to wear during the trek. They later joined the cheerleaders and football players at Loon Lake

Park to encourage people to keep going after reaching the halfway point. Joining the walk called for a suggested donation of \$5 a person or \$20 per family.

Waseca High School's student council came up with the idea of the Jay Walk to support their projects and activities. “It's another great way for the Waseca school community to get involved,” says Brenda Nelson, an advisor for the student council.

Junior Tricia Cox was one of the students on the council who helped

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THE WALK BEGINS — Waseca High School's first-ever Jay Walk Sunday, Sept. 25 started near the football fields, continued to Loon Lake Park and returned. At right: Brenda Nelson, who helps advise the Waseca Student Council, stands with 11th grade council member Tricia Cox, who helped organize the walk.

Pioneer photos by Michael Roy



WASECA CITY COUNCIL

Preliminary city levy set at 11.2%

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

A controversial THC moratorium and a preliminary tax levy and general budget were both approved during one of the longest meetings of the Waseca city council this year, Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2022.

A preliminary tax increase of 11.2% was approved by a 5-2 vote. It was pointed out, however, that the rate is effectively 4.49% thanks to Con Agra's new \$20 million dollar construction which will significantly impact the amount of taxes paid by residential taxpayers. Dissenting council members were John Clemons and John Mansfield, both of whom said they could not support such a high increase. Once the preliminary increase has been reported, the actual tax levy, which must be finalized in January, can be lower but not higher. The final budget and levy must be presented to the public during a meeting in December.

A moratorium on THC sales, approved by a 4-3 vote, specifies that businesses already selling THC products within the city can continue to do so, but no new businesses can come to town or begin selling such products for up to a year: the council has the option of ending the moratorium sooner, if it decides to do so.

During the public comment portion of the regular meeting, Matthew R. Petsinger publicly announced he is running for mayor. Also during this time, a resident thanked the council for their success handling mosquito control, saying, “It made her year.”

New council member, former mayor John Clemons, was sworn in and welcomed during a work session prior to the council meeting. His presence was immediately felt and commented upon by one council member, who pointed out that the 4-3 decision could have had a much different outcome if there had been an even number of council members voting.

Tina Wilson was introduced as the new Economic Development Manager, a new city position created by merging the responsibilities of two full-time offices, reducing the number of city employees by one.

“Here I am,” Wilson said. “I'm excited to learn how I can

Council continued on 3



Compostings

by Al Batt

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Change the world with one kind act

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

My doctor told me I should sleep and eat at the same time each day.

That sounds like good advice. I tried it, but I can't sleep and eat at the same time.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. As I walked the Oregon/California/Mormon Pioneer Trail near Alda and Wood River, Nebraska, I thought about an old character-driven TV series called "Wagon Train." I'm not sure I ever watched it, but I know it starred Ward Bond. Bond was the man who John Wayne accidentally shot in the behind and, adding insult to injury, Wayne had used a shotgun owned by Bond. "Wagon Train" was filmed at 21 locations traveling from the plains of Missouri to Sacramento. Bond appeared in some famous movies: "It's a Wonderful Life," "The Searchers," "Gone with the Wind," "My Darling Clementine," "The Grapes of Wrath," "The Maltese Falcon" and "Topper." Back to the bit of trail I walked. In 1841-1869, nine of 10 deaths on the trails were due to illness and an estimated 6 to 10% of emigrants succumbed to illness. The covered wagons were rolling arsenals, so accidental shootings were common, murders rare. Drowning, weather and other accidents took their toll. Native Americans were the least of the pioneers' problems. It's estimated that in the 2000 miles of the Oregon Trail, there were 10 graves per mile.

Buffalo Bill Cody was born in Iowa and used his showmanship skills and fabrications to make himself famous, prospering on the gullible. My grandmother was born Anna Sundstrom in Sweden. She became a teacher in Iowa. My mother said, unlike Buffalo Bill, Anna Sundstrom couldn't tell a lie. Her husband was a spendthrift, but Grandma practiced great perseverance. I have Swedish ancestry—not too much, not too little, just enough. Many people claim to be of Swedish descent when they're not. Why wouldn't they? These social climbers are known as artificial Swedeners.

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

I was exhausted, too tired to know how tired I was. I spent a night in a hotel that had a five-story waterfall. It was loud at night. A man there told me he used to live in Brooklyn. "Do you know what my goal was when I was

growing up?" I didn't. "To get out of Brooklyn." I know that feeling. As a teenager, I couldn't wait to get away. A few years later, I couldn't wait to get back home.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

Leon Schoenrock of New Richland sent this one, "A man found a wooden shoe in his toilet. It was clogged."

The first rule of the Passive-Aggressive Club is ... oh, never mind, it's OK.

Mr. Spock had a left ear, a right ear and a new front ear.

I've learned

It's easy to criticize. That's why so many people do it.

The game of "rock, paper, scissors," began as "rock, rock, rock."

If you wait until the last minute to do something, it will take only a minute to do.

When I watch an old "Bonanza" episode, I feel for Lorne.

NATURE NOTES

A no-see-um bit me. I didn't see that coming. Minute pirate bugs (insidious flower bugs) are top predators of corn earworm eggs, which makes them a valuable ally to farmers. Minute pirate bugs are usually felt before they're seen. The tiny insects are 1/5 of an inch long, but they bite with an impact out of proportion to their size. Minute pirate bugs prey on many small pest insects and are often found around flowers. During the fall, minute pirate bugs bite people. These bites may irritate but have no lasting effects. The bugs are flattened, oval or triangular, and black with white wing patches. During spring and summer, they have a full-time job eating small insects (aphids, thrips, and whiteflies), mites and insect eggs. Minute pirate bugs are sometimes called no-see-ums, a nickname for dozens of different small, biting insects, including biting midges (biting gnats or punkies) that look like mini-mosquitoes and can be problematic near slow-moving, fresh-water habitats like lakes, ponds, marshes and streams in June-August. Minute pirate bugs are attracted to light-colored clothing and are most active on warm, sunny days. Insect repellents have little effect on minute pirate bugs, but they stop biting when cold temperatures hit. I've used vanilla extract with some success to repel black flies (buffalo gnats) and have heard from folks that it works on minute pirate bugs, too.

MEETING ADJOURNED

"How do we change the world? One random act of kindness at a time."—Morgan Freeman.

County

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of the 2022 budget allocation. As this project underann by nearly that amount, the CRRSAA funds were redirected and utilized in their entirety (\$183,002) to fund a portion of the bituminous seal coat project.

The board received a Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS) grant. Each year, the MPCA accepts applications to support the Clean Water Legacy Act through subsurface sewage treatment system programs administered at the county level. This year, in addition to the SSTS base grant of \$18,600 the county requested an additional \$40,000 to continue with the SSTS low-income fix-up grant program. The county has been successfully administering the low-income grant for five years, and has awarded and disbursed over \$143,000 to local residents for their system repairs and re-

placements. This year the county was awarded \$18,600 for the base grant and \$33,418 for the low-income grant. The board approved appropriation of the funds for 2023 in the amounts of \$33,418 for low-income sewage treatment system installations and \$18,600 to assist in the administration of the sewage treatment system programmatic costs.

Significant damage was done to the courthouse yard during indoor and outdoor building renovations. The board approved the use of federal American Rescue Plan Act funds in order to do some of the repairs. More details to come at a later date.

After a presentation from Dan Larson from MN Rural Counties (MRC), a county membership with MRC was approved with an annual membership fee of \$2,300.

The county approved its preliminary 2023 net tax levy of \$17,918,062, a 3% increase from last year. A truth in taxation public meeting was scheduled for Dec. 20, 2022.

The next meeting of the Waseca County Board of Commissioners will be October 4, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.

Getting back in the swing of things

What a week it's been.

Autumn has finally come after what's been a great summer. It seemed like August sent an echo of itself by giving us one last hot hot day on the 20th before letting fall slowly take over. Out of all days to be near 90 degrees for the last time this season, it had to be when the WEM-JWP and NRHEG cross country teams had a meet at Riverview Golf Course in New Richland.

For those who have never been there, it's quite hilly with very little shade. To this armchair runner, it is probably one of the most difficult courses to run in Minnesota; I can't think of any other meets I've covered for WEM-JWP where the course ends with a large incline in the last 200 yards. Couple that with heat, and the run is going to be miserable.

Typically, August offers us newspaper people a relatively quiet transition from the many demands of the fair to the end of summer, rather like a thrilling roller coaster going at breakneck speeds down the first drop, then slowing to a crawl at the end of the ride. It gives us a little bit of time to breathe and recharge. We need it, because once September hits and school begins, we're constantly



Music to my Ears

by Michael Roy

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busy all the way to Christmas.

Being a part owner of a brand-new paper adds new challenges, including having to be my own boss and managing more work. The occasional evenings that I had become accustomed to having free are now filled by council meetings, sports events for both JWP and Waseca teams, and putting a completed paper together for the printer.

Don't get me wrong; I love covering sports. These days, I have kids from JWP who like to yell my name from the bleachers at volleyball or football games. Even some of the Waseca student athletes know me by name. That's when you know what you're doing is worth it. I love making a connection with those students, especially those from JWP, since that's where I graduated. I can still relate to the teens a bit better than their parents can, since it was only a

little over six years ago that I received my high school diploma.

Even though I've been in the newspaper business nearly three years now, I forget that the pace and demands of the summer—the Waseca County Fair, Janesville's Hay Daze, and all the community celebrations—may be brisk and demanding, but they don't compare to the fall. Especially now that I cover sports for two schools, I am guaranteed to be working past dusk at least five days a week.

Saturday and Sunday were the first days in two weeks when I worked less than ten hours: "only" four on Saturday, and five or more on Sunday.

I hope I don't come across as complaining. Again, it's all about perspective. I knew what I was signing up for when I helped start the paper in Waseca: I knew I'd have 40-

sometimes 50-hour weeks for the Pioneer. I also still put in about 20 hours each week for the Janesville Journal, making my weeks very full.

Covering the JWP Bulldogs, though, has made all those hours worthwhile. Now that I'm covering Waseca much more, I am growing to appreciate the community here, too. I was attending the school's first annual Bluejay walk, a fundraiser started to kick off homecoming week. What might have been a routine event and photo opportunity turned into the pleasurable chance to walk from the school to Loon Lake and back. What a workout. I needed it.

I feel like I've definitely come out of my shell the past few years. The old me wouldn't have gone on the walk, first because it required me doing exercise, and second, because I am a very shy person. But I did it, and I'm glad I did.

This week in music

In 2004, Green Day was on its way to scoring their first number one album in the United States with American Idiot. The band released the title track as a single, and it was their first number one hit in the United Kingdom.

Remember to take time for yourself

I don't know whether, as a reader, you care about what I do while I'm at school—but I'm going to complain about it anyway.

I am doing a lot and sometimes it gets a little overwhelming. Well, most of the time.

Let's start. First off, there's school because there is always school. As always, many pages of readings and discussion posts to go along with those readings. Then there are the quizzes and tests that I always seem not to know about until they're close. In my psychology class, I take about eight pages of notes during a one-hour lecture, which I do not appreciate. My professor goes so fast that I have to leave blanks in my notes and come back to fill them later. It is an extreme hassle, especially since my notes have to be perfect: You see, I agreed to be a "peer note taker" who takes notes for someone who needs them, so I have to get it right.

Besides classes, I have to deal with a lot of other little things. For example, I plan to study abroad in Madrid, Spain next semester and there are still quite a few forms and such that



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

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I have to fill out before a rapidly-approaching deadline. Just the thought of studying abroad is stressful. Think about it: four months in a country across the sea where people don't speak your native language. It's a little intimidating and nerve racking if you ask me, although I know it will be good and probably one of the best experiences of my life.

On a more fun note, I play intramural softball and pickleball. Tuesdays at eight are my pickleball games with my roommate (we are the Picklequeens) and then Thursday nights usually around ten are our softball games (our team name is The Goonies because we never say die).

The problem with intramurals is

that I have to figure out my schedule between those and pep band, which is taking up a lot of my weekends already. I get to play in the Maroon Band which covers mostly the men's hockey games; really, it's super exciting. We also played at the women's volleyball game against Wisconsin last Sunday; I will say that it was probably the best game of volleyball that I've ever seen.

Along with all of that, there's work. I did get the job with the MNDaily, the school newspaper, so I am now a staff reporter—yay! With that comes a lot of responsibilities and work, which is stressful and kind of scary on the big campus. Yes, the Pioneer covers the entire county, but

it just seemed chill almost, and now I have to go out and report on the fast-paced movements of the big city. That, and I still work at the bar some weekends and of course I write this column.

So sometimes it means a lot of stress between work, school, and figuring out my schedule. But it's doable and I hope that everyone being stressed and overwhelmed with school or with work takes time to make sure that you find time for yourself and realize that you shouldn't risk your mental and physical health if everything is likely to become overly stressful.

When I wrote the other week and mentioned that I loved my mom because of something that one of my professors said, I was reminded that I had not mentioned my dad. That was not intentional, and I'm sorry Dad! I love you!

My Determination: "Talent is cheaper than table salt. What separates the talented individual from the successful one is a lot of hard work." - Stephen King

Local papers are for local news

I'm grateful for the kind compliments we received at the paper this week regarding our coverage of the Waseca Marching Classic.

We do hear more good than bad at the newspaper. Sometimes that comes as a surprise to folks. Maybe it's a stereotype that newspapers get hounded all the time. Don't get me wrong, we do hear about it when we make mistakes. But I think we get more slack because we're local. Everyone who works for the paper is local and has been here, well, a long time. I think that's my favorite part about the newspaper. For me, I get to read stories and columns by my neighbors and my friends. It's cool.

I heard somewhere the other day that for a marriage to succeed, for every five negative interactions, there need to be 95 good ones. Something like that. I think for a newspaper to succeed, or rather, for the people doing it to be happy, we need a similar ratio.

A reader, Dennis, shared a story of a local paper in South Dakota describing how it was acquired by a larger corporate newspaper. He said half of its weekly text seemed to come directly from USA Today. Then he shared a personal account of going out of his way to bring a news story regarding a local band in Anoka. The band had won the South Dakota equivalent of the Waseca Marching Classic for a third year in a row.

Anyhow, this fellow called the editor at this paper and shared these impressive accomplishments, too numerous to list. He was given a strict deadline of when to have the results in for the recent competition. This reader got everything there with a half hour to spare—and this was in



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

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the time of payphones!

The newspaper gave the story only two column inches of space. Dennis was so upset that he called the editor the next day to talk about it. He was told, "Well you know the saying. If it bleeds, it reads."

He was also told, "They win all the time. That's not news."

"So if they had lost it would have been front page news?" Dennis asked.

It made me sad.

I know I can't cover everything and even with all the help we get, things fall through. But I do my best and so do all of our staff. This story in South Dakota, does not present that newspaper, or even papers in general, in the best light. I really worry when I hear about incidents like these. Small town, community newspapers are supposed to be about the community.

Breaking news, big stories being shared rapidly, are certainly important. But outside of investigative reporting, the immediacy of those stories makes them appropriate for other venues. A weekly newspaper is a space for local, community focused happenings.

I worry that this isn't being taught in journalism classes at the college level. After interacting with several college students and adults with journalism degrees, I'm willing to concur

that colleges do teach journalistic writing. After more thought, though, I've reached the conclusion that the heart of our newspapers, the local stuff, is learned. People write about what they want to, what they care about, and, in the case of "reporter world," what they're asked to write about.

Growing up, I learned what—and how—to write from my dad. Anytime a reader asked my dad to write about something, it was written about. I learned that priority from him.

I'd say I'm pretty darn lucky.

On the bright side, we in Southern Minnesota have access to a lot of really good local newspapers. I've

been internally making a list of my favorites. I subscribe to many different publications; they are quite fun to look through each week.

The Steele County Times is my favorite. It is the nearest newspaper which covers topics relevant to me. It's the closest I can get to reading a hometown newspaper which I don't construct, write for, or publish.

Honestly, that's the main reason I/we started a new newspaper in Waseca. There are a lot of stories I want to hear.

We also get the following papers, which I enjoy: the Wells paper, the Waterville paper, the Stewartville paper (which does not accept letters to the editor which compliment the writing of said editor. He said he wasn't comfortable patting himself on the back, even if it was me writing.). We also get the Albert Lea Tribune, the Alden Advance, and my mom's paper, the Janesville Journal.

Until next time: I wish I was studying abroad in Madrid.

PIONEER

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Robert Tackett enjoys coffee with Waseca Superintendent Eric Hudspeth Friday morning, September 23. Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

Coffee with the superintendent

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

Waseca School Superintendent Eric Hudspeth was on hand Wednesday morning at the local McDonald's to hear any issues the community may have for the start of the new 2023 school year. Hudspeth spoke with Waseca school board member David Dunn, and Robert Tackett.

One of the topics discussed was the security of the schools and the security of local neighborhoods on the evenings and weekends. The superintendent assured Tackett that everything that can be done is

being done to ensure student safety during school and at local events. Coffee with the Superintendent will continue at different locations over the next several months: residents are encouraged to attend.

"Some schools, larger ones for example, wait for a time of need to open dialogue with the public," Hudspeth said. "We don't want to wait for something bad or controversial to happen. We want to listen to what people have to say now."

The next coffee talk will be 9 a.m. October 7 at the Pheasant Cafe.



FUN - Cody Ingle assists a young lad enjoying activities at the annual Autumn Acres Fall Festival in Janesville on Saturday, September 24, 2022. Photo by Michael Roy

Fun on the farm

Autumn Acres annual Fall Festival

By MICHAEL ROY
Publisher

It was a gorgeous fall day at Autumn Acres in rural Janesville which held its fall festival Saturday, Sept. 24. It was one of the busiest days of the season for the pumpkin patch, making it difficult to find a parking spot.

Autumn Acres Farm was established in 2009 and the farm grows more than 150 varieties of pumpkins, squash, gourds, and corn, including a pick-your-own patch. "Our mission is to create a wholesome and authentic farm experience accessible to everyone," their Facebook page reads.

There was a ton of entertainment for both children and adults. For the kids, there were basketball hoops, large versions of Connect Four, a slide down the hay, corn pits, and a ride through parts of the farm.

A vendor fair with a wide variety of shops took place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. This was the first year Autumn Acres allowed outside vendors including only local business. This year's vendors included: The Coop, The Rusty Flamingo, Herbal Beauty, which Cheryl Bless, one of the owners of Autumn Acres said, "I haven't bought any soap but hers since I tried it! We're so glad she's coming!"

Other vendors included: Mankato Woodworks, Michelle's Klostet Kreation, Fabulous Firefly, Pampered Chef by Michele Struck, Shades of Lizzie, Epicure by Alicia Struck and 31 by Ramona Zihlke.

Music was provided by Melissa Schultz from 10 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., followed by In a Bind from 1:30-4:30 p.m. Food was provided by Inspire Foods, B-Lo Zero Snow Cones, and Minnie Donuts.

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VFW Breakfast

The Sweet-Sommers VFW collaborated with Caregiver Services of Waseca to serve pancake breakfast from 8 a.m. to noon Sunday, Sept. 25. Former VFW Commander Dean Paulson helped put the breakfast together. Along with it was a bake sale by Jim Kozan.

Let's try this again, the right way

Let's try this again! Last week, my column was misprinted as one of my stories, which paired together in an unflattering way, but honestly that's the least of my concerns right at this moment. As I am hitting my stride with the first month of the semester coming to a close, I am starting to shake things up in my life. At the tail end of last week, I accepted a position as a tutor for my college's Student Success Center. I am really excited to get started with that and have already tutored one student! I'm already doing lots of things on campus, so I am looking at offloading those responsibilities that bring me the least satisfaction: My hope is to replace them with things that are more worthwhile and enjoyable. Additionally, this week I was faced with an unexpected cut in my hours at one



Looking in the Mirror
by Jonah Stafford
copyright © 2022 by Jonah Stafford

of my on-campus positions, so I guess taking up a new line of work right before that announcement was perfect timing.

I want to keep working while a student. I enjoy my jobs for the most part, but I wouldn't mind a few changes. I'll probably talk more about this later, but I'm also in the process of eliminating a longstanding and time consuming extracurricular. As I consider changes, I try to

weigh whether they're best for my well-being and continued career and academic success. I've accepted that I cannot do everything for everyone and still feel like I'm at my best, so my wisest course is to prioritize activities that will bring me closer to my personal, career and educational aspirations.

This upcoming Thursday, for the first time ever, I'm attending a career fair on campus for the business and

communication department. For nearly a month, I've had a dress shirt in my closet which I specifically picked for the occasion; pretty soon I'll be wearing it as I greet professionals and explore career development opportunities around Winona. It's hard to tell what will end up happening because I haven't gone yet, but I'm open to considering career-relevant internships and other work opportunities for the upcoming spring semester. Who knows? Something here could turn into a long-term career for me. I guess the takeaway for this week is that I do my best when I put myself first. I intend to continue following my heart; fortunately it's telling me to build up the strongest resume possible.

Council

from Page 1

best serve you [the council] and the community of Waseca."

Mayor Roy Srp thanked Clemons for "stepping up to the plate," and said he is glad Wilson is here.

The consent agenda was approved, along with payroll, the previous meeting's minutes, a December truth in taxation public meeting date, and a final payment to RCCA. (Provide full title)

A grant in the amount of \$278,853 was accepted to purchase a new tanker truck for the city fire department, replacing a tanker in use since 1977. As a requirement of the grant, the council voted to match 5% of the amount: \$14,000. The previous truck was jointly owned by a number of township and city governments, so its status is yet to be decided.

A driveway variance of more than 24 feet was approved, allowing a residence's "U" shaped driveway from the 1960s to be paved.

A public hearing for nuisance at 204 12th Ave. NW opened at 7:15

p.m. and closed one minute later. The property will now be abated: if the amount is not paid, it will be added to the resident's taxes, including all city lawyer fees. Last year's bill to the same residence was \$3,800. The enforcement of the nuisance ordinance was approved.

A public hearing for a conditional use text amendment for daycare lasted one minute. An amendment to chapter 104 in the city zoning code was approved allowing for a daycare to expand into a commercial area.

Following a lengthy public hearing on the THC moratorium, a resolution reimbursing Woodville Township for \$35,000 out of a \$102,000 for a highway overlay was approved. A final hearing date of 7 p.m. October 18 was approved for assessments on 8th street SE reconstruction.

A hearing regarding city storm water runoff and pollution control required by MS4 permit, which expires in 2025 lasted about a half hour. During the discussion, a lake treatment pond and excess stormwater runoff were addressed. The current storm sewers cannot handle more than 5 inches of rain. "it is not what it's designed for," was the answer to a

question from council member Mansfield who wanted to know more about when or why flooding occurs after heavy rains. A Loon Lake treatment pond has not been operational since 2016 and would require between \$100,000 and \$200,000 to become operational again. The city is currently meeting phosphate level requirements in water, so it is not necessary to repair the treatment pond at this time, but the council could choose to do so to benefit the lake. A public hearing at a later date was approved.

A hearing date of 7 p.m. October 18 was set to address possible revisions to city ordinance 1104.

Council member Allan Rose asked about salt storage and was told facilities without a permit have slightly stricter requirements so excess salt does not end up in the storm sewer system, with the intent of preventing excess salt from getting into the lakes.

The preliminary Economic Development Authority levy of \$94,124, was approved. Council member Christiansen asked if the EDA board approved the proposal unanimously and was told all but one member supported it.

In reports, city manager Lee Mattson provided updates on an environmental cleanup grant which will be talked about in an upcoming meeting, as well as a need for a variance for Chloride for city water.

In other reports, the Heritage Preservation board has made some changes. Mayor Roy Srp plans to stay on the board, even though his recent decision to join it was unplanned. The board also welcomed Dan Forest.

In the Park Board's report, Christiansen said cameras and lighting will be installed at four parks. He also said a preliminary completion date of November 11 has been named for the Loon Lake pavilion project. The replacement Clear Lake fishing pier has been completed but will not be placed on the lake until next year.

The evening's final announcement came from Council member Rose who welcomed newly appointed member, and former city mayor Clemons to attend the city employee luncheon November 10.

"You mean the one that I started?" Clemons joked in response.

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

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Waseca School Board

OBITUARIES

Jacquelyn Lee Johnson

Jacquelyn Lee Johnson, born January 6th 1954, flew home 9-22-22 at 3:22 p.m. Jackie took her flight home after a long battle with many health issues.

Memorial services were 10 a.m. Tuesday, September 27, 2022 at Trinity Lutheran Church, New Richland with Pastor Mary Iverson officiating. Visitation was from 4-7 p.m. Monday at the church. To view the service or leave a condolence for the family, visit her obituary at www.saintpeterfuneral-home.com.

She was born to Marvin and Beverly Stark. She met the love of her life, Gary, and married him on February 14th, 1976. They raised two sons on Gary's family farm. She lived on the family farm until Dec. 26th, 2017 when she was admitted to Prairie Manor in Blooming Prairie where she loved the staff and residents. She moved in the fall of 2020 to Koda in Owatonna.

She worked at E.F. Johnson in Waseca and worked at OMC Mustang and Gopher Sports in Owatonna for a few years before she started doing home daycare for many years and many hours in her home. She loved her daycare kids and watched them 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. She enjoyed birds, cats, and dogs (especially her dear Maggie). She was excited to become a grandma to two boys and then two girls. She loved watching her boys in 4-H and then her grandkids.

Survived by husband Gary; son Jeff and Jennie Johnson of New



Jacquelyn Johnson

Richland, and son Joseph and Emma Schneider - Johnson of Illinois; Grandchildren: Samuel (Gretchen Hodapp) Jewett, Robert Jewett, Olivia Johnson, and Paige Johnson all of New Richland; sister: Kathy and Kenny Ryks of Georgia; sisters-in-law Susan Stark of Owatonna, and Barb and Dayton Draheim of Waseca; three nieces: Nicole (Ryan), Chantell (Charlie), & Ashley (Joe); five nephews: Nathan, Mike (Toccarra), Jeremy, Josh, and Matt; seven great nieces: Gennie, Brianna, Adrianna, Addison, Hazel, Haley, & Hannah; and seven great nephews: Miles, Caleb, Christian, Callum, Levi, Crix, and Hunter.

Flying before her were her parents: Marvin and Beverly Stark; her in-laws Raymond and Mildred Johnson; Brothers: Roger, Wayne, and David Stark; sister-in-law and brother-in-law Marie and Delbert Johnson; and great nephew Daniel Phipho.

2.34% decrease in preliminary tax levy

By MELISSA DUNN
Staff writer

At the September 22 Waseca school board meeting, business manager Elizabeth Beery presented information regarding the 2023 property tax levy, which will generate revenue for the 2023-2024 school year. The slide show Beery presented offered some good news: the Waseca community may be looking at a 2.34%, or about \$122,000, decrease from the previous year. The board was asked to approve and certify the preliminary maximum property tax levy, and will approve the final levy in December. A "truth in taxation" meeting regarding the amounts will be Thursday, December 15, 2022 in the Central Building second-floor conference room. Beery shared with the board that factors affecting property taxes include changes in market values and class rates, changes in the enrollment and resident pop-

WASECA
SCHOOL BOARD

ulations of the school district, changes in the contribution from the state, and voter approval or disapproval. After Beery's presentation, board chair Julie Anderson commented that it is "nice to follow up a higher year with a lower one."

Also discussed were the 2023-24 and 2024-25 school calendars. Superintendent Eric Hudspeth stated that not much feedback was received regarding the proposed calendars when the information was dispersed at the beginning of the year, but attributed that to poor timing. He stated the calendars will be placed on the school website, on social media, and in a direct parent message with the hope that the board will receive more feedback before voting on the proposed calendars in October.

Preliminary levy increase set at 13%

Taxes, ball fields, lunch program, dog therapy, and the end of the honeymoon

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

At its regular monthly meeting on September 19, NRHEG school board members approved a preliminary maximum tax levy increase for 2022 (payable 2023) of 13%, with anticipated expenses in 2023 about \$245,000 higher than those in 2022. According to district business manager Karla Christopherson, most of the increase stems from construction and improvement projects set to take place in 2023 and '24, including major reconstruction and expansion of the secondary school parking lot, drainage and paving work at the elementary site, and other updates and improvements throughout the district. A "Truth in Taxation" hearing will take place at 6 p.m. December 19 in the secondary school media center.

School board members voted in favor of a 5-year, \$50,000 lease for the use of softball and baseball fields belonging to the City of New Richland. Superintendent Michael Meihak explained to board members that the lease is the school district's way of supporting about \$150,000 worth

of improvements which the city has agreed to make at the location. The school district holds its games and practices at the field located along State Highway 13.

The posting and hiring of a "family services coordinator" for the elementary building was approved. Meihak explained that the district had formerly contracted with an outside provider for family support activities such as assessing student needs and coordinating the delivery of social services, but recently decided it would be more efficient to have an in-house staff member performing those tasks. He stated that the position and the services it will provide are "absolutely, positively needed." A posting for a licensed school social worker has since appeared on the school website.

During the "reports" phase of the meeting, elementary principal Craig Kopetzki stated that "the honeymoon is starting to wane," when it comes to his role in the position and as a first-time principal. He said some recent incidents have brought him to the conclusion that "a few more [two-way] radios are needed in the build-



ing," and mentioned that they had been ordered and were expected to arrive within the week. Kopetzki let board members know that the elementary site is planning a homecoming pep fest and parade among its events on October 7. He also mentioned that teacher Todd Beynon has rejuvenated a "Panther of the Week" celebration to call attention to positive behavior within the student body.

Meihak informed board members of a range of donations, many of which were cash amounts given in support of specific activities, perhaps most notably the upcoming fifth-grade trip to Eagle Bluff. More than \$50,000 worth of office furniture was donated to the school by Hormel Corporation in Austin. Hormel was in the process of redecorating and, thanks to a connection with new band instructor Colin Zidlicky, se-

lected NRHEG to examine the items and take any that it wished. School board chair Rick Schultz loaned the use of a trailer and principals Kopetzki and David Bunn helped load and haul it. The furnishings and cash donations totaled to nearly \$75,000 in gifts acknowledged during the meeting.

Board member Travis Routh mentioned lightheartedly that his son, a junior in high school, is so pleased with the expanded lunch options now being offered that "he's afraid he'll run up our lunch bill." Other board members also commented that they were hearing good things about the district's food program. They complimented Meihak's practice of placing pictures of the new menu items in the school newsletter, and also said that snacks and birthday treats now being made available are a big hit.

Secondary counselor Liz Stier-nagle introduced the school board to the idea of a "therapy pet" program. Her proposal and a possible timeline are described in a separate article. Board members placed discussion of the program on the October agenda.

More delays on chiller, air handler

By MICHAEL ROY
Publisher

"I don't know where to start," began superintendent Jeremy Erler as he presented an update regarding construction projects still underway at JWPI.

At their September 19 meeting, school board members learned that contractors are struggling to meet the deadlines set when they took on various projects. Two particularly significant upgrades have come to a standstill. The most urgent is installation of an air handler which will moderate temperatures in the high school gym. The unit was supposed to ship the Thursday before the school board meeting, but was rescheduled to the Thursday after.

"I'm getting concerned about it," Erler said. "It will take a week to hook up and finalize once we get it here, and it's starting to get cold. With high school activities going on, we're figuring on two weeks to get it done."

Delivery of an air chiller which had first been delayed to September 22 was delayed again to November

14. Erler said that hiccup was "not a big deal," since a temporary unit is in place and the need for a chiller is decreasing as weather grows colder. "The temporary unit will stay until it's no longer necessary," he added.

Another construction item was the school's weight room, which Erler claimed would be a 10- to 12-week project. "The old rubber [flooring] in the room has been taken out. The new rubber is in a warehouse waiting to be installed." The school district expects new weight room equipment to be available for use after the winter break.

Other topics in Erler's report included updates to the staff seniority list, the possibility of block scheduling (which Erler claimed has been a "hot topic" in the district for years), and changes to advisory and club times.

Student Report

Senior student council representative Zach Groh reported that student leadership is "getting things in gear" for homecoming week in mid-October.

"Homecoming is later this year, so

JWP
SCHOOL BOARD

we're going through plans for that," Groh announced. "The football game is on a Thursday instead of Friday, so that's new for us. Volleyball's homecoming game will be on Friday this year."

During his report, board member Tim Oelke inquired about school lunches. "Have you heard anything negative from students about them?" he asked Groh. "My daughter and her friends said it took a long time getting through the line and the cooks were running out of food by the time they got to the kitchen. She also mentioned all they had for milk was skim."

Groh reported the only issues at lunch were some disturbances and student behavior problems.

The topic was brought up again later in the meeting when concerns were raised about some students being charged for an extra entree after getting sent back to get their required lunch arose. School Business

Manager Matt Moline says that he hopes to meet with Taher Foods soon to discuss the issues. "We have lots to talk to them about," he claimed.

Other Business

The remainder of the meeting was mostly routine, with the school board approving several items. The first item was the approval of the internet and technology acceptable/responsible use and safety policy. The board also gave the thumbs up on the the Special Education Purchase of Service Agreement with the Waseca School with a change to correct the term of the agreement to the 2022-2023 school year.

Other items approved were a business agreement and memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Counseling Services of Southern Minnesota, a notice of general election, and the certification of maximum preliminary levy authority.

School Board Chair Laura Seys closed the session at 6:11 p.m. to evaluate the performance of Superintendent Erler. After reopening the meeting, the school board adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Next generation nursing assistance

Minnesota State University, Mankato has received extensive interest for students to enroll in the Next Generation Nursing Assistant courses conducted in response to Gov Walz initiative. Dr. Kara De La Fosse, Assistant Professor of Nursing and Director of the Nursing Assistant Program is currently leading the third cohort since this summer. Several more classes are slated throughout the beginning of next year as a result of overwhelming student interest to become certified nursing assistants in our region. Students enrolled have their

tuition and certification testing fees waived to remove financial impediments. Students also receive one free pair of scrubs to prepare them for entrance into the workplace. Dr. De La Fosse is encouraged from soaring success rates from course completion and pass rates on the national certification exam. Dr. De La Fosse asserts "Students are devoted to the course. They put forth effort and are successful because of investment and passion to become certified nursing assistants". Local industry partners have connected with Dr. De La Fosse to offer em-

ployment for students upon successful completion of the course. "Setting students up for success in all aspects is a personal aim. The opportunity to guide them through registration into the course through securing a job is a blessing. We know they are fully supported each step of the process" Dr. De La Fosse shares.

Minnesota State University will begin offering a 48-hour Medication Aide course this fall under the direction of Dr. Kara De La Fosse. Dr. De La Fosse shared "Many of our nursing assistant students ex-

pressed interest in this opportunity so we are making it happen for them." This course also benefits MSU's nursing students as they gain paid hands-on experience with the medication administration process and master pharmacology as they matriculate through school to become a registered nurse.

For additional information on course offerings and registration please contact

Kim Scholtens (507) 389-1094 kim.scholtens@mnsu.edu.



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The

Pastor's Column

Times when God seems closer

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS

What reminds you of God's love? There are some places or experiences that bring me into the presence of God. Sometimes it is a song, other times it is a place, but more often it is the community of God functioning as the church.

A pastor friend of mine describes these experiences and times as thin places. Those times where God seems closer than normal, and you lay out your heart before Him knowing that He cares for you and is at work in your life and situations. These thin places bring us to a point where we are teachable, correctible, and ready to receive encouragement.

Can you think of a place where you have met with God before? Was there a time when God seemed close to you? We know that God is everywhere at all times and knows all things, but there are times where we feel closer to God than others. How do we get to that point?

James writes to us to help us understand how we can be closer to God. He shares in the fourth chapter of his letter to the churches that we should:

7 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash

your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.9 Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom.10 Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up. (James 4:7-10 NIV 1984)

We are called to start with our relationship to God, let us submit to His will and not our own. We are tempted by sin, but we must resist temptation and turn to God. Let us choose to focus on Him when sin comes creeping in. As we confess our sins to God and one another, we humbly admit our need for a Savior. We purify our hearts, actions, and thoughts by confessing to God our sins and accepting His forgiveness. In this action of confession, we turn from ignoring our sin with laughter and joy to recognizing how far we are from God in our sin. In this humility Jesus forgives and restores us to right relationship with Him.

Through the confession of sin and need for a Savior we draw near to God, and He draws near to us. This work brings us into a thin place, where we feel near to God. It is our need and His work, let us continue in deeper relationship with Him. Continue to pursue Him and draw near to Him, and He will draw near to you.

Federer solid in liquid modernity

By SANTIAGO RAMIREZ

On Friday, September 23, the first day of the fifth edition of the Laver Cup took place in London, England.

The Laver Cup is a tennis tournament with a particular format in which two teams face each other: Team Europe and Team World, and in each match, the winners give points to their teams. This year the tournament had a bittersweet ingredient since Roger Federer (member of Team Europe), a legend of the white sport, announced last September 15th that at 41 years of age and after 24 years of an impeccable sporting career, he would retire from playing in the first day of the Laver Cup doubles match with his eternal rival and great friend Rafa Nadal.

For those tennis lovers -like me- the news of his retirement was not unexpected, but it was very disappointing: The last thing to lose is hope. And it is to be asked: hope for what or why? I answer: to see him on the courts again. To see Federer was not only to enjoy tennis in its maximum artistic and sporting expression; it was also to see a man of integrity and charisma accompanied by his family wherever he went, always far from controversy, not necessarily because he was politically correct but because his respect stood out with his presence alone.

Roger Federer is a person who has transcended the courts, it is difficult to imagine a more beloved public figure than him in the present century, and I find it inexplicable that what he generates is not limited to his sporting talent. Detractors will not be lacking because that is how this world is, but Federer's is remarkable.

I find it necessary to quote the incredible Zygmunt Bauman, who described our modern times as liquid modernity, referring to our inability to stand firm in a changing world; we are like a liquid, like water that takes the shape of the container in which it is.

In times of liquid modernity, Federer has been an example of what it means to be solid, in sports and personally. I must confess that for years I dreamed of learning to speak English to have a conversation with him, and among the questions on my list was to know if he is a Christian because, in my limited mind, someone who is not a Christian cannot have such clear family and sporting values that transcend so many barriers and cultures. Today I am unsure about that question and that reading of life I had growing up.

Fun fall festival

Sacred Heart gathering held September 16-18

By AMELIA ROESSLER
Staff writer

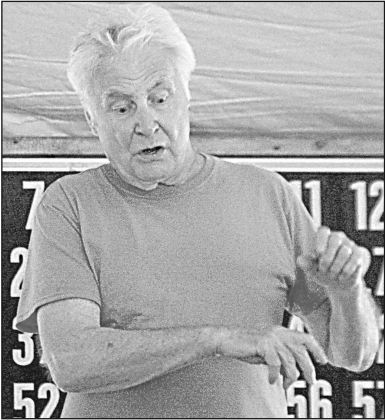
The Sacred Heart Fall Festival happened September 16, 17, and 18, featuring fun activities including food, games, auctions, music, bingo, meat raffles, and much more.

This year's Fall Festival celebrated its own beginning, which happened 50 years ago in 1972. The Fall Festival is one of the church's major annual fundraisers.

Some events held in the big white tent which spanned the street over the weekend included the fish fry on Friday; bingo, burger fry, and street dance with guest band Los Tequileros on Saturday; and breakfast on Sunday.

Other happenings at the Fall Festival included the silent and live auctions, the white elephant sale, raffles, and children's games including a kids' carnival on Sunday.

While many people from the church volunteered their time and efforts to help with dinners, auctions, and much more, many others came to enjoy the warm atmosphere of the church under the big white tent as they milled about. Father Th , Sacred Heart's priest, even called the meat raffle!



FUN - Hundreds enjoyed Sacred Heart's Fall Festival last weekend.Bottom right, Andy Roesler, left, and Brooklyn Hicks, right. Three ladies holding apples and sweets, from left: Lori Mickelson, Jane Christian, and GERALYN KASSEL. Bottom left is Jerry Broughton of Los Tequileros.

Pioneer photos by Amelia Roessler

'God gets the rest'

All Saints Fall Festival draws big crowd

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

More than 150 people attended the All Saints Catholic Festival in New Richland Saturday afternoon. According to the best guestimates of nearly half a dozen attendees, trustees and volunteers the annual festival dates back to roughly 1985.

The festival has seen some changes over those four decades. At one time it was a formal turkey dinner and also included a live auction. For years the event was also held at the New Richland American Legion.

During the live auctions, which "Mr. Harguth" announced, Father Krough would famously buy his polka socks and then they would get

auctioned off. Now, a "big ticket," silent auction and 50/50 raffle serve in its place.

"You get \$30 and God gets the rest," Sheri Donovan shouts as she sells tickets.

"You're great at this," Gretchen Supalla tells her.

The event now takes place under large tents in the large plot next to All Saints Catholic Church in New Richland.

More than a dozen volunteers helped serve mouth watering pulled pork sandwiches, courtesy of Matt Holland, alongside baked beans, chips and coleslaw. For dessert more than 400 homemade cookies were available with leftovers joining the other 38 silent auction items, which



WELL ATTENDED - More than 150 people attended the annual All Saints Fall Festival on Saturday, September 24, 2022.

raises thousands of dollars during the annual festival.

Of the volunteers many were named as important, the board to the best of people's abilities follow: Teri

Kormann, Lori Anderson, Charlene Deyle, Sheri Donovan, Jeanne Waldhauser, Kathy Hinkley, and Pam Shurson.

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WASECA HOMECOMING 2022



2022 Waseca Homecoming Court, from left: Christian Rodriguez, Samantha Azure, JD Delgado, CeCe Huttemier, Payton Garza, Riley Ruedy, Oliver O'Brien, Avery Madsen, Brenden Brown, Charlotte Harguth, Will King, Aubree Hansen
Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

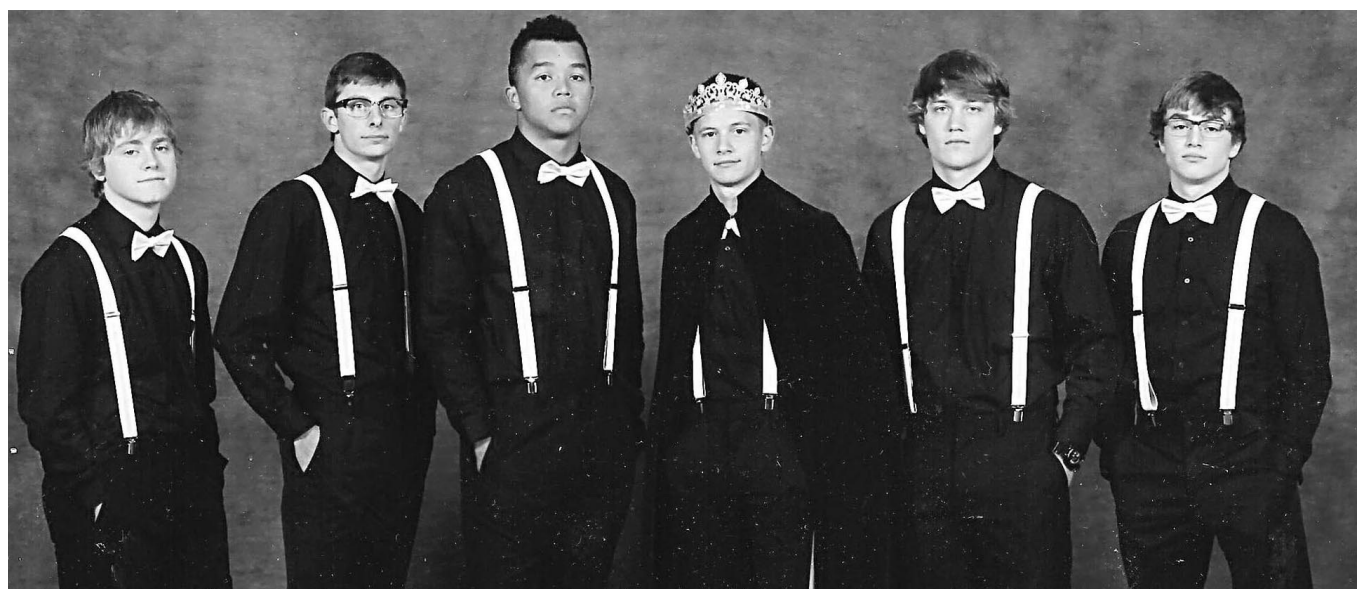
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2021 Alayna Akers & Miguel Beltran
2020 Gabriela Rodriguez & Zander Fitzsimmons
2019 Gus Boyer & Xander Spies
2018 Olivia Wendland & Matt Olsem
2017 Klaire Harris & Brett Attenberger
2016 Jenna Butterfield & Tyler Wendland
2015 Allison Breck & Hans Baumgarn
2014 Jordyn Berg, Mikayla Rolling & Jared Rudolph
2013 Corinne Dennis & Thomas O'Neil
2012 Loral Barrie & Gunner Johnson
2011 Erica Hall & Kevin Glynn
2010 Crystal VonEndee & Brandon Pederson
2009 Danni Collins & Justin Deling
2008 Stephanie Possehl & Caleb Davis
2007 Taylor Froehle & Ethan Schultz
2006 Abby Neigebauer & Dustin Platte
2005 Katey O'Neil & Kyser Bartelt
2004 Molly Kolpin & Matt Strehlow
2003 Megan Conway & Zack Walgenbach
2002 Charity Hall & Matt Hines
2001 Katie Bluhm & Ben Janike
2000 Lindsay Wadd & Jeff Mosser
1999 Josie Yess & Levi Kaiser
1998 Molly Arnold & Reid Bartelt
1997 Ann Staloch & Mark Boehme
1996 Angie Dennis & Ryan Krautkremer
1995 Katie Anderson & Jacob Conway
1994 Jane Slama & Tim Steffen
1993 Julie Dey
1992 Angela Harguth
1991 Tanya Jensen
1990 Cristeen Schumacher
1989 Tricia Hansen
1988 Debbie Born
1987 Deb Gehring
1986 Jodi Mullen
1985 Deb Kuhns



1983 Pam Harter
1982 Julie Gehloff
1981 Anne Pfeifer
1980 Dawn Peterson
1978 Lisa Fuller
1977 Shawn Milbrett
1976 Jody Pfeifer
1975 Elizabeth Welna
1974 Nancy Markus
1973 Penny Felber
1972 Dawn Felber & John Gleason
1971 Mary Welna
1970 Jan Nicolin
1969 Carol Collins

WASECA HOMECOMING 2017



The 2017 WASECA High School Homecoming court. From left: Jimmy Hoehn, Justin Sampson, Sarveon Williamson, King Brett Attenberg, Cole Conway, and Noah Buchele

WASECA HOMECOMING 2017



The 2017 WASECA High School Homecoming court. From: Maya Aberle, Taylor Hiller, Shelby Wolf, Queen Claire Harris, Kendra Conners, and Sam O'Brien

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WASECA HOMECOMING 2008



The 2008 WASECA High School Homecoming court. From left: Ryan Landkammer, Ryan Papke, Jared Steffens, Alex Drewek, Josh Smith, King Caleb Davis, Queen Stephanie Possehl, Paige Snow, Bridget Flintrop, Shelby Milbrath, Allison Moutka, Christine Lewer. Jr royalty pictured are Kennedy Hodgkins & Marcus Priebe; Courtney Davison & Jonah Jimmerson

HOMECOMING PARADE



Homecoming parade - Kristin Deml and Erin Morris

Jr Royalty

2021 Mya Marlin, Peyton Teders & Korbin Collins
 2020 No Jr Royalty-Covid
 2019 Sydney Langager & Keenan Collins
 2018 Abby Gilson & Ashten Benavides
 2017 Zoe Popp & Miles Popp
 2016 Audrianna Willingham & Ryan DeWees
 2015 Ellie Hoehn & David Hodgkins
 2014 Avery Madsen & Riley Mitchell
 2013 Ella Holub & Alen Kopetzki
 2012 Katelynn Hodgkins & Owen Link
 2011 Lindsey Kopetzki & Parker Link
 2010 Sophie Alinder & Ryan Wendland
 2009 Reagan Vilt & Blake Wendland
 2008 Kennedy Hodgkins & Marcus Priebe;
 Courtney Davison & Jonah Jimmerson
 2007 Lexi Hodgkins & JP Swanson
 2006 Alexa Shafer & Tyler Wendland
 2005 Andrew Kaiser & Claire Harris

2004 Ben Weller & Whitney Davison
 2003 Konnor Harris & Nathan Draheim
 2001 Torren Byrd & Caitlyn Hayford
 2000 Kristen Williams & Matt Kaiser
 1999 Tim Christopherson & Keri Harris
 1998 Kyle Cosens & Mackenzie Koble
 1992 Peter Swanson & Elizabeth Hansen
 1990 Omni Ayers & Justin Ask
 1989 Brittany Feder & Colby Swanson
 1988 Katie Zika & John Robert Currie
 1986 Lindsey & Brin
 1985 Heidi Hammond & Brian Kunz
 1983 Anne Gilbertson & Mark Zika
 1982 Hilary Feder & Jared Dufault
 1981 Angie Hammond & Chad Gilbertson
 1980 Katie Walter & Joel Wessman
 1978 Krissy Williams & Tim Beckman
 1976 Katie Bendix & Kevin Walter
 1974 Eddie Williams & Debbie Williams
 1971 Wendy Nelson & Greg Eberline

WASECA HOMECOMING 2007



The 2007 WASECA High School Homecoming court. From left: Andrew Beckman, Jimmy Loonan, Kevin Britton, Grady Glynn, Zanik Bartelet, Richie Gullickson, King Ethan Schultz, Queen Taylor Froehle, Beth LeCocq, Chelsea Barr, Lacy Johnson, Tenille Nelson, Bayli Nelson, Mindy Sommers
 JR Attendants- JP Swanson and Alexis Hodgkins

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Jays finally best Fairmont

Rodriguez runs for 188 yards as WHS football team prevails, 32-14

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

After losing four straight games to Fairmont including last year's section final, the Waseca High School football team finally tasted revenge, coming from behind in the second half to win 32-14 at Waseca Friday, Sept. 23.

Things started slowly for both squads, with neither team scoring in the first quarter.

On their second possession of the game, the Bluejays methodically drove 10 plays, and 59 yards before senior Oliver O'Brien rolled out wide right, sneaking the ball inside the pylon from 3 yards. O'Brien was stuffed on the two-point try at the 1-yard line.

The Cardinals immediately answered, driving 65 yards on nine plays, converting two key third-down plays before Blaze Geiger floated a touchdown pass to the front right pylon from 17 yards away, which Levi Pooley hauled in over the Bluejay defender. The point after kick was good, putting the Cardinals ahead 7-6.

Both teams traded possessions the rest of the half, punting twice.

During halftime the Waseca Marching Band performed, "Outside the Lines," and was well received.

In their opening second-half drive, the Cardinals quickly gave the ball back to the Bluejays after several incomplete passes, broken up by both Neaves and Russell.

On the next drive the Jays needed only two plays to go 92 yards. On play number one Kyle Ausclauger broke off a big chunk before Christian Rodriguez went 38 yards on run number two.

The tough Bluejays defense put more pressure on the Cardinals, who went three and out and failed to answer.

Rodriguez, after a nine play drive, ran through a wide-open hole up the middle from 14-yards away to pad the Jays' lead. After a two-point conversion run by Rodriguez, Waseca

"We'll see them again. We know that and they know that."
— Coach Wendland

led 20-7.

With misting rain and cold wind, Fairmont went to work trying to get back into it, using only three plays to go 79-yards, scoring on a long sweep right by Landen Meyerdirk. With the point after the Jays still led 20-14.

The game wouldn't get any closer. Rodriguez carried the offense and the Jays to two more scores, this time from 24 yards away and again from 5 yards out. Between possessions and touchdown drives, O'Brien intercepted the Cardinal quarterback.

Defensively, Neaves led the Bluejays in tackles with six solo and 5 assists.

Rodriguez finished with 188 yards rushing on 21 carries while O'Brien ran 16 times for 63 yards.

As a team, Waseca ran the ball 48 times for 378 while holding the Cardinals to 145 yards of total offense.

"Everyone contributed tonight," Waseca coach Brad Wendland said after the game. "I'm proud and excited. You can see how a player-led team plays and the seniors show that."

Wendland said the boys had a good week of practice.

"All that helps you grow," he said. "We'll see them (Fairmont) again. We know that and they know that. In the meantime, we have homecoming week to be excited for."

This week the Bluejays host Jordan at 7 p.m.

	Waseca 32, Fairmont 14			
FMT	0	7	0	7 - 14
WAS	0	6	14	12 - 32
	First Quarter			
No scoring	Second Quarter			



FINALLY — The Waseca High School football team snapped a four-game losing skid to Fairmont Friday, Sept. 23, winning 32-14 at Waseca. Above, Christian Rodriguez rumbles to some of his 188 yards rushing. Also pictured for Waseca: Jacob Thompson (30) and Ethan Stenzel (70). Below left, Oliver O'Brien puts the football on the pylon for a touchdown. Below right, Damarius Russell (3) and Maxx Neaves track down a Fairmont ball carrier.



WAS — O'Brien 3 run (run failed)		
FMT — Teveldal 18 pass from Geiger (Burmeister kick)		
Third Quarter		
WAS — Rodriguez 38 run (run failed)		
WAS — Rodriguez 14 run (Rodriguez run)		
Fourth Quarter		
FMT — Meyerdirk 8 run (Burmeister kick)		
WAS — Rodriguez 24 run (kick failed)		
WAS — Rodriguez 5 run (kick failed)		

First downs	6	15
Rushing	30-118	48-378
Passing	2-12	2-6
Passing Yds.	27	9
Total offense	145	387
Penalties	1-5	2-20
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS		
Rushing — WAS: Rodriguez 21-188; Ahl-		



schlager 11-27; O'Brien 16-63; FMT: Meyerdirk 12-51; E. Johnson 7-37; Schmidtke 4-21; J. Johnson 2-5; Geiger 5-4		
Passing — WAS: O'Brien 2-6, 9; FMT: Geiger 1-10, 3; Schmidtke 1-2, 18		
Receiving — WAS: Ahlschlager 1-5; Da. Russell 1-4; FMT: Pooley 2-27		
Defense — WAS: Neaves 5 tackles, 6 assists; Ahlschlager 3 tackles, 2 assist; Thompson 3 tackles, 2 assists; Robran 3 tackles, 2		

assists: Dam. Russell 2 tackles, 1 assist; O'Brien 1 tackle, 2 assists, 1 interception; Ohnstad 2 tackles; N. Engel-Mueller 2 assists; S. Engel-Mueller 3 tackles, 1 assist; Rodriguez 1 tackle, 1 assist; Droog 1 tackle; Stenzel 1 tackle; De. Russell 1 assist; Rupe 1 assist; Allen-Haas 1 assist		
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UP AND DOWN — After winning two matches 7-0 last week, the Waseca tennis team faced a challenge against Northfield Monday, Sept. 26 and came up short. Sarah Haley (left) lost in three close sets while Cece Huttemier (right) won her match in two.



Pioneer photos by Michael Roy

WHS tennis girls run record to 13-3

By MICHAEL ROY
Publisher

The Waseca High School girls' tennis team settled for two 7-0 wins to start off their week. However, the Bluejays lost a close one against Northfield at home.

The first victory came at home against New Ulm Sept. 20. None of the matches were close. Waseca swept all four singles and the three doubles matches. The JV enjoyed a nice 4-1 victory.

Singles: Sarah Robbins defeated Lydia King 6-0, 6-1 in No. 1; Cece Huttemier overtook Calyn Glaser in No. 2, 6-1, 6-0; Sarah Haley swept the two-set series against Joci Petersen in No. 3, 6-0, 6-0; and Lauren Drexler prevailed against Evelyn Sellner in No. 4, 6-1, 6-0.

Doubles: Addie Pfeifer and Mi-

randa Breck upended Lana Braun and Katie Wilker at No. 1, 6-1, 6-2; Mia Kanewischer and Maddy Benson overwhelmed Karson Schmid and Kate Frauenholz in No. 2, 6-2, 6-1; Takya Schoenrock and Paige Dufault won against Claire Brown and Emily Pearson in No. 3, 6-2, 6-1.

The girls continued the home stand against the River Valley Wildcats Sept. 22. The girls once again swept all matches, although the Wildcats were a bit tougher opponent. The JV won 5-0.

Singles: Robbins defeated Taylor Berkner in No. 1, 6-3, 6-3; Huttemier over Brissa Hernandez in No. 2, 6-0, 6-1; Haley took victory over Erika Wells in No. 3, 6-4, 6-2; Schoenrock dominated against Dani Junker in No. 4, 6-0, 6-0.

Doubles: Kanewischer and Pfeifer

defeated Kiera Lafferty and Anna Rossbach in No. 1, 6-2, 6-3; Breck and Benson succeeded against Jillian Mays and Gabby Anderson in No. 2, 6-2, 6-1; Drexler and Dufault topped Emma Contreras-Ramirez and Chloe Okerman in No. 3, 6-0, 6-2.

The Waseca girls did well in their singles matches against Northfield Sept. 27, winning three of four. All they needed was one match to go their way in the doubles to take another victory.

But the Raiders denied them a win. Two of three doubles matches came down to the third set. Northfield slipped by one, while winning a tie-breaker in the other three-set match. It was a heartbreaking way to end the meet for Waseca.

Singles: Robbins defeated Maya Deschamp in No. 1, 6-1, 6-3; Hutte-

mier was victorious against Natalia Neyra Rassmussen in No. 2, 6-1, 6-2; Haley came up short in a three-set match against Lucy Bolland in No. 3, 2-6, 6-4, 6-3; and Takya Schoenrock came out on top of a close three-set matchup against Meha Hnatyszyn, 7-6 (6), 4-6, 7-6 (2).

Doubles: Northfield won all three matches in the doubles. Kanewischer and Pfeifer lost 6-3, 6-1; Breck and Benson came up short 3-6, 6-2, 6-0; and Drexler and Dufault got the short end of a close three-set match 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (2).

The Bluejays, 13-3, open Section 1A play Tuesday, Oct. 4. Where and when is to be determined.

Bluejay CC teams find success at Albert Lea

By MICHAEL ROY
Publisher

After a tough start to the season, the Waseca cross country teams found success at the Albert Lea Invitational last week. The meet was rescheduled a couple of times. Originally slated for Tuesday, Sept. 20 at 4 p.m., the time changed to 5:45 p.m. Eventually, the meet was moved to the next day.

It didn't affect the Bluejay teams at all. The girls took first place overall with 15 points. Zumbrota-Mazeppa/Kenyon-Wanamingo was second with 47. Red Wing and Albert Lea didn't have enough runners to score as a team.

Ella Dufault, Callie Dufault, and Stella Omtvedt took the top three spots in the race with times of 20:34.31, 21:49.41, and 21:54.23 respectively. Maren Schimming took fifth with a time of 22:17.23 and Kya Hoof cracked the top 10 with a time of 24:52.42. Only six

seconds separated her between ninth and 11th.

Other finishers for the girls were Taylor Markeson (11th, 24:58.03) and Norah Schimming (14th, 25:52.88).

The boys had slightly more competition, with four schools eligible to score as a team. They took third with 59, with Albert Lea taking first with 23 and Red Wing placing second with 53. Zumbrota-Mazeppa/Kenyon-Wanamingo took last with 95.

The Feldkamp brothers broke the top 10, with Isaac taking fourth (18:05.70) and Joe taking seventh (18:30.6). Addison Sampson was short of a top-10 finish by five seconds, settling for 11th with a time of 19:03.48.

Other finishers for the boys were Tyler Jellum (17th, 20:31.02), Bobby Mortensen (20th, 21:08.39), Jacari Jellum (21:36.55), and Colton Schroeder (22:01.82).

St. Peter shuts out WHS volleyball team

By MICHAEL ROY
Publisher

Waseca High School's volleyball team was denied an attempt to get to an even record when St. Peter dominated in a 3-0 loss Tuesday, Sept. 20.

The two teams are not only conference foes, but play in the same division. A win against St. Peter could have put Waseca near third place in the conference. However, the Saints were not going to let the Bluejays snap an undefeated in-

conference streak.

The first set went to St. Peter 25-17, and the Saints progressively got better throughout the matching, winning the last two sets 25-15 and 25-12.

"St. Peter is a talented team in our division," Waseca coach Jolene Hauger said. "We just couldn't get it done."

The Waseca volleyball team got a break in its schedule. The Bluejays host Blue Earth Area Monday, Oct. 3.

JWP can't stop Mayer Lutheran

Bulldogs fall 29-7 to defending state champs

By MICHAEL ROY
Publisher

It was another tough loss for the JWP football team as 2021 Class A state champion Mayer Lutheran took a 29-7 victory despite three turnovers in the first quarter by the Crusaders. The JWP defense went all out in the first quarter to give the Bulldogs a chance to score early against the Crusaders. Sophomore Lucas Morsching had a fumble recovery within the first minutes of the game. Mayer Lutheran's turnover woes worsened when JWP junior Ryan Kronbach snatched the ball for an interception and Luke Cahill recovered a fumble on special teams. However, the offense was only able to score seven points off the three takeaways. On the first turnover forced by Morsching, the offense only had two plays before senior Karson Lindsay threw an interception. The second drive was a three-and-out, and the third drive off the special teams' takeaway was the only score, a great pass from Lindsay to a wide-open Kronbach in the end zone. But that was it for JWP. Mayer Lutheran tied the score 7-7 at halftime. They were much better

in the third quarter, relying on the running game to take the lead. JWP's defense became tired and struggled to tackle, enabling the Crusaders to get 275 yards on the ground and three rushing touchdowns. It was a night Lindsay will want to forget. With senior running backs Ryder Thissen and Jack Cahill out of the game due to injuries, he tried single-handedly to get his team back in it. But two ill-advised throws resulted in a pick six and another interception set the Crusaders up at the JWP 4-yard line. It only took one play after that for Mayer Lutheran to score and seal the win 29-7. "It was a tough game all-around," JWP coach Jeff Wagner said. "The defense struggled to stop them in the second half, and Lindsay had a rough night. Mayer Lutheran is always a tough team to play." Despite a stellar two-turnover performance early, the JWP defense ended the night allowing 350 yards of total offense.

First Quarter
JWP: Karson Lindsay throws a 13-yard pass to Ryan Kronbach for a touchdown. Extra point is good

Second Quarter
ML: Jack Grimsley runs the ball for a 10-yard touchdown. Extra point is good



TOO TOUGH — Defending Class A state champion Mayer Lutheran was too strong for the JWP football team to handle Friday, Sept. 23 in Janesville. At left, Bulldogs receiver Ryan Kronbach (11) hauls in a pass. At right, JWP running back Ryder Thissen (15); also pictured is JWP's Cole Schlueter (64).



Pioneer photos by Michael Roy

Third Quarter
ML: Justus Shimanski runs the ball for a 5-yard touchdown. Jack Grimsley runs the ball 6 yards for a successful two-point conversation.

Fourth Quarter
ML: Levi Hahn runs the ball for a 4-yard gain and a touchdown. Extra point is good

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Passing: JWP: Karson Lindsay, 7/26, 65

yd, TD, 3 INTs. ML: Levi Hahn, 5/11, 76 yds, INT.

Rushing: JWP: Ryder Thissen, 19 carries, 66 yds. Jack Cahill, 2 carries, 6 yds. Karson Lindsay, attempt for 4 yds. ML: Levi Hahn, 11 carries, 112 yds, TD. Jack Grimsley, 22 carries, 97 yds, TD. Justus Shimanski, 10

carries, 40 yds, TD. Michael Woesterhoff, 3 carries, 20 yds. Kobe Brown, 3 carries, 9 yds. Tyler Gilb, carry for -1 yd.

Receiving: JWP: Ryan Kronbach, 3 rec, 47 yds, TD. Nolan Morsching, 3 rec, 15 yds. Kelton Erler, rec for 3 yds. ML: Jack Grimsley, 4 rec, 65 yds. Mason Neitzel, rec for 11 yds.

Soccer girls top Worthington, settle for tie with Red Wing Bluejays blanked 1-0 at Kasson-Mantorville

By MICHAEL ROY
Publisher

The Waseca High School girls' soccer team went 1-1-1 in the past week, defeating Worthington in a rematch at home, losing to Kasson-Mantorville in a defensive battle, and having to settle for a tie against Red Wing.

Waseca 7, Worthington 1
Waseca had its best game of the season at Worthington earlier in the month, defeating them 9-0. It was the same dominant performance when they hosted the Trojans Tuesday, Sept. 20. Seven goals scored in quick succession gave the Bluejays an easy victory they haven't had in nearly two weeks. "This game marked a return to form," coach Kyle Tomlinson said. "We needed this win."

Kasson-Mantorville 1, Waseca 0
The Lady Jays traveled to Kasson-Mantorville Thursday, Sept. 22. The Komets, who play in a tough Hiawatha Valley conference, came into the match 5-1-1. It was another tough test for Waseca. Only one goal was scored the entire game, and it was the Komets that

"The Bluejays need support to push them over the finish line in what has been an excellent season."
— Coach Kyle Tomlinson

got it. It didn't help Waseca when they lost two regular starters — Thyme Lang and Anna Blatti — during the middle of the contest. "Maia Bartelt ensured that efforts on goal were kept to a minimum," Tomlinson explained. "Despite her and her teammates' efforts, though, the Komets managed to break through in the first half." The Bluejays had many opportunities to score in the second half, but they were either off target or saved by the Komets' goalkeeper. "We had an equalizing goal narrowly ruled offside," Tomlinson claimed. "That proved to be the only time that the all would cross the Komets' goal line." Despite the loss, Tomlinson said that goalkeeper Ella Bulfer had a standout performance.

Waseca 2, Red Wing 2
Waseca returned home Monday, Sept. 26 to host Red Wing, a Big Nine team struggling to get wins this season. The Wingers caught the Waseca defense off-guard within the first minute and 30 seconds of the game, as goalkeeper Ella Bulfer tried to beat a Wingers player to the ball and was too late. It didn't take the Bluejays long to respond, as senior Thyme Lang scored 10 minutes into the match. After a 1-1 halftime, both teams came out stronger in the second half. Eighteen minutes into the half, junior Gaby Lopez blew through the Red Wing defense to get a shot on goal. Although the Wingers' goaltender blocked it, junior Eva Bruhn was there for a rebound to give Waseca a 2-1 lead. Red Wing replied with less than 14 minutes left on the clock.



TIE BALLGAME — The Bluejays' Addison Wieseler (14) attempts to steal the ball from a Red Wing defender during a 2-2 tie at Waseca Monday, Sept. 26. Also pictured for Waseca: Sophie Chawra (15).

Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

The game went into overtime — two five-minute periods with a two-minute break in between them. Try as both teams might to get a shot into each other's nets, the game ended with a 2-2 tie. The Waseca girls will get a break this week before traveling to Austin Monday, Oct. 3. They finish the season against Mankato Loyola the fol-

lowing Tuesday before ending the regular season against St. Peter on Thursday. Tomlinson believes that the St. Peter match could be a "potential conference decider." "The Bluejays need support to push them over the finish line in what has been an excellent season," he added.

Grizzlies face tough conditions at NRHEG

By MICHAEL ROY
Publisher

Summer went out with a bang during WEM-JWP's cross country meet at Riverview Golf Course, New Richland Tuesday, Sept. 20. It was a warm day with temperatures near 90. The combination of the weather and the hilly terrain of the golf course made the meet the hardest one of the season for the Grizzlies thus far. The boys struggled against the seven other teams within the race. They placed seventh with a score of 155; Mankato Loyola/Cleveland were the clear winners with 33 points. Sophomore Luke Cahill led the Grizzlies, taking 23rd overall with a time of 21:07.6. Teammate Wyatt Jans took 25th (21:17.2). Other finishers were: Derek Gustafson (34th, 22:17.8), Gavin Marinenko (39th, 22:57.5), Carson James (43rd, 24:18.4), David Lamp (44th, 23:18.8), Alexander Kleve (25:08.3), and Carter Hoehn (26:22.1).

The girls placed fifth out of six teams with 95 points and were only four points away from fourth. Maple River won the meet with 44 points. Seventh-grader MaKenzie Westphal had another top ten finish (7th, 23:53.9), while freshman Kwynn Krause (18th, 27:23.0) and senior Faith Olson (19th, 27:52.4) made the top 20. Other runners were: Ashlin Keyes (29th, 30:56.4), Madalyn Miller (31st, 31:30.5), and Mad-die Heuss (36th, 33:49.7).

The WEM-JWP cross country team hosted a meet on Thursday, Sept. 29 at Prairie Ridge Golf Course in Janesville.

JWP spikers cap off tough road trip with tournament

By MICHAEL ROY
Publisher

The road trip was a bit rough for the JWP volleyball team last week, especially when it visited conference opponents. The Bulldogs dropped two to Waterville-Elysian-Morris-town and Kenyon-Wanamingo before playing in a tournament in St. James.

WEM 3, JWP 0
The Bulldogs got off to the wrong foot from the start Sept. 20. Although they weren't far from home, the location didn't matter. Buccaneers fans were loud and proud, and it played a part in how the Bulldogs played. Along with playing in a tough environment, JWP had mis-communication, and had a difficult time getting anything going until it was too late. "WEM is always a tough team to play," coach Jessica Keenan said. "We just couldn't get it done." The final score was 3-0 Bucs (10-

25, 14-25, 17-25). Individually: Brielle Bure, 19 digs; Claire Walz, 2 kills; Nevaeh Weimert, 4 assists, 5 digs; Jessa Westphal, 11 kills, 2 blocks; Lilly Strauss, a kill; Aubrey Weedman, an ace, 2 blocks, 12 assists, and 12 digs; Raquel Fischer, 4 kills; Paige Walz, 2 kills, a block, and 4 digs; Lexie Dahlberg, 4 digs.

Kenyon-Wanamingo 3, JWP 0
The road trip only got tougher when the Bulldogs faced another conference rival Thursday, Sept. 22. Kenyon-Wanamingo was ranked No. 6 in the state (Class A). Although the Bulldogs had a bit more success offensively against the Knights than the Buccaneers, slow starts hindered them, and their opponent swept them for the fourth consecutive time this season. "They are number six in Class A for a reason," Keenan said. Scores for the three sets were 10-25, 18-25, and 21-25.

One bright spot was that sophomore Aubrey Weedman served 100 during the game. Individually: Bure, 8 digs; C. Walz, 2 kills, 2 blocks; Weimert, 3 assists, 5 digs; Westphal, an ace, 6 kills, 2 blocks; Strauss, a kill, 2 blocks, 2 digs; Weedman with an ace, 3 kills, 15 assists, and 3 digs; Fischer, 8 kills, a block, and 3 digs; Isabelle Rider with an ace; P. Walz, block; Dahlberg, ace, 10 digs; Alison Olson, a kill, 5 digs.

St. James Tournament
The JWP volleyball team were up bright and early on Saturday, Sept. 24 for a tournament in St. James. They played five teams throughout the day: Worthington, Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart, New Ulm Cathedral, Madelia, and Le Sueur-Henderson. It was a great test for the Bulldogs to see where they stood in Section 2A with three of five teams the faced in their section. Worthington, a Class AAA school and Le Sueur-Henderson, a Class AA school provided



SILVER LINING — Despite a rough week, sophomore Aubrey Weedman served one-hundred percent at Kenyon-Wanamingo Thursday, Sept. 22.

Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

another set of challenges for the team. JWP lost to Worthington 0-2 before losing to Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart 0-2. They won a close match against New Ulm Cathedral 2-1 before dropping one to Madelia 0-2. They finished the day with a 2-0 vic-

tory against Le Sueur-Henderson. The Bulldogs will continue their road trip with a visit to Gopher Conference rival Medford Thursday, Sept. 29. They will end their road trip with a game in Maple River on Tuesday, Oct. 4.

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NRHEG spikers win two of three Panthers play tough against BA

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

The NRHEG volleyball team won two of three matches last week, defeating TCU Monday at Montgomery three games to one (15-25, 25-9, 25-16, and 25-20); winning Tuesday at USC three games to one (20-25, 25-22, 25-12, 25-9) and losing to Faribault BA at home Thursday three games to one (16-25, 17-25, 25-17, 23-25).

Against the Titans, the girls won in four sets after dropping their opening game. "The first set we were slow on our feet and lost," NRHEG head coach Ashley Tolzman said. "The second set we came out strong and played with enthusiasm and won."

Games three and four the Panthers simply limited their mistakes, leading to victories, according to Tolzman. "Faith and Sidney covered our court so well defensively," she said. "Erin, Bree, and Sarah were our

standouts for offense."

Individually for the Panthers: Hallie Schultz 6 kills, 33 assists, 4 blocks, 9 digs; Tayler Schmidt 1 kill, 4 blocks, 12 digs; Erin Jacobson 24 kills, 5 blocks, 13 digs; Bree Ihrke 8 kills, 1 assist, 5 blocks, 7 digs; Faith Nielsen 2 kills, 15 digs; Sarah George 4 kills, 4 blocks, 8 digs; Bailey Ihrke 2 kills, 1 block, 5 digs; Sidney Schultz 3 assists, 21 digs.

Traveling to Wells Tuesday, the girls again lost game one before winning three straight to take the match.

"We had a hard time starting out tonight," Tolzman said. "We were slow on our feet and overall just not moving. We slowly started to wake up and play. This definitely was not our strongest match."

Individually for the Panthers: Hallie Schultz 3 kills, 32 assists, 7 blocks, 11 digs; Schmidt 1 kill, 2 blocks, 4 digs; Grace Wilkenson 5 digs; Andy Briggs 1 dig; Jacobson 11



TIGHT MATCH — The NRHEG volleyball team played Bethlehem Academy tough in the lone loss last week for the Panthers. At left, Sarah George (12) goes up for a block against BA. At right, Hallie Schultz (11) tips.

Pioneer photos by Chris Schlaak

kills, 2 assists, 2 blocks, 17 digs; Bree Ihrke; 8 kills, 7 blocks, 5 digs; Nielsen 3 kills, 6 digs; George 9 kills, 10 blocks; Tatum Smith-Vulcan 1 block; Bailey Ihrke 3 kills 1 block, 3 digs; Sidney Schultz 3 assists, 19 digs.

Despite losing to Faribault BA Thursday at home, it may have been one of the best matches of the Pan-

thers season thus far. They dropped games one and two, before winning game three handily, ultimately falling in a tight game four.

"What a game!" Tolzman exclaimed. "We knew going into this match that Bethlehem Academy was a very strong team. Our girls knew they had to play their best and they fought hard. Even though we lost, we

really showcased our skills last night. I am so proud of how the girls played and this has set the bar for the rest of the season."

Individually for the Panthers: Hallie Schultz 1 kill, 35 assists, 10 blocks, 13 digs; Schmidt 2 kills, 2 blocks, 15 digs; Wilkenson 3 digs; Jacobson 15 kills, 1 assist, 4 blocks, 11 digs; Bree Ihrke 10 kills, 2 assists,

16 blocks, 4 digs; Nielsen 1 kill, 2 assists, 5 digs; George 10 kills, 8 blocks; Bailey Ihrke 9 kills, 4 blocks, 8 digs; Sidney Schultz 1 kill, 2 assists, 32 digs.

The Panthers improved their record to 6-2 for the season.

Football team displays improvement despite loss

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

There's no question the NRHEG High School football team showed a lot of improvement, especially in the passing game.

The opponent, however, was too strong to overcome.

The Panthers scored first and were in it until late in the game, but failed in the red zone, and visiting St. Clair/Mankato Loyola scored a last-minute touchdown in a 28-14 decision at New Richland Friday, Sept. 23.

"It was a heartbreaking loss," said NRHEG coach Marc Kruger, whose team fell to 0-4.

Especially tough to take was the penalties. The Panthers had two touchdowns called back by penalties, and on the night they were flagged seven times for 65 yards.

On the bright side, quarterback Alden Dobberstein had a stellar night throwing the football, completing 10 of 23 passes for 306 yards with one interception. Lucas Loverink caught four of those passes for 215 yards. Sawyer Prigge had four receptions for 89 yards.

"Alden played outstanding," stated Kruger, who said the Panthers simply faced another tough foe.

"I would say this is one of the best teams in the area," he said.

The Panthers played tough all night, and established themselves early as Ethan Thompson intercepted a pass to end the Spartans' first possession.

A 62-yard completion from Dobberstein to Loverink set up the Panthers on the St. Clair/Loyola 12-yard line, but they fumbled the ball back.

The Panthers forced a quick three-and-out and, after an unsportsman-

like conduct penalty on the Spartans, got the ball on the St. Clair/Loyola 35. They responded well, but it wasn't easy. The Panthers were whistled for holding on the first play of the second quarter and faced third-and-28 on their 49. Again Dobberstein found Loverink, this time for 41 yards, and on the next play Andrew Phillips ran 10 yards for a touchdown. Noah Miranda kicked the PAT. The eight-play drive covered 65 yards.

The Spartans then drove from their own 35 to the NRHEG 10, but the march ended on fourth-and-five as Aiden Schlaak broke up a pass.

The Panthers punted after three plays and the punt was partially blocked, setting up the Spartans on the NRHEG 21, but a fourth-down pass fell incomplete.

The Panthers appeared to score the go-ahead touchdown on their next possession, but Dobberstein's 59-yard pass to Prigge was negated by a holding penalty.

The Spartans again partially blocked a punt and took over on the NRHEG 13. A last-second field goal attempt was wide, leaving the Panthers up 7-0 at halftime.

The Panthers possessed the ball first in the third quarter, but fumbled it away on second down. The Spartans, starting on the NRHEG 32, needed five plays to score a touchdown on a 13-yard run by No. 22. Simon Morgan's PAT kick tied it with 9:29 left in the period.

A three-and-out saw the Panthers punt again, and again it was partially blocked, putting the Spartans on the NRHEG 47. They moved the ball easily and scored six plays later, on a 1-yard quarterback keeper by Jake Sizer. Morgan kicked the PAT.

Again, the Panthers appeared to tie it, but again the 61-yard touchdown run by Phillips was called back by a holding penalty. The Panthers punted, this time getting the ball off cleanly, and an NRHEG bounce put the ball on the Spartans' 17.

After a Spartan punt, the Panthers proceeded to cover 41 yards in eight plays to tie it. The big play was a fourth-down completion from Dobberstein to Prigge. The touchdown came on a 7-yard run by Phillips. Miranda added the PAT.

An impressive kickoff return by Brandon Meng set up the Spartans on the NRHEG 43, and they again moved the ball quickly, needing nine plays with Meng scoring from 4 yards out. Morgan kicked the PAT and it was 21-14 with 5:26 remaining.

An unusually long kickoff took a Spartan bounce and ended up the end zone, putting the Panthers on their own 20. On third-and-seven, Dobberstein again connected with Loverink, who made a move and rolled to the 4-yard line for a 73-yard completion. Four plays later the Panthers did not connect and the Spartans took over on their own 5. On the first play, Meng broke free up the St. Clair/Loyola sideline and sprinted 95 yards for a touchdown with 1:47 remaining.

The Panthers' final attempt ended in Dobberstein's lone interception of the night.

Total offense for the game was nearly equal, but the visitors outrushed the Panthers 174-34. NRHEG committed two turnovers.

"We need to use this," said Coach Kruger. "We need to come ready to go at GFW next week."

The Panthers play Friday, Sept. 30



TOUGH LOSS — It was a tough loss to a quality opponent for the NRHEG football team Friday, Sept. 23 in New Richland. Above, Panther defenders Sawyer Prigge (8), Reese Routh (33) Makota Misgen (64) and Jace Ihrke (57) give chase as St. Clair/Mankato Loyola's Caleb Mathiowetz (.3) breaks a big play. Below left: Prigge lays out in an attempt to block a kick. Below right, Lucas Loverink (21) stiff-arms a defender.

Pioneer photos by Chris Schlaak and Eli Lutgens



at Winthrop.

SC/ML	0	0	14	14	— 28
NRHEG	0	7	0	7	— 14
First Quarter					
No scoring					
Second Quarter					
NRHEG — Phillips 10 run (Miranda kick)					
Third Quarter					
SC/ML — Meng 13 run (Morgan kick)					
SC/ML — Sizer 1 run (Morgan kick)					
Fourth Quarter					
NRHEG — Phillips 7 run (Miranda kick)					
SC/ML — Meng 4 run (Morgan kick)					
SC/ML — Meng 95 run (Morgan kick)					

First downs	16	11
Total plays	48	49
Rushing	27-174	26-34
Passing	13-21-1	10-23-1
Passing Yds.	163	306
Total offense	337	340
Fumbles-lost	0-0	2-2
Penalties	8-60	7-65
Third down	3-10	5-9
Fourth down	2-4	1-3
Turnovers	1	3
Time of poss.	25:35	22:15

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing - NRHEG: Phillips 22-38; Thomp-

son 1 —1; Dobberstein 1 —3; SC/ML — Meng 14-137; Sizer 9-35; Kruse 2-2
Passing - NRHEG: Dobberstein 10-23-1, 306; SC/ML: Sizer 13-21-1, 163
Receiving - NRHEG: Loverink 5-215; Prigge 4-89; Knudson 1-2; SC/ML: Mathiowetz 7-112; Meng 4-37; Morgan 1-9; Kann 1-5
Defense — NRHEG: Thompson 8 tackles, 1 interception; Prigge 6 tackles; Deyle 4 tackles; Howe 3 tackles, 1 sack; Routh 3 tackles; Misgen 2 tackles, Knudson 2 tackles, Miranda 1 tackle, Bartlett 1 tackle; Degen 1 tackle; Phillips 1 tackle; Schlaak 1 tackle; Ihrke 1 tackle

Beautiful day for a race



There was beautiful weather as the NRHEG cross country teams hosted the NRHEG Invitational at Riverview Golf Course Thursday, Sept. 22. From left: the Panthers' Sam Christensen (1602), Conner Nelson (1605), Gavin Sletten (1607) and Jacob Karl (1603). No results were reported.

Pioneer photos by Chris Schlaak

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October 2022							Nov 2022 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
						1 CLASS OF "68"	
2	3	4 5-7pm BURGER NITE	5 6pm Bar Bingo	6 BEER & BRATS 4:30 pm 7pm bingo	7 Meat Raffle 5:30pm	8	
9 All you can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am to Noon Your Host "CERT" County Emergency Response Team	10 7pm Post & AUX Meeting	11 5-7pm BURGER NITE	12 6pm Bar Bingo	13 U.S. NAVY Birthday 1775 7pm Bingo	14 Meat Raffle 5:30pm	15 PRIVATE EVENT	
16	17	18 5-7pm BURGER NITE	19 6pm Bar Bingo	20 7pm Bingo	21 WALLEYE OR SHRIMP DINNER 5:00 to 7:00 Support our food shelf bring a donation	22 PRIVATE EVENT	
23 All you can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am to Noon Your Host VFW Bantam Hockey	24	25 5-7pm BURGER NITE	26 6pm Bar Bingo	27 7pm Bingo TREATS ON THE STREET	28 Meat Raffle 5:30pm	29	
30	31						

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1975 Pontiac Fire-bird Trans-AM (white) 400 V8 Auto (nice original shape, not running) — Farmall M Gas Tractor, WF, Lights, SN: 224949 (not running) — Farmall H Gas Tractor, NF, Lights, SN: Bad Plate, (not running) — Farmall H Gas Tractor, NF, Lights, SN: 318746, 1 Hyd outlet (not running) — Herters 15' Fiberglass Boat & Roller Trailer — McCormick 10' grain drill w/ grass seeder, Low rubber, Manual (nice) — Case 3 btm pull type plow hyd lift, Case 2 btm plow on steel — John Deere Model 350 Hay Rake — John Deere Model 1240, 4 Row Planter — John Deere 10' pull type field digger w/ hyd lift — John Deere #11 Sickle mower (for parts) — New IDEA Model 30A Trailer Sickle Mower (S40 PTO) — (2) Woods 72" Belly Mowers — Woods 60" Belly Mower — New Holland Conestoga Wagon and Hoist w/ Flat rack — Steel Barge Box w/ John Deere 963 Gear — 8'x 16' Flat Rack w/ Minnesota Running Gear — 8'x 14 Flat Rack w/Anthony Gear — (3) 8'x 15' Grain Truck Boxes and Gears — (3) Flare Boxes w/Hoist — (3) Flare Boxes w/Gears — (1) Wood Barge Box w/Gear — Snow Co Grain Cleaner — (7) Asst Brands of running Gears w/Racks — New Holland Spreader for parts — 2 Wheel Field Sprayer — Trailers — International 1150 Mixer Mill (for parts) — 14' Wheel disk (for parts) — Deering Ideal 5' Steel Wheel Sickle Mower — NEW IDEA #711 Dry Manure Spreader (for parts) — Minneapolis-Moline 2 Row Horse Planter on Steel — 8' Pull Type Disk — John Deere Steel Wheel Wagon — (2) Walking Plows — Horse Poles — Several Yard Trailers — Many Farmall Tractor Parts — Farmall Wheel Weights — Suitcase Weights Ford, John Deere, & IHC — 300 Gal Fuel Barrel & Stand — New Holland Model 131, 32' Barn Bale Carrier — (2) 4x8' Snowmobile Trailers — Nomanco 4'x8' Tilt Trailer w/Sides — Dunham 2' Lawn Roller — Barn Pulleys — Cream Separator w/Bowl — Vintage 13' Steel Boat and Trailer — (5) Sections of Spike Drags — Tractor Chains — 8' Windmill Blade — Several Pickup Toppers 5' to 8' Aluminum & Fiberglass — Chevrolet El Camino Fiberglass Topper (Black) — Several Implement Wheels & Tires — Hay Rope — 10 Gal. Milk Cans — 30" Stainless Steel Double Sided Hog Feeders — Lots of T Posts — Live Cages — Fork & Shovels — Wheelbarrows — Double Drum Poly Containment (Yellow) — Aluminum Deck Plate — Pallet Racking 42"x 72" — Werner Alum 20' Scaffold Plank — (2) Lift Tables 2000# and 3000# — (4) I Beams 4"x8"x14'

Shop & Misc.

Super Mill Knee Type Vertical Milling Machine 9"x42" Bed, 480V, 3 phase — E-L-ESSLEY 46" Metal Lathe — K.O. Knock Out Surface Tool Cutter Grinder 220V — 4' Wood Lathe — Lots of wood lathe tools — Several coulters and cutters — Famco 6 & 10 Arbor Press — 2" belt sander — (2) Floor drill press — OTC Hy Tec Model 100210 Hyd. Pump — Columbian 6" Bench Vise — Stripit Surface Punch & Die Grinder — 8" Horizontal Band Saw — Several Hyd. jacks — DeWalt 14" chop saw — (2) Gerrard 2350 B banding tools — Alemitte Keg Greaser — Lincoln 225 Stick Welder — Milwaukee 623 Portable Band Saw — Pipe & Bar Clamps — Donaldson Torit Dust Collector — (12) wood clamps — Small sandblasting cabinet — many hand tools — Several battery chargers — Several small engines & electric motors — Several bolt organizer boxes — Several Hyd. tractor cylinders — Air tanks — air reel — 4" wood jointer — several log chains — Craftsman 10" table saw — Sandblasting pot — parts washer — Onan Generator 1750watts. — Craftsman 8 drawer top box — Kennedy Machinist toolboxes — Router & Table — Gas cans (steel and plastic) — Paper Qt. Oil Cans — Several metal casters w/ wheels — 28" Alum. Ext. Ladder — (7) gas chainsaw — Poly truck toolbox — (3) Charlynn Hyd. Pumps — Chain Hoist — Trailer Jacks — Paslode Air Nailer w/ case — Jonsers Lighted Sign — Plymouth Floor Rug — Tractor radios — (2) Floor safes — 6 Alum. Level — Sears 12" vertical band saw — Road signs — Many kerosene lanterns — piles of shipping lumber 3"x4"x4" — wood silo staves — lots of forks & shovels — Lots of good lumber — Many items not listed!

Antiques & Playhouse

Several Pieces of local advertising paper & watts ware — Blow mold candles — Oak Desk — Champion Cloth Pin Bag — Steamer Trunk — 8' wood toboggan — Canning Jars — (2) Surge Milkier Buckets — Mobil 5gal. gas can — Fishing rods — kids wagons & tricycles — several galvanized tubs — Johnson Seahorse boat motors (2) 5 1/2 hp. & (1) 10hp. — hawatha boat motor — Finding more each day!

Kent Boxrucker Estate - Sale Two
Auctioneers Comment: Folks if you are looking for a sale with a little of everything this is it! Kent has a yard full, bring a friend and a pickup! Thanks - Dennis

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ENCOURAGEMENT — The Bluejay football players and cheerleaders were part of the crowd at Loon Lake Park rallying the walkers and encouraging them to keep going.

■ Walk

from Page 1

come up with the idea. “We wanted another fundraising activity to help the council pay for all the things we do throughout the year,” she shares.

The Jay Walk was originally planned for last spring, but was delayed by some logistical issues. “We realized we didn’t have enough time to prepare for it,” Cox explains. “So, then we decided, ‘Why not make the Jay Walk a kickoff to homecoming week?’”

Aside from the wind, it couldn’t have been a better day for the inaugural Jay Walk, which raised about \$700. With such a successful



Haylee Sommers was snapping a few pictures.

first event, planners say they are confident they will make it a tradition for years to come.

“We’re hopeful this is the start of something special,” Nelson says.

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Clogging with Wild Goose Chase, Sept. 24



On Saturday, Sept. 24, the Waseca Art Center hosted the Wild Goose Chase Cloggers at the Central School Building Auditorium from 7-9 p.m. The group of rotational performers dance in the traditional Appalachian style of “clogging,” which influenced modern day tap and square dancing. The musicians who perform within the group play old-time folk and bluegrass music. Many of the performers in the Wild Goose Chase Cloggers are from Minnesota, with a few of them coming from North Carolina where the origins of clogging began.



Mock crash

On Wednesday, Sept. 21, a “mock crash” was staged in the grandstand at the Waseca County Fairgrounds. The event was attended by Waseca Intermediate and High School Students (grades 7-12). Sponsored by the Minnwest Farmers Juniors, the goal of the mock crash was to show students how one night of drinking and driving could turn into a tragedy.

According to Robert Tackett, who attended the event, the presentation was brief but powerful. The scene started with the arrival of the Waseca Police Department, followed by Deputy Jay Dulas of the Waseca County Sheriff’s Office and then the Minnesota State Patrol. An ambulance and a member of the Flight For Life emergency transport team from North Medical Health also responded.



Waseca students who participated in last Wednesday’s mock crash, shown still sporting their fake injuries.
Photo from Facebook

In Wednesday’s scenario, however, one victim didn’t make it home.

To strengthen the message even further, a hearse arrived to collect the “body.”

“It was shocking,” Tackett admitted. “The hearse came out and covered the body up.”

Jacob Garcia, a senior at Waseca High School, said that the mock crash was informative. “It was interesting to watch the scene unfold in real time,” he said. “Learning how the different departments operate to-

gether to assist at the accident scene was amazing.”

Fellow senior Diego Montenegro agreed. “It was a prime example of the process that victims and first responders go through when dealing with an accident. The older students seemed to take it more seriously than the younger students.”

In addition to the mock crash, Molly Penny, a radio host at KOWZ 100.9, was an impact speaker.

“She talked to all of the high school kids about her experiences growing up and dealing with those

type of tragedies, depression, and drug/alcohol addiction,” Tackett shared. “She spoke about her DUI and recovery effort. She was proud to do the speaking engagements and tell people to not dismiss their problems.”

The mock crash left a deep impression for many teens in attendance, especially the ones who are old enough to drive. “It’s a good thing for these students to learn now that drinking while driving has consequences,” Tackett said.

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