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WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY
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Terrific Tailgate

Waseca council debates

By JESSICA LUTGENS
Staff Writer

Four local residents running for Waseca City Council seats took the stage at the Performing Arts Center at Waseca High School on Friday, Oct. 7 for the first round of this year's Coffee Break Debates: Jeremy Conrath running unopposed for ward one; James Ebertowski, unopposed, ward two; and Stacey Schroeder and Robert Tackett running against one another in a special election for ward two. Moderating the event was WHS senior, Charli Harguth.

The debate started with opening statements from each candidate, beginning with Conrath, a 46-year-old who has lived in Waseca his whole life. He has a wife, Jamie, and one adult daughter. He is a current 14-year employee of the Waseca County Sheriff's Office as a correctional officer, prior to which he worked for ten years at Countryside Motors. Conrath has served as a ward one council member for nearly six years, served on the Discover Waseca Tourism Board for six years, the fire relief board for six years, police reserves for nine years, and fifteen years on the Waseca County Snowmobile Trail Association.

"I'm very passionate about Waseca and like giving back to the community," Conrath said. "I would enjoy serving four more years on the city council."

James "Jimmy" Ebertowski is a 26-year-old who was born and raised in Waseca, having served as an EMT with North Memorial Health starting at age 19 before becoming a paramedic. Last year, he switched career paths to become an electrician in order to build a family in town.

"I just want to see change in Waseca and see Waseca grow with the taxpayers in mind," Ebertowski said, adding that while he does not have any experience in politics, he is "willing and excited to learn."

Stacey Schroeder is a local resident and hairstylist of 28 years with a husband and four adult children. She stated that she has always had a passion for

Council continued on 14

Debate schedule for Waseca county candidates

Candidates for Waseca city government, school board, county sheriff, and county attorney positions will be debating each other at the Waseca High School Performing Arts Center throughout the month of October. All debates will take place at 2 p.m. The following debates will take place:

County Sheriff: Friday, Oct. 14

School Board: Tuesday, Oct. 18

County Attorney: Wednesday, Oct. 26

The public is welcome to attend. Debates will also be available to view by video within 24 hours on the school website, <https://www.waseca.k12.mn.us/>.

A word from The Word

Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

Matthew 5:4



UPDATE - District 24A state representative John Petersburg speaking to the Waseca City Council during its regular meeting Oct. 4, 2022. Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

Legislative update

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

Waseca resident and state representative John Petersburg addressed the Waseca City Council during its regular meeting October 4, 2022.

Petersburg has represented District 24A, which includes Owatonna and Waseca, in the Minnesota House of Representatives since 2013. Under newly drawn district boundaries, Petersburg is running for election in district 19B and will still be representing the two cities.

Prior to running for state representative, Petersburg served on the Claremont/Triton School Board, as well as in various other positions including: board member MN School Board Association, Steele Waseca Cooperative Electric advisory board, council member

of Trinity Lutheran Church, and treasurer of the Southeast Minnesota Synod of the ELCA. He currently is the minority lead of the Republican Transportation Finance and Policy Committee, as well as serving on the Ways and Means Committee and the Preventing Homelessness Division.

In his address to the council he provided a legislative update, spoke about the handling of the state's billions-of-dollars surplus and shared his three largest goals/concerns:

- Unemployment Insurance
- Health Insurance
- Bonding Bill

Unemployment insurance dollars are generated through employers in Minnesota. Before

Petersburg continued on 3

Coffee Break



ASKING THE HARD QUESTIONS - Waseca Senior Samantha Azure, moderates the Waseca High School Coffee Break Mayor debates. From left: Azure, Gary Conrath, Matt Petsinger, and Randy Zimmerman. Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens

Mayor debate

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

Senior Sam Azure moderated the second round of Waseca High School's "coffee break debates," which featured three candidates vying to become Waseca's mayor.

"This was very last minute (finding out I was moderating)," Azure shared. "Yes, I'm nervous, this is my first time doing this."

Questions for the debate are generated by high school seniors taking American government and political science courses. These debates have been a staple in Waseca for 20 years and used to be in the mornings—hence the name—but were later moved. The debates have "proven to be a valuable resource to the community," according to high school instructor John Hanson. "We did have one previous candidate, years ago, tell us that everything about running for office was great except for one thing. He said the most nerve racking thing was coming to these debates."

After Hanson's introduction, Azure was ready to grill the candidates.

Before opening statements, the crowd of about 50 and the online audience were informed that candidate Kevin Chindlund has withdrawn from the race. His name will appear on the ballot because he filed, but he has withdrawn his name for consideration.

Candidates began with opening statements.

Gary Conrath spoke first, citing his 67 years of age and 67 years of residency in Waseca, and his family, all of Waseca, as qualifying factors for mayor. Conrath graduated from Waseca High School nearly 50 years ago, has been married for 47 years, and, with his wife, has raised four children, all in Waseca.

Matthew Petsinger spoke second, thanking the students for putting on the debate. Petsinger was married in Waseca at Sacred Heart, grew up on a small area farm, is married and has three children. Petsinger listed his accomplishments as a national champion wrestler, included his long tenure at Brown Printing, and his decision to return to Waseca in 2019 to raise a family and start a small business, Matt Petsinger, American Family Insurance.

"They say if you want change, you should get involved. This is why I'm running for mayor," Petsinger concluded.

Randy Zimmerman also thanked the students and other candidates for attending and said he welcomes a healthy exchange of thoughts and ideas. Zimmerman said he has been a lifelong resident of Waseca. He has a wife and four children, and has been a residential architect for 22 years. Zimmerman has experience as a coach, administrator, was a former



Teacher John Hanson helped start the coffee debates more than 20 years ago.

Waseca School Board member, and "loves community involvement."

Although Zimmerman does not currently live in Waseca, he has made it clear that he plans to obtain a Waseca address prior to November 8, within the rules dictated by federal election laws.

The first question of the debate regarded quality of life: What do candidates believe are the most positive aspects of Waseca which can attract families especially, to our community?

Petsinger referenced numerous attractive amenities, including parks, the water park, golf courses, lakes. "There's a lot of positives here. We're not too small or too large of a place to raise a family. We're just right."

Zimmerman named Waseca's vast history of entrepreneurship, also crediting the school district, and spoke highly of Waseca's elderly population.



Timer Haylee Sommers

Conrath said Waseca's three greatest assets are public safety, the schools "which are second to none," and Waseca's medical facility. Conrath said Waseca needs to do a better job promoting itself.

Question two regarded annexation. "Are you in favor of Waseca actively growing the community through annexation of property?"

Zimmerman: "Yes, but with some caveats."

Zimmerman explained if the city were to annex residences around the city, it would "provide an instant boost in population, which would help with more economic growth, and be more attractive for new businesses. Short answer yes. Long answer conditional."

The "condition" being that it needs to be fair and equitable in the form of

Coffee continued on 5



Tammy Spooner

Wide range

Spooner takes on roles of county recorder, auditor, and treasurer

By RACHEL LOVERINK
Staff Writer

Tammy Spooner has taken on quite a range of duties for Waseca County, serving as the Director of Property and Election Services and the County Recorder. It's a big responsibility for sure, and there's even more to her job description.

Spooner also started filling the role of Auditor and Treasurer this past month, so yes, there are many spinning plates being balanced on a daily basis. She says it's going "very well," though

"It is a bit overwhelming at times to be the Auditor-Treasurer-Recorder and then toss in being the division leader for property records, but I am definitely up for the challenge," Spooner said.

She added, "The county moved toward a divisional model and moved the assessor's office under this umbrella. In a nutshell, I am the auditor, treasurer and recorder, and the assessor reports to me."

Her duties as Director of Property and Election Services began on August 23 of last year, and then just a few months later on November 8, she also acquired the duties of county recorder from Linda Karst, who retired from the position.

"I'll be the first to admit that I never dreamed about being the recorder or taking over responsibilities of the assessor's office, but I do everything I can for the greater good of Waseca County," Spooner said.

She performs an impressively long list of duties, including tax calculation, tax collection, recording property ownership, election administration, banking, investments, accounts payable, accounts receivable, property records, and property assessment "While that sounds like a lot,

Range continued on 13

Prepared and ready for hire

Waseca's career exhibit returns to the Mill after long absence

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

Nearly 300 juniors and seniors from Waseca High School loaded into six buses to attend a Waseca Career Exhibit at the Mill, a Waseca business, on Wednesday afternoon, October 12.

Fifty-five vendors, including local businesses, area colleges, and organizations set up displays at The Mill to share their programs and offer-

ings. The program was a collaboration between the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce and Waseca High School.

"Some businesses were ready to hire these high school students today!" Ann Fitch, Chamber President said. "This was a great way for kids to preview the exhibit and talk to real business owners."

"The high-schoolers were prepared and asked great questions!"

One business, American Family Insurance, had requests from five attendees to explain the purpose behind it. "And about another dozen recognized me from the coffee break debates," Matthew Petsinger jokes.

"At lunchtime, Subway provided box lunches for the vendors," Fitch added. "And the Mill has been fan-

Career continued on 3



ORGANIZERS - Kari Wadd, left, and Waseca Chamber President Ann Fitch greet those attending a career exhibit at the Mill, Thursday, October, 12, 2022. Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens



Compostings

by Al Batt
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A stranded grebe

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

What's new?
York, Jersey, Hampshire, England, Orleans, Mexico, Delhi, Guinea and Zealand.
Why can't your answer ever be "nothing"?

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I was hungry enough to eat a cloud. I was in line and I knew what I wanted. I typically need to scan the big lighted board showcasing the menu. The well-advertised sandwich I got was made from particle-board. "Fiddlesticks," I mumbled, "I should have scanned the big lighted board showcasing the menu."

I found another home for a tiny radio I'd purchased years ago at Tesco Groceries when I was visiting England. I wanted to listen to the BBC and the single-earphone radio allowed that. The first transistor radio was called Regency TR-1 (TR was short for Transistor Radio), was made by Texas Instruments and I.D.E.A. and hit the consumer market in 1954. The radio had low-quality sound, a 22.5-volt battery, was small, portable (measuring 3 × 5 × 1.25 inches and weighing 12 ounces) and was priced at \$49.95. I paid a tenth of that for my ex-radio.

I'VE LEARNED

Chimes aren't that calming when the wind blows all the time.
When I was a boy, the good old days were Saturdays.
Despite old movie and TV show depictions, I've never known anyone who fell prey to quicksand.

BAD JOKE DEPARTMENT

I always fall for a joke about gravity.
What is green, fuzzy, falls from trees and could crush you? A pool table.
If someone says, "Is it just me or is the cat getting fat?" "It's just you" is never the right answer.

HARTLAND HAROLD'S NEWS

Some of Hartland was gone with the wind of December. The post office and the Village Inn have been taken down. Holes filled with memories.

NATURE NOTES

I love me some nice weather. On this day, the world was held in the wind. I watched the leaves blow by a window. We could all look through the same window, but see different things. A friend used to see Bambi out her window until the deer chowed down on her garden. Now she sees Dambi.

I appreciate bird feeders more each year. I want the common birds to remain common. Blue jays and cardinals have processed much of their molts and no longer look like messy birds. In 2021, there were 59,601 migrating blue jays counted at Hawk Ridge in Duluth. This year's total (60,310) has already exceeded that.

Keep a sharp eye or two out for American coots (mudhens) to be on water or grazing on land. Native sparrows will become a diverse group. Meadowhawk dragonflies will continue to dazzle. Pied-billed grebes need long running/flapping starts to take off from water. The Latin genus name for "grebe" means "feet at the buttocks" which perfectly describes the body type of the pied-billed grebe and the position of their legs helps to propel them through the water when they dive after prey, which includes crustaceans and small fish. The rear placement of their legs means it's difficult to lift the weight of their bodies, causing them to walk awkwardly on land. It makes it difficult for them to take flight from dry land. Sometimes, when in flight and looking for a body of water to splash into, grebes mistakenly land on wet pavement, which gives the illusion of a pond or lake from the air. Even if they escape from the crash landing unscathed, their unique adaptations for the water prevent them from getting back in the air, stranding them on the ground. Mark Sorenson of Hollandale found a stranded grebe. He planned to take it to the lake, but wanted to show it to his wife first. That proved to be a mistake. Once inside his home, well, let me put it this way—it should have been wearing a diaper. The grebe was released into the lake and Mark's home got an unscheduled cleaning.

I worked in Colorado and had a handsome Canada jay land on my hand to pluck a morsel of food. The jay, also called gray jay, whiskey jack or camp robber, is known for this behavior. It made me smile for days.

The duck hawk is a nickname for the peregrine falcon. The American kestrel is the sparrow hawk, the merlin is the pigeon hawk, the osprey is the fish hawk and the Cooper's hawk is the chicken hawk, although many other birds of prey have been called chicken hawks.

Gulls follow farmers working the fields. The gulls devour worms, insects, mice and waste grain uncovered by an implement.

MEETING ADJOURNED

"Let us be grateful to people who make us happy, they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom."—Marcel Proust.

JWP Class of 2016 had the most spirit

With Waseca's homecoming all done, I now look with eager anticipation to JWP's.

It will be interesting to see the dynamic shift in energy from the whole crowd with the homecoming football game against United South Central taking place on a Thursday instead of the usual Friday. As we all know, it's easier to show school spirit when the next day is a Saturday; I'm sure the energy in the gym for the volleyball game will be insane.

Some homecoming traditions have changed since I was in school. While coronation did usually take place during the evening, the school spent part of its day watching videos of all the "popular kids" (actually, I think they were student council members!) going out at midnight to wake up each of the homecoming candidates to let them know they had been named to the court.

Some of those were comedy gold to watch. Some candidates jumped awake from all the noise, while others took five minutes to show their faces. I kind of miss seeing that part. Do they still do something like that, or did Covid shut down that tradition forever?

I also have many fond memories



Music to my Ears

by Michael Roy
copyright © 2022 by Michael Roy

of the tournaments held Friday afternoon. The boys did a volleyball tournament, while the girls did powder-puff football. If I remember correctly, my class won two out of our four high school years, while we won volleyball junior or senior year. (That's because I wasn't on the team. My attempts at serving the volleyball freshman year were...horrible. I don't want to talk about it.) I haven't attended a pep fest since I graduated, so I am interested to see whether they still do the tournaments. I will find out on Friday!

Then came the spirit jugs. There were two separate ones: One for the high school and another for junior high. I believe the voting system was based on how many people dressed up for the dress up days and votes by the teachers on how they thought our floats looked. My seventh-grade year, the homecoming game was

against the Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial Knights. Our slogan for the float was, "Nighty night Knights." I mean...come on. How could we not win the spirit jug with that on our float?

I know my class won the junior title both times, while we won the high school jug at least two years. (I think there's a chance we won it all four years that we were eligible; I honestly didn't pay attention to homecoming enough to remember that.)

Congrats to 2022 queen Jessa Westphal and king Jack Cahill! Also, congrats to Mr. and Mrs. Lips Cody Cowdin and Vanessa TerBeest. I'm glad they're still doing that one. That was a funny tradition.

I do see they have a couple of new events they are trying out during homecoming week. Lunch karaoke? What? Where was this when I was in

school?! It would have been so great to lead a singing frenzy to "Don't Stop Believin'." Nobody, and I mean nobody can resist singing along to that.

Can you tell I'm proud to be a Bulldog? I'm sure my talking about the glory days of high school makes it difficult. I know many parents of students who have that same pride. And I know for a fact when Friday comes around, and the mini-parade of floats takes to the streets of downtown Janesville, people will come out in droves to watch and reminisce about their time in high school like I have been the past few days.

Good luck to the cross country team, as they will be doing the yearly tradition of taking the game ball from our opponent's school grounds to our football field for Thursday's game against USC. I also wish the football and volleyball teams luck in their matches this week. Get the win for JWP!

This Week in Music

On Oct. 9, 1993, Nirvana entered the US Album Chart at No. 1 with their third and final studio album In Utero. The album was recorded at Pachyderm Studios just outside of Cannon Falls, Minnesota.

My mailbox one of many broken things

Hello people of Waseca county. I hope all of you are still enjoying your issues of Waseca County Pioneer as you get them every week. I, on the other hand, have just recently received all of my September copies of the paper because my mailbox wasn't working. Yay! My mailbox key did not want to open the lock, and when I told the front desk people in my building, they of course said they would get right on it. Well, after a month which included multiple trips to the front desk, one of the workers, who we hadn't talked to yet, offered to try a trick for getting into the mail (since the master key didn't work on our lock either). And, lo-and-behold, he got it. Over a month later and I have finally received my mail!

Now, no need to get too excited (although I know we all get excited when receiving the mail of course), because the mailbox isn't the only thing that has been broken around here.



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler
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Student housing is an interesting topic around the University of Minnesota lately. Mold is growing in the 17th Residence Hall. Last week it was discovered that mold, or fungal growth, has been growing in the vents in Residence Hall, causing some students to get really sick. The problem is that 17th Residence Hall is the newest one on campus, built in 2013. So how could it have a mold problem? While some students were temporarily moved into other dorms or makeshift rooms in the lounges other students were told to just check their vents.

But that's just one case. I live in the quad at Stadium Village, near the main campus. The Quad has some problems of its own, but I think that's because students or young adults are the ones in charge, while a big man sits in his office somewhere else. Maybe Delaware? Of course, I don't know this for sure, it's purely speculation.

While I have only mainly had to deal with the mailbox issue, oh and my bike tire which was stolen off my bike while it was in the parking garage, I have friends who have experienced much worse.

One of my friends couldn't use their toilet for the first month and when someone did come to fix it, water poured from the ceiling onto the worker. Eventually it got fixed, but that's still a month of not being able to use their own toilet. That same friend had a washer and dryer break a couple floors above them, leaving water damage in all the floors beneath. As to whether anything was actually done for that, I don't know.

Anyway, between those problems, and the cockroaches in the dorms last year, living on campus hasn't always been fun. I'm not saying all this to scare future gophers into not living here. Students just have to pick the right place or learn to live with the *fun* stuff.

My Determination: "Some things I cannot change, but 'til I try I'll never know."

— Stephen Schwartz, Wicked

Mario Kart, bike rides, and a life long friend

My best friend died Monday morning.

I've known Bryant Reese since we were practically in diapers. His sisters babysat me.

We went to the same daycare. It's how we met.

I still remember the day I met Bryant.

He was a dick.

Bryant's sibling made fun of me and Bryant said he wasn't going to be my friend.

We were five.

Then we went and played with tree bark.

We got yelled at by Amy Ferber, our daycare lady, for peeling a bunch of bark off of a big tree and playing with it.

We got more creative as we aged. Just ask one of our mutual friends, Morgan. We tormented her. (All in good fun.)

We grew up together. Not just Bryant, but the entire Reese family. (Karen was my all-time favorite babysitter by the way.)

Their house, Bryant's house, feels like home.

I remember smashing soda cans and getting yelled at by Lynn, Bryant's mom. I remember playing Halo, that Tony Hawk skater game, Mario Kart, oh, so much Mario Kart. We still played as adults. And later, Wii bowling, and tennis with his wife, my cousin, Taya.

I was the best man at their wedding last fall.

And so many McDonald's runs.

I remember binge watching the



Bryant Reese smiles during his son's first birthday party.

100 on Netflix, all of us camped out in Darin's living room. So many games of rummy. So many car rides. I remember him going on his first date, his first girlfriend. My first girlfriend. I remember talking about everything.

Fall was my favorite season, followed by summer.

When school started, at least in our teen years, we would all take off together after school in someone's car, going to do something we were supposed to, far too late into the night.

I remember going to Owatonna when he was dating one of his first girlfriends and being so excited to go because she had a friend I had the hots for. That was the fall of whenever we were 15 because we had to find someone to drive us.

I remember throwing a secret birthday party celebration at my dad's when we were 14 or 15 and almost getting caught. I think those same two girls stayed over that night. Forgive my/our shenanigans.

Summer wasn't far behind. Bike rides, video games, airsoft wars, soooo much Mario Kart. Ghost in the graveyard. Hide and seek. Bonfires.

The Lake, oh, the legendary Waseca Water Park (and the struggle of finding someone to drive us). Poker nights, even though I always lost.



Bryant holds his one year old son Gavin Reese, with Taya next looking on.



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens
copyright © 2022 by Eli Lutgens

As we got older, trips to the mall. Picking on Morgan Born. God, that's fun. (Again, all in good spirits.)

I remember babysitting his nieces with him. Karen's kids were also the most fun to babysit.

The thing I'll miss most is the sound of his voice. Talking to him. The conversations. There was never not something for us to talk about. Hundreds, thousands of hours spent together.

He was my best friend. I'm doing what I imagine most of our/the family is doing, which is blaming myself, telling myself I wish I could have or should have done something different, full well knowing there's nothing I could have done or can do now that can undo what happened.

I don't know why Monday happened.

I know if Bryant could hit the

undo button he would. But he can't. And none of us can.

I will be okay for those asking. Today sucks. Tomorrow will suck. His absence at every birthday, holiday, and family gathering will be felt forever.

We just celebrated Gavin, his son's first birthday. It was special. (Yes, the weather was hot, the cake melted, and Gavin was crabby, but it was still a special day.) I think I'll end on that. I remember taking probably two thousand pictures that day. That was my present to Bryant, Taya and Gavin, that I haven't gotten around to giving them. 1,475 is the exact count. And yes, I looked through every single one of them for the ones accompanying this column.

Love you lots, Bro (And family).



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Superintendent's Corner

by Eric Hudspith
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Best possible way

An important part of a school district's work is to ensure that students are learning in the best possible physical environment, as well as managing school facilities in a fiscally responsible manner. This ongoing conversation has continued throughout the last few years, and has included district staff, community members, and parents, along with consultants and School Board members. As the district determines what the next steps are in our facility planning, the School Board and district administration understand that it is critical to keep our community informed of the discussions and any potential upcoming decisions.

Throughout the next two months, the Waseca community can expect to see district communication in multiple formats that will present some of the conversations and information that the district has been collecting over the past few years. This information is intended to help the district's goal of sharing accurate information with our community so that our stakeholders can make an education decision if the time comes that they are asked to do so. You can expect to see a mailed newsletter, district social media and video messages, and monthly guest columns such as this. Our hope is that we make the information as accessible as possible for our community members. In addition to these communications, I encourage you to visit me at one of our upcoming "Coffee with the Superintendent" events. Please see the district website or Facebook page for dates, times, and locations.

Since a great deal of the facility discussion has surrounded Hartley Elementary, the first point will be to share some details about the building, its history of serving our district, and the current maintenance needs. We'll follow that communication with a discussion about what some of the options are for facility maintenance and improvement that the district has been considering. Next, some information will be shared about how school facility and maintenance projects are funded, and ways that districts access funding when needs become large. Finally in December, all of this information will be condensed and any timing of a decision and how that impacts the community will be discussed.

Although we do not know what the exact plan for future facility maintenance and improvement will be, Waseca Public Schools is committed to sharing the information we have collected with our community, and therefore working together with our stakeholders to create the best course of action. Thank you for your continued support of our students and staff!

■ Petersburg

from Page 1

the pandemic, the state had \$1 billion in reserves. After Covid, the state was \$1.5 billion in the red. "We switched from good to awful," Petersburg explained. "Employers pay that fund, and if we didn't do anything, we were going to be left paying about \$50,000 interest charge to the federal government. Employers would have had to pay that back plus the reserve and we would have seen double digit increases in the unemployment tax to business owners."

"We struck a deal to fund that back to full using some of that surplus and Covid funds."

Health insurance, specifically MNSure, has seen some waves. Group plans didn't really change, but premiums rose. Problems began when young people, who were expected to be paying into insurance, were put on free insurance. As a result, a much smaller pool of those insured have had to make up the difference in costs. "I've seen people paying anywhere from \$1,200 to \$1,800 a month with a \$10,000 deductible. So you're pushing over \$30,000 a year before it actually kicks in," Petersburg explained.

To legislate this, a co-insurance program brought down insurance premiums, with one-half billion dollars kicked in from the state to help stabilize the market and make up for the shortfall.

Thirdly, Petersburg talked about subsidy payments, "hero pay," for frontline workers. Initially proponents sought \$1 billion in funding, but the amount was negotiated down to \$500 million. The original goal was for each worker to get \$1,500 but so many people applied, the ending number was around \$487.

"I thought we would get a lot more done," Petersburg observed. "Waseca desperately needed the bonding bill which didn't go in. We're trying to get money for a water tower for ConAgra. They have a beautiful new plant out there and they need water to supply it.... I really hope that when we start in January we can do a smaller bonding bill right away to replenish the PFA fund, the public infrastructure fund around water. It can be used as a grant program for water treatment and water towers, as well as other needed infrastructure projects around the state. I'm certainly going to be pressing for it."

Petersburg said he would like to eliminate the estate tax and cut taxes on the lowest tier of income tax, "benefiting everyone."

Petersburg reported on other concerns regarding the budget, public safety and violent crime—which he shared is on the rise across the state and especially in the Metro—as well as rate reimbursement increases for health care.

"Those are just some of the highlights and what I expect to happen next year," Petersburg concluded before opening the floor for questions from the council.

Mayor Roy Srp shared concerns regarding violent crime, and asked what the state plans to do regarding THC laws.

"I didn't vote for that bill; I thought it was misguided," Petersburg responded. "It was sold to those who voted for it as a way to have some control over the volume [of THC products]... I don't think we need to have recreational THC, we already have enough personal escapes... That's just my personal view. It can have a devastating effect on families."

Petersburg went on to say that regardless of his personal views, society is changing, as is the approach of many elected officials. "And they make the decisions."

"Some cities are going to have an exemption. For example, Minneapolis and St. Paul have their own minimum wage laws. THC is going to be one of those things."

Srp shared a brief account of his experience being 40 years sober and expressed frustration over a lack of guidance from the state regarding the issue.

Council member Mark Christiansen asked Petersburg about election reform and said he would like stricter laws regarding how long someone needs to live in an area before running for office there.

Petersburg reminded the council he can't legally campaign during talks like this but did talk about legislation. Voter ID failed to be passed by direct ballot initiative several years ago and "Is something I think we need to do," Petersburg said. "I think voting is more than a privilege. It's one of the most important rights we have. I have concerns that we are watering that down by providing so much time to submit an early vote. I think you miss a lot of debate and discussion up to the point [of election day]."

Petersburg reiterated the importance of absentee voting for military and the elderly, and concluded by saying there has been enough debate in the press and the public regarding the issue.

The entire council thanked Petersburg for his report and encouraged him to return. Petersburg expressed his thanks to the council prior to his departure.

Donation



Christ the King Lutheran Church recently donated school supplies and cash in the amount of \$295 to Hartley Elementary School. Those present for the donation, from left, Naomi Easton, Mary Shemonek, Kay Marie Rahman and Hartley Elementary Principal, Ben O'Brien. The following letter was submitted from Ben O'Brien:

"I wanted to take a minute to thank you for the kind and generous donation of school supplies and money to Hartley Elementary. These supplies and dollars will go far in helping provide the students we serve with the necessary items to make school successful and fun. The teachers who are able to use these supplies for the students in the classrooms are elated and very grateful when outside entities think of the schools and bring in the extra markers, glue (we go through lots of glue), folders, notebooks etc.... Your generosity and giving spirit is very much appreciated."

Submitted by Marilyn Wilkus



TEAM academy's new all school picture.

TEAM of the month

By TRISTAN JENSEN
Editorial Assistant

Friday, September 30, TEAM Academy held its first CARES assembly of the year amid homecoming festivities. CARES is an acronym which summarizes the character-building goals the school has for its students: Cooperation, Assertion, Responsibility, Empathy, and Self-Control. Students showing these attributes are rewarded and celebrated at this monthly assembly.

"Wolf Paws" are tickets given to students for exemplary displays of CARES attributes during their daily routines. During the CARES assembly, tickets are entered in drawings where winners can choose to have a special lunch, bring a stuffed toy to school, skip a homework assignment, or some other non-material reward. The highlight of the assembly is the announcement of Student of the Month.

One individual from each grade level is honored. Candidates are nominated by their teachers. The September winners received a balloon declaring "You're #1!" and a ring pop in addition to recognition on a school-wide basis. Winners were sixth-grader Erasmo, fifth-grader RJ, fourth-grader Tamyah, third-grader Jemsslie, second-grader Jax, first-grader Georgia, and Kindergarten Aaliyah.

Erasmo's favorite color is black, and he knows he wants to go into the workforce after graduating high school but doesn't know yet what job he'd like to do. His life advice is to "keep on following your dreams and goals." Jax wants to be a soldier when he grows up, and his favorite color is green. His favorite school subject is math. RJ wants to be an astronaut, and also likes the color



STUDENTS OF THE MONTHS - From left: Jax (2nd Grade), Erasmo (6th Grade), Georgia (1st Grade), RJ (5th Grade), and Tamyah (4th Grade). Not pictured are Aaliyah (Kindergarten) and Jemsslie (3rd Grade)

black. Her advice for life is "Stay healthy and follow your dreams." Tamyah's dream job is to be a waitress, and her favorite food is nachos. In her free time she likes to walk to the park, and watch videos on TikTok. Georgia's favorite school subject is reading, her favorite food is spaghetti, and in her free time she likes to play with toys with her friends. When she grows up she wants to be a teacher.

Jemsslie and Aaliyah were not present to receive their awards.

Tests, projects, and work oh my!

It's homecoming season again! I believe last week was homecoming week at NRHEG and other schools around this area are following suit. Winona State's upcoming homecoming festivities are beginning to flood my Instagram feed and I don't even go there! In my own homecoming of sorts, I am coming home soon for fall break at the end of this week.

This break will be interesting because unlike last year, I have made plans with my sister Solveig and will likely be staying at her place. At some point though, I still want to come home to Janesville and visit the new kitten and my cat, Daniel Tiger (and my parents and little sister).

It's been a really busy time lately—tests, projects, and work oh my! But I'm really excited about a lot of what I'm doing. I'm concurrently planning marketing projects for the writing center and my actual position as a marketing intern for the cafeteria. On the cafeteria side, I am being tasked with distributing and promoting our annual survey. Needless to say, making advertising materials was a much more serious matter this time around. I still think my personal design style is shining through in what I ended up making, but it's definitely corporate-friendly. This survey is a truly multifaceted undertaking: there's a TV ad, a social media ad, signs at cash registers and serving stations, and it will be in my university's newsletter (with a blurb written by yours truly). It's exciting to be tasked with something this big, but I also need to put my game face on and make sure we hit our survey participation targets.

Additionally, I am partnering with another tutor to create folded cards to stir up interest in the writing center



Looking in the Mirror

by Jonah Stafford
copyright © 2022 by Jonah Stafford

to be displayed on cafeteria tables. I already have permission from the cafeteria boss to distribute them and I think I got the printing piece figured out, but now the focus is on collaboratively designing the darn things! So far, we're mostly done with the first two designs, so this might not take very long, but this is another huge undertaking for me. If this marketing messaging lands, I'll be halfway responsible and I love to see my impact being felt around campus. This ties into my marketing internship proper: nothing brightens my day like seeing ads I've made all around campus serving their purpose. After this period of rest and relaxation, I can't wait to do even more and make my voice heard! Or in the tutoring world, help others use their voices.

■ Career

from Page 1

tastic to work with."

Planning for Wednesday's event has been underway for a year among Fitch, the Chamber, and the Career Pathways teachers at the high school.

"We started this process last year with Clint Link and got the ball rolling with our first event in many, many years, with the help of Kari Wadd."

Another career exhibit, a more hands-on event, is in the works for the spring of 2023. "For instance, if Britton Plumbing and Heating comes, we want them to have something hands-on for the kids to work with. We want them to have an actual wrench they can turn, rather than just talking," Fitch explained. "We're really excited about it and have been very impressed with how today turned out."

"You never know what the students are going to enjoy," Peggy Hildebrandt of Connor Plumbing and Heating said. "We made them talk to us before we gave them popcorn. But they genuinely seemed to enjoy today. They asked a lot of great questions"

Following the student preview, which began at about 12:30, the full exhibit was open to the public from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Walleye and Shrimp Dinner

Friday, October 21st
(Served by the Honor Guard)

\$15.00 for Walleye, \$13 for Shrimp
5:30-7 p.m. (or sold out)

Wiste's Meat Raffle at 5:30 p.m.
(2nd chance spin for a free drink)

Karaoke with Kozy 7-11 p.m.
It's going to be a fun night!



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OBITUARIES

Bryant Reese

Bryant John Reese, age 25, passed away at his home in Waseca on Monday, October 10, 2022.

Born in Albert Lea on July 5, 1997, Bryant was the son of Darin and Lynn (Kopperud) Reese. He was raised in New Richland and attended NRHEG High School, where he enjoyed playing football and running track. Following school, Bryant worked various jobs in southern Minnesota. On September 26, 2020 he was married to Taya Rosacker in New Richland. Bryant enjoyed playing Xbox with friends and family, and created many lasting friendships through that platform. His greatest love in life was his son, Gavin, who is now sixteen months old. He also loved spending time with his many nieces and nephews, and he was a great uncle to them all. Bryant will be remembered as a goofy, funny person... always quick with a witty joke or his fantastic laugh. He gave the best hugs and although his siblings don't mind saying he could be the biggest pain, he will be sorely missed and forever loved by all who knew him.

Bryant is survived by his wife, Taya of Albert Lea; his son, Gavin of Albert Lea; his mother and step-father, Lynn and Dale Tiegs of Waseca; his father and step-mother, Darin and Kim Reese of New Richland; his siblings, Karen (Brett) Cully of New Richland,



Bryant Reese

Kayla Wobbrock of New Richland, Sammi (Gregg) Curtis of Castle Rock, CO, Brianna Reese of Waseca, Terra (Sora) Reese, and Kollin Reese of Waseca; many other step-siblings; and his former girlfriend Morgan Born of Waseca. He was preceded in death by two grandfathers; one grandmother; and one step-sister, Lexi Tiegs.

Visitation will be held from 4-7 p.m. on Monday, October 17, 2022 at the State Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca, with a closing prayer service to begin at 7 p.m.

Graveside burial services will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, October 18, 2022 at St. Peter Cemetery, Waseca County, Minnesota.

Helen J. Carter

Helen J. Carter, age 86 of Waseca, formerly of Waterville, passed away in the early hours of Monday, October 10, 2022 at Mayo Clinic Health System in Waseca.

Born in Heron Lake, Jackson County, Minnesota on October 8, 1936, Helen was the daughter of Art and June (Wright) Aeling. June was later married to Wesley Waugh, and together they raised Helen and her brother, Glen. Helen went to school in St. Paul and Waterville, MN, before graduating from high school in Colorado. She met the man that would become her husband, Veston E. Carter, while he was stationed at Lowry Air Force Base. They were married by Rev. Millsap on June 26, 1956 at the Methodist church in Brighton, CO. Together they had a family of three children. Helen was a homemaker that enjoyed sewing, crafting, playing bingo, and crocheting for her friends and family. She was also a fantastic cook, and family dinners will never be the same without her turkey stuffing. More than anything else in the world, though, Helen loved her husband and family. She loved "just being grandma" and all that title entailed. She was a former member of the VFW Auxiliary in Waterville and a long-time member of Harvest Time church in Faribault. Her relationship with Jesus was very important to her. She loved the Lord and wanted others to know Him too.

Helen is survived by her hus-



Helen J. Carter

band, Veston of Waseca; three children, Lillian (Robert "Bob") Rohl of Eloy, AZ, Belinda (Steve) Kiesler of Waseca, and Jim (Carol) Carter of Waseca; six grandchildren, Miranda (Rich) Wagner of Park City, UT, Matt (Marsjon) Rohl of Sammamish, WA, Kristi (Mike) Corchrn of Waseca, Katie (Kelvin) Nelson of Waseca, Elijah Carter of Waseca, and Isaac Carter of Waseca; and seven great-grandchildren, Jameson(9), Jaxon(7), Eve(6), Rocky(3), Sjoni(11), Riley(17), and Madison(21). She was preceded in death by her parents; and her brother.

Funeral services will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, October 16, 2022 at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Waseca, with Rev. Peter Kuriger officiating. Visitation will be held from 1 p.m. until the time of the service at the church on Sunday.

James K. Killday

James K. Killday, age 83, of Waseca passed away on October 5, 2022, at Colony Court in Waseca, MN.

James was born to Earl and Ruth Killday (DeBourd) on April 27, 1939, in Waldorf, MN. He graduated from Sacred Heart Catholic School where he was the star half-back. Following his education, he owned and operated a gas station in Waseca for many years. James went on to work for many car dealerships around Southern Minnesota for over 35 years. On July 2, 1960, he was united in marriage to Sharon Kay Campbell at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca. They were the love of each other's lives before Sharon's passing in 2012. James enjoyed spending his free time fishing, boating, wood-working, and working on cars. He was a handyman who was always helping others with home improvement projects. He was the one to count on when you needed a hand with anything. He was a loving father, grandfather, and great-grandfather who will be dearly missed.

He is survived by his son, Timothy (Jill) Killday of Waseca; by his daughters, Val (Mila) Killday of Waseca, and Jamie Killday (Nancy Danielson) of Prior Lake; by his grandson, Joel (Ashley) Killday of



James Killday

Waseca; great-grandchildren, Trae Killday and Aspen, who is on the way; step-grandchildren, Carrie (Patrick) Shouts, Casey (Macey) Mingo and Cayla Mingo, Dennis, Chris and Lynn Danielson all of the Twin Cities; niece, Kathy Eckhart; nephew, Doug Gerdts; and many other relatives and friends.

He is preceded in death by his parents; sister, Jackie Imbimbo; special friend and soulmate, Sharon.

A Gathering of Family and Friends was from 4 to 6 p.m. on Monday, October 10, 2022 at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service.

Jody Nelson

Jody was born on February 10, 1957, to James and Lillian (Gustafson) Mitchell in St. Paul.

She was a beloved daughter, wife, mother, aunt, and grandmother. She went to be with her Lord and Savior Thursday, October 6, 2022, at her home while surrounded by family as they sang hymns of praise.

As a young girl she accepted Christ as her Lord and Savior. Her faith and family were always centermost. This was the foundation in which she faithfully lived her entire life. She loved deeply and sincerely which was evident in everything she did. She met Blain J. Nelson at Waseca Senior High School and after dating four years and attending Mankato State University they were married on October 7, 1978.

God blessed Jody with exceptional talents, and she used those talents for His glory. Interior and exterior design was where those talents shined. She began designing at Mitchell Furniture (family business) located in the center of Waseca. Jody's designing touch was witnessed throughout the community in homes, gardens, churches, holiday decorating and special events. For the past 40 years

she, along with her husband Blain, were the original house flippers turning houses (too numerous to count) into homes. She loved her gardens. The exterior of her houses were always adorned with the most beautiful flowers and plants. She would spend every chance she had in her garden planting, pruning, and arranging. She loved sitting on her patio watching the birds and enjoying the environment she had created.

Her love of sewing and fashion design led her to open White Lace & Promises (bridal shop) with Robin Nelson (sister-in-law). Jody would sit with her customers as they described their dream wedding dress and then sketch the most beautiful representation of their dress. The brides would remark "That's exactly what I want!" Those sketches could have been used in bridal magazines and pattern books.

A note from Lillian Mitchell, Jody's mother:

These last 5-months we have spent in Waseca with Jody and Blain made us realize what an incredible family they created, and that Jody married into. To see the tender care of Blain, their three children, and Irene Edgett (life-long friend), and the whole Nelson clan and friends has been a huge

blessing. Jody was loved by so many. Blain and Jody's marriage was a living testament of what wedding vows truly mean; to love, to cherish, for better, for worse, in sickness and in health, till death do us part.

Jody is survived by her **Husband of 44 years:** Blain J. Nelson of Waseca, MN. **Children:** Lyric (Jon) Butler and Brock (Karissa) Nelson of Waseca, MN, and Bayli (Michael) Baker of Burnsville, MN. **Grandchildren:** Braxton Nelson (12), Brayden Butler (11), Kinsley Nelson (9), Easton Baker (7), Brooks Butler (6), Brolin Nelson (6), Payton Baker (5), Lofton Baker (3-mo). Parents: James and Lillian Mitchell of Hollister, MO. **Siblings:** Jaymie Mitchell (sister) of Hollister, MO, and Cameron (DiAnna) Mitchell (brother) of Fort Smith, AR; **Brothers-in-law:** Blair (Deanne) Nelson and Blake (Robin) Nelson of Waseca, MN; As close as a sister, care provider and life-long friend Irene (Steve) Edgett of Scottsdale, AZ. **Aunts:** Dagmar Merrick of Raymore, MO and Sharon Schwartz of Waseca, MN. **Uncles:** Dr. John Gustafson of Des Moines, IA and Robert (Audrey) Gustafson of Huntsville, AL. Numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.



Jody Nelson

A Gathering of Family and Friends was from 4 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, October 11, at the State Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca. Visitation continued for one hour prior to the service at the church on Wednesday.

Celebration of Jody's Life was noon at on Wednesday, October 12, at Christ Community Church in Waseca. Burial will be in Woodville Cemetery.



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Vision cards revisited

By MELISSA DUNN
Staff writer

Waseca school board members revisited the district’s “vision cards” at their October 6 workshop. The vision cards are part of the school district’s five-year strategic plan, which can be found on the school website. For the five-year plan, each department specifies objectives and measures for each goal included in the plan. “It’s not enough to report that we are working on these things,” Superintendent Eric Hudspith stated, “but also how we are really doing.” Board member Dave Dunn commented that he appreciated how the district’s strategic plan was a “living, working document” that could be continually adjusted as needed. Hudspith addressed the plan’s focus area of teaching and learning by highlighting staff development. The superintendent described a survey that will be distributed to school staff 30 days after each professional development experience. “Basically it’s asking

WASECA SCHOOL BOARD

‘Did you use this? Is this relevant to your curriculum or your classroom?’ We don’t want to waste our time on things that don’t support our teachers or our students.” Board chair Julie Anderson commented that it was a “very innovative” plan. Board member Katie Youngberg agreed; “Is it useful and valuable? We do that at work.”

Also discussed were plans for a printed district newsletter that will be mailed to the community on a regular basis and the itinerary for the FFA Nationals trip on October 25. Hudspith explained his desire to review the itinerary with board members at this workshop before seeking approval at their official monthly meeting. Youngberg commented that the trip is an “awesome opportunity for leadership.”

■ Coffee from Page 1

a tax burden to those affected homeowners.

Conrath said he was in favor of annexations, but they need to be cost effective. “Currently it isn’t. We looked at this 20 years ago on the council and voted it down.” The council, at the time, determined that the cost of adding sewer and water, along with other expenses, was too much.

Petsinger: “We (the city) can only grow so much inside the city limits and if we are at that capacity, we would have to annex some land. Like the other candidates said, there is a cost and it must make sense with the budget.”

Question 3 asked the candidates what qualities and experience would make them the best manager of the city, capable of running city council meetings.

Conrath had a long list. Eighteen years on the Waseca Fire Department including 12 as chief or assistant. Ten years on the Waseca School board. Conrath also mentioned his history of working for the school and again, his 67 years of residency in Waseca.

Petsinger said it’s important to learn from the people you’re working with, citing his time as a small business owner and community leader as qualifications. “The council is for the people and we need to welcome people to voice their concerns.”

Zimmerman cited his experience on church council, Waseca school board chair for eight of his 10 years as a member, as well as his time as a coach and instructor. “I think the key to leadership is to lead by example. Build a team and work with those teams around you. I.E. the Waseca Chamber of Commerce and the county commissioners, all whom I have a good relationship with.”

Question 4 asked the candidates whether they support the City Council’s Sept. 20 decision to enact a moratorium on THC products and/or if they would support continuing a permanent moratorium.

Petsinger said he supported the council’s decision. “We need to get the rules and regulations in place to do this correctly. A moratorium allows time for that.”

Zimmerman: “The decision was reactionary, and that’s not a good position for leadership. Discussion over legalized marijuana is nothing new.

“You’re turning away business from Waseca by doing this. If people want these products they can do it through the internet, let alone get it down the street. We’re only hurting our community by doing the moratorium. With proper sales tax, this would be a good avenue to pursue.”

Conrath said he was in favor of the moratorium because “some things like this should be regulated by the state. Our police department has the same rules to follow as every other department.”

Conrath used the example of the tobacco 21 law the city passed several years ago, and shared how the state passed the same law a year later. “Let the state decide.”

Question five asked the candidates if they were in favor of the tax abatement given to ConAgra as an incentive to build their new facility in Waseca.

Zimmerman began by continuing his response to the previous question, saying the city should focus on illicit drugs people can get in town which are illegal. He then said he was not familiar with the tax abatement but said he is happy ConAgra is here. He complimented the new facility, and stated that the city should give more incentives to existing business owners and homeowners.

Conrath said this is what the city has to do to draw businesses here, citing how New Richland gives free lots to persons wanting to build a home. “We are competing here,” he said.

Petsinger said a tax abatement can be a positive thing. “ConAgra is still here and they built a \$20 million facility. If we didn’t do something for them we would have lost them completely and that would not have been good for the town.”

The final two questions asked candidates if they support the 11% preliminary tax levy increase and what they consider as non-negotiable budget items, that is, ones which cannot be cut.

Conrath cited cost of living increases at 3 to 6% and said, with an effective tax rate of 4.49%, which is what was approved, the rate is right in line. “72% of the budget goes to salaries and anytime you cut a staff member, you cut service. It’s a catch 22.” He also said cutting the budget makes it difficult for the city to grow. He also observed that the city should be active in seeking grant money for its projects.

Petsinger: “Do I support 11%? Of course not.” He said his non-negotiable is public safety and that if residents would like to see a lower budget, they would need to consider cutting general services, for example, leaf collection. “We need to give the community choices.”

Zimmerman had the longest answer, talking about an occasion when he was on Waseca’s school board that the district was asked to cut \$6 million from its budget. “It required drastic budget cuts... In the long run I think we were better as a district because of it. The city could do something similar, although I haven’t scoured through the budget.

“In my opinion there is at least 4 to 5% which could be cut, but we have to be serious about it.”

Concerning non-negotiables. “Do you want a waterpark? Zimmerman asked. “It’s 2% of the budget and it loses \$100,000 each year. Admission is \$1 less than the park in Owatonna.

“Mosquito spraying is a hot topic which costs between \$50,000 and \$60,000. Humans survived for a long time without it. I think there are more effective ways to mitigate the problem than fogging up and down the streets.

“I challenge each department to find some efficiency,” Zimmerman concluded.

Closing statements

Zimmerman: “I haven’t prepared one, but thank you again for letting me be here. Thank you to my wife and kids for their support. They really pushed me to do this. They’re my biggest supporters.”

Conrath: “Thank you, and go vote November 8.”

Petsinger: “I’m excited to be running for mayor and would be honored to serve our community. I welcome discussion, comments, and concerns. Please vote November 8. Thank you.”

Meet your neighbor, Dean

Name: Dean Schoenfeld
Town: Waseca
Age: 69
Birthplace: Waseca

Family: Wife Leann, son Steve, son Gary, daughter Becky (Johnson), and daughter Sarah (Shunk)

Occupation: Helping hand for Ag Partners of Morristown, retired farmer

Hobbies: Play around with machinery, watch the grandkids

My dream vacation would be: Go back to Europe

The best thing about small town living is: You see more of your neighbors than you do anywhere else.

Last Good Book I Read: Yakov Smirnoff
Favorite TV show: Let’s Make a Deal

Favorite Food: Steak

All Time Favorite Movie: I don’t watch movies

Favorite Sports Team: Minnesota Vikings

Favorite musical artists: Anything country

My favorite activities when I was growing up: FFA and helping parents on the farm.

My biggest pet peeve: When people say they’ll help you but don’t

The best advice I’ve ever received: Keep a level head and keep going.

If I could have lunch with any one person, living or dead: Queen Elizabeth II

Something about me that would surprise people: I stood 15-20 feet away from Queen Elizabeth.



Dean Schoenfeld provided information on last week’s neighbor, Lloyd Schoenfeld.

No Halloween party, park grant sought

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher

It was Columbus Day Monday, so legally, no action was taken during the regular meeting of the Waldorf city council, October 10, 2022.

All items discussed will have action taken Monday, October 17, following a business development meeting at 6:30 p.m. The meeting, preceding the city council meeting, will be to discuss growing housing opportunities in Waldorf.

There will be no Halloween party at the Waldorf Community Center and families were encouraged to enjoy the newly paved roads and trick or treat in the community. In addition, the other reason, behind the cancellation, was Mayor Rob Wilkening is out of town and JoAnn is recovering from surgical issues, so there is no one to supervise the center.

In the water report, manganese was flagged by the MN Department of Health and letters were sent to residents regarding the high levels.

There were seven “no pays” in regards to water bills, totally \$1,644 not collected from Waldorf residents. Weed spraying for the season was completed last week. There is a large gouge in the concrete next to the mandoor at fire station which is being looked into.

A resident asked about a crossbar hanging from the water tower and

was informed the reason it has not been removed is likely due to a dispute of who is responsible to pay for its removal. The contract or the city.

A question was raised regarding insurance billing for fuel supplies for the fire department and yes, for fire they are reimbursed fuel charges, but not for medical calls.

The city audit is still in question and the bill for \$21,000 from Clifton Larson Allen will be paid when the final aspects are wrapped up.

At the community center, the leak under the sink has been repaired, and the interior painting has been completed.

Mayor Wilkening said he applied for a \$10,000 grant on behalf of the city to help fund a new park. “We have funds available, but we want to have enough to do the park right.”

Council members have heard that there is interest in putting in a specific mary-go-round, similar to the one in St. Clair in the Waldorf park and Wilkening said when they are ready, they will form a committee for the new park.

Waseca County staff have been directed to replace the reduce speed ahead signs on Southbound highway 3 and Westbound 74 with the proper warning signs.

A resident said he wished they could have backed up the Waldorf sign to the city limits so people driving into town would slow down

WALDORF CITY COUNCIL

sooner. The mayor sounded surprised that the sign was not already on the city limits. No action was taken.

Mayor Wilkening met with B.E.S.T. of Waseca group in September and had another meeting Wednesday morning.

It was announced, again, that elections are November 8 for the Mayor of Waldorf, and two open council seats.

After a question, the council informed those present that persons renting the community building, specifically Waldorf residents, may be entitled to a reduction for non-profit events, such as cancer benefits.

The city received three applicants for the cleaning position and after some discussion agree to wait to hire until the first meeting of 2023. Council person Melissa Sorbo will continue to help clean in the meantime.

At 7:26 p.m. the council held a public hearing for Jay’s Auto in regards to a conditional use permit for a business to operate on residential property.

The business has been there for a long time, with no complaints, and the hearing appeared to be much of a formality and the permit will likely be approved at the next meeting. The hearing closed at 7:34 p.m.

The city was told they need a separate bank account for their water and sewer payments.

The city is in search of an inspector for rental properties and has had no luck in their search thus far.

Dave Bottin presented his case, and his neighbors cases for why the city should vacate the alley between 3rd street east and 4th street east. His presentation included pictures of the alley, which doesn’t much resemble an alley as it’s just grass. A future homeowner could demand the city take out the curbs currently there to be in compliance and Bottin, and his neighbors, would rather the space no longer be coded as an alleyway. In order to do anything the city will have to hold a public hearing and inform each property owner via letter. In addition, Council person Carrie Ferch said she will abstain from any input or vote regarding the decision due to a personal bias/connection to the persons involved.

A discussion over compensation for meetings for council members took place. With the water sewer project, council members attended hundreds of meetings they weren’t expecting, many on a volunteer level, and many paid. The council didn’t reach a decision about how best to handle what should be classified as a meeting, and thus, payable to the council member.

The meeting closed at 8 p.m.

Cannabis ordiance nearly complete

By MICHAEL ROY
Publisher

Cole Blomstrom, a member of Janesville Boy Scout Troop 89, talked to the Janesville City Council during its meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 11 about possibly building a fire pit for properly disposing of American flags. After technical difficulties prevented him from presenting his prepared slideshow, he grabbed a sketch of the fire pit and showed it to each council member. He described the location of the pit as 30 feet west of the Veterans Memorial pavilion in Veterans Memorial Park across the street from city hall.

“The closest fire pit for properly disposing of American flags is in St. Peter,” he shared. “We have about 400 flags just in Janesville that need to be retired.”

To build the pit, he claims, “We will have to dig a hole, fill it with gravel, level the brick, and get a fire ring around it. The fire pit will be locked with a key.”

He asked that the council take over the management of the pit once it was finished, adding that he wants people to sign waivers before using it and for city staff to keep control of the key.

Regarding safety, he said, “The location of the pit is somewhat open. It’s located by the trees, but it’s not so close that branches will be on it.”

In addition to using the pit for flag disposal, Blomstrom recommended using it for warmth during events, especially when the holiday train comes to town in December.

Blomstrom ended his presentation stating that the plan is to start digging in the next two weeks. “We’ll need a

skid loader or something heavy duty to do that,” he said.

The council was in unanimous support of Blomstrom’s project. “I will donate a skid loader for you to use,” Mayor Andy Arnoldt said.

Council member Melissa Kopachek also praised the idea. “You have a more thorough plan than some professionals that come through here.”

Fire Board Meeting

In addition to the regular meeting, the Janesville Fire Board met to update the council on its numbers and plans for the Janesville Fire Department.

Fire chief Mike Santo stated that he anticipates increased costs for equipment replacement, both for this year and going forward. He mentioned that the “turnout gear” (firefighters’ suits and equipment) needs replacing; the department has 25 sets of gear, with a rotation that replaces four sets each year at a cost of about \$1500 apiece.

Another expenditure discussed was replacing valves on pumps. Seven need replacing; Santo expects the costs to be about \$7,000. “Hopefully, we don’t have any more surprises,” he said, also noting that a department “run report” shows that the number of calls has stayed fairly consistent. “We are averaging 19 calls a month over the last five years, and we are at that mark as of August 31,” he shared.

Mutual aid was the only item in the run report which was higher than usual. “There have been manpower issues in Janesville and other towns,” he explained. “They help us, we help them. In the case of a structure fire, we help out.”

JANESVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Reserve funds for the fire department were \$232,825 in the capital reserve and \$54,261 as of October 3. Santo asked the fire board and the council to use \$46,300 to purchase a new Chevy 3500 one-ton pickup to take the place of a 2004 F-350.

He requested that an additional \$10,000 be taken out of the capital reserve fund to pay for additional costs such as installing lights on the truck and retrofitting it to carry a water tank and pump. Both the fire board and the council approved Santo’s requests.

Santo reported that he wants to start a committee to identify what specifications the fire department should establish for a new pumper truck. “Our number one pumper right now is from 2004,” he elaborated. “Per city policy, we usually make our number one pumper into our second pumper to get 30 years out of a truck. We’re past due for that.”

The price for a pumper truck has nearly doubled since the last time the Janesville Fire Department bought a new one. “The process to get all of our specs could take 6-8 months, and it will be another 2-3 years before we even see the truck,” he stated.

The fire board meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

Other Business

Ron Bruegger spoke during the public forum asking that the city use some of Prairie Ridge Golf Course’s profits to offset the double-digit preliminary tax levy set in place.

“Up until last year, we’ve been paying taxes to help support the golf course,” Bruegger said. “I’ve heard people bragging about how great they’re doing while at the same time hearing about a double-digit tax increase. Maybe if they’re doing so great, the city can take some of the profits made in the past few years and defray some of this tax increase.”

In council reports, council member Andy Ahlman and City Administrator Clinton Rogers said that the personnel committee is close to reaching an agreement with the Janesville Police Department’s union. Rogers reported discussions were “cordial.”

“We should have something ready by the next meeting,” Ahlman added.

Mayor Arnoldt reported that the water tower coating project is experiencing delays due to the weather. He also shared that city utility workers have installed 96 percent of the water meters for the city’s new Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI).

Rogers stated that the city is close to getting a draft of a cannabis ordinance for the council’s review. “City Attorney Jason Moran and I have taken ideas from different cities around us and are putting something together. We will have the draft ready by next month.”

Other business included approving a pay estimate of \$196,346 for the 2022 street project, voting in favor of a rural lot split, approving a liquor license for the new restaurant Cinco de Mayo, and approving a temporary liquor license to St. Ann Parish for a fundraiser on November 12. The meeting adjourned at 7:48 p.m.



AT THE FEED MILL — Waseca County dairy princesses Brooke Jahr and Jady White were stationed at Farmamerica's feed mill all throughout Saturday.



HITCHING A RIDE — Throughout the Farmamerica Pumpkin Party Saturday, October 8, attendants could get transportation from a fleet of tractors throughout the whole site.



TRICK OR TREAT — Robert Tackett handed out candy at the site of an 1850s homestead on the east side of Farmamerica. This child from Arkansas was one of his lucky recipients.
Pioneer photo by Michael Roy



Pumpkin party at Farmamerica

By MICHAEL ROY
Publisher

It was a party at Farmamerica on Saturday, October 8. From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., over 100 people took part in its annual Pumpkin Party.

There were plenty of things to do during the day of fall fun and early Halloween celebrations. The old Crystal Valley Feed Mill was turned into a classroom for the day. Waseca County Dairy Princesses Brooke Jahr and Jady White were in charge of giving the hundred-year history of the place while providing arts and crafts for the kids to do in the space.

For the more adventurous children, there was a corn maze and scavenger hunt. The scavenger hunt included a dozen items for the kids ranging from donkeys to an anvil for the kids to spot. The children that completed the scavenger hunt received a fun prize. For those trick-or-treaters who ventured out to the

1850s homestead, a sweet prize of early Halloween candy.

Other events at the Pumpkin Party included Pumpkin Science — an experiment involving exploding pumpkins — pumpkin carving, photo ops, blacksmith demos, a petting zoo, combine simulators, pumpkin bowling, and a virtual reality experience in the feed mill.

Refreshments were provided by B-Lo Zero, who served mini donuts and snow cones, and Locia's Cocina, who provide street tacos, iced coffees, soda, water, and a hot dog kid's meal. Free hot apple cider was also provided by Farmamerica.

The Pumpkin Party gave children a head start on their Halloween trick-or-treating while showing the history of farming in southern Minnesota. With beautiful fall weather and many attendants, Farmamerica couldn't have asked for a better day to hold its event.

JWP Homecoming Coronation



KING AND QUEEN — On Sunday, October 11, Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton kicked off homecoming with the coronation. Left, coronation Emcee Kade Strauss carefully places the crown on Queen Jessa Westphal's head. Above, Jack Cahill is crowned king by Emcee Isabelle Rider with Nick Johnson grinning.



MR. AND MRS. LIPS — Every year, along with the crowning of king and queen, JWP holds a competition called "Mr. and Mrs. Lips." Top, Vanessa Terbeest smiles after receiving her prize of a lip-shaped pillow and Hersey's Kisses. Right, Hunter Jaeger accepts the Mr. Lips award from Isabelle Rider for Cody Cowdin, who was unable to make it to the coronation.

Pioneer photos by Michael Roy

Westphal, Cahill king and queen of JWP

By MICHAEL ROY
Publisher

Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton's Homecoming week kicked off with coronation Sunday, October 9. Crowned the king and queen for 2022 were Jack Cahill and Jessa Westphal.

This year's king and queen candidates were: Regan Asselin, escorted by Jack Cahill; Annabelle Hofteig, escorted by Sam Carlson; Kennedy Jewison, escorted by Cody Cowdin; Vanessa Terbeest, escorted by Nick Johnson; and Jessa Westphal, escorted by Karson Lindsay. (Hunter Jaeger took Cowdin's place, as he was unable to make the coronation.) The crown bearers for this year's coronation were Avery James and Mason Murphy.

Another award given out was "Mr. and Mrs. Lips." For this title, members of the court wear red lipstick and leave a red kiss on piece of paper. High schoolers vote to decide who has the best lips. Taking home lip-shaped pillows, a sash, and Hershey's kisses were Cody Cowdin and

Vanessa Terbeest.

Captains of the cross country, football, and volleyball team took bids for auction items after the introduction of candidates. The first was volleyball. Westphal talked about the team having an "interesting season."

"We are a pretty young team, so it's been a growth year for a lot of us," she admitted. "I don't think our record reflects how we've played, though."

After sharing a little bit about the volleyball team's season, Westphal started the bids for a volleyball signed by all members of the JWP team. When bids reached \$40 bid, Westphal smiled. "Going once... going twice... okay, sold. Thanks, Dad," she said.

JWP quarterback and captain Karson Lindsay then took the podium to share how the football team's season has gone. "It's been a tough start, and we've played some tough teams," he acknowledged. "But we've been in just about every game, and our schedule is getting easier."

Lindsay accepted a \$50 bid from a

JWP student for a football signed by each member of the team including the coaches.

Last, but not least, was Cross Country. Captains Faith Olson and Ashlin Keyes shared that their season has gone pretty well. "Everyone on the team had personal records at our last meet [in Waseca]," Olson said. She added that the team will carry out the tradition of running the football from the opposing team's school (this year, it's United South Central in Wells) to the JWP Football field. She accepted a \$45 bid for a jersey signed by all the members of the cross country teams.

To get to know the candidates better, Rider and Strauss started the games of "Never Have I Ever" and "Who's Most Likely To..." Topics for "Never Have I Ever" included cheating on tests, sleeping during class, and doing homework the morning it's due. The Emcees asked the court who they thought was most likely to be an hour late to class, complain about getting an A-, and other questions putting the court candidates on the spot.

With the crowning of Queen Westphal and King Cahill, this year's homecoming week will be very interesting. Instead of the traditional Friday night football game to end the week, the game against United South Central will take place Thursday, Oct. 13, with volleyball facing Triton on Friday.

Dress up days this year are: Monday, Dress like a Teacher Day; Tuesday, BBQ Dad and Soccer Mom Day; Wednesday, Surfer and Biker Day; Thursday, Class Shirt and Color Day; Friday, Bulldog Spirit Day.

Events throughout homecoming are: Monday, FFA Fall Fun Day; Tuesday, Cross Country at United South Central; Wednesday, Lunchtime Karaoke; Thursday, Game Ball Run by Cross Country, Football against United South Central at 7 p.m.; and Friday, Pep Fest, Spirit Walk, and Volleyball against Triton at 7:15 p.m.

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Argus archives

100 Years Ago

-The Ladies Auxiliary of the American Legion, Post No. 281, has planned and will put on a play in the Opera House, Janesville, for two nights, Monday and Tuesday, October 2nd and 3rd. Mr. k. J. Boyd of Madelia is in town as promoter and manager. The members of the company are holding rehearsals under the direction of Mr. Boyd. The object of the play is to secure a fund for auxililar purpose.

-Some weeks ago this paper published an article written in a spirit of jo-cose satire relative to the somewhat famous bush that is just now receiving attention, the common barberry, in connection with levity aimed at the attempt on the part of the state to annihilate weeds through employing inspectors at high salaries. Somehow or other this article got into the hands of the federal authorities and as a result this office was bombarded with queries asking particulars. Later two representatives of the department that has in charge of the eradication of the bush showed up and as a result accomplished things. The gentlemen referred to are A. L. Sjawell and R. H. Knight. They found in all 140 specimens, large and small, in various parts of the county. One found in the center of Janesville village is now on exhibition at the Argus office. These gentlemen requested that it be displayed in order to give farmers an opportunity to become familiar with it.

-Herbert Goltz, son of Edward Goltz, was quite seriously injured on Saturday when he fell under a load of amber cane. The wheels passed directly over his body. He was hauling the material from a field to the barn on his father's farm when he accidentally slipped and fell from the load. He was taken to Waseca where he is receiving treatment.

75 Years Ago

-The Golden Bears of Janesville High School football team ran all over Loyola (Mankato) high at will on the latter's grounds last Friday night, trouncing them by a score of 24-0. It was sweet revenge for the Bears, since it was their first win over Paul Weides boys in six games, one game resulting in a tie 7-7. The Bears played good, hard, sound football and every one from the starting eleven to the last substitute on the squad played exceptionally well. The highlight of the game was Bernie Galler's interception of a pass and going thirty-five yards for a touchdown.

-The fourth annual State convention of Moms of America, Inc. was held at the Assemblies of God church in Sherburn on Saturday, Sept. 13. Janesville Unit Four was well represented at the meeting with thirteen Moms in attendance. In arriving at Sherburn, the first thing to meet the eyes of the ladies were pennants reading, "Welcome Moms to Sherburn" in the window of each business place. They were published and placed there by the Business Men's Association.

-Fred Halstead, president of the Waseca County Farm Bureau, has just received notice from J. S. Jones, secretary of the Minnesota Farm bureau Federation, that he has been appointed to represent the first congressional district on the State Poultry Committee that has been recently nominated by the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation. This committee consisting of seven members are called for a meeting at the State Farm Bureau office on Monday, Sept. 29.

50 Years Ago

-Ninety-five years ago, two Finley brothers followed the railroad west out of Wisconsin, through southern Minnesota all the way to Tracy. Joe and John Finley were looking for a place to settle down and start a general store. They passed right through Janesville and Mankato on their way to Tracy, stopping at each town to look it over. Then they came back to Janesville, figuring the town on the lake had a better future than Mankato. As far as the Finley brothers were concerned, they were right. The store they opened in 1877 has been prospering ever since. Joe Finley, as most residents know, was Herb's father and Herb is now 70. After taking over the store in 1923, Herb ran it until 1966 when he sold Finley Bros. to his son-in-law Roy Johnson. But Herb still helps out nearly every day until noon.

-The surprising Golden Bears tucked away their third shutout of the season and moved another step closer to the conference title here Friday night when they overwhelmed Morristown, 33-0. The locals struck early for a 6-0 first quarter lead on Ron Cummins' quarterback sneak and were never again challenged. The Bears fumbled the point-after try, but came back with 14 points in the second quarter to put the game out of reach. Mike Finley set up one of the touchdowns by making a "circus" interception of a batted-away Morristown pass.

-Mr. John Harris of Nairobi, Kenya, Africa, and Mr. Lawrence Saxton of Republic of Ireland were guests at the Edward Denn home on Sunday through Tuesday following Farmfest. Mr. Harris represented the Government of Kenya and Mr. Saxton was team manager of the plowers of the Republic of Ireland. On Monday, Ed Denn took them on a tour of the local farms. They were evening dinner guests of Ralph Ireland who flew them over the Farmfest site and showed films of a northern fishing trip.

25 Years Ago

-A roomful of children having fun learning is the picture of success for Kristen Bartelt and Missy Peterson, founders of Kids' Korner, a prekindergarten program for the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton School District. "We really feel it is an important step to Kindergarten," said Peterson. In its second year, Kids' Korner has seen its enrollment double. There are currently 31 students enrolled with five additional openings available. "It was worth it," Peterson said. "The numbers stand for themselves." While many had expressed interest in a prekindergarten program, no one ever pursued it. Bartelt and Peterson said they talked about starting a prekindergarten program for two years. "Parents just wanted more for their kids," Peterson said.

-With a resolution in hand, the city of Janesville is attempting to remove damaged and abandoned mobile homes from the Grove Street Trailer Court. During its Monday, Sept. 22 meeting, the Janesville City Council approved a resolution ordering the removal of 13 mobile homes from 604 West Grove St., Janesville. The city, through its police department and zoning administrator, has determined that these mobile homes constitute a health hazard because they are inadequately maintained, dilapidated, physically damaged and/or abandoned manufactured homes.

-Rumors of a multiple city rumble drew more than 75 carloads of teens to Waldorf Saturday night, but tipped-off law enforcement helped keep the cruisers under control. The gathering was apparently going to involve teens from Waldorf, Janesville, New Richland, and Waseca versus St. Clair, Pemberton, and Mankato, the Waseca County Sheriff's Department reported. City, county and State Patrol officers were all put on alert. At least four officers were in Waldorf, where the first four or five vehicles showed up at 8:20 p.m. A deputy made several traffic stops, but found no alcohol or weapons. One teen said 600 kids were to attend the alleged fight.

-Nathan N. Zimmerman has joined the U.S. Army under the Delayed Entry Program at the U.S. Army Recruiting Station, Mankato. The program gives young men or women the opportunity to delay enlistment into the Army for up to one year before reporting to basic military training. The enlistment gives the new soldier the option to learn a new skill, travel and become eligible to receive as much as \$40,000 toward a college education. After completion of basic training, soldiers receive advanced individual training in their career specialty. By enlisting, Zimmerman qualified for a \$12,000 bonus. Zimmerman, a 1997 graduate of Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School, will report to Fort Sill, Lawton, Okla., for military basic training Tuesday, Oct. 28.

Waseca newspaper archives

Waseca Herald, 1922

-J. F. Reed, president of the Minnesota Farm Bureau, delivered an interesting address to a large gathering of farmers at the Waldorf Consolidated School last Monday evening. In a plain, matter of fact way, he recounted many of the things accomplished and told of the plans for the future. He stressed the fact that it was the united strength of the Farm Bureau of the nation which was responsible for the passage of the Capper-Tincher bill through Congress which permits farmers to form their own selling agencies, and told of the newly organized Northwestern Sales Agency which will handle grain for the Minnesota farmers without paying tribute to the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce.

-F. E. Juhnke has on display in his harness store this morning a desperate looking 45-calibre Colts army gun, fully loaded, which he wrested from a burglar who entered his home. Last night, Mr. Juhnke awoke at 3 a.m. and saw a man going through his pants pockets. He jumped out of bed and the fellow ran, with Juhnke pursuing him. He ran out the kitchen door, which he had left open and when in the yard he turned and pointed a gun at Mr. Juhnke telling him to go back. Juhnke grabbed a pole used for holding up the clothesline and started for the burglar. The latter snapped the gun, but it failed to go off, and then the clothes pole came down on his head and he dropped the gun and ran. As Mr. Juhnke was barefooted and in his pajamas he could not successfully follow.

-Dr. Shipstead, Farmer-Labor candidate for U. S. Senator, drew an audience which packed the courthouse last evening. He contrasted the prosperity of the people two years ago with the conditions prevailing this year and maintained that the change was mainly due to two causes, the manipulation of the Federal Reserve banking law and the Esch-Cummins railroad law, both of which he said should be promptly repealed.

-The firemen were called out Sunday night to the Andrew Nelson home in the south part of town, where a fire started in the cupboard, presumably by mice and matches. The fire was promptly extinguished, but the kitchen and furniture were somewhat damaged. An alarm was sent in from the St. Paul store yesterday morning. Smoke from the basement of the Crystal, where they were making candy, entered the adjoining basement and the employees thought

there was a fire. No damage was done.

Waseca Herald, 1947

-Waseca businessmen last Thursday night were host to members of the legislature, and Southern Minnesota farm leaders and businessmen at the Lakeside Golf club with some 100 present for dinner. Many of the guests came early enough to tour the countryside and play a game of golf before the dinner which was served at 6:30. Howard Deichen, with himself as pilot, made his plane available to take the guests for a quick sweep around Waseca so that they might see the country from the air.

-Central high school won its third football game in a row Friday night when it met St. Peter here on the Community Athletic Field. Central's three touchdowns came in the second and fourth quarters with two in the second and one in the fourth. Trying place kicks for the extra point failed three times. St. Peter was outweighed in the game and lacked the drive and aggressiveness that Central showed in all four quarters.

-The Waseca Exchange club, newly formed service club for the community, was presented with its charter last night at a dinner which was attended by some 75 members and guests. Stafford King, state auditor, was the guest speaker and E. C. Ward was toastmaster for the occasion. The presentation of the charter was made by Walter C. Ford of Mankato, national regional vice president, to Harold Smith, president of the Waseca Exchange club.

-A Waseca boy, now serving in the army air corps in Florida, wrote home last week that he had experienced the hurricane which destroyed so much property and continued on to Louisiana. He is Cpl. Donald Frank, son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Frank of St. Mary township. Writing of the storm, he said "The hurricane is over and I can tell you that the field is a mess, I and six others served as guards for 55 hours. The barracks was blown off its foundation, lost half the roof and a baby was born in the officers' club."

-Waseca had another case of polio develop last week when Kathleen, the seven months old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Marion Cunningham was found to have contracted it. The child was taken sick on Wednesday and on Friday she was taken to the Sister Kenney Institute in Minneapolis where a diagnosis confirmed the one here.

-Plans for fall activities by members of the Junior Chamber of

Commerce were discussed at the regular meeting of the organization which was held Monday evening at Hotel Waseca. Members also heard reports from members who attended the State Board meeting in Fairmont last Friday and Saturday. The Jaycees may make application for a license to hold boxing matches in Waseca if the plan is feasible and President Herbert J. Streitz was instructed to appoint a committee to look into the matter. The Owatonna Jaycees have asked the Waseca organization to sponsor a sub-district Golden Gloves tournament.

Waseca Daily Journal, 1972

-Mrs. Pat Hanson started in September as the swimming pool director at the new Waseca High School. She also teaches a class of girls physical education and health. Mrs. Hanson recently graduated from Mankato State College with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Recreation and Park Administration. She has taught swimming in Waseca previously and has also taught Red Cross training classes.

"I was NOT scared," said Jennifer Hill, a student in the aerospace science class at the high school. "I just didn't want to heave all over." Jennifer was describing her first experience as a passenger in the airplane her fellow classmate Cherie Hintz was flying. The aerospace course isn't new to Waseca High School. The course is in its third year and has been expanded this year to Aviation I, II, III, and IV. According to Gordon Hoff, the class instructor, the fourth quarter class is "aimed directly at preparing the student to be a pilot." Hoff has been interested in flying for some time. When the opportunity arose to hold such a class at the high school he expressed an interest in teaching it "and has been teaching it ever since". This fall he will complete his work to become a licensed pilot.

-The cast for the upcoming production, "Don't Drink the Water" by Woody Allen has been selected and rehearsals are in progress. Pastor Merlin Bartelt is playing the role of Father Dobney. Dick Anderson will be Ambassador Magee, Alan Searle is Kilroy, Larry Gallagher is Walter Hollander, Diana Johnson is Susan Hollander.

-Mr. and Mrs. Alvin H. Schmidt, Waseca, observed their golden wedding anniversary at their home Sunday. The event was hosted by their children. Martha Naske and Alvine Schmidt were married October 4, 1922, at St. Paul's Lutheran church, Meriden by Rev. Eckhoff. Their

flower girl Helen Naske, now Mrs. Levi Robran, Waseca and wedding attendants, Lorna Schmidt, R. 1, Ellendale and Aruthur Schmidt, R. 3, Waseca were present at the golden wedding.

Waseca County News, 1997

-Despite concerns from 120 residents on Lake Francis, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has decided to move ahead with the expansion of the lake's public access. The expansion would accommodate more parking and get cars and boat trailers off the shoulder of the county road. "We kind of felt at this stage, we need to take care of the safety problem," said Bob Kaul of DNR trails and waterways. "It's very seldom that we can find property next to an existing access." About an acre would be used to accommodate more parking and to build a shoreline buffer, so rainwater is filtered before running into the lake.

-Local families lost members of two generations Saturday and are praying for the recovery of a third. A trailer that came unhitched instantly killed Tricia Scholljegerdes, 19, of Waseca and her aunt, Jill Sorgatz, 25, of Elysian. Sorgatz's 4-year-old daughter Courtney Hermel was flown to St. Mary's Hospital in Rochester, where she remains in serious condition with head and other injuries.

-Pat Abbe was named the new executive director of the Waseca Area Foundation on Wednesday Sept. 24. The previous executive director, Sherry Ristau, moved on to become executive director of the Southwest Minnesota Initiative Fund. Linda Grant, who serves on the Waseca Area Foundation Board of Directors and was on the search committee said, "The process took several months. We were blessed with having a lot of applicants. We chose the person we thought could best serve the Foundation."

-This year's tough field show has brought the Waseca Marching Jays to a new height - first place at the Iron-dale "Music of the Knights" festival Saturday. "The kids had a great show," director Kim Cosens said. "They did a great job." The band was first out of six bands in its class, and also took the Outstanding Horn Line award. There was no parade competition. The band has taken third and second places at this competition in the past.

Star archives, New Richland

100 Years Ago

-With both days opening bright and sunny after a spell of dismal, gloomy weather, the "Dairy Days" at New Richland last week Thursday and Friday were blessed with ideal weather and a corresponding crowd attendance that eclipsed any previous event ever attempted in the history of the city. The big "Dairy Days" proved to be successful beyond the expectations of the committees in charge and the public in general. Every detail went off smoothly and the clean manner in which the celebration was conducted, devoid of clap-trap and penny attractions won the favorable comment of scores of strangers who visited New Richland the two days.

-It was, indeed, a pleasing spectacle with the fine dairy calves and the livestock as they fell in line behind the bands at the head of the parade the first day which formally opened the two-day "Dairy Days" celebration. Following closely came forty-five individual business floats, each elaborate in every detail and every one centering on the theme "Dairying". "One of the best and most worthy attractions staged in Waseca county," said one man as he saw the mammoth parade eight blocks long pass in full.

-Much comment was voiced by the public on the manner in which the "Dairy Days" program committee conducted their work, with the idea in mind, "everything was just as advertised." Each event was staged right on time and as though arranged beforehand, the races and contests went off without a hitch. There was no coaxing and pleading for contestants and thus little time was wasted. Among the contests was a Potato Polo race which deservingly at-

tracted the most attention. Messers. Routh, Bunn, and Brown were the contestants in the event, the object of which was to get a certain number of potatoes from a box at one end of the street to a box at the other end. Each man was mounted on a horse and was provided with pointed sticks with which to spear the potatoes. C. A. Routh was the winner in this event with O. C. Brown and J. W. Bunn tied for second place. they counted five runs.

75 Years Ago

-Raymond Rosacker, hurt last week in a fall of 34 feet in a silo, is still in Memorial hospital. Mrs. Rosacker tells us that an Xray taken Tuesday revealed a broken vertebra and he must remain at the hospital several days more. Earl Casper, thought to have come through the fall in pretty good shape was Xrayed again also and a chipped vertebra was found, according to Mrs. Rosacker.

-No less than seven more houses are expected to be available for occupancy in New Richland within the next few months. Five are to be built new and two are being moved in from farms. While these new and moved-in houses are going to help somewhat alleviate the house shortage, the condition will not be entirely overcome. No one can dispute that New Richland is showing splendid growth when measured by property values at the present time.

-The New Richland Cardinals lost their first conference football game to Alden 13 to 12 in a thriller that long will be remembered. Late Friday afternoon after the game a sad bunch of boys sat around in the shower room. They were thinking about how much they desired to win and how close, how very close they

came to it. There was only 2 ½ minutes left and the pigskin was in our possession. They could stall and keep the ball until the end of the game, but as fate so dealt, it did not happen.

50 Years Ago

-Two women from Denmark arrived in Minnesota, August 18 and have been enjoying the friendly atmosphere of New Richland and other small towns in the state. They are Mrs. Ane Larsen and her friend, Mrs. Ingaborg Pedersen of Nykobing Falster, Denmark and this is their first trip to the United States. Mrs. Larsen is a cousin of Mrs. Bill Nock, where the two have spent most of their vacation.

-Capt. Joseph R. Stencel, 27 of Wright Patterson Air Force Base and his 23-year-old wife will be able to register to vote in the Ohio November general election, because Capt. Stencel has been successful in overturning an Ohio law that prevented servicemen and women from voting in state elections. A temporary restraining order was granted by a federal judge in Columbus, Ohio. Because of his efforts, others in similar situations in that state will be allowed to register. The order was granted to prevent enforcement of an Ohio law that says service persons living on military bases may not be considered residents of the state for voting purposes. Stencel, a health physicist at the base's radiological laboratory, filed a suit on September 15, saying the statute violated his constitutional rights. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward C. Stencel of R2, Waseca and is a graduate of Waldorf-Pemberton High School.

-New Richland-Hartland gridiron stars stomped Waterville-Elysian, 44-0 Friday night in a Gopher con-

ference game at Waterville. Scoring three of the touchdowns for the Cards was Keith Hendrickson who carried the mail 11 times for 200 yards.

25 Years Ago

-The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva School Board adopted a proposed 1997 levy, payable in 1998, set school bus driver salaries and approved salary lane changes for instructors at a meeting at Ellendale, Monday night. Supt. Rich Lorenz opened the discussion on the proposed levy saying, "I received the figures for the proposed levy, late Friday afternoon. I prepared the most accurate figures I could at this point for your review. This year it has been a late process, because there were no bills regarding public school funding passed until the special legislative session." He recommended that the board adopt the maximum levy at this time, because if they did not a special meeting would need to be called.

-New Richland Girl Scout Troop 211 visited the Goodhue County Museum in Red Wing, recently. The trip to the hands-on three story museum proved to be fun as well as educational for the Scouts. One of the favorite stops in the museum was a dressing room where the girls could try on some of the pioneer clothing.

3. In their first win on the gridiron this fall, the Panthers were never really threatened. They scored in each of the four quarters, defeating Maple River, 28-7. "I think our offense looked pretty strong," Coach John Schultz said. "The only thing that stopped us was our own penalties." NRHEG was penalized 10 times and the Eagles, nine.

Oh so close

Double-OT loss ends season for WHS girls' soccer

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

It took two games, three overtimes, and nine goals for the Red Wing and Waseca girls soccer teams to find out which team was better.

The Bluejays' season came to an end Tuesday night, 3-2 in the second overtime, at home against the fifth-seeded Wingers.

"Overall it was a fantastic season," Bluejays coach Kyle Tomlinson said. "It's really unbelievable given such a small squad we have. I'm incredibly proud of how these girls played tonight. With wind like we had tonight, it's unpredictable. Sometimes, like tonight, you just have to take shots and see what happens. We didn't do enough of that tonight."

Tomlinson shared that at points throughout the season, the girls played three games a week, with some players playing halves on both varsity and junior varsity. There were games where the Jays dressed 11 players for 11 positions.

In the battle of the birds, the Bluejays scored first on senior to senior connection with a goal from Thyme



DOUBLE TROUBLE — The Waseca High School girls' soccer team saw its season end with a 3-2 double-overtime loss to Red Wing at Waseca Tuesday, Oct. 11. From left: the Bluejays' Samantha Azure (2); Ella Krautkremer (8); Addison Weiseler.

Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens

Lang, assisted by Maia Bartelt. A goal from the Wingers with 2:32 left made it 1-1 at the break.

Seven minutes into the second half, the Jays scored their final goal on a deep breakaway pass to Gabriela Lopez.

A penalty set up a free kick and a tying goal from Lillie Sonju three minutes later.

Bluejays goalie, freshman Ella Bulfer, played a great game, making several diving saves.

"She's been doing it all season,"

Tomlinson shared. "She's phenomenal, one of the best goalenders I've had the pleasure of coaching or playing with."

In the second overtime, a sideline inbounds pass was followed by a long shot on goal which went right through the fully extended, leaping, outstretched fingertips of Bulfer.

"There's nothing any of us can say that will make this any better," Bluejays Tomlinson told players after the game. "You need to know you gave it everything you could tonight, just

like you have all season. It hurts, but you know what, you left everything out there on the field. And we can't ask any more of you than that."

Under first-year head coach, Tomlinson, the Bluejays went 11-6-1, finishing second in their conference. They graduate three seniors Samantha Azure, Lang, and Bartelt.

The Bluejays team had a chance to clinch the Big South Conference title for a second year in a row, but St. Peter, the only team in the conference to defeat them this year, took

the second game between the two teams and took the title from the Bluejays 3-0.

Before the big regular-season finale against St. Peter, Waseca hosted Mankato Loyola Oct. 4 for what Coach Tomlinson called "an intense contest."

After halftime, Evelyn Nydegger gave the team its first goal of the night. Loyola responded a few minutes later, scoring their lone goal of the night via penalty kick.



Ella Dufault

Bluejay CC 1st, 3rd at Lakeside

By MICHAEL ROY
Publisher

It was a great day for running at Lakeside Golf Course, Waseca Thursday, Oct. 6. It was the first time this season that Waseca, NRHEG, and WEM-JWP faced each other.

Out of the three schools, the hosts performed the best.

Waseca's girls took the top spot with 45 points, edging Faribault by two. Individually, the team had four runners in the top 10. Ella Dufault took second in 19:48.9, Stella Omtvedt placed was fourth in 20:10.7, Callie Dufault seventh at 20:28.5, and Maren Schimming ninth in 21:06.. Other finishers for the Waseca girls were Kya Hoof (23rd, 22:29.8) and Taylor Markeson (26th, 23:07.1).

The Bluejay boys' team placed third out of seven teams with 75 points. Jordan took the win with 41 while Faribault was second. Leading the boys was Isaac Feldkamp in third in 17:05.9. Joe Feldkamp was not far behind, taking 5th in 17:28.

Other finishers for the Waseca boys: Addison Sampson (20th, 18:57.4), Tristan Godwin (21st, 19:00.9), Tyler Jellum (26th, 19:10.7), Bobby Mortenson (34th, 20:02.8), and Cade Calbow (36th, 20:02.8).

NRHEG may not have as many runners as the other schools, but they still made their presence known. The boys beat WEM-JWP, taking 6th with 141 points. Freshman Devin Nelson was the Panther boys' leading runner, taking 11th with a time of 18:12.1. Other finishers were Jacob Karl (18th, 18:38.1), Connor Nelson (35th, 19:58.6), Samuel Christensen (38th, 20:16.1), and Jackson McGannon (39th, 20:22.7).

Annabelle Petersinger, NRHEG's only girls' runner, took 36th out of 47 in 24:32.

WEM-JWP had a great meet, too. Despite not having as many top finishes as they'd like, every member of the two teams had personal records, according to girls' captain Faith Olson.

Co-head coach Jonathan McDonough had positive comments on the meet. "This meet is always a great race for the kids to shoot for a PR, as it is relatively flat," he shared. "The weather was also great."

Team-wise, the Grizzly boys took last out of seven schools with 172, while the girls took fifth with 138.

MaKenzie Westphal placed sixth. Other finishers for the girls' varsity: Kwynn Krause (27th, 23:20), Madalyn Miller (24:07.1), Faith Olson (24:22.7), Ashlin Keyes (38th, 25:07.3), Maddie Heuss (44th, 27:21), and Lydia Huelsnitz (47th, 32:34.4).

Finishers for the boys: Luke Cahill (24th, 19:10.5), Wyatt Jans (31st, 19:41.9), Alexander Kleve (32nd, 19:48.6), Gavin Marinenko (42nd, 20:45.9), Carter Hoehn (43rd, 20:49.4), David Lamp (46th, 22:16.1), Carson James (47th, 23:28.4).

Bluejays total 81 at New Ulm

Teams combine for state record

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The New Ulm Eagles definitely gave the Waseca Bluejays a scare.

By the end, though, the only thing scary was the final score.

The Bluejays possessed the football 11 times and scored 11 touchdowns, blowing out the Eagles 81-36 while spoiling New Ulm's senior night Thursday, Oct. 6. The final score is not a misprint. The Bluejays won 81-36. The combined point total is a new state record.

"We told the players that good things happen to teams that play hard," said Waseca coach Brad Wendland. "We knew we would have a lot of things to improve on after viewing the game on film and we were excited to do that. We challenged them to be relentless at getting better."

The Bluejays totaled 595 yards of offense, 438 rushing and 157 passing.

Quarterback Andrew O'Brien ran for 132 yards and three touchdowns while passing for three scores. Christian Rodriguez racked up 209 yard rushing with two touchdowns. Damarius Russell rushed for three touchdowns.

The Bluejays, who improved to 5-1, hosted Worthington in another Thursday game Oct. 13. They finish the regular season Wednesday, Oct. 19 at Luverne.

If you like offense, Friday's game at New Ulm was a treat. If not, you were shaking your head.

The Eagles, who entered the game with one win this season, shocked the Jays on the opening drive, going 80 yards in seven plays.

On Waseca's first play, OBrien broke up the middle and sprinted 80 yards for a touchdown.

Then it was the Eagles' turn. They needed only three plays to go 70 yards.

The Bluejays - behind hard running by Rodriguez - covered 59 yards in 13 plays.

After the Eagles went three-and-out, Waseca went 50 yards in seven plays.

Two plays later, New Ulm scored on a 40-yard run.

The Jays proceeded to travel 80 yards in eight plays. The key plays in the drive were O'Brien passes of 18 yards to Carson Ohnstad and 18 yards to Russell.

The Bluejays forced a three-and-out and partially blocked the punt, giving them the ball on the New Ulm 13. You know what happened next.

On the second play, Rodriguez ran 6 yards for a touchdown.

Waseca ended New Ulm's next possession after three plays as Russell recovered a fumble. It took the Jays four plays to go 67 yards, the final 20 coming on a pass to Ohnstad.

The Eagles answered, of course, using seven plays to go 70 yards.

It was finally halftime, and the Bluejays led 47-29. Neither team, however, was finished - especially Waseca.

Taking the opening second-half kickoff, the Bluejays scored after only two plays to make it 55-29.

Starting at their own 29, the Eagles drove 12 plays to the Waseca 8 before stalling with a fourth-down incompletion.

The Bluejays traversed the 92 yards in only four plays.

After a New Ulm punt, the Jays drove 46 yards in four plays.

Carter Ellis intercepted a pass to set up Waseca on the New Ulm 19, and the Jays scored again after four plays despite having reserves in the game.

Sophomore Micah Allen-Haas scored the Bluejays' final touchdown on a 34-yard run.

The final 10 minutes of the game were played with a running clock, as per rule.

Wendland declined to speculate on how far this year's team can go.

"We don't look ahead," he said. "Our focus is what we can do on Monday to help us prepare for Worthington. It is senior night this week and we want to honor them as best as we possibly can."

The Bluejays played at New Ulm without one of their best seniors, Kyle Ahlschlager, sidelined by injury. His return is uncertain.

WAS	15	32	20	14	—	81
NU	14	15	0	7	—	36

First Quarter

NU - Osborne 63 pass from Jensen (Lieb kick)
WAS - O'Brien 60 run (Neaves kick)
NU - Jensen 61 run (Lieb kick)
WAS - O'Brien 6 run (Rodriguez run)

Second Quarter

WAS - O'Brien 10 run (Rodriguez run)
NU - Frederick 40 run (Lieb kick)
WAS - Rodriguez 11 run (Rodriguez run)
WAS - Russell 6 run (Rodriguez run)
WAS - Ohnstad 20 pass from O'Brien (Rodriguez run)
NU - Frederick 9 run (Jensen run)

Third Quarter

WAS - Rodriguez 74 run (O'Brien run)
WAS - Da. Russell 55 pass from O'Brien (run failed)
WAS - Ohnstad 24 pass from O'Brien (kick failed)



A LOT OF OFFENSE — That's what fans were treated to at New Ulm Thursday, Oct. 6 as the Bluejays and Eagles combined for a state record for points in one game in an 81-36 Waseca victory. Above, Oliver O'Brien (7) and Max Neaves (4) team to tackle Ty Frederick (36) Below left, Damarius Russell (3) carries would-be tacklers. Below right, Christian Rodriguez gains some of his 206 rushing yards. Bottom: O'Brien breaks away.

Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens



Fourth Quarter		
WAS - Mixteco 2 run (Neaves kick)		
NU - Jensen 3 run (Lieb kick)		
WAS - Allen-Haas 41 run (Neaves kick)		

	WAS	NU
First downs	12	14
Rushing	47-438	34-235
Passing	9-13-0	7-23-1
Passing Yds.	157	122
Total offense	595	357
Penalties	11-104	2-20

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing - WAS: Rodriguez 20-208; O'Brien 12-132; Allen-Haas 1-41; Da. Russell 4-23; Ludwig 2-23; Mixteco 4-12; Balderas 4 — 1; NU: Jensen 10-92; Frederick 16-92; Peart 4-41; Osborne 2-12; Brudellie 10-4; Glasner 1 — 6

Passing - WAS: O'Brien 9-13, 157; NU: Jensen 7-23 122

Receiving - WAS: Da. Russell 3-78; Ohnstad 5-73; Rodriguez 1-6; NU: Osborne 3-81; Tess 1-24; Brudellie 1-10; Benson 1-6; Haefner 1-1



Defense — WAS: Harguth 1 tackle; Da. Russell 3 tackles, 1 assist; Neaves 4 tackles, 2 assists; O'Brien 3 tackles; Ohnstad 3 tackles; Mixteco 2 tackles; Ludwig 1 tackle; Rupe 2 assists; N. Engel-Mueller 2 tackles, 2 assists; Johnston 8 tackles, 1 sack, 1 interception;

Thompson 5 tackles; Hager 2 tackles; Garza 1 tackle; Droog 2 tackles, 1 sack; Stenzel 2 tackles, 1 sack; Brown 2 tackles; S. Engel-Mueller 1 tackle; Schumacher 1 tackle; De. Russell 1 fumble recovery

Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton 20, Cleveland 0



SWEET VICTORY — The Bulldogs' Ryder Thissen (15), left, eludes Cleveland defenders. At right Landon Johnson (13) congratulates Ryan Kronbach on a touchdown. Pioneer photos by Michael Roy

Bulldogs get win No. 2

By MICHAEL ROY
Publisher

The JWP Football team found its second win of the season Friday, October 7, shutting them out Cleveland 20-0 and spoiling the Clippers' Homecoming.

The Bulldogs' opening drive lasted the whole first quarter and went into the second. Their drive ended with a dime thrown by Karson Lindsay to Ryan Kronbach, who made defenders miss for a 6-yard walk-in touchdown.

JWP's defense had a field day when Cleveland took the field for the first time. A tackle for loss thanks to the efforts of Kelton Erler, Cole Schlueter, and Ryder Thissen forced a second-and-long situation for the Clippers which eventually resulted in a punt.

After a 6-0 score at the half, JWP's defense had a standout performance throughout the second, getting multiple tackles for loss and forcing

Cleveland quarterback Blake Lyons to throw before he was ready on multiple occasions. When Thissen fumbled the ball, the Bulldogs got it right back off an interception made by Nolan Morsching. Two touchdowns by Thissen in the third and fourth quarters helped JWP put the game away.

"Our defense was fantastic this game," coach Jeff Wagner said. "Our running game was what helped us win this game, too."

The Bulldogs had one of their best rushing games of the season with 224 yards on the ground. The victory improved the team to 2-4.

The Bulldogs' Homecoming was Thursday, Oct. 13.

JWP:	0	6	7	7	—	20
CLE:	0	0	0	0	—	0
No score						
First Quarter						
Second Quarter						

Karson Lindsay throws a pass to Ryan Kronbach for a six-yard touchdown. The two-

point conversion is no good

Third Quarter

Ryder Thissen runs the ball in for a three-yard rushing touchdown. The extra point by Ethan Born is good

Fourth Quarter

Ryder Thissen runs the ball into the end zone for an 11-yard touchdown. The extra point by Born is good

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Passing: JWP: Karson Lindsay, 8/13 for 99 yards, TD. CLE: Blake Lyons: 6/17 for 48 yards, INT.

Passing: JWP: Ryder Thissen, 34 att for 196 yards, 2 TDs; Lucas Morsching, 6 att for 19 yds; Karson Lindsay, 8 att for 11 yds. CLE: Blake Kyons, 6 att for 15 yds, fumble recovered. Henry Strobel, 5 att for 14 yds. Braeden Hastings, attempt for 2 yards.

Defense: Nolan Morsching, 3 tackles (one for loss), 2 assists, interception; Karson Lindsay, 4 tackles; Kelton Erler, 2 tackles, 2 assists (one for loss); Ty Melchior, 2 tackles, 2 assists; Dylan McWaters, 2 tackles; Michael VanRavenhorst, 2 tackles; Cole Schlueter, tackle, 2 assists (one for loss); Austin Quast, tackle for loss; Isaiah Berndt, tackle; Ryder Thissen, assist for loss; Peyton O'Brien, assist; Ethan Born, assist; Gavin Krause, assist.

JWP spikers denied first conference win

By MICHAEL ROY
Publisher

JWP's volleyball team hoped to find its first in-conference win against Maple River or New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale Geneva last week.

But both teams denied them the pleasure.

TCU Tournament

Before facing Gopher Conference opponents, the team took part in a tournament at Tri-City United Saturday, Oct. 1. The team played four teams, two of them rematches against opponents they played prior to the tournament.

It was a tough start to October for the girls, as they didn't get a win in any of the matches. Their first one against Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial was close, but they lost 2-1 before losing to Kenton-Wanamingo 2-0. The day ended with the Bulldogs facing defeat against host TCU 2-1 and Cleveland 2-0.

Individually throughout all the games: Brielle Bure, 3 aces, 24 digs; Claire Walz, 4 kills, 5 blocks; Nevaeh Weimert, 13 assists and 7 digs; Katie Olson with a kill; Jessa Westphal, 2 aces, 19 kills, 5 blocks, and 9 digs; Lilly Strauss, an ace, a block, 8 kills, and 8 digs; Aubrey Weedman, 3 aces, 3 kills, 2 blocks, 30 assists, and 19 digs; Raquel Fischer with 12 kills; Isabelle Rider, 5 aces and 3 digs; Paige Walz, 3 kills, 2 blocks; Lexie Dahlberh, 2 aces and 15 digs; Ali Olson with 13 digs.

Maple River 3, JWP 2

The girls traveled to Maple River for their final road game in a stretch of several Tuesday, Oct. 3. With a couple of players out of the game, junior Makae Erdman made their varsity debut for this season.

After getting a wake-up call in the first set 13-25, the girls came back to win a close second set 26-24. The third was just as close, with the Eagles taking the 26-24 victory.

After a 25-18 victory by the Bulldogs, it was yet another close final set. Victory was so close, yet so far from the girls. Maple River did just enough to prevent them from winning their first game in-conference, taking the victory with a score of 15-12 in the final set.

Individually: Bure, 2 aces, 18 digs; C. Walz, 5 kills; Weimert, 10 assists, 7 digs; K. Olson, 2 kills; Westphal, 2 aces, 15 kills, 3 blocks, and 8 digs; Strauss with an ace, a kill, and 18 digs; Fischer, 10 kills, 7 digs; Rider with 2 aces, 6 kills, a block, and 5 digs; Dahlberg with 3 aces and 21 digs; A. Olson with 2 kills and 3 digs; Makae Erdman, a kill, 22 assists, and 9 digs.

NRHEG 3, JWP 0

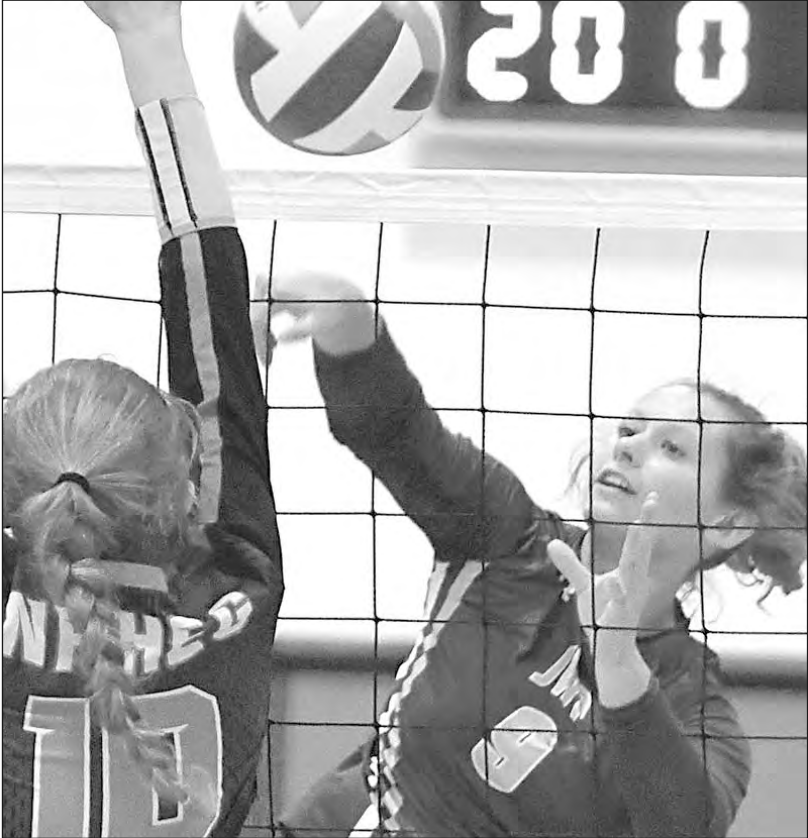
JWP returned home for the first time in three weeks Thursday, October 6. However, they had a challenging opponent to face: the NRHEG Panthers, a 16-4 team who had come into the matchup on a two-game losing streak. They looked to break that streak against the Bulldogs, while JWP was still searching for its first in-conference win.

It only took three sets for the visitors to set the Bulldogs straight. JWP lost 14-25, 12-25, and, despite a comeback attempt, were edged out in the third 20-25.

With the two losses, the girls' record is 6-16 (0-8 in-conference). After traveling to Randolph Tuesday, Oct. 11, JWP will host Triton for its homecoming game Friday, Oct. 14. They end the regular season at United South Central Tuesday, Oct. 18.



SENIOR POWER — It was Senior Night when the JWP volleyball team hosted NRHEG Oct. 6. Above left, Bulldogs greeting a teammate are Claire Walz (2), Neveah Weimert (3), Katie Olson (4), Jessa Westphal (5) and Lilly Strauss (6). Above right: Makae Erdman sets. Below left: Raquel Fischer (9) spikes. Below right: Coach Jessica Keenan. Bottom right: Ali Olson bumps as Brielle Bure looks on.



Waseca volleyball

Jays dip below .500 mark

By MICHAEL ROY
Publisher

For the first time since the beginning of the season, Waseca's volleyball team was at .500 when it defeated Tri-City United Tuesday, Oct. 4. However, New Ulm broke the Bluejays' three-game winning streak Monday, Oct. 10 and sent the Jays home with a losing record.

Waseca 3, Tri-City United 1

Tri-City United had its fair share of struggles this season, staying within the middle of the Minnesota River Conference with an 8-10 record.

Waseca took two close sets against the struggling Titans 25-19 and 25-20. Tri-City United clawed back with a dominant 25-12 win in the first set. However, with the help of Aliyah Taylor and Kloe Wadd's offensive performances and Avery Madsen supplying four blocks, they walked out of the Titans' court with a 25-19 victory and a 3-1 win to put them at 8-8.

Individually: Siri Kuhns with 39 assists; Aliyah Taylor with 14 kills and 17 digs; Kloe Wadd with 10 kills and 2 blocks; Avery Madsen with 4 blocks and 3 aces; Haylee Sommers with 18 digs; and Erika Bowers with 2 aces.

New Ulm 3, Waseca 1

The Lady Jays not only wanted to achieve a winning for the first time since the beginning of the season, but to go .500 in conference play for the first time in 2022.

However, New Ulm denied them those achievements.

The two teams split a pair of 26-24 sets, with Waseca winning the first one and New Ulm taking the second. The Bluejays could not keep up with New Ulm offensively in the latter two sets, though. The Eagles took 25-17 and 25-21 victories and sent the Bluejays home with a losing record.

Individually: Riley Ruedy, 10 kills and 7 digs; Sommers, 16 digs and 2 aces; Bowers with 7 digs and an ace; Megan Kanewischer with 2 digs; Madsen with a kill, assist, 4 digs, 4 blocks, and 2 aces; Kuhns with 3 kills, 27 assists, and 7 digs; Taylor with 7 kills and 15 digs; Takara Slattery with 8 digs; Wadd with 8 kills, 2 digs, and 3 blocks; and Ellie Hoehn with 2 kills and 2 digs.

After going 1-1 in their last two games, Waseca is now 8-9 (4-5 in-conference). The Lady Jays travel to St. James Area Monday, Oct. 17 and finish the regular season at home against Minnesota Valley Lutheran Monday, Oct. 24.

BLUEJAY FOOTBALL

Player of the Week

Carson Ohnstad

Carson had 5 catches for 73 yards and 2 touchdowns (20 and 24 yds). He added 3 tackles on defense.

Player of the week sponsored by:

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Homecoming game slips away from Panthers, 30-6

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

It was not a lack of effort that kept the NRHEG High School football team from winning.

It was a lack of capitalization.

"Looking back," said coach Marc Kruger. "It really hurt to not to be able to capitalize on turnovers."

That was much of the difference in the Panthers' Homecoming game, a 30-6 setback to Medford Friday, Oct. 7 in New Richland.

"It's a tough pill to swallow, losing on Homecoming," said Kruger.

It left the Panthers 0-5 with two regular-season games remaining, at home against Blooming Prairie Thursday, Oct. 13 and at WEM Wednesday, Oct. 19.

Kruger was hopeful of a victory against Medford after a productive week of preparation.

"It was a great week of activities, and it's unfortunate to not end up on top," he said.

The Panthers kept it close early. They had a nice return on the opening kickoff, but fumbled at the end of the the run. Medford returned the favor three plays later, with Lucas Loverink recovering for NRHEG.

Neither team generated much offense the rest of the first quarter until the Tigers put together an eight-play, 58-yard drive capped by a 1-yard touchdown run by Garron Hoffman. A two-point PAT try failed and it was 6-0 after one quarter.

The Panthers answered with a drive that went nine plays before ending on fourth down at the Medford 33 - on a dropped pass that looked like it could have been a touchdown.

After the teams traded punts, the Tigers scored on their first play from

the NRHEG 35, on a pass from Jesse Ortiz to Aaron Richter. Logan Mass passed to Hoffman a two-point conversion and a 14-0 lead.

The Panthers again responded and this time found the end zone, covering 50 yards on nine plays, with Alden Dobberstein's 26-yard scoring pass to Sam Olson finishing it with 58 seconds left in the first half. The PAT kick failed and it was 14-6 at halftime.

On the opening second-half drive, Medford was again moving the football when Sawyer Prigge intercepted for the Panthers.

Starting from their own 13, the Panthers went three-and-out.

Medford was again driving when Aiden Schlaak intercepted, putting the Panthers on their own 32. The Panthers faked a punt after three plays, but the run was stopped short and Medford took over at the NRHEG 40. On the Tigers' first play, Richter reached over a defender and hauled in a touchdown pass from Ortiz.

Medford led 22-6 after three quarters.

The Panthers surrendered a safety with 5:57 left in the game, giving Medford a 24-6 lead and the ball on the NRHEG 28 after the free kick. Two plays later, Hoffman scored from 20 yards out.

The Panthers were outgained 262-129 in total yards, including 171-48 rushing. Dobberstein completed seven of 18 passes for 81 yards and one interception. Loverink caught four passes for 43 yards. Aaron Phillips led NRHEG in rushing with 39 yards on 14 carries.

For Medford, Hoffman finished with 171 yards on 25 tries.

"To start the game, we did not play

a great first half, but were still right there," said Coach Kruger. "They are a physical team and have a great game plan."

MED	6	8	8	8	—	30
NRHEG	0	6	0	0	—	6

First Quarter
MED - Hoffman 1 run (pass failed)

Second Quarter
MED - Richter 35 pass from Ortiz (Hoffman pass from Maas)
NRHEG - Olson 26 pass from Dobberstein (kick failed)

Third Quarter
MED - Richter 40 pass from Ortiz (De-Grood pass from Ortiz)

Fourth Quarter
MED - Safety (Phillips tackled in end zone)
MED - Hoffman 19 run (kick blocked)

	MED	NRHEG
First downs	15	8
Total plays	43	47
Rushing	36-171	28-48
Passing	3-7-2	7-19-1
Passing Yds.	91	81
Total offense	262	129
Fumbles-lost	1-1	1-1
Penalties	3-35	4-25
Third down	3-9	3-12
Fourth down	0-0	0-2
Turnovers	3	2
Time of poss.	24:40	23:20

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing - NRHEG: Phillips 14-39; Parpart 2-7; Olson 1-5; Howe 1-2; Hanna 1-0; Dobberstein 7 —2; Raab 2 —3; MED: Hoffman 25-171; Ortiz 9-0; Schweisthal 2-0

Passing - NRHEG: Dobberstein 7-18-1, 81; Phillips 0-1-0, 0; MED: Ortiz 3-6-2, 91; Bilitz 0-1-1, 0

Receiving - NRHEG: Loverink 4-43; Olson 1-26; Prigge 1-14; Phillips 1 —2; MED: Richter 2-75; Hoffman 1-16

Defense — NRHEG: Howe 4 solo tackles, 1 assist; Schlaak 4 solo, 1 interception; Misingen 3 solo, 1 assist, 1 sack; Raab 3 solo, 1 assist; Prigge 3 solo, 1 interception; Olson 3 solo, 1 sack; Loverink 2 solo, 1 assist; Hanna 2 solo; Howe 2 solo; Schaefer 2 solo; Phillips 1 solo; Routh 1 solo; Degen 1 solo; Parpart 1 solo; Hutchens 1 solo, Fleming 1 solo



UPHILL BATTLE — The NRHEG football team let the game get away in the second half and lost 30-6 to Medford for Homecoming Friday, Oct.. 7 in New Richland. Above, the Panthers' Sam Olson (9) follows Andrew Phillips (29) and Jaylin Raab (5). Below left, Medford's Garron Hoffman (28) on his way to a touchdown as Raab and Phillips attempt a tackle. Below right: the Panthers' Deven Parpart (27) runs the ball in the fourth quarter.

Pioneer photos by Chris Schlaak



ROUGH WEEK — The NRHEG volleyball team lost two of three, but still maintained a very respectable record of 14-4. At left, Panthers' Erin Jacobson (5) tips the ball while Sarah George (12) and others look on. Above right, Tayler Schmidt (10) blocks a JWP kill attempt. Right: Hallie Schultz (11) bumps the ball.

Pioneer photos by Chris Schlaak

NRHEG volleyball team drops 2 of 3

The NRHEG High School volleyball team endured a 1-2 week, but still retained a very respectable record.

The Panthers, who sandwiched losses to Hayfield and Kenyon-Wanamingo with a sweep of JWP, fell to 14-4 on the season.

Hayfield 3, NRHEG 1

The Panthers split the first two games, but wound up on a short end despite playing tough Tuesday, Oct. 4 in New Richland. Final scores were 25-17, 21-25, 25-22, 25-22.

"We were outplayed," said NRHEG coach Ashley Tolzman.

"Hayfield showed up strong. We lacked communication on the court. Our heads were not in the game."

NRHEG individually: Hallie Schultz 3 kills, 31 set assists, 5 blocks, 14 digs; Tayler Schmidt 1 kill, 2 sets, 4 blocks, 10 digs; Erin Jacobson 12 kills, 4 blocks, 15 digs; Bree Ihrke 9 kills, 1 set, 9 blocks; Faith Nielsen 1 set, 3 digs; Sarah George 7 kills, 1 set, 3 digs; Bailey Ihrke 6 kills, 3 blocks, 7 digs; Sidney Schultz 2 sets, 37 digs.

NRHEG 3, JWP 0

The Panthers traveled to Janesville Oct. 6 and swept, winning 25-14, 25-

12 and 25-20.

"After a tough loss Tuesday, we showed up strong in Janesville," said Tolzman. "We played our game effectively and had fun."

Individually: H. Schultz 4 kills, 28 sets, 5 blocks, 15 digs; Schmidt 2 kills, 3 blocks, 5 digs; Andrea Briggs 1 kill, 2 digs; Jacobson 8 kills, 2 sets, 3 blocks, 13 digs; Bree Ihrke 10 kills, 7 blocks, 2 digs; Neilsen 1 kill, 6 digs; George 3 kills, 8 blocks, 1 dig; Madison Murray 1 block; Tatum Smith-Vulcan 1 kill, 2 blocks, 1 dig; Bailey Ihrke 4 kills, 1 set, 3 blocks, 9 digs; S. Schultz 3 sets, 23 digs.

K-W 3, NRHEG 0

The Panthers were thoroughly out-matched Monday, Oct. 10 in New Richland, falling 25-16, 25-19 and 25-13.

"We were outplayed in every aspect of the game," said Tolzman.

For the Panthers: H. Schultz 3 kills, 11 sets, 5 blocks, 9 digs; Schmidt 3 kills, 5 blocks, 3 digs; Grace Wilkenson 2 digs; Briggs 1 kill; Jacobson 2 kills, 1 set, 6 blocks, 15 digs; George 3 kills, 8 blocks; Bree Ihrke 3 kills, 8 blocks, 2 digs; Bailey Ihrke 1 kill, 2 sets, 1 dig; S. Schultz 1 kill, 1 set.

Cross country



The NRHEG cross country teams competed in Waseca last week. Above, Sam Christensen. Below left, Annabelle Pet-singer. Below right: Jacob Karl. Bottom Devon Nelson (2973).

Pioneer photos by Chris Schlaak



Story Idea? • 837-6767

REAL ESTATE
TAXES DUE

To avoid payment of penalty, 2nd Half Real Estate Taxes must be paid on or before
OCTOBER 17, 2022
Make Checks Payable To:
WASECA COUNTY

Open weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Use drop box (located north side of courthouse)
Pay on-line at www.co.waseca.mn.us
or postmark by due date
PO Box 47, Waseca MN 56093

BRING IN CONSIGNMENT ITEMS TODAY!

ONLINE AUCTIONS
WEDNESDAYS at 9 a.m.

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ONLINE AUCTION

What is WaSeekers? A live auction website and shop for locals, by locals! Place your bids, view pictures and detailed descriptions of items in weekly auctions, or inspect any active auction items at our safe and secure physical location!!

Items are sold "as is." Just about anything! WaSeekers takes in consignment items from people in our community, lists the items on our auction platform, and displays all the items in our store. Important notice: All items are subject to a 10% seller's commission with listing fees as follows: No listing fee for items selling for \$25 or more. 50 listing fee for items selling for \$24.99 or less. \$25 reserve fee. Reserve Fee will not be charge if reserve is met.

NEXT ONLINE AUCTION
OCTOBER 19

Contact Tina Mittelsteadt 507-351-4608
tina@waseekersonlineauction.com

001

20

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Larger Red Tool Box

Nintendo game console with case, games, and two controllers

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LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF WASECA

PROBATE COURT
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
Probate Court Division
Court File No.: 81-PR-22-601

In Re: Estate of
CALVIN J. BELOW.

Decedent

ORDER AND NOTICE OF HEARING
FOR FORMAL PROBATE OF WILL
AND APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE
IN UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRA-
TION AND
NOTICE TO CREDITORS

2022, at 10:15 a.m., a hearing will be held in the above named Court at Waseca, Minnesota, for the formal probate of an instrument purporting to be the will dated August 22, 2018, and the codicil dated January 3, 2019, of the above named decedent, and for the appointment of Karen R. Below, whose address is 14050 Timber Lane, Waseca, MN 56093, as personal representative of the estate of the above named decedent in an unsupervised administration, and that any objections thereto must be filed with the Court. That, if proper, and no objections are filed, a personal representative will be appointed to administer the estate, to collect all assets, pay all legal debts, claims, taxes and expenses, and sell real and personal property, and do all necessary acts for the estate. Upon completion of the administration, the representative shall file a final account for the allowance and shall distribute the estate to the persons thereunto entitled as ordered by the Court, and

close the estate.
Notice is further given that ALL CREDITORS having claims against said estate are required to present the same to said personal representative or to the Court Administrator within four months after the date of this notice or said claims will be barred.
Dated: 09/23/2022
_____/s/ Carol M. Hanks
Judge
_____/s/ Shannon M. Asselin
Court Administrator

PATTON, HOVERSTEN & BERG, P.A.
William L. Hoversten, #47478
215 E. Elm Ave., PO Box 249
Waseca, MN 56093
Phone: 507-835-5240

(Published in the Waseca County Pioneer Friday, October 7 and 14, 2022)
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SWEET-SOMMERS VFW POST 1642 CALENDAR EVENTS

October 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					

HOURS of Operation.

Sun. - Mon. Closed

Tue. - Wed. 3pm to close Tue. is Lady's nite 2 for one - Men Busch Light \$2.50 from 4 to 6pm.

Thur. - 1pm to close

Fri. - Sat. - 11am to close

POST & AUX Meeting 7pm club open 6pm MEMBERS only. Mn. Gambling license number 00385

Re-Elect
PEGGY BENNETT

She is a
STRONG voice
for our area!

PEGGY WILL
WORK HARD
ON THESE ISSUES
AND MORE!

✓ Help people afford the high cost of living. Help ALL Minnesotans keep more of their hard-earned money!

✓ A government in need of reform — eliminate the HUGE omnibus bills so legislators can work together to pass important bills!

✓ Everyone, no matter your political party, should come away from an election feeling like it's fair and Secure. I authored two election reform bills and am committed to work on this issue until it is fixed!

✓ Education needs to go back to basics. Teachers are overloaded with paperwork and mandates. We need to get back to the basics of math, literacy, basic science, and history!

✓ People deserve to feel safe. I support our police officers and well funded law enforcement to keep our communities safe!

Visit my website www.Bennett4House.com to learn more about my accomplishments, priorities, and challenges I am working on every day for the people of District 23A.

MY MOST IMPORTANT ENDORSEMENT IS YOU!

Prepared and paid for by the Bennett for MN House 23A Committee • PO Box 308 • Albert Lea, MN 56007

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November 8th!
She is a
strong voice for
our area!

PEGGY BENNETT

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HOUSE 23A

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FOR THE CITIZENS
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TIRELESSLY FOR...

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■ Empowering parents in their children's education

■ Safe and secure elections

OUR HOMEGROWN, HARD-WORKING,
COMMON SENSE SENATOR
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VOTE
GENE DORNINK
NOVEMBER 8TH!

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MINNESOTA STATE SENATE 23

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The Pastor's Column

Hope can be nebulous or misinterpreted

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS
I have spent the last 30 minutes reading my bible and staring at a blank word document on my computer. I have no idea what to write, but I figure if I do start writing something will come to me. I have a desire to encourage, to relate to everyday life, and to bring hope to those that read these words.

Hope is a term that can be nebulous, it can be misinterpreted and hold connotations for many people in a variety of ways. Many times, hope is revealed as a wish with anticipation, defining hope as “we look forward to something cool happening.” Yet the definition that followers of Christ use for hope is a little more archaic. We define hope as trust.

We trust that Christ died for our sin, we trust that He will return, we trust that we will be with him for all eternity. In this hope we have a future, it is not a wish, but a faith in God's work that transforms our daily life. We know that God is at work, but do we have hope that His plan is being worked out?

In Romans 5 we are challenged to think about how we live our life through the grace of God and have hope and trust that God will continue to be at work. The work of salvation starts with justification before God and moves into every area of our life.

I Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have

peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God.3 Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance;4 perseverance, character; and character, hope.5 And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

Romans 5:1-5 (NIV 1984)
Once we stand justified before God through faith, by grace, we can trust and hope in the glory of God. He is at work, do we trust that His work to be completed in us, that is the hope that we hold onto. It does not disappoint us, rather it takes the faith we have and builds it up, calling us to hope in God who loves us individually.

We may start with the unknown of faith, but God does not leave us there. Just as I started with a blank word document almost 30 minutes ago, God meets us in our life and leads us to a deeper relationship with Him. He makes something beautiful and useful out of our lives. He is at work in us and through us to bring us to a point of trusting more deeply in Him. He brings faith to this world and hope for the next.

By SANTIAGO RAMIREZ
This being the third and last installment of COSMOVISION AND SIN, it is necessary to recall some points mentioned in the two previous columns:

-We see the world in a particular way with our glasses. We call this cosmovision.

-East and West understand the world differently: honor-shame; guilt-innocence, respectively.

-The way we perceive sin is directly proportional to our way of acting.

-Sin manifests itself in different ways, but, in essence, it is a condition of rebellion before our creator.

I posed the question: does acting rightly lead us to think rightly, or does thinking rightly lead us to act rightly? As it is colloquially said, this question has much ground to cover. Therefore, the following appreciations are simple personal reflections born in readings and researches product of a young restless from the cradle.

Implicitly, the question confronts two ancient schools of thought, one of which has reigned [and still reigns] for centuries, and the other should not be so alien to those of us who call ourselves Christians, and



The Pastor's Column

yet, unfortunately, it is.

The academic world has been the flag that has not stopped waving to this day. In the highest dome of our world, we find erect and flaming the flag of reason, that thought of Greek/Hellenistic ideas of knowledge that dictate that knowledge is centered on concepts, theories, the nature of being, types, and forms. In that academic world, reason says that having enough information about how to act correctly is what will lead us to act correctly. It is the bread of our days. Hence the importance of preparation: is to know how to live.

On the other hand, we find the world of discipleship, of the mentor who walks beside the apprentice and lets the apprentice follow him, accompanies him, and corrects him. In this world, incarnation, mentoring, modeling, actions, and reflections play a preponderant role in how we live and educate. This concept of knowledge posits obedience as a precursor to understanding. I am not

sure if it is Alan Hirsch who coined the term, but it is, in my case, the one to whom I heard it for the first time: The Hebraic concept of knowledge.

Having been exposed these schools of thought, I would like to conclude with my point of view about worldview and sin.

I desired to share with you that my need for God grew the day I understood that my sin is born by rebelling against the voice of my Lord. If you notice, the Hebraic way of knowledge is not only how Jesus walked and redeemed the lives of his followers, it was [and still is], culturally, the way of understanding the world, a very oriental way in which it is worth mentioning as an example movies like Kun fu Panda, or Karate Kid, in which although it seems a joke, the role of the mentor is capital in the development of the characters.

It is in the face of this reality that day by day; I find it difficult to obey the voice of Jesus who calls me to follow him, to obey him. Day by day,

I am persuaded to listen to the serpent's voice that invites me to question the voice of my Father. I have seen that we seek to evade responsibility repeatedly in our western world. While we sin, look for culprits, pursue innocence before a court, and I believe that we need to feel the shame of the unworthy of understanding perhaps once and for all that Jesus dignifies us with his presence, with his voice calling us to obey. Is there maybe a more extraordinary act of love before reason or reflection than God himself incarnated to walk by our side? Jesus came to break the mold and to show us a path from which I fear we have strayed too far.

Dear reader, the cross we carry is a cross of disobedience. Yes, we must fight against how that rebellion manifests itself in our lives. Still, I fear that reason is not the weapon with which to overcome our lack of obedience, it is, on the contrary, the daily walk beside our rabbi, and I fear that it is in that walk where He will transform us in a way that for the world is madness, and for us is hope and salvation.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

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Service times 9:30 a.m.
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Worship Sundays 10 a.m.
* * *

FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
801 4th Ave NE, Waseca
507-835-3167
Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m.
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CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH
309 6th St NE, Waseca
507-835-9176
Worship Sundays 9 a.m., 10:15 a.m.
Sunday School/Fellowship
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401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca
507-833-1703
Sundays 9:00 a.m.
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ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
314 4th Ave NE, Waseca
507-835-2647
Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m.
* * *

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503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca
507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net)
Worship Sunday 10 a.m.
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GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
300 E Elm Ave, Waseca
507-835-1709
Worship Sunday 9 a.m.
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111 4th St NW, Waseca
507-835-1222
Worship Saturday 5:15 p.m., Sundays 8:00 and 10:00 a.m., weekdays 8:30 a.m. Tues., Wed. and Fri., 7:00 a.m. Thurs.
* * *

REAL LIFE CHURCH
620 W Elm Ave, Waseca
507-607-8245
Sundays 9 and 10:30 a.m.
* * *

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS
1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca
507-835-4640
Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m.
* * *

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
1221 8th St SE, Waseca
507-835-2213
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* * *

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Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship
Monday - 1 p.m. Quilters
Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship
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ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Otisco, Minnesota
Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor
Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study
Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship
* * *

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Mary Iverson
Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee
Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting
Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting
* * *

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Pamela Jensen
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship
* * *

LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota

Pastor Dan Kordahl
Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School
Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting
* * *

VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Pastor Dan Kordahl
Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship
* * *

VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH
New Richland, Minnesota
Brian Schanil Pastor
Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School
Tuesdays: The Shepherd's Robe Ministry, 1-3 p.m., 6-8 p.m.; Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark
* * *

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Father Brian Mulligan
Saturday - 5 p.m. Mass
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FIRST LUTHERAN
Missouri Synod
Waldorf, Minnesota
Rev. Michael Mathews, pastor
Sunday — 8 a.m. Worship; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School & Bible Class
* * *

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Freedom Township
Sunday — 9 a.m. Worship
* * *

ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
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Waldorf, Minnesota
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* * *

ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC
Waldorf, Minnesota
Father Brian Mulligan
Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship
* * *

TRINITY LUTHERAN
Wilton Township
Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor
Sunday — 10:30 a.m. Worship
* * *

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
Brad Donner, Branch President

Waseca, Minnesota
www.lds.org
Sunday — 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School
Wednesday — 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages 12-18
* * *

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412 N. Main Street, Janesville
Pastor Brian Johnston
Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship
Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship, 9:15 Worship w/bible Class, 10:30 a.m. Worship
* * *

JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
401 N. West St., Janesville
Pastor Kathy King
Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship
* * *

BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
43089 180th St., Morristown
Pastor Kathy King
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* * *

ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH
307 W. 2nd St, Janesville
Father Brian Mulligan
10 a.m. - Mass
* * *

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
300 Owen St., Janesville
Interim Pastor
* * *

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH
Alma City, Minnesota
Vacancy
Sunday = 1 p.m. Worship
* * *

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Smiths Mill, Minnesota
Vacancy
Thursday - 7:00 p.m. Worship
Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship
* * *

NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE WASECA COUNTY PIONEER.



To the Editor,
What a wonderful day! The air was filled with music as the Waseca Marching Classic celebrated 35 years on Saturday, September 17, 2022. Many eager parade fans lined the streets to watch nine bands displaying their musical talents along with dignitaries, royalty, floats and the Classic Car Cruise. It was a great time for everyone!

The field show competition at Waseca High School began with proclaiming the 35th annual as “Fan Appreciation Day” to thank those who attend the parade and those who sit in the stands to support the many dedicated band students throughout the years. Eleven bands, and special guest, the Maverick Machine Athletic Band from Minnesota State University, Mankato, performed. The evening concluded with “Fireworks” that brilliantly illuminated the sky.

This special event is made possible with the support of the Waseca Public Schools, the

Waseca Band Boosters, the City of Waseca, the Waseca Businesses, and the many who volunteer their time and efforts. Thank you to the residents of Southeast Waseca (area in and around Grace Lutheran Church and the City of Waseca Public Safety Building) for allowing the many bands to stage in their front yards.

The Classic gives Waseca an opportunity to showcase our many fine businesses and community.

Plans have already begun for the 36th annual Waseca Marching Classic on September 23, 2023 Thank you, Waseca

Sincerely,
Waseca Marching
Classic Committee
President Edna Burns

Little Theatre of Owatonna
P.O. BOX 64 • OWATONNA, MN 55060 • (507) 451-0764

Presents

A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder
Book and Lyrics by Robert L. Freedman,
Music and Lyrics by Steven Lutvak

Directed by
Gordy Handeland
Technical Director
Kristi Westergaard

Based on the novel "Israel Rank" by Roy Horniman

Performances:
October 13-15 & 20-22 7:30 pm
October 16 & 23 2:00 pm

Presented by special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.MTIShows.com

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LTO Box Office - 507-451-0764
www.littletheatreofowatonna.org
Box Office Hours:
Mon-Wed 5:00-6:30 pm • Thurs-Sat 5:30-7:30 pm • Sun 12:30-2:00 pm

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and it is, my success is only because I have a great staff that takes a lot of pride in a job well done," she said. "There aren't words to express how fortunate I am to have employees with very strong work ethics."

Spooner says that details and accuracy have remained her top priorities since day one. With so many deadlines to meet, her desk and even her brain capacity can begin to feel used up, but she knows how important it is to be precise.

"I put a lot of effort into doing things correctly the first time; re-doing always takes a lot longer," she said. "My job financially impacts all of the cities, townships and school districts in the county. They all depend on tax money being received in a timely and accurate manner."

No two days are the same; there are many miscellaneous tasks. From ordering ballots to training election judges, Spooner is never twiddling her thumbs as election administrator either.

"This job has a lot of challenges and I am always up for a challenge," she said. "I love my job. It is truly my passion and calling."

She added, "Life is way too short not to love what you do. Recently, someone told me that 'stagnation is death.' I had never looked at it that way, but this job is never stagnant. I wonder what it would be like to be bored."

With so much to do, Spooner says prioritizing is the name of the game. One of the things at the top of her to-do list is to always consult with Robin Nelson, the deputy director of Property and Election Services. Together, she and Nelson first look at the laws and/or rules that apply to the task at hand and then make a game plan.

"Robin is truly my right hand," she said. "Our mindsets are very similar; failure is never an option."

These days, restructuring their department to "encompass the recorder's duties," is at the forefront in Spooner's mind. The logistics of this implementation are still being finalized, but she says the end is in sight.

"The final step of the plan is changing the deed and mortgage registration taxes to be paid at the Records window, rather than stopping at the Auditor-Treasurer side first," she said. "We want to be efficient and make it more convenient for the public to record documents."

Once the elements of the changeover are complete, Spooner says she will focus her attention on what she loves most: numbers. She has always found dealing with money and equations appealing.

"When I was very young, I wanted to be a banker," she said. "I used a deck of cards for money and the top of the humidifier as my teller station. That was the beginning of my love of working with money and numbers. As a teenager, I thought I wanted to be a nurse, but gravitated toward every business class I could get my hands on."

Nowadays, she couldn't be happier with where she's at, still pursuing her dream of accounting.

"As strange as this may sound, my favorite part of the job is tax calculation," she said. "Minnesota property tax is very complicated, but the challenge is fun. I liken it to doing a puzzle, you start with a lot of pieces and everything has to work out perfectly at the end."

Besides that, she "truly" enjoys collaborating with her co-workers to serve the public. For 32 years now, this Hartland native has called Waseca home..

"This is a great community with a lot of great community events, one of my favorites being the county fair," she said. "I always enjoyed the fair growing up, and still do."

She added, "Waseca was a great place to raise my children. After moving out of the area as young

adults, they both came back to the area to raise their families. That speaks volumes to me about what a great community we live in."

Spooner says she'll be sticking around for some time: just last year she signed a seven-year contract. That commitment will take her to full retirement age and hopefully, someone will be ready to take the reins.

"I promised the Board chair that I would teach someone everything about my job and I am working on that," she said.

She admits that delegating is a bit of a challenge for her at times, but she keeps at it. Or, as she puts it, she is "a work in progress." Something which helps her advance is that Linda Karst, recently retired county recorder, has returned to the office temporarily.

"Everyone on my team does a great job and is an important part of the team," she said. "Linda and I worked together for almost 17 years; she has shared a lot of knowledge with me. She is a great mentor and an even better friend. When she is done temping and goes on to be fully retired, she will be missed tremendously, but we will still get together."

The years definitely fly by, and Spooner is more than grateful that Karst is training staff recording specialists while also proofreading some official documents since, "It's 'top priority' for records to remain accurate.

"My heart is in service; it is gratifying to help people," she said. "Again, my employees are amazing; we joke about 'how it takes a village to raise a child.' Here it is 'it takes a village to take care of Tammy.'"

This "village" learns tips and tricks from Spooner as well. She's done a lot of crash courses on tax calculation, recording, and everything law-related behind the scenes.

"I am teaching and transferring things like economic development tax abatements and more of the audit responsibilities," she said.

With all the logistics to sort through, patience is a virtue and thankfully, she has it in spades. It also helps that she has been working in Waseca County offices for so long.

"My first day was spent entering capital assets into the system," she said. "In April 2005, I began working as a deputy auditor. There was a vacancy for chief deputy auditor in October 2005, which I applied for and was promoted to."

She added, "The offices of auditor or treasurer were combined in February 2010 so my position morphed into chief deputy auditor-treasurer. Upon the retirement of Joyce Oliver, auditor-treasurer, in February 2014, I was appointed to fill her remaining term. I then ran for election and was elected to two terms as auditor-treasurer."

Clearly, much of her identity stems from this long work history. However, her family also fills an important role. She greatly enjoys playing with her grandchildren, reading, traveling, playing bingo, shopping and trying new things.

"Being a mom, grandma, and daughter are my favorite titles and make my heart happy," she said. "Three little boys call me Grandma or Grammy and it is truly a joy. Some might think that I spoil them, but I prefer to say they are well loved."

On the more adventurous front, she went snorkeling for the first time this last year. More of that is on the horizon for her, as long as she is able.

"I wake up every morning thankful for my health and to God for giving me another day," she said. "Snorkeling was so much fun and I would love to go again. You are never too old to learn or try new things."

With that thought in mind, she recalls all the moments spent with her mentor Joyce Oliver. Time and time again, Oliver would direct her so that one day she could perform tasks without faltering.

"For years, Joyce would say 'come and watch this, someday you will have to do this,'" she said. "That would follow the next year with, 'You do this and I'll watch, someday you'll have to do this.' She was truly the wind beneath my wings. She gave me knowledge and experience to become the person I am today."

Spooner concluded by saying, "A huge shout-out to my parents who taught me the value of hard work, to be the best person I can be, and to treat others with kindness."



AMBULANCE - Members of the New Richland Ambulance Department from left, Robin Jenö, Dusty Russ, Sarah Sundve, Brandi Dokken, Scott Tangen, and Eric Welhaven.
Photo by Eli Lutgens

Ambulance room remodel unveiled

By **BARB FINSETH**
Staff Writer

The New Richland Ambulance Department hosted an Open House and ribbon cutting for their newly remodeled ambulance staff room on Wednesday, October 5th from 3 to 5 p.m.

This project was made possible by a generous donation from the Russell Anderson family in his memory. Russell's four daughters, Caron, Wendi, Kerry, and Julie, had approached Pastor Mary Iverson of Trinity Lutheran Church in New Richland about giving a memorial gift to the church. Pastor Iverson told them about the church's wishes to help the ambulance department with this remodeling project. They knew their Dad had received assistance from the NR ambulance crew and he had spoken of very positive experiences with them. They decided this would be a great way to honor his memory and committed their donation to the project.

At the ribbon cutting, the remodeled ambulance staff room was dedicated in memory of Russell Anderson, and a special engraved plaque will hang in the room.

Pastor Iverson was the coordinator between the Ambulance Dept. with their needs and wishes, and the Trinity work crew as they planned, purchased, and installed the items needed. Trinity's work crew of Dale Bayerkohler, Gordy and Donna Hanson, LeAnn Buendorf, Suzie Routh,

and Larry Goehring donated their time and labor for the remodeling of the room.

The memorial funds were used to purchase an egress window, paint, new furnishings, a countertop table with two stools, an additional two-drawer locked file cabinet, and kitchen accessories.

Because half of the ambulance crew does not live in New Richland, the staff room/office is also a living and sleeping area for these out-of-town members when on duty. An egress window was needed to comply legally with the law to convert the room into living quarters. Trinity crew members Bayerkohler and Hanson broke through the concrete and embedded bars on the east wall of the room to create the opening for a window. However, the window itself did not arrive in time for the open house and will be installed at a later date.

New furnishings include a large couch and recliner, suitable for sleeping on if needed, as well as a daybed. Also added were an end table and lamp, large and small rugs, and wall hangings. Because of a limited amount of counter space, a shelving unit was made and hung above the kitchen counter for the new toaster oven and microwave.

Just outside of the staff room, lockers were added, so crew members can store personal items when on duty. Inside the room, sturdy canvas cubbies replaced the



Members of the NR ambulance crew relax on the new furnishings in the remodeled staff room during the open house. From left, Jesi Raimann, Dusty Russ, Brandi Dokken, Eric Welhaven, Sara Jo Vulcan, and Scott Tangen.
Photo by Barb Finseth

old ones for additional storage for each member, and Trinity's church quilts donated six quilts that are available for each crew member's use.

The entire room and ceiling, as well as all the trim and mop boards, were painted by the Trinity crew with some help from additional volunteers.

Pastor Iverson said, "We had a very dedicated work crew from Trinity, who worked well with the ambulance staff. The NR ambulance is such an essential service to our community, and having a comfortable staff room and living quarters for out-of-town crew seemed like a very worthy project for us at Trinity. I hope it helps the current staff, and future recruits, to have a comfortable place to work, eat, gather, and sleep while waiting for emergency calls."

This project has been on the ambulance department's "wish list" for awhile. As director of the ambulance department, Sarah Sundve expressed the appreciation of the entire crew

when she said, "We all say Thank You to Trinity Lutheran Church and to the Russell Anderson family for making this wish a reality for us. It certainly has made it easier for me and the crew to work in and to have a relaxing place that feels more like a home for us."

Another completed project on the department wish list was a new wrap and design on the ambulance truck which was just finished and on display outside of the building for the open house. The funds for this project came from annual dollars earmarked from Waseca County for the NR Ambulance Dept. Thompson Auto Body in New Richland removed the old outside wrap and fixed the damage from corrosion caused by improper sealing of the old wrap. Sign Pro of Owatonna made and installed the new wrap, which was designed by the staff and crew in New Richland.

Terrific tailgate

By **ELI LUTGENS**
Publisher/Editor

"We do this for a good cause," Darrin Stadheim of the NRHEG After Prom Committee shares. "It's for our kids."

The NRHEG After Prom Committee changes year to year; the parents of any NRHEG junior or senior are encouraged to volunteer. Through local concession stands and events like the annual Homecoming Tailgating event, which took place last Friday night, the group raises money to help decrease the financial burden of Prom.

Friday night's tailgate served several hundred burgers, with meat purchased at a discount from Neighbor's Meats of New Richland, along with chips and water, all for \$5.

Bruce Nielsen, owner of the Pour House in Clarks Grove, manned the grill, assisted by Stadheim, alongside volunteers Tina Schmidt, Linda Stadheim, Kari Buedorf, and Jennie Nielsen.

Without these types of events, the cost for each student attending NRHEG Prom would be around \$150. Thanks to the fundraising, by the time Prom rolls around the price is reduced to around \$20-\$30.

"We're just trying to make it affordable for everyone," Tina Schmidt, volunteer, said.

"We're all new this year," Stadheim continues.

Each year parents cycle in and out as students come and go.



NRHEG after prom committee volunteers assisting during a tailgate fundraiser in New Richland Friday night, from left: Tina Schmidt, Linda Stadheim, Kari Buedorf, and Jennie Nielsen.

"Tell people we always need more volunteers."
— **Jeannie Nielsen**

"If everyone [students' parents] did just one concession stand during the year, it wouldn't be a big deal," Linda Stadheim, Darrin's wife, said. As it sits, the volunteers who do help, do sometimes forfeit time that could be spent watching their kids play in various sports and activities.

The after prom group volunteers putting on Friday's event had two final thoughts to share before getting back to work. "Tell people we always need more volunteers," Jennie Nielsen. "And go Panthers!"



Bruce Nielsen, manning the grill during a Panther pregame tailgate.
Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens

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■ Council
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the community, having graduated from Waseca High School about 30 years ago.

“I think I bring forth a really unique position where I have access to the public on an almost daily basis,” Schroeder said. “I have always heard that Waseca [can be] hard to work with, so I am trying to figure out why that is and am willing to get busy working for you.”

Robert Tackett, military veteran with 21 years of honorable service, is running against Schroeder and describes himself as a family and business man.

“I have seen and experienced a lot and have learned much in my life, and I want to bring a fresh viewpoint to Waseca,” Tackett said. “I believe that we need to get people involved and together we can help Waseca grow.”

Next was the question and answer portion of the debate, during which time each candidate had a limited amount of time to answer each question presented to them.

Question one: quality of life - what are the most important aspects of our community that are worth bragging about, preserving, and developing more, and how should Waseca market itself to draw attention to this quality of life?

Ebertowski: “Our town as a whole, and the people that protect and serve our town, be it our police officers, fire department, or our private ambulance. Secondly, our neighborly aspects and how much we care for each other and want to help each other out; our awesome school system and teachers; being a great place to raise a family.”

Tackett: “I believe that one of our saving graces here is our self-reliance and independence. We’ve got some small and large farms here, and their strength is actually a big focal point for our community. We do have some economy here; we need to build on that economy, need to bring in some bigger businesses and develop some smaller mom-and-pop businesses: that way everybody can have something to do.”

Tackett also noted that Waseca needs more activities for youth in the area outside of school, possibly partnering with small businesses to achieve this goal. In terms of marketing, he noted a website that has been developed for Waseca to connect with companies across the nation to entice them to come to Waseca.

Schroeder: “I think one of our greatest assets is our school system. We’re providing a great education and I think that’s very marketable to families. I also think we do have a lot of wonderful amenities, such as our parks, lakes, and public library. We have so many good things going for us, and I want to get more good things going, too.”

Schroeder noted the need for finding ways to keep younger people in Waseca and keeping an open dialogue about what the community needs and can do in the fu-

ture for growth.

Conrath: “I think we’ve got an excellent school district here; public safety is one of the biggest points being made.”

Conrath said Waseca should focus on telecommuting for work, continued focus on public safety, and noted an assessment recently completed by the tourism board through the University of Minnesota outlining key things that bring people to Waseca, namely the town’s parks, lakes, and trails.

“It’s our lakes, our trails - Waseca has a vast trail system throughout town; a lot of communities don’t have this.”

Question two: the budget and taxes - the current council has passed an 11% preliminary tax levy increase. It is actually lower when the tax revenue from Conagra is included in that formula, but still in the ballpark of 7%. Are you in favor of this raise in city taxes? If not, how much would you support it?

Schroeder: “It does take money to build a good community and keep those safety practices in play and keep those amenities. Sometimes, you need to look at things as an investment and short-term.”

She noted her desire to grow housing and the need to look at growing Waseca’s tax base in order to spread the tax burden over a greater population.

“You can only go to the well so many times; you can’t keep asking over and over.”

Tackett: “We need to grow the tax base, and to do that, we need to build more houses so people can live here in Waseca rather than drive to Mankato or Owatonna. We need to bring in bigger businesses that can pay those property taxes. If we don’t get our taxes to a manageable level, our seniors are going to have a problem.”

He said that if Waseca can get more businesses to share in the tax base, “we can breathe a little easier for a little longer.”

Conrath: Noted that the actual impact for the homeowners base of the preliminary tax levy is 4.49% when Conagra is factored in. He also mentioned that \$100,000 is included for future development of the town that can be used for housing development or subdivisions - things that can help to grow Waseca.

“We can take that out and lower people’s property taxes, but it’s going to hurt down the road. So, do we want to do a little bit now, to ease the pain? In order to get the businesses and the houses, we need to start looking a little bit more towards the future. In order to get the businesses, we have to get the employees - there are many aspects you have to look at.”

He also noted that he expects the actual impact to be lower than the preliminary tax levy increase by the time the final tax levy is approved in December.

Ebertowski: “I’d say just because we can doesn’t mean we should. I understand it does take money to grow and build the community, but in the past I understand levies were around the 3% range, and I’d like to see it there in the future, if not lower, if possible with respect to still being able to grow.”

He noted that high taxes are one reason Waseca has had difficulty bringing and keeping businesses in town.

“I understand it takes money to make money, but [tax levies need to be determined] with respect to the pocketbooks of lower middle class such as myself and most of the people that live in Waseca.”

Council continued in
next week’s Pioneer

NRHEG Homecoming Week 2022



The 2022 NRHEG High School Homecoming court. From left: Emcee Ethan Thompson, Charlie Nissen, Wyatt Groskreutz, Sawyer Prigge, Andrew Phillips, Maverik Bueltel, Bree Ihrke, Bailey Ihrke, Sidney Schultz, Trinity Smith Vulcan, Tatum Smith Vulcan, and Emcee Erin Jacobson. Seated, King Makota Misgen, Queen Eva Wayne, Prince Oliver Petsinger, and Princess Brynlee Pederson. Photo by Chris Schlaack

Homecoming
week at NRHEG

By ELI LUTGENS
Publisher/Editor

NRHEG Homecoming week 2022 concluded last week with a week full of activities, themed dress up days, coronation, and parades coming to a close Friday.

Monday evening, Makota Misgen, son of Mark and Sara Misgen, alongside Eva Wayne, daughter of Brandon and Jodi Wayne, were crowned King and Queen.

Serving as the night’s Emcee’s were Ethan Thompson and Erin Jacobson.

Together the homecoming candidates were introduced, along with a list of their activities, which will follow at the end of this article.

On Tuesday students participated in a volleyball tournament, Wednesday they played in an Activity Game Show, Thursday they sang in a Lip Sync Battle, and Friday students at both the Ellendale and New Richland sites took part in a pep fest. Parades concluded the afternoon activities Friday. The football team played, and unfortunately lost in the nightcap, which was followed by a dance.

Each day included a particular dress up day, including Career Day, Favorite Holiday, Grill Dad vs. Soccer Mom, Throwback Thursday, and Panther Pride day.

NRHEG Homecoming Royalty

Bailey Ihrke is the daughter of Chris and Sara Ihrke. She has two siblings: older brother, Blake and twin sister, Bree. Her hobbies include spending time with friends and family, riding horses, and working at Sequoia Landscape Company in the summer. Bailey is involved in Volleyball, softball, yearbook and FCA. Her favorite memory from high school so far is competing in the 2021 homecoming lip sync battle. One fun fact about Bailey is that she can read Bree’s mind. If she won 10 million dollars, she would donate to Habitat for Humanity, travel the world with her friends, and buy a chocolate lab with blue eyes. Her hero is Princess Jasmine because she stands up for what she believes in and has a pet tiger. Bailey plans to attend college and major in elementary education.

Sawyer Prigge is the son of Carey and Terri Prigge. He has 3 older siblings: Sam, Emily and Annie Prigge. Sawyer is involved in Football, track, and FCA. Sawyer’s hobbies include golf and fruit ninja. His favorite memory from high school so far was 6th hour during the 2020 spring semester. One fun fact about Sawyer is that his body can not survive if it is more than 200 degrees outside. If he won 10 million dollars, he is not sure what he would do, but probably donate some and buy some cool stuff. His hero is Andrew Phillips because Andrew financially supported him when he wanted something to drink from Casey’s. After high school, Sawyer plans to fly planes.

Bree Ihrke is the daughter of Chris and Sara Ihrke. She has 2 siblings: older brother Blake and twin sister, Bailey. Bree is involved in volleyball, softball, student council, DECA, National Honors Society, FCA and yearbook. Bree enjoys spending time with family and friends, boating at Sid’s, working at Sequoia landscape in the summer, and shopping. Her favorite memory from high school so far is PROM! One fun fact about Bree is that she can read Bailey’s mind. If she won 10 million dollars, she would give some to her family, travel with friends, and

donate to anyone in need. After graduation, Bree plans to attend a four year university and major in architecture.

Wyatt Groskreutz is the son of Adam and Jodi Groskreutz. He has two sisters, Mallory and Alayna Groskreutz. Wyatt is involved in football, baseball, band and FCA. He is a huge Minnesota Vikings fan, loves being outdoors with his dogs. Wyatt is passionate about faith and family, and loves snowmobiling with his family. His favorite memory from high school so far is starting Varsity football as a freshman. If he won 10 million dollars, Wyatt would buy lifetime season tickets for the Minnesota Vikings... “Purple and Gold ‘til I’m dead and cold!” Wyatt says. “Reggie White is my hero, because he was an NFL Hall of Famer while being an ordained minister. He was able to combine his love for football and faith, two of the most important things in my life.” Wyatt plans on attending Martin Luther College in New Ulm.

Sidney Schultz is the daughter of John and Wendy Schultz. She has 2 siblings, older sister, Jade, and older brother, Jack. Sidney is involved in basketball, softball, volleyball, FCA, student council, National Honors Society, and yearbook. Her hobbies include spending time with her friends and family, boating, balling up with Quinn, and tanning. Her favorite memory from high school is watching Tatum slip in front of the whole Hayfield school at a basketball game. One fun fact about Sidney is that she can clear a room out in five seconds, if you know, you know. If she won 10 million dollars, she would travel the world with her friends and buy a brand new 2022 boat. Her hero is Princess Elsa because she is very independent. Sidney plans on attending Winona State University and majoring in radiology.

Charlie Nissen is the son of Holly and Ryan Nissen. He has 2 siblings, older sister, Cambria, and younger brother, Calvin. Charlie is involved in football and basketball. His hobby is hanging out with friends. One fun fact about Charlie is that he hasn’t lost a pencil all year! His favorite memory from High school so far is summer. If Charlie won 10 million dollars, he would buy land and pay off his teachers. His hero is his mom, because she does his laundry. After graduation, Charlie plans to go to aviation school in Owatonna.

Trinity Smith Vulcan is the daughter of Tracy Smith, Jon Hansen and Troy Vulcan. She has four siblings: Taylor, Tanner, Talon, and twin sister, Tatum. Trinity is involved in basketball, softball, 4-H, FCA and yearbook. Her hobbies include riding horse, playing tag with Sidney, and hanging out on the lake. Trinity’s favorite memory from high school is switching places with Tatum and confusing Mr. Carter. One fun fact about Trinity is that she has a cankle, just one. If she won 10 million dollars, she would buy a ranch in Montanna and retire. Trinity plans to attend Black Hills State University and major in emergency medicine.

Maverik Bueltel is the son of Ben and Karen. He has siblings: Shelby and Madisyn. Maverik is involved in golf and his hobby is golfing with friends and family. One interesting fact about him is that he shares a birthday with the Notorious B.I.G. Maverik’s favorite memory from high school so far is becoming a senior. If he won 10 million dollars, he would buy a blimp. Maverik’s hero is his mom, because she is a hard



NRHEG Volleyball coach Ashley Tolzman "photo bombs" Isabel Stadheim during the homecoming parade.

Pioneer photo by Eli Lutgens

worker. After high school, Maverik plans to enlist with the Navy.

Tatum Smith Vulcan is the daughter of Tracy Smith, Jon Hansen, and Troy Vulcan. She has 4 siblings: older sister, Taylor, older brother, Tanner, twin sister, Trinity, and younger brother, Talon. Tatum is involved in Volleyball, Softball, DECA, NHS, FFA, 4-H, yearbook, FCA, and student council. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her friends and family, reading lots of Colleen Hoover, riding horse, and saving lives at the waterpark. Tatum’s favorite memory from high school so far was dressing up as Adam Sandler for the volleyball tournament junior year. One fun fact about Tatum is that she had a triplet, but she ate it. She was hungry. If she won 10 million dollars, Tatum would donate a quarter of the money to Ms. Hatton for being her therapist for the last 4 years, she would donate another quarter to herself to travel the world, and she would donate the rest of it to her parents, so they can’t say she never paid for anything! Her hero is princess Tiana, because she worked hard for everything that she had and wasn’t just handed a princesse title like most princesses. After high school, Tatum plans to attend Black Hills State University in Spearfish, South Dakota. She will double major in Elementary education and special education.

Makota Misgen is the son of Mark and Sara Misgen. He has 6 siblings: Payton, Markus, Sierra, Preston, Makenna, and Amelia. Makota is involved in football, wrestling, and trap shooting. His hobbies include fishing and snowmobiling. His favorite memory from high school so far is going to state in wrestling, and hanging out with friends. One fun fact about him is that he is good at cooking. If he won 10 million dollars, Makota would buy a lake mansion and go fishing every day of the year. His heroes are both of his grandpas. Makota’s plans after high school include going to college and wrestling.

Eva Wayne is the daughter of Brandon and Jodi Wayne. She has 2 siblings: Owen and Quinn, and her dog, Miles. Eva is involved in competition cheerleading, basketball and wrestling cheerleading, fall and spring trapshooting, student council, class officers, National Honors Society, TrigStar, Knowledge bowl, DECA, FCA, and concert, pep, and jazz bands. In her free time, she enjoys learning new piano music and traveling with her family. Eva’s favorite memories from high school so far include winning first place at the state cheerleading competitions two years in a row and AP European history class with Mrs. Buendorf, and the Europe trip last June. One fun fact about Eva is that she has never drunk a full glass of juice, can of

pop, energy drink, or coffee, and has never chewed a stick of gum. If she won 10 million dollars, she would give it all to her favorite financial advisor and live off the interest from the investments. Her hero is Princess Belle, because she loves to learn new things and is kind to everyone. After high school, Eva plans on attending a four year university and majoring in either actuarial science or business law.

Andrew Phillips is the son of Jeanette and Aaron Phillips. He has 3 sisters: Madeline, Morgan, and Faith. Andrew is involved in football, baseball, trap shooting, FCA, and band. His hobbies include helping on the farm, hunting with his friends, playing baseball and snowboarding. His favorite memory from high school so far is playing cars in the library with Alex Dobberstein. One fun fact about Andrew is that he has hit a home run in a professional baseball stadium. If he won 10 million dollars, he would want to help fix up the baseball and football field because they could use some help. He would also buy a lot of Cain’s chicken fingers. Also, he would buy a race car because they are fast. Andrew says his hero is his dad because, “He is always there to support me. He has taught me almost everything I know. I would not be who I am today without him. Also lightning McQueen because he is speed!” After high school Andrew is going to South Dakota State University to study Precision Ag and play baseball. After that his dream is to hopefully play professional baseball.

Princess Brynlee Pederson is the daughter of Carl Pederson and Angela Hoiom. She has one sister, Madison Murray. Brynlee is involved in dance and wants to play volleyball like big sis. Her hobbies include riding her four wheeler and taking walks with her dog, Drake. One fun fact about Brynlee is that she can cross her eyes and make them go in the opposite directions. If she won 10 million dollars, she would buy a house with a pool inside. Brynlee’s hero is her sister, Madi, who she looks up to and wants to be like her when she grows up.

Prince Oliver Petsinger is the son of Daniel and Carrie Petsinger. He has 3 younger sisters: Tesla, and twins Aila (eye-luh) and Aria. Oliver is involved in wrestling, riding bike and riding in the tractor. His interests include tractors, semis and excavators. One fun fact about Oliver is that he is the only person in his family with red hair. If he won 10 million dollars, he would buy a new camper and truck, then keep the rest. Oliver says his hero is “my dad - because I like him.” As for his future plans, Oliver intends to be a farmer, because then he can drive tractors and semis.

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