



1 56852 13660 1 6

■ **Inside:**

- **3** - Ice Cream Social
- **3** - Sacred Heart
- **3** - DFL recognition
- **4** - Obituaries
- **5** - Gather and Give
- **5** - Waseca Art Gallery
- **6** - Blood Drive
- **8-10** - Sports
- **12** - American Legion

■ Page 3



Ice Cream Social

PJ Storytime at New Richland Public Library Sept. 17

There will be PJ Storytime at the New Richland Public Library at 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17. We'll get you ready with stories for bedtime. For ages 0-5.

Rock'n Car Roll-In at Boxcar Bar Sept. 17

The Rock'n Car Roll-In will take place at Boxcar Bar from 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 17. Classic cars, motorcycles, food trucks, music and 50/50 raffle.

Tailgate BBQ Dinner at Waseca High School Football Field, Sept. 18

Waseca Bluejay Booster Club having Tailgate BBQ Dinner at the Waseca High School football field from 5-6:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 18. Tickets \$10 and include pulled pork sandwich, chips, cookie and bottled water. At 6:30 p.m. menu flips to game-time snacks.

Two for One at Indian Island Winery Sept. 18

Musical guest Two for One will perform Indian Island Winery from 6-8:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 18. They say they play all your favorites.

Sacred Heart Fall Festival September 18, 19, and 20

Sacred Heart Catholic Church will be holding its Fall Festival over the weekend of Sept. 18, 19, and 20. Events include a white elephant sale, Country Store, silent auction, Friday live auction and concession stand just to name a few.

Sacred Heart Church Bean Bag Tournament Saturday, Sept. 19

The Sacred Heart Bean Bag Tournament will take place at 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 19. Check in at 4 p.m., 32 teams max, \$40 per team.

Legion Heroes' Appreciation Breakfast, Sept. 20

From 8 a.m. until noon on Sunday, Sept. 20, the Waseca American Legion is offering a free breakfast to law enforcement workers, firefighters, emergency medical responders, and medical personnel. Other members of the public are also welcome to attend this all-you-care-to-eat meal at a price of \$12 for adults and \$8 for children 12 and under.

Blood Drive at Grace Lutheran Church Monday, Sept. 21

Grace Lutheran will hold a blood drive from noon through 6 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 21. They are located at 300 E. Elm Ave.

A word from The Word



If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love

Philippians 2:1-2

Minnesota State Fair recognizes Morgan's Meat Market

By **BEN REVERMANN**
Staff writer

Old Fashion cooked summer sausage prepared by Morgan's Meats of Waseca was named both "Grand Champion" and "Best of Show" at the 2026 Minnesota State Fair.

Dean Morgan, who, with his wife, Barb, owns Morgan's Meat Market in Waseca, shares that the winning entry for the state fair was the same as the product sold at the store: "Anytime we do a competition we use the same recipes as we do in our homemade case in the store," he shared. "The only thing we changed this year was the fermentation cycle in the cooking process."

Another product, a Homemade Breakfast Omelet Sausage Link, also received high rankings, according to Dean. He reveals the breakfast link was made by company employees from scratch, and contained eggs, sausage, seasoning and hashbrowns.

Dean mentions that Morgan's Meats generally provides entries to four competitions a year, and he regards the Minnesota State Fair Processed Meats as the most important. He explains that the Minnesota Association of Meat Processors booth is located in the dairy building where approximately 100,000 people walk by and see the winning products. He also mentions the meat processors' competition is a friendly one between meat markets and other meat shops from northern to southern Minnesota.

Dean says Morgan's products are very frequently among the winners in the competitions it enters, proving themselves against products from both Minnesota and South Dakota.

Dean has been working in the meat industry since 1985. He started his own business in New Richland in 2003, running it suc-

Morgan continued on 5



BEST OF SHOW - Morgan's Meat Market earned Best of Show and Grand Champion Cooked Summer Sausage with their Morgan's Old Fashioned Summer Sausage recipe. Pictured is Dean Morgan with his summer sausage on Thursday, Sept. 10, 2026.
Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Dave Lienke describes 50 years with sheriff's posse

By **DEB BENTLY**
News Editor

Janesville area resident Dave Lienke joined the Waseca County Sheriff's Posse in 1976 and has served continuously for the past 50 years. He says he was invited to join back then by Paul Stennes, who felt the posse needed additional members. Since expectations for membership included having a horse and being able to transport it to service locations, he says he accepted at least partly because he met those requirements, and knew the pool of eligible participants was limited.

"I've never regretted it," he affirms.

Across his 50 years, he says he has ridden seven or eight different horses at posse events.

Waseca County Sheriff Jay Dulas observes, "it is rare to celebrate a major milestone that honors a half century of dedication to an organization," and continues on to say Lienke's service shows the level of dedication his generation aspired to.

Lienke says he remembers a few times in the first years of his membership when posse members were asked to carry a sidearm, but that has not been the case for decades. He says he has never felt unsafe

in the role, which he describes as being "the eyes and ears of the sheriff" when called upon for assistance.

Dulas remarks, "Dave's contributions and volunteer hours to the posse organization and the community are priceless. Dave has not only been a member for 50 years, he has been an active and contributing member who attends meetings, serves at events, and still rides his horse. We look forward to his continued contributions in the years ahead."

Clearly the most visible role of the posse, Lienke observes, is representing the sheriff's office in parades. He mentions that, as dignified and ceremonial as posse members may appear while riding in formation, they are also simultaneously available if any safety or security issues should arise.

Being on horseback, he points out, provides some inherent advantages. To start with, since people tend to respect and admire horses, the animal's presence usually builds goodwill. The horse's size lends authority and speed: People tend to step out of the way.

However, Lienke suggests the largest advantage of being on horseback is having a line of sight

Lienke continued on 12



DEDICATED SERVICE - Janesville area resident Dave Lienke has been a member of the Waseca County Sheriff's Posse since 1976. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently which begins about 4 feet above everyone else's heads, allowing riders to both see over most of the

Marching Classic Grand Marshals

Chantel and Justin Medina recognized for years of service

By **DEB BENTLY**
News Editor

Chantel and Justin Medina of Waseca have been selected as this year's grand marshals for the Marching Classic parade. The two have been volunteering with the Marching Jays for the past 8 years serving in a boggling variety of roles.

Chantel observes that Justin is "that guy everyone relies on" to

Marshals continued on 4



SERVICE REWARDED - Chantel and Justin Medina are the grand marshals for the 2026 Marching Classic Parade. The two are pictured here (at center and far right) with (from left) their son-in-law Tahvo Nevalainen, their daughter Jaidence, and their son Corrick.

Theft of yard signs sabotages free speech

By **DEB BENTLY**
News Editor

Waseca County DFL party chair Deb Hogenson wants people to consider the bigger picture.

"Stealing yard signs is more than just a prank," she states. "It's interfering with free speech and with the democratic process."

County Republican party leader Robert Tackett observes, "Even when politics are heated, it's wrong to interfere with the right of free speech, and that includes supporting the political candidate of your choice."

"I condemn the act of interfering with democracy by stealing political signs."

City Chief of Police Kris Markeson notes that the dollar value of damages determines how serious a crime is under the law. Theft of any property is automatically a misdemeanor; if the accumulated value of stolen items reaches a certain threshold, it becomes a felony.

DFL leader Hogenson has conferred with local law enforcement regarding the repeated disappearance of political yard signs supporting DFL candidates; she mentions that in a few cases, property owners are on their third set. According to Tackett, no corresponding thefts have been reported regarding Republican signs.

Markeson says that most of the people who have contacted Hogenson for replacement signs have apparently so far chosen not to report the disappearances to the police department—with one exception. A Waseca resident experienced what was apparently intended as a prank when a dozen or more signs, the majority of them for democratic candidates but some advertising local businesses and services, were placed on his yard overnight.

Markeson suggests that citizens may wish to install security measures to discourage thefts. Cameras which help identify the miscreants will help make it possible to charge, and perhaps fine, individuals for their actions—which may discourage others who are thinking of taking signs.

He also observes "Waseca is a strongly connected community; we treat each other with respect and can expect each other to do what is right."

"That shouldn't change just because we disagree with someone else's political choices."

Get your news in the Pioneer

• CALL 837-6767

• e-mail news@waseca-countypioneer.com



Compostings

by Al Batt

Don't know crap

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
My twin brother asked if I ever suffer from hallucinations. That was an odd thing to ask.

Why is that odd?
I don't have a twin brother.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. Pumpkin spice always catches me off guard. This was in Larry Wakefield's obituary: "In honor of Larry, please have a hamburger, a Pop-Tart, some cranberry sauce, or some ice cream. Those four 'food groups' were part of the secret to his spunk and longevity." RIP, Larry.

I heard an auctioneer say this tongue twister without pause: "Betty Botter bought some butter, but, she said, this butter's bitter; if I put it in my batter, it will make my batter bitter; but a bit of better butter will make my batter better. So, she bought a bit of butter better than her bitter butter, and she put it in her batter, and it made her batter better, so, 'twas better Betty Botter bought a bit of better butter." He used this when he was practicing to become an auctioneer.

I built a metal detector once and I became a poor man's metal detectorist. I found rusty nails and pop tabs, and their nonmetal companions sherds and shards. In general, "sherd" refers to pieces or fragments of pottery, whereas "shard" may refer to broken bits of glass, metal, rock and ceramics. I dug up something I thought proved the Vikings (not the football team) had been here before generally believed, but it turned out to be a can of Copenhagen (an early Midwestern dessert) that had a hard life. I built a ham radio, too. My neighbor, Claude Bias, bought it. It was more ham than radio.

I'VE LEARNED
Every day of the year comes round but once.

I haven't done the Hokey Pokey in years. I guess I've forgotten what it's all about.

I was in a waiting area. A TV was showing "Gunsmoke." Marshal Matt Dillon was shot 56 times over the 20-year run of the show.

The only time incorrectly isn't spelled incorrectly is when it's spelled incorrectly.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

Name a rock group with four men who can't sing. Mount Rushmore.

Did you hear about the three holes in the ground? Well, well, well.

When you're down by the sea, and an eel bites your knee, that's a

moray.

The politician's talk ran long, and when he asked if there were any questions, only one hand went up—the other attendees were eager to go home. The question was, "A horse, a cow and a deer eat similar things. Yet a deer excretes little pellets, a cow turns out a flat patty, and a horse produces clumps. Why is that?" The politician gave it a bit of thought, decided to say in his lane, and said, "Hmmm, I don't know." To which the questioner replied, "How can you be qualified to discuss the economy, healthcare and the cost of living when you don't know crap?"

What is a pirate's favorite musical instrument? The guit-arrrr.

The bartender says, "We don't serve time-travelers here!" A time-traveler walks into a bar.

NATURE NOTES

Janelle Tukua of Albert Lea asked how deer communicate. White-tailed deer have an advanced communication system. A deer in alarm or distress may forewarn other deer visually (stiff walking, foot stomping, alert ears, raised tail and head swaying), chemically (scent deposited from the interdigital gland between the "toes"), and vocally (a snort or grunt). The waving white flag of a deer's tail as it runs off is another example of visual communication, as are scrapes (bare dirt exposed by bucks pawing the ground with their hooves) and rubs (tree bark removed by a buck's antlers). Forms of body language used by deer include hair bristling, staring and head movements that are used to establish dominance and territory.

When Europeans first arrived in North America, there were somewhere between 3 billion and 5 billion passenger pigeons. In 1860 in Ontario, a flock of passenger pigeons 300 miles long flew overhead for several days. How could a species go from billions to none in a brief period? While loss of habitat made a dent in the passenger pigeon population, overhunting was the primary cause of its demise. Hunters reportedly shot up to a quarter of a million of them in a single day for food and sport in 1886. By 1914, they were extinct.

Researchers conducting a helicopter survey at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson in Anchorage, Alaska, discovered a black bear sleeping in a bald eagle nest. The scent of leftover fish may have drawn the bear.

MEETING ADJOURNED
Matthew 12:34 says, "For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of." Fill your heart with kind words.

People watching at the Renaissance

I know where Waldo was last Saturday. As anyone who recognizes the allusion will expect, he was wearing a red and white striped shirt and hat and mingling among a large crowd of people dressed in every color imaginable and each carrying or wearing items that helped represent who they were and what they were doing.

I also rubbed shoulders with Fred Flintstone, Dumbledore, and a goat-footed satyr or two.

We were all at the Renaissance Festival wandering about and seeing what there was to see.

We could not have been more fortunate when it came to the weather—temperatures in the 70s and no wind to speak of.

I enjoyed many things while I was there. Sat in on a show or two. Ate wild rice soup in a bread bowl. Saw some capybara, elephants and an albino snapping turtle. Enjoyed the company of family and friends.

What I appreciated most, though, was the people watching.



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

There were characters there from video games and current popular culture—though I could not have named them, I still appreciated the effort and creativity people had employed to make their elaborately shaped headgear or footwear or wings. Some folks were dressed as royalty or elite members of various cultures and widely divided times in history. Some were covered in layers of fabric, even leather and furs (both real and artificial), while others were barely dressed.

All these bizarre beings were mingling and weaving among each other in ever-increasing numbers as the

day's crowd continued to grow.

My group of four arrived on site around 8:15 after getting underway from Waseca shortly after 6:30—yes, I do mean a.m.

Since the gates don't open until 9, that might seem rather fanatical. But after the hilly, slightly dusty walk from our parked car, we were glad to be standing still for a bit. The people watching had begun already in the parking lot, where people got out of their cars in fairly ordinary clothing, then began to buckle on armor, drape capes over their shoulders and strap on weaponry. Others were pulling dresses over their heads, wrapping

scarves around their shoulders and waists, and setting flowered coronets on their heads.

Our walk to the main gate was behind a pair of glimmering dragons—who happened to be helping an older lady, their mother, as she worked to walk uphill. Beginning at the gate and throughout the day, we couldn't help noticing that mushrooms are "in" this year. People had made large rounded hats, usually red with white dots, although other color combinations did appear. Clever touches of all types had been used: strings of beads suspended underneath or along the outside edge. White buttons large and small scattered across the top. Clumps of moss on a dark-colored mushroom apparently meant to look threatening—I got hints that one was from a movie or video game. Parasols decorated to be mushroom tops. One group of friends who had made similar but not identical hats and looked like a matched set in an array of colors.

Ready for cooler weather, football season

I could tell you about how I spent the weekend socializing, going on a hike with Jack's coworkers, attending the CU Buffalo football home opener, staying up way too late at a joint birthday party.

Or I could tell you about how ready I am for fall. This summer tied for third as Denver's hottest summer on record. On August 3 was a record-breaking 103 degrees. Let's just say I am ready for the cooler weather, wearing layers, football season, pumpkin spice lattes, and soups.

Honestly, I am pretty excited about football season. I met a Bears fan at the CU game on Saturday and we bonded over our mutual desire to see the Packers lose on Sunday (which they thankfully did) and how we loved to get our Broncos friends fired up by teasing them about their team.

And then there are the Vikings. I could say I am really hopeful for our



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

quarterback Kyler Murray or that Justin Jefferson will finally have another successful season or that the genius of Brian Flores will take us far. But my hopes aren't too high—it's the Vikings.

Now, the Golden Gophers on the other hand...Saturday didn't leave me very optimistic about their season, although I have heard talk that this could be the year with Drake Lindsey at the helm. I find it harder to keep up with college football, although I know some people might

prefer it to the NFL.

I'm just excited to spend days snuggled up on the couch, working on the paper, and watching my fantasy team either disappoint me or surprise me with a win. It'll be a bonus if we have a cute foster dog I can cuddle up with as well.

This past week, Jack and I fostered another dog. Her name was Stacy's Mom and she was a three-year-old, pit and terrier mix. She was the most well behaved foster we've ever had and I fell in love with her. She was a

happy and adorable dog who loved to play with toys and be close to you. The best was that she was crate-trained and never barked, meaning she was the first foster we could actually leave alone for a few hours.

We were fostering her because there had been something wrong with her leg and they were watching it. By the time I picked her up, she was off her meds, but they wanted us to watch her and make sure that it was actually healed. When I gave her back, I told them that I hadn't seen anything (no limping or favoring of the other leg) and she was then put up on the adoption page. While I joked with my family that they should adopt her, I was glad to see that she was adopted only a day later. I hope she's in a great home now.

My Determination: "The only place success comes before work is in the dictionary." —Vince Lombardi

A whole lot of health updates

I don't have a whole lot of life updates or happenings to share this week.

Last week I did not write a column as it was simply too painful of a week. I aggravated my back/leg/sciatic nerve and spent the entire week, continuing to today, nursing a spasm in my calf muscle. Quite painful.

On a positive note, a new nerve blocking medication seems to be helping.

And on an even more positive note, I got results and a diagnosis of what was wrong with my left side pain/guts. I guess it's just simply a "small intestinal bacterial overgrowth" (SIBO), most likely caused by the antibiotics I was put on when my wisdom teeth were pulled almost four years ago, about a month or two before these terrible pains started. SIBO often goes undiagnosed or misdiagnosed for years because its symptoms so closely resemble those of irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) or a host of other stomach problems. I saw a specialist last month who ordered five different tests and had even more she could test for afterwards. But



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

the breath test showed positive for this rare condition. It is easily treated with a two week course of, ironically, a special antibiotic that will kill that bad bacteria in my gut that has been causing me so much pain.

Based on what I read about this condition, it should not come back once treated. I am currently waiting on insurance to approve the \$3,000 prescription.

As I dove into this diagnosis further, I discovered I have been trying nearly every "home remedy" suggested.

Listed as a mandatory treatment was fasting for at least 12 hours overnight.

I had been stretching that to between 16 and 20 hours lately because that reduced the pain considerably. Going

longer than that did not actually help. Although when I had to fast 30 hours for the endoscopy and colonoscopy, I did have the only day in the past 3.5 years when my body felt normal for 24 hours.

Turns out starving a bacteria can help reduce it.

Also offered among possible remedies is waiting at least five hours between meals: No soda or beverages with high fructose corn syrup, and no snacking. I don't drink soda, nor do I snack, and finally, I really altered my diet to be a very small breakfast followed by one actual meal in the day. The pattern was almost imposed on me because, about four hours after eating, I get terrible, awful pains, along with a

feeling of pressure.

As I say, I was often in extreme pain, and I gradually developed these strategies over the past 48 months. Oftentimes, especially during the first year, I would lay curled up thinking I was dying or my heart was failing, since the pain was located high in my abdomen.

At that time I had no idea what the solution was to the pain. I tried a no acid diet because the doctors told me it was acid reflux. It wasn't, and they told me I was wrong when I shared my feelings. The medication they prescribed made my situation worse, but I was told I was mistaken. Acid blockers slow digestion which also means that bad bacteria have more time to wreak havoc. Those same medications also gave me bouts of mild gastritis that showed up on my endoscopy test.

I tried a gluten free diet. It didn't help either.

I lost 50 pounds doing these horrible diets. Then when they didn't work I

Lutgens continued on 4

WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

SERVING THE WHOLE OF WASECA COUNTY
including the communities of Waseca, Janesville, New Richland, and Waldorf

PHONE: 507-837-6767

email: news@wasecacountypioneer.com

Address: Office at 111 Elm Avenue West

Mail: PO Box 578, Waseca MN 56093

DEADLINES: Pioneer: Noon Monday
GOLDEN LINK: Previous Friday

ELI LUTGENS	Publisher
DEB BENTLY	News Editor
AMELIA ROESSLER	Editor
JIM LUTGENS	Sports Editor/Dad
JON LUCCA	Ad Design
BEN REVERMANN	Staff Writer
TERESA ROSACKER	Advertising Sales
MELISSA DUNN	Staff Writer

Contributing writers/photographers: Dave Zika, Al Batt, Darin Reese, Payge Rosacker, Rachael Jaegar, Rachel Loverink, Jessica Lutgens, Cassie Rupe, Debbie Rodriguez, Pastor Michael Coglan, Rev. Glenn K. Frerichs, Pastor Michael Granis, Pastor Rick Wulf, and Pastor Jillene Gallatin

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

\$59 Per Year, Waseca County Residents

\$69 State of Minnesota • \$79 Outside Minnesota

Waseca County Pioneer (USPS permit #25304) is published weekly on Thursday, by Pioneer Publications Inc., 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca, MN, 56093. Entire contents copyright © 2026 PIONEER Publications, Inc. and respective authors. Opinions expressed in editorials or letters to the editor are those of the individual authors, and do not necessarily represent those of the Waseca County Pioneer or PIONEER Publications, Inc. Letters may be edited for content or length. Periodicals Postage at New Richland, MN. POSTMASTER: send address changes to Waseca County Pioneer, P.O. Box 578, Waseca, MN, 56093.

Freemasons Donations



FUNDING GOOD - The Freemasons donated \$1,500 to the Waseca County Sheriff and \$1,750 to the Waseca Fire Department on Friday, Sept. 11, 2026. The funds were raised from the eighth annual Freemasons Soapbox Races held in August. Pictured from left: Scott Singlestad, Rick Kritzer, Sheriff Jay Dulas, Fire Department Shift Commander Ryan Bruegger, Kevin Clemons, and Zach Sather.

Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Pumpkins and Apples papercraft at New Richland Public Library Sept. 23

There will be a Pumpkins and Apples papercrafting event at New Richland Public Library at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 23. Learn how to make sweet apples and pumpkins out of paper. For ages 18 and up.

United Way Ladies Night at Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm Thursday, Sept. 24

United Way of the Greater Mankato Area is holding a Ladies Night promotion at the Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm from 4 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 24. The night will offer live music, pizza, specialty cocktails, and community connection. Individual tickets are \$40; A reserved table for 8 is \$300. Register at MankatoUnitedWay.org/pizzafarm26.

Oktoberfest at Ward House Brewery Friday, Sept. 25

The Ward House Brewery will hold Oktoberfest from 5-11 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 25. Live music from AZBY. Mug holding contest and lederhosen competition.

Amy Manette at Indian Island Winery Saturday, Sept. 26

Jazz and blues group Amy Manette will play Indian Island Winery from 5:30-8:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 26. Amy's voice is reminiscent of Etta James and Beth Hart.

All You Can Eat Dad's Belgian Waffles All Saints Sept. 27

All Saints Church of New Richland will hold their All You Can Eat Dad's Belgian Waffles from 9-12:30 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 27. There will be a raffle and country store, cost is \$10.

Woodville Cemetery Walking Tour Sept. 27

There will be a walking tour of the Woodville Cemetery from 11 a.m. thru 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 27. A shuttle bus will depart and return to Dennis-Steffell-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Services. Free will donations accepted.

Glow Up Book Workshop at New Richland Public Library Sept. 28

The New Richland Library will hold a Glow Up Book workshop at 4 p.m. Monday, Sept. 28. Transform a retired hardcover into a magical lighted lantern. For ages 13-18.

Romp and Rhyme Storytime at New Richland Public Library Sept. 29

The New Richland Library will hold Romp and Rhyme Storytime at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 29. Puppets, pumping music, bubble machines to ragging bands. For ages 3-6.

Waseca Senior Center Lot Sale Friday and Saturday, Oct. 2 and 3

The Waseca Senior Center will hold a lot sale from 8 a.m. thru 3 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Oct. 2 and 3. They are also looking for donations, drop off at the Senior Center Tuesday-Friday from 8 a.m. thru 4 p.m.

Meriden Ice Cream Social draws energetic crowd

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Between 150 and 175 people attended the Fall Family Festival and Ice Cream Social held over the lunch hour at St. Paul's Church of Meriden on Sunday, Sept. 13. The day began with a 10 a.m. outdoor worship.

An unusual offering for the day were horse-drawn wagon rides. Handlers Lex Lewison, 22, and Jacob Sommers, 12, were driving calmly in a circular route which took them through the parking lot and out onto the road. Lewison said he's been coming to the Fall Festival for about five years now. Sommers said this was his second year.

Inside, adults and children were finishing up their meals with dessert options that included M&M or chocolate chip cookies, as well as 15 different pies. Dianne Kath, one of the ladies working in the kitchen, commented that the day was going well, and lightheartedly expressed her hope the crowd would make cleanup easier by finishing off all the food: "Less to do afterwards, you know!"

Diner Brent Underwood stated enthusiastically, "I recommend the raspberry pie." When asked whether he tried the apple pie, he replied, "If there were no raspberry pie, then I would try the apple." He shrugged and admitted, "I've always been a raspberry man."

Judy Hoffman, one of the planners for the day, observed that the cheesy hashbrowns were going quickly. She mentioned servers had also received many compliments on the flavor of the pulled pork and pulled smoked turkey, then observed hot dogs were an additional option. She also wanted to introduce a new taste sensation being served for the first time in 2026, pineapple coconut pie baked by



PIE LINE - Alicia Stewart paused to decide what kind of pie she wanted after lunch at the Fall Family Festival and Ice Cream Social at St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Meriden on Sunday, Sept. 13, 2026.
Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann



CARRIAGE RIDES - Lex Lewison, 22, and Jacob Sommers, 12, were manning the horse drawn carriage during the Fall Family Festival and Ice Cream Social
Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Betty Webber.

Hoffman expressed her thanks to everyone who had contributed food, and to those volunteering their time, commenting, "We all worked together and everything turned out great." She also expressed gratitude for people who prayed for nice weather, "Those prayers really turned out some wonderful sunshine!"

Sacred Heart Festival to expand on tradition

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

This year's Sacred Heart Fall Festival is set for the weekend of Sept. 18,19, and 20. This yearly event draws hundreds of visitors to a wide variety of activities and entertainment across its three-day run. As has been the case for decades, a giant white canopy tent will be set up over the street in front of the church; most events will take place there.

Starting on Friday, Sept. 18, the concession stand will be under the tent for all three days, but it will not operate during mealtimes. According to festival planner Becky Petsinger, "Newly available at concessions this year will be pulled pork nachos. Last

year's was the cheesy taco dog, and don't worry, we'll have that this year too." She also wanted to call attention to a new feature this year, the Bean Bag tournament: check in starts at 4 p.m. Saturday night, "It's 32 teams max, either casual or competitive, \$40 per team with payouts for first and second place. We'll be doing beanbags instead of a musical guest this year." Interested competitors can sign up by calling Petsinger at 507-304-0389.

Open throughout the festival will be a country store with produce, jams and jellies and baked goods available for purchase. A silent auction will have many themed baskets donated from local businesses like Morgan's Meats, Oscar's, Otisco Valley Growers, Farmamerica and members of Sacred Heart. A book fair will offer parents and students time to peruse books for school or personal use. The white elephant sale will have many different items available like gently used clothes and household items; last year there were quite a few used lamps for sale.

A "Spirit Wall" will offer adult beverages. Petsinger explained, "The Spirit Wall is a game of chance, similar to a cork pull. For \$20 you choose a gift bag that contains an alcoholic item such as wine, beer growler or liquor- (Hence the name Spirit.) You don't know the item in the bag till you open it. The items are graciously donated to the festival."

A fish fry will be offered from 5 to

7 p.m. on Friday with the weekend-long events open until 8 p.m. Saturday's events start at noon with early bird bingo and the weekend-long spirit wall, silent auction, book fair, country store and white elephant at noon, super bingo at 2 p.m., pulled pork sandwiches at 4:30 p.m.. There will be a Festival Children's Choir Mass at 5 p.m.

Sunday will include a pancake breakfast, silent auction, book fair, country store and white elephant sale starting at 9 a.m. with Mass at 10 a.m. Raffle drawings at 1 p.m. and children's games and activities all weekend long. This event is free to attend and open for all.

Local DFL leader honored with award

Waseca County DFL Chair Deb Hogenson has been selected to receive the 2026 Minnesota DFL Orville Freeman Award, an honor which acknowledges "Distinguished Service to Greater Minnesota and Agricultural Issues." Hogenson and two other honorees will be presented at the DFL Farmer-Labor Picnic scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 26 in St. Paul.

Hogenson told the Pioneer she feels both honored and humbled to receive the award, named after a distinguished Minnesota Democrat.

Upon announcing her selection, the Minnesota DFL stated Hoganson is being recognized "for her decades of activism and service to rural Min-

nesota and the DFL. A longtime organizer, party leader, and advocate for rural communities and agricultural issues, Debra has been active in DFL politics since attending her first caucus as a college student in the 1970s.

"She and her late husband, Doug Bauman, farmed near Worthington and became fixtures in southern Minnesota DFL organizing, including hosting an annual gathering that began during Tim Walz's first campaign for Congress. Debra has served as a director of the DFL State Central Committee, chair of the First Congressional District DFL, leader of the Nobles County DFL and later of the Waseca County DFL, and as a national delegate and presidential elector. She has also served as a member of the Farmers Union. "Deb continues to show up for Southern Minnesota in a way only she can. Our state is better for it," finished the DFL statement.

Also being recognized on Sept. 26 are Chelsie Glaubitz Gabiou of the Twin Cities who is receiving the Paul D. Wellstone Aware for Lifetime Commitment to Organized Labor, and Brayden Sorenson, who most recently served as Political and Organizing Director for Peggy Flanagan, the DFL nominee for U.S. Senate. Sorenson is receiving the Mike "Kenner" Kennedy Award for Organizer of the Year.



Deb Hogenson

September observance encourages being prepared

The Le Sueur-Waseca Community Health Board (LWCHB) recognizes that, as National Preparedness Month, September is a time to is an annual September observance to encourage everyone to be aware of and follow some of the steps which will help them move forward from disasters and emergencies that could happen anywhere and at any time. This year's theme, Americans Stand Ready, encourages preparedness at home to strengthen the resiliency of our communities.

Preparedness is not going to look the same for everyone. Factors like children and pets in the home, the areas where family members live and work, and any disabilities will change the actions households should take to prepare themselves.

"Preparedness is a shared responsibility, and we all have a role to play," said Public Health Emergency Preparedness Specialist Sara Porter.

Among some valuable steps households can take are signing up for alerts and warnings with PHApp, Regroup (Waseca), or Everbridge (Le Sueur); creating a family communications plan; practice emergency drills at home and work; safeguard important documents such as birth or marriage certificates, health and property insurance documents, and the like; assemble a "go kit" with supplies like food, water, batteries and a reliable light source.

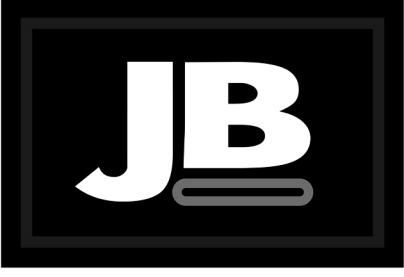
Learn more about National Preparedness Month and actions that help smooth recovery from a disaster at ready.gov. Information about local government preparedness and public health programs at either LeSueurCounty.Gov/790/Public-Health-Emergency-Preparedness-PHE or asecaCounty.Gov/593/Public-Health-Emergency-Preparedness-PHE.

Contact Sara Porter at 507-357-8509 or sara.porter@le-sueurcounty.gov with questions.

SUBSCRIBE
WASECA'S ONLY LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED NEWSPAPER!

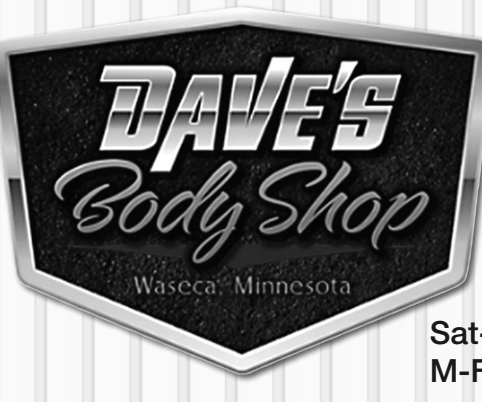
\$59	IN WASECA COUNTY
\$69	IN STATE OF MINNESOTA
\$79	OUTSIDE STATE

111 WEST ELM AVE, WASECA, MN
(507) 837-6767
NEWS@WASECACOUNTYPIONEER.COM

**JAMES BROS.**
CONSTRUCTION

507.267.4789
jamesbrosconstruction.com

Complete Septic Service and Installation • Excavation
Residential and Commercial Site Preparation and Utilities
Locally Owned and Operated since 1978

**DAVE'S**
Body Shop
Waseca, Minnesota

715 S State St,
Waseca, MN
(507) 835-8615

Hours:
Sat-Sun Closed
M-F 8 AM-5 PM

Ali and Willy Malecha are excited to continue to bring you the excellent service you have come to expect at Dave's Body Shop!

Serving Waseca and the surrounding areas for more than 30 years!

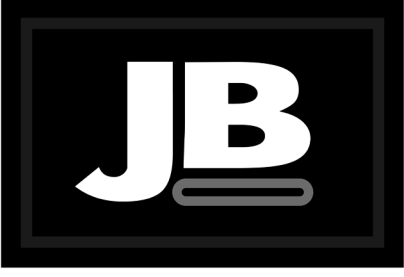
**EYE Q VISION**

Serving the Mankato, MN area with a full range of eye care services, including routine eye exams, contacts, glasses & urgent care visits. At Eye Q Vision we are dedicated to providing our patients with the highest quality of optometric care to patients of all ages!

OUR STAFF
Jeffery Crowley OD
Angela Johnson OD
Laura Coudron OD

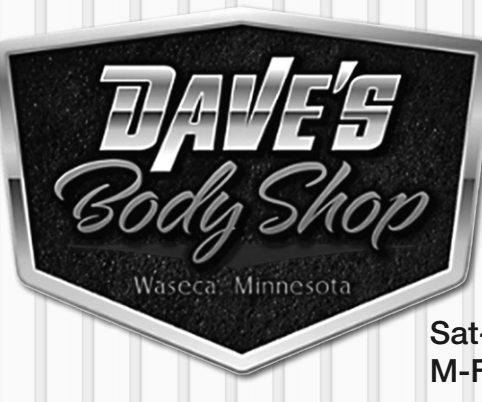
ADDRESS
111 Star Street
Suite 101
Mankato, MN 56001

507-387-6695 • eyeqvvisionmankato.com

**JAMES BROS.**
CONSTRUCTION

507.267.4789
jamesbrosconstruction.com

Complete Septic Service and Installation • Excavation
Residential and Commercial Site Preparation and Utilities
Locally Owned and Operated since 1978

**DAVE'S**
Body Shop
Waseca, Minnesota

715 S State St,
Waseca, MN
(507) 835-8615

Hours:
Sat-Sun Closed
M-F 8 AM-5 PM

Ali and Willy Malecha are excited to continue to bring you the excellent service you have come to expect at Dave's Body Shop!

Serving Waseca and the surrounding areas for more than 30 years!

**EYE Q VISION**

Serving the Mankato, MN area with a full range of eye care services, including routine eye exams, contacts, glasses & urgent care visits. At Eye Q Vision we are dedicated to providing our patients with the highest quality of optometric care to patients of all ages!

OUR STAFF
Jeffery Crowley OD
Angela Johnson OD
Laura Coudron OD

ADDRESS
111 Star Street
Suite 101
Mankato, MN 56001

507-387-6695 • eyeqvvisionmankato.com

OBITUARIES

Odean Johnson

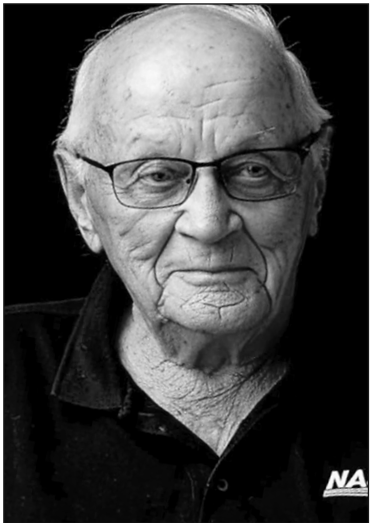
Odean Virgel Johnson, age 82, of Waseca, passed away on Monday, September 7, 2026, at Mayo Clinic Health System in Mankato, surrounded by his family.

Odean was born on October 15, 1943, in Waseca, Minnesota, the son of Virgel Richard and Orella Lucille (Severson) Johnson. He attended New Richland Country School and graduated from New Richland High School, where he met his high school sweetheart, Andrea Langlie. The couple was married on December 20, 1963, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and together built a life centered on faith, family, and farming.

Following in the footsteps of his father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, Odean became the fourth generation to farm the Johnson family land northeast of New Richland. He was proud to be recognized as the first American Farmer Degree recipient from New Richland FFA in 1964. In addition to farming, Odean worked as a supervisor with USDA - NASDA, serving farmers throughout southern Minnesota for more than 39 years.

Odean loved what he did and found great satisfaction in his work. He especially enjoyed spending time with his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, attending their activities and celebrating their accomplishments. A lifelong supporter of agriculture, he enjoyed county fairs, farming, horses, and collecting tractors. At home, his collection of Minnesota Vikings memorabilia reflected his dedication as a loyal fan who followed the team through every season.

Faith played an important role throughout Odean's life. He was a lifelong member of Vista Lutheran Church, later Christ the King Lutheran and Grace Lutheran Church, and remained active in the congregation through



Odean Johnson

the years. His priorities were simple and unwavering: faith, family, and farming.

He is survived by his wife, Andrea Johnson of Waseca; children, Roxanne Johnson, Keith (Kim) Johnson of New Richland, Rochelle (Chris) Compartment of Nicollet, Raeleen Johnson of Waseca, and Kyle (Amanda) Johnson of New Richland; grandchildren, Kelby Johnson, Kaleb Johnson, Kylee Johnson, Sara Compartment, Dustin (Natalie) Compartment, Taylor Bolinger (Amber Meyer), Riley Johnson, Arin Boese, Jaiden Johnson, Kendall Johnson, and Aurella Johnson; and two special great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

The family extends their heartfelt gratitude to the staff at Mayo Clinic Health System for the compassionate care provided to Odean.

Visitation for Odean was from 4 - 7 PM on Thursday, September 10, 2026 at Grace Lutheran Church in Waseca. Visitation continued one hour prior to service on Friday at the church.

Funeral service was at 11:00 AM on Friday, September 11, 2026 at Grace Lutheran Church. Burial was at Vista Lutheran Church in New Richland.

Dsofuneral.com

Charles Wolff Jr.

Charles Wolff Jr., age 88 of Janesville, passed away on September 2, 2026 at home surrounded by his family. Visitation will be held 3-6pm on Friday, October 9, 2026. Funeral Services will be held at 11am on Saturday, October 10, 2026 at All Saints Catholic Church, Madison Lake, visitation will continue one hour before services. Burial will take place at Calvary Cemetery in Madison Lake.

Charles farmed all his life up to his retirement in 2000. In addition to crops, he raised hogs and cattle. He joined the Army National Guard and served from 1956-1962. He enjoyed old cars, tractors and many years wintering in McAllen, TX.

Charles was born June 1, 1938 to Charles & Madelyne (Burns) Wolff. Charles married Yvonne Lang on Jan 7, 1959 at St. Clair Catholic Church. He is survived by his wife Yvonne



Charles Wolff Jr.

of 67 years.

Children Treasa Severson, LoryAnn Stangler, Paula (Lance) Green, Chet Wolff, seven grandchildren and thirteen great grandchildren. Preceding Charles in death are his parents, daughter Christine Smith, son-in-law Daniel Stangler and In-Laws Leon & Dorothy Lang.

Lutgens

from Page 2

gained about half of that weight back.

And, again based on some research, I discovered the internal pressure exerted by the bacteria can cause back problems. So I am hoping that resolving this will relieve some of the pains from my two bulging discs.

I was told by Natalie at Thrifty White in Waseca last week that she has no idea how I can do what I do.

I told her I have an incredible team/staff.

She repeated herself again and I went into more detail bragging about Deb, Amelia, Melanie and Ben and

also the game store staff.

And she just shook her head.

I am grateful for the tremendous amount of support and encouragement I receive regularly from these people who are not only a part of my work, but my life.

Cribbage

In cribbage this week I got the best of Dad, winning 14-6 with one skunk each. Our updated scores for the year follow:

Eli 180 wins, 17 skunks, Dad 150 wins, 27 skunks.

Lifetime

Dad 563, 88 skunks, Eli 517 wins, 56 skunks, 1 double skunk.

(Dad and I played many games of cribbage virtually these past two weeks. He edged me in contests 37-31)

Shirley Krenik

Shirley Ann (Lamont) Krenik, age 89 of Elysian, passed away peacefully at her home on September 4, 2026, surrounded by loved ones.

Shirley was born on February 10, 1937, at her family farm in rural Elysian to Lawrence and Lucile (Sperl) Lamont. She attended country school one mile from the farm and graduated from Waterville High School in 1954. She then attended Mankato Commercial College where she received business training.

During her younger years, Shirley helped her father on the family farm with field work and milking cows. She possessed a beautiful singing voice and shared her talents at church services and many weddings. She was also a gifted pianist. After graduation she worked for Mankato Stone Company, where she met her first husband Frank Howard. They were married June 22, 1957 at the Evangelical United Methodist Church in Waterville, and made their home in Mankato. Together they were blessed with two children, Theresa A. and Michael L. They later divorced in 1974.

Shirley worked at Mankato Stone for five years before beginning a successful career in sales with Playhouse Toy Company. She found her niche as a salesperson, and quickly rose to the top of her region, earning a bonus trip to Spain. In February 1972, she joined Woodmen Accident & Life Insurance Company, where she built a thriving insurance business and continued working until her retirement in November 2019 at the age of 81.

At Woodmen, Shirley made history by earning 10 consecutive President's Club trips, each requiring two years of qualifying sales. She also earned a place on the President's Cabinet and remains the only woman to have achieved Life Membership in the President's Club.

In 1976, Shirley met Tom Krenik, her "Tiger", who swept her off her feet. After a four-year courtship they were married in December 1980 at Peace United Methodist in Richfield, Minnesota, and settled into their home in Elysian where they lived for the next nearly 46 years of marriage. Through her marriage to Tom, Shirley gained five children:

Kurt, Keith, Karl, Linda, and Julie. Their growing family filled holidays, celebrations, and everyday life with laughter, love, and countless memories.

Shirley and Tom shared many good times with family and friends over their lifetime together. They loved to dance, travel (including favorite trips to Hawaii and Scotland), and play 500 and other card games for hours. Shirley loved going to the casino and had amazing luck playing the slots!

Shirley's other passion in life was picking blueberries in northern Wisconsin. She was known there as "the Blueberry Lady", spending upwards of six weeks every summer picking blueberries and selling them at a stand in Danbury. She bought a lake cabin in Webb Lake as a home base in the area. This was truly her happy place where she spent countless treasured hours with family and

friends.

Another great passion was researching genealogy on the Lamont family. She spent countless hours tracking down family history and stories and gathered enough information to fill a museum! She traced ancestors all the way back to the 1300's in Scotland, even visiting the LaMont Castle there.

Her grandchildren and great-grandchildren brought Shirley much happiness throughout the years. She found great joy in sharing her love of gardening, family history, and the cabin with them. Some of her most treasured memories were the hours spent together planting flowers and vegetables, picking blueberries, exploring the outdoors, and making memories that will be cherished for generations.

Shirley spent her life in service to others. She provided care to several elderly family members and friends and was often entrusted to help settle estates and assist with financial matters.

Shirley was Chairman of the Board for her church in North Mankato and served on its building committee for a new church. She also spent many years on the Singing Hills Girl Scout Camp Board of Advisors, as a large portion of the camp land belonged to her family when she was growing up. Shirley was also on the LeSueur County Historical Society Board of Directors, serving as its president for a couple of years.

Shirley had a deep love for her family and will be missed by all. She will be lovingly remembered by her husband; Tom Krenik; son, Mike Howard; son-in-law, Randy



Shirley Krenik

Mees; grandchildren, Isaak Mees, Leah (Jason) Lewis, Kari Mees; great grandchildren Wyatt, Adeline and Emilee Lewis; sister Ruth (John) Jansen; nieces Angel (Dan) Oehrlein, Sharry Lorenzi & Bobbi Jo Lamont. Many Great nieces and nephews; Bonus children, Kurt, Keith, and Karl Krenik, Linda (Mike) Tohal, Julie (Steve) Tiede.

Shirley was preceded in death by her parents, daughter Theresa Mees, brother Curtis LaMont, and niece Clarissa Lamont.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, September 25, 2026, at 11:00 AM at the Evangelical United Methodist Church in Waterville, MN, luncheon to follow. Shirley's family will greet guests at a visitation one hour prior to the service at the church. Interment will be at Cedar Hill Cemetery in Elysian following the luncheon for family and anyone that wishes to join.

Benjamin Matteson

Benjamin William Matteson was born on Dec. 14, 1937, to Lucille Matteson in Waseca, Minnesota.

He spent much of his childhood at the Owatonna State School before working as a teenager on a farm near Waterville. Benjamin then came to live with Irene Sutlief in Waseca.

He worked more than 30 years

at Birds Eye. After retirement, Benjamin would take long walks in downtown Waseca, visiting friends and local businesses.

Benjamin was a member of the Odd Fellows and United Methodist Church. He also volunteered with Habitat for Humanity.

Benjamin enjoyed traveling not only in the U.S., but trips to Mexico and Costa Rico.

Benjamin passed away peacefully on September 10, 2026, at

Mayo Clinic Health System in Mankato, MN.

He will be remembered most for his gentle and warm character. An outgoing man, he enjoyed spending time with everyone.

Arrangements are currently being finalized, with services provided by Dennis Steffel Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the National Kidney Foundation.



Benjamin Matteson

Marshals

from Page 1

troubleshoot emerging situations, ranging from roadkill on the parade route to finding a way to create an auxiliary concession stand. Chantel has served as the Band Boosters treasurer for the past four years, and also helped ensure the concession stand is ready for not only the Classic, but football games as well.

The two will be waving to the crowd during the Marching Classic Parade, set for this Saturday in downtown Waseca beginning at noon. Up to 100 parade units are expected, as well as six marching bands, five of which will be judged for various elements of

their performance: The Eagle Grove Marching Eagles, the Luverne Cardinals, the Pipestone Area Arrows, Sibley High School and Stewartville High School. The Marching Jays will perform in the parade, but as event hosts will not be competing for any awards.

A field competition featuring nine performances will begin at about 5:30 at the high school football field. Competing bands are from Coon Rapids, Dassel-Cokato, Hutchinson, Luverne, Madison South Dakota, Pipestone, Rochester Lourdes and Spirit Lake Iowa. The Marching Jays will perform, but are not among the competitors. Tickets for the field show are \$10, or wristbands can be purchased in advance at a discount.

The day will also include a

classic car show from 9:30 to 1:30 at Club 57 and a fireworks show after awards are announced at the field competition.

Chantel and Justin say they are flattered and grateful to have been chosen as grand marshals, while also feeling a bit humbled given how many hardworking, dedicated individuals they work alongside.

The two have been steady volunteers with the marching band for the past 8 years—first while their daughter Jaidance was active with band playing the clarinet and eventually becoming drum major, and then while their son Corrick, who was part of the drumline, participated for four years, graduating in 2026.

"We were glad to do it," Chantel says firmly. "It was a lot of work; it was also a lot of fun."

The two say they are grateful for Waseca's strong instrumental music program in all its forms.

Although Justin says his chief association with music has been appreciating it, Chantel describes three generations of connection to the Waseca band program.

Her mother, Danita (Deppe) Proechel played trumpet with the Jays, graduating in 1980 after four years in band with Butch DuFault as her director. Chantel played trumpet with the band, switching to the French horn for the marching season; she was also in band for three years, graduating in 2003.



DENNIS STEFFEL OMTVEDT
FUNERAL AND CREMATION SERVICE
109 3RD STREET NE, WASECA, MN 56093
WASECA • JANESVILLE • WATERVILLE



STEVE JAMES EXCAVATING
D&M CONSTRUCTION
ELYSIAN, OWATONNA, WASECA & WATERVILLE
507-451-3080
SteveJamesExcavating.com

- Excavation
- Site Development
- Site Utilities
- Basement Digging
- Trucks & Hauling
- Landscape Supplies
- Rock, Sand, Gravel & Dirt
- Demolition
- Water & Waterline Repair
- Jetting, Camera & Locating
- Septic Services
- Snow Plowing

Offering Commercial & Residential Services

PH & B

PATTON, HOVERSTEN & BERG, PA
A PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION / ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Waseca Office 215 Elm Ave E Waseca, MN 507-835-5240 888-835-5244	Janesville Office 216 N Main St Janesville, MN 507-234-5106 888-980-1210	Owatonna Office 150 W Park Sq Owatonna, MN 507-451-9000 866-451-9010	Faribault Office 415 2nd Ave NW Faribault, MN 507-332-7425
---	---	---	--

Your Trusted Local Law Offices for Over 50 Years



H&J Fuel, Inc.
507-461-0604
On-Site Bulk Fuel Delivery
Waseca, Mn



The Pastor's Column

Walking through the book of Revelation

By REV. MICHAEL GRANNIS

Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death. Therefore, rejoice, O heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to you, O earth and sea, for the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!” ~ Revelation 12:7-12

Over the summer at my church we have been walking through the book of Revelation Sunday by Sunday. The goal has been to dispel some of the strange modern interpretations of this heavenly vision given to St. John, the Apostle and Evangelist. What does this heavenly vision mean? How are we Christians to take this mysterious holy text, which God has given and preserved for His people?

Well, as I often say, the message of Revelation is no different than the message of the rest of Scripture. It shows us the real and ever-present threats that we face in this fallen world and as fallen humanity. However, it also shows us where are salvation lies - namely, in Christ Jesus our Savior.

In the verses above we hear of a heavenly battle between "Michael and his angels... and the dragon and his angels." I have always had a personal affinity for St. Michael (the Archangel of heavenly protection, and commander of God's angel army) after all my given name is Michael. I also was confirmed and married in a parish by the same name, St. Michael Lutheran Church.

The name Michael means "Who is like God?" It is a rhetorical question pointing to the obvious conclusion that there is no one like God. He alone is God - uncreated, holy, good, almighty, from before all creation, and self-sustaining. Although the devil - that ancient serpent, and dragon... the accuser of our brothers - wishes to deny us of our salvation and usurp the kingdom and power

of God and the authority of Christ, he is defeated. He has lost the war! Alleluia! And this makes him angry.

He wants to take it out on humanity because we are the objects of God's steadfast love and faithfulness. Therefore, he rages against us, trying to tear us away from God, to destroy our faith, and to lead us into eternal ruin.

This is a good summary of all of Scripture. God made gracious promises all the way at the beginning to send a Savior by the "seed of the woman" (see Genesis 3:15), and behind the scenes the devil worked tirelessly to stop God's faithful Word from proving true. The devil at every moment of history was warring against the promises of God, and against God's faithful people in order to keep Christ from coming and redeeming God's people. And now that Christ has come, even now the devil is constantly working to lure us or drive us away from the blessings and salvation of God for us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

But notice, how can we - like St. Michael and his angels - defeat the dragon and his angels? How can we fend off all of his attacks, and even be on the offensive against him?

“And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.” ~ Revelation 12:11

Christ has won the war for us! We gain the victory in our own lives as we stand firm in the grace of God for us in Christ, living in the testimony that Christ "has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and His innocent suffering and death." (Luther's Small Catechism, 2nd Article of the Apostles' Creed).

Christ, our crucified, resurrected, and ascended Lord and Savior is the reason that we can live free from the fear of the devil and his accusation and attacks. Though he may come at us to destroy us, God has the power, and He has given us the promise of resurrection unto glory, and life everlasting, through the blood of Christ Jesus.

The devil's time is short. He knows it, and he hates it, and he hates us for it. But God has given us His Word in Revelation and in the rest of Holy Scripture so that we would know it too, and love not our lives even unto death, but love and trust in the One who redeems from sin, death and hell - even Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

Living Forever, Now,
Pastor Grannis, St. Paul Lutheran (LCMS), Waseca

Janesville Blood Drive



GIVING BACK - Duane Flemming of Janesville, assisted by Red Cross phlebotomist Muhammed Aya, was among the many donors who took part in a blood drive on Thursday, Sept. 10 at St. Ann's Parish in Janesville. The drive collected 85 units of blood. Another blood drive will take place on Nov. 12 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Janesville.

Mud, a Mississippi River drama

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Mud, a southern gothic coming-of-age drama was written and directed by Jeff Nichols that takes place in Arkansas along the Mississippi River. Released in 2012 and rated PG-13, it stars Matthew McConaughey as Mud and Reese Witherspoon as Juniper. It also features a young Tye Sheridan as Ellis and his best friend Neckbone played by Jacob Lofland.

While exploring the Mississippi River and previously flooded islands in and around Arkansas without their parents' knowledge, two teenage boys, Ellis and Neckbone, find a boat in a tree, most likely left there by the last flood, and decide to check it out. Instead of finding an abandoned boat, they find a boat someone has been living in, Mud, a fugitive who begins telling them stories, and keeps them interested enough when they return home, they keep their mouths shut.

Revermann Recommends

Good movies you might've missed

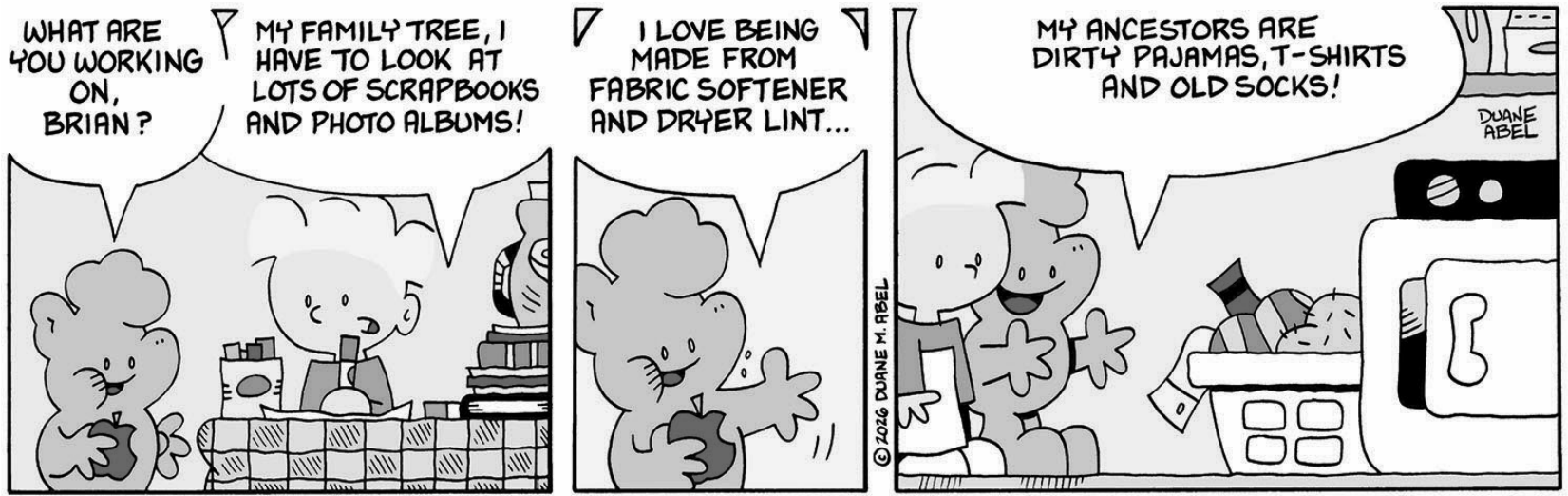
By Ben Revermann



Mud's girlfriend Juniper in town. The police begin ramping up their search for him. Because of Mud's past and his history with Juniper, he tells a tale that he committed his crime of murder in the name of love. One of the boys asks him, "You did it for her, because you loved her?" The boys begin to build this idea of what it means to be a man, and it gives both of them hope, even in the worst of circumstances.

Even though Mud has romantic ideas, and it gives the boys meaning, sometimes life just doesn't work out the way we want it to, even if our intentions are pure. Although Mud doesn't want to break everyone's heart, he does, and the boys have to face up to that, even if it's not his fault. There are gangsters out looking for Mud who will do anything to kill him. This movie is action packed, even if it takes a while to get there. Try it, you'll enjoy it, right now you can find it on Amazon Prime.

ZED by Duane M. Abel



www.corkeycomics.com

Waseca Music COMPANY

YOUR LOCAL MUSIC STORE

Band Instruments • Repairs
Guitars • CD, DVD, & Vinyl

507-835-2980
111 South State Street

Rick's Appliance

ricksappliancewaseca.com

Sales & Service
507-461-9615

Speed Queen
MAYTAG Whirlpool
AMANA

405 West Elm Ave, Waseca MN

Tesch Service Center

Family-Owned Automotive Repair

- wheel alignments
- brake services
- suspension repairs
- towing & more!

Call us today!

321 Elm Ave W, Waseca, MN
Call Us! (507) 835-4610
teschservice@mediacombb.net

GUARDIAN ENERGY

AMERICAN MADE, FARMER OWNED
www.guardianrng.com

ETHANOL

Attend the Church of your Choice!			
CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH 2200 4th St NE, Waseca 507-835-2235	Father Glenn Ferichs 507-835-1222	VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl	JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 401 N. West St., Janesville Pastor Kathy King
4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH 605 4th St NE, Waseca 507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker)	REAL LIFE CHURCH 620 W Elm Ave, Waseca 507-833-0017	VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Brian Schanil Pastor	BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 43089 180th St., Morristown Pastor Kathy King
FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 801 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-3167	CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS 1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca 507-835-4640	ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Father Glenn Ferichs	ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH 307 W. 2nd St. Janesville
CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH 309 6th St NE, Waseca 507-835-9176	GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 1221 8th St SE, Waseca 507-835-2213	FIRST LUTHERAN Missouri Synod Waldorf, Minnesota Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Larry Sipe	FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 Owen St., Janesville Pastor Sarah Krolak
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca 507-833-1703	CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY 900 14th Ave SE, Waseca 507-833-1082	IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Freedom Township	ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH Alma City, Minnesota Pastor Robert Harting
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 314 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-2647	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor	ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Pastor Ava Adams-Morris Waldorf, Minnesota	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Smiths Mill, Minnesota Pastor Robert Harting
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net)	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Otisco, Minnesota	ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC Waldorf, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan	NORTH WASECA LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA 404 30 120th St. Waseca Pastor Sarah Krolak 507-234-6463
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 E Elm Ave, Waseca 507-835-1709	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Peg Marose	THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS Brad Donner, Branch President Waseca, Minnesota www.lds.org	NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE WASECA COUNTY PIONEER.
SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH 111 4th St NW, Waseca	LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl	TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 412 N. Main Street, Janesville Pastor Jason Wolter	

Janesville

25 years ago

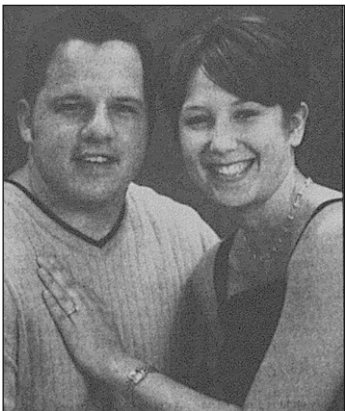
- Sunday, July 8– At 8:04 p.m. a motorcycle driven by Jeremy Charles Zell, 20, of Janesville was traveling on West Elysian Lake Road when he approached a curve not realizing it was there. He lost control on the gravel edge of the roadway which caused it to enter the ditch. He was treated and released from Immanuel St. Joseph’s Hospital in Mankato with minor injuries.



- The JWP volleyball team expects to improve on last season's 10-13 record, thanks to the return of these seven fetterwinners. Front row (from left): Katie von Holtum, Bridget Kester and Maria Schultz. (Back row): Jenna Ziemke, Mellisa Cummins, Katie Jorgenson and Katie Linde. The Dawgs travel to NRHEG for their Gopher Conference opener Tuesday.

- On the Monday, Aug. 6, meeting of the Rotary Club at the Janesville American Legion, the Rotary District Governor, Doug Johnson was present to present a past-president plaque to Don Hainlen. He also presented a pin to Cliff Gardner honoring him for 32 years of perfect attendance and to Tom Kiner for his 22 years of perfect attendance. On Monday, Aug. 20, the guest speaker for the evening was Pete Madel, administrator of the Janesville and Waseca Nursing Home. On Monday, Aug. 27, the Rotary Club entertained with a picnic at the Janesville American Legion for the teachers from both Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton School and Trinity Lutheran School.

- **ENGAGED-Stacy Heiget, daughter of Dan and Sue Helget of Sleepy Eye, and Bill Adams, son of Everett and Judy Adams of Janesville, wish to announce their engagement. Stacy is a 1996 graduate of Sleepy Eye High School, and is currently a student at South Central Technical College, majoring in speech and language pathology assistance. Bill is a 1996 graduate of Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School, and is currently a student at Minnesota State University in Mankato, majoring in elementary education. Both are currently employed by the Young America Corporation In Mankato, A Saturday, Oct. 13, 2001, wedding is planned at St. Mary's Catholic Church In Sleepy Eye.**



- The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton Community Education Fitness Center, located downstairs at the JWP High School, will be open for community use on Monday and Wednesday nights from 6-8:30 p.m. There is a small charge of \$1.00 per visit. Exorcise bikes, treadmills, cable and free weights are available for use. If you have questions, call John Abraham at (507) 231-4561.

50 years ago

- The Busy Bees Home Extension Group met Aug. 11, at the Lakeview Park with nine members present. New officers elected during the business meeting were president, Mrs. Lyle Miller: vice president Ruth Smith; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Billie Quast: leaders for the year, Ruth Smith and Mrs. Arthur Storjohann and councilors, Mrs. Billie Quast and Mrs. Alvira Blank. Following adjournment of the meeting, games were played for entertainment with everyone receiving a prize. A pot luck lunch was then served. The next meeting will be at Lakeview Park, Sept. 8, at 2 p.m. with the club furnishing the lunch.

- The District 830 School Board accepted Bonnie Peck’s resignation Monday night and hired a replacement during a special board meeting held at the high school. Mrs. Peck has been the speech therapist at JHS for the past five years. Her husband graduated from Mankato State University this past spring and has accepted a job at Southland High School. Lavelia Mordue, Mankato, will replace Mrs. Peck as the half time speech therapist.



- **FOXY FOURSOME.** Kenny Schlessner, left, yawned, Danny Cowdin frowned, Jeff Osborne wrinkled up his nose and Danny Osborne said, "Oh no" when the Argus snapped this photo of the four boys off to the first day of school. None of the foursome was really looking forward to returning to the books.

75 years ago

- There are 725 children actively participating in the swimming program offered by the Waseca County Red Cross, according to an announcement made this week by John Miller, Watec Safety director. At Lake Elysian in Janesville, where Miss Ramona Lovold is directing the program, there are 130 enrolled. At this time figures on the individual classes are not available. At St. Olaf Lake in New Richland, under the direction of Miss Sandra Burtness and Miss Hovig, assistant, there are 60 enrolled. At Clear Lake in Waseca, with Miss Ramona Lovold, Mrs. John Gill and Mrs. Howard Sahlstrom in charge, there are 435 enrolled. Of these 20 are in junior life-saving, 23 adults, 14 advanced swimmers, 45 swimmers, 198 intermediates, 128 advanced beginners and 97 beginners.

100 years ago

- Janesville has a large number of young girls who teach during the school year. Last year there were about thirty-six girls from here teaching and there are more this year. They are all making preparations for the coming year. Most of them will leave next week for their respective schools.
- E.R. Thatcher and Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Feist left Sunday for Minneapolis where they were called by the serious illness of a little grandchild and nephew. They expected to spend a few days at that place before returning to Detroit, Mich., where Mr. Feist will resume his school duties.

Waseca

25 years ago

- Carter and Andrea Schumacher of Waseca are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Cierra Rose, born August 9, 2001, at the Owatonna Hospital. She weighed seven pounds, 12 ounces and was 20 and one half inches in length. Maternal grandparents are Ron Wynkoop of Elysian and Pam Wynkoop of Waseca. Maternal great grandparents are Ken Peterson of Jefferson, Iowa and Katherine Wynkoop of Des Moines. Paternal great grandparent is Susan Sticha of New Prague. Cierra Rose is welcomed home by her siblings, Ty Michael, who is almost six years old, and Kailee Adeline, who is three years old.



- More than 350 people attended Hy-Vee’s sixth annual Community Corn Feed last week at the Waseca Hy-Vee parking lot. The event raised \$862 this year, and it will be split evenly amongst the Waseca Band Boosters, Waseca Sports Boosters and the Waseca Choir Boosters. Since its inception the event has raised \$8,000 for Waseca High School activities. Waseca Hy-Vee Store Director Randy Kruse said Hy-Vee stresses the importance of being involved in the community. “We really try to be a community store, and this is a great way to do that, and to help out youth at the same time,” he said. Kruse said the corn feed is also a great way to get some excitement going in the community before summer ends and school starts. “We want to end summer with a little excitement and liven things up a bit to get people excited about the start of school,” he said. Kruse said the money from the corn feed helps a lot of students. “More than 500 kids are involved in those activities,” he said. “That is why it is important that we keep it going. It touches a lot of kids.” The event was co-sponsored by: Agrilink Foods, Pepsi of Mankato, Kemps of Rochester, the Waseca County News, KOWZ and Associated Lumber Marts.

50 years ago

- Waseca County Republican Women will meet at the home of Marcie Lukken, Linda Harist, Librarian of the LeSueur Waseca Regional Library, will speak on “How Government Affects your Library.” Co-hostesses will be Shirley Gray and Wanda Taschoer.

- Waseca area residents are asked to start saving newspaper for a paper drive at the Waseca Recycling Center, Saturday, Oct. 2. Only newspaper and shopping bags will be accepted. They should be brought to the Waseca Recycling Center at the Fairgrounds from 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Oct. 2. Newspaper will be accepted on this day only because there is a fire hazard if it is stored in the building.

- **New to the staff at Hartley Elementary School this year is Debbie Rysavy, who will be teaching kindergarten. Miss Rysavy is a Mankato State University graduate and taught kindergarten at St. Lawrence Elementary School in Faribault during the school year 1975-1976. While at Mankato State University she served as president of Kappa Delta Pi, an honor society in education. Also she was president of SPURS, a women's service organization. Miss Rysavy enjoys skiing, rug making, wall hanging and likes to sew. She is originally from Owatonna and is currently residing at 109 8th St. NW.**



75 years ago

- Darcy Lee Scholljegerdes: Born August 3 at Waseca Memorial hospital to Mr. and Mrs. Davern Scholljegerdes of Waseca, 8 lbs. 11 oz. Brother and sister, Gary Linn, 9 and Bonnie Jean Scholljegerdes, 11. Paternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. A.H. Scholljegerdes, Waseca. Maternal grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Charles Zell, Waseca, Minnesota.

- Waseca public school hot lunch menu, Sept. 10-14: Monday: wieners, boiled potatoes, sauer kraut, plain and jam sandwiches on white and graham bread, pear, milk. Tuesday: chili and crackers, cheese cubes, carrot sticks and plain and jam sandwiches on white and whole wheat bread, candy bar, milk. Wednesday: chicken noodle casserole, plain and peanut butter sandwiches on white and graham bread, hydro cookies, milk. Thursday: scalloped corn, meat and cheese wedges, tomato wedge, plain sandwiches on white and graham, bread, apple and milk. Friday: plain and tuna sandwiches on white and whole wheat bread, potato chips, buttered corn, Dixie cup ice cream, milk.

- Services for Marlan E. Hollingsworth, 81 of Minneapolis, who died Tuesday were held at 2 p.m. Friday in Reorganized Church of Jeaus Christ of Latter Day Saints with burial in Lakewood cemetery. A Minneapolis resident, 53 years, he was a retired carpenter and contractor. Survivors include his wife, Elizabeth and son, Lloyd, athletic director at Gustavus Adolphus college, St. Peter, and formerly of Waseca.

100 years ago

- Mrs. Joseph Fischer was given a pleasant surprise Thursday, August 26th when a company of 25 neighbors and friends gathered at her home to aid her in celebrating her birthday anniversary. A fine lunch was served and a pleasant social time enjoyed. Mrs. Fischer was presented with many beautiful gifts.

- Mrs. J.P. Coughlin, Mrs. D.M. Coughlin and Miss Mary Coughlin delightfully entertained at a series of bridge-luncheons Saturday, Monday and Wednesday. The out of town guests were Mesdames, D.D. Coughlin, Albert Ochs, D.E. Hogan, and Misses Mildred O’Neil and Catherine Shields all of Faribault, Miss Barbara Piesinger of Northfield and Mrs. Macdonald of Minneapolis.

- Members of the Lakeside Club and their friends have enjoyed some most delightful card, dinner and dancing parties out at their club house this season, with the last one Tuesday evening when a committee of about twenty men with Wm. Hanson and Ernest Graben were the hosts. An excellent dinner was served at 6:30 o’clock after which Ed Fisch’s orchestra, of Austin, furnished the music and dancing was enjoyed. There were many out of town guests including several from Owatonna, Kasson and Faribault.

New Richland

25 years ago



- This brand new GMC pumper truck was delivered to the City of Freeborn Fire department on Friday, August 10. Pictured with the new pumper are from the left; Assistant Chief Steve Seipp, first Captain Roger Merritt and Chief Bill Guggisberg. Recently a new fire hall was built to house the emergency vehicles.

- Colette M Kern and Brian D. Burandt were married on April 9, 2001, at 3 p.m. in the Botanical Garden at Sandals Duns River Resort, Ocho Rios, Jamaica, the Rev. Adrian McLean officiating.

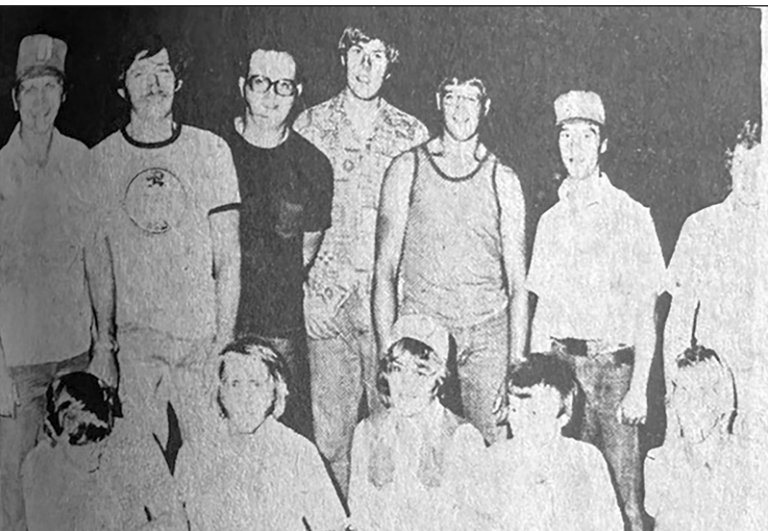


- Panther Cross Country team members are practicing for an improved 2001 season. Here they are starting their Indian Ladder run with Coach Art Barnett amidst the runners near the inside track.

50 years ago

- Bill Sutlief of New Richland is now the director of the North-west Region of Lutheran Youth Ministries, stationed in Seattle, Washington. He graduated from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa with a major in business and accounting.

- Leslie Hagen of rural New Richland took second place on his ear corn in a new corn division at the Minnesota State Fair last week.



- The winning women's team in the tug-o-war at Waldorf, Saturday was the group captained by Mrs. Dale Joecks . In the photo above is the winning men's team, Captained by John Kelling looks happy after taking six pulls in two days.

- A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Ed Cooley of New Richland, Sunday at Waseca Memorial Hospital. The little miss weighed 10 pounds, 8 ounces and has been named Joanna Dorothea. She has a brother, Matthias, who is four years old.

75 years ago

- John J. Chics, engineman first class, has been assigned to the recently recommissioned U. S. submarine, “Dace” according to a news release from the Great Lakes naval station. John entered the Navy in 1942.

- Mrs. Art Spletstoesser has started what could be a thriving industry in New Richland. Gathering many types of weeds and grass stalks in their fall condition as well as some flower stalks such as the goldenrod. Mrs. Spletstoesser takes them to a room at the rear of their restaurant and paints them. They make attractive winter bouquets.

- Mr. and Mrs. Rayman Brandt of near Waseca are the parents of their first daughter, born at Memorial hospital, Waseca, Monday October 8.

USED BOOKSTORE

RECYCLE YOUR BOOKS WITH US

507-455-3440

eatonsbooks@q.com

Mon-Fri 10-5 Sat 10-3:30

602 North Cedar Ave Owatonna MN 55060

Vote Nov. 3, 2026

Curt Keyes
District 4 County Commissioner

Experienced, Committed, Accountable.
Dedicated to representing all of District 4.

Follow me on Facebook:
Curt Keyes for Waseca County
Dist. 4 Commissioner

Paid for by Curt Keyes

ph: 507-271-5757 • email: caddyman99sls@gmail.com



RALLY TIME— The Waseca High School football team rallied from a 13-10 halftime deficit to win 17-13 at Belle Plaine last Friday. Clockwise from top left: Titan Rahe hauls in a pass; Brady McKenna celebrates a big play on defense; Ayden Kath (7) and Hayden Stencel (4) combine to stop a Tiger ball carrier; Quarterback Kellen Klinger runs the football; Sam Selthun gains some of his 213 yards rushing.

Waseca Football Association photos



BIG WIN — It was a big win Friday night for the Waseca High School football team, which rallied to defeat Belle Plaine 17-13 on the road. At left, JaLion Rohl (12) and Owen Rupe (5) celebrate a big play. At right, Owen Honstad lays a block on his Belle Plaine opponent.

Waseca Football Association photos

Jays rally at Belle Plaine

Selthun again tops 200 Cards rushing

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

After last week's impressive season-opening victory over St. Peter, the biggest concern for the Waseca High School football team heading into week two was how the Bluejays would defend the pass against Belle Plaine's vaunted aerial attack. They passed the test. The Bluejays, facing a 13-0 halftime deficit, held the Tigers scoreless in the second half to claim a hard-earned 17-13 victory at Belle Plaine Friday, Sept. 11. "We talked about execution at halftime," said coach Brad Wendland. "There were some things we needed to address, and some effort that needed to be addressed." In a game matching two teams with junior, three-year starting quarterbacks, it was defense that made the difference for the Bluejays. The iWealth Player of the Game was Owen Rupe, following Sam Selthun's huge game running the ball in the opener. "Our defense responded very well," said Wendland. "Coach Teders had a good game plan and made adjustments very well. Belle Plaine is a good team. We will have a lot of growth as a result of this

game." The Tigers drew first blood on a six-yard touchdown in the opening quarter. The PAT kick was successful. Belle Plaine struck again in the second period, this time on a 61-yard touchdown pass. The kick was no good. The Bluejays, stifled on the goal line, settled for a 27-yard field goal by Owen Rupe in the second quarter. Kellen Klinger scored on a two-yard quarterback sneak in the second period, with Rupe tacking on the PAT kick. After a scoreless third quarter, the Bluejays finally took the lead on a two-yard run by Klinger. Rupe added the PAT. Selthun had another stellar night running the football, carrying 26 times for 213 yards, topping the 200-yard mark for the second straight week. Rushing was the biggest difference in the game as the Bluejays rumbled for 308 yards while holding the Tigers to a negative four yards. Klinger finished 4-for-6 passing for 69 yards, 61 of those going to Titan Rahe, who caught three passes.

The 2-0 Bluejays are home this Friday to face Fairmont team (1-1). Said Wendland, "We're excited for the next game and the next opportunity."

Waseca 17 Belle Plaine 13

WAS	0	10	0	7	17
BP	7	6	0	0	13

First Quarter

BP — Wadsley 6 pass from Creighton (Grila kick)

Second Quarter

BP — Koeppe 61 pass from Creighton (kick failed)

WAS — Rupe 27 field goal

WAS — Klinger 2 run (Rupe kick)

Third Quarter

No scoring

Fourth Quarter

WAS — Klinger 2 run (Rupe kick)

	WAS	BP
First downs	17	12
Rushing Yards	53-308	17 —4
Passing Yards	69	289
Total Yds.	377	285
Penalties-Yds	6-60	6-30

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing — WAS: Selthun 26-213 Klinger 14-56; Rohl 0-0; Dymack 1-1; Kath 3-10; BP: Coldoron 2-3; Bumgarden 1-4; Steifle 7-12; Koeppe 1 —1; Creighton 6 —18

Passing — WAS: Klinger 4-6, 69; BP Creighton 19-30, 289

Receiving — WAS: Rahe 3-61; Selthun 1-8; BP: Cahaler 3-69; Smith 2-8; Koeppe 8-157; Wadsley 6-55

WAS Defense — Rahe 4T; Worke 4T; Stencel 3T; Rupe 2T; McKenna 2T; Kath 2T; O'Brien 1T; Rohl 4T; Powell 1T; Glynn 5T; Knutson 5T; Madsen 1T; Pierce 1T; Neidecker 1T

WHS CC girls 7th among 21 schools at Montgomery

MarkesonFeldkamp post personal-best times

The Waseca High School cross country teams traveled to the Montgomery National Golf Club last Thursday for the Gerry Smith Invitational. Waconia won the girls' division with 38 points. The Bluejays were seventh among 21 schools with 216 points. Senior Taylor Markeson paced the Bluejays, taking 19th place in a personal-best time of 21:11.1. Senior Stella Omvedt was 48th in 22:21.0. Following for Waseca: junior Maren Schimming, 51st, 22:21.7; sophomore Quinn Yoder, 58th, 22:39.3; senior Megan Tegmeier, 76th, 23:45.0; and freshman Ellie Kopischke, 88th, 24:11.1. Finishing first in 19:02.1 for 5,000 meters was sophomore Charlotte Meyer of Mankato Loyola/Cleveland/St. Clair. Mounds Park Academy topped 27-team field for the varsity boys with 92 points. Waseca did not field a full squad. Junior Sam Feldkamp paced the Bluejays, taking 43rd

with a personal-best time of 18:40.7 on the 5,000-meter course. Keenan Collins, a sophomore, finished in 66th in 19:30.2. For the junior varsity girls, Leah Wilson placed 10th in 24:13.6 for 5,000 meters. Violet Rohwer was 60th in 28:54.9. In the C-squad girls' 2,500-meter race, the Bluejays' Violet Hughes finished 62nd in 13:19.2, followed by Leah Jorgenson, 65th, 13:22.7, and Josie Selthun, 75th, 13:49.2. Freshman Cole Hanson of Fairmont led the varsity boys, finishing first in 16:34.7. The only other full squad for the Bluejays was in the C-squad boys' 2,500-meter run. The Bluejays were fourth among nine teams. Waseca places and times: Kurt Erickson, 10th, 9:57.1; Noah Love, 11th, 10:03.8; Korbin Collins, 18th, 10:16.2; Levi Rohe, 51st, 11:03.1; Will Deml, 84th, 11:50.5; Eli Rowher, 88th, 12:02.0; Joe Harguth, 91st, 12:13.5; and Owen Fierke, 101st, 12:57.3.

BLUEJAY FOOTBALL

PLAYER of the WEEK

Owen Rupe

Great defensive night in a Bluejays 17-13 win over Belle Plaine on September 11, 2026

Bluejay Football Player of the Week Sponsored by:

Your Dreams Become Our Goals
Planning • Investments • Insurance

Securities offered through LPL Financial, Member FINRA/SIPC. Investment advice offered through iWealth Financial, LLC, a Registered Investment Advisor. iWealth Financial, LLC and iWealth are separate entities from LPL Financial

St. Clair stifles Bulldogs, 24-21

The JWP football team hosted St. Clair in a rivalry game Friday in Janesville.

It was close, but the Bulldogs came out on the short end of a 24-21 decision.

The Spartans scored first, taking the opening kickoff and driving, with Ashton Wilmes covering the final six yards. He also ran for the two-point conversion.

The Bulldogs, featuring a strong passing game on a very windy night, answered with a 34-yard touchdown pass from Seth Dahlberg to Jaxon Wolff. Ayden Peterson kicked the PAT.

JWP took a halftime lead on a six-yard pass from Dahlberg to Gavin Bauer, but a bad snap on the PAT attempt led to a failed kick.

The Spartans scored the lone points of the third quarter on a 38-yard touchdown pass by Sam Freitag.

Freitag scored on a seven-yard in the final period, converting a two-point PAT.

Again the Bulldogs answered as Dahlberg found Bauer with a 39-yard scoring pass. Dahlberg ran for the two-point conversion.

The biggest difference in the game was in rushing yards, where the Spartans held a big 239-37 advantage.

Dahlberg finished 19-for-32 passing for 276 yards, 118 of those yards going to Wolff on seven catches. Bauer had seven receptions for 111

yards

Tyson Kronbach was JWP's rushing leader with 18 yards on seven carries.

The Bulldogs, 0-2, travel to Blue Earth Area this Friday.

St. Clair 24, JWP 21				
SC	8	0	8	8 - 24
JWP	7	6	0	8 - 21

First Quarter	
SC - Wilmes 6 run (Wilmes run)	
JWP - Wolff 34 pass from Dahlberg (Peterson kick)	

Second Quarter	
JWP - Bauer 6 pass from Dahlberg (kick failed)	

Third Quarter	
SC - Seilberg 38 pass from Frietag (Two-point conversion successful)	

Fourth Quarter	
SC - Freitag 7 run (Godfrey run)	
JWP - Bauer 39 pass from Dahlberg (Dahlberg run)	

	SC	JWP
Plays	52	47
First downs	17	18
Rushing Yards	239	37
Passing TD Int.	1-1	3-1
Passing Yards	61	266
Total Yds.	300	293
Third down	4-10	8-11
Fourth down	3-4	1-2
Penalties	9-69	3-20
Time of poss.	28:37	19:23

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS	
Rushing — JWP: Wolff 2-5; Dahlberg 2-7; Schultz 2-1; Kronbach 7-18	

Passing — JWP: Dahlberg 19-32, 276; Wolff 0-1, 0	
--	--

Receiving — JWP: Wolff 8-118; Bauer 7-111; Sturdivant 3-23; Weedman 4-0; Gearity 6-29; Bure 1-0; Kronbach 1-0	
---	--

JWP Defense — Wolff 3T; Bauer 7T; Sturdivant 2T; Weedman 4T; Gearity 12T; Schultz 11T; Bure 2T; Kronbach 4T; Schultz 1T; Rider 3T; Huber 4T; Schoenrock 6T; Anderson 3T; YJohnson 3T; TJohnson 2T; Neegard 1T; Wheelock 1T	
--	--



RIVALRY NIGHT— The JWP High School football team hosted rival St. Clair at Janesville last Friday, falling 24-21. At left, the Bulldogs' Parker Gearity runs the football. At right, Jaxon Wolff breaks free after catching one of his eight passes for 118 yards. Photos by Jim Lutgens

TCU tops WHS netters

The Tri-City United Titans came to town Tuesday, Sept. 8 and handed the Waseca High School girls' tennis team a 5-2 setback on the WHS courts.

- Singles results:
- No. 1 - Hannah Rugger, Waseca def. Ellie Adams 6-3, 6-0
 - No. 2 - Ava Miller, Waseca def. Reagan Steffen 7-5, 6-0
 - No. 3 - Destynnee Wolff, Tri-City United def. Olivia Hagen 6-2, 6-1
 - No. 4 - Lexie Berger, Tri-City United def. Sam Sutton 6-1, 6-4

- Doubles:
- No. 1 - Camryn Holicky and Hallie Holicky, Tri-City United def. Libby Miller and Lucy Deml, 6-0, 6-2
 - No. 2 - Maisie Teigen and Melanie Von Bank, Tri-City United def. Hannah Sommers and Chloe Hagen 0-6, 6-4, 7-6 (5)
 - No. 3 - Layla Sycks and Kayla Hunt, Tri-City United def. Kayla Landrum and Everly Kestel 7-5, 6-1

The loss put the Bluejays, 1-2 in the Big South Black Division, at 2-6 for the season. The Bluejays hosted Northfield on Monday, Sept. 14.



TWO-FISTED BACKHAND — Hannah Rugger of the Waseca High School girls' tennis team returns a backhand against her Tri-City United opponent Tuesday, Sept. 8 on the WHS courts. Rugger won 6-3, 6-0, but the Bluejays fell 5-2. Ava Miller was Waseca's other victor. Photo by Jim Lutgens



LET'S GO REESE! — Reese Rodriguez (10) is welcomed by her teammates during pregame introductions for the WHS girls' soccer team.

WHS soccer girls fall to New Ulm, St. Peter

The Waseca High School girls' soccer team was in action against New Ulm and St. Peter last week.

The Bluejays lost 7-1 to New Ulm on Tuesday. The Bluejays' lone goal was by Rachel Mielke, who continued her string of scoring a goal in every game so far this season.

Two nights later, the Bluejays we hit the road for an away game

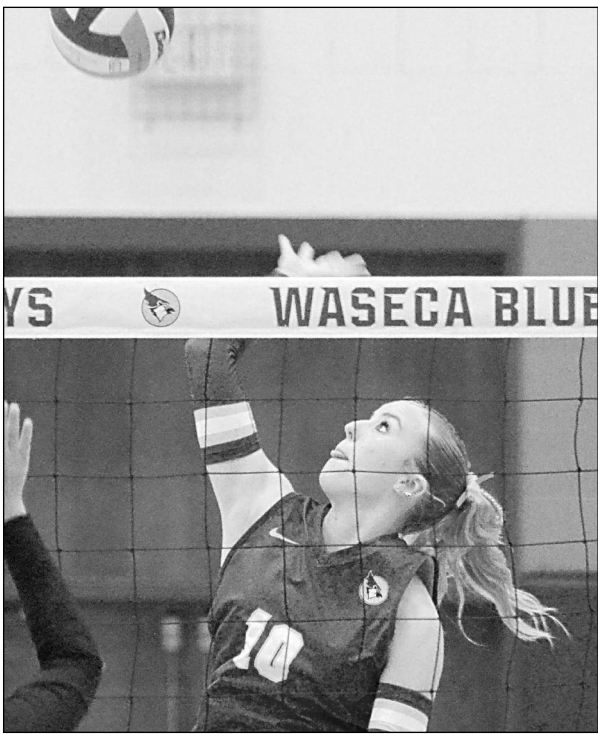
in St. Peter, falling just short with a final score of 3-1.

Mielke netted Waseca's lone goal, brilliantly assisted by Natalie Erickson. In the net, Lilly Muff put in a solid shift at goalie, tallying five crucial saves.

The Bluejays were looking to bounce back with a Saturday game at Byron.



SCRAPPY PLAY — At left, Avery Barto sets for the WHS volleyball team. At right, Kaia Sartori spikes. Photos by Jim Lutgens



Volleyball Jays swept 3-0 at St. Peter

The Waseca High School volleyball team dropped a 3-0 match at St. Peter last Tuesday. Game scores were 25-16, 25-16 and 25-17.

"The girls worked really hard against St. Peter," said Bluejays head coach Krissy Plonske. "The team plays

very well together on the court. They are a close-friend group and the bond is impeccable!"

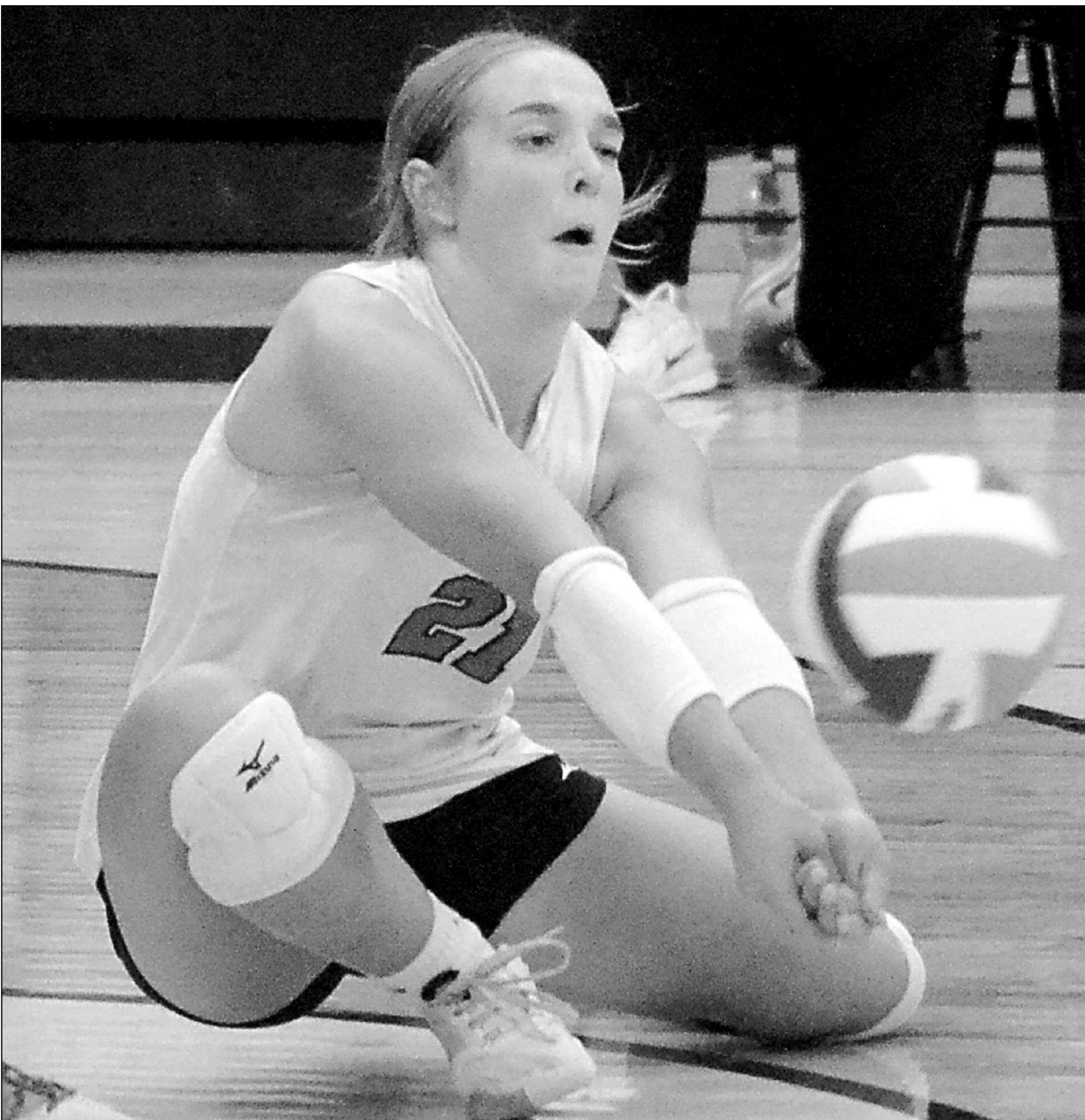
Avery Barto led the Bluejays in assists with 12. Ellie Schleicher totaled 17 digs, Hannah Helget 13. Ashley Fliflet led in kills with six. Savanna Vagts had four kills.

WHS fall cheerleaders



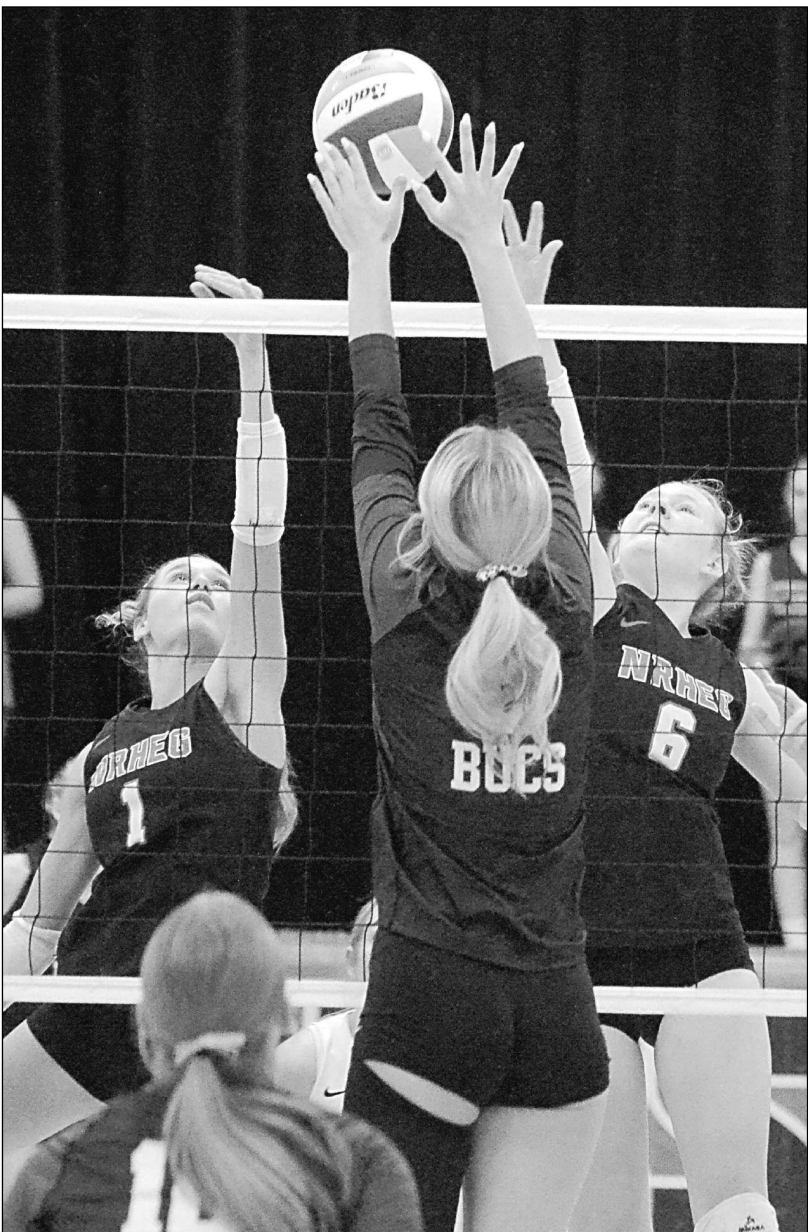
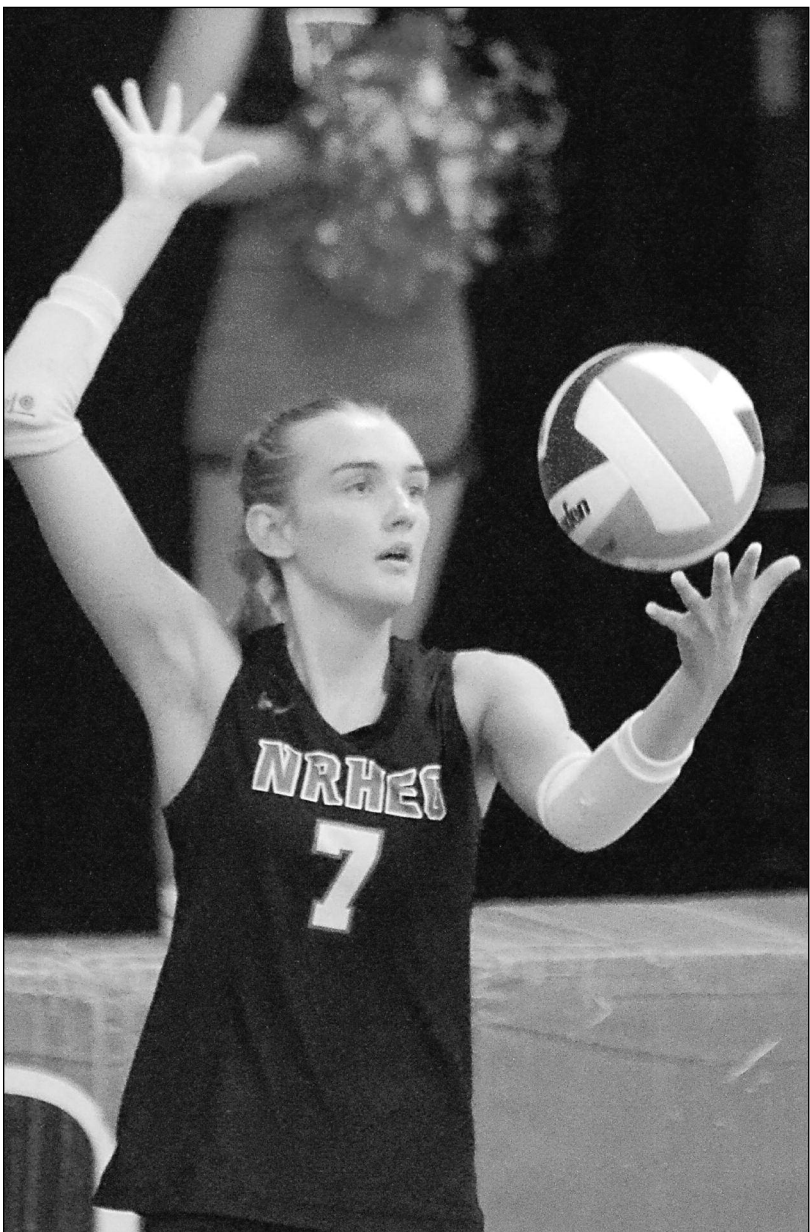
The Waseca High School fall 2026 cheerleaders. Front from left: Mandi Root, Carina Xiong, Addy Frye, Jordyn Hinna, Sofie Bunn. Row two: Kenzie Morrissey, McKenna Mortinson, Bella Eaton, Amilya Lynch, Captain Josie Ross, Taelyn Nowak. Back: Fynlee Srp, Peyton Ross, Macy Peterson, Addie Epper, Ava Trumbull, Kaylie Morrissey, Savannah Schlueter.

Photo by Ben Revermann



HOME-COURT ACTION— The NRHEG High School volleyball team was in action against Waterville-Elysian Morristown Thursday in New Richland. At left, the Panthers' Ezra Boerner sends the ball over the net. At right, Aubrey Hendrickson goes to the floor for a dig.

Photos by Jim Lutgens



TOUGH NIGHT — The NRHEG volleyball team fell behind early against WEM Thursday and could never catch up, dropping a 3-0 decision. At left, the Panthers' Clara Buendorf prepares to serve. At right, Ezra Boerner (1) and Sierra Fish (6) go up for a block attempt.

Panthers fall to USC, WEM

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School volleyball team ventured to United South Central last Tuesday for its Gopher Conference opener.

It did not go as hoped. The Panthers dropped a 3-0 decision, with game scores of 25-17, 25-18 and 25-17.

"Overall, our mental game did not hold up to our standards throughout the match," said NRHEG head coach Bethany Tennis.

Junior Brooklyn Sommer tallied 15 set assists for the Panthers, while senior Clara Buendorf recorded five blocks.

"As a team, we still have a few things to smooth out early in the season," said Coach Tennis. "We are looking forward to facing off at home with WEM on Thursday at home with a much smarter, more disciplined and unified team."

Totals against USC: Ezra Boerner two kills, seven digs, one set assist, three blocks; Izley Boerner three digs; Buendorf four kills, five blocks; Gia Cazares one dig; Sierra Fish two kills; Aubrey Hendrickson five digs; Jovey Knudson one kill, two blocks; Anika Ladlie six kills, three digs, one set assist, three blocks; Sommer six digs, 15 set assists, one block; Emmy Stadheim two kills, four digs; Ciara Stenzel

"We still have a few things to smooth out."

— NRHEG coach Bethany Tennis

one dig.

The Panthers hosted a scrappy WEM squad on Thursday and lost in three sets, 25-9, 25-17 and 25-21. The Bucs grabbed the momentum early and the Panthers could never quite hit their stride.

"We know there are a few things we need to clean up on our side of the net," said Tennis. "Consistency will be a key to our success moving forward. We have the ability to compete, but we need to be more consistent in all areas of the game and take advantage of the opportunities we create."

Panther totals: Ezra Boerner two kills, nine digs, four blocks; Buendorf three kills, three digs; Cazares three digs; Fish three kills, one block; Hendrickson 21 digs; Knudson one kill, three digs, two blocks, one service ace; Ladlie five kills, 14 digs, five blocks, one ace; Sommer eight digs, 13 set assists; Stadheim nine digs; Stenzel one ace.

NRHEG runners brave the heat at Stewartville

Wobbrock takes 20th out of 125

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School cross country teams traveled to Stewartville for the Bill Glomski Invitational Thursday, Sept. 3.

According to Panthers coach Larry Nydegger, heat played a factor in shortening the length of the races, with varsity runners covering 3,200 meters.

The NRHEG girls were led by Julieann Wobbrock, who placed 20th out of 125 runners with a time of 13:36. Violette Botten finished 101st in 17:03, Rylie Cromwell 113th in 18:42.

Leading the NRHEG boys was Kasey Jewison, who toured the

course in 11:17 to place 18th among 121 varsity runners. Colton Lermon was 88th in 13:35, Devlin McWilliams 106th in 15:02.

The Panthers' C-squad runners, Marvin Tolzman and Jordy Kloczek, running a 1,200-meter course, finished 75th and 76th, respectively, Marvin clocking 7:11 and Jordy 7:11.

"It was another hot one in Stewartville," said Nydegger. "Races like this are as much a challenge of the runners' mental strength as well as their physical endurance. I am extremely proud of the effort these runners put into their races."



IT WAS HOT — NRHEG cross country runners in action at Stewartville are, from left, Colton Lermon, Kasey Jewison and Julieann Wobbrock.

Photos by Larry Nydegger



GENERATOR

Installation & Maintenance

CALL FOR A FREE QUOTE

507-923-2728



Stop cleaning-out your gutters this season



EXPIRES: 11/30/2026

AN ADDITIONAL

25% OFF

+

10%

LeafFilter

Discount For Seniors + Military

Get a **FREE** full gutter inspection and estimate:

Promo: 285
1-888-755-5761

*Promotional offer includes 25% off plus an additional 10% off for qualified veterans and/or seniors. Cannot be combined with other offers. See representative for full warranty details. DC 420223000087, AZ ROC 344027, AR 0366920926, CA 1035795, CT HIC 0671520, FL CBC056678, ID RCE-51604, IA C127230, LA 559544, MD MHIC164488, MA 213292, MI 262300331, MI 262300330, MI 262300329, MI 262300328, MI 262300318, MI 262300173, MN IR2025-810524, MT 266192, NE 50145-24, NV 0086990, NJ 13VH13285000, NM 408693, ND 47304, OR 218294, PA PA179643, RI GC-41354, TN 10981, UT 10783658-5501, VT 174.0000871, VA 2705169445, WA LEAF-FLH763PG, WV WV056912, WI 537-DCFR

Got news?

507-837-6767

Johnson APARTMENTS

507-456-9514

Operating in Waseca, Steele, Freeborn Counties

johnsonrents.com

SUMMIT ON SECOND APARTMENTS

FOR RENTAL INFO CALL 507-201-3474

We are accepting applications for:

- 1 bedroom apartments
Income guidelines apply Vouchers accepted
- 2 bedroom & 3 bedroom
Rent based on income

Professionally managed by:

BRUTGER
EQUITIES, INC.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the Waseca City Council will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, October 6th, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.** in the City Hall Council Chambers, 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093 to consider the following Resolution:

Resolution 26-70– Resolution of the Waseca City Council on Proposed Assessments

A complete copy of Resolution 26-70 and Assessment Roll 26-99 is available for public inspection in the office of the City Clerk, 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093. Information for the meeting can be found on the Website Calendar at www.ci.waseca.mn.us .

Published in the *Waseca County Pioneer* on Thursday September 17, 2026.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

WASECA COUNTY BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT

The Waseca County Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing at the Waseca County East Annex (Commissioner's Room), 300 N. State Street, Waseca, MN 56093 on Thursday, October 1, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. to consider the following item:

Christopher Lenz and Tonya Wittman request a variance for their parcel (PID 12.326.0540) in the Highlands, Lot 21, Block 3 in Woodville Township. The applicant's proposed attached garage addition will require a variance for a front yard setback of 18 feet. Sections 6.20 and 6.22 of the Waseca County UDC requires a front yard setback of 50 feet. The parcel under review is zoned UE Urban Expansion District.

The staff reports for these items will be available at the Waseca County Planning and Zoning Office, 300 N State St., Waseca, MN 56093 during regular business hours 8:00–4:30, and will be on the county website www.wasecacounty.gov on the agenda tab by September 28, 2026. Oral comments will be accepted at the meeting. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all Waseca County services, programs, and activities.

Tina G. Wilson, Planning and Zoning Administrator

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on September 17, 2026

SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642 September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 6PM BAR BINGO	3 7pm HALL BINGO	4 MEAT Raffle 5:30 pm Horse racing 6:30 pm	5
6	7	8 BURGER NIGHT 5 TO 7	9 6PM BAR BINGO	10 7pm HALL BINGO	11 MEAT Raffle 5:30 pm Horse racing 6:30 pm	12
13 Breakfast 8-12 Your Host Waseca Exchange Club	14 7 pm Post & AUX. Meeting	15 BURGER NIGHT 5 TO 7	16 6PM BAR BINGO	17 7pm HALL BINGO	18 Air Force Birthday POW/MIA DAY MEAT Raffle Horse racing 6:30 pm	19
20	21	22 BURGER NIGHT 5 TO 7	23 6PM BAR BINGO	24 7pm HALL BINGO	25 MEAT Raffle 5:30 pm Horse racing 6:30 pm	26
27 GOLD STAR DAY	28	29 BURGER NIGHT 5 TO 7	30 6PM BAR BINGO			

HOURS OF OPERATION
SUN.– MON. CLOSED
TUE.– 1pm to 11pm Tue. Is Lady's nite 2 for one-Men Busch light \$2.50 from 4 to 6pm.
WED.– SAT.-1pm to 11 pm
POST & AUX MEETING 7pm club open 6pm MEMBERS only. Mn. Gambling license number 00385

Water Hydrant Flushing!

The City of Waseca's Water Utility will be flushing fire hydrants beginning Monday, Sept 21st

Utility workers will be moving: Southwest to Southeast, then Northwest to Northeast...

Rusty water may be evident during this time and shortly after...

MORE INFO → Call Utilities Offices @ 835-9718



DISCOVER
waseca
CITY OF WASECA

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY



GUARDIAN ENERGY

AMERICAN MADE FARMER OWNED

www.guardiannrg.com



Your Trusted Local Law Offices for Over 50 Years

PATTON, HOVERSTEN & BERG, PA

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

www.phblawoffice.com

Waseca Music COMPANY

YOUR LOCAL *MUSIC* STORE

Band Instruments • Repairs
Guitars • CD, DVD, & Vinyl

507-835-2980

111 South State Street



Daniel J. Johnson

ACCOUNTING LLC

115 North State Street, Waseca
(507) 201-2484



WASECA FLORAL

810 N. State St. Waseca, MN 56093

(507) 835-3790

wasecafloral.com

rickmorris982@gmail.com



Rick's Appliance

ricksappliancewaseca.com

Sales & Service

507-461-9615



405 West Elm Ave, Waseca MN

SUBSCRIBE

WASECA'S ONLY LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED NEWSPAPER!

\$59IN WASECA COUNTY
\$69 IN STATE OF MINNESOTA
\$79 OUTSIDE STATE

111 WEST ELM AVE, WASECA, MN
(507) 837-6767
NEWS@WASECACOUNTYPIONEER.COM



DAVE'S Body Shop

Waseca - Minnesota

715 S State St, Waseca, MN
(507) 835-8615

WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

NEWS FOR LOCALS BY LOCALS

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!

(507) 837-6767

NEWS@WASECACOUNTYPIONEER.COM

PERSONALIZED PRINTING & APPAREL

Bluejays Merch & Apparel

Custom Printing & Design

You Want it? We Make it!

Barb & Mark Buker

100 S. STATE ST - WASECA MN
PHONE: (507) 835-7565
INFO@PPRINTWASECA.COM



TGWET

GREG WILMES EXTERIORS

GREGWILMESROOFING.NET

(507) 202-7070

DENNIS STEFFEL OMTVEDT

FUNERAL AND CREMATION SERVICE

109 3RD STREET NE
WASECA, MN 56093



Tesch Service

321 Elm Ave W, Waseca, MN
Call Us! (507) 835-4610
teschservice@mediacombb.net



Check out our Eco-friendly, artful, Paper & Bamboo or Walnut cases for the iPhone, Handmade in Waseca, MN!

since 2011

twigcase.com



SWEET - SOMMERS VFW POST 1642

113 E Elm Ave
Waseca, MN 56093
(507) 835-1811



PHEASANT CAFE

SINCE 1942

Great Home Cooking
Catering • Full Breakfast Menu
Daily Lunch Specials

104 State Street
Waseca MN
835-1259

BATTENFELD LAWN CARE

ZACH BATTENFELD

507-521-0226

ZACHBATTENFELD@GMAIL.COM

JOHNSON APARTMENTS

507-456-9514

OPERATING IN WASECA, STEELE, & FREEBORN COUNTIES

JOHNSONRENTS.COM



100 YEARS OF HONOR - The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce recently recognized American Legion Post 228 with its Century Award, celebrating over 100 years of service and involvement in Waseca's community.

Waseca Chamber observes American Legion century of contributions

WASECA, Minn. — The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to recognize American Legion Post 228 with its Century Award, celebrating 100 years of service, commitment and involvement in the Waseca community.

For generations, American Legion Post 228 has been a place of fellowship and support for area veterans while also giving back to area organizations, programs and causes. The organization's mission centers on serving veterans, their families and the community, and Post 228 continues that tradition here in Waseca.

"Reaching 100 years is an incredible milestone, and we are honored to recognize American Legion Post 228 with the Chamber's Century Award," said Jodie Thompson, President of the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. "For a century, the members of Post 228 have demonstrated what it means to serve others. Their dedication to veterans, families and our community has made a lasting impact on Waseca."

The Century Award is presented by the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce to Chamber members celebrating 100 years of

business, service, or local involvement.

"Organizations like American Legion Post 228 are part of what makes Waseca such a special community," said Robin Dulas, Executive Director of the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce.

"When you think about 100 years, you realize just how many veterans, families and community members have been touched by the people who have been part of Post 228. We are incredibly grateful for their long-standing commitment to Waseca and very proud to celebrate this milestone with them."

Post 228's community involvement has ex-

tended beyond veterans programming through support for local organizations, community activities and charitable efforts. The Post has also remained an active participant in local traditions honoring veterans and military service.

"As Chamber Ambassadors, we have the privilege of celebrating businesses and organizations at so many different stages of their journey, but celebrating 100 years is truly special," said Katie Gonzales, Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce & Ambassador Chair. "American Legion Post 228 represents generations of people giving their time, tal-

ents and hearts to serve others. We congratulate everyone who has been part of the Post over the past century and thank them for everything they continue to do for our community."

The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce congratulates the members—past and present—of American Legion Post 228 on this remarkable achievement and thanks them for a century of service to veterans and the greater Waseca community.

For more information about the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce, visit waseca-chamber.com.

■ Lienke from Page 1

crowd, and see farther ahead. All these factors, he says, have been consistently helpful in his time with the posse.

Posse members can also be seen fairly frequently without their horses at dances, public gatherings, and other events, where Lienke says their role is best served when they mingle among the crowd. Even though he's been on the posse for half a century, and is deputized to carry out many tasks, the only confrontational situations he remembers handling have been a few boisterous people at events whom he has had to "talk down" from impulsive behavior.

The most sobering tasks posse members face, he says, tend to be far less public than dances and parades.

He has assisted with a number of searches, some for individuals believed to be injured or even possibly deceased. Those assignments, he says, are often somber and subdued. The horses apparently recognize the gravity of the situation; Lienke says they typically seem edgy and uncomfortable. Of those types of service, he chooses to say only "Not every search ends the way you hope it will."

Lienke says he is happy to serve in any setting his role as a posse member calls for, and feels the work he is doing makes a valuable contribution.

The incident which brings him the largest sense of accomplishment occurred a few decades ago near Matawan. The Waseca County Sheriff's Posse had been invited to assist with a search for a missing 4-year-old child who had only recently been placed in his foster father's custody. Perhaps because he did not yet feel at home, the boy had wandered away. The search took place over a variety of terrain that included a pond, fenced-in fields, a wooded area, and crops, including cornfields of a height reached shortly before harvest.

Because the child was known to enjoy fishing, the search was somewhat focused around the pond, but Lienke decided he would move away from the group. "We were going along the edge of a cornfield," he says of himself and his horse, when suddenly, "the horse stopped, looked into the field, perked his ears and looked interested," Lienke describes.

They turned down a cornrow and a ways in they found the boy sitting on the ground and crying quietly.

"I just gave the horse his head," Lienke says of the incident. "I didn't find the boy, I only helped."

Though the child was uneasy at first, Lienke was able to convince him to sit in the saddle with him. "He got used to it pretty quick. I think it wasn't long before he enjoyed it."

That moment, he describes, the feeling of finding the boy uninjured when it had been feared he might have drowned in the pond, is still his most fulfilling, poignant experience from being on the posse. "At least that one search," he comments, "did end the way we had hoped."

This building has secrets....



and they're buried here.



Woodville Cemetery Walking Tour

Sunday, September 27, 2026 11 AM -2 PM

Join us for a walk through local history as we uncover the lives of several individuals who served inside the courthouse — from elected officials to the person who kept its halls clean and explore the mystery surrounding the courthouse's move from Wilton to Waseca.

The shuttle bus will take attendees to the cemetery and will leave from the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Services.

The tour is free of charge but donations are accepted which will be used in the beautification of the cemetery.

Registration is required and can be made online at dsfuneral.com or by calling the funeral home at 507-835-2190.