WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY

No. 40 Vol. V $2 Office at 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca Thursday, October 1, 2026

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Stained Glass

Beer and Brat night for Waseca on Oct. 1

There will be various locations and participating bars taking part in the annual Beer and Brat night in Waseca starting at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 1. The Mill Event Center, Barden's Bar, Boxcar Bar, the Waseca Legion, Waseca Sweet-Sommers VFW, and Katie O'Leary's.

Indian Island Winery Comedy Show Oct. 2

Comedian Steve Sabo will perform at Indian Island Winery from 7-8:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 2. Performing 52 weeks out of the year, he has a 25 year career in comedy.

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.

Closing of Trinity Lutheran Church Rummage Sale, Oct. 2 and 3

A wide variety of items, including many matching serving items from the closing of Trinity Lutheran Church of Wilton will be for sale at the church, 31184 W. Wilton River Road, Waseca, from 9 to 3 on Friday, Oct. 2 and from 9 to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 3. Items include furniture, electronics, office equipment, appliances, decorations, floral, outdoor tools, glassware, household and kitchen items, and lots more.

Family FunFest at Autumn Acres Farm Saturday, Oct. 3

Autumn Acres Farm will have their Family FunFest from 10 a.m. thru 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 3. Live music from Johnny Moeller and Family Traditions, wagon pull, corn pit, pumpkin patch and much more.

Lego Storytime at Waseca Public Library Saturday, Oct. 3

Kids ages 4-6 can join Waseca Public Library's monthly creative Lego-building group, with an adult. This month's Lego Story Time will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, October 3. Each event will include a story to inspire the builders.

Lego Club at Waseca Public Library Saturday, Oct. 3

Kids ages 7-12 are invited to join Waseca Public Library's creative Lego-building club. This month's Lego Club event will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, October 3. Each event will have a theme to inspire and Legos to build with.

A word from The Word

God, our God, will take care of the hidden things but the revealed things are our business. It's up to us and our children to attend all the terms.

Deut. 29:29



BREAKING GROUND - Representative Todd Tetzloff from WEB Construction of Mankato (in Red), Tara Roman of Widseth architectural firm, Waseca mayor Randy Zimmerman, U.S. Representative Brad Finstad, U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar, Waseca County commissioner De Malterer and Senator Tina Smith were among those who broke ground for the regional Workforce Development Center now under construction at 1000 W. Elm, Waseca. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Waseca breaks ground on workforce center

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

State and federal lawmakers Amy Klobuchar, Tina Smith, Brad Finstad, Tom Sexton, Gene Dornink, and Keith Allen were present for the Sept. 25 groundbreaking ceremony for a new regional workforce development center being funded chiefly by a $2.1 million grant from the national Economic Development Authority and located in Waseca.

According to information shared during the ceremony, the new facility will provide a flexible space available for long- or short-term use in helping workers acquire skills or certifications needed for their jobs–everything from operating complex machines to career-related sessions for area students.

Area colleges can use the space for courses; health care facilities can arrange for specialized trainings; part of the facility may be made available for child care.

Klobuchar told those in attendance she is glad to have helped push for funding to support Waseca County's "common sense solution" to the problem of worker shortages that plagues businesses and organizations in the less populated areas of the state.

Finstad told of meeting with Blair Nelson, who was lobbying for support of the project back in 2022. "That man never stopped working for his constituents," said Finstad, describing a 10 p.m. conversation with Nelson regarding the workforce center. He went on to say the new center will help encourage workers to stay in the region, "providing opportunities for generations to come."

County board chair De Malterer expressed gratitude to the lawmakers who helped see that the workforce center received funding, then went on to acknowledge numerous individuals, agencies and businesses helping the planning and construction move forward.

She spoke of the "persistence, patience, and partnership" which ultimately made the day's groundbreaking ceremony possible, and specifically named the City of Waseca, Region 9 Development, Waseca County staff and administration, and construction planners and contractors.

Excavation and landscape shaping are already underway at the Waseca County Community Services building, located at 1000 W. Elm Avenue in Waseca. The building currently houses the county's public health and public assistance departments. The workforce development center is under construction on the lowest floor, a previously unused space of about 10,000 square feet. Plans for the new center, due to be completed in the summer of 2027, include a dedicated parking area, entrances, and reception area, so that activities in the county offices and those in the workforce center can proceed without interrupting one another.

Once it is fully operational, the facility may provide full or part-time employment for as many as 50 people; they will not be county employees, but are expected to work for the agency managing the center.

Marketplace Ribbon Cutting

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

About 50 people attended a ribbon cutting celebration Wednesday, Sept. 23, for Waseca's new Marketplace Commons apartment building located along 19th Avenue NW across from the Junior Senior High School. Construction on the project began last October; leasing began on Sept. 15.

Visitors toured the two sizes of apartments in the building–one and two bedrooms–and stopped by the shared patio and "community room" available to residents.

As the ribbon was cut, Chris Kennelly of TREKK Properties expressed gratitude to the community of Waseca and city and county leaders for their support of the project. "Five years ago, we began investigating the possibilities for a building like this one," he said. "Thanks to the enthusiasm and dedication of investors, and the support of local leaders, we found an avenue to make it a reality.



NEW BEGINNINGS - Local leaders and community members attended a ribbon cutting to celebrate the opening of Waseca's new Marketplace Commons apartments on Wednesday, September 23. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

"This has truly been a partnership between public and private entities." He named the Waseca City Council, the County Board of Commissioners, the City Economic Development Authority, the Waseca Area Foundation and the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism

Celebration continued on 4

Homecoming at a glance

The Waseca Homecoming 2026 kicks off next week. Coronation is set for 7 p.m. Thursday, October 8 at Waseca High School, when royalty will be crowned based on a vote of the student body grades 9-12. The homecoming parade will be held at 2 p.m. starting from the fairgrounds and the homecoming football game will be at 7 p.m. Friday against Worthington.

Queen Candidates

Elli Hoban
Reese Ludwig
Taylor Markeson
Stella Omtvedt
Violet Rohwer
Katelyn Weber

Spirit continued on 12

Demonstration outside of Sacred Heart Church targets leadership decision

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

A demonstration outside Sacred Heart Catholic Church during the 10 a.m. mass on Sunday, Sept. 27, consisted of 20 or more men, women, and a few children carrying homemade signs attempting to gain the attention of passing cars to join their demonstration.

Messages included "We stand with Tammy Seys," and "Our school, our voice, our principal."

Ann Jewison, one of the demonstrators and member of Sacred Heart parish said, "This is in hopes to remove Father Frerich from the parish leadership [for] his lack of transparency and his lack of leadership. If he stays, we could lose staffing. This could also potentially affect families, and cause them to leave as well if he stays." Nodding their heads in agreement nearby were Megan Malecha and Molly Ulschmid. Said Malecha, "Lies can be spread and Father contradicts himself."

The group was hoping their numbers would grow after church let out at 11 a.m., and Ulschmid added, "We understand that the specific details of this matter have confidentiality issues, but we are looking for facts."

Father Glenn Frerichs addressed this issue in both the church bulletin and after mass on Sunday, he said: "I would like to take a moment of your time to speak about the leadership changes in our school. Mrs. Tammy Seys recently informed us of her decision to enter into a marriage outside the Catholic Church. After considerable consultation and review, it was decided to discontinue her contract as the principal of our school. This decision was made in accordance with diocesan policies and with the direct guidance and support of Bishop Barron, the Office of Catholic Schools, diocesan legal counsel, and other diocesan leaders.



VOICES RAISED - A group gathered outside of Sacred Heart Church the morning of Sunday, Sept. 27, used signs to show they disagree with parish leadership over the discontinuation of former principal Tammy Seys' employment. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

"This decision was not mine alone, as the Bishop and members of the diocesan office provide direction on matters such as this, though I fully support it. As a Catholic school, we are en-

Church continued on 5

OBITUARIES

Elizabeth McIntire

Elizabeth "Betsy" McIntire, age 63, of Owatonna, Minnesota, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family, on July 13, 2026, at Cedar Lodge Assisted Living in Owatonna.

Betsy was born on June 25, 1963, in Rochester, MN, the youngest daughter of Homer "Mac" and Elizabeth "Betty" McIntire of Waseca. She attended school in Waseca, including elementary school at Sacred Heart Catholic Elementary, middle school at Central, before graduating from Waseca High School in 1982. She graduated from Mankato State University in 1993.

Betsy was known for her genuine kindness, friendly demeanor, and bright smile. She worked for Carlson Craft Printing in Mankato for many years, only leaving to move to Colorado. In Colorado, she met & married Keith Beggs, and although they divorced in 1999, they were blessed with a son, Joshua.

While she enjoyed her time in Colorado, she and Joshua moved back home to Waseca, to the delight of Betty, her mother, later moving to Owatonna.

Betsy was constantly concerned about the well-being of others, from her brothers and sister, extending to her nephews and nieces and friends. She found great joy in the simple things: gathering with friends and family, playing Bingo and Gin (regularly beating John & Nancy), and cheering on her beloved Vikings. She absolutely loved cats, especially her cat Bandit.

Due to health issues, she moved into Cedar Lodge Assisted Living in 2022, making friends with everyone. She was also supported by Moments Hospice of Mankato, so combined with the Cedar Lodge personnel, Betsy was always surrounded by caring individuals. We'd like to thank the entire staff for their continuous care and kindness toward Betsy. She felt you were all family.

Betsy is survived by her brothers Marty (Becky) and John



Elizabeth McIntire

(Ann), and sister Nancy (Dave), her son Josh LaMotte, nieces and nephews Brad (Jenny), Brian (Natalie), Kimberley, Craig, Katie (Brian), James, Eileen, and Mary, great nephews & nieces Logan, Hayden, Ethan, Amelia, and Teddy.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Homer & Betty McIntire, her brother, Robert McIntire, her niece, Kelly McIntire and grandparents Homer Sr. & Eileen McIntire and Robert and Irene Glennon. May their memory be a blessing.

A celebration of Betsy's life and funeral mass will be held on Saturday, October 10, 2026 at 11:00 AM at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca. Visitation will be held from 9:30 AM until the time of services at the church on October 10th. Burial will be at Woodville Cemetery in Waseca followed by a luncheon in the Sacred Heart Fellowship Hall.

The family kindly requests that, in lieu of flowers, memorial donations be made to the Homer and Elizabeth McIntire Endowment Fund (Waseca Area Foundation) or to your favorite charity in her memory.

The family would especially like to thank the staff at Cedar Lodge Assisted Living of Owatonna and Moments Hospice of Mankato/Rochester for all their amazing care and support. She truly felt at home. Special thanks to Matt O'Brian and the late Bea O'Brian, who have been her long-time trust advisors. Thank you all!

Douglas Jones

Douglas Lee Jones, age 78 of Waseca, died at his home on the evening of Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2026.

Doug was born in Sleepy Eye on June 6, 1948, to parents Lloyd Levi and Esther Maria (Gray) Jones. He graduated from high school in Sleepy Eye and later continued vocational-technical school where he was trained in the printing industry. Doug enlisted to serve his country in the Army National Guard in 1967 where he was trained as a 50-caliber gunner in the infantry division and was honorably discharged in 1973. During his service he continued to work in printing. In 1968, Doug was married to Sharon Augustin and they had two children together, Jason and Andrea. They later divorced and on March 27, 1981, he was married to Lela (Hansen) Miller in Mantorville, at which time her two children, Jon and Jeremiah, came to be a part of his new family.

Doug worked at The House of Print in Madelia before spending several years teaching his craft to students at the Viking Vocational School in Hanska. Later, he returned to Waseca where he owned and operated The Printery. Finally, Doug worked in sales for Corporate Graphics until his retirement in 2018. He and his friend Bill Hintz also owned and operated their own auctioneering business for many years.

He will be remembered by family and friends for his friendly, outgoing manner and the joy he brought to those he interacted with every day. He is well-known for his love of travel and transportation, from cars and motorcycles to draft horses. Counting and recounting the number of cars he had throughout his life could take many hours, and even with draft horses he was notorious for "changing colors" on a regular basis. He enjoyed spending time wandering through car shows or swap meets with friends and family and reminiscing about the models he either had or wanted.

Doug and Lela enjoyed traveling and visited both coasts by motorcycle. They also took many trips with friends to Florida and around the state, especially the Winona area.

He'll especially be remembered for his pride in and love for his blended family, tender and tough love both. He said that it's no coincidence that his draft-horse period (rather than fast cars) corresponded with the era when the boys were in their teen years. He was involved with the Sleigh and Cutter Festival during this time.

It was truly a blessing to him to have all the kids remaining in the local community after they grew up, to keep maturing those family bonds. He also relished being a grandpa and great-grandpa, with Doug and Lela a stalwart presence at the children's sporting, band, dance or other events, and they delighted in family members' every visit, no matter if it was a special holiday or a random Tuesday.

Doug and Lela have a group of friends that have gotten together every Wednesday for over 40 years. The "Wednesday Extension Group" will miss him greatly. Among other involvement, he was a longtime member of Faith United Methodist Church in Waseca, the Waseca American Legion and the Minnesota Draft Horse Association. He was also a founding board member of the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MAC-V), and his efforts were instrumental in battling homelessness and housing issues for veterans across Minnesota.

Doug is survived by his loving wife of 45 years, Lela Jones of Waseca; four children, Jason (Cathy) Jones, Andrea (Roy) Peterson, Jon (Amy) Miller, and Jeremiah (Jaala) Miller, all of Waseca; eight grandchildren, Maurela (Collin) Palmer, Bailey Miller, Preston (Chloë) Miller, Coy Miller, Lily Peterson, Macy Peterson, Belle Miller, and Libby Miller; two great-grandchildren, Caeston and Celeste Palmer; one brother, Randy Jones (special friend Gracey Taylor) of New Mexico; and three sisters-in-law, Ruby (Noel) Petersen of Omaha, Neb., Judy Valberg of Redding, Calif., and



Douglas Jones

Janet Woodford of St. Helen, Mich. He was preceded in death by his parents and two siblings, Jack Jones and Janice (Dale) Pietig.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 3, 2026, at Faith United Methodist Church in Waseca, with Rev. Elden Eklund officiating. Visitation will begin at 9 a.m. and will continue until the time of the service at the church. Interment will follow at Woodville Cemetery in Waseca with lunch afterward. Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Services in Waseca is handling the arrangements.



SUPPORTING GOOD - The Waseca Area Chamber Ambassadors welcomed Knitted Together as its newest member. Knitted Together is a nonprofit working to support pregnant mothers by providing housing, connection to resources and community.

Ambassadors welcome Knitted Together

WASECA, Minn. – The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism and the Chamber Ambassadors are pleased to welcome Knitted Together as one of the Chamber's newest members.

Knitted Together is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization with a mission of supporting pregnant mothers by providing housing, connections to resources, and a caring community to help them work toward their family goals. Through The Mother House, the organization provides residential housing for mothers and their babies from the prenatal stage through 18 months, along with mentorship, transportation assistance, structured goal development, and connections to community and agency resources.

"Knitted Together is a wonderful example of an organization working to strengthen families and provide support when it is needed most," said Jodie Thompson, President of the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism Board of Directors. "We are proud to welcome them to the Chamber and look forward to seeing the positive impact their mission will continue to have."

For Chamber Executive Director Robin Dulas, welcoming Knitted Together is also about helping the organization build connections throughout the business and community.

"One of the things I love about our Chamber is the opportunity to connect businesses and organizations that are all working in different ways to make our area stronger," Dulas said. "Knitted Together is doing meaningful work to support mothers and families, and we are excited to help share their story, connect them with others in our community, and welcome them into our Chamber family."

The Chamber Ambassadors recently had the opportunity to meet with the Knitted Together team and learn more about the organization's mission and work in the community.

"Our Chamber Ambassadors always enjoy welcoming new members and learning more about the work they do," said Katie Gonzales, Chamber Ambassador Chair. "Knitted Together has such a heartfelt mission, and we are excited to welcome them and help introduce their organization to our Chamber members and the greater Waseca community."

Knitted Together describes its work as a "Pro-Mama Mission," bringing together housing, resources, mentorship, transportation, and community support to help mothers and their families move toward their goals. The organization also encourages individuals and businesses to become involved in supporting the Mother House and its mission.

The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce & Tourism is proud to welcome Knitted Together and looks forward to supporting the organization as it builds relationships and continues its work serving women and families in Minnesota.

Private well testing

Ensure water safety during flood cleanup

Waseca County Public Health reminds residents to protect their water during flood cleanup and to consider how flooding may have affected private wells. Public Health will offer water testing kits at no cost for residents who had floodwater within 50 feet of a well casing.

Pickup on Monday, September 28 through Thursday, October 1 from 8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. at Waseca County Public Health, 1000 W Elm Ave, Waseca, MN 56093.

Sample collection should be completed Thursday evening or Friday morning

Sample drop-off on Friday, October 2, from 8:00–10:00 a.m. at Public Health

Residents who rely on a private well for household water should check their well as soon as possible after flooding. If floodwater reached a well, residents should assume the water is contaminated and should not use it for drinking, cooking, or brushing teeth until tested.

"Floodwater can carry bacteria, sewage, chemicals, and other contaminants into private wells," said Sara Porter, Public Health Emergency Preparedness Specialist. "Taking precautions, cleaning and disinfecting a flooded well when needed, and testing the water afterward are important steps to protect your household's health."

Public Health well testing recommendations

Contact a licensed contractor if floodwater covered or may have entered your well.

Disinfect the well with a contactor or personally using Minnesota Department of Health guidance at Disinfecting Flooded Private Water Wells if floodwater reached your well.

If floodwater didn't cover, but did come within 50 feet of your well, consider testing.

Test any well that has been cleaned out and/or disinfected for coliform bacteria.

For more information about private-well testing or flood cleanup, contact Sara Porter at 507-560-0093 or sara.porter@lesueurcounty.gov. Additional cleanup guidance is available from the Minnesota Department of Health at Clean-up for Home or Business after a Flood.

■ Celebration

from Page 1

as having been particularly supportive.

Kennelly emphasized that most of the contractors hired to complete various phases of the construction are local. "Our goal was to benefit the community in all the ways we could."

Goals for the layout and appearance of the facility, he said, included creating a middle- to upper-middle class atmosphere with an elevator; appealing, durable flooring and paint colors; and an inviting vaulted entry, along with the shared outdoor and indoor spaces where larger groups can gather. The building has security cameras both indoors and out, and locked exterior doors which residents can open with a fob or code. Mail and packages will be delivered to a central, secure receiving area.

All apartments have in-unit washers and dryers, individual 2-gig fiber internet, and outdoor access–either a ground-level patio or a balcony.

Property manager Ruby Rodriguez shares that about half of the building's 36 units are already spoken for, with one one-bedroom and 17 two-bedroom units still available.

Maximum occupancy is two people per bedroom, with pets up to 60 pounds allowed, preferably on the first floor.

Monthly rent for a one-bedroom unit is $1,350 a month; for two bedrooms it is $1,800 a month. Lower rates are available for those with qualifying incomes.

Rent includes water, sewer, and trash collection. Residents must pay separately for electricity, gas, internet and, if acquired, cable.

More information about the facility and its amenities is available either by calling Rodriguez during regular business hours at 507-461-8622 or by visiting the Marketplace Commons website.





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Flavors of Fall at Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm Oct. 3 & 4

Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm will hold Flavors of Fall from 4-7 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 3&4. Music by Midwest Farewell, Drew Peterson and Ron & Steve. Sunset photos ops, cider beers, garden walks, scavenger hunt and much more.

Feed a Farmer at LeSueur River Lutheran Church Oct. 4

The Le Sueur River Lutheran Feed a Farmer luncheon (take-out only) will take place with meals ordered in advance only from 10:45 a.m. to noon on Sunday, Oct. 4. Please call Judy to order 507-383-8568.

Waseca Fire Dept. Open House and Chili Feed Sunday, Oct. 4

To celebrate Fire Prevention Week, the Waseca FD will hold an open house and chili feed from 4-7 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 4. Serving chili or chicken and wild rice soup, $10 for a bottomless bowl. Hot dogs are available, there will also be a bake sale and a new fire safety bounce house.

Potato Bake and Chili Feed at Christ the King Lutheran Wednesday, Oct. 7

A Potato Bake and Chili Feed will be at Christ the King Lutheran Church from 3:30 p.m. thru 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 7. Adults $10, children under 12 free.

Soil Water Conservation District (SWCD) Board Meeting October 8

The SWCD will be holding its monthly board meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 8. The meetings will be held in the SWCD offices located at 300 North State Street - Door 4.

Waseca County Mounted Sheriff's Posse Legion Steakfry Friday, Oct. 9

The Waseca County Mounted Sheriff's Posse will hold a steak fry at the Legion from 5:30 till sold out on Friday, Oct. 9.

Date Night on the Farm at Autumn Acres Friday, Oct. 9

Autumn Acres Farm will hold a Date Night on the Farm event from 6-8:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 9. Includes hayride, bonfires, music, pumpkins, pulled pork sandwiches, romance and much more.

Flavors of Fall at Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm Oct. 10

Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm will hold Flavors of Fall from 4-7 p.m. on both Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 10-11. A side of music by Midwest Farewell on Sat. and Bullypulpit and Mary Cutrufello Sun.

Deer Hunters Bingo and membership drive at VFW Oct. 10

Sweet-Sommers VFW will hold a Deer Hunters Bingo and membership drive from 5:30-7 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 10. Bingo $60 with raffles and silent auction. Contact Tim or Pat with questions at 507-201-7933 or 507-380-5363.











COLORFUL HISTORY - Caleb Penic of Cathedral Crafts, picutred top middle, is the manager working on the process of installing refurbished stained glass windows at Waseca's Sacred Heart Church.
Pioneer photos by Deb Bently and Ben Revermann

Century-old artwork shines with like-new radiance

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

"The first thing we do is make two rubbings," says Caleb Penic of Cathedral Crafts in Winona. "That way we know for sure we can put the window back together exactly the way it came in.

"Then we put it in water."

Penic is field operations manager for the stained glass company now in the process of reinstalling refurbished windows at Waseca's Sacred Heart Church. The century-old windows were removed last spring and have each been taking their turn over the past months being recorded (the "rubbings"), disassembled, cleaned, given new lead at every joint, and then placed back in their original wooden frames.

While it might seem church windows wouldn't get very dirty, Penic can name a long list of sources his company has encountered. Some are a bit of a history lesson, including soot from coal or even wood furnaces used long ago to heat the church, smoke from candles or incense, and the everyday dust of enclosed spaces.

The outdoor sides of the windows are subject to all the hazards of weather and blowing debris. Penic points out that, thanks to insurance company requirements that began in the 1970s, most stained glass windows now have exterior coverings of either glass or another clear glass-like substance: But the enclosed spaces present complications of their own, including greenhouse-like temperatures that "bake on" the dust and dirt which does get in.

"There are an amazing number of pressures on these windows," says Penic. "It speaks to the quality of their construction that they've held up so well."

He is also quick to compliment their beauty, saying many elements of the windows at Sacred Heart are equal to the quality of windows in European cathedrals.

Being bathed, cleaned and professionally reassembled, Penic said, not only gives the windows a like-new appearance, it makes it possible to remove residue which might otherwise remain tight up against the joints while also making the joints tighter. Along with that, subtle reinforcements are added, both to repair cracks in individual pieces, and to increase the structural integrity of the window as a whole.

"These windows have been a source of joy and inspiration for the past four or five generations," Penic comments. "We want them to be just as inspiring for another 100 years or more."

Cathedral Crafts works all over the United States and even sometimes Europe. The 16-employee company has refurbished windows for three Waseca County churches: North Waseca Lutheran, All Saints in New Richland and Sacred Heart in Waseca.

Penic mentions that the company received an invitation to bid for work in refurbishing Notre Dame Cathedral in France after its catastrophic fire, but declined to do so because of the size of the project.

Mounted posse assists in search for lost horse

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

"I am so proud to know a community like that exists here," comments horse trainer Jewel Stewart of rural Waseca. "It feels really special to know they're around."

Stewart is talking about the Waseca County Sheriff's Mounted Posse, a group of volunteers who make themselves available for various public safety projects all through the year. Posse members are typically seen at parades, public events, and at times when the county sheriff's office wants extra surveillance or patrols.

For Stewart, posse members showed up when she was feeling confused, worried, and at a loss.

Stewart and a friend had been taking advantage of the horse trails in Waseca County's Courthouse Park, a 175-acre space with an open picnic and play area, a disc golf course known for being challenging, camping sites, walking and riding trails, and many acres of woods.

"We love Courthouse Park," Stewart comments of herself and her friends who own horses. "It's easy to trailer our horses in, get in an hour or two on the trails, then load up and go home." An added attraction is that Stewart's rural Waseca home is only a short distance away.

Stewart also has a soft spot in her heart for Kajun, a 16-year-old blue roan Quarter Horse who barely escaped being sold for meat because, despite his age, he had never been properly trained for riding. "He was a problematic horse," Stewart says with a smile.

Based on some of his behaviors and reactions, Stewart guesses someone tried to "cowboy break" Kajun somewhere back in his past. "You strap a saddle on the horse, get on its back, and stay on until it's bucked out," Stewart says to describe the term. "There was a time when a horse either did what you wanted it to, or you got rid of it."

A recent owner had purchased Kajun at an auction hoping to train him, but had not been able to work with his skittishness. The horse was given to Stewart when she said she would take good care of him.

Since then, she and Kajun have grown consistently closer. With careful handling and patience, the horse who would barely allow himself to be led was eventually saddled and ridden.

And so Stewart chose to take him to

Posse continued on 5



Trainer Jewel Stewart was relieved and grateful when the Waseca County Sheriff's Posse helped find Kajun, who had disappeared into the woods of Waseca County's Courthouse Park.
Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

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Amy Manette plays the Indian Island Winery

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Amy Manette, a musical five-some from Mankato, played at the Indian Island Winery on Saturday, Sept. 26. This jazz and blues group has played all over mid- and southern Minnesota since 2013 and with the big brains in the band it's no wonder they've stayed together so long.Dr. Andrew McNamara, an orthopedic surgeon in Mankato, plays keyboard. Dr. Brad Holmberg, a retired dentist, is on electric and acoustic guitar. Marvin Topp, a truck driver for Volk Transfer takes care of drums and vocals. David Urness, former orchestra director for Mankato East High School, is on bass. The fifth band member and lead vocalist is, of course, Amy Manette, Director of Business Development for All American Foods.

Manette said, "It started out with just me and Marv, but we've grown since then." The group was well dressed, black button shirts and ties and polished shoes. Manette herself was in a dress and fit right in with the men of her band.

Band members say their goal is a mellow sound. They've played at the Twin Cities Jazz Festival, Crooners Supper Club in Minneapolis, Blues on Belgrade and the St. Peter Blues Fest. Said Manette, "We do jazz and the blues, mostly cover tunes but we make them our own. Andrew does all our arrangements." They could've played any music, but they chose the blues. Marv did want to inform everyone, "We do not do the big band stuff from the 40s, no Sinatra or Martin or Miles Davis. If you think of us, think Beth Hart or Etta James." He thought for a few moments before adding, "Nora Jones would be another good one we take after."

McNamara was asked which his favorite venue was to play and he replied, "Besides the Indian Island Winery, I really like playing at the Grand Cabaret in New Ulm. You can tell they really take the time to listen there." Topp stood next to him as the musicians finished their sound check, he nodded and said, "When you're there you can feel you're playing to an informed audience." A group of spectators arrived; the women were carrying wine glasses, and the men were carrying glasses of beer and menus to order while the music started. The lights were dimmed and the band began playing "On Broadway," originally recorded by The Crystals in 1962. A smooth sound flowed from the Indian Island Winery as the band took over the room.



A MELLOW SOUND - Musical guest Amy Manette played at the Indian Island Winery over dinner on Saturday night, Sept. 26, 2026.
Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Manette wanted her fans to note, "We have a Christmas show coming up at Crooners in the Cities on December 5. Or you can check us out at www.amymanette.com."

"Gather and Give" raises nearly $24,000

The Gather and Give Fundraiser benefiting the Greater Mankato Area United Way was held Thursday, Sept. 24, at Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm, bringing together 138 women for an evening of fellowship, generosity and community support.

A little drizzle did nothing to dampen the enthusiasm of those in attendance. Through generous sponsorships and pledges made during the evening, the event raised nearly $24,000 for the Greater Mankato Area United Way.

The need for continued support within Waseca County is significant. Approximately 5,650 Waseca County residents utilize services provided through United Way partner agencies, representing an estimated $264,205 in services and community impact. By comparison, donations originating from Waseca County total approximately $32,464.

Those numbers helped underscore the evening's theme, "Answer With Your Heart," and the importance of supporting programs that directly benefit local residents and families.

"We feel strongly that we need to support the United Way and the agencies doing this important work in our communities," said event coordinators Diane Beckmann of Thrivent and Marcy Buchele of United Prairie Bank. "When we come together and give what we can, we truly can make a difference."

The event was made possible through the support of numerous sponsors, including Mediacom, Thrivent, United Prairie Bank, Nelemans Construction, Minnwest Bank, iWealth, ICAN, Edina Realty, True Realty, Matt O'Brien Tax & Accounting, Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service, Ameriprise, Kubat CPA, RE/MAX Realty, James Brothers, Stiffel Investments, Ditch Creek Landscaping and Connors Plumbing and Heating.

Local businesses also helped make the evening memorable by donating door prizes, refreshments and other special touches. Crista from Barefoot Lane provided her signature cookies, while Abby at Suburban donated a gift basket. Amanda from The Tattooed Baker provided yummy cupcakes and cake pops; Tammie from Zinnias contributed a beautiful floral arrangement. Ace Hardware gave a paint kit and 2 gallons of paint. Exclusively Diamonds donated a sterling silver bracelet featuring a white sapphire inset. Glitter and Grace provided a cute basket of goodies. Bittersweet Farms donated a laser wood carving. Mollie with Once Upon a Party gave a 30-minute session with a princess. Deanna from The Speckled Hen provided a store gift certificate.

TJ Brown of Montgomery provided entertainment throughout the evening. Cash Wise Liquor donated specialty sangrias, with all proceeds benefiting the United Way. Mike Harinen represented his parfum company, O+H, and donated half of his evening sales to the fundraiser.

Emily and Bill of Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm provided the venue and also donated several gift certificates for their pizzas. Dan Harguth, Ryan Buchele and Scott Beckmann served as bartenders.

The evening combined fun, friendship and generosity with an important message: the services supported by the Greater Mankato Area United Way touch thousands of lives throughout Waseca County. Executive Director of GMAUW, Barb Kaus, beamed during the event, "Historically, Waseca County has been a strong supporter of the United Way. We are so thrilled to see all of this momentum to continue that tradition of giving."

Organizers expressed their gratitude to the sponsors, businesses, volunteers and 138 women who attended and helped make the event a success.

The message of the evening was simple: Answer With Your Heart.

Community volunteers needed Oct. 4

The community-wide New Richland Disaster Clean-Up Day will be from 8:30 - 4:30

NEW RICHLAND, Minn. — The City of New Richland and the Waseca Exchange Club are joining forces to coordinate a community-wide New Richland Disaster Clean-Up Day on Sunday, October 4, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Volunteers from Waseca County and surrounding communities are encouraged to lend a hand as residents and businesses continue recovering from the recent flooding.

Volunteers are welcome to serve for the entire day or for whatever portion of the day their schedules allow. Whether someone can give two hours or eight, organizers say every set of helping hands will make a difference. Area Churches and other organizations are welcome to bring groups of people to help out.

"We are incredibly grateful for the people who have already stepped forward and for everyone who is willing to come help our community," said Ty Lendt, New Richland City Administrator. "There is a tremendous amount of work to be done, and we will gladly welcome as many volunteers as we can get. Every person who gives their time helps a family, a business owner or a neighbor take another step toward recovery."

All volunteers are asked to register before arriving. The registration link can be found on the Facebook pages of the City of New Richland and the Waseca Exchange Club. Mikhail Rostislavovich and Ann Staloch from the Waseca Exchange Club, stated "Being able to help our neighbors in New Richland with some coordination efforts is a needed way to serve our county community."

On October 4, volunteers will report first to the New Richland Fire Department, where they will check in, sign required waivers and receive a volunteer wristband before being directed to an assigned work site. Volunteers should not report directly to individual homes or businesses.

The registration and check-in process is an important part of the recovery effort. It allows organizers to know who is working in the community, match volunteers and equipment with appropriate needs, and help protect both volunteers and the residents and business owners receiving assistance.

Because much of the work will take place in areas affected by flooding, volunteers should arrive dressed appropriately for wet, muddy and dirty conditions and wear sturdy footwear and clothing suitable for physical clean-up work.

The coordinated registration system is also being used for more than physical volunteers. Individuals, businesses, churches and organizations wishing to help can use the registration process to offer meals for volunteers, equipment or other resources. Organizers are coordinating meals so volunteers working throughout the community can be fed and resources can be distributed where they are needed most.

Those wishing to make a monetary donation to support recovery efforts will be directed to the Waseca Area Foundation, helping ensure financial contributions are handled through an established local organization.

The City of New Richland and Waseca Exchange Club are working together to create a coordinated response that gets help where it is needed while protecting the people who are giving assistance and those whose properties have been affected.

New Richland Disaster Clean-Up Day
Sunday, October 4
8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Volunteer Check-In: New Richland Fire Department

Volunteers should register in advance through the link available on the City of New Richland and Waseca Exchange Club Facebook pages.

■ Spirit

from Page 1

King Candidates
Kallen Glynn
Tovin Grannis
Owen Honstad
Henry Huttemier
Brady McKenna
Titan Rahe
Schedule
Coronation ceremony 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 8.

Tuesday, Oct. 6: Dress Up Day – Class Colors
Wednesday, Oct. 7: Dress Up Day – Copy & Paste (dress like your partner); Bean Ba Tournament "Under the Lights" for grades 9-12 from 7-9 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 8: Dress Up Day – Game On! (any sport-game gear); Coronation; Dance in the commons from 8-10 p.m.
Friday, Oct. 9: Dress-up Day – Blue and Gold Day; Pep Rally at 12:50 p.m.; Parade at 2 p.m.; football game at 7 p.m.

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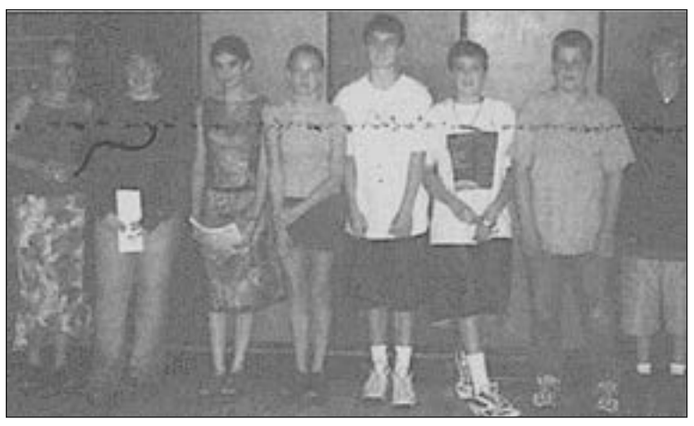
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Janesville

25 years ago



- Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton 2001 Gathering of Champions - Pictured (left to right): Danielle Jesse, Nicole Oftedahl, Ashley Gerdts, Mike Borneke, Jerrik Kalis, Scott Stenzel and Kyle Schoer.

- Letter to the Editor:

Fear came flying in on high
One can see a nation cry
But watch our eyes through the tears;
There's much more joy to see than fears.
Freedom's shinning in the sky;
Stars and stripes flying high;
Winds of hate may daily blow,
But freedom's light will always glow.
Aleyd N. Soderfelt
Janesville, MN.



- Crown bearers Destiny Peterson and Tucker Roeker watched the Homecoming ceremonies with interest on Monday night.

50 years ago

- The Goren Girls Bridge Club was entertained at the home of Mrs. Gordon Galler Aug. 31. Bridge was played at two tables with prizes awarded, after which dessert lunch and coffee was served. The next meeting will be Sept. 13 with Mrs. Raymond Gomsrud.

- A Janesville woman was treated and released at the Waseca Area Memorial Hospital Thursday afternoon following a two car accident at the intersection of 6th St. and West Elm. Injured was Mary Hullin, R.3. Janesville a passenger in the Lloyed Hulin vehicle. She reportedly suffered a cut on her leg. Driver of the second vehicle involved in the accident was Sandra Bartz, New Richland who was reportedly attempting to cross 6th Street when the mishap occurred. The Bartz vehicle was totally demolished, according to the police report and the Hulin Vehicle was moderately damaged. The accident occurred at 4:30 p.m.

75 years ago

- Lois Kopischke, four-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Art Kopischke, Janesville, who was injured in a fall from a hay mow is improving. Her mother states that she was up for the first time on Wednesday, and may be able to leave the Rochester hospital by this weekend. Last week Thursday she was visiting at the home of an uncle Louis Kopischke. While playing in the barn she fell down an open bay chute. She was first treated at Waseca Memorial hospital then taken to Rochester the same evening.

- Harvey E. Gardner, Janesville attorney and assistant fire chief, was elected vice president of the Minnesota Valley Regional Firefighters association at its meeting in Elysian Tuesday. Ron Taylor of Elysian was named president and Chester Hrdlicka, Elysian, secretary.

- The Lakeshore Home Demonstration club met at the home of Mrs. Frank Jewison, Sept. 13 at 8 p.m. There were seven mothers present with Mrs. John Kaupaun as guest. After the business meeting snouse was played with prizes going to Mrs. Art Groh and Mrs. Henry Eustice. Lunch was served by Mrs. Frank Jewison. Next meeting will be with Mrs. Clara Heath, Oct. 11 at 1:30 p.m.

100 years ago

- More "Insides" Fish and Milk Together: The idea that it is harmful to eat fish and milk together is entirely erroneous. Fish and milk are frequently cooked together and eaten in the form of chowders or milk gravies. Creamed fish on toast or served with potatoes is a favorite dish and is often given to children. Certainly is these two articles of diet are not harmful when cooked together they will not be when eaten at the same meal.

- The dumdum bullet is a softnosed or expanding bullet, so named after Dumdum arsenal, the place near Calcutta, India, where it was first made. Its use was prohibited in warfare by the Hague conference.

- Cruel Hubby: Mrs. Newed (to her mother)- Jack is getting really terrible. Yesterday he refused me a new dress, and this morning he refused me the same dress all over again.

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Waseca

25 years ago



- Shannon O'Grady of Waseca and Uriah Phillips of Waseca are happy to announce their engagement and upcoming wedding. Shannon is the daughter of Tim and Sharon O'Grady of Waseca. Uriah is the son of Terry Phillips of Waseca and Deb Wohlers of Elk River. Shannon is a 1995 graduate of Waseca High School and is currently employed as a dispatcher for Mediacom. Uriah is a 1994 graduate of Waseca High School and is currently employed as a locator for Mediacom. A September 29, 2001 wedding is planned.

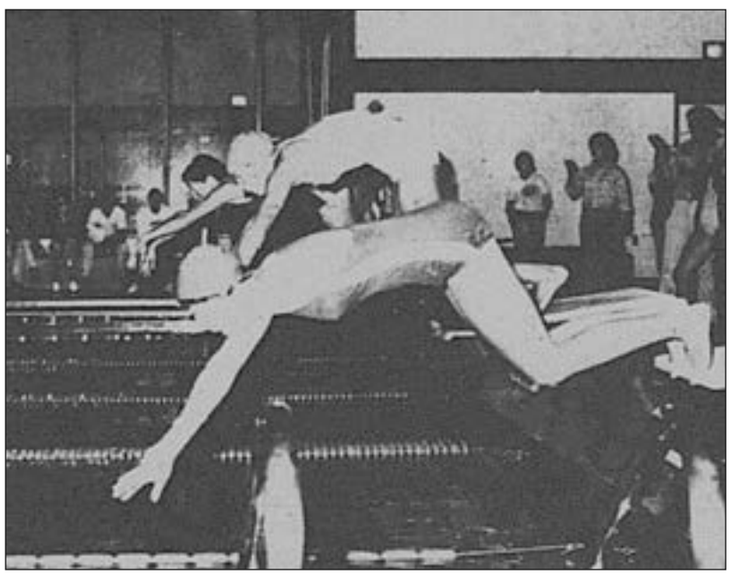
- Travis and Michelle Hyatt are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Katlyn Jean, born September 12, 2001, at 12:33 p.m. She weighed seven pounds, 13 ounces and was 21" in length. Maternal grandparents are Burt and Carrol Kuehn of Belview. Paternal grandparents are Bob and Gerry Hyatt of Wood Lake. Katlyn is welcomed home by her brothers Cody, who is six years old and Tyler, who is three years old.



- St. Paul's Luthern Church in Meriden broke ground on their new facilities on Monday, he original church was destroyed by fire on September 13, 2000, Central Freeborn Lutheran Church in Kibert Lea, will hold a fundraiser for St. Paul's on Septeliber 24, from 4 to 7 p.m.

50 years ago

- Among the 450 Minnesota 4-H club members participating in the State 4-H Horse Show and Judging Contest Sept. 20-21 at the State Fairgrounds are four from Wasece County. Participating in riding competition are: Jodi Sammon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Sammon, Waseca and Kalvin Schmidt, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Schmidt, Waseca. Preliminaries will be held Monday, Sept. 20 with the top 8-12 finalist competing in the evening show. The show begins at 7 p.m. and is open to the public. Local 4-H'ers in the judging contest include: Molly Byron, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Byron, Waseca: Dean Dardis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Dardis, Waseca: Jodi Sammon and Kalvin Schmidt. Coach for the 4-H Horse Judging team is Roy Johnson of the UMW Waseca Technical College. The team will be judging 5 halter and 1 performance class in competition against approximately 45 4-H teams at 1 p.m. on Sept. 20. Both events will be held concurrently with the 4-H Market Livestock Show.



- Waseca and Lakeville swimmers are off and swimming at the gun in the 100 yard freestyle event in the meet on Sept. 10, Jill Hanson (striped suit) is sandwiched between-two Lakeville swimmers on the second starting block. Jill finished second in the e vent.

- "What does the county nurse do for cancer patients" will be the topic for the Make Today Count meeting Monday evening at 7 p.m. at the LeSueur Waseca Regional Library. Mrs. Jan Knutson of the county nursing staff will present the program. Discussion and coffee time will be part of the meeting which is open to all cancer patients and their families. Patients with other life threatening diseases are also welcome.

75 years ago

- Three trustees, Chales Stankey, Emil Fratzke and Al Steffey, have been named to dispose of the property of the Smiths Mill Creamery. The plant, which in recent years has purchased only cream, closed Sept. 1.

- John T. Waller, 76, father of Hilman Waller of Waseca, died Wednesday at a Rochester hospital after a year's illness. He moved to Rochester from Chatfield in 1923 and worked for the Kahler Corp. for 28 years. Funeral services will be held Saturday, 9 a.m. in St. Pius Catholic church, Rochester. Burial will be at Chatfield.

- Mrs. Ella Guentzel was hostess to the Calico Birthday club at her apartment here on Sept. 14. All eight members and two guests, Mrs. Emma Lachelt of St. Clair and Mrs. Albert Priem were present. Games with prizes furnished the evening's entertainment, after which the hostess served a lunch.

100 years ago

- Judging from some of the newspaper stories for the day it is time that we get away from the age old tradition that is the girl that is led astray. Some of our booze drinking flappers, and there is no denying the fact that the small towns do have a few, are in reality a menace to our youth. We are getting to a point where we need to protect our young men as well as our girls.-Windom Citizen.

- Francis Webber landed the largest fish caught in Clear Lake this year when he captured a 17 pound pickerel measuring 40 inches. He was fishing opposite the old ice house when he made the strike.

- Rev. and Mrs.C.M. Brandon, Mr. and Mrs. E.J. Kelly, Anton Stucky and son Anton Jr., Mr. and Mr. Paul Stucky, Ralph Clayton and Leon Brozik of this city, were among those who attended the wedding of Miss Kathryn Bradley and Allen B. Roth, at Kasson Tuesday evening.

New Richland

25 years ago



- All Saints Catholic Church of New Richland joined other churches and organizations in the National Day of Prayer and Remembrance on Friday, September 14, for the victims of the terrorist attack on America that took place on Tuesday, September 11, 2001.

- Members of the LeSueur River Lutheran Church congregation will celebrate the 140th anniversary of its organization on Sunday, September 30. Through the years the church has advanced from a log structure to this structure with a steeple of 125 feet.

- Trap shooting has begun at the New Richland area Sportsman Club. DAve Harris of Hartland leads the five top shooters in 200 rounds.

- Mellisa Cummins had 12 blocks for Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton as the Bulldogs defeated Alden Conger 17-15, 15-4, 15-9 in a Gopher Conference volleyball match at Alden. Three of Cummins blocks were aces. She also had 5 kills. Jenna Ziemke had 10 kills and 8 blocks with 3 aces. She also had four ace services. Katie Von-Holtum had 15 assists.

50 years ago

- Mrs. Phil Marquardt was crowned Young Farm Wife of the year at the annual Waseca County Farm Bureau meeting, Saturday evening, September 25 at the First National Bank Community room in Waseca.

- Mandy LaVonne Possin, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Possin, R. 3, New Richland, was baptized at Evangelical United Methodist Church, September 5, with the Rev. Luther Pennington officiating. Sponsors were Paul and Patricia Miller of Waseca.

75 years ago

- Mr. and Mrs. James Christenson of Owatonna became the parents of their second daughter, born at the Owatonna hospital Tuesday, October 23, and weighing 8 pounds. They have a son, Jimmy, attending school.

- Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Abraham had their infant son, Kenneth Floyd, baptized at Sioux City, Iowa, Sunday. Attending sponsors were Clarence Abraham of New Richland and Mrs. George Abraham of Joice, Iowa.

Students recognized for spring accolades

Southwest Minnesota State University's Spring 2026 Dean's List:

Kayla Jordan, Janesville
El Egbert, Waseca
Hazel Moore, Waseca
Keegan Sonnenfeld, Waseca

University of Wisconsin-La Crosse May 2026 graduates:

Jessa Marae Westphal, Waseca, Bachelor of Science, Finance Major: Risk, Insurance and Financial Planning Concentration, Highest Honors

South Dakota State announces spring 2026 graduates:

Sydney Gahlon, Janesville, graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science

Kayli Hinze, Janesville, graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science

Courtney Loeffler, Janesville, graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Ethan Bushlack, New Richland, graduated with a Bachelor of Science

Erin Jacobson, New Richland, graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science

Jordan Bauman, Waseca, graduated with a Bachelor of Science

University of Wisconsin-Madison students named to the Dean's List for spring 2025-2026:

Luke Yoder, Waseca, College of Engineering

University of Minnesota Duluth announces graduates for Spring Semester 2026:

Benjamin Walechka, Janesville, Mechanical Engineering B S M E

University of Wisconsin-River Falls spring semester Dean's list:

Lily Sonnek, Janesville, Broad Field Social Studies

Addie Kelm, Waseca, Animal Science

Mya Sutton, Waseca, Elementary Education

Southern New Hampshire University's Summer 2026 President's List:

Chelsey Ulferts of Waseca
Jaiden Robinson of Waseca
Katharine Duffy of Waseca
Erin Keck of Waseca

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The Pastor's Column

Word is a lamp to light my way

By FR. GLENN FRERICHS
Sacred Heart Church

Psalm 119, at 176 verses, is the longest psalm in Scripture. Throughout its many verses, the psalmist reflects on the beauty and importance of God's Word and the guidance it provides for those seeking to live faithfully. One of my favorite passages declares: "Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path" (Psalm 119:105).

We know the psalmist is not speaking literally. Words do not cast light onto a dark road or illuminate a staircase. Rather, the image points to a deeper truth: God's Word helps us to see the world as God sees the world. It reveals Christ, teaches us how to live, and helps us navigate the challenges of life. But what does this look like in practice?

Many years ago, as a young priest, I moved into the rectory at St. Ann Church in Janesville to serve as pastor for the first time. There was much to learn in those early days. I wanted to serve the parish well and avoid mistakes, and I was also getting accustomed to a new home.

My bedroom was upstairs, and each morning I descended a staircase covered in deep blue shag carpet. A light above the stairs provided enough illumination to distinguish each step. At first, I turned it on every time. As the weeks passed, however, I became more familiar with the staircase.

Soon I was taking the steps two at a time. Before long, I stopped turning on the light altogether.

After all, I knew those stairs well-or so I thought.

Then came the morning that taught me otherwise. It was early and still dark, and I was in a hurry. As I bounded down the stairs, I misjudged the final step. In what seemed like slow motion, my ankle rolled beneath me and I crashed into the opposite wall. Pain quickly shot up my leg, accompanied by a less pleasant realization: this injury could have been avoided by something as simple as turning on the light.

For the next several weeks, I had plenty of time to reflect on my mistake. I had become overly confident. Familiarity had led me to believe I no longer needed the guidance that had once helped me navigate safely.

Isn't the spiritual life often the same? Life teaches us many valuable lessons. Parents, friends, teachers, and mentors all help shape who we are. Their wisdom is a gift. Yet God's Word offers something even deeper: a trustworthy guide for the journey of life itself.

The light of Christ—the eternal Word made flesh-and the wisdom found in Scripture help us see the world through God's eyes. Through the Gospels we encounter the life of Jesus. Through Proverbs, the Psalms, and the rest of Sacred Scripture, we receive wisdom, encouragement, correction, and hope. Over time, these truths shape the way we think, act, and love.

St. Clare of Assisi once said, "We become what we love, and who we love shapes what we become." What better way to grow as Christians than by loving and becoming more familiar with the One we seek to follow? The more we immerse ourselves in the life and teachings of Christ, the more His virtues take root within us. As St. Paul reminds us, the fruits of the Holy Spirit are "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." A life led by the lamp of God's Word and teachings will instill these fruits on our hearts.

The lesson I learned on that staircase was simple: confidence can sometimes lead us to neglect what we truly need. The Christian life presents a similar temptation. We may think we already know enough, that we have heard the Gospel message before, or that we can rely solely on habit and experience. Yet there is always more to learn, more room to grow, and more grace to receive.

So where is God's Word placed in your life? Perhaps your Bible sits in a prominent place but is rarely opened. Perhaps it rests on a tabletop, calling out as you walk by it several times each day.

Maybe God's Word reaches you through a daily devotional, a Scripture app on your phone, or the readings proclaimed at Mass. Whatever your circumstances, it is never too late to draw closer to God's Word.

Why? Because God's Word is more than a collection of ancient writings. It is the lamp that illuminates our path, helping us avoid the pitfalls we cannot always see and guiding us toward the life God desires for us. When we allow its light to shine, we discover that we never have to walk alone in the dark.

Got news?
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NR Benevolence Fund donations



$4,000 WORTH OF HELP - Four groups associated with the Waseca American Legion Post, including its Auxiliary, Sons of the Legion (SAL), Marchers and Veterans Assistance Fund, each donated $1,000 to the New Richland Area Food Shelf "benevolence fund," money the food shelf keeps to assist area residents experiencing difficulty.

Pictured here are (from left) New Richland Mayor Janda Ferguson, Food Shelf managers Pam and Larry Goehring, City Council member Josh Warke, SAL representative Mike Sutlief, New Richland City Administrator Tyler Lendt, and Auxiliary treasurer Leann Sutlief.

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IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Pastor Ava Adams-Morris
Waldorf, Minnesota
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ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC
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Father Brian Mulligan
* * *
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Elijah J. Lutgens
Waseca County Pioneer Publisher
9/30/26

Child's History of Waseca County

Cont. Chapter XVI, 1855. The first wedding—McDougall and 'Squire Jenkins lost on prairie all night—Ceremony postponed—Married the next evening

About dark, those who had been out to look for the 'squire returned on his trail, having followed it from his cabin. It was necessary to have supper before proceeding to tie the knot, and many were the jokes and laughs about the first marriage ceremony to be performed by our worthy bachelor justice of the peace. A considerable part of the pioneer settlers gathered in during the evening to witness the ceremony which had well nigh caused the freezing of Uncle John, as the 'squire was familiarly called.

After all had partaken of a substantial supper, the tables had been cleared off, and the "slab chairs" had been properly arranged, the 'squire stated that he was ready to proceed. The ceremony was decidedly short and to the purpose. It was even briefer than the shorter form in Booth's Manual. As near as memory serves me, it was as follows: "The parties will join hands. Mr. Ballard, do you take Miss Gregory to be your wife?" (Answer) "Yes, sir." "Miss Gregory, do you take Mr. Ballard as your husband?" (Answer—in a whisper) "Yes, sir." "All right," said Uncle John, "then you're man and wife."

After this short, but characteristic ceremony, the company seemed to be relieved of much former constraint, and the night passed in song, "going to Rome," through the "cedar swamp," playing the "honest miller," etc.; for none of those living at a distance could go home that night, and there were too many present to think of finding beds in a farm house.

■ Posse

from Page 3

Courthouse Park, thinking he would enjoy the peaceful, natural setting and the quiet, wooded trails.

"We had had a really good day of training," she recalls of Sept. 13. "We had been out for a couple of hours. It got to be about 7, and we were trailering our horses.

"I think Kajun was trying to tell me he didn't want to leave."

What she means is, the horse was being difficult about entering the trailer. Stewart and her friend were both working to get him inside when Kajun jerked his head upright, giving Stewart's friend rope burn, pushed backward, and dashed off into the darkening woods.

"It was an unreal moment," Stewart recalls. She and her friend called to him, and walked a ways into the woods to look for him, but saw no sign of where he might be. At a loss what to do, Stewart spoke to the park caretaker who suggested calling the sheriff's office. She called and squad cars responded. Officers, including Sheriff Jay Dulas, drove some of the roads in the park looking for Kajun.

Stewart was not surprised, however, when they found no sign of her horse. "He would just run away from a car," she said. "It's strange to him, and he would already be nervous out there alone."

It was about 7:45 when Dulas raised the possibility of calling in the mounted posse.

"He said he could ask and see if anyone wanted to help," remembers Stewart, "but that he would usually only call them if a person were missing."

Since she was determined to stay in the park all night if it was necessary, Stewart joked that she might become a missing person.

Dulas remembers, "At approximately 7:45 PM, I contacted the Waseca County Mounted Sheriff's Posse requesting assistance with locating the missing horse.

"The call immediately went out to our members — and they responded.

"Within a short period of time, 15 Posse members, along with 4 Posse horses, arrived to assist with the search. By approximately 9:00 p.m., teams were organized and headed into Courthouse Park, searching through the woods in complete darkness."

Stewart says she was deeply touched as the small army of volunteers arrived and enthusiastically set about determining what was needed and then proceeding to do it.

"They didn't know me. They didn't know my horse. But they wanted to help. There was no judgment, no criticism. They were there to make the situation better."

And "better" was desperately needed, Stewart recalls; ever since Kajun had disappeared she had been picturing all the things that could happen to him wandering alone in a strange place. "He could have left the park and gotten out on a road," she speculates. "Or he might have fallen in a ravine.

"I kept worrying what was happening to him out there. Everything looks different in the dark."

Once the posse arrived, her worries ended quickly.

"Thankfully, it didn't take long," describes Dulas. "At approximately 9:15 p.m., the missing horse was located deep in the woods.

"Members were able to safely bring the horse out of the park and reunite him with his owner. Even better, the horse was found safe and without any apparent wounds or injuries."

Posse members stayed to help ensure Kajun got safely into the trailer before heading home themselves.

Stewart says she's not surprised Kajun responded to a search done on horseback. "That was familiar to him," she suggests. "He figured he could trust the other horses and the people with them."

Stewart is willing to be philosophical about the experience.

"I'm not angry at Kajun," she says. "He's still learning, and he's always improving at his own pace.

"Mostly, I'm grateful.

"Those folks gave me just the kind of help I needed at a time when nothing else would have worked.

"It sort of restores my trust in human nature."

Of the evening, Dulas comments, "We cannot thank our posse members enough for their response. On a Sunday evening, 15 volunteers dropped what they were doing, gathered their equipment, loaded horses when needed, and answered the call to help.

"There was no advance notice. No scheduled shift. Just a call asking, 'Who can help?'

"And our members showed up.

"This is one of the many ways the Waseca County Mounted Sheriff's Posse serves alongside the Waseca County Sheriff's Office and our community. Whether the individual needing to be found has two legs or four, our members are proud to answer the call when assistance is needed. A successful search, a safe reunion, and a very good ending to a Sunday night. The working relationship between the Waseca County Sheriff's Office and Waseca County Mounted Posse is invaluable in serving the Waseca County community."

Flood victims describe loss, uncertainty

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Jeannie Olson and David Melcher had lived together in one of four ground-level apartments at Third Street Northeast in New Richland for six years. With a clear view of the town baseball field, they had seen rising water many times, but the closest it had ever come to their apartment building was about 20 feet away.

So around 7 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 19, they were relaxed and unconcerned as they drank their morning coffee and looked at the standing water outside–until they suddenly realized there was a wall of water moving rapidly in their direction. They could see their apartment would be inundated, so they grabbed a few medical items and a couple rather random armloads of clothing.

Even as they reached and grabbed, the water began filling their space, so that by the time they fled outdoors to their vehicles, the water was up to Jeannie's hips.

Their two cars were parked outside. Jeannie's SUV, the taller of the two, already had water above its floorboards, but Dave opened the door anyway.

"I'm glad I did," he remembers. "Because we saved that car."

The two got in and drove away, worried whether the engine would die as they pushed through water that seemed two or three feet deep. Behind them, Dave's car was left standing in water which eventually reached the height of its windows.

They drove to City Hall and spent much of the day there.

"Our shoes were wet, our socks were wet, our pants were wet," Jeannie describes. Fortunately, local folks were there to help. They were able to go to the Lady Bug thrift shop and acquire some dry things to wear.

That evening, they and a few others whose homes were inaccessible were offered beds at Trinity Lutheran Church. The next day, the food shelf benevolence fund was used to arrange for a few days' stay at the American Hotel in Waseca for Jeannie, Dave, and a few others who were uncertain where they could go.

When they spoke with the *Pioneer* on Thursday evening, the two were at a loss as to how they might move forward.

"We're both on Social Security," described Dave. "We'll never be able to come up with the deposit and the first and last month's rent like they always want for an apartment.

"We don't have any furniture," observed Jeannie. "We don't have much clothes, or blankets or all the things you need for a house.

"I don't even have hope anymore."

The two have been back to their apartment since the water receded: the landlord had asked that their ruined possessions be removed so that large-scale cleanup and repairs could begin.





Jeannie Olson and David Melcher escaped from their apartment through hip-deep water carrying what they could grab in only a few moments. Prior flooding had never reached their home in the apartment building at 240 Third Street Northeast in New Richland, but on Saturday morning, a wall of water suddenly washed against their sliding patio doors and began filling their living space.
Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

They speak with gratitude of NRHEG high school students who were released from their classes to come help.

"The landlord wouldn't let them come inside," Jeannie describes, "but they stood in a line outside and they passed everything along from hand to hand to hand until it was all set out on the curb to be taken away." Items removed included furniture, wet clothing and towels, dishes, food from the refrigerator–all the everyday things people take for granted.

Some dishes from the cupboard which the water had not reached were salvageable, Jeannie mentioned, but the pots and pans, silverware, and other items at waist height and below were filthy and frightening, and seemed unsafe to keep. The entire apartment stank of dirty water and decay.

"The whole thing is going to have to be completely redone," Jeannie observed.

Along with their difficult financial situation, Jeannie, 62, and Dave, 71, feel ill-equipped to create new lives for themselves. Dave is a two-time cancer survivor and has a pacemaker.

Besides that, both shake their heads at some of the decisions they made in those last few minutes before fleeing their apartment. "We made some stupid choices," comments Jeannie, pointing to the pajama pants she is wearing in combination with a sweat shirt.

All the important papers agencies tend to ask for–her birth certificate, her husband's death certificate, her social security papers–all became mush in the flood.

Dave, a veteran of the Vietnam war, regrets the loss of his "boot camp book" from 55 years ago. He says it was a small booklet with pictures and a list of names of those who attended boot camp together. "There's no way to ever get that back," he says, remembering the last time he saw it, it was floating.

Both say they have not been themselves since being washed from their home. Shock was followed by stress and worry, but the sense of shock remains.

"We're still not thinking right," comments Dave. "I feel like I'm about 100 years old."

"I'm biting people's heads off," Jeannie says of her temper. "I just don't have much patience."

Dave says he feels out of place in his own skin. "I don't feel quite right, like myself," he describes.

Both wonder if they will ever feel all right again. "I can't see any way to fix this," says Jeannie.

■ Church

from Page 1

trusted with the mission of forming young people in the faith and providing an education rooted in Catholic teaching. The circumstances surrounding this matter are understood to be in conflict with the principles that guide Catholic education and the expectations placed on those who serve in leadership roles within our schools.

"I am aware that there has been a lot of discussion within our community and on social media about this, including questions about compassion, fairness, and the decision itself. These conversations are understandable. At the same time, the Church holds marriage to be one of the seven sacraments and regards it as a sacred institution established by God. Throughout history, Christians have sometimes been called to bear difficult witness to the truth. And we are called to that even today.

"Much of the conversation has surrounded Ms. Seys wanting to move in with her fiancé during his illness, and some have said this living arrangement is the reason for her removal. I assure you this is false. The Church provides the opportunity for someone to move into someone's home to provide care in severe circumstances. We would never stand in the way of that decision; we would work with them. Nor would we end a working relationship with someone who wanted to provide such care. This was made known to Ms. Seys.

"Please know that the diocese and I sincerely hoped a resolution could be found that would allow this situation to be resolved differently, but ultimately that was not possible.

"I also want to acknowledge that our school community has experienced several leadership changes in recent years. The Bishop, Diocesan staff, and I understand that stability and consistency are essential to the trust families place in the school, and we do not take that lightly. "To ensure continuity, Michael Gerard, Assistant Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Winona-Rochester, has assumed the role of interim principal. He brings valuable experience as a principal and will provide our school with the time, guidance, and leadership needed to maintain its academic, spiritual, and moral integrity during this transition. Our school is not in any way in danger of closing.

"Please know that this outcome was not my wish. I share the sadness many are feeling and find this deeply painful. I ask for your prayers for Mrs. Seys, her family, our students and staff, and the entire community. The search for a new principal will begin immediately, and we remain committed to our school's mission and future.

"Thank you for your prayers, understanding, and continued support of Catholic education."



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Compostings

by Al Batt

Hunting with a camera

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING

I got great news from the IRS in the mail.

Are you getting a refund?

No, I'm getting an Audi.

Let me see that letter. You are getting audited.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. "Another day," I thought. I'd nailed it. It was another day.

My rain gauge drowned as Minnesota tried to become the Land of 20,000 Lakes.

Mother Nature's cloud storage was full, and we were not properly hydrated, so she gave us a firehose of rain.

The traditional English idiom "It never rains, but it pours" appeared in print as early as 1772. In 1914, the Morton Salt Company adopted the ad slogan, "When it rains, it pours." My heart went out to those affected by the overly generous supply of water. Nine inches of rain fell in such a short period in New Richland that it seemed like 90 inches. Rising waters flooded houses and businesses. Then they came. They looked like normal people, but they were exceptional people. Fred Rogers, AKA Mr. Rogers, said, "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'" Those helpers in New Richland are a special kind of good. What an amazing difference they made. THANK YOU!

It cleared up with a dry drizzle. Soon, it was a bright and shiny morning whether or not the sun was shining. It was a bright and shiny morning because of those helpers.

I'VE LEARNED

As a young man, I worked at a smelly turkey processing plant. A coworker wore Vicks VapoRub every day, not because he was ailing, but so he didn't have to smell anything else. Vicks says it's the third most recognized scent in the world behind peanut butter and coffee.

I stopped at the Salvation Army Store and the Library Bookstore to visit my old stuff. The good news was that I resisted the temptation to buy back any of my donations.

If you ever get the feeling that everybody knows something that you don't, you're right.

I've been telling stories at a good number of senior living communities. I never leave one without feeling enhanced and enlightened.

I've discovered that the word "nothing" is a palindrome. Backwards it spells "gnihton," which also means nothing.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

Due to the economy, the actor Vin Diesel changed his name to Vin Regular Unleaded.

A city cut coroners by eliminating one of its two medical examiners.

Naming a town is easy—just go with the name that is on the water tower.

Picasso's home was burgled and he was asked to draw pictures of the suspects. The police searched for a goat and two bullheads.

NATURE NOTES

LaVonne Kalke of New Richland asked why there are so few birds in her yard in early fall. The multicolored Asian lady beetles ate them all. That's not true. I kid because I love. Many birds follow their food and migrate. The populations of insect-reliant species like warblers, vireos and flycatchers have been reduced. Many songbirds migrate at night to avoid predators and take advantage of cooler, calmer air. Some species of birds that migrate during the day include pelicans, hawks, falcons, hummingbirds, swifts and swallows. Natural food sources like berries, seeds and late-season insects are abundant, so birds don't need to rely on feeders. Resident birds become less vocal with no need to attract a mate or defend a territory. Hardy birds like chickadees, juncos, goldfinches, cardinals, blue jays, nuthatches and woodpeckers will become more active at feeders as the weather gets colder.

Many birds around the world are starting their days earlier than ever, because of unnaturally bright skies caused by light pollution. They vocalize about 20 minutes earlier in the morning and stop vocalizing about 30 minutes later in the evening, according to Neil Gilbert, a wildlife ecologist with Oklahoma State University. Gilbert and Brent Pease of Southern Illinois University analyzed millions of recordings of birdsong to determine their findings.

I was invited to the Governor's Pheasant Hunting Opener. I appreciated being invited, but I'll be hunting with a camera. I delight in taking photos of nature's stunners.

A wild turkey's snood is the fleshy flap that dangles down over the beak, and the wattle is the loose skin that hangs under the chin.

Thank you for listening and watching KMSU Radio and KEYC TV.

MEETING ADJOURNED

One of my favorite writers died recently—Annie Dillard. She wrote this: "We are here to bring to consciousness the beauty and power that are around us and to praise the people who are here with us."

A suggestion for overcoming a gloomy mood



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

Just breathe.

Deeply.

Close your eyes. Draw the air in through your nose and pull it all the way down inside you.

Feel your lungs expanding. Sense the extra oxygen reaching your brain, pushing its way in and somehow making it feel as if you are awakening–almost like fresh water reaching a parched landscape.

Keep breathing deeply. Recognize you are completely surrounded by a medium which not only delivers your most fundamental need, but stands ready to lift you up and strengthen your connection to all it touches. If you just breathe it in.

Back in April, I attended a session for regional social workers led by nationally acknowledged consultant Bryan Post. I produced an article which described Post's suggestions for working with children who have undergone trauma, and because of it react to situations in unexpected ways.

The information shared there was valuable and thought-provoking, but it did not include a profound, separate subject that Post addressed.

He said the first–and perhaps even most important–response when we encounter a stressful or difficult situation is to take a deep breath–probably eight or ten of them, actually, to ground ourselves.

Yet what is our instinct when we begin to be frustrated? We breathe shallowly, or even hold our breaths.

After telling the group that holding your breath is one of the worst things you can do when uncertain or emotional, he introduced an unexpected string of ideas.

He pointed out that holding our breath is separating ourselves from consciousness–from an immediate connection with where we are, the people we are with, and even our own life experience.

Consciousness, he said, is life.

Life, he went on, is love.

And love is God.

By holding our breaths–something we often do automatically and without realizing it–Bryan suggested we are unconsciously initiating a chain reaction that leads in the opposite direction from where we want to be going.

It was a set of associations I would not have arrived at on my own: I was grateful not only for the profound thoughts, but also the energy and sincerity with which they were delivered. And I was reminded of them when I looked out at the gloomy fog and wetness that was Monday morning's weather.

I went to the trouble of digging out my notes from April because I wanted to be sure to get Bryan's list of associations right. You see, the details had escaped me, leaving me with the much shorter thought that my memory has retained: Breathing is connecting myself to God.

Try it and see whether you agree. Go back to the first paragraphs of this column and follow the instructions; consider having someone read them to you so you can actually follow the steps with your eyes closed.

Perhaps most importantly, though, every now and then remove breathing from the list of "autonomic" functions of your metabolism. Draw in strength. Be conscious of the life-giving medium around you. Fill yourself with love. Strengthen your connection to God.

Soaking in the sun, moments of gratitude



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

I don't know if it's the weather getting colder or if my work schedule has finally allowed me to, but I've been going on more lunch-break walks lately. And I'm soaking it all in.

I have a certain route that I know I can finish in my 30-minute break that takes me past construction and loops around a park. It's nice to have my set route, which I take backwards or forwards one day or the other.

But mostly, it's been nice to unlock myself from the slog of work for half an hour to get outside to breathe the fresh, city air. Lately, I've been enjoying people watching and noticing the things around me.

Two days ago, I watched a guy walk the paths of the park while reading a book held up in front of his face. It made me smile as I remember doing that when I was younger. It felt like I was always reading—recess, the car, brushing my teeth, any five minutes I could spare. While I still read while brushing my teeth and now also read on the treadmill, I don't risk walking outside while reading, goodness knows I'm going to trip. But it was nice to see him enjoying his book while getting some exercise in.

The best part is all the dogs I pass on my walks. There was a very well behaved big, chunky brown lab that was offleash, and as it came trotting down the sidewalk toward me–tongue out and smiling like the happy dog it was–I couldn't help but smile and chuckle. It didn't stop to ask to be petted, but walked right past me with its owner following.

I passed another happy dog that made me smile, and when I looked up, I saw the older gentleman walking the dog grinning from ear to ear, which made me smile more. I hope he was proud of his dog for bringing a smile to my face.

And then there's nature. I got to watch a squirrel frantically dig a hole to bury its nut in the ground, then cover it up. I got to appreciate the lush green grass and watch colored leaves drift downward (yay, it's finally fall!)

My coworkers and I started doing a "question of the day". One of us asks a random question in the afternoon as a brain break from our work. For a couple minutes, we choose our answer and react to each others'. The question the other day was what our favorite scent is. I struggled to choose, as there are so many good scents, but landed on the smell of old books, pine, and vanilla. And as we discussed scents, I realized I also like the smell of freshly fallen snow.

That got us talking about enjoying the little things in life. One of my coworkers said she had a friend who kept a list of all of her favorite things in life: the warmth of fresh laundry, a homegrown strawberry, the sun after a rain.

The thought of having a list to appreciate all the little things in life we've been given made me pause. What an awesome way to be grateful and work to be present in daily life.

Maybe I should start a journal and every day write down one thing that made me pause or led me to appreciate my day. I feel like working to be more grateful day-to-day is a good goal. We'll see how it goes.

My Determination: "If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way." — Jodi Picoult, Small Great Things

Tallies of damages may lead to recovery money



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

A lot of damage was caused due to the flooding this past week in New Richland. Cleanup efforts will be ongoing for quite a while. Teams of officials will be coming around town on Thursday through Saturday (Oct. 1 to 3) to talk to folks to get a dollar estimate of damages and also to use this info to apply for funding at the federal level. The groups will go door to door and business to business. Hopefully, responses will help ensure folks can get some money to reimburse them for the many costs that are coming out of the flooding.

During the week, kids from the local high school spent many hours on cleanup.

Senator Amy Klobuchar put out a statement this week that the time is now for putting money into infrastructure to fix New Richland's waterflow problems: She said she had directed her office to work with the local city and county to find funding to do so. Hopefully the studies that were paid for in order to look for grant money to fix the infrastructure around town will now finally be put to good use.

Talking with local folks, I have heard of at least one business with damages over $100,000. We do not know what it will cost to clean up and rejuvenate the care center. Another huge loss to the local economy: more than 80 care center employees are without jobs for the next six months or more as work gets underway.

The entire first floor of the apartments across from Budach's Implement must now be gutted and repaired.

Ten to 12 houses are deemed a total loss.

There have been thousands and thousands of dollars of damages to more than 300, maybe even 400 homes in New Richland.

The time is now to fix this problem as permanently as possible.

I am grateful my home and place of employment were not affected directly. One or two or three floods ago, my Dad's basement flooded for the first time ever. After clearing everything out, he basically left it as an empty space. So, yes, water came in, but there was nothing for it to harm.

Others were not so lucky.

My final real thoughts on this are that I do expect lasting change to be made. I spoke with a number of county commissioners and have read so so many news articles. It will take time. I just pray that we don't endure another round of damage in the meantime.

Rust starring Alec Baldwin, a western drama

Revermann Recommends

Good movies you might've missed

By Ben Revermann



On May 2 of 2025 the movie *Rust* was released on Amazon and is currently available for free with an Amazon subscription. This western drama was written and directed by Joel Souza. Even though it portrays some violence, it was released as Not Rated; I would suggest it deserves a rating of PG-13. It stars Alec Baldwin who co-wrote the story with Souza, and stars Patrick Scott McDermott, Josh Hopkins, Frances Fisher, and Travis Fimmel. The film only took in $26,831 against a budget of $8 million; the poor financial showing was most likely due to the bad press.

You may remember the tragic news about this movie which began filming in New Mexico on Oct, 6, 2021. When working with prop guns, special licensed personnel on the movie set are required to clear all firearms before filming to ensure safety. However, because some of the crew had been using the weapons to shoot beer cans to pass the time, a single live round was left in one of the guns used by Baldwin. Cinematographer Halyna Hutchins was fatally shot, and Director Souza was injured in the incident. Baldwin would be cleared of criminal charges and those responsible, including firearms inspector Hannah Gutierrez-Reed, served 18 months for the accidental shooting. When filming resumed, despite some of the original cast and crew being reluctant to continue, it did receive help from Matthew Hutchins, Halyna's husband as an executive producer and it received a blessing from the Hutchins family who wanted Halyna's final work to be completed.

The story is set in 1882 Wyoming. Lucas Hollister, 13, and his little brother Jacob are trying to move on after the deaths of their parents; they are very poor farmers and close to starving. While chasing a wolf, Lucas kills the father of a bully who hurt Jacob and is sentenced to hang. Before he can be hanged, he is broken out of jail by his grandfather, notorious outlaw Harland Rust. The two run south toward Mexico; Lucas is reluctant because he wants to get back to his brother. My favorite line from this movie comes from Baldwin while he's breaking his unconscious grandson out of jail. After shooting two lawmen, he says to a frightened deputy, "You tell any son-of-a-b** that comes after me, they'll be shaking hands with the devil himself."

I only watched this movie because I'm such a fan of Baldwin's performance in the original Beetlejuice. I was surprised by how much I liked this film, and I feel bad for dismissing Baldwin over the accidental shooting. I hate to admit the bad press influenced me. This is a good movie; it just had to go through hell to get there!

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TO CONSIDER AMENDMENTS TO THE WASECA COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION SALES & USE TAX PROJECT LIST

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Waseca County Board of Commissioners will conduct a public hearing regarding the adoption of a resolution amending the Transportation Sales & Use Tax Project List & Map. The public hearing will take place as part of the regular County Board meeting on Tuesday, October 6, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. in the Boardroom of the Waseca County East Annex, 300 N. State Street, Waseca, MN 56093.

Adoption of the resolution will enable the county to continue to impose the Transportation Sales & Use Tax and utilize the proceeds on specific transportation projects or improvements.

All interested persons may appear and be heard at the public hearing or may file their written comments prior to the hearing date with the County Administrator at the Waseca County Courthouse, 307 N. State Street, Waseca, MN 56093, or at michael.johnson@wasecacounty.gov.

The draft Project List & Map is accessible on the Public Work's page of the county website, www.wasecaounty.gov, or a copy can be obtained by contacting the Public Works Director/County Engineer at (507) 835-0661 or at jim.kollar@wasecacounty.gov .

Jim Kollar
Waseca County Public Works Director/County Engineer
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on September 24 and October 1, 2026

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ANOTHER WIN — Last Friday saw the WHS football team improve to 4-0 with a 35-0 win at Central of Norwood-Young America. At left, the Bluejays' Aydan Kath runs with the football. At right, the Bluejays take the field with their signature flag. At left is Waseca Head coach Brad Wendland.
Photos by Waseca Football Association

Jays improve to 4-0 at NYA

Defense gets another shutout

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Coach Brad Wendland said the Waseca High School football team had several things to improve on entering last Friday's game at Central of Norwood-Young America.

It's not known if the Bluejays accomplished everything, but they did do the most important thing. They won again, 35-0, making it 11 straight quarters without allowing a point.

"I thought the kids were ready to play tonight and showed improvement at different points of the game," said Wendland. "It was another great night for our defense. Offensively, I felt that we finished our drives well tonight, but I still think we're leaving a lot of plays on the field that we need to make. The staff will work hard and continue to have the guys improve every game."

The Bluejays wasted no time in putting points on the scoreboard, taking the opening kickoff and driving to the end zone, where Kellen Klinger took it in from two yards out. Owen Rupe kicked the PAT.

The Jays found pay dirt once more in the opening quarter, with Sam Selthun taking in a 29-yard screen pass from Klinger. Rupe's kick made it 14-0 with 2:07 left in the first.

The second quarter was more of the same, with Selthun scoring from four yards out and Rupe kicking the PAT at the 8:14 mark.

Klinger scored again from two yards out, with Rupe's kick making it 28-0 at halftime.

The Raiders crossed the 50-yard line once in the first half, but a fumble ended the short drive.

The third quarter was scoreless, with Waseca being stopped on fourth-and-three and the Raiders misfiring on a 27-yard field goal attempt.

The Bluejays' final points came on a three-yard run by Klinger, capping a 12-play, 80-yard drive, with Rupe's kick making it 35-0 with 8:38 to play.

The Bluejays, with several reserves in the game, stopped the Raiders on fourth down on their next possession.

Selthun gained 133 yards rushing on 15 carries. He caught two passes for 44 yards.

Klinger, the iWealth Player of the Game, was 5-for-9 passing for 79 yards while adding 58 yards rushing on 12 carries.

The Bluejays' second straight shutout improved them to 4-0, while the Raiders fell to 0-4.





ALL BLUEJAYS — That was the story at Norwood last Friday. At left, Brady McKenna sacks the quarterback. At right, Kellen Klinger drops back to pass.

The Bluejays play at Tri-City United this Friday at 7 p.m.

Waseca 35, Norwood-Young America 0

WAS	14	14	0	7 — 35
NYA	0	0	0	0 — 0

First Quarter
WAS – Klinger 2 run (Rupe kick)
WAS – Selthun 29 pass from Klinger (Rupe kick)

Second Quarter
WAS — Selthun 4 run (Rupe kick)
WAS – Klinger 3 run (Rupe kick)

Third Quarter
No scoring

Fourth Quarter
WAS – Klinger 3 run (Rupe kick)

	WAS	NYA
First Downs	15	10
Rushing Yards	40-227	26-51
Passing Yards	79	37
Total Yds.	306	98
Penalties-Yards	4-35	3-20

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing – WAS: Selthun 15-133; Klinger 12-58; Dymeck 1-4; Howard 5-15; Rahe 3-11; NYA: Miller 12-44; Krause 1-7; Kloempken 4-4; Corsen 6-5; Noumenn 2-3; Steinagen 3 –2

Passing — WAS: Klinger 5-9, 79; NYA: Coesen 6-12, 37; Miller 0-1, 0

Receiving — WAS: Selthun 2-44; Honstad 1-30; Rahe 1-2; Kath 1-0; NYA: Fahey4-24; Miller 1-13

WAS Defense (tackles) – Rahe 1; Worke 3; Stencel 1; Rupe 2; McKenna 8; Kath 1; O'Brien 2; Rohl 3; Powell 3; Wilson 2; Glynn 5; Selthun 3; Thompson 1; Dymeck 2; Castro 3; Knutson 5; Nelson 4;Dickerson 1; Schlueter 2

Minnesota Class AAA
Football Ratings Through 4 Weeks
By Maxpreps.com

1. Pierz	4-0
2. Annandale	4-0
3. Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton	4-0
4. Luverne	4-0
5. Waseca	4-0
6. SCLNAUMLWA	4-0
7. CHLRM	4-0
8. Albany	3-1
9. Perham	3-1
10. Holy Family Catholic	4-0

Bulldogs fall 42-32 at WEM

Officially, the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton Bulldogs and Waterville-Elysian-Morristown Buccaneers played a football game last Friday.

In actuality, it was more like a track meet.

After the dust had settled, the Bulldogs came out on the short end of a 42-32 decision at Waterville.

But that doesn't mean it was not enjoyable.

"It was a fun one from start to finish," said JWP head coach Ryan Luedtke.

The Bucs took a 12-6 lead after one quarter, the Bulldogs' score coming on a 57-yard pass from Seth Dahlberg to Gavin Bauer.

It was 20-6 at halftime.

The third quarter saw two scores by both squads, the Bulldogs' coming on a 60-yard pass to Bauer and a 12-yard pass to Jeff Sturdivant.

Most of the Bulldogs' yards came through the air, with Dahlberg throwing for 370 yards. Bauer caught nine passes for 201 yards, Jaxon Wolff 12 for 105.

WEM ran for 425 yards and passed ball only twice.

Gavin Weedman was on on 12 tackles to lead the defense. Parker Gearity was in on 11 tackles.

The Bulldogs host Southland this Friday.

WEM 42, JWP 32

JWP	6	0	12	14 — 32
WEM	12	8	14	8 — 42

First Quarter
WEM — Atherton 58 run (run failed)
JWP – Bauer 57 pass from Dahlberg (kick failed)
WEM – Einertson 17 run (Bartz pass from Richards)

Second Quarter
WEM — Filan 29 run (pass failed)

Third Quarter
WEM – Einertson 17 run (Bartz pass from Richards)
JWP — Bauer 60 pass from Dahlberg (pass failed)
WEM – Atherton 19 pass (Richards run)
JWP – Sturdivant 12 pass from Dahlberg (run failed)

Fourth Quarter
WEM — Root 3 run (Atherton run)
JWP – Wolff 16 pass from Dahlberg (Bauer run)

	JWP	WEM
Plays	52	54
First downs	19	29
Rushing	18	425
Passing	27-39	2-2
Passing Yards	370	41
Passing TDs, int.	5-0	0-0
Total Yds.	388	466
Third down	8-10	7-8
Fourth down	0-2	1-1
Fumbles lost	2	2
Penalties	3-27	7-68

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING — JWP: Dahlberg 4-11; Wolff 1-8; Schultz 7-9; Kronbach 1-1; WEM: Atherton 22-228; Einertson 15-113; Filan 3-43; Root 5-28; Richards 6-14; James 1-2

PASSING — JWP: Dahlberg 27-39, 370; WEM: Richards 1-2, 41

RECEVING — JWP: Bauer 9-201; Wolff 12-105; Geariety 2-28; Weedman 3-27; Sturdivant 1-12; WEM: Bartz 1-24; Einertson 1-17

JWP Defense — Bauer 5T; Sturdivant 1T; Weedman 12T; Geariety 11T; C.Schultz 3T; Bure 7T; Kronbach 1T; Elliott 1T; B.Schultz 4T; Rider 4T; Huber 1T; Schoenrock 2T; Y.Johnson 10T







IMPRESSIVE RECORDS – The Bluejays' Hannah Rugger, left, finished 6-0 against Big South Conference Black Division opponents, all at No. 1 singles. Ava Miller, right, posted a 5-1 record against BSC Black foes. Photos by Jim Lutgens

Rugger, Miller lead WHS netters

The Belle Plaine Tigers defeated the Waseca High School girls' tennis team 4-3 in Waseca on Tuesday. The Bluejays' junior varsity lost 2-1

Hannah Rugger won her No. 1 singles match over Ella Thorstad 7-6 (4), 6-4, giving Rugger a 6-0 record against all Big South Conference Black Division opponents, all at first singles.

At No. 2 singles, Ava Miller knocked off Nina Messer 6-3, 6-2, giving Miller a 5-1 record against BSC Black Division foes. Her one loss was against St. Peter at No. 2 singles.

Olivia Hagen fell 6-0, 6-1 to Michelle Sloan at No. 3 singles while Sam Sutton lost 6-3, 6-1 to Kennah Skluzacek at fourth singles.

Doubles results:

No. 1 - Hannah Sommers and Anna Benson defeated Olivia Endres and Taylor Menke 6-3, 6-1

No. 2 - Chloe Hagen and Libby Millar lost to Cora Rosenwinkel and Josephine Voigt 6-3, 6-1

No. 3 - Lucy Deml and Everly Kestel lost to Evelyn Boelter and Cesilia Ledesma 6-2, 6-0

The Bluejays lost 7-0 at St. James on Friday.

Singles results:

No. 1 - Rugger lost to Elizabeth Shores 6-1, 6-0

No. 2 - Ava Miller lost to Ellie Romsdahl 6-4, 6-1

No. 3 - Olivia Hagen lost to Claire Carlson 6-0, 6-0

No. 4 - Kestel lost to Brett Blom 6-0, 6-0

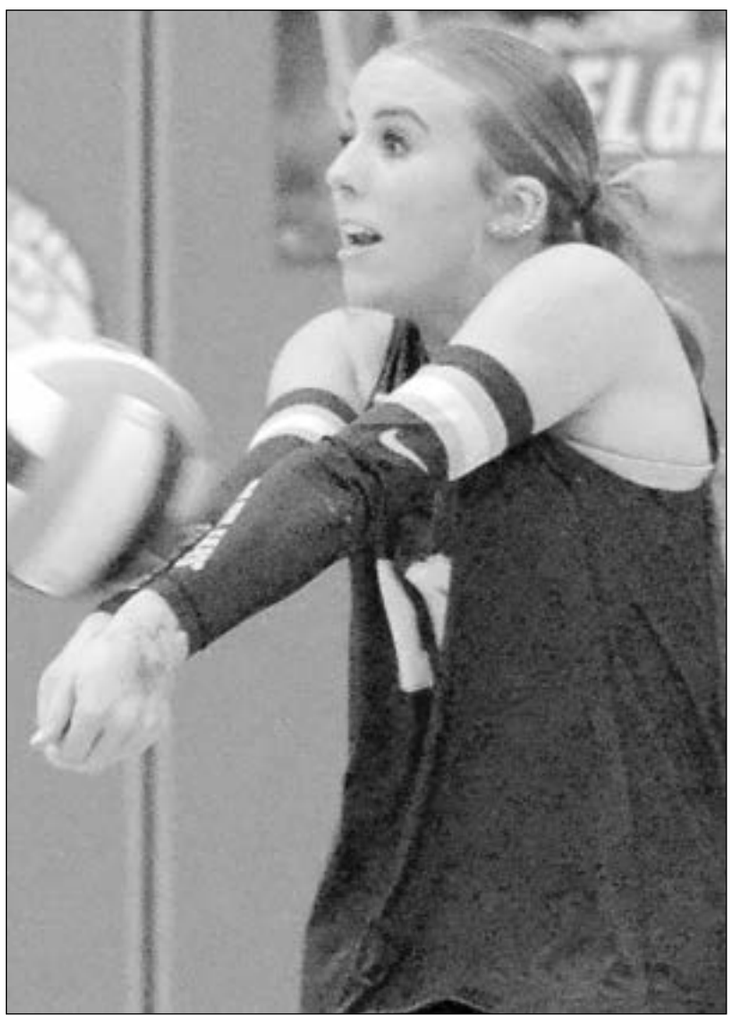
Doubles:

No. 1 - Benson and Sommers lost to Valeria Aguilar and Rube Ciske 6-0, 6-4

No. 2 - Deml and Libby Miller lost to Soraya Augilar and Julie Westman 6-0, 6-0

No. 3 - Sutton and Chloe Hagen lost to Adyson Leimer and Maren Bluedorn 6-0, 6-2

The loss dropped the Bluejays' record to 4-7.





VOLLEYBALL ACTION – The Bluejays' Kaia Sartori, left, bumps a shot against Worthington last Tuesday. At right, the Bluejays' Tyler Stagman tips a shot. Photos by Jim Lutgens

Spikers play well in 3-0 loss to Worthington

The Waseca High School volleyball team hosted Big South Conference foe Worthington Tuesday, Sept. 22 and lost 3-0, with set scores of 25-18, 25-14 and 25-17.

"We played well overall," said Bluejays head coach Krissy Plonske. "We just had some hiccups of losing a few more points in a row rather than to try catching back up and fall short. We don't play now until Monday, so a little break is always nice to rest the bodies."

Avery Barto led the Jays in assists with 18. Savanna Vagts and Tyler Stagman topped the team with two blocks apiece. Ellie Schleicher and Kaia Sartori each had 12 digs, Barto 11. Ashley Fliflet scored a team-high eight kills and Addison Zimmerman added 11.

The previous night, the Bluejays traveled to Janesville and fell 3-0 to Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton. Set scores were 25-15, 25-20 and 25-19.

"We had a lot of good plays," said Coach Plonske. "We just got into our own heads when we made one mistake."

Barto dished up 10 set assists. Hannah Helget had 13 digs, Madalynn Root 11. Stagman led with four kills and Vagts registered three.

The Bluejays went 0-4 in a tournament Saturday, Sept. 19, falling 25-21, 25-20 to Dassel-Cokato, 25-22, 25-14 to Norwood-Young America, 28-26, 25-19 to Breck Academy, and 26-24, 26-24 to Mankato Loyola.

Tournament totals: Barto 61 set assists; Root five service aces; Flifflet four aces; Root 41 digs; Sartori 22 digs; Sartori 24 kills; Vagts 14 kills; Fliflet 12 kills.



Griffin Storey

Storey joins U.S. National Team

USA Hockey's National Team Development Program has announced the addition of forwards Griffin Storey (Waseca), Gerry DiCunzolo (Buffalo, N.Y.), and Jackson Hendricks (Wayzata, Minn.) to the 2026-27 U.S. National Under-18 Team.

"We're excited to welcome these three players and their families to the NTDP as we finalize our roster," said Rod Braceful (Detroit, Mich.), director of player personnel for the NTDP. "Each player brings unique qualities and strengths to our team, and we're confident they will make a meaningful impact both on and off the ice."

About Storey

Storey joins the NTDP after he spent the 2025-26 season with Team Spade (UMHSEHL), Waseca High (USHS-MN) and the U.S. National Under-17 Team.

In 28 games with Waseca High, Storey totaled 88 points made up from 39 goals and 49 assists. Across 81 games in three seasons (2023-26), the Waseca, Minn., native totaled 76 goals and dished out 134 assists for 210 points. Storey added 16 points (5G, 11A) towards his 2025-26 season total in 20 games for the Spades. Storey earned all-conference honors his freshman, sophomore and junior seasons and was named to the Star Tribune All-Minnesota Boys Hockey Team. This past season, Storey was the second-leading scorer in all Minnesota High School Hockey.

Storey skated with the U17s last season in a weekend series at Omaha against the Lancers. Between the pair of games, he tallied one assist and recorded four shots on goal.

Storey attended USA Hockey's Select 17 Player Development Camp.

About DiCunzolo

DiCunzolo joins the NTDP after spending the 2025-26 season with the Peterborough Petes (OHL).

The Penn State University commit wrapped up last season with four goals and five assists in 39 games, was the recipient of the Petes Ed Redmond Memorial Trophy and was named OHL East Academic Player of the Month. In 2024-25, he tallied 147 points (57G, 90A) in 62 games with Shattuck St. Mary's 15U team.

The Buffalo, N.Y., native most recently represented Team USA at the 2026 Hlinka Gretzky Cup as Team USA reached the championship game for the second-straight year. DiCunzolo finished the tournament tied for second on the team in scoring, recording one goal and five assists in five games. DiCunzolo represented the U.S. on one other occasion, during the 2025 Under-17 Four Nations Tournament inside USA Hockey Arena, where he led the team in goals (5) and tied for the lead in points (8).

About Hendricks

Hendricks heads to Plymouth after spending the 2025-26 season with Team Twin Cities Orthopedics (UMHSEHL) and Wayzata High (USHS-MN).

A native of Wayzata, Minn., Hendricks totaled 40 points (15G, 25A) in the 2025-26 season between 49 games and tallied 12 goals and 20 assists in 28 games with Wayzata High. Hendricks averaged nearly a point-per-game in two seasons playing Minnesota High School Hockey with 24 goals and 31 assists (55 points) in 56 games.

WHS CC teams take second at Albert Lea

The Waseca High School cross country teams traveled to Albert Lea's Bancroft Bay Park last Tuesday for a triangular with Albert Lea and Belle Plaine.

Both the WHS boys and girls took second, and the varsity boys had an extremely close score to beat Albert Lea.

"The boys needed all seven runners to beat Albert Lea on tiebreaker," said Bluejays head coach Grant Popp. "It was a quick turnaround from last Thursday's meet, but the athletes competed hard and still had some good times on a rain-softened course."

Belle Plaine won the boys' varsity/JV with 26 points. Waseca and Albert Lea had 52 before the tiebreaker was factored in.

Places and times for the Bluejays on the 5,000-meter course: Sam Feldkamp, fourth, 18:27.2; Keenan Collins, seventh, 19:41.5; Luke Feldkamp, 10th, 20:17.9; Miles Popp, 18th, 21:23.0; Kurt Erickson, 19th, 21:25.1; Eli Hagre, 20th, 21:32.9; Ryan Yoder, 21st, 21:35.9; Korbin Collins, 23rd, 21:57.8; Collin Guggisberg, 31st, 38:16.8.

Belle Plaine led the girls' varsity/JV with a near-perfect score of 18. The Bluejays had 47, Albert Lea 72.

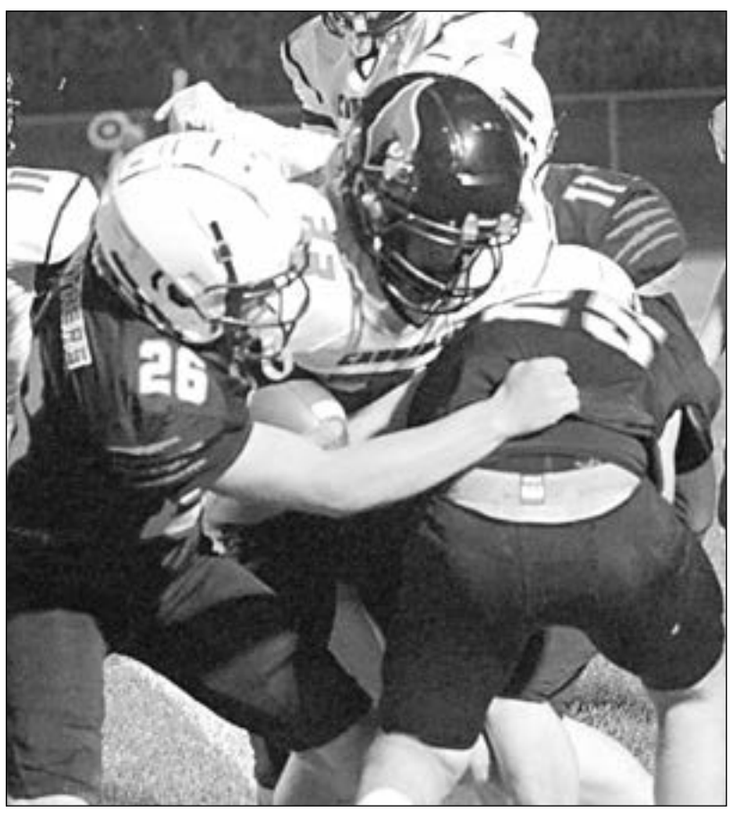
Waseca places and times for 5,000 meters: Taylor Markeson, third, 21:25.0; Maren Schimming, ninth, 22:29.9; Quinn Yoder, 10th, 22:42.5; Ellie Kopischke, 12th, 23:09.9; Megan Tegmeier, 15th, 23:53.3; Leah Wilson, 20th, 26:12.4.

Noah Love led the junior high boys, taking second with a time of 9:56.8 for 2,500 meters. Following were Levi Rohe, sixth, 10:30.5; Will Demo, 13th, 11:18.7; Eli Rohwer, 17th, 11:39.3; Joe Harguth, 18th, 11:52.3; Owen Fierke, 19th, 12:02.4.

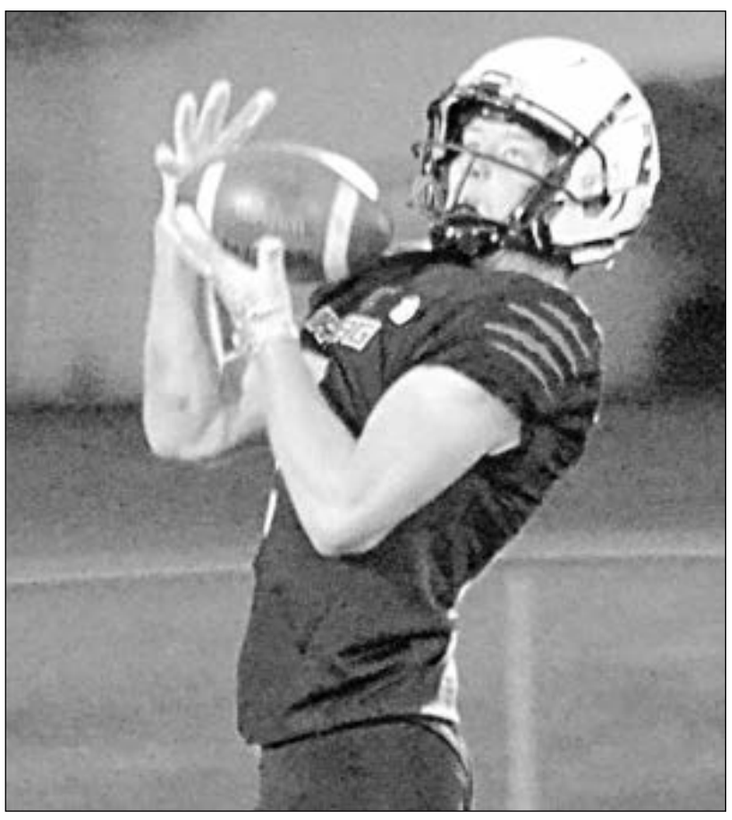
Austin topped the four-team boys' junior high with 24 points. The Jays were second with 36.

The Bluejays' junior high girls did not field a complete team.

Individual places and times for Waseca: Zoe Popp, sixth, 12:15.9; Lylah Jorgenson, 12th, 12:47.8; Violet Hughes, 14th, 12:49.7; Jodie Selthun, 17th, 13:09.6.







HOMECOMING HEROES — At left, the Panthers' Eli Hendrickson (26) and Jack Bartlett (25) combine to wrap up a Lewiston-Altura ball carrier during NRHEG's 32-0 win last Friday. In the middle, Noah Weller (70) sacks the quarterback. At right, Ryan Schlaak hauls in a first-quarter pass. The Panthers improved to 3-1. Photos by Jim Lutgens

Panthers humble Cardinals for Homecoming

Lassahn runs for 175 yards as NRHEG rolls 32-0 after three days of preparation

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

It wasn't a routine week for New Richland and, in particularly, the NRHEG High School football team.

Last week's scheduled home game was finally played Monday after two postponements, with football players helping with the community's clean-up efforts from extensive rain and flooding.

It meant the Panthers had only three days to prepare for Friday night's Homecoming game against Lewiston-Altura.

Not to worry.

The Panthers had plenty of fun Friday while rolling to a 32-0 victory in New Richland.

"It was a great win across the board," said Panthers head coach Devin Lockerby. "It is great to see the community come out and support the team on such a big Homecoming night. The players did a great job on a short week getting their bodies and minds ready for the game."

> "It was a great win across the board."
>
> **— NRHEG coach Devin Lockerby**

The Panthers were never threatened, with the defense allowing ony 67 total yards and five first downs. The Cardinals amassed only 29 rushing yards.

After forcing a quick punt on the game's opening possession, the Panthers wasted no time lighting up the scoreboard.

Brooks Gilliland found Ryan Schlaak wide open and hit him with a pass on the Panthers' first play. Two Sean Lasssahn runs later it was 6-0. A two-point conversion try was unsuccessful.

Lassahn, running in a style reminiscent of the Vikings' Adrian Peterson, tacked on touchdown runs of four and 50 yards in the second quarter, and ran for a two-point conversion to make it 20-0.

The Panthers threatened to add more points before halftime, driving deep in to Cardinal territory before a pass fell incomplete in the end zone.

After a scoreless third quarter, Lassahn scored from one yard out in the fourth and Calvin Nissen hauled in a 51-yard pass from Gilliland, who finished 12-for-20 passing for 196 yards. Nissen caught five passes for 90 yards while Lassahn had a big night rushing with 175 yards on 22 carries.

Ryan Schlaak led the defense with seven tackles.

The win improved the Panthers to 3-1 while the Cardinals fell to 0-5.

"We're halfway done with the regular season" said Coach Lockerby. "I'm so excited to see what we can do in the second half."

The Panthers play at Redwood Valley this Friday at 7 p.m.

NRHEG 32, Lewiston-Altura 0

LA	0	0	0	0 — 0
NRHEG	6	14	0	12 — 32

First Quarter

NRHEG – Lassahn run (two-point conversion failed)

Second Quarter

NRHEG – Lassahn 4 run (two-point conversion failed

NRHEG – Lassahn 50 run (Lassahn run)

Third Quarter

No scoring

Fourth Quarter

NRHEG – Lassahn 1 run (two-point conversion failed)

NRHEG – Nissen 51 pass from B.Gilliland (kick failed)

	NRHEG	LA
Plays	52	35
First downs	16	5
Rushing	178	29
Passing	20-23	14-27
Passing Yards	202	38
Passing TDs, int.	6-0	1-1
Total Yds.	414	67
Third down	2-7	1-8
Fourth down	2-5	0-1
Turnovers	1	2
Fumbles lost	0	2
Penalties	3-15	1-5

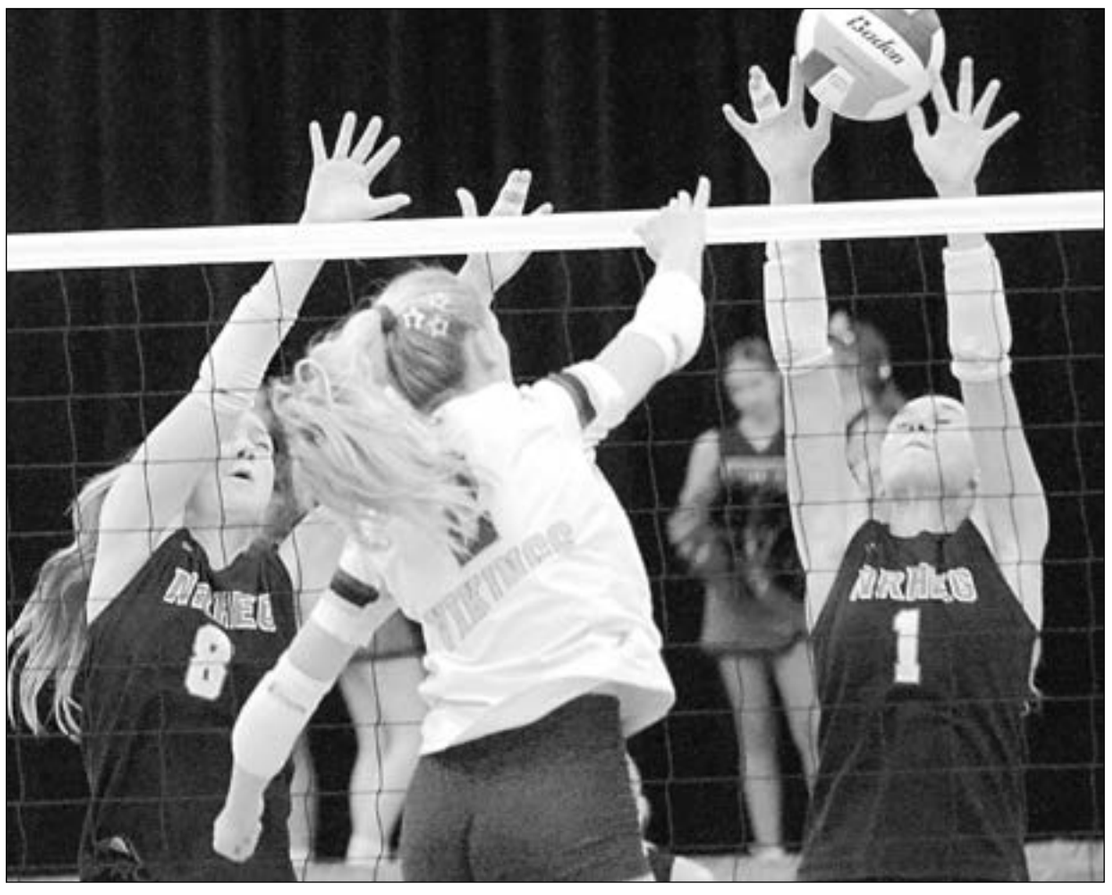
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

RUSHING — NRHEG: Lassahn 22-175; R.Schlaak 1-5; B.Gilliland 2 –2; LA: Wenzel 9-24; Rest of team 16-14

PASSING — NRHEG: B.Gilliland 12-20, 196; Wyrum 1-1, 6; LA: 4-8, 29

RECEVING — NRHEG: Nissen 5-90; R.Schlaak 2-42; Piepho 1-6; Rest of team 5-64; LA: Team 4-29

NRHEG Defense — R.Schlaak 7T; Bartlett 5T; Baumann 4T; Piepho 2T; Holland 2T; D.Schlaak 2T; Hanna 2T; Schmidt 1T; O.Schlaak 1T; Hendrickson 1T; Rest of team 8T



EXTRA EFFORT — The Panthers' Jovey Knudson (80) and Ezra Boerner (1) go up for a block as Hayfield's Jalei Tank spikes. Photo by Jim Lutgens

NRHEG volleyball squad drops oh-so-close contests

Panthers edged 3-2 by Hayfield, Blooming Prairie

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School volleyball team was hopeful in its Homecoming match with Hayfield last Thursday.

It was decided by the slimmest of margins.

After winning the first set 25-22, the Panthers dropped the next two 25-13 and 26-24, before knotting it 2-2 with a 25-20 victory in the fourth set. The fifth and deciding set was one by the visiting Vikings, 17-15.

"The Panthers battled hard against Hayfield in our Homecoming match, coming up just short in a competitive five-set match," said Panthers head coach Bethany Tennis. "We didn't get the outcome we were hoping for, but there were many positives to take away from the match."

Tennis said that, defensively, the Panthers made some important adjustments throughout the match.

"That allowed us to become more competitive and keep ourselves in points," said Tennis.

Sophomore libero Aubrey Hendrickson had a season-high 27 digs. Senior outside hitter Anika Ladlie added to her defensive totals with 23 digs.

"Moving forward, we need to continue developing our offensive attack," said Tennis. "We need to be more aggressive and consistent when attacking the ball over the net. Overall, I was proud of the effort and determination that we showed tonight. We were right there and gave ourselves a chance to win."

Full Panther statistics: Ezra Boerner 8 kills, 17 digs, 1 set assist, 1 block, 1 service ace; Izley Boerner 12D, 1SA, 1A; Clara Buendorf 1K, 4B; Hendrickson 27D; Jovey Knudson 6D, 2B; Ladlie 14K, 23D, 3B, 1A; Brooklyn Sommer 15D, 19SA, 1B, 2A; Emmy Stadheim 5K, 6D; Ciara Stenzel 3D.

Two nights earlier, the Panthers dropped another 3-2 heartbreaker at Blooming Prairie. Set scores were 18-25, 25-11, 25-22, 25-21 and 15-8.

"It was an intense matchup," said Tennis, who explained that the Panthers started strong but struggled with consistency.

Sommer tallied a season-best 29 set assists.

"We have worked through some growing pains throughout the early stage of the season," said Tennis. "We hope to stay consistent on serve receive and utilize good game sense to help us stay unpredictable on offense."

NRHEG statistics: Ezra Boerner 7K, 10D, 1B, 1A; Izley Boerner 1A; Buendorf 3K 1D, 3B; Hendrickson 12D, 1SA, 1A; Knudson 3K, 2D, 2B, 2A; Ladlie 15K, 15D, 5B; Joey Rossing 1D; Sommer 9D, 29SA, 2A; Stadheim 4K; Stenzel 3D.

Panthers' home cross country meet moved to Blooming Prairie

Perfect conditions lead to many season bests

Recent heavy rains didn't just affect the town of New Richland.

Riverview Golf Course was also flooded.

It meant Tuesday, Sept. 22nd's planned home cross country meet was moved to Blooming Prairie.

Mankato Loyola/St. Clair/Cleveland won the girls' division with 27 points, followed by Blooming Prairie with 51, Maple River 75, JWP/WEM 93 and Randolph 138. The Panthers did not field a full squad.

Julieann Wobbrock led the NRHEG girls, finishing fourth overall in 19:40, her best time of the season. Violette Botten was 39th in 25:34, Rylie Cromwell 39th with a time of 27:07.

Loyola/St. Clair/Cleveland won the boys' side with 32 points. Following were Blooming Prairie with 71, Tri-City United 86, JWP/WEM 90, United South Central 135, Maple River 137 and Randolph 156.

First across the finish line for the Panthers was Kasey Jewison in second place with a season-best time of 17:40. Colton Lermon was 35th in 20:28 and Devlin McWilliams 52nd in 22:38.

"The weather and course made for some very fast times for all runners tonight," said NRHEG head coach Larry Nydegger. "Many runners registered their best times of the season. It is nice to see the hard work and dedication pay off as this season progresses. Also, a very big thank you to Blooming Prairie for allowing us to use their home course to host the meet."

The Panthers will be at Janesville next week for the Pie and Cookie meet.





SEASON BESTS — Julieann Wobbrock, left, and Kasey Jewison registered season-best times at Blooming Prairie last week. Photos by Larry Nydegger

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE is hereby given that the Waseca City Council will meet at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, October 20, 2026, in the City Hall Council Chambers at 508 South State Street in Waseca to hold a public hearing, consider, and possibly adopt, the proposed final assessments against abutting properties for the 2nd Street NW Reconstruction Project (City Project No. 2025-01 – Assessment Roll #287).

The project improvements consisted of complete asphalt street reconstruction, water and sanitary sewer main and service replacement (to the property line), storm sewer improvements, ADA sidewalk and ramps, pavement striping, and other related items of work in the following location:

2nd Street NW between Elm Avenue West and 7th Avenue NW

The proposed assessment roll is on file for public inspection at Waseca City Hall. The total construction, engineering, and administration cost for this project is $5,213,033.77 (as of September 11, 2026). The total amount of the proposed assessments is $421,864.77. Written or oral objections will be considered at the hearing. Adoption by the City Council of the proposed assessments may occur at the meeting. No appeal regarding the amount of the assessment may be taken unless a signed, written objection is filed with the City Clerk prior to the hearing or presented to the presiding officer at the hearing. The Council may take action to consider any objection to the amount of a proposed individual assessment at a future meeting.

An owner may appeal an assessment to the District Court pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 429.081 by serving notice of the appeal to the City Clerk within thirty (30) days after the adoption of the assessment and filing such notice with the District Court within ten (10) days after service upon the City Clerk. However, no appeal may be made as to the amount of the assessment adopted pursuant to subdivision 2, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 429.061 unless a written objection signed by the affected property owner(s) is filed with the City Clerk prior to the assessment hearing or presented to the presiding officer at the hearing.

Under Minnesota Statutes Sections 435.193 to 435.195, the Council may, in its discretion, defer payment of this special assessment for any homestead property owned by a person 65 years of age or older for whom it would be a hardship to make the payments in accordance with City Policy. Under this deferment, payment of the assessment plus accumulated interest would be delayed until the property is sold or transferred. Any assessed property owner meeting the requirements of this law may contact the City Clerk for the deferral of payment form and apply for deferment of the special assessment on their property within thirty (30) days of confirmation of the assessment.

Nathan Willey
Director of Engineering