

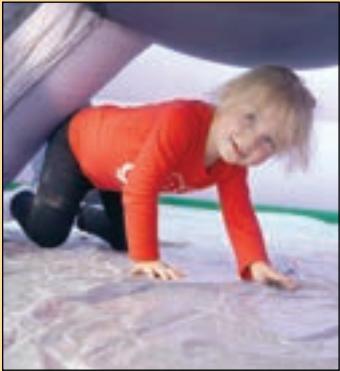


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Fire safety

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 Choirs Fundraiser Oct. 9

The Waseca Choirs Fundraiser will take place in the High School Cafeteria from 4:30-6:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 9 before the homecoming football game. Walking taco, water and a cookie, \$8. Choir students will perform at this event.

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.

Gilmore Girls-themed Paint and Sip at Waseca Art Center Saturday, Oct. 10

Mug glazing and sipping coffee and fast talking, Gilmore Girls-themed Paint and Sip at the Waseca Art Center from 1-2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 10. For children and adults, children under 10 must be accompanied by adult. Limit 6 participants, cost \$30.

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.

Los Tequileros at Indian Island Winery Saturday, Oct. 10

The Indian Island Winery will host Los Tequileros from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 10. Some tex mex music with your beer and food.

Soup Luncheon at First Congregational Church Oct. 14

A Soup Luncheon will take place at First Congregational Church at noon on Wednesday, Oct. 14. No cost but free will donations are accepted.

A word from The Word

Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near.

Isaiah 55:6

SMIF acknowledges 'Community Builders'

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Representatives from the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) spent the morning of Oct. 1 acknowledging eight area businesses and organizations for their roles as "community builders," that is, for providing services and opportunities that help individuals, especially children, grow, or that bring people together.

Closely associated with one-time politician Tim Penney, who served as the organization's president and chief executive officer from 2007 until 2025, the Owatonna-based organization is known for its donor-supported philanthropic grants and



HELPING GROWTH - Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center director Cindy Klander, center, shows off the "Community Builder" plaque presented to the Center for its role in bringing people together. Presenting the acknowledgement are Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) representatives Marcia Haley, Benja Kraus, SMIF board member Ann Staloch, and Katie Godfrey Demmer. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

low-interest loans which focus on supporting entrepreneurship, early childhood development, and community vitality.

Long-time Waseca resident Benya Kraus now leads the organization, which has invested more than \$186 million across the 20

Community continued on 10

JWP 2026 Homecoming Royalty



ROYAL CROWNS - Congratulations to Chloe Kaiser and Yale Johnson on being crowned 2026 Homecoming King and Queen.

Crowned 2026 JWP Homecoming Royalty

JANESVILLE JOURNAL

The official kickoff to Homecoming week at Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton (JWP) High School arrived with high energy and undeniable school spirit as the 2026 Royal Court was officially crowned during Monday evening's coronation ceremony.

A near-capacity crowd filled the school auditorium, eager to celebrate

another exciting chapter in JWP history. Master of Ceremonies duties were handled expertly by Annie Fuerstenberg and Jason Wheelock, who kept the program moving with enthusiasm.

Behind the scenes, a dedicated team ensured the night ran smoothly and safely. Special recognition was given to the custodial staff, Student Council members, Superintendent Erler, faculty, and student organizers. Coronation assistants Kayleigh Donner, MaKenzie Westphal, and Clare Groh assisted on stage, while tech crew member Rachelle Oelke managed audio and visuals for the evening.

The program opened with the introduction of the 7th through 11th grade class attendants. Voted on by JWP faculty, these representatives embody out-

standing consistency in leadership, positive attitude, and school character:

7th Grade: Nashville James and Elsie Jaeger

8th Grade: Gus Roesler and Addison Johnson

9th Grade: Charlie Keech and Genna Mueller

Royalty continued on 5

WASECA SCHOOL BOARD

Waseca board looks into 'Learning for All'

By MELISSA DUNN
Staff Writer

At their Oct. 1 work session, members of the Waseca school board took a closer look at one of the key areas of the district's strategic plan: "Learning for All."

Superintendent Eric Hudspeth introduced the evening's discussion alongside Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) coordinator Claudia Roesler. Roesler has been with the district for two years and works with Brooke McGuire, director of teaching and learning, to strengthen the systems already in place across the district.

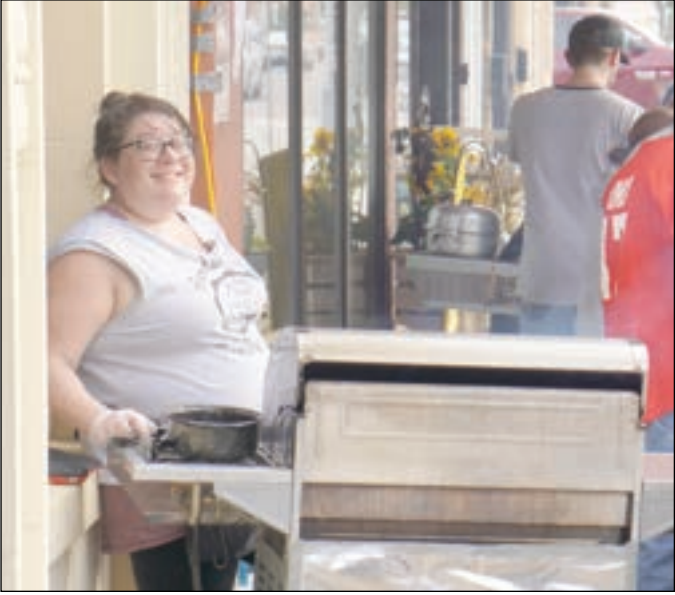
The goal of MTSS is to better align people, practices, data and resources so students receive the support they need to be successful.

Roesler and McGuire explained that MTSS relies on a series of collaborative teams working together as part of a connected system. At the district level, the leadership team provides guidance and support for MTSS across the school system. Each school also has a building leadership team focused on implementing and supporting the system within its building.

Teachers work through professional learning communities (PLCs), where they collaborate, examine student data and look for ways to improve instruction and student outcomes. A student support team focuses on identifying and responding to the needs of individual or small groups of students.

Together, these teams are designed to create a coordinated approach to identifying student needs and providing appropriate support rather than relying on individual teachers or programs working independently.

Learning continued on 4



BEERS, BRATS, BUSY - Left, Stephanie England of Barden's Bar was grilling 650 brats for Beers and Brats night in Waseca on Thursday, Oct. 1, 2026. Middle, Valeska Melchert and Emily Meyer were busy keeping 300 brats moving. Right, Sammy Cooley was keeping the brats and the beers flowing at Club 57.

Pioneer photos by Ben Revermann

Area bars go to great lengths for 'Beers and Brats'

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Business owner Shane Wendland, owner of Barden's Bar in Waseca, dined with some of his customers during Waseca's annual "Beers and Brats" night on Thursday, Oct. 1. He recalls being present at the inaugural launch of the event back

in 1975. With seven taverns taking part, Beers and Brats turned State Street into a very busy thoroughfare. Hundreds of bratwursts and a couple hot dogs were served around town.

Wendland added, "We were the originators of Beers and Brats. We hosted the Bushmas, and they did the cooking. We invited other bars to join in,

that was around 1975 or '76. Usually on a Thursday night we can get by with one or two people working; tonight we have two bartenders, one waitress and 5 or 6 people working outside serving."

At Barden's, Carrie Wendland, sister to Shane, was in charge of the food, the tables out front, the

awning, the grills. Said Shane, "She got 600 brats from Morgan's, we're not doing hot dogs, we got our special Diane's Sauerkraut, which can also be bought separately." So, what makes her sauerkraut so special? Charlotte Griffith, a customer who was

Brats continued on 5



Compostings

by Al Batt

Let's see how far I can kick this bucket

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
I broke 60 on the golf course last week.
Wow!
Yeah, those golf carts really move.
DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. It's the launch of the "lower our expectations weather" season. I stopped at a rural cemetery to honor a lost loved one. A lofty wind turbine spun nearby. Wind turbines are like lutefish; people either value them or detest them. Some say they are defacing the Earth, and others say they are saving it. A friend considers them turn-and-earn. Even gradual change is right quick. There are days when they seem to be everywhere. We have inherited the wind.

I find them astonishing. It's my job. Mary Oliver wrote, "Let me keep my mind on what matters, which is my work, which is mostly standing still and learning to be astonished."

It reminds me of this astonishing conversation: "Look at that flock of cows."

"Herd of cows," came the correction at a gallop.

"Of course, I've heard of cows. That's why I'm pointing out that flock of them to you."

We had Holstein cattle that were recognizable by their distinctive black-and-white markings, which were as unique as human fingerprints. The cows had names. One co-worker/cow was called Montana because she had a marking that looked like Montana, only much smaller than the actual state. We had another cow that was named Bob. It's an odd appellation for a cow. Visitors asked why a cow (not a bull) was named Bob, and whether it was short for Roberta or Bobby. I told them a story. A neighbor named Bob went to the junkyard. He was supposed to be throwing things away, but part of going to the landfill is picking things up. He did that, but there was free junk available to grab, and he picked up a lamp. It was a dirty lamp, so he took out his red handkerchief and shined it up a bit. There was a "poof," as a genie appeared from the lamp and offered Bob one wish. The standard offer used to be three wishes, but budget cuts had reduced it to one. Bob was stumped and asked for a few days to decide. The genie said he was a busy genie and required a prompt answer. He offered Bob a helpful suggestion. "People always want to be who they aren't. You can become anything you want, but it must be something you can see from here. You stand there

for a minute and then give me your wish. Think long and hard before deciding. Bob was concentrating when he heard a cow moo. He turned to look. Surprised to see a bovine there, he said, "A cow!" That's how Bob became a Holstein cow.

I'VE LEARNED
If I could get all these multicolored lady beetles to pay rent, I'd be sitting pretty.

I am one of the few people who keep gloves in the glove compartment.

The first 3 letters of "Sweden" and "Denmark" spell out "Sweden." The remaining letters spell out "Denmark."

To all those wonderful classmates who wrote "Stay cool" in my high school yearbook, I'm sorry to disappoint.

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT
Hamburger Helper works only if the hamburger is ready to accept that it needs help.

I made a belt out of old watches. My wife called it a waist of time.

I'll never forget the last thing Grandpa said before he kicked the bucket. "Let's see how far I can kick this bucket."

NATURE NOTES
Jerry Viktora of Ellendale, wrote, "Al. We have had a screech owl making lots of racket the last few early mornings. Starts talking about 3 until the sun rises. Hollers about every 2-3 minutes steady. Would think it would get hoarse and slow down after a while. Noisy, yes, but cool. Thoughts." Eastern screech owls are socially monogamous and generally stay with the same partner for life, with some exceptions, usually involving the need for divorce lawyers. Pairs often use the same tree cavity, old woodpecker hole or nest box for consecutive breeding seasons. Adult screech owls call in the fall to defend territories and to reconnect with mates. Autumn is a secondary peak period for their vocalization when both adult and young owls stake out and defend their home ranges before the harsh winter weather hits. Mated pairs use smooth tremolo "bounce songs" to stay connected, reinforce pair bonds, and confirm boundary ownership. Descending whinnies and barks warn off rivals or intruders encroaching on established territories. Hatch-ear owls are learning the ropes. Their calls can sound unprofessional as they practice becoming professional owls.

MEETING ADJOURNED
"I've been searching for ways to heal myself, and I've found that kindness is the best way."—Lady Gaga.



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

Unanticipated pleasures all the better for the surprise

At my family's cabin near Akeley, I sat up in surprise on Sunday morning. I wondered whether what I had just heard was the call of a loon, but I was searching in my head for what other bird or animal it might be. After all, the four loons who had spent the summer on the lake had already left.

But then it came again, and there could be no doubt. The wistful call was definitely a loon.

Around 9:30 a.m. there was no resisting the lake. The sky was lightly overcast, the temperature was in the low 50s. The water's surface was mirror smooth.

I had no expectation of catching any fish, but what I did end up catching was vastly better: My brother and I were floating quietly along, the pontoon being pulled by its fancy self-guiding trolling motor. Only feet from the boat, an adolescent loon came splashing noisily to the surface. Then it stayed nearby—as though we, rather than it, were the attention-grabbing curiosity.

And just maybe I was a bit "loony." My brother turned off the motor, but the loon left us feeling as if we were still in motion. I pulled out my phone, opened the camera, and began pivoting in every direction trying to get a good angle. The loon obliged, not only staying near but circling us, sometimes disappearing under water and then popping back up to the surface like a visual version of the word "surprise!"

I was mesmerized when it swam directly beneath me, its neck stretched forward and its feet extended far behind, all easily visible in the clear water, but too fast-moving for me to line my phone up for a picture.

Instead of the dramatic black and white markings of adults, this adolescent was in elegant shades of gray which blended with the water. The subdued light reflected gently on the rippling surface, as though nature were painting with a carefully chosen palette.

I wish you could have been there, because even the photo



SURPRISE! - Deb and her brother caught sight of an adolescent loon only feet from their boat at their cabin near Akeley.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

doesn't do the moment justice.

Another deluge of delights awaited us at the "Lost 40," a trail in Itasca County located inside a 144-acre area that was mislabeled by surveyors in the 1880s, and so never made available for logging. As a result, some of the trees there date from the 1700s—researchers have determined the area started over then after a major fire cleared what stood there before. It was one of the most relaxed walks I have ever taken because I kept stopping to be amazed.

There were many trees I could not close my arms around. There were some that four people could probably not have made a large enough ring to encircle.

Looking upward, the treetops seemed miles away. Around me on

the ground, the tree roots seemed to own the earth, with knobs and long runs so prevalent, a person had to alternate quickly between checking the ground for hazards and eying the sky for wonders. In a few hilly spots, tree roots actually provided footing.

Between the trees, the colored leaves, the intriguing mushrooms and the winding trail, it seemed like it would have been a sufficient outing simply to stand in one place and spin.

Adding greatly to the pleasure was the solitude.

We followed the one-mile version of the trail, and encountered no more than 10 people as we walked. That was as it should be: As far as I'm concerned, marveling and distraction do not mix.

Finding hobbies to help with growing older

I have been dog sitting for the past week, and I will continue to do so for the next week as well. Dog and house sitting have provided a lot of "me time" that I normally don't get, opening the way for me to work on some of my hobbies.

The only thing is that I sometimes don't know what to do with myself. I could watch TV or movies that I've been meaning to, but then I think, "Is this the most productive use of my time? Am I learning anything? Am I taking full advantage of life?" Usually, my answer to those happens to be a no.

Mental decline is one of the most feared parts of getting older, isn't it? I've found myself recently considering whether or not my hobbies help with growing older. I exercise and plan to continue to do so in order to stay agile and capable, and I guess my love of reading and doing puzzles might also help my mental sharpness or cognitive ability. Well, according to Google, that



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

is.

I've been wondering whether I should stop reading fictional books for a bit and start reading nonfiction, or self-help books, the type that would cause me to learn something rather than reading only for pleasure. But according to the internet, reading for pleasure has a great effect on satisfaction and happiness in life, and reduces stress in the process.

So maybe it's not so bad if I spend all my time reading. Research also indicates that along with regular exercise and solving puzzles, learning a language and/or an instrument is also beneficial to the brain. It also suggests creative hobbies like

gardening, painting, drawing, and writing are great ways to activate the brain and promote cognitive skills.

While one part of me thinks I need to do something with every second of my life and make sure I don't waste it, another part of me realizes that as humans, what else are we to do with our lives other than enjoy them? Sometimes I have to remind myself that I shouldn't feel guilty that I'm not volunteering at an organization, becoming the healthiest version of myself, or learning something new with my time.

I'm finding life to be a funny, fickle thing. When I'm finally able to have a thought other than

work, I find myself realizing all of the other things on my list that are ultimately working to improve my life. Perhaps I should dig into my finances so I can become financially stable into my future, search for new jobs so that I can find greater happiness and success (and debate going back to school in the process), grocery shop and cook meals that will fuel my body in a healthy way, work on my friendships and relationships so I can be with people who help me feel like me.

Reading back, this all feels a bit sappy, but I'm currently sitting in the sun, exhausted on a Sunday, with the poodle Matilda panting stinky breath into my face. Sundays feel like reflection days and I am embracing it.

My Determination: "This is just another human being. A fellow rider on the journey from cradle to coffin." — Stephen King, Never Flinch

WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

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

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DEADLINES: Pioneer: Noon Monday
GOLDEN LINK: Previous Friday

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Being a friend to your future self

On Thursday of last week I finished a two week course of antibiotics intended to fix my gut health. After two weeks I can report I still have pain in my gut, the usual kind. However, within three days of the antibiotic my back, which had not healed over 10 months, was about 50% better. By the end of week two of this treatment, my back was 90% healed. I am back to walking 10,000 plus steps a day and energy I didn't know I had anymore has returned. Apparently chronic gut health issues can cause inflammation and malnutrition (i.e. being tired and not feeling yourself). The back and leg pain was inflammation in my back pushing against the sciatic nerve going into my leg, making me miserable.

As someone who feels the need to make the most of every day, my version of that, these past almost four years now, since the chronic gut pain started, has looked different than the fairy-



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

tale version I dream up. Speaking with people these past two weeks does not feel like a chore. I am participating in the community and honestly, to me, most importantly, moving again. Three weeks ago I found myself simply saying prayers asking for the ability to enjoy one more walk outside on a nice day.

I am told even after taking this antibiotic for two weeks, it will still take my gut a couple weeks to recover from the damage done by the bacteria it killed off. To be frank, I am not hopeful nor do I believe it will fix the pain I am experiencing. I believe what was treated was something wrong with my GI, but likely not the entire problem. My physical

therapist told me I am problematically optimistic because I'm always like, "it will get better."

We are told as people to let tomorrow worry for itself. That doesn't mean we shouldn't work towards making tomorrow better.

I have follow up appointments and more tests to figure out this stomach stuff. I am praying that this energy that I haven't felt since the first 18 or so months of running my Waseca newspaper is here to stay. One truly doesn't know how good they have life until they lose something important. I have never been happier to walk in my entire life. Throughout these past two weeks, I was so happy to be able to walk with-

out pain that I quite literally wanted to run. (I didn't do that for health reasons.)

As someone who doesn't particularly enjoy staying in and watching television or playing video games, these past almost 10 months have been particularly difficult. I enjoy people and meaning. Sitting and doing nothing feels unfulfilling and not at all relaxing.

My real message here is to people in good health. Enjoy walking. And also, enjoy being able to sit not in pain either, because that was also a literal pain in the butt.

I think the keys to a happy life are to have a job or role in life that gives a person meaning, have friends and family and community; and finally have a self care routine, exercise, eating right, quality alone time and being a friend to your future self. Let tomorrow worry for itself and don't stress about the little things.

Alice in Wonderland
Paint and Sip at
Waseca Art Center
Saturday, Oct. 17

Caitlin Roberts will host a Paint and Sip style Tea Party from 10 a.m. thru noon Saturday, Oct. 17. This is for both children and adults, children under 10 must be accompanied by adult. Limit 10 participants, \$25 per person.

Farmamerica Fall
Festival Oct. 17

The Farmamerica Fall Festival will take place from 10 a.m. thru 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17. Complete with DeVod pedal pull, jump stations, llama visit, pumpkin patch and much more.

Toners Lake Karting
no points race
Saturday, Oct. 17

Toners Lake Karting will hold a no points race at noon on Saturday, Oct. 17, with a banquet to follow. Located at 8747 415th Ave. Janesville. Races are weather dependent, check for times.

Flowers of Fall at
Pleasant Grove Pizza
Farm Oct. 17

Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm will hold their Flowers of Fall from 4-7 p.m. on both Oct. 17&18. Live music by Unruly Julie on Saturday, Federales and Kalen Braun Schults Sunday. Cider beers, garden walks, scavenger hunt and more.

Johnny Frost and the
Heatseekers at Indian
Island Winery Oct. 17

Indian Island Winery featuring Johnny Frost and the Heatseekers from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17. They perform seven decades of music.

Paint and Sip at
Indian Island Winery
Sunday, Oct. 18

There will be a Paint and Sip event at the Indian Island Winery starting at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 18.

Learn to Draw Like an
Artist at Waseca Art
Center, Wednesday,
Oct. 21

Instructor Jim Zotalis will teach to draw like an artist at the Waseca Art Center from 2-4 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 21. Cost is \$70 for members, \$80 for non members.

Waseca Treats on the
Streets Thursday,
Oct. 22

Treats on the Streets will take place in downtown Waseca from 5-7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 22. Organizers will mark the sidewalks, businesses will get creative with handing out treats.

Dan Duffy Orchestra
at Indian Island
Winery Friday, Oct. 23

Indian Island Winery is having the Dan Duffy Orchestra from 6-8:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 23. An exciting group from Mankato performing swing and hot club music from the 20s on up to today.

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.

“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



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

and Tourism 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.

ZED by Duane M. Abel



NEW RICHLAND
CITY COUNCIL

Special
meeting
addresses
flood, hears
concerns

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Emotions ran high at times as 50 or more city residents attended a special New Richland city council meeting the evening of Sept. 28 to share their concerns and learn about the city’s planned response to the Sept. 18 and 19 flooding.

District 1 county commissioner Doug Christopherson, and Allison Farole, director of the emergency management division of the state department of public safety were speakers during the gathering.

Christopherson described some of the options proposed so far as studies have examined what it would take to keep water within safe channels even when flow is unusually high. He explained there are a number of proposed fixes which range from increasing culvert sizes and increasing the capacity of ditches by making them wider and deeper to creating a separate channel which keeps much of the water from entering city limits. “The only real fix was diverting the water, but it wouldn’t be a 100% fix,” Christopherson said. Creating a new channel for the water comes with numerous complications including ensuring the rerouted system also performs the field drainage the ditches were originally built for.

Council continued on 10

Farmamerica
welcomes about
500 children,
prepares for
Fall Festival

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

About 500 children visited Farmamerica across Sept. 29 and 30 as the facility opened its doors to families who homeschool their children, and then about 160 students from the New Ulm school district.

The facility offers educational tours of this type during the warmer months of the year, bringing in volunteers to staff the various locations at the site. Along with the chance to visit the various themed sites on the grounds, information is shared in the form of guided tours, era-appropriate activities, and demonstrations. Participants can either walk between the locations or ride tractor-drawn tram wagons.

Along with the more permanent sites, groups visiting Farmamerica in fall can also challenge themselves with a “corn maze,” a field of corn which has paths cut through it.

According to executive director Jessica Rollins, the field trips are a great warmup for the facility’s Fall Festival, set for Saturday, Oct. 17, which has drawn about 1,100 visitors in recent history.

Many of the same volunteers will be leading activities and providing tours.

Communications and engagement coordinator Morgan Mudgett, shares that Farmamerica charges \$5 per student for the school-age tours. Rollins mentions field trips have been offered



VISITING AG - Home-schooled children were able to learn about agriculture in Minnesota recently as Farmamerica opened up for student visits. Whole families tended to visit together: here some children enjoy a display on the 1850s farmstead.
Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

for more than 20 years. Farmamerica, she points out, opened in 1978 and has been gradually expanding ever since. He recalls that during some of the earliest field trips, the facility’s one-room schoolhouse was where groups of children would first gather and receive instructions for the day.

Farmamerica staff members note that the field trips are an ideal way to carry out the organization’s mission of educating people about the ways agriculture has supported the growth and expansion of society and technology.

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OBITUARIES

William Caron

William “Billy” Fredrick Caron, age 62, of Faribault, passed away on September 27, 2026.

Billy was born on July 5, 1964, in Faribault, Minnesota, to William Johnson and Sandra Caron. He was raised in Faribault, where he attended high school before continuing his education at Vo-Tech, studying small appliance repair.

Throughout his working years, Billy held a variety of jobs, including positions at Land O’Lakes, Cybex, and Geneva Appliance. He was a hardworking man who took pride in providing for himself and those around him. As his health began to decline, he eventually had to step away from the workforce.

Billy faced his first battle with cancer in 2023 when he was diagnosed with salivary gland cancer. After completing treatment, he proudly rang the bell on August 14, 2023, marking an important milestone in his journey. In the fall of 2025, Billy was diagnosed with brain cancer and continued to face his health challenges with courage and strength.

In 2011 Billy met Tracie Rosacker and moved in with her. He then found great joy and pride in farm life. He loved tending to his large garden, where he grew an abundance of fresh vegetables and beautiful flowers. His 19 free rein chickens were another source of pride, and he cared for them diligently, making sure they were tended to at all the right times of the day. Billy also enjoyed caring for the 26 outdoor cats he and Tracie shared, each one becoming part of the family.

He looked forward to his weekly games of FanDuel sports, enjoyed reading Scripture from his Bible, and was a devoted fan of the Minnesota Vikings and Minnesota Wild. In his younger years, Billy also enjoyed playing on a softball league for years in Faribault.



William Caron

Whether he was in the garden, caring for his animals, cheering on his teams, or simply enjoying the things he loved, Billy found plenty of ways to make life interesting and enjoyable.

Billy leaves behind his beloved partner in life, Tracie Rosacker; mother, Sandy (Dan) Barker of Medford, MN; daughter, Mallory (Sean Weinberg) Teigen of Cape Coral, FL; grandson, Max; Tracie’s children, Nathan Lutgens, Matthew (Katie) Rosacker, Eli Lutgens, and Jessica Lutgens; Tracie’s grandchildren, Nevaeh Rosacker and Aria Nowak; Tracie’s mom, Kathryn Richardson; his half-sister, Cheryl Bickness; nephew, Devin Meyer; and his beloved cat, RU.

He was preceded in death by his dad and grandparents.

A memorial service will be held on Thursday, October 8, 2026, at 1:00 PM at the State Street Chapel of the Dennis Steffel Omtvedt Funeral Home in Waseca; Pastor Sarak Krolak will officiate. Billy’s family will greet guests at a visitation held one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. A private Interment will be at Oak Hill Cemetery in Clinton Falls, MN.

Raymond Powell

Raymond Sylvester Powell, age 100 of Waseca died on Tuesday, September 29, 2026 at Whispering Creek in Janesville.

Raymond was born April 21st, 1926 in Blooming Grove Township to Sylvester and Florence (Bird) Powell. Raymond attended country schools in Waseca County. At a very young age he began his lifelong ambition to be a farmer and protector of the land, starting with his parents and siblings, later with his brothers, and then on his own with the help of his children.

In 1944 at the age of 18 he was drafted and joined the US Navy paratroopers. With World War II going on, he and his shipmates boarded the USS Catocin heading to Japan. After the war ended and his discharge in 1946, he returned home to continue farming.

On October 7th, 1948, Raymond married Joyle Ione Nelson of Me-

riden. They shared their vows in a candlelight service at St John’s Lutheran Church in Waseca. Together they began to make their homestead north of Waseca and continued to build up their farming operation. Besides raising crops he also raised hogs and milked cows for 53 years.

Raymond was on the Board of Directors for the Rochester Dairy Association (later AMPI) for 25 years. In 1974 he was nominated as Waseca Soil and Conservation Farmer of the year. He also served on the Waseca County Zoning Board for several years. Raymond was a lifelong member of the Waseca County Horse Thief Detective Society that was organized in 1864 in Wilton. He was also a member of the Waseca American Legion Post #228.

2011 Raymond and fellow World War II servicemen took the Honor Flight from Rochester to Washington DC to visit the Memo-

rial, Capital, White House, and Arlington National Cemetery.

Raymond is survived by 3 children, Michael (Dianne) Powell of Waseca, Patricia Powell of Onalaska, Wisconsin, and Marshall Powell of Cleveland. He is also survived by one granddaughter, Michelle Winn of Onalaska, Wisconsin.

Raymond is proceeded in death by his parents; wife, Joyle in 2007; two infant sons, Raymond Jr. and Thomas. He is also preceded in death by his brothers Eugene, Arthur and Harlan Powell; two sisters-in-law, Mona Powell and Maxine Powell; his three sisters, Margaret McNeil, Evelyn (Broughten) Wetzel, and Helen James; and brothers-in-law Mike McNeil, Warren Wetzel, Stanley Broughten and Donald James.

Funeral services were held on Monday, October 5, 2026 at 11:00 AM at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral



Raymond Powell

and Cremation Service in Waseca. Visitation was held on Monday, one hour before services at the funeral home. Burial followed at Woodville Cemetery.

Paul Adams

Paul A. Adams, age 77, of Waseca, passed away on September 30, 2026, at Mayo Clinic Health Systems in Mankato.

Paul was born on April 18, 1949, in Mankato to Leon and Margaret (Denn) Adams. He was raised on a farm near Janesville with his eleven siblings and graduated from Janesville High School in 1967, where he enjoyed playing basketball. Following high school, Paul was drafted into the United States Army and served honorably as a Specialist in Vietnam until his discharge in 1970.

On June 10, 1972, he married Vicki Wolle in Mankato. Together they shared 54 years of marriage and made their home in Waseca, where they raised their daughter, Nicole. Paul was a devoted husband and father who cherished time spent with his family, especially outdoors

and caring for their many dogs.

Paul drove school bus for Lenz Bus Service before spending most of his career as a Field Plot Technician at the University of Minnesota Southern Research and Outreach Center. A farmer at heart, he enjoyed tracking the weather, working on tractors, repairing engines, and tinkering around the farm.

Paul loved taking drives through the countryside and vacationing with his family along the North Shore. Grand Marais became a favorite destination, where they enjoyed many memorable summers on Lake Superior.

The family extends their sincere gratitude to the staff at Generations in Mankato for the exceptional care and kindness they provided during Paul’s final years.

Paul is survived by his wife, Vicki Adams of Waseca; daughter, Nicole (Jon) Lucca of Waseca;

siblings, Dianne (Gordy) Galler of Elysian, Judy (Dick) Anderson of Stillwater, Richard (Luane) Adams of Mankato, John (Janet) Adams of Mankato, Kathy (Darrell) Danielson of Mankato; sisters-in-law, Judy Adams of Janesville, and Sue Adams of Janesville; as well as many nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Leon and Margaret Adams; siblings, Dean (Ritva) Adams, Jerry (Karleen) Adams, David (Shelby) Adams, Robert Adams, Everett (Judy) Adams, Pete (Sue) Adams; brother-in-law, Gordy Galler; parents-in-law, Don and MaryLu Wolle; and special fur buddy, Tobie.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to the Alzheimer’s Association.

Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11:00 AM on Saturday, October 10, 2026 at St. Ann Catholic Church



Paul Adams

in Janesville. Visitation will begin two hours prior to the mass at the church. Burial will be at St. Ann Catholic Cemetery in Janesville.

Lavonne Harnish

Lavonne Arlene Harnish, age 72, of Janesville, died Wednesday, September 30, 2026, at Mayo Clinic Health System in Mankato.

Born May 5, 1954, in Waseca, Minnesota, LaVonne was the daughter of Leonard and Gladys (Maas) Roeker. She graduated from Waldorf-Pemberton High School with the Class of 1972. On August 16, 1980, LaVonne was united in marriage to Michael James Harnish at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Freedom Township, Waseca County. Following their marriage, the couple made their home in Elysian and shared many happy years together.

LaVonne dedicated more than 40 years of employment to E.F. Johnson Company. In addition, she enjoyed a successful career selling Mary Kay Cosmetics for many years. She was a faithful member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Elysian. In her free time, LaVonne enjoyed crafting, knitting, visiting with friends, and spending time with those she cared about. She will be remembered for her kind heart, and warm friendship. To all who knew her, LaVonne was simply a sweet lady whose presence brought comfort and joy.

LaVonne is survived by her loving husband, Michael “Mike” Har-



Lavonne Harnish

nish of Janesville; her sister, Judy Graper of Janesville; brother-in-law, Rich; sisters-in-law, Kathleen, Barbara, and Diane; as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Leonard and Gladys Roeker; a brother in infancy; and her brother-in-law, Oran Graper.

Funeral Service were held at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 6, 2026, at Park Road Plaza, (106 E. North Street, Janesville, Minnesota 56048). Interment followed in Janesville Cemetery. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at Park Road Plaza on Tuesday. dsofuneral.com

Sonja Thomson

Sonja Marie Thomson, age 75, of Waterville passed away on Sunday, October 4, 2026 at her home.

Sonja was born on February 8, 1951, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, to Ernest and Helen (Jacobson) Dahl. She attended Waterville-Elysian schools and later graduated from Normandale College with a degree in dental hygiene.

On May 11, 1974, Sonja was united in marriage to Greg Thomson at North Waseca Lutheran Church. Together, they built a loving family and shared many cherished years.

Helping others was a true passion of Sonja’s and was reflected throughout her life and career.

When her children were young, she lovingly cared for children in her home through daycare. She later dedicated 26 years to serving others as a Home Health Aide for Le Sueur County, retiring after a long and fulfilling career of caring for those in her community.

Sonja was a faithful member of North Waseca Lutheran Church, where she was also involved in the church choir. She enjoyed knitting and crocheting, finding joy in creating things with her hands. Above all, Sonja cherished her family and the opportunity to care for and help others. Her kindness, compassion, and generous spirit touched the lives of many.

Sonja is survived by her husband, Greg Thomson; her children, Rachel Stockwell of Owatonna,

Shalaine Thomson of Lakeville, Kyia Thomson of Lakeville; and five grandchildren, Carter Stockwell, Elijah Long Crow, Ava Long Crow, Iris Nguyen, Bee Nguyen.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Ernest and Helen Dahl; brothers, Mark Dahl, James Dahl; and mother-in-law, Florentine Thomson.

Memorial service for Sonja will be at 12:00 PM on Friday, October 9, 2026 at North Waseca Lutheran Church. Visitation will be held two hours prior to the service at the church. Burial will follow at North Waseca Lutheran Cemetery.

Sonja will be lovingly remembered by her family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing her.

dsofuneral.com



Sonja Thomson

Delores Schneider

Delores Beatrice Schneider, age 86 of Waseca, passed away peacefully on the morning of Monday, October 5, 2026, at her home.

Delores was born in Faribault on August 16, 1940, to Alfred and Teresa (Stone) Ress. She attended Faribault High School before being united in marriage to Leslie Donald Schneider on October 17, 1957, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Waseca. Together they shared a loving marriage spanning nearly seven decades.

For 35 years, Delores was employed at Brown Printing in Waseca, where she was known for her dedication and strong work ethic. Throughout her life she enjoyed staying active and social. She played softball, bowled, traveled to many countries, and especially enjoyed taking cruises with family and friends. Delores treasured time spent

with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren who brought her immense joy and pride.

Delores had a vibrant personality and a wonderful sense of fun. She enjoyed playing cards, visiting casinos, trying her luck with pull tabs, planting flowers, and spending time with friends. Family members fondly recall her playful habit of collecting nickels, dimes, and quarters from the children during card games. Her love of flowers was evident in the beautiful gardens she maintained, particularly her fondness for sunflowers and begonias.

A faithful member of Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Waterville, Delores was also active in the Morristown American Legion Auxiliary and the Red Hat Society. She valued the friendships she formed through these organizations and cherished the many memories created through their fellowship and activities.

Delores is survived by her devoted husband of 68 years, Leslie Donald Schneider; four sons, David (Nancy) Schneider of Waseca, Robert Schneider of Citrus Springs, FL, Lewis (Sonia) Schneider of Sun Lakes, AZ, and Travis (Diane) Schneider of Shakopee; eight grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; sister, Elaine Dibble of Owatonna; as well as many nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, Alfred and Teresa Ress; five brothers; and three sisters.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 10, 2026 at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Waterville, with Father Andrew Stueve officiating. Visitation will be held from 9:00 a.m. until the time of the Mass at the church. Following a luncheon, interment will take place at Riverside Cemetery in Morristown. Dennis-



Delores Schneider

Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waterville is handling the arrangements. dsofuneral.com

■ Learning from Page 1

The work session also included a discussion of the district’s 2026-27 vision card goals. Hudspith noted that the district will continue to examine several areas where student outcomes are not yet where district leaders would like them to be.



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The Pastor's Column

Pursuit of happiness

By PASTOR MIKE COGLAN
Real Life Covenant Church
Why are so many people unhappy?
It is an interesting question because, by many measures, life has never been better. In his book *The Price of Everything*, author Eduardo Porter examines what he calls the paradox of American happiness. Real per-capita income increased dramatically during the second half of the twentieth century. We accumulated more cars, televisions and other conveniences. Educational attainment increased, and life expectancy steadily grew.
Yet, according to the observations Porter cites, our sense of contentment did not rise along with our standard of living. In many ways, the opposite happened. We became wealthier and more comfortable, yet we continued searching for something more.
Perhaps that is because we are looking for happiness in the wrong places. We tend to look in two directions: culture and religion. Unfortunately, both can disappoint us.
Consider culture. Every day we are surrounded by advertising telling us that happiness is just one purchase away. Buy this car. Wear these clothes. Use this shampoo. Take this vacation. Get this credit card. Look like this celebrity. The message is consistent: You will be happy when you have the right things.
But eventually we discover that possessions don't deliver what they promised. We buy the house, only to discover that the mortgage comes with it. We get the job, only to discover that it consumes our lives. We buy the car, and before long we are thinking about the next car.
There is another problem with pursuing happiness through circumstances: We don't always get what we want. We may not get married. We may not have children. We may not get the career we hoped for. We may not become wealthy. We may experience illness, disappointment or broken relationships. If our happiness depends on getting everything we want, then we have built our lives on a very fragile foundation.
And what happens when we turn from culture to religion? Religion can disappoint us, too. There are countless spiritual options available today. Some people embrace a vague spirituality that speaks about finding the divine within ourselves or discovering our connection to the universe. But if spirituality is ultimately about ourselves and our feelings, we are still left searching without a map.
Even Christianity can be distorted into another version of the American dream. Some forms of Christian teaching suggest that if we have enough faith, God will give us health, wealth, success and trouble-free relationships. But that isn't the picture we find in the Bible.
Look at Jesus. He was born into a poor family. He lived simply. During his ministry, he sometimes went hungry and had nowhere to lay his head. His family did not always understand him. One of his closest friends betrayed him. Other friends abandoned him. He experienced physical suffering and died

a brutal death.
If perfect health, financial prosperity and trouble-free relationships are God's promise to every believer, Jesus himself would seem to have missed the promise.
The Bible offers us something different. It speaks much less about happiness and much more about joy. That distinction matters. Happiness is often connected to what happens to us. Joy is something deeper. It can remain even when circumstances are difficult.
That is why the biblical letter to the Philippians is so important. The Apostle Paul repeatedly speaks about joy, and yet he wrote the letter while experiencing hardship and imprisonment. His joy was not dependent upon comfortable circumstances.
The very first verse introduces us to the key: Paul and Timothy describe themselves as "servants of Christ Jesus." They had placed their lives in the hands of Christ. Their identity, purpose and hope were not ultimately determined by their possessions, health, relationships, careers or circumstances.
That is a radically different way to approach life.
Jesus did not come to give us a religious version of the American dream. He came to give us a meaningful life and to invite us into something larger than ourselves.
And there is an important paradox here. Jesus found joy not by demanding to be served, but by serving others. He said, "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve." That is almost the opposite of the message we hear from our culture.
Culture says, "Make yourself important."
Jesus says, "Serve."
Culture says, "Get more."
Jesus says, "Give."
Culture says, "Protect yourself."
Jesus says, "Love others."
Culture tells us that happiness comes when the world revolves around us. Jesus teaches that joy comes when our lives are centered on God and directed toward others. This doesn't mean Christians never experience sadness, loneliness, pain or disappointment. The Bible never makes that promise. In fact, the opening chapter of Philippians was written by a man sitting in a prison cell.
The Christian promise is not that life will always be easy. It is that life can have meaning even when it isn't easy. We will not get everything we want. Some of our dreams will remain unfulfilled. Some prayers will seem unanswered. Some seasons of life will be painful. But our joy does not have to depend upon circumstances going our way.
I don't ask, "What will make me happy?" I ask, "What will give my life meaning?" The letter to the Philippians gives me the answer: Jesus Christ.
Happiness comes and goes. Circumstances change. Possessions wear out. Careers end. Bodies grow older. Relationships experience difficulties. But a life rooted in Christ can possess something deeper—a joy that doesn't disappear simply because life doesn't go according to plan.
That is a kind of happiness worth pursuing.



LIFE CHAIN - Left, Jason and Tracy Wolter were just two of the participants during the Janesville Life Chain event on Sunday, Oct. 4, 2026. Right, Laurie Born and Kristin Ziemke stood proudly outside of St. Ann's Catholic Church.



Pioneer photos by Ben Revermann

St. Ann's Catholic Church and Trinity Lutheran hold Life Chain

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer
An Oct. 4 "Life Chain" event in Janesville was supported by parishioners from St. Ann Catholic Church, Trinity Lutheran Church, and Janesville Area Lutherans for Life. Sign holders stood along Old Hwy 14 or Main Street in Janesville.
According to an online source, "Life Chain is a peaceful, prayerful public witness of pro-life Americans standing in remembrance of 62 million lives lost to abortion, praying for our nation, for people in crisis situations and for an end to abortion. It is a visual statement of solidarity by

the Christian community that abortion kills children, hurts women and men, and that the Church supports the sanctity of human life from the moment of conception to natural death."
Most of the support was out in front of St. Ann's Catholic Church, some was along Main Street but there were also Eugenia Stockman and Linda Fetchenhier of Trinity Lutheran passing out signs in front of Trinity. Stockman said, "We're part of the Lutherans for Life group. Some of the people driving by, they look at us funny, but I just need to think of my two children and the two

from Korea I adopted, then I don't mind." She thought for a moment about what she might want to say to a young woman faced with an unplanned pregnancy and she said, "If I could tell her anything it would be, God still has a plan for you, and I promise it's better than what you think it is." Fetchenhier added, "I had one child, a boy, and he has blessed me with four grandsons." As they spoke, kids in the jungle gym equipment over at the JWP High School could be heard playing and laughing, a further reminder of what can come from having children.



Russ Born was among the participants during the Janesville Life Chain event on Sunday, Oct. 4, 2026.
Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Short nature walk reveals a summer of quiet activity

I hadn't written in our "Cabin, Sweet Cabin" memory book yet this summer, so one hot and humid day I decided to observe some butterflies and record them for posterity. Our neighbors have beautiful flower gardens and we have a hill full of daisies and cone flowers along with flowering hostas. Besides, it's a great outing for our wonderdog; Sammy.
Butterflies are beautiful; watching them always brings me joy and puts a smile on my face. Many people don't realize butterflies only usually live 2 to 4 weeks. They use their feet to taste food, are always on a liquid diet, and use their long proboscis to drink nectar from flowers. Butterflies are cold blooded, so on hot days they have the energy to be very active; they always slow down their breathing at night—a process for which they use holes in their side called spiracles. Butterflies make up a family of 18,000 species across the globe. They come in several different sizes, just like a pizza—large, medium and small.
It was a banner observing day with little wind. I watched two swallowtail butterflies in the large category, one "black" and one "tiger." If you wish to hunt their caterpillars, you'll find them in gardens on carrot tops and parsley. I observed many butterflies in the medium category, including a number of monarchs and painted ladies. These butterflies are known



Bits and Pieces

by Dave Zika



to migrate: Monarchs travel an astounding 3,000 miles to Mexico. A viceroy butterfly mimics the monarch: it looks just like them except it's smaller. A fritillary was a rare find; a red admiral, decked out in bright red and black, was gorgeous. There were many yellow sulphurs to observe along with cabbage whites. I watched them seeking nectar on flowers, and a big group of them congregated on a dried-up mud puddle, they were gathered together seeking nutrients and minerals. Finally I observed a couple of butterflies in the small category. Blues and hairstreaks are stunning and charming, both the size of your thumbnail.
Since I was observing action on the flowers, I couldn't leave out the pollinators, the insects who give us beautiful flowers, the bees. There were several active honey bees and a great number of bumble bees of all sizes. Bumblebees are fuzzy characters with yellow and black stripes. They don't make honey and live in a hive like the honey bee. Their nest sites are holes and cavities in the ground.

Coming back up the driveway I decided to check out some bushes for some insects not so joyful and beautiful: grasshoppers. Grasshoppers are plant eating insects and we all know they have powerful hind legs used for jumping long distances. Grasshoppers have superior hearing. They have special ear organs located on one of their abdomen called tympana.
I found a bunch of red legged hoppers and spooked one big grasshopper coming up our gravel driveway. They are brown and black and fly great distances quickly. The Egyptian grasshopper is one of the largest, and very hard to capture.
It's a good thing that raptors, that is, songbirds, along with many other birds eat large numbers of grasshoppers.
My observation took me down to the lake to look for some dragonflies. Everyone is familiar with this 3-inch, fast-flying predator who hovers like a helicopter, and even flies backwards or sideways in search of mosquitoes, flies and gnats. I observed a variety of different size dragonflies; this insect

spends most of its life underwater as a nymph eating aquatic life, including mosquito larvae.
The damselflies, related to dragonflies, are thin and slender, needle-like, and 1 to 2 inches in length. We have a population explosion of them this year at the lake. They are everywhere, friendly, and come in brilliant metallic colors, blues, greens, yellows, reds, and orange. I've been observing them resting on my floating bobber, and fishing pole when fishing down on the dock.
My evening walk with Sammy brought my last entry for the memory book to a wonderful, fall conclusion. I saw a woolly bear caterpillar crawling across a pile of leaves. The caterpillar is covered with dense, stiff bristles that are rusty red, brown, and black in color. This special caterpillar will bury its body deep under the leaves, and with a special antifreeze in its body, survive the winter. It wakes up in the spring and eats plant pieces and greens. It spins a silk cocoon, pupates, and emerges as an adult, yellow-tan, Isabella tiger moth.
On a side note, this has nothing to do with insects, but a question I've been pondering, if a strawberry in your container has mold on it, do you throw it away along with surrounding berries, and eat the others? What about a loaf of bread with mold on a slice? Throw just that piece, or the whole loaf? The choice is yours!!

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SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH 111 4th St NW, Waseca * * * * *		TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 412 N. Main Street, Janesville Pastor Jason Wolter * * * * *	NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE WASECA COUNTY PIONEER.

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OCTOBER 15, 2026

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Janesville

25 years ago

- Bill and Kathy Gessner of Janesville and Greg and Robby Hanson of Minneapolis would like to announce the engagement of their children, Amy Sue and Schott Richard. Amy is a 1996 graduate of Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School and is currently a student at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities Campus. Scott is a 1994 graduate of Park Center High School and is currently working for the engineering department at Graco, Inc. in Minneapolis. A Saturday, Sept. 29, 2001, wedding is planned at Farmamerica.



- In observance of Fire Prevention Month coming up in October, the Janesville Police Department will be going door to door in Janesville checking smoke alarms. The check-up will begin on Wednesday, Oct. 3. The fire department will be distributing gift certificates for free smoke alarms to those who do not have one.

- September 11, '01: by Justin Lehrke:
Flashes of images come across the screen.
Broadcasters say the nation has changed.
We watch in horror, we can't believe our eyes.
A week later we are still in awe.
We hear the story over and over.
Our hearts go out to family and friends who lost loved ones.
Justice will come.

50 years ago

- Mr. and Mrs. Richard Enz, Mankato and Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Dumdei, Janesville announce the engagement of their children, Vickie and Steven. Vickie is a graduate of Mankato East and Steve is a graduate of Janesville High School and is employed by Beutz Dodge, Mankato. A Dec. 4 wedding is being planned.



- Seven JHS seniors are in contention for 1976 Homecoming Queen. Candidates seated in front, from left, are Becky Kopischke, Sandy Sexton, Deb Dauk and Joan Gomsrud. Behind are Betty Wheelock, Bernie Mulcahey and Jane Drager. Behind, at left, are attendants Carol Eustice, Michelle Chapman and Karen Trahms. One of the candidates will be crowned at ceremonies here Thursday night. The queen is chosen by a vote of the high school student body.

- Along with a lot of other pre-schoolers, Nancy Lochner took part in a hearing clinic at Janesville Public School last week. When she came home, her mother asked her if she understood the tests and raised her hand whenever she heard a sound in the earphones. "Yes," Nancy replied, "I raised my hand when I heard sounds and sometimes when I didn't hear them. I don't want to wear glasses!"

- The Village of Janesville is taking applications for the job of police officer here. The official notice will be found elsewhere in this paper. The new man is sought to fill the vacancy created when police officer Keith James resigned to accept another job. James headed the department here the past three years.

75 years ago

- Albin Kroger, R.F.D. 1, Janesville brought to the Journal Office Monday a branch of an Anisin apple tree which he planted in 1945. He had sent the children to the orchard to pick apples and they returned saying the tree was blossoming. Disbelieving Kroger went to the orchard and saw several branches of the tree that had full blossoms on them-a tree in late September that is also bearing apples. Kroeger also brought a large bunch of pea vines full of well developed pods. Ten acres of peas which he had planted last spring matured so rapidly that they could no be used during the Birds Eye pack.

- Lester Payne, 23, Brattrud Apartments, Waseca, pleaded guilty to a charge of writing bad checks Wednesday morning in Waseca Municipal court and was sentenced to a term of one year in the county jail. He issued at least 12 checks, signed with his name on the Farmers National bank here. He had no funds in the bank. He was arraigned Monday. Payne was jailed here last spring, according to the sheriff's office, on a charge of driving without a license. He formerly made his home at Austin, the office reported.

100 years ago

- A two day celebration of "King Corn Days" is being staged this week by the Janesville community. The program opens at 11:30 a.m. today with a free lunch for everybody at the town hall and will close with fireworks and a dance tomorrow night. The merchants offer prizes for the best samples of grain, fruit and vegetables. There will be band music, sports and amusements each afternoon and evening. One feature is a hog calling contest, which proved a success at the State Fair. The Iosco baseball team, aided by several Waseca Cubs', plays Janesville this afternoon. The attractions are all free and the public is invited to attend.

- A dentist is the only man in the world who can tell a woman when to open and shut her mouth and get away with it.--New Richland Star.

- Here is the best definition of the word "friend" we have ever seen. "A friend is one who knows all about you and likes you just the same."--Montgomery Messenger.

Waseca

25 years ago

- Brittini Nelemans of Waseca was selected the winner of the At Large Program for the Minnesota Juniper Miss Scholarship Program held in Eagan on September 15. Brittini is a senior at Waseca High School and is the daughter of Paul and Dawn Nelemans of Waseca. Brittini will compete for \$10,000 in college scholarships at the state competition held in Burnsville on February 2, 2002. The Minnesota Junior Miss Scholarship Program recognizes outstanding high school senior girls. They are judged in five areas: talent, poise, scholastic achievement, physical fitness and a judge's interview. The winner of the state program goes on to Mobile, AL. to compete for \$250,000 in college scholarships.



- Hartley Elementary School students who collected the most "Box Tops for Education" this summer at the school got to ride in a limousine and have lunch with Principal Mary Jenatscheck at Godfathers Pizza. Bailey Krueger, (62 box tops) Tyler Engrav (106 box tops) and Jared Krassin (273 box tops). The school gets a dime for every box top collected. The money is used for the third grade rocketry unit.

- Obstructed vision due to the sun and due to traffic, caused both an east bound driver and a boy crossing Elm Avenue to Central Intermediate School, to not see each other yesterday morning at 8:52 a.m. Eddie Williams, 10, was struck at Elm Avenue East near Fifth Street by Brett Prescher, 18, driving a '95 Pontiac Grand Am. The car was following another vehicle which took a left turn at Fifth Street. The driver was unable to see the student crossing. The boy looked to the left but did not see that there was another car directly behind the vehicle making the turn, according to Waseca Police Officer Mike Anderson. Williams received minor injuries. He was treated and released from the hospital. No citations were issued.

50 years ago



- The go-ahead is given for the start of the first "Keep on Trikin' for Multiple Sclerosis" trike-a-thon sponsored by the Waseca Mrs. Jaycees. 25 kids rode three-wheeled vehicles of every shape, size and condition around a twelve-block course, with a halfway stop at the corner of 7th St. and 4th Ave. NE for cookies and lemonade. All of the trikers finished the course. The money collected by the trikers from pledges is being used to purchase supplies for people in Waseca County afflicted with multiple sclerosis. Any outstanding pledges should be mailed to Box 241, Waseca.

- To the editor: Waseca, like any prospering and growing community has seen both good and bad times. The bad ones, nonetheless, seemingly leave that bitter-after-taste which all the sugar of those better days can never really glaze over or cover-up. This would exemplify your communities loss of Sheriff Don Eustice. My recollections of this man are ones of a good and decent person, respected by all for the principles in which he stood. We as self-professed Christians now have a true test ahead. The frustration, anger and bitterness are emotions which cannot be easily suppressed. Prayer and a little goodwill can do wonders for all concerned. A man once said something to the effect of: "Let any of us here who is without fault cast the first stone." Nobody did! I think Mr. Eustice would have wanted it that way. - Mark Lindsey, Shreveport, La.

75 years ago

- Mr. and Mrs. Victor Swenson entertained 20 guests Sunday, Sept. 9 in honor of their son Duane, who was celebrating his fourth birthday. The evening was spent socially and a birthday lunch was served.

100 years ago

- Henry Habein, chairman of the Waseca County Red Cross Chapter, received the following telegram Monday from the State Headquarters in Minneapolis: " Red Cross mobilizing all resources for relief disaster sufferers Florida Hurricane. Your chapter should give immediate publicity this fact calling attention tot great loss of life, large number injured and homeless announcing readiness to receive and forward contribution. This word should go to entire jurisdiction." Any wishing to help these people through the Chapter, please mail checks to, American Red Cross, care of E.R. Eisert, secretary, Waseca.

- Ralph Johnson, the farm hand who stole two tires off the Warren O'Niel car while in the garage on the O'Niel farm south of town, plead guilty before Judge Senn in district court last Saturday and was sentenced to served three years in the St. Cloud Reformatory. Sheriff Wadd took him to St. Cloud yesterday.

★ **Re-elect** ★

De Malterer

Waseca County Commissioner
DISTRICT 4

GOALS / PRIORITIES

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Broadband — Continued Expansion

Fiscal responsibility

Health & Human Services — protect core services, control costs

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New Richland

25 years ago



- Each board of the barn on the Verna Schoenrock farm built 1923 is being carefully removed by Richard Jefferies. Richard has been dismantling barns for nearly 25 years. The salvaged materials are used in a number of ways.



- First place in the Miltly Opener at Lura Lake on September 15 was John Koziolk and Tom Koziolk. First place went to the team with the most pounds of gamefish. Here they are pictured with Milt Swenson, the honoree of the tournament.

- John Kunelius had seven receptions for 144 yards and three touchdowns, Friday night as Waterville-Elysian-Morristown defeated Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop 34-6 in Gopher Valley Conference Football. Brian Rupe threw the three touchdown passes of 55, 29 and 31 yards.

50 years ago

- Congratulations are to be given to bunny Tesch on becoming an active member of Lambde Delta Phi Sorority, Gamma Chapter, on October 4, 1976. Ms. Tesch is a Sophomore at the University of Minnesota. Bunny is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Armin Tesch of Waldorf, Minnesota.

- During the Minnesota State Fair, the presidents of the various State Beef Associations met and elected Lynn Ewald, Waldorf president of the Junior Purebred Beef Heifer Classic Council, which involves Charolais, Angus, Horned Hereford, Polled Hereford and Shorthorn junior associations.

75 years ago

- Leo Parriott sold a truck load of turkey breeder hens a week ago Wednesday to one of the big turkey breeders at Lamberton. The Lamberton man is one of the big turkey raisers in the area.

- Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Root of Waseca announce the arrival of a grandson, born Saturday, October 21, to Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Crumb of Port Angeles, Washington. Mr. and Mrs. Crumb also have a three year-old daughter and another 22 month old son.

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TCU upsets Bluejays

WHS football team falls 14-12, drops record to 4-1

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

Weird things have been known to happen in Homecoming football games.

But nobody could have foreseen what went down in Montgomery last Friday, where the Tri-City United Titans pulled off a huge upset, handing the Waseca Bluejays their first loss of the season, 14-12.

“TCU is a good team,” said Waseca head coach Brad Wendland. “They deserve credit. We didn't play a very clean game and didn't do enough to win against a good opponent. Offensively, our drives were interrupted by penalties or other issues. Now it is all about response. How this team responds will say a lot about what happens next.”

The TCU players and fans were fired up from the start, and there was even a halftime fireworks display along with the usual fanfare.

But, unlike when Waseca rallied from a 12-0 deficit at Belle Plaine

earlier this season, there just were not enough second-half fireworks for the Bluejays, who fell to 4-1. The Titans improved to 3-2. The loss snapped a 19-game regular-season winning streak for the Bluejays, who finished second in the state in Class AAA a year ago.

The Bluejays drew first blood, sacking the TCU quarterback and causing a fumble in the Titans' end zone, which Waseca's Brady McKenna recovered. The PAT kick was blocked and Waseca led 6-0 with about 1:30 remaining in the first quarter - foreshadowing things to come.

The Bluejays looked like they would make it 9-0 in the second period, but a 25-yard field goal attempt was blocked and the Titans scooped it up and rambled 88 yards for a touchdown. The PAT kick made it 7-6 at halftime.

After a scoreless third quarter, the Titans scored from three yards out and added the conversion.

The Bluejays answered with their best drive of the night, culmi-

nated by a six-yard touchdown run by Kellen Klinger with just over a minute remaining. A broken play on the two-point conversion attempt decided it.

The Bluejays host Worthington this Friday at 7 p.m.

TCU 14, Waseca 12				
WAS	6	0	0	6 - 12
TCU	0	7	0	7 - 14

First Quarter
WAS - McKenna fumble recovery in end zone (kick blocked)

Second Quarter
TCU - 88 return of blocked field goal (kick good)

Third Quarter
No scoring

Fourth Quarter
TCU - 3 run (kick good)
WAS - Klinger 6 run (run failed)

	WAS	TCU
Rushing Yards	30-111	x
Passing Yards	53	x
Total Yds.	154	x
Penalties-Yards	9-65	9-110

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS
Rushing - WAS: Selthun 15-76; Klinger 15-46
Passing - WAS: Klinger 5-9, 31; Kath 1-1, 22;



DEFENSIVE BATTLE — The Bluejays’ Jaxton Rohl (12) and Jacob Knutson (45) bring down a TCU ball carrier.
Photo by Waseca Football Association

Receiving — WAS: Honstad 22 yds; Rahe 15 yds.;		By Maxpreps.com	
WAS Defensive leaders) – Glynn 7T; Kath 5T; McKenna fumble recovery		1. Pierz	5-0
		2. Annandale	5-0
		3. Dilworth-Glyndon-Felton	5-0
		4. Luverne	5-0
		5. Waseca	4-1
		6. Pine Island	5-0
		7. Albany	5-0
		8. Perham	4-1
		9. Holy Famil Catholic	4-1
		10. SCLNAUMLWA	5-0

Minnesota Class AAA
Football Ratings Through 5 Weeks



HOMECOMING ACTION – Above. the Bulldogs’ Jeff Sturdivant (5) follows blocker Quinn Anderson (71) during JWP’s Homcoming game last Friday at Janesville. Quarterback Seth Dahlberg is at right. Below left, the Bulldogs Gaving Weedman (8) hauls in a pass that set up the Bulldogs’ first touchdown. Below right, Dahlberg stretches for extra yards.
Photos by Jim Lutgens



Southland spoils JWP Homecoming

There are two things you can say about the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School football team.

The Bulldogs don't run the ball much.

But they sure play entertaining games.

Last Friday produced another shootout, this time with a talented Southland squad, which spoiled the Bulldogs' homecoming, 50-19.

It was close early, with the Rebels taking a 12-6 lead after one quarter. Seth Dahlberg scored for the Bulldogs.

Southland broke it open in the second period, outscoring the Bulldogs 24-7 to take a 36-13 lead into halftime. Gavin Weedman accounted for the Bulldogs' points, catching 16-yard touchdown pass from Dahlberg.

The second half was close, but by then it was too late for the Bulldogs, who scored on a 20-yard pass from Dahlberg to Weedman.

Dahlberg had another nice night passing, toing 22-for-36 for 254 yards. Weedman caught six passes for 115 yards, Jaxon Wolff 10 for 82.

The Bulldogs were outgained 258-8 in rushing yards and 446-262 in total yards.

Aidan Rider led the Bulldogs, getting in on seven tackles.

The Bulldogs play Thursday at Medford. They host Blooming Prairie/Hayfield Oct. 14 and finish the regular season at home against Maple River on Oct. 20.

Southland 50, JWP 19				
SOU -	12	24	6	8 - 50
JWP -	6	7	6	0 - 19

Waseca cross country girls take sixth at Zumbrota GC

The Waseca High School cross country teams were at the Zumbrota Golf Club last Thursday for the Zumbrota-Mazeppa/Kenyon-Wanamingo Invitational.

"The weather and the course really cooperated today," said Waseca head coach Grant Popp. "Most of our athletes had either season-best or personal-best times."

The Bluejay varsity girls finished sixth out of eight squads with a score of 145. Byron won with 40 points, with Rochester Century second at 62.

Taylor Markeson, a senior, continued to lead the Bluejay varsity girls, finishing 11th overall with a time of 20:29.2 for 5,000 meters.

Following were sophomore Quinn Yoder, 28th, 21:42.2; junior Maren Schimming, 35th, 22:02.6; freshman Ellie Kopischke, 37th, 22:43.8; freshman Leah Wilson, 41st, 23:08.0; and senior Megan Tegmeier, 43rd, 23:12.1.

The Bluejay girls had one runner in the junior varsity race, with Violet Rohwer, a senior, taking 51st in 27:31.1 for 5,000 meters.

Places and times for Waseca's C-squad for 2,500 meters: Zoe Popp, seventh-grader, ninth, 15:59.1; Violet Hughes, eighth-grader, 13th, 16:21.8; Lylah Jorgenson, seventh-grader, 18th, 16:58.2; Josie Selthun, seventh-grader, 20th, 17:09.5.

The varsity boys also did not field a full squad, with only two athletes running.

Junior Sam Feldkamp led the Bluejays, taking 20th in 17:52.4 for 5,000 meters. Keenan Collins, a sophomore, finished 37th with a time of 18:54.1.

The Waseca junior varsity boys had a full team, finishing third out of eight teams with 107 points. Winona won with 29 and Rochester Century was second with 31.

Places and times for the Bluejays' JV boys for 5,000 meters: Luke Feldkamp, freshman, 13th, 18:51.8; Eli Hagre, sophomore, 23rd, 20:49.5; Miles Popp, freshman, 28th, 20:54.6; Korbin Collins, eighth-grader, 31st, 21:01.4; Ryan Yoder, junior, 35th, 21:07.0; Kurt Erickson, eighth-grader, 52nd, 21:52.0; Collin Guggisberg, freshman, 119th, 35:49.3.

Waseca's C-squad boys were seventh among seven schools with 136 points. Pine Island topped the field with 62 while Faribault was second at 68.

Places and times for Waseca: Will Deml, eighth-grader, 24th, 14:54.4; Eli Rohwer, seventh-grader, 25th, 14:56.3; Levi Rohe, eighth-grader, 32nd, 15:31.6; Joe Harguth, eighth-grader, 37th, 15:46.0; Owen Fierke, eighth-grader, 48th, 17:12.8.

BLUEJAY FOOTBALL

PLAYER of the WEEK

Brady McKenna
Led the Bluejay defense & recovered a fumble for a touchdown on Oct. 2, 2026, against Tri-City United

Bluejay Football Player of the Week Sponsored by:

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WHS spikers make progress despite setbacks

There were many successful plays, and a lot of long rallies, as the Waseca High School volleyball team hosted Randolph last Monday. Unfortunately for the Bluejays, the visitors won the majority of them.

Waseca fell 3-0, with set scores of 25-15, 25-16 and 25-16.

"The girls some good plays and they were really moving the ball around hitting," said Waseca head coach Krissy Plonske. "There were a lot of long rallies."

Ashley Fliflet and Brier Hayes led the Bluejays in set assists with 10 and eight, respectively.

Ellie Schleicher and Kaia Sartori each registered 16 digs to lead the team, with Hannah Helget totaling 12.

Tyler Stagman and Savanna Vagts were the team's top attackers with six kills apiece. Fliflet had five.

The Bluejays traveled to New Ulm Tuesday to face a tough Eagles squad. This time it went four sets, with New Ulm taking the final 3-1, with set scores in favor of the Eagles 25-12, 22-25, 25-19, 25-20.

"Our front was placing the ball with with the back row telling them what was open."

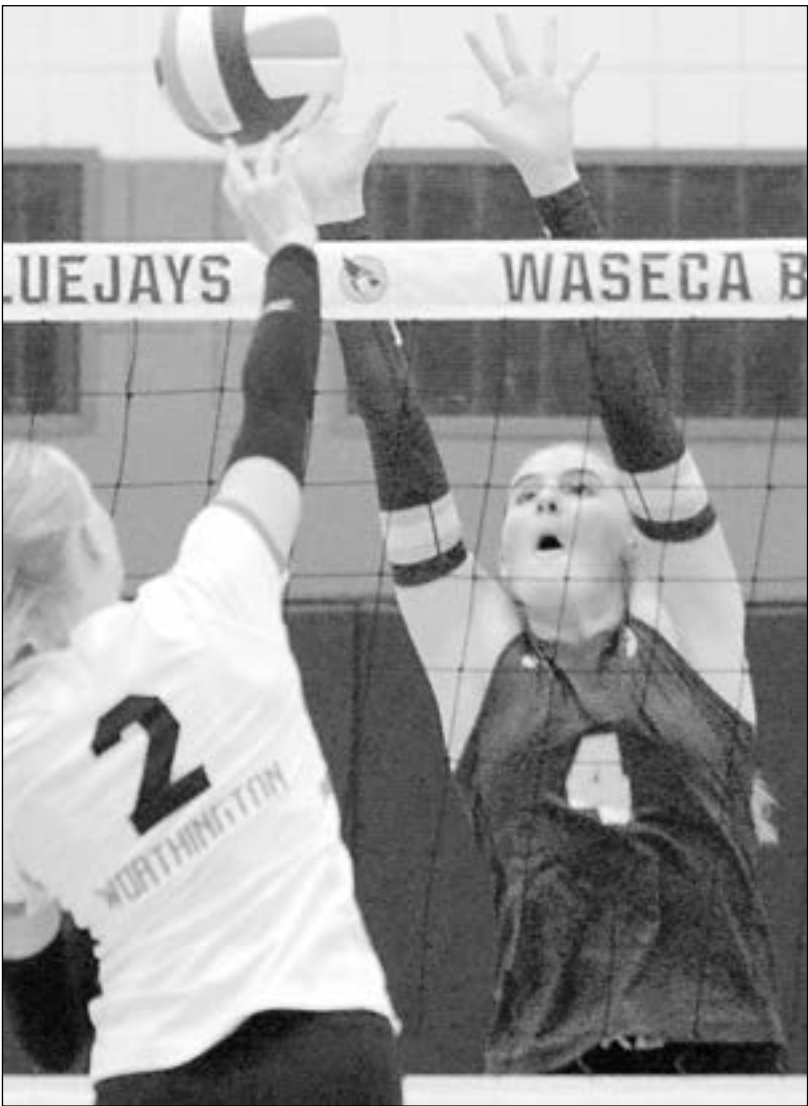
— Coach Plonske

"It was a tough match," said Coach Plonske. "We started off slow, but our front and back row were doing really well. Our front was placing the ball with the back row telling them what was open."

Hayes led the Jays with 19 set assists.

Madalynn Root was tops on the team with 22 digs. Hayes had 14, Sartori 10.

Stagman led a balanced attack, totaling seven kills. Vagts totaled six, Fliflet five.



VOLLEYBALL ACTION – The Bluejays' Savanna Vagts (4) and Ellie Schleicher (8) in action during a recent home match for the Waseca High School volleyball team.



Bluejay netters' record goes to 5-9

Section playoffs start Thursday

The Waseca High School girls' tennis team traveled to Cannon Falls Monday, Sept. 28 and fell to the Bombers 6-1. The Bluejays' junior varsity fell 3-1

Singles results:

No. 1 - Livia Tennesen def. Hannah Rugger 6-1, 6-3

No. 2 - Ava Miller def. Jillian Sjoquist 6-1, 6-1

No. 3 - Marissa Mandelkows def. Anna Benson 6-0, 6-0

No. 4 - Kinley Sheller def. Libby Miller 6-0, 6-0

Doubles:

No. 1 - Miranda Mandelkow and Malena Mandelkow def. Lucy Deml and Chloe Hagen 6-1, 6-0

No. 2 - Avery Stark and Kaia Mak def. Sam Sutton and Olivia Hagen 3-6, 6-1, 7-5

No. 3 - Lola Winchell and Lily Nelson def. Everly Kestel and Abby Jackson 6-4, 6-0

The Bluejays defeated the Red Wing Wingers Thursday at Waseca, with the local JV squad winning 2-0.

Singles:

No. 1 - Lorilei Hartman def. Hannah Rugger 6-2, 6-3

No. 2 - Ava Miller def. Rosemary Thompson 6-0, 6-0

No. 3 - Olivia Hagen def. Alison



FOLLOW THE BOUNCING BALL – The Bluejays' Sam Sutton hits a forehand shot during a recent home match for the Waseca High School girls' tennis team.

Tyszelman 6-0, 6-1

No. 4 - Kayla Landrum def. Gabby Weidner 6-2, 7-5

Doubles:

No. 1 - Whitney Fox and Olivia Anderson def. Anna Benson and Hannah Sommers 7-5, 7-6 (2)

No. 2 - Lucy Deml and Libby Miller def. Brenna Babcock and Alyssa Rice 6-0, 7-6 (6)

No. 3 - Chloe Hagen and Sutton def. Monica Olson and Jodie

Annabella Johnson Enriquez 4-6, 6-2, 6-4

On Saturday, the Bluejays hosted the Blue Earth Area Buccaneers and dropped a 4-3 decision at Waseca. The JV lost 2-0.

The Jays jumped to an early lead with wins at No. 1 and No. 2 singles and No. 2 doubles, but Blue Earth Area fought back tie it 3-3 with wins at No. 1 and No. 2 doubles, after thier initial win at No. 3 singles.

Singles results:

No. 1 - Rugger def. Abigail Greff 6-2, 6-1

No. 2 - Ava Miller def. Abbey Lorenz 6-3, 6-1

No. 3 - Ella Swanson def. Sutton 6-0, 6-1

No. 4 - Natalie Schiltz def. Landrum 6-0, 4-6, 6-1

Doubles:

No. 1 - Brooklyn Rosenau and Elaena Schiltz def. Benson and

Sommers, Waseca, 6-4, 6-2

No. 2 - Libby Miller and Deml def. Amaya Ristau-Mensing, Blue Earth and Ella Schonborn 6-0, 6-2

No. 3 - Emily Schrader and Emersen Weir def. Jackson and Kestel, Waseca, 4-6, 6-1, 6-1

After traveling to Wells Monday to face United South Central, the 5-9 Bluejays begin Section 1A play-offs Thursday.

NRHEG spikers fall to JWP

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva High School volleyball team traveled to Janesville last Thursday to face Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton for the Bulldogs' Homecoming match.

It was a battle, but the home team prevailed 3-0, winning 29-27, 25-21 and 25-16.

The Panthers came out strong, taking a 9-0 lead in the first set, but the Bulldogs came from behind.

"There were many good rallies and a lot of scrappy volleyball throughout the match," said Panthers head coach Bethany Tennis. "We need to clean up our offensive attacks and stay consistent throughout games."

NRHEG statistics vs. JWP: Ezra Boerner five digs; Izley Boerner three digs; Clara Buendorf three blocks; Sierra Fish two kills, one dig, one block; Aubrey Hendrickson one kill, 13 digs, one set assist; Jovey Knudson one kill, three digs, three blocks; Anika Ladlie seven kills, two dogs, one block, one ace serve; Brooklyn Sommer five digs; 11 set assists; Emmy Stadheim two digs, three kills, one block; Clara Stenzel six digs.

NRHEG CC teams run at Janesville

The New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva cross country teams always look forward to Janesville's annual Pie and Cookie meet, held last Thursday at Prairie Ridge Golf Course.

The top five finishers for varsity get a choice of pie, and the next 10 finishers receive a large cookie.

Julieann Wobbrock again led the NRHEG girls, finishing second overall with a time of 20:00.5 for 5,000 meters. Violette Botten placed 36th in 25:56, Rylie Cromwell 41st with a time of 29:10.

Kasey Jewison continued to pace the NRHEG boys, taking third with a time of 17:51 for 5,000 meters. Colton Lermon was 39th in 21:33, Devlin McWilliams 46th in 22:28.

"Kasey continues to get himself in the mix of the top runners in the area, which is fun to see," commented Panthers head coach Larry Nydegger. "All runners today improved their times over last year on this course, which shows that their commitment to the team and the process is paying off."

Panthers nipped at RWV

NRHEG takes No. 3 rated team to the brink

Redwood Valley, ranked No. 3 in the state in Class AA, strolled into its game last Friday with a perfect record, and they left with the same. They eked out a 50-42 double-overtime victory over the Class A New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva Panthers at Redwood Falls. The final result isn't all that surprising considering the Cardinals' considerable advantage in MaxPreps' Minnesota football rankings (they are ranked 21st, while the Panthers are ranked 117th).

The Cardinals had a 28-20 lead at halftime, but the Panthers did not back down and showed Redwood Valley that they weren't a team that could be taken easily.

It was an example of how improved NRHEG is from last year. After a losing season, they turned things around under first-year head coach Devin Lockerby

"A lot of good thiungs happened, but a lot of things that are also left to be desired."

— NRHEG coach Devin Lockerby

and are making strides in Section 1A. The Panthers' offense has been excellent, as they are so far the only team to score more than two touchdowns against Redwood Valley. The Cardinals gave up just 12, 14, 7, and 12 points in their first four games of the season.

"It was a hard fought game against a really good opponent," said Lockerby. "Redwood Valley is a top-ranked team for a reason. It was a fun game on a beautiful night. A lot of good things happened, but a lot of things that are also still left to be desired."

Redwood Valley's win bumped its record up to 5-0. As for New Richland-Hartland-Ellendale-Geneva, the defeat dropped its record down to 3-2.

The Panthers play this Friday at 7 p.m. at Fillmore Central, host Medford Oct. 14 and finish the regular season Oct. 20 at home against Maple River.

Editor's note: There was a problem with the statistics from the NRHEG at Redwood Valley football game.



RUNNING HARD — Sean Lassahn runs the football during the previous week's NRHEG Homecoming football game.

Photo by Jim Lutgens

‘Ask a Trooper:’ Slow moving emblem

Question: I have a slow moving emblem for my vehicle. Can I use that when I am driving at normal speed limits or must I take that off?

Answer: Vehicles designed to operate at 35 miles per hour or less must display a slow-moving vehicle emblem. The use of this emblem is restricted to the slow-moving vehicles specified in state statute and its use on any other type of vehicle or stationary object on the highway is prohibited.

Vehicles That Need the Emblem

- Animal-drawn vehicles
- Motorized golf carts on designated roads
- Farm equipment (implements of husbandry)
- Road construction machinery and other slow machinery
- Rules and Exceptions
- Prohibition: You cannot use this sign on normal fast cars or stationary roadside objects.
- Fast towing exception: Empty towed farm equipment can move faster than 35 mph without taking the sign off.
- Construction exception: Ve-

hicles actively working inside a marked construction zone do not need to display it.

Requirements for the Emblem

- Design: It must be a fluorescent or illuminated red-orange triangle with a dark red reflective border.
- Visibility: It must be mounted so it can be seen from at least 600 feet to the rear, including when hit by headlights on low beam.
- Placement: It goes on the rear of the vehicle. If a primary vehicle tows another unit and shows the sign, the towed unit does not need a second sign.

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■ Council

from Page 3

The monumental cost of the project would require assistance from the state and even federal government; Christopherson said there are numerous steps needed to reconcile state drainage laws with the requirements and expectations associated with national-level funding.” Minnesota has regulations that are not nationwide, so we have had to hire a ditch attorney to work with the federal attorneys. The federal economic development authority is assisting us to work out the details so our application for these grants is acceptable and will pass all the quicker.”

Farole wanted area residents to know of important damage assessment surveys which would be taking place at the end of the week. She said this assessment would aid in learning whether the flooding qualified for a Major Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance. “Please answer their questions. If you’re not home, you will receive a door hanger with information for submitting your damage assessment. We’re here to answer questions and they will be wearing clothes with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) logo so look for them.”

Representative Tom Sexton told those in attendance he has been working with Gene Dornink on the Minnesota Senate. “We want to make sure the state helps of course,” he commented, “but the next step toward funding in regards to rerouting the ditch. Since I’m on the bonding committee this will be something that I can do within the house and senate. I will be addressing this issue toward the long term as well.”

New Richland Mayor Janda Ferguson then opened up the meeting for public comment. She added that the council is there to listen and asked all residents to use proper etiquette, decorum and respect while addressing the council. Community members went on to share their observations and feelings until past 10 p.m.

Heather Johnson of Aspen Avenue said, “I’m two houses down from the drainage ditch. I’ve had some problems and probably water in my basement six or eight times since I moved here in 2002. We had our worst flood in 2010, that’s 16 years ago and we still have the problem. I don’t want to move, I’m 79 years old. I am wondering if anything has been done since 2010 to make our town safer?”

Larry Muff of Broadway Avenue stated, “The police report said they were notified at 6 a.m. on Saturday. On Friday night at 10 a.m. my neighbors told me they had water coming up in their basement. I knew it was happening in our neighborhood. My neighbor called 911 at 9 p.m. that night, and he was told the city was notified. I drove around all night long but not until 5 a.m. did I see city officials out. Where was everybody? Where is the breakdown of communications? “Where was the city’s response? I sat on the first flood control study and identified the flaws in it. Then we went to the

second flood control study, and I will point out another flaw from Doug’s report. This design is for a 100-year flood, a hundred-year flood is 7 inches in 24 hours. We’ve been getting 7 inches in 10, 12 or 16 hours. This last one came in 4 hours. That calculation cannot handle the water flows we’ve been getting. This is not a 100-year flood, this is a 1,000-year flood. Why aren’t we using a 1,000-year flood plan in this town?”

A resident of South Broadway said, “Since 2019 we never had any water issues in our house until last year when the city did our street project and contractors cut our sump pump pipe to the street and faced it back to our home, so we had a total loss. Now this year we had another total loss again.”

Dave Wilderbee of Second Street Southeast commented, “Been in our house for 54 years and never had this problem. Now, lately it’s getting to be a normal thing. Creek floods our backyard and water comes up our drains. Our taxes keep going up, they’ve doubled in the last 10 to 12 years. I want to sell my house; I cannot get flood insurance on it. Who would want to buy my house when only a couple inches of rain and it comes up my floor drains? The city points their finger at the county; the county points their finger at the city. They dug out the creek behind my house a number of years ago, left a mess and it didn’t help a thing.”

Doug Butchlot, South Broadway stated, “Since 2010 we’ve had five moderate to severe floods in this town. I have heard it will take 5 to 6 years to get a fix in place. Does that mean we can expect the city to flood three more times? I am assuming there are things that can be done that will expedite this process.

“The amount of work it takes to get money pales in comparison to the work people in this town have done to recover from this. The people that have been helping are great, but that’s the first step. But how are we going to stop this from happening again?”

Shelby Priebe of Aspen Avenue asked, “I am directing this question to Allison Farole of Homeland Security. I have been told it’s up to FEMA if my house is condemned or not. If you want damage numbers and totals, should those workers be allowed to enter my home to assess that damage? I’m not a contractor; I don’t know the amounts or if it will be condemned.”

Farole replied, “Please have that conversation with FEMA when they come to your home. Their rules for condemning homes, I don’t know. But get all your evidence, that includes photos, documentation, receipts, everything.” Priebe was told FEMA officials would be at New Richland City Hall on Thursday, and she could come to them if need be.

In addition to other information that was shared, there were handouts for those with children affected by the flood, organizations for coping with the disaster. Parents were advised it is very important to make sure once living spaces are clear of water they are cleaned properly, following proper debris removal guidelines. Residents were warned to watch out for mold and black mold, which thrive in wet conditions.

Waseca Exchange Club welcomes Pastor Jillene Gallitan for discussion on suicide prevention

WASECA, Minn. — The Waseca Exchange Club recently welcomed Pastor Jillene Gallitan, Head Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, for a deeply personal and important conversation about suicide prevention, mental health awareness, and the difference a simple question can make.

Pastor Gallitan shared her own experience with suicide loss. When she was just 14 years old, her mother died by suicide, an experience that has given her a deeply personal understanding of the impact suicide has not only on an individual, but on the family, friends, and community left behind.

During her presentation, Gallitan encouraged Exchange Club members to pay attention when something simply seems “off” with someone they know. While there can be recognizable signs of suicidal ideation, she emphasized that prevention can also begin by knowing the people

around us well enough to notice changes in their behavior, mood, or demeanor.

Most importantly, Gallitan encouraged people not to be afraid to ask a direct question when they are concerned about someone: Are you thinking about hurting yourself?

“That question alone can make someone realize that someone cares about them and their future,” Gallitan told the group.

Gallitan also reminded members that Waseca County has more mental health resources available than many residents may realize. Knowing where to begin, however, can sometimes be one of the greatest barriers to seeking help. She encouraged anyone who is struggling, or who is concerned about a loved one, to reach out to her if they need help getting connected with appropriate services and resources.

“Pastor Gallitan reminded us that caring for our community



WORKING TO PREVENT - L to R: President Elect Jay Bulfer, President Mikhail Rostislavovich, Paston Jillene Gallitan, Vice President Jenny David, and Secretary Tarin Kuball.

sometimes begins with having the courage to ask a difficult question,” said Waseca Exchange Club President Mikhail Rostislavovich. “We often talk about service in terms of what we can build, provide, or accomplish. But service can also be noticing another person, listening to them, and making certain they know their life matters. We are very grateful to Jillene for trusting us with her story and for giving our members practical ways

to care for the people around them.”

The Waseca Exchange Club regularly welcomes community leaders and organizations to share information about programs, challenges, and opportunities affecting Waseca and the surrounding area. Through education, community service, and partnerships, the club works to strengthen the community and improve the lives of those who call it home.

■ Community

from Page 1

senior lending officer Marcia Haley; communications director Katie Godfrey Demmer; communications and community vitality specialist Sarah Scheffert, and SMIF board member Ann Staloch, presented 10-inch oval placards to be displayed at locations where SMIF has provided either grants or loans.

Though not all could be delivered Oct. 1, placard recipients include Farmamerica, Half Pint Brewery, Lush Cakes, Matson Design Specialties, Morgan’s Meat Market, Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm, Silver Fox Plumbing, the Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center, Waseca County Public Health, Waseca Community Education Early Childhood and Family Education (ECFE) program, and the Waseca Library.

At the Waseca Library, Kraus called attention to the facility’s role as a hub where people of different generations can come together to read and learn, use technology, and perform communication-related tasks.

At Lush Cakes, she thanked proprietor Jessica Freitag for her “business mindfulness and tenacity” in opening a place where community members can gather, and which supports people’s celebrations.

In speaking with ECFE leader Carrie Morris, Kraus highlighted community education’s role in supporting children’s early literacy and promoting lifelong learning.

At the Waseca County Public Health office, Kraus expressed thanks to the department for acknowledging that early literacy is an important element in public health. “It helps provide the strong, healthy foundation children and families can build on,” said Kraus.

Like the proprietors at numerous other stops, Mike McQuery of Half-Pint Brewery replied to Kraus’ statements about the value of his, and other small businesses, as the “heartbeat of the community,” and his role as an entrepreneur who built on the area’s connection to agriculture, by saying, “We wouldn’t be here if it hadn’t been for SMIF.”



CELEBRATING COMMUNITY - Representatives from the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) visited Waseca area businesses and organizations which have interacted with the Foundation, acknowledging the importance of bringing community members together and providing gathering places. In the bottom photo, (from left) SMIF board member Ann Staloch, SMIF staff members Marcia Haley and Benja Kraus, Waseca Library staff members Ashton Finley and Stacy Lienemann, and SMIF representatives Sarah Scheffert and Katie Godfrey Demmer, celebrate the importance of literacy and early literacy. In top photo, SMIF staff recognize Lush Cakes owner Jessica Freitag. In the center photo, they visit with Dean Morgan of Morgan's Meats.

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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
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on Oct. 1, 8 and 15, 2026

SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642

October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7pm HALL BINGO	2 MEAT Raffle 5:30 pm Horse racing 6:30 pm	3
4	5	6 BURGER NIGHT 5 TO 7	7 6PM BAR BINGO	8 7pm HALL BINGO	9 MEAT Raffle 5:30 pm Horse racing 6:30 pm	10
11 Breakfast 8-12 Your Host Banlam Hockey	12 7 pm Post & AUX. Meeting	13 NAVY Birthday BURGER NIGHT 5 TO 7	14 6PM BAR BINGO	15 7pm HALL BINGO	16 Walleye Dinner 5:30 – 7 pm	17
18	19	20 BURGER NIGHT 5 TO 7	21 6PM BAR BINGO	22 7pm HALL BINGO	23 MEAT Raffle5:30pm Horse racing 6:30 pm	24
25	26	27 BURGER NIGHT 5 TO 7	28 6PM BAR BINGO	29 7pm HALL BINGO	30 MEAT Raffle 5:30pm Horse racing 6:30 pm	31

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COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER - Volunteers across southern Minnesota came together for a clean up day in New Richland. Crews worked collectively over 180 hours of service, cleaning houses and the community.

Volunteers answer the call for New Richland Cleanup Day

NEW RICHLAND, Minn. — More than 50 volunteers from across southern Minnesota came together in New Richland for a volunteer cleanup day, helping residents continue the difficult work of recovering from recent flooding. Collectively, over 180 hours of service was completed.

The City of New Richland partnered with the Waseca Exchange Club to organize the effort, with the two organizations working hand in glove throughout the planning and cleanup. The Exchange Club rallied and coordinated volunteers, while City staff identified residents who were still in need of debris removal, demolition and cleanup assistance.

Volunteers came from throughout the region, with some traveling from as far away as the Twin Cities metro and Red Wing areas to lend a hand. The bulk of the volunteers arrived first thing in the morning with trucks, trailers, tools and work gloves ready, while others continued to arrive throughout the day.

Four volunteer crews were dispatched to homes

that still faced significant cleanup.

At one of the hardest-hit homes, floodwater had filled the basement and risen approximately four feet into the main floor. Volunteers spent the morning hauling out wet boxes, totes filled with belongings that could not be saved, damaged appliances and other debris. Crews also tore out damaged dry-wall and building materials as they worked to help the homeowner move another step closer to recovery.

“We were so fortunate to have some carpenters and contractors who volunteered to help. They knew exactly what to do and how to do it,” said Ann Staloch, project co-coordinator. “At their own expense, some volunteers went and purchased lumber to build a new wall for a resident. It’s special to see what people are willing to do for complete strangers.”

The cleanup effort brought together not only individual volunteers, but organizations from across

the area. The Waseca County CERT Team assisted with volunteer check-in and helped staff the city dump. Southern Baptist Disaster Relief-Wisconsin/Minnesota provided mold mitigation assistance as part of the day’s work.

Keeping hardworking volunteers fed was also a community effort. Some individuals dropped off food throughout the day, while the Waseca and Steele County Salvation Armies provided volunteers with a hearty smoked pork meal.

“We are so grateful for the partnership of the Waseca Exchange Club in their coordination of volunteers for us,” said Tyler Lendt, New Richland City Administrator. “Their efforts have been impactful for some of our hardest-hit residents.”

For the Waseca Exchange Club, the day was an opportunity to put the organization’s commitment to service into action and to bring people together from well beyond the immediate community.

“Exchange’s motto is ‘Unity for Service,’ and we

are grateful we could bring together so many hands from a 70-mile reach to put in the meaningful work for our Waseca County community,” said Mikhail Rostislavovich, President of the Waseca Exchange Club. “It is remarkable what can be accomplished when determination and compassion meet.”

While the physical work of flood recovery continues for some New Richland residents, the cleanup day demonstrated the impact that can be made when local government, service organizations, disaster-response groups and individual volunteers work together toward a common purpose.

For the homeowners who watched strangers arrive with trucks, trailers and tools and simply ask where they could help, the day was also a reminder that they are not facing the work of recovery alone.

If you would like to contribute to the recovery for residents, consider donating to the Waseca Area Foundation’s fund for New Richland’s Disaster Relief.

Hearing held for 2027 projects; Peach hired as Police Chief

By JANESVILLE JOURNAL

JANESVILLE CITY COUNCIL

The Janesville City Council met on Monday, September 14, at 7:00 p.m. with all Council members present. Bolton & Menk City Engineer Jason Femrite was in attendance for the 2027 Street and Utility Improvement Hearing that preceded the meeting.

Open seating was at capacity as many Janesville citizens were there to inquire about the preliminary plans that Bolton & Menk had prepared for the hearing. Femrite briefly discussed the main point of the project, that issues with water-mains on North Street and Skookum Street had become “unignorable”, before explaining the projected costs of the project, what street design they plan to use, and when they can expect further updates from B & M.

The City Engineer’s advisal to move the project up from its 2029 start date hopes to save the city money by eliminating short term issues. North Street has experienced seven water main breaks in recent years and the water main on Skookum Street was installed in 1982—which Femrite explained had “reached the end of their useful life.” The new watermains and accompanying street improvements will bring the road quality to Janesville city standards.

Eric Hauser, a B & M Engineer working with Femrite on the Janesville project, handed out Preliminary Assessment Rolls containing the cost projections. Hauser and Femrite have worked on a design plan that is just over half way com-

pleted.

Current totals for the projects are \$1,726,752.82 for North Street and \$381,633.08. This is the first of a series of PARs that residents and the Council can expect to see in the coming months. City Administrator Rogers emphasized the importance of attending the Open House event in December because of the impact community comments and questions have had on creating successful projects.

For almost everyone in the audience, the number one concern of the project was the installation of sidewalks into North Street. It is a city policy that a sidewalk be installed on one side of a street that is improved. For North Street, this would mean losing many of the trees that line the south side of the street. The sidewalk would connect the street to park but the next adjacent sidewalk is on the north side of Grove Street on the other side of the block.

North Street residents did not want the natural beauty of their block to be taken away and asked the City to consider forgoing installation of sidewalks, noting it would lessen the cost of the project. One resident remarked that such a drastic change would resemble Allyn Street.

Femrite and Hauser took the community comments into consideration, as did the Council, before thanking the city for working with Bolton & Menk. The public hearing closed at 7:35 p.m.



BUILDING THE FUTURE - The Waseca Area Learning Center celebrated the launch of its new XRP Robotics Program for students to explore technology, coding, and robotics.



Waseca ALC launches new XRP robotics program

The Waseca Area Learning Center (ALC) recently celebrated the launch of its new XRP Robotics Program, creating exciting opportunities for students to explore technology, coding, robotics, and future career pathways.

Made possible through a RESEPI grant, the program provides students with hands-on experience using real robotics technology while developing skills that can transfer directly into college, technical education, and the workplace. Students will have opportunities to explore BLOCK-based programming, Mini Python coding, robotics design and programming, problem-solving, and career exploration.

The XRP Robotics program is designed to give students an opportunity to learn by doing. Instead of simply reading about technology, students can build, program, test, troubleshoot, and improve their own robotic systems. This type of hands-on learning encourages creativity, persistence, teamwork, communication, and problem-solving.

Building Skills for the Future

One of the most important benefits of the program is its connection to career exploration. Students can begin to see how skills developed through robotics connect to careers in areas such as technology, engineering, manufacturing, automation,

programming, skilled trades, and other growing industries.

The program also supports the development of Waseca’s local talent pipeline. By introducing students to technology and career opportunities while they are still in school, the community can help students recognize potential career pathways close to home and better understand the skills local employers are seeking.

The XRP robots also provide a flexible learning environment where students can practice skills, make mistakes, learn from those mistakes, and try again. This creates opportunities for students to build confidence while developing technical and workplace skills.

How XRP Robotics Will Help Our School

The XRP robots will become a valuable hands-on learning tool at Waseca ALC. They can be used to:

- Provide real-world STEM and technology experiences.
- Teach programming through BLOCK coding and Mini Python.
- Develop problem-solving and critical-thinking skills.
- Encourage teamwork, communication, and collaboration.
- Connect classroom learning to real workplace applications.
- Provide opportunities for career exploration.



Increase student engagement through hands-on learning.

Give students experience with emerging technology.

Help students develop skills that can transfer to future employment and education.

Create connections between students, local businesses, higher education, and the community.

The program also provides students with an opportunity to discover strengths and interests they may not have known they possessed. A student who begins by building or programming a robot may discover an interest in engineering, computer science, manufacturing, automation, or another career field.

A Community Effort

Waseca ALC extends special thanks to Eric Hudspeth Waseca Superintendent, Tom Sexton Minnesota House Representative, Members of the Waseca School Board Mandi Nohner WALC Principal, Brooke McGuire Director of

Teaching and Learning, Brian Hering Director of Technology Systems, Travis Thule of Minnesota State University, Mankato, Gwenn Wolters of SCSC, Travis Foss of Digi-Key for their support and partnership, and the RESEPI grant program. Thanks to our industry partners, especially Winegar Inc. of Waseca. Together, we are empowering students to explore new possibilities, develop future-ready skills, and help build a stronger community and workforce.

These partnerships demonstrate what can happen when schools, higher education, businesses, and community organizations work together to create meaningful opportunities for students.

The XRP Robotics program represents more than a new piece of technology for Waseca ALC. It is an investment in students, career exploration, innovation, and the future workforce of the Waseca community.

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