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WASECA
COUNTY
PIONEER

LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY

No. 42 Vol. III \$2

Office at 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca Thursday, October 17, 2024

■ Inside



State Bound

Farmamerica will host MEA Day Camps October 17-18

Farmamerica will host an MEA Day Camp for kids in kindergarten through fifth grade Thursday and Friday, October 17-18 from 8 a.m. till 3p.m. They will meet live animals, enjoy outdoor exploration and hands-on crafts. Lunch will be provided, cost is \$60 and spots are limited.

Waseca Sons of American Legion will fundraise for Waseca Caregivers on Friday, Oct. 18

The Waseca Sons of American Legion 228, will host a fundraiser for the Waseca Caregivers from 5:30-7 p.m. at the legion. There will be a choice of a burger or fish sandwich with fries for \$12.

Family Tradition band at Indian Island Winery Sat., Oct. 19

The band Family Tradition will be performing at the Indian Island Winery from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19. An online source says they will be, "Performing old and new hit country music."

History Center "Snake Oil" Show 6:30 to 8 p.m. October 19

The Waseca County History Center is offering a "Snake Oil" show from 6:30 to 8 p.m. on October 19. The program will demonstrate both the "dark" and the "entertainment" sides of medicine around the start of the twentieth century. Fee is \$20.

St. Paul Lutheran Oktoberfest starts at noon October 19

St. Paul Lutheran Church of Waseca Oktoberfest with live music, and bean bag and "Hammerschlagen" tournaments. Food and beverages for sale. Proceeds support youth mission trip and "Higher Things." Located in church parking lot, 314 Fourth Ave. NE.

Waseca Sons of American Legion will serve breakfast Sunday, Oct. 20

The Waseca Sons of American Legion 228 will hold an all-you-can-eat breakfast from 8 a.m. till noon on Sunday, October 20. Unlimited pancakes, eggs, biscuits & gravy, sausage, milk, orange juice and coffee. \$12 for adults, \$8 for kids 12 and under.

Waseca City Council candidate debates 6:30 p.m. Oct. 22

Debates among candidates for City of Waseca wards one, two and three will begin at 6:30 p.m. October 22 at the Waseca High School performing arts center. Ward one candidates Adam Jensen and Stacey Schroeder and ward two candidates Gary Conrath, Marty Johnson and Nicholas Meister will be on deck from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Ward 3 candidates Mark Christiansen, Theresa Riecke, Chad Schlueter and Koby Wright will speak beginning at 8 p.m.

A word from
The Word

Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.

Proverbs 11:14

Section Champs



The Waseca High School Girls' Tennis team earned a trip to state by winning the Section 1A Championship on Friday, Oct. 11, 2024. Team members and coaches are (Above, front, from left) assistant coach Abbe Hoehn, Maddy Benson, Addie Pfeifer, Maddy Benson, Layla Keith, Takya Schoenrock, Vivian Mader, Lily Sanchez. (Back row) Head Coach Kyle Collins, Paige Dufault, Kennedy Lynch, Hannah Rugger, Pearl Moore, Mia Kanewischer, Ava Miller, Madi Larrabee, Grace Chawra, Assist coach Trish Mercier, Paola Sandoval.

Unforgettable experience for Waseca Tennis

Jays capture Section 1A Championship, will play in state tournament Oct. 22 and 23

By JIM LUTGENS
Staff Writer

The long wait is over for the Waseca High School girls' tennis team.

The Bluejays have lived up to their No. 1 seed atop the Section 1A tournament.

Waseca advanced to state for the first time since 2012 thanks to a 7-0 victory over Winona Cotter in the semifinals and 4-3 over No. 2 seed Cannon Falls last Friday at the Rochester Recreation Center.

For the first time in 30 years, a team other than Rochester Lourdes won the Section 1A championship. In 2012, the Bluejays played in Section 2A.

The Bluejays outlasted Cannon Falls in an extremely exciting final, claiming two come-from-behind wins, with the final match, No. 3 doubles, rallying from a set down to win. Layla Keith and Kennedy Lynch were at third doubles for Waseca.

The rest of the lineup on Friday included Takya Schoenrock at No. 1 singles, Vivian Mader at No. 2, Maddy Benson at No. 3, and Pearl Moore at No. 4.

The other doubles teams were comprised of Mia Kanewischer and Addie Pfeifer at No. 1, and Paige Dufault and Ava Miller at No. 2.

Waseca was coming off a late-season 5-2 victory over Cannon Falls, which also lost in last year's section final. Lourdes was eliminated in the quarterfinals this year.

The Bluejays are coached by Kyle Collins, who guided the team to second place in the state tournament in 2009, fourth in 2010, sixth in 2011 and third in 2012.

"Those were some special years," said Collins. "I hope we can make some more special memories at the state tournament this season. The state tournament is an unforgettable experience for all."

Collins thanked all of the parents and Waseca fans who made it to Rochester for the section final.

"It was a great experience for our players and fans," said Collins. "We hope to see many more of them at the state tourney on Oct. 22. I would also like to thank our assistant coaches Trish Mercier and Abbe Hoehn for their assistance."

The Bluejays, 15-4, will play in the state tournament Oct. 22 and 23 at Reed-Sweatt Tennis Center in Minneapolis. The individual state tournament is Oct. 24-25, also at Reed-Sweatt.

Other section champions included St. James Area, Montevideo, The Blake School, Providence Academy, Litchfield, Pine City and Crookston. The Class A bracket is expected this week.

Mental health, opioids, create massive double storm

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

"The problem is so massive," observed Blue Earth County Sheriff Jeff Wersal, "it's very hard to know where to start."

Waseca County Sheriff Jay Dulas agrees. "It's like a giant web," he told the Pioneer. "People are using drugs, so they're desperate for money. Their paychecks are spent, they're having health issues. They commit crimes to get money to buy the drugs. They neglect their families, their children, because they're either spending all their energy trying to get the drugs, or they're high because they're using them."

"Their children end up in foster care. They get caught up in violence, they have warrants out for their arrest, so they're trying to avoid being noticed by law enforcement."

"Everything is interconnected and it's hard to know where to begin."

Waseca-based certified peer recovery specialist and operator of "Wecoverly," Marty Johnson points out the connection between mental health and addiction. "It's often hard to know which one came first—whether people are self-medicating because of their illness, or they're experiencing symptoms because they're using a substance."

Ben Johnson, an Owatonna police sergeant and head of the regional drug enforcement task force which covers Waseca County comments, "It's a train wreck. The victims are the children and families because the users are fueling an addiction with every penny they have."

Safety and health officials are persistently looking for ways they can make a dent in the problem.

Task force leader Johnson suggests addicts can seldom understand the depth of their difficulty until they are forced "to face the consequences of their choices," in other words, they go to jail or prison and must become sober, often for the first time in years.

Like similar agencies all over the country, the county public health office receives funding from a national lawsuit against pharmaceutical companies which profited from distributing opioids. According to information shared at an April meeting of the Waseca County Board of Commissioners, the county is scheduled to receive about \$50,000 a year for each of the next 15 years.

The public health office has already used some of those funds to expand programing which protects children and, according to Colin Ayers, the department's public health educator and planner, is persistently looking for ways to understand what needs exist in the



Dulas



Ayers



Johnson

Waseca Votes

Legislative committee sponsors second debate

Sexton, Fernandez seek District 19B seat in Minnesota House

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Candidates running to represent the Medford/Owatonna/Waseca area covered by Seat 19B of the Minnesota House of Representatives met in a debate sponsored by the Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce legislative committee the evening of Tuesday, Oct. 8, at the Waseca high school performing arts center. About 120 people were present.

In the case of this race, neither candidate is the incumbent since both are running for a seat held for the past 12 years by Republican John Petersburg. Petersburg announced earlier this year that he did not intend to run for reelection.

Five questions selected by the legislative committee were posed during the first half of the debate. Once responses and rebuttals to those had been heard, members of the audience were invited to submit questions. From those, another five questions were addressed to candidates.

On the stage were Democratic candidate Edal Fernandez and Republican candidate Tom Sexton.

Audience members received a program which provided self-written introductions to the two men.

Fernandez, 50, is a resident of Owatonna running for an elected position for the first time. He works as the director of admissions for South Central College and divides his time between the Faribault and Mankato campuses. Having been born in Guanajuato, Mexico, he is a naturalized United States citizen who has lived in Minnesota for more than 24 years. He has a bachelor's degree in communications and public relations, is father to three children ages 13, 16, and 20, and has served on numerous boards and committees including those of the Owatonna Public Library, Owatonna Soccer Association, and Big Brothers and Big Sisters. He is a member of the Rotary Club.

Sexton, 76, is a resident of Waseca who retired from 26 years of service with the United States Air Force as a Colonel in 2012 before working as a facilities construction manager in the petroleum industry for nine years. He and his wife of 38 years, Jeanne, returned to their family roots in the Waseca area in 2021. Tom took on volunteer roles with the planning commissions of both the city and county of Waseca; he chaired Waseca's Lake-Fest celebration in 2023 and 2024; he is a member of both the American Legion and VFW and serves on the Legion's Honor Guard. He has a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Minnesota, has earned master's degrees from three military programs, and was a Military Professor for four years at the U.S. Army War College.





Participants and organizers of the Waseca Votes district 19B debate, from left: Larry Johnson, Jamie Beckstrand, Eli Lutgens, Stacey Schroeder, Dwight Thostenson, Tom Sexton, Brayden Hoof, Edal Fernandez, Nathaniel Howe, Ann Fitch, Mikhail Rostislavovich and Brian Harguth.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bentley

Both men shared during their opening remarks that they decided to enter the District 19B race after others suggested or requested that they do so.

In his responses to questions, Fernandez emphasized one of his campaign slogans, "Working together, winning together." He emphasized the importance of education and access to broadband internet. He mentioned that he has taken part in efforts to create a wastewater agreement between Medford and Owatonna, and stated that experience has helped him see how complex the issue can become. Regarding these topics and others, he stated it is very important that residents communicate with their elected officials so that they could "bring our shared southern Minnesota values to St.

Debate continued on 4

Narcan continued on 8



Compostings

by Al Batt

History of toilet paper

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
I don't understand the mutual funds I bought.

I know how you feel. I'm trying to make sense of my investments.

I'm just trying to make cents of my investments.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. John Foy & Associates, a personal injury law firm, analyzed data from all 50 states, evaluating them on five crucial factors: road fatalities, rural road conditions, urban road conditions, highway spending per mile and highway spending per capita to determine which states have the best and worst roads in America. Minnesota took the top spot for road quality, followed by Delaware and Utah. New Mexico had the worst roads in the nation, followed by Louisiana and Mississippi.

Preply, an online language learning platform, analyzed YouTube videos and call recordings and found Minnesota was the state with the fastest talking residents, clocking in at 5.34 syllables per second, followed by Oregon, Iowa, Kansas and North Dakota. Louisiana was the slowest-talking state at 4.78 syllables per second. The average American's talking speed is 5.09 syllables per second.

According to Cottonelle, toilet paper was invented in the 14th century for the Hongwu dynasty, but only the royal family and the imperial court had access to them. In Europe, people used rags, whatever cloth was available, including sleeves. Wealthy Europeans used wool, hemp or lace. The first mention of toilet paper appeared in Europe in the 16th century. In North America, throughout the 1700s, people were wiping with whatever they had on hand, including corn-cobs and seashells. Seashells? Ouch! In 1857, a New Yorker named Joseph Gayetty introduced and patented toilet paper. He called it "Medicated Paper for the Water-Closet" and printed his name on every sheet. The medicated paper contained aloe and was sold in packages of 500 sheets for 50 cents. The Sears catalog began in 1888 and people commonly used catalogs to clean up in an outhouse. In the late 1800s, the British Perforated Paper Company started producing toilet paper in the UK. It was sold in individual squares with a rough texture. In 1890, toilet paper became available in perforated sheets on a roll. In Germany, the Hakle company's slogan was, "If you don't want to say toilet paper, ask for a roll of Hakle."

The first splinter-free TP was introduced in 1930.

I'VE LEARNED
Wile E. Coyote should have ordered from some place other than Acme.

With great power comes a large electric bill.

Sometimes, when I buy a bag of air, I'm surprised to find a few potato chips in it.

The clinical term is gluteus medius tendinopathy, though it's also often referred to as gluteal amnesia. Sitting for long periods without moving can cause this condition called "dead butt syndrome."

BAD JOKES DEPARTMENT

My cousin sings in his car when he's driving in reverse. He wants to become a backup singer.

Who said, "Life is like a bouquet of flowers. You never know what you're going to get"? Florist Gump.

My neighbor Crandall just bought a sweet car online. It was previously owned by Neil Diamond.

NATURE NOTES

American white pelicans migrate to the Gulf of Mexico with October and November being the peak migration months. In "A Sand County Almanac," Aldo Leopold described migrating pelicans this way: "Let a squadron of southbound pelicans but feel a lift of prairie breeze... and they sense at once that here is a landing in the geological past, a refuge from that most relentless of aggressors, the future. With queer antediluvian grunts they set wing, descending in majestic spirals to the welcoming wastes of a bygone age."

The world's most dangerous bird is the cassowary, although ostriches and emus can be dangerous, and I know a guy who nearly choked while trying to inhale a giant turkey leg. The cassowary is a flightless bird native to Australia and New Guinea and has killed humans with slashing blows of its feet, which have long dagger-like toenails. It will surprise no one to learn that a pet cassowary killed a Florida man.

Darwyn Olson of Hartland asked where multicolored Asian lady beetles lay their eggs. They're laid on the undersides of leaves of low-growing ornamentals, trees, roses, wheat, tobacco, soybeans and other plants. Common buckthorn is a woody shrub or small tree and is an overwintering host plant of the soybean aphid, which lays its eggs on buckthorn in the fall. The eggs overwinter and hatch in the spring. The lady beetles feed on those aphids.

MEETING ADJOURNED
"Judge not, that ye be not judged."—Matthew 7:1. Be kind.

An unexpected tap on the shoulder

Except maybe to notice whether it's cloudy or not, it's funny how seldom we look at the sky. It's easy to take it for granted, especially since it's always up there. Sure, the moon changes, but it changes in such consistent ways we barely notice. I'm sure a good share of us, at any time, are completely unaware what phase the moon is in.

But sometimes, the sky insists.

Sunrises and sunsets are the first thing I think of. They shine with an amazing variety of colors and send many different impressions. Now and then, the sun hangs in the sky like a giant, bright red ball. No clouds, no apparent tint around it—just that giant red disk growing larger as it gets closer to the horizon. Other times, though, it sends out rays which streak the clouds. The shades of pink or orange or red are enough to make you gasp in wonder.

I've mentioned before how I often try to capture the image of the day's sunset by taking a picture. I have quite a collection of sunsets and sunrises. When people see them, they usually comment on how beautiful they are.

Nice as the photos might be, though, they are only a reminder of what the actual event was like. Even a mural would only begin to imitate half a world of light and color. And then there is the moon—a whole heavenly body which somehow seems to have a friendly, smiling face. It rises and sets according to a schedule most of us never study. Sometimes it stops us in our tracks,



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

sometimes it jumps out from behind a building or tree to surprise us. Though modern science allows us to understand its glow is simply reflected from the sun, it's easy to recognize why other cultures attributed it to magic and mystery.

No matter how well we believe we understand it, it makes no difference when we see it suspended in the sky, sometimes claiming full possession, sometimes outlining the clouds.

Suddenly having our attention called to the moon is like feeling an unexpected tap on our shoulders, then being handed a gift as we turn to find out why.

And then there are the northern lights.

It would be awfully easy not to notice them. I had been driving for half an hour or more on a very dark stretch of road the other night when my husband called me. After asking where I was and learning I was driving, he asked "Can you see the northern lights?"

I was about to say no when I looked to my left and realized a subtle, pulsing curtain was coloring much of the sky to the north. How

long had I been driving beneath that meandering miracle and not even known it?

Here, too, the science is fairly straightforward. Beams of energy have traveled 93 million miles from the sun's surface and reached our planet's magnetic defense system, where they are emitting light as they are dissipated downward and outward.

But you can't blame long ago cultures for attributing those shifting, moving waves of light to some capricious—and even occasionally childish—beings who have power over forces so mighty, they have little cause to take notice of humankind.

Almost always, meteors, too, seem like a gentle game. Quick, darting beams of light which are gone before you can show your companions where to look, it is almost as if we are at the bottom of a pond watching the ripples form as some child overhead tosses in an occasional stone. Cultures thousands of years ago did not know what caused them, but they took the time to record when, and from what part of the sky they tended to come. Thus we have the Perseids,

which, in a way, seem to come from the constellation Perseus from mid-July to August, and the Orionids, seeming to come from Orion all through the month of October. According to one online source, there are well over 100 documented showers, each with a history of high or low volume. A little research will tell you much more.

And now, the item which prompted all this reflection. A comet whose name is most conveniently shortened to Atlas will be visible slightly above the western horizon about 45 minutes after sunset for the next few weeks. I tried to get a look at it on Oct. 12, the night it was supposed to be the closest it will come to earth—about 44 million miles. Unfortunately, clouds made that impossible. Still, astronomers suggest it will become more and more evident as our viewing angle changes and we get a look at its tail.

You can easily find out more online if you wish to see the comet—it's being mentioned by numerous forms of media. It's moving at about 42 miles per second, but will still be visible to the unaided eye for about a month. Astronomers also point out it will be more than 80,000 years before the comet comes this close to the sun (and incidentally planet earth) again.

Don't let the dropping temperatures keep you from having a look. Like so many of the wonders which go on far above our heads, it might be one of those experiences which defy description.

Let's pray my friends don't read this...

On this week's episode of "Life Lessons Amelia Learned as a New Adult," I learn about filling my cup.

As you all know (considering I gripe and complain in this column about it), my life is kind of busy right now. With taking most of my difficult and major intensive courses in school, working four part-time jobs, and trying to stay sane and healthy, it can get to be a lot during the week.

Frequently, it leaves me little to no time to talk with my friends who also happen to be my roommates. Because of that, I try to spend quality time with them during the weekends when we are in town together. It all sounds rather straightforward, except I have come to realize that, after a busy week, I'm not sure I have the energy to go with friends for a number of nights in a row.

This past weekend we went to the Surly Brewing Company for dinner; we had a great time. If that's where it had ended, I would have been more than satisfied. But my best friend learned that her crush was going to be at a bar across campus for the evening. So we got changed and



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

marched our way over there. I will say, it was a very successful night for her and this guy, but it led to us closing down the bar and staying up then some to continue talking with this man. I was fully supportive and was more than happy to just stand off to the side scrolling on my phone playing wingwoman — I had a great time. But I regretted my late bedtime when my alarm went off fairly early, only a few hours after I'd climbed between the sheets.

After a funeral and an easy win by the Gopher volleyball team, I came home ready for a chill night (someone had mentioned game night at some point and I was so ready). But I got out of the shower to a text from my bestie — the guy had invited

her/us to a party they were throwing that night and she asked if I wanted to go. Sighing, I changed out of my comfy clothes and agreed to go on one condition - I would drive. It was too dang cold to go walking for half an hour again.

Turns out the party was outside. After forty minutes, I was cold, tired, and hungry and we hadn't even gotten the chance to talk to her crush yet. Starting to feel teeth chatter and muscles freeze, I decided to leave and told them I could pick them up later when they decided they were done. So I went home, had my second shower for the night just to get warm and was just about to sit down on the couch to eat my warmed dinner and watch Gopher football

beat UCLA when she called asking for a ride. As a dutiful friend, I left my dinner and the Gophers to pick them up: Then they went right to bed when we got back. So I reheated my dinner and watched the game until someone from home must have started watching because it said too many people were streaming and I got kicked off.

Sunday was spent doing hours upon hours of homework (I'm not joking, this thesis is kicking my butt).

So after a weekend of setting my interests aside for the sake of others, I was exhausted mentally and physically and feeling a wee bit sad.

Therefore, in conclusion, make sure to take time for yourself. While it's nice to help others and be there for them, it's hard to do so if you're not there for yourself first. And let's pray my friends don't read this column.

My Determination: "This is a jumbo-coffee morning. I need coffee in an IV." —Lorelai Gilmore, Gilmore Girls

Happy Birthday



This newspaper clipping and caption below was printed in the Waseca Newspaper 64 years ago in October of 1960. Happy Birthday Dad.

JAMES DWIGHT LUTGENS, shown here with his mother, Mrs. Lester Lutgens, is exactly 70 years younger than the president of the United States. Because James was born on October 14, Eisenhower's birthday, he was given the middle name of Dwight, the president's first name. The baby, his parents, a sister, Judy Lee Morrill, and a brother, Douglas Lester, live at 913 5th St. S.E. When he is baptized, James Dwight will wear a 40-year old baptismal dress, worn before by aunts, uncles, and his sister and brother. James Dwight, who weighed 5 lbs. 12 oz., at birth, is the 39th grandchild of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rocker, Janesville. The Roekers, who will be married 62 years Nov. 10, have almost 30 great grandchildren.

Treats on the Streets



Waseca businesses will be distributing treats during "Treats on the Streets" from 5 to 7 p.m. the evening of Thursday, Oct. 24. Children of trick or treating age are invited to visit downtown locations from the public safety center at 303 South State Street to the vicinity of the courthouse at 307 North State.

Pioneer archive photos by Deb Bently



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DEADLINES: Pioneer: Noon Monday
GOLDEN LINK: Previous Friday

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Janesville Public Library seasonal craft class Monday, Oct. 21

The Janesville Public Library will host Deep Etch Die Ghost and Candy Corn Class at 4:30 p.m. Monday, October 21. Learn to sew with simple, yet adorable Halloween decorations. For ages 10-18. Register at Janesville Public Library or wasecauserlibraries.com/getregistered

Waseca-Le Sueur Library System virtual event with author Lori Gottlieb Tues., Oct. 22

Waseca-Le Sueur Library will hold a virtual event with author Lori Gottlieb at 1 p.m. Tuesday, October 22. This will be about her book 'Maybe You Should Talk to Someone.' Lori is a therapist. This event will be recorded and can be sent to anyone who registers at wasecauserlibraries.com/getregistered. This is in coordination with the Library Speakers Consortium.

Janesville Public Library candle painting Tues., Oct. 22

The Janesville Public Library will host a Candle Painting workshop at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, October 22. This event is free and will showcase painting by candlelight.

Waseca Public Library Kusudama Workshop Tuesday, Oct. 22

The Waseca Public Library will host an all day Kusudama Workshop on Tuesday, Oct. 22. During open hours from 9 a.m. to noon, learn how to make paper origami flower balls originally used in Japan for incense and potpourri. These can be hung around the house. Supplies are provided free of charge.

Aspyn Acres Halloween Trick or Treat Trail 6 to 8:30 p.m. Oct. 25 & 26

A Halloween Trail through the Haunted Forest will begin at 6 p.m. on Oct. 25 and 26 at Aspyn Acres Wildlife Rehabilitation and Farm Sanctuary. Suggested entry payment is \$5 per child. Facepainting and specialty treats also available. Aspyn Acres is at 41251 135th Street north of Waseca.

In a Bind at Indian Island Winery 6 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 25

The Indian Island Winery will host band In a Bind from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 25. This all lady trio plays a variety of hit music and has been seen all over southern Minnesota.

Halloween Bash at The Mill Event Center 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 25

Celebrate a Halloween Bash at The Mill Event Center at 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 25. Spooky drink specials, costume contest with cash prize and musical guest Johnny Holm Band. Tickets are \$10. Band starts at 9 p.m.

Waseca VFW Halloween Super Bingo 7 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26

The Waseca VFW will host Halloween Super Bingo starting at 7 p.m. on Saturday, October 26. There will be 16 games and this will also include Wiste's Meat Raffles and Pull Tab Races.

Heartfelt Harvest

Family friends gather to help Krause's crop

More than 180 acres of corn, beans farmed Oct. 9

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

Curt Krause and his son Nathan planted the 180 acres of corn and beans which were harvested Oct. 9. Seventeen friends and neighbors brought the equipment and spent the time needed to bring the crop off the field.

Having been diagnosed with ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, on Feb. 29, Curt succumbed to it a few days after celebrating his birthday on Sept. 21; he was 79 years old.

He and his wife, Karen, were married 54 years and raised three children, Heather Quiram, Nathan, and Meghan. Curt operated a family farm in the vicinity of Matawan on acreage which Karen's father had farmed before him.

"ALS is a horrible disease," commented Karen. "It strips you of everything a little at a time."

After Curt's diagnosis near the end of February and being told by doctors he had no more than two years to live, he, Karen, and their adult children made a point of spending quality time together. Karen and Curt went to Branson, Missouri, a place they had visited previously and always enjoyed; not for the first time, they attended a concert featuring songs by the BeeGees, a favorite for both of them. "It isn't the BeeGees, of course," Karen said. "But when the lights go down and the music comes up, it sure sounds like them."

Though they had to deal with progressive health difficulties over the next few months, Karen and Curt were joined by each of their children in turn for road trips that went as far as Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, and Breckenridge, Colorado.

"We just took our time," describes Karen. "We never took the interstates, instead we used the meandering back roads that let us see the countryside."

When it came to Curt's birthday, the family "decided to do it up big." Karen says more than 100 people visited Curt at the family's lake home near Faribault during the two hours of his party—although some had to speak with him after he grew tired and went to rest in bed.

On Sept. 22, Karen said, the family held a more intimate celebration. Part of it was a traditional "father/daughter dance" between him and Meghan, whose wedding had once been scheduled to take place on her father's birthday, but was postponed because of his illness.



Local family friends helped gather Krause's crop of 180 acres of corn and beans on Oct. 9, 2024.

Curt was under the care of a hospice program during the last few weeks of his life. "He wanted to die at home," Karen explains. When the hospice caretaker said Curt's time was drawing near, their three children gathered and were with him and Karen as he died.

The shared project of harvesting Curt's crop for his family seems to have arisen nearly spontaneously among neighboring farmers after a conversation between Matawan Grain's manager Brad Stenzel and farmer Scott Routh.

The Matawan elevator was closed to others from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 9 while 17 area farmers brought various needed pieces of equipment and worked together to bring in Curt's crop.

Members of All Saints church in New Richland, Curt and Karen's home congregation, and of St. Joseph's and Trinity Lutheran in Waldorf prepared meals.

"It's called being a community," said Matawan Grain's Brad Stenzel. "We're glad to help each other, and glad to do this for Curt and his family."

Among those bringing equipment and helping in the fields were Matawan and New Richland area farmers Jim Chicos, Mike Chicos, Chad Groskreutz, Matt Groskreutz, Neil Grunzke, Rob Hansen, Denny Hanson, Nat Krause, Al Miller, Bronco Mortenson, Scott Routh, Colton Schlaak, Loren Schoenrock, Rick Schultz, Clay Stenzel, Darren Stenzel, and Jerome Stenzel.

Among those who supplied food were Julie



Curt and Karen Krause

Bohlens, Mary Bohlens, Brenda Gerds, Jeanette Groskreutz, Teri Kormann, Kris Pfeffer, Jackie Schultz, Brad Stenzel, Gretchen Supalla, and Midwest Ag Advisors.

"We're really grateful for this," said Karen. "It's a giant help to us, and it feels like one last, special event in memory of Curt."

Family Fall Festival was very well attended

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Farmamerica Family Fall Festival had diverse, lively offerings Saturday, Oct. 12. The sky was white with overcast, but the temperature was an agreeable 61 degrees with a light wind that bordered on strong.

Regan Hoehn was working the Brewed Awakenings bar. The beverage company is based out of Janesville. Said Hoehn, "Today we're serving ciders and coffees in multiple flavors. We are in the same building as Wiste's Meat Market, just take a left when you get inside." She

could only talk for a moment or two before another customer needed her attention.

Two rapidly shaking bounce houses next to the corn maze were shaped like giant cows. A multitude of children screamed with pleasure as they entered and exited the structures. Waseca County Dairy Princesses Katy Eldeen, 17, and McKenna Eichhorn, 20, were manning tables near the bounce houses wearing their princess sashes. Said Eichorn, "We are hoping to show

Festival continued on 6



From left: Waseca County Dairy Princesses Katy Eldeen, 17, and McKenna Eichhorn, 20, were present and handing out dairy related goods at Farmamerica's Fall Festival on Saturday October 12, 2024
Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann



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JWP bus driver dies after heart attack

JANESVILLE JOURNAL - On Friday, October 4, Ed Wheelock, age 60, passed away while driving a morning bus route for Palmer Bus Service transporting students of Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton and Trinity Lutheran.

Reports surfaced that emergency workers responded to the scene of a Palmer agency school bus with an unresponsive bus driver and several students. The Janesville Journal heard one testimony that Wheelock began experiencing a heart attack while driving his blue route, which involved rural areas of Janesville and Waldorf. After initially struggling to keep the bus on the road, Wheelock was able to bring the vehicle to a safe stop. No students were injured.

Several law enforcement agencies responded to the incident, including the Janesville Police Department and Ambulance service, Janesville Fire and Rescue, and the Waseca County Sheriff's Department.

Following the incident, all students were transported to school safely. According to a press release by the JWP School District, "on arrival at the school, support staff met with students and will continue to be available."

At the time of the press release, the district didn't share any information about Wheelock's condition; it was learned later that he had died. Palmer Bus Service of JWP shared his obituary on its Facebook page on Sunday, October 6, with a post saying, "It is with a heavy heart that we share the unexpected passing of our dear friend and fellow bus driver. He touched the lives of so many with his kindness and dedication. Ed will be greatly missed, and our thoughts are with his family and loved ones during this difficult time."

Wheelock's death was the same day as the Bulldog homecoming game against United South Central. A moment of silence was held at the beginning of the game. Wheelock was the father of sophomore lineman Jason Wheelock.

Family and friends gathered at the Janesville chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral Home on Friday, October 11. A private family service will be held soon.

Wheelock was well-known as a supporter of JWP as a bus driver and a fan of Bulldog athletics. He was also a recent member of the JWP Athletic Hall of Fame.

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OBITUARIES

Darlene Seberson

DARLENE EMILY SEBERSON, age 88 of Waseca, died in the early morning of Saturday, October 12, 2024 at Whispering Creek in Janesville.

Darlene was born in Dodge Center, MN on August 4, 1936 to parents Myron and Doris (Crandall) Tainter. She attended school in Owatonna before going to work to help support her family. In June of 1966 Darlene was married to Ronald Seberson in New Richland. They had met at the Rendezvous Café in Waseca where she waited tables and Ronald often ate his evening meal. Darlene went on to work at Bird's Eye Foods for a short time before she began working in the bindery at Brown Printing Company for a career that would span over forty years. She was proud to be one of the "quarter-century club" members at Brown and she created many lasting friendships during her time there. Darlene enjoyed cooking, camping with family, shopping, and was known to many for her famous cakes. Her first and greatest love, though, were her children and grandchildren and she rarely missed a concert or sporting event to support them.

Darlene is survived by her devoted husband of fifty-eight years, Ronald Seberson Sr. of Waseca; four sons, Ronald Seberson, Jr., Richard Seberson, Ricky Seberson, and Randy (Denise) Seberson



Darlene Seberson

all of Waseca; eight grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and two siblings, Ernie (Linda) Tainter of Winona, and Donna Clark of Albert Lea. She was preceded in death by her parents; a son, Jim; a daughter, Linda; a granddaughter, Jessica; and siblings Delores, Myrna, Robert, Marlyss, and Phyllis.

Funeral services were held at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 16, 2024 at the Third Street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca, with Rev. Eric Ishimaru officiating. Visitation was held for one hour before the service at the funeral home. Interment followed at Forest Hill Cemetery in Owatonna. dsfuneral.com

Phyllis Bartelt

PHYLLIS JEANE BARTELT, age 95 of Waseca, died on the afternoon of Thursday, October 10, 2024, at Mayo Clinic Health System, in Mankato.

Phyllis was born in Bertha, MN, on February 20, 1929, to parents George and Selma (Piere) Johnson. Her family moved to Otisco while she was yet an infant when her father began working as the only butter-maker at the Otisco Creamery. She attended District 46 Country School before finishing at Waseca Public Schools, graduating with the class of 1947. Two years later, on November 16, 1949, Phyllis was married to Charles W. Bartelt at Trinity-Wilton Lutheran Church where she had been confirmed years earlier. Her very first job was making and selling ice cream cones at the Pheasant Café in Waseca. She went on to work for the

E.F. Johnson Company and Montgomery Ward before attaining her Real Estate License. Phyllis went to work for Donahue Real Estate in 1966, and she was proud to be the first female realtor in Waseca County. Phyllis ended her working years with a 22-year career as a school nurse for Waseca Public Schools, retiring in 1994.

She was a long-time member of St. John Lutheran Church in Waseca where she participated in the altar guild, Ladies Aid, mission groups, and the Welca Quilters. She had served as a past leader in the Boy Scouts, regularly volunteered at the Waseca Neighborhood Service Center, and was a member of the Waseca American Legion Auxiliary for over 50 years. Phyllis was also the proud recipient of the WCCO Good Neighbor Award in 2009 in recognition of her volunteer work.

She enjoyed cross-stitching and working in her kitchen. Phyllis took full advantage of any opportunity to make friends and care for others, and she will be sorely missed by those that loved her.

Phyllis is survived by two sons, Mark (Jane) Bartelt of Waseca, and Craig Bartelt and his partner Nick Mercado of Los Angeles, CA; two grandchildren, Jayme (Justin) Jackson of Islamorada, FL, and Reid (Michelle) Bartelt of Appleton, WI; four great-grandchildren, Jace and Avea Jackson and Lucy and Maisie Bartelt; one brother-in-law, Willard Kormann of New Ulm; several nieces; and one nephew. She was preceded in death by her parents, George and Selma Johnson; her parents-in-law, Charley and Cecelia Bartelt; her husband, Charles Bartelt; sister, Marlyss (Wayne) Halle; and sister, Irene Kormann.



Phyllis Bartelt

Funeral services are pending with Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Services in Waseca, and will be announced at a later date.

Be responsible, talk to your insurance agent



Bits and Pieces

by Dave Zika



phone. Ice fishing season is coming; apparently it's a common mishap for anglers to drop cell phones down fishing holes. After hearing all that, I kept my insurance on my new cell phone.

We all need to buy protection. The question arises, am I over- or under-insured. Insurance has really gone up, maybe in the neighborhood of thirty percent. Crazy weather: hurricanes, tornadoes, hail, wind, floods, wildfire and other natural disasters are on the news daily, someone has to pay!

I visited with my insurance guy who has my cabin, homeowner, property, and car insurance. Deductibles keep going on with inflation. Medical costs continue to rise and with no fault claims, cost has risen. Windshields are safer in our vehicles, but the cost to replace one has skyrocketed. Not only do the replacements cost more, they also seem

harder to get; sometimes the wait time is in months rather than days. The supply chain management is out of whack. I'm afraid the good old days of quick, relatively inexpensive recovery from fender benders are over: go into a repair shop for an estimate to repair some minor damage and you may leave screaming and gasping for air.

What can I pass on to you that I've learned.

*If you have all your insurance with one company your rate will be lower.

*Senior citizens can enroll in a program that will cut insurance rates.

*The only way I can bring down my auto insurance is to decrease my deductible. Example, \$500 to \$1,000.

*I often visit with others and they will tell me they were shocked to find out insurance didn't cover their problem. It's your responsibility to

visit with an insurance agent you can trust, and know that the policy you have will cover your claims.

*In most policies, you can add other settlement terms to cover things that are not covered in your basic policy for a minimal cost: a few examples.

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*Coverage for marring to metal roofs, metal window framing, metal doors, etc. Really important for damage from hail and wind.

*Coverage for sewer backups. Absolutely critical if you live in our lovely city of Waseca.

*Service Line covers the sewer line from house to street, waterline from house to street. Critical if you have a yard with large mature trees with deep root systems.

*I would not recommend earthquake coverage!

Have fun getting ready for Halloween and may all of your insurance claims be paid in full!

Helen Schoenfeld

Helen Schoenfeld died Saturday, October 12, 2024, at Colony Court, in Waseca, MN.

Helen Lorraine Schoenfeld was born July 4, 1926, in Mankato, MN, to Herbert and Selma (Strehlo) Proehl. Helen was baptized August 1, 1926. She attended country school in Mapleton, MN. She was confirmed in her faith at St. John's Lutheran Church in Mapleton in 1940. She was united in marriage to Clifford Schoenfeld at St. John's Church in Waseca, MN, on December 12, 1945. She was beside her husband as a farm wife at first in Iosco Township in Waseca County and then in 1949, the family moved to Deerfield Township, and they continued farming until their retirement.

Helen's life interests included embroidering, reading, travelling, and taking bus trips. She also enjoyed being a Sunday School Teacher.

Helen is survived by children: Harold (Diane) Schoenfeld, Owatonna, Howard (Mary Jo) Schoenfeld, Faribault, MN, Gaylen (Bonnie)Schoenfeld, Lester Prairie, MN, Gordon (Margaret) Schoenfeld, Owatonna, and Sandra (David) Miller, Oxnord, CA; 28 grandchildren; 52 great-grandchildren; one great-great grandchild, and one brother Dwayne (Anita) Proehl, St. Paul, MN.

She was preceded in death by



Helen Schoenfeld

her husband Cliff; four great-grandchildren; two sisters, Vivian and Elaine; one brother Clarence; one brother-in-law; and one sister-in-law.

Funeral service will be Saturday, October 19, 2024, at 11:00 AM at Trinity Lutheran Church (102 3rd Street SW Medford). Friends may greet the family from 9:00-11:00 AM at the church. A luncheon will follow the funeral service in the lower level of the church, with interment at Woodville Cemetery in Waseca afterward.

Memorials may be directed to the Lutheran Hour or Trinity Lutheran Church, Medford.

For more information or to leave an online message of condolence, go to www.megercare.com

■ Debate

from Page 1

Paul and work across the aisle."

Among repeated themes in Sexton's responses were criticisms of how, instead of "being returned to taxpayers," the \$55 million state tax surplus was spent in ways that "keep growing the government larger." He claimed a significant part of the \$2.2 billion funding for education was retained to "build an empire up in St. Paul" rather than being distributed to school districts. He also pointed out the current legislature did not follow its typical practice of creating this year's expected "bonding bill."

Without the funding bonding would have created, Sexton said, matters of infrastructure—highways, wastewater treatment, and other important local projects—were not given their due priority.

When asked about funding for emergency medical services, both candidates expressed wholehearted support for the necessary work done by public safety workers. Fernandez told of how he nearly drowned four

years ago and praised the safety workers who happened to be nearby and spontaneously used their skills to help. He cited a recent allocation of \$300 million toward public safety and crime fighting programs.

Sexton drew attention to his endorsement by the state association of law enforcement officers by citing that Minnesota police and sheriff departments have about 1,000 open positions at this time, with another 2,400 officers approaching eligibility for retirement. He stated it is among his top priorities to help improve the opportunities and incentives individuals have for entering the field. Two additional priorities he named are "getting a handle on the budget" and preventing funds from being used to "grow bigger government."

Fernandez said he also supports closer scrutiny of how tax money is managed, saying government needs to "find a balance which will help Minnesota grow." He said he would want to work toward more transparency while also ensuring spending is fairly distributed among rural and urban areas.

Asked about abortion, Sexton stated he is "unashamedly pro-life," but suggested he would not be able to change the state's current stance on

the issue. He would focus his efforts instead, he said, on protecting women's safety. One example he offered is that he would like to see any abortion procedures limited to hospital settings.

Fernandez responded to the question by saying of the Democratic party's and his personal position, "We are not pro-abortion, we are pro-choice. We believe abortions should be rare, but for those who make that choice, they should also be accessible and safe."

Both candidates agreed there should not be income tax levied against Social Security payments. Fernandez mentioned the fixed income seniors receive has already been bitten into by recent high inflation. Sexton said, "Our seniors helped create the great lifestyle that is part of our society. Let's let them enjoy it."

Another point of agreement was a response both candidates gave regarding voters' largest concerns. Both told of their encounters as they are out "knocking on doors," saying they receive repeated feedback about the divisive state of politics. "People are sick and tired of the polarization," said Fernandez.

Fernandez mentioned he also con-

sistently hears voter concerns regarding inflation and people's ability to "make ends meet." He named the availability of family housing, education, and access to affordable health care. The aging population, he said, makes the role of immigrants increasingly important as they attempt to "put down roots in the community" and become part of American society.

Sexton also named the economy as a significant voter concern, including finding ways to "stabilize" it and reduce inflation. He mentioned the mental health crisis and the many extra demands it places on law enforcement and public safety workers.

The final question for the evening, one selected from among those submitted by audience members, asked whether the candidates would be in favor of ending "daylight saving time."

Though both candidates expressed personal leanings toward eliminating the practice, they also commented they would want to perform further research if they were actually asked to vote on the topic.

"If it was an easy decision made for easy reasons," commented Sexton, "we would have made it long ago."



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Ulland Brothers Inc. began the work of “rehabilitating” C.R. 64 bright and early the morning of Monday, Sept. 24.
Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

‘Rehabilitation’ complete

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

A two-mile portion of Waseca County Highway 64 is a whole new road these days. The section of asphalt extends northward from State Highway 30 about 3 miles west of New Richland.
During the June 4 meeting of the Waseca County commissioners, county engineer Jim Kollar told board members he had received three bids to “rehabilitate” the stretch of road, which he described as being “in poor condition.” First paved in 1999, it was not originally on the construction schedule for this year. The most recent traffic count for the road was taken

Highway continued on 10



The “sheeps’ foot” compressor is the first machine to begin compacting the “reclaimed” asphalt after it has been lifted off of its former road bed.
Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Great Fall Get-Together from 6-9 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26

The Waseca Art Center will have its biggest event of the year, the Great Fall Get-Together from 6-9 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26. This year will be, Midnight in the French Quarter. There will be appetizers, a full bar, silent auction, games and door prizes, photo booth and music by Waseca High School Jazz Band, costumes encouraged. Tickets are \$35 in advance, \$40 at the door. Contact the Waseca Art Center for tickets.

St. John Lutheran Church Fall Festival 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Oct. 26

St. John Lutheran Church of Waseca will have its Fall Festival beginning at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 26. A luncheon which includes soup, a sloppy joe and pie will be available for \$9. Also featured will be a sale offering craft items, baked goods and quilts. St. John Lutheran is at 401 Third Avenue Northeast in Waseca.

Dairy Queen raising funds for Waseca Friends of the Library Wednesday, Oct. 30

Dairy Queen will be holding a fundraiser on Wednesday, October 30. From 4 through 7 p.m., ten percent of all sales will be donated to the Waseca Friends of the Library.

Waseca Area Food Shelf “Cornhole for a Cause” 10 a.m. Nov. 2

A cornhole tournament, silent auction and live performance by the Blue Ringers will benefit the Waseca Area Food Shelf during an all-day event at The Mill in Waseca on Nov. 2. Up to 64 teams will compete for cash prizes; entry registration is a \$50 donation to the food shelf.

Waseca State of the City address 7 p.m. Nov. 12

The Waseca “State of the City” address will be 7 p.m. on Nov. 12 at the high school performing arts center. Those present will hear from Mayor Randy Zimmerman and city manager Carl Sonneberg.

Briefs continued on 6

Heart of a lion

Secondary students 'inspired' at shared event

Self-esteem, personal growth subjects of program at USC

By DEB BENTLY
Staff Writer

“I figured we were going to sit there, listen to someone talk and be bored,” recalled NRHEG ninth-grader Levi Whiteside. “But it was inspirational. It was pretty awesome.”
“I was surprised when they started singing,” commented classmate Justin Robel. “It was about how to be good to people, how to be nice.”
NRHEG secondary students grades 7 to 12, about 300 altogether, were bused to United South Central (USC) school in Wells during the school day on Wednesday, Oct. 8, to attend sessions by “The Lion Heart Experience,” a Detroit-based self-esteem program which combines music performance, personal narrative and art to send its message.

Grades 7 to 9 attended at 9:00 a.m.; grades 10 to 12 at 12:15. A public concert was presented in the USC auditorium Wednesday evening: according to organizers, about 200 people attended.

Prior to booking the group for its local performances, Kesley Staloch of USC had heard about said she had heard about the group and investigated whether its presentations might meet the goals of fariCares, an organization whose goals include drug abuse prevention for area youth. In addition to financial support from both school districts, Wednesday’s programs received funding from a Drug-Free Community grant.

“Lion Heart is a dynamic performance,” Staloch said, adding that its uplifting message addresses issues important to secondary students including building self-esteem, addressing anxiety, and combating self harm and bullying. At its core, she said, the program’s intent was to bring students face to face with the questions “Who are you?” and “Who do you want to be?”

NRHEG Secondary counselor Liz Stiernagle supervised the groups. “I loved that it was something different and unexpected for the students,” she observed. “I think the music helped bring a different level of engagement from the students. They did a nice job using music to support their story of resilience, grit, and perseverance throughout high school and beyond.”

Stiernagle said she believed the combination of art, music, and lively personal narrative from presenter Joe Vercellino created an interactive atmosphere that kept students engaged. She said students probably connected with varying elements of the presentation, but she believed the message of personal validation and encouragement to keep moving forward toward your personal goals was delivered effectively.

Ninth-grader Danica Boyes said her favorite part about the presentation was that “they talked about their lives” and “made us think about the



Students became caught up in the combination of music, personal narrative, and art which was featured in the “Lion Heart Experience,” a two-hour program attended by the student bodies of USC and NRHEG Secondary classes.
Photos by Deb Bently

way other people are feeling.” She said she and her friends were glad to spend the morning together attending the program, and that all of them were surprised when the program included music and art.

Among the experiences Vercellino shared was hearing street performers “banging on buckets” as a child and thinking he would like to be a performer, too. He shared the story of being an eighth-grader and deciding to give it a try. He said he had closed his eyes to perform because he was nervous about who might be watching him—but after he sang his first song and opened his eyes, he saw a stranger standing in front of him who said simply, “You’re pretty good,” and then dropped 50 cents into his open guitar case.

“I made 50 cents on my passion,” said Vercellino. “It felt like magic; I’m still riding on that feeling today.”

Vercellino suggested students should think about their passions, since “The future’s not really that far away.”

He admitted there would be obstacles, pointing out “middle school is a place where people will make fun of you even if you’re good at something.”

As Vercellino and fellow performer Tae Sosa alternated on vocals, Vercellino would walk to a canvas roughly three by four feet square. It was plain white when the program began. One of the first things painted on it were the words to a song, “You Were Wrong About Me.” A bit later, “50¢” was added. Vercellino added other elements gradually, sometimes rotating the canvas, but with no apparent plan.



Musician, music teacher, and artist Joe Vercellino added apparently unrelated images and words to a large canvas during the program. Audience members were surprised to see a lion appear as the additions continued.

Near the end of the program, however, a discernible image appeared.

“I didn’t expect it to be a lion,” said ninth-grader Sean Lassahn afterward. “It was pretty cool how the painting and talking about his experiences came together.”

“I think it helped people relate.”

JANESVILLE CITY COUNCIL

Council supports community center plan

JANESVILLE JOURNAL - The Janesville Council held an extra meeting this September to pass its preliminary levy. However, most of the discussion at the meeting on Monday, Sept. 23, was centered around the progress of the Economic Development Authority’s (EDA) Community Center Committee.

Committee members Ben Salaba and Gina Peterson were present and discussed the next steps with the council. The point of their presentation was to receive some support from the council to move forward with the project, mostly a verbal commitment of support similar to those they received from the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton school board and the Waseca-Le Sueur Public Library System which operates the current Janesville Public Library.

Peterson’s first point of emphasis during the presentation was the need for gym space and childcare. “JWP’s wraparound program is running out of room,” she said. “There’s a waiting list for the preschool program. There’s a general childcare shortage in Janesville.”

The community education wraparound program hopes to use the community center for childcare and to hold some of its courses and programs. The committee would also look for another tenant to cover Janesville’s other childcare needs, such as infant care.

Another point of emphasis was the need for a community center manager. Peterson said she would like to see a full-time position created to manage the center.

Council continued on 10

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The Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) held its Fields of Faith nationwide night out event on Wed., October 9, at the NRHEG High School football field in New Richland. Photos by Judy Tweeten

Third annual Fields of Faith

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) held its Fields of Faith (FOF) nationwide night out event on Wednesday, Oct. 9 at the NRHEG High School football field, located near the secondary school in New Richland. The event started at 7 p.m. but high school aged kids and some of their parents were already filtering onto the field and into the bleachers at 6:30 p.m. right after the gates opened. Stadium lights lit the event, which began after sunset.

This is a student-led event, Judy Tweeten said, “During the month of October the kids meet in the school once a week, this is the only night outside for the FCA.” Rhonda Staloch, who was helping to set up speakers at the foot of the bleachers

said, “Tonight, like minded students will mingle in order to reach others, who will hopefully talk to even more others and bring them over to the Word. After that, we will have hot chocolate and cookies.” Jeff Jiminez, assistant coach, was also going to attend to speak to the kids.

Student leaders for FCA were Chloe Stork and Faith Phillips. While Stork and Phillips took time out to talk to this reporter, a group of boys took to the football field and started playing a quick game of football. Said Stork, “As an FCA leader, we want kids to get in the game, get in the book, hear God’s word and change the culture.” Her co-leader Phillips said, “I will be giving a testimonial tonight. We have to let everyone know, whatever challenges you have, the bible is a great way to

get answers.” When asked what part of the bible beginning readers might want to turn to, both girls replied, “The new testament, Psalms because there are so many different verses.”

This will be New Richland’s third year for the FCA, said Tweeten, “We had to take a break for Covid, but we’re back now. We were averaging 30 kids a night but there’s more coming every time.” Tonight, there were 58 students attending and 15 adults. Phillips added her favorite bible verse, “Psalm 16:8 I know the Lord is with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me.” Phillips went to play volleyball as Stork ran onto the football field with a few other girls to mingle with the boys. Somehow, Stork got a football thrown to her, she caught it, screamed, then took the football and threw it into the

touchdown area where it landed on the ground as she began running toward the other end of the field because she didn’t want to be tackled. In unison all the boys had their arms out at their sides as if to ask, “What was that?” But the smiles on all their faces were genuine, any teasing was good natured and there were plenty of laughs to go around.

Fields of Faith was first established in 1954 by Don McClanen, who was frustrated by professional athletes endorsing cigarettes and shaving cream. He wanted to get athletes on board fighting to get the word of God out there. The Fellowship of Christian Athletes is an international non-profit Christian sports ministry based in Kansas City. The organization operates in 115 countries.



Above, NRHEG FCA students participating in the Fields of Faith Event last Wednesday, from left: Harbor Cromwell, Owen Bartlett, Alden Dobberstein and Carter Martens.



■ Festival

from Page 3

people and kids about the dairy industry.” Cassie Eldeen, mother to Dairy Princess Katy Eldeen said, “As members of the Waseca County American Dairy Association, if we

don’t show them about dairy, who’s going to?” Behind Eldeen was Maggie the milking cow, a life-size bovine with water inside to help instruct kids on how to milk a cow properly.

Jamis Stewart, 15, was not far from the bounce house action. He was behind tables stocked with pumpkins and other fall décor. When asked, “What are you doing here today?” Stewart replied, “Selling

pumpkins for my family’s business, Lone Pine Acres. My parents helped set up, my dad left to go pick more pumpkins.” As he said this, a man driving a tractor hauling a hay trailer full of people drove past heading toward the 1850s homestead at Farmamerica.

Driver Roger Bahr said, “I’ve been driving tractors since I was 10 years old so that would make it about,

hmm, let’s say driving for 75 years.” When he arrived at Homestead, Mason Wadd was there selling beef sticks for \$5 a pack. Bahr didn’t take long before he got a snack.

Teagan Tietje and Bailey Lachmiller were helping small children by putting different colored paints onto paper plates so the kids could paint their pumpkins. Despite the bit of wind, all the children looked like

they were having a wonderful time.

Back at the front entry, it was announced well over 1,000 people had entered the grounds so far. Organizers said that meant they had surpassed their “minimum” goal for the day, and indicated the parking lot where vehicles were continuing to arrive. More than 40 volunteers and five Farmamerica employees were keeping the day lively. Home Grown

4H volunteers were serving lunch concessions. There was also apple picking, rug weaving, live farm animals with puppies, face painting, BINGO, complimentary apple cider, a pick-your-own-pumpkin patch and much more. For anyone who didn’t make it to the Farmamerica Family Fall Festival there will be a corn maze and other activities every weekend for the rest of October.



The
Pastor's Column

My favorite season

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS

I am more excited for fall than any other season. There are several reasons, but the most important one for me is that I can finally settle into a season of rest. I feel energized by the season and at the same time I am ready to take a nap.

Fall has its obvious benefits, beautiful colors, cooler weather, and the ability to watch the sports I love. Fall also allows for my favorite activities, hunting, napping, and watching the colors. I love the crisp, cool air and not sweating whenever I do anything other than walk outside.

In the middle of summer, I am looking for the shade, a cool breeze and any reason to sit in the air conditioning. In fall though, I am looking for any reason to be outside, to sit by the fire, or to walk in the crunchy leaves. I want to enjoy it as long as I can.

King Solomon in the book of Ecclesiastes struggles to find purpose and joy in life. He had all the money in the world, was able to build the temple to God, but struggled to enjoy the work that God had for him. Consider his words from Ecclesiastes 9:

7 Go, eat your bread with pleasure, and drink your wine with a cheerful heart, for God has already accepted your works. 8 Let your clothes be white all the time, and never let oil be lacking on your head. 9 Enjoy life with the wife you love all the days of your fleeting life, which has been given to you under the sun, all your fleeting days. For that is your portion in life and in your struggle under the sun. 10 Whatever your hands find to do, do with all your strength, because there is no work, planning, knowledge, or wisdom in Sheol where you are going.

King Solomon reminds us to enjoy the simple things in life, good bread and drink, clean clothes and a good hairdo, the work at hand and the love of your family. He calls us to enjoy life, because it will come to an end. To find joy in the simple days is all that the richest man on earth at the time longed for.

What do you enjoy in life? What can you thank God for? What are able to do with the time you have been given? Can you turn to God with joy for the day’s activity?

For me it is easier to enjoy the days when the weather is nice, but at the same time I need to find joy everyday. My joy comes not from my life situation, but rather from the things God has given me. Let us look for what God has planned for us so we can find joy in Him and turn to Him with joyful praise.

No matter the weather, the task at hand, nor our state of mind can keep us from worshipping God. We need to choose to worship God and find joy in what He has given us. It may be as simple as leaves crunching underfoot, but we can find joy in the life we have been given.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH 2200 4th St NE, Waseca 507-835-2235 Service times 9:30 a.m. * * *	507-607-8245 Sunday worship 10 a.m. * * *	Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship * * *	12-18 * * *
4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH 605 4th St NE, Waseca 507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker) Worship Sundays 10 a.m. * * *	CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS 1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca 507-835-4640 Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m. * * *	VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Brian Schanil Pastor Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School Tuesdays: The Shepherd's Robe Ministry, 1-3 p.m., 6-8 p.m.; Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH 412 N. Main Street, Janesville Interim Pastor Wednesday, Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship, 9 Bible Class, 10:15 a.m. Worship * * *
FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 801 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-3167 Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m. * * *	GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH 1221 8th St SE, Waseca 507-835-2213 Sunday worship 10:45 a.m., 6:00 p.m. * * *	ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Father Glenn Ferichs Friday - 10 a.m. on 1st, 3rd and 4th Fridays p.m. Mass Sunday - Mass at 8 a.m. * * *	JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 401 N. West St., Janesville Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship * * *
CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH 309 6th St NE, Waseca 507-835-9176 Worship Sundays traditional 8:30 a.m., 9:45 a.m. Sunday School/Fellowship; 10:45 a.m. contemporary service * * *	CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY 900 14th Ave SE, Waseca 507-833-1082 Sunday Worship 10:00 a.m., Sun Evening 6:00 p.m., Wed. evening 6:30 p.m. * * *	FIRST LUTHERAN Missouri Synod Waldorf, Minnesota Vacancy Pastor: Rev. Larry Sipe Sundays: Worship 8 a.m.; 9:10 a.m. Sunday School and adult bible class * * *	BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 43089 180th St., Morristown Pastor Kathy King Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Summer worship hours, (10:45 a.m. Worship, winter) * * *
ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca 507-833-1703 Sundays 9:00 a.m. * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday School, Choir and Choir; 10:30 a.m. Worship Monday - 1 p.m. Quilters Wednesday - 7 p.m. Worship * * *	IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Freedom Township Sunday - 9:15 a.m. Worship * * *	ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH 307 W. 2nd St, Janesville 10 a.m. - Mass * * *
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 314 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-2647 Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m. * * *	ST. PETER EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Otisco, Minnesota Rev. Scott Williams, Pastor Thursday - 6:30 p.m. Soup & Study Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship * * *	ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST Pastor Ava Adams-Morris Waldorf, Minnesota Sunday — 9 a.m. Worship * * *	FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 Owen St., Janesville Pastor Sarah Krolak * * *
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwaseca@hickorytech.net) Worship Sunday 10 a.m. * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Mary Iverson Sunday - 9 a.m. Sunday Worship, Sunday School; 10 a.m. Coffee Monday - 9 a.m. Quilting Wednesday - 6:15 p.m. Confirmation; 7 p.m. Council meeting * * *	ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC Waldorf, Minnesota Father Brian Mulligan Sunday - 8 a.m. Worship * * *	ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL CHURCH Alma City, Minnesota Pastor Robert Harting Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship * * *
GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH 300 E Elm Ave, Waseca 507-835-1709 Worship Sunday 9 a.m. * * *	LESUEUR RIVER LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl Sunday - 9 a.m. Worship; 9:30 a.m. Sunday School Tuesday - 8:30 a.m. Quilting * * *	TRINITY LUTHERAN Wilton Township Rev. Larry Sipe, Pastor Sunday - 8 a.m. summer worship; 10:45 a.m. Worship starting Sept. 1 * * *	TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Smiths Mill, Minnesota Pastor Robert Harting Thursday - 7:00 p.m. Worship Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Worship * * *
SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH 111 4th St NW, Waseca Father Glenn Ferichs 507-835-1222 Worship Sundays 10:00 a.m., Tues. and Wed. at 8:30 a.m. and Thurs. at 7 a.m.; Saturdays at 5 p.m. * * *	VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota * * *	THE CHURCH of JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS Brad Donner, Branch President Waseca, Minnesota www.lds.org Sunday — 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School Wednesday — 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages	NORTH WASECA LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA 404 30 120th St. Waseca Pastor Sarah Krolak 507-234-6463 Sunday - 8:45 a.m. Worship; Second Sunday "Young at heart" Wednesday - 6:30 p.m. confirmation * * *
REAL LIFE CHURCH 620 W Elm Ave, Waseca * * *			NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE WASECA COUNTY PIONEER.

■ Briefs

from Page 5

North Waseca Lutheran Scandinavian Dinner Sunday, Nov. 17
North Waseca Lutheran Church, located at 40430 120th Street in

Waseca, is having its 36th annual Scandinavian Dinner the evening of Sunday, Nov. 17. Adults are \$20; children 10 and under \$10. Carryout is available or eat by reservation. To make a reservation call Roy Srp 507-521-1185 or Greg Thomson 612-619-3868. The menu will include Swedish meatballs with mashed potatoes, coleslaw, jellied cranberries or Lutefisk w/white sauce and lefse.



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Janesville

1924

-Thos. Schall, Republican candidate for United States senator, delivered a characteristic speech in Janesville Wednesday afternoon. The address had been advertised for three o'clock at the Town Hall. But as the speaker was late in getting here it was held on the street at the Foley corner. Mr. Schall held the crowd two hours and twenty-five minutes, from four until after six o'clock. Probably never before in Janesville was an audience in Janesville more completely hypnotized by a spell-binder.

- To the Argus Editor: I have been thinking that a short description of some of the points in the west which I visited this summer might be of interest to your readers, although other from Janesville have covered much of the same route and have written of it more interestingly, perhaps, than I can do. One state of whose beauty I have never before been fully aware, is Colorado. While enroute we spent a few days in Colorado Springs and from there visited "Pike's Peak," Garden of the Gods" and "Cave of the Winds." Pike's Peak is without a doubt America's most famous mountain; its name is indelibly woven into the romance, history and development of our country and is fittingly named the "Monument of the Continent." The public now has the opportunity to ascend to its summit in automobiles over a new road, smooth and even as a pavement.

- Thos. Savage, Jr., is an exception among men. Usually self interests actuate them and govern their motives. There is nothing wrong about all this as it comes entirely from the promptings of human nature and is the universal custom in business. But Thos. Declares that he does not endorse the philosophy and will not be governed by its drastic demands. And so he favors a low tariff on butter and all farm products in the interests of the laboring classes. In his opinion the tariff on butter is altogether too high. He wants the man who is working by the day to have enough money to buy what he wants to eat regardless of the farmer and regardless of all other considerations and he recognizes that this may only be done by a very low price for farm products.

1949

- Double parking is prohibited by the Minnesota Traffic Act, and any tolerance of double parking, expressed or implied, is without legal ground. This is the answer of the State Highway Department to suggestions that "there ought to be a law." Double parking, besides hindering the free movement of traffic, is a frequent cause of accidents. The law does not use the term "double parking," but makes it illegal to park "on the roadway side of any vehicle stopped or parked at the edge or curb of a street." Whether the vehicle is attended or unattended makes no difference. If there is no vehicle at the curb, there is still less excuse for parking outside the parking lane. The law provides that, except where angle parking is permitted, the right-hand wheels of the parked vehicle must be parallel to and within 12 inches of the curb.

- Mrs. Ida Gutfleisch passed away at her home in Janesville on Friday, September 30, death being due to complications of old age. She had been in failing health for several years. The deceased was born on October 18, 1856, in Woodstock, Illinois and was a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. William Winegar of New Richland. She came to this community when a young child. She was a member of St. John's Episcopal Church. In 1879, she was joined in wedlock with Chas. Gutfleisch of Janesville. The wedding took place in Janesville.

1974

- "The longer you stay in Janesville, the better you will like it. This town is snobbish at first, but only until they get to know you." Florence Whistler ought to know. Off and on, she's lived her all her life. One of the eight children of Martin Bromaghin, Florence moved to Janesville in the early 1900s when her parents bought a relinquishment of a quarter section. Florence interrupted our questions at this point and said, "Young people aren't interested in my history. This isn't an obituary, you know." That's Florence.

- Mayor Roy Hendricks says he will be waiting at the wet edge of Janesville to welcome David Kunst as he comes within 10 miles of completing his World Walk. "You mark my words, the closer he gets to town, the more interest and excitement there will be," the mayor said. "You bet I'm going to be out there to welcome him. When was the last time someone passed through here who had just walked around the world?"

- Blooming Prairie and New Richland stayed undefeated in the Gopher Friday night while Medford stung the Bears 14-6 to put a temporary damper on homecoming festivities here. The Bears battled the Tigers all the way but just could not overcome the halftime lead. Medford scored first when Todd Zelinski broke loose in the second quarter and raced 20 yards into the end zone with 7:49 remaining. Arne Johnson's point-after kick was good to give the Tigers a 7-0 edge. With just 32 seconds remaining in the half, Gary Reinhard bullied the pigskin across from three yards out. Again the point-after kick split the goal posts and the Tigers had the final lead, 14-6. There was no scoring in the second half.

1999

- The Truman Tourney has been good medicine for the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton volleyball team in past years. It proved to be good again Sept. 25 when the Bulldogs won three of four matches, including avenging their only loss, to successfully defend their championship of a year ago. The Bulldogs, who have won eight of their last 11 matches, improved their season's record at 7-8, including five of 11 wins on the road. "We had a pretty good day, but we really didn't start playing well until the championship match," said JWP coach Michelle Johnson.

- In today's hectic world people are often searching for ways to find peace amongst the chaos. Through its many programs, Holy Spirit Retreat Center, located just a few miles outside of Janesville, offers this much needed peace and tranquility. Since Oct. 1, 1998, 2,700 people have used the facilities. The retreat center's popularity has grown so that most weekends are scheduled a year in advance. In addition to offering retreats and day programs, Holy Spirit Retreat Center has opened its La Foresta Hermitage. Since last October, 42 people have used this hermitage. Some come for a day while others stay for a weekend or week. Nestled along Lake Elysian, it is of no surprise that many have found their way to the scenic retreat center.

Waseca

25 Years Ago: October 12

-The beautiful hill acquired by the city in 1967 continues to be a valuable addition to the community park system. The park is a place for a picnic, for walking, for nature study, for fishing, for cross country skiing. Visitors to the park in the fall will find beauty of the leaves as they chance colors.

-More than 130 second graders from six classes at Hartley Elementary School were on a nature hunt in the maple-basswood forest with the assistance of about 55 mothers and teachers. The trip was part of the students' "Signs for Fall" unit. They were looking for leaves from green ash, red oak, white oak, basswood, and sugar maple trees, as well as pine needles, bird feathers, smooth stones and acorns.

-Itron, Inc., headquartered in Spokane, Washington, recently announced it will consolidate all of its high volume manufacturing operations into its Waseca facility. Itron's Boise, Idaho, facility, will be closed. The company said the moves are part of an overall strategic initiative program aimed at lower operating costs, improving profitability and focus on growth opportunities.

-The Waseca School Board voted at its meeting Thursday night to present diplomas to World War II veterans who left school to fight in the war. The diplomas will be presented to those veterans or family members of dead veterans during the Veteran's Day program that will be held at the high school Nov. 11. "This is a neat opportunity to reward them for the sacrifices they made for our country," said Waseca Superintendent Jim Schmitt.

50 Years Ago: October 3

- Contented smoker – DUTCH BATHKE, retired fireman, puffed contentedly on his pipe Monday afternoon as hundreds of Wasecans resisted the urge to "light up." Bathke who has been smoking a pipe for 47 years claimed he couldn't quit because he had enough tobacco at home to fill a barrel.



-Gives blood – WES BRYANT, first district commander from the Waseca V.F.W. was one of the members to give blood at the V.A. Hospital at Fort Snelling Sunday afternoon.

75 Years Ago

-All hunters are warned to get slips printed in red ink, issued by the conservation department, showing revised hunting regulations for 1949 for deer, ruffed grouse, pheasants, and Hungarian partridge. These red printed slips should be followed for the above named species instead of the black and white folder on "Hunting and Trapping Regulations" previously issued.

-Governor Luther Youngdahl and his wife sat beside Rev. and Mrs. Emrys P. Thomas at a dinner given in honor of the governor at the Congregational church preceding his talk in Waseca last Tuesday. The governor spoke at Central high school on the subject, "Youth, Our Greatest Asset." Rev. Thomas is president of the Waseca Youth Commission, which sponsored the talk.

-Dayton Roesler, 16-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Roesler, miraculously escaped death Sunday when he grabbed a live wire in the woods near his home. The quick thinking and presence of his 11-year-old companion, Rollin Schauer, probably saved his life.

100 Years Ago

-Friday was a big day for the city police force, not that they made particularly notable arrests or were subjected to risks however. They were busy, that's all, rounding up five boys, none of them over 15, who had "skipped" home and were headed for adventure wherever they might find it.

-The Waseca Independent football team won from the New Richland football eleven at New Richland last Sunday by a 7 to 0 score. For three quarters the two teams see-sawed back and forth over the gridiron with neither team able to score. Waseca put over the punch in the final minutes of the game when Puster threw a long pass to Gilligan for a twenty yard gain placing the ball on the thirty yard line.

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Veteran Car Donations

New Richland

25 Years Back



- The staff at St. Isidore's School of Litomysl for the 1999-2000 years includes: from the left (back)Mrs. Tammy Barnes, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade teacher, Mrs. Stacey Wobschall, principal and Kindergarten , 1st and 2nd grade teacher, (Front) Mrs. Anne Nylund, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade teacher and Mrs. Bev Anderson, part-time secretary and librarian.

- On September 7, St. Isidore's School of Litomysl opened its doors once again to thirty-five anxious kindergarten through eighth grade students. The principal at St. Isidore's School this year is Mrs. Stacy Wobschall of Geneva. This is the seventh year Stacy has been at St. Isidores. Returning to teach the 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students this year at St. Isidores is Mrs. Anne Nylund of Owatonna. Returning to teach the 6th, 7th and 8th grade students is Mrs. Tammy Barnes of Owatonna. Father Bert Boschert S.J is the superintendent of St. Isidore's School. Bev Anderson or rural Litomysl, is continuing as the part-time secretary, as well as the school librarian. Karen Wencil of rural Blooming Prairie, is returning as the school nurse. Sue Robbins of rural Blooming Prairie, is returning as the school lunch bookkeeper and Marie Kaplan of Hope, as the school bookkeeper.



- The NRHEG Defense stays strong during their game on Friday night, even through the big snow flakes that were coming down. The Panthers won the game against Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton 36-0. The NRHEG Football Team proved Friday eveningthey can play through anything. With 3 inches of snow on the ground, they pounded on JWP 36-0. The offense went to work on the first drive, with Nate Wayne scoring the touchdown on a 10 yard run. They traveled 62 yards on 10 plays. Nate also ran for the PAT, putting the Panthers on top 8-0. Coach Schultz commented, "Our defense held them to 7 yards total while we racked up 376 yards. We dominated the line of scrimmage. Nate Watne ran hard. We had to run a lot of simple drives to Nate because of three inches of snow on the ground. The Panthers are ranked No. 3 in Class 2A.

50 Years Back

- An eight pound four ounce girl was born to Brian and Barbara Nelson of Ellendale on Thursday, January 15 at Health Central of Owatonna. Seh is their first child and has been named Janet Frances.

- Timothy J. Kelly of rural Ellendale has been placed on the honor list at Mankato State University, announced vice president of academic affairs, Dr. Philip Kendall. Two thousand one hundred-twenty students earned a 3.5 to 3.99 average to qualify for the honor list.

- The Raiders girls Varsity basketball team took over sole possession of the number one spot by defeating Waterville-Elysian, 52-47, last Friday night at Waterville. The win puts E-G at 7-0 in the Conference and the only team undefeated in Conference play. The two teams played even up in first quarter. 10-10. Ellendale started to expert a little more defensive pressure and scored slightly better in the second quarter. 24-20. The third quarter was again dominated by E-G. At times they had increased their lead to 12 points, but dropped to a 9 point advantage, 39-30, at the end of the quarter. Early in the fourth the girls led again by 12, but each time it looked like they would "Put Waterville away" Waterville came back.



- Olson-Paulson wed november 29. Janice Michele Olson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jimmie Olson of rural Ekkendale, became the bride of Dennis Allen Paulson, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Paulson of Owatonna, on November 29 at First Lutheran Church in Blooming Prairie. The Rev. Clifford Schroeder officiated at the late afternoon double-ring ceremony. Maid of honor was Teresa Deml. Bridesmaids were Rochelle Thomspn and Tammy Esplan. Tom Paulson, brother of the groom, was best man. Groomsman were Rich Paulson, brother of the Groom, and Gary Kaplan. Jon, Jeff and Jimmie Olson, brothers of the bride, and Curt Nelson were ushers. Following the ceremony a reception wawa held at the church. In the evening a dance was held at the Monterey Ballroom. The couple is at home in Ellendale.

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It was bundle-up weather but people still enjoyed Hocus Pocus at Aspyn Acres on Saturday. Photo by Ben Revermann

Family, friends and animals enjoy ‘Hocus Pocus’ movie

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The Aspyn Acres Wildlife Rescue and Farm Sanctuary held its third movie night of the year on Saturday, October 12. After an online vote, “Hocus Pocus” had won out over “Casper.” The movie started at 8 p.m.; the temperature was cool enough, and the cows close enough, their breath was easily visible in the starlight.

Aspyn Acres operator Chasity Lynn kept the farm grounds dark before the movie started, apparently to help everyone’s eyes adjust. In light coming from a building where sheep and goats and turkeys sleep, young children darted about trying to keep up with the animals. Calm cattle obviously accustomed to human interaction snacked on their food; one even gave visitors an occasional rough-tongued lick on the arm. As the evening continued, more and more hoods and hats appeared on people’s heads.

Another source of light was a popcorn popper next to a tray of Halloween cookies. Karen Prange’s “The Signery” was selling popcorn and cookies and donating all proceeds to Aspyn Acres. Said Prange, “I just love it out here; I love what’s been done and all that this place does and how free the animals are.” Near to the popcorn stand were two Emus running along the fences of their yard in the dark. On the other side of that, turkeys were eyeing children, next to that were Canadian Geese, eyeing the children who were eyeing the turkeys.

Aspyn Acres takes in both injured or unwanted farm animals and rescued wild creatures. Lynn said,

“We’re licensed both state and federally to take in and nurse animals in need through neglect or mistreatment.” The organization’s website states they help well over 230 animals a year with 15 acres to roam and 31 species cared for. The farm held a Barnyard Yoga Fundraiser on October 5 and 6; as those in attendance moved and meditated, resident animals moved among them, sniffing around and making their presence known.

The one who stole the show, however, was a little mallard duck named Darwin. He was patient enough to allow kids to pick him up and fast enough to waddle away if he didn’t want their attention. He was impeccably groomed, and his bites were all surprise, no bite. Currently, Lynn said, “There are 47 animals present. Aspyn Acres is in small part grant funded and majority donation with everything volunteer run. We also have college age internships.” Aspyn Acres is a 501c Non-Profit and with very few rehab centers like this for animals Aspyn Acres. Kayte Dahms, volunteer, loves it out here, “I come in, feed, clean, water for both the farm sanctuary and wildlife rehabilitation. I also like helping with intake, oh yeah, and movie night.” To volunteer time or to donate, find the organization’s website at www.aspyn-acres.com

When the clock struck 8 p.m. there were blankets spread out on the hillside, kids were nestled up under quilts, licking salt from popcorned fingers or eating cookies. The credits for Focus Pocus started and the sound was adjusted. With soft moonlight and stars overhead, everyone quieted down and enjoyed the show.

WWII Veteran Honored



Waseca American Legion Post 228 honored Raymond Powell, 98, of Waseca on October 8. Powell is the final remaining Post member who served during World War II. He was presented with a commemorative pin by Legion representatives and with a quilt made by members of the Legion Auxiliary. Pictured with Powell are (from left) Gary Bohm, Lamar Kuster and Mike Kaiser representing the Legion and Tania Mettler, Louise Hagey and Cindy Dickie representing the Auxiliary. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

Waseca volleyball hosts breakfast fundraiser

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

Despite a chilly start to the day, people came out in support of Waseca’s Fusion Jo Volleyball at the Waseca Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) building, where they hosted an all-you-can-eat breakfast on Saturday, Oct. 13.

The Fusion Jo Volleyball team for varsity: Siri Kuhns, Aiyah Taylor, Ellie Hoehn, Ellery Waldron, Alyssa Kilmer, Kalea Sartori, Kendall Bowers, Takara Slattery, Katy Eldeen, Lily Owens, Ma’Lanie Engel and Savannah Vagts.

For B-Squad: Maddi Broughten-Corder, Avery Barto, Ashley Fliflet, Emily Mumme, Abby Lapides, Asia Mayberry, Remy Murphy, Makya Donovan, Brooke Bartelt, Hanna Sommers, Savannah Vagts, Zoey Dunn, Mia Mitchell and Maddie Root.

C-Squad: Brier Hayes, Ella Swindle, Addison Zimmerman, Patsy Sandoval Pliego, Tatyana Johnson, Megan Thursdale, Liah Adams, Nariah and Naveiah Pickett, Jazelle Neal, Oriana Jewison, Madison McColley, Olivia Eaton, Maddie

Banzick, Onna’ Ki Abrego and Ailim Rivera.

Dennis Paulson, who was in charge on Sunday and who has been doing breakfasts like these for the past nine years said, “We are here to serve breakfast and it’s for a good cause.” His wife, Bessie Paulson said, “We do 15 or so breakfasts like this every year from September through May and it really helps those people out.” The VFW purchased their wares from Hermel in Mankato, then will donate all proceeds to Fusion Jo Volleyball. Said Dennis, “They can use the funds for whatever they need, bus trips, volleyball uniforms, volleyballs, just anything.” Many don’t know it, but all the people working in the VFW on the day of the breakfast are volunteering.

According to Dennis, events like this are pretty well attended, “We usually expect and receive from 150 to 200 people. That one hockey event on September 8, we had 300 people through here. The biscuits and gravy ran out right away, but you can’t predict that kind of stuff, either it lasts or it doesn’t.” His wife



From left: Bessie Paulson, Earl Guse, Karen Norby and Dennis Paulson at the VFWs Fusion Jo Volleyball fundraiser on Sunday, October 13, 2024. Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

Bessie added, “We sold pre-sale tickets, that’s why it was so busy that morning.” Earl Guse was leaving the VFW with a full belly, when asked what he ate this morning he heartily replied, “The works, a little bit of everything, except coffee.”

Organizers reveal the VFW is working to start a burger night once a week on Tuesday evenings from September through May. Summer-time for the VFW can wind down a little because so many people are vacationing or are away during the

week. Summer weekends can pick up a little, but it’s the winter months that are the busy season.

Besides the Tuesday burger nights, on Sunday, Oct. 27 the VFW will again host an all-you-can-eat breakfast, this time it will be for the Waseca Chorale. Tickets for anyone 14 and older are \$12; children ages 6 to 13 are \$7 each. Anyone 5 and under eats for free. The menu will include pancakes, French toast, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage and biscuits and gravy.

■ Narcan

from Page 1

community and then find ways to meet them. Ayers mentions that public health works with school counselors, mental health agencies and others to target its efforts, many of which aim to educate young people about the dangers of drug use and encourage them to find more uplifting free time activities.

County opioid settlement coordinator Andrea Kronbach explains one objective is to maximize the visibility of services already offered by agencies within the communities, help those agencies collaborate among themselves, and steer people toward the programs which meet their needs and interests. Prevention, of course, is a long-term approach.

One very immediate service is that the public health agency, located at 1000 W. Elm in Waseca, provides Narcan for free. Persons who fear a loved one or acquaintance has a chance of overdosing on an opioid—most famously fentanyl, but also OxyContin and heroin—can acquire a dose of this medication which can revive someone experiencing an otherwise-fatal episode. The idea is to have it handy for quick use in case an overdose occurs.

“Some people haven’t encountered it in their own lives, so they’re probably not aware of the ways drug abuse and mental illness complicate the work of public safety officials,” comments Sheriff Dulas. “But those complications are some of the biggest difficulties we face on a day-to-day basis.”

Task force leader Johnson describes undercover investigations which reveal drug deals are much more common than most people are aware. He speaks of setting up surveillance cameras in order to prepare for a drug bust and catching footage of numerous sales taking place in the planned location.

“If you see some beat-up cars way off at the edge of a large parking lot, and people going back and forth between them, that’s quite possibly a



Matt DuRose of the Mankato Department of Public Safety; Barb Kaus, president of the Greater Mankato Area United Way; and Blue Earth County Sheriff Jeff Wersal shared their outlooks at a September 17 “Opioid and Fentanyl Crisis Awareness” session held in Mankato. Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

drug buy,” Johnson says.

In addition to the problems they cause for society, Wecover leader Johnson describes, mental health difficulties and addiction lead to a great deal of personal anguish.

“There’s nothing simple about it,” he says regarding entering recovery and then avoiding relapses. “It’s a constant struggle, and everybody stumbles somewhere along the journey.”

He told of one individual he is working with who, after having received financial help from parents to attend an expensive treatment program, is now deeply embarrassed to admit she has relapsed and may need to attend it again.

During a presentation on the topic held in Mankato on Sept. 17, one recovering user admitted to a long list of thefts and law violations, and revealed she had even collected a dog’s urine to submit for a test meant to determine whether she had violated her parole by using drugs.

“People are the loved ones and family members of the community I serve. I take every injury, every death personally.” — Waseca Sheriff Jay Dulas

Another speaker at the same session, recovering addict Kara Richardson who eventually acquired a job helping understand behavior of addicts incarcerated in the county jail, told of a suicide she prevented. A young woman had tried to hang herself using her shirt. “People experiencing withdrawal from fentanyl go through a real crisis.” Richardson named symptoms including complete incontinence, hallucinations, nausea, pain, and sometimes “pseudo-seizures.”

“Addicts are victims, too,” said Richardson. “They’ve been pulled into a very dark place and they don’t think there’s any way to come back

into the light.”

Discussing the activity of drug dealers, Dulas says cartels and the people who work for them view drug users as “numbers,” and suggested that a certain number of deaths among their customers is viewed as an acceptable loss.

“But to me, people are the loved ones and family members of the community I serve,” he said. “I take every injury, every death personally. “None of us know what the answer is, but we’re all doing everything we can to cope with the circumstances and find ways to chip away at the problem.”

United Women in Faith



The United Women in Faith of Waseca’s Faith United Methodist Church recently presented donations to the Waseca Public Schools and Waseca Area Caregiver Services (WACS). From left: The donation presented at Hartley Elementary is being used to allow six children in need to get snacks from the building’s food cart. There are 14 children still unable to receive snacks at this time. The donation to WACS will be used to purchase program supplies for the “Some Time Away” program. At the Waseca Intermediate School, money given will supply tokens to ride the in-town Southern Minnesota Area Rural Transit (SMART) buses, making it possible for students to attend after-school events.

County offers downed trees for those who burn wood

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

Waseca County residents who burn wood may want to look into the chance to acquire a free trailer load of logs being given away at Courthouse Park on Thursday, Nov. 7.

County facilities supervisor Teddy Hoehn explains a massive collection of logs between 5 and nearly 20 feet long will be given away to county residents who make an appointment in advance, bring a suitable trailer, and sign a waiver releasing the county from liability. Hoehn and two other county employees will be there that day with equipment capable of loading the trailers.

The logs come from a variety of types of trees: all are deadwood removed from the forested areas of Courthouse Park. Thinking of a

trailer about 20 feet long, Hoehn estimates there are at least 20 loads of logs available for those willing to come get them.

“We’ve had an unusual number of trees just fall down this year,” he explains. “We’ve removed the branches and run them through the chipper, but kept the larger diameter wood in logs.”

In speaking with other park supervisors and agencies, Hoehn explains the unusual number of downed trees is likely due to last year’s drought having been followed by this June’s wet conditions.

“They believe the root systems lost some of their reach in the dry weather. Then, when the ground became so wet, they no longer had enough of a system to hold.” Many of the trees fell during storms, Hoehn says, but many also seem to have

fallen spontaneously.

Though all the available logs were collected this year, some had already been down for a while, so the wood will be dry to various degrees. None of the wood is soft or rotted.

“This is the first time we’ve done a give-away like this,” Hoehn says. “So we’ll be figuring out some of the procedures bit by bit.”

“We think this is a good system, though, since it removes the unwanted wood from the park and also serves as a benefit to those who can make good use of it.”

Any county resident interested in making an appointment to pick up wood on Nov. 7 should start with contacting Hoehn by the deadline at 4 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 31. His office phone is 507-835-0525; email: teddy.hoehn@wasecacounty.gov.



Waseca County Facilities Supervisor Teddy Hoehn next to a fallen tree in Waseca County’s Courthouse Park. Logs from downed trees are being made available to county residents who can make use of them.
Pioneer photo by Deb Bently



From left: Mikhail Rostislavovich, Collin Worke, Ed Frederick, Jodie Thompson, Tiffany Lynch, Abby Clemons, Kristie Biehn, Emily Knudsen, Marcy Buchele, Bill Bartz, Kevin Walter, Larry Johnson.

Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm Receives Progress Award

Waseca, MN – October 9, 2024 – The Waseca Area Chamber of Commerce Ambassadors are pleased to announce Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm as the recipient of a Progress Award. This recognition highlights the farm’s continued commitment to enhancing the local experience while maintaining its unique charm and customer-first approach.

Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm, owned and operated by Bill Bartz and Emily Knudson, is a beloved destination known for its wood-fired pizzas and scenic setting. The business recently introduced a new outdoor bar to better serve its customers. The addition has been a game-changer, offering an inviting space where guests can enjoy beer and wine, as well as non-alco-

holic refreshments while still embracing the farm’s long-standing BYOB policy, which allows patrons to bring their favorite beverages for an added personal touch to their visit.

“We are thrilled to receive the Progress Award,” said the owners of Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm. “Our goal has always been to provide a welcoming and relaxed environment where families and friends can gather and enjoy good food in the beauty of nature. The new outdoor bar is just one way we’re working to improve the experience for everyone who visits.”

Chamber Ambassador Chair Kristie Biehn shared that “Emily and Bill are always evolving out here at the Farm—new flavor creations, new experiences for their customers, and new events.

Each season gives patrons a reason to come back and generate new memories. This outdoor bar is part of their evolution.”

Located on a charming farmstead just outside of Waseca, Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm has become a local favorite, drawing visitors from across the region and beyond for its unique blend of farm-fresh food, community spirit, live music, and rustic atmosphere. Their commitment to supporting local agriculture and offering a one-of-a-kind dining experience continues to make a positive impact on the Waseca area.

For more information about Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm, visit their website at <https://pleasantgrovepizzafarm.com>.



Exchange Club members from left: Perry Berg, Jake Lieser, Mikhail Rostislavovich, Deb Bently, Lyndsea Bulfer, and Christy Easton. The group helped with the ‘adopt a highway’ initiative.

Exchange club promotes ‘Adopt a highway’ initiative

Mikhail Rostislavovich, president of the Waseca Exchange Club, and Perry Berg, chair of the Exchanges Adopt-A-Highway project with fellow Exchangers, want to bring community awareness to the program.

Rostislavovich said that the state Adopt-A-Highway volunteer program helps keep Minnesota highways and rest areas clean and free of litter by relying on public-spirited groups to pick up trash along their adopted section. “Ours happens to be along Highway 14 as you enter Waseca. This particular program only involves state-owned property.”

Adopt-A-Highway also enables residents who are environmentally conscious to make a personal contribution to a cleaner environment.

Berg described that community groups, churches, individuals, or businesses adopt a designated section of highway and commit to picking up litter along both sides of their highway section twice a year, usually in spring and fall. Groups can also adopt designated state rest areas.

Lyndsea Bulfer, who volunteered to help with the project, enjoys the benefits the program offers by keeping our roadsides beautiful and free

of debris. She commented that “it’s a way we can say we care about our community and our state while allowing organizations and families to be involved with their communities.”

Saying nothing about the revenue we can save taxpayers.

It’s a great project with little financial impact on our clubs, MnDot provides the bags, approved safety vests, and training and retrieves the bags of debris that you collect. “It costs us nothing but about 4 hours of our time,” said Rostislavovich.



From left: Rea Sikel, 4, Jim, 38, Warren, 5, Edith, 18 months and Ashley, 34, were selling apples at the Waseca Farmers Market on Sat., Oct. 12, 2024.
Photo by Ben Revermann

Local apple experts

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

To help further the fall season along, Sikel Farmstead was at the Waseca Farmers Market on the county fairgrounds on Saturday, Oct. 12. Armed with pies, eggs, lemonade and baskets full of apples, the five-member family was ready for business.

Jim Sikel, 38, and his wife Ashley, 34, were sitting on the back of their forest green truck at the Waseca fairgrounds, the sun was shining. In front of them were tables of apples, including Honey Crisp, Sweet 16 and Connell Red. Their three children were running around at their feet as they spoke. Warren is 5; his little sister Rea is 4; little Edith is 18 months old. Lifelong area residents, Ashley is originally from Morristown and Jim is from Waterville. Said Jim, “We have a little hobby farm out by Toners Lake. We planted 16 apple trees for a hobby and to feed the cows and

kids. We have lots of extra, so we got the idea to try the farmers market.”

Ashley offers that she may have gone a bit far a few years back. “We were going to Drummers in Mankato to buy apple trees for our hobby farm and we ended up buying every apple tree they had.” Already in August this year, the family started bringing apples from the trees that were ready. “We’ve been coming here for the past five weeks, the apples that were ready at that time were Snow Sweets and Zestars. That’s how we kind of wanted the apples to ripen, some early and some later, and it’s really worked out.” Ashley said she also liked to make apple crisp and applesauce and apple cobbler. For the applesauce she said “We put a bunch of apples in the crock pot and when they are ready we crush them and get applesauce. We also just bought an apple press yesterday so we are going to try our hand at cider pretty soon.”

Ashley and Jim relate that the few cows they have on their hobby farm love to eat the extra apples and any leavings. They have a total of 12 different varieties of apples. They mention that, although their children are a bit young right now, they look forward to the time when they will begin helping pick the apples—hopefully next year. One farmers market shopper observed “The market changes what it sells as the season goes on; during summer, you get vegetables and fruits that have ripened. Once you get further into August and October you get the bakers and people who make jams and jellies. This adds to the many different products you get by going to the farmer’s market.”

The market will be open for two more October Saturdays, and then will close until next June.

A big thanks goes out to Jim and Ashley Sikel and the entire Sikel Farmstead for keeping the Waseca Farmers Market alive as the season winds down.

Potato Bar



From left: Wendy Mann, Sherry Kuckenbecker, Jane Guggisberg, Peggy Olson, Linda Jensen, Carol Carter, Diane Munson and Deb Vanderhoist manning the potato bar at Christ the King Lutheran Church on Friday, Oct. 11, 2024.
Pioneer photo by Ben Revermann

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Alaina
3rd Grade

Alaina follows the Bluejay Way in everything that she does. She leads by example and shows others what respect looks like by whole body listening, participating in class, using an appropriate voice and being a kind friend. Way to go!



Tenley
1st Grade

Tenley is an excellent example of a Rockstar Bluejay. She is kind, respectful, and helpful to others. She leads by example and comes to school each day with a smile and a positive attitude. Way to go, Tenley!



Averi
2nd Grade

Averi shows respect for herself by having a positive attitude. She participates and follows directions during WIN stations. Averi always does her very best work and is a good example of a Brilliant Bluejay! Great job, Averi.

Brilliant+ Bluejays



Aubrey
Kindergarten

Aubrey shows respect for herself by always doing her best and being ready to learn. She is a whole body listener and always participates in class. Aubrey follows directions and has a positive attitude about school and learning!



Dallas
1st Grade

Dallas shows respect for himself by always doing his best work. Dallas is always ready to learn, participates in class, listens, and always follows directions the first time. Keep up the good work!



Remi
2nd Grade

Remi shows respect for herself in many ways at school. Remi is a good listener, shows whole body listening, follows directions, and works quietly. Keep up the great work, Remi!

Council from Page 5

terson suggested that since the city already works with the JWP school district by providing a school resource officer, they could have the community education director double as the community center director. Any events scheduled would go through that person.

Two barriers preventing the project from making further progress at this time are funding and location. They can't apply for grants or ask for funds from most private donors without having a set location, and the location can affect project cost.

Council member and EDA representative Ivan Maas explained that several months ago, the EDA received visits from senators who had one hour to visit with them on the project. Maas felt it was a "dog and pony show," as it wasn't 15 minutes before they stood up and said they couldn't provide any funding; they said their dollars are the last ones that should go into a project like a community center.

The committee is considering two locations on the south side of town, both near Highway 14. Salaba noted the location "will be a critical aspect to market this project."

"If we're going out to raise private funds, we need a location. We have a dedicated committee of people putting in a lot of hours to make this work. We're at a critical phase, and we want to see where your minds are."

When the floor was opened to questions and comments, Mayor Andy Arnoldt clarified his concerns. "I appreciate the committee and all the hard work it's put in. Obviously, we stare at budgets all the time. We need to know more about costs."

Salaba assured him his committee isn't looking for any financial commitment at this time, aside from a potential "first right of refusal" on any land they are looking to purchase for the center; the right to refusal would give the city/committee a contractual right to match or decline to match offers others might place on selected pieces of property.

"We are hoping to fund this project privately and with grants as much as possible," he added. "We're looking for the council's support to keep moving forward."

Arnoldt then asked if they would be willing to scale the project down to make it more achievable. "In my opinion, the gymnasium in this center will mostly be used by the school,"

he said. "That's a school problem, not a city problem. I think the school should put a referendum out to help fund this." Maas pushed back, pointing out that nearly all community centers within the area have a gymnasium that's used constantly. "It's tough to get tournaments and games booked at some of these places," he added. "In the past, I think the council's been very supportive of the concept," he pointed out. "If we can find a way to assist, I think the council's positive." Arnoldt then pointed out that even if the project is fully paid for through grants and donations, there still will be maintenance costs that he figured would be about \$250,000 a year, which he feared would fall on the tax base.

"I think one thing out of this was that the conversation ten years ago was that we need a community center," Peterson replied. "If you had a large gathering, where would you go? As a concerned citizen, Janesville is a prime spot with no central location to offer. I understand the business side of it, but I think the city can make plenty of money from this."

Council member Jim Mulcahey saw both sides, as a community center would take care of many issues in town but also takes a lot of investment. "But we must be conscious of the costs to the constituents in our community. Not everyone is going to get a reward for it," he said.

"I think it is an important aspect of this community," he continued. "It may end up being our major industry in Janesville."

The council and committee had several other discussions. But by the end of it, Arnoldt suggested talking with the utility board to see if the city's power grid would be able to handle the load that a community center could put on the utilities. That was the first recommended step.

The council also advised the committee to talk to several companies and different "entities" like the Taylor Corporation or Crystal Valley to request funds for the project. "I think you should put together a pamphlet or some kind of literature to give to potential investors and contributors," Mulcahey suggested. "That should be one of the priorities within the next three or four months."

"Some may see you jousting at windmills," he continued, "but I see you guys exploring like Christopher Columbus and putting in the time to make this happen."

"Keep doing what you're doing and updating us, and we'll keep doing what we do," Arnoldt added.

Highway from Page 5

a few years back, but the road sees an average of 81 vehicles a day. Kollar reported sufficient "local option sales tax" monies were available to cover the job: The lowest bid of the three he had received was nearly \$824,000—about 4 percent lower than he had estimated it would be.

Ulland Brothers Inc. began the work of "rehabilitating" C.R. 64 bright and early the morning of Monday, Sept. 24. "Reclaimers," road working equipment 30 feet long, 10 feet wide and 12 feet tall, started at the south end of the road and moved northward. When they advanced, they moved slightly faster than walking speed, but also had to make frequent stops for quality control. Grinders on the reclaimers dug through the 7 inches or so of asphalt which had been on the road for more than two decades and about 2 inches down into the "aggregate" (sand and gravel) base underneath. All that material was mixed together inside the machine and put back down, now quite a bit deeper and less dense than it had been before.

Andrew Graupmann, engineering technician with the Waseca County Highway Department was present to measure and confirm the aggregate was being reached to the expected 9-inch depth. Much of the time, two reclaimers worked in parallel, one slightly ahead of the other, together grinding up a swath of roadway roughly 12 feet wide.

Behind them, a water truck sprayed the newly agitated material, and two different types of machines moved across the surface to press it back down. Their objective was to turn the "reclaimed" material into the base upon which the new road surface would be laid.

First in line was the "sheeps' foot," whose five-foot-diameter compaction drum has evenly spaced rectangular protrusions which deliver extra pressure. Not only that, but the entire machine vibrates; the ground shakes within 10 or more feet of it. The five-foot wide trail it leaves has regularly-spaced rectangular pits about 5 inches deep.

Not far behind the sheeps' foot was a "motor grader," the big, open-framed machine also commonly used to grade gravel roads in summer and clear snow in winter. The other, a roller, seems to have only tires, seven of them offset so they deliver even downward pressure.

"Until it gets resurfaced next week, it will be just like a gravel road," observed Graupmann, explaining that traffic would continue the process of compaction. Traffic would also help reveal any inconsistencies in the reclaimed asphalt by creating potholes, which could then be, to use one worker's word, "resolved."

On Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 3 and 4, a work crew comprised of different workers and new types of equipment returned. Stretched down the center of the two-mile run of road was a strong blue cord whose purpose is to mark a straight line. The largest machine in use for this part of the project was a "paver" capable of laying down a 14-foot-wide strip of asphalt to selected depths. For C.R. 64, the paver traveled the length of

the road four times.

Matt Carlson, a project manager with Ulland Brothers, was not only in charge of the worksite Oct. 3 and 4, he is also the one who evaluated the road prior to submitting the bid which won the contract. Carlson, 31, has been with Ulland Brothers since 2013.

Carlson explained the specifications for this job call for two "lifts," layers of asphalt put down one on top of each other. The bottom layer is specified to be 2.5 inches thick, the top, 2 inches. Each side should have a 2-percent grade, that is, should angle downward from the center of the road at a rate of 2 feet in every 100. Putting the asphalt down in two layers rather than all at once, he says, "creates a smoother ride."

Because the paver is laying two lifts each on the north- and south-bound lanes, it must go each direction twice. A mammoth machine about 15 feet wide and 25 feet long, it must wait for the 275-degree blacktop material to arrive and be laid down in "windrows" in front of it. According to Carlson, 30 trucks are constantly making the 70-mile round trip run to the company's facility in Glenville.

Referred to as "belly dumps," they are capable of carrying more than 20 tons of material, enough to pave about 135 feet of roadway, always depending on the depth and width it's being laid at. Even with 30 trucks on the job, the paver must occasionally wait at a standstill.

Once the material arrives, the machine has the ability to redistribute it across the 14-foot lane width according to the 2.5-inch, 2-foot-grade specifications. Two workers constantly watch the material for clumps or uneven surfaces. One walks ahead of the paver scanning the windrow. Carlson explains clumps might begin to form if a portion of the material

has cooled faster than the rest. Another worker rides on a "catwalk" at the back of the paver, watching to see that the smooth surface is uninterrupted behind him. At one point he sees a clump and steps off the catwalk onto the just-laid asphalt carrying a shovel and a smoothing tool with a handle about as long as that on a broom.

The asphalt is steaming. His shoes leave footprints.

He digs out the clump, pours replacement material into the gap, and smooths it over as though his tool is a giant trowel. Then he picks up his shovel and tool and catches up with the paver, stepping back onto the catwalk, which is less than a foot above the just-laid surface.

About a mile north of all this commotion, Ulland Brothers paving manager DJ Kruse arrives with a Bobcat on a trailer. He and a few other crew members, he explains, will be putting paving material at the ends of driveways along the road to create an asphalt ramp which will protect the road edge as traffic enters and leaves the driving lanes. "Only" about 15 tons of blacktop material will be needed for the task, he says, since only two driveways and a few field roads intersect with 64.

Asked what he understands about roads that everyday folk usually don't, Kruse says he's too deeply immersed in the process to guess. In answer to further questions, he mentions that newly laid roads are "tender" for a time on hot days when the sun shines down and heats them, which is why compaction is so important.

He refers to a quality control worker with a "nuclear" measuring device who is testing surfaces behind the paver. The "nuke," he says, measures how much "air" is in the roadway. The compacting crew, he explains, will be the last to leave the

worksite. The road can read no more than six percent "air" if it is going to meet specifications.

According to job manager Carlson, from beginning to end, the job of "reclaiming" the original road surface, leveling the new base, laying down the two "lifts" of new asphalt, "shouldering," and then "stripping" and "signing" the road called for between 20 and 25 workers and nearly as many different types of machines. Roughly 6 days of work were required, but the number is difficult to pin down, he says, depending on whether one counts the necessary days of waiting in between tasks.

Though the June bid date for C.R. 64 was later in the construction season than his company would typically take on a new project, he points out, the job is a "small" one, easily taken care of in between other, larger jobs.

Carlson classifies Ulland Brothers as being one of the five largest highway construction companies in Minnesota, depending on the criteria used. He notes that, between the company's Northern and Southern divisions, they pave asphalt throughout most of the state of Minnesota along with parts of Iowa from Northern Iowa up to International Falls on the border of Canada. . It being late in the May-to-November season, many of them are already completed.

Asked what he knows about roadways that typical drivers don't, his response is a quick laugh. "I know what it takes to make them last." He goes on to explain that most of the traveling public has no way to know the many steps and details which make it possible for a road to withstand up to 25 years of traffic and changing weather conditions.

He admits to frequently checking back on past company projects, examining the surface to see how well it's holding up.



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Member FDIC

Notice to Voters

November 5, 2024

General Election



Review the information below to learn about upcoming elections.

Access Your Sample Ballot	Find Your Polling Place	Additional Election Information
- Your official ballot will have the names of all candidates for your precinct. - To see a list of the names of candidates and questions that will be on the ballot for your precinct visit: mnvotes.gov/myballot - You may also be able to view your sample ballot online by scanning:  - You may request to have a free copy of your sample ballot mailed to you.	- Election Day is Tuesday, November 5. - You can find your Election Day Polling Place by visiting: mnvotes.gov/pollfinder Voting Before Election Day - You can vote early with an absentee ballot starting Friday, September 20. - You can vote early by mail, in person, or from the military or abroad. - Learn more by scanning: 	- Election Day Polling Places are open 7am to 8pm. - You may live in a precinct where a ballot is mailed to you as a mail ballot voter. - If voting by mail, return your ballot no later than 8pm on Election Day. - Election results will be available starting after 8pm on Election Day at: electionresults.sos.state.mn.us - Check to see if you are pre-registered to vote by scanning: 

Contact Your Local Election Official

- Your County Election Official:
- Can mail you a sample ballot
 - Keeps your voter registration record
 - Handles other parts of the voting

Election Official: Tamara J. Spooner
General phone: 507-835-0610
Website: wasecacounty.gov
307 State St N
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WASECA COUNTY LEASE OF PUBLIC LANDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Waseca County is soliciting bids for the lease of public land located in the Southeast Quarter of Section 5 and the Northeast Quarter of Section 8, Otisco Township, Waseca County. The land is located northeast and south of the Solid Waste and Recycling Center on parcels 080050300 and 080080200. The proposed leased property consists of four (4) sub-parcels totaling 112 tillable acres, more or less.

Bids will be received at the office of the County Engineer, located at 1495 5th St SE, PO Box 487, Waseca, MN 56093, until 3:00 pm, Friday October 25, 2024. Bids may be submitted in-person, by US Mail, or by email to jim.kollar@wasecacounty.gov. Bid forms and other pertinent information, including maps and the draft lease agreement, are available at the Office of the County Engineer, at the Solid Waste & Recycling Center located at 31080 State Hwy 13, Waseca, or by email request to jim.kollar@wasecacounty.gov or tammie.bramer@wasecacounty.gov.

Consideration of the bids and award of a lease agreement will be made by the Waseca County Board of Commissioners at their regular meeting held at 300 North State Street, Waseca, MN 56093 on November 5, 2024, at 9:30 am. The Waseca County Board of Commissioners reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive defects.

Jim Kollar, PE, Waseca County Public Works Director/County Engineer
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer: October 3rd, October 10th, October 17th and October 24th, 2024.

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PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

The City of Waseca Water Utility completed and submitted the customer (private property) owned water service line materials inventory to the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), as mandated by the MDH. The water service line inventory is publicly available. Customers are able to check the materials for your service line by visiting the Lead Inventory Tracking Tool (LITT) at <https://maps.umn.edu/LSL/>. To complete the water service line inventory, the Water Utility used construction dates, design records, excavation records, and visual inspections. As of 10/01/2024, the inventory contains 39 lead services, and 23 galvanized services that require replacement. There are 316 services of unknown material, and 3,000 compliant non-lead service lines.

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on Oct. 17, 2024.

CITY OF WASECA PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the City of Waseca **City Council** will consider **Ordinance No. 1119** at their meeting to be held at **7:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 6, 2024**, in the **COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF CITY HALL**, located at 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN.

Ordinance No. 1119 would extend the current THC and Cannabis Moratorium, which prohibits the sale, testing, manufacturing, cultivating, growing, transporting, delivery, and distribution of THC and cannabis products in the City of Waseca, until July 1, 2025. This extension is being proposed because the State's Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) has not yet finalized its THC and cannabis rules and regulations.

A complete copy of Ordinance No. 1119 is available in the office of the City Clerk, Waseca City Hall, 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093.

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on 10/17/24 and 10/24/24.

October 2, 2024

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Commissioners (the "Board") of Waseca County Economic Development Authority has issued a Request for Offers of Purchase and Development of PID No. 01.003.1050. also identified as 3071 380th Avenue, Janesville, Minnesota. The proposed sale of property from the Authority is authorized by Minnesota Statutes, Section 469.105, as amended.

The full Request for Offers of Purchase and Development documents and information can be accessed on the Waseca County Website Economic Development Authority page, <https://www.wasecacounty.gov/173/Economic-Development>, where the information packet may be viewed, or a copy may also be reviewed at Waseca County Planning and Zoning office, 300 N State Street, Waseca, MN 56093.

Offers for Purchase may be submitted in person or via email and will need to be received in the Planning and Zoning office located in the East Annex, (300 N State Street, Waseca, MN 56093) no later than 4:00p.m., Tuesday, November 12, 2024. Offers will be opened at the East Annex Small Conference Room on November 13, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. All offers will be reviewed by the EDA Board and evaluated based on several factors, including offer price and long-term community benefit. The Board may, in the best interest of the Economic Development Authority, reject any or all bids.

The Board of Commissioners (the "Board") of Waseca County Economic Development Authority will make a determination of acceptance at a public hearing scheduled for November 20, 2024, in the county meeting room located at 300 State Street N Waseca, MN 56093.

Questions regarding the properties may be submitted to the Community Development Coordinator, as noted below.

Sincerely,

Tina Wilson, Community Development Coordinator
300 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093
Tina.wilson@wasecacounty.gov or (507) 835-0538
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on Oct. 10, 17, 24, 31 and Nov. 7, 2024

WASECA COUNTY

PIONEER



County Wide SPECIAL!

We at the Waseca County Pioneer work tirelessly to bring the latest local news and information to Waseca, Janesville, New Richland, Waldorf, and the many townships in Waseca County. Each week features new and interesting stories about local persons, businesses, and the local school districts. Many of our editions include special coverage of important milestones for students, parents, and families, including: Graduation, Prom, Homecoming, and all area sports, all year long. Don't miss out! Fill in the coupon and mail it to our office, or call and subscribe now!

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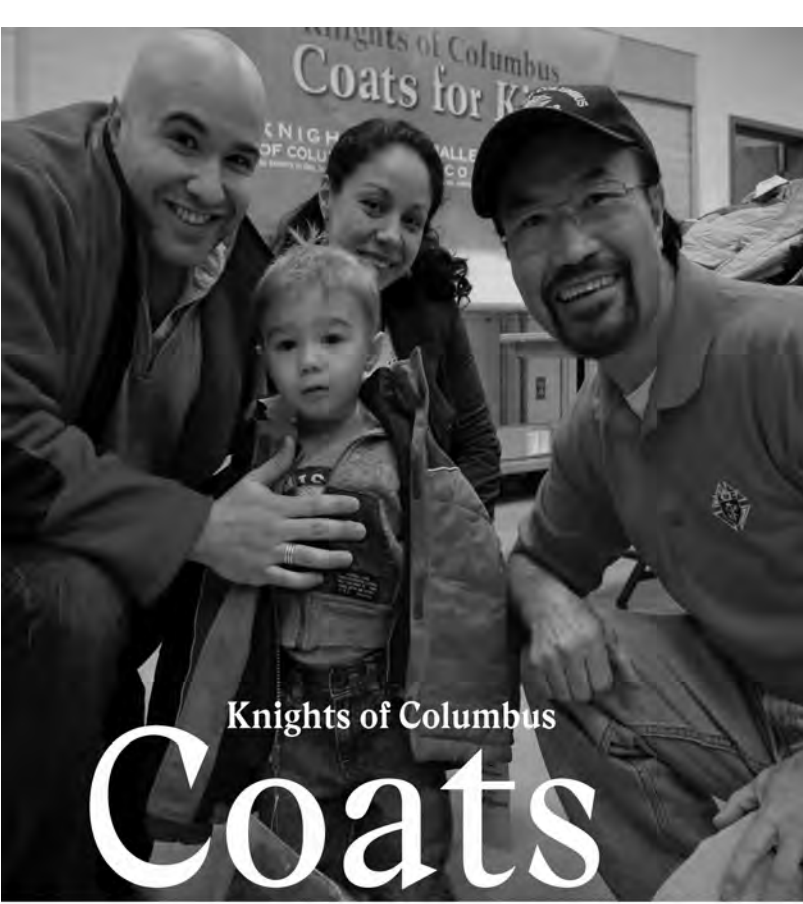
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Contact: Todd Norton 507-521-1470



Faith in Action



Community

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October 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Burger nite 5-7pm	2 6pm BAR Bingo	3 7pm HALL BINGO	4 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	5
6	7	8 Burger nite 5-7pm	9 6pm BAR Bingo	10 7pm HALL BINGO	11 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	12
13 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am - Noon Your Host Waseca Fusion Volley Ball	14 7 pm Post & AUX. Meeting	15 Burger nite 5-7pm	16 6pm BAR Bingo	17 7pm HALL BINGO	18 WALLEYE or SHRIMP DINNER 5:30 to 7pm	19
20	21	22 Burger nite 5-7pm	23 6pm BAR Bingo	24 7pm HALL BINGO	25 MEAT Raffle 5:30 Horse racing 6:30pm	26 Halloween BINGO 7 PM
27 ALL YOU can EAT Breakfast VFW 8:00am - Noon Your Host Waseca Chorus	28	29 Burger nite 5-7pm	30 6pm BAR Bingo	31 7pm HALL BINGO		

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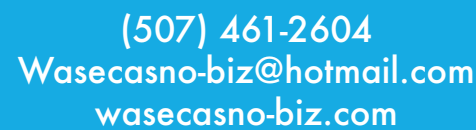


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Football		
South Central - White		
	Conf.	Ov.
Waseca	4-0	6-1-0
Jordan	2-1	3-4-0
Albert Lea	1-2	2-5-0
Belle Plaine	1-2	2-5-0
Tri-City United	0-3	1-6-0

South Central - Red		
	Conf.	Ov.
Marshall	3-0	6-1-0
Fairmont	3-1	6-1-0
New Ulm	1-2	4-3-0
Worthington	1-2	1-6-0
St. Peter	0-3	3-4-0

Mid Southeast - West		
Norwood Young America		7-0
Randolph		6-1
WEM		6-1
Lester Prairie		5-2
Cleveland		4-3
United South Central		4-3
NRHEG		3-4
Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop		2-5
JWP		2-5
St. Clair/Loyola		2-5
Mayer Lutheran		1-6
Medford		0-7

Mid Southeast - East		
Goodhue		7-0
Blooming Prairie		6-1
Fillmore Central		6-1
Lewiston-Altura		5-2
Rushford-Peterson		3-4
Winona Cotter		3-4
Hayfield		2-5
Wabasha-Kellogg		2-5
JWP		2-5
Kenyon-Wanamingo		1-6
Bethlehem Academy		0-7

Class 3A Minnesota Football		
Ratings		
Compiled by Star Tribune		
As of Oct. 14, 2024		
1. Stewartville		7-0
2. Dassel-Cokato		7-0
3. Pequot Lakes		7-0
4. Albany		7-0
5. Waseca		6-1
6. Fergus Falls		7-0
7. Morris Area/CA		7-0
8. Fairmont		6-1
9. Pine Island		6-1
10. Annandale		6-1

Class 4A Minnesota Football		
Ratings		
Compiled by Star Tribune		
As of Oct. 14, 2024		
1. Becker		7-0
2. Totino Grace		7-0
3. Princeton		7-0
4. Byron		6-1
5. Orono		6-1
6. Providence Academy		5-2
7. Marshall		7-1
8. Rocori		5-2
9. Hill-Murray		6-1
10. Hermantown		6-1

Volleyball		
Big South East		
	Conf.	Ov.
Belle Plaine	7-0	18-5-0
Waseca	6-2	14-9-0
St. Peter	5-1	17-7-1
Tri-City United	3-3	10-9-0
New Ulm	3-5	4-17-0
St. James Area	1-3	3-11-0
Blue Earth Area	1-6	4-15-4
Fairmont	1-7	4-17-1

Big South West		
	Conf.	Ov.
Marshall	6-0	18-4-0
Redwood Valley	4-1	20-6-0
Jackson Co. Cen.	3-2	9-12-0
Windom	3-2	13-7-0
Worthington	1-4	11-15-0
Luverne	0-4	5-18-0
Pipestone	0-4	4-18-0

Gopher Conference		
	Conf.	Ov.
Bethlehem Ac.	9-1	14-9-0
Kenyon-Wan.	9-1	18-5-0
WEM	6-3	16-12-0
JWP	4-3	11-8-1
United So. Central	4-4	10-7-1
NRHEG	4-5	10-11-1
Triton	3-3	13-7-0
Randolph	3-4	11-15-0
Medford	2-4	9-14-0
Hayfield	2-7	3-16-0
Blooming Prairie	0-9	3-16-2

Boys' Soccer		
Big South Black Division		
	Conf.	Ov.
New Ulm	6-0-0	11-4-1
Tri-City United	3-2-1	10-4-2
St. Peter	2-3-1	8-6-2
Waseca	0-6-0	2-12-1

Big South Gold Division		
	Conf.	Ov.
Marshall	5-1-0	10-2-2
Worthington	5-1-1	9-4-4
Fairmont	1-4-1	3-7-3
Wings United	0-5-1	3-10-1

Girls' Soccer		
Big South Black Division		
	Conf.	Ov.
St. Peter	5-0-1	11-2-3
Waseca	3-1-1	8-3-3
New Ulm	2-4-0	6-9-1
Tri-City United	0-5-0	2-11-1

Big South Gold Division		
	Conf.	Ov.
Fairmont	6-0-0	12-4-1
Marshall	4-2-0	6-7-2
Worthington	1-5-0	2-13-0
Wings United	1-5-0	2-13-1

Tennis

from Page 14

remaining three matches, which were all in third sets. I knew we had to get two of the three matches, and thankfully that's how it played out. Addie & Mia were really playing well, and even had six or seven match points in the third set, but fell 7-6 (1) in the third-set tiebreaker, which put us down 2-3. That left Maddy Benson (No. 3 singles), who has been clutch for us all season, after losing the first set 7-5, came back strong in the next two sets to tie the match at 3-3. This left the third doubles match in which everyone witnessed. After losing the first set 6-3, Layla and Kennedy won the second set 7-5 and led 4-1 in the third set. We were all hoping they would hang on, and luckily they did! Both Layla and Kennedy are first-year players and were never really battle tested at third doubles all season, besides their first match against Cannon Falls, that also went three sets. We had to go out and remind them to breathe on changeovers as you could tell they were getting nervous. I kept telling myself Layla has been to state in gymnastics, so she is used to the pressure. Thankfully, it all worked out and they won the deciding fourth point!"

Collins offered up plenty of thank yous.

"Thanks to all of the parents and Waseca fans who made it over to the section final," he said. "It was a great experience for our players and fans. We hope to see many more of them at the state tourney on Oct. 22. I would also like to thank our assistant coaches Trish Mercier and Abbe Hoehn for their assistance."

The 2024 girls' tennis team also did well in the classroom and qualified for the Minnesota Tennis Coaches Association Gold Academic Award with a team GPA above 3.75. The Bluejays' GPA was 3.7954.

In the end, according to Collins, it all came together for the Bluejays.

"I likened this season or team to a puzzle, in which we really had to put all the pieces together to make this happen," said Collins. "We had six good returning letterwinners back (Schoenrock, Mader, Benson, Kanewischer, Pfeifer, and Dufault). We brought up an 8th-grader (Ava Miller) who moved into second doubles. We would not have won the match the other day if it wasn't for our third doubles team of Lynch and Keith (both first-year players). If these two players didn't come out for tennis, we would not be sitting this position."

The Bluejays, 15-4 will play in the Class A state tournament Oct. 22 and 23 at the Reed Sweatt Tennis



FINALS INTENSITY — Waseca High School girls' tennis seniors Takya Schoenrock, left, and Addie Pfeifer in action against Cannon Falls in last week's Section 1A championship match.

Center in Minneapolis. Seedings are expected Thursday.

Season records for the Bluejays after the section team tournament:

- Schoenrock (1st singles) 7-12
- Mader (2nd singles) 14-5
- Benson (3rd singles) 17-2
- Moore (4th singles) 9-3
- Kanewischer (1st doubles) 15-4
- Pfeifer (1st doubles) 14-5
- Dufault (2nd doubles) 14-5
- Miller (2nd doubles) 15-4

- Keith (3rd doubles) 14-5
- Lynch (3rd doubles) 13-5

The Bluejays returned to Rochester Monday for the Section 1A individual tournament.

At singles, second-seeded Schoenrock defeated a Lake City opponent 6-1, 6-1 in the quarterfinals while Mader, the No. 4 seed, defeated a Lake City foe 6-0, 6-0.

Both Schoenrock and Mader advance to the section semifinals on

Tuesday.

At doubles, third-seeded Pfeifer and Kanewischer lost to a Lake City duo 6-4, 6-2 in the quarterfinals, while Benson and Dufault defeated a Cannon Falls team 7-6 (4), 6-4. Benson and Dufault fell to the top-seeded squad in the second round, 6-2, 6-2.

Neither Waseca doubles team advanced.

NRHEG spikers fall 3-0 to Kenyon-Wanamingo

The NRHEG High School volleyball team hosted a strong Kenyon-Wanamingo crew for Dig Pink night last week.

It terms of money raised to fight cancer, it was a success.

The match, however, went to the visitors despite the best efforts of the Panthers.

Kenyon-Wanamingo came away with a 3-0 victory in New Richland, with game scores of

25-12, 25-21 and 25-19.

"The girls raised a little over \$300, which will go toward making cancer care baskets for those affected by cancer in our community," said NRHEG coach Bethany Tennis. "KW is a tough opponent and our girls fought hard. We just weren't able to get our offense going at the pace it needed to be."

The Panthers saw their record slide to 4-5 in

the Gopher Conference and 10-11-1 overall. KW improved to 9-1 in the conference, tied with Bethlehem Academy for first place, and 18-5 overall.

Individually for NRHEG: Gabby Schlaak 1 kill, 11 digs, 2 aces, 1 block; Camryn VanMaldegheem 6K, 7D, 2B; Anika Ladlie 3K, 1 set assist, 2B; Mallory Schlinger 1D; Izley Boerner 5D; Nora Flatness 2K; Addy

Stadheim 8D, 16SA, 1B; Aspyn Stenzel 1K, 1D; Chloe Riewer 6D, 1SA; Chloe Stork 3K, 4B; Meela Budach 2K, 2D; Quinn VanMaldegheem 1K, 4D.

The Panthers finish the regular season this week, playing at Randolph Tuesday night. The section tournament starts Oct. 21.

Waseca CC girls take 1st at Jordan

The Waseca High School cross country teams traveled to Jordan for an invitational last week.

It was a very good day for the girls, who sopped a 13-team field to win with 70 points. Mound-Westonka was second at 101.

Callie Dufault paced the Bluejays, taking fifth in 20:31.1. Following for WHS were Ellie Kopischke, sixth, 20:39.1; Stella Omtvedt, seventh, 20:43.6; Maren Schimming, 18th, 21:29.7; Jenna Yoder, 34th, 22:32.6; Taylor Markeson, 39th, 23:04.2; and Ava VanDenHemel, 41st, 23:10.5. The winner of the girls' race was Macy Hanson of Fairmont in 19:16.

The Bluejay boys finished 8th among 13 teams with 180 points. Benilde-St. Margaret's won with 67.

For the Jays: Isaac Feldkamp, fifth, 17:25.7; Tristan Godwin, 25th, 19:02.5; Tyler Jellum, 38th, 19:20.8; Wyatt Hager, 52nd, 19:56.3; Luke Feldkamp, 60th, 20:21.8; Michaiiah Grannis, 74th, 21:16; Ryan Yoder, 88th, 23:24.9. The boys' winner was Alexander Bur of St. Peter, clocking 17:08.6.

WHS soccer season ends

The season came to a close for the Waseca High School girls' and boys' soccer teams with first-round setbacks in the single-elimination section tournament.

The girls, seeded sixth, fell 3-1 at third-seeded Northfield last Tuesday. The Bluejays, 3-1-1 in conference, finished with an overall record of 8-4-3.

Seniors include Lucia Mansfield, Emily LeMieux, Camila Marquez, Jennifer Hernandez Verde, Gabriela Lopez, Ashley Sanchez and Peyton Kalbow. The Bluejays are coached by Phil Bulfer.

The Waseca boys, seeded seventh, were defeated 7-0 at second-seeded Northfield.

Seniors for the boys were Ezra Skains, Isaiah Johnson, Lucas McQuerry, Christopher Badillo, Adrian Arreguin and Gabriel Beltran. The boys, coached by Jenaro Delgado, were 0-6 in conference play and 2-13-1 overall.

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2023 TOTALS:

\$9,245 community donations

\$3,000 iWealth Foundation donation

\$12,245 TOTAL = YES: \$12,245!

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Section Champions



Members of the Waseca High School Girls' Tennis team earned a trip to the state tournament by winning themselves a Section 1A Championship on Friday, Oct. 11, 2024. After compiling a record of 15-4 for the season, the number-one-seeded Bluejays breezed to a 7-0 win over Winona Cotter in the semifinals. In the finals, the Lady Jays took down Cannon Falls 4-3, earning the team's first trip to state since 2012 when the team played in Section 2A. This year's win ends the 30-year streak of Rochester Lourdes' reign in Section 1A. This year's team joins 11 others in school history to win a section championship. Previous section championships came in 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2001, 2002, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012. The school's best finish at state came with a second-place win in 2009. In 2013, Waseca took third. The Bluejays will play in the state tournament Oct. 22 and 23 at Reed-Sweatt Tennis Center in Minneapolis. The Bluejays are coached by Kyle Collins, assisted by Trish Mercier and Abbe Hoehn. Members of the section champion Bluejays tennis team include Seniors: Addie Pfeifer, Mia Kanewischer, Taky Schoenrock, Kennedy Lynch; Juniors: Madalyn Benson, Paige Dufault, Layla Keith, Madilyn Larrabee, Vivian Mader, Pearl Moore, Lilianna Sanchez; Sophomore Grace Chawra; Freshman Hannah Rugger; Eighth-graders Anna Benson and Ava Miller.



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