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WASECA
COUNTY
PIONEER

LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY

No. 43 Vol. III \$2

Office at 111 Elm Avenue West, Waseca Thursday, October 24, 2024

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Local singer

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.

VFW Halloween Super Bingo 7 p.m., 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.

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.

Janesville Public Library will hold a mason jar event Tuesday, October 29

The Janesville Public Library will hold a Piet Mondrian mason jar inspired event at 4 p.m. Tuesday, October 29. This event is exclusively for ages 13-18 and will help teens embrace their inner artist.

A word from
The Word

And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Hebrews 11:6



Above: Experienced operators of the directional borer say it can dig a channel up to a mile long. Below: Operator Scott Kroenke at the controls of the borer.

Pioneer photos by Deb Bently

Recent grant will allow Broadband expansion

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

The Minnesota Office of Broadband Development recently announced that Waseca County is the recipient of a \$1.6 million grant to continue expanding access to broadband "fiber" internet access for rural residents.

The expanded connection network will now reach sites in the southern parts of Alden, St. Mary's, and New Richland townships.

Commissioner Doug Christopher, who represents New Richland township, called the \$1.6 million grant a "huge win." He went on to say "We have constituents eagerly anticipating the availability of this high-quality internet connection."

The recent grant, awarded in "round 10" of the statewide application process, will allow about 160 additional homes and businesses located outside incorporated areas to be connected to the fiber network already under construction in Vivian, Byron, Freedom and Wilton townships. The total number of locations now due to be connected is well over 700.

In preparing the grant application which was submitted last May,

WASECA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Waseca County worked closely with Blue Earth-based Bevcomm, a communications company which provides television, phone and internet services. Under the terms of the grant, the county is committed to contribute \$165,000 toward the project; Bevcomm will be providing about \$230,000.

According to Bevcomm's chief executive officer Bill Eckles, residents and property owners newly eligible to join the network will receive mailings in the near future and will be invited to a public information session sometime after the change of the year. There will be no cost to property owners to have the connecting cables laid, although installation will take place only after paperwork has been signed to authorize the work.

Once the expanded network is operational—most likely at the end of summer 2026—those who choose to use the company's offerings will be billed for the cable television, tele-

Broadband continued on 12

All charges against Area caregiver dismissed

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

"I don't want any caregiver ever to go through what I have," says Waseca resident Erin Childs, 44. "These agencies failed to do accurate investigations and really never listened to Joe or me."

Childs (formerly known as Erin Tate) feels investigators were prejudiced when they looked into a report which claimed she was taking financial advantage of a "vulnerable adult," Joe Revello, who died July 4, 2023, at the age of 80.

Childs was surprised to see an article in the May 1, 2024 edition of the Waseca County News stating she was "accused of stealing up to \$25,000" from Joe, named only as "a vulnerable adult" in the article. There were numerous reasons for her surprise.

"No one had served me with any papers," recalls Childs. "I had to call the courthouse to find out whether it was true I was charged with a crime."

Another reason for her surprise is that she had seen a report from local protection agencies dated in March of 2023 which stated "the allegation of caregiver neglect...is false," and that findings regarding possible financial exploitation were "inconclusive."

The third reason for her surprise, she says, is that "Joe was really part of our family. We included him in our holidays and birthday parties." She found it personally insulting that she would be accused of committing crimes against him.

Also insulting was the booking process. "I was fingerprinted, I had my mug shot taken. All the while knowing I had done nothing wrong."

Months later, after acquiring an attorney and following through with court proceedings, all charges against Childs were dismissed. "There was no ev-

Wasecan Erin Childs had all charges against her dismissed in a case where she was accused of taking financial advantage of "vulnerable adult" Joe Revello. Above, Revello (right) and Childs (left) on a 2022 family outing with Childs' daughters.

idence I had committed any wrongs," declares Childs, "because the opposite is true.

"I gave Joe more of my time than I was ever paid for. In some cases I spent my own money to be sure he had everything he needed.

"The idea that I 'exploited' him is absolutely ridiculous."

Childs has numerous documents, many mentioned in this article, which support her statements.

Childs is the owner of Waseca's Lake Aire Motel in the 1200 block of East Elm Avenue. Her personal home is located on the same property and has the same shipping address as the motel. When Childs acquired ownership in 2010, Revello, who was divorced and had no children, had already been living there since 2003.

Over time, Childs says she and her daughters had come to treat Revello like a family member, sometimes watching television with him in the evenings, occasionally sharing meals, and often running errands for him. She found it natural that she would take on more responsibility for his care as his health began to fail.

In 2020, Revello had a local attorney draw up a health care directive and a Power of Attorney (POA) document, both of which authorized Childs to make decisions on his behalf.

A navy veteran who had been exposed to Agent Orange during his service, Joe needed more and more assistance to carry on activities of daily living. "He wanted to stay in his home, though," Childs describes. "So we worked out an arrangement that I would help with his care."

The system made sense, Childs says, because she was so well acquainted with Joe, and because she could respond rapidly to any requests for assistance. The process was made even easier when,

Case continued on 5

Public hearings held on various street projects

By JESSICA LUTGENS
Staff Writer

Waseca City Engineer Nathan Willey presented details regarding final assessments for the rehabilitation project along Eleventh Avenue Northwest during the Waseca City Council's second meeting of the month on Tuesday, Oct. 15. The majority of the project was funded by a grant of about \$265,000. Property owners can submit tax assessments in full on or before Nov. 14 to avoid paying interest. After that date, remaining assessment balances will be certified to the Waseca County Auditor's Office to be placed on property tax statements. Balance payments after Nov. 14 may also be paid to the Waseca County Auditor's Office.

The council approved Resolution 24-63 adopting assessments for the project. Also approved were consent agenda items including the meeting minutes from Oct. 1; payroll and expenditures; setting a date for a city election canvassing board; Resolution 24-64 and 24-65, residential tax abatements for two properties; Resolution 24-66, State Grant Agreement for the 2024 Waseca Airport Pavement Rehabilitation Project; and Amended Resolution 24-52: Set Hearing for the Adoption of Miscellaneous Assessment Roll 24-99.

A public hearing regarding resolution 24-63 was opened and then closed when no one had appeared to share public comment. Discussion then centered around Resolution 24-67: On-Street Parking Restriction -

WASECA CITY COUNCIL

North side of the 400 block of Second Avenue Northeast. After speaking with city staff, a recommendation was made to restrict parking along the north side of the street; however, concerns regarding police enforcement, a lack of a parking permit process, and other potential issues with the parking restriction led the council to table the matter in order to discuss options further.

Following the city manager's and commission reports, the meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

County continued on 5



Compostings

by Al Batt

A lucky rabbits foot

ECHOES FROM THE LOAFERS' CLUB MEETING
There's only one thing that scares me during Halloween. Which is? Exactly.

DRIVING BY BRUCE'S DRIVE

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I walked down a sidewalk. A store owner was using a long-legged squeegee to clean the windows of his establishment. He was smoking a pipe with a bowl about the size of his head. The smoke smelled good, not quite like burning leaves, but like a pleasant fall.

I pontificated about the mysteries and beauties of fall on a tour boat called the Pelican Breeze. One passenger, a pleasant woman with a ready smile, lost her glove to the lake. I considered throwing it a life preserver, but didn't. Christmas isn't far off, so I hope someone gives her a polyester glove for her left hand. I offered each of the passengers a bar of soap. If they fell overboard, they'd be washed ashore.

I'm not all that superstitious, but when I remember, for good luck, I say "rabbit rabbit" as the first words I speak in a month. I read in the "Farmers' Almanac" that the origin of the superstition may have been inspired by the White Rabbit in Lewis Carroll's "Alice in Wonderland," who guided Alice through fantastical adventures. The first written account was in the English periodical Notes and Queries in 1909, wherein a parent noted his children said "rabbit rabbit" up the chimney on the first of a month, hoping for a present. FDR said "rabbits" on the first of each month and carried a lucky rabbit's foot during the 1932 presidential election, which he won in a landslide. During World War II, British fighter pilots opted for even greater luck by saying "white rabbits" daily. "Saturday Night Live" star Gilda Radner said "bunny bunny" for luck. An author, Simon Winchester, said "white rabbits" the first of every month for 696 months before missing one. If you forget to say it as the first thing, say "rabbit rabbit" backward ("tib-bar tibbar") and you're covered.

I'VE LEARNED

You might be overdue for a shower if you're being followed by dung beetles.

While growing up, I didn't know anyone who spent all day looking at a phone.

Honesty doesn't win elections. Joseph Wood Krutch said, "The

only people who should be allowed to govern countries are those who have not the slightest desire to do so."

We have four seasons except on election years. Then we have five.

A spider has eight legs, yet no spider has ever won a dance contest.

Economists make weather forecasters seem infallible in comparison.

I know it's an election year when even my bathroom scale refuses to tell the truth.

BAD JOKES DEPART-MENT

Man arrested for stealing pumpkins because no gourd deed goes unpunished.

Three economists went deer hunting. They spotted a deer. One shot and missed five feet to the left. The second one shot and missed five feet to the right. The third dropped his gun and said, "We got him!"

Only divorced people should be allowed to vote. They understand the consequences of making a wrong choice.

NATURE NOTES

I saw a fox as we both greeted the dawn's sun. A red fox likes to hunt before sunrise and after sunset. Its thick, soft coat keeps it warm. In the fall, a red fox hangs out alone. The babies have grown and gone. Foxes grow longer, thicker coats for winter. Instead of hiding out in a den, a red fox usually curls up in the open. Wrapped in its big, bushy tail, the fox stays nice and warm even when completely covered by snow.

How can you tell a downy woodpecker from a hairy woodpecker? If you can see them together, the hairy is much larger. The hairy is the approximate size of a robin, and the downy is the size of a house sparrow. The downy is more abundant, and the hairy likes the company of larger trees. I've found the best way to differentiate the two is by their bills. The downy's bill is much shorter, roughly 1/3 the length of its head and the hairy's bill is nearly the length of its head. When sizes and bills are compared, a downy is dinky and a hairy is huge.

MEETING ADJOURNED

"From the time you were very little, you've had people who have smiled you into smiling, people who have talked you into talking, sung you into singing, loved you into loving. So, on this extra special day, let's take some time to think of those extra special people."—Fred Rogers.



In My Humble Opinion

by Deb Bently

Impulse blesses weekend travel

Sometimes, impulse can be a good thing.

Some family members and I were in Illinois over MEA weekend—it's almost an annual pilgrimage for us: We go to Six Flags Great America theme park near the north edge of the Chicago metropolitan area for what's called "Fright Fest." For those who stay closer to home, it's much like "Valley Scare" up at Valleyfair—there are spooky decorations and after dark there are costumed individuals whose job it is to make visitors feel uneasy.

For me, the draw continues to be the rollercoasters, but some of my family members like the "fright" part the best. I don't know why, but instead of being frightened by the costumed characters, I am intrigued at the elements of their costumes, or the movements and techniques they use to be unsettling. I can be startled, but am never really "fright"ened; thus, I am no fun for the actors playing the scary roles.

My sister-in-law, on the other hand, tends to be something of a target. She sees one of the characters approaching from a distance and immediately becomes uneasy. She attends Fright Fest for the companionship, some favorite shows, and the rides, but could

gladly do without the wandering ghouls.

Certain terrified runs she has made during past trips are the stuff of legend.

Thankfully, she is willing to joke about it. She has also developed some techniques for concealing her...um...vulnerability from the actors.

The first one is, she always walks with someone tall when it starts to get dark. Then, when an unsettling character approaches, she uses the tall person as a sort of shield, moving slightly behind him or her.

Once noticed, she lifts her chin and tries to meet the character's eyes—working to look calm and avoid becoming a target.

Her third technique is to take tight hold of her companion(s), either by the hand or on the arm.

It all worked for her on this trip. She did not have to run halfway across the park even once. And I'm pretty sure the bruises on my arm will be gone within a couple weeks.

My traveling companions and I—my youngest son, his wife, and my 13-year-old granddaughter—got a fairly early start homeward on Sunday morning. Just as it was here, the temperatures were surprisingly warm, the sun was shining. It was



Pioneer editor Deb Bently made an impulsive decision to ride the "Ducks" at the Wisconsin Dells this past Sunday.

Pioneer photo by Deb Bently

also a literally "beautiful" day, since the trees in Wisconsin—a lovely drive any time of the year—were at peak color.

When we passed a highway sign that suggested, "Ride the original Wisconsin Ducks!" I impulsively decided that, yes, we were going to do that.

Many of you will wonder how I managed to reach retirement age without having done so, but I had never yet ridden the Ducks. Nor had my granddaughter. My son and his wife had, but were amenable to doing so for a second time.

Sometimes, impulsive decisions are something to be regretted, but for us on Sunday, October 20, 2024, it seemed like powerful forces had aligned in our favor.

The route to the Ducks facility required only one turn once we left the freeway. The parking lot was less than half full. At the ticket booth, there were only a few people in line ahead of us, and they finished up as we approached.

We walked directly onto the "Duck"; it was about a quarter full when we selected our seats, and was full within 10 minutes—just enough time for a quick dash to the car for a (foolishly forgotten) camera and a couple water bottles.

Our driver approached the front, gave the obligatory safety talk regarding life jackets and the (especially entertaining) fact that the open sides of the vehicle could be used as emergency exits, asked how many of us were riding the Ducks for the first time, and then claimed it was also his first trip.

From there, we not only had the unusual pleasure of riding up and down paved trails through a beautiful autumn woods and then rolling directly into the Wisconsin River, we were also treated to a nearly constant narration which provided information about the scenery, the Duck vehicles, and the history of the area—peppered with uncountable "Dad" jokes.

Being a first-timer, I was unaware the jokes are as iconic an element of the ride as the hills and the rivers. But I know now; we repeated and commented on the puns and groaners for much of the remaining four hours of driving.

Between the stunningly warm weather, the end-of-season crowd levels, the natural beauty and the entertainment, it was a perfect impulse. I will be fortunate if even half my future sudden decisions turn out so well.

All I've been doing is this journalist thing

I am going to boldly assume that the lovely and wonderful Waseca County Pioneer is not the only source of news you lovely readers ascribe to. Therefore, I'm going to take a gamble and assume you've heard there was a large protest Monday evening at the University of Minnesota campus. Being elbows deep in the school's newspaper, I got all the gossip.

The protest regarded the University's choice to invest in Israel and how members of the Students for a Democratic Society and other groups in the University's Divestment Coalition are unsatisfied with the acts of the University.

There have been other, more peaceful protests that have happened recently, but this upped the ante. Students went into Morrill Hall, the campus building which houses the office of the university president and other members of the administration. Once inside, they started barricading the doors and entrances from both the inside and outside. We had reporters there who were able to get in and interview people and as-



To Be Determined

by Amelia Roessler

sess the scene before a bunch of police showed up and proceeded to arrest eleven protesters. They even put one of our reporters in handcuffs, although, thankfully, he was promptly released. But yeah, you can imagine our shock when our other reporter texted us saying he was in handcuffs. We were at the office editing other stories, so we waited for them to finally come back and debrief us.

Things died down after the arrests, but a lot of other news organizations were there trying to cover the event — Star Tribune, AP, KSTP, MPR, WCCO—the works. You know, we're just that cool here at the U.

So that was a long night at the office, but extremely interesting and newsworthy, which is right up my alley and the whole reason

I became a journalist. Well, not actually of course, my natural Curious George-like curiosity is what inspired me to become a journalist. And the fact that I wanted to write and not be an English teacher. (None of that is meant to hate on any of my English teachers; I loved them all. I just don't think I would quite enjoy spending every day trying to teach children.)

As a journalist I get to know all the tea and gossip about what's going on everywhere and I get to talk to important people who know the inside scoop. Super fun. So if anyone ever wants to be always in the know, become a journalist.

But that's basically all I've been doing lately, working as an editor for a publication and/or

taking classes to become a journalist and learn about the profession.

On another subject, the sink in my bathroom became clogged. Maintenance was surprisingly fast and got to it in a couple of days (which is unusual since usually we have to wait a couple weeks). The guy came in to fix it while I was cooking; when he was done he came out and said he liked my bathroom decoration. I laughed because what he was talking about was my frame that hangs above the toilet; it's a very artistic rendition of the scene from the movie Dumb and Dumber when Harry has, uh, some struggles in the bathroom. Sorry for those who don't understand, just go watch the movie. But it was funny that he commented on it and it made my day.

My Determination: "She gave me a bunch of crap about me not listening to her, or something. I don't know, I wasn't really paying attention." - Harry Dunne, Dumb and Dumber

A nervousness that didn't keep me up

I moderated a debate between candidates for seat 19B in the Minnesota House District earlier this month; it was held in the Waseca High School's performing arts center. It was a slightly nerve-racking event, although not the type of nerves which keep one awake at night. I prepared a lot, practiced reading everything I intended to say, many times and asked many questions of numerous people to ensure I presented myself in a professional, unbiased way.

I'm glad I did it. I have a lot of respect for moderators I've seen on TV. This year, watching debates, I've tried to pay more attention to participants' human side, rather than only the black and white answers they provide.

With this perspective, I find it fascinating to observe the different ways people handle their nervousness. I appreciate Mikhail Rostislavovich asking me to join the Waseca Legislative Committee, and suggesting I moderate the



STAR GAZING

by Eli Lutgens

debate. It is good to have new experiences and to grow as a person.

Fall is my favorite season. Baseball is in its home stretch. Football has just begun. The leaves are falling, colors changing.

On Friday, my friends and I got together in Rochester for our friend Jarod's birthday. To celebrate as he turned 24, the four of us gathered at his home. His significant other prepared some delicious foods: Pulled pork, a charcuterie board, ice cream, cake and more! We spent the evening playing games, enjoying good company.

Saturday I attended a PayIt For-

ward Benefit at the Austin Country Club. My friend Madi asked me to go a month or so ago and I was happy to oblige. One of our mutual friends, Edward, and his significant other attended. Again, excellent food and even better company. I do enjoy a reason to get dressed up. The fancy sports coat I purchased for the debate came in handy. A good time was had by all.

This past week, the Pioneer mistakenly identified Tom Sexton as 76 years old in an article. He is 61. I appreciate, very, very, very much, that Tom was kind in his letting me know we made a blunder. He did not make me feel bad. He did not yell. He did not

get aggressive. He sent me a message that read almost like a thank you note.

A bible verse comes to mind, 2 Timothy 2:24-26:

"And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, correcting his opponents with gentleness."

I've taken the stance, and I've told my staff, if folks come in very angry, listen to them. However, if the angry person yells, belittles, insults or is aggressive, then my staff is instructed to ask the person to leave. My dad told me his former editor told him, "If someone is yelling at you on the phone, quietly hang up the phone."

It costs nothing to be kind. We work really, really hard at the paper. We handle a lot of information. This work comes from a place of love. I simply don't have time for hate.

Treat others as you would do unto yourself. The golden rule.



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

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Dairy Queen raising funds for Waseca Friends of the Library Wednesday, October 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 Public Library Halloween story time Thursday, October 31

The Waseca Public Library will host a Halloween themed story time at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 31. There will be puppets, pumping music, bubble machines and banging bands. This event is open to the public.

Waseca Public Library Thursday game sessions October 31- November 21

The Waseca Public Library will host a Lego, puzzle, mental challenges and snack session at 3:30 p.m. every Thursday from Oct. 31- Nov. 21. This after school club will be devising plans, detecting problems, improvising alternate routes and building models. Recommended ages 7-12.

Waseca Public Library November Boundary Waters exhibit

The Waseca Public Library will host a Boundary Waters exhibit for the entire month of November. Learn about the Boundary Waters Canoe Area and its wildlife. This feature will have book recommendations, a wood engraved map and more. This is geared for all ages.

First Lutheran of Waldorf Veteran Appreciation Brunch, Saturday, Nov. 2

The First Lutheran Church of Waldorf will host a Veterans Appreciation Brunch starting at 9 a.m. on Saturday, November 2. This is sponsored by First Lutheran Church ‘Women in Mission.’ For further information call Susan Kipp 507-420-8973.

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 Public Library Lego building group Saturday, Nov. 2

The Waseca Public Library will hold a Lego Story Time at 10 a.m. Saturday, November 2. This is for children 4-6 and they must be accompanied by an adult. There will be a story to inspire the Lego building.

Waseca Floral open house Saturday, Nov. 9

Waseca Floral, at 810 North State Street will have an open house, Saturday, Nov. 9. There will be porch pots, wreaths, arrangements, roping, hot cider and treats.

Briefs continued on 6



Brynja Riehm, a 2019 Waseca High School graduate, is working toward a master's degree in opera performance at Cardiff University. The city of Cardiff is the capital of Wales; it also has many strong connections to classical music and opera.

Local singer to study at “Music capital of the U.K.”

By DEB BENTLY
News Editor

“It’s always been a dream for me to become a professional opera singer,” says 2019 Waseca High School graduate Brynja Riehm, 23. “But I’ve been very practical about it.”

Riehm completed a degree in neuroscience with a minor in opera performance at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, in the spring of 2023. While at Luther, she was one of 12 selected to study abroad for a year in Nottingham, England, where she was able to expand her skill as a performer while continuing to earn college credit.

She is back in the United Kingdom for the fall 2024 semester, this time for a one-year program at Cardiff University in Cardiff, the capital city of Wales. The city has a population of about 350,000, and is home to the Welsh National Opera and BBC Wales. While she was accepted into numerous post-graduate programs at universities in Europe and Australia, Riehm says she ultimately chose Cardiff for its widely-acknowledged prestige within the opera performance field, and for the adventure.

Riehm says her love of music is lifelong: her mother, Melissa Dunn, played violin. Her grandmother Judith Weinke has been in many choirs throughout her life. Riehm began taking piano lessons at age 3, and joined band in fifth grade and choir

in sixth.

Somewhat ironically, “I’ve always loved to sing, but I was nervous about singing in front of others.” Still, her skill as a singer got her a place in the eighth-grade show choir; she also began taking voice lessons from local musician Melissa Schulz.

By ninth grade, a friend was able to convince Riehm to try out for a high school production of “Bye Bye Birdie.” Still shy about the spotlight, however, she was part of the ensemble.

“I had a blast,” she remembers with an enthusiastic smile.

From there, she apparently never looked back, auditioning for more and more central characters culminating in the title role in the fall, 2018 production of “Cinderella.”

In the meantime, Schulz had let Riehm know her voice is well suited to classical and opera performance and had steered her voice lessons along those lines.

Asked what leads her to appreciate opera music over other styles, Riehm has trouble defining her rationale. “My childhood exposure to classical music influenced me greatly,” she comments. “I’ve always been moved by various orchestration and had an ear for classical analysis and interpretation.”

While acknowledging that the

Riehm continued on 6

WJSH Art Team hits the town

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

With Halloween and the Oct. 24 “Treats on the Streets” event approaching, spooky decorations are popping up everywhere, especially store front windows. Led by Waseca Junior Senior High School art teacher Jean Follstad-Popp, a group of about 20 students spent a few hours the afternoon of Oct. 16 adding seasonal decorations to some of Waseca’s downtown storefronts.

The painted windows are not only decorations, they’re meant to help trick-or-treaters determine which businesses are distributing items during the event, set for 5 to 7 p.m. Oct. 24. There will also be arrows painted on the sidewalks outside.

Popp said she was pleased with the students’ work, and is glad their decorations were drawing attention. “I was hoping someone would notice, we want to get the word out about these kids and what they’re doing,” she commented that afternoon.

According to the high school’s website, the “Art Team” meets weekly to plan and to participate in “community service projects, art shows, art competitions and field trips.”

Seventh-grader Charlotte Griffith is in her first year on the art team. Her “duck wearing a pumpkin” painting is among those on the windows of Edward Jones Investments, 119 State Street North



The Waseca Junior Senior High School's Art Team took a moment out from painting storefront windows to pose for a picture at the Waseca Art Center on Wed., Oct. 16 2024

(formally Fernbrook Family Center). When asked what inspired her duck painting, she replied, “We went inside and asked, so they gave us some ideas to work with. I just sort of went with it. They said for sure they wanted a pumpkin or something to do with pumpkins: It is Halloween after all.” Edward Jones is also passing out ducks for free, that may have had something to do with Griffith’s inspiration. Alongside Griffith’s painting at Edward Jones are a Frankenstein duck and ghost ducks.

Once Halloween is behind them, what’s next for the art team? They are going to work on the art case in the high school located near the art room.

After that they’ve already begun working on a mural for the high school. The technique for designing and transferring a mural, according to Popp, is to draw the image full-sized on gigantic sheets of paper. Once the image is satisfactory, students trace it onto the wall, then paint it. This is done in sections until the completed mural is finished.

Art teacher Popp suggests that artists are always encouraged when people notice—and especially compliment—their work. “A little encouragement goes a long way,” she observed.

Mayo Clinic completes renovations

WASECA, Minn. — Mayo Clinic Health System in Waseca recently completed a \$4.2 million expansion and renovation project within the facility’s Emergency Department (ED).

The project was partially funded by a generous donation from Paul G. and Susan R. Rosenau.

The emergency department renovation includes an enhanced floor

plan to improve patient flow and increase efficiency; a new wing of exam and treatment rooms; a new multifunctional ambulance garage; improved patient and emergency vehicle entry points; renovation and modernization of existing space; and design features to improve patient and staff safety.

The emergency department remained fully operational throughout

the renovation, which started in June 2022.

“Mayo Clinic Health System is committed to ensuring patients in Waseca and the surrounding area have access to Mayo Clinic care close to home within a modernized and state-of-the-art ED,” says Martin Herrmann, M.D., medical director for Mayo Clinic Health System in Waseca.

“The completion of the ED renovation marks an important milestone for our hospital and enhances our ability to deliver efficient, high-quality care to our patients.”

Since the emergency department is a 24/7/365 functional patient care space, an open house and tours are not being offered to staff or the public.

WALDORF CITY COUNCIL

Cannabis added to tobacco ordinance

By BEN REVERMANN
Staff writer

The monthly Waldorf city council meeting was rescheduled from Monday, Oct. 14 to Tuesday, Oct. 15 because of Indigenous Peoples Day. Mayor Rob Wilkening, who attended the meeting remotely from the Philippines, said this was the first time ever the mayor of Waldorf was conducting the city council meeting from out of the country.

Council members voted to pass “Ordinance 87,” which will simplify the steps for making changes to city fees and fee schedules. Waldorf will include cannabis in its tobacco ordinance. This will make it unlawful to smoke tobacco products or use cannabis in any form near schools. It will also make cannabis use illegal in certain public places, including within 25 feet of Veterans Park.

Out of \$102,941.81 in Rural Development grant money, \$4,320 was used for Holtmeier snorkels, \$19,486.84 GM Contracting to install a grinder, \$47,264 Northwestern Power Equipment Co. (grinder), \$11,890 Northwestern Power Equipment Co. (agitator) and \$2,300 Concrete for St. John’s Catholic church, leaving \$17,680 remaining.

For Parks and Recreation, it was approved to open a bank account for the parks and recreation department and transfer the allotted \$11,285 earmarked for the park. A city resident had sent photos indicating a deteriorating wooden fence on the playground is in need of repair.

Acting as the planning commission, the Waldorf City Council divided the single lot encompassing St. John’s Catholic Church and its parsonage into two separate properties. This action makes it possible for the church to sell the lot with the home sometime in the future.

Along the same vein, Jennifer Miller, who owns a duplex located at 400 Fourth Avenue North, requested that the two dwellings be zoned as two properties, with the addresses of 400 and 402 Fourth Avenue North. Her request was not granted; Mayor Wilkening suggested that creating separate properties from the two buildings might require that a firewall be added between the two dwellings, and that a survey be conducted to determine property lines.

Ranae Groskreutz has already rented the community center for three days, November 13 to 15, and has already paid full price. She wondered if since she is a tax-free entity, can she receive a discount. It was decided that for the last day she would pay half price.

The price of Crystal Valley propane has remained steady at \$1.54/gallon, same as last year. Last year Waldorf prepaid for 3,000 gallons, of which 481 remain. Unless the price changes, council members plan to address

Waldorf continued on 4



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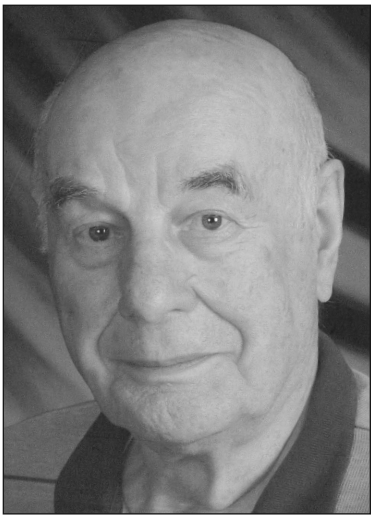
Dayton Roesler

DAYTON DALE ROESLER, age 91, of Waseca died the morning of Wednesday, October 16, 2024 at Lakeshore Rehabilitation Center in Waseca.

Born on October 11, 1933 in Waseca, he was the son of Ezra and Ellen (Priebe) Roesler. He attended Waseca High School and graduated with the class of 1951. Following his education, Dayton enlisted in the US Army. He was stationed in Germany where he attended diesel mechanic school. He was married to Ferne M. Johnson on May 17, 1955 in Kaiserslautern, Germany. They were married in the city hall in the morning and a second ceremony was held in the army chapel in the afternoon. They returned to Waseca in 1953.

Dayton spent his career farming on his family's farm, Brookside Farm, just south of Waseca. He loved cameras and turned his hobby into a side business where he would be a contracted videographer for weddings, parades and other events. He was a forward thinker of conservative energy, an avid bird watcher, and a loyal Minnesota sports fan. Dayton and Ferne enjoyed traveling with their RV annually to Heart Ranch, South Dakota and Florida. He was a member of the Evangelical United Methodist Church in Waseca prior to its closing.

Dayton is survived by his two daughters, Jacki (Roger) Peterson of Mora, Denise (Bob) Hohrman



Dayton Roesler

of Eden Prairie; two sons, Brian (Lisa) Roesler of Mahtomedi, David (Jennifer) Roesler of Minneapolis; special daughter, Diane (Brian) Hanson of Grand Meadow; thirteen grandchildren; fourteen great-grandchildren; and special friend, Marilyn Matson of Spring Valley.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Ferne Roesler; parents, Ezra and Ellen Rosler; sister, Myra Luce; and brother, Calvin Roesler.

Funeral service was held at 2:00 PM on Monday, October 21, 2024 at the Third street Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service in Waseca. Visitation was held one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. Interment followed at Woodville Cemetery. Dsofuneral.com

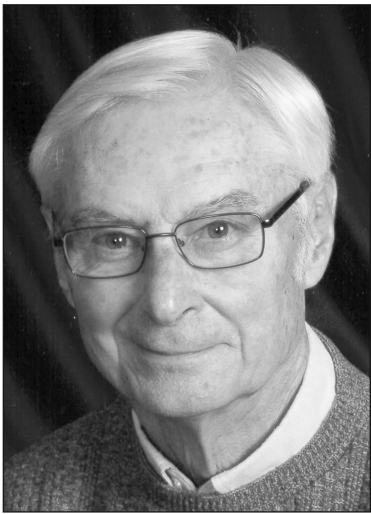
Darwin Lochner

DARWIN JOHN LOCHNER, age 89, of Lakeville, MN, previously of Janesville, MN, passed away surrounded by family on Saturday, October 19, 2024 at his home.

Born on December 12, 1934 in Sleepy Eye, Darwin was the son of John and Emma (Weilage) Lochner. He attended Cobden Grade School, then Sleepy Eye High School where he graduated with the class of 1952. He continued his education at Mankato State Teachers College. In 1954, Darwin enlisted in the US Army and was stationed in Germany. He was honorably discharged after serving for a year. He returned to Mankato State and received a bachelor's degree in education. He met his wife, Karen Mittelstadt, while playing love interests in the play "An Invitation to Breakfast" at MSU. They were married on June 1, 1958 in Fairmont.

Darwin began his career as an English and Speech teacher in Mountain Lake, MN. During his time as a teacher, Darwin spent three summers at Colorado State College, earning his master's degree in education administration. Darwin went on to become a high school principal then the superintendent in Elkton. In 1965, Darwin and Karen moved to Janesville where he was superintendent until his retirement in 1991.

When Darwin wasn't supporting the students of Janesville through attending every school activity, he enjoyed contributing to the community and spending time with his family. He was part of many organizations throughout his life: Janesville Rotary Club, Janesville Area Chamber of Commerce, Janesville Development Corporation, Janesville Star Cities Commission, Janesville Building Corporation, Janesville Area Golf Association, MN and American Association of School Administrators. He was an active and dedicated member of Trinity Lutheran Church. Following his retirement, he spent much of his time



Darwin Lochner

golfing, at grandkids' activities, woodworking, working on puzzles, watching Twins games, and being the family handyman.

Darwin is survived by his wife of 66 years, Karen; children, Alan (Jan) Lochner of Spring Grove, Gary (Beth) Lochner of Eagan, Cheryl (Doug) Lochner-Wright of Eau Claire, WI, Nancy (Chris) Howard of Farmington, Susan (Shaun) Atkinson of Lodi, WI; and nine grandchildren, Alyssa, Kevin, Rachel, and Sarah Lochner, Ben and Lucas Lochner-Wright, Emma and Sam Howard, and Leah Atkinson.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Emma Lochner; father, John Lochner; step-mother, Lula Lochner; brother, Myron Lochner; and sister, Arlene Schinkel.

Visitation for Darwin will be held from 2-6 PM on Sunday, October 27, 2024 in the Discippling Center at Trinity Lutheran Church in Janesville. Visitation will continue one hour prior to the service at the church on Monday.

Funeral service will be at 11:00 AM on Monday, October 28, 2024 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Janesville. A private interment for family will follow at Janesville Cemetery and a luncheon at the church. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to the Darwin and Karen Lochner Scholarship at JWP High School.

be necessary if the city can publish its legal notices in the Pioneer instead of the Star. It was decided to drop the New Richland Star subscription and keep the Waseca County Pioneer subscription active.

■ Waldorf

from Page 3

this issue next meeting.

The council approved hiring Gordy's Total Tree service of New Richland to remove two stumps from the park; Gordy's submitted a bid of \$533 for the work. FEMA will not cover this expense, nor will insurance, this will be a Waldorf City cost.

A question listed on the meeting agenda was whether or not to retain subscriptions to both the Waseca County Pioneer and the New Richland Star. Mayor Wilkening offered that both would not

Schroeder running for Waseca Ward 1

Stacey Schroeder, 49, is seeking re-election to Waseca's Council Ward 1 seat. Seeking her first full term, Schroeder was elected to fill a vacant position two years ago. A lifelong resident of Waseca, Stacey works as a cosmologist and is married to Tim Schroeder. The two have children Colton (Paige) Larson, Carley (Alex Ross) Larson, Calvin Larson, Abigail Schroeder and Mia Schroeder.

What do you consider the most important part of this job?

"As a candidate for the Waseca City Council, I believe the most important role of a council member is to bridge the gap between citizens and community needs while always serving as an ambassador for Waseca and to be its best advocate," Schroeder answered. "To look at it with a team mentality as it takes all of us to make Waseca that desirable place to live and do business in."

What particular strengths or ex-

perience do you bring to the position that you believe will help you do a good job?

"With 15 years as a past volunteer police reserve, I've developed strong leadership and communication skills, fostering trust among diverse populations," Schroeder said. "My work with individuals from all walks of life has enhanced my ability to connect and collaborate effectively. Serving on both the inaugural and current tourism boards, I understand the importance of promoting initiatives that benefit our local economy while preserving our community's character. Additionally, my past and current roles on the Community Education Advisory Committee, Aspyr Acres Board, and Airport Board have provided insights into strategic planning and community needs. Collaborating with the Lakes Association has strengthened my commitment to community engagement and environmental stewardship. I am ded-



Schroeder

cited about the opportunity to continue to contribute positively to our community."

What do you feel are the city's most important concerns at this time?

"The city's most pressing concerns include addressing our aging infrastructure, enhancing marketability to attract and retain families, and fostering a talented workforce through housing and industrial development," Schroeder stated. "Upgrading infrastructure is crucial for ensuring public safety and support-

ing modern conveniences essential for a thriving community. Attracting and retaining families involves creating appealing neighborhoods and recreational opportunities that enhance the overall quality of life. Moreover, expanding our tax base through increased housing and industrial developments will provide essential job opportunities while helping to alleviate the tax burden on homeowners. By focusing on these areas, we can create a vibrant community that meets the needs of current residents and appeals to newcomers. Through collaborative efforts, we can ensure our city remains a desirable place to live and work, securing a brighter future for all."

"Once again, I am grateful for this opportunity to be part of our amazing Waseca Community," Schroeder concluded.

Zimmerman seeks second term as Waseca mayor

Randy Zimmerman, 49, is seeking his second term as Waseca's mayor.

A lifelong resident of Waseca, Zimmerman is married, with four children and works as architect.

What do you consider the most important part of this job?

"Providing leadership and direction for city staff, and the community as a whole," Zimmerman answered.

What particular strengths or experience do you bring to the position, that you believe will help you do a good job?

"I am humble yet confident and believe in servant leadership," Zimmerman said. "I have served our community in several different capacities and know it well. I have a vision for growth, and the desire to provide opportunities for our com-



Zimmerman

munity. I also have a well-rounded education that has prepared me to serve in these roles. My family has a long history in our community, and I have a vested in-

terest in our success."

What do you feel are the city's most important concerns at this time?

"Adequate infrastructure for new growth, clean lakes, and new opportunities for commercial and residential investment," Zimmerman concluded.

Riecke running for Waseca Ward 3

Theresa Riecke, 52, is one of four candidates seeking election to Waseca's Ward 3 council position currently held by Mark Christiansen.

Riecke grew up in Waseca, after graduating high school, left for college before returning in 2004. She has an 18-year old daughter. Riecke works as Certificate Center Representative. If elected, this would be her first city government position.

"I believe the job's most important part is representing the community and what is best for the community," Riecke stated.

What particular strengths or experience do you bring to the position, that you believe will help you do a good job?

"I have a strong passion for my community and a desire to contribute positively," Riecke answered. "Deep roots provide me with valuable insights and connections that can benefit me in the position."

What do you feel are the city's most important concerns at this time?

"The city would greatly benefit from a strategic focus on revitalizing

the downtown area and addressing the pressing need for more affordable housing options," Riecke continued. "These should be priorities for the council and work to implement policies and incentives to drive the desired growth and development. For downtown, attracting new growth through tax breaks, zoning changes, and other in-



Riecke

cervatives to make it more appealing to open business downtown. For housing, partnering with non-profit organizations and private developers to facilitate the construction of new affordable housing developments in strategic locations around the city. This multi-pronged approach addresses both issues, and the council can help spur the kind of balanced, sustainable growth to make Waseca an even more attractive place to live, work and visit."

Erickson seeks JWP board position

Monica Erickson, 63, is one of three candidates seeking election to the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton school district. Erickson lives in Janesville with her husband Bill Erickson. She has lived in area for more than three decades and is a retired speech therapist and driver education instructor.

What do you consider the most

important part of this job?

"Listening to the issues presented to the board and researching them," Erickson answered. "Ask the folks in the trenches and then try to find a solution for all."

What particular strengths or experience do you bring to the position that you believe will help you do a good job?

"40 years of teaching in this district gives me insight to be a productive member of the school board," Erickson answered.

What do you feel are the school



Erickson

districts' most important concerns at this time?

"Making sure our students receive a well rounded education that will help them grow into high functioning adults" Erickson concluded.

Scheffert running for Waseca board

Grant Scheffert, 51, is seeking re-election to the Waseca School board. He has lived in Waseca nearly his entire life. His wife Sarah and him have four daughters between ages 13 and 21 years old.

Scheffert works as an IT systems Administrator and has served as a member of the school board for the past four years.

What do you consider the most important part of this job?

"It is the job of the board to set the vision, goals, and priorities of our

school district, and provide governance and oversight of the school district operations," Scheffert answered. "It is also a key way in which public input is given to the school district operation, and to inform the community about priorities and needs of the schools."

What particular strengths or experience do you bring to the position that you believe will help you do a good job?

"I believe I am a good listener and a thoughtful problem solver," Schef-

fert continued. "Most challenging decisions that face the school board have many different priorities involved, and it is important to consider all of them and how they will impact the students, staff, and community. My experience in the past four years on the school board taught me much about



Scheffert

the school's operations and how to continue the work needed to provide quality public education."

What do you feel are the city, county or school districts most important concerns at this time?

"We need to work more to determine the best facility solution for our elementary students" Scheffert said. "And it is not just finding the best solution, but also to build consensus on a path forward that our community can broadly support, and I want to be part of this work."

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■ Case

from Page 1

at the suggestion of an occupational therapist, a baby monitor was acquired to allow near-instant communication between the two locations. The two drew up a signed and dated document which summarized their agreement, including how much Childs would be paid.

“The investigators never even wanted to look at it,” she says with hindsight.

As time went on and Revello began to experience memory lapses, he had Childs listed as an eligible signer on his checking account and asked her to manage his finances. In 2022, Revello asked for Childs’ assistance in acquiring veterans benefits he was eligible for because of his exposure to Agent Orange.

The charges filed against Childs in 2024 center around a \$15,000 “back payment” Revello received in October of 2022. Court documents claimed activity in the account changed dramatically at that time, to which Childs responds, “Of course it did. Joe had been doing without so many things for so long a time, we could finally get him some new clothes, new furniture, and make his life a little better.” Charges also mentioned that items were shipped to Childs’ address. “Of course they were,” she responds. “Joe and I had the same address.”

Investigations regarding the quality of her care for Revello, she says, began shortly after a lengthy, unpleasant divorce, leading her to believe any reports submitted to care agencies were acts of spite in-

tended to complicate her life.

In a Waseca police report dated August 15, 2022, an investigating officer concluded, “I looked over the financial documents provided and see no misuse of funds. The [neglect] report stated the apartment was ‘not in very sanitary condition and it smells like urine.’ The apartment was very clean while I was there and there was no bad smell. Joseph appeared to be in good health and well taken care of. At this point, there is no concern and the case is closed.”

Health care agencies pressured Joe to move out of his Lake Aire apartment in February of 2023. While in an assisted living facility, he fell, broke his femur, began requiring persistent hospitalization, and eventually died.

One worker at the assisted living facility wrote this in support of Childs after learning there had been charges filed against her. “[Erin] was always very attentive to Joe’s wants and needs and, in my opinion, treated him very well, and genuinely cared for him. During the week leading up to his passing, Erin was by Joe’s bedside almost constantly, holding his hand talking with him.

“I personally do not feel Erin had any ill intentions regarding Joe or as his Power of Attorney.”

Childs says that, although the charges against her made headlines, the circumstance that all charges against her were dismissed has never before been publicized.

“I reached out to some of these agencies hoping I could get some help for Joe as his condition got worse,” she observes. “Instead, I stepped onto a battlefield. The way it seemed to me, some of the people investigating approached the whole situation assuming from the beginning that I was guilty.”

■ County

from Page 1

maintain gravel roads, cost \$24,900. According to county engineer Jim Kollar, the backhoe, at a cost of \$81,685, replaces a piece of similar equipment which was due for replacement. A particular advantage of this new unit, Kollar shared with the Pioneer, is that it can be moved easily from one location to another without being loaded onto a trailer.

County assessor Brock Nelson, who is nearing the completion of his second year in the position, was sworn in for a four-year term covering calendar years 2025 to 2029.

Sarah Berry, department head for the county office of public health, shared some recent audits regarding whether members of the department were completing all the steps expected when dealing with clients through the Blue Plus and South Country Health Alliance (SCHA) agencies. She told commissioners her office has experience with SCHA’s processes, and earned a very high rating on its audit. The Blue Plus audit process is less familiar, she said, and a number of “misses” were noted. Berry observed that, having now completed the process once, the agency will most likely avoid those “misses” in the future.

Commissioners voted to continue the cooperative “Drug

Court” program shared across Steele and Waseca counties and the Third Judicial District of the state court system. The program celebrated its tenth anniversary this past summer and has “graduated” more than 100 participants.

Also renewed was a three-year contract with River Valley Forensic Services, with locations in Mankato and Rosemont. County sheriff Jay Dulas told commissioners his department has a policy of requesting an autopsy when there is an unexpected death of a person age 60 or lower, or if a death is any way “suspicious.” Although specific costs depend on the services requested, the contract mentions a cost of \$3,000 for an autopsy. Dulas informed the Pioneer, his office requested 8 autopsies in 2023 and 12 so far in 2024.

Dulas also presented commissioners with a proposed policy for the addition of body-worn cameras. According to state guidelines, a law enforcement department cannot begin using such cameras until after devising a policy and allowing opportunity for public comment. Persons interested in reviewing the 15-page document may do so at the Waseca County website, or by requesting a copy from the sheriff’s department. Citizens may share any input directly with the sheriff’s office, or attend a public meeting to do so.

A public comment hearing regarding body-worn cameras will take place during the Nov. 5 regular meeting of the county board.

Madson seeks Waseca mayor position

Milton Madson, 37, is running for the office of Waseca Mayor. A life-long resident of Waseca, Madson has two children, Colton and Lillian. He works at Rustic Faith Woodworks, woodworking. If elected, this would be his first position in elected office.

What do you consider the most important part of this job?

“Being an ambassador for the community,” Madson answered. “Bringing people and business to the community and listening to the people and what they want.”

What particular strengths or experience do you bring to the position that you believe will help you do a good job?

“I have had lead jobs and been a

leader and made things better for the companies,” Madson continued. “I am a very good listener and an easy person to get a long with and do work with.”



Madson

What do you feel are the city’s most important concerns at this time?

“Bringing in businesses and residents to help lower the taxes and take on the burden and with that other things would come to the community,” Madson concluded.

Christiansen seeks another term on council

Mark Christiansen, 54, is seeking another term as council representative in Waseca’s 3rd Ward.

He has lived in Waseca for nearly his entire life; is married to Ski Ann, and has three children, Taylor (Allie), Parker, and Spencer.

Christiansen works as a Supply Chain Specialist at Hiniker Co.

What do you consider the most important part of this job?

“Engaging in citizen discussions about Waseca,” Christiansen answered. “A councilor needs to find what’s best for the City of Waseca to help move it forward. If we are not growing, the community will lose

opportunities to expand. Part of the job description for an elected official is understanding how a city provides services and maintains their current assets within the confines of a budget.”

What particular strengths or experience do you bring to the position that you believe will help you do a good job?

“My degree in finance and accounting along with my work experience has given me knowledge to understand budgets and how revenue and expenses work,” Christiansen answered. “My years on the council have shown me how to understand



Christiansen

different opinions and gather information to move Waseca forward. My experience in volunteering with local organizations has given me a voice to expand the local community. Having a plan for the city will give staff direction to help carry out the council’s wishes.”

What do you feel are the city’s most important concerns at this time?

“Growth and infrastructure,”

Christiansen continued. “If you work on one, the other will follow. Waseca has been stagnant for growth and infrastructure can be expensive. Infrastructure can also mean broadband internet as more people are allowed the option to work from home. Different age groups are looking for quality of life issues before or during their job searches. Waseca has missed out on opportunities to expand and grow the tax base. We need to pursue grants or State and Federal funding to help invest in these projects. Growth is an important investment in developing your community.”

Christopherson seeks 3rd term as commissioner

Doug Christopherson is seeking re-election in the race for Waseca County Commissioner in District One, representing the cities of Waldorf and New Richland, along with Alton, Freedom, Byron, Vivian, Otisco and New Richland Townships. He has served the county in this capacity for the past eight years, has lived in the area for 31 years, working as crop farmer, he and Karla have raised two daughters, NRHEG graduates Abby, 26 and Olivia, 23.

What do you consider the most important part of this job?

“I have always believed that the budget is the most important part of being a Commissioner,” Christopherson answered. “We need to control spending to minimize the tax burden on our residents. There are many more aspects to the job that are

important though, such as being the liaison for a constituent when they are having difficulty with a situation at the County, whether it be Planning and Zoning, Public Works, Human Services, etc. I want to help constituents navigate through any particular problem they may be experiencing. Being the County’s voice at the State Legislature also ranks high on the priority list.”

What particular strengths or experience do you bring to the position that you believe will help you do a good job?

“I have been a business owner my entire life, from raising livestock at a young age, to crop farming and running a seed dealership in my adult life,” Christopherson answered. “With this experience I have learned the importance of controlling spend-

ing. I also believe that my faith has taught me to treat people the way I would want to be treated, whether it is working with constituents or county staff. I also believe I have a common sense approach to my decision making. This is not a common theme in government and sometimes takes a fair amount of convincing and even then does not always prevail.”

What do you feel are the county’s most important concerns at this time?

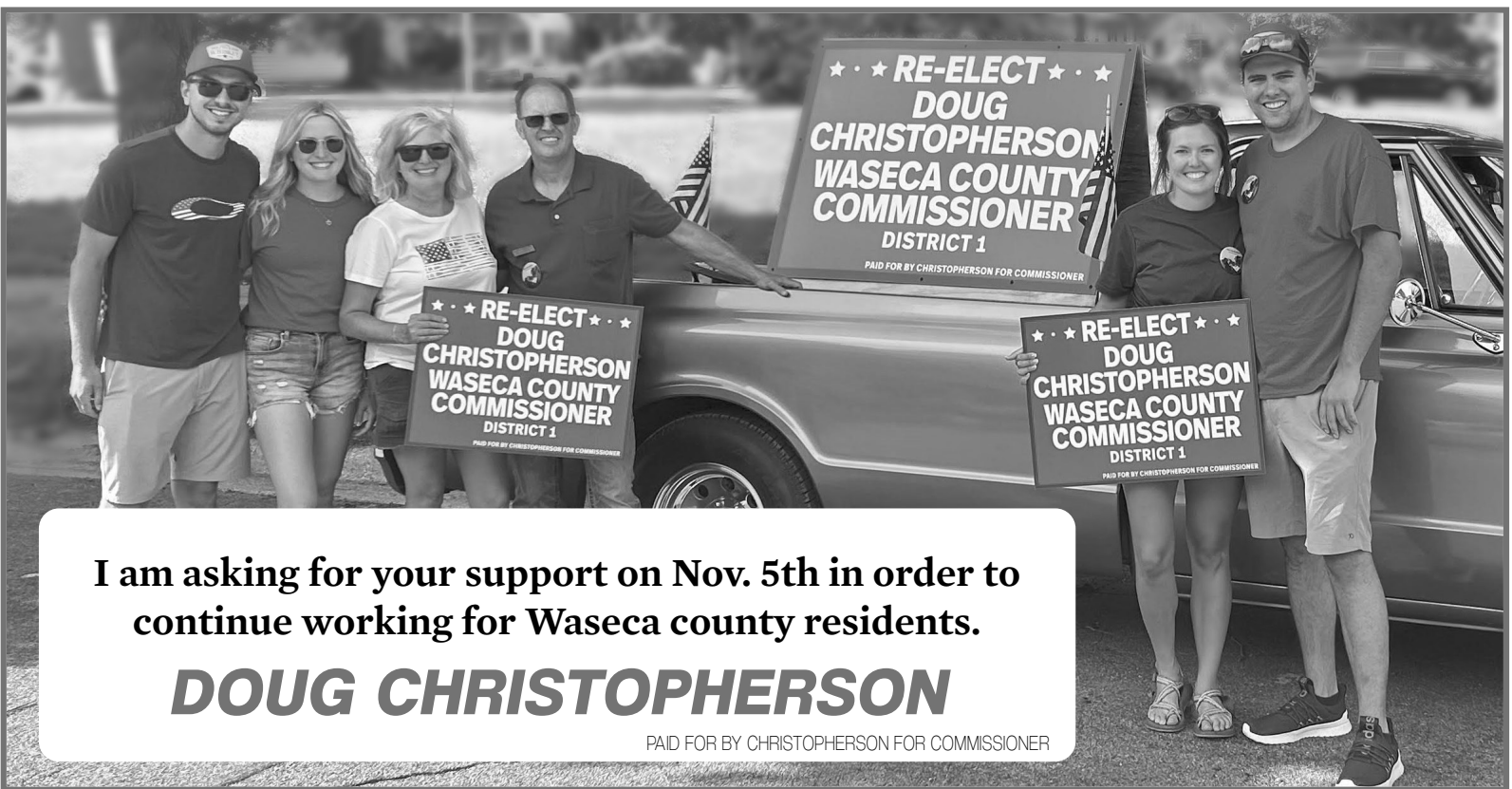
“Over the past several years, we have brought our tax rate down through very limited growth in tax levy,” Christopherson answered.



Christopherson

“This has made it much more attractive for businesses to look at Waseca County as a place to locate when starting up or growing a business. We need to focus on this and do what we can to promote business growth that will in turn grow our tax base and lower the tax burden on residents and ag properties.

Our jail and justice center will be a topic that will need to be addressed in the near future. It will be important to look at all the aspects and make the right decision for Waseca County’s residents for 50 years plus into the future. We have a former Sheriff on our County Board now and he will help guide this topic with his knowledge. Keeping the County safe and minimizing the tax burden on the resident are my main concerns.”



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The Pastor's Column

Live, learn, pass on

By PASTOR KEN ANDRS

There have been a few themes or sayings that have resonated with me and my life. Some more popular Christian sayings include WWJD (What Would Jesus Do?) or FROG (Fully Relying On God). My favorite sayings deal with what is under your control and what you can do about it. I have a clipboard that says, "Nobody Cares, Work Harder." And then several T-shirts from Elite Fitness Systems and their sayings.

One of the t-shirts just says, "Work Harder." I bought it after I had Naomi make me the clipboard. I wear this shirt later in the football season and challenge my players to do exactly what it says. Another shirt says, "Live, Learn, Pass on" a philosophical ideology that challenges people to live their lives, learn from their mistakes and grow with experience, then pass on your understanding to others.

My absolute favorite shirt and theme or saying states "Strong(er)." I love being strong, but being stronger is a goal. How do you reach your goals? To be stronger requires more than what got you to be strong. You need to do more, work harder, focus more, adapt your training and try to get the right nutrition. To be strong(er) you need to get into the parenthesis and have some Extraordinary Resolve in every area of your life.

I have often been reminded of Paul's words in 1 Tim 4:18 by some well-meaning Christians, "For the training of the body has limited benefit, but godliness is beneficial in every way, since it

holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come." So how do I apply the ideology of Extraordinary Resolve to the Christian walk?

Paul is pretty blunt in Ephesians 3:14-21. He tells us what we don't want to hear and how we can grow in Christ.

14 For this reason I kneel before the Father 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. 16 I pray that he may grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with power in your inner being through his Spirit, 17 and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. I pray that you, being rooted and firmly established in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the length and width, height and depth of God's love, 19 and to know Christ's love that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

20 Now to him who is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think according to the power that works in us— 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

We pray for each other. We take the focus off ourselves and our lives trusting that God is at work, and we pray for one another to be strengthened. We encourage one another in our faith and give glory to God. We strengthen each other in our faith for God's glory. He is able to do more than we can in our own ability, so we turn to Him for His strength and Fully Rely On God.

Riehm

from Page 3

field is very competitive, she says her teachers and mentors so far have been encouraging and supportive regarding a possible career.

She explains that, during her years in the music program at Luther, all participants in her program were required to take part in twice-a-year "juries." For these, she and her instructor had to choose a repertoire of around eight pieces, then practice and prepare for them meticulously. Since opera is an international art with strong foundations in Europe, the selected pieces would be in Italian, French, German, and occasionally English. She would appear before a panel of music faculty who would then select two or three pieces of her prepared repertoire for assessment.

After the initial autumn jury for music students, "they would issue a decision whether you were good enough to stay in the program," Riehm recalls. Vocal lessons and coachings, rehearsals, performances and recitals were on-going. Singers were expected to work on every element of musical performance from vocal tone to pronunciation, diction, and characterization.

The juries, she says, "were more intimidating than my final exams each semester."

Riehm mentions she often receives comments about the apparent contrast between her neuroscience major and her music performance minor.

"They're more interrelated than most people realize," she observes. As a matter of fact, the thesis paper she wrote as the culminating element of her major concerned the ways early exposure to classical music—including in utero and early childhood—can benefit and enhance brain development.

As she studies at Cardiff this

fall, Riehm says she expects to be working toward a number of goals she has envisioned since high school, and is "really taking that next step toward having an international opera career." She knows her days will be filled with lessons, commitments and classes; she expects many of her evenings to include music analysis, rehearsals and performances.

Earning the master's degree from a prestigious university, she says, will send a message to producers and directors that she is both sufficiently trained and dedicated. Being located in a city closely associated with opera—including a world-class opera competition—will help her become acquainted with some of those influential decision-makers. "Who you know is very important going forward," she observes.

Just as she was required to when finishing her bachelor's degree at Luther, she knows she will be expected to present at least two recitals as she finishes her master's program, one each semester.

For now, she says, she is concentrating on settling in as the semester begins, and appreciating the privilege and adventure of this time in her life.

Although she is achieving something she always "dreamed" of, she says her hope, faith and perseverance will be focused on "practical, professional hard work and planning."

She says she also plans to keep in mind a piece of advice given to her by Carla Thelen Hanson, a professional opera singer and Riehm's instructor at Luther College during her undergraduate years.

"She said, 'It's not personal,'" Riehm remembers. "To me, that meant being passed over for a role isn't necessarily a message of failure or criticism of your person."

"Yes, I can feel sad. Yes, I can be disappointed. I can feel what I need to feel.

"But I should still keep going."

WHS Gaming club

Nearly three dozen Waseca students participate

Group meets every Wed. from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

By BEN REVERMANN Staff writer

At 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 18 in the Waseca junior senior high school the janitor was busy pushing his cleaning cart down the empty hall. Almost all the rooms of the school were empty, the few remaining students were outside getting into cars or boarding buses in the parking lot.

But room 411 wasn't empty: nearly 30 students were inside, each of them concentrating on a computer or television screen, or sitting with various small groups around a number of board games. Wednesday afternoons have looked like this for the past several years.

Eighth-grade social studies teacher Ashton Mahon has supervised the activity for the past two years, after taking over from Marc Engesether. The children sitting around Mahon were well behaved, aside from occasional shouts of, "You missed it!" or "What were you thinking?" Even the shouts were well behaved. For any kid in high school who needs a place to play or to find someone to play with, said Mrs. Mahon, "This is a place where students can come together and form connections with other students that also play. They can come every Wednesday from 3 to 5 p.m. This is for any student that's interested."

There are no fees or dues for the students to attend Game Club. Mrs. Mahon does sit in the classroom in case there are problems but she's technically there for crowd control. Instead, there are two student presidents of the Game Club, Bella and Tristan. When asked why she would want to take on the extra work it takes to be president, Bella replied, "To be able to help out, get and give new



From left: Ezra, Keith, Kyler, Tristan, Charlie, Logan, Charlie and Enoch were all playing Smash Brothers together during a September 16 afternoon session of the "Gaming" club at the Waseca Junior Senior High School. Pioneer photo Ben Revermann

ideas to make Game Club go better. It's a great place to meet new people and gain new experiences." Bella's co-president Tristan said he ended up in the position because "Basically the last president wanted me to be, so I considered it, since I have become president it's been fun and exciting."

Students do not focus only on computer games or student Chromebook games or board games; they take part in all of them. The Game Club goes on all year long with far too many games to mention. The first four-player video game is often considered to be "Gauntlet," released by Atari Games in 1985. Golden Eye 007 was released by Nin-

tendo 64 in 1997 and is considered to be the first modern four-player game. Ezra, Keith, Kyler, Tristan, Charlie, Logan, another Charlie and Enoch were playing Smash Brothers. About 25 students were all playing the same game at the same time online. Even though they were busy playing with the future of entertainment, they were all nice enough to pose for a picture—they even paused their game for a moment.

Mahon invites any students to her safe after-school space in room 411 at the Waseca Junior Senior High School on Wednesdays from 3 to 5 p.m.

Briefs

from Page 3

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.

Legion Burger and Fish Fry to benefit WANSC 5:30 p.m. Nov. 15

A burger and fish fry meal at

Waseca American Legion, 700 S. State Street, beginning at 5:30 Nov. 15 will benefit the Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center (WANSC). Tickets are \$10, available in advance at WANSC, or at the door.

VFW Breakfast to benefit WANSC 8 a.m. to noon Nov. 17

An all-you-care-to-eat breakfast from 8 a.m. to noon at the Waseca VFW Post, 113 W. Elm Ave., will benefit the Waseca Area Neighborhood Service Center. Cost is \$12 for adults, \$7 for ages 6 to 13, and free for ages 5 and under. Food or cash donations for the Waseca Area Food Shelf will be appreciated.

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.

State of Waseca County address 7 p.m. Nov. 19

The Waseca "State of the County"

address will begin at 7 p.m. on Nov. 19 in the high school performing arts center. Speakers will be county board of commissioners chair Brian Harguth and county administrator Michael Johnson.

Farmamerica Presidential Turkey Trot Friday, Nov. 29 at 10 a.m. till noon

Run off those Thanksgiving calories with the pardoned presidential turkeys 5k. Join Farmamerica for a Turkey Trot around our historic grounds starting at 10 AM and meet the newest members of our farm family straight off the truck from Washington D.C. Cost is \$20 per walker or runner, under 4 is free. A t-shirt.

Attend the Church of your Choice!

CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH 2200 4th St NE, Waseca 507-835-2235 Service times 9:30 a.m. *****	CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST LATTER-DAY SAINTS 1001 9th Ave SE, Waseca 507-835-4640 Sacrament meeting 10:00 a.m. *****	Sunday - 10:30 a.m. Worship ***** VISTA EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Brian Schanil Pastor Sunday - 10 a.m. Worship; 9 a.m. Sunday School Tuesdays: The Shepherd's Robe Ministry, 1-3 p.m., 6-8 p.m.; Bonfires and Yard Games, 6 p.m. until dark *****	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 *****
4TH STREET EVANGELICAL CHURCH 605 4th St NE, Waseca 507-201-7293 (Pastor Andrew Isker) Worship Sundays 10 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 *****
FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 801 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-3167 Worship Sundays 9:30 a.m. *****	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) *****
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 *****	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. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH 401 3rd Ave NE, Waseca 507-833-1703 Sundays 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 *****
ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH 314 4th Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-2647 Worship Sunday 9:00 a.m. *****	FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 503 2nd Ave NE, Waseca 507-835-4548 (office email: 1cwasceca@hickory-tech.net) Worship Sunday 10 a.m. *****	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. *****	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 *****	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. *****	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 *****	THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS Brad Donner, Branch President Waseca, Minnesota www.lds.org Sunday — 10 a.m. Sacrament Mtg.; 11:20 a.m. Sunday School Wednesday — 7 p.m. Youth Activities, ages 12-18 *****	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 507-607-8245 Sunday worship 10 a.m. *****	VISTA LUTHERAN CHURCH New Richland, Minnesota Pastor Dan Kordahl *****		NOTE: CHANGES IN CHURCH CALENDARS MUST BE MADE BY NOTIFICATION FROM A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION TO THE WASECA COUNTY PIONEER.

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Janesville

1924

- The countless throngs of workmen in the open spaces about the great buildings suggests the magnitude of the industry. The roar of the machinery drowns the voice of the guide. But we catch his words and imbibe their meaning. Others of the party cluster in groups and vainly attempt to hear what he is saying. He tells us that nine hundred and fifty men are employed and that the shipments are from twenty-five to thirty-five carloads daily. The industry involves the expenditure of many millions of dollars, one piece of machinery alone costing a hundred thousand dollars. The ownership is vested in American and Canadian capitalists, who also own and control the M. D. W. railroad, operated in connection with the mill.

- The speeches delivered on Friday in Janesville by J. J. Farrell, Democratic candidate for ited States senator and R. C. Bell, candidate for Attorney General on the same ticket were listened to by a fair si d gathering , as large as might be secured under the circumstances. The Foley corner seems to be the popular corner in this campaign. It is so situated that voters may gather more quickly than elsewhere. Standing on the steps as a platform as a former Republican speaker did when here singular, indeed, that a Republican and Democrat may stand on the same platform, the speaker talked purely along democratic lines, following, closely, democratic principles.

1949

- Winds of hurricane velocity raged over Janesville Monday for a period of eight hours and hit a high speed of 80 miles per hour for a part of the time. The storm was general over the entire state, and it is reported that the wind reached 100 miles per hour at Rochester, 89 miles per hour in Minneapolis, and 80 miles per hour in Mankato. From reports that since have been coming in, corn damage in Minnesota will reach many millions of dollars. Corn fields in this area have been flattened out to such an extent that farmers will be unable to use their mechanical corn pickers and will be required to go back to the old system of picking corn by hand.

- In view of the opening of the seasons for pheasants and other upland game next Saturday,

- Warnings against farm seed salesman who falsely claim to be connected with the Minensota Crop Improvement Association and iversity Farm have been issued in Waseca County. "Minnesota farmers, particularly in southern counties, are being approached by seed salesmen who imply a connection with the iversity or the Crop Improvement Association," Ward Marshall, seed registrar, reported today." "This is clearly a case of misrepresentation. ither the iversity or the Association sponsors a sales campaign. Farm-to-farm canvassers who claim connection are using a hoax to make sales."

1974

- In the last 12 years, 414,496 people have been swimming in the pool at St. James High School. Attendance has ranged from a low of 26,434 in 1963 to a high of 40,008 in 1970. Over this period of time the receipts from group and individuals has exceeded the pool expenses. During the 1972-73 school year, St. James school received ,787.50 from pool rental adult instruction and summer program. The expenses everything from lifeguards and chemicals to instructors and bathing caps came to \$2,341.23. These figures come from a report by Supt. Robert G. Christianson, a former superintendent at Janesville High School. If the school bond issue passes here October 21, Janesville will join towns like Minnesota Lake, Mountain Lake, Montgomery, Mankato, and Waseca in having an indoor school pool.

- After the Janesville Area Chamber of Commerce rejected any formal welcome for David Kunst, Mayor Roy Hendricks took on the project himself. With the help of Lloyd Simon and Pat Thissen, he arranged for the local welcome and the reception at the Heritage House. From 6 a.m., Friday until he left here Saturday morning, the World Walker was a guest at the Hendricks home. Sunday the mayor told the Argus that Kunst is just like a coiled spring, always on the move with nervous energy. Although he didn't turn in until nearly two in the morning, the World Walker was up shortly after six.

1999

- The Janesville-WaldorfPemberton volleyball team survived a scrappy w Richland-Hartland- lendale- Geneva six to win a Gopher Conference contest in four games at Janesville last Thursday. "This wasn't easy, but we aren't known for doing things the easy way," said JWP coach Michelle Johnson. "I thought our girls played really well," said H coach Jackie Schult "We've made a few adjustments. If we continue to work hard, and keep positive attitudes, we will keep improving." JWP snapped a three-match losing streak with the win, improving to 3-4 in the Gopher Conference and 4-7 overall.

- Rotary change Student Tinetta Fat r of Diessenhofen, Swit rland hopes her stay in Minnesota will teach her more about herself and the world around her. "It is a good experience," Tinetta said of becoming an exchange student. " ou can learn to speak the language better and have a lot of time to think about yourself." Tinetta arrived in Minnesota in August and is spending the first part of her stay with the Darwin and Beth Jorgenson family of Janesville. "They are a nice family," Tinetta said. "It's been fun." As a Rotary change Student, Tinetta will also live with two other area families.



FALL FESTIVAL

Saturday, October 26, 2024
11:00 am to 1:30 pm

Luncheon – 2 Options
Dine In or Take Out(Full meal only)

Soup:	\$ 3.50	Soup (Homemade Vegetable Beef),
Sandwich:	\$ 3.50	Sandwich (Sloppy Joe),
Pie	\$ 3.00	Pie

Full Meal \$ 9.00 (Beverage included in prices)

Craft and Bake Sale
Quilts by St. John's Quilters

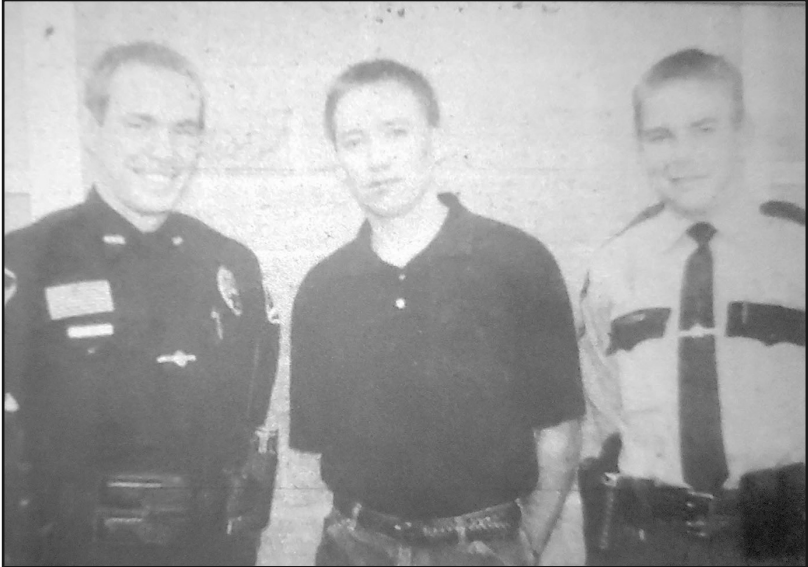
St. John Lutheran Church
401 3rd Ave NE
Waseca, MN

Waseca

25 Years Ago: October 19

-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 of 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.

-Country sounds – Country music star Daryle Singletary performed two concerts Saturday at the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton High School Auditorium. Also featured at the concert were the Good Ol' Boys and Bobbi Jo Dinesen and the Lighting Flats. Money raised from the concert will be used to support the JWP choral department and the senior choral students' 2000 trip. A portion of the proceeds will also be donated to one of Singletary's classes, the Jason Foundation, Inc., an organization dedicated to teen suicide awareness, education and prevention.



-Waseca Police Officer Scott Girtler, (left) Waseca Police Reservist Bob Hagen and Waseca County Sherriff's Department Deputy Trevor Kanewischer assisted Broward County, Fla., sheriff deputies with the chase and subsequent arrest of a drug dealer in the greater Fort Lauderdale area during their vacation this spring.

50 Years Ago: October 18



-Saw this little fellow in front of our place yesterday and asked his name and he replied, "My name is Chad and I'm four years old." We asked him who his favorite Viking was and he said he didn't know any of the Vikings... (Viking Paul Krause never looked this good) and told him maybe we could introduce him to a few... Said he sure likes to ride his tricycle....maybe a future Bluejay someday...

-New church – CONSTRUCTION is going well at the new church in Elysian. Pastor at St. Andrew's Catholic Church, Rev. Clarence Zlotkowski, said he hopes to hold the first service sometime in December probably at Christmas time. The new church has been under construction since June.

75 Years Ago

-Ewald Schacht came up with some proof for those "fishermen" who say there are no good-sized fish in Clear Lake, last week. While fishing on a bar on the north shore of the lake Friday he took an eight and three-quarter pound pickerel and a two pound walleye on a fly rod with a crappie hook. He was using small minnows for bait. The pickerel measured 34 inches and kept Schacht occupied for 20 minutes before he got it to the edge of the boat where he could lift it in.

-Polio, sweeping 32 states in the devastating epidemic of 1949 is leaving in its receding wake a medical problem which will tax the resources of the National Foundation for months to come, Mr. Lloyd Kelly of Waseca declared today.

100 Years Ago

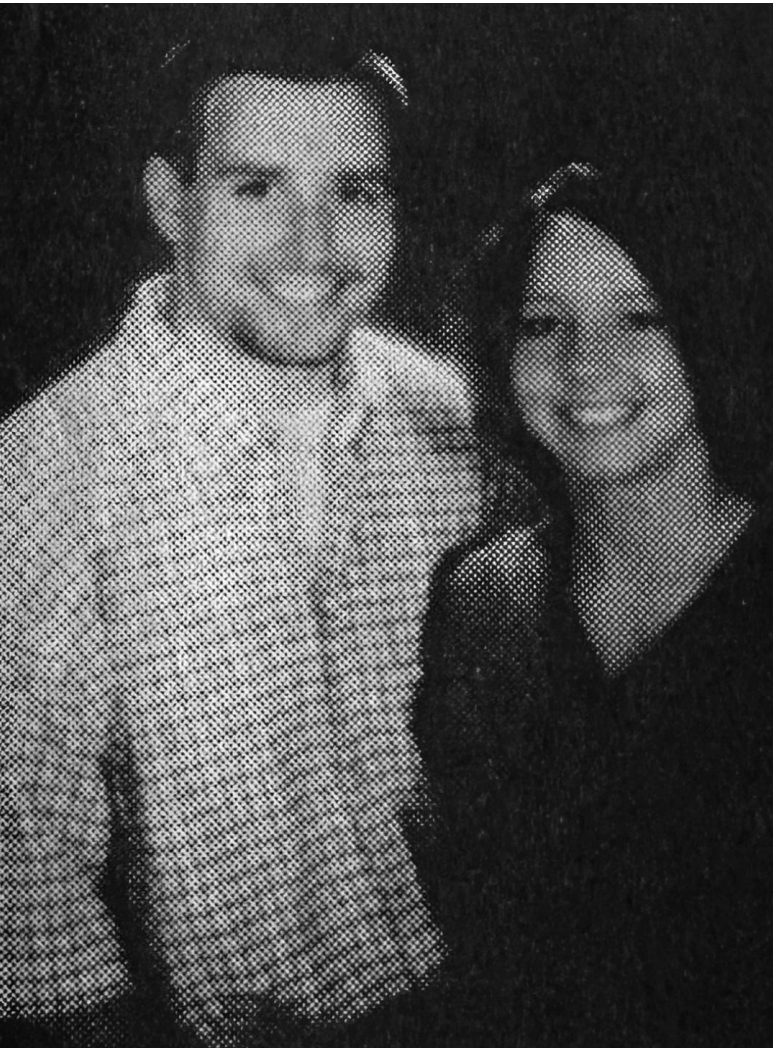
-The local veterinarian, Dr. R. L. West, has spent much of his time during the past month or six weeks testing dairy herds in this vicinity. Twenty-one herds have been tested for tuberculosis and some surprising discoveries have been made. One herd of 32 dairy cowed showed at the close of the test that 20 of the animals were infected with T.B. This was an exceptional case, of course, and many herds passed the test without a single reactor and other breeders lost one or two animals.

-Traveling a distance of 195,763 miles – nearly eight times around the earth – is quite some jaunt, but it doesn't seem far to E.R. Stevens who will have covered that many miles when he packs his mail for the last time on October 28, at the close of his last trip on rural route No. 2, after 22 years and over two months of continuous services.

-The budget for the Waseca public schools for the year 1924-25 has been fixed at \$65,000. This is an increase of only \$5,000 over the budget of last year. This is really a small increase when we consider the extra expenditures required in the new building for additional teachers, two janitors, extra fuel, etc.

New Richland

25 Years Back



- Tanya Budach and Matt Schlinger announce their engagement and upcoming marriage. The daughter of Gary and Kris Budach of New Richland, Tanya graduated from NRHEG in 1992 and is employed by Jostens, Owatonna. The son of Arnold and Beverly Schlinger of Morristown, Matt graduated from WEM in 1992. Matt is employed by Jostens, Owatonna. A Saturday, October 16, 1999 wedding is planned by the couple at LeSueur River Lutheran Church, rural New Richland.

- Owatonna clinic - part of Mayo Health System - has been designated as a certified mammography facility by the Public Health Service of the Food and Drug Administrations (FDA). The accreditation was completed by the American College of Radiology. "The certification means that our patients can be assured they receive the best quality care" said Craig Oien, M.D., medical director of Owatonna Clinic.

- The NRHEG Girls Cross Country Team placed fifth in the Bryon meet on October 5, 1999. Winning the event was Hayfield with 36, second was Pine Island with 51, Kasson, Manorville, Triton third with 60, Byron fourth with 102 and NRHEG fifth with 102. Thirty-One runners participated in the event. Micheal Maurer placed 8th and led the Panthers with a time of 16:09. Melissa Maurer placed 19th with a time of 18:10. Jessica Brouwers placed 22nd with a time of 18:27 Jen Routh 26th with a time of 19:38 and Sara Graves 27th with a time of 20:04.

50 Years Back

- Ellendale-Geneva High School will participate in the District 2A One-Act Play Contest to be held at Hayfield on Wednesday January, 28. Play members are Jennifer Zimprich and Vonda Humburg. Crew members include Vicki Haberman and Angie Kasper. Director of the One-Act Play is Bruce Bolton.



- Ellendale Semcac president John Crabtree and regional staff representative Mary Kittleson. Friday January, 23, was the second year anniversary of Ellendales Semcac with 60 in attendance. Semcac had begun with 35 two years ago when the group applied for Semcac on January 2, 1985. Semcac is a seniors nutrition program that provides well balanced meals to senior citizens. It also offers a social element that is vital to people of all ages.

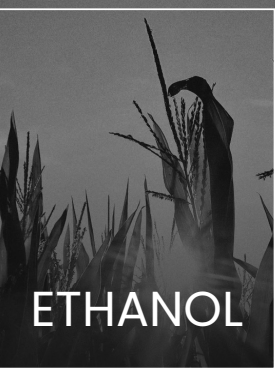
- To honor Marcella Arnold, VAVS representative at the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Minneapolis for over 28 years and a loyal and dedicated volunteer of the hospitalized veteran, a nursing scholarship is offered by the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. The scholarship is to give financial aid to a student in their final year of nursing school they are attendanding and give them an opportunity to work in the Veterans Administration Medical Center or a Minnesota Veterans Home.

- David P. Mangskua, a graduate of Ellendale-Geneva High School, has been named to the Dean's List for the fall quarter at Rochester Community College. To achieve the Dean's List a student must have received a 3.0 or better grade average. David received a perfect 4.0, or Straight A average.



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Bluejays rally past Fairmont

20-19 win earns WHS football team No. 1 seed in Section 3AAA

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

It was a great football game between two excellent teams and, if you were rooting for the home squad, it was a perfect finish as well.

The Waseca Bluejays and visiting Fairmont Cardinals battled until the final seconds in the final game of the regular season last Wednesday, with the Bluejays emerging a 20-19 victor when a last-second field goal attempt sailed wide left on the game's final play.

The win, Waseca's seventh straight, places the Bluejays, 7-1, as the No. 1 seed in the section. They had an opening-round bye Tuesday, and will play at home Saturday, Oct. 26 at 2 p.m. vs. the winner of No. 5 Belle Plaine or No. 4 Jordan. Fairmont, rated ahead of the Bluejays much of the season, fell to 6-2 and is seeded second behind Waseca. Fairmont faces No. 6 Albert Lea or No. 3 Luverne Saturday. The section championship game is Friday, Nov. 1 at 7 p.m. at New Ulm High School.

The Bluejays and Cardinals have met in the Section 3 finals for of the last three seasons, with Fairmont winning in 2021 and 2022 before Waseca claimed the title last fall.

As for last Wednesday, WHS head coach Brad Wendland was proud of his team's performance.

"I thought we played a very clean first half," said Wendland. "In the second half, we made mistakes that resulted in big plays for our opponent. They took advantage of them because they are a very good well coached team."

The Bluejays took the ball at their own 20 following the opening kick-off and proceeded to drive inside Fairmont territory to the 24-yard line, where they faced third down and 14. A pass from Kellen Klinger to Carson Ohnstad set up fourth-and-one from the 15. Klinger carried to the 4, and scored on a quarterback sneak from the 1/2-yard line. Owen Rupe kicked the extra point and Waseca led 7-0 with 2:30 left in the opening quarter.

The Cardinals picked up a first down before fumbling, setting up the Bluejays on the Fairmont 40. The first quarter ended with the Cardinals on their own 3. The Jays returned a punt to the 49, where another Klinger pass gave them a first down at the 37. A spectacular pass reception by Deron Russell advanced it to the 8-yard line, and a pass to Ohnstad took it to the 2, where they fumbled and Fairmont recovered.

After a Fairmont punt, the Bluejays again drove for a score, the final 18 yards on a reception by Ohnstad, who bulled his way to the end zone and stretched the ball over the goal line. Rupe kicked the PAT.

It looked like the Bluejays would go up 21-0, but they fumbled at the Fairmont 2, and Waseca led 14-0 at halftime.

Fairmont took the opening second-half kickoff at their own 15 and, behind the running of Elijah Johnson, drove 85 yards for a touchdown on an 8-yard run by Johnson. A successful PAT cut the lead to 14-7 with 7:39 to go in the third period.

The Bluejays were driving when a pass bounced off a receiver's hands and into the hands of Fairmont's Brett Williams, who returned it all the way for a touchdown. Brandyn Jaschka blocked the extra point, a point that would loom large later, and Waseca led 14-13 with 5:15 remaining in the third.

A 22-yard pass from Klinger to Damarius Russell put Waseca on the Fairmont 29, and Klinger carried twice before attempting a pass, his arm hit as he was throwing. The pass hung up and Fairmont's Nolan Schultze caught it in the end zone and raced 102 yards for the score. Another missed kick left it 19-14 Fairmont as the third quarter ended.

There was plenty of drama in the fourth, with both Waseca and Fairmont fans on their feet for much of it.

Waseca's next possession also ended with a punt, giving Fairmont the ball at their own 25 with 8:06 to play, and a fired-up Fairmont crew



BIG-TIME PLAYERS — At left, Waseca's Carson Ohnstad holds the ball over the goal-line for a touchdown in the Bluejays' exciting 20-19 victory over Fairmont. At right, Deron Russell lays out for a reception.



went to work.

With the clocking running and time running out, the Bluejay defense made a big stand and Fairmont punted on fourth and 25.

A 15-yard run by Klinger was followed by a pass to Ohnstad, but a pass attempt to Damarius Russell just missed on third down, forcing another punt.

The Cardinals got the ball back again, the Waseca defense came through again, and again Fairmont punted. On fourth and 4, Klinger connected with Deron Russell to the 11-yard line. A short pass to Damarius Russell turned into a touchdown as the determined senior made his way through the defense and stretched the ball to the end zone pylon.

Waseca led 20-19 with 1:08 remaining.

But the Cardinals were not finished. They drove the ball into Bluejay territory and set up a 31-yard field goal by their strong-legged kicker. It sailed left and Waseca players, coaches and fans celebrated.

"I'm very proud of how the team responded to adversity in the second half," said Coach Wendland. "That is a good sign for the future of this team. We made lots of big plays made down the stretch. Our seniors led the way on senior night; a great memory for them. I'm excited to coach this team in the playoffs."



NOWHERE TO HIDE — Waseca's Micah Allen-Haas (45) and Koltyn Quillen team up to stop a Fairmont ball carrier. Waseca won, 20-19.

Waseca 20, Fairmont 19				
FMT	0	0	19	0 — 19
WAS	7	7	0	6 — 20

First Quarter	
WAS	— Kellen Klinger 1 run (Owen Rupe kick)
Second Quarter	
WAS	— Carson Ohnstad 5 pass from Klinger (Rupe kick)
Third Quarter	
FMT	— Elijah Johnson 3 run (Rosburg kick)
FMT	— Brett Williams 55 interception return (kick blocked)
FMT	— Nolan Schultze 100 interception return (kick failed)
Fourth Quarter	

WAS — Damarius Russell 11 pass from Klinger (pass failed)	
FMT	WAS
11	20
20-123	22-61
5-10-0	23-40-2
32	237
165	298
2	2
6-72	3-40
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS	
Rushing — WAS: Kellen Klinger 14-26; Bennett Ludwig 7-19; Deven Parpart 1-16; FMT: Elijah Johnson 27-127; Joe Long 1-5; Hadan Toomer 1-1;	
Passing — WAS: Klinger 23-40-2, 237;	

FMT: Long 5-10-0, 32	
Receiving — WAS: Damarius Russell 8-84; Deron Russell 4-82; Carson Ohnstad 8-70; Ludwig 2-1; Parpart 1-0; FMT: Johnson 2-21; Nolan Schultze 1-11; Taylan Harvey 2-0	
Waseca Defense — Bennett Ludwig 1 assist; Damarius Russell 2 tackles; Ethan Hiller 2T, 1A; Kolyten Quillen 1T, 3A, 1 fumble rec.; Deron Russell 1T, 1A; Carson Ohnstad 6T, 3A; Max Wirtz 2T; William Mansfield 2T, 1A; Micah Allen-Haas 3T, 1 sack; Tauston Rupe 5T, 2A, 1 fum. rec.; Lucas Selthun 1T, 3A; Kaden Garza 2T; Brandon Jascha 1A, 1 blocked PAT; Caleb Wulf 1A; Julius Oveido 1A; Max Howard 4A	

Grizzly girls take conference

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The WEM/JWP girls' cross country team had no less than a stellar showing in last week's Gopher Conference meet at Janesville's Prairie Ridge Golf Course.

The Grizzlies' girls team won the championship, totaling 39 points to 50 for second-place Blooming Prairie. Randolph had 52, USCAC 100, Medford 107.

The Grizzlies not only won the team title, freshman MaKenzie Westphal was the girls' overall winner, earning her Player of the Year honors. Westphal battled NRHEG's Juliann Wobbrock until pulling away in the final 100 meters, clocking 20:27.4 for 5,000 meters.

WEM/JWP freshman Madalyn Miller finished 12th in 24:00.0, earning her second team all-conference honors.

Onokia Herme finished in 13th in 24:01.1, earning her honorable mention all-conference.

Also taking honorable mention were Emma Huelsnitz, 13th, 24:07.8; and Lydia Coulseay, 15th, 24:16.1. Madeline Hoehn was 19th in 24:56.4, Ellie Schlie 25th in 25:38.7.



CHAMPIONS — The WEM/JWP girls' cross country team captured the championship in last week's Gopher Conference meet at Prairie Ridge Golf course. Front from left: Hailey Heinz, MaKenzie Westphal, Madalyn Miller and Lydia Coulseay. Back: Jaclyn Wilmes, Ellie Schlie, Abby Crosby, Emma Huelsnitz, Kwynn Krause, Madeline Hoehn and Onikia Herme. Westphal finished first, earning Player of the Year honors in the conference.

Said co-head coach Liz Kvebak, "Coach Petry and I were beyond thrilled at the effort and achievements of the Grizzly athletes. 'Anything is possible' was the phrase going into the meet and we showcased that!"

The Grizzly boys also had a strong showing, taking third with 64 points. Randolph had 43, Blooming Prairie 60, USC/AC 86, Medford 145, Hayfield 145. Coach Kvebak said it was an amazing showing.

Wyatt Jans, a sophomore, paced the boys with an impressive second-place finish in 18:15.7. It earned

him all-conference recognition.

Teagan Mulder finished seventh, making all-conference second team. Wesley Heinz, meanwhile, received honorable mention all-conference while place 18th in 20:39.3.

Following for the Grizzlies were Alexander Kleve, 21st, 29:49.0; Jaxon Hilley, 29th, 22:22.8; Maddox Moreno, 35th, 23:53.1; and Parker Smith, 37th, 24:31.

The winner of the boys' race was NRHEG's Jacob Karl in 17:51.6.

The success didn't stop with the varsity.

The WEM/JWP girls finished first

with a near-perfect score. Kwynn Krause was first, Abby Crosby second, Jaelyn Wilmes third and Lydia Huelsnitz seventh.

For the JV boys, Auston Holicky finished second, Charlie Denis third. Hailey Heinz took charge for the girls' junior high, finishing third in 13:23 for 2,500 meters.

"She also had the largest cheer squad with a group of her teammates riding on a golf cart," said Coach Kvebak.

Next up for the Grizzlies is the section meet at Norwood-Young America Thursday, Oct. 24.

WHS runners shine in Big South meet

JV girls claim top six places

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

The Waseca High School cross country teams competed in the Big South Conference meet Tuesday, Oct. 15 at the Minnesota-Iowa Golf Course in Elmore.

The Bluejays welcomed back runners and had a strong showing.

"It was a fun meet with some great competition and a fast course," said Waseca head coach Grant Popp. "We've had a number of athletes missing meets for injuries, but we were able to get most of them back for conference and running strong again. Overall, we had a good day."

The WHS girls finished third among the Big Schools, totaling 70 points. St. Peter won with 44, Marshall had 58. Also competing were Belle Plaine 72, Tri-City United 132, Fairmont 154 and Worthington 180.

The Bluejays were led by senior Callie Dufault, who earned all-conference honors by placing seventh in 19:22.53 for 5,000 meters.

Taking all-conference honorable mention honors were seventh-grader Ella Kopishke, 11th; 19:43.48; sophomore Stella Omtvedt, 13th, 19:48; and freshman Maren Schimming, 16th, 21:14.75.

Following for Waseca were Jenna Yoder, 23rd, 20:54.14; Taylor Markeson, 31st, 21:40.67; and Ava VanDenHemel, 36th, 22:00.

Keira Friedrich, a junior from St. Peter, won the girls' race in 18:01.3. There were 58 runners.

The Waseca boys had 122 points for fifth place. Marshall



Dufault

I.Feldkamp

won with 30, followed by Belle Plaine at 51, St. Peter 96, Fairmont 117, Waseca, Worthington 134 and Tri-City United 167.

Bluejay senior Isaac Feldkamp finished ninth with a time of 16:15.48, earning him all-conference honors.

Following for Waseca: Tristan Godwin, 28th, 18:02.87; Tyler Jellum, 30th, 18:22.46; Tanner Hanson, 32nd, 18:28.37; Wyatt Hager, 34th, 18:43.28; and Luke Feldkamp, 40th, 19:34.77.

Winning the boys' race was Kelton Koepp, a junior from Belle Plaine who clocked 15:39.24. There were 59 boys in the race.

The biggest highlight for the Bluejays, according to Popp, came in the girls' junior varsity division, where Quinn Yoder, Kelsey Draeger, Leah Wilson, Megan Tedmeier and Violet Rowher took the top five spots to win with a perfect score of 15, with Marshall second at 60. For good measure, Waseca's Camill Staloch finished sixth.

"Our JV girls ran especially well, getting places 1-6 in the large school division," said Popp. "Hopefully, we'll keep getting stronger and will be able to have a strong section showing next

JWP volleyball team takes momentum into section

The JWP High School volleyball team closed out the regular season last week with a 3-1 Gopher Conference victory over United South Central. The Bulldogs won 25-16, 25-23, 26-28, 25-21.

JWP's Brielle Bure tallied her 1,000th career dig, finishing with 30

digs, two assists and two ace serves. Nevaeh Weimert had two kills, 18 assists and seven digs; Paige Walz seven kills, 1 assist and 1 dig; Lilly Strauss six kills, one block and four digs. Claire Walz totaled four kills, three blocks and a dig, Aubrey Weedman four aces, 10 kills, 26

assists and 15 digs.

Also: Ellah Oliver one ace, 11 digs; Presley James two aces, 11 kills, 3 blocks; Katie Olson 11 kills, 1 block, 3 digs; Brielle Dessner 2A, 1K, 9D; Hope Dimmel 1A, 2D.

The Bulldogs, 12-8-1 overall, drew the No. 11 seed in the Section

2AA tournament, facing No. 6 Jordan Monday in their playoff opener. The winner plays Thursday, Oct. 24 against Holy Family Catholic or Central Public.

The sub-section finals are Tuesday, Oct. 29 at 7:45 at New Prague High School.

Bulldogs blow out Medford

By JIM LUTGENS
Sports Editor

There was little doubt who would win last week's regular-season football finale between Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton and visiting Medford.

The question was by how much. The answer? Quite a bit. The Bulldogs won for the second week in a row, rolling to a 51-0 victory at Janesville. It was Senior Night at JWP.

"It was a fun game for Senior Night!" said Bulldogs head coach Ryan Luedtke. "We had some seniors get some handoffs that they typically wouldn't get during the regular season, and it was great to see the team's reaction to those carries. The team has been doing a great job of sticking together through the ups and downs of the season! I'm excited to see what we can do in the playoffs."

The first quarter was scoreless, but the Bulldogs broke it open with three second-period touchdowndowns, a 4-yard pass to Landon Johnson from Daulton Bauer, a 35-yard return of a blocked punt by Caleb Quast,k and a 35-yard run by Chase Gerdt. Ethan Born added a 30-yard field goal and it was 24-0 at halftime.

The Bulldogs did not slow down in the third. Quast caught a 30-yard touchdown pass from Bauer, Isaiah Berndt ran 30 yards for a score and

"We had a few drives with opportunities, and failed to finish."

— NRHEG coach Marc Kruger

Peyton O'Brien tacked on a 15-yard run for a score.

The final points came in the fourth quarter on a 13-yard run by Jaxon Miller.

The Bulldogs dominated, outgaining the winless Tigers 409-77 in total yards, 261-30 rushing.

Bauer was 7-for-9 for 148 yards and no interceptions.

Lucas Morsching was the top rusher with 86 yards on seven carries. Gerdt. ran for 73, Berndt 30 and Tyson Kronbach 30.

Quast had a great night catching the ball with two receptions for 61 yards. Johnson caught three for 32.

The Bulldogs, seeded fourth in Section 2AA, had a Tuesday night rematch with fifth-seeded NRHEG. The other quarterfinal game Tuesday had No. 6 Blue Earth Area playing at No. 3 Maple River.

On Saturday, Oct. 26, the winner of the JWP/NRHEG game plays at 2 p.m. at top-seeded Triton. The section title game is Friday, Nov. 1 at 7 p.m. at JWP High School.

JWP	0	24	20	7	— 51
First Quarter					
No scoring					
Second Quarter					
JWP	—	Landon Johnson	4	pass from	
Daulton Bauer	(Ethan Born kick)				
JWP	—	Caleb Quast	35	return on blocked	
punt by Peyton O'Brien	and Preston Meihak				
(Born kick)					
JWP	—	Chase Gerdt	35	run (Born kick)	
JWP	—	Born	30	field goal	
Third Quarter					
JWP	—	Quast	30	pass from Bauer	(Born kick)
JWP	—	Isaiah Berndt	30	run (kick failed)	
JWP	—	O'Brien	15	run (Born kick)	
Fourth Quarter					
JWP	—	Jaxon Miller	13	run (Born kick)	
MED JWP					
Total plays	35	44			
First downs	4	19			
Rushing Yds.	30	261			
Passing	5-15-0	7-9-0			
Passing Yds.	47	148			
Total Yds.	77	409			
Third Down	2-10	2-5			
Fourth Down	0-1	2-3			
Fumbles lost	1-1	1-0			
Turnovers	1	0			
Penalties	4-31	1-15			
Punts-Avg.	7-22.85	0-0			
Time of poss.	19:18	28:42			
INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS					
Rushing — JWP:	Lucas Morsching 7-86;				
Chase Gerdt	5-73; Isaiah Berndt 1-30; Tyson				



PLENTY OF BIG PLAYS — JWP'S Caleb Quast (3) with one of many big plays for the JWP football team in a 51-0 victory over Medford in the final game of the regular season.

Photo by Johnnie Phillips, Steele County Times

Kronbach 3-30; Peyton O'Brien 1-15; Jaxon Miller 1-13; Ethan Born 1-8; Daulton Bauer 2-7; Jo Walk 1-5; MED: Tanner Milewski 11-44; Mason Krenz 2-0; Logan Maas 4 —1; Landon Seiler 2 —13

Passing — JWP: Daulton Bauer 7-9-0, 148; MED: Landon Seiler 5-14-0, 47; Liam Ahrens 0-1-0, 0

Receiving — JWP: Caleb Quast 2-61; Landon Johnson 3-32; Lucas Morsching 1-29; Isaac Gahlon 1-26; MED: Maas 4-43; Milewski 1-4

JWP Defense — Quast 1 assist; Gavin

Bluejays draw tough opponent for state tournament opener

The Waseca High School girls' tennis team faced a formidable task in the opening round of the state tournament.

The unseeded Bluejays drew the toughest opponent of all, the top-seeded team, The Blake School. They squared off Tuesday morning at Reed-Sweatt Tennis Center in Minneapolis.

Other first-round matchups: No. 4 seed Pine City vs. St. James; No. 2 seed Crookston vs. Providence Academy; and No. 3 Litchfield vs. Montevideo.

The samifinals were Wednesday morning, with the third-place and championship matches in the afternoon.

The Bluejays have one player in the Class A individual state tournament in Vivian Mader. The unseeded Mader faced No. 4 seed Isla Dille of Litchfield

Thursday morning. The quarterfinals are Thursday at noon, the championship match Friday at 8 a.m., also at Reed-Sweatt.

Mader reached state last week, defeating teammate Takya Schoenrock in the third-place match, then topping Miranda Mandelkow of Cannon Falls 6-0, 6-2 in the true second-place match.

"It was a big accomplishment for both Takya and Vivian to reach the section semifinals," said Waseca coach Kyle Collins. "We haven't had a singles player get to the second day for quite awhile. It's also unfortunate they had to play each other. Vivian played some of her best tennis today. I hope that continues."

As a team, the Bluejays entered state with a season record of 15-4.

WHS spikers seeded 13th in Section 2AA

The Waseca Bluejays drew the No. 13 seed in the single-elimination Section 2AA Volleyball Tournament.

The Jays, who had a fine regular-season record of 14-9, finishing second in the Big South Conference East at 6-2.

The Bluejays opened section play Monday at fourth-seeded Glencoe-Silver Lake. The winner plays Thursday, Oct. 24 at high seed vs. No. 5 WEM or No. 12 LeSueur-Henderson.

The sub-section finals are

Tuesday, Oct. 29 at 6 p.m. at New Prague High School.

The Section 2AA final is Friday, Oct. 31 at 8 p.m. at St. Peter High School.

The section seeding: 1 Belle Plaine; 2 Southwest Christian; 3 Holy Family; 4 Glencoe-SL; 5 WEM; 6 Jordan; 7 TCU; 8 LCWM; 9 St. Clair; 10 Waseca; 11 JWP; 12 LSH; 13 NRHEG; 14 Central; 15 Maple River; 16 Sibley East; 17 Blue Earth Area; 18 MVL.

NRHEG football team drops defensive battle

When NRHEG High School football coach Marc Kruger called last week's regular-season finale at United South Central a defensive battle, he was not exaggerating.

The Rebels scored the game's lone touchdown as the Panthers lost 8-0 at Wells.

"It was a defensive game for sure," said Kruger. "We were just not able to get a touchdown."

The Panthers saw their record slip to 3-4 while USC improved to 4-3.

According to Kruger, the Panthers had some excellent scoring chances. They just couldn't cash in.

"We had a few drives with opportunities, and failed to finish," said Kruger. "Our defense really stepped up, holding the Rebels to only 1 touchdown. Now, it's on to sec-

tions."

After a scoreless first quarter at Wells, the home team found the end zone on a 10-yard run in the second period. A two-point conversion try was successful.

Harbor Cromwell led the Panthers in rushing with 33 yards on 11 attempts. Alden Dobberstein ran for 10 yards on six tries and completed four of 15 passes for 51 yards, with two interceptions.

The Panthers were seeded fifth in Section 2AA, opening the playoffs Tuesday at No. 4 seed Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton. The other quarterfinal game was Tuesday with No. 6 Blue Earth Area playing at No. 3 Maple River. The top two seeds, Triton and WEM, have a first-round bye.

On Saturday, Oct. 26, the winner of the NRHEG/JWP game plays at 2 p.m. at Triton. Maple River or Blue Earth Area is at WEM.

The section championship game is Friday, Nov. 1 at 7 p.m. at JWP High School

United South Central 8, NRHEG 0					
NRHEG	0	0	0	0	— 0
USC	0	8	0	0	— 8
First Quarter					
No scoring					
Second Quarter					
USC	—	10	run (two-point conversion successful)		
Third Quarter					
No scoring					
Fourth Quarter					
No scoring					
NRHEG USC					
Total plays	39	61			
First downs	12	22			
Rushing Yds.	23-35	57-221			
Passing	4-15-2	0-4-0			

Passing Yds.	51	0
Total Yds.	72	221
Third Down	1-3	1-2
Fourth Down	0-0	0-0
Fumbles lost	1-1	1-10
Turnovers	3	1
Penalties	4-60	5-355

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

Rushing — NRHEG: Harbor Cromwell 11-33; Alden Dobberstein 6-10; Ryan Schlaak 2 —2; USC: No. 35 17-93; 1X 18-83; No. 33 9-46; 1X 1-4; 1X 10 —6

Passing — NRHEG: Alden Dobberstein 4-15-2, 51; USC: 0-4-0, 0;

Receiving — NRHEG: Sam Olson 2-38; Aidan Schlaak 1-9; Owen Bartlett 1-4; USC: 0-0

NRHEG Defense — Jace Ihrke 10 tackles, 1 assist; Jordan Brouwers 7T, 1A; Ryan Schlaak 6T, 2A; A.Schlaak 6T; Owen Bartlett 5T; Mason Reeder 4T; Sam Olson 3T, 1 fumble rec.; Harbor Cromwell 3T, 1A; Trevor Selover 1T; Cole Hutchens 1T, 1A; Jase Knudson 1T

2024

CONGRATS!

Congratulations to the Waseca Bluejays Tennis Team on a great season and their trip to the state tournament!

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NRHEG spikers win on Senior Night

The New Richland-Hartland-Elendale-Geneva High School volleyball team held its annual Senior Night last Monday.

It was an outstanding evening to honor the 12th-graders.

The Panthers defeated Maple River in four games in New Richland. The final tally was 25-12, 25-18, 16-25, 25-23.

"The girls started with great energy and mentality that led to an early 2-0 set lead," said NRHEG head coach Bethany Tennis.

After dropping the third set, the Panthers regained their focus in the fourth.

"We had to focus on controlling the controllables on our side of the net," said Tennis.

Junior setter Addy Stadheim led the Panthers' offense with 47 set assists.

"That was due in a large part to our successful serve receive," said Tennis.

Full statistics: Gabby Schlaak 14 kills, 6 digs, 1 ace; Camryn

VanMaldeghem 8K, 4D, 3A, 4B; Anika Ladlie 11K, 5B; Mallory Schlinger 2D, 1SA; Stadheim 4K, 5D, 47SA, 4A, 4B; Aspy Stenzel 5K; Chloe Riwer 4D, 2SA; Chloe Stork 8K, 7B; Meela Budach 2K, 2B.

The next night, the Panthers hosted Randolph in the final match of the regular season in New Richland.

The visitors prevailed 3-1, with game scores of 25-22, 23-25, 26-24 and 25-13.

"We played tough and had some intense volleys with our opponent," said Coach Tennis. "From behind the service line we served aggressively, earning us 11 aces. Heading into the playoffs, we are excited to play a challenging team and hope for a first-round win."

Individually vs. Randolph: Schlaak 13K, 5D, 1A, 2B; Camryn VanMaldeghem 7K, 9D, 1SA, 1A, 7B; Ladlie 2K, 2D, 1B; Schlinger 1A; Izley Boerner 7D; Nora Flatness 6K, 1D, 3B; Stadheim 2K, 11D, 33SA, 5A, 2B; Riewer 6D,

1SA, 1A; Stork 3K, 3B; Budach 5K 2D, 2B; Quinn VanMaldeghem 1D, 2A.

The Panthers finished the regular season 4-6 in the Gopher Conference and 11-12-1 overall.

The Panthers drew the No. 13 seed in the single-elimination Section 2AA tournament, opening postseason play Monday at No. 4 seed Glencoe-Silver Lake. The winner plays Thursday, Oct. 24 at No. 5 WEM or No. 12 LeSueur-Henderson. The sub-section championship is Oct. 29 at 6 p.m. at New Prague High School. The section championship and state tournament berth will be decided Oct. 31 at 8 p.m. at St. Peter High School.

The Section 2AA seeds: 1 Belle Plaine; 2 SW Christian; 3 Holy Family; 4 Glencoe-SL; 5 WEM; 6 Jordan; 7 TCU; 8 LCWM; 9 St. Clair; 10 Waseca; 11 JWP; 12 LSH; 13 NRHEG; 14 Central; 15 Maple River; 16 Sibley East; 17 Blue Earth Area; 18 MVL.

BLUEJAY FOOTBALL

PLAYER of the WEEK

Micah Allen Hass

Senior defensive lineman.

Micah had a number of tackles for a yardage loss and has been a leader for the Bluejay's defensive line all year.

Bluejay Football Player of the Week Sponsored by:

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Waseca, MN
\$29,900



117 2nd ST NE
2 Prime downtown lots sold together! Ideal for offices, retail space, or coffee shop.
\$75,000



1208 State St S
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\$305,000



300 2nd Ave
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3 bed – 1 bath
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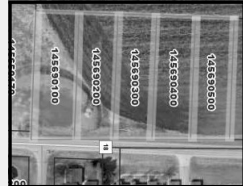
108 N Main
Janesville, MN
Commercial
\$92,500



Restaurant & Bar
204 1st Ave
Pemberton, MN
\$290,000



613 4th Ave SE
Waseca, MN
4 bed – 2 bath
\$219,000



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2-bd, 1-bth home w/ basement
family room & large deck in a peaceful setting in Otisco.
29067 132nd ST
Waseca, MN
\$150,000

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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WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

LEGAL NOTICES

State of Minnesota
District Court Waseca County
Third District
Court File Number: 81-PR-24-663
Case Type: Informal Probate
Estate of Brenda Jean Atkisson,
Decedent
Notice of Informal Appointment of Personal Representative and Notice to Creditors (Without a Will)
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND CREDITORS:
Notice is hereby given that an application for informal appointment of personal representative has been filed with the Probate Registrar. No will has been presented for probate. The application has been granted. Notice is also given that the Probate Registrar has informally appointed the following:
Self-Represented Litigant
Paul Richard Spangler, Jr.
Address
12691 430th Ave
Waseca, MN 56093
as Personal Representative of the Estate of the Decedent. Any heir, devisee or other interested person may be entitled to appointment as Personal Representative, or may object to the appointment of the Personal Representative. Unless objections are filed pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-607, and the court otherwise orders, the Personal Representative has full power to administer the Estate, including, after 30 days from the date of issuance of letters, the power to sell, encumber, lease or distribute real estate.
Notice is also given that, subject to Minn. Stat. § 524.3-801, all creditors having claims against the Estate are required to present the claims to the Personal Representative or to the Court Administrator within four (4) months after the date of this Notice, or the claims will be barred.
Dated: October 15, 2024
Barb Stevensen, Deputy Probate Registrar
Shannon M. Asselin
Court Administrator
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on October 24 and 31, 2024

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058
Battery Charger, 6v/12v



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NOTICE
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

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.

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

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.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC ACCURACY TEST

Waseca County Property & Election Services Office will test the electronic voting machines to be used for vote tabulation in the General Election of November 5, 2024.

Testing will be held on Wednesday, October 30, 2024 & Thursday, October 31, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. in the Conference Room on the main floor of the Waseca County Courthouse, 307 North State Street, Waseca, MN.

The Public is invited to attend.

Tamara J. Spooner, Director of Property & Election Services

Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on October 24, 2024.

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the Waseca City Council will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday, November 6, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.** in the City Hall Council Chambers, 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093, to consider:

Approving Assessment Roll 24-99- Collection of unpaid services and fees

A complete copy of Assessment Roll 24-99 is available for public inspection in the office of the Assistant to the City Manager, 508 South State Street, Waseca, MN 56093.

Published in the Waseca County *Pioneer* 10/24/2024 and 10/31/2024

SWEET SOMMERS VFW POST 1642
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 Fashion 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 Chorale	28	29 Burger nite 5-7pm	30 6pm BAR Bingo	31 7pm HALL BINGO		

HOURS OF OPERATION
SUN.- MON. CLOSED
TUE.- WED.-3pm to 11pm Tue. Is Lady's nite 2 for one-Men Busch light \$2.50 from 4 to 6pm.
THUR.-1pm to 11pm
FRI.- SAT.-11am to 1 am
POST & AUX MEETING 7pm club open 6pm MEMBERS only. Mn. Gambling license number 00385

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
WASECA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
Waseca County East Annex (Commissioner's Room)
300 N. State Street, Waseca, MN 56093
Thursday, November 7, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.

Request for Amendments to the Unified Development Code (UDC). Waseca County requests for the following amendments.

- A. Amendments to the FO Floodplain Overlay District Standards to correct an inaccurate reference to the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) in §6.23(B)(1). This amendment will also include also include a revised definition of manufactured home and structure under §8.03.
- B. Amendments to §6.06 Feedlot Ordinance, following a series of work sessions by the Waseca County Board of Commissioners.

The proposed amendments can be found under the Zoning Code Amendments tab on the Planning and Zoning Department page. You can also request a copy of the proposed changes from Planning and Zoning during regular business hours.

The staff report on this item will be available at the Waseca County Planning and Zoning Office, 300 N State St., Waseca during regular business hours 8-4:30, and will be on the county website www.wasecacounty.gov at the agenda tab. Oral comments will be accepted at the meeting. Upon request, accommodation will be provided to allow individuals with disabilities to participate in all Waseca County services, programs and activities.
Maame Quarcoo, Senior Land Use Planner.
Published in the Waseca County Pioneer on October 24, 2024.



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**OCTOBER 28TH -
NOVEMBER 15TH**
**Together, We Can
Make a Difference!**



2023 TOTALS:

\$9,245 community donations
\$3,000 iWealth Foundation donation
\$12,245 TOTAL = YES: \$12,245!
Total Baskets - 218
All Individuals Served=639
(Adults-283, Children-266, Seniors-90)
Total pounds of food distributed-2568lbs
Additionally, funds raised helped WANSC
deliver 260-275 food backpacks per week.

YOU CAN HELP!

All tax-deductible donations should be made payable to: WANSC.

**Write "iWealth Holiday
Food Baskets" in the memo line.**

Please mail your donation to:
WANSC
iWealth Holiday Food Baskets
203 3rd Ave NW
Waseca, MN 56093

WANSC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit.



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To recognize and celebrate October's designation as "fire safety month," the Waseca Freemasons Tuscan Lodge No. 77 presented fire suppression devices to the Waseca Fire Department. The project was in conjunction with the Masonic Grand Lodge of Minnesota, in its ongoing effort to support emergency service organizations in our area.

Waseca Freemasons recognize fire prevention month

To recognize and celebrate October's FIRE SAFETY MONTH and our Volunteer Fire Fighters of the Waseca Fire Department. The Waseca Freemasons Tuscan Lodge No. 77 in conjunction with the Masonic Grand Lodge of Minnesota, in their ongoing effort to support Emergency Service Organizations in our area, presented 4 Fire Suppression devices to the Waseca Fire Department.

Rick Kritzer the Master of the Lodge said, "These small portable devices can be carried on fire trucks, in squad cars, or other first-responder vehicles. They are lightweight and easy to deploy."

Adam Strand a fellow Brother of the

Lodge went on to explain that "their use in confined areas greatly suppresses fire, and dramatically reduces air temperatures which makes a safer environment for Firefighters, Law Enforcement, or other first responders. Results can be life-saving."

Small compact, and state-of-the-art, these devices can extinguish a rolling fire in a contained area in less than one minute, saving the structure from fire and water damage. After pulling the pin and throwing it into the room, within 35 seconds, the ability of the fire to burn will be eliminated, and the temperature can be reduced by 1000 degrees helping to extract citizens or firefighters from within a burning

building. These devices emit a powerful aerosol that is environmentally safe and won't harm humans or animals. Other fire suppression devices pull all the oxygen out of the room to put out the fire; these devices are far safer and more effective.

The Brothers of Tuscan Lodge No. 77 donated these units in the hopes that they will never have to be used but with prayers for safe deployment should they ever be needed.

The Waseca Fire Department proudly protects an initial response area that includes over 12,000 residents in an area spanning more than 142 square miles. The initial response area consists mainly of residential homes,

and businesses, including the largest manufacturing facility in the region, farming operations, and wildlands.

Chief Forshee along with the Waseca Volunteer Fire Fighters accepted the devices with great thanks to the Waseca Masons.

■ Broadband

from Page 1

phone or internet services they select. Property owners have the option not to use the services at all.

In an interview earlier this year, Waseca County commissioner De Malterer, who worked closely with the grant application process, wanted property owners to know that, even if they have no expectation of using Bevcomm's services, they should

strongly consider allowing the network cables to be put in place. Doing so, she said, raises the value of their property by as much as \$5,000.

When the news of the awarded grant was announced during the Oct. 15 county board meeting, Malterer expressed excitement. "This is a really, really meaningful investment in our county," she said. "We will now have people in these seven townships able to access high-quality, reliable internet service."

Installation of cable for the four townships covered by the \$4.3 million grant awarded in May is already underway in Byron, Freedom, Vivian

and Wilton townships. Locations covered by that award will probably have service available by the end of fall 2025.

Bevcomm leader Eckles commented, "Waseca County has been a wonderful partner to work with. The letters of support from homeowners and businesses are really what set our application apart. It showed the state how much of a need for better broadband exists in the county. At Bevcomm we feel incredibly fortunate Waseca County chose to work with us. We look forward to continuing to increase our presence in Waseca County in the future."

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• news@wasecacountypioneer.com

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SILENT AUCTION • MEAT RAFFLES

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EVENT SCHEDULE:

DOORS OPEN: 10 A.M.

TOURNEY STARTS: 11 A.M.

SILENT AUCTION: 11 A.M. - 5 P.M.

THE BLUE RINGERS: 8 PM

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✓ Defend and Support our Public Safety Professionals

✓ Restore Election Integrity

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