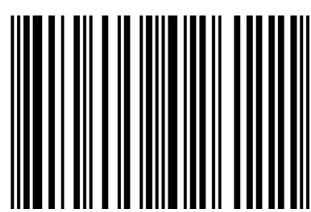


# THE Jamesville Journal

No.36 Vol.7 \$1.50

SERVING THE JANESVILLE-WALDORF-PEMBERTON-ST. CLAIR AREA

Wednesday, September 3, 2025



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## 5 DAY FORECAST

**Wed 3 | 62°**  
 Rain 42%  
 Wind NNW 18 mph  
 Showers early with some clearing for the afternoon. Much cooler. High 62F. Winds NNW at 15 to 25 mph. Chance of rain 40%.

**Thu 4 | 63°**  
 Rain 24%  
 Wind WSW 12 mph  
 A mix of clouds and sun in the morning followed by cloudy skies during the afternoon. High 63F. Winds WSW at 10 to 15 mph.

**Fri 5 | 58°**  
 Rain 12%  
 Wind WNW 16 mph  
 Cloudy skies early will become partly cloudy later in the day. High 58F. Winds WNW at 10 to 20 mph.

**Sat 6 | 62°**  
 Rain 7%  
 Wind WNW 11 mph  
 Partly cloudy skies. High 62F. Winds WNW at 10 to 15 mph.

**Sun 7 | 66°**  
 Rain 8%  
 Wind NW 7 mph  
 Sunny, along with a few afternoon clouds. High 66F. Winds NW at 5 to 10 mph.

## Quote of the Week

*Life is about making an impact, not making an income.*

— Kevin Kruse

## “Over 50” Class Reunion at St. Ann Parish Center Sept. 17

By MICHAEL ROY  
 Editor

*Editor's note: This was a story that was ran in last week's issue of the Journal. We are re-running it with a few corrections.*

For the past several years, graduates of Jamesville High School have gathered for an “Over 50” class reunion. The reunion features graduates from 51 years ago or longer, enjoying some social time and catching up with one another.

This year, the guests of honor will be the Class of 1974, celebrating their 50th graduation anniversary. Other guests of honor include the oldest living attendee and the one who traveled the farthest. One person who came from Guam last year, Karen (Fury) Cruz, will be at the reunion once again, while one member of the Class of 1948 will be present.

Marcyne Cahill, along with Vonda Britton, is in their second year on the committee that runs the reunions. The other committee members – Dorothy Kiner, Norma Witt, Gary Mittelsteadt, Marlene Lau, Susan Jespersen, and Ruby Isebrand – have been valuable assets for the reunion for several years.

Currently, the attendance rate is between 170 and 180 guests. “There’s bound to be someone you know,” Cahill pointed out.

Infinity Catering, which provided the food at the previous reunion, will be doing so again. The plan is to have a social hour at 3:30 p.m., with a roast beef dinner at 5 p.m. The goal is to hopefully extend the reunion to about 8:30 p.m. to allow more time to socialize. “We want to make things more sociable and enhance the experience by extending the hours,” Cahill explained. “That’s why we’re also setting things up and starting half an hour earlier.”

Another way they’re hoping to extend the reunion is by hiring outside help. For example, they’re asking for volunteers from either the Boy Scouts or the JWP National Honor Society to help put away chairs and tables when the night is done. “People used to put away their own chairs, making others think that it was time to leave when it wasn’t,” Cahill added. “We hope the extra help allows for more focus on socializing.”

She is also hopeful that the JWP FFA will be able to provide floral arrangements again. “They were the reason we started asking the local youth for volunteer help,” she said. “We really appreciate things like that, and the kids around here care

**Reunion**  
 cont to Page 4

## JWP opens doors to welcome students back to School at Open House Aug 27



JWP held its annual Open House welcoming back students for the 2025-26 school year. Above is Cub Scouts Pack 89 to greet the students as they entered the building and the Bulldog Mascot posed for photos as well..

(Journal Photos by Mike Roy)

By MICHAEL ROY  
 Editor

It was a mad dash to close out the final week of summer. On Wednesday, August 27, the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton school district opened its doors to welcome back students at an open house event from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Now, they weren’t in classrooms...yet. That came after Labor Day. However, the students were accompanied by their parents to determine what supplies they still needed, when

they would receive flu shots through Mayo Clinic’s influenza program this fall, and to pick up new Chromebooks for the upcoming school year.

Students and parents were greeted by a friendly cardboard cutout of a Bulldog and were encouraged to do a photo op with the mascot. As they entered the doors, the Cub Scouts greeted them. From there, it was the social workers, Kira Stevenson for the high school and the new elementary social worker, Etta Danielson, who helped direct traffic.

There were several other

helpers along the way, including a few other staff and high school students who were part of the National Honor Society. Those who walked toward the elementary school side of the building received another photo op and were also greeted by elementary art teacher Taylor Sonnek and elementary music teacher Erin Nordstrom.

Miss Janesville 2025, Chloe Kaiser, was also present promoting her backpack and school supply drive. She shared that the drive itself was complete. “We’re now giving out supplies to those who need

them this school year,” she explained. She was accompanied by one of her attendants, Hudson Miller. Both Miller and Kaiser are excited to enter their junior year of high school.

The official back to school day starting the 2025-26 school year was on Tuesday, September 2.

There was a mix of excitement and nervousness in the air, with the latter feeling mostly attributed to the students. However, it’s shaping up to be a great year, and we can’t wait to cover all the happenings at JWP in 2025-26.

## St. Clair School hosts the second annual “Back to School Bash”

800+ Students will attend for the 2025-26 School year

By JORDAN CARRILLO  
 Staff Writer

Before 800+ students could officially embark on a nine-month trek through the 2025-2026 school year, the St. Clair District welcomed its Cyclones to celebrate opportunity and education with its second annual Back to School Bash on August 27.

Now, it should be clarified that the start of this Back to School Bash was more business than party as orientation gave students in grades 7-12 the chance to review their class schedule, locate their locker, and catch up with old friends they may not have seen all summer. A few students would be elated to have a study hall first thing in the morning while others lamented that gym, of all classes, would start their day for the next few months.

Finding their assigned locker would be a cinch for upperclassmen, but some of the younger students entering this side of the building for the very first time needed a bit more time to acclimate to their new surroundings...and learn how to use a combination lock. It can be a tricky device, and it took a few tries to hear that click sound. Remember, right, left, right.

The entire week before the official start of school would be



St. Clair School District welcomed its Cyclones to celebrate opportunity and education with its second annual Back to School Bash on August 27.

(Journal Photos by Jordan Carrillo)

a prime opportunity for teachers at St. Clair to prepare their classrooms and curriculums for the 2025-2026 school year.

Several teachers like Kenzie Burns, Ashley Miller, David Makala, would be present in their respective classrooms to welcome incoming students and their families to another year at St. Clair. One of the new teachers, Katie Nelson, could be seen decorating her classroom to her heart’s content while Jennifer Corpstein added a few more posters of Taylor Swift to

her collection.

As the students completed their orientation packet and returned to the Commons area, they had the chance to consider joining a number of extra-curricular activities and groups at St. Clair. Signup tables for the Speech team, Student Council, MHS, Drama Club, FFA, Yearbook Committee, and After School Homework Help would featured students who served as ambassadors for the activities: Will Wellmann for Speech, Vincent Bowes for

Drama, Jules Rasmussen for MHS, Ben Terry for Student Council, Meg Young for Yearbook, Olivia McGowan for After School Homework Help, and Mckinsey Rew for FFA. There would also be a table or two for parents to take part in the Cyclone community through Athletic Backers.

While the business side of

**Back to School**  
 cont to Page 3

Community Happenings

City Council Mtg  
Janesville  
Sept 8 7pm

City Council Mtg  
Pemberton  
Sept 8 7pm

City Council Mtg  
St. Clair  
Sept 9

Potato Feed  
United Methodist Church  
Janesville  
Sept 14 11:30-1p

Over 50 Reunion  
St. Ann Parish Center  
Janesville  
Sept 17

Trinity Lutheran 135 yrs  
Anniversary Celebration  
Janesville  
Sept 19-20

Janesville Food Shelf  
Hours:  
Thursdays 1-3 p.m.  
Second Thurs. of month  
6-7 p.m.  
First & Third Sat. of  
month 1-3 p.m.



**Upcoming Events**  
WASECA-LE SUEUR REGIONAL LIBRARY SYSTEM  
408 N STATE ST WASECA, MN 56093  
507-835-2910

**Level Up: Osmo Masterpiece**  
Supercharge drawing skills with this interactive drawing tool. Whatever image kids pick, Masterpiece can transform it into an easy-to-follow outline. Then, using the screen as an interactive guide, kids can draw it on paper perfectly at **Elysian Area Library on Monday, September 8th and Wednesday, September 10th during open hours.** This free event is geared for ages 7-12.

**Lego Club**  
Kids ages 7-12 are invited to join Janesville Public Library's creative Lego-building club. Kids will unlock the magic of Legos by ditching the instruction manual and building their own creations. This month's Lego Club event will be held on **Tuesday, September 9th at 3:30 pm.** Each event will have a theme to inspire and Legos to build with.

**Embossed Cards Workshop**  
Learn how a simple watercolor wash makes the perfect background for a dreamy embossed card at **Waldorf Public Library on Tuesday, September 9th at 3:30 pm.** Free and geared for teens.

**Story Chasers**  
Kids will make their way through an obstacle course that will mimic the movements in the stories staff will read at **New Richland Public Library on Wednesday, September 10th at 10:30 am.** This free event is geared for ages 0-5.

**Virtual Author Event: Jefferson Fisher**  
Communication expert Jefferson Fisher will chat about his book, *The Next Conversation: Argue Less, Talk More*, at a virtual Waseca-Le Sueur Regional Library System event at **1 pm on Wednesday, September 10th.**

No matter who you're talking to, *The Next Conversation* gives you immediately actionable strategies and phrases that will forever change how you communicate. Your every word matters, and, by controlling how you communicate every day, you will create waves of positive impact that will resonate throughout your relationships to last a lifetime.  
**Jefferson Fisher** is a board-certified Texas trial lawyer and founder of Fisher Firm. This event will be recorded and people who register will be emailed a link to the recording. Register at the library or at [wasecalesueurlibraries.com/getregistered](http://wasecalesueurlibraries.com/getregistered)

**Story Yoga**  
Enjoy a charming, relaxing story with yoga poses and breathing exercises at **Waseca Public Library on Saturday, September 13th at 10 am (for kids ages 3-6) and 11 am (for kids ages 7-12).** This free event is a collaboration between The Vibrant Collection and Waseca Public Library.

**Echoes from a Loafers' Club Meeting**

I can see into the future. When did you learn you had that gift?  
Next Thursday.

**Driving by Bruce's drive**

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. The rain came down. Does it ever go up? Yes, when I worked in Colorado, it was raining up in the mountains.

I followed my wife as she pushed a shopping cart out of a store, when I was rear-ended by a young man pushing a cart at a speed too high for conditions. He dinged my ankle. He apologized profusely. I walked to the car. I had no limp, and I recognize a limp. I have a long history of limping. I once had a papercut so deep, I developed a limp. Excessive speed is a problem everywhere except in sports.

**Tales from the Township**

In the early days of the Township, a church council meeting took place. There was a motion made and seconded to buy a chandelier. The President asked if there was any discussion. Cletus had something to say. He always had something to say. Every board has a guy like Cletus. Said he, "If we buy a chandelier, we'll have to order it from Sears and Roebuck. That's a big problem. There isn't a man here who can spell 'chandelier.' Then, if we ordered the chandelier from Sears and

I usually try to write my columns in one sitting. But this week, it took about two or three writing sessions; I wanted to wait until the dust settled slightly before attempting to focus on this week's column. Every word I write from here on out will feel like it carries the weight of a 135-pound bench press. I'm feeling like Zohran Mamdani over here.

Okay, enough of the jokes. As you've all probably heard by now, Annunciation Catholic Church in Minneapolis was the site of a horrific tragedy on Wednesday, August 27. Robin Westman, 23, a male-to-female transgender individual, went on a mass shooting spree at the church while schoolchildren prepared for the day with a mass. Two children were killed, and 18 others were injured, many of whom were in critical condition.

If you got offended that I mentioned that Westman was transgender, this isn't the column for you.

As a practicing Catholic, this tragedy has shaken my faith. Never mind the fact that the tragedy even happened. Look at the response to it. As always, it was made political while deaths were just being announced. Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey said, "This isn't about thoughts and prayers." You're right. I even saw someone from the local area (you know who you are) responding to the FBI investigating the shooting as a hate crime as "people playing the victim."

It's been really a Herculean task not to get political about this. I initially posted a political comment on Facebook, but I immediately deleted it. I think my original post had something to do with the fact that Westman's magazines for his gun had phrases like "kill Donald Trump" on them. But I feel like this entire time, the problem with modern politics isn't policies, ideology, wokism, or the MAGA movement. It's always been spiritual.

I could go a million directions with this. But I don't think it's a coincidence that the more

Do you read your horoscope?



Compostings

by Al Batt  
copyright © 2019 by Al Batt

Roebuck, and it was delivered to the church, nobody in our church knows how to play it. But what concerns me the most is that we don't need to spend money on a chandelier when what we really need are lights."

**Those thrilling days of yesteryear**

I saw a magazine ad from the 1940s featuring a picture of Johnny Roventini, the famous bellhop/spokesman for Philip Morris cigarettes, who recommended readers call for Philip Morris. The text read, "NO WORRY ABOUT THROAT IRRITATION—even when YOU INHALE!" The ad read, "This exclusive proved Philip Morris superiority is reported by eminent doctors—who compared the leading popular cigarettes: The smoke of the four other leading brands averaged more than three times as irritant as the amazingly different Philip Morris—an irritant effect which lasted more than five times as long! You can't help inhaling—BUT you can help your throat!"

**I've learned**

A philofelist is a lover of cats. According to Lindy Energy, the 10 states with the most wind turbines in 2021 were Texas (17,779), Iowa (6,173), California (6,088), Oklahoma

(5,177), Kansas (3,959), Illinois (3,461), Colorado (2,905), Minnesota (2,688), North Dakota (2,194) and Oregon (2,121). These states have installed giant fans outdoors to combat hot temperatures.

Not knowing much about Greek mythology is my Achilles wheel. Things that fall out of a refrigerator never land on their feet.

**I wonder**

Do CPAs hear invoices? How many rodeo clowns can ride one horse? Why are false teeth called dentures and not substitooths? Is there an acoustic eel?

**Ask Al**

"How do you console an English teacher?" They're, there, their.

"You've led cruise ship tours; do you have any advice for going on one?" Don't bring food. "Do you read your horoscope?" No, it told me not to.

**Bad jokes department**

A man told his doctor, "I think my DNA is backwards." The doctor replied, "And?" I misplaced Dwayne Johnson's cutting tool during his origami workshop. I can't believe I lost the Rock's paper

scissors. My cousin hates being a waiter, but it puts food on the table.

**Nature notes**

The largest spider in Minnesota is the fishing spider, which is 1 1/4 inches long; 3 1/2 inches long when its legs are included. It's brown with three chevron markings usually visible on the abdomen, and it has banded legs. Associated with ponds, swamps and slow-moving streams, it's a predator of insects and occasionally tadpoles and small fish. It doesn't harm people.

"Are they ladybugs or lady beetles?" The terms ladybug and lady beetle are interchangeable, although lady beetle is more scientifically accurate. All ladybugs are lady beetles because they aren't bugs at all. They are beetles.

"What is the best nectar for a hummingbird feeder?" Mix 1 part white table sugar with 4 parts water. I don't always boil the water, but it helps the sugar dissolve. Don't add red food coloring to entice hummingbirds. The red parts of the feeder attracts the birds' attention. Don't use honey, fruit juice, soda, sugar substitutes, syrups or brown sugar.

**Meeting adjourned**

"Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?"—Matthew 7:3. Be kind.

Believing in a higher power



Mikes Corner

by Michael Roy  
Staff writer

Copyright © 2019 by Michael Roy

we stray away from serving a higher power – call it spiritualism or theism, whatever you'd like – the crazier the world has become. I feel that tragedies like these also give fuel to atheists and agnostics who already don't want to believe in God to point out, "If He's real, why would He let things like this happen?" That reason was why I was honestly surprised, even somewhat disappointed when I arrived at Mass on Sunday and found that Fr. Schneider had not mentioned a single word about the tragedy at Annunciation Church. But what more is there to say that hasn't been said? Maybe he felt no words could make what happened feel any better, that the pain of reminding everyone of that day would do more harm than good.

There are times when I feel like political parties have taken the place of God and the church. Communism, which many of us feared, especially the Christian West, is famously known for requiring you to abandon religion and make the State (AKA the government) your God both in theory and in practice. Karl Marx wrote in 1844, "Religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world, and the soul of soulless conditions." Fascism also requires a similar devotion to the State and what it supports, even if that means abandoning your goodwill. You need only look at the fascist countries during WWII to understand what I mean.

As I began this column, I found words with actual meaning to share some perspective on this tragedy that hasn't been discussed. However, there are two problems with that: For one, I could probably devote the entire paper to the issues I

want to debate, but secondly, words alone won't fix what happened. Perhaps Mayor Frey had a point that he didn't mean to make when talking about this not being about "thoughts and prayers." His problem was that, in my opinion, his remark was meant to criticize Christians and nothing else. Instead, I'll hijack his words. Perhaps instead of focusing most of our energy on prayer, we should continue to build our

community. Our community, whether we're talking about the Catholic community or the city of Janesville, is what makes each individual strong. It gives us purpose to serve one another. Perhaps belief in something greater than ourselves is what we need again. I also believe that believing in some higher power or purpose, whether that's God or serving the community, will do much more for the mental health crisis than pills and psychology.

If you want to donate to help the victims of the Annunciation Catholic school shooting in Minneapolis, you can text ACF1 to 41444, and you will receive a link to donate to the Minneapolis Foundation. They are raising funds to help support the school during this time.

**THE Janesville Journal**

SERVING THE JANESVILLE-WALDORF-PEMBERTON & ST CLAIR AREA

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**DEADLINE: FRIDAYS by 4pm**

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**\$50 Per Year, Janesville, Waldorf, Pemberton  
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TID-BITS OF TRIVIA

- Made famous in the movie "Dracula," Transylvania is a region of what country?
- Made popular by men in the 50s, what hairstyle is named after a French mistress from the 1700s?
- Made with a beefy patty, an egg and beetroot, the McDonald's Kiwi burger has only been sold in what country?
- Made with coconut milk, potatoes and peanuts, Massaman curry is a popular dish from what country?
- Made with eggs and lemon juice, avgolemono is a traditional soup from what country?
- Made with green and red food coloring, "rainbow cookies" are meant to resemble what nation's flag?
- Many graduate students find themselves in the ambiguous status commonly known as "ABD," or "all but" what?
- Many scientists have reported that what malodorous cheese is as attractive to mosquitoes as human feet?
- Marilyn Monroe sings out "Tiffany's!" and "Cartier!" in a famous ditty that claims that what are "A Girl's Best Friend"?
- Marked up to 130 degrees, "The World's Largest Thermometer" is a roadside attraction near what U.S. park?

The answers to today's Trivia questions can be found on the Archives Page of the Janesville Journal.



**Back to School**  
cont from pg 1

The Back to School Bash was underway, the preparation for the actual party portion would be ongoing outside.

The St. Clair PTO would be hosting the Bash for the second straight year, and the main parking lot would soon be a haven of fun-filled activities and bounce houses. However, the night would take a dramatic turn as a patch of stormy weather threatened to put a damper on this bash, but like any good organizer would say, "The show must go on."

The PTO's lead organizer, Casey Stori, made an immediate decision to move the Back to School Bash inside to the north end of the Commons; it would be a frenzy as tables, decorations, and bounce houses

would be relocated to both gyms and the overflow of Cyclones both elementary and secondary would make for a packed house. This sudden rearranging of the spaces made for a tight squeeze at certain portions of the Commons, but the kiddies didn't seem to mind as they frolicked in one gym before venturing to the bounce houses in the other.

While the Back to School Bash had its fair share of variables and last-second alterations, the effect this welcoming party gave to the Cyclone community remained the same. Hundreds of students and their families gathered to meet their teachers, familiarize themselves with their new schedules, and take part in some hijinks along the way.

It hopes to be a wondrous 2025-2026 school year at St. Clair, and kickstarting it all with a celebration is a great way to get things started.

**JWP Marching Band participates in MN State Fair's daily Parade**



On Monday, August 18, the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton marching band was one of five school bands that participated in the Minnesota State Fair's daily parade. They joined Bloomington Jefferson, Somerset, Park Center, and Simley High Schools that day. It turned out to be a great afternoon to march in the parade, as the state fair hit a record of just over 145,000 people in attendance on the day JWP played.

(Photo by JWP Bulldog Activities/provided by Adam Hille)

**LakeHouse Liquors is open for business**

By **MICHAEL ROY**  
Editor

For many years, Cindy Grunzke owned and ran what was Finish Line Liquors in Madison Lake.

As of August 18, the business has been sold to Kelly Krumweide and her husband, Ross Tate, and it now operates under the name LakeHouse Liquors. "It's been great settling in," Krumweide said. "Everyone's been super welcoming and excited to see the changes. The previous owner was well-liked by the community, so we knew we had big shoes to fill. We're trying our best to live up to the legacy she upheld."

Both Krumweide and Tate grew up in the Fairmont area. Krumweide attended college in Mankato, and as she explained it, "We never really left after that."

Krumweide is a realtor and property manager. However, she had always dreamed of owning a liquor store. She admittedly didn't know why owning a liquor store was her specific

dream. But she reminisced about her times working in grocery stores when in high school and in college for 12 years; owning a liquor store gives her that return to the retail world that she had missed since becoming a property manager.

"I like the retail market and working in it," she explained. "It's different every day and exciting. I always tell people that my favorite times to work are during the holidays and when I get to do all the things. You don't have the same experience in real estate or property management. I wanted to get back to that environment."

It was why Krumweide and Tate jumped at the opportunity to buy the liquor store when it came for sale. Since neither has formal experience working in a liquor store – at least Krumweide doesn't – it's one of those things where they're "diving headfirst" and learning along the way.

"We're really just kind of wrapping our brains around everything, from the front-end work to all the back-end stuff," she said. "There are lots of

regulations on liquor and other functions that make it different from anything else I've been exposed to."

It hasn't taken them long to renovate the place to their taste. As of Thursday, August 28, the outside was being resided, and the new sign above the building was installed. They will start working on the inside of the store this winter. They're looking to "bring the store into the current times." However, they want to honor Grunzke's reputation and keep the small-town feel that Finish Line had.

"Finish Line was very well known, so we've met with the previous owner and talked about the changes we want to make," Krumweide shared. "She was excited about the changes and direction the store was going in."

They've also received community support and positive feedback about the changes. "They've been very patient with us. We're doing plenty of changes, and it's been fun."

Krumweide's favorite part of the business so far is seeing the people and chatting with them. "It's usually the same folks

every day, whether they're in town or passing through," she said. "It's exciting to see different faces yet see the similar ones that are happy to see you every day."

While there is the general challenge of figuring out the logistics and connecting all the facets of the business together as first-time owners, Krumweide noted that stocking was an interesting challenge. "Just grasping ordering, making sure we have everything we need, not too much or too little...it's been a learning curve," she said. "But we'll get there. We're grateful for everyone's patience with us as we're getting up to speed."

Their immediate goal is to complete the renovations on the property, which they anticipate will be finished by winter, when they plan to work on the interior of the building. Once that's done, or as they put it, "the dust settles," they will develop their marketing strategy to reach potential customers in the area.

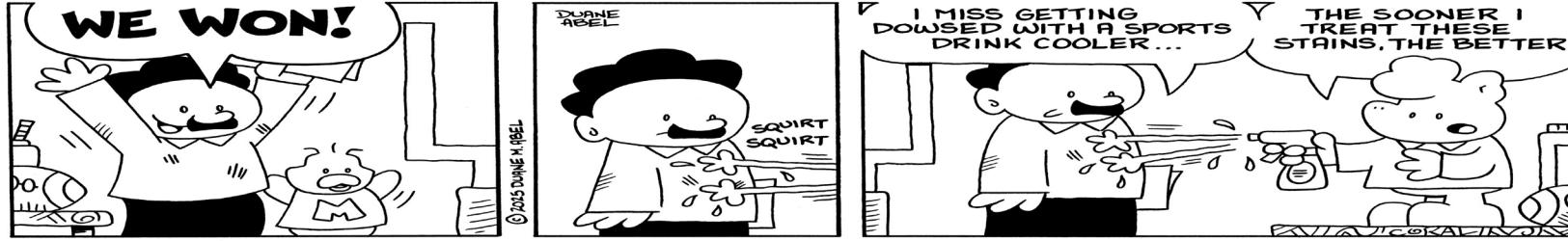
In the meantime, they'll continue to "wing it." Krumweide continues to look forward to the



future, and thanks to Grunzke, the transition between ownership has been smooth. "When we've had questions, she's been happy to help," she explained.

It's only a suspicion, but she feels that Grunzke might be returning part-time once she takes her "well-deserved time off." Until then, LakeHouse Liquors will be figuring out how to make the business theirs and serve the residents of Madison Lake and the local area.

**ZED by Duane M. Abel**



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# So much to see in so little time

By JORDAN CARRILLO  
Staff Writer

After a summer's worth of small town festivals and county fairs, it was an absolute thrill to be able to cover the grandest get together of them all—the Minnesota State Fair.

During its earliest days, going as far back as 1859, the Great Minnesota Get Together was considered a mecca for agriculture and farming communities. While there is still an incredible emphasis on agriculture and manufacturing at the State Fair, this 12-day excursion of fried foods and daily events has been a beacon for over two million people to purchase a ticket and observe as much as possible. Many elect to attend the Fair over a period of several days just to squeeze as much out of their time there, but most families and individuals are only able to withstand the onslaught a day can bring.

This trip to the State Fair was meant to be a classic report of the history of the fair and the people who run it, but the entirety of the experience proved to be an overwhelming one for me. I did talk to a few people here and there to learn about their products or events, but the joy of attending the State Fair after a decade-long absence is what I'd like to fixate on the most.

Saturday, August 30 would be an optimal day to explore the State Fair as a gentle breeze carried the scent of funnel cakes, Martha's cookies, and even bacon on a stick along with an assortment of fragrant aromas in the air. The last few days prior to my visit would see lower



than usual attendance at the State Fair, but the official start of Labor Day weekend would bring in over 225,000 folks from far and wide to enjoy what the Get Together had to offer. There was much to see in so little time, so I stayed to the try and true formula of walking in one direction and stopping at places that caught my attention.

Oddly enough, the first thing that I noticed would be a food shack serving a unique oddity itself—fried gator. Bayou Bob's was frying up all kinds of fair classics like fritters and hush-puppies, but it was their scaly friend on a stick that had plenty curious to try a bite. Served like a brat, the gator had a texture like a lobster, a scent like the fresh catch of the day on the lake, and yet the surprising taste of your standard chicken dinner.

Fair food is such a strong tradition at any fair, and the State Fair had enough food—and enough variety—to satiate anyone's palate from hot dogs & brats, buttered corn on the cob, Italian pasta, Greek Gyros, even the Egyptian dish Koshari which

is a tomato-based rice dish that had fantastic aromatics, but I sadly didn't get the chance to try it. There was even bacon on a stick which had me running over to their stand only to find a line that spanned the entire block.

As I continued to journey around the State Fair, I came across the Grandstand Vendor Fair that would house almost 100 vendors looking to sell their wares to anyone willing to spend a few bucks. Some vendors would sell the standard fare at any fair like jewelry, various brands of clothing, bed sheets, grilling supplies, knives, pottery and artwork...so much that it boggles the mind and frightens the wallet. There were demonstrations for products that helped clear out clogged gutters on your house, hammocks to lounge in, even a cooking demonstration for a seasoning company.

In addition to vendors and fair food, the State Fair also had a plethora of interactive events for families to enjoy. Amusement park rides were scattered throughout every corner of the Fairgrounds, but the Kidway

Highway would be the prime destination with a number of kid-friendly rollercoasters and some live attractions like Monkey Maze, Ghost Pirates, and Big Bamboo.

There were other exciting activities I curiously took part in which included a virtual reality welding experience; the American Welding Society sponsored the event and employees with Lincoln Electric would assist volunteers willing to give the trade a shot. A contest to determine the highest score would yield a 1000 dollar payout to some lucky soon-to-be welder, and any kind of payout like that is enough to get my attention.

After talking to a few of the event's organizers, this festival was a "complete long-shot" at first, but it didn't take long for the neighboring Latino communities to band together for one big celebration.

The State Fair has so much to offer and events like the Pan-Latino Festival is a reminder that any idea, no matter how small it is, deserves its time in the light.

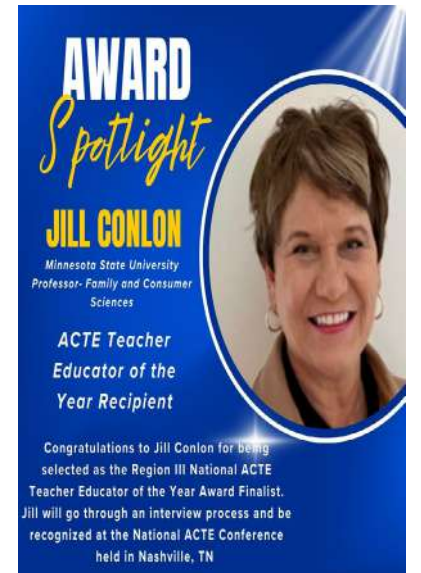
# Conlon named National ACTE Teacher Educator Award Finalist

August 2025 -From Minnesota Association for Career and Technical Education (MnACTE)

The Minnesota Association for Career and Technical Education (MnACTE) is pleased to announce that Jill Conlon, Professor of Family and Consumer Sciences and the Minnesota State University, Mankato MN, who was named Minnesota ACTE Teacher Educator Award Recipient was selected as a finalist to represent Region III at the National ACTE Conference in December 2025.

Nominated by the Minnesota Association of Family and Consumer Sciences (MAFCS) and the overall state CTE organization, MnACTE, Jill was selected above other candidates from Minnesota, selected at the Region III (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, and Wisconsin) conference in June and has advanced to the national conference as a finalist in December 2025. Jill was up against others who have demonstrated innovation in teacher education, leadership in improving CTE, and commitment to preparing teachers to deliver high quality CTE programs.

Jill will undergo an intense interview process this fall and be presented his award at the ACTE Awards Gala among the other 5 finalists from around the United States. The ACTE Career Vision Conference will be held in



Nashville, TN held in December 2025.

We applaud Jill's accomplishments and wish her the best as she moves forward in the ACTE competition! And we thank you for your strong commitment and support of Jill and her preparation in teaching.

MnACTE is the state professional association for the field of career and technical education and an affiliate of ACTE, the largest national education association dedicated to the advancement of education that prepares youth and adults for careers. ACTE currently has a membership of more than 25,000 teachers, counselors, and administrators.

For further information, please contact Jessica Daberkow, Awards Chair, [jessica.daberkow@staff.isd330.org](mailto:jessica.daberkow@staff.isd330.org)

# We Need Action; Not Thoughts and Prayers

In a country where mass shootings are becoming more and more commonplace, it's been extremely difficult to wrap my head around the recent tragedy that befell Annunciation Catholic School in Minneapolis on August 27.

I've talked ad nauseum about the quagmire that is gun violence in the United States and it's dizzying to have to speak on this subject once again after another senseless attack on children in a place that is meant to be a safe haven for them. During Mass, a place of worship and faith, Robin Westman opened fire as students gathered for the morning prayer; she would wound 23 victims and kill two young students ages 10 & 8.

When the news broke out about the shooting at Annunciation, my heart sank into my stomach at the depravity it takes to take aim at young school children praying to their Lord. There was also a sense of numbness to the news considering just how frequently these acts of violence



have become more and more familiar as time goes on. This isn't the first time children have been the victims of brutality as Sandy Hook and Uvalde remind us that not even kids are immune from the dangers of gun violence and the mercy of a crazed individual.

Of course, following this vicious attack, the pundits and administrations were quick to demonize Westman, who identifies as transgender, and wait how dangerous this marginalized group really is when it comes to being around children. Frankly, criminality doesn't care about gender identity or orientation, only who seeks to commit it. It can be easy to target the lowest

denominator after an incident like this, but Westman's manifesto highlights a possible personal link to Annunciation as her mother used to work at the Church, and was an upstanding member of the congregation. The manifesto also recounts mentions of Westman's fascinations with violence and school shootings, depression, suicidal thoughts, and other harrowing details.

These are the musings of a disturbed individual, and if anything, identifying as transgender may have been more of a symptom of that mental illness rather than a cause. We know far too little about Westman still to make a clear conclusion, but at this stage, what we learn down the road means nothing to the families and communities grieving after this attack. I could make an argument that the lack of available mental health services—1 billion dollars cut to school-based mental health for 2025—may have played a factor in this incident. I could argue

the accessibility to firearms may have played a factor, but nothing will change until the lawmakers decide to make a change. For a country that is so adamant about protecting children, they have done little to limit the impact of gun violence against children in areas that should be seen as safe spaces for them.

In the aftermath of this tragedy, Annunciation has slowly begun the healing process and resumed its Mass services this past Sunday. This is a vital step for a community that has been decimated at its core; however, the blood spilled and lives lost on that day cannot be taken in vain or forgotten. More must be done to ensure that incidents like Annunciation can never be replicated.

Being a part of several school communities, including a Catholic school, this shooting has parents worried every time their child leaves the confines of their home to attend class. I empathize and understand their fears, and I implore anyone concerned about safety protocols to contact their School Board, their school's administration, and their local lawmakers to consider making changes asap. Our communities can provide us with all the thoughts, prayers, and support we could ever ask for; we need our leaders to lead. We have the power to make change, but we have to have the difficult conversations first.

# Reunion

from pg 1

about the seniors. It's a win-win for all of us."

It is quite the reunion they put on. Graduates are seated at the same table by year, and former teachers often attend as well. Other committee members, such as Dorothy Kiner and Norma Witt, have been helping for over a decade. The Class of 1954 graduates have been a valuable asset in making this reunion run smoothly.

Those wishing to attend but have not yet RSVP'd should do so by August 31. They want anyone who can come to visit and reminisce about the high school days. "Even if you didn't graduate but still attended Janesville High School, you're still welcome to join us," Cahill added. "Many had to quit school either for work reasons or because they went into the military, especially during the Vietnam War."

The best way to contact the "Over 50" committee is by email at [Over50CR@outlook.com](mailto:Over50CR@outlook.com). A

form will be made available to RSVP. If you aren't attending the reunion, you have the option to either state your intention to attend a future one or request to be permanently removed from the mailing list. Gary Mittelsteadt, a committee member from the Class of 1958, is also looking for digital photos. Anyone who would like to submit one from their high school days can do so at [gapfsi@gmail.com](mailto:gapfsi@gmail.com). We should iterate that Mittelsteadt's email is not to be used if you're looking to reserve a spot at the reunion.

The committee continues to look to the future to see how it can make the reunion better. "We're contemplating a luncheon in the future, but it's not set in stone," Cahill said. "We recognize some may not be comfortable with driving at night, which is why we're looking into a luncheon or dinner in the future."

In the meantime, the committee is excited for September 17 to roll around, eager to see how many old friends and fellow graduates they'll reunite with. The stories will surely be that of legends at the reunion.

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SPORTS

# Bulldogs lose season opener 50-18



It took nearly half the defenders on Fillmore Central's team to take down Bulldog runningback Chase Gerdts on this run during the season opener on Thursday, August 28. (Photos by Michael Roy and Jeffrey Simonson)

By MICHAEL ROY  
Editor

Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton's football team has a long season ahead of it. According to head coach Ryan Luedtke, the schedule is the toughest it's been for the squad in a long time. The true test for them was how their run defense would perform.

Well, they had a challenging time handling Fillmore Central in their season opener at home on Thursday, August 28, as the Falcons easily took care of business in a 50-18 victory. Most of the Falcons' damage, all 407 yards of offense, came from their rushing attack as they sprinted for 286 rushing yards on the night.

JWP's offense, despite the circumstances, looked pretty good with senior quarterback Daulton Bauer recording all three of JWP's touchdowns in the air. However, their 18-point night dwindled in comparison to FC's 50-point campaign.

It looked like it would be an offensive shootout. Fillmore Central only needed seven plays to score its first touchdown, with Bahl running most of the way and scoring his only passing touchdown with an 11-yard floater to Quinci Kaase for six. Bahl tried to pass for the two-point conversion, but JWP prevented the completion. JWP punched back with senior Chase Gerdts showing that he, too, could run for chunks of yardage. Daulton Bauer found senior wide receiver Michael Walker in the far-left corner of the end zone for an eight-yard touchdown. However, their two-point conversion attempt, a run by Chase Gerdts, fell short of giving them the lead, keeping the score tied at 6-6.

Fillmore Central ran downfield again, this time earning its touchdown on the ground. They also earned their first two-point conversion of the night, making it 14-6. Two false starts marred JWP's second drive of the game. However, Daulton Bauer found his younger brother Gavin for the 25-yard pass for the first down. But the Falcons shut things down from there, forcing a punt.

JWP's defense forced the first of only two three-and-outs by FC. The offense rewarded them with a touchdown as the Bauer-to-Bauer connection got them six. However, Daulton couldn't complete his pass for the two-point conversion, leaving JWP behind the Falcons 14-12.

On the third drive for FC, Bahl's rare pass gave them an immediate 34-yard gain, and the team only



Sophomore wide receiver Gavin Bauer jukes past two Falcons defenders.



Michael Walker (#10) applies pressure on Falcons quarterback Bridon Bahl.

needed two more plays to get the 20-12 lead. Aidan Rider prevented the two-point conversion from being successful, keeping JWP in the game. JWP stalled out in four plays, resulting in a turnover on downs; Fillmore Central scored on the next drive, including the two-point conversion. It looked like JWP would punch back before the end of the half, but Daulton Bauer threw it to one of the FC corners in the end zone while under pressure.

After a 28-12 half, the defense continued to struggle holding back the Falcons, as they scored three more touchdowns on the ground to get to 50. JWP had four drives in the second half, the first resulting

in a punt, the second resulting in a six-yard passing touchdown to Rocco Scholl, and the last two drives resulting in turnovers on downs. By the end of the game, JWP had a 50-18 loss in their hands.

Although not a great game on the defensive side of the ball, the offense did well all things considered. Daulton Bauer went 22/36 for 198 yards, three touchdowns, and an interception. Chase Gerdts led the team in rushing yards with 43 on the night, with Daulton Bauer getting 26 yards. Tyson Kronbach had 18 yards, with Benelli Schultz contributing five and Seth Dahlberg with four. Gavin Bauer had 128 yards and a touchdown in receiving, while Rocco Scholl and Michael Walker had the other two passing touchdowns. Caleb Quast had 23 yards receiving, with Chase Gerdts recording 23 and Gavin Weedman recording 20. Gerdts also led the team defensively with four tackles and 11 assists. Weedman and Parker Gearity split the lone tackle for loss on the night.

While we also typically share some stats from the opposing team, we were informed that the statistics for Fillmore Central were incorrect. Therefore, we will not share those stats.

Coach Luedtke did say this schedule would be challenging. With a 0-1 record to start, the team will be looking for its first victory at St. Clair against the 1-0 Spartans on Friday, September 5.

distance, there were many familiar teams, including conference foes like Medford, NRHEG, Blooming Prairie, and Hayfield.

Both teams fared well. While it's usually the girls leading the way, the boys fared a bit better, placing tenth out of 16 teams. The girls took 11th out of 13 teams, beating St. Charles and Medford. Stewartville's boys took first, while the ladies from Byron topped the girls' competition.

Wyatt Jans led the boys in this one, taking 11th out of 118 runners with an 18:35.1 time. Teagan Mulder clocked in at 20:35.7 for 45th. Austin Holicly placed 69th at 22:03.8. Other finishers included Wesley Heinz (83rd, 22:54.3), Parker Smith (101st, 24:47.8), and Dalton Ling (115th, 31:28.3).

The girls also had a good showing. MaKenzie Westphal placed 30th out of 101 runners with

# Bulldog Volleyball search for a win

By MICHAEL ROY  
Editor

The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton volleyball team has demonstrated that its roster can compete with any team it faces if the players put their mind to it. Now, they just need to find a way to close out games.

Their tilt at home against Cleveland on Tuesday, August 23, was an entertaining matchup, but the Clippers showed that they were the better team in a 3-1 victory. The Bulldogs nearly secured their first win of the season on the road against Waseca the following Thursday. However, after JWP took a 2-1 lead, the Bluejays put together a successful comeback campaign to steal the victory with a 3-2 win.

## Clippers 3, Bulldogs 1

The fewer mistakes you make, the more likely you'll win. The way the four sets went in this matchup was proof of that. Cleveland stormed to a 4-0 lead in the first set, but a bad serve got JWP their first point. Senior Mikayla Wheelock put the team on her back to start, getting them three points in a 5-2 run to dwindle the 4-0 Clipper lead to 7-5. There was some confusion at first, and after a brief discussion, what would have been the game-tying point (7-7) was taken away from JWP and given to Cleveland.

The Clippers started firing off kills as their confidence grew, but some quick-thinking by senior Nevaeh Weimert with a well-placed hit down the middle of Cleveland's court, followed by two ace serves by Lilly Ewert, helped the team tie things up. A bad hit out of bounds by the Clippers let JWP take its first lead of the night, 12-11. At that point, both teams started making mistakes. But after a 15-14 lead for the Lady Dawgs, Cleveland called the game and outscored the blue and silver 10-5 for a 25-21 victory in the first set.

The second set proved to be a frustrating one. Seniors Katie Olson and Brielle James worked to rally a comeback for JWP, and the crowd made their displeasure known when a line judge called what looked like a great serve by the Bulldogs out of bounds. From there, they lost momentum, losing 25-18 in the second set.

Both teams exchanged a series of errors in the third set, between a spike careening out of bounds or a bad serve hitting the net. JWP stole the lead from the Clippers, going on a 4-0 run to go from 8-7 Clippers to 11-8 Bulldogs. The team had a comfortable lead, going 23-18 late in the set. While the Clippers did threaten to come back and make a clean sweep, the Bulldogs escaped with a 25-22 victory.

The fourth set was the most challenging. More players were put into the rotation, including



Brielle James (center) handles a tough bump with Katie Olson (right) at the ready to make a play and Lilly Ewert (left) on standby. (Journal photos by Michael Roy)

sophomore Ryleigh Donner and freshman Kaitlyn Cowdin. Cowdin had a great night with her limited time on the court, recording a handful of successful bumps off some pretty speedy spikes from Cleveland while hitting an ace serve. However, despite the Bulldogs taking a 4-0 start, the Clippers had several runs with

chipping away, eventually getting ahead with a 10-5 lead. Although the Bulldogs tried their best to get back into it, Waseca walked off the court with a 25-19 win in the first set.

The Lady Dawgs had a much stronger second set. Despite falling behind 11-8, they began matching every point and plugging away until



The volleyball team rallies around freshman Kaitlyn Cowdin (right of #4) to celebrate her first ace serve on the varsity team.

chunks of offensive onslaughts to outscore them down the stretch 25-9 for the 25-13 victory in the fourth set. The final point for Cleveland came when JWP had trouble handling a spike, which hit one of the rafters, making it difficult to track, and ultimately struck freshman Ashlynn Wolff in the back of the head near the front of the net. Talk about a tough break.

Katie Olson led the team in kills again with 13 on the night. Aubrey Adams had six kills, while Brielle James, Ashlynn Wolff, and Nevaeh Weimert had four each. Mikayla Wheelock had three kills. Wolff, Ewert, Wheelock, and Weimert had a pair of ace serves between them all, while Adams, Cowdin, and Olson had one ace. Weimert had 20 set assists, while Wolff had the only successful block of the night. Ewert had 14 digs, leading the team in that category, with Olson contributing 13.

## Bluejays 3, Bulldogs 2

This one got away from them. JWP started off with the first point of the game. But Waseca kept



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# Grizzlies Cross Country face challenging test

By MICHAEL ROY  
Editor

The WEM-JWP cross country team trekked a long distance for its second meet of the season at the Bill Glomski Invitational in Stewartville on Thursday, August 28. The Grizzlies faced 23 teams, including both the boys' and girls' teams. Although it seemed a long

distance, there were many familiar teams, including conference foes like Medford, NRHEG, Blooming Prairie, and Hayfield.

Both teams fared well. While it's usually the girls leading the way, the boys fared a bit better, placing tenth out of 16 teams. The girls took 11th out of 13 teams, beating St. Charles and Medford. Stewartville's boys took first, while the ladies from Byron topped the girls' competition.

Wyatt Jans led the boys in this one, taking 11th out of 118 runners with an 18:35.1 time. Teagan Mulder clocked in at 20:35.7 for 45th. Austin Holicly placed 69th at 22:03.8. Other finishers included Wesley Heinz (83rd, 22:54.3), Parker Smith (101st, 24:47.8), and Dalton Ling (115th, 31:28.3).

The girls also had a good showing. MaKenzie Westphal placed 30th out of 101 runners with

a 23:33.5 time. Emma Huelsnitz clocked in at 26:15.1 for 66th, with Madalyn Miller in 68th with a 26:35.3 time. Other finishers were Kwynn Krause (76th, 27:23.4), Lydia Coulsey (84th, 28:41.1), Anne Adams (95th, 31:50.1), and Hailey Heinz (101st, 35:11.3).

The Grizzlies will look forward to their next meet at the Oaks Golf Club, located near Hayfield, on Thursday, September 4.

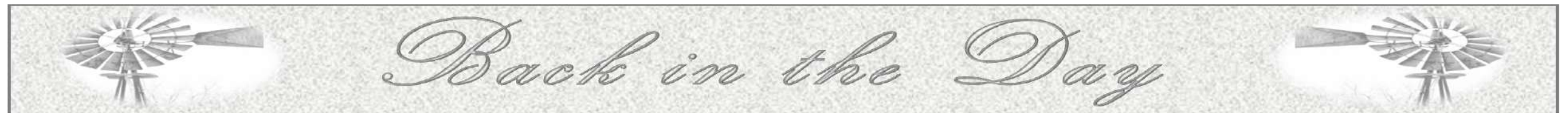
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- Free Battery Testing





This is a continuation of St. Clair's history found in the book, "Years of Memories: St. Clair, MN - 1855-2005."

**1945**  
-June 29 - Real hamburger sandwiches will be one of the features of the 4th of July picnic and celebration at St. Clair, sponsored by the Grams-Schmidt American Legion Post No. 475. Jack W. Fitzloff, publicity chairman, said that permission has been given by the Office of Price Administration to butcher a steer for the occasion. There will be a

large refreshment stand and entertainment and sports of various kinds.  
-At 12:30 noon the St. Clair High School band will give a concert with Henri Udelhofen of Mankato as leader. Judge Leslie Morse of Mankato will speak at 2:30 p.m. Following his talk will be community singing of patriotic and army songs, and amateur dance-and-song acts.  
-A kitten ball game by outstanding teams will be another attraction of the day; also other sports and races with

prizes for winners, and a clown band.  
-In the evening, KYSM will entertain with music and dance acts. There will be a dance at the town hall with music by Pestka's orchestra, to wind up festivities of the "glorious Fourth."  
-October 9 - James Fitzloff On Ship When Storm Hits. James Fitzloff, seaman second class, quartermaster on a minesweeper, wrote his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Fitzloff of St. Clair, telling them about his hair-raising experience at

Okinawa.  
"Our ship was lost in the typhoon that struck here about four days ago. I'm telling you, it was an awful thing to go through. I didn't get hurt, except for a few bruises and such, but there were lots of other fellows who have lost their lives."  
"We were moored in a cave and about five p.m. it struck.

There were ships all around us moored only a few hundred yards away and also ships tied alongside of us. Our main lines parted when the wind got up to about 100 knots and that was the beginning of things. Ships were tossing around like a bunch of wild broncos, ramming against each other and capsizing.  
"Our ship turned over on its

side and we prepared to abandon ship. None of us would have made it if we would have had to jump because water was swirling all over the place. I judged the waves to be at least 60 feet high. We stuck to our ship and it drifted onto a reef."  
He said the camp where he had been stationed was completely demolished. The highest wind velocity recorded on his ship was 135 miles an hour.

St. Clair Archives

Janesville Archives

Local Church Times and Schedules

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
412 N. Main St.  
Janesville, MN  
(507)231-5189  
Pastor Wolter  
Pastor Conteras  
Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship  
Sunday- 8:00a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship  
9a.m. Sunday School & Bible Study

-----

**JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
401 N. West St.  
Janesville, MN  
(507) 234-5350  
Pastor Kathy King  
Sunday - 8:15 a.m. Worship

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**WATERVILLE EVANGELICAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
319 E. Main St.  
Waterville, MN  
(507)362-4379  
Pastor Kathy King  
Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Worship

-----

**BLOOMING GROVE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
43089 180th St.  
Morristown, MN  
(507)384-2483  
Pastor Kathy King  
Sunday - 10:45 a.m. Worship

-----

**ST. ANN CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
307 W. 2nd St.  
Janesville, MN  
(507)234-6244  
Father Rob Schneider  
Sunday- 8:30 a.m. Mass

-----

**ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
225 3rd Ave.  
Waldorf, MN  
(507)234-6244  
Father Swaminatha (Swamy) Pothireddy  
Saturday - 5 p.m. Mass

-----

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
120 3rd Ave  
Waldorf, MN  
(507)239-2431  
Pastor Michael Matthews  
Sunday-8 a.m. Worship  
9:10a.m. Sunday School & Bible Class

**ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
307 1st St SW  
New Richland, MN  
(507) 234-6244  
Father Glenn Frerichs  
Friday: 10:00 a.m. Mass  
Sunday: 8:00 a.m. Mass

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**SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
114 4th St. NW  
Waseca, MN  
(507) 835-1222  
Father Glenn Frerichs  
Sunday: 10:00 a.m. Mass  
Tue-Thu: 8:30 a.m. Mass  
Saturday: 5:15 p.m. Mass

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**FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
300 Owen St.  
Janesville, MN  
(507)234-6463  
Pastor Sarah Krolak  
September  
Sunday Worship 10:15 a.m.  
Sunday School 9:00a.m.

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**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
1891 321st Ave  
Alma City, MN  
(507)234-5353  
Pastor Robert Harting  
Sunday - 10:00 a.m. Worship

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**TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
20574 631st Ave  
Smiths Mill, MN  
(507)234-5547  
Pastor Robert Harting  
Sunday Worship 8:30am  
7:45a.m. Sunday School  
& Adult Bible Class

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**ZOAR UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
Waldorf, MN  
Pastor Ava  
Adams-Morris  
Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Sunday School; 10 a.m. Worship

**ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
200 Front St. E  
St. Clair, MN  
(507) 245-3330  
Pastor Jeff Enderle  
Sunday - 9:00 a.m. Worship  
8:00 am Bible Study

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**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
120 Church St.  
St. Clair, MN  
(507) 245-3447  
Father Rob Schneider  
Saturday - 4:00 p.m. Mass

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**ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
601 4th St.  
Madison Lake, MN  
(507) 243-3319  
Father Rob Schneider  
Sunday - 10:00 a.m. Mass

-----

**ST. TERESA CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
104 Silver St. W  
Mapleton, MN  
Father Swaminatha (Swamy) Pothireddy  
Sunday - 8:00 a.m. Mass

-----

**ST. ANDREW CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
305 Park Ave NE  
Elysian, MN  
(507) 362-4311  
Fr. Andrew Stueve  
Sunday - 8:30 a.m. Mass  
Wednesday - 9:00a.m. Mass

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**1925**  
-Next Tuesday the old school bell will again be called into action after a three months' vacation. The window displays in many of the stores during last week have also served as a reminder of the fact that vacation days will soon be over. There will be several changes in the faculty the coming year. Mr. Feist, Miss Ryan, Miss Johnson, Miss Doty and Miss Lund will not be back. Mr. Feist is going to teach in the schools at Detroit, Michigan, Miss Ryan will be at Canby, Miss Johnson will be at St. James, and Miss Lund is going to Coleraine. Miss Doty does not expect to teach but intends to finish her course at the university.  
-Things happen fast in Janesville. Last week the Argus predicted that there would be a brass band organized before winter. Our utter modesty does not permit us to claim credit for the fortunate turn of events, but the day after the Argus was out, along came Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Johnston of Cedar Falls, IA., with a proposition advanced by Mr. Johnston to take charge of band work in Janesville. Mr. Johnston's references were carefully scrutinized. He was highly recommended by friends, among them Ken Boyd, who by the way is an authority on band work, so at a meeting Monday evening the organization was perfected and Mr. Johnston offered a contract. Now we are ready for a little steam in Janesville community life.  
-That this immediate locality has developed a reputation as an Alsike Clover producing section is proven by the fact that nearly 20 buyers are here bidding for the seed. One of the buyers is from Indiana, we understand, while nearly every seed house of importance in this and bordering states is represented. As a consequence of the spirited bidding the price averages about 20c a pound, though in a few instances even more than that has been offered. The yield varies considerably. Judging from reports of the hullers the average may come up to about four pounds an acre with an occasional excellent yield of seven pounds being noted.

**1950**  
One of the largest enrollments of students in the history of Janesville Public Schools took place on Tuesday morning when 316 pupils were registered and assigned to classes, according to M. Langehaug, superintendent. Last year the total number of students on hand opening day was 276, or 41 less

than this year. These figures do not include the kindergarten. Following is this year's enrollment by grades: Grade 1, 18; Grade 2, 20; Grade 3, 35; Grade 4, 20; Grade 5, 25; Grade 6, 16; Grade 7, 18; Grade 8, 22; Grade 9, 37; Grade 10, 33; Grade 11, 41; Grade 12, 31.  
-Three persons were hospitalized Monday for injuries suffered in a near-head-on collision at Madison Lake Monday at 9:30 p.m. Treated and released Tuesday noon from Immanuel hospital, Mankato were August M. Beccue, Eagle Lake; Engelbert Schorn, Eagle Lake; and Marilyn Pass of Jackson. A fourth person involved, John Aamot, Jackson, was not hospitalized. Highway patrolmen said that Aamot's car, going west into Madison Lake, on Highway 60, collided with one owned and driven by Beccue. Miss Pass was riding with Aamot. Beccue was heading east and was turning left into Madison Lake when the accident occurred, said officials.  
-Putting frosted corn into temporary silos this year will help Waseca County farmers save storage space for mature corn, County Agent Cletus Murphy said this week. Because of the late spring and generally bad corn weather, local corn crops are three weeks behind schedule. In cases of large acreages of immature corn, it is suggested that it be made into ear corn silage. This is one of the best ways of preserving the very immature corn, according to M. L. Armour, University Farm Extension agronomist.

**1975**  
-Villiam Schmidt unlaced his work boots, then shed his shoes and socks before walking barefoot into the kitchen on the Blaine Phillips farm south of St. Clair. Schmidt, 22, says that's the way it's done in Denmark. He doesn't believe in wearing barn boots in the house. The incident is typical of the way the 22-year old Denmark man feels about his visit to the U.S. Since March of this year he has been living on the Phillips' farm and caring for their Holstein herd. Schmidt is one of five Denmark men who are in Minnesota this summer participating in a University of Minnesota Student Exchange Program. All together there are 50 people, from 12 countries, in the program.  
-Waldorf - Janesville and Waldorf-Pemberton both suffered from a bad case of First Game-It is here Friday night but the Bears were better able to move the ball on the ground and came away with a lackluster 12-0 win.

-Sheryl Westphal, Janesville, became the first woman to sweep a class at Sprintways International when she won the 18 and over four-cycle class Sunday. Placing second behind Miss Westphal was Janesville's Don Witt. Darold Gehring, Waseca, took third.  
**2000**  
-What started out as a routine traffic stop last weekend turned into much more for Janesville Police Officer Trevor Hamdorf. According to Hamdorf, he pulled over a vehicle for a speeding violation in the early morning hours of Saturday, August 19. As he approached the vehicle Hamdorf detected a strong smell of marijuana. While questioning the passengers, an underage female admitted that she had been drinking, the passengers were asked to step out of the car. As the female passenger got out, Hamdorf saw an open container under the seat and a bat, a small device used for smoking marijuana, on the passenger seat. A subsequent search of the vehicle revealed cash, a bag of marijuana, and an unidentified substance similar in appearance to methamphetamine, packaged both in a larger bag and in several small bags.  
-Through a program sponsored by the Minnesota High Technology Foundation, the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton schools received 80 free computers last week. This program enables businesses, organizations, government agencies and individuals to make tax-deductible donations of eligible used computers and related equipment. The donated equipment is refurbished and placed in qualifying Minnesota K-12 classrooms at no cost to the school district.  
-In response to concerns and a request from residents, the Janesville City Council is considering moving ahead sooner than previously planned on a major drainage project in the city. At last week's council meeting, an initial drainage report was presented by Joe Duncan, city engineer. The plan had previous been authorized by the council to study existing reports and reevaluate the plans relative to drainage and flooding problems, specifically in the south part of Janesville. For this project to be moved up to 2001, a decision by the council would have to be made quickly. According to Duncan, bids would have to go out in March or April of 2001, and some initial work would need to be done before the snow falls.

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For complete job description and application, contact the City of Janesville; PO Box O; Janesville, MN 56048; Phone (507)-234-5110. Both are also available at our website [www.janesvillemn.gov](http://www.janesvillemn.gov). Resumes not accepted in lieu of applications. You may deliver or send completed applications to Clinton Rogers, City Administrator, at [clintonr@janesvillemn.gov](mailto:clintonr@janesvillemn.gov) or Janesville City Hall 101 N Mott Street., PO Box O, Janesville, MN 56048.

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SPORTS

# Lady Cyclones fall short to MCW 12-8 Victory for Spartan Football



The boys in the student section gather around to celebrate senior Brooklyn Meng's 1,000th assist as a member of the St. Clair volleyball team. She became the fourth player in school history to reach that mark. (Journal photo by Jordan Carrillo)

By JORDAN CARRILLO  
Staff Writer

While their season opener may not have gone as planned, St. Clair Cyclones volleyball program welcomed one of its seniors into the pantheon of the greats. Despite losing the match three sets to one against the MCW Mavericks on August 28, there was still reason to celebrate as Brooklyn Meng, the Assist Setting Machine, became the fourth player in the program's history to reach 1000 set assists in a career. As she met the milestone, the game would be briefly paused and friends, family members, and fans held signs to commemorate the achievement. More on this later.

As the Cyclones prepared for their first match of the season, the Mavericks would already have two previous contests on their resume; however, Coach Ashley Sander felt confident her team would rise to the challenge. "We've been putting in a lot of energy and work these past few weeks to face off against a team like MCW. Our seniors have brought a lot of intensity tonight, and we're ready to go."

Set 1: A slow start for St. Clair as they found themselves in a 0-3 hole early, but a Brooklyn to Brooklin (Hinze) connection would set up a kill and Meng's first assist of the night—she only needed 20 to reach 1000 assists, so each opportunity set, bump, or dig by her would seize everyone's attention. She would then set assists for Payton Blount to rocket two straight shots down the baseline to tie the set 4-4. Meng would score 15 assists alone in the first set. A smattering of kills by Blount and Hinze would keep this first set engaging; however, the Cyclones struggled to contain the Maverick's own dynamic duo in Brynlee Haukoos and Maddie Carlson at the net—they would combine for 23 kills on the night. Down 16-22, St. Clair would use their length in the middle to get back into the fight as Kate

Daly, Paige St. Peter, and Ashlyn DeMartini would lead the Cyclones on a 6-2 to bring the set 22-24, but one final kill by MCW would clinch the set in the Mav's favor 25-22.

Set 2: The Cyclones had shaken the "first-game jitters" off and entered the set with heightened intensity. Blount would bazooka a shot down the line while DeMartini would use a soft touch at the net to help give St. Clair an 8-4 lead. The Mavericks wouldn't roll over as they stamped their way to five straight points to reclaim the lead by a point. The following play would mark history as Meng would make her 1000th assist with a textbook set pass to DeMartini for the finish. The home crowd erupted in cheer and Meng would share an emotional embrace with her parents, Chad and Jen, who were one of the first ones to hold signs up celebrating the achievement. The moment would bring another jolt of energy into the Cyclones as they held onto a slim 17-16 lead, but it would be short-lived as a few careless mistakes on the return allowed the Mavericks to not only take back the lead, but seize the set entirely 25-22 to take a two set to none lead in the match.

Set 3: With their backs against the wall, St. Clair went on an all-out offensive surge as Hinze & Blount attempted to keep their team in the contest with a series of vicious attacks at the net. Aleya Loeslie and St. Peter would serve a pair of aces to bring the Cyclones' lead 9-4, but the Mavericks proved to be a stubborn adversary as they relied on their strikers to close the gap 11-8. Blount would then go berserk with three consecutive kills, and Daly and DeMartini would land a few strikes of their own. Blount would deliver the final blow with an ace to give St. Clair the set 25-18.

Set 4: As the fourth set entered its early stages, it was apparent the emotional and physical energy spent in Sets 2 & 3 took their toll on the Cyclones and soon found themselves down 12-19. St. Clair attempted a final push as Blount capped off her 16-kill night with a

handful of strikes while the defensive wall St. Peter, Meng, and DeMartini did what they could to hold back the Maverick's aerial assault. A 4-2 run narrowed the gap 18-21, but MCW would close the door with four straight points to clinch the set 25-18 and the match three sets to one.

It wasn't the ideal start for the volleyball season for the Cyclones, but Meng's milestone would give plenty of reason to celebrate as the postgame would have the senior pose for pictures with relatives, teammates, friends, and everyone in between. She would end the night with 41 set assists.

Becoming the fourth player in recent program history to reach 1000 assists, Meng joins an elite group alongside Lizzy O'Donnell, Claire Anderson, and Caroline Schimek; she has been the court general as the team's main setter since her sophomore year. Reaching that milestone had been a "number one goal" for Meng, and she thanked many for her journey. "There are a lot of people to thank for tonight like my teammates and my coaches, but being able to share this accomplishment with my family means a lot to me."

Even amidst all the glory, Meng looks forward to getting back on the court and "putting in the work" as the season continues. It's that kind of work ethic Sander would praise when asked about Meng's achievement.

Although their opener didn't go as planned, the St. Clair Cyclones have time to right the wrongs and bounce back in a big way against their rival Maple River on September 4.

By JORDAN CARRILLO  
Staff Writer

It may not have been an offensive explosion to start the 2025 campaign, but the St. Clair/Loyola Spartans relied on their stubborn defense to seize a 12-8 victory in its season opener against the NRHEG Panthers.

As the Spartans went through their warmups, the anticipation was building as this would be the first look at the new regime with Coach Stephen Willaert leading the charge; however, oddly enough, Willaert would actually have to sit this opening game out after an apparent rules violation. Second in command would be Assistant Coach Phil Campbell, and he shared how vital it would be for the Spartans to hit the ground running. "We want to get out there and set the tone early...our guys have been working very hard for this moment, and we're excited to get back to playing Spartan football."

After a competitive Quarterback battle, Sam Freitag would take starting snaps under center in what would be a fast-paced, motion-heavy offense for the Spartans. It would take a few drives for the junior to find his rhythm in the pocket, but the run game would be effective as the Spartans outran the Panthers 56 yards to 17. Huntly Lentz led the group with 40 yards on 13 carries. Freitag completed a 40 yard pass to Will Youngerberg in stride to give the Spartans a 6-0 lead, but the Panthers would tie the game after a miraculous catch by a NRHEG receiver stunned everyone en route to a 68 yard touchdown.

That touchdown seemed to enrage the Spartans as their secondary turned passing lanes into no-fly zones and the front seven began to take control of the line of scrimmage. Christian Barker led the pack with five tackles and a sack, but it would be a collaborative effort on the battlefield for these Spartans as their overbearing pressure on the Panthers' QB led to him throwing four interceptions on the night. However, there were a handful of occasions where overaggression came back to bite the Spartans.

As the first half entered its final two minutes, a Roughing the Kicker

penalty gave the Panthers a second chance, but Will Spence would knock down a pass on third down to force another punt. Austin Ward elected to let the ball bounce, but it would end up parking at the one-yard line...to make matters worse, the Spartans would then be flagged for holding in the endzone, resulting in a safety and a slim 8-6 lead for the Panthers. NRHEG would gain possession following the kickoff, and land another deep pass to advance to the SCL 20-yard line.

With their backs against the wall, the Spartans needed a miracle of their own to swing momentum back in their favor before the half and Ashton Wilmes would deliver a jaw dropping moment to start the season with an interception down the sideline, and the sophomore nearly housed it before being tackled at the Panthers 25. It was the adrenaline shot the Spartans needed as Freitag would heave a last-second pass to JJ Cumberland in the corner of the endzone for a touchdown to take back the lead 12-8. Within a span of 90 in-game seconds, the Spartans had reached rock bottom only to suddenly find themselves back on top with one of the craziest sequences this sports fan has ever seen.

Campbell was still awestruck from the moment as he returned to the sideline after halftime; he shared how the Spartans could use the excitement to fuel them for the second half. "Football is all about stacking momentum...if you can stack a play, you can stack a drive, so we just have to keep attacking as a team."

While the offensive struggles continued for the Spartans, their defense understood the assignment to "attack" as they relentlessly pursued the Panthers in the second half. Freitag would find himself under immense pressure throughout the third as his pocket would collapse often, and he even bobbed two consecutive snaps. Additionally, several Spartans would start to cramp up on the sideline, and it would be a mad dash for the trainers to provide remedies like pickle juice and bananas to keep up with demand.

Despite being down a few soldiers, the Spartans held strong as Youngerberg and Wilmes snuffed out the run game to force a risky



Defense was the name of the game in this one. Plays like this tackle made by Christian Barker helped St. Clair secure a 12-8 victory over NRHEG at the home opener on August 29. (Journal photo by Jordan Carrillo)

fourth down conversion for the Panthers. On paper, NRHEG made the proper call of a corner route in the endzone; however, the receiver couldn't complete the catch and the opportunity to take the lead was squandered.

As the fourth quarter started, a pass interference call would give the Spartans a fresh set of downs, but four straight runs would get stonewalled by the Panthers. SCL would also flex its defensive might as Barker would record a sack and Cumberland would pick off a pass. The offenses would stall out for much of the quarter, but a pooched sky punt by Max Wilson would provide some late-game drama as NRHEG would start with great field position for one last chance at victory. The Spartans displayed their best defense on the night as Avery Anderson disrupted two of the Panthers' pass plays, and deflection by Wilmes led to a game-sealing interception by Lentz.

By the skin of their teeth, the Spartans would take home a 12-8 victory over the Panthers. It may not have been the most glorious win, but a win to start the year is a sign of promise for this new regime. SCL will look to keep this momentum going as they take on JWP during Parent's Night on September 5.

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# Jamesville Journal

PUBLISHER Tracie Rosacker

EDITORS Mike Roy, Jordan Carrillo and Ricardo Moreno Jr. PHOTOS by Mike Roy, Jordan Carrillo

# JWP FOOTBALL



The 2025-26 Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton football team is ready to take on whatever the season brings. Front row: Carter Freitag, Caleb Ruschmeyer, Benelli Schultz, Fynn Johnson, Jett Quast, Evan Mulcahey, Ethan Elliott, Johnny Balzotti, Colt Quast, Ivan Schoenrock, Jacoby Harris, Joan Jaume, Isaac Miller, Logan Swalve, and Quinn Anderson. Middle row: Coach Sam Schruin, Coach Rich Davis, Zach Blasing, Jett Sturdivant, Gavin Weedman, Seth Dahlberg, Garrett Rienhardt, Ayden Peterson, Carson Schultz, Jaxon Wolff, Daulton Bauer, Chase Gerdts, Caleb Quast, Rocco Scholl, Dylan Hood, Travyn Shoultz, Rylan Rolfson, Coach Brandon Goebel, and Coach Adam Roesler. Back row: Jeffrey Simonson, Janes Schoenrock, Brayden Neegaard, Tyson Kronbach, Aiden Rider, Parker Geariety, Gavin Bauer, Michael Walker, Tyson Johnson, Jackson Winters, Trent Huber, Yale Johnson, and Head Coach Ryan Luedtke. (Journal Photo Courtesy of JWP Football)

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Front row: Michael Walker, Zach Blasing, Caleb Quast, Daulton Bauer, Chase Gerdts, Rocco Scholl, Travyn Shoultz, Dylan Hood, and Rylan Rolfson. Back row: Sam Schruin, Brandon Goebel, Ryan Luedtke, Rich Davis, and Adam Roesler. (Journal Photo by Mike Roy)

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# JWP Football confident to challenge opponents

By Mike Roy  
Editor

The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton football team has been hitting the gridiron throughout most of August, preparing for what Head Coach Ryan Luedtke calls a “tough schedule.”

It won’t be easy. A handful of their opponents this year have gone through some recent deep runs in the section playoffs, and Section 2AA will be as competitive as ever. Luedtke will be in his third season as coach with a 7-12 record (1-2 in the playoffs), and this year’s assistant coaches are Adam Roesler, Sam Schruin, Brandon Goebel, Bjorn Peterson, Rich Davis, and Mike Sturdivant.

### 2024 Season

JWP went 4-6 last season, including matching their 3-5 record from 2023 in the regular season. The team started the season 0-4, including a game they probably should have won against Gibbon-Fairfax-Winthrop. However, they turned things around in the latter half of the season with a 3-1 record, including three straight wins in-section against St. Clair-Loyola, New Richland-HEG, and Medford. They upset NRHEG in a close matchup in Janesville with a 25-22 victory before getting pummeled 66-7 to the Section 2AA champions, Triton.

### Expectations

As Luedtke phrased it, this season will be a true test for the team. “We’ll face a tough schedule with strong programs like Fillmore Central, WEM, Maple River, Blue Earth Area, and Blooming Prairie,” he said. “Our players have been putting in the work

and showing every day with focus and determination. The energy and effort they have brought to practice has been outstanding, and we’re excited to see it carry over onto the field.

### Key Returnees

There are many returnees to the team: 10 seniors, 11 juniors, and 10 sophomores. Award winners (letterwinners) include seniors Daulton Bauer, Zach Blasing,

Davis, Issac Gahlon, Carter Hoehn, Landon Johnson, Gavin Marinenko, Preston Meihak, Jaxon Miller, Peyton O’Brien, and Davien Weis. Morsching was named the Mid-Southeast (west division) district’s co-defensive player of the year. Luedtke noted their cohesiveness as a group.

### Strengths and weakness

Luedtke feels that one of the team’s most significant strengths is their

to fill the roles that the 2024 seniors held. Replacing the leadership these seniors had brought to the team will be difficult. “While it leaves big shoes to fill, it also creates an exciting opportunity for our younger players to step up and make their mark,” Luetke pointed out. “This group has shown great preparation and a willingness to try new things, which will help them grow quickly into their roles.”

### Key to success

Luedtke says that the first key to success is staying healthy and keeping their top players on the field. “Offensively, we need to get the ball to the perimeter and let our skill guys use their speed and playmaking ability,” he added. “On defense, stopping the run will be critical to controlling games. If we can execute in these areas, we’ll put ourselves in a strong position each week.”

### Favorites

Coach Luedtke feels that Section 2AA will be “extremely competitive” this season. He feels WEM is the frontrunner, as they were the section runner-up last season and will return most of their team. “The addition of Blooming Prairie, a program that’s been traditionally very strong, only adds to the challenge alongside perennial contenders like Maple River and Blue Earth,” he adds. “From top to bottom, it’s a tough section!”

Whatever this season brings, Luedtke is excited for it and can’t wait to see this team take the field. “I’m looking forward to watching how they handle adversity together and grow from those moments, while also celebrating the successes they earn along the way. This team has the potential to make it a special year.”

Aiden Cummings, Chase Gerdts, Dylan Hood, Caleb Quast, Rylan Rolfson, Rocco Scholl, and Michael Walker; juniors Seth Dahlberg, Parker Gearity, Tyson Johnson, Yale Johnson, Aidan Rider, Carson Schultz, and Jason Wheelock; and sophomore Gavin Bauer.

balanced offensive attack. “We’ll have speed and playmaking ability with seniors Caleb Quast and Daulton Bauer,” he said. “We’ll also bring physicality and toughness running the ball with Chase Gerdts.”

Luedtke feels the combination will give the team multiple ways to attack opposing defenses. “With these weapons, we’re confident we can create challenges for every opponent we face.”

One challenge he noted as having




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# JWP VOLLEYBALL



Your Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton volleyball team for 2025. Front row: Nevaeh Weimert, Kaitlyn Cowdin, MaKaela Westphal, Ryleigh Donner, Ray Blasing, Lillian Ewert, Chloe Kaiser, Lily Quast, and Kayleigh Donner. Back row: Coach Jolene Hauger, Coach Carrie Richards, Victoria Blomstrom, Sophia Okins, Ashlynn Wolff, Aubrey Adams, Brielle James, Mikayla Wheelock, Rachelle Oelke, Katelyn Olson, Ellie Morsching, and Head Coach Toryn Richards.  
(Journal Photo by Mike Roy)

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# Volleyball starts fresh; five return for 2025 season

By Mike Roy  
Editor

The 2024 season for the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton volleyball team was the best the program's had in a long time, featuring a winning record from the squad for the first time in many years.

If they are going to repeat that same success, they will have to start from scratch, as only five of the varsity players from last season will return. Ten seniors from last season – two-thirds of the team – have graduated, and there are no returnees on the coaching staff.

This year's head coach will be Toryn Richards, who will enter her first-ever season coaching a varsity team. Although newer to coaching varsity, Richards is no stranger to success on the court, as she hails from Waterville-Elysian-Morristown, a town well-known for its successful volleyball program. Richards was part of a team that finished second in the state tournament and ranked #1 in Class A for the Covid-19 season of 2020 before fall sports were shut down across the state. Joining Richards is Carrie Richards as C-squad coach and Jolene Hauger for junior varsity.

The team has already played a handful of games and has flashed the potential to be a good team. However, so far, they are 0-3, losing a close five-set match with Fairmont, Cleveland, and Waseca.

## 2024 Season

As mentioned before, 2024 was JWP's best season in recent memory, featuring a 13-11 record, their first winning record in many seasons. After starting 1-6, the girls went on a 12-4 run to turn their season around.

Highlights included a great showing at St. James's tournament and a second-place finish at Nicollet's tournament after narrowly losing to Sleepy Eye 2-1 in a three-set match. They even gave Jordan a run for their money in the first round of the Section 2AA playoffs, winning the first set until ultimately losing in the following three.

freshmen, with Wheelock, Ewert, and James joining the team last season. Although the latter three players have somewhat limited experience, they have all shown they can produce offense, whether that's James providing kills, Ewert contributing some digs, or Wheelock blocking the net up front.

Despite only five returnees coming back to the team, there will be three

They are Brielle Bure, Aubrey Weedman, Ava Appel, Brielle Dessner, Claire and Paige Walz, Ellah Oliver, Hope Dimmel, Lilly Strauss, and Presley James.

Bure was voted the 2024 Gopher Conference Player of the Year, reaching 1,000 digs in her senior season after recovering from a broken jaw that sidelined her for the first two weeks of the season; she holds the school record for most digs in a single season. Weedman was also an All-Conference athlete, reaching 1,000 assists, and is third in JWP in career assists. James was an All-Conference mention and holds the single season record for blocks with 48. Strauss was the JWP recipient of the Gopher Conference Sportsmanship Award.

## Strengths and Weakness

The team may have lost a few taller players, but they have more than made up for it. This year, around six players on the roster are at least 5'9", with three of them standing at 5'10" or taller. They will be relied upon to provide solid blocks upfront, and they've shown they're up to the task already.

A potential weakness is a lack of varsity experience. With only five players on the team this season with varsity experience – two with more than one season – that might be a factor in some games. They will additionally have to work out team chemistry with most of the players who are new to playing on the varsity squad.

The girls have already been busy putting in the work. They will look to improve throughout the season and perhaps make a run in the Gopher Conference and the Section 2AA playoffs.



## Key Returnees

With the potential they showed last season, even with a nearly brand-new team, the expectations will undoubtedly be high to improve upon 2024.

Six returnees will be heading the course with their varsity experience. They are seniors Lilly Ewert, Brielle James, Katelyn Olson, Nevaeh Weimert, and Mikayla Wheelock. Olson and Weimert have been on the varsity team since they were

more seniors joining these five – Victoria Blomstrom, Ellie Morsching, and Lily Quast. They may not have the varsity experience the other five seniors have, but they've played some volleyball on at least a JV level.

## Key Losses

The price to pay for having the most experienced team in years is that you eventually must let the players go. Ten seniors left many holes to fill, four of them All-Conference honorees.

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# WEM-JWP CROSS COUNTRY



Cross Country (combined with coaches): Front row: Hailey Heinz, Charlie Denis, Teagan Mulder, Brennan Welvaert, Parker Smith, Auston Holicky, Wesley Heinz, Dalton Ling, and Anne Adams. Back row: Co-Head Coach Liz Kvebak, Kwynn Krause, Abby Crosby, Lydia Coulosey, Emma Huelsnitz, MaKenzie Westphal, Norah Welvaert, Ellie Schlie, and Co-Head Coach Skyler Petry. Missing: Wyatt Jans, Eli Fall, Madalyn Miller, and Jaelyn Wilmes.

## JWP CHEERLEADERS



The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton cheerleading squad is prepared to hit the football field and get the crowd pumped up for every game. The cheerleaders will be coached for another season by Kristin Fox. From left: Natalie Rohwer, Hadley Cowdin, Aubrey Anderson, Callie March, Lillie Jewison, Adrianna Johnson, Ashlynn Wendt, and Elayna Kruger.

# HAVE A GREAT SEASON!

# Cross Country aims for conference championship

**By Mike Roy  
Editor**

Over the past several years, the WEM-JWP cross-country program has arguably been the most successful of all fall sports programs, particularly in JWP's case.

This year, they're looking to be kings and queens of the hill within the Gopher Conference. Both teams have the potential to do so, as they are returning many of their athletes this season, including some All-Conference runners. Both Elizabeth Kvebak and Skylar Petry are thrilled to be in their third season as co-head coaches for the team, Kvebak on the JWP side and Petry on the WEM side.

## 2024 Season

The Grizzlies had a successful year. The girls became Gopher Conference champions, adding to their many years of holding onto the title. They were led by then-freshman MaKenzie Westphal, who was the conference champion of the year with a first-place finish at the conference meet at Prairie Ridge Golf Course. Wyatt Jans, now a junior, led the team with a second-place finish to get the boys in second place.

## Expectations

Coach Kvebak and the cross-country teams are "thrilled to kick off the season" with several returning athletes making a comeback. She believes that both boys and girls have a chance to capture conference titles this season. "The girls are determined to defend their crown," she said. "The boys are also hungry for a title."

The first week of practice has already shown how strong the group can be if they put in the work. "This

means we're raising expectations," Kvebak said. "Our program is aiming higher than ever before. The girls are looking to finish in the top six or seven at sections, while the boys are working toward an eighth-place spot."

This would be the highest finish either team has seen in recent memory.

mentions and Krause earning the conference sportsmanship award.

For the boys, the returnees are not as plentiful. They are senior Auston Holicky, junior Wyatt Jans, and freshmen Teagan Mulder, Wesley Heinz, Parker Smith, and Charlie Denis. Jans earned first team All-Conference, while Mulder was a second team All-Conference honoree with Wesley Heinz getting an honorable mention.

issue, she sees it as an opportunity to grow. "They have room for greater success in the upcoming years," she explained.

A weakness she pointed to – facetiously, this editor suspects – is their work ethic. "Sometimes, we work too hard," she jokes. "We just love running hills!"

## Keys to success

The phrase for this year's team is "Grizzly Grit." She stated that this tied into their keys to success: "Working hard, having fun, carrying a positive attitude, being competitive, supporting teammates, and building a great team culture." Students will be expected to commit to the sport and push through adversity with grit, demonstrate respect and integrity in all they do, and use the skills they've learned in cross country to become better people.

## Favorites

The Randolph boys took last season's title, and Coach Kvebak expects them to be in the mix again. She has United South Central as a dark horse candidate in the boys' section. She believes that Blooming Prairie will be the team (or teams) to beat for both the boys' and girls' teams. Although she'd like to see WEM-JWP compete for the section, she noted with honesty that it will be difficult with teams like Mankato Loyola, St. James, and Mountain Lake having "continuous success" in the past few seasons.

Coaches Kvebak and Petry feel they have a great group of seniors this year. "This group is excited to work hard, compete, have fun, and show Grizzly Grit by bringing the team together," Kvebak concluded.



## Key returnees

The girls will return several athletes, including conference champion MaKenzie Westphal. Joining her will be seniors Kwynn Krause, Ellie Schlie, Jaelyn Wilmes, and Abby Crosby; junior Emma Huelsnitz; sophomores Madelyn Miller and Anne Adams; and freshmen Lydia Coulsey and Hailey Heinz. Madelyn Miller was second team All-Conference, with Coulsey and Huelsnitz earning honorable

## Key losses

Thankfully, the teams haven't lost many athletes. The girls saw Onikia Herme and Madeline Hoehn leave the team to graduate, while the boys lost Alexander Kleve. Herme and Hoehn were All-Conference honorable mentions, while Kleve earned the Conference Sportsmanship Award.

## Strengths and weakness

Kvebak notes the teams' biggest strength is their youth. While some may see it as a lack of experience

  
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# ST. CLAIR FOOTBALL



Front Row: Orrin Gessner, Brevin Hansen, Jonathan Pierce, Hunter Winkler, Luke Vaughan, Will Youngerberg, Austin Ward, Avery Anderson, Peyton Raether, Garrett Mills. Remaining Spartans: Huntly Lentz, Oliver Barnhart, Brock Prange, Eli Sieberg, Sam Freitag, Ashton Wilmes, Deegan Stevensen, Blake McClinton, Max Wilson, Gavin Waagner, JJ Cumberland, Ethan Morris, Skyler Bryant, Caden Peterson, Kason Irvin, Jager Heidemann, Cam Kasproicz, Bram Godfrey, Carson Goodrich, Aiden Kollos, Paul Schmit, Jack Roemhildt, Rylee Vandenhoeck, Noah Meyer, Logan Priem, Noah Bosma, Henry Karst, Steven Loeffler, Mason Edberg, Brody McClinton, Hunter Farris, Riley Vaughan, Cooper Garlow, Carter Cords, Will Spence, Christian Barker, Eli Mueller, Logan Scherer.  
(Journal Photos by Jordan Carrillo)

## A changing of the guard breathes new life for Spartans

By Jordan Carrillo  
Staff Writer

In sports, change can be a difficult thing to accept, but it is necessary for growth. After a disappointing 3-6 record for its 2024 campaign, a stark departure from years past, the St. Clair/Loyola Spartans underwent a series of changes that hoped to breathe new life for these battle-hardened warriors.

One of the key changes for the Spartans is the hiring of new Head Coach Stephen Willaert; he served as Defensive Coordinator under former HC Dustin Bosshart. This new promotion gives Willaert and his new regime of Coordinators and Assistant Coaches a fresh slate to prepare battle plans for their Spartans.

The 2024 season was a certain stepback for the Spartans program as the team struggled on both sides of the field; however, 2025 hopes to bring a return to the smashmouth defensive intensity. Players who experienced their first taste of Varsity-level football have returned much more confident, and frankly, a little angry after failing to live up to expectations. It's that

frustration from last year that Willaert plans to use as a necessary evil to motivate his players, "We want the returning guys to come back with a chip on their shoulder about last year; we didn't meet expectations, and our goal is to make sure we don't repeat our mistakes, bounce back as a squad, and get back to playing Spartan football."

At the core of what Spartan football is all about is at the core of every successful team—a formidable front line. The offensive line struggled in the 2024 season, but some much needed attention to footwork and technique as well as pumping iron in the weight room has made several returning lineman like Avery Anderson, Christian Barker, and Steven Loeffler improve their toughness in the trenches. On the defensive side, Luke Vaughan, Baker, and Anderson are determined to use their strength and quickness to terrorize opposing quarterbacks and clog running lanes throughout the season.

With new leadership taking the mantle for the Spartans, the transition from one regime to the next can be an obstacle; however,

Willaert's first few weeks as Head Coach have been a "seamless one" according to him. Trusting his Coordinators, the Spartans hope to implement a more fast-paced offense filled with pre-snap motions, sweeps and misdirections, and even an ode to classic college ball with the triple option.

A new system can be a bit daunting to manage for a team that still boasts a relatively young group, but the commitment by two seniors in particular in Will Youngerberg and Huntly Lentz has inspired other Spartans to embrace this run-n-gun type of play, "The upperclassmen have meshed very well and those two [Lentz & Youngerberg] have become vocal leaders in the huddle...we're still a bit on the younger side, but having the juniors and seniors be all-in has helped us lock-in on this new system."

The Spartans participated in a series of scrimmages on August 23rd to test out their new systems. At the time of this report, a quarterback battle between Sam Freitag and Jonathon Pierce was ongoing and the performances at the scrimmages would determine the offi-

cial starter to start the 2025 campaign. Both have similar skillsets with powerful arms and a knack for scrambling out of the pocket, and both played considerably well during the scrimmages; however, Freitag would receive the starting nod.

The new motion-heavy run offense had running Lentz and Brevin Hansen break off sizable runs against teams like Sibley East and Blue Earth; Austin Ward would use his athleticism often to evade defenders as well. Defensively, Spence, Barker, and Loeffler made their presence known in the backfield, but Hunter Winkler and Youngerberg would lock down receivers...they would even snag an interception or two. They would struggle to slow down a more physically imposing team like Cotter High School...a level to aspire to. All in all, the Spartans left the scrimmages impressed with what they could do on the field.

While 2024 was a stepback for St. Clair/Loyola Spartans football, the 2025 campaign hopes a new regime with Willaert at the helm will have these warriors primed for battle and return to glory on the field.

# ST. CLAIR SOCCER

## Crusaders make room for improvement this season

By Ricardo Moreno Jr.  
Staff Writer

The Crusaders Lady's soccer team is back to kick off another season. Leading the team this year are head coaches Emma Sims and David Nachreiner, Sims for the first year and Nachreiner for a second. Last year, the ladies ended their season 6 – 11 and experienced some injuries that kept them from being at their best. It is their hope that this season will be an improvement on the last. Crusaders have since moved on from the team, but new players have stepped up to fill the gaps.

With fresh faces added to the roster, it's great to have seasoned players, like 2024's All City player Sophie Nachreiner, Forward Allie Wheeler, and Midfielder Vivian Krosch, back to show their



Front Row: Finley Roe, Allison Wheeler, Sophie Nachreiner, Stella Munson, Janessa Carstensen, Vivian Krosch, Leah Quade. Second Row: Co-Coach Emma Sims, Shelby Beyer, Ryleigh Prange, x, Jacelyn Carpenter, Kourtney Kost, Co-Coach David Nachreiner. Third Row: Cora Johannes, Brielle Cooney, Ellie Bergemann, Heidi Dick, Sarah Nelson, Colleen Olmanson. Not Pictured: Jessa Scott  
(Journal Photo by Jordan Carrillo)

underclassmen what Crusaders soccer can do. They will all work together to play a style of soccer that moves the ball quickly and defends wisely against their opponents' possessions.

Their rivals this season, though the

Crusaders are not part of a conference, are expected to be St. James, Madelia, and Windom Coop. Those are their nearby neighbors to prepare for. In the final stretch of last season, the Crusaders were kept out of the post-

season by Cannon Falls. They have plenty of rivals to sharpen their skills against over the season, and hopefully each game brings them closer to making a playoff push they can hang their cleats on.

# Good Luck Spartans!




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# ST. CLAIR VOLLEYBALL



Front row: Brooklyn Meng, Brooklin Hinze, Aubree Mathiowetz, Paige St. Peter. Second Row: Braxton Breezee, Brynn Hansen, Grace Ireland, Haddie Jobe. Third Row: Valerie Quast, Cheyenne Oachs, Aleya Loeslie, Aubrey Will. Back row: Kate Daly, Ashley Mills, Ashlyn DeMartini, Payton Blount.

(Journal Photos by Jordan Carrillo)

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# Nine Seniors will lead Lady Cyclones for 2025 Campaign

By Jordan Carrillo  
Staff Writer

After a soul crushing Section loss to the LCWM Knights last season, the St. Clair Lady Cyclones have been determined to learn from past mistakes toward a successful future. Nine seniors will bring a substantial amount of leadership and experience to a team that will have seven returning starters for this Fall 2025 campaign. The Cyclones fared well in 2024 with a 16-8 record and a second place finish in the South Central Conference (8-2).

That defeat to the Knights has carried over into this new season, and there seemed to be a heightened intensity from these Cyclones during an August 19 practice. Even mentioning the LCWM game would have certain players muttering to themselves about that night and then they would react by spiking the ball harder than usual. Senior Brooklin Hinze looks forward to a rematch against the Knights, going so far as to circle the date of the team's first matchup against them, September 16, and declare it as "payback time."

Entering their fifth year as Head Coaches, Tyler and Ashley Sander knew that avenging a bitter loss would be at the forefront of their team's minds heading into this new season. Before the very first practice of this season, the team rewatched that match against LCWM as a means of motivation. The Sanders took pride in the team's effort in that playoff match, stating it was the "best we had played as a team" however, the Cyclones struggled to close out the match, and would lose in five sets. Failure can be a powerful agent toward growth, and the Sanders look to use the lessons learned from last year to motivate their team, "This is a sport where if you want something, you have to want it. We want to enter the year with an 'all-in' mentality and fight for every point, and we're determined to do just



Nine seniors Brooklin Hinze, Aubree Mathiowetz, Braxton Breezee, Aubrey Will, Brooklyn Meng, Brynn Hansen, Grace Ireland, Paige St. Peter and Valerie Quast, will serve as the core for this team. (Journal Photo by Jordan Carrillo)

that."

That commitment to maximum effort is meant to keep players accountable, and that very instance occurred during a "rhythm" drill... essentially a continuous point between two teams. This first

reacting to the ball, "If we wait for the ball, we will never earn points that way...now is not the time to be lazy." As punishment, the players would take several laps around the gym, complete a set of mountain climbers, and do jumping jacks for 60 seconds. That

core for this team, but a few key returning starters will definitely make an impact for St. Clair. Sophomore Payton Blount and junior Ashlyn DeMartini were a dynamic duo on the attack last season and these two appear to have not skipped a beat as they ripped shots down the line.

The 2025 Fall campaign may have begun before the official school year did, but these Lady Cyclones are already etching their names into the history books. Senior Brooklyn Meng has been a Swiss-Army knife for her team with stellar defense, great teamwork, and the occasional kill, but her vision on the court has helped her become an assist setting machine. She scored her 1000th career assist in the Cyclone's season opener against the MCW Mavericks (August 28) which makes her the fourth Cyclone to ever achieve that mark. Unfortunately, the Cyclones would drop the match 3-1, but the team showed conviction throughout each set and refused to go down quietly. A testament to their much larger goal.



go-around would be a struggle as these Lady Cyclones failed to communicate with one another, set passes were mistimed and sloppy, and there just didn't seem to be much urgency to play under the ball. The Sanders were quick to pause the drill and emphasize the importance of

seemed to wake these Cyclones up as they performed much better during the re-run of the "rhythm" drill.

Nine seniors (Brooklin Hinze, Aubree Mathiowetz, Braxton Breezee, Aubrey Will, Brooklyn Meng, Brynn Hansen, Grace Ireland, Paige St. Peter and Valerie Quast) will serve as the

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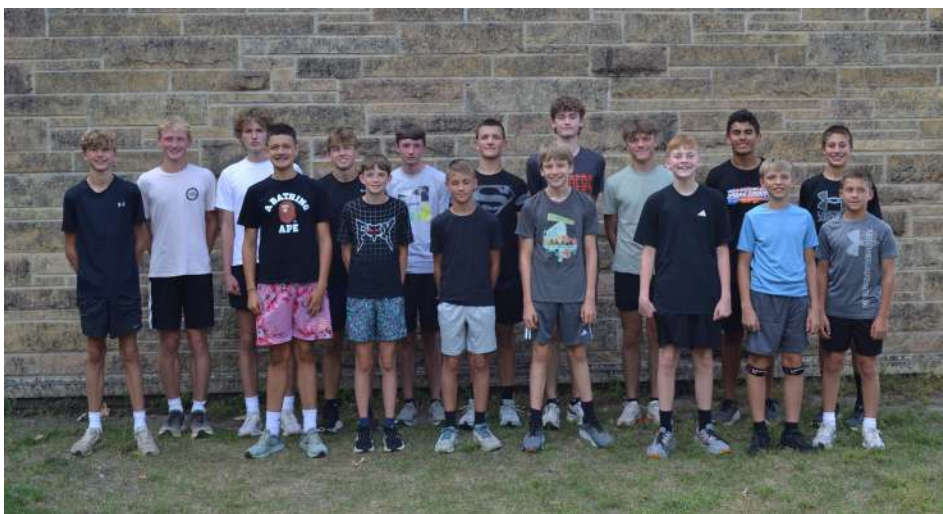
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# ST. CLAIR CROSS COUNTRY



Boys Cross Country: Andrew Bales, Ethan Beenken, Francis Bierer, Jackson Bilitz, Jase Blascho, Mitchell Buboltz, Grayson Fenske-Deichman, Jack Green, Soren Kelly, Luke Kortuem, Jax Leagjeld, Rollie Matejcek, Elijah Mons, Bryce Monson, Reece Nelson, Luke Phillips, Griffin Rutz, Andrew Tieva.



Girls Cross Country: Kate Daly, Ella Holub, Charlotte Kirschner, Eden Koester, Molly Koester, Gisele McCabe, Charlotte Meyer, Lily Phillips, Lila Quast, Valerie Quast, Riley Quigley, Harper Rutz, Maddy Seiwert, Brooks Waagner, Teya Waagner.

(Journal Photos by Jordan Carrillo)

## Crusaders making greater strides

By Ricardo Moreno Jr  
Staff Writer

The Loyola Crusaders are preparing for another season of Cross Country. Summer is ending and Fall is ready to move in and become the more comfortable climate for the Crusaders to spend their time practicing in. This season's team has lost a few names, but many have returned to improve, uphold, and debut their athleticism in the Tomahawk Valley conference, 2A Section.

Returning to the coaching staff for

his third year, and first as head coach, is Casey Olson. The Crusaders have a recent history of being at the top of their sections and conference, and defending their titles and making greater strides in the post season this year is an inspiring force that drives their preseason training. The Boys have lost some of their best, but the returning members will work hard to make their alumni seniors proud.

The Girls are in full force, with many having returned, and are getting set to use their experience in high level competition to grow their success. Together, the team's strengths and weaknesses will be improved upon as the Crusaders lead each

other throughout the season. Head Coach Olson states, "Our team will be successful if we can believe in ourselves and push ourselves and our teammates. We have great leadership and experience, but staying positive through a long season will be paramount to any success we have."

Notable returners this season are Charlotte Meyer, Valerie Quast, and Soren Kelly. All three of them have experience at the State competition, and all three of them are likely to strive and stride their way back into the top ranks. The race for number one won't be any easier this year than it has ever been for the Crusaders. Their conference will put them against some

challenging opponents from Sibley East, Mountain Lake, and Madelia to name a few.

Cross Country is not an easy sport. It takes a lot of dedication and even more endurance to stay ahead of the rest. Coach Olson says that the team is looking forward to wearing down the soles of their shoes, "[W]e're very excited for the season, not just from a competitive lens. Cross country is a great sport that forces each athlete to push themselves and to dig deep, and hopefully, everyone will learn more about themselves throughout the season!"

## SPARTAN CHEER

By Jordan Carrillo  
Staff Writer

The Spartan Cheerleaders have upped their cheer and stunt game over the past seasons, and will continue to do so for this 2025 Fall season. With 16 students on the squad, the most ever in the program, the opportunities for new cheers and stunts has Coach Colleen Bidwell, entering her ninth season as Coach, excited for the year, "Having a larger team brings exciting opportunities for us, especially when it comes to stunting."

What's even more outstanding is out of the 16 cheerleaders, only two members are brand new in Sylvia

Zeldenrust and Bidwell's own daughter, Ellie. Three seniors also bring a ton of experience with Laynee Bracken, Kaylee Rohman, and Arheanna Muenzhuber, but many of the members have been with the Spartans for several years. There are some youthful faces to the team, but the overall experience for these Spartan cheerleaders has made for a "really strong foundation" according to Bidwell.

In addition to two new members on the team, Bidwell has recruited Kenzie Burns as an Assistant Coach; Burns was a former high school and college cheerleader, and her transition to coaching Spartans Cheer has been a seamless one.



Front Row: Sylvia Zeldenrust, Temperance Wagenseller, Elie Bidwell, Natalie Hedberg, Shayla Meyer. Second Row: Kaylee Rohman, Ava Frank, Keldee Hansen, Kaylee Berg, Makenna Smith. Third Row: Laynee Bracken, Arheanna Muenzhuber, Nora Roemhildt, Trinity Parker, Izzy Ahrendt. Not pictured: Khloe Won.

(Journal Photos by Jordan Carrillo)