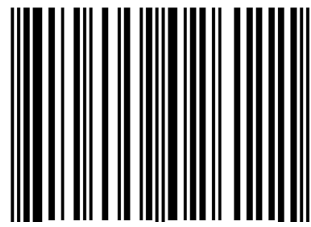


THE Jamesville Journal

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

Wednesday, September 17, 2025



Inside

- 2 - Mike's Corner
- 3 - Athletic HOF
- 4 - AHG Spotlight
- 5 - Letter to Editor
- 6-7 Sports
- 8 - St. Clair City Council
- 9 - Pemberton City Council
- 10 - Archives
- 11 - Classifieds
- 12 - Sports

5 DAY FORECAST

Wed 17 | 80°
 Rain 23%
 Wind S 6 mph
 A mix of clouds and sun in the morning followed by cloudy skies during the afternoon. A stray shower or thunderstorm is possible. High near 80F. Winds light and variable.

Thu 18 | 75°
 Rain 45%
 Wind SE 8 mph
 Showers early then scattered thunderstorms developing later in the day. High near 75F. Winds SE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 50%.

Fri 19 | 71°
 Rain 62%
 Wind SE 9 mph
 Rain showers in the morning with thunderstorms developing in the afternoon. High 71F. Winds SE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 60%.

Sat 20 | 72°
 Rain 45%
 Wind S 7 mph
 Considerable cloudiness with occasional rain showers. High 72F. Winds S at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 50%.

Sun 21 | 78°
 Rain 20%
 Wind SSW 7 mph
 Intervals of clouds and sunshine. High 78F. Winds SSW at 5 to 10 mph.

Quote of the Week

If you want to live a happy life, tie it to a goal, not to people or things.

- Albert Einstein

St. Clair City Council

Council receives update on construction projects; discuss City Hall renovations

By JORDAN CARRILLO
 Staff Writer

With the Schalow Drive & Park Street North construction projects approaching its first 30+ days, Jeffrey Domras informed the St. Clair City Council about the progress made.

The sanitary sewer and water mains had been installed on Schalow Drive with the storm sewer system to be installed in the coming weeks; connections to residences from the water main had been ongoing, but Domras noted the water had yet to be turned on in order to test for bacteria. As of the date of this report, the testing would be completed later in the week. Once the storm sewer main is installed and operational, the excavation of Schalow Drive would begin followed by its reconstruction. Clerk Janike stated residents affected at Schalow Drive would be charged a base rate for their water usage and that residents of Park Street North would receive a similar "discount" of sorts next month.

Park Street North had a few quirks to contend with compared to Schalow Drive. Public Works Supervisor Baker reported an incident where the construction "broke a corner" out of a force main pipe by the Lift Station. The situation led to a considerable mess of over "eight inches of overflow." It was also discovered during the excavation that two water main pipes, a four-inch and six-inch, laid underground with one running north and the other running south; this seemed to surprise both Baker and Domras as they pondered which pipe was inactive, but would learn more about the matter and report back. A fire hydrant along Fitzloff Avenue had to be relocated to spare an oak tree close by although it was stated there wasn't "much room to work with" when it came to relocation.

In order to make a clearer pathway to the Post Office for residents, the primary focus at the start of PSN has been the stretch road from Fitzloff Avenue to the CSAH bridge. Domras noted this particular area would receive further attention from Blue Earth County as part of a potential bridge rebuild, and that the storm sewer system would be delayed until this project. Once this section of the project is complete, a temporary roadway will be constructed at the north side of town so residents can access the Post Office. For the time being, the sewer main had been installed with the water main soon to follow.

Council cont to pg 8



Shameek Harvey receives award from Sergeant Vanderwilt and Chief Johnson for his assist during a high-risk arrest. (Journal Photos by Mike Roy)

Janesville City Council

Council awards local resident for assisting during a "high-risk" arrest

By MICHAEL ROY
 Editor

The Janesville council has started meeting twice a month instead of monthly to go over its budget and the tax levy for 2026. Monday, September 8, was the first of these meetings, and it all

started with a Janesville resident receiving the Civilian Medal of Appreciation

On January 4, 2024, Shameek Harvey assisted Sergeant Vanderwilt during a "high-risk arrest." Although not much detail was given, the report shared by Chief Steven Johnson stated that "his intervention provided officers with critical support in safely restraining the suspect,

Council cont to Page 3

A sticky tradition going 16 years strong

By JORDAN CARRILLO
 Staff Writer

The 16th year of the annual Grape Stomp proved to be a resounding success, bringing together a lively crowd for a day of sticky-footed competition, creative costumes, and local cheer. With the ever-growing popularity of the accompanying Beer Garden, this year's event solidified its place as a cherished local tradition.

The air was filled with a mix of anticipation and laughter as Ray Winter, the master of ceremonies, laid out the rules for the 20 teams—40 participants in total. Each team was presented with a tub containing ten pounds of grapes, the goal being to squish and squash as much juice as possible in just three minutes. Participants were warned to use the balance bar for its intended purpose, not as a leaning post, a piece of advice that drew chuckles from the crowd.

As the timer began, a squelching symphony filled the air, the grapes turning to a sticky mush underfoot. The competitors, focused yet visibly having a blast, worked furiously, and as the clock ran out, they rinsed off their sticky feet before

the final weigh-in. The winning team, having produced the most juice, won some sweet Indian Island swag and a half-case of wine, with bottles also awarded to the top three teams.

Beyond the stomping, the costume contest was a highlight of the day. Participants put on a show of creativity, with notable contenders including the morbidly charming Wednesday Addams and her colorful counterpart Enid Sinclair, an ingenious Fly and Fly Swatter duo whose local posse hoisted tiny flyswatters in support, a classic Angel and Devil pairing, and a throwback to the big screen with Thelma, Louise, and a convincing Brad Pitt-esque JD. A family of four dressed as cowboys and Indians also made an impression, showcasing the all-ages fun of the event. The winner of the costume contest, decided by a popular vote, was awarded two bottles of wine for their efforts.

The event, fueled by delicious Indian Island Winery slushies and a spirit of friendly competition, was a perfect example of community. It was a day of camaraderie, creativity, and the satisfying squelch of a good grape stomp.



(Journal Photos by Jordan Carrillo)

Janesville State Bank does their part for "Community Impact Month"

By MICHAEL ROY
 Editor

The employees at Janesville State Bank volunteered at the latest Janesville Blood Drive, held at the St. Ann Catholic Church Parish Center on Thursday, September 11. The blood drive was from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. Employees exchanged shifts throughout the afternoon.

Janesville State Bank's involvement in this blood drive was part of an initiative through the Minnesota Bankers Association. This month was designated as "Community Impact Month," with the theme for this year focusing on blood drives. The volunteers primarily served within the canteen, distributing sweets, treats, and water to the donors.

According to MaryLou Jewison, the Blood Drive Coordinator for Janesville, the Red Cross collected 99 units of blood. Nine donors were



Many gave blood at the recent Blood Drive, held at the St. Ann Catholic Church Parish Center on Thursday, September 11. (Journal Photos by Mike Roy)

deferred, with three who had an "insufficient quantity" of blood to give.

It was a great day to give, and

many others who want to donate can mark Thursday, November 13, on their calendars. Trinity Lutheran

Church will host a blood drive on that day.

Community Happenings

- Over 50 Class Reunion
St. Ann Parish Center
Janesville
Sept 17
- Trinity Lutheran 135 yrs
Anniversary Celebration
Janesville
Sept 19-20
- The Dweebs at Wolffstock
Elysian
Sept 19
- Fall Festival
Autumn Acres
Sept 20
- 53rd Annual Wacipi
Mankato
Sept 21
- St. Clair School Board
St. Clair
Sept 22
- City Council Mtg
Janesville
Sept 22 7pm
- 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.

Do you have NEWS you want to tell us about?
Email Us At:
janesvillejournal@outlook.com



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

How about Them Apples?

Teens will discover a variety of apples as we hold a tasting with local varieties and toppings at **Janesville Public Library on Tuesday, September 23rd at 4 pm.** Free and geared for teens.

Romp and Rhyme Baby Lapsit Story Times

Waseca Public Library will hold baby lapsit story times on **Tuesdays at 10:30 am from September 23rd through the end of November.** From puppets to pumping music, from bubble machines to banging bands, these are not your average story time. The Library uses movement, STEAM activities, curiosity, imaginative play, and active learning to keep kids ages 0-3 engaged. Free and open to the public.

Trains!

Put on your conductor hat while we get to work on the railroad's newest projects at **Waldorf Public Library on Wednesday, September 24th at 4 pm.** Kids will build trains, sort cargo, draw tracks, name trains, and more! This free event is geared for ages 3-6.

Drawing Club

At this drawing club for artists, teens of all skill levels will learn new techniques and sample a variety of drawing styles, including fashion, anime, nature, objects, illustration, doodles, portraits, and more. Drawing club begins at 4 pm on **Thursday, September 25th at Janesville Public Library.** Exclusively for ages 12-18.

How about Them Apples?

Teens will discover a variety of apples as we hold a tasting with local varieties and toppings at **New Richland Public Library on Thursday, September 25th at 4 pm.** Free and geared for teens.

TID-BITS OF TRIVIA

- The practice of performing in public places for tips and gratuities is known as what?
- The practice of tightly wrapping an infant with blankets to prevent the movement of limbs is known as what?
- The prestigious Juno Award is the Canadian equivalent of what American honor?
- The prevailing shrub of the Great Basin Desert, sagebrush is the official flower of what U.S. state?
- The style of American architecture based on building designs popular during the Revolutionary War is called what?
- The style of pickup truck known as a "dually" gets its name from having twice the standard number of what?
- The subject of a famous Revolutionary War poem, the "shot heard 'round the world" was fired in what U.S. state?
- The subject of a much-publicized hoax in 2009, 6-year old Falcon Heene was better known in the media as what?
- The Sundance Film Festival is held every January in what U.S. state?
- The T-Birds, the Pink Ladies, and the Scorpions are all high school cliques in what movie musical?

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

Echoes from a Loafers' Club Meeting

I go to the gym four days a week. I don't have a gym membership. I work out at home.

Good for you. How many pushups can you do?

I can do four if they're cherry-flavored and three if they're orange, but only one if it's grape.

Driving by Bruce's drive

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. I'd gotten off an interstate highway where the conversion rate to 70 mph on a sign equaled 90 mph in reality, and turned onto a rural road where the pickup ahead of me was driving so slowly, insects were smashing against its rear window. The driver's head was on a swivel. He was doing a neighborhood crop watch and trying to count 33,000 corn plants in each acre. I waved at everyone, including some cows. It's a rural law. The cows were Holsteins, Rorschach tests on the hoof. I drove through a sea of corn sweat and storage units to get to a grocery store. Steven Wright said, "You can't have everything. Where would you put it?" We know where it's put—into storage units. Inside the store, I grabbed an item from a shelf that a vertically challenged woman was unable to reach. I pointed

I only speak with an Axe scent



Compostings

by Al Batt
copyright © 2019 by Al Batt

out the path to be taken by a shopper who had asked, "Could you direct me to the ketchup aisle?" And I still didn't get to have a prime parking place for employees. It seems unfair that you have to work there in order to get one of those prized places to plop a vehicle. While I searched for the organic Twinkies, I encountered a friend who was calling his wife in a neighboring aisle to make sure he was getting the right kind of rolls. There were too many choices. Name brand or store brand? That was a close call. I concluded my shopping chores and headed home. The cat greeted me at the door. She was likely unaware that I'd been gone, but was happy to see bags that might hold feline food. The wonderful writer Anne Tyler wrote, "Ever consider what pets must think of us? I mean, here we come back from a grocery store with the most amazing haul—chicken, pork, half a cow. They must think we're the greatest hunters on earth!"

I've learned

I asked the cat what two minus two was. She said nothing. That feline is a genius.

A guy told me the moonwalk was faked, but he's wrong. I saw Michael Jackson do it.

To drink upstream from the herd.

If there is someone you should thank but haven't got around to doing it, today is the day to show your gratitude.

Bad jokes department

I accidentally inhaled deodorant spray this morning. Now, I speak with an Axe scent.

My wife says I ruined her birthday again, which is crazy, because I didn't even know yesterday was her birthday.

Why do vampires avoid corporate jobs? They're afraid of stakeholders.

When does butter become an insect? When butter flies.

Nature notes

"Why do birds mob hawks and owls?" It may look as if fools are rushing in, but it's a defense mechanism. Songbirds hope predators will leave once their cover has been blown. The feathered mob uses alarm calls to attract a mixed species of birds willing to set aside their differences and confront a common enemy. Adults might demonstrate correct behavior

to immature birds, and it might be an opportunity for a bird to impress potential mates.

The blue jays lifted the peanuts in a shell to find a heavy, meaty one. They're like me picking up watermelons in an attempt to discover melon perfection. Blue jays are beautiful, but don't lend them any money.

Deer begin molting in August and September, which is triggered by hormonal changes that reflect the changing seasons. The reddish summer coat turns into a faded gray or brown color as the winter coat grows.

Jewelweed or spotted touch-me-not blooms in late summer, signaling the beginning of hummingbird migration.

Hummingbirds begin to migrate south as early as mid-August, with most leaving the state by the end of September—although stragglers remain into October.

The stems and leaves of jewelweed have a clear sap that's soothing to minor skin rashes and insect bites. That's a good thing because jewelweed hangs out in the same places that poison ivy and stinging nettle do. Jewelweed can ease the itch caused by poison ivy and stinging nettles.

Meeting adjourned

"A person who is nice to you but rude to the waiter is not a nice person."—Dave Barry. Be kind.

A turning point in this country's history



Mikes Corner

by Michael Roy
Staff writer

Copyright © 2019 by Michael Roy

Two weeks ago, I made a column discussing the Annunciation shooting. Much of it was based on my feeling that the problems behind the shooting transcended politics and were spiritual in nature. I also said that we should all focus on our local communities.

To say nothing could have prepared me for all the tragedies that happened in the past week – from the Colorado shooting to the tragic death of a college football player from St. Olaf due to another shooting in South St. Paul (that barely even made headlines) – would honestly be a lie. The only thing that shocked me about it all is that everything happened in such a short amount of time.

I haven't even mentioned the assassination of Charlie Kirk, founding member of a conservative-based company called "Turning Point USA."

Let me be blunt. Charlie Kirk died for being a conservative. He was senselessly murdered for being a Christian conservative who was a staunch supporter of the First and Second Amendments, and being willing to debate those on the left, notably college and university students. That's why he was assassinated. There's no other reason, and anyone saying otherwise is either blissfully ignorant, deliberately lying, or plainly doesn't care. Even those celebrating his death recognized that his promotion of conservatism was why he was murdered.

Oh, yeah. People celebrated his assassination. My best friend pointed out that no one did that when John F. Kennedy was assassinated (feel free to prove me wrong). And again, I can't say I'm that surprised. The only thing that shocked me was the volume of comments either trying to deflect from the situation – "Yeah, Charlie Kirk's death is heartbreaking, BUT..." – or saying he deserved it for his "extreme views," whether they were pointing out his "extremism" or outright saying that he should have died. There are real human beings out there saying that the suspect who shot him only made a mistake and should be let go. I even saw someone post that Kirk's wife, Erika, should be

taken out next, so that his kids would be orphans.

I had made a Facebook post airing all my emotions about this, just like most people did. A former teacher of mine reached out and said that he felt my pain and hated seeing the country tear itself apart because it's become "us vs. them." I can only imagine how he feels as a social studies teacher over the past month, having to make sense of this and potentially answer questions from students about all that's happened.

As someone who barely qualifies as an older member of Generation Z (born in 1998), I have often thought about the students who are either just starting college or preparing for their final years of high school. Because of the generational bond, I sometimes see these students as the younger siblings I never had. Whenever I go cover an event – whether it's sports, homecoming, a concert, or anything else – I always enjoy seeing them smile, cheering, and enjoying whatever they're doing. These are wholesome and talented students and young leaders among us. I can't help but be worried about the world that's waiting for them outside of the halls of JWP and St. Clair, and how the darkness of these tragedies might dim their bright spirits.

I reflected on my time in college over the weekend. My freshman year was the year that Donald Trump got elected for the first time. The first few months of college were among the best times of my life. I was studying music, I was enjoying game nights with my roommates, and it seemed like nothing could ruin the experience for me.

The morning after Trump won, it was as if the world went dark. Everyone kept crying and losing their minds over it. I kept thinking to myself, "How could

one orange man evoke such a reaction out of people?" I didn't realize that was a turning point in this country's history.

Now I ask where we went wrong in this country. Only ten years ago, when I was in high school, we could agree to disagree. My friend group had people that would be considered far left and far right today. I find myself wondering if we would still be friends if we were in high school today instead of 2015-16.

The emotional fatigue of this has finally worn off a bit for me, but I will never be the same. This country will never be the

same. Charlie Kirk's death is a turning point in this country's history. We cannot go on if we are going to start killing each other over political opinions, no matter how "extreme" one side thinks the other is. If so, we may as well just throw away the Constitution, because killing someone for their politics isn't indicative of a country that believes in free speech.

We all must find a way to stay positive. Many in my generation, including several of my peers, are already making a positive impact, whether they're teaching, coaching, sharing their talents, or setting an example in their own way. I'm still trying to figure out what my role is, as I firmly believe that what I do here at the Journal isn't enough. That is all we can do in the wake of what's happened in the past week.

Stay safe, everyone. And God bless.



SERVING THE JANESVILLE-WALDORF-PEMBERTON & ST CLAIR AREA

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JWP Athletic Hall of Fame 2025 Inductees Part I

By **MICHAEL ROY**
Editor

The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton Athletic Hall of Fame has slowly released its Class of 2025 inductees. This year, they have three teams and eight individuals joining many others before them, cementing their status as local sports legends. The teams are the 1997 boys' basketball team, the 1997 wrestling team, and the 2000 boys' golf team. Individuals are Mike Cummins, Travis and Trent Gunsolus, Bob Hendricks, Tim Johnson, Josh Melchior, David Pope, and Greg Strauss.

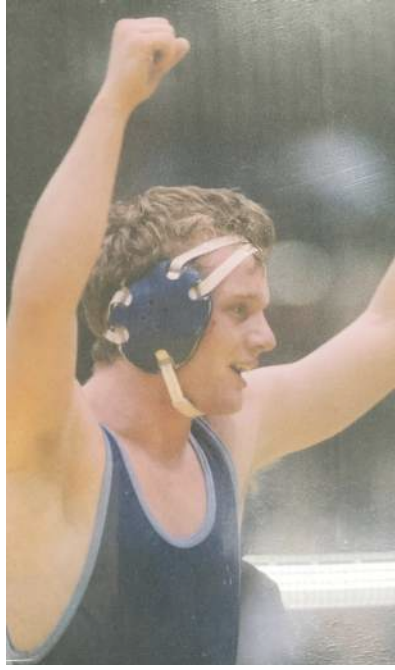
The Janesville Journal will be sharing information on each team and member during each week leading up to the Hall of Fame Banquet on Saturday, October 4. All members of this year's class will be honored during the homecoming volleyball and football games on Thursday and Friday before the banquet, respectively.

Now, onto a few of the inductees joining the ranks of many sports icons in JWP.

1996-97 Boys' Basketball Team

The 1995-96 JWP boys' basketball team (2024 inductees) was a legendary team for Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton. However, the 1996-97 team took a step up. While previously notching a 25-5 record, the boys had only lost one game in the regular season during the 1996-97 season, en route to another sweep of the Gopher Conference and Section titles. However, Caledonia, a team that still

maintains a respectable boys' basketball program today, knocked down JWP in the first round of the state tournament by five points, ending the boys' stellar season with a 25-2 record.



Trent Gunsolus
Athlete

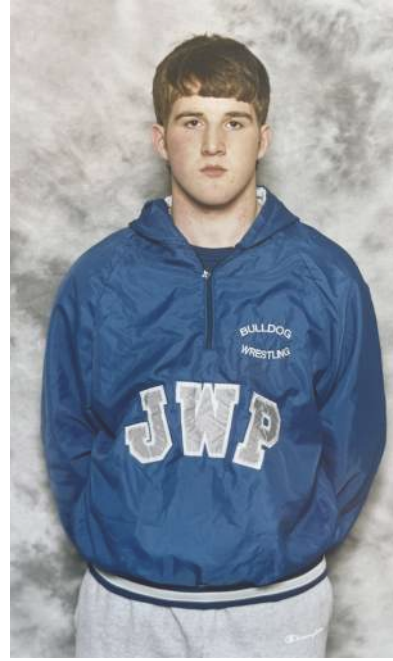
You may recognize many of the members of the 1996 basketball team here. Team members were Travis Anderson, Josh Berndt, Tim Burke, Brent Fury, Chris Gardner, Travis Hinze, Dave Jewison, Dan Jorgenson, Tim Sheehan, Justin Stanke, Clint Westphal, Ben Wheelock, Jared Ziemke, Josh Ziemke, and Jake Zimmerman. Manager John Schultz and Jacob Hoehn. The team was coached by Dave Tonolli, George Tuvey and Ritchie Johnson. Stats were taken care of by Kenda Lindeland, Katie (Seys) Reyes and Katie Sikel. On the

Cheer Team were Heidi Bartelt, Jackie Danberry, Katie (Kruse) Engel, Melissa Olson, Jessie (Witts) Courtney and Lisa (Yentsch) Dudley.

Trent Gunsolus

Two Gunsoluses will be joining the Hall of Fame this year, starting with Trent. A 1999 graduate of Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton, Trent was an eight-time letter winner in football, wrestling, and baseball.

He was arguably most talented in wrestling, where he was a five-time all-conference recipient and two-time all-state wrestler. While taking fourth in one of his appearances, he



Travis Gunsolus
Athlete

became a state champion in his other campaign. Trent attended Itasca Junior College and then coached the junior high wrestling team at JWP for five



The 1996-97 boys' basketball team. First row, from left: Coach Rich Johnson, Tim Sheehan, Jake Zimmerman, Clint Westphal, Josh Berndt, Travis Hinze, Justin Stanke, Brent Fury, and Coach George Tuvey. Second row: Chris Gardner, Travis Anderson, Dan Jorgenson, Jared Ziemke, David Jewison, Josh Ziemke, Tim Burke, Ben Wheelock, John Schultz (Manager), and Coach David Tonolli.

years.

Travis Gunsolus

Travis was a 2001 graduate of JWP and played football and wrestled for the Bulldogs. He was a two-time state participant in wrestling, taking third place individually in 2001. He was part of the historic second-place team in 1998 when he wrestled at 125 pounds.

Robert (Bob) Hendricks

Although a Janesville legend, Robert (Bob) Hendricks was a graduate of Watertown High School, where he was an all-conference football player. He was also heavily involved in the student council, was an FFA president for his school, and received state vocal music awards. He earned his



Bob Hendricks
Contributor

undergraduate degree from St. Cloud State University before getting his master's

degree at Mankato State University.

After moving to Janesville, Bob was involved in supporting local schools and communities by serving on Scholarship committees, being MC for many events, including Miss Janesville and Dairy Princess, and using his strong vocal ability to announce football for many years. Bob also coached varsity wrestling and junior high football and was the recipient of the Paul Harris Award from the local Rotary Club. Supporting outstanding athletes in football, wrestling, baseball, and basketball was one of Bob's favorite memories of JWP athletics.

We will feature more Hall of Fame inductees in the following issues of the Journal.

Council

cont from pg 1

preventing further escalation, and ensuring the safety of both the public and the officers involved."

The report continued, "Mr. Harvey acted with sound judgment, restraint, and bravery under pressure. His actions reflect the highest ideals of community partnership and public service, exemplifying the powerful impact of collaboration between citizens and law enforcement."

Harvey received love from his family and thanks from the council shortly after being awarded the Civilian Medal of Appreciation.

The council then reviewed the budgets of the public works department and the sanitary and storm sewer systems. In the street department portion of the public works budgets, there has been only a 2.2 percent increase between 2025 and 2026, or approximately \$10,000. Much of that is attributed to increases in electricity, tree removal, and miscellaneous.

Public works manager Joe Ziemke explained that the \$6,000 increase in electricity was to cover the costs of lighting in Janesville. "We also bumped up the tree removal line with the ash borer moving in," he added. The increase in miscellaneous

items was to cover any minor items that might arise.

The editor would like to note that while it's common for the budget to include increases in salaries and wages, the street department decreased that line item by about \$8,500 for 2026.

In the parks department, there is about a 5.4 percent increase, or over \$7,000. Much of that is comprised of small increases throughout the budget, including wage and salary increases, as well as insurance costs (notably property insurance).

In the sanitary and storm sewer budgets, the sanitary sewer budget is expected to decrease in 2025. The primary reason is that the equipment repair line item will go down. Both Ziemke and Utility General Manager Andrea Moen explained that the main lift station requires repairs, and much of that work appears to be taking place this year. This is why the repair line item is decreasing from \$75,000 in 2025 to \$35,000, contributing to the overall budget increase.

Moen did share that they are considering a rate increase. Currently, the rate is a 50-cent base charge with 75 cents for usage. Currently, the lowest bill is about \$34.25. The rate increase would boost that to about \$36.75, or \$2 more. This would still put Janesville below average, especially in the sewer category. Currently, the city has the lowest rates, starting at \$34.25 for sewer and \$34 for

water. Eagle Lake was the next lowest at \$46.82 for sewer and \$34.86 for water.

In the storm sewer budget, revenues are expected to increase by approximately \$7,000, while expenses are projected to rise by over \$22,000. Much of the rise can be attributed to the professional services line item, with Moen explaining that ditch maintenance and the GIS assessments are contributing to the expense hike.

In other news, George Eilertson of Northland Securities discussed the finance plan for the electric utility with the council. With a market value of approximately \$220 million, the city's statutory debt limit is about \$6.622 million. The city currently has three bonds outstanding, one for storm sewer, amounting to \$45,000, and two equipment bonds totaling over \$2.5 million. Due to this, the city's current debt margin is just over \$4 million.

"If you plan to exceed 0.25 percent of your estimated market value - and you can - the council needs to pass an intent resolution to plan to issue the debt," Eilertson added. "You will have to publish that in the paper."

0.25 percent of Janesville's estimated market value is \$551,840. According to Moen, they will easily exceed that as they plan to spend \$6 million on completing the substation project; they have already issued

\$2.5 million in debt for the project.

"We wanted you to be aware because now we're going to be coming back with the second round of financing," she said.

The council then approved a franchise fee exemption for Traynor Farms for electricity. Due to new tariff laws, grain elevators are exempt from franchise fees during months of non-operation. However, CenterPoint Energy is allegedly not able to differentiate this on its billing and has started asking local farmers to discuss this issue with their respective cities.

City Administrator, Clinton Rogers, informed the council that the city will need to amend the franchise agreements with CenterPoint and will be meeting with City Attorney Jason Moran and CenterPoint representatives to facilitate this process.

In department head reports, Moen informed the council that Janesville Utilities will plan a hydrant flush, tentatively scheduled for the week of September 29 and October 3, with the following week as the alternative. The water tower also received routine maintenance, which involved draining the tank and cleaning it from the inside. They are waiting for repair maintenance, which takes place every two years.

Janesville Utilities is beginning to map out its system for GIS geomapping. Moen shared that it will "give staff

better ideas of when and where to pinpoint any issues underground." This project is expected to be finished this year.

Ziemke shared that all the Capital Improvement work for 2025 has been completed, including chip seals and overlays. There will be remaining sweeps to be completed, along with some pothole patching. Public Works is also planning to replace some exterior valves at the lift station. "We had another snafu," Ziemke explained. "Another pump went down as the floods came in. It's not good, but we're getting a valve ordered."

In council reports, Ivan Mass shared that there was no quorum for the EDA at its August meeting, and the community center committee, under its wing, has "pretty much folded." "People there are burnt out," he said. "We're not advancing, and we recognize that the amount of money

required to do a center like what we're looking at is far beyond what our community can support at this time."

The group will not be meeting again.

Park Road Plaza also shut down the project of replacing windows despite "having enough capital to do it." Instead, Maas shared that they will be doing small projects at the same time, which will be a similar amount of money. He also shared that a resident had a medical condition that caused them to flood their apartment, the one above them, and the one below.

"The amazing thing is I got to go in there and see the service contractors in there," he said. "The tech they have for figuring out how much water is inside the walls and the exact spots that need replacing is amazing."

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m. The next one is September 22.

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A**hole Garage has been going strong since 2003

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

While the business name “Asshole Garage” may lean into that stereotype, owner Scott Harkema is anything but that. This editor knows from experience, having him as a neighbor while living in Janesville.

“A**hole Garage,” now usually abbreviated to “AHG” for marketing reasons, has been around since 2003, starting in Janesville. Although Harkema grew up in southwest Minnesota, in the town of Pipestone, he has become well-known not only in the local area but also in the region.

Harkema’s story began in Eagle Lake, where he lived with his sister. He was initially working at Valley News Company in Mankato when he saw a magazine that said, “How to be a Harley Davidson mechanic.”

“Three months later, I was down in Phoenix,” he said.

Harkema spent much of the 1990s learning his craft down in Phoenix. He admitted that he was “so green” when he was down there. “I didn’t know half the food they were serving down there,” he said. “It was eye-opening coming from a town of 3,500 and moving to a city with a million people.”

He worked full-time for a few years before moving back to Minnesota to work at the Lakeville Harley Davidson. One morning, on his way to work on his motorcycle, he remembered that his life would change forever. To paraphrase some of what Harkema shared, a BMW wrecked many vehicles, including his bike.

“I was in the hospital for two months after a motorcycle accident,” he said. “Afterward, I went through a ton of rehab. I had to relearn reading, writing, and speech. It was a hard time for me back then. I didn’t get to do what I wanted because I wasn’t capable.”

After all that he went through, he still had the passion for fixing motorcycles. “That was the one part of me that I didn’t lose,” he said. “I still had the abilities, but my body wasn’t

strong enough to do it in the beginning. It got better over time.”

In 2003, Harkema decided he wanted to be the business owner of a repair shop and asked his family for a good name for his business. “My brother, who was in the Navy, kept calling me an a**hole,” he reminisced. “So, everyone thought I should name my business that.”

That was the start of AHG Garage and Tires.

For most of his time as a business owner, he’s been based in Janesville, although much of his work has been as a traveling mechanic. However, after meeting his wife, Tina, Harkema relocated to Pemberton. He admitted that some clients didn’t favor the move.

“Some people don’t like change,” he commented. “But the business itself is still the same, just different people every year.”

He still enjoys doing travel



work. “I load everything up in trailers, go to motorcycle rallies, and fix bikes on the road,” he says. “It’s basically what I do every Sunday.”

He remembered his first rally, where he joined the Freedom Riders in Mountain Lake. That year, he claimed he only did his clothing line. But when he asked the members of the Freedom Riders if he should bring his repair stuff, he received positive feedback. “A year later, I brought the whole shop with me on the road.”

Whether it was putting new tires on people’s bikes at three in the morning because “they kept blowing them up,” or changing people’s oil, he provided the service everyone needed. He gained more notoriety at bike rallies, especially after becoming a member of ABATE (A Broth-



erhood Aimed Towards Education).

His journey with ABATE included working at their Litchfield shop. However, one of the higher-ups allowed him to start a shop in Iowa. “I asked, ‘How much?’” he explained.

After agreeing to some terms, he hired a best friend that he knew from his Phoenix days to help. “I’m glad I did that, because I was busy that year,” he said.

Harkema’s favorite part of being a business owner is one of everyone’s favorite reasons: not having a boss. However, motorcycle safety is most important to him. His wife, Tina, shared, “He wants people to be safe on their motorcycles. He sometimes ‘lectures’ people, but he’s far from being [his business namesake] about bikes.”

He explained that part of the challenge of being a business owner in his industry is the constant technological advancements. “The new tech they’re coming out with – fuel injection and wiring – I had to evolve,” he explained. “I bought a computer to do ABS (anti-brake systems), and that was not cheap. I’ve not been able to buy a computer to run diagnostics on bikes.”

He clarified once again that he’s about bike safety. “I’m not here to make your bike go faster; I’m here to do basic maintenance: tires, oil, brakes, and other safety things for the bike, like wheel bearings.”

Like many other business owners, the economy has put

a strain on his business. Tina also said that marketing is more difficult. While part of it is due to his business name (hence the acronym AHG), a primary component of the difficulty is being a small business competing against larger, more corporate ones.

While bike repair and maintenance have always been and will continue to be the main component of AHG, you may recall the brief mention of a clothing line. That’s still going strong. Harkema reported that his beanies are the most popular item. They are also introducing coffee mugs, which he thanks his sister for making.

A future goal of his is his present goal: bringing awareness to people about bike safety. “There are also other small businesses out there looking out for your safety,” he added.

Scott and Tina Harkema will host a joint open house on Thursday, October 9, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. Anyone interested is welcome to attend. The Inspire Health food truck will be running, along with a farm stand and some other treats. There will also be a grand prize drawing for a free motorcycle home change and up to \$100 of grab-and-make meals; you must be present to enter.

Harkema will continue plugging away at AHG until and after then. “I love what I do every day,” he said. “I get to work on bikes and get stuff done. It’s great.”

St. Clair Homecoming will bring the vibes September 22-26

By JORDAN CARRILLO
Staff Writer



Homecoming Week is a time for school pride, wacky dressup days, and engaging in friendly competition for the sake of bragging rights.

For 2025, St. Clair hopes to stay on rhythm, keep the party vibes going, and the beats rocking with their “Got the Beat” theme throughout September 22-26.

The Student Council, along with Advisors Ashley Miller & Carrie Altomari, came up with a week filled with traditional events like Coronation, but have a few twists to keep things fresh.

The week kicks off with a competitive bout amongst the HS classes as a Door Decorating Contest will surely reveal some creative minds at work.

Tuesday will roll out the red carpet as the Coronation Ceremony will crown Homecoming 2025 King and Queen. Wednesday & Thursday turns the competition knob to 10 as Beefcake Volleyball, Powderpuff Football, and a Dodgeball tournament will have friends, foes, and maybe even a few staff members duking it out on the court and field.

Friday will bring a Pepfest to really get the Cyclone spirit coursing in preparation for the Cyclones Volleyball match against Loyola at 12:30. The St. Clair/Loyola Spartans will face off against Blooming Prairie later that night. Saturday marks

the opening of Club Cyclone which will transform the West Commons into a high-energy dance club and give students plenty of opportunity to aura farm their way to a dance with their crush. Did I use that phrase correctly?

Of course, each day will come with its own unique dressup days and to keep with the “Got the Beat” theme, Monday will be a “Lazy Day” as students will traipse around the halls in pajamas, Tuesday will bring a Western vibe and have students wonder if they “Should Have Been a Cowboy”, Wednesday could bring out some bizarre and colorful mismatched wardrobes with “Thrift Shop”, Thursday brings a splash of patriotism with “Party in the USA” while Friday will have these Cyclones dripping in red, white, and black as “We Are the Champions” invokes strong feelings of school pride.

Homecoming 2025 hopes to bring a week of high energy as the party-centric Cyclone celebration can create memories that span not just for the rest of the year, but for a lifetime.

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Waseca business leader appointed to Governor’s Advisory Board

Late last month, Gov. Tim Walz appointed a Waseca business leader to the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Information and Bureau of Criminal Apprehension Advisory Group, bringing a voice with deep understanding of integrated information systems to the board.

Reyna Monson, President and part owner of Pantheon Computers, was named by Walz to the Board on Aug. 22, according to a press release. As the Advisory Group meets only quarterly and met just a week

before her appointment, Monson expects to attend her first meeting in November.

The Advisory Group is tasked with preparing a biennial report for the state legislature which lays out the status of statewide criminal justice information systems and provides recommendations for legislative changes and appropriations, documents reviews conducted and recommendations made to the BCA and includes any funding or grant requests.

In addition to that report, the Advisory Group studies and makes recommendations to the

governor, Minnesota state Supreme Court and the Minnesota state Legislature on issues related to its purview, following significant study and reporting by a delivery team.

The Advisory Group’s members include representatives from the BCA, the Minnesota Association of Counties, the Minnesota Sheriff’s Association, the Minnesota Attorney General’s Office and other organizations focused on issues that fall within its scope.

An ordained Lutheran minister, Monson switched careers in 2010 after being hired as a temporary employee at Pantheon. Over the next 15



years, she worked her way up the company ladder to become president, CEO and part owner of the company.

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United Methodist Church serves up the spuds at annual luncheon

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

The Janesville United Methodist Church's annual baked potato dinner has been a staple for a few years. On Sunday, September 14, dozens of parish members and residents enjoyed a hearty meal, featuring potatoes the size of softballs, along with their choice of condiments, accompanied by a beverage and several assorted cookies and bars for dessert. The best part? It was all for a free will donation. Many took advantage of the free will donation and were generous. These Methodists know how to decorate their spuds. Nearly every topping imaginable was available, from bacon and chili



United Methodist Church held its annual Baked Potato Lunch on Sunday. Pictured above are the volunteers that put it all together (spuds that is). (Journal Photo By Mike Roy)

to onions and black olives. There was even an option to have shredded cheese or nacho cheese sauce poured on top. Or you

could have both. Although this editor didn't partake in eating a baked potato this year, they looked as good

as the last time I had them. You also can't go wrong with pairing a chocolate chip cookie with the loaded spud.

Community invited to United Way Night at Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm: Sept 18

WASECA—Greater Mankato Area United Way and Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm invite community members to "United Way Night: Making a Difference One Piece at a Time" from 4 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 18 at Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm.

All are welcome to this family friendly evening of food, music and community.

In addition to opening special for this event, Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm is creating a "feature pizza" for the event, which will benefit United Way. Full menu will be available. Pleasant Grove is also hosting a Garden Bar, with specialty cocktail sales benefiting United Way.

Bring a lawn chair or blanket. Drinks available for purchase or bring your own beverage.

- More Highlights:
- * Live music by TJ Brown
 - * "The Kindness Booth" books available for purchase with author book signings
 - * Greater Mankato Area United Way partner agency booths
 - * Fall photo opportunities
 - * Door prizes and activities

About Greater Mankato Area United Way: Greater Mankato Area United Way serves more than 65,000 people annually in Blue Earth, Le Sueur, Nicollet and Waseca counties. In 2026, Greater Mankato Area United Way will support 75 programs and initiatives through the impact areas of Basic Needs, Health and Education.

UNITED WAY NIGHT
Making a Difference, One Piece at a Time

PLEASANT GROVE PIZZA FARM
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Join Greater Mankato Area United Way at Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm for a magical evening of food, music, and community. Proceeds from the Feature Pizza & Garden Bar Cocktail benefit United Way. Learn how Greater Mankato Area United Way and its partner programs are changing lives in our region. All are welcome!

Bring a lawn chair or blanket. Drinks available for purchase or bring your own beverage.

Live music by TJ Brown | Visit "The Kindness Booth" & have your book signed | Garden Bar will be open! | Fall photo opportunities

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Letters to the EDITOR

To the editor:
Normally I am not a fan of political editorials in a local hometown newspaper, but I have to say that Michael's column in last week's (Sept. 3) paper was very well thought out and I am in complete agreement with it. His statement that "...the more we stray away from serving a higher power.....the crazier the world has become..." is right on the money!

We as a nation have been drifting away from God and his commandments for a long time, and we are seeing the results of that everywhere. The unfortunate shooting in Minneapolis is only the latest

example. People need to start going back to church!! And, contrary to what some people are saying, there is ALWAYS a time for thoughts and prayers! That is something every Christian can do—even

those who are not in a position of power. We can, and should, be regularly praying, not only for the victims and their families, but also for our leaders and those who ARE in power, that God would guide their thoughts and actions, and lead them to make decisions that are pleasing to Him, and in the best interest of our nation and our communities.

Rich Winter
Janesville, MN

Why?

Why? Is the question with so many different answers or not? Why, when they take eighteen ingredients out of our shampoo, does it cost twice as much as regular shampoo. Why did they put so many ingredients in the shampoo in the first place? What was wrong with the way it was so many years ago when we were growing up. The same for anti-perspirant. Have you priced the new deodorants? When you want to use the restroom in a public place, you step into the stall and you want to close the door, so where do you step to? Why do they have the door open inward and not outward? Why is your front and back steps the same width as the door? A person must step on the landing of the steps to reach the door to open it. Then where do you go to get around the door to get into the house but to step back off the landing to fully open the door. This practice makes for a very dangerous situation as one may fall off the steps backwards. As babies we are given many different shots to subject our bodies to enough of the

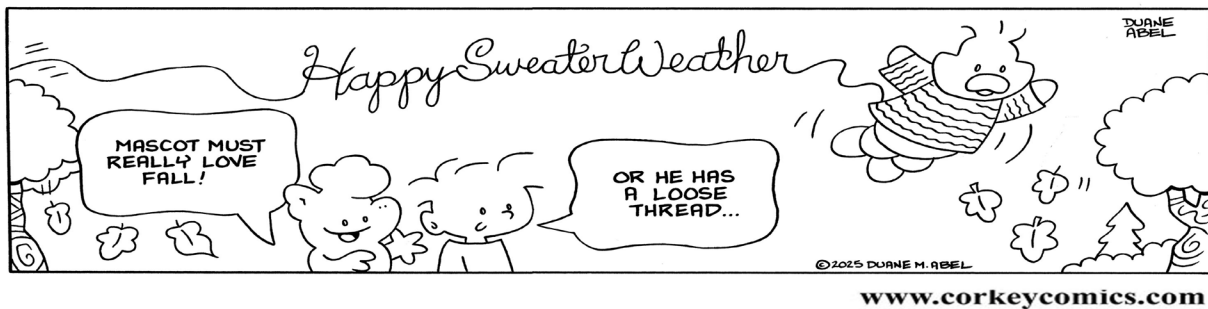
Mother Knows BEST
By Kathy Richardson
Copyright 2024 by Kathryn Richardson

disease to produce immunity to the disease. As we age, we get different shots for flu and other diseases. Commercials try to sell us all these different anti-bacterial things to spray on our countertops and everywhere else so if we were subjected to a few germs, we would have an immunity to these illnesses. Also, the use of anti-bacterial hand soaps they want us to use. Why is all this necessary when we are supposed to get shots so that we don't get sick in the first place? Why isn't soap and water enough anymore like ancestors before us? Have you noticed all the side effects to the medicines that they are putting out these days? The companies advertise fifteen years' research behind this product, and this is all the better

that they can come up with. When you get the side effects, who is going to pay to take care of that illness? Why take the drugs if you are going to be sicker than when you started? How many remember that when we told our children to do something that they would say "why"? We normally would answer "because I said so". Why when a person has identical looking twins, are they different in personalities? I checked it out but didn't agree with the answer. To me, they can be different from the moment they are born as one may sleep well while the other doesn't. One may be a happy baby while the other is more difficult to take care of. Why do children born with the same two parents have

different personalities? One could be shy and bashful while the other is more outgoing and outspoken. One could be tall and slim while the other could be shorter and heavier set. One can have dark curly hair while the other could be blonde with straight hair. Why? Why do we fall in love with who we do? Some say it's because the other person is kind, smart, gentle and good with children. Those are all good traits to have but is it enough? Why do some people like to save money while others like to spend more than what they make? Why do some people have the same job for a lifetime while being happy with their job while others can't hold down a job for more than a short time? Why are some people gentle, caring, and giving while others are mean, and cruel? Why do some people listen to reason while other no matter what you say they won't listen? The whys in this world are endless and we may never know the answers as to why. We just must try to reason, try to understand, and keep an open mind to life's "why".

ZED by Duane M. Abel



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Sealed bids will be received up to 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at Schmidt Law Office, Ltd., Robert E. Schmidt, Attorney at Law, 104 — 10th Avenue SE, P.O. Box 502, Waseca, MN 56093, for the sale of the Ardie Schweim Farm, being offered by the children of Ardie Schweim, located in Section 33 of Janesville Township, Waseca County, MN. The farm will be offered as one full unit. The land is generally described below, with actual legal description to govern:

The Northwest Quarter (NW¼) of Section Thirty-three (33), Township One Hundred Eight (108) North, Range Twenty-four (24) West, Waseca County, Minnesota, EXCEPT multiple parcels resulting in approximately 130 acres, more or less; and all that part of the Southwest Quarter (SW¼) of Section Thirty-three (33), lying North of the Railroad as now located, EXCEPT for a small parcel containing 0.859 acres, resulting in approximately 13.46 acres, more or less.

All bids received will be opened at 1:30 p.m. at the Waseca County East Annex Community Room — 300 North State Street, Waseca, MN on Wednesday, November 12, 2025. Each bid must state the full amount offered for the entire 143.46 acres. Only persons submitting a written bid shall be allowed to be present and to bid on the property up for sale and raise their bid in writing after the bids have been opened. The sale shall be for cash.

The real estate above described is not subject to any lease for 2026 and is available for the 2026 crop year.

All of the above property is being sold "AS IS" subject to all easements, agreements, and restrictions of record.

Land information and Sale Procedure Information is available by contacting Schmidt Law Office, Ltd., Robert E. Schmidt, P. O. Box 502, Waseca, MN 56093, Telephone 507/835-4884.

SPORTS

Winning streak coming for JWP?

Lady Dawgs reverse start with pair of conference victories

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton volleyball team entered this past week still searching for its first win of the season. With three games on the schedule, they were hoping for at least one of them to go their way, maybe even ending the week on a win streak.

While they were stonewalled by a strong Central/Norwood Young America team 3-0 on Monday, September 8, they battled against conference foe Bethlehem Academy in Faribault the next day in a five-set match once again. This time, though, they were on the right side of the game, winning, but just barely, to get their first victory of the year, 3-2. They followed that with their first home win against Blooming Prairie the following Thursday, defeating the Blossoms 3-1 with their best game of the season.

Raiders 3, Bulldogs 0

Norwood Young America had a 2-5 record going into this one. However, in all fairness to them, they went up against some schools much bigger than them, such as Jordan, Buffalo, and St. Peter.

While missing Katie Olson in their tilt against Medford due to her nursing an injury, they were excited to have her back in this one as she ended the night leading the team in 11 kills. However, despite their best efforts, the Bulldogs were swept by the Raiders 3-0. They lost the first set in a close 25-21 tilt, with Central-NYA dominating the second set 25-13 before they finished the night with a 25-20 victory.

While it was not a great night for the team, it was a good night of serving from seniors Ellie Morsching and Victoria Blomstrom as they recorded a pair of aces each. Fellow senior Nevaeh Weimert and freshman Kaitlyn Cowdin recorded an ace, too. Lilly Ewert and Ray Blasing were tied for the team lead in digs with 11 each. Brielle James and Mikayla Wheelock provided six kills each, with Aubrey Adams supplying four.

Bulldogs 3, Cardinals 2

It took every ounce of effort they had, but they finally secured their first win of the season. Bethlehem Academy, a team that's had some fantastic success as a volleyball program (including a long run in the state tournament in 2021), was winless like the Bulldogs so far this

year. They were hoping the home court advantage would be enough.

It was a close first set, with JWP getting the 25-23 victory. The Cardinals struck back hard, though, setting the Bulldogs back with a 25-13 victory in the second set. JWP struck back with a 25-17 win in the third. It looked like JWP would possibly end things in the fourth set, but BA hung on for a 25-21 victory to force five.

Up until this point, the Bulldogs had been winless in every match that went five sets. However, they did just enough to pull it off. They needed more than the usual 15 points in the final set, as BA kept trying to match every point, staving off an outright victory. But as soon as they scored number 18 for the two-point lead, it was over. They had won 18-16 in the fifth set to take their first triumph of the season.

Bulldogs 3, Blossoms 1

This was JWP's best game of the season, not only because of the score, but also because of how they worked themselves out of some tough spots throughout the match.

The first set started with Aubrey Adams' light touch that caught Blooming Prairie off-guard, following that with a block for a 3-0 start. The Blossoms did hold a brief 4-3 lead off of some great serves that JWP couldn't handle. But JWP kept fighting through it, with Katie Olson providing a great shot to get the shot and a fantastic ace to reclaim the lead.

BP's last lead of the set was 10-9. From there, JWP went on a 16-2 run led by Olson's speedy spikes upfront and a great display of serving by freshman Kaitlyn Cowdin. Several other players contributed throughout the set, and a bad serve by BP ended things 25-12.

In the second set, the two teams traded errors, whether it was a miscommunication between the players or difficulty handling the ball on defense.

It was 19-14 Blooming Prairie, and at this point, most coaches would call a timeout. Head Coach Toryn Richards elected not to do so. In fact, she didn't call any timeouts all evening. It seemed like she wanted the players to figure it out, and they did in this set. During the team's 11-1 run, Mikayla Wheelock helped the team get back into it with a pair of kills, and three straight rockets of spikes by Olson evened the score. From there, some errors



Aubrey Adams (left) and Katie Olson (right) attempt to block a spike from Blooming Prairie. Both set the tone at the front of the net, with Olson leading the team in kills and Adams earning the match-clinching point.

(Journal photos by Michael Roy)

by BP allowed Olson to finish it off with a kill, 25-20.

The third set went a similar way. Although JWP had the lead early, the Blossoms capitalized on some mistakes. Although JWP cleaned things up a bit as the set went on, credit should be given to Blooming Prairie as they kept hitting well-placed spikes from the front of the net. Richards held off from calling a timeout again. However, this time, JWP had to live to play another set as they lost the third 25-19.

Wheelock put the team on her back for much of the final set, earning three of the team's first four points to start. The two teams battled, and an ace by Victoria Blomstrom helped them stay competitive. Sophomore Ryleigh Donner got some playing time, earning what looked like a block to help the team stay in it. Wheelock once again contributed a kill, eventually widening the gap. Freshman Ashlynn Wolff used her height to

get a block, followed by a kill to stretch the lead even more.

The last handful of rallies were led by R. Donner. She got a kill for the team in the game's closing moments. Then, following Wheelock's final spike of the night, she had two straight aces. The Blossoms couldn't handle her third serve, and as the ball sailed over the net, Aubrey Adams did what she had been doing all night and returned the ball to their side with an immense shot down the middle, calling game with a fantastic kill.

The 2-1 week improved JWP's overall record to 2-5. The win against Blooming Prairie was JWP's first at home. Although the one loss counted toward their Section 2AA record, the two wins gave them a positive 2-1 record in conference play. JWP traveled to Hayfield on Tuesday, September 16. They will travel to St. James for the first of two tournaments scheduled for the season on Saturday, Sept. 20.

Bulldog Football in rout against Blue Earth



Senior Chase Gerdts (#34) sprints past two Blue Earth defenders. He led on both sides of the ball, scoring a rushing touchdown on offense and returning an interception for six on defense. (Photos by Michael Roy)

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

It was a great night for the JWP football team on Friday, September 12. Coming off a close 30-29 win in St. Clair, the team looked to secure its first home victory of the season against Blue Earth Area, a team that, like JWP, had a 1-1 record.

However, the Bulldogs showed they were by far the superior team in all phases of the game, netting five interceptions on defense (one for a touchdown), earning four touchdowns on offense, and even showing some grit on special teams for a 32-0 rout over the BEA Buccaneers.

The first quarter was mainly quiet, but JWP already showed some signs of gaining momentum. Despite a few drives stalling out on offense, Gavin Bauer grabbed an interception and ran it to the Bulldogs' 18-yard line. Although the clock ran out on the offense before they got their first touchdown, all they needed was one play in the second quarter, an absolute missile by Daulton Bauer to Michael Walker, for a 71-yard passing play to get six.

Blue Earth attempted to gain some yardage on their next drive but ultimately ended up being pushed back by the JWP defense. The Bulldogs' offense needed five plays to score on their next try, this time with D. Bauer throwing to Caleb Quast for a 38-yard touchdown. Although JWP's next drive stalled out, they didn't need to worry as the defense continued frustrating the Bucs.

With less than 30 seconds left in the game, Quast grabbed the ball out of the air for an interception, nearly getting a pick-six. However, he was four yards short. It only took two tries for the boys to punch it in, as D. Bauer had a keeper for six. The Bulldogs then added two points off their only successful conversion of the night when Bauer passed it to his brother, Gavin, for the completion. The half ended with JWP up 20-0.

Blue Earth couldn't get anything going offensively in the first half. They showed some signs of life in the second but still had issues. Chase Gerdts punched in another touchdown for six to add to the score. Only two plays later, he decided to score again, this time on defense for a successful pick six and a 32-0 score. It looked like the Bucs were going to get a touchdown from the air to end the quarter with some points, but senior Rocco Scholl ripped the ball out of the receiver's hands in the end zone to prevent the score.

Head Coach Ryan Luedtke had high praise for Scholl's work ethic. "He's always been pretty good for us, but was always lower on the depth chart than the others," he shared. "But he never complained and kept working hard. He's a great football player and an even better person on and off the field."

Some of the non-starters got some playing time in the fourth quarter. Although they did have a fumble that Blue Earth recovered with good field position, the defense once again held on and prevented a score. The offense then slowly ran



Rocco Scholl was clutch on defense against Blue Earth. Here he is after negating a pass attempt in the end zone with an interception.

down the clock.

While the final drive started shaky with a false start, and it looked like Blue Earth could at least get two points off a safety, Tyson Kronbach made up for his fumble with a nice cut and juke in the back of the end zone and a 24-yard gain to make the offense feel more comfortable. Backup quarterback Seth Dahlberg drew an encroachment penalty on the snap count, securing the shutout for the team as they easily marched down the field to melt away the final minutes of the game.

When asked what his favorite phase of the game was, Head Coach Ryan Luedtke couldn't decide. "I liked it all," he said. "The boys played very well in all facets of the game, whether it was Scholl's play on defense or Bauer's athleticism on offense."

Special teams also showed out, with an onside recovery and some fantastic kicking by Carson Schultz.

JWP offensively had 149 yards on the ground and 159 in the air. D. Bauer went 9/13 and had two touchdowns, while Chase Gerdts led the rushing with 11 carries and 87 yards and a touchdown. Tyson Kronbach had a good showing with 64 yards in as many carries. D. Bauer had 23 yards rushing and a touchdown. Michael Walker's 71-yard monster gain on his touchdown put him in the lead in receiving despite only having two receptions. Caleb Quast had 50 yards off three receptions and a touchdown.

Defensively, it was a feast, as they had four solo tackles for loss and five interceptions. Gavin Bauer had two picks, with Quast, Scholl, and Gerdts getting one each, Gerdts with the pick six. Gerdts also led in solo tackles with six, also netting two for a loss. Rylan Rolfson and Trenton Huber collaborated for a sack, with Aidan Rider assisting on six tackles.

The team will prepare to play a more familiar Buccaneers team in Waterville-Elysian-Morristown next Friday, September 19. "They are a much bigger team, so we will have to figure out how to work through that," Luedtke said.

Boys CC place 2nd at Maple River invitational

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

The WEM-JWP cross country teams know Daly Park quite well. On Thursday, September 11, their athletes delivered some outstanding finishes at the Maple River Invitational, resulting in a second-place finish for the boys and a fourth-place finish for the girls.

WEM's Grizzly boys were only bested by Minnesota Valley Lutheran, a school that has had a talented cross country program for many years. The Chargers had 29 points to WEM's 57. The boys narrowly beat third-place Springfield, who had 64. Medford had 112, with Jackson County Central at 120 and Blue Earth at 135. The girls were in a much narrower contest, with MVL's girls taking third with 66 to WEM-JWP's 72. Springfield's Lady Tigers took the top spot in the team competition with 38 points, with Jackson County Central in second with 51. The Grizzly girls were comfortably ahead of last-place Medford, who had 142 points on the day.

Leading the boys was Wyatt Jans, who finished fifth with a time of 18:40. Teagan Mulder earned another top-ten spot for the team, placing 10th with a time of 19:53. Auston Holicky and Brennan Welvaert took 15th and 16th, respectively, while Wesley Heinz placed 20th at 21:02. Other finishers were Parker Smith at 45th, Dalton Ling at 55th, and Charlie Denat



Norah Welvaert (second from left) stays with a Springfield runner leading the pack with teammate Madalyn Miller (second from right) close behind. (Journal photo by Michael Roy)

61st.

WEM-JWP had a tougher time securing top spots. MaKenzie Westphal participated and appeared to be among the top five runners, but unfortunately, she was unable to finish the race. Norah Welvaert, an 8th grader in her first year on the cross country varsity squad, ended up leading the team, taking 11th with a time of 23:55. Sophomore

Madalyn Miller took 14th at 24:30. Lydia Coulsey narrowly missed a top 20 spot by a second, taking 21st with a 25:43 time. Other finishers were Jaelyn Wilmes in 24th, Emma Huelsnitz in 25th, Kwynn Krause in 30th, Ellie Schlie in 33rd, Anne Adams in 42nd, Abby Crosby in 43rd, and Hailey Heinz in 45th.

WEM-JWP also had one participant in each junior high race.

Eli Fall took 14th out of 16 runners in the boys' competition, while Emma Bittner placed 9th out of 11.

The WEM-JWP Grizzlies went to Riverview Country Club near New Richland for a meet on Tuesday, September 16. We will have the results for that in next week's paper.

SPORTS



It was a tough night for the St. Clair run defense despite attempts by players like Avery Anderson (#52) and Orrin Gessner (#30) to limit Maple River's damage on the ground. (Journal photos by Jordan Carrillo)

Maple River's run game too much for Spartans

By JORDAN CARRILLO
Staff Writer

After a soul-crushing loss to the JWP Bulldogs the week prior, the St. Clair/Loyola Spartans entered their September 12 matchup against the Maple River Eagles poised to bounce back. Coach Stephen Willaert emphasized the importance of "cleaning up mental mistakes" during warmups; however, it didn't take long for a series of unfortunate events to create a mess on the scoreboard as the Spartans struggled to cage a stronger, faster, and quicker Eagles offense en route to a 51-0 defeat.

Maple River used its superior speed and strength in the run game to bruise SCL, and in the few plays they dropped back to pass, their receivers soared past the defensive zones for huge chunks of yardage. There wasn't a facet of the game that wasn't dominated by the opposition, and the Spartans' saving grace came from the second team that played considerably better in the fourth quarter.

The opening quarter quickly established the more impressive squad as the first drive for the Spartans stalled out in three short plays. The SCL defense attempted to enact a measure of revenge as McClinton sacked the Maple River QB while Barker and Anderson stuffed an inside run for a loss; however, a screen play to the tailback caught everyone off guard, and the Eagle speedster zipped through for a touchdown. Winkler showcased some fancy footwork on the ensuing drive to give the Spartans solid field position, but it soon went to waste as the offense failed to push the ball forward... Freitag especially seemed lost under center with a series of mental errors.

It didn't take long for the Eagles to sink their claws into the Spartan defense as their opening run play broke off for a 48-yard touchdown to bring their lead to 12-0. The next SCL drive would set the tone for the



Quarterback Sam Freitag looks on as Ashton Wilmes attempts to break a tackle from an Eagles defender.

remainder of the game. The drive started out promising as Freitag connected with Ward for a solid gain, but it quickly turned disastrous as an interception led to Freitag lunging at the defender to spare the touchdown; however, the damage done resulted in a left shoulder injury that sidelined the starting QB for the rest of the game. His status for next week's matchup is currently unknown as of this report.

With their backs against the wall and a man down, the Spartans did their best to stand strong, but the Eagles used a QB sneak to secure their third touchdown of the first quarter. They succeeded on the 2-point conversion to make the score 20-0. Pierce stepped in as QB for the rest of the half, and a sweep play to Youngerberg gained enough yardage for SCL's first first down of the game. Desperate for some momentum, the Spartans stuck to

the run game with a pitch to Ward for another first down; however, the very next handoff to Ward would be punched out and Maple River would reclaim possession.

It was a painstaking first half as the Spartans struggled in all three facets of the game. The defense allowed 45 points with a majority of the punishment done between the trenches...Maple River rushed for 329 yards. Beyond the occasional highlight by Pierce, Ward, and Hansen, the Spartan offense looked defeated, as most plays ended with their backs to the grass. A few botched snaps and two interceptions provided ample opportunity for the Eagles to extend their lead. Lastly, a blocked punt put Maple River at the two-yard line, and they nearly fielded a surprising—borderline—shocking outside kick on the ensuing kickoff. That move by the Eagles seemed to ruffle feathers on the

Spartan sideline, but the way the night was going...there wasn't much to be done about it.

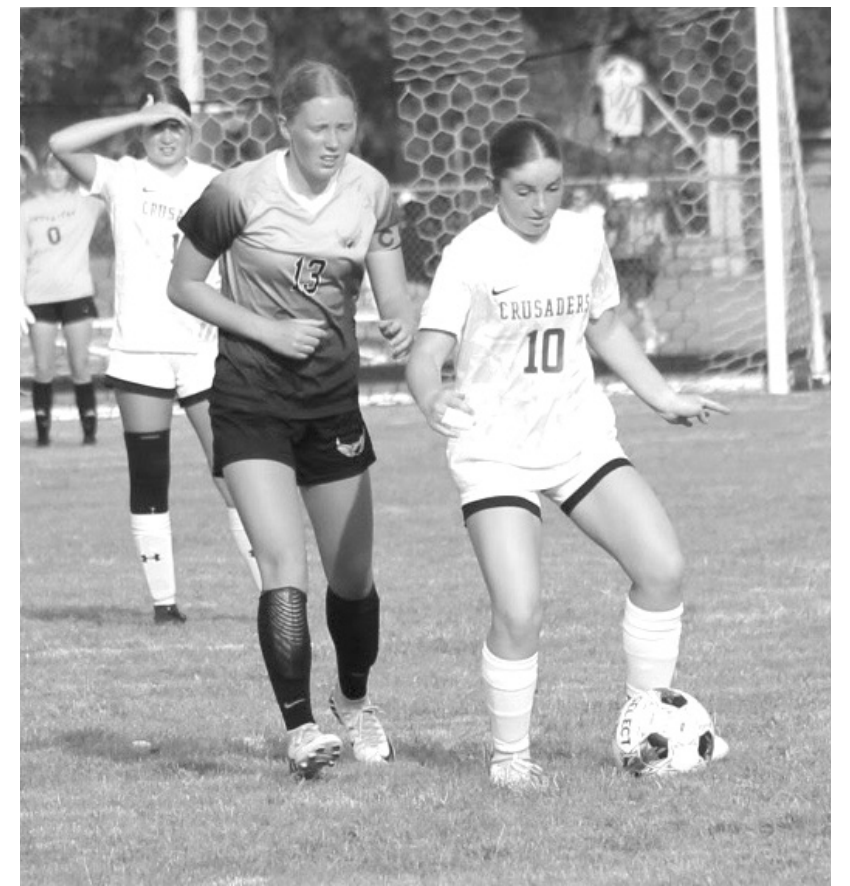
The second half featured both teams' reserve squads to the finish line. The field appeared to be more even, and the Spartans' fresh faces got some quality Varsity minutes. Another 3rd and long for Maple River was quickly erased with a strong run to the left side, and the tailback scampered in for the second half's only score to bring the score to 51-0. Following the kickoff, Kason Irvin delivered one of the few highlights of the night for the Spartans with a 56-yard return; however, that moment of elation was short-lived after a pitch play went awry, forcing a fumble recovery for the Eagles. The ball changed hands almost immediately afterwards as Caden Peterson jumped the pass and carried for a big gain, although the offense couldn't capitalize.

As the game reached its conclusion, the Eagles attempted to score one last time, but the Spartans stood strong at the goal line with Jack Roemhildt and Irvin teaming up for the tackle. In what would be the final play of the game, Irvin slipped through a sliver of space between the trenches to dash for an 11-yard run and a first down.

A tough night for the Spartans program trying to find its footing with a new regime at the helm. Coach Willaert called the 51-0 loss an "eye-opening experience" for the players and coaches. The defeat is a painful reminder of where the program stands currently, but Willaert sees this as an opportunity for growth. "As difficult as these games can be, they truly show where you are as a program, and what we need to continue working on as a team...this was a valuable lesson for us."

After a thrashing like this, the SCL Spartans can only improve as a team, and they will look to get back into fighting formation against the Medford Tigers on September 19.

Loyola breaks scoring slump against St. James



Leah Quade attempts to advance the ball for an offensive rally with a St. James defender behind her. (Journal photo by Jordan Carrillo)

By JORDAN CARRILLO
Staff Writer

Over the course of their last four matches, the Loyola Lady Crusaders have had a rough go of it on the pitch to open this 2025 season. Although defense is their bread and butter, a recent dry spell on the attack made for some difficult matchups against squads who pushed the pace and knocked shots on goals throughout the contest.

It's been a challenging stretch for this young team, but their September 9 matchup against the St. James Area Wings showed promise as the Crusaders relied on its leadership to drive the offense onward to a 3-2 victory.

Those three goals scored by Loyola would be the first since their August 23rd match against Worthington—roughly 320 minutes on the pitch—and it gave these Crusaders the morale boost they needed to remain competitive against the Wings. Possession of the ball has been a key point of emphasis according to Coaches Nachreiner and Sims, and the Crusaders maintained a steady offensive pace thanks to the experienced middle of Sophie Nachreiner, Ellie Bergemann, and Allison Wheeler.

The former has been the vocal leader of this group and helped

create plenty of opportunities for the Crusaders' youthful strikers in Cora Johannes, Shelby Beyer, and Sara Nelson. Johannes drilled a line drive off an assist by Beyer, Nelson lobbed a shot over the St. James keeper, and Beyer capitalized on a penalty kick late for the deciding third goal. The Wings attempted a final push in the match's final few minutes, but Crusader keeper Stella Munson denied any chances for a draw.

A much needed victory for these Lady Crusaders and deemed a "great team effort" according to Coach Nachreiner.

That warm, fuzzy feeling of victory would be tarnished as the Crusaders conceded a 4-0 defeat to the Fairmont Cardinals on September 13. Munson stayed busy throughout the day with eight saves, but a perennial player for Fairmont netted three goals by herself. Coach Sims commended the team for "playing well and possessing the ball" which led to a few opportunities on goal, but Loyola was unable to capitalize.

The game plan of using the senior leadership to drive the young guns up front paid off in a big way against St. James, but there is still much to be desired from this squad. The Crusaders hope to keep the goals going against Marshall on September 15 and United Christian Academy on September 20.

Three Crusaders lead the pack at Baylor Park

By JORDAN CARRILLO
Staff Writer

With only three meets under their belts, the Loyola Crusader Cross Country program is performing exceptionally well at all three levels as the Varsity, Junior Varsity, and Junior High groups placed high at Lions Meet at Baylor Park on September 9.

There weren't any major weather disruptions this time around, so each level of competition got their chance to race throughout the contest. The JV Crusader men would take fourth as a team with youngsters Francis Bierer & Griffin Rutz finishing top-ten with sixth and seventh place finishes, respectively.

The JV women's race would be tightly contested with the Crusaders taking first place by a slim six-point margin; four Crusaders placed in the top ten with Riley Quigley and Kate Daly taking first and second, respectively. The JH meets featured only one Lady Crusader—Eden Koester finished 36th—and a handful of men...Luke Phillips & Ethan Beenken placed 12th & 13th out of 113 runners.

As the Varsity events were underway, the three perennial talents for the Crusaders continued their impressive seasons. Soren Kelly maintained a steady pace throughout the 5000M race, but conceded a seven-second defeat to Kelton Koopp of Belle Plaine for a second place finish. This marked the third top-three finish for the senior.

Mitchell Buboltz rounded out the top-25 and Loyola placed 9th out of 22 teams.

The Varsity Lady Crusaders had last week's event cut short due to a weather delay, but that didn't seem to slow them down one bit as they took second place in the 5000M. Charlotte Meyer and Valerie Quast may be teammates, but the two have been battling each other throughout the season; however, the former passed the latter en route to a second place finish...Quast placed third. This marked Meyer's second top-two finish & Quast's second top-three finish of the year. With a field of 136 runners, Lila Quast & Maddy Seiwet would be the next Crusaders to cross the finish line at 27th & 29th, respectively.

It was another successful meet

all around for Crusader Cross Country, and Coach Olson shared his thoughts about all three levels performing well. "We've had a lot of young runners step up early in the season, and that has made the year very exciting for us. Our leaders, especially seniors like Soren and Valerie, have done a great job keeping teammates positive in practices. We're really pleased with where this program is at right now, and ready to keep pushing our potential."

The Cross Country season has reached its halfway point and the Crusaders, both young and old, are peaking at the right time. They'll look to keep high marks going at the NRHEG Invitational at the Riverview Country Club on September 16.

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From local schools to city-wide districts, safety protocols keep students prepared in case of emergencies

By JORDAN CARRILLO
Staff Writer

The following editorial discusses the safety protocols and procedures surrounding “lockdown” drills at the following school districts: St. Clair (ISD #75) and Mankato Area Public Schools (ISD #77).

This is in response to the tragic shooting at Annunciation Catholic School on August 27th which claimed the lives of two children and injured 21 more. Viewer discretion is advised.

In the wake of the tragedies that befell Annunciation Catholic School on August 27th and Evergreen High School on September 10th, the stark reality of an ever-increasingly violent world becomes more and more evident. Unfortunately, these two incidents are not isolated as approximately 330 acts of gun-related violence at schools were reported in 2024.

It's unclear why this violence has become so pervasive in our culture or why school students, including elementary children, are often the targets of these heinous acts. Nevertheless, school districts around the country have made strides to ensure the absolute safety of its students, staff, and administration in case of immediate danger.

Speaking with two local school districts about their respective protocols presented the expectations during “lockdown drills” and expanded on the recent efforts to heighten security and safety in the buildings. St. Clair and Mankato Area Public School (MAPS) operate under the same State mandate of requiring 11 total drills to be completed throughout the school year: five lockdown, five fire, and one tornado. Within the first 10 days of school, a fire drill must be completed whereas a



tornado drill is often scheduled for later in the year; the lockdown drills come with little to no notification to staff or students, and can occur during any time of the school day.

It should be noted that while lockdowns invoke an immediate response, there are variations of these protocols to consider: a soft lockdown or “TEACH On” is reserved more for a medical emergency and students are instructed to clear the hallways and remain in the classrooms until further notice. During a “hard” lockdown, the expectations are to lock all potential entry points, remain silent and “out of sight.” These drills can last up to 15 minutes, and the results are documented and reported back to the State. Once the drill is completed, the school day resumes with little to no interruption. Last year, St. Clair ran a lockdown drill during the main lunch period which caught many by surprise, but their natural instincts to find the nearest classroom or egress meant more than a hot plate of food. Superintendent Tim Collins has become familiar with the ins and outs of these lockdown drills, and remembers the very first one he experienced over 20 years ago in Hastings, “It was certainly a new experience for students, staff, and administration at that time, but over the years, these drills have become more serious and we expect everyone to approach

it seriously.” There are times Collins will inform other administration and a few personnel about a lockdown drill, and other times where he will be the sole person in the know.

The lockdown drills are a necessary means to prevent an unpredictable act, but St. Clair has made numerous improvements to heighten security and limit access to the building during school hours. Upon entering the south entrance, visitors approach a vestibule that limits their access into the main commons of the building.

Additionally, a \$160,000 upgrade to the electronic door system and the installation of cameras and speakers at the elementary playground makes announcements easier to communicate.

One of the most vital pieces of protection at St. Clair is their Security Resource Officer Jeff Wiborg, who has served as the immediate authority figure at the district for the past six years. His duties during a lockdown will be to complete an “audit” of the interior and exterior of the building in search of unlocked doors, clearing the hallways and grounds of any students or staff, and ensure expectations are being met. Wiborg has been an invaluable resource to the St. Clair community and his role during the drills has helped relieve the stress and anxiety parents may feel, “Having an

authority figure already inside the building helps relieve a lot of tension... There are always going to be worries from parents, but our presence here makes them more comfortable in case of an emergency.”

The origins of these procedures stem back to a bomb threat at Maple River on March 5, 2012. Blue Earth County Captain Paul Barta was on scene that day and recalled how disorganized authorities were about handling the situation; representatives of local law enforcement, BEC Sheriffs, school officials, all operated under their own guidelines, which led to a “ton of response, but no coordination,” said Barta.

The disorganized response sparked a county-wide project to improve the communication between all appropriate parties during moments of crisis, especially during “active violence” such as a bomb threat or school shootings, “We realized we all had good intentions that day, but each party had their own policies to follow... after that, we saw it as a good opportunity to make things better and more safe.”

Over the course of the next few months, the BEC Sheriff's Department worked closely with schools in the county to workshop ways to improve safety measures and form a cohesive set of protocols to follow during violent events. It was found that many school buildings at the time were ill-equipped to effectively prevent easy access to major gathering areas; the old Maple River building's main entrance would take you straight

• Protocol

cont. to pg 9

Sharing a plate with a hometown favorite

Jay's Way

By Jordan Carrillo



You know, typically Jay's Way covers topics like sports, pop culture, politics, and the occasional peek behind the curtain of my life. Rarely have I spoken in the place of my origin, Mapleton, Minnesota and the establishment that sparked my creativity in the kitchen.

I spent most of my formative years in Mapleton, attending Maple River when it was a decaying heap of a building... which I can say now as a proud alum and appreciator of school districts getting their acts together. Although the new school looks too similar to correctional institutions... but that's just my opinion.

Admittedly, I didn't partake in many extracurricular activities until my last two years of school—a regret I felt right away after my first final round in Humorous my senior year—and I was an above average student, but refused to be an absolute nerd like the cream of the class crop. Oh what's that? The top of the class became doctors, financial advisors, and real estate moguls? Well, are they writing for a local newspaper and making locals laugh with inane diatribes about daily sirens at high noon? No. No they are not. Weird flex, but I'll keep going.

While I moved away from Mapleton for college and then moved further away to Indiana for several years, there are still reasons to travel back to the old stomping grounds from time to time. Family ties with my brother and his two children make the brief reunions palatable as those two keep me on my toes and warm my icy heart for a few hours. Of course, that fuzzy feeling goes away once the cotton candy I fed them kicks in and they begin climbing the walls like a spiderling.

Memory lane and nostalgia are powerful forces, and it seems like every time I visit Mapleton, a new shop has opened, an old shop has closed, and ownership changes hands for institutions like Dietz (Kilty's) & Maple Mart. Still odd to drive by there in the early mornings and not see a group of elderfolk sipping coffee and shooting the breeze. The wide open space where the old Maple River building used to be is slowly becoming a hub for commercialism as a Dollar General is currently being constructed... that is if they figured out how to build around this one pesky thing called a slope.

Thankfully, one of the constants that remain in Mapleton is the local eatery, Maggie J's, which celebrated

its 10th year of business with a block party. Initially, I was stunned to hear the restaurant had been open for a decade... not because the food or service isn't impeccable—because it is—but simply because it was almost impossible to believe that much time had passed so quickly. That particular location has a rich history of restaurants opening and closing... before it was Maggie J's, a barbecue joint by the name of ToKen BBQ would be the first job I ever had, and became the reason I enjoy flexing the culinary muscle every now and then. Before that, the establishment was an old-time cafe and even a Chinese joint.

It doesn't feel that long ago when the previous restaurant at that location, ToKen BBQ, closed its doors and a culinary void could be felt throughout town, but it didn't take long for a new tradition to start at that location. Jason Langworthy, a trained chef, set out to fulfill a lifelong dream of owning a restaurant; however, he needed a familiar face in town so he recruited Maggie Vait, a former coworker at ToKen BBQ, to be “the face” of their newly formed restaurant, Maggie J's on September 1, 2015. She is the emotional epicenter of the restaurant and her beaming smile serves as the warmest welcome for any customer curious about this place.

Anyone in the restaurant business can tell you how difficult it is to maintain success over the years—most fail in their very first year—so to survive for a decade is a testament to the hard work, determination, adaptability, and support received to make Maggie J's a hotspot in Southern Minnesota. The block party started out slow due to the warm weather on September 12, but once the aroma of pulled pork, hot dogs, and root beer filled the air, longtime supporters and former employees of the restaurant flocked to celebrate the milestone with Vait, Langworthy, and the many employees Maggie J's has welcomed across the decade.

A bit strange for a reporter who lives in St. Clair and writes for the Janesville Journal to attend an event in Mapleton, but there are times you have to pay respects for a business that has withstood so much and come out the other side a beacon of community and good eats for this small town. Although on the low, I'm hoping this story gets me a good table on prime rib night... primetime 6:30, baby. Oh, and uh, comped?

St. Clair Council

cont from pg 1

All in all, Domras seemed pleased with the progress of the construction projects and looked forward to reporting back to the Council for the October meeting.

The Council returned to its agenda, but not before discussing certified letters being sent to a few firefighters for lack of attendance, spraying for mosquitos, and fielding complaints about a resident leaving yard trimmings on the sidewalk. Flicek reported that an elderly resident “slipped and fell” on the sidewalk because of the trimmings.

Unfinished Business: Although the Council approved reallocating funds to a 4M investment account at the August meeting, Janike met with Bill Miller at St. Clair Bank who advised redistributing the funds to multiple CDs with varying return periods. The City would need to pay a “big truck bill” in the coming months, so placing the appropriate amount in a separate CD seemed a more fitting use of funds rather than pulling it out of one account. Mayor More reminded Janike that Burkhardt had advised the city to “diversify our investments” but he didn't particularly object to staying with the local bank. In the end, the Council motioned to move forward with the multiple CDs with St. Clair Bank.

New Business: Resolution 2025.13 acknowledged several donations made to the St. Clair Department... 15,000 dollars from the Relief Association (gambling proceeds), 802 dollars from Snell Motors to be used toward fire blankets for electric cars, 502.34 from Linda Brown. In an effort to renovate City Hall, Janike presented quotes and design samples for various

St. Clair City Council

projects including new ceiling tiles and lights, fresh coat of paint, and new carpet for the community space and adjacent offices. Ceiling tiles and white paint ran for \$1250 at Menards, and lights would cost roughly 2,000... Janike mentioned a rebate program for funding the lights and could start the application process if so moved by the Council.

The carpet selection would spark some discussion from the Council about the upkeep, texture, and price. The current carpet was reported to be approximately 15 years old, and a point was made to have its replacement “look similar” according to Janike. Flicek voiced her objections regarding the “carpet tiles” design, stating they “don't clean very well.” After weighing the options, the Council selected the “Stainless Steel” design and approved Rickway Carpet's quote of \$7525.00. While the Council seemed in favor of waiting to replace carpet in 2026, they agreed to move forward on the ceiling tiles, lights, and paint projects in late-November or early-December.

Fire Report: St. Clair Fire Department responded to 107 calls. Chief Fitzloff noted a firefighter recently stepped down after moving to Eagle Lake. The SCFD loaned their Dodge rig to the Pemberton FD while they “repair their own truck” said Fitzloff... there was no set timetable for its return at this time. For the trucks in the bay, pump certification would be completed for two trucks on September 18.

Public Works Report: Baker informed the Council the League of Minnesota Cities inspected the skylight and shelter at Memorial Park; a recent hailstorm dented the skylight and damaged the siding & roof

of the shelter. Two quotes were provided to repair and replace the materials... Baker seemed confident the LMC would approve the quote for \$23,000, and would report back at the October meeting. An informational sheet was sent out to residents regarding tree trimming in order to “keep branches off the sidewalks” with an October 1 deadline. Baker was content to report that several residents were already trimming trees, but would send out another reminder once the deadline passed. A resident near the Post Office approached Baker about “getting on the same page” with the Council about a renovation project behind their property.

The resident did not show for an audience with the Council, so nothing further to report. The recent gas line boring by Consolidated uncovered an old gas line at the old liquor store to be “shattered” according to Baker... there wasn't much concern at this present time, but it would be something to “keep in mind” for next year's Main Street construction.

City Clerk & Treasurer Report: It took some finessing of schedules, but the Council set up a final budget meeting for September 23 at 19:00... the preliminary budget is to be submitted to BEC by September 30. Fire Contracts had been completed and mailed out with statements sent over to the three of the townships the SCFD covers. Due to the federal holiday, Janike would be sending utility bills a little later than usual. Freyburg Petroleum sent over updated guidelines regarding the use of a “fleet card” for fueling the City's firetrucks and vehicles; all card holders would be required to punch in a PIN & Account ID before each use, but it was

unclear if each employee would receive their own PIN or ID... Janike would clarify with Freyburg and report back. In hopes of acquiring government funding for replacing trees in town, Janike would attend an upcoming 2025 Urban Community Grant meeting to learn more and would report her findings.

A discussion about a camper parked in the backlot behind Uptown Tavern sparked a much larger debate amongst the Council over City cleanup. It appeared the camper has been a recurring issue over the past few years, and Councilor Arndt noted the vehicle had expired tags spanning as far back as 2015. Much of the Council seemed in favor of sending a letter to the property owner to apply for a license to park the camper; however, Mayor More had conflicting thoughts that the space is “technically his private property.” Though he did voice his frustrations that the space should be used for parking, More urged the Council to consider other properties nearby who were “looking much worse than Uptown.” The declining presence of Uptown also sparked a discussion about the future of the building's ownership, but More noted the owner of the property “doesn't want to let it go.”

To round out the meeting, Arndt recapped the August 18 St. Clair School Board meeting he attended and agreed to attend the September 22 meeting. Councilor Amundson and Janike planned to attend an upcoming Minnesota Valley Council of Government general assembly at the Pond on September 17. With nothing further on the agenda, the City Council adjourned the September 9 meeting at 20:44. The next St. Clair City Council to be held on October 7 at 19:00.



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JWP FFA Chapter Officers focus on community involvement



The JWP FFA officers for the 2025-26 school year. Front row: Madelynn Lueck, Harley Eldeen, and Lilly Ewert. Back Row: Dylan Hood, Evan Olson, Ethan Cowdin, and Rylan Rolfson. Missing: Kwynn Krause, Ellie Morsching, Maya Olson, and Kayle Langford.

By Caitlin Oeltjenbruns

The FFA chapter is in full swing as members gear up for a busy and exciting start to the school year! Chapter officers met in August to plan out activities and events for the first half of the year, focusing on leadership, community involvement, and recruitment. Members are actively working on promoting the chapter to encourage new membership and build enthusiasm for upcoming opportunities.

One of our major fundraisers,

the annual fruit sales, will begin on October 13th and run through November 7. Be sure to support our chapter by purchasing from an FFA member!

In addition to fundraising and recruitment, members will be creating floral arrangements for the upcoming all school reunion. The chapter is also partnering with the JWP FCCLA chapter to assist with setup and takedown for the event.

Stay tuned for more updates as we continue to grow and serve our school and community through FFA!

Register to attend agricultural tax education courses this October with University of Minnesota Extension

St. Paul, Minn. – Registration is open for University of Minnesota Extension’s Agricultural Tax Issues course held on October 6 in Mankato at the Mankato Extension regional office. Pre-registration for the class is encouraged but walk-in registrations are welcome.

The Agricultural Tax Issues course is for tax professionals who work with farmers but also benefits agricultural professionals such as agricultural lenders and farm management instructors. Course

participants will earn hours in federal tax law updates and related matters. This course has been approved for Certified Financial Planner (CFP) and continuing legal education (CLE) hours. Registration includes the 2025 Agricultural Tax Issues book, published by the Land Grant University Tax Education Foundation.

“We are excited to offer five Ag Tax Issues classes with both in-person and webinar options, said Rob Holcomb, EA and UMN Extension educator. “An

Ag Tax Issues class provides tax and agricultural professionals with an up-to-date refresher to prepare for fall tax planning.”

In addition to ag tax classes, University of Minnesota Extension Tax School offers the Income Tax Short Course, Early Tax Careers, and Timber Management and Taxation. These classes are offered both in person and online at several locations around Minnesota from the end of October through January 2026. Learn more about class topics, event logistics and register

online at the Extension Tax School web page.

The University of Minnesota has 83 years of experience providing agricultural and income tax information and resources. Tax education courses are offered under the leadership of University of Minnesota Extension educator C. Robert (Rob) Holcomb, EA and university staff. The University of Minnesota is an IRS approved continuing education provider.



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Protocol from pg 8

to the cafeteria and require strolling through two student-filled hallways to reach the main office. It’s safe to say that St. Clair operated under a similar practice for years as well, but the addition of the vestibule has dramatically increased the security and safety of the students and staff across several school districts.

It took years of trial and error

until the protocols reached an acceptable level of competency and safety before BEC began training school districts like St. Clair, Maple River, Lake Crystal, JWP, and others, but that doesn’t mean there has been complacency amongst the respective parties. Barta and his officers conduct field trainings during the summer, the most recent one at St. Clair, in an effort to train new staff at the school and new officers on the force. Even with all the protocols in place and an authority figure ready to defend, Captain

Barta offered a pressing reminder about these protocols, “All of our efforts, research, and actions have done well to prepare us, ‘harden’ us for violence, but if someone is going to cause harm to others, they will find a way. We have to remain vigilant and follow procedures to ensure safety for as many people as possible.”

St. Clair may be a small district with more than 850+ people, but their commitment to safety and security is one of their top priorities. They have made improvements to security

systems, reinforced its infrastructure, and have treated the lockdown drills with serious intent each and every time. These procedures are necessary means to limit the risk of a potential violent attack, and in the wake of the most recent school shootings at Annunciation and Evergreen, offer a reprieve, albeit a brief one, from a terrifying reality.

Next week, this editorial will explore how MAPS, a much larger district compared to St. Clair, carries out their own protocols during emergencies.

Relationship with Townships & FD “improving”; City prepares for Main Street discussion with BEC

By JORDAN CARRILLO Staff Writer

As the Pemberton City Council opened the floor for its September 8 meeting, an update on the “improving” relationship between the Pemberton Fire Department (PFD) and neighboring townships was presented by Fire Chief Lau and City Clerk Grinnell.

Back in April 2025, the PFD had lost its coverage of McPherson Township and then received a stern scolding by Medo Township due to its poor performance and lack of membership. That seemed to light a proverbial fire under Chief Lau and his officers as the past few months have shown increased efforts toward recruiting, inspecting, repairing, or replacing equipment, and meeting departmental needs.

All that hard work by the PFD earned some high marks from Medo Township during an August meeting. Representation from the two Townships, the PFD, and the City of Pemberton were present for the meeting; a slideshow outlining ongoing changes at the Department and a copy of financial records were provided as per the Township’s quarterly request. The progress seemed to impress the townships as McPherson noted the “improved communication” between the PFD and Township had begun to “mend the relationship.” Medo Township was particularly keen on the PFD, noting they “supported them 100%”. They did have a few recommendations for the PFD and City to consider including additional meetings, more transparency with its information, and a reciprocated show of support toward Medo. Before the parties would meet again, Chief Lau stated that the Department’s budget would need to be updated ASAP with

considerations on “future repairs or equipment” and potentially a new truck.

Open Forum: A citizen asked for an update about an ongoing legal battle with PALS Daycare; Mayor Spielman replied that the lawyers are “still discussing the details”, and Grinnell noted PALS’ representation had “yet to contact the city” regarding the balance due. More information to be provided at a later date. The same citizen also requested an update on a property dispute with a neighbor about a water line to the curbstop. It was reported that the neighbor had “bought back the property”, which took both Spielman and Grinnell completely by surprise...they both attested to being “unfamiliar with that news.” Regardless, Spielman stated the now legal property owner would need to contact the city to have the water line installed, and that the matter had become a “private one between residents.” The citizen was rather perplexed by the City’s decision, and urged them to “shut off his water”; however, the Council refused to do so because the property owner had been paying his bill. They did make a compromise to “leave a note” for the owner to discuss the matter with the Council, but made sure not to “overstep our authority” on what was considered to be a private matter.

Fire Report: Lau had been re-elected as Fire Chief and his officers retrained their positions during the Department’s August meeting; the Council moved in favor of the election results. Chief Lau noted that the “major repairs” on the Department’s equipment had been completed although he cited a few “minor” items like lightbulbs needing replacement as the final tasks for now. Repairs on the Department’s Pumper truck were finished, but had yet to receive a final bill...he estimated the repairs would cost approximately 4k although he seemed confident the shop would be “willing to work with us” on the price regarding the warranty. A recurring exhaust leak had been inspected and it was found a few screws were loose on the mount...the repairs were made and no further leaks were detailed. The fire retardant foam system on another truck had been looked at but there was “no

Pemberton City Council

movement” on repairs at this time due to an estimated cost of 6k. An inspection on one of the trucks was inspected and the invoice was still pending review. Lau and his Department were still “finalizing the budget” but he informed the Council that regional dues were needing to be paid asap.

Public Works Report: Gillette has maintained a busy schedule keeping the City grounds freshly cut and free from weeds. The locks for one of the renter’s (BBQ business) had been changed per the request of the owner. Gillette noted that an alarm at the pumping station had gone off for several hours, and even after clearing it, the alarm would sound once more; he stated that since a recent calibration had been completed on the pumps, a “low-level” alarm has lingered and may be the source of the issue...he would reach out to the same company who completed the calibration to look further into the matter. A hose that runs up the entire wall of the water tower had busted according to Gillette, and he was set on replacing it, but was informed the MN Rural Water Association was a resource that could handle the issue free of charge. It was noted that this was the same hose that had broken roughly a year ago, so some consideration for a more durable product was discussed.

City Clerk & Treasurer Report: Grinnell noted that Burkhardt had sent a bill for the upcoming audit report, but had yet to “report their findings” and was confident the City would receive a report for the October meeting. A sales tax bill sent by the Department of Revenue was overdue; Grinnell was unaware of the bill, which had a payment deadline of June 30, but she was swift to pay the charge in order to avoid the City being placed on the “delinquent tax” list. Grinnell informed the Council about the recent apparatus inspections for the PFD; the invoice totaled a charge of 5300 dollars. There would also be a hefty payment of 7628 dollars toward the City’s municipal or “GEO” bond. The Council motioned to pay these charges as well as the monthly

found a sense of familiarity that other Clerks were facing “similar hurdles as me.” She appreciated how supportive the other Clerks were and has recently joined a group chat amongst them. Overall, the training would help Grinnell do a “better job” as City Clerk, which in turn would make the Council’s job “a lot easier.”

Old Business: Candi Baer gave a brief recap of the National Night Out event hosted by PEP on August 12. It would be a “great turnout” for the event with a delicious meal, plenty of entertainment for the kids, and a chance to take home some back-to-school supplies for families. Ronda Mortensen followed with a review of Summerfest that ran through August 12-16. Initially, the week started out a “bit sluggish” according to Mortensen as the Friday supper fed a dozen or so fewer hungry mouths than the year prior; however, the silent auction yielded a tremendous amount of funds and Mortensen was “incredibly grateful” toward people’s generosity. She later requested approval for Resolution 2025.13 that acknowledged the Summerfest donation of 12,500 dollars to the PFD Equipment Maintenance Fund...the Council motioned to approve.

Wanting to keep City cleanup efforts on everyone’s “monthly radar”, Grinnell would take the lead on inspecting properties, taking pictures, and documenting violations. Letters had been sent out to offenders with a 90 day grace period for corrective action in order to make a “strong enough case” for the City Attorney to pursue legal action. A property’s “tire situation” had become “untenable” according to Spielman, and that talks with the MN Pollution Control Agency were being considered to further assist with the matter.

New Business: The City requested Grinnell post an ad for snow removal bids...this would need to be resolved sooner rather than later, and a preference toward a 3-year contract was mentioned. More to report at the October meeting. Grinnell noted that two AC units at City Hall were in need of service...one in the Chambers was low of freon and a fan motor was found to be

out; however, replacing the fan did not resolve the issue, and the contracted company would only be willing to fill the freon one more time due to environmental regulations about “repeated fills.”

Moreover, the AC roof unit for the gym had gone out completely around Summerfest, and it was noted the crowded space would become “very uncomfortable” at times. Adams Mechanical came to inspect the unit and reported a possible leak that caused a total loss of freon; the unit itself was considered “outdated” being a 2007 model, so a new unit would need to be purchased. The PFD was also in need of an AC unit, but this could be a window unit and easily solved. Thankfully, there would be a somewhat grace period to purchase/repair the AC units as the temperatures start to cool down, but it would be something for the Council to consider for Spring 2026.

A recent power outage had caused some technical difficulties at City Hall. Grinnell noted that outages have been occurring “often lately” and the battery backup on site did not fire up. This outage caused a “corruption” between the new City computer and how it syncs up to the printer...Grinnell stated she has “very limited access” to files, slow response times, and printing delays have affected her efficiency as City Clerk. A computer tech confirmed the corruption, but stated the Windows 11 software was slowly “resolving the issues.” Grinnell pleaded to the Council that a battery backup for the computer was necessary to avoid future complications in case of a power outage.

The Council’s final items on the agenda were acknowledging Resolution 2025.14 which approved a “retroactive benefit” for the Pemberton Fire Relief Association in the payment of 1150 dollars and scheduling a budget workshop for September 15 at 18:30.

With no further matters to discuss, the Pemberton City Council motioned to adjourn the September 8 meeting at 20:11. Due to the second Monday in October being a federal holiday (Columbus Day), the Council meeting was moved to Tuesday, October 14 at 19:00.

Back in the Day

St. Clair Archives

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

1948

- LaVerne Fitzloff is crowned Blue Earth County 4-H Health Queen.

Mankato Free Press – "Cougar-Like" Animal Hunted Near St. Clair. St. Clair townsmen and farmers fearful of the lives of their children and livestock, today beat the

countryside for a large, cougar-like animal seen by several persons in that area this week.

One, the eight-year-old son of Wilmer Davis, a farmer living a mile and a half northeast of St. Clair, came upon the fawn-colored beast in the Davis farm-yard Thursday when he came home from school. No one else was at home at the time.

The beast after snarling at the boy slinked off and before the youth could race to the farm

home of Ray Fitzloff, a neighbor, to summon help, the animal had disappeared.

The only loss reported so far in McPherson Township, scene of the animal's latest wanderings, is a sow, found disemboweled on the farm of Ray Fitzloff Thursday.

Today St. Clair garage man Jack Pint again led a search for the animal and reportedly had engaged the assistance of the Ireland brothers in trying to spot

the beast from the air.

Report from the St. Clair community said the animal is about three times the length of a dog, fawn-colored with darker stripes and a long, rope-like tail that doubles over the beast's back when it bursts into long, leaping strides.

Many farmers have now reported seeing the beast. On Monday George Lynch, 2 miles South of St. Clair, spotted it and on Wednesday it was molesting

hogs at night on the Ben Hiniker, a mile east of St. Clair. Coon hunters with their dogs were able to pick up the beast and chase it to the Le Sueur River bottoms. At night it has been heard by children of Bob Knutson's and Ray Fitzloff's emitting an eerie howl, mindful of a crying baby. Yesterday Bob Knutson spotted the strange beast while plowing.

At the Froelich turkey farm, a special guard was thrown around the 12,000 birds Thursday night

as a preventive measure. That farm is on the northeast edge of St. Clair.

This animal is presumed to be the same, which visited Faribault and Watonwan counties during the past three weeks and caused several hundred dollars loss to livestock owners who found remains of calves and hogs in their pastures. It also was reported in the Mapleton area in Blue Earth County.

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 - 8:00 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship
9 a.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

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
9:10 a.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

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

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

TRINITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Smiths Mill, MN
(507) 234-5547
Pastor Robert Harting
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7:45 a.m. Sunday School
& Adult Bible Class

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Waldorf, MN
Pastor Ava
Adams-Morris
Sunday - 9:30 a.m. Sunday School; 10 a.m. Worship

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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(507) 245-3330
Pastor Jeff Enderle
Sunday - 9:00 a.m. Worship
8:00 am Bible Study

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

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 - 9:00 a.m. Mass

UNITED CHURCH OF MAPLETON

201 Troendle St SW
Mapleton, MN 56065
(507) 524-3141
Sunday Worship

Janesville Archives

1925

- "The biggest attendance in the history of the fair." That's what the men in charge of the annual event said after a check-up of the figures Saturday. In spite of the fact that rain interfered with the second evening's program, the gate receipts for the three days were considerably in excess of any other year. The attendance Friday evening was the largest by far ever seen on the grounds. The crowd was so dense that it was almost impossible to move down the midway, to say nothing of securing a seat in the grandstand which was filled before seven o'clock.

- Clifford Johnston, who had been engaged as director of the newly organized band, has been disengaged. For a few days he appeared to be exactly the man for the position, as he has an undoubted ability along band instruction lines evidenced during his short stay here. However, the last few days he was different, decidedly different. Inasmuch as he roomed at the Hotel Sinnott he probably found the sight of the city's mammoth water tank immediately across the street from his window too depressing because of its indicated capacity. So Janesville is looking for a new band director. The right man is offered a good proposition and will meet with the hearty support of our people in every way - and he will get his pay regularly, too.

- Wednesday morning's cannonading announced the opening of the hunting season. Hunters were out in force, every duck pass and rice lake in the county being occupied with nimrods and their scatter guns. Several fair strings were brought back to town, though it is said that the first day was hardly as resultful as has been in other years. Those who went after chickens found them particularly chary and elusive. The warm weather is not conducive to good duck shooting and it will probably be necessary to wait for some of the cooling Canadian breezes to send the ducks down this way in numbers.

1950

- The report for the Dairy Herd Improvement Association for the month of August has just been submitted by the tester, Elmer Horn. There were 26 herds in the association for the month, having 412 cows - 291 cows were milking and 121 were dry. Five herds in the association averaged over 25 lbs. of butterfat per cow for the month. Twenty-eight individual cows produced

over 40 pounds of butterfat. Five cows produced over 50 lbs. of butterfat. The high herd this month was that of Ernest Marquardt, Freedom Township. Ernest had 14 cows milking and they produced 1,056 lbs. of milk and 35.1 lbs. of butterfat. Ernest has a herd of grade Holsteins.

- That the Janesville Fire Department is interested in new and means of extinguishing fires in the rural areas of Janesville is indicated by the fact that at a recent meeting of the department it was decided to purchase a new fire truck to be used only in the rural area. Fire Chief Harvey Gardner stated this morning that the department also plans to purchase in the near future a new 600-gallon capacity tanker truck to be used in the rural areas where insufficient water hampers the progress of extinguishing a fire.

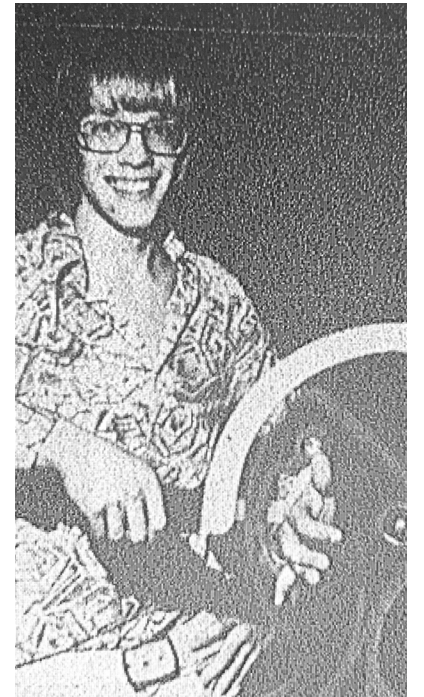
1975

- Special education will be getting extra emphasis at Janesville Public School because of a new six-school cooperative designed to implement a federal grant for the teaching of disabled children. Janesville's District 830 has joined with Waseca, Waldorf, New Richland, Ellendale, and Waterville in a cooperative effort to implement the new program under a Title VI Grant that will run for four years. The program will be entirely funded the first year, including the salary of Special Education Director Pat Westman, a teacher with 15 years experience including work with the disabled.

- Like most teenagers, Norm Barnhart has his bedroom walls plastered with posters. But instead of singers like Elton John or the latest rock group, Barnhart has his idols on the wall - world famous magicians like Harry Houdini and the Great Blackstone. Barnhart, 17, comes by his interest in magic through his father, Rev. Jerald Barnhart, pastor at Zion Methodist Church in St. Clair. In the 1950s the senior Barnhart toured Korea as a ventriloquist with a USO show. Prior to entering the ministry 10 years ago, the senior Barnhart worked as a disc jockey.

- "Don't give up on us... we're learning from our mistakes." That's George Tuvey's voice of optimism after his Golden Bears dropped their second straight shutout, a 29-0 loss to defending Gopher champion, Blooming Prairie. "As soon as we can stabilize our blocking, our offense will begin rolling and our defense won't have to be under such pressure," Tuvey said. The Bears played the conference opener without

senior Cliff Keyes who injured his hip in the loss to Lake Crystal and is still on the mend. Keyes' absence hurt, but sophomore Toby Yard did well at a position he only had two days to practice.



Norm Barnhart, a senior at St. Clair High School in 1975, was into magicians. Here, he is showing off his "arm chopper" with younger brother, Wes, looking concerned.

2000

- Four Janesville High School alumni - Bill Bartelt, Josh Berndt, Mike Miemczyk and Tim Bartelt - members of the Region 4C Champions, the Waterville Indians, recently competed in the Minnesota 2000 State Amateur Baseball Tournament held in Sleepy Eye and Fairfax. Thirty-two teams from throughout the entire state of Minnesota participated, providing they qualified by placing first or second in their prospective region.

- At 7:18 p.m. on Wednesday, August 30, Janesville police officer John McGuire was dispatched to G&S Gas Station in Janesville to investigate a report of a robbery. G&S employee, Tyler Winter, 17, told Officer McGuire that he had been assaulted and robbed by a white male believed to be in his early 20s. The suspect had been hanging around the station for over 20 minutes. According to Mike Lund, manager of the station, when Winter leaned over to fill the pop machine, the suspect grabbed checks and cash out of Winter's pocket. "I yelled at him to give the money back," said Winter. "He told me I seemed like a nice kid and he didn't want to bust my face." Before fleeing the station, the suspect threw Winter to the floor. "I scraped by knee," said Winter, "but I'm fine."

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THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT
DISTRICT COURT
PROBATE DIVISION
Court File No. 81-PR-25-632

In Re: Estate of
Sandra K. Roemhildt,
Decedent

NOTICE AND ORDER OF
HEARING ON PETITION FOR
PROBATE OF WILL AND
APPOINTMENT OF PERSONAL
REPRESENTATIVE AND NOTICE
TO CREDITORS

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
It is Ordered and Notice is given
that on Wednesday October 15,
2025, via Zoom at 1:15 p.m., a
hearing will be held in this Court
at 307 State St N, Waseca, MN
56093, for the formal probate of
an instrument purporting to be
the Will of the Decedent dated,
November 16, 2023, ("Will"),
and for the appointment of Gary
W. Roemhildt, whose address is
615 340th Avenue, Janesville,
MN, 56048 as Personal
Representative of the Estate of
the Decedent in UNSUPERVISED
administration. Any objections
to the petition must be filed

with the Court prior to or raised
at the hearing. If proper and if
no objections are filed or raised,
the Personal Representative will
be appointed with full power to
administer the Estate including
the power to collect all assets,
to pay all legal debts, claims,
taxes and expenses, to sell real
and personal property, and to
do all necessary acts for the
Estate. Notice is also given that
(subject to Minnesota Statutes
section 524.3-801) all creditors
having claims against the Estate
are required to present the
claims to the Personal
Representative or to the Court
Administrator within four
months after the date of this
Notice or the claims will be
barred.

Dated: 09/04/2025

/s/ Carol M. Hanks
Judge of District Court
/s/ Shannon Asselin
Court Administrator

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SPORTS

Cyclones cruise through consecutive conference clashes



Seniors Paige St. Peter and Brooklin Hinze throw their hands up to block a kill attempt by Maple River.

(Journal Photo by Ricardo Moreno Jr.)

By RICARDO MORENO JR. and JORDAN CARRILLO Staff Writers

The St. Clair Cyclones hosted the LSH Giants for a competitive shut out game of volleyball to start the week on Tuesday September 9th. Flowing with the breeze of their previous success, the Cyclones looked sharp during warmups and ready to play for the win. Head coach Ashley Sander's strategic presence and the Cyclones' coordination kept each game from flying away from them. It took roughly an hour and a half for the Cyclones to blow away the competition in a 3-0 victory.

The first set of the game set a competitive tone early on, but the Cyclones took a lead that would be contested but never surrendered. Their display of skill in warmups

transferred straight away into the game, and the Cyclones won one game because of it. Game two of the set was just as competitive to start. Defensive plays by Brooklyn Meng and Aubrey Will sent back the kill shots of the Giants, while Haddie Jobe and Payton Blount were two killer parts of the Cyclones' offense that led them to a 25 - 13 victory in game two.

The final match looked to promise the same result, but the Giants weren't content to go down without pushing the Cyclones to the limit. What was a good lead turned into a close one after the Cyclones' play turned a bit loose as they approached the end of the set. The Giants made adjustments and utilized some overly aggressive play from the Cyclones to bring the game to a tense, close finish. At 24 - 24, the Cyclones brought it together to put the game away with

a final score of 26 - 24.

The Cyclones were relieved and excited to celebrate their victory after such a back-and-forth third set to close out the match.

Following their three-game sweep against the Giants, the Cyclones continued cruising through the South Central Conference with another commanding performance on the court against the Sibley East Wolverines.

Each set remained competitive throughout, but the relentless St. Clair attack proved to be too much for Sibley East to contain. Payton Blount led the aerial assault with 22 kills and the Cyclones finished the sweep with a combined 41 kills. In between sets, the Wolverines made their defensive adjustments, but to no avail as the St. Clair strikers adapted to the situation and used precise placement en route to three-

set victory: 25-20; 25-17; 25-20.

This win marks the third straight for the Cyclones—third straight Conference win as well—and pushes their record to 3-1 for the 2025 campaign. Coach Ashley Sander praised Blount's performance against Sibley East. "It was great to see her on fire out there...any time Sibley made an adjustment, she was able to find another hole to swing through." Brooklyn Meng also received consideration for "feeding the hot hand" during the match.

St. Clair has been scorching the nets during this win streak and looks to keep the momentum moving in their three matches this week: a road match against USC on September 15, a highly anticipated rematch against dreaded SCC rival LCWM on September 16, and another conference opponent MVL on September 18.

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Sunday, September 21st

9:00 am - Historic Story Hour
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11:30 am - Spuds & Sundaes by the Youth in Fellowship Hall
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