

THE Jamesville Journal

No. 39 Vol. 7 \$1.50 SERVING THE JANESVILLE-WALDORF-PEMBERTON-ST. CLAIR AREA Wednesday, September 24, 2025



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5 DAY FORECAST

Wed 24 | 73°
 Rain 13%
 Wind NNE 8 mph
 Considerable clouds early.
 Some decrease in clouds later
 in the day. High 73F. Winds
 NNE at 5 to 10 mph.

Thu 25 | 78°
 Rain 9%
 Wind W 6 mph
 Mostly sunny. High 78F. Winds
 light and variable.

Fri 26 | 81°
 Rain 7%
 Wind SSW 7 mph
 Sunny skies. High 81F. Winds
 SSW at 5 to 10 mph.

Sat 27 | 77°
 Rain 5%
 Wind NW 10 mph
 Sunny. High 77F. Winds NW at
 10 to 15 mph.

Sun 28 | 78°
 Rain 5%
 Wind S 9 mph
 Sunny, along with a few
 afternoon clouds. High 78F.
 Winds S at 5 to 10 mph.

Quote of the Week

*Life is like
 a coin.
 You can spend
 it any way
 you wish,
 but you
 only spend
 it once.*
 — Lillian Dickson

Greater Mankato United Way raising funds in Waseca with two events in one



TJ Brown was part of the entertainment at Pleasant Grove Pizza supporting United Way.

By MICHAEL ROY
 Editor

Greater Mankato United Way has made vast efforts to engage in community outreach within its four-county coverage area. Its latest efforts on Thursday, September 18, included not one, but two events in the Waseca area. One event was a bean bag tournament at the Mill in Waseca from 3-5 p.m., with another fundraiser event taking place at Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm from 4-7 p.m.

The bean bag tournament was not the standard game where the first to 21 won. It was whoever had the most points in a set amount of time. To raise some funds during the tournament, teams were encouraged to “buy” their way through the games, such as making their opponents throw backward.

One possibility was to make a player on the other team throw the beanbag like a football center hikes the ball to a quarterback or kicker. However, if that player hit a shot into the hole, the other team got 30 points. It could either make things difficult for the opponents or backfire on the team that paid for the potential disadvantage.

This year’s winners were Jodie and Isaac Thompson of Edina Realty in Waseca. They took home a custom-made trophy for their efforts.

The Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm event – called “Making a Difference 1 Piece at a Time” –ended up getting a little dampened due to the weather. With scattered thunderstorms in the area, everything had to be moved inside the barn area, including live music by TJ Brown and booths featuring nonprofits supported by the Greater Mankato United Way.

That didn’t dampen the spirits, though. One of the main features of the United Way Night

United Way cont to pg 3

Trinity Lutheran Church celebrates 145 years & Trinity School celebrating 135 years



Taking a chance to dunk Pastor Jason Wolter in the dunk tank was part of the festivities at Trinity Lutheran’s Anniversary celebration this past weekend. (Journal Photos by Mike Roy)

By MICHAEL ROY
 Editor

In 1880, Trinity Lutheran Church in Janesville was established after various groups of Lutherans within the surrounding townships of Iosco, Alton, and Freedom decided to form a church, having previously held services within the city for several years. Ten years later, in 1890, the Trinity Lutheran School followed.

This past weekend, several hundred members within the Trinity congregation and attending the school gathered to celebrate the church’s 145th Anniversary and the school’s 135th. The main festivities took place on Saturday, September 20 and Sunday, September 21.

The initial plan was to have TLS’s annual “Fun Run” kick off the events on Friday, September 19. However, rain and thunderstorms ended up triggering the postponement of the fun run to the following Friday, Sept. 26. Instead,



Saturday’s events served as the kickoff. There were several events for everyone, including tours of the church and school, face painting, a chance to dunk Pastor Jason Wolter in cold water in a dunk tank, and playing bingo.

There were also a bake sale

and food available. Various members of the Trinity Lutheran congregation, along with some TLS staff, helped serve a meal

Trinity
 cont to Page 11

Pumpkins, playgrounds, and plenty of magic at Autumn Acres Fall Festival

By JORDAN CARRILLO
 Staff Writer

As the summer months fade and fall brings about a season of colorful change, many flannel-wearing locals seek events to celebrate the autumnal cheer. The aptly named Autumn Acres Farm is one of several locations that takes full advantage of this enthusiasm by hosting its fifth annual Fall Festival on September 20.

The Fall Festival is the labor of love from Autumn Acres’ owner, Cheryl Blees, and she used every square-inch of her nine-acre farm to provide entertainment for the families, couples, and gourd appreciators who attended throughout the day. Blees has grown Autumn Acres substantially over the past few years, and there were some notable improvements like updated landscaping around the farm and new playground equipment in the “Fun Zone” for



The main event of the Fall Festival came in the shape of a magic show by the Kevin Hall Magic Show. (Journal Photos by Jordan Carrillo)

children to enjoy.

It’s no secret the crown jewel of Autumn Acres is also the cornerstone of any good fall hangout—the humble pumpkin. Nearly 150 varieties of pumpkins from the plumpy orange, the bright white, to even the grotesque green were scattered about the grounds and pumpkin patch, and they were all for the

taking...as long as they fit in the patron’s wagons. The pumpkins themselves take roughly 90 days to grow from a lowly seed into a gourd worthy of carving, baking,

Autumn Acres
 cont to Page 6

JWP School preparing for busy homecoming week Sept 29 - Oct 5

By MICHAEL ROY
 Editor

Every school around the area is either celebrating homecoming or preparing for a week of showing off their pride. And next week, from September 29 to October 5, Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton will be kicking off its festivities.

The kickoff will be the homecoming coronation on Monday, Sept. 29, at 6 p.m. The queen candidates for this year are Tiera Anderson, Brielle James, Katie Olson, Lily Quast, and Nevaeh Weimert. The king candidates are Aiden Cummins, Dylan Hood, Caleb Quast, Rocco Scholl, and Michael Walker. The crown bearers are Lyda Quast and Huxley Weimert. Class representatives, by grade are Grace Sanny and Trenton Huber (11th grade); Avery Carda and Tyson Kronbach (10th); Lyric Morgan and James Morgan (9th); Aubrey Anderson and Brydon Olson (8th); and Marin Demarais and Blake Neegaard (7th).

Following the coronation, the senior high girls will battle on the gridiron in games of Powderpuff football. The pep fest will take place on Friday, October 5, with a parade afterward.

As per tradition, the students will dress up to show their school spirit. Monday will be Jersey Day, with Tuesday featuring the kids showing up in their brightest clothing for neon day. They will try to blend in – although they’ll be surrounded by the school colors – as they dress up for Camo Day on Wednesday. The high school will represent their class colors, while the elementary school will wear pajamas on Thursday. On Friday, the students’ school spirit will come out in full force as they rep the Blue and Silver.

Volleyball will be the first of two homecoming games, as they take on conference rival Randolph on Thursday, October 2. The Bulldog football team will take on Medford on Friday, October 3. During both games, the members of this year’s JWP Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2025 will be honored. They will have a bit of a homecoming themselves as they celebrate on Saturday, October 4.

It will be a fantastic week for the students, staff, alumni, and others within the JWP community to show off their spirit and what it means to be a Bulldog. Many activities will keep the students’ energy high, and a couple wins from the volleyball and football teams would be the icing on the cake.

Community Happenings

- Athletic Hall of Fame Janesville Oct 4 6p
- Autumn Acres FunFest Janesville Oct 4
- Ruby Ranch Flackets & Flannel Oct 4 6-9:30p
- St. Johns Lutheran Fall Festival St. Clair Oct 5 9:30a - 2p
- Faith Lutheran Church 60th Anniversary Celebrate Janesville Oct 5 10:15am
- City Council Mtg St. Clair Oct 7
- Janesville Food Shelf Hours: Thursdays 1-3 p.m. Second Thurs. of month 6-7 p.m. First & Third Sat. of month 1-3 p.m.

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



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.

Create a stylish, dapper ghost using pages from a book and googly eyes during open hours on Monday, September 29th-Wednesday, October 1st at Elysian Area Library and Waterville Public Library. Will it wear a bow tie? A little hair bow? Use your imagination and give your ghost a unique personality. Ages 7-12.

Laser-Engraved Necklace

Personalize a metal necklace at Janesville Public Library on Tuesday, September 30th at

5-7 pm. Learn the basics of laser engraving, use templates, or create your own artwork. Geared for adults. Register at the library or at wasecalesueurlibraries.com/getregistered
Sponsored by Janesville Area Foundation and the Pope Family Fund

Jigsaw Puzzle Derby

Assemble a team of up to 4 players to compete in a jigsaw puzzle competition at Elysian Area Library on Wednesday, October 1st at 9 am. The first team to complete the puzzle wins a prize . . . and bragging rights! Registration required.

Old MacDonald Had a Farm Party!

Oink! Moo! and Cock-a-Doodle-Do! Enjoy farm-themed activities, from a farm relay to a horse roundup, at New Richland Public Library on Wednesday, October 1st at 10:30 am. This free event is geared for ages 3-6.

Lego Story Time

Kids ages 4-6 can join Waseca Public Library's monthly creative Lego-building group, with an adult. This month's Lego Story Time will be held on Saturday, October 4th at 10 am. Each event will include a story to inspire the builders.

Lego Club

Kids ages 7-12 are invited to join Waseca Public Library's creative Lego-building club. This month's Lego Club event will be held on Saturday, October 4th at 11 am. Each event will have a theme to inspire and Legos to build with.

TID-BITS OF TRIVIA

- The Polar Rim section of the San Diego Zoo houses an exhibit featuring which of these animals?
- The pole onion plant derives its common nickname from a Biblical story about a "ladder" seen by whom?
- The pop singer Fergie has what lesser known first name?
- The popular burrito chain Chipotle is named after a type of what?
- The popular drink known as an "Arnold Palmer" is typically made with equal parts iced tea and what?
- The popular lunch meat baloney, sometimes spelled bologna, takes its name from a city in what country?
- The popular slang term "nom," which refers to eating something yummy, derives from what Sesame Street character?
- The popular video game "Grand Theft Auto IV" is set in what fictional metropolis?
- The popular Web show "Easy to Assemble" is appropriately set at what distinctive retail spot?
- The term "banana republic" originally referred to small, politically unstable countries in what part of the world?

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

What do you get the man who has everything?

Echoes from a Loafers' Club Meeting

I did all I could do today. What did you do? Nothing. It was all I could do.

Driving by Bruce's drive

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. It's hard to let go of things, but I took some of my precious stuff to the Salvation Army. The Smithsonian Institution had declined to accept even one of them. They claimed my things were too good for them. Their loss. Museum visitors will be missing a thrill or two. Imagine the lines waiting to see Al Batt's three-headed ancient Norelco electric shaver. Who wouldn't want to see that? Or the largest cornflake I'd ever seen safely ensconced in a scuffed orange pill bottle. And that pair of bookends that looks like Andy Rooney, plus a "What are you looking at?" orange hoodie. Never worn. A framed photo of the greatest NCAA basketball timekeeper of all time. Not identified by name, but cool. A polo shirt that never came close to attending a single polo match, yet it had a genuine horse manure stain. Now that I've freed up all that space, my wife won't need to be asking, "What do you get the man who has everything?" because I no longer have it.

At my neighbor Crandall's place

"Grab a bowl and put some chili in it," said Crandall. As

instructed, I grabbed a big bowl and filled it with chili and oyster crackers. It was the perfect repast on a chilly day. As I ate, one of Crandall's twin hounds, either Moose or Squirrel, kept growling at me.

"Don't mind him. He likes everyone," advised Crandall.

"Then why is he growling at me?" I wondered aloud.

"It's because you're eating from his bowl."

Cities with interesting names

Jed Clampett of the "Beverly Hillbillies" said he was from Bugtussle, Tenn. Well, doggies! There's a Bugtussle or Bug Tussle in Ala., Ky., Okla. and Texas. The Texas town was named either for an invasion of bugs that spoiled a church ice cream social or because it was a place that offered little entertainment other than watching bugs tussle. Here are some other interesting names: Bacon Level and Possum Trot, Ala. Why, Ariz. Two Eggs, Fla. What Cheer, Iowa. Gas, Kan. Monkey's Eyebrow, Ky. Nimrod and Embarrass, Minn. Hot Coffee, Miss. Worms, Neb. Whynot, N.C. Cannon Ball and Zap, N.D. Knockemstiff, Ohio. Ketchuptown, S.C. Wynot, N.C.



Compostings

by Al Batt
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Difficult, Tenn. Ding Dong, Texas. Satan's Kingdom and Mosquitoville, Vt. Imalone, Wis. Tightsqueeze, Va. Okay, Okla. Chicken, Alaska. Tightwad and Frankenstein, Mo. Zzyzx, Calif. (population 1), and No Name, Colo.

I've learned

The coolest bone in the human body is the hip. The more expensive the car, the more likely its parking is to be substandard.

Even if you're losing brain cells while listening to someone, calling those you disagree with stupid won't change their minds.

We had a salt substitute when I was a boy. We called it pepper. My favorite peaches should be eaten over a sink.

In local headlines

Magician's assistant graduates in the top half of her class and in the bottom half.

The 2000-Pound Cafe specializes in one-ton soup. Baking Bad Bakery offers man buns.

Popeye's Eyeglass Shop opens, with its catchphrase, "Eye am what eye am."

A buttermaker says his job has no margarine for error.

Bad jokes department

My nephew wants to be a

skydiving instructor when he grows up. I told him that was a descent career.

Cowboys hung a lantern on their saddles at night so they could find a trail in the dark. This was early saddle-light navigation.

Why is an airport the worst place to have a cold? Because it becomes a terminal illness.

"What's green and hurts if you get it in your eye?" A John Deere tractor.

Nature notes

When you next hear the cheerful twittering of birds, stop and listen. Researchers from the Max Planck Institute for Human Development and the Universitätsklinikum Hamburg-Eppendorf have shown that birdsong reduces anxiety and irrational thoughts. The scientists published their findings in the journal Scientific Reports.

Folklore says a narrow brown band on a woolly bear caterpillar means a hard winter, and a wide brown band means a mild winter. The truth is that the wider the brown band, the older the woolly bear (woolly worm or hedgehog caterpillar).

What bird has the most feathers? Generally, the bigger the bird, the more feathers it has. An emperor penguin has around 80,000 feathers. That's nearly 60 per square inch. A ruby-throated hummingbird has approximately 1,000.

Meeting adjourned

A kind word is worth 1000 pictures.

Less social media, more music

I deleted Instagram a few weeks ago.

By the time you see this column, I'll have two, maybe three days to reconsider deleting my account. But I won't. I never used Instagram extensively, other than to waste time scrolling and watching videos. It's essentially TikTok, except it's owned by Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg, rather than a Chinese company. I don't know if Zuck is much better than the CCP, but it doesn't matter since I don't have an account on either social media platform.

I have also decided to limit my time on Facebook. I've deleted the app from my phone and also logged myself out on my laptop, rather than having it automatically log me in as soon as I access the website version. I think that appeals to my laziness. It will be more difficult for me to want to be on Facebook if I have to take a minute to enter my email and password.

For the past few months, I had another app called Opal, which blocked whatever apps I told it to block during the day. I significantly reduced my screen time on my phone. However, I deleted that as well. I had deleted almost all the applications I had told it to block. There was no sense in keeping Opal when it did its job.

In the past month, social media has reminded me that people will believe whatever they want to believe. The only evidence that they will accept from their eyes and ears is that which confirms their bias. I have come to a point in life where I am realizing once again that I can only control what I have the



Mikes Corner

by Michael Roy
Staff writer

Copyright © 2019 by Michael Roy

power to control. I've lost the mental stamina it takes to debate politics with others; Charlie Kirk had the patience of a saint in that regard. I also realize I can't stop people from being deplorable or do anything about how the federal government handles my tax dollars. Instead, I am going to do what I should have been doing all along: focus on the local community and on music.

I've been diving deeper into the world of synthesizers. For those who don't know what those are, it's basically a keyboard that can make whatever sound you want. Nearly every song in the 1980s had a synthesizer. Some examples include the instrumental break after the first chorus in "Come Sail Away" by Styx, the intro to "Separate Ways" by Journey, or literally any song by Asia or the Human League. In the early days, however, in the late 1960s and 1970s, many bands utilized what was called a "Moog" synthesizer, known for its harsh-sounding quality. I think of the classic Moog sound as a mix between a trumpet, a flute, and a shrill scream.

I've been creating instrumentals using synthesizer effects and various types of keyboards, such as the classic "Fender Rhodes"

electric piano sound (Styx utilizes this on their #1 hit "Babe") or the clavinet (featured in Stevie Wonder's song "Superstition"). I don't actually own a keyboard. I can technically afford a reasonably good quality one, but I am also trying to be financially responsible in managing my debt, and that's already challenging in these economic times.

With that and playing bass at church (and hopefully some

more gigs in the future), the electric guitar – which for the longest time I've considered my primary instrument – has been placed on its stand, waiting for its chance to shine again. I think at this point, I've embraced that if I'm going to be in a band, I'll basically play whatever instrument I'm asked to take on...except drums. I don't own a drum set, and I don't think I can ever master the art of playing separate beats and polyrhythms between my arms and legs.

I will attempt not to talk politics for the rest of the year. It might make for some potentially boring columns, but as Eddie Money once said, "Whatever will be will be." God willing, hopefully, there aren't any more tragedies in the world before 2026 rolls around. I don't know if the world can take much more of them.

THE Janesville Journal

SERVING THE JANESVILLE-WALDORF-PEMBERTON & ST CLAIR AREA

PO Box, 219, Janesville, MN 56048

PHONE: 507-231-6371

email: janessvillejournal@outlook.com

- TRACIE ROSACKER Publisher
- MICHAEL ROY Editor
- JORDAN CARRILLO Staff Writer
- RICARDO MORENO JR Staff Writer
- JESSICA LUTGENS Contributing Writer
- KATHY RICHARDSON Editorial Assistant
- SUZY HABERMAN Advertising Sales

DEADLINE: FRIDAYS by 4pm

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Email Us At:

janessvillejournal@outlook.com

JWP Athletic Hall of Fame 2025 Inductees Part II

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton Athletic Hall of Fame has slowly released its list of 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. In last week's edition of the Janesville Journal, we went through about a third of the inductees.

We will continue to share information about each team and its members throughout the weeks leading up to the Hall of Fame Banquet on Saturday, October 4. This is Part II of a three-part series of articles sharing information on this year's inductees.

1997 Wrestling Team

The 1997 JWP Wrestling Team had a stellar season following their 1996 campaign, finishing with a 19-4 record, their second straight state tournament berth, and sweeping the Gopher Conference and Section titles. The team ended their run in the state tournament in sixth place.

The wrestling team had seven all-conference members on the roster: Joe Weimar, Bob Beelow, Trent Gunsolus, Dana Gostomczik, Dave Carleton, Ben Blegen, and Jeff Adams.

Team members were Jeff Adams, Bob Beelow, Ben Blegen, Dave Carleton, Aaron Duenes, Mike Fasnacht, Dana Gostomczik, Trent Gunsolus, Andy Krause, Joe Johnson, Jake Kaiser, Jason Lueders, Karl Mettler, George Phillips, Adam Roesler, Mike Schuch, and Joe Weimar. Courtney (Adams) Anderson, Kelly (Schwichtenberg) Berry, and Tannis Steinberg were responsible for keeping track of the stats. On the cheerleading team: Heidi Bartelt, Jackie Danberry, Katie (Kruse) Engel, Melissa Olson, Jessie (Witts) Courtney, and Lisa

(Yentsch) Dudley.

Mike Cummins

A 1991 JWP graduate, Mike Cummins had nine letters evenly split between basketball and baseball. He earned all-area honors in three sports and all-conference honors for two years in basketball and baseball. He was a captain of the



Mike Cummins
Athlete

basketball team in his senior year.

After high school, Cummins continued his education at Bethany Lutheran College and Mankato State College, where he played basketball for the latter school. He continued his involvement in athletics as a coach for JWP, Waterville, and Mahtomedi at various levels. He spent 12 years on the Mahtomedi Youth Basketball Board.

One of Cummins's favorite memories is returning a punt for a 60-yard touchdown in his senior year. Another favorite memory is beating an undefeated St. Clair team in the section finals his sophomore year.

Tim Johnson

A 1990 graduate of JWP, Tim



The 1997 JWP wrestling team. Front row: Lisa (Yentsch) Dudley, Heidi Bartelt, Jackie (Danberry) Simonson, Melissa Olson, and Katie (Kruse) Engel. Second row: Andy Krause, Corey Meyer, Joe Weimar, George Phillips, Bob Beelow, Jake Kaiser, Ben Blegen, Karl Mettler, Joe Johnson, Trent Gunsolus, Mike Fasnacht, and Coach Mike Niemczyk. Third row: Coach Gary Von Holtum, Coach Tim Oelke, Jeff Adams, Dana Gostomczik, Adam Roesler, Jason Lueders, Dave Carleton, Mike Schuch, Aaron Duenes, and Coach Bruce Manthe. Missing: Stat managers Courtney (Adams) Anderson, Kelly (Schwichtenberg) Berry, and Tannis Steinberg, and coach Willie Eustice.

Johnson participated in track for four years and played football and basketball for three years each. In 1989, he took eighth place at the state track meet in the pole vault and placed second in the same event at the state tournament in 1990. To this day, he still holds the pole vault



Tim Johnson
Athlete

record.

Johnson attended the University of Wisconsin – Stout. In 1995, he broke UW-Stout's pole vault record and was named an NCAA Division III All-American, placing sixth at nationals. In 1996, he coached pole vault for his alma mater. Since then, he's been a coach for the JWP track team. In 2019, he received recognition as the Section 2A volunteer of the year and has coached athletes at the state track meet in 2019, 2021, and 2022.

Dr. David Pope

Nearly everyone in Janesville knows this next inductee.

Dr. Pope Started teaching in the Science department in Janesville in 1960. In 1964, he started medical school. Shortly thereafter, he returned to Janesville in 1969 and opened his medical practice. By the time he retired in 2005, he had performed a few thousand pre-participation physicals.

Dr. Pope attended many athletic events in case his help was needed – and it was



David Pope
Contributer

numerous times – all of which he remembers well – two broken arms, a shoulder separation, a heart murmur, and a dislocated kneecap. In the 70's, the rescue squad of the fire department became trained EMTs, yet Dr.

Pope continued to attend and support the local athletic programs.

Dr. Pope helped start the Janesville Area Foundation and served as secretary for several years. The Foundation has provided many grants to JWP and has supported several athletic programs. He has also served as Secretary of the Janesville Matters organization. Dr. Pope was a Rotarian for 50 years, and the club provided thousands of dollars to JWP for many programs. Rotary also sponsored the Youth Exchange program and had more than 30 students attend JWP from around the world, as well as sponsored many JWP students who spent a year abroad. He became a Paul Harris Fellow for his contributions. His best memories of JWP are the trips to the State Tournaments and watching students develop their skills, mature, and have fun.

Dr. Pope and his wife, Vanette, have four children, Brian, Tammy, Scott, and Amy.

United Way

cont from pg 1

event was an Apple Crisp Dessert Pizza, drizzled with caramel sauce and topped with vanilla ice cream. According to Emily Knudsen, owner of Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm, and the Greater Mankato United Way, the dessert pizza was inspired by a vintage United Way cookbook.

All the proceeds from the dessert pizza, along with specialty sangrias from the bar, were donated directly to United Way. Although initially a one-day fundraiser, Pleasant Grove Pizza Farm decided to extend the specials throughout this past weekend. It was a fantastic gesture from them, especially considering they had a "Taste of Fall" festival all weekend long.

It was a fantastic day for Greater Mankato United Way, as they gained exposure in Waseca



(Journal Photos by Mike Roy)

and shared their message about how they give back to the community. They currently fund 75 initiatives, many of which focus on education, health, and basic needs in Blue Earth, Nicollet, Le Sueur, and Waseca counties.



Truth in Taxation Meeting

The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton School District 2835 will hold a public Truth in Taxation meeting on **Monday, December 1, 2025**, beginning at **6:00 p.m.** in the Media Center at JWP Public Schools, 110 E Third Street, Janesville, Minnesota.

Janesville Area Foundation

Fall Grant Applications

Deadline Sept. 30th

Apply Online:

wasecaareafoundation.org

OR

Send Application to:

501 E Elm Ave, Waseca, MN

Non profits serving Janesville Area are eligible to apply

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Obituaries

EVELYN L. "EVIE" BUECKSLER

Of Mankato, formerly of St. Clair, passed away September 16, 2025, at the age of 91.

Evelyn was born on October 23, 1933, to Elmer and Nettie (Olson) Radke. She grew up in rural Mapleton and was baptized and confirmed in the Christian faith at the Lutheran Church in Mapleton. Evelyn graduated from Mapleton High School in 1951 and continued her education at Mankato Commercial College.

She married Lawrence "Bix" Bueckler December 20, 1952, in Pomona, CA. When "Bix" was discharged from the Marines, they returned to Minnesota to farm.

Three children were born to this union – Ann Marie, Connie and Steven. After Lawrence died in 1969, she went to work at Ueland Lumber and later for the State of Minnesota in the driver's exam station.

Evelyn married Walter Schostag on December 25, 1971. Evie liked to dance, play cards, bowl, travel, go up north to the camper, fish, winter in Texas and go to the casinos. Evie could talk to anyone (and did!), usually had a smile on her face and was always on the go.

She is survived by her daughter, Connie (Dan) Froehlich of Mankato and her son, Steven of Mankato; grandchildren, Kyle (Beth) Froehlich, Paul Froehlich all of St. Clair, and Kelsey (Dan) Goettlicher of Mapleton; great-grandchildren, Landon, Lincoln and Sydney Froehlich of



Evelyn Bueckler

St. Clair, and Mason and Anika Goettlicher of Mapleton; three brothers – Chester of Wells, Wayne of Mapleton, and Kenneth Radke of Janesville.

She was preceded in death by her husbands – Lawrence Bueckler and Walter Schostag, her daughter, Ann Marie, many sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law.

Visitation for Evie was from 4 – 7 PM on Tuesday, September 23, 2025, at the Janesville Chapel of Dennis-Steffel-Omtvedt Funeral and Cremation Service. Visitation continued one hour prior to the service at the church on Wednesday.

Funeral service was at 11:00 AM on Wednesday, September 24, 2025 at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in St. Clair. Burial followed at St. John Lutheran Cemetery in St. Clair.

A special thank you to the staff at Oak Terrace who cared for her the last four months.

By **JORDAN CARRILLO**
Staff Writer

Without treading into hyperbole, high school can be a bit of a minefield to traverse. Speaking from my own experience, there can be much to consider for a young student: what classes should I take? What are my options post-graduation? Why do I have all these emotions? Luckily, there are resources that can aid students in relieving some of the stress and worry that comes with these quandaries. Even more fortunate is there can be a guiding hand and a calming presence with a district's Guidance Counselor who can turn an uneasy situation into a comforting one.

St. Clair's new Guidance Counselor, Joe Stauffer, brings an energetic and enthusiastic approach to the position as he enters his first year as a Cyclone. A Guidance Counselor wears many hats for a school district, and Stauffer is determined to aid students in excelling in academics, social-emotional development, and career planning. It should be said that certain skills are more aptly applied to certain grade levels...the juniors and seniors may require more emphasis on planning for college, sophomores may be unsure which classes are most beneficial, and a seventh grader may be overwhelmed by the transition of a new educational frontier. These crises are natural for any student to experience, and Counselors like Stauffer welcome the opportunity to build trust with these young Cyclones, "These first few weeks at St. Clair have been all



about becoming familiar with the students and staff. I'm the 'new guy' but everyone has been very friendly and I'm a big believer in being there for them when they need help."

Hailing from Cambridge, Minnesota, Stauffer's path toward being a Guidance Counselor wasn't as straight and narrow at first; in fact, he once considered following in his father's footsteps and pursued a trade like welding or mechanics. After a few months of turning wrenches and working up a sweat, he quickly learned that hard labor wasn't as enjoyable as once thought and Stauffer attended college at St. John's University in search of his purpose.

He initially pursued a Bachelors in Business, but soon all that number crunching had Stauffer reflecting on what truly matters the most to him. His soul searching led him to remember his time as an outstanding track athlete at Cambridge, and the strong bonds he built with his former coaches, who were also his teachers. That appreciation for one-on-one relationships

provided the necessary inspiration for Stauffer to pursue a Bachelors in Psychology then a Masters of Education at University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

Admittedly, Stauffer had very little experience with his school's Guidance Counselor during his formative years, but his brief time shadowing his former middle school Counselor, Terri Emmons, solidified his choice to become a Counselor of his very own. Over 600 hours of experience across all three grade ranges (elementary, middle, high) is required to earn the proper certifications, so Stauffer interned at a number of districts in the Metropolitan areas. Once he completed the requirements, Stauffer then moved to St. Peter, Minnesota and served as a Counselor at Minnesota Connections Academy, an online school of about 4000 students for the 2024-2025 school year. As part of a team of Counselors, he would oversee roughly 400 students from grades 9-12, similar to St. Clair's 7-12 enrollment, so the workload

should be comparable for him as he has slowly transformed a small office in the West Commons as his base of operations.

As the school year continues, Stauffer will play a pivotal role in shaping future Cyclone graduates for the next chapter of their lives. He will accompany the junior and senior classes on a field trip to the Minnesota Education Fair at MSU on September 29; over 80 colleges will be present during the fair, and many Cyclones will reflect on what their move may be post-graduation. The seniors in particular may pay Stauffer a visit or two for assistance with college applications, scholarship opportunities, or financial aid which is a period he describes as a "very exciting time."

His path to becoming a Guidance Counselor may not have been the textbook straight line, but it's that unique journey that makes Stauffer a relatable ally for the students at St. Clair; a realistic reminder that finding one's purpose is a practice in trial and error, but boy, is it worth it.

Memories of the Way We Were: Class of 1974 honored guests

By **MICHAEL ROY**
Editor

Many former students at Janesville High School have been part of the "Over 50" Class Reunion for many years. This year, the Class of 1974 was the honored guest and joined their fellow Golden Bears, reminiscing about the glory days at St. Ann's Parish Center on Wednesday, September 17.

Gary Mittelsteadt, a member of the "Over 50" committee, greeted the guests. In addition to the Class of '74 being honored guests, several members of the Janesville High School faculty were the special guests. Faculty in attendance included Mike Niemczyk and Gary von Holtum, among several others. After a social hour, dinner was provided by Infinity Catering.

Class of '74 members in attendance were Sheryl Westphal Williams, Colleen Ryan Gerds, Gary Seys, Judy Osborne Seys, Chuck Wilmes, Jane Osborne



Wilmes, Bob Carda, Ann Schultz Carda, Helen Jewison Peterson, Chuck Schwab, Carol Bergmann Steinburg, Lyle Gahler, and Lee Daschner.

As a bit of fun trivia at each reunion, the committee members

kept track of the oldest classmate in attendance, as well as the person who traveled the farthest to attend. This year, Robert Wolff, a member of the class of 1948, was the oldest, while Ray Wolff, a member of the class of 1963, traveled the farthest from Surprise, AZ.

It was a great night of many "Over 50" members sharing several stories, some probably ensuring their version of events aligned with others. As the Class of '74 yearbook put it, everyone was sharing and remembering "Memories of the Way We Were."

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Merely Players Community Theatre; All the world is a stage

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

“All the world’s a stage, and all the men and women merely players.”

That William Shakespeare quote from his play As You Like It has inspired the Mankato Merely Players Community Theatre to keep providing quality theatrical entertainment since their debut performance of the musical Oklahoma! in 1982. The organization has called the Lincoln Community Center stage home ever since.

This season, they are preparing several plays and musicals, starting with Anne of Green Gables, the musical, based on the novel by Lucy Maud Montgomery, which will be performed from October 10 to 19. Their Christmas offering is Fruitcakes! by Julian Wiles. They will perform another musical, Once Upon a Mattress, in late February and March, with Clue scheduled for late April and early May.

As you can see, the theatrical spread is vast for a short amount of time. Artistic Director Jonathan Brandt explains that they usually put on a production in at least nine weeks. The general rule of thumb is, “For a straight play with a small to medium-sized cast, we could put on a show in about six weeks. For a musical, it’s ideally eight to nine weeks.”

There are about 40 people involved in the upcoming production of Anne of Green Gables, about 30 cast members and ten crew members, which include a director, musical director, a rehearsal pianist, and backstage crew members.

Everyone’s journey into theatre is unique. Sergio Delgado, the marketing chair on the Merely Players’ board of directors, said he had gotten involved with the organization a long time ago. “I went through a traumatic event that made me want to go back to my roots,” he explained. “So, I auditioned, but I didn’t get it. I got involved in other community opportunities, and once I gained my confidence, I auditioned again and ended up doing an entire season with them.”

Brandt’s journey started in his senior year of high school at the very last show of the season. In his first semester of college,



the first thing he did was audition for a show. When he got cast, he wondered if theatre was his true calling but wanted to focus on his academics.

“A friend of mine took me by the arm and asked me to audition for a play she was directing,” Brandt explained. “I told her that I really needed to study. She said, ‘Come on. Just try.’”

He knew that, at that moment, he was “smitten.” He switched majors and got his B.A. in Theatre. He worked on the administrative side at the Theatre Communications Group and Playwrights Horizons after college. He also did stand-up comedy for seven years. That was when he met his wife and started his family, and to him, having children meant that he had to “start becoming a civilian” again.

“I didn’t want to drag my family through the struggles of an artist,” he elaborated.

The itch never went away, though. He began getting involved in theatre again in the Twin Cities from 2006 to 2024, participating in a dozen shows. When he moved to Mankato, he was semi-retired. “I knew this was something I really loved doing,” he said.

He then involved himself in nine productions between New Ulm and MSU. When the opening for an Artistic Director for the Merely Players became available, he jumped right on it.

“I wanted to revamp the joy of theatre within the community in an inclusive way,” he said. “I connected a lot with the tech staff and some of the regular performers. And voila, I put in

an application, and I was hired.”

Since the days of “merely playing,” the theatre organization has expanded its productions with a “small but mighty crew.” Salgado shares that they do “Merely Players After Dark,” which features Rated R or 17+ productions. “We’ve also expanded to murder mysteries,” he said. “We’re looking to expand our programming even more this season.”

Brandt’s favorite part of the production process is seeing the director add their personal touch to the play or musical they’re working on. “It’s great to see the director and their team find their feet and hit their stride with rehearsals and putting their own artistic stamp on the production,” he said. “I love seeing that. Naturally, I I were to direct the same play, it’d come out differently. I always get excited to see others’ ideas.”

For Salgado, on the volunteer side, it’s the potential of the work a good crew can put together. “Once you get a team together, you can create art, and any obstacle seems minute,” he said. “You can see what sticks to the wall, even if it’s an out-of-pocket idea. You can spark debate and idea generation by doing that.”

As a board member, he enjoys connecting with local community members and discussing Merely Players with them. “Some still don’t know about us after 40 years,” he shared. “Showing them what we’ve worked on in that time is something I always want to do.”

Some challenges include name recognition, which aligns

with Salgado’s point that some in the local area are unaware of Merely Players’ existence. “Many have heard of us, but many more may not have,” Brandt explained. “In my opinion, it’s true that the performing arts community can be insular. That’s not just a case for Mankato, but several places. Everyone in the bubble knows us, but there are others who could learn about us.”

Salgado shares that their current location might partially hinder those interested in watching their productions. “Where we’re at...it’s not the most user-friendly place,” he admitted. “But we do the best we can to make a good experience from beginning to end.”

Another challenge is finding volunteers, especially when there’s a certain niche to fill such as running a sound booth. “Music directors are rarer than Bitcoin,” Salgado quipped. “They’re highly sought after.”

The two agree on wanting to raise awareness of what the Merely Players do and expand the organization’s horizons. They realize that to do that, they need to “cultivate the new audience of theatre goers.”

“Those who tend to frequent live theater are usually the older generations,” he said. “At MSU [Minnesota State University], we have an opportunity to cultivate the next generation of theatre goers.”

For those interested in getting involved or obtaining more information, they are encouraged to visit the Merely Players of Mankato Facebook page or their website at www.merelyplayers.com. A fundraiser event they are looking forward to is “Broadway at Merely Players: An Evening with Ann Harada,” where they will host the actress best known for her role as Christmas Eve in Avenue Q. This will take place at the Lincoln Community Center stage at 7 p.m. on Friday, October 24. She will participate in an on-stage interview, followed by an audience Q&A, and a VIP reception at the Wine Café will take place after the event.

Everyone loves a bit of entertainment. All the world’s a stage, they say. And this group of theatre enthusiasts in Mankato would love you to watch them be “Merely Players.”

FFA: St. Clair Chapter continues to grow; 15 new members for 2025-26 school year

By JORDAN CARRILLO
Staff Writer

Much like the cornstalks in the neighboring fields, the St. Clair FFA Chapter has grown significantly in quite a short amount of time. In just a few turns of the season, this once handful of budding agricultural enthusiasts has blossomed into an organization that not only continues to gain in numbers, but also has accolades from regional and state competitions worth boasting about.

In a landmark 2024-2025 year, St. Clair FFA received a Superior rating at the State convention and its three seniors Nealy Barna, Daultin Lotton, and Mackenzie Levos were awarded State degrees—the highest honor a member can receive. Levos especially reached a high mark in Ag Sales Proficiency, winning both the Regional and State level competitions, and will compete at the National Convention in Indianapolis from October 29-November 1. These three, along with advisor Mckinsey Rew, were the triumvirate that lifted the program to newfound heights. Those three have now graduated and moved onto new experiences for themselves; however, their impact on this Chapter carries into what should be an exciting 2025-2026 campaign.

With a new school year to contend with, St. Clair FFA prepares for a new set of opportunities and expectations, but luckily, they will also welcome a dozen or so new

faces to the program. Many of these new recruits are middle schoolers, reflecting a strong interest to learn these agricultural skills at a young age. To counterbalance these hatchlings will be the strong leadership of Chapter President Jonathon Pierce and returning Officers Hailey Levos, Hannah Brekke, and others.

Although the school year is only a few weeks into its schedule, St. Clair FFA is already planting the seeds of agricultural knowledge. On Thursday, September 18th, the chapter demonstrated its commitment to community and education by participating in the Blue Earth Farm Safety Camp at the Blue Earth County Fairgrounds in Garden City. St. Clair FFA members led the animal safety portion of the camp, providing hands-on instruction to 3rd graders from St. Clair, LCWM, and Maple River schools. A more in-depth writup will be provided.

Looking to the future, the chapter has several exciting events planned. Members will be attending the prestigious National FFA Convention at the end of October. In addition, the chapter is proud to launch its first-ever horse judging team, which will compete in Fairmont on October 7th. This year’s growth in both membership and activities signals a bright future for the St. Clair FFA Chapter. The officers and members are eager to continue building on this momentum and showcase their hard work and dedication throughout the year.

How safe is our tap water?

Have you ever thought about how safe our city water really is? What does it do to our family, pets, and our flowers inside and outside the house?

How often do you need to clean the scale from your faucets and showerheads? If the water does this to these items, what does it do to our skin and our scalps?

What chemicals do they really put in our water to supposedly make it safe for us to drink? Doctors recommend that we drink eight glasses of water a day, so we are putting all these chemicals in our bodies.

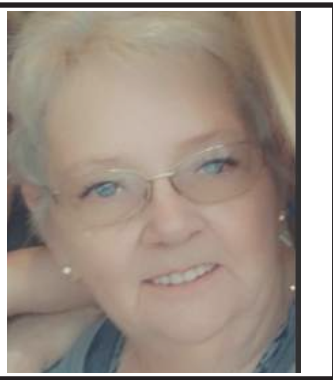
We make coffee with faucet water and drink it that way. Then they tell us to clean our coffee pots to get the scale out of them. How do we get the “scale” out of our bodies?

We take showers with the city water and then told to clean the deposits off the shower walls with all the shower washes that are on the market these days. More chemicals which we can’t get completely off the walls so when we shower, they wash down the walls, onto the floor of the tubs which are then soaked into our feet through our skin. How do we get the chemicals off our skin? Just to wash with whatever we choose,

Mother Knows BEST

By Kathy Richardson

Copyright 2024 by Kathryn Richardson



we still need the water to wash the soap off.

We wash our hair in the shower, then rinse it out, but we still have used water from the faucets, then we have trouble with our hair and our scalps. Maybe that is why they put so much crap in our shampoos to get rid of the scum that stays in our hair.

Next, they sell us body lotions for our dry skin and nails. The products are endless. All the medicines they sell us for skin and stomach problems. Who’s making all the money here?

Then we wash clothes with city water which also leaves these chemicals on our clothes. Our detergents and fabric softeners have chemicals in to get clothes clean and soft but need the water to wash them with. Manufacturers just keep adding more chemicals to their

products to get our clothes clean and soft.

Then we brush our teeth with the same water and toothpaste. Have you ever read the warning on the back of your toothpaste? You should check it out and not just take my word for it. Then we have the mouthwashes to rinse out our mouths with. More chemicals!

Then, we water our plants in our houses with the city water in which we eventually find a white coating on the dirt. Where do you think this comes from other than the chemicals in our city’s water.

Have you ever needed to water your vegetable garden during a dry summer? Last year, my son was watering his with the garden hose in which if he got water on the leaves of his pumpkin they would get yellow spots on them. He finally decided that it was the city water

that was doing it.

Many of us use countertop water purifiers to run our water through for our coffee pots and for drinking. Many of us buy bottled water to drink and use for our coffee. Many coffee manufacturers recommend using distilled water for their coffee pots. Check your instructions to be sure. The problem with buying bottled water, we have all those empty plastic bottles to deal with which recycling and environmentalists are complaining about.

Many of us have water softeners which are connected to our hot water systems so that helps somewhat with the water problems but not our drinking water problems. Also, many of us, who live alone, don’t use enough water to constitute having water softeners or are unable to fill the containers with salt.

They also make shower heads now that filter the water for you to take showers with.

It is a total frustration that we must live with so many chemicals in our society from the crops in the fields, to the manufacturing of our foods, and to the basics of water in our homes.

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From the smallest Districts to County-Wide MAPS

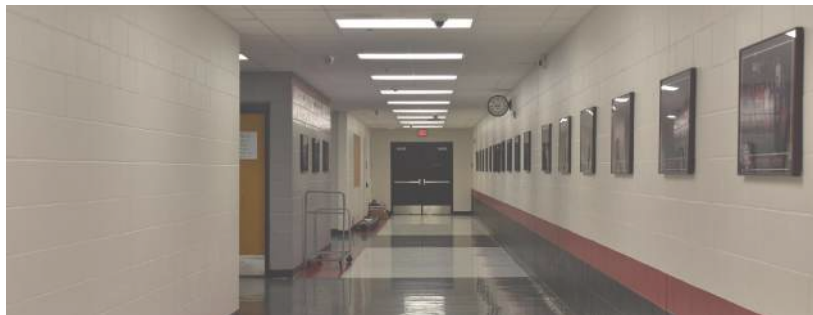
JORDAN CARRILLO
Staff Writer

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). 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.

Last week’s issue of the Journal expanded on the protocols pertaining to “lockdown drills” at St. Clair (ISD #77). While those protocols are fitting for a smaller district operating under one building, this reporter pondered if a large district with multiple buildings spanned across grade levels offered a set of different procedures in order to ensure the safety of students and staff.

MAPS or Mankato Area Public Schools has a near county-wide purview of approximately 7800 students across 16 institutions—10 elementary, 3 high, 2 middle, and a Pre-K Center for Learning. In many ways, MAPS utilizes similar protocols compared to smaller districts like St. Clair or JWP; however, where they differ is the language and technology used to



carry out their procedures. I sat down with two notable authorities with MAPS, Scott Kaminski and Melanie Helling, on September 10. Kaminski serves as the Director of Facilities and Safety while Helling serves as Director of Communications, although she has also served as an elementary teacher for MAPS.

Over the past few years, MAPS has made a dedicated effort to improve its safety and security for its 16 locations; a 105 million dollar referendum passed in 2023, granting MAPS the opportunity to install new security camera systems, reconfigure the main offices at several sites, construct vestibules to limit unwarranted access, and integrate a new safety software called Raptor. While the ins and outs of the technology are a bit above my paygrade, Raptor is able to send out communications to any of the 16 locations at the push of a button; they can notify the respective authorities about an upcoming drill and monitor the situation from afar. They also send out notices to families when these drills are performed in an effort to remain completely transparent. Additionally, several locations also utilize their own SROs on site for an increased presence of authority.

Much like St. Clair, MAPS follows the same State guidelines of facilitating 11 total drills over the span of a school year with a fire drill occurring in the first 10 days. Frankly, much of the conversation with Kaminski and Helling mirrored talking points I had with Superintendent Collins, but the stark contrast is the language used to describe these “lockdown” drills. Unlike St. Clair, MAPS uses a Standard Response Protocol or SRP to outline the necessary steps during a specific drill. Instead of using terms like “soft” or “hard” lockdowns, the first three stages of prevention are Hold, Secure, and Lockdown.

Kaminski is usually on site during the SRP drills while Helling sends out announcements via Raptor with a corresponding message for administration, teachers, and students to follow. A hold is similar to what St. Clair would call a “soft” lockdown in that there may not be an immediate threat, but a potential medical emergency or maintenance disruption will require students to clear the hallways or remain in classrooms. The Secure stage is closer to a “hard” lockdown as criminal activity nearby or even a wild animal on site sparks a response to lock the exterior

doors and restrict student movement. It was noted that Dakota Meadows engaged in the Secure stage on the very first day of the 2025 school year due to a “rabid raccoon” running wild. Not something you see everyday, but it warranted the appropriate response until the vermin was dispatched. Lastly, the Lockdown stage plays out identically to St. Clair’s; an imminent threat will expect students to remain silent and out of sight until the all clear is sounded. There are two additional stages to the SRP, Evacuation and Shelter, which are more reserved for fire and tornado drills.

With the updated infrastructure and technology, MAPS has thankfully yet to implement a true Lockdown protocol according to Kaminski. There have been a few Secures due to threats, including a swatting attempt at Mankato West, but overall, the district has been able to maintain a high level of safety and security for its students. At the time of this report, the Annunciation shooting heightened awareness for school districts nationwide, but much like St. Clair, MAPS did not receive any increased concern from parents, staff, or administration.

That speaks to their commitment to putting safety at the forefront of their decision-making, and Kaminski bolstered that statement even further. “Safety and security is what parents wanted, and MAPS has maintained transparency every step of the way. Our primary goal is to keep students and staff safe.”

St. Clair FFA members volunteer at Safety Camp for third graders

By RICARDO MORENO JR.
Staff Writer

The St. Clair FFA’s first event of the 25-26 school year took place at the Blue Earth County Fair grounds on Thursday September 18th. FFA members from Maple River, Lake Crystal, and St. Clair volunteered their time to the Blue Earth Safety Camp for third graders. There was safety stations stationed about the fair grounds themed around different branches of agriculture work and the methods, and smarts, the kids should know to keep themselves safe. It was a fairly nice day on the fairgrounds, so the St. Clair FFA didn’t have to worry about too much something getting stuck to their boots and shoes in the barn. Their station was animal safety, showing the third graders how to interact with cows, chickens, goats, and pigs.

FFA advisor McKinsy Rew supervised the students as they took a part-time role as the teacher. She, other FFA advisors, and community volunteers prepared snacks and water, a lunch, and the motivation for the FFA students to do their best to make the third graders’ visit a memorable one. Minnesota state law enforcement was present at the gate, and a group of third graders gave a pleasant goodbye as one of the officers left after a shift change. The safety camp was scheduled

from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. so the St. Clair FFA would be teaching a lot of students that day.

St. Clair’s FFA acquired many new members this school year and three of them were participating in their very first event. Their team of 15 divided themselves into four groups and each was responsible for a different animal. The FFA shared facts about the animals and some hands-on practice handling them. One of the third graders was delighted at the sight of the goats and said, “Bro looks cute. Look at his eyes!”. The chicken station taught the kids uncommon knowledge like how chickens take dirt baths to protect their feathers. A little girl was excited to see chickens again and shared with the FFA members that, “My grandpa used to have chickens, but they died.” At every station, the third graders found something to smile about and the FFA was a part of each one.

The St. Clair FFA Cyclones’ next event will be on October 7th. They will be making the trip to Fairmont to compete in the region 8 horse judging competition. Middle school members of the FFA make up most of the St. Clair representation at Fairmont. The competitors are excited for their chance to show their knowledge, and the FFA will be there to support them and continue to offer its members opportunities like these.

Autumn Acres from pg 1

or the classic Halloween prank of smashing one on a neighbor’s porch.

While the pumpkins were the notable star of the show, the Fall Festival also showcased a variety of vendors looking to sell their wares. The “Old Schoolhouse” acted as a general store with snacks and beverages, but there would be plenty of fall-themed attire and doodads for patrons to purchase. Nearly a dozen or so vendor tents, like J&E Soap Company, Crochet Critters, Bug & Bean, and others sold their handcrafted creations...one vendor in particular leaned into the autumnal vibe of the event to create large leaf-like structures that would make any landscape stand out.

Amongst the chaos of collecting pumpkins, traversing

a corn maze, or cozying up on a hayride, the main event of the Fall Festival came in the shape of a magic show by the Kevin Hall Magic Show. This would be the first act of its kind at Autumn Acres, and Blee believed in bringing a “sense of variety” to the event. Hall, nicknamed the Magic Maniac, has been performing magic for 25 years, and has seen tremendous success over his long career, including an appearance on Penn & Teller: Fool Us as well as being a semi-finalist on America’s Got Talent. He and his wife Janet put on a family friendly show, and use humor to great effect throughout; there would be the occasional taunt and barb, but the Autumn Acres audience seemed to take it in stride.

What’s most surprising to learn about Hall is that he is a late-bloomer when it comes to the world of magic. Although he grew up in a family of entertainers, Hall ditched the stage to pursue a corporate job

designing computers. It wasn’t until he visited a magic shop in Colorado that inspired him toward one doozy of a career change. After a few months of rehearsal, his first performance would be for a Christmas party for the Minnesota State Patrol... the rest, as they say, is history.

Before the official show, Hall



would perform some sleight of hand for an eager group of young children. He would pull

several dollar bills out of his pocket and promise to transform them into 20s, but instead of Andrew Jacksons, the bills would somehow turn into the illustrious “one million dollar bill.” Not sure if Autumn Acres could make change for that, Kevin. The kids seemed to delight in the magic act, although one child thought she had Hall figure it out...only for him to turn those dollar bills into measly coins.

His 45-minute set featured a lot of the classic magic acts like pulling random objects, including an oversized straw, out of a hat, picking the correct card which was chosen at random, and Janet even had her moments to shine with seamless wardrobe changes so fast the camera couldn’t capture it.

Several volunteers from the crowd, usually small children, would join Hall on stage for his acts, and they giggled at the chance of being a part of the performance. Of course, there



was humor throughout and the finale placed Janet inside a wooden box called the “Chamber of Love” and was no bigger than your average cup-board. Kevin then placed several spears inside the box that made for a tight squeeze, but Janet appeared not only unharmed, but adorned in an elegant dress that was reminiscent of vintage Vegas.

From the pumpkins to the people-pleasing magic show, the fifth annual Fall Festival was a resounding success. It takes a

ton of manpower to create this beautiful space, well over 20 volunteers, and Blee couldn’t be more grateful for the support she received, “It’s such a huge effort from all of us to put the Festival together. Growing the pumpkins is the easy part, but preparing the farm is the labor of love we want to bring to so many people.” Autumn Acres will be hosting more fall-centric events in the coming weeks.

Board approves max preliminary levy certification

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

It’s been a busy start to the school year for many area districts. The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton school board received numerous reports on Monday, September 15, nearly all of which were positive. Superintendent Jeremy Erler started his portion of the meeting by saying it’s been a “great start to the school year.”

The most prominent part of the meeting was the approval of the levy certification. Business Manager Wendy Dieker explained the steps that led the district to its current stage in the tax levy process. Long story short, as is usually the tradition with JWP and other districts, the district was looking to approve the maximum levy, which, as of the report’s date of September 12, was slightly over \$2 million, down from \$2.5 million the previous year.

That number is not concrete; as Dieker explained, there are still calculations to work out and reports to send to the Minnesota Department of Education. “It’s lots of back and forth. We now have until September 30 to finalize the number. There are

lots of changes still coming.” Residents within the district can expect to see what portion of property taxes will go towards JWP in mid-November when the county sends out tax statements. Everyone is invited to attend the Truth in Taxation meeting on December 1 at 6 p.m., where a public hearing will be held on the levy.

The school board then had to approve breakfast and lunch prices again, as the state legislature had released its standards for pricing just a week after the previous meeting. The changes only affected the prices of adult breakfast and lunch; adults must pay \$2.50 for a first breakfast

JWP School Board

and \$2.50 for a second breakfast, and \$5.25 for a first lunch and \$5.25 for a second lunch.

The only other items in new business were the approval of the certified and non-certified seniority lists. However, there was a rare occasion during the discussion on the consent agenda where they decided to postpone “indefinitely” an approval of the overdose medication policy. This was one of eight policies under the consent agenda that required legislative changes to align with state law. They decided to postpone indefinitely because they wanted to have further discussion on the policy and better understand it.

Outside of that, Erler’s report was the only other part of the agenda that took up time. He shared that the Chromebook situation for this year was going “incredibly well,” with 80 long-term rentals of the computers set up for the school year. “There are another 60 or 70 checked out daily, if need be,” he added. Five were sent back for “warranty repairs” due to faulty webcams.

He then shared the numbers on student involvement in several activities; 19 members of JWP were in the crossing guard team, while two students were joining the Gopher Conference athlete leadership team as JWP representatives. Three juniors

and three sophomores also applied to be student council representatives. The applications will be open until October 3. The school also held its first fire drill, which he shared was successful.

He then explained that the new reading curriculum for the elementary students was more rigorous this year than the previous curriculum. It’s been yielding great results, and he reported that the teachers “seem to be enjoying it.” “I sat in on a few classes with them,” he said. “The vocabulary, especially in third grade, has gone well. One example is I heard the students use the word ‘meander’ properly.”

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m. The next regular meeting will be October 20.

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Managing risk is the name of the grains game this harvest season

By AgWeek

WEST FARGO, N.D. — When World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates and Crop Production reports came out from the U.S. Department of Agriculture on Sept. 12, the corn, soybean and wheat markets had a somewhat unusual reaction to what most viewed as so-so or even bad news: They went up.

The reports, while trimming yield estimates for corn and soybeans, also reported higher acreage for the two crops, leading to overall slightly higher production for both. Wheat also received some not-great news, with world wheat supplies increased. Market analysts had been expecting something in the way of a neutral report from USDA, which was true for everything except a bigger-than-expected jump in corn acreage. There was mixed news on demand for the crops, and overall, the reports were viewed as neutral to bad.

But markets for all three crops continued a slow climb into the early parts of the week after the reports, an indication of how much remains unknown about the crop sizes and the need for the grains.

"There's just so much uncertainty," said Jody Miller, president and market analyst at Northern Ag.

Amid that uncertainty, market experts are urging farmers to minimize their risk and protect themselves going into harvest season.

Where will markets go from here

"Do we think that the market has a lot left to go down?"



I would have to say, I hope not. But we don't know," Miller said.

Allison Thompson, owner and market analyst at The Money Farm, said actual harvest results will make a bigger difference in the markets than USDA estimates. She anticipates USDA will be slow to reduce yield or production numbers, as that's typical, "especially when it can be friendly to the trade."

But she's optimistic about markets, particularly because of solid exports for corn and wheat.

"Soybeans have been a little bit slow because of China and tariffs, and that seems to be capturing a lot of our headlines right now," she said.

Miller said with China basically cutting off purchases of U.S. soybeans, there will be logistical problems with harvest.

"There's going to be a big bottleneck situation with the U.S. soybean harvest this year. It's already been evident down in

the South, and it's just going to continue to grow as we go up to the North. It's actually going to be worse than the North, I would assume, because of the most of our soybeans being exported off the PNW," she said, referring to sales through the Pacific Northwest. "You talk to any elevator manager around, and they're very forthcoming about the issues that there is at this time."

Miller said she generally recommends soybeans be sold off the field, "primarily because we're generally able to lock in a better basis throughout the summertime and have it become more attractive. And then also, soybeans aren't hit with as many discounts as some of the other crops are at harvest time."

But this year is a different story, with unfavorable basis levels for soybeans. Add to that the amount of grain storage lost in storms over the summer,

and some farmers may need to rethink how they're going to market.

"Try to make sure that you can hold as much of the soybeans as possible," Miller said.

She said producers with wheat in storage will need to weigh pros and cons of moving that out to make room for soybeans, and they'll need to find out if their local elevators are even taking wheat right now.

"So that becomes an issue if you haven't moved it already," she said. "If you have a grain bagger, that's going to be a way to maybe help with some of this situation."

She's hopeful that most producers already have come up with a backup plan.

Tips for minimizing risk

For soybeans, a trade deal with China would go a long way toward improving the market situation. But even if a deal gets

made, it's not going to ease the local market issues immediately, Thompson explained. Basis isn't likely to improve.

"We know we have a decent crop, especially in our area, which predominantly goes to the West Coast for that export market," she said. "I think we are still going to be dealing with a glut of supply in our area, and so without any trains booked or any big export business coming into the West Coast, it is going to hinder our basis."

With that, the best bet for protecting risk is buying futures contracts, not hoping the cash side straightens out, she said.

"If futures do get a boost from a rally, a lot of times, we don't have the train still booked. They still don't necessarily need the supply right up front when an announcement is made. So basis could theoretically even get worse on that news alone," she explained.

Miller suggests turning some grain sales into minimum price contracts.

"So that would be either buying puts or selling the grain — hopefully you previously did and aren't selling it at these levels — and buying some call options to possibly re-own it, if we think that that is going to be the best avenue for you," she said. "At the end, if you spend a little bit of money to buy a put option, or if you sell your grain and you want to re-own it, buying a call option, I mean, spending a little bit of money might not be, you know, the worst idea, if it's something that works into your plan."

Thompson suggests re-ownership on the corn side, too.

"The calls are relatively cheap, but I definitely go out to the March contracts, buy you a little bit more time, and they're actually relatively inexpensive, so that's a good option, and spring wheat too. I mean, that market's been awful to look at. It just continues to chug lower, and we've heard basis is not getting any better either. But keep watching those deferred contracts," she advised.

Basis typically gets better toward the first of the year, so she said December or March are good time frames to look at for locking in basis contracts.

"I think we're just dealing with some harvest pressure here, still on the spring wheat side, overseas. Stuff obviously doesn't help us out either with lower prices on the global scale. But ultimately, I do think we are trying to find some support here in spring wheat. It's a good opportunity to start looking at positions for the long side," she said.

Life in the Country

Minnesota farmers face challenges as farm incomes continue to decline

By MPR News

Minnesota farmers are bracing themselves while planning for the 2025 crop year after experiencing declining net farm incomes in 2024.

According to new data from the University of Minnesota and Minnesota State, the median net farm income for Minnesota farms statewide dropped to \$21,964 in 2024 — the lowest level this century. Farm incomes have dropped significantly since 2022, leaving many farmers in a challenging financial position.

“We saw not only challenged prices, but also challenged yields given a very wet planting season and then just the challenges that then developed during the year with some drier conditions towards the end of the year,” said Pauline Van Nurden, economist at the University of Minnesota Extension’s Center for Farm Financial Management.

Van Nurden said the hope is that crops can get planted on time this spring, without abnormally high rainfall or floods keeping farmers from planting.

“Hopefully we’ll see a more normal spring where crops can get planted in a timely fashion,” she said. “There certainly is uncertainty out there, and there’s just a lot of factors at play that feed into that. I think farmers are pushing the pencil to their own



personal numbers and trying to make the right decisions for their farming operation.”

Crop producers experienced some of the most financial difficulties in 2024, according to the report. The median net farm income for crop producers was nearly at zero dollars. They lost about 25 percent of working capital last year and dipped into cash reserves to make loan payments.

Cash crop sale prices reduced 20 percent or more for major crops in Minnesota. The outlook for 2025 doesn’t look much

better, with many producers facing negative margins and challenges in securing yearly financing.

Livestock, dairy and beef producers had a better financial year, though. Livestock producers saw improved profitability across all types of livestock operations in the state due to lower feed costs and higher livestock commodity pricing.

Dairy and beef producers also experienced improved profitability. Diversified farms fared better financially than specialized crop

farms in 2024.

The latest U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Income Forecast predicts an increase in net cash farm income for this year, and relief is expected from supplemental and ad hoc disaster relief government program assistance. Despite this, farm profitability in 2025 in Minnesota is still uncertain with tariffs, high interest rates and general economic conditions.

Van Nurden said many growers and producers are preparing for the cyclical nature of profitability on their farming

operations and are navigating the agricultural landscape the best they can, though the stress isn’t easy on them. She adds it’s important that there are options available and that it’s not all “doom and gloom.”

“I always like to remind people of some of the options and some things that growers and farmers can do to manage through situations like this,” she said. “So digging into the cost of production for their specific farming operation, the crops, the livestock they’re growing, looking at opportunities to trim

expenses just even a little bit can make a difference. Taking advantage of marketing opportunities, and just having a plan, and monitoring that plan throughout the year, and then just adjusting as needed.”

The report includes data representing about 13 percent of the state’s farms with gross incomes over \$250,000 annually, with 2,198 participants in the Minnesota State Farm Business Management programs and 115 members of the Southwest Farm Business Management Association.

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Life in the Country

50 years and counting for Frechette Trucking

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

When you've survived as a business for over 25 years, you know you're doing something right. But when you survive adversity like Frechette Trucking has to make it half a century, it's a clear testament to how hard work as a local business pays off.

Frechette Trucking is owned by Rick Frechette, along with his wife, Michelle, who have been the owners since 2008. The story of this business, however, begins with Rick's father, Wrey, who founded the company in 1975.

"Back then, we mostly hauled grain," Frechette explained. "We had one or two trucks to start with. I've been around the trucking part of it pretty much my whole life."

The large buildings that occupy the Janesville business also didn't exist. Frechette claimed that back in 1975, there wasn't even a short to work out of. If a big rig needed an oil change, it happened either in the parking lot or at home. The shop was constructed in 1983, and the truck washing station was added on about a decade later.

Things changed for the better for Wrey when he happened to meet a forester named Donna while hauling grain through Missoula, MT, in 1976. According to an article from the Janesville Argus written around 2008, Donna had felt the "pull in Janesville," and the two married later that year. She also learned to drive a truck in only three months.

Meanwhile, Rick got his CDL in 1983. Although he had intended to pursue an engineering degree in college and attended for three years, he never completed it. While he enjoys what he does now, he wishes he had gone back to finish his degree.

The intention was for Rick to take over the business from Wrey in 2005. However, Wrey had been diagnosed with cancer, and he passed away in 2006. Rick worked with his mom for a couple of years before he and his wife, Michelle, officially took it over in 2008.

These days, it's less about transporting grain and more about hauling pigs. Like most farmers and workers in the agriculture industry, it's busy nearly every part of the year. However, while some farmers adjust to the winter, Rick Frechette and his crew



Rick Frechette, owner of Frechette Trucking, stands proudly next to his Truck. (Journal Photo By Mike Roy)

He also feels that the trucking industry's value to the overall food chain is underestimated. "We're critical to everyone," he said. "Even during Covid, we were running full steam ahead. Trucks not only deliver live animals but also the foods that you see in grocery stores."

On the other hand, it's not always easy to find workers. "It's hard to find qualified drivers," he said. "Many in the younger generations are more interested in working on computers. But it's also a matter of finding those who want to work in general."

So, how can the trucking industry not only survive but thrive and incentivize hard work? Higher wages, Frechette said. "I think wages have to come up," he said. "Right now, with the hours we run, it's difficult to find guys to work. The only way you can attract employees is with better wages."

At least in the case of Frechette Trucking, they have had loyal employees, some of whom have worked for the company for 30 years. "We try to make it as appealing as possible," he shared. "Plus, you're working with smaller communities. We might not offer as well as bigger companies, but we do as much as we can."

As the business turns 50 this year, Frechette is hopeful that the company will still run strong for years to come. As the Argus article on him taking ownership of the business rightly claimed, no one could replace his father, Wrey. But Rick has done a great job continuing the family legacy.



keep on trucking — literally. "I usually haul every day," he explained. "I'm one of ten drivers. I get up at about 2 a.m. and then haul feeder pigs." In the winter, though, Frechette usually gets in some part-time help. That allows him to focus on maintaining his

trucks as needed. One of the main stops he makes is in Northfield, where there is a farm operation with over a million pigs. At its peak, Frechette claims there are close to a million and a half pigs. "They are 50-pound pigs, and we haul a majority of them," he said. "They go from the nursery to a finisher."

Although that's one of their most frequent stops, they also service barns around the area. "We visit barns all over the region," he said. "We have some in Iowa, others in Wisconsin."

One of Frechette's favorite parts about being in the trucking business is the clientele

he meets. "We work with about 250 producers," he explained.



"I deal with people every day. However, I don't usually interact with the office employees. It's more of a hands-on business. I

can work directly with the producers. The people I meet doing this are wonderful."

While Frechette Trucking has stood in the face of some personal adversity, it's always a challenge to change with the times. Many may not understand the trucking business. One challenge Rick pointed out was that those who don't drive trucks often don't understand the sheer size of the big rigs.

"We haul up to 80,000 pounds," he elaborated. "People on the highway don't always understand that we need the room to make turns. We also can't stop as quickly as a car."

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Honoring Native Tradition while remembering the fallen



By **JORDAN CARRILLO**
Staff Writer

As the ceremonial drums echoed throughout the fairgrounds, emotions flowed through many, including myself, during the 53rd Annual Mahkato Wacipi.

Located at Land of Memories Park (Dakota Wokiksuyue Makoce), the Mahkato Wacipi is a three-day (Sept 19-21) event that is both a celebration of Native American culture and customs as well as a time of remembrance of the mass hanging of 38 Dakota, a dark blemish in Mankato's history, but part of it nonetheless.

For the uninitiated, the Wacipi is more commonly referred to as a traditional powwow, although that term may be a tad bit outdated to some. Each day of the Wacipi provides a number of activities, history lessons, food, and wares for patrons to peruse and partake in, but the Grand Entry is the epitome of Native pride for several midwestern nations like the Dakota, Lakota, Cheyenne, Sioux, Ojibwe, and others. It's the collective effort

of all these nations banding together for a weekend that makes the Wacipi so memorable; there is no room nor time to worry about the differences between the nations, just one shared space to honor a shared history.

Attending the final day of the Wacipi brought people out in droves as the main fairgrounds were a bustling lively space. Teepees were scattered about the grounds and one family began to

assemble their own...you tend to forget how large these structures are, but many of them towered

as tall as the trees the wooden bases were carved from. Near the entrance of the fairgrounds, two informational tents highlighted the long and sometimes complicated history of the Native people, mainly the Dakota nation, who lived in Minnesota before it was ever a state. From the French fur trade of the 1600s to the broken treaties of the 1850s which led to mass relocation and assimilation, educational



resources in the form of a coloring book not only gave families a chance to flex their

creative muscle, but learn certain words and phrases in the Dakota language. Later in the day, elders from the Dakota nation shared stories passed down over generations, and many curious youth and adults gathered in a personalized "powwow" circle to hear a fraction of a nation's history. Another tent set up by Jeffers Petroglyphs showcased a series of stone carvings found around the Midwest; these carvings were mischaracterized as "artwork" for many years according to the tent's organizer, but actually served as a "crucial charting of history, sacred stories, and family legacies."

In addition to the history tent, the Wacipi also offered a rich variety of vendors and food for eventgoers. Several locations whipped up their version of frybread, a doughy Native

medley of Native wares like herbal salves, oils, and soaps to dreamcatchers, moccasins, and animal furs.

Another standout detail during the Wacipi was the ceremonial regalia that many Native performers and supporters wore throughout the day. Each nation had its own unique regalia to wear, but they all shared immense sense of pride and tradition with each step; most could be heard before seen as bells and chimes clanged together with each step.

Moments before the Grand Entry started, an Ojibwe and Lakota stood side-by-side as the two leaders of the ceremony. The Lakota carried what was called the "Family Flag" a representation of the seven nations who battled and defeated Lt. Colonel Custer at the Battle

of Little Bighorn of 1876; it's a common tradition for this particular flag to be dragged during the ceremony. Emcee Jerry Dearly opened the Grand Entry with a Lakota song and prayer then the Mazakute and Upper Sioux Singers introduced the nations as they entered the main circle. Native veterans hoisted the respective flags of their service, and Dearly gave a touching message of respect and admiration for them, calling them the "keepers and protectors of our history." The moment overwhelmed many in attendance, including me, and tears flowed as the veterans marched to the center with pride. Men and women of different nations followed to perform celebratory dances; their bells and chimes mixed with the rhythmic beating of drums to create a cacophony of sound that once again struck the heartstrings of those in attendance. The Native youth entered last, and represented the future preservation of these traditions and customs that have endured so much. After the Grand Entry, individual nations participated in a series of celebratory dances that honored their traditions and patrons marvelled at the colorful



garb, the rhythmic beats, and the pride worn on each dancer's faces. The Mahkato Wacipi is a longstanding tradition that serves as a time for celebration, but also solemn remembrance of Mankato's dark past. While much of the weekend is filled with music, humor, and camaraderie between nations, highlighting the complicated history of the area is what makes it so memorable to so many.

delicacy that is simple in flavor yet so versatile that it can be topped with anything the heart desires like hamburgers, pizza, even tacos. The Sleepy Bison Grill leaned heavy into its name-sake protein with brats & hot dogs that boasted a deeper beefy flavor that was counterbalanced by a heap of sweet onions. There would also be more contemporary grub to chow down on like kettle corn, snowcones, even BBQ. Vendors offered a

of the Little Bighorn of 1876; it's a common tradition for this particular flag to be dragged during the ceremony. Emcee Jerry Dearly opened the Grand Entry with a Lakota song and prayer then the Mazakute and Upper Sioux Singers introduced the nations as they entered the main circle. Native veterans hoisted the respective flags of their service, and Dearly gave a touching message of respect and

4-H Youth exhibit their best at the 2025 Minnesota State Fair

St. Paul, MN - Minnesota 4-H'ers from 87 counties arrived with over 2,671 animals at the 2025 "Great Minnesota Get-Together" for this year's 4-H livestock encampment, which was held Wednesday, Aug. 20 through Sunday, Aug. 24.

Minnesota 4-H'ers have been preparing for this event all summer long. Members consider several components when deciding to exhibit livestock, including selection and preparation of the animal; educational programming; scholarship applications; and participation at county fairs. Results from the Minnesota 4-H State Fair Livestock Shows include:

- **Beef**
- Brielle Gunsolus - Commercial Junior Yearling - 2nd place, purple ribbon; Beef showmanship participant
- Paige Gunsolus - Registered Junior Yearling - 3rd place, purple ribbon; Beef showmanship participant
- Jax Gereau-Mulcahey - Registered Fall Calf - 1st place, purple ribbon; Beef showmanship participant
- Paige Johnson - Registered Junior Yearling - 2nd place, Beef showmanship participant
- Violet Jewison - Registered Spring Calf - 2nd place, Beef showmanship participant
- Addison Kelm - Registered Junior Yearling - 6th place, Beef showmanship participant
- Mackenzie Levos - Slick-Shorn Steer - 3rd place, Beef showmanship participant
- Peyton Sommers - Market Heifer - 3rd place, Beef showmanship participant
- Olivia Johnson - Registered Maine Anjou Steer - 9th place, Beef showmanship participant
- **Dairy**

- Claire Bartelt - Registered Winter Calf - 5th place, Blue Ribbon
- Charley Kietzman - Jersey Junior Yearling - 1st place, Purple Ribbon
- **Dairy Goat**
- Rylie Cromwell - Lamancha Milking Doe Three or Four Years old - 1st place, Best in Show Senior Doe, Champion LaMancha Senior Doe; Dairy Goat Showmanship Intermediate purple ribbon, Reserve Champion Intermediate Showmanship 2
- Alexis Myers - Lamancha Milking Doe Five years and older - 2nd Place; Reserve Champion Dairy Goat Showmanship Advanced
- Jacob Klaras - Nigerian Dwarf Senior Doe Kid - 2nd place, Reserve Champion Nigerian Dwarf Junior Doe; Dairy Goat Showmanship Senior purple ribbon
- Memphis Schlaak - Nigerian Dwarf Senior Doe Kid - 4th place; Dairy Goat Showmanship Senior blue ribbon
- Kenley Gehrke - Nigerian Dwarf Dry Yearling Doe - 3rd place; Dairy Goat Showmanship Senior purple ribbon
- **Meat Goat**
- Adler Bethke - Dairy Market Wether - 2nd place, Reserve Champion Lightweight Dairy Market Wether; Dairy Wether showmanship participant
- Ty Krautkremer - Meat Market Doe 1st place - purple ribbon, Reserve Champion Heavyweight Market Doe, Reserve Champion Overall Market Doe; Market Goat and Wether Dam showmanship participant
- Sam Feldkamp - Junior Yearling Meat Breeding Doe - 2nd place purple ribbon; Meat Breeding Doe showmanship participant
- Olivia Eaton - Senior Yearling Meat Breeding Doe - green ribbon; Meat Breeding Doe showmanship participant
- **Rabbit**

- August Bethke - Dutch Senior Doe - blue ribbon, Showmanship Finalist blue ribbon
- Luke Feldkamp - Flemish Giant Senior Doe - blue ribbon, Showmanship Finalist blue ribbon
- Isabel Berg - Holland Lop Senior Buck - blue ribbon
- Audrey Gray - Holland Lop Senior Buck - blue ribbon
- Kaden Peirce - Mini Rex Senior Buck - red ribbon
- Brody Gray - Small Breed Purebreds Senior Buck - blue ribbon
- **Sheep**
- Avary Hopper - Registered Yearling Ewe - 5th place; Lamb Lead Senior - green ribbon; Breeding Ewe Showmanship participant
- Cole Gartner - Market Lamb Black Face - 6th place
- Kelton Peirce - Market Lamb Black Face - 8th place
- Hannah Sommers - Market Lamb Black Face - 2nd place purple ribbon
- Karley Hamilton - Market Lamb White Face - 2nd place purple ribbon, Reserve Champion White Face Market Lamb
- Landen Haefs - Wether Dam White and Speckle Face Ewe Lamb - 7th place
- Avary Hopper - Breeding Ewe Showmanship Senior, green ribbon
- **Swine**
- Jacob Knutson - Duroc Registered February Gilt - 3rd place
- Hadley Roeker - Crossbred Breeding Gilt - 2nd place; 3rd place Gilt Showperson
- **Intermediate Division**
- Jaiden Johnson - Market Barrow Berkshire Registered - 6th place
- Kayla Knutson - Market Barrow Crossbred - 9th place
- Owen Schlaak - Market Barrow Crossbred - 7th place
- Oriana Jewison - Market Gilt - 6th place
- Mikayla Lewer - Market Gilt - 5th place

- Jacob Lewer - Market Gilt - 9th place
- Aiden Merritt - Market Gilt - 2nd place
- Aaron Merritt - Market Gilt - 5th place

Education is integral in the "learn by doing" philosophy of 4-H. As part of the educational component, Minnesota 4-H requires every youth participating in the livestock encampment to participate in a livestock interview. Examples of the interview process include an online knowledge test, skill-a-thons, and personal interviews about their project area. Youth from Waseca County who were recognized for their knowledge with interview callbacks included:

- Beef - Olivia Johnson
- Dairy Goat - Alexis Myers, Jacob Klaras (Interview Champion)
- Rabbit - August Bethke, Luke Feldkamp
- Sheep - Karley Hamilton
- Swine - Jaiden Johnson, Mikayla Lewer, Oriana Jewison

Along with interviews, all 4-H youth participating in livestock programming are required to complete the Livestock Quality Assurance and Ethics (LQA&E) Training. Through this certification, youth are educated on biosecurity, educating the public on the role of livestock, and caring for their animal's welfare. Quality animals, quality kids, and quality buyers made the 46th 4-H Purple Ribbon Auction, the annual parade of champion beef, lambs, goats, swine and poultry set 8 new record prices. This year the 4-H Purple Ribbon Auction went over \$1,300,000 in additional premium dollars from 115 head for Minnesota 4-H youth and Animal Science programs. A huge thank you for all of the sponsors throughout the whole state in support of the exhibitors. The Minnesota 4-H Purple Ribbon Auction is spon-

sored by the Minnesota Livestock Breeders Association each year. Ty Krautkremer of the Homegrown Explorers 4-H Club with his Reserve Champion Market Doe was selected to participate in the 4-H Purple Ribbon Auction. Additionally, Hannah Sommers of the Riverside Ramblers 4-H Club with her purple ribbon market lamb was also selected to participate in the 4-H Purple Ribbon Auction. 4-H not only produces purple ribbon animals, but more importantly is focused on producing purple ribbon kids.

4-H youth from across Minnesota again showcased their learning in the 4-H Building at the Minnesota State Fair. Over 160 demonstrations were delivered and over 1,900 general exhibits were on display. In a continuation of the virtual state showcase format developed in 2020, over 110 of the general exhibits were judged virtually this year.

Throughout the year, 4-H youth select project areas that reflect personal areas of interest and pursue hands-on learning in both self-directed and guided environments. The results of their learning are exhibited at county fairs and other showcase events across the state. A collection of the best exhibits from each fair and showcase are brought to presentations in the 4-H Building at the Minnesota State Fair.

Exhibiting project work and delivering public presentations at the state fair provides youth an opportunity to showcase their achievements and continue learning through interactive conference judging with project experts and team experiences.

- 4-H members who participated in Public Presentation contests during the state fair included:
- August Bethke - Livestock Demonstration: "How to Handle a Rabbit" - blue ribbon
- Rylie Cromwell - Livestock

Demonstration: "Review of the ADGA Scorecard, Parts of the Goat" - red ribbon

- Audrey Gray - Livestock Demonstration: "How to show a Holland Lop Rabbit" - blue ribbon
- Brody Gray - Livestock Demonstration: "How to show a Himalayan Rabbit" - blue ribbon
- Jacob Klaras - Livestock Demonstration: "How to and Why you Band a Dairy Wether" - red ribbon

The presentations, exhibits and presence of 4-H youth from diverse communities across Minnesota brought renewed and welcomed energy to the 4-H Building. Waseca County had youth participating in exhibit judging in the following areas:

- Audrey Gray - Clothing and Textiles - Constructed Clothing - Blue ribbon; Fashion
- Revue - Participation ribbon
- Isabel Berg - Clothing and Textiles - Upcycled Clothing - Red ribbon; Fashion Rebut participant
- Waldorf Peppy Peppers 4-H Club - Club Banner - Blue ribbon
- Homegrown Explorers 4-H Club - Club Banner - Purple ribbon
- Kinley Thostenson - Crafts - Blue ribbon
- Gavin Hodgkins - Creative Writing - Blue ribbon
- Foods - Julia Alvarado - Purple ribbon
- Health & Wellness - Kashton Gehrke - Red ribbon
- Natalia Rivera - Home Environment - Blue ribbon
- Alexis Olson - Geology - Purple ribbon
- Rylie Cromwell - Dog - Red ribbon
- Kaeson Gehrke - Self-Determined - Blue ribbon
- Brody Gray - Video - Blue ribbon
- Treysen Tietje - Wildlife Biology - Blue ribbon
- Alexis Myers - Youth Leadership - Blue ribbon

A Delicate Conversation

Jay's Way

By Jordan Carrillo



While the boiling pot of rage that consumes me starts to pop and fizz over, I want to preface this Jay's Way may be one of my contested works in some time.

Speaking on difficult subjects like gun violence, abortion, and transgender athletes are the cornerstone of what makes this country unbelievably great; however, the recent turn of events following the killing of Charlie Kirk's make discussions like these a possible guillotine for the unsuspecting.

Conversations like these are meant to be thought-provoking, emotional, and frustrating at their very core, but they are necessary toward making positive change. Nothing has ever been fixed by standing idly by while atrocities continue to happen, but by raising your voice and shouting "We're not going to stand for this anymore."

However, the recent suspension of Jimmy Kimmel for questioning the President's grief for Kirk is a direct hit at the heart of what makes America great—freedom of speech. Now, let me say off the bat that Kimmel's comments about Trump's grief, or potentially lack thereof, for Kirk may be a bit off-color and ill-timed, but the misconstruing of his words by the administration has framed them as a sleight on the late-conservative orator.

I know the truth is a difficult concept for this administration to grasp, but Kimmel's comments were a direct response to Trump, when asked about how he was holding up since Kirk's death, briefly answering the question... only to immediately transition about the renovations happening at the White House. I can't speak for the President, but for someone who was one of the first "sources" to announce Kirk's passing to then seemingly shrug at the mention of him to wax and wane about a new ballroom in the West Wing is incredibly vain and tone-deaf. Although that has been the playbook for Trump during his second term... to spin any negative notion into a boastful showing of pride or some flailing, mumbling attack against his scores of enemies. It's a tired trick at this point.

Similar to Stephen Colbert's discontinued late-night show on CBS, Kimmel's show on ABC now suffers at the whim of a President who can't take criticism when it's well overdue and deserved.

Make no mistake, neither of these shows have rarely turned a profit for these networks... late night TV has become a relic of the past in the digital era of podcasts that are available at any time of day. Gone are the haydays of Johnny Carson, David Letterman, and Jay

Leno...now we contend with Fear Factor host Joe Rogan, know-it-alls like Ben Shapiro, and chicken-wing consumer Sean Evans. Okay, it's not fair to lump the latter in with those first two, sorry about that Sean, but I'm upset Da Bomb made me hiccup so hard, I had a kink in my neck for 12 hours.

But anyone with more sense than a piggy bank understands these decisions to remove Colbert and Kimmel are not solely based on the financials, as much as the networks lead us to believe, but the overwhelming pressure from President Trump to cut their own funding and licensing. These acts are disguised as "saving face" but let's call it what they really are—censoring the voices willing to contest a contentious administration. It is a necessary point to note that the First Amendment protects a citizen from being censored by its government, not a private entity; however, in many of these cases, that entity was pressured by its government to make these decisions. The political influence mixed with private cowardice creates a murky grey area of censorship, and honestly, that should terrify many Americans.

Censorship has been a recurring problem throughout America's history...it's as engrained into the fabric of the nation as the Big Mac, but it's only become more mainstream since 2020. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Biden administration forced the hand of social media sites to censor any information they deemed fallacious and dangerously inaccurate, and the right has done everything in its power to strip away freedom of speech through banning materials that consist of CRT, LGBT, or other ideals they disagree with. This new wave of censorship now reaches the highest platforms of entertainment, and even the wealthy networks have catered to the whim of an administration unwilling to accept criticism, no matter how small it may be.

Speaking out against tyranny is the backbone of America's identity and Americans should be concerned about the overreach from Trump, and from the sources I have gathered, many are scared their voice will be silenced the next time they choose to speak out.

I only have one opportunity a week to say what's on my mind, and I'm grateful the Journal has given me that platform. You may not agree with what I had to say this week, but acknowledge my right to speak freely, and I will gladly accept yours. Who knows, we may not have the chance to in the coming months.

A New Chapter in Cannabis Consumerism

By JORDAN CARRILLO
Staff Writer

While the mentality surrounding cannabis has evolved over the decades, the legality of recreational use and consumerism has slowly begun to follow suit.

Minnesota Governor Tim Walz signed House File 100 into law on May 30, 2023 which would be the first step toward commercially cultivating and selling cannabis to the general public. Walz has been a strong advocate for the legalization of cannabis, citing positive economic impacts and reduction in drug-related crimes.

In response to the signed legislation, the Office of Cannabis Management was created to assist in the regulation and enforcement of cannabis licenses; however, the Office had early struggles of maintaining a consistent Director, replacing the position three times as of September 2025. This carousel caused several delays in the application process for licensing, but since March of 2025, the dawn of a new era of cannabis consumerism has started with new smoke shops and dispensaries looking to spark up some business.

Although the legislation was embraced by many, some local businesses, like RISE Dispensary, voiced their objections toward the immediate legalization of recreational cannabis. RISE has operated as a dispensary across the midwest for a little over a decade—Minnesota since 2021. A vast number of products like flowers, edibles, oils & tinctures,



connoisseurs came in droves to check out RISE's stock for what would be the very first time. There would be some push and pull with RISE when it came to the recreational license: the new license allows RISE to convert one third of their supply to recreational stock and wholesale their cannabis products to other licensed dispensaries.

Additionally, caps on the amount of recreational cannabis and their potency vary slightly between recreational and medical patients.

Cannabis may still be a contested topic for the smaller towns throughout Minnesota, but for now, locations like RISE have used the new legislation to widen the consumerism net for their products and consumers are more than thrilled to finally be able to purchase without the fear of severe repercussions. It remains to be seen what this new era will bring for the State, but for now, Minnesota has the green light to blaze its own trail.

and much more could be purchased, but only with a medical card present.

The recent legislation essentially removed the medical requirement for adult-use cannabis, which the Minnesota RISE locations seemed hesitant to accept, but they soon learned the basic economic principle of

supply and demand. The market for recreational consumption by a public eager to purchase marked the start of a new Chapter for the Mankato location as RISE welcomed customers to a grand "re-opening" in a sense.

A ribbon cutting ceremony marked a new age and curious



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Trinity cont from pg 1

consisting of either hot dogs or a pulled pork sandwich, accompanied by chips and a root beer float. The bake sale was a fundraiser by TLS students for their trip to Washington, D.C., later this year.

There were kickball tournaments and bean bag competitions along with a bubble station and a fishing game for the kids. The afternoon concluded with a three-legged race at 5 p.m.

Sunday, September 21, featured a historic story hour about Trinity Lutheran, followed by a special tent worship at 10 a.m. under the sale tent on the TLS playground, where many had been playing bingo the previous day. Spuds and Splits, hosted by the youth members in the Fellowship Hall, took place at 11:30 a.m., where congregants and guests enjoyed a loaded baked potato dinner accompanied by an ice cream dessert.

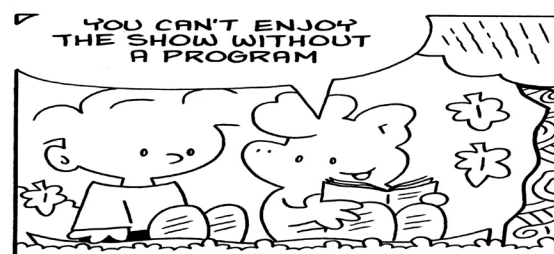


The Trinity Ladies "Up from the Basement" closed out the festivities.

Trinity Lutheran takes great pride in its faith, heritage, and history, and that was on full display throughout the weekend. We can hardly wait to see what type of celebration they will have in five years when the church turns 150 and the school celebrates 140 years.



ZED by Duane M. Abel



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SPORTS

Loyola proves superior at NRHEG meet



It was a fantastic day for the Loyola Crusaders' cross country team at Riverview Golf Course near New Richland as both squads snagged first place. Left: Charlotte Meyer and Valerie Quast led the way, taking second and third. Center right: Teagan Mulder snags a top-20 finish. Right: Loyola's Soren Kelly took first by nearly 40 seconds. (Journal photos by Michael Roy)

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

Mankato Loyola and WEM-JWP met for the first time this season at Riverview Golf Course near New Richland on Tuesday, September 16. Although thunderstorms to the south threatened to end things early, everyone had a chance to run.

Loyola has always had a solid cross-country program, especially since the Journal started covering them as part of our St. Clair coverage. This season has been no different, with both the boys' and girls' teams placing first.

It was much closer in the boys' race, as Loyola outlasted Pacelli's squad – also a talented program – scoring 40 to the Shamrocks' 48. The Loyola Crusaders had much less competition, taking a decisive win with 21 points; Blooming Prairie, in second, was behind them by 40 points.

Despite missing one of their top runners – sophomore MaKenzie Westphal – the Grizzly girls still performed well, placing third out of five teams with 70 points, only nine points behind their conference rival. They outlasted the hosting NRHEG Panthers, who had 106 points, with Medford in ninth place with 120

points. The boys took fourth out of seven teams with 109 points, placing the best among their conference foes.

Leading the way for the girls was Sophia Stencel of Maple River with a time of 18:55, but Charlotte Meyer and Valerie Quast weren't far behind as they took the next two spots with respective times of 19:02.1 and 19:13.9. Lila Quast was not too far behind with a time of 21:15.6 for sixth place. Riley Quickly, Maddy Seiwert, and Kate Daly all made the top ten, taking 8th, 9th, and 10th. Brooks Waagner, Molly Koester, Gisele McCabe, Lilly Phillips, and Charlotte

Kirschner placed in the top 20. Harper Rutz placed 48th out of 55 runners with a time of 31:39.1.

Despite the Crusaders occupying a majority of the top 20 spots, WEM-JWP still managed to have two athletes sneak in. 8th-grader Norah Welvaert led the team again, taking 17th with a time of 23:39.1. Madalyn Miller placed 20th with a time of 24:07.6. Lydia Coulesy took 24th with Jaelyn Wilmes behind her in 25th. Emma Huelsnitz took 27th with a time of 25:26.2. Other finishers included Kwynn Krause in 30th, Ellie Schlie in 34th, Anne Adams in 45th, Abby Crosby in 46th, and Hailey Heinz

in 49th.

The Crusader boys' competition with Pacelli was tight, as they had five runners each in the top 20. Soren Kelly may have been the difference maker, as he outpaced Pacelli's Issac Johnson by nearly 40 seconds for first place. Mitchell Buboltz took 5th with a 17:37.4 time. Francis Bierer, Griffin Rutz, and Rollie Matejcek placed in 12th, 13th, and 15th, respectively. Reece Nelson and Andrew Tieva took 21st and 22nd, with fellow crusader Jack Green in 25th. Other finishers included Luke Phillips in 33rd, Elijah Mons in 38th, Jackson Bilitz in 52nd, and Jax Leagjeld in 68th

out of 76 runners.

Three Grizzly boys placed in the top 25, with Wyatt Jans leading the way in 6th place with a time of 17:51.3. Teagan Mulder took 14th with a time of 19:11.3. Senior Auston Holicky placed 24th with a time of 20:19.6. Other finishers were Brennan Welvaert in 40th, Wesley Heinz in 41st, Parker Smith in 62nd, Dalton Ling in 66th, and Charlie Denis in 71st.

The two local teams will meet each other again, this time with WEM-JWP hosting them at its annual Grizzly Pie Invitational on Thursday, September 25.

Lady Dawgs go 3-1 at St. James tournament

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

Following a rough 0-5 start, the JWP volleyball team has won six out of its seven games. If the match against Medford earlier in the season had gone their way, they would currently be undefeated in the Gopher Conference with Kenyon-Wanamingo.

The team continued its winning streak both in-conference and overall with a 3-1 win at Hayfield on Tuesday, September 16. They followed that up by winning three competitive games at the St. James tournament on Saturday, September 20, where they ultimately finished as the second-best team in the Saints gym. They briefly had a winning record when they beat Edgerton, Madelia, and St. James. However, Pipestone showed they were the much more dominant team in a 2-0 victory, snapping JWP's win streak at six and leaving St. James with an even 6-6 record.

Bulldogs 3, Vikings 1

The Bulldogs were looking to keep their winning streak from the previous two weeks alive, and they did exactly that against a Hayfield team that was struggling mightily with a losing record like JWP. The Lady Dawgs spiked their way to a 25-15 victory in the opening set. The Vikings pushed back with a 25-20 victory. However, the Bulldogs took the last two sets with 25-19 scores, securing a 3-1 win.

Victoria Blomstrom, a senior who just joined the varsity team this season, led the team in ace serves with a pair on the night. Fellow seniors Lily Ewert, Mikayla Wheelock, and Nevaeh Weimert had an ace each. Ellie Morsching led the team in digs with nine on the night, with junior Ray Blasing with seven. Katie Olson led the team in kills with seven, with Brielle James and Aubrey Adams supplying three each. Ashlynn Wolff, who had a kill, had the team's only two blocks on the night.

St. James tournament
JWP was one of eight teams at the St. James tournament this past weekend. They joined the St. James

Saints, Buffalo Lake-Hector-Stewart, Edgerton, Le Sueur-Henderson, Madelia, New Ulm Cathedral, and Pipestone. Buffalo Lake sported an undefeated record of 16-0, while Pipestone was the only other team with a winning record at the tournament.

JWP's first opponent was Edgerton. The Flying Dutchmen, who had arguably the worst record of the teams at the tournament, were looking to prove themselves. They took JWP to the brink, winning the first set 25-21. The Lady Dawgs did just enough to outlast the Dutchwomen in the second set, 27-26. They called it a game with a 15-9 victory.

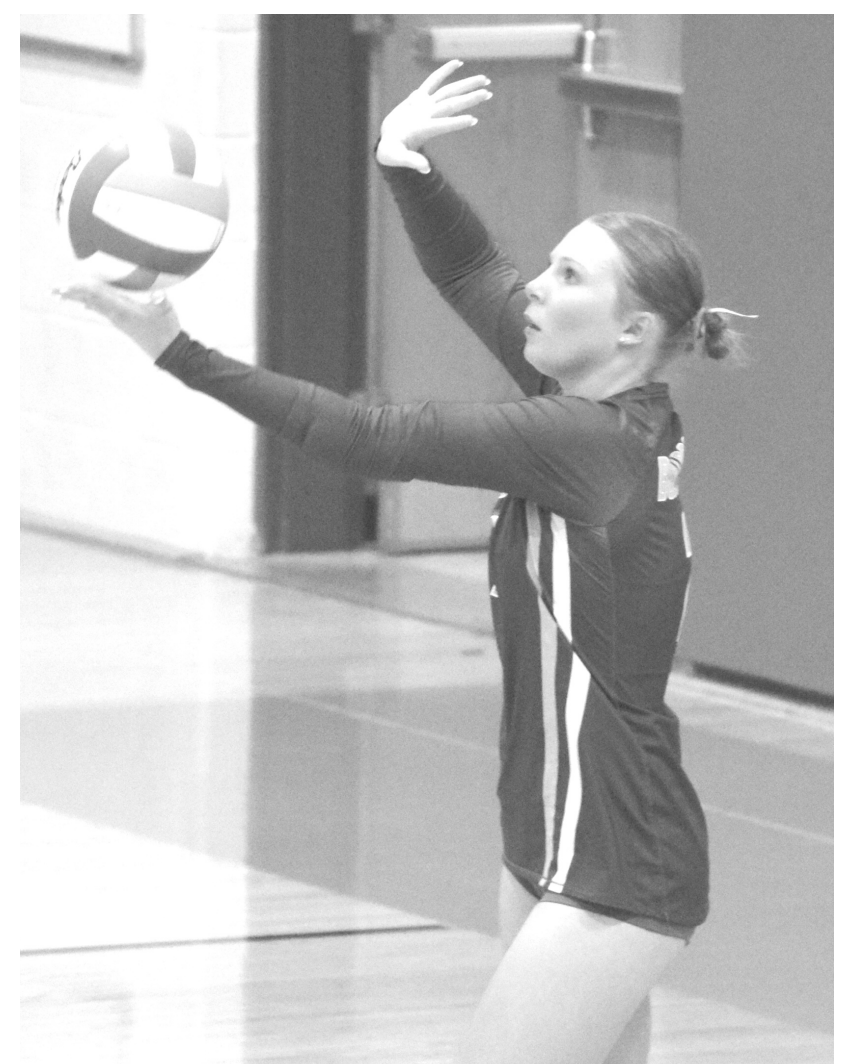
Although the games were only two sets – three if a tie needed settling – JWP earned its first sweep of the season with a 2-0 win against Madelia in the next match, taking victories of 25-18 and 25-15. Their next opponent was the hosting Saints, and they nearly swept them, too, but after a 25-20 win in the first set, they narrowly lost 26-24 in the second. They almost got reversed

swept but held on for a 15-13 finish.

After some great victories, JWP met Pipestone, the only other undefeated team in the invitational. The Arrows sharpened their spikes against the Bulldogs, taking a decisive 25-18 victory before applying attacks nonstop for a 25-12 victory in the second set.

The JWP Bulldogs are now 6-6. They are currently 3-1 in the conference, just outside of second place, which is split between Triton, NRHEG, and WEM, all of whom have 4-1 conference records. They are currently winless in Section 2AA play.

The girls hosted Nicollet on Tuesday, September 23. They will host Kenyon-Wanamingo, currently the top team in the Gopher Conference, on Thursday, September 25. They will then travel to Nicollet for their tournament on Saturday, September 27. Although they are the only team in Class AA in the tournament, they will meet conference rival United South Central there.



Senior Victoria Blomstrom's two aces in the Hayfield game on September 16 helped JWP take a 3-1 victory against the Vikings. (Journal photo by Michael Roy)

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SPORTS

Cyclone Volleyball avenge playoff loss

By JORDAN CARRILLO
Staff Writer

They say that revenge is a dish best served cold, but in the realm of sports, sometimes revenge is all about avenging a devastating loss in the playoffs.

The St. Clair Cyclones have been on a recent hot streak, winning their last three matches in straight sets—including a 3-set beatdown of the USC Rebels on September 15—but their true test came against a familiar foe on September 16. Last season, the Cyclones went 0-3, including a crushing Sections loss in five sets, to the LCWM Knights; however, this matchup showcased just how mentally tough this St. Clair squad has become. The relentless aerial assault by Payton Blount and Ashlyn DeMartini helped conquer the demons of season's past as the Cyclones took the match 3-1.

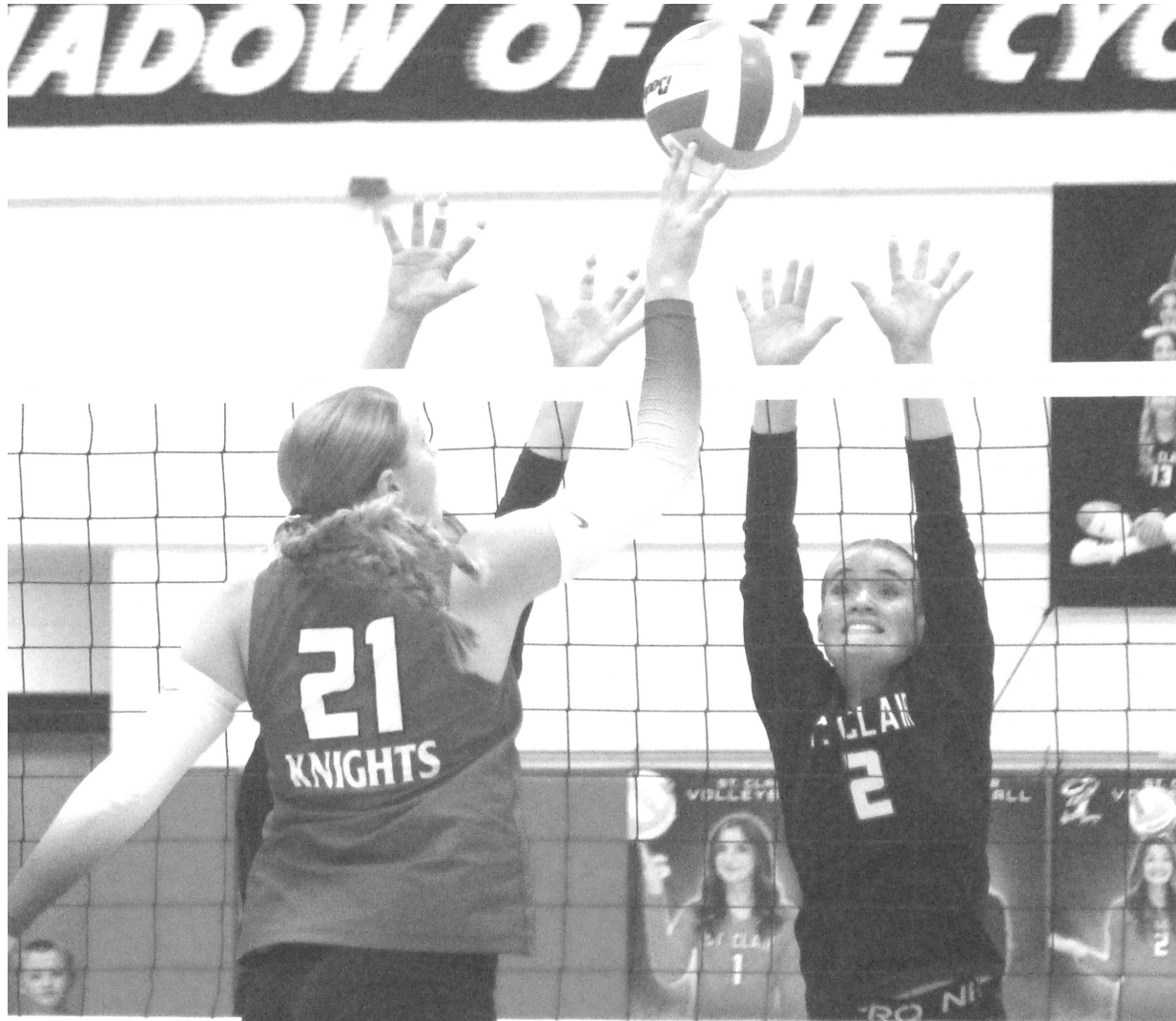
Although this rematch was a "circle the date" kind of contest for the players, Coach Ashley Sander focused more on the present play of her team rather than dwell on past struggles. "We're playing extremely well right now, so we're treating this as another game to us. Our strategy to attack isn't changing, and we hope to leave with a victory."

Be that as it may, the Cyclones took to the sky with furious intent as Blount led the way with a flurry of attacks at the net. She would land five kills in the set and end the night with 23. Brooklin Hinze and Haddie Jobe seized their moments too for kills, which led to an early LCWM timeout. The Knights weren't slouches by any means either as they battled their way back, tying the set at 20, but some perfect placements by Paige St. Peter and Brooklyn Meng paired with the defensive denial by Demartini made for a convincing 25-21 set win for St. Clair.

Determined to bounce back, the Knights implemented their own tactics at the net en route to an early 8-1 lead in the second set. The Cyclones trailed for much of the set, even being as far back as 19-9, but a miraculous stretch of plays by Meng, Blount, and STP led to an incredible 12-4 run to bring the score to 21-25. Unfortunately, LCWM would stave off this comeback to clinch Set 2 25-21, but the unbelievable effort by St. Clair must not go unstated.

Set 3 had similar beginnings to the one prior as the Knights took control early with a 14-8; however, the Cyclones stormed their way back to tie at 19 all. The dynamic duo of Blount and DeMartini crashed the nets to great effect while Meng and Hinze used any means necessary to keep points alive long enough to set up a strike. Not sure how many bruises those two had afterwards, but securing the point makes it all worthwhile. This third set showed the perfect blend of teamwork and camaraderie which led to a 25-22 victory for St. Clair and a 2-1 advantage.

In what was almost a replay of the Sections match, the fourth set had both teams at their top of their games. LCWM needed the fourth set to push the match into a final 15-point fifth while St. Clair prepared to avenge past mistakes and seal the deal in their favor. Neither side backed down with the



Brooklin Hinze and another Cyclone teammate put their hands up as a LCWM player attempts to tap it over to their side of the court.



Payton Blount attempts to send a spike past the hands to two Lake Crystal-Wellcome Memorial players near the front of the net. She helped lead the team to a 3-1 victory over the Knights. (Journal photos by Jordan Carrillo)

score tied at 8. Determined to give her team the edge, Blount netted her 20th kill to give the Cyclones a 15-13 lead...her ferocity on the net increased as the match went on, but her kills during the fourth set rang throughout the gym and caused Knight defenders to duck out of harm's way. The Knights kept the set interesting at 21-18, but a one-two punch haymaker by Jobe and DeMartini was the final nail in the coffin.

As the Cyclones cheered in victory, there was also a sense of relief of getting that proverbial monkey, or Knight in this case, off their back. Much of the team's preparation for the season was in response to the playoff loss, so with that roadblock out of the way, the Cyclones are primed for success. Following their match against the LCWM, St. Clair kept their hot streak going with a three set stampede against the MVL Chargers

Lady Crusaders Soccer defeat Thunder 2-0



After several relentless attempts getting around the defense, Sophie Nachreiner opened the scoring for Loyola against United Christian Academy, eventually leading the team to a 2-0 victory.



Shelby Beyer is met by the UCA Thunder goaltender as she tries to dribble the ball past her for a scoring attempt. (Photos by Jordan Carrillo)

By JORDAN CARRILLO
Staff Writer

In spite of stormy and cloudy weather in the skies, the Loyola Crusaders silenced the United Christian Academy Thunder below on the pitch with a relentless attack at the net.

This young squad has shown some promise here and there throughout the season, but have also experienced dry spells on the offensive side. Following a 0-3 loss to Marshall on September 15, Coaches Nachreiner and Sims shared how far these Crusaders have grown in just a little over a month of play, "We're controlling the ball a lot better than we have as of late...I think we played some of our best team soccer against Marshall, but the bounce didn't go our way."

As the soccer schedule enters the backhalf, Nachreiner deemed this last stretch of games as the "softer part" of the season and seemed hopeful this would lead to some "critical wins" heading into Sections. Which brings us to the contest against the Thunder who had a defensive front with some booming legs to boot.

In what can confidently be described as the best team soccer these Lady Crusaders have played, Loyola got their offense going often and early as Shelby Beyer ripped a shot wide left in the opening minutes. It should be said that the shots were plenty for the Crusaders; however, many of them either sailed far past the goal or were quickly snagged by the UCA keeper. A few corner kicks failed to put the ball in the net, and the Thunder turned momentum back in their favor with their own attack, but Stella Munson kept her side of the field clean. The strikes on goal were constant and furious...it almost seemed like a personal crusade

to score as Beyer slapped a shot and later was a second away from deflecting a shot past the goalie while Cora Johannes tap-danced around her defender only to strike an "atom" ball to the keeper. Oddly enough, it took a slow dribbler by Sophie Nachreiner to daze the Thunder enough to slip by and net the first goal for Loyola. As the first half neared its end, there was a hunger to score another goal, but each attempt would find more air than net.

The kinetic energy surged through the Crusaders as they started the second half with a flurry of attacks by Johannes & Beyer. While the attacks were the right idea, the distance of these attempts left much to be desired. Desperate for an insurance goal against the Thunder, Loyola crept closer and a shot by Beyer looked clean until a deflection caused the ball to bounce right at the heel of Allison Wheeler, but her sendback ricocheted off the crossbar. The sequence was so rapid that several players on the pitch, the coaches on the sideline, and this reporter standing at the corner, stood in disbelief. Sometimes the ball just doesn't want to cooperate.

The Crusaders continued applying the pressure, and following another goal, they took the game with a 2-0 final. Munson, who has been displaying stellar goalkeeping all season, earned the shutout.

The contest against UCA showed a more determined and confident Loyola squad compared to weeks prior. The Crusaders have started to operate as a cohesive unit with its young offensive stars in Beyer and Johannes kicking their striking game into high gear. A much needed victory for a team that still has room for improvement and they will have an entire week to grow as they face off against UCA once more on September 27.

Spartans return to form 42-15 win

By JORDAN CARRILLO
Staff Writer

After suffering a devastating blowout against the Maple River Eagles, the St. Clair/Loyola Spartans regained their fighting spirit on the field with a 42-15 victory over the Medford Tigers on September 18.

A defeat like the week prior can have a lasting effect on a young squad, but it may have been the swift kick these warriors needed as the team returned to its fundamental roots of powerful running and hard-hitting, smash-mouth defense. Coach Willaert had little to say about the

team's performance against Maple River, but rather focused on the here and now as the team prepared for Medford, "We knew MR was going to be a tough game for us, but we've moved on from that. Our message to the guys was to clean our individual mistakes, stay positive, and support each other on the field."

The first half started out strong as the Spartans utilized a strong run game to great effect. Four different backs would carry the rock, but Austin Ward led the pack with 149 yards on 13 carries and three touchdowns. The Tigers were determined to do some prowling of their own on the ground, and were able to score on two 50+ yard

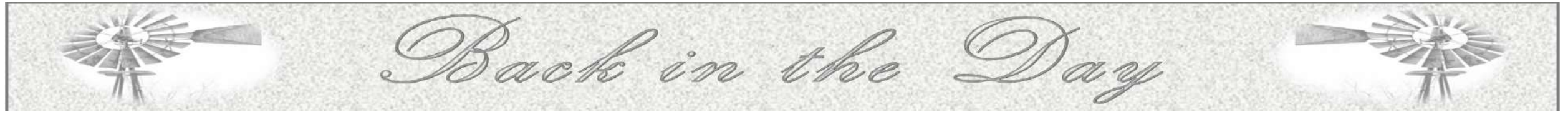
dashes to take a 15-7 lead at the end of the first quarter. Thankfully, the Spartans defense adjusted and only allowed three additional yards on the ground for the rest of the game while also forcing three fumbles.

Those extra possessions worked wonders for SCL as Brevin Hanson bulldozed his way for an 11-yard touchdown while Ward scampered for two more of his own. He'd later snag a 30-yard pass by Jon Pierce for his fourth total touchdown of the game. In his first official start under center, Pierce performed well with 91 yards and touchdowns. As the third quarter drew to a close, a corner route by Cumberland provided enough separation to pull down the final touchdown of the

night and extend the Spartan's lead 42-15.

A convincing victory for the Spartans, the win brings this team to a 2-2 record and a fresh outlook for the remainder of the season. Coach Willaert praised his players for bouncing back, "I was very proud of how our guys played tonight. We wanted to prove we could get back to the energy level from the first two weeks of play, and we succeeded in doing that."

With a revitalized fighting spirit, the SCL Spartans will now get to bask in the unadulterated cheer of their loyal fans during Homecoming Week as they take on the Blooming Prairie Blossoms on September 26.



St. Clair Archives

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

1949

-The Rev. Edward F. Brand, pastor of the Evangelical church in St. Clair, dropped dead of a heart attack while shoveling snow in front of his home. He had been in St. Clair for the past year and eight months.
-St. Clair Telephone

Exchange gets "Modern Touch." Dial telephones have replaced the St. Clair manually operated telephone exchange, affecting 81 village telephones and 88 rural telephones connected to the system.

-The Mankato Citizens Telephone Company, which bought the St. Clair Company in 1947, converted the old system to dial operation by constructing

an entirely new telephone plant in the village and adjacent rural districts.

-A new building, housing the dial switchboard, was built in St. Clair. Underground cables have replaced former pole lines in the village. All subscribers were given modern dial telephones. Rural lines radiating from the village are newly constructed.
-The St. Clair Telephone

Company was formerly owner and operated by Gene Fitzloff and his mother, Hulda Fitzloff. Mrs. Fitzloff operated the switchboard while her son maintained the plant. The first call made on the new system was made by St. Clair's Mayor George Hubmer to Mankato's Mayor Rolande F. Johnson.
-Jack Fitzloff is named "Nutrena Feed Dealer."

1950

-January 1950 - Mankato Free Press - "Eric A. Carlstrom Construction Company was awarded the general contract at \$157,000 for construction of an addition to the St. Clair School. The eight classrooms, six for the grades and two for the high school, auditorium-gymnasium will be completed at a later date.

E. J. Erickson, St. Clair superintendent, said that enrollment there is 300 in the grades and high school with all classrooms being overcrowded presently."

-June - Beginning of Korean War.

-Population of St. Clair - 318.

Janesville Archives

1925

-Watch the pay envelope your cow brings in if it's bigger returns you are after, the Blue Valley Creamery Institute advised to the enterprising Minnesota Dairy Farmer. To find out exactly the wages per hour that each cow is paying for the labor and care expended on her, it is merely necessary to deduct the total expenditures from the total receipts of each cow and divide the difference by the number of hours of labor expended on her during the year.

-Janesville will be ready for you bright and early Saturday morning. Dollar Day in this town will give you buying opportunities that will surprise you. Besides, there will be plenty in the way of amusement, entries of mammoth pumpkins, squashes, "taters, corn, cabbages, 'n everything. Awards will be made for various contests and a few of our stores and business houses will run little affairs of their own. The 20-page booklet mailed out contains the listings of hundreds of real bargains. Look it over, compare the prices, mark the items you want, and bring your book in with you.

-Officers for the senior class in the high school were selected at a meeting held last week by the June 1926 class. Charles Hofmann was elected president, Leonard Marx, Treasurer and Miss Cecelia Amberg, secretary. Now that the officers have been chosen the class is well organized and committees for the year will be appointed soon. The class emblems and rings were selected Monday and will be secured through the local jeweler, F. W. Fratzke.

1950

-Two Janesville youths, freshmen at Concordia College, St. Paul, were injured slightly early Saturday when hoodlums invaded a college dormitory and beat up sleeping students, it was reported in Saturday's Mankato Free Press. The Janesville youths, both 18, are James Koehler, son of the Rev. and Mrs. A. T. Koehler and Wayne Brandmire, son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Brandmire. James required stitches to close a wound in his neck and Wayne was treated for severe bruises.

-Dr. Geza Schutz, Janesville farmer and noted labor arbitrator, will be the guest speaker at the membership luncheon meeting, the first of the season, of the Mankato Branch of the American Association of University Women, Saturday, September 23, at the Mankato Golf Club, according to an

article in Monday's Mankato Free Press. Dr. Schutz, one-time League of Nations staff member, now promotes industrial peace throughout the country and in some of the nation's greatest cities in addition to farming acres of rolling fields along the Le Sueur River. It is no accident that the Janesville farmer has become one of the state's most successful, although least known, labor mediators. For twenty years before he and his wife, a native of Janesville, settled on the abandoned, worn-out farm seven miles south of here, he had been engaged in such work, first with the League of Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, then on a private basis in New York.

-A goal of 500,000 signatures in Minnesota to the Declaration of Freedom, which is the heart of the Crusade for Freedom, has been set up, Harry A. Bullis, regional chairman, has announced. The campaign, which will continue through September 30, is America's answer of big truth to the big lie of the Soviet, Mr. Bullis said. National Chairman of the move is General Lucius D. Clay, former military governor of Germany during the Berlin airlift. The campaign has two objectives, one to give as many people in the country as possible the opportunity to declare their ideals of freedom by signing a declaration of freedom, and two, to give these same people the chance to do something in a concrete way to combat Soviet propaganda.

1975

-Dr. Eda Amalia Quade, 92 years and eight months, passed away Thursday, September 18, 1975 at the Janesville Nursing Home, where she had been a resident for the past three and one-half years. Dr. Quade was born January 11, 1883, in Janesville to F. H. Quade, formerly of Germany, and Amalia Pfeiffer Quade, formerly of Austria. She attended the Janesville Public Schools and later attended the New Ulm Lutheran School where she graduated. In 1921, Dr. Quade was graduated from the Palmer College of Chiropractic at Davenport, Iowa, with highest honors. She began her practice in Lewistown, Pennsylvania, later returning to Janesville to care for her parents. She opened an office in the old family residence where for 46 years she served her patients with devoted and loving care.

-Homecoming Week got underway here Monday and five senior girls haven't had a calm

moment since. All five are keeping their fingers crossed, hoping that the elusive homecoming crown will come to rest on their head this Thursday night. Nominated by the senior class, for what has become one of the most coveted honors at JHS, are Tracy Priem, Mary Williams, Beth Lundquist, Teresa Finley and Sue Stransky.

-Mrs. Lloyd (Audrey) Wilson will become the first woman ever to serve on the Janesville Area Chamber of Commerce when the new board is formed later this month. Mrs. Wilson, Vic Dimmel, and Bob Hildebrandt were elected from six nominees at the Chamber monthly last Wednesday. They will join Larry Vinson, Gerold Chapman, Dennis Gustafson, Leon Schultz, Herb Stankey, and Darwin Lochner on the nine-person board.

2000

-Thanks to new speed measuring devices presented by the Minnesota Department of Public Safety's Office of Traffic Safety, law enforcement officers in Janesville, Madison Lake and St. Peter are better equipped to identify vehicles driving at illegal and unsafe speeds. The police departments are three of only ten law enforcement agencies in Minnesota being awarded a Kustom ProLaser III or a Kustom Eagle Radar for participating in the Safe and Sober enforcement effort that took place during the month of April. The presentation took place at a news conference in Madison Lake.

-The Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton volleyball team brought home the consolation trophy in its first tournament action of the season. JWP won three of five matches in the eight-team Redbird invite at Montgomery Saturday, and avenged a loss to Gopher Conference for Blooming Prairie in the process. The Bulldogs improved their overall record to 5-4 for the season, including 4-3 away from home.

-The Janesville Fire Department was called to a fire at 206 W. 1st St. On Sunday night just before 11:00 p.m. The home, owned by Don and Lesley Kump, had flames coming out a second floor window when the fire department got there. The children who were sleeping in the bedroom awoke their parents and they all got out of the house in time. The fire was continued in the upstairs bedroom, with water damage in other areas of the house.

Local Church Times and Schedules

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
412 N. Main St.
Janesville, MN
(507)231-5189
Pastor Wolter
Pastor Conteras

Saturday - 6:30 p.m. Worship
Sunday - 8:00a.m. & 10:30 a.m. Worship
9a.m. Sunday School & Bible Study

JANESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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

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

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

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

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

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

ALL SAINTS CATHOLIC CHURCH
307 1st St SW
New Richland, MN
(507) 234-6244
Father Glenn Frerichs

Friday: 10:00 a.m. Mass
Sunday: 8:00 a.m. Mass

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 9:00a.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
20574 631st Ave
Smiths Mill, MN
(507)234-5547
Pastor Robert Harting
Sunday Worship 8:30am
7:45a.m. Sunday School
& Adult Bible Class

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

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

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
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Wednesday - 9:00a.m. Mass

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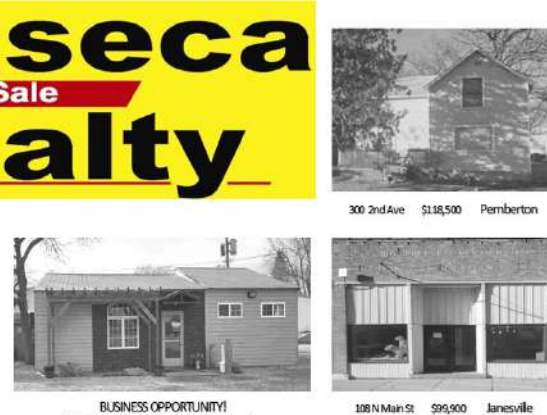
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SPORTS

Bulldogs fall to WEM 51-14



WEM proved to be a tough team to tackle for the Bulldogs last Friday. here, junior Gavin Weedman did all he could to bring down Bucs quarterback Talon Taylor. Parker Geariety on hot pursuit behind the play. (Journal photos by Michael Roy)

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

Despite doing their best and feeling good with a shutout victory against Blue Earth's Buccaneers, whatever could go wrong almost did go wrong for the JWP football team as Waterville-Elysian-Morris-town's Bucs displayed aggression in every way for a 51-14 victory against the Bulldogs in Janesville on Friday, September 19.

The first quarter was a sign that nothing was going to go their way that night. Two controversial non-calls went against JWP. One was a hit on senior quarterback Daulton Bauer, who was hit so hard on a run along the WEM sideline that the crunching of helmets and pads could be heard from across the field. The Bulldog sideline was baffled that there was no flag, and Bauer had to leave the game.

Another alleged non-call was when WEM's Gavin Atherton seemingly hurdled over a JWP defender en route to a touchdown, a move that's supposedly illegal in high school football. That one left Head Coach Ryan Luedtke wanting answers.

Even if those calls were made, it was obvious that the Bucs were looking to start with lightning-fast momentum and to keep putting pressure on JWP the entire game. They did just that, as they only needed five plays to get their first touchdown on the ground. Credit to Gavin Atherton, as he kept carving JWP's run defense all night. Meanwhile, JWP's first drive ended with a three-yard loss on first down and an interception on the second play by Bauer.

Despite a rough game all around for JWP, the Bulldog defense showed some glimmers of positivity as they recovered a fumble on WEM's second drive. However, that hit on Bauer was the lowlight of JWP's second offensive drive. From



Backup quarterback Seth Dahlberg was asked to play nearly an entire game in an already long night, and he had two passing touchdowns.

there, it seemed like what little wind the blue and silver had flowing through its sails was taken by WEM, as their third drive resulted in another touchdown by Atherton. Seth Dahlberg did all that he could for being asked to step in and play quarterback for essentially an entire game. But WEM imposed its will against him and the JWP offense. A passing touchdown by Talen Taylor followed by yet another Atherton rushing score made it 30-0 at halftime.

JWP's defense had another flash play as Caleb Quast grabbed Taylor's pass attempt for an interception. The offense took advantage, and Dahlberg showed some of his stuff as he led JWP to a touchdown off a five-yard throw to Gavin Bauer to make it 30-6. Ayden Peterson had some playing time as he nailed the extra point. The Bucs didn't let up on the ground game, though, as they got another six off the run, this time with Brady Murphy punching it in.

Taylor opened the fourth quarter for the Bucs with the team's fifth rushing touchdown of the game. Dahlberg caught the Bucs defense sleeping for an 80-yard rocket to C. Quast to get JWP's second touchdown. WEM capped off the night with one last rushing touchdown from Murphy for the 51-14 final.

The Bucs should receive some credit for their run game, thanks to some great rushing talent and a big offensive line, which Luedtke did point out could cause JWP problems. They ended the night with six of seven touchdowns on the ground. 561 of their 568 yards of total offense came from the run game.

This may be one that they should forget. However, Coach Luedtke said that they will still learn from it. We hope that Daulton Bauer is okay, as he did take quite an aggressive hit that took him out of the game.

With a 2-2 record and some bruises, JWP will travel over an hour for their next game on the road against Southland on Friday, September 26.

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