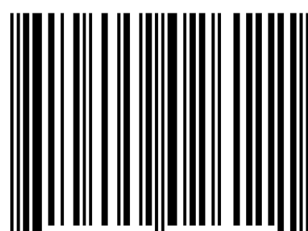


THE Jamesville Journal

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

Wednesday, October 15, 2025



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5 DAY FORECAST

Wed 15 | 57°
 Rain 51%
 Wind E 9 mph
 Showers in the morning, then cloudy in the afternoon. High 57F. Winds E at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 50%.

Thu 16 | 70°
 Rain 36%
 Wind SSE 15 mph
 A few showers early with mostly cloudy conditions later in the day. High near 70F. Winds SSE at 10 to 20 mph. Chance of rain 40%.

Fri 17 | 73°
 Rain 21%
 Wind SSW 14 mph
 Cloudy. Slight chance of a rain shower. High 73F. Winds SSW at 10 to 20 mph.

Sat 18 | 62°
 Rain 5%
 Wind WNW 14 mph
 Partly cloudy. High 62F. Winds WNW at 10 to 20 mph.

Sun 19 | 59°
 Rain 9%
 Wind WNW 15 mph
 Mostly sunny skies. High 59F. Winds WNW at 10 to 20 mph.

Fire Department demonstrates importance of fire safety at JWP

By MICHAEL ROY
 Editor

This past week was National Fire Prevention Week. Throughout the United States, several fire departments were sharing tips on how to practice fire safety and what to do (and what not to do) if a fire breaks out in a home.

On Tuesday, October 7, the Janesville Fire Department put on a program for 269 students from preschool to third grade in the Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton Auditorium. The JFD conducted two sessions with the students. The first session, at 8:40am, included JWP students from Wrap Around age to first grade. The second session, at 9:45am, featured JWP students in second and third grades, along with Trinity Lutheran students from preschool to third grade.

The first part of the program, led by firefighter Brett Miller, featured students learning the techniques most of us learned when we were their age. "What do you do when you catch fire?" Miller asked. "Do you run around and panic?"

"No," many of them replied. "Then what do you do?" If your answer was to "stop, drop, and roll," good on you for remembering a vital piece of information on fire safety. Other scenarios that the JFD went through included what to do when you can't escape a house fire from the bedroom door, if a pet or baby is stuck inside the house, and the importance of planning a safe spot in case a fire does break out at home.

Miller also brought up when it's appropriate to call 911. "Do you call 911 if someone is in danger?" Yes. "Do you call 911 if someone needs to go to the hospital?" Yes.

"Do you call 911 if you need help with your English homework?" Miller continued asking.

Some answered yes, likely to be funny. However, Miller reminded the students that 911 was for emergencies only.



On Tuesday, October 7, the Janesville Fire Department put on a program for 269 students from preschool to third grade. (Journal Photos by Mike Roy)



Assistant Fire Chief Cody Dobberstein, along with firefighters Tim Jaeger and Steve Carda, showed what they'd look like all geared up in their firefighter suits. He then showed them what they'd look and sound like with their masks on. "If you hear a voice that sounds like this," Dobberstein spoke, his voice muffled from the mask,

JFD cont to pg 4

St. Clair City Council

Year one of construction approaches Nov 1 deadline; Council announce vacant seat

By JORDAN CARRILLO
 Staff Writer

Before the official start of the October 7 meeting, Mayor More requested a moment of silence to recognize the passing of Councilor Dick Fitzloff. Following the moment of silence, the Council moved to approve the evening's agenda.

As the first year of major construction in St. Clair reaches its final few weeks, Jeffrey Domras with Bolton & Menk provided a series of updates regarding several key projects.

Schalow Drive: underground utility lines (sanitary, water, storm sewer) have been completed and lines have been connected to resident's homes. Excavations for "road prep" are currently underway, but Domras fielded recent concerns about the conditions being "soft and soupy" which may push projects, including new curb and gutter, to 2026. Due to the quicksand-like material, contractors spent over a week drying out the "subgrade", cut out an extra foot of roadway, and added additional "Class-5 and geogrid" to help stabilize the space; however, Domras and another engineer with Braun concluded the material needed extra time to cure. Consequently, curb and gutter as well as final pavement on Schalow Drive will be delayed until the 2026 construction season...a temporary aggregate will provide driveway access to residents.

Park Street North (CR28): Utility work from the CR bridge to the pumping station has been completed; the force mains for

water, sanitary sewer, and storm are underway. A new manhole was installed and the appropriate connections have been completed. Upon installation, the mains will be tested before connecting to properties; Domras noted during this time, residents between the water tower and Main Street may experience lower water pressure, but expected to return to normal levels by the end of the week. Curb and gutter are still a pending process, and contractors hope to complete this project by the November 1 deadline.

A few patches of sidewalk near the Legion, St. Clair State Bank, and Uptown Tavern were described to be in "construction limbo" according to Domras, and he advised these areas will be restored by the deadline, but will have to be dug up for the 2026 Main Street project.

Resolution 2025.14 declared an official vacancy for a St. Clair City Council following the passing of Councilor Fitzloff. The term runs until December 31, 2026. Any interested applicants are encouraged to submit a letter of interest to City Hall by 15:00 on Friday, October 24 and interviews will be held at 18:00 on Tuesday, October 28. A full description of requirements has been posted to the City of St. Clair Facebook page, but the applicant must be at least 21 years of age, a resident of St. Clair, and a qualified voter.

Laurie Thorstad addressed the Council regarding an adjustment to rent City Hall for her Pound Fitness classes. After going through the finances of hosting the events at City Hall—which revealed slim profits—Thorstad has considered partnering with St. Clair Community Ed and plans to host events in November & December in the Choir room. The Council had to consider the "economics" of a possible rental

Council cont to Page 3

Quote of the Week

*Watch your thoughts; they become words.
 Watch your words; they become actions.
 Watch your actions; they become habits.
 Watch your habits; they become character.
 Watch your character; it becomes your destiny.*

— Lao-Tze

Fourth Annual Date Night brings pulled pork, pumpkins and a proposal

By JORDAN CARRILLO
 Staff Writer

Love was certainly in the air at Autumn Acres on October 10th as the fourth annual Date Night on the Farm welcomed 55 couples to an evening of romantic bliss. Exclusively an adults-only experience, Date Night transformed the entire space into a delightfully charming haven and once the sun set, Autumn Acres truly came alive, inviting loved ones—from budding romances to seniors celebrating decades together—to gather, cozy up, and make beautiful memories under the stars.

The evening was thoughtfully curated by owner Cheryl Blees to allow couples to experience the farm differently, blending



What a surprise! Derek Huxford proposes to Elissa at Autumn Acres Date Night last Friday.

(Journal Photos by Mike Roy)

classic fall fun with romantic ambiance. Campfires were scattered throughout the grounds, bringing couples to

gather, warm up, and share stories. Ambient lighting and music provided the perfect soundtrack for a night of

relaxation and connection. Guests enjoyed a warmly-lit hayride through the autumn scenery. A hearty supper of

pulled pork sandwiches, hot cider, and smores had couples giggling as their marshmallows crackled in the flames.

While love was in the air, pumpkins remained buried into the ground and ripe for the taking, and it didn't take long for girlfriends to pick perfectly plump pumpkins for porch decorations. At their request, the boyfriends sheared, carried, and loaded the gourds into a wagon before pulling it alongside them. Happy spouse, happy house, as they say. For a sense of adventure, couples navigated the corn maze, with many ladies wrapping their

Date Night cont to pg 5

Community Happenings

- MEA Discovery Days Farmamerica Oct 16-17
- JWP School Board Janesville Oct 20
- St. Clair School Board St. Clair Oct 20
- Burger Basket Benefit American Legion St. Clair Oct 25 5-8pm
- City Council Mtg Janesville Oct 27 7pm
- Trick or Treat on Main St Janesville Oct 31 4-6pm
- 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

Macramé Ghosts

In this spooky twist on a classic craft, teens will create their own macramé ghosts at **Waterville Public Library on Monday, October 20th at 6 pm.** Whether you're a total beginner or a macramé wizard, this hands-on workshop will guide you step by step to making your own boho-chic décor. Free and geared for ages 13-18.

Paper Ghosts

Create a stylish, dapper ghost using pages from a book and googly eyes at 3:30 pm on **Monday, October 20th** at Janesville 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.

Pajama Story Time

Get ready for bedtime with cozy stories, crafts, and activities at **New Richland Public Library on Monday, October 20th at 5:30 pm.** Kids are encouraged to wear their pajamas. This free event is geared for ages 0-5. A Romp 100 Event.

Laser-Engraved Hat Patches

Design and make your own custom laser-engraved leather patch at **Janesville Public Library on Tuesday, October 21st at 5-7 pm.** Then attach it to a hat to take home. 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 **Waseca Public Library on Wednesday, October 22nd at 10 am.** The first team to complete the puzzle wins a prize . . . and bragging rights! Registration required.

Colorful Clothespin Magnets

Make the ordinary more extraordinary with this simple, useful craft that turns clothespins into floral magnets at **Waldorf Public Library on Wednesday, October 22nd at 1:30 pm.** Free and geared for adults.

Virtual Author Event: Malala Yousafzai

Hear from Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Malala Yousafzai about her astonishing memoir, *Finding My Way*, at a virtual Waseca-Le Sueur Regional Library System event at **6 pm on Thursday, October 22nd.** Malala reintroduces herself to the world, sharing how she navigated life as someone whose darkest moments threatened to define her narrative—while seeking the freedom to find out who she truly is.

This event will be recorded and people who register will be emailed a link to the recording. Register at the library or at wasecalesueurlibraries.com/getregistered

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, October 23rd at Janesville Public Library.** Exclusively for ages 12-18.

Sponsored by Janesville Area Foundation and The Pope Family Fund.

Craft Your Own Spellbook

Bring a unique spellbook to life—incorporating spooky designs with enchanting craft materials at **Elysian Area Library on Saturday, October 25th at 10:30 am.** This free event is exclusively for ages 13-18.

Echoes from a Loafers' Club Meeting

Do you exercise? I go to the gym almost every day. Really? Yes, I almost went to the gym today.

Driving by Bruce's drive

I have a wonderful neighbor named Bruce. Whenever I pass his drive, thoughts occur to me. A disheveled man shuffled by—a poor old sod with lots of creaky parts. I thought he was one scruffy dude until I realized I was looking at a hospital mirror. Inside every hospitalized person is a healthy person wondering what happened. I felt slow afoot, but grateful that medical research had been funded. Before my surgery, the anesthesiologist asked if I'd like to be knocked out with gas or hit over the head with a boat paddle. It was an ether/or situation. Later, I learned that whether they ripped the adhesive bandages off quickly or slowly depended on my insurance. If Wile E. Coyote made it through his troubles, why couldn't I make it through mine?

I made a corncob pipe with the aid of a buddy. It was a dandy, the best I'd ever owned, but I was only 12. For my youthful adventure, I crafted the homemade pipe from a corncob, hardened by drying, for a bowl, and a hollow piece of elderberry cane as a pipe stem. We didn't

This week's homily at St. Ann concerned gratitude and thankfulness. We often forget to express our appreciation for loved ones and strangers who do things for us, even if it's the smallest gesture. One example Fr. Schneider brought up is a kid receiving a birthday gift from his grandma, running away with it, and the mother asking him in a scolding tone, "Did you forget something?"

I try to thank people as much as I can, but sometimes, I wonder if I go too far. I also don't say it enough in some situations, especially when it comes to the little things everyone around me does to make my life easier.

I have a theory on why we don't have as much gratitude as we should, at least with the little things. Waking up and being alive is just automatic to us. But the experience of living is not always guaranteed to us. Forgive me if this seems dark, but several people around the world—maybe even thousands—go to bed at night and don't wake up the next day. Perhaps they had a sickness. Or, what many of us may either dream of or dread, they died in their sleep from old age.

Having the experience of being human is something we often take for granted. Not that other animals don't have it good. (I sometimes wish I came into this world as a cat or dog some days.) But the fact that we humans have such complex brains that we can feel deeply, think critically, and develop such detailed art with deep layers of creativity and thought behind it is something I think we should cherish more than we do.

A world without lawyers



Compostings

by Al Batt
 copyright © 2019 by Al Batt

have any tobacco and had considered swiping a cigarette from his father's pack, but we worried he had counted them. Curly dock stands 3 feet tall in the ditches, and its rust-brown seed stalks look like tobacco. Behind the barn, we fired up the pipe filled with curly dock seeds by use of a Zippo lighter borrowed from my friend's father. It lit the first time every time. Unfortunately. We each took an unhealthy puff. No fields in the township had ever been as green as we turned. There was a reason Prince Albert didn't take curly dock seeds into the can with him.

I've learned

A John Deere X9-1100 combine could harvest 7,000 bushels of corn per hour.

No matter what the problem was, my father thought a potato could make it better. It was good for what ailed you. He was a you tuber before there was YouTube.

Yellow jackets, no-see-ums and multicolored Asian lady beetles make eating outside no picnic.

Bad jokes department

A Texas sheriff pulled a cowboy over for speeding. The sheriff gave a long lecture about

slowing down and swatted at the flies buzzing around his head as he tried to write the ticket. The cowboy said, "Having trouble with those circle flies, huh?"

The sheriff frowned and said, "Circle flies? Never heard of them."

The cowboy grinned. "They're as common as dirt on the ranches around here. They're called circle flies because they're found circling a horse's rear end."

The sheriff paused and asked, "Wait a minute, are you calling me a horse's rear end?"

The cowboy said, "Oh no, sir! I'd never disrespect a sheriff that way."

The sheriff nodded and said, "Glad to hear it," as he went back to completing the citation.

The cowboy added, "I'd never call you that, but it's impossible to fool them circle flies."

I am the genie of the lamp and I'll grant you three wishes.

I want a world without lawyers.

Granted. You're done.

Wait a minute. I still have two more wishes.

So sue me.

Nature notes

The silver maple is a fast-growing tree. The upper surface of its leaf is bright green, and the lower surface is silvery white. The pale underside gives the tree a "silvery" appearance in a breeze.

An adult male ruby-throated hummingbird has a metallic ruby-red throat (gorget) and a forked tail with feathers pointed and all dark (no white tips). An adult female has a white throat with an occasional faint tan streaking and a fan-shaped tail with rounded feathers and white tips on the outer three feathers on each side. An immature male looks identical to an adult female, including the white tips to a fan-shaped tail, except he has a noticeably streaked throat. A juvenile female looks similar to an adult female.

Wireworms are the larvae of several species of click beetles. Click beetles flip into the air with an audible click to right themselves when overturned. Wireworm larvae feed on beans, beets, cabbage, carrots, corn, grasses, lettuce, onion, ornamentals, peas, potatoes and radishes. Wireworms are thin, shiny, jointed, yellow to reddish-brown, 1/4 to 1 1/2 inch long, worm-like larvae resembling mealworms. Adult click beetles don't cause plant damage.

Meeting adjourned

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"—Martin Luther King Jr. Be kind.

Taking being human for granted



Mikes Corner

by Michael Roy
 Staff writer

Copyright © 2019 by Michael Roy

What makes it challenging to be grateful is seeing the world around us and knowing life is not fair. You're always taught that good things happen to good people. But that's not always the case. Bad things happen to great people all the time.

The internet likes to amplify, in its mission to demoralize many of us, that evil people can have all the goodness in the world because they have the money to buy it all. Sure, they have tainted souls, and we're told they'll get their due punishment after our time on earth comes to an end. Tell that to the family man who barely makes ends meet and gets punished for missing a credit card payment because he's trying to put food on the table.

I do believe we've convinced ourselves the world's a bad place because we're letting ourselves become too negative. What's the point of working 50 hours a week only to put every single dollar you earn into bills? What's the point of breaking your back to get ahead if that doesn't work anymore? What's the point of getting into a relationship when it's almost a 50-50 chance of you getting divorced from the one you marry?

A notable example of life being unfair is the stock market crash over the weekend,

particularly in the cryptocurrency market, following Trump's tweet about imposing tariffs on China in response to their threat of "export controls" on all Chinese-made products. Someone somehow "predicted this" (likely with insider information), shorted several cryptocurrencies, and made out with \$190 million in 24 hours. It was perfectly timed, as they placed more shorts until one minute before everything came crashing down, with some cases seeing a 60 percent drop.

I wouldn't be surprised if there are still entire countries out there that aren't worth \$190 million. Yet one person made that in 24 hours. No wonder people struggle to stay grateful and positive.

I've tried my best to stay off social media. When I have stayed off for extended periods of time, my mental health has been slightly better. At minimum, it's forced me to focus on my own problems that I need to address. Because let's be real. I can either complain about how one person made \$190 million in the crypto market with insider information or use that energy to figure out how to make my life better. Given that I can't do anything about the former, I'll do the latter. And I'll try to be thankful for the life I have along the way, because all things considered, it's a pretty good one.

TID-BITS OF TRIVIA

- In street lingo, "Scratch" is slang for what?
- In surfing and skateboarding, a person who rides with their right foot forward is known as a what?
- In tabloid gossip, the term "new ink" refers to a stars newly acquired what?
- In taste tests, 60% of consumers indicate preferring the "creamy" over the "crunchy" version of what food?
- In teen girl slang, if someone is your "BFF," she is your what "Forever"?
- In tennis, a player who has lost a set 6-0 is said to have been what?
- In Chicago, you'll find a kitschy 26-foot-tall statue of what actress in a famous pose, white dress billowing up around her?
- In China, what does a person do with renminbi?
- In Christianity, Ascension Day is celebrated 40 days after what holiday?
- In Christianity, the ashes used on Ash Wednesday are traditionally made by burning what?

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

Do you have NEWS you want to tell us about?

Email Us!

janesvillejournal@outlook.com

THE Janesville Journal

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Allison Schlueter elected to membership into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

BATON ROUGE, LA - Allison Schlueter of Janesville, Minnesota, was recently elected to membership into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society, at Central Michigan University.

Schlueter is among approximately 20,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni to be initiated into Phi Kappa Phi each year. Membership is by invitation only and requires nomination and approval by a chapter. Only the top 10 percent of seniors and 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership. Graduate students in the top 10 percent of the number of candidates for graduate degrees may also qualify, as do faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 under the leadership of undergraduate student Marcus L. Urann who had a desire to create a different kind of honor society: one that recognized excellence

in all academic disciplines. Today, the Society has chapters on more than 300 campuses in the United States and its territories. Its mission is to "cultivate a community that celebrates and advances the love of learning."

About Phi Kappa Phi
Founded in 1897, Phi Kappa Phi is the nation's oldest and most selective collegiate honor society for all academic disciplines. Phi Kappa Phi inducts approximately 20,000 students, faculty, professional staff and alumni annually. The Society has chapters on more than 300 select colleges and universities in the United States and its territories. Membership is by invitation only to the top 10 percent of seniors and graduate students and 7.5 percent of juniors. Faculty, professional staff and alumni who have achieved scholarly distinction also qualify. The Society's mission is to "cultivate a community that celebrates and advances the love of learning." For more information, visit www.PhiKappaPhi.org.

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"Hockey is for everyone" Mankato Special Hockey to enter second season

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

One could argue that hockey, despite being a relatively niche sport, boasts the most passionate players, coaches, and fans. There's nothing better than seeing someone score a goal, seeing them celebrate, and cheering them on.

Minnesota Special Hockey aims to provide that same experience to those with special needs. MSH is an adapted ice hockey program for players of all ages who have developmental disabilities that would otherwise prevent them from enjoying the sport. The program was started by Susie Miller in 2006. The adapted hockey program is supported by the Hendrickson Foundation, an organization started in part by former Minnesota Wild player Darby Hendrickson, aiming to make the game of hockey "accessible to all people."

While the start of MSH came from a skate in Richfield, the league has grown to 18 teams. Mankato's team, which was founded last year, was the 17th adapted hockey program established under the umbrella of MSH. Tammy Bonnifield of the Janesville area is one of the team's managers, with Dylan Boettcher, who coached the Mankato adaptive floor hockey team to state, as the head coach of this team.

Discussions began when some locals, including Bonnifield, were interested in starting a team with MSH. She explained, "We have two other daughters who play hockey for Waseca. For years, we've been going to the games and practices. We have a daughter, Savanna, who tags along and usually gets bored."

Savanna started showing interest in the game a few years ago. "She would always say after a game, 'We have to be back in time for open skating,' so she could learn how to skate,"



Pictured above is Mankato Special Hockey's first practice last year with MSU Maverick players Below is Savanna Bonnifield at a tournament for MSH.

Tammy explained. She fell in love with it as soon as she started."

One day, Tammy recalled a fellow hockey mom asking her if she knew about Minnesota Special Hockey and if Savanna would be interested in playing. After being shown the website for MSH, Tammy noticed a problem right away: the closest teams were either in Lakeville or Rochester. Anyone who has had a hockey player in the family knows that the sport can be expensive and time-consuming at the best of times. But driving to one of those towns would take an hour one way.

"We couldn't fit it into our schedule, but we wanted her to play," Tammy said. "So, we thought, 'What if we brought a team to Mankato?'"

After reaching out to MSH directly, Tammy got a response from Jane Cashin, president of the board, with instructions on how to start a team. The only things they needed were a coach and a manager. Tammy was obliged to be one of the managers, and it so happened that they ran into Dylan Boettcher at a state bowling tournament. He agreed to coach the team, and they started their first season with a bang.

Compared to Rochester's first year, when they had about 4-6 players on the roster, Mankato began its inaugural season with ten players from Janesville,

Waseca, New Ulm, Mankato and North Mankato, St. James, and Lake Crystal. Not too bad for a hockey club just starting.

Although it was a fun year, it involved a lot of travel. Mankato is the only hockey club outside of Rochester in Southern Minnesota, which meant the Mankato team traveled to towns like New Hope and Lakeville



for games. However, there are rumblings of a few other cities in the southern Minnesota region that want to start a team.

"This program has just evolved," Tammy said. "One person we were talking to in New Ulm was interested in starting another team. If we can get more communities in Southern Minnesota to start teams, we may not have to travel as far."

Through MSH, the Mankato team has received several opportunities, similar to their

fellow hockey players, to meet their idols and get the whole experience. The Mankato Area Hockey Association has made it possible for the team to practice and host games thanks to their donation of the ice.

Minnesota State University, Mankato, also provided hands-on coaching when the team started. Maverick player Evan Murr even showed up at a recent MSH event with Lasting Imprint on a whim and provided shooting tips to all the kids. Shattuck-St. Mary's of Faribault, renowned for its state-of-the-art hockey program and alumni such as three-time Stanley Cup champion Sidney Crosby, also generously donates a full day to support MSH's gym, ice, trainers, and food.

The Hendrickson Foundation also hosts a festival in Blaine for MSH, sled hockey, and hockey for players who are blind and deaf. Wild players like Zach Parise and Marcus Foligno have been there, as well as a player or two from the Minnesota Frost women's hockey club.

This year will mark the 20th season for MSH. It's a great program that proves that it isn't about winning. It's a great reminder of why everyone loves the game: seeing those succeed in the sport that they may not otherwise have the chance to enjoy. After all, hockey is for everyone.

Council

cont from pg 1

adjustment for this particular event, yet granted Thorstad to use the space in case the Community Education plan fell through. Ultimately, they tabled further discussion on the matter until a later date.

Amundson led discussion on the updated Paid Family Medical Leave (FMLA) legislation that will be effective January 1, 2026. The statewide legislation grants employees up to 12 weeks of paid family/medical leave and places responsibility on the City to pay either 50% or 100% of an employee's premium. St. Clair was in a unique position as Council Members and Firefighters were now considered "employees" under the legislation, which Janike noted put the City at a "very high rate" and an additional quarterly tax would be implemented. There would be certain tax implications to the employee if they used FMLA, such as taxed wages, but further discussion revealed the contributions per paycheck

approximated at \$9.82 and an estimated yearly total of \$1200 for the City. Though well-versed on the subject matter, Amundson declared there were "logistical nightmares" with the updated FMLA, calling it a "very difficult issue." Nevertheless, she motioned the City to cover 50% of the employee premiums, and the Council moved forward with the motion.

The Council motioned to approve Resolution 2025.25—a \$1,000 donation to the St. Clair Fire Department from the trust of Susan Funfsinn. Janike updated the Council regarding the City's Fleet card usage. After speaking with Tyler at the BP station, the City's fleet card will remain on site and be available to City trucks & equipment for fuel as well as miscellaneous purchases such as food, soda, batteries, ice, etc. A recommendation to issue a secondary card for "after-hour fueling" was strongly considered; however, Fitzloff raised legitimate concerns about "checks and balances" regarding its use. All parties seemed in favor of a second card in case of a fueling emergency, and advised the logistics pertaining to authorization would be sorted

out later.

Fire Chief Report: The St. Clair Fire Department responded to 124 calls YTD. Several firefighters would host kindergarten and first grade classes for Fire Prevention Week on Friday, October 10. The recent road closures due to construction has made responding to calls "a bit challenging" according to Fitzloff; many members live on the north side of town, and have been delayed. In response, the FD has considered staging a fire truck on the north side of town for faster response times. The delivery of the new chassis has been delayed until January 2026.

Public Works Report: the yearly Sludge Haul was scheduled for October 8, but a maintenance delay has pushed the project a few days... expected to resume October 9 or 10. Barriers have been placed at the park path to prevent motorized vehicles from traveling through. With Schalow Drive remaining a gravel road until further notice, Baker advised the Council to consider purchasing a "straight blade" for the loader once snow removal is needed. He was

informed not to use the recently acquired carbide blade to avoid "knocking out the inserts" but would reach out for clarification and report back.

Clerk/Treasurer Report: Liquor license forms were sent to the Legion and Uptown Tavern for 2026, and Janike expected a response by the end of the year. Notices for 40 overdue utility accounts had been sent to Blue Earth County; the official deadline for the accounts is November 21, and the official count would be sent on November 30. All accounts unpaid would be applied toward residents' property taxes. A regional safety meeting will be held in Eagle lake on October 17.

Council Member Reports: Councilor Arndt recapped the September 22 St. Clair School Board meeting he attended; he would attend the October 20 meeting. More advised he would try to attend the October 9 Mayors & Clerks meeting.

With no further business, the Council adjourned at 20:57. The next St. Clair City Council meeting will be held on November 4 at 19:00.

Janesville Friends of the Library Book Sale

The Janesville Friends of the Library will be holding a book sale at the Janesville City Hall on **Saturday, November 8, from 8:30 am until 1:00 pm.**

Proceeds from the sale will go toward reading promotions, craft activities and other programs for children and adults.

If you have books, gently used games or puzzles which you would like to donate to the sale, you may drop them off at the library before **Thursday, November 6.**

Please no encyclopedias, textbooks or video tapes.

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Inspired Health and AHG host Open House Oct 9

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

Friends, family, and clients of Inspired Health and Wellness and A**hole Garage (AHG) were welcomed to join them in celebrating the fall season with an open house on Thursday, October 9, from 3-6 p.m. near Pemberton.

Those who joined in the festivities had a chance to visit with Inspired Health owner Tina Gaffer and AHG owner Scott Harkema and enjoy some refreshments. Gaffer was also selling family-sized meals while Harkema had his merchandise. The guests had a chance to enter a drawing that would either net them \$100 in free meals from Inspired Health or a free oil change from AHG; Lisa Chelsey was the winner.

Gaffer and Harkema additionally have a farmstand. Their location is conveniently situated right on State Highway 83, just south of Pemberton, and is easily visible from the road. There were several treats, including S'mores bars, Pumpkin Bread, overnight oats, peanut butter rice Krispie treats, and many more. This editor can confirm that the s'mores bars were fantastic. The Rice Krispies treats also had a few cornflakes, which gave them an intriguing change of texture.

Although it was a windy afternoon, the sun countered the chill in the air caused by the gusts. Several visitors were in and out throughout the open house, sharing stories and celebrating the success that Inspired Health and AHG have seen throughout the year.



(Journal Photo by Mike Roy)

UMN Extension to host webinar series for cow-calf producers on conditioning and reinvestment strategies

Worthington, Minn. — The University of Minnesota Extension is excited to host a two-part winter webinar series titled: Strong Markets, Smart Moves: Cattle Edition. Zoom meetings will be held on Monday, October 27 and November 3, 2025, from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. CST.

This webinar series will help answer several commonly-asked recurring questions in times of record-high calf prices – Do I still need to pre-condition my calves in these high markets? and Where can I best invest additional revenue to yield the greatest return for my operation? Beef producers, ag business professionals, and those interested in learning more about beef production are invited to attend.

This two-part webinar series will address both the production and financial decisions facing cow-calf producers in today's strong markets. The first session will highlight the physiological and economic impacts of preconditioning practices – and why they remain critical even when calf prices are high. The second session will shift focus to the business side of the operation, exploring the financial and tax considerations of higher cattle revenues, and identifying which technologies, services, and management strategies offer the greatest potential return on reinvestment.

Monday, October 27, 2025: Preconditioning in high calf markets: why it's still important
High calf prices bring greater financial opportunities for beef producers—but also greater risks. This webinar will highlight why preconditioning remains a critical strategy for capturing top dollar on your calves. Learn

which practices buyers are willing to pay premiums for, which deliver the strongest return on investment, and how these practices support long-term calf health and performance. Discussion will also look at strategies to reduce the risk of BRD and other calf health challenges.

Presented by Dr. Angela Varnum, Extension Livestock Veterinarian, and Melissa Runck, Extension Educator – Beef Production Systems

Monday, November 3, 2025: Now is the time to plan for year-end tax planning!

The beef industry has been setting records for beef prices week after week, creating potential profit opportunities for producers. This presentation will discuss strategies for reinvesting these profits to benefit your operation today while also considering the long-term impacts of those investments. Topics will include areas such as safety, time savings, and comfort improvements—all with attention to maximizing return on investment.

Presented by Troy Salzer, Extension Educator – St. Louis County

Pre-registration is required. Please register by visiting <https://z.umn.edu/strongmarkets>. You will receive a Zoom link following registration. Only one registration is needed to attend both webinars. If you are unable to attend the live sessions, recordings of both sessions will be emailed to all registrants at the end of the series.

For questions, please contact Melissa Runck at mkrunk@umn.edu or by calling the Worthington Regional Extension Office at 507-372-3900, ext. 3904.

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Getting their Feathers Plucked

Jay's Way

By Jordan Carrillo



As the NFL season enters its seventh week, a third of the schedule is in the books... hopefully with Chicago's third win of the year, but who's keeping track? Me. I'm keeping track. Bear down. With six games under many of the NFL team's etched in stone, many are pondering where they can improve, some are wondering how they got here, and one team is the New York Jets. Oof, the Jets.

Admittedly, I haven't been following the NFL season as closely as I'd love to. Not having cable television for the first time in a long time has its drawbacks, and I'm too fiscally stingy to purchase the necessary streaming services to stay in touch. And don't even try to suggest pilfering the games off someone else's feed like other people I know. Huh, wait? What was that voice in my head? That was told to me in confidence? Hey, I didn't name any names, so we gucci.

Anyway, the storylines I have followed make for an engaging bit on this week's Jay's Way called "Who, What, When, Where, Why, or How?" The rules of the bit are simple: I will mention a team with a specific storyline then address it with one of the following questions: "Who, What, When, Where, Why, or How?" Here's my initial example. The Jets—why? That's it; that's the question. I won't go through every team, simply because the editor will throw a

fit for every new paragraph. Vikings—Upon returning to the field off their bye week, when will the other shoe drop on McCarthy's official rookie season? Why isn't Brian Flores a head coach again? Oh that's right...

Packers—How can a team look imposing against two division opponents to start the year only to become constipated (cheese pun) against the Browns and have a historic tie against the Cowboys?

Lions—Who is Ben Johnson again? What team does he coach? How are they doing?

Bears—Who is Ben Johnson again? What team does he coach? How are they doing?

Cowboys—Who will polish Jerry Jones' glasses now that his son-in-law is no longer his son-in-law? When will Prescott get his money? Why is Aubrey such a goated kicker?

Giants—What even is a Skattebo and why does he fill me with such happiness? Why hasn't a tobacco company advertised Jaxson Dart to sell

darts for them? When will Wilson post more cringe? Broncos—What even is a leverage penalty in a game where lineman are constantly locking arms with each other? The whole point of football is leverage in the trenches.

Bengals—Where does the organization find these offensive lineman? How is the offense one of the highest paid in the league, but without Burrow, looks like a peewee team? What do they think old man Flacco can do?

Bills—Why is Allen the luckiest man on the planet, but the Bills are the unluckiest in the playoffs? How often does he recreate the scene from Sinners with his wife?

Chiefs—When will Kelce use his redwood like a magic wand to wish his team's offense back to life?

Chargers—How long can this team keep up with the overbearing force that is Harbaugh?

Niners—How can a team with so many injuries to key players keep winning games? What malevolent forces is Shanahan

tampering with? Why is McCaffrey made of paper machete and glass?

Patriots—No question here. Just happy they are getting back to it now that the Brady/Belichick hangover is finally over. Maye has that dog in him.

Browns—Speaking of dogs, when it is time to put this team down? How much of a headache is Sanders when Dillon Gabriel starts above him? Who is Dillon Gabriel? Seriously, who is he?

Eagles—A beatdown by the Giants last week raises just one question: What is going on with the Super Bowl Champs? When did they forget to hand the ball off to Saquon? How can an unstoppable play in the Tush Push be spammed four straight times and only gain three yards?

And for the dismount to this bit that probably lost its luster after the Chiefs...

Ravens—What has happened to a defensive regime that defined this team for decades? Why haven't Ray Lewis and Ed Reed come barging in to toss heads? How can the defensive coordinator still have a job after allowing 178 points in their five losses? When will Jackson and Henry admit they have lost a step following years of punishment? Why do I smell the other Harbaugh's burning rump?

To what extent will the Ravens have their feathers plucked until enough is enough? Ooh, I threw in another journalistic question. I'm full of surprises.

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JFD
cont from pg 1

"Don't hide under your beds or in your closets," he added. "We want to be able to find you to get out of the fire as soon as possible."

Asst. Chief Dobberstein then showed off their thermal imaging camera, which helps them locate people trapped in fires by displaying heat images through the smoke. Since humans emit heat, firefighters can see those they need to rescue, even if the room is full of smoke.

Afterwards, the students were treated to a tour of all the firetrucks in the Janesville Fire

Department's Fleet, from the pumpers that put out the fires with their hoses to the tankers that store the water to allow firefighters to use the water in places with no readily available supply. Students also got to see the star of the day, Sparky the Dog, throughout the day and posed with him for photos throughout the morning.

It was an entertaining day for the students, teaching them the significance of fire safety. By making smart decisions, they can help firefighters rescue victims of fires more quickly. With knowledge of fire safety, students will have more confidence in knowing not only what to do when a fire breaks out, but also how to prevent fires from happening in the first place.

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Fall Home & Car Care

Still going strong after 60 years in business

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

In a world with numerous vehicle dealerships, finding a family-owned one that retains its original small-business values can be challenging, especially today. However, Lager's of Mankato and St. Peter have kept the family values that they began with and are still going strong after 60 years in business because of it, surviving floods, tornadoes, and changes within the auto industry.

"I think our perseverance has helped us stay successful," said Ashley Lager, general manager of the dealership and a third-generation member of the family. "We also make sure we take care of our community the way that we would take care of our own family. It sounds cliché, but it's true."

Although many in the local area may know about the Mankato location, the Lager legacy began in St. Peter in 1965, when brothers Gerald J. and William F. Lager decided to open a car dealership, selling Chrysler, Plymouth, and International Truck brands of vehicles. The original location is where Jake's Stadium Pizza, the Woolen Mill, and the Pulse Fitness are currently in downtown St. Peter.

It wasn't even a few months into the business when the first test of adversity struck the Lager brothers, as a historic flood caused the Minnesota River to crest over 29 feet. Although the business pulled through, the brothers decided to relocate it to its current site on Old North Minnesota Avenue.

In 1974, the Lagers expanded their operations to include an alignment shop, a heavy-duty truck and service operation, a car wash, and a gas station. When the opportunity to grow further in Mankato presented itself with Dalton Motors closing its doors in 1977, the brothers took the opportunity to start a Chrysler Plymouth dealership. The brothers split the workload between their two dealerships, with Bill operating the St. Peter location while Gerry took over in Mankato.

In 1985, the Mankato location received a 5,000-square-foot

expansion, which included three service bays, a fully automatic car wash, a reconditioning center, separate office spaces for car sales and rentals, a drive-thru service area, and an expanded sales lot.

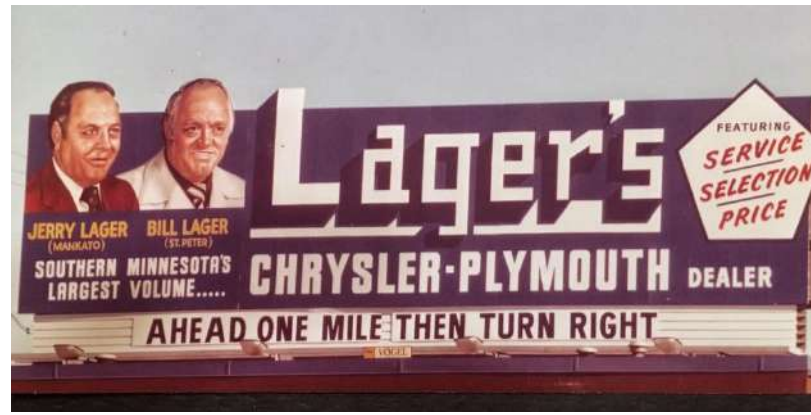
Although the business expanded under the brothers, tragedy struck when Bill Lager passed in 1989. Losing his brother and business partner of 25 years, Gerald decided to offer ownership to his son, Franklin A. "Kip" Lager. In 1992, the St. Peter dealership expanded its lineup to include the Pontiac line of vehicles, as well as Buick and GMC. During that year, Gerry retired from the business with his wife, Gloria, leaving Kip as the sole owner of the business.

The dealership in St. Peter survived the 1998 F3 tornado that struck the city, and the business recovered by opening a car wash and quick lube at the Mankato location in August of that year. Since then, the dealership has continued to grow and prosper. It was ranked #13 on the Denver BC Dealer Ranking for placing in the top ten percent of dealers in 2008. In the following years, the Mankato dealership maintained a five-star rating seven out of eight years.

Ashley Lager entered the picture on June 6, 2016, when she joined her father, Kip, working at the Mankato dealership following her graduation from Gustavus Adolphus College. "When I was in college, I thought about going with different career options," she explained. "But I ended up wanting to give the family business a try. I fell in love with it right away. And seeing my dad work as hard as he did...he was a great role model for me."

She remembered how loyal the employees were to the company and how many of them were still around today. "When I first started back in 2016, we had a few employees who had worked there for decades. I liked knowing that my name was attached to all these wonderful people who represented my family so well."

While Kip is still the President of the company, Ashley serves as the general manager. It gives her a unique schedule. "Every day is different," she elaborated. "My dad



and I are both very involved with the business. Some owners and management staff allow employees to do what they need to do and are more distant. But we like being more hands-on and on the front lines."

Ashley's day could involve a



combination of working on accounting, parts, service, or detail...or maybe all of that at once. "It keeps every day interesting. You have the good and bad days, of course. But every day is still fun, because you never know what comes next."

Her favorite part about being involved in the auto industry is, well, all of it. More specifically, she loves helping customers find the right vehicle for them. "It's one of the bigger purchases in a person's life. Vehicles move our lives. Without them, no one can accomplish their goals. Being in that portion of people's lives is exciting."

Like anything in life, you're going to have challenges. The

Lagers are familiar with facing adversity. However, some of the challenges are a little different these days than what the original Lager Brothers may have faced. For example, technology in vehicles has advanced immensely in the last few years, making it more challenging to repair the car and, at times, more expensive.

"The new tech is exciting," Ashley elaborated. "But with every new piece of technology, we still must remember that a car is a machine. Things will break down. And the newer the feature, the more repairs it needs, especially all the electronics."

Another challenge is manufacturing. The COVID pandemic disrupted the entire auto industry, affecting the shipment of vehicles. Only now have the logistics of the auto industry recovered to "pre-COVID" levels.

Politics, unfortunately, has also affected the industry, with the most recent example being the elimination of EV rebates and incentive programs. "Whether that will be a good or bad thing, time will tell," Ashley said.

The most glaring issue, which is the case in most trades, is finding workers. "Getting technicians is going to be the number one pain point in any dealership or independent shop. Our kids have been told, including myself, 'You're going to school, then college, then doing this.' We've conditioned everyone into thinking they need to get a four-year degree. We should try to encourage kids to go back into the trades more."

Many are starting to retire, but the number of workers entering the industry is nowhere near enough to replace them. Ashley recalled a



The Lager family

quote that once stated, "For every four technicians retiring, only one comes back in." Many technicians also find the technology difficult to work with compared to the former methods. "Many of them are used to wrenching, but it's now more computer-based," she elaborated.

It's why there are incentives for those interested in going into the industry, such as learning how to perform repairs starting as a lube technician, which doesn't require school. "Many places will teach you on the job," she added.

Many may not understand what goes into getting a vehicle for customers behind the scenes. "When buying new, the manufacturer sets the SRP (suggested retail price), and we have rules we must follow on how we can market and sell the vehicles. When it comes to used vehicles, we primarily rely on customers trading in their own vehicles. With many selling their vehicles on Facebook marketplace and Craigslist, it adds a layer of challenges."

She also shares the same level of frustration waiting for car parts as customers do when waiting for their vehicles to get fixed. "We don't make the parts, so we can't control when they get here. It frustrates us, because we want to help you get back on the road in whatever capacity you need."

With winter coming up, vehicle maintenance is essential. Tips Ashley shares include checking the vehicle's tire inflation and tread depth. "State law says you have to have two thirty-seconds of an inch of tread on tires. If the tread depth is too low, you can cause car

accidents." Another thing people may not think about is checking wiper blades, which are supposed to be switched out every six to twelve months. A telltale sign that it's time to switch the blades is when there is streaking across the windshield. She also urges everyone to do regular oil changes.

"Oil changes are more important than you realize," she pointed out. "Some manufacturers have built in oil life monitors in your vehicles that are either mileage-based readings or time-based. They don't typically test the oil viscosity or how dirty it gets."

Although many may wait until about the 10,000-mile mark, she suggests a minimum of 5,000 to 6,000 miles, right around the time tire rotations would be needed. "Once the oil gets dirty, it can cause issues within the interior of the engine. Those problems always seem to pop up right after the warranty expires."

Whatever the times bring, Lager's is ready to face them head-on and help their clients through whatever challenges they may face. "We're still here and proud to be a locally owned, family-run business," Ashley said. "Only a few of us are left in town. If you ever have any car questions or need assistance, our staff is more than happy to help."

"We haven't changed much in building or lots, but we've grown in business," she continues. "We hope to be here for another few generations."

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Fall Home & Car Care

21 Best Farmhouse Fall Décor Ideas to Fill Your Home With Cozy Country Charm

The fall season is almost here! That means it's time to start planning when to decorate for fall and what to decorate, too. There are so many cozy fall decorating ideas to choose from for every inch of the house, both inside and out. But if you're looking specifically for farmhouse fall décor, you've come to the right place. You'll find over 20 adorable ideas with so much cozy country charm that are both easy and affordable.

Try everything from pretty porch décor and inviting entryways to welcome all your guests to easy updates to your living room, bedroom, and kitchen. Some of these ideas are as simple as grabbing some throw blankets or swapping out your pillows to update your color scheme instantly. Then add a floral centerpiece or set an entire fall tablescape that will make all those fall dinners with the family even more delicious.

And of course, plenty of pumpkins and plaid make appearances. Would a list of fall farmhouse decoration ideas really be complete without them? Mix and match colors, tone down to earthy hues, or go completely neutral. Either way, you can't go wrong. So get ready to snuggle up with a PSL, because your home is about to transform into the fall farmhouse of your dreams!



Build a Seasonal Tablescape

Creating a warm and inviting dinner table doesn't need to be for a holiday, nor does it have to be stuffy. Placing a plaid tablecloth diagonally and mixing plaids gives this setting a more casual look.



Update Your Entryway

How inviting! Doesn't this entryway urge you to take off your shoes and cuddle up with that chunky blanket? The velvet pumpkins and cute oversized acorns add the perfect autumnal touch, too.



Decorate Your Hutch

Hutches can be so versatile! Sure, you can store dinnerware and other serving essentials. Or, you could turn it into a seasonal display! Look how effective the different shades of pumpkins and touches of brass are.



Swap Out Seasonal Throw Pillows

You don't have to change everything in your home when the weather changes seasons. Nope, all you need is to swap out a few of your throw pillows, add a few cute pumpkins, and you'll have a fall living space in no time.



Hang an Autumnal Wreath

This idea isn't corny at all! In fact, we'd say crafting with cornstalks is the most festive way to bring fall to your farmhouse. Make a wreath or go all out with giant stalks framing your door.



Fill Rustic Fall Crates

Be honest, you own a few wooden crates already, don't you? Put them to good use and fill them with seasonal decorations like white pumpkins and

greenery as decorations for any spot you have in the house.



Update Your Entryway

An entryway is more than just a place for everyone to take off those muddy shoes. You can add decorative touches like a wreath and a basket of pumpkins while leaving room for jackets, bags, and shoes.



Spruce Up Your Basement

If you have a furnished basement, don't forget to add a few fall touches. Look how pretty the contrasting neutral decorations look against the darker finish. Plus, you can download a seasonal photo to display on your TV!



Cozy Up Your Porch

Fall is one of the best seasons to enjoy outside. It's not super hot, nor is it super cold. But adding cozy pillows and a blanket will ensure its inviting no matter the temperature.



Add a Table Runner

It's amazing how just a simple table runner can transform the look of your dining room.

Plaid is a natural fit, as it fits the rustic farmhouse vibe and the autumnal feel you're going for at the same time.



Bring in Your Firewood

Nothing says rustic quite like firewood. And since you're going to bring some inside anyway, why not make it part of your décor? Add a pretty basket to hold your wood and you'll feel instantly cozy.



Layer Cozy Textures

Add warmth to your space by adding textures. Knit throw pillows and fuzzy throw blankets (this one is actually a scarf!) add a cozy feeling to an otherwise seasonless space.



Reflect the Seasonal Change

The leaves are turning outside, so have them turn inside as well! You can use faux options that you can reuse year after year, and that way, they don't shed all over your home either.



Swap to Earthy Tones

Warm, earthy tones can create a cozy atmosphere. Incorporating colors like ochre, rust, deep brown, and olive green into your décor can help seasonalize your space. Curtains, pillows, throw blankets—these are all easy options to swap out.



Welcome the Season with a Door Mat

Hello, pumpkin! Welcome guests and the season with a cute door mat or two. Layering them adds style and often times, they are sold together so you don't have to worry about matching them yourself.



Make an Inviting Mantel

That fireplace is about to see a lot of action in the upcoming months. Make it the center of attention by updating your mantel. That mix of greenery and white pumpkin garland is stunning, isn't it?



Repurpose Throw Blankets

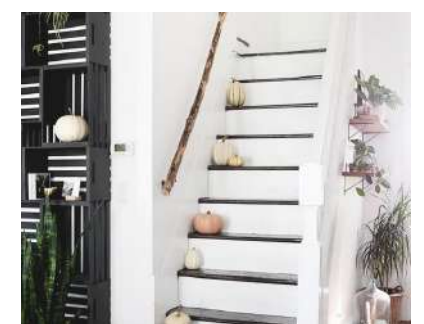
It's okay to admit you have more than one plaid throw blanket. Get some extra use out of it by wrapping it around a

pillow and creating a seasonal throw blanket/pillow combo! Coordinating a few items on the nightstand will pull the look together.



Neutralize Your Kitchen

Since your kitchen needs to stay functional, you don't have to overdo the decorations. But look how lovely a touch of wheat, a bowl of pears, and a some neutral kitchen towels do to give your space an updated look.



Don't Skip the Staircase

Of course, you don't want to add a ton to your stairs since you have to use them. But, adding a few scattered gourds of various shades really does update a space. They also help draw attention to that very rustic and fun handrail.



Add Fall Florals

A muted floral arrangement and a distressed metal planter are just meant to be together. Place it on your table as a centerpiece or on a side table in your living room for instant autumnal vibes.



Bring in the Buffalo Plaid

If there's ever a more appropriate time to break out the buffalo plaid, this is it! Welcome the season with a cute sign and some matching garland or simply swap out throw pillows and blankets.

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JORDAN CARRILLO
Staff Writer

In the heart of Madison Lake's Main Street, Carriage Auto Repair (CAR) stands as a local landmark, balancing a rich 42-year history with a dedicated focus on modern automotive needs. Today, under the Ownership of Matt Sultze, CAR continues its tradition of exceptional service, built on a legacy that literally stretches back to the era of horse-drawn carriages.

The name "Carriage Auto Repair" might evoke images of a bygone era—and for good reason. The building, which even today reminds some customers of a classic barn or stable, was once a functional livery station. It was here, long ago, that local craftsmen worked on actual horse-drawn carriages. When former owner John Schneider's father established the business, he deliberately kept the name, recognizing both the local history and the happy coincidence that the initials—CAR—clearly pointed to their modern trade. Sultze, who purchased the business on March 25th, is committed to upholding a brand made strong by the Schneider family, and yet remains focused on bringing the business toward its next chapter.

Carriage Auto Repair operates as a true one-stop shop, catering to a wide range of needs beyond standard vehicle maintenance. While they expertly service a variety of makes and models, their capabilities extend to small

engines, trailers (including repacking), semi, and agricultural (ag) equipment, and even welding services. Sultze noted that modern vehicles, particularly high-tech models like Tesla and other electric cars, require specialized subscriptions and tools for full diagnostics.

However, CAR ensures it has the correct equipment to scan and diagnose most issues and handle basic maintenance on nearly anything that drives.

The team's experience is evident in the challenging jobs they handle—such as a timing chain replacement, which is typically a minimal seven to eight-hour job, or lengthy engine replacements. Fortunately, major brands like GM and Ford often prove straightforward for

veteran technicians like Ben & Tom Schneider.

The future of CAR involves significant expansion, reflecting the growing needs of their customer base which spans from local Madison Lake residents to those in surrounding areas like Cleveland, Janesville, and Eagle Lake. In addition to upgraded diagnostic technology and technical equipment, Sultze plans to add three service bays to increase capacity and efficiency, provide a facelift to the storefront, and install a new alignment rack to better serve tire and suspension needs. Typical appointments vary based on complexity: a routine oil change is roughly one hour, while brakes can take about two hours. CAR supports

its customers with convenient drop-off options, online scheduling, and courtesy cars to minimize disruption.

As seasons change and temperatures ebb and flow, CAR's services shift to meet specific customer demands. During the chiller months of fall and winter, battery testing and replacement become more common, alongside checks of coolant systems. Conversely, during the warmer months, the team spends more time checking fluids, ensuring coolant is stocked, and performing AC reloads—a service for which they recently acquired specialized machinery. Though his livelihood relies on a constant flow of vehicles requiring service, Sultze offered



Pictured above is Matt Sultze, Owner of Carriage Auto Repair. (Journal Photos by Jordan Carrillo)

preventative maintenance tips to keep vehicles running smoothly.

He recommends car owners perform a quick inspection monthly, paying attention to fluid levels, tire pressure, and battery charge.

Continuing a legacy spanning four decades is what drives Sultze and his team at CAR to provide the very best service they can, and they eagerly anticipate where this road may take them. Sultze expressed his gratitude toward Schneider, his team, and the Madison Lake community for embracing this new chapter in a local landmark's history. "We have a great community here. I want to sincerely thank Ben and Tom for their help with the transition, and a special thank you to John and Carol for what they built over decades. We are focused on continuing that legacy of providing great service and being a trusted brand in the Madison Lake area."



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Fall Home & Car Care

Home Projects You Should Tackle While You're Stuck Inside This Winter

Just because the temperatures plummet and snow covers the ground, doesn't mean you need to put away your tools and stop doing home projects. Instead, turn to those that can be completed during the winter months, such as painting interior walls, replacing old carpet, or renovating the basement.

These are our favorite home renovations to tackle in winter.

Insulate the Attic and Crawlspace

One of the best projects that can be completed in the winter is replacing or adding to the existing insulation in the attic and crawlspace. Ensuring your home is properly insulated will help to reduce the cost of heating bills, while also protecting the attic, crawlspace, and any infrastructure residing in these parts of the home.

Seal Cracks and Gaps Around Windows and Doors

Sealing the cracks and gaps around windows and doors can reduce heat loss and improve the overall efficiency of the home. You can typically use caulking to seal up these cracks and gaps, though you may need to resort to using an insulating spray foam to patch larger cracks around the windows and doors of the home.

Install a Kitchen Backsplash

Use this time inside during winter to tackle a kitchen backsplash installation project. The job doesn't take a lot of time to begin with, but may take even less time during the winter months when the air tends to be dryer, allowing the adhesive and grout to dry quicker.

Lay Hardwood Flooring

It's a common misconception that hardwood installation projects should be completed during the warmer months of the year, when in fact, it's much easier to lay new hardwood flooring in the winter. This is primarily due to the low humidity levels, which helps to prevent gapping between the newly placed hardwood boards, while also decreasing the risk of water damage. If you plan to use adhesive for your hardwood flooring job, the winter air helps the adhesive dry faster than it would during the spring or summer months.

Touch Up or Repaint the Walls

Interior painting projects are one of the most popular choices

for winter home renovations, and as you work, the winter air will help to quickly dry each coat of paint, reducing the overall time for the project.

Update Light Fixtures

Take some time to update light fixtures while you are stuck inside this winter. If you have experience working with electrical system may be able to replace a light fixture on your own, though it's important to take proper precautions to avoid accidental injury.

Organize and Redecorate the Laundry Room

Winter is the perfect time to organize or redecorate the laundry room. You can paint the walls, install new shelving for laundry supplies, and invest in updated laundry bins to keep your clothes and home linens neatly sorted.

Many home appliances tend to go on sale during the winter months, so it can be a great time to purchase a new washer and dryer to complete the updated appearance of the laundry room.

Replace Kitchen Countertops

After the holiday, the winter months is a good chance to make changes to the kitchen, such as replacing old worn, scratched, and cracked kitchen countertops. Redoing the kitchen countertops is relatively straightforward, though the weight of the countertops can pose a problem for solo DIYers.

Install a Programmable Thermostat

A quick and easy job for most DIYers this winter is to replace the old thermostat with a programmable thermostat that can be set to operate on a specific schedule. This will allow you to automate your home heating and cooling process, improving the efficiency of your home.

After installing the programmable thermostat, set it to reduce the temperature indoors at night and during the day when everyone is at work or school. This simple change will typically lead to lower heating costs throughout the winter season.

Reface Kitchen Cabinets

Completely replacing the existing kitchen cabinets is a huge job, but if you are fine with the current layout and the amount of storage provided by the existing cabinets, instead of replacing them, you can reface the cabi-

nets to update the appearance.

Refacing kitchen cabinets typically involves installing new drawer fronts and cabinet doors, veneering the cabinet boxes, and installing new cabinet hardware.

Create a Home Office

Instead of making the trek to the office every day, you may want to spend some time this winter creating an office at home. If you have a spare room or some extra space around the house, you can invest in ergonomic office furniture and functional decor to create a workspace that you can use whenever the weather outside keeps you from commuting to the office.

Replace Old or Worn Carpeting

If your carpet is stained, damaged, or simply worn out, it may be time for an upgrade. Wait until after the holiday traffic is over, then set aside a weekend to take up the old carpet and install new carpet. The updated carpet will feel better under your feet and it can help to insulate the floor to ensure a balanced distribution of heat throughout the home.

Redecorate the Home

Not every home improvement project needs to involve power tools. When the winter snow starts to fall, use your time indoors to redecorate the space by hanging new artwork, putting up mirrors, or installing wall decor that helps to enhance the existing aesthetic. You can also rearrange furniture and appliances throughout the home to create refreshing new layouts and to give your home an updated feel.

RegROUT or Replace Shower Tiles

Grout lines can start to become discolored over time, or may even develop small cracks that can lead to the grout crumbling. Similarly, damaged shower tiles may allow water to seep into unseen places where it can cause mold growth or may even begin to rot the walls.

Take some time this winter to replace any old grout or damaged shower tiles to protect and preserve the infrastructure of your bathroom. Winter is typically slow for professional contractors, so if you are unsure about your DIY abilities, don't hesitate to call in the pros.

10 Fall Home Improvement Projects to Tackle This Year

While it's best to take on some household tasks or remodeling projects during the long days of spring or summer, fall is the perfect time for many home projects before it gets too cold.

Many of these fall home renovation tasks can be accomplished in an afternoon or weekend day. Or you can easily hire a local home remodeling contractor or home maintenance professional to do a high-quality job while you take some time to relax.

1. Clean Out Your Gutters

Getting all the leaves out of the gutters and clearing the way for the winter's deluge might be downright essential, depending on your climate. That said, gutter maintenance is important for the health of your house no matter where you live, so getting it done during a crisp fall afternoon is a great idea. Autumn is a good time to replace your gutters if that's necessary as well.

You can also hire a local gutter cleaning service to do the job—they can ensure all leaves and other debris are cleared out before the snow starts falling.

2. Book a Roof Inspection

When was the last time you had your roof inspected? If it's been a while, it might be time to get up on your roof and survey it for missing shingles or other damage. You can even hire a roof inspector near you to check things out.

A roofing company can check the state of your roof, the vents, and the chimney, as well as fix any minor problems like small leaks or missing shingles.

Generally, the same team that performs your roof inspection can make small fixes or recommend a service that can do any necessary roofing work. Keep in mind that if there are major problems or your roof is on the older side, you might want to consider more extensive roofing work or even a roof replacement during the relatively temperate fall weather.

3. Insulate Your Attic

While you're thinking about the roof, it might also be time to look at the attic or hire a local company to add to or upgrade attic insulation. Insulating or re-insulating your attic can

significantly lower your energy costs since the attic is often the place where warm air escapes and cold air seeps in.

4. Fertilize The Lawn

During the summer, you likely want to keep unnecessary chemicals off the lawn as kids play or you entertain guests in your yard. Either way, it's not necessarily the best idea to apply fertilizer treatments until things cool off and outdoor party season winds down, making the beginning of fall a great time to handle any serious lawn care needs.

5. Remove Dying Trees

As leaves fall and branches become more exposed, you may notice signs of decay or disease on trees in your yard. Removing a dying tree before winter arrives is crucial because snow or ice can weigh down weak branches, causing them to break and potentially damage your home or property. Plus, clearing out a dead or dying tree now means you'll have less yard work to do when spring rolls around.

Look for signs like significant bark shedding, cracked or rotting branches, or noticeable fungal growth around the tree's base. If you're unsure of when to remove a tree, contact a local tree removal service. They can assess the tree's health and safely remove it before it becomes a hazard.

6. Refinish and Treat the Deck or Patio

Once patio weather and grilling season are over, then you should take the time to clean and re-stain or refinish your deck or patio if need be. This will help protect during the upcoming winter chill, of course, and ensure that you have a beautiful outdoor space for the next spring and summer.

Hiring a local company to refinish your deck or patio can be efficient if you have a larger veranda, but if your outdoor area is small and simple to maintain, you can likely dedicate an autumn day to the project. All it will take is some stain and a few simple tools, and a bit of elbow grease.

7. Repaint, Refinish, or Re-Stain the Siding

If you have wooden siding, such as cedar shakes, then you likely know that it needs to be

thoroughly cleaned and refinished every so often. Fall is an ideal time to get it done, and you can hire a local siding company or contractor for the job or consider doing it yourself if you are especially handy.

Moreover, cooler fall weather is ideal for exterior painting and other similar maintenance projects. Temperatures over 80 degrees Fahrenheit and direct or prolonged sunlight exposure can fade, discolor, or otherwise have a detrimental effect on fresh paint or staining.

8. Refresh Your Fireplace

As the weather cools down, there's nothing better than gathering around a warm, crackling fire. That's why fall is the perfect time to inspect and clean out your fireplace to prepare for cozy nights ahead. Over time, soot and debris can build up in your fireplace and chimney, which can become a fire hazard.

Consider scheduling a professional chimney sweep to remove creosote buildup, clean out ashes, and give the firebox a good scrub. You can also find a fireplace inspector near you to give the fireplace a thorough checkup and make any necessary repairs.

9. Replace Old Windows

If the windows on your home are letting in cold air or otherwise leaving you and your family susceptible to the elements, then it might be time to replace them. Newer, more energy-efficient windows will keep you warmer and help save on heating and cooling costs. Plus, they can add value to the property if you're thinking about selling soon.

10. Winterize Everything You Can

If your home is in a region that gets cold winters, you probably already have a plan in place for getting the house ready for winter. Things like ensuring the irrigation system for your lawn or garden is properly winterized, re-caulking the windows and doors to seal up any cracks where heat might escape, and checking out the roof and making any needed repairs are all part and parcel of being a responsible homeowner, after all.

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St. Clair Elementary Knowledge Bowl competes at first meet of season

By RICARDO MORENO JR.
Staff Writer

The Elementary Knowledge Bowl season began on Thursday October 9th. It was an electrifying start for head coach Casey Gearity and the nine St. Clair Knowledge Bowl teams competing in the first meet. Six different schools, including Sibley East, Cleveland, and LCWM, gathered at the Loyola Fitzgerald campus to test their knowledge against each other. Twenty and five teams in total were competing and three of the top five would be from St. Clair.

St. Clair White Clouds and Green Grass had a similar road to their shared fifth place finish. Both teams averaged 12 points a round through the three competition rounds. They faced each other in the first round, in which White Clouds scored 11 points to Green Grass's 9 points, before being separated by only a few points in the second and third competitive rounds. Both teams ended the afternoon with a total score of 62 points and were awarded ribbons for their placement.

St. Clair Purple Cheereeos would make their presence

known in two ways, through their competitive ability and their positively charged attitude. They started the afternoon at rank 4 after scoring 29 points on the written test that begins every Knowledge Bowl meet. The Purple Cheereeos scored 17 points in the first round of competition.

That pushed them to rank 1 and landed them in room one where the fiercest Knowledge Bowl competitors battle for intellectual supremacy. A battle it was for the Cheereeos, indeed. They answered 13 of the 45 questions and won the round against their opponents by one point. The final round was equally competitive to the second; the Cheereeos answered and scored another 13 points. Their final score of the afternoon was 72 points, two points enough to secure a Rank 1 victory for themselves and St. Clair.

The Purple Cheereeos, White Clouds, and Green Grass teams look to be the leaders of the early season for St. Clair. A victory and their positive spirits could serve to see them win one, or many, more times over the season.

Elementary students experience life at the Fire Hall

By JORDAN CARRILLO
Staff Writer

For many years, the St. Clair Fire Department has held a Fire Safety class with kindergarteners and first graders as their pupils. On October 10th, six members of the Department were visited by six elementary classes (three kindergarten and three first grade) for a 40 minute lesson; the students strolled to the Fire Hall and were welcomed by Kyle Froehlich, Chris Arkell, and Kirsten Curry. The event, which included lessons on emergency response, hands-on activities, and a tour of the fire apparatus, successfully combined critical safety education with excitement, leaving a strong impression on the young students.

Firefighter Froehlich led the main instruction, focusing on the fundamental principles of fire safety and emergency response such as maintaining fire alarms and smoke detectors, avoiding inhalation of smoke and fumes, calling emergency services via 911, and the most important lesson of all when a fire breaks out: "Get Down, Get Out, and Stay Out." Froehlich even gave the young students some homework in checking their own smoke detectors after school. Firefighter Curry assisted by demonstrating the various gear firefighters wear, including boots, gloves, and helmets, providing a tangible look at the protective equipment. Both firefighters warned the children about the dangers of fire-starting tools, showing them what not to use, like lighters or matches. Many of the students were in awe of the fully-clad Curry, and even more so when they learned a miniaturized version would be available for them to wear.

The classes then broke out to watch educational content tailored to their age groups. kindergarteners watched Elmo experience a fire firsthand, a moment that initially shook



the muppet to his core, but his friends, local firefighters, and sliding down the fire pole helped bring his delightful smile back, which had the young students giggling with glee. First graders enjoyed the comedic musings of Timon & Pumbaa who recapped much of Froehlich's own fire safety advice, just with a charming musical number instead.

Once the education was out of the way, the most exciting portion of the day allowed the children to interact directly with the firefighting equipment. One group of students delighted in trying on the gear, though they quickly experienced the distress of all the layers and heaviness of the equipment their firefighter friends wear. Meanwhile, another group joined Travis Horn, Bradley Flowers, and Gerald Hohn in manning an actual fire hose to put out a "fire."

While a few children were intimidated by the noise and force of the hose, others had bright smiles on their faces as they each got a chance to participate and many of them put out the fire in record time, hinting there could be a future in firefighting for these youngsters. The day concluded on a high



note with the students taking a ride back to school in the fire truck, shouting, "Hooray for the firefighters!"

Fire Prevention Week highlights the importance of fire safety and the local Fire Departments who respond, and the lessons learned by the St. Clair Fire Department will

resonate in these young students for years to come. They got to witness the dangers, thrills, and experiences firefighters face up close, but in the end, the day was worth it for these kids; they got dropped off back at school in style.

Date Night from pg 1

arms tightly around their men for safety and security as they walked through the towering stalks. Not every couple was there just for snuggles and feel-good though as some pairs showed their love through competitive spirit at the basketball and tetherball courts.

Amidst the loving energy Date Night inspired, a beautiful and incredibly emotional moment unfolded: a simple photo op turned into a magical, unforgettable surprise when

Derek Huxford got down on one knee and proposed to his girlfriend of three years, Elissa! The look of complete shock and joy on Elissa's face was a beautiful testament to the power of the night. We wish the future Huxfords—if that's what they so choose—all the happiness in the world as they begin their journey together in holy matrimony.

As the fires glowed and the stars shone bright, the Fourth Annual Date Night once again proved to be the perfect evening for couples looking for time together, adventure, and perhaps, a spectacular start to their "happily ever after."

The weather is fickle

Do you remember when men would call women fickle (inconsistent and constantly changing)? This weather is as fickle as it can get!

Yesterday the weather was sunny with the temperature decent. Today it is cloudy with a cold wind and temperature to match.

The weather has always affected my attitude but over the years it has affected me physically as well. I have always been what they call a sun person. With the sun shining, no matter the temperature, I could work from sunup to sunset. People always seem happier too.

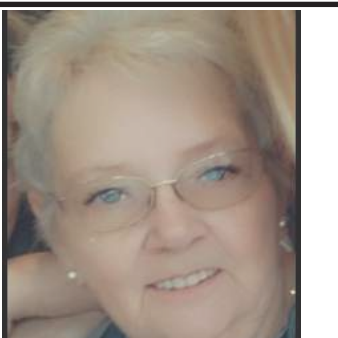
Couples always seem to get along better. The children seem better behaved and happy. When the weather turns nasty, it seems like the whole generation turns nasty.

When it gets cloudy, it's time to curl up with a good mystery book, snuggle with a blanket, and have hot chocolate. Or how about a nice long nap? Is it

Mother Knows BEST

By Kathy Richardson

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more difficult to get out of bed in the morning when it's cloudy?

With the wind blowing, do your sinuses tend to fill up or are your joints a little stiff?

Everyone seems to come down with colds, flu, or blahs. It seems like everyone is missing work or school with one illness or another when the weather takes a turn for the worse.

People don't dress for the sudden changes in weather. It's like their bodies don't want to accept the changing weather either. It may be cool in the morning, then warm to upper seventies by afternoon. Or vice versa as it is warm in the morning turning cool in the

afternoon. How should a person dress? I carry a sweatshirt or sweater with me in my vehicle all the time just to be on the safe side. I put a sweater on in the morning so that I can take it off when it warms up for the afternoon.

My dog, Spooky, even prefers the sun shining. When he goes out to do his duties, when done he will lay on the cement landing at the bottom of the steps to soak up the sun. When there is no sun, he goes out and quickly comes back in. He doesn't like the rain at all! If it is raining when I open the door, he won't go out.

He is accustomed to being in

the house for fairly long periods of time and doesn't have an accident in the house.

Whether I go to the grocery store or go to work for the day, he gets excited when I return in which I need to let him out immediately. He is such a good dog.

When the sun doesn't shine, the days seem so long. It's like time stands still. It doesn't matter if it is summer or winter, we are all happier when the sun shines.

When it is gloomy outside, or cool, maybe it is a good time to do some baking or maybe make that chili or homemade bean soup.

So, whatever the weather has going on, make the best of it. We must take the good with the bad.

We enjoy the good weather more when we have a little bad weather to remind us to appreciate it. The weather is as fickle as a woman!

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SPORTS

Lady Dawgs tame Rebels 3-1 on senior night

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

The JWP volleyball team has had a stretch of losses to some stellar teams in the Gopher Conference. They traveled to Triton, another conference opponent, on Monday, October 6, to face a mighty Cobras squad who sported an 18-6 record. Lady Dawgs lost to their venomous opponent 3-0.

Although they suffered a tough loss to a strong Gopher team, the girls aimed to end their last regular-season home contest on a positive note. They did so, beating United South Central – a conference rival they faced in a tournament in Nicollet – earlier in the season by 3-1 on Friday, October 10.

Cobras 3, Bulldogs 0

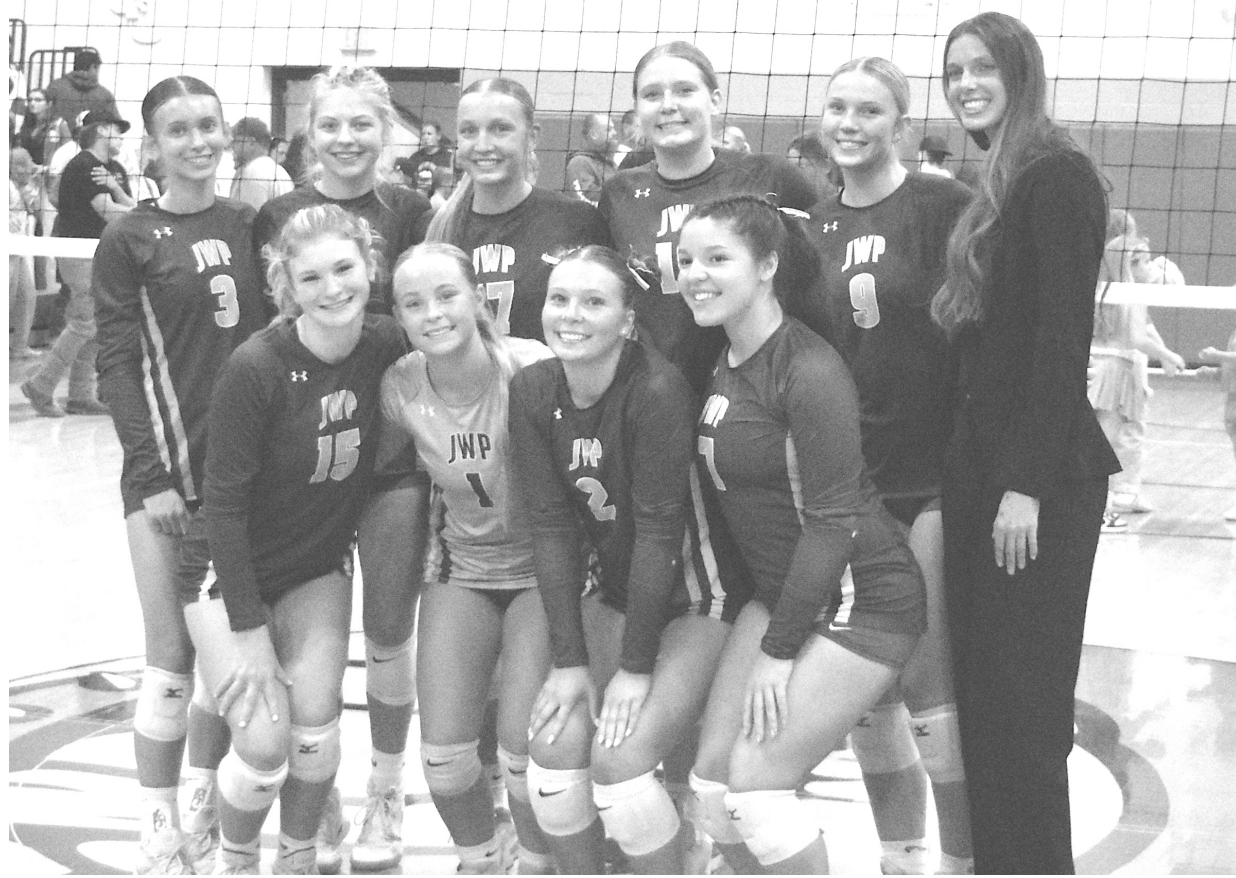
Triton was hoping to bolster its 18-6 record with a few wins. They were also hoping to catch Kenyon-Wanamingo for a shot at the Gopher Conference title. Although JWP tried to challenge the Cobras, Triton was too mighty for them to overcome, especially on the road. They lost in a clean sweep by the scores of 15-25, 17-25, and 15-25.

Bulldogs 3, Rebels 1

It was an emotional night for JWP when they faced USC. Since it was the last home game of the regular season, it was senior night. Before the teams warmed up, the underclassmen gave touching tributes to the nine seniors on the team – Lilly Ewert, Victoria Blomstrom, Nevaeh Weimert, Ellie Morsching, Lily Quast, Brielle James, Mikayla Wheelock, Katie Olson, and Aubrey Adams. All the seniors received gift baskets as well.

Head Coach Toryn Richards had several positive things to say about this group of seniors. "I've been blessed to have such a great group of seniors in my first year coaching this team," she said. "They helped make my job so much easier. We've all worked through our mistakes this year, and I've had many of my own as a coach. They've helped me work through those."

The Lady Dawgs turned their emotion into positive energy. Weimert was especially effective from the back end of the court,



JWP's last home game of the regular season against USC was senior night. They gathered for a photo after defeating the Rebels 3-1. Front row: Mikayla Wheelock, Lilly Ewert, Victoria Blomstrom, and Lily Quast. Back: Nevaeh Weimert, Ellie Morsching, Katie Olson, Aubrey Adams, Brielle James, and Head Coach Toryn Richards. (Journal photos by Michael Roy)

serving three aces to get JWP's first eight points of the game. The Rebels were forced to take a timeout at 6-0. Adams sank two kills in the set, with freshman Ashlynn Wolff supplying a spike. Two aces by Olson ended the first set, with the Bulldogs blowing out USC 25-10.

That seemed to wake up the Rebels, as they took a 2-0 start in the second set. Olson tied it initially with a kill, and her third ace of the night started a 6-4 lead. However, USC was relentless, and eventually, JWP was forced to take a timeout after falling behind 19-15. The Rebels eventually took the second set 25-20.

A hot start helped the Bulldogs catapult their way to a win in the third set. Wheelock set the tone with a perfectly placed kill between two players down the middle of USC's side of the court. JWP lured the Rebels closer to the net in one rally, and Wheelock found the back court

unguarded to help them take a 6-5 lead. They didn't look back as the team the 25-18 win in the third.

Weimert started the fourth set with yet another ace, and Wolff hit a shot over the blocking hands of USC. However, after a 6-5 lead for JWP, the Rebels went on an 8-5 run to force JWP to take a timeout.

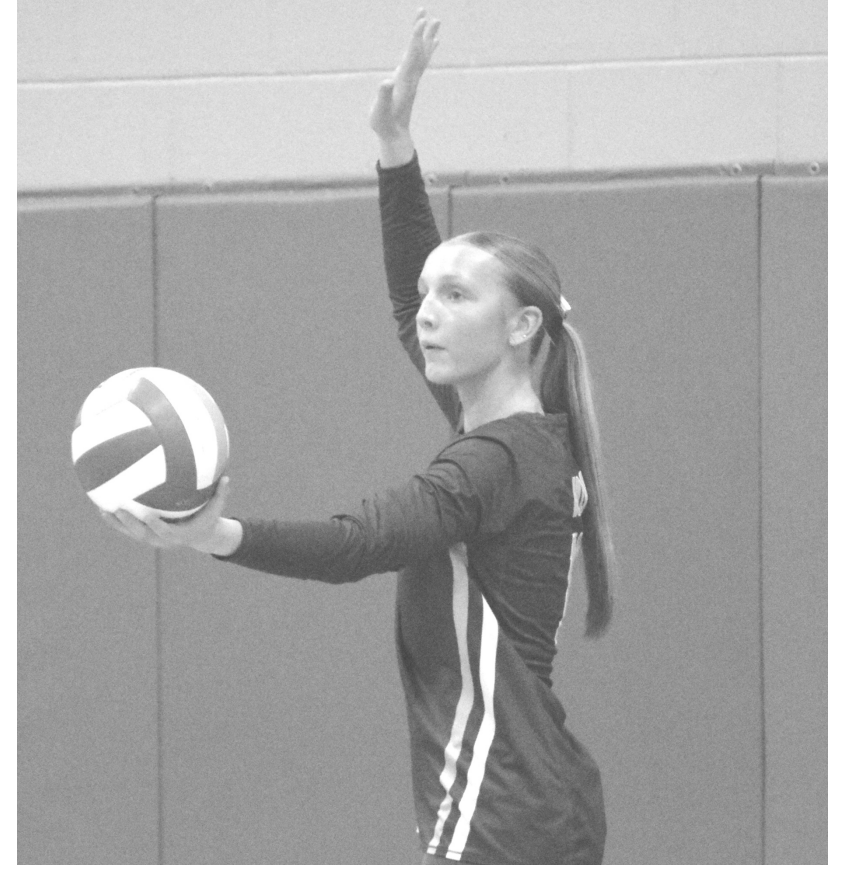
That quick breather seemed to do the trick, as Wheelock and Wolff blocked several spikes at the net front, helping JWP take the 18-15 lead. They went on another 6-3 run to make it 24-18, thanks to two Ewert aces and a Wheelock kill. They struggled to close out the set, with USC scoring three straight points to force a timeout at 24-21 for the Bulldogs. Brielle James called game with a light touch that USC couldn't handle.

Both the net front battle and serving helped JWP win this game. At least 15 points came off ace serves, with Weimert and Olson splitting six each. Olson also led the

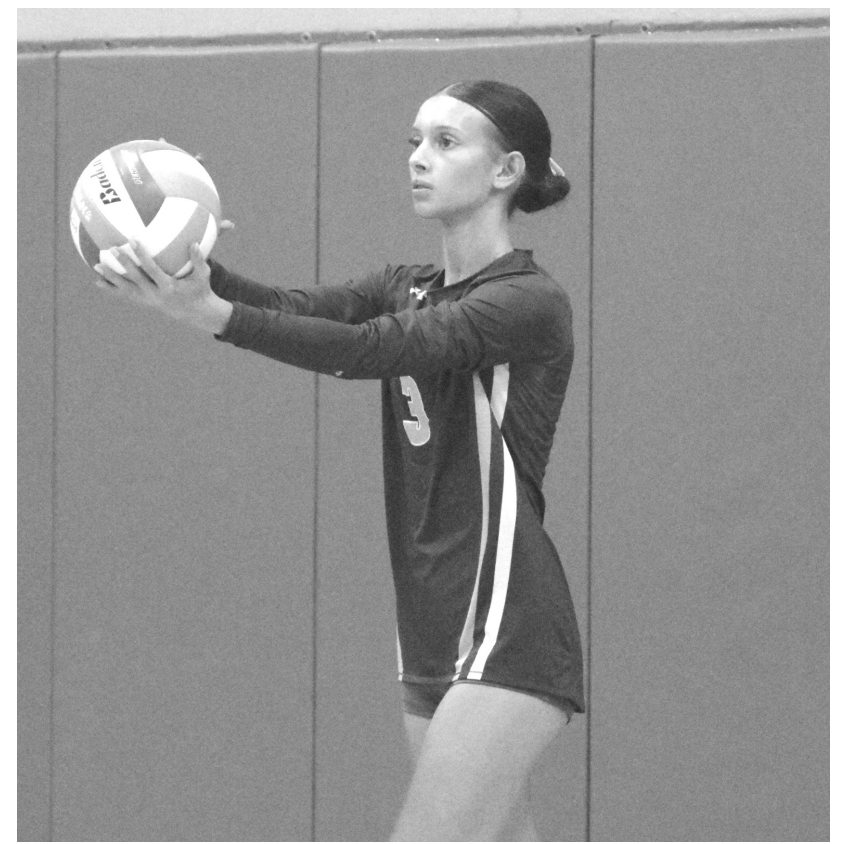
team in kills.

The Bulldogs are currently 10-12. They remain winless against Section 2AA opponents, with a 4-5 record in conference matches. By the time this paper comes out, JWP will have faced local rival Waterville-Elysian-Morristown, who are still contending for the Gopher Conference title. If the Bulldogs win, it would count toward their section record.

Although the Bulldogs already had their homecoming, this game will be one for Coach Richards, who graduated from WEM and played volleyball for the Buccaneers. "It's going to be a special night for sure," she said. "They have a really good team. Our team will need to present all our evidence against them. We haven't given up all season. We had that rough start, but turned things around. So I know we'll put up a good fight."



Katie Olson (top) and Nevaeh Weimert (bottom) put on a show during senior night, earning six ace serves each.



Record breaking night for Bauer & Quast

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton's football team is looking to end the regular season on a hot streak after two straight losses and losing its starting quarterback, Daulton Bauer, in that stretch. They earned their second win in a row after dominating Blooming Prairie on their turf 39-15 on Thursday, October 9.

Two players broke school records in the process. With his 290 passing yards on the night, Daulton Bauer broke two records for career passing yards and passing touchdowns, surpassing quarterbacks Karson Lindsay (2023 graduate) and Jordan Richardson (2015 graduate). Fellow senior Caleb Quast also broke his own receiving record, netting 211 yards in the game against the Blossoms. His former record was 181 yards, which he set in the team's win over St. Clair; the previous record holder before that was Ryan Kronbach, who had set it in 2023.

Although it was a fantastic night on all sides, the team showed there is still room for improvement. Even the players felt like they could have scored more points. They had taken 11 penalties in the game, totaling 94 yards, and there was one pass that was dropped, which would have been a sure-fire touchdown. But, in the grand scheme of things, that's splitting hairs when considering how the game went.

The Bulldogs started with the ball first, and it didn't take long for the offense to capitalize. At 8:46, Bauer found Quast for his first touchdown of the game on a ten-yard pass. Blooming Prairie went three-and-out on their first drive on offense. JWP continued pouring it on, only needing six plays to get their second touchdown; Bauer found Quast again, this time for a 25-yard pass for the score.



Seniors Caleb Quast (left) and Daulton Bauer (right) had record-breaking performances in the 39-15 win against Blooming Prairie on Thursday, October 9. Quast broke his own single-game receiving yards record, while Bauer became the all-time leader in career passing yards and touchdowns. (Journal photos by Michael Roy)

Blooming Prairie slowly trotted down the field, getting its first of only two scores of the game with a running touchdown by Lukas DenHerder. JWP only one play to respond, although it was dicey. Bauer found Quast wide open for the potential touchdown. However, upon being tackled, he fumbled the ball. Thankfully, fellow receiver Gavin Bauer was following behind, and he scooped up the ball for the score. G. Bauer and Quast's efforts led to a 58-yard play for the score.

The Blossoms continued their comeback, scoring another touchdown by utilizing the air

attack for six points and then pounding it through for the two-point conversion. The Bulldogs were like a well-oiled machine on offense at this point, though, as the Bauer-Bauer connection through the air netted JWP another six.

Although it looked like JWP was getting another touchdown before halftime, both teams traded penalties. That hindered JWP's drives, as they turned over on downs. It looked dicey to end the half, as the officials were eager to call pass interference all half, but the Bulldogs' Rocco Scholl forced a receiver out of bounds and knocked

the ball out of his hands for good measure for a 26-15 halftime.

The Bulldogs' defense was clutch throughout the second half, not allowing a single point to be scored. Bauer once again found Quast for a 62-yard touchdown on JWP's first possession in the third quarter. There was a bit of back-and-forth as the defenses stopped the opposing offense from moving the ball far. JWP forced the only turnover of the game by both teams seven minutes into the third with Gavin Bauer earning the pick. D. Bauer had one last touchdown to his brother Gavin in the final minutes of

the game to make it a 39-15 final.

JWP netted 414 yards of total offense in the game: 290 passing and 124 rushing. Neither team turned the ball over. D. Bauer had arguably his best game of his season, if not his entire career, as he had six passing touchdowns in the game. Chase Gerdtz led the rushing attack with 67 yards, with D. Bauer earning 47. Caleb Quast had nine yards on his lone attempt. Quast's record-breaking night of 211 led the team by far, with G. Bauer netting 56 yards. Despite such a difference in receiving yards, both split the touchdowns with three each.

Defensively, Rocco Scholl successfully defended two passes, with Weedman and Gearity denying one each. Chase Gerdtz led in solo tackles with seven on the night. Aidan Rider led in assists with seven, including two for loss.

JWP is currently #3 in the Section 2AA standings, just slightly behind #2 Maple River. The two will clash on Wednesday, October 15. The winner will likely lock in the #2 seed. It will be one of the most challenging tests for the Bulldogs squad. But if this season has proved anything, they are more than up to the task.



SPORTS

Spartans show resilience in loss to WEM

By JORDAN CARRILLO
Staff Writer

Following a strong victory last week against the Blue Earth Area Buccaneers, the St. Clair Loyola Spartans faced their toughest test of the season against another patch of pirates, falling to the formidable WEM Buccaneers 32-6. The evening had early moments of school pride as Loyola celebrated the end of Homecoming week, and the rafters glowed with blue and gold as well as the Spartan red and blue.

While the final score reflects WEM's dominant offense, the Spartans showed considerable grit, particularly on the defensive side, forcing key turnovers and holding the powerful Buccaneers in check for stretches of the game.

The first half was a difficult start, but featured a late spark in the end. The Spartans stood strong on WEM's opening drive, withstanding a rough-and-tough three-back system. Anderson broke through the line to force an early fourth down and a chance to shut down an imposing Bucs offense. Confident in their own ability, WEM took to the air and completed a pass for a first down and then some as their receiver eluded defenders and scored an improbable touchdown. Failing to close the door on fourth down proved to be a recurring theme throughout the contest, and eventually led to several scores for the Buccaneers.

Down 8-0, SCL took to the field with conviction as Freitag connected with Cumberland for a first down. The Spartans attempted to mirror the Bucs' bruising style of play, but were left flattened on two straight runs up the middle. Freitag heaved a shot down the field only for the wind to carry it shorter than expected, forcing a punt. With a few heave-hos by their offensive line, the Bucs created plenty of open water for their back to sail 80+ yards for a touchdown, stunning the home crowd and the Spartan sideline.

Some bulldozing runs by Freitag and Hansen kept a glimmer of hope shining bright as SCL entered enemy territory; however, a bold decision to extend the drive on fourth and long backfired as Freitag's protection collapsed. WEM capitalized on the turnover to score their third touchdown of the half to bring the score to 24-0... although it did take two third-down conversions and a ridiculous effort by their QB on a broken play.

For any chance to battle back into the contest, the Spartans had to respond as the half entered its final few minutes. A strong kickoff return by Winkler set up good field position followed by grinding runs and a key defensive pass interference (DPI) call put the Spartans in striking distance. With time winding down, the drive



The Waterville-Elysian-Morristown Buccaneers didn't give up much against St. Clair-Loyola on Thursday, October 9. Here, Brevin Hansen (#6) is swarmed by Bucs defenders. (Journal photos by Jordan Carrillo)

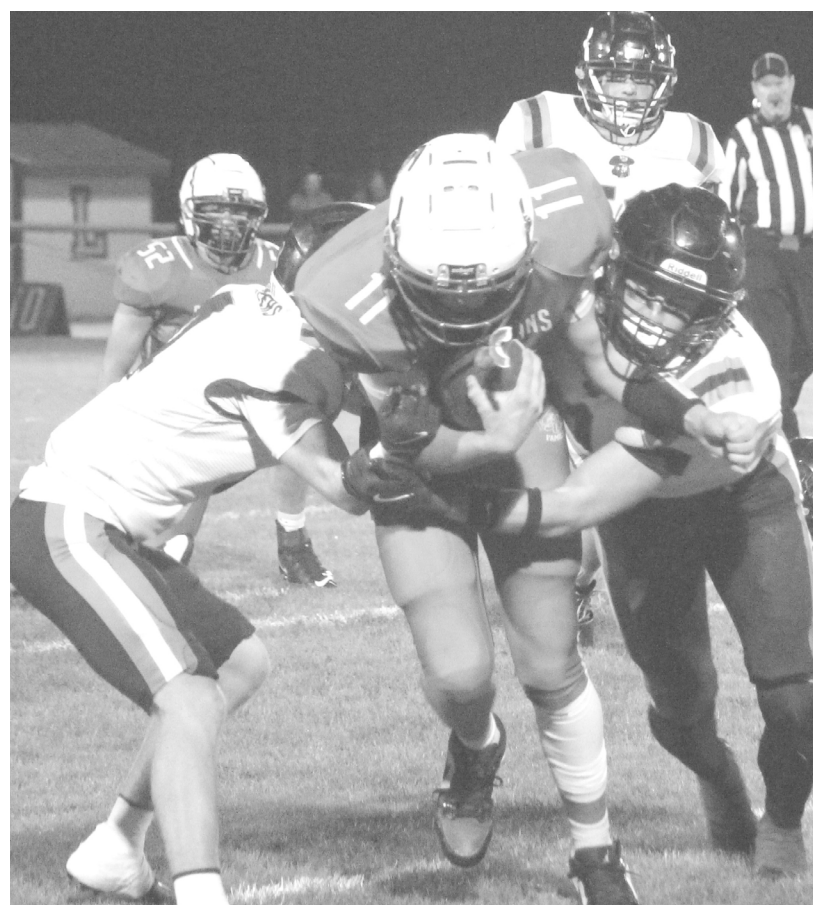
culminated in a touchdown pass to a trailing Wilmes, putting points on the board and sending the team into halftime with a needed surge of energy, trailing 24-6. Though the Spartan offense as a whole had their moments, Wilmes was a consistent threat as a back and receiver, totaling 100 yards of offense and his team's only touchdown.

The second half opened with a thrilling defensive play as the Spartans forced a fumble on WEM's first play from scrimmage, providing a massive turnaround. However, the offense could not capitalize; a crucial third-down dart to Cumberland was dropped, forcing a punt.

WEM then leaned heavily on their run game, gutting the middle of the field to wear down the Spartan defense. A successful play-action pass led to WEM's final score of the game, pushing the lead to 32-6.

In the fourth quarter, the Spartans' offense struggled to find a rhythm. Freitag was often forced to run out of the pocket, and mounting pressure led to a turnover on downs and a costly interception on their next drive. In spite of their bumps, bruises, and overall fatigue, the defense maintained its resolve, forcing a crucial 4th down stop late in the period and securing a turnover after Loeffler punched the ball out and recovered the fumble. He finished the game with three tackles, nine assists, and a forced fumble. Both JV squads finished the contest and young Spartan Eli Sieberg capped off the night with an impressive 30+ run.

Though the defeat to the Buccaneers stings, the Spartans' ability to fight to the final whistle against one of the region's



Quarterback Sam Freitag drags down two Buccaneer defenders with him on the keeper. Freitag had a passing touchdown in this one.

predominant squads could mark this as a moral victory. Credit is due to a defense that withstood punishment all night long, living up to the "bend don't break" mantra that has encapsulated this team's fighting spirit. Coach Willaert praised WEM for "playing to their strengths" on both sides of the ball, and though there were things to address in practice, he supported the effort his players gave against an extremely skilled opponent. "We were honestly happy about how our defense played tonight. We forced

WEM to a number of 3rd and 4th downs...we just weren't able to close. Offensively, we had moments of success with the late score, but we lacked efficiency at times, too. We have another tough matchup this week, and look forward to the challenge."

As the football season enters its final week, SCL will have to travel far for their final game of the year against another juggernaut in Fillmore Central on October 15.

Cyclones unplug MVL Chargers in close game



Payton Blount soars toward the ball for the kill with teammates Brooklin Hinze (#2) and Haddie Jobe (#3) on standby. (Photo by Ricardo Moreno Jr.)

By RICARDO MORENO JR.
Staff Writer

The St. Clair Cyclones visited Minnesota Valley Lutheran on Tuesday, October 7, for a volleyball match that might have gone all the way to the final game. Led by their head coach, Ashley Sander, the Cyclones collected their victory in four sets with a 3-1 victory over the Chargers of MVL. They did not get off to a great start, but the final outcome of the evening assured them, and the Cyclones fans, that the team has what it takes to bounce back.

St. Clair's first set against MVL was heavily in the home team's favor. It began with a competitive start, but quickly got away from the Cyclones as they fell behind a couple of points before falling further behind. There were moments where the Cyclones looked to be in position to rally, but they were quickly shut down before they were able to shrink the point deficit. After twenty-five minutes of play, the Cyclones lost the first set 14-25.

However, that initial loss only served to strengthen them as they took to the second set with great fervor. St. Clair used up both their timeouts in the first set while their opponent had not called a single one. That changed in the second. Once the Cyclones had taken a 13-8 lead, MVL was forced to take its first time out of the evening. In fact, they would end up using both of their timeouts to no avail. St.

Clair capitalized on their opponents' mistakes to win the second set with a score of 25-21.

The first two sets of the evening had a combined play time of almost an hour. St. Clair won the third set in under eleven minutes. In a dominant display of adaptation, the Cyclones took the lead and never let it go. The third set ended with a 25-10 win for St. Clair. MVL was determined not to go sleeping into the goodnight after the loss they had just received. The final set was far more competitive than the last, but the point differential would only be slightly better than the last. Two to three points was the difference between both teams for a majority of the game before MVL called their second-to-last time out of the night at 13-17, St. Clair leading. They would put four more points on the board against the Cyclones before being blown away by the final St. Clair victory, 25-17.

The top three killers of the night were Payton Blount, 18, Ashlyn DeMartini, 11, and Haddie Jobe, 5. Digging for defense were Aubree Mathiowetz, 14, Brooklin Hinze, 13, and Blount, 10. Hinze and Blount shared the most aces with 3 each. Brooklin Meng was a constant boon to the team with 34 set assists on the evening.

The St. Clair Cyclones team plays, and individual stats reflect their attitude towards the end of the regular season. The Cyclones are ready to play their hardest, and failing to start on the right foot can't keep them from bouncing back for a victory.

Crusaders unable to tame Tigers in 5-0 loss

By JORDAN CARRILLO
Staff Writer

After a fantastic stretch of scoring and teamwork to cap off their regular season, the Loyola Lady Crusaders suffered a bitter end to the year with a 5-0 defeat to Albert Lea in the opening round of the playoffs.

The two squads squared off to start their respective seasons, so this rematch stood to be a poetic way to settle it on the pitch; however, a four-goal barrage by the Tigers in the first half dug a hole too deep for the Crusaders to dig out of. Munson faced a tough assignment at goal with the sun glaring in her eyes, and the pressure mounted as two longballs eluded her vision to strike the net, and four goals crossed in the opening half alone. Loyola attempted to counterattack with their own punting pair Johannes and Beyer, but Albert Lea's blend of speed and aggression limited shots on goal throughout the contest.

As reality set in for the Crusaders, the team's seniors took to the pitch for one last hurrah together. Five seniors (Carstensen, Krosch, Munson, Nachreiner, and Munson) laced up their blue and gold cleats for the final time, but their impact on a program that continues to grow in numbers and passion will be felt long after their

departures.

Each senior brought a unique skillset and determination on the pitch: Nachreiner was the energetic and vocal leader of the squad, Munson remained upbeat even in the most harrowing moments, Wheeler brought an unending hustle on the break, Krosch controlled the backcourt with precision, and Carstensen's toughness made for a difficult cover on the attack.

Finishing the year 5-8, the Crusaders season will be defined by their perseverance as a team. A tumultuous start to the season, an offensive dry spell of just four goals in their first eight matches would quickly spark a scoring spree of 14 in their final five leading to four victories. Beyer and Johannes were the standout performers during the stretch, securing a hat trick each, respectively.

Though the year ended in disappointment, Coaches Nachreiner and Sims expressed a deep sense of pride in a team they watched grow with their own eyes. "We're incredibly pleased with the growth and hard work this team showed all season long, and we couldn't be more proud. It's hard to say goodbye to the leadership our seniors brought, but we're fortunate to have many of our young players return with a year of Varsity experience and the drive to keep improving."

Crusaders stay on top of competition in Madelia

By RICARDO MORENO JR.
Staff Writer

The Crusaders visited Madelia Golf Course for the final run of the regular season on October 9. This meet would be their final showing before the conference finals. Against the five other teams in attendance, the Crusaders had a great performance on the golf greens. Both the Girls' and the Boys' teams secured first-place finishes and top-ten rankings at the Madelia Invitational.

Led by their head coach, Casey Olson, the Crusaders have built their success on a foundation of dedication to practice. First to run the 5,000 meters were the Lady Crusaders. The ups, downs, and straightaways of the Madelia Golf Course were a good challenge for all the runners participating. Fair grounds did not keep Charlotte Meyer from holding a nine-second edge against her second-place opponent as she strode into first place with a time of 18:41. Valerie Quast swiftly made her way through the finish line as the third-place frontrunner. The top three finishers of the Madelia Invitational collectively placed just over a

minute ahead of the remaining top ten. Determined to fill those ranks with their own, Lady Crusaders Lila Quast, Riley Quigley, and Maddy Seiwert placed fourth, sixth, and seventh, respectively.

The Crusaders Lads had a good showing of their own. Soren Kelly coasted into first place with an open sea of grass around him. His race was completed in sixteen minutes and fifteen seconds. Mitchell Buboltz fought for the highly contested second-place finish with equally skilled opponents from MVL and Maple River. One second, and not a millisecond more, was the difference between second and third place, and Buboltz came in at the faster time of 17:41. Two Crusaders seniors made the podium and were joined by their underclassman, Francis Bierer, who came in eighth with a time of eighteen minutes and nine seconds.

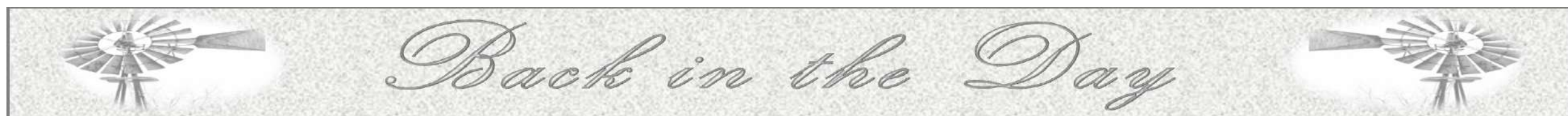
Coach Olson has been proud of the team's success over the course of the season. The talent and skill that have arisen from the Crusaders have pushed coach Olson to improve as a coach, and he credits a part of their success to the team's ability to focus on different areas of development with each race. Based on their method of growth, Olson



Soren Kelly was once again one of the main leaders for Loyola at the Madelia meet on Thursday, October 9. (Photo by Ricardo Moreno Jr.)

remarked, "Our athletes have embraced that and have pushed themselves in practice all season long, so I wouldn't say it's surprising to me to see the success and jumps we've had the last couple of weeks.

The Crusaders prepare for their conference meet on Tuesday, October 14. This next meet will be a chance for the leaders to uphold their standards and for their fellows to rise to new heights.



St. Clair Archives

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

1952 (continued)
 - St. Clair Farmer Hunts Hay Blown Away in Storm. Has anyone seen a bale of hay land in his front yard this week? The Otto Witts of near St. Clair are wondering what happened to 240 bales, which disappeared during a high wind and

rainstorm last Friday afternoon.
 - Before the storm began, there were 509 bales of hay standing in a field on the Witt farm, located three miles southeast of St. Clair along Highway 83, but a few minutes later 240 bales had disappeared.
 - Not a trace of the bales has been found except for a few straws in a neighbor's bean field, according to Mrs. Witt. (An

average bale weighs about 75 to 85 pounds.)
 - A comcrib was tipped over by the wind, and the Witts had to replant 30 acres of beans, which had been stripped by the wind. Similar reports of wind damage to buildings and crops last Friday have been received in the St. Clair area.
 - July - Victor and Emma Shaver, Gary Allene, Craig and Kevin host George Grim writer

for the Minneapolis Tribune on a Sunday at the farm. Mr. Grim attended church services at the Evangelical United Brethren church, enjoyed breakfast with the family, toured the farm and attended a baseball game with Kilkenny. Mr. Shaver was a school board member and Emma was active with the PTA.

1953
 - January 20 - March of Dimes Benefit Basketball Game Played. The Pemberton-St. Clair basketball game held on January 20, 1953 for the benefit of the March of Dimes proved to be highly entertaining and profitable. Although St. Clair was victorious in the basketball game, the greatest satisfaction was derived from the knowledge that the benefit was financially successful.
 - Net receipts form the

basketball game were \$94,335. the concession stand receipts included a donation of twenty pounds of popcorn from George Macomber and totaled \$21.01. Net receipts from the lunch were \$10.11 and included cream donated by Mrs. Louis Fitzloff. The grand total was \$125.47. This total was donated to the March of Dimes and credited to Pemberton and St. Clair.
 - The efforts of many people were instrumental in making this project a success. To all of them a special word of thanks is due.

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 - 9:30 a.m. Worship
 8:15 am Bible Study & Sunday School

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

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

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

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

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

1925
 - An indictment for murder was drawn by the Grand Jury against Frank Kratz, who has been held in the county jail at Waseca for the past several weeks after a hearing in Municipal Court. Kratz is accused by the state of the murder of Louis Minske, the Iosco recluse, early this spring. County Attorney Child and Attorney Henry M. Gallagher are to prosecute for the state, while Moonan & Moonan and Chas. Spillane, Waseca attorneys, have been retained by the defense.
 - Mrs. Minnie Mellinger, 24, estranged wife of Chad Mellinger and former resident of Waseca, was shot and killed at Waukegan, Ill., last Thursday morning at three o'clock, says the Waseca Journal this week. It is believed by the police that John McGuire, a lover, committed the murder in a fit of jealousy and a warrant for his arrest has been issued and a \$1,000 reward posted. The remains were brought to Waseca Sunday and services held at the Pfaff Undertaking Parlors and at the Methodist Church. Burial took place in Woodville cemetery.

- Waseca County's share of the semi-annual appointment of the current state school fund will be \$11,352.00 based on a total of 2,838 pupils. Word to this effect was received this week from the state auditor with the additional information that distribution of the fund among various counties of the state will be made at an early date. Appointment of the current state school fund which is derived from the earnings of the permanent school fund and the receipts from the one mill school tax is made in March and October of each year and the present distribution is for the school period ending July 31st.

1950
 - Ellendale defeated the Janesville Golden Bears Friday night by a score of 6 to 0 in a game marred by a heavy rain at Ellendale. The Indians' homecoming was made successful due to a great 43-year return of Gerald Scheneman's punt on the last play of the first quarter. Junior halfback Kenneth Lunning took the punt on

2000
 - As a parent, there are few occasions that bring greater pleasure than watching your child open up Christmas

Janesville's 42 yard line, fumbled, picked it up and went through a swarm of Bear tacklers for the touchdown.
 - Agriculture department officials in Washington said yesterday county price support rated for 1950 crop corn will run seven cents a bushel above last year's rates in the commercial corn producing areas of the country. Rates will average \$1.47 a bushel nationally, but will vary by counties. Generally speaking, counties nearest the terminal markets will have higher rates than those farther away from such markets. Officials said announcement of the support rates by counties is expected to be made next week.

1975
 - The Janesville Jaycees have set October 25 as the date for their Yard Grooming Project. On that Saturday Jaycees will rake lawns and haul away leaves and branches for Janesville residents. A donation will be accepted upon completion of the yard work. All proceeds will be donated to Multiple Sclerosis.
 - Wayne Abraham's old barn burned right to the ground Monday night, but Wayne wasn't going to lose any sleep over it. A year or two ago even the thought of losing his only barn would have made him nervous. But Wayne sold the 120-acre farm last March to Herb Guse. All he kept was the five-acre farmstead, the house, and a few buildings. "I didn't need the barn," Wayne told the Argus. "All we kept in it were car motors and a few parts. It was just used for storage."
 - The pressure of field work kept Billie Quast and Bill Jewison from attending the school board meeting Monday night, but everything was going on pretty much as usual without them...until the fire whistle blew at 9 p.m. Board member Ken Johansen is also a fireman and had to leave. His absence left the board with only three members: Sib Joyce, Jim Keeley, and Al Trahms. At least four of the six members are required for a quorum, so no official action could be taken.

- Tom Herrick has just become the newest addition to the Janesville Police Department. Herrick, who lives in Austin and works in irrigation, will serve Janesville on an on-call, part-time basis. Janesville was in need of a part-time officer after the resignation of Bob Anderson, who was primarily involved with special events. Anderson has resigned to concentrate on a full-time position with MnDOT. Herrick is a welcome addition to Janesville for Chief Dave Ulmen, who worked with him in Madelia. "When we advertised for a part-time officer, Tom was the only one who applied who had the background and education we were looking for," said Ulmen. "I'm happy to have him aboard."

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A super spooky project at St. Clair Collins & Co create scarecrows as decorations

By JORDAN CARRILLO
Staff Writer

With the fall season in full stride and Halloween lurking around every corner, St. Clair has added some creatively spooky decorations to bring some festive spirit to the school grounds. On October 3, the fourth and fifth classes partnered with Superintendent Tim Collins in a scarecrow-building activity in an effort to bring some classic Halloween vibes to St. Clair.

It's not often the Superintendent is front and center for an activity such as this, but the idea is the brainchild of Collins who recalled coming up with it over 35 years ago during his time at Mankato.

Joining the youngsters were a few parents serving as volunteers and 11 seniors helped pound in the stakes for each scarecrow. Many hands make for light work.

Though creativity is at the forefront of this activity, these classes would learn valuable lessons on teamwork and collaboration while crafting their scarecrows. But anyone who has driven by the school grounds can easily see there are some brilliant Cyclones with a penchant for the kooky and bizarre. While the traditional scarecrow, clad in flannel and



straw, was a common design, unique creations featuring former Vikings players, construction workers, witches, monsters, and skeletons stood out. A handful of the scarecrows even poked fun at some St. Clair teachers, one had its head poking out of its shoulder, and a few were even staked upside down,

further illustrating the zany nature of a project like this.

This was the second year Collins introduced this scarecrow-building activity at St. Clair, but based on the utter joy expressed by these students, and the overall camaraderie from teachers, parents, and even the big kids tagging along, this may

be a new tradition that keeps on growing.

It's a delightful sight to see every time one drives by the school grounds, and it gives this small district a bit of personality during the spookiest time of the year.

Farmamerica hosts Fall Festival; a fun day for kids and families



By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

It wouldn't be fall without a festival happening every weekend, celebrating the cooler temperatures, the changing colors of the leaves, and enjoying some apple cider. Farmamerica had all of that at its fall festival on Saturday, October 11, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

One of the year's most popular events, the fall festival is primarily for families and features fun for all ages. While the kids enjoyed bounce houses or seeing the animals around the Farmamerica sites, adults could admire and purchase custom quilts from Julie Fasteen at the Country Church. However, everyone enjoyed ringing the bell at the one-room schoolhouse, just as teachers or principals would have done back in the day.

The visitor center gave a taste of what awaited them, including a scavenger hunt and an opportunity to grab souvenirs from Farmamerica. It also served as a place to take a break from the adventure, as the Homegrown Explorers 4-H Club, one of a few 4-H clubs within Waseca County, served concessions in the dining hall.

When entering the patio area, Auntie Wendy welcomed everyone with a smile and some kettle corn. Those who were around between noon and 2 p.m. enjoyed music from the Marv Nissel Band.

From there, the adventure awaited the visitors. To their left, down the gravel path, was a vendor fair. Straight ahead in the



patch of grass were the bounce houses and a corn sensory experience for the kids. Those who ventured on the gravel path going north visited the country church and the schoolhouse. Eastward was the homestead, and in the far northwest corner were live animals featuring the pardoned turkeys that arrived at Farmamerica nearly a year ago. Apple cider was available at the blacksmith shop.

There were also some arts and crafts opportunities. In the pumpkin patch west of the visitor center, children had the chance to use their imagination to paint a pumpkin. There was also a scarecrow contest featuring ten scarecrows scattered around the farm site, and visitors were encouraged to vote for the best one. There was no winner announced as of Monday morning, October 13.

It was a gorgeous day for a fall festival, and the hundreds that came through Farmamerica enjoyed the festivities.

46 kindergarteners hit the pumpkin on Autumn Acres Field Trip

By JORDAN CARRILLO
Staff Writer

As the fall season brings a period of natural beauty and cozy weather, schools often participate in a variety of field trips to break up the monotony of the classroom. On Wednesday, October 8, 46 enthusiastic kindergarten students from Mrs. Flatin's, Mrs. Nissen's, and Mrs. Haller's classes embarked on their first major field trip of the year to Autumn Acres for an afternoon of education, a joyful wagon ride, and a chance to take home their very own pumpkin.

This annual outing for these tiny Cyclones supported a "core unit" on the life cycle of the pumpkin, and was viewed as a resounding success, filled with learning, laughter, and fresh air. Led by Autumn Acres' owner, Cheryl Blee, the students assembled in the field for an introductory lesson on how pumpkins grow. Although one Cyclone was a bit too eager to explore the grounds, and attempted to sneak off for an early pick at the pumpkin patch.

To ensure everyone covered the grounds and got the most out of the experience, the students



split into rotating groups for activities. One group was absolutely ecstatic for the iconic wagon ride around Autumn Acres. They followed the rule to stay seated, but the collective joy and chanting of the kids as they traveled through the beautiful grounds were infectious. The other group headed straight for the play area, which included a glorious corn pit, bubble-blowing station, a jungle gym, and a water race. The students also enjoyed comparing heights by measuring how many miniature pumpkins tall they were!

In addition to some playground hijinks, Mrs. Haller

took her class through the corn maze; the students were thrilled by the challenge, even purposely taking a wrong turn just for the adventure! A few students wisely incorporated the trusty buddy system for extra safety, demonstrating great teamwork.

Right as they exited the corn maze, the sputtering sounds of a tractor's engine echoed nearby, and these tiny tots raced over for their turn on the wagon ride. Each student couldn't help, but voice their amazement at the scores of pumpkins around the patch, and some even fidgeted with anticipation at a chance to pluck their own. Upon reaching

the perfect place to harvest, each student had to get their hands dirty and pull the pumpkin off the vine; their tiny hands struggled and strained to excavate their prize off the vine. One little girl even requested my assistance to pull a moderately-plump pumpkin out of the Earth, and I was happy to yank the gargantuan gourd out for her.

Thankfully, Blee and Haller were nearby to wipe down the pumpkins before each student wrote their names on their well-earned reward for the day. Overflowing with happiness, the students were ecstatic to pose with their pumpkins and compare their fantastic findings with their classmates, capping off a perfect day outdoors.

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Root (Foundations)

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