

2024

Awards Issue

Best of 2023 Waupaca area

Winner of \$100 Cash
Will Allen of Waupaca

**Waupaca County Post
Subscription Winners**
Diane Babcock of Waupaca
Curt Klein of Waupaca

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the readers and advertisers who participated in our “Best Of Waupaca” promotion! It is wonderful to see what an excellent response our communities put forth in supporting our local businesses!

We have finished the grueling task of tallying up all of the completed ballots that were returned to our office. Inside you will find a list of the first, second and third place results, along with a few select feature stories of the winning businesses. Please take the time to read what some of our winners had to say!

We encourage you, the readers, to patronize all of our local businesses, regardless of their placement. Your support to these businesses ensures that we can keep our small, hometown communities a viable place to live and work. Together we can strengthen relationships that improve our quality of life...
Think, Shop, Buy Local and everyone is a winner!

The staff of the Waupaca Buyers' Guide



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Family legacy at Bauer Electric

“Bauer Electric Inc. was started by my grandpa Otto Bauer, out of a small building on Main Street, in 1957,” according to Tim Bauer, who co-owns the business with his wife Mary Jo.



Otto Bauer

“My dad Dennis Bauer began working with my grandpa and started running the business in the late ‘70s. I worked with grandpa and dad in the ‘80s and became the third generation owner in 2007, when my wife Mary Jo and I started the process of buying the business from my dad,” he said.

Describing their company as a small business with a great team of dedicated and experienced people, the Bauers said, “This helps to make our service the best in Waupaca, alongside our ability to complete various types of projects, from new homes to commercial construction within a budget and on time.”

The biggest challenge they face as an electrical contractor is being able to shift gears with the economy and meet the current demand.

“Fortunately we are able to pivot with these changes



Staff at Bauer Electric, from left, include Melissa Zimmerman, office manager; Jim Gyldevand, parts; and Andrea Moore, administrative assistant.

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Bauer Electric is located at N2858 County Trunk QQ in Waupaca.

due to our electricians experience and breadth of knowledge in multiple fields whether it be commercial, agricultural or new home construction," Bauer said.

Everything within the electrical contracting field has advanced, from the materials and equipment to the education and skills needed by electricians.

Bauer Electric's storefront hours are 7. to 4:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday. They also have 24 hour emergency service available.

In an average week they are on multiple jobsites throughout central Wisconsin as well as working at service calls daily.

Bauer Electric Inc. offers

everything from wiring a new home, commercial building, or farm to providing service calls for any electrical issues a homeowner may have.

We greatly appreciate Waupaca and the surrounding communities for trusting and supporting our small family business for 67 years," Bauer said.



Tim Bauer

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Voted Waupaca's No. 1 body shop

East Side Auto continues its five-year reign as the best body shop in Waupaca, as brothers Coalter and Matt Hansen continue to grow and evolve their shop in the ever-changing auto industry.

The body shop was opened in 1991 by Coalter and Matt's father Ken Hansen and his business partner Jeff Barton.

Ken and Barton had worked together for about 16 years at another body shop before they decided to open their own.

The two bought Advance Chemical and changed it to East Side Auto.

Barton retired in 2014, which is when Matt took over Barton's shares of the business and became owner alongside his father.

Matt started working at the shop in 2000 and Coalter started working there in 2014.

Coalter took over his father's shares when he retired in July, and together the brothers run East Side Auto, which they said gets busier every year.

Matt said the auto industry has continually changing standards, from tools unique to each make, refrigerant for air conditioning units, and following specific guidelines on how to repair certain types of vehicles.

"We are trying to stay ahead of the game, as far as tools and equipment go and trying to keep up with the new technology and processes," Coalter said.

Parts have also been difficult to come by, Coalter said. With Covid, then the recent strikes, the parts industry has had a lot of up and downs.

In the last two years they have invested in a three-phase



Shown from left are Matt Mortensen, Dan Helbach, Diane Roggow, Coalter Hansen and Matt Hansen. They look forward to helping their customers.

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Coalter Hansen and Matt Hansen are the owners of East Side Auto Body.



East Side Auto Body has made a major investment in keeping its tools and equipment up to date. Shown from left are a R1234YF air conditioning machine, aluminum/steel MIG welder, three-phase spot welder, aluminum dent pulling repair station and, in front, an aluminum self piercing riveter.

welder for spot welding, a R1234YF air conditioning machine, aluminum dent-pulling repair station and an aluminum piercing riveter. All of which will help them keep more work in-house and stay current with auto industry standards and trends.

For Matt and Coalter their main focus has been collision repair and insurance claims.

Coalter said with car parts becoming more expensive, they are seeing an uptick in people that use insurance for damaged vehicles, noting that he rarely see's people

paying out of pocket.

The most notable insurance claim influx came from a handful of storms that produced hail in the spring and summer of 2022.

Coalter said they saw about 300 cars that came through that year, customers were lined up out the door and down the street after the storm pushed through the city.

For things like hail damage, East Side Auto works with Dentsmart, which is a company with rotating contractors. The contractor

comes in for a period of time as needed.

At one point Matt said there were four contractors in from Dentsmart.

The main insurance claims, Coalter said, have been deer hits, however they said they have seen more and more collision repair from vehicle accidents.

Coalter said they have won theri category of Best of Waupaca every year since 2019 and it continues to be rewarding to be recognized for their hard work.

"It feels pretty good, it's voted on by ev-

eryone that reads the paper so its gratifying to know that people like our work," Coalter said. "It feels good that they're happy with what we do."

They have three full-time employees that include Diane Roggow, Dan Helbach and Matt Mortensen.

Located at 500 Industrial Drive in Waupaca, East Side Auto Body is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Follow them on Facebook at East Side Auto Body of Waupaca.

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Nearly 160 years of helping families

A.J. Holly and Sons Funeral Home has been helping families through the hardest times of their lives in the Waupaca community since 1865

Once again they are being recognized for their helping hand.

Best of Waupaca readers voted A.J. Holly and Sons Funeral Home won best funeral home for 2023.

Asa James Holly, who came to Waupaca from New York, was first a carpenter and furniture maker.

He later opened a funeral home in 1865 as an extension of his building coffins.

The funeral home's location has moved around Waupaca, eventually landing in their current site at 526 S. Main St. The current building was built in 1997

Roman Jungers and Stephen Johnson bought A.J. Holly and Sons Funeral home in 1982. Retiring in 2000, Roman sold his shares to his son Michael Jungers III, the current co-owner and one of the funeral directors at the funeral home.

Johnson retired at the end of 2019 and sold his shares to his daughter, Erica Danielson, the other current co-owner and one of the funeral directors of Holly Funeral home. Danielson began working at the funeral home in 2000.



Staff at A.J. Holly and Sons Funeral Home include, from left, FRONT: MATthew Ehrenberg, Michael Jungers III, Spencer Grams; BACK: Amanda Ehrenberg, Heidi Fischer and Erica Danielson.

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A.J. Holly and Sons Funeral Home is located at 526 S. Main St. in Waupaca.

Jungers said he started working in the field in 1991. Growing up he said he watched his father, grandfather and great-grandfather all work as funeral directors, which led him to try the field out himself while attending UW-Oshkosh.

Part of the schooling for becoming a funeral director in Wisconsin, Jungers said, requires an apprenticeship. He decided to continue on in his family's footsteps.

Jungers said being able to guide people through the process of losing a loved one has been something he finds very rewarding.

"We are here to help somebody who is on the other side of the table that has no idea of what to do, and sometimes its little steps, but step by step we get them through the process," Jungers said. "Once we are all done and you might run into someone a week later, months later or years later and they will say thank you and I guess that's what gives us our thing."

Jungers said people who work in a funeral home see a lot. On one end are older adults who succumb to age, and on the other are teenagers and young kids, lost to car accidents or suicides, which are very difficult for families.

"If you don't have a sincere desire to help people you are not going to last long in this," Jungers said.

Staff also includes funeral directors Matthew Ehrenberg, Amanda Ehrenberg, Spencer Grams and office manager Heidi Fischer.

For many years, Jungers said, they were the only funeral home in the area, however they no longer are, so he is appreciative of still being voted the Best of Waupaca.

"It feels great," Jungers said. "It makes us feel like we have been doing our jobs well."

A.J. Holly and Sons Funeral Home have four locations in Waupaca, Almond, Amherst and Wild Rose.

For more information on A.J. Holly and Sons Funeral home go to their website at www.hollyfuneralhome.com.



A.J. Holly and Sons Funeral Home offers comfortable, quiet space for families and friends to converse.



Space for services and memorials at A.J. Holly and Sons Funeral Home.

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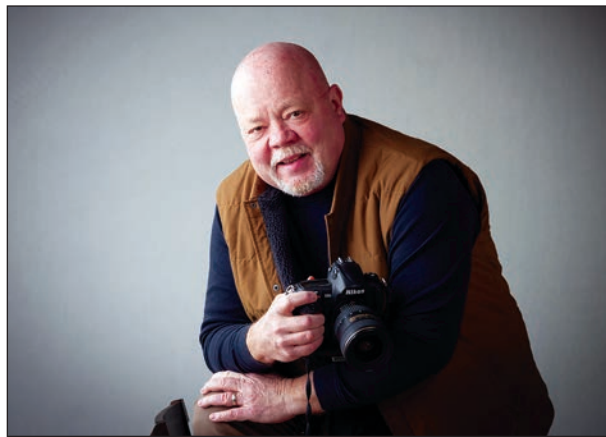
Five interesting things about Tim Koll

This isn't the first time Tim Koll has been voted in the Best of Waupaca for local photography.

It's an accolade he's been honored with 10 years in a row. Here are a few interesting insights to Waupaca's favored photographer.

He was a baseball coach for 20 years.

"I do not have a single photo of me and my kids together in uniform," he said. Now he makes it a point when photographing local teams to always include a photo of the mom or dad coach in uniform with their sons and daughters. Also, those cool-looking banners of student-athletes that you see hanging on the chain-link fences around the ballpark and football field? That's his work. "It's my way of trying to empower them," he said. "It's great to see their reaction when they see it for the first time," said Koll.



Tim Koll

Besides portraits of students and families and wedding photos, Koll loves to photograph birds of prey.

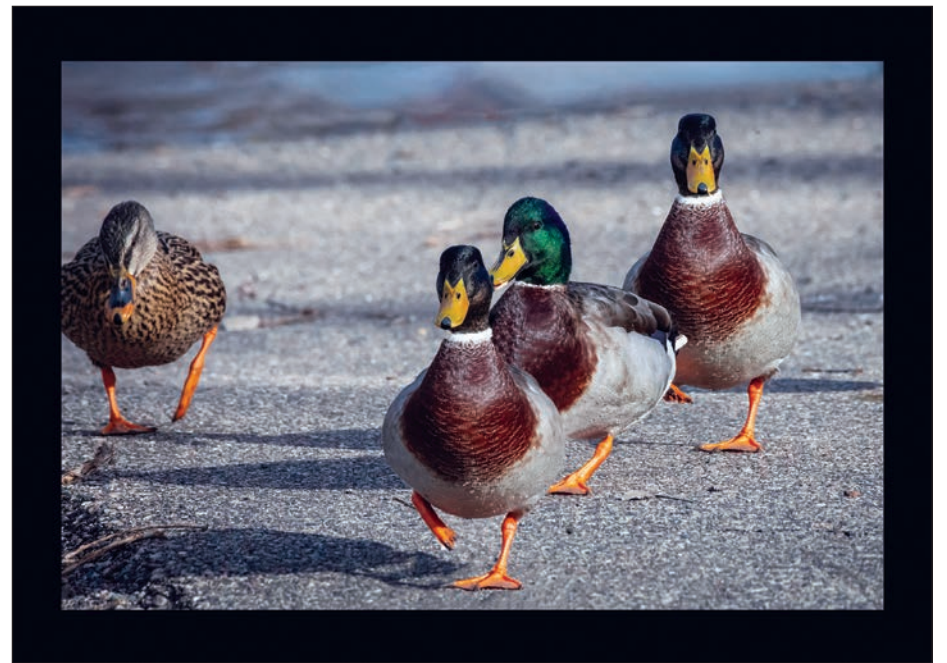
"I like to capture the artistry of wild animals," he said.

One of his spots is Whiting Park in Stevens Point where the mallard ducks are so tame he can get close to them to capture their odd expressions.

He is a few credits shy of earning a master of pho-

tography degree from the Professional Photographer's Association. He said joining the Wisconsin Professional Photographer's Association was a big influence to mastering his craft and he later served as the group's president in 2000-2001.

4. Koll was once Daddy Warbucks and King Triton. As a college student, Koll sang in the choir, took music lessons and also acted.



Tim Koll Photo

There was a 30-year hiatus as he was busy with his career and family.

"I never had the time and I didn't think I was good enough," he said.

Holly Saunders of the

Waupaca Community Theatre encouraged him to audition for "Annie." He enjoyed it so much he also appeared again the sequel and later played King Triton in the "Little Mermaid."

He's humble. When he told his grandson (who lives in Omaha) of being awarded the "Best of Waupaca" title, the grandson said, "Well, you know grandpa, Waupaca is a pretty small town."

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Expanding Weyauwega Star Dairy

Weyauwega Star Dairy, the title holder for making the world's longest piece of string cheese, was voted as the Best of Waupaca dairy store this year.

Three recent moves garnered them many fans and loyal customers.

The first is that the community of Weyauwega has not had a grocery store since the old IGA close down.

In a radical interior makeover, Star Dairy transformed their retail space into a fully stocked supermarket with more than 1,300 grocery items where local shoppers can stop in and grab a brick of cheese, dish soap, a pizza, bloody Mary mix and a tub of ice cream in a one-stop trip. T

his was a godsend for residents that had to commute to Waupaca, New London or the Fox Valley for grocery shopping.

The second was opening the New London Star Market



in mid-February this year. It's located at 1931 N. Shawano St. next to where the old Piggly Wiggly location. The market is set-up to be a quick-stop for groceries, meats, coffee, seasonings, and of course, Weyauwega Star Dairy cheese.

"We've got a partial grocery line. We're going to enlarge as we go. We want to make sure we have everything people want and when we find out what they want, that's what we'll bring in," said Mike

Knaus who co-owns the business with this brother Gerard.

They just added Lamers Milk and Old World Creamery butter. Many Wisconsin-made products are stocked in both stores.

The New London store is open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday and from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sundays.

The Weyauwega location is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. On



Cheese curds at Weyauwega Star Dairy.

Saturday's the store closes at 5 p.m. and on Sundays they are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The third move Weyauwega Star Dairy is making is they will soon offer single-serving string cheese, as in each stick is individually wrapped — great for snack or for adding to a lunchbox.

"We've got a new line coming up for that. I've got a machine coming to do that. We're automating a line. I've customers calling me and asking me when it's going to be ready," said Knaus.

Fun fact: Weyauwega Star Dairy sells kosher string

cheese to some schools in New York. The equipment is kosherized by heating it to a certain temperature and a rabbi adds enzymes and other ingredients to the cheese.

The rabbi also visits the dairy farm where the cows are milked to inspect the health of the herd.

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Best of 2023 Waupaca area Winners

Auto Parts Store

Napa Auto Parts
O'Reilly's Auto Parts
Neuville Motors

New Car Dealership

Neuville Motors
Petersen Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram
Plach Automotive

Best Oil Lube

Little Wolf Automotive
Neuville Motors
Petersen Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram

Auto Service Shop

Bill's Auto
Little Wolf Automotive
Neuville Motors

Body Shop

Eastside Auto Body
Townsend Auto Body
Johnson's Auto Body

Used Car Dealer

Neuville Motors
Petersen Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram
Royal Automotive



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Matt Hansen & Coalter Hansen

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Bakery

Neumann's Piggly Wiggly
Pick-N-Save
European Delights

Breakfast

Waupaca Woods
Little Fat Gretchen's
Hotel Fremont

Chicken/Wings

Wheelhouse
Chain O' Lakes Bar & Grill
Kwik Trip

Bartender

Jon Krueger (Simpson's)
TIE 2ND PLACE
Cam Carlson
Dan Heuer (Thirsty Perch)

Buffet

Wheelhosue
Schueller's Great exSPECHTations
China House

Coffee

Kwik Trip
Aquamos Coffee House
Starbucks

Bloody Mary

Wheelhouse
81 Market
Simpsons

Burger

Wheelhouse
Culver's
Chain O'Lakes Bar & Grill

Family Dining

Waupaca Woods
Wheelhouse
TIE 3RD PLACE
Simpsons
Klinger's Real BBQ

Bowling Alley

Silver Lake Lanes
Nelson's Strike Zone
Waupaca Bowl

Cheese Store

Weyauwega Star Dairy
Union Star Dairy
Dupont Cheese

Fish Fry

Wauapaca Woods
Country Inn
Rustic Woods Campground

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Best of 2023 Waupaca area

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Golf Course

Fox Fire @ Par 4
Glacier Woods
Hidden Waters

Grocery Store

Neumann's Piggly Wiggly
Pick-N-Save
Aldi's

Mexican Food

La Margarita
Las Flores
Taco Bell

Oriental Food

Chef Chus
China House
Indian Crossing Casino

Pizza

Wheelhouse
Chain O'Lakes Bar & Grill
Filling Station

Soup/Chili

Wheelhouse
Waupaca Woods
Chain O'Lakes Bar & Grill

Steak

Simpson's
Pine Tree
Manawa Steak House

Seafood

Simpson's
Pine Tree
Gala Resort

Waiter/Waitress

Analeese Krueger (Wheelhouse)
Nadia Cerne (Wheelhouse)
Sherry Kielblock (Silver Lake Lanes)

Accounting Firm

Janssen's Accounting
Summit Accounting
Waypoint Financial

Bank

Farmers State Bank
Community First Credit Union
Bank First

Financial Planner

Waypoint Financial
Ben Durfee - Edward Jones
Pete Vanden Bush - Edward Jones

Insurance Agency

TIE 1ST PLACE
State Farm Insurance
Johnson Insurance
C&D Professional - Rural Mutual

Insurance Agent

Ann Stern
Dave Loken
TIE 3RD PLACE
Tom Smith
Pat Johnson

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Law Firm

Maroney & Parry
Kay Anderson
Hart Law Office

Tax Preparation

Summit Accounting
Janssen's Accounting
H&R Block

Nursing Home

Bethany
Park Vista
Living Oaks @ Iola Living Assistance

Lender

Farmers State Bank
Community First Credit Union
Bank First

Chiropractic Office

Koch Chiropractor
Waupaca Chiropractor
Roots Wholistic Health

Pharmacy

Walgreen's
Hometown Pharmacy
Stratton's Drug Store

Realtor

TIE 1ST PLACE

Jean Grenlie
Ben Lyons
Shellady Udoni

Dental Office

Riverhill Dental
Waupaca Dental Excellence
Dennis Scharine (Fremont)

Physical Therapy Office

Spine & Sport Physical Therapy
Theda Care
Advance Physical Therapy

Real Estate Agency

Re/Max Lyons Real Estate
United Country & Salan
Shambeau Thern

Optical Office

Advanced Family Eyecare
Community Eye Care
Shopko Optical

Appliance Store

Hansen Furniture, Appliance &
Flooring Center
Stange's
Everyday Hometown

Savings Institution

Farmers State Bank
Community First Credit Union
Bank First

Hearing Health Office

Rural Audiology
Hearing Life
TIE 3RD PLACE
Avada Audiology
Thedacare

Carpet Cleaner Firm

Service King
Ron Stearns
Amazing Cleaning Service

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Carpet & Flooring Store

TIE 1ST PLACE

Hansen Furniture, Appliance & Flooring Center
Stanges
Flooring Express

Electrician

Bauer Electric
T&T Electric
Nett Electric

Furniture/Home Décor

Hansen Furniture, Appliance & Flooring Center
Stanges

Heating & Cooling

Sunshine Heating & Cooling
Billie's Sheet Metal
Westly Heating

Home Improvement Supplier

Noffke Lumber
Torborg's Lumber
Fleet Farm

Home Builder

K&E Builders
Strongwood Log Homes
Swanson Builders

Landscaping Service Provider

TLC Lawn & Landscaping
Silvermist Garden Center
Green Boyz

Lawn/Power Equipment Dealer

TIE 1ST PLACE
TLC Lawn & Landscaping
Fleet Farm
SPS - Service Power Sports

Lawn Service

TLC Lawn & Landscaping
Green Boyz
Melks Mow & Maintenance

Mobile Device Retailer

US Cellular
Verizon
Cellcom

Painter

Al William's Painting
Christensen Painting
Dave's Painting

Painting Business

The Paint Store
Al William's Painting
Christensen Painting

Plumber

Woolsey Plumbing
Chain O'Lakes Plumbing
Big Mike's Plumbing

Beautician/Barber

Dayla Jaeger (Urban Roots)
Tami Walkush
Leah Looker

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Child Care Center

Sunny Day Preschool & Child Care Center
Trinity Tiny Treasures & Trinity Preschool
Little Lambs @ St. Paul's Lutheran

Clothing Store

Fleet Farm
TIE 2nd
Panache
Revival

Company to Work For

Waupaca Foundry
TIE 2ND PLACE
Advanced Family Eyecare
Kwik Trip

Convenience Store

Kwik Trip
Chain One Stop
Nelson's Churchill Station

Firearms Dealer

Fleet Farm
Woodliff Enterprises
Malchow's Sport Shop

Fitness Center

Health & Fitness Headquarters
Anytime Fitness
Fire Fitness

Floral Company

Firefly Floral
Deja Blooms
Barnwood Farms

Funeral Home

A.J. Holly & Sons
Maplecrest
Voie Funeral Home

Gift Shop

Main Street Marketplace
Lucky Tree
81 Market

Hair Salon

Urban Roots
Studio 212
Scissor Sisters

Hotel/Lodging

Comfort Suites (Ale House)
Hotel Fremont
Ramada

Jewelry Store

Fletcher's
Revival
Panache

Marina

Becker Marine
Amherst Marine
Peterson Marine

Pet Care

Paws-N-Claws
Countryside Animal Hospital
Waupaca Small Animal Hospital

Photographer

Tim Koll (TK Photography)
Rachel Jansen Photography
JT Design (Jana Tappa)

Veternarian

Countryside Animal Hospital
Waupaca Small Animal Hospital
Amherst Vetrinary

Wedding Reception Location

Par 4/Comfort Suites
Danes Hall
Indian Crossing Casino

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