



# Ross' Ramblings By Ross Pattermann

As the byline says, my name is Ross Pattermann, and I am excited to announce that I am the newest member on the staff of the *Thorp Courier*.

I will be covering news, sports, feature stories and whatever events, great or small, that is happening in Thorp community and the surrounding area. I arrived at the *Courier* last week, and needless to say it's been a pretty steep learning curve. I've met a lot of new faces, and I promise I will do my best to remember all your names.

Of course, when it comes to being a [journalist](#), you meet dozens of new people a

day. You add that up over the course of a year, and you've probably met several hundreds, if not several thousands, of new people.

But that's really nothing new to me. Before I was a [journalist](#) I worked in retail and sales in a small shop in my hometown of Hayward, Wis. But I'm getting ahead of myself. I think it would be best if I get the introductions out of the way and give you some of my background and history.

I was born in Orlando, Florida, but my parents were originally from Superior, Wis., and moved to central Florida for better job prospects. The move was not unlike dropping a pair of polar bears into the jungle. Needless to say, they didn't like, and so in their infinite wisdom, they moved back to the frozen tundra of Wisconsin. I spent a few years living in Eau Claire,



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and then spent the rest of my childhood in Hayward.

I graduated at the top of my class, and went to school at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. I am a proud Badger backer, so if I happen to look sad on a day, it's probably because my Badgers lost a football or basketball game. It was while pursuing my history degree at Wisconsin that I accidentally fell into journalism.

I had written for my high school paper, but nothing serious. When I got to college, I figured my journalism days were behind me. It appears I was very wrong about that. My freshman year I lived in the dorms, and my roommate was a photographer for *The Daily Cardinal*.

He knew I loved sports, and put in a good word for me, and I spent several years covering the Wisconsin Badgers as a student-reporter. Eventually I got my history degree and went back to Hayward, but work was hard to come by. In the summer of 2012 I was looking for a way to find some extra cash and took a job as a freelancer with the *Sawyer County Gazette*, covering small school districts in northern Wisconsin.

At first I was nervous about being a journalist. I had not written an article in years, and now I was getting paid for it. And if I screwed up, it wasn't just the dumb mistake of an undergrad trying to find a way to watch a Badger game for free.

But I fell in love with it, and stayed with the *Gazette* for five years. I knew that this was what I wanted to do for a career, but in order to make a living I would need to venture beyond my comfortable county.

I eventually came to Abbotsford and the TP Printing Company. So I am no stranger to central Wisconsin or Thorp. I spent five years writing sports, news, covering parades and concerts and all sorts of things, like COVID and elections. It was a very busy time, but a very rewarding time both personally and professionally.

I wrote at one time or another for all five papers owned by the TP Printing Company, and was lucky enough to see numerous teams win state titles or see kids go off and become college athletes. I won numerous prizes and awards for my journalism from the Wisconsin Newspaper Association. But all good things come to an end, and after five years I returned to Hayward and began work with the *Sawyer County Gazette* for the second time.

But I missed central Wisconsin, missed my friends here, and the memories I had made. When I saw an opening at the *Thorp Courier*, I leapt at the chance to come back to the region. I've only been here about a week, but I've covered several basketball games, wrestling matches and met plenty of good people.

Thorp is a strong and vibrant community and has a strong and successful school district and sports programs. I should know, since the Cardinals have kicked Abbotsford and Colby's backside in basketball and softball quite a few times when I wrote for the TP Printing Company.

I am looking forward to seeing what new stories will unfold, what new memories and friends I will make. I hope my stories entertain you, help shed light on Thorp's students and their achievements, and the events that move and shape a community.