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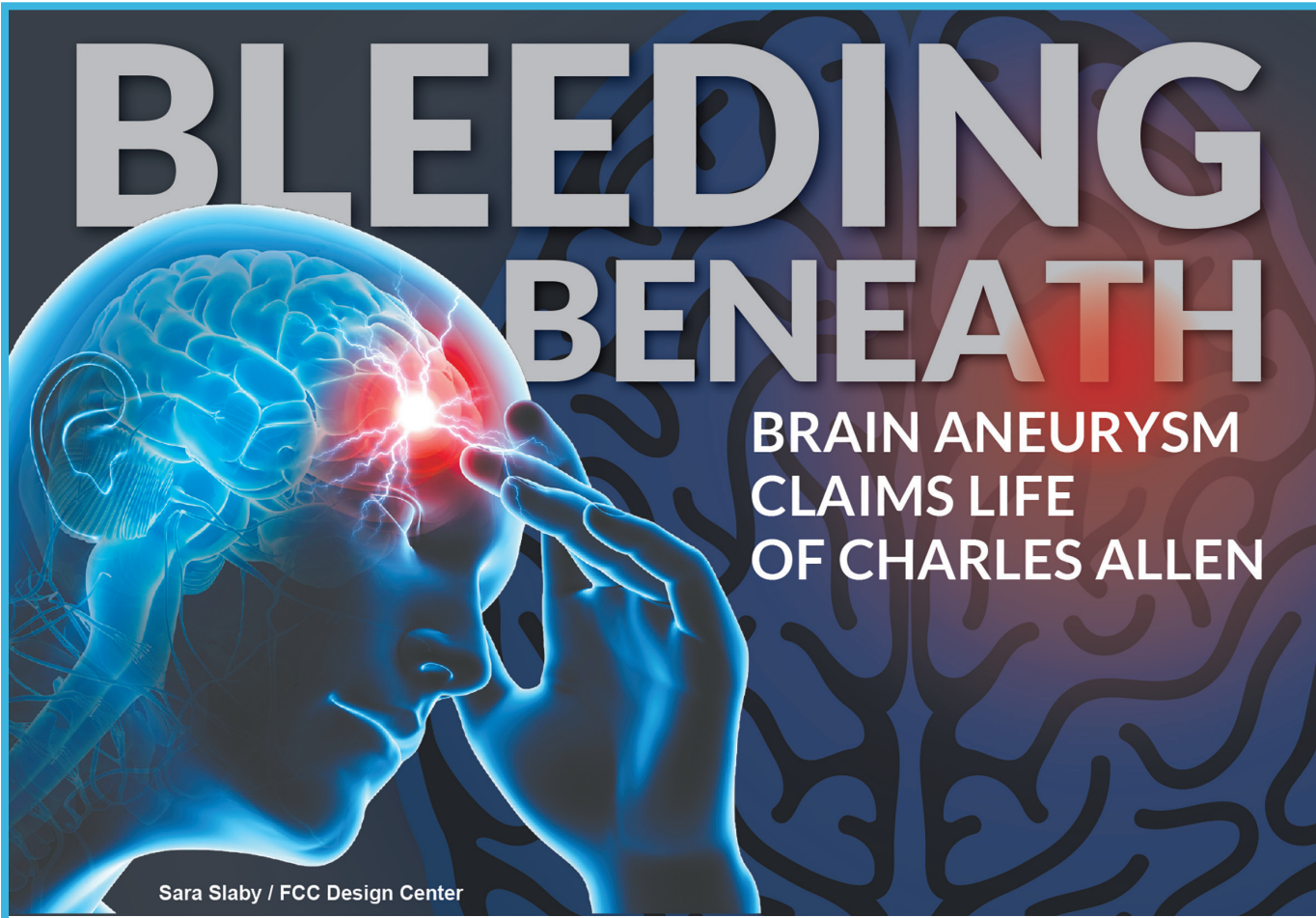
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Wadena

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Sara Slaby / FCC Design Center

BLEEDING BENEATH

BRAIN ANEURYSM CLAIMS LIFE OF CHARLES ALLEN

By Michael Denny
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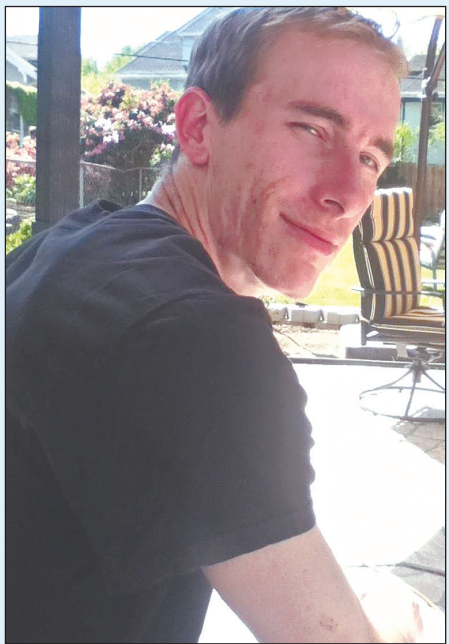


Photo submitted by Rachel Yates
Charles Allen succumbed to a ruptured brain aneurysm on March 29.

Rachel Yates, a member of the Bertha Ambulance team, rose from bed at around 1 p.m. on March 27. It was like any other day. She conversed with her husband, a firefighter, about the training sessions he would be tasked with that night. He was excited because they would be practicing extraction and he would get to use the jaws of life. All was as it should be and soon Yates would start looking for something to eat and perhaps go shopping for groceries ... until the unexpected happened and she received a distressed phone call. Her daughter, Elizabeth Smith, called in tears. "Chuck just came out of the shower crying, holding his head, he has a really bad headache and he wants you," said Smith. Charles Allen also known as

Chuck, is a big part of the family. His mother passed away many years ago and Yates thinks of him as a son. He and Smith are engaged to be married. At that moment, he was in desperate need of his EMT mother. Yates explained, she's supposed to be able to fix everything. She is the mother, the mother always has a solution to every problem. Yates proceeded believing his head pain was simply a migraine. A painful ailment but not life threatening. While quickly getting dressed she would receive another frantic phone call from Smith. "Hurry, he is laying on the floor crying, he won't answer me," Smith said. Yates rushed out the door to help. She drove to the house, which is about a block away, a trip that seemed like an eternity. She darted into the

ANEURYSM: Page A8

NewLife Support Center grand opening May 6

Formerly Wadena Area Crisis Pregnancy Center

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Facing an unplanned pregnancy? Struggling to make that relationship work? Wondering what healthy parenting really looks like?

If any of these ring true for you, you'll be glad, perhaps relieved to hear that support is not far away for women and men. The former Wadena Area Crisis Pregnancy Center has a new name, face, location and mission under the name of NewLife Support Center. This center has a grand opening May 6 in Wadena at its new location at St. Ann's Catholic Church. The center is led by executive director Melissa Price, who says this place is about more than pregnancy support, it's about strengthening families, relationships and overall helping to create a stronger life for those in need. The mission of the center is to "encourage men and women who are standing at a difficult crossroads feel valued and cared for, to build security

and hope for a positive healthy future for our children."

Price came into the position last November and has been working since then to help create a place welcoming and supportive to those in need. The new location is within St. Ann's Catholic Church in Wadena on the Emerson Avenue access. While it's located within a church building, Price said it's a location that's open to all and the church entry allows private access and a private bathroom. All those stopping by can do so confidentially, no matter their race or religion. Price says taking this position was all a move by God. Last fall she decided to leave her job without any other job in place. She had been working at Productive Alternatives and had a background in ministry when she said

Price

CENTER: Page A9



Michael Denny/Wadena Pioneer Journal
The play, "Marjorie Prime," features a small cast of four local actors and actresses.

Madhatters presents 'Marjorie Prime' next 2 weekends

By Michael Denny
Wadena Pioneer Journal

Madhatters Community Theatre will present "Marjorie Prime" with an opening May 3 at the United Methodist Church in Wadena.

In this pseudo science fiction drama, Marjorie is slowly falling into a state of dementia. Family members utilize a special computer program to simulate a deceased

family member. Marjorie chooses a version of her husband which sets off a dramatic journey through her memories and how they shape her perception of the world.

Bronwynn Touchette is directing the four person play. Her favorite part of production is "the absolute creativity. You start with a clean slate and

PRIME: Page A10

Locals prepare for Relay for Life event Aug. 9

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The world's largest fundraising event to save and aid the lives of those affected by cancer is coming Aug. 9 to Sunny Brook Park in Wadena.

The Wadena Area Relay for Life event raised more than \$18,000 for the American Cancer Society in 2018.



Allen



Russo

With some new ideas, event co-leads Travis Allen and Dinah Russo look to bring a new energy, bring more people and hopefully raise more money for a cause they both strongly believe in.

Allen has been involved in the organization since 2011. He's joined this year by Russo, who said



Michael Johnson/Pioneer Journal

Relay for Life teams walked the paths through Sunny Brook Park during the annual Wadena County event last year.

she joined because she's been surrounded by cancer in her life. She wants to help any efforts to eradicate cancer.

"My aunt has passed away, my grandpa's passed away, my grand-

ma's passed away, my uncle's passed away, all from lung and liver cancer," Russo said. She has other relatives in the area who are

RELAY: Page A10

Bertha man killed in crash near Hewitt



Michael Johnson/Pioneer Journal

A vehicle rests on its roof after a collision that occurred Tuesday morning at the intersection of Highway 210 and County Road 23.

CRASH: Page A10

Pioneer Journal staff

HEWITT — A fatal two-vehicle crash occurred Tuesday morning at the intersection of Hwy 210 and County Road 23, east of Hewitt, according to the State Patrol.

Joseph Strodel, 88, of Bertha, failed to yield while driving north on County Road 23. He was fatally injured after striking Kristine M. Brown, 44, Eagle Bend, who was driving east on Hwy 210. Brown received non-life-threatening injuries and was taken to a St. Cloud hospital.

Two Minnesota State Patrol vehicles responded to the crash involving two vehicles off the roadway. Brown's vehicle, a 2004 Ford Expedition,



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WEEKEND WEATHER

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H: 60 L: 36 SATURDAY
H: 50 L: 32 SUNDAY

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