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A father's Grief in action

His son died of an opioid overdose. Now, he's fighting to save others.

Lisa Ingebrand
LifeEnterprise

Noah Goodwin should be celebrating his 23rd birthday this week. But, the young man, who loved his dog and bowling, died from a drug overdose last year. He was found unresponsive in his Waterville apartment on Sunday morning, June 7. In his grief, Noah's father, Paul Purfeest of Waseca, began educating himself about drugs in the area and the startlingly high number of deaths caused by opioid overdose.

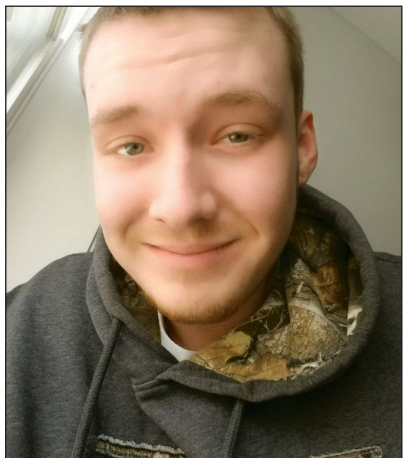


Photo courtesy of Paul Purfeest

According to his father, an autopsy report showed Noah Goodwin died of a fentanyl overdose in his Waterville apartment on June 7, 2020.

"That week he died, there were three other overdoses in the area," he stated. "It's unreal, especially to those of us who don't use or aren't in the medical profession, dealing with this... Honestly, I was really dumb about all this until Noah died."

Purfeest soon connected with The Steve Rummler HOPE Network, a nonprofit organization focused on providing hope for those with chronic pain and addiction. He decided to put his grief in action by helping educate others—both users and their loved ones—about treatment options and the importance of having an opioid overdose-reversing Narcan kit available.

Each kit contains three doses of intramuscular naloxone, and all the supplies necessary to administer it safely.

According to Dr. Michael Wilcox, an emergency medical physician, naloxone reverses an opioid overdose by blocking the effects of opiates on the brain and by restoring breathing.

"It's a very safe drug to use and is now available to just about everyone without a prescription at most pharmacies," Wilcox explained.

For Purfeest, the small, 5" x 9" packaged Narcan kit is a small ray of hope for those fighting the dark world of opioid addiction.

Grief to 5



Lisa Ingebrand Photo

Paul Purfeest lost his 22-year-old son, Noah, to an opioid overdose last year. Now, the grieving father is fighting to save others by passing out free, opioid overdose-reversing Narcan kits (pictured).

Prom is May 1

Masks must be worn;
Invite-only
Grand March

Lisa Ingebrand
LifeEnterprise

There will be a prom!

After last year's prom was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, excitement is building for this year's prom.

Waterville-Elysian-Morristown High School's 2021 Prom will be held Saturday, May 1. The theme is "An Enchanted Ball."

"Masks need to be worn at all times per the guidance of Governor Walz," explained WEM Principal Dr. Jennifer Wilson. "Also, students are expected to follow venue guidance whether it is at the dance portion of prom or at the After-Prom Party."

A Grand March will be held at the school at 5:30 p.m. According to Prom Committee Advisor Mary White, the Grand March will be an invitation-only event (unless state COVID-19 health guidelines change). A live stream of the event will be available on the school's Facebook page.

Prom-goers will load onto buses outside the school at 6:30 p.m. and will travel to Chankaska Creek in Kasota. A formal photo session is

Prom to 5

City to look at decreasing the Canada geese population

Jay Schneider
LifeEnterprise

The City of Elysian has become a resting spot for Canadian geese.

This hasn't been a positive thing for city parks and other local properties. They have actually become quite a nuisance.

Elysian has been blessed with having multiple lakes in this community," a Fallin' Skies Waterfowl Control representative said in a letter sent to the Elysian City Council. "The downfall to this has made it very attractive to the Canada geese as a

'peaceful' place to raise their young and building strong breeding grounds for their flocks."

Parks, beaches, and the sewage treatment ponds/grounds and many other city locations have become a refuge for the resident Canada goose.

The council has decided to make this a priority to start eliminating the geese in order to keep the city cleaner.

"We have been having this issue for years," Council member Bryan Suemnick said.

The council approved an agreement with Fallin' Skies Waterfowl Control for the 2021 calendar year to start goose eradication with a cap of \$7,500.

There will be a three-part

plan put in place to make the locations less attractive to the Canada geese and ultimately reduce the resident goose populations to acceptable levels over multiple years of implementation.

John and Janice Manning are members of the Fallin' Skies business and will be working as seasonal employees of the city while working to eradicate the unwanted geese.

The plans will include placing poultry netting/fencing along identified locations to reduce use by geese.

They will use trained canines and training aids to reduce the attractiveness of these identified locations and promote these animals to use other locations.

They will also use the established Minnesota Waterfowl Hunting Season to target waterfowl within the city limits and on city owned property by controlled/directed harvest of these animals under the direction of Fallin' Skies.

The Canadian geese which are harvested will be turned into a food source if at all possible.

According to Public Works Director Ron Greenwald he said on any given day there could be up to 400 Canadian geese within the city limits.



Submitted Photo

WEM juniors (left to right) Kiri Kerekes, Alex Heuss, and Paige Atherton will be competing in the State Speech Tournament this Saturday, April 24.

They talked their way to State Speech

Lisa Ingebrand
LifeEnterprise

Three members of Waterville-Elysian-Morristown's Speech Team have advanced to the State Speech Tournament.

Junior Alex Heuss, daughter of Shawn and Brenda Heuss, placed second in the virtual Sections tournament in the category of Great

Speeches on April 16, which earned her a spot in the April 24th virtual State competition. (The top three in each category advance.)

Juniors Kiri Kerekes and Paige Atherton also earned second place at Sections for their Duo Interpretation and will compete in the State tournament. Kiri is the daughter of James and Kathy Kerekes. Paige is the daughter of Wendy Atherton-Stoen and Kyle Atherton.

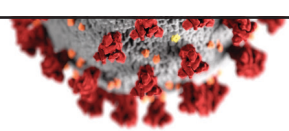
ter of Wendy Atherton-Stoen and Kyle Atherton.

According to WEM Speech Coach Eric Gerst, the girls' speeches are in different worlds of Speech, so to speak.

Heuss's speech is titled "A Time to Break Silence." It is a public address speech in the Great Speeches category.

"In that category, a student

Speech to 5



COVID-19

County	Positive cases	Deaths	1st Dose	2nd Dose
Le Sueur	2,722	22	9,249	6,500
Rice	7,672	102	27,831	19,770
Scott	16,122	117	55,795	37,222
Waseca	2,319	21	6,878	4,852
State	558,850	7,031	2,304,975	1,630,999

Includes ALL Covid-19, including the mutant variant.
From Minnesota Department of Health.
Case data as of 4-20-2021. Vaccination data as of 4-18-2021.

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