

PIE

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The students beat the goal of \$300 by raising a total of \$333, which an anonymous donor doubled. To avoid three consecutive sixes, the donor agreed to \$665. All of the money will be donated to the American Red Cross to help provide aid to the people of Ukraine.

Wixon says he's happy with the outcome and that the event was an excellent way for the students to come together.

"The thing I liked most about it was all the kids were involved. All the kids were laughing their butts off," said Wixon.

At the end of the event, the students got a mini pie of their own and the school's emotional support dog, Leo, helped clean up the mess.

The school also held a bake sale on Tuesday, March 15, during parent and teacher conferences, raising \$96 for Project Hope.

"It's a medical organization that not only gives money for bandages and sutures, and all that kind of stuff, but for insulin, and some of those other immediate needs as well," said Andrew Sheets, a



Photos by Thalen Zimmerman / Alexandria Echo Press
Emerson Marquardt prepares to throw a pie tin of whipped cream at the face of Kim Wixon.

biology teacher at Kalon. His class came up with the idea for the bake sale.

Project Hope helps with health challenges across the globe. Money from the bake sale will go to the project's effort to assist the people of Ukraine, which includes shipping medical supplies, equipping local health workers and providing aid to

the country.

Sheets says he is proud to see students do their part. He mentioned that the students mainly led both fundraisers.

"That's one of the nice things in the school here. A lot of the events are totally led by the students," said Wixon. "We've had two dances totally put on by

the students. They are so involved. Here they are able to blossom. It has just been so wonderful to teach them."

Kalon Prep Academy will hold an open house for the public to tour the school on Thursday, May 5, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Email reporter Thalen Zimmerman at tzimmerman@echopress.com

MEMORIAL

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The memorial will be constructed with a concrete floor and landscaping stone, according to a fundraising brochure. At the base of a large granite folded flag will be the engraved words, "IN HONOR OF ALL WHO SERVED," and six white granite benches will display the insignia of one of the branches of service.

Arvidson said the committee hopes to raise \$150,000 for the project, and that some donations have already come in.

"People are serious about making this happen," he said. "We would like to see it done by the end of this summer if possible."

Along with Tony Woodworth, Arvidson also testified at the Legislature earlier this month in favor of a bill introduced by Rep. Mary Franson, R-Alexandria, that would provide funding to construct the memorial.

"It was simply an informational time," Arvidson said. "The two of us explained everything about the site, and what we were hoping to do. We were only given a few minutes to do so, but I think we got the point across and were well-received."

The Veterans Memorial Committee has also partnered with the West Central Initiative to assist with the fundraising. WCI is an independent public foundation, nonprofit 501(c)3 tax exempt corporation.

To receive credit for a tax-deductible donation, payments must be made directly to West Central Initiative, either by mail or through its online donations portal, which is located at www.wcif.org/fund/ppf.

Donations can also be sent to West Central Initiative, Attn: Parkers Prairie Veterans Memorial, P.O. Box 318, Fergus Falls, MN, 56538-0318. Donors can include their name, address, phone number and email.

Arvidson said he is confident the project will reach completion, citing other projects, such as the event center constructed in 2007.

"We're proud of this community," he said. "We've done a lot of great things here."

Email reporter Travis Gulbrandson at tgulbrandson@echopress.com



Left: The bidding board shows which student had the highest bid on a teacher. Right: Leo, an emotional support animal for the students, is lifted by Analea Sheets so he can lick up a tin of whip cream offered by Spencer Wolbeck after the final "pie" was thrown.

Highest Bid Pie!		Who is your favorite teacher?	
Leo	Spencer	Leo	Spencer
Chris	Spencer	Chris	Spencer
Matthew	Spencer	Matthew	Spencer
Allison	Spencer	Allison	Spencer
Analea	Spencer	Analea	Spencer
Andrew	Spencer	Andrew	Spencer
Roger	Spencer	Roger	Spencer
Carroll	Spencer	Carroll	Spencer
Carrie	Spencer	Carrie	Spencer
Hailey	Spencer	Hailey	Spencer
Holly	Spencer	Holly	Spencer
Jackie	Spencer	Jackie	Spencer
Jill	Spencer	Jill	Spencer
Kim	Spencer	Kim	Spencer
Kar	Spencer	Kar	Spencer
Maurice	Spencer	Maurice	Spencer
Paul	Spencer	Paul	Spencer

Left: The bidding board shows which student had the highest bid on a teacher. Right: Leo, an emotional support animal for the students, is lifted by Analea Sheets so he can lick up a tin of whip cream offered by Spencer Wolbeck after the final "pie" was thrown.

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