

AFTER THE HUNT

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VETERANS DAY



Rebecca Mitchell / Pioneer Journal

Shell Tornquist, who served in the Vietnam War, receives a big hug from his great-great niece Sydney Jorgenson at the Bertha-Hewitt Schools' Veterans Day program on Nov. 11.

EMBRACING HONOR

Community members honor the legacy of veterans' sacrifices

By Rebecca Mitchell Wadena Pioneer Journal

n a day celebrating what veterans have given to each of us, community members at Bertha-Hewitt Schools gathered to pause and remember the sacrifices made by veterans in our communities, state and country.

While thanking members of the United States military who served, are serving and those who have

passed away, veterans and school members spoke about the courage veterans have in defending honor, duty and country.

"Give us the freedom to walk, to breathe, to love, to cherish, said Butch Rice, Bertha **American Legion** William Larson Post 366 member, in prayer about veterans. "When we look at veterans, what do we see? Lord Jesus, we see you in them because first you were

the one that was sent to serve every human being. And now we are still called to serve, as veterans, our brothers and sisters."

Students from seventh to 12th grade also participated in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Elmer Goche Post 3922 Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy essay contests along with students from Wadena-Deer Creek Verndale, Staples-Motley and Sebeka.

Seventh grader Gabrielle Knoll placed first amongst Bertha-Hewitt students and first amongst area schools, which moves her onto the next competition for the VFW's sixth district.

In her essay, Knoll noted responsible independence, respectful diversity and reverent patriotism as the ways to be a good American. She said depending on one another, respecting

HONOR: Page A7

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COVID SURGE

Wadena County leads again, not in a good way

By Michael Johnson Wadena Pioneer Journal

The Centers for Disease Control reported this week that Minnesota is among the highest seven-day rate of new COVID-19 infections in the country.

The state's rate of 472 cases per 100,000 is triple the U.S. average. And in one of the most infectious states, the CDC reports that Wadena County has one of the highest case rates for COVID, 1,030 cases per 100,000. More than twice that of the state average. The CDC shows a 15.2% positivity rate in the county for the last seven days out of 965 tests performed.

Coincidentally, Wadena County also has the third lowest vaccination rate in the state, with 43.5% of the total popone dose of the vaccine, according to MDH. They surpassed Todd County this week which sits at 42.5% vaccinated.

As of Tuesday, Nov. 16, Wadena County reported two more COVID-related deaths from the previous week bringing the total to 35. They also report a total of 2,850 positive cases since the illness struck in spring 2020.

Despite illness being around every corner, Tri-County Health Care President and CEO Joel Beiswenger noted at a Wadena County Commission meeting Tuesday morning that it is still abundantly clear that some just don't believe there is a prob-

"There is still a sense that COVID isn't real," he said speaking to the

ulation receiving at least COVID: Page A8

Level of Community Transmission of All Counties in US



Image courtesy the Centers for Disease Control The Centers for Disease Control shows all but one of Minnesota's counties are currently experiencing a high rate of COVID-19 transmission.

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VETERANS DAY Verndale celebrates those who answered the call

By Michael Johnson

Wadena Pioneer Journal

VERNDALE — Veterans were honored with patriotic music, special readings and the attention of hundreds of students during the Veterans Day program at Verndale Public School on Thursday, Nov. 11.

Verndale Superintendent Paul Brownlow thanked all veterans for gave a brief overview of the history of Veterans

the school gymnasium, was veteran Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Mark Anson, a Wadena resident. He described his time in the Navy including his opportunity to do a backflip off a helicopter as a helicopter rescue swimmer. Not something everyone can say they did.

Anson enlisted in the attending the event and military as someone who wanted to serve his country. He served from 2010-2016, where he was Catching the ears of part of a helicopter com-

elementary students in bat squadron and completed one eight-month deployment to the Persian Gulf.

While serving in that capacity was important, he described how military service requires sacrifice whether the veteran had to serve in combat or not.

"The act of service itself is being part of something bigger than yourself," Anson said. He described being a part of the raising of

VERNDALE: Page A7



Michael Johnson / Pioneer Journal

Madison Schmitz (left) and Abigail Ervasti were recognized for their first and second place award winning essays for the Voice of Democracy contest.

Birch Lake Counseling grows in former Wadena Methodist Church

By Michael Johnson Wadena Pioneer Journal

of the former Unitin Wadena and is now that location on Dayton location.

Avenue.

"We are about pro-Birch Lake Counseling viding hope and healing has completed a remod-el of the 1992 portion and families," Carol Horsager, lead therapist ed Methodist Church said of their work in counseling. They serve a providing therapy and roughly 30-mile radius counseling services at around Wadena at this

The business co-owned and operated by Carol and Chuck Horsager, offering therapy for children and adults, as well as families, couples and groups. Carol is a licensed marriage and family therapist;

CHURCH: Page A8

WEEKEND WEATHER

L: 19







H: 32 L: 13



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Level 3 sex offender to be released in Wadena

Staff reports

Patrick L. Walker, 31, is returning to Wadena, this time as a Level 3 sex offender when he's expected to be released from prison Monday,

A community notification meeting is planned for 5:30 p.m., Monday, Nov. 22, at the Wadena Police/Fire Hall at 121 SE Colfax Avenue, Wadena, according to a Wadena Police Department news release. Entry to the meeting will be on the south side of the building where posted. Representatives from the Department of Corrections and the Wadena Police Department will be available to provide you with useful information on public safety.

Walker is 5 foot 9 inches, 211 pounds, is white and has brown hair and blue eyes. He will be released to the 100 block of Bryant Avenue Southeast, Wadena. He's been incarcerated since Dec.

Walker engaged in separate incidents of sexual conduct against a known, teen-aged female over a period of time. He used his relationship to exploit unmonitored access. He used force in his attempts to gain control. Additionally, Walker engaged in the solicitation of an unknown teenaged female. He used the internet and social media to gain access. He offered payments of cash in an attempt to manage the victim.

Walker's highest ranking offense is domestic assault, which he has been convicted of in Wadena (2017), Todd (2019) and Douglas (2014) counties. His last two convictions involved strangling his victims.

The Wadena Police Department released information concerning Walker's release pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 244.052 and 253D. These statutes authorize law enforcement agencies to inform communities of a public registrant's release Davis E. Whitaker.



Walker

from prison or a secure treatment faciliwhen ty the Wade-Police na Department believes that

release of information will enhance public safety and protection.

Walker has served the sentence imposed on him by the court and is transitioning into the community. This notification is not intended to increase fear but rather raise awareness. Law enforcement believes that an informed public is a safer public.

The Wadena Police Department may not direct where this individual does or does not reside, nor can this agency direct where he/she works or goes to school.

Those convicted of sexual and predatory offenses have always been released to live in our communities. It was not until the passage of the Registration Act that law enforcement had an ability to track movement of these individuals after their initial release. With the passage of the Community Notification Act law enforcement may now share information about many of these individuals with the public. Abuse of this information to threaten, harass or intimidate a registered person is unacceptable and such acts could be charged as a crime. Such abuses could potentially end the ability of law enforcement to provide these notifications.

information More about Walker and the sex offender program can be found at the Minnesota Department of Corrections offender locator.

The city of Wadena has four other registrants subject to public notification, according to the Department of Corrections: Paul T. Bright, Terrance L. Lindmarck, Christopher A. Sharp and

WDC drama presents 'Wizard of Oz'

By Rebecca Mitchell Wadena Pioneer Journal

"We're off to see the Wizard, the wonderful Wizard of Oz!" You can catch the songs, dances and fun scenes at Wadena-Deer Creek's Memorial Auditorium on Nov. 18-20 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5.

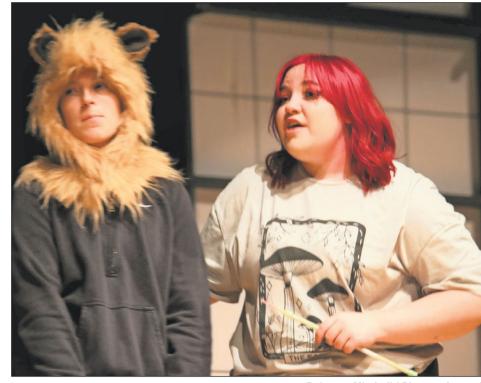
You can follow your favorite characters from Kansas to the Land of Oz as they adventure to the Emerald City and learn about themselves on their journey home. The large cast and crew includes Lily Adkins as Dorothy, Maggie Hegarty as Aunt Em/Glinda, Kylee Collins as Uncle Henry/Oz Guard, Maddie Gallant as Zeke/Cowardly Lion, Eshetu Loer as Hickory/Tinman, Kelanie Oldakowski as Hunk/ Scarecrow, Ashley Pavek as the Wizard of Oz and Rvann Schmidt as Miss Gulch/Wicked Witch.

The cast said some of their favorite scenes are anything in Kansas, meeting the wizard, screaming at one another's characters, dancing and travelling along the yellow brick road. Over the weeks of practicing, which have been just about a month, Loer said the energy clicked recently. Adkins added watching Oldakowski become the Scarecrow, Gallant the Cowardly Lion and Loer the Tinman came in small moments that shone their character.

"The energy on the stage and the energy between everybody it's just comforting even during a stressful day or a stressful performance. I just feel like everyone is supporting each other and that's great," Oldakowski said.

While rehearsing the musical, the cast and crew love laughing with their friends.

"A lot of us are coming together and no matter how many lines you have or if you're just a munchkin or someone with no lines or someone in tech, we're all super



Rebecca Mitchell / Pioneer Journal

Glinda (Maggie Hegarty) explains to the Cowardly Lion (Maddie Gallant) how Dorothy had the ability to go home all along.

important and even without one minor role or anything the whole thing falls apart. So that's really nice knowing that we're all equals here," Adkins said. "We all need each other," Oldakowski added.

Hegarty and Adkins hope audiences will find the musical as funny as

"The dances they bring up the moods because they're just really simple, really little dances, and it's one thing you can tell you really need to have fun with it. You need to be smiling and bouncing all over the place," Adkins said.

The ensemble includes Lily Parker, Kaylee

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kuhl, Isabella Larson, Amaya Walker, Levyn Rousslang, Makayla Clark, Phoenix Gray, Abigail Ames, Addie Ames, Alexis Randall, Kaylin Lupkes, Grace Gallant, Anna Church and Lauryn Gravelle.

The crew includes Hannah Plautz, Chloe Kapphahn, Zooey Rousslang, p.m. Tickets are \$5 at the Alexis Rousslang, Corra door.

Endres, Isabelle Lehm- Endres, Katie Fieymeyer, Anna Fiemeyer, Megan Hamelau, Lydia Helmbrecht, Adam Plautz, Hannah Dosdall, Brayden Lenk, McKenna Dunbar, Katy Muckala, Emma Weniger, Kiyanne Maxwell and Kaylee Lehman.

The doors open at 6:15 p.m. on Nov. 18-20 with the show starting at 7





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NEWSROOM

Michael Johnson, Editor mjohnson@wadenapj.com Rebecca Mitchell, Multimedia reporter rmitchell@wadenapj.com

CIRCULATION Helen Allee hallee@wadenapj.com

SUPPORT STAFF **Robert Berndt** Driver

ADVERTISING

Kristy Helmbrecht, **Inside Sales** khelmbrecht@wadenapj.com classifieds@wadenapj.com

Robin Stalley, Multimedia Sales Coordinator rstalley@dlnewspapers.com

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A visit to a virtual classroom had me saying 'I can do that'

'm not saying I am looking for a new job, but a visit to a virtual reality learning lab recently has me thinking I might be



MICHAEL JOHNSON

ok at welding. Maybe even good Ok, that may be a stretch and I am not quite ready to give up on informing

readers about things that matter, so what can I do? I can't just toss away my new found gift. I'll start by telling you about how I found

my hidden skill. I got a phone call Tuesday, Nov. 2, about an amazing opportunity coming to Wadena the very next morning. It was Evelyn Fowler, team leader of the Rural Minnesota CEP in Wadena. She shared that Wednesday morning a semi truck and trailer would be coming to their parking lot loaded with big ideas. Literally the semi trailer is filled with virtual reality equipment and is named Big Ideas. It's a non-profit that travels from town to town teaching people about trade skills that they may have no opportunity to take part in otherwise.

So of course I was curious about it. I showed up the next day and was sent straight to the trailer to go to work. At first I thought I would just watch others learn how to drive an excavator or paint industrial parts. When I saw someone using a virtual reality MIG welder, I was intrigued.

The training device has you put on what looks like an actual welding face shield and hold what looks and feels like an actual welding gun. The technology is even wired to a device that looks exactly like a real welder. This was as close as I could get to using a real welder without actually burning a hole through



Photos by Michael Johnson / Pioneer Journal

A conference room full of students try their hand at different trades using virtual reality goggles and wands during a visit from Big Ideas on Nov. 3 in Wadena.

my pants or wasting hundreds of dollars in

high priced equipment. So there I was shield adjusted, gun in hand, finger on the trigger and my trainer Joe Schotzko giving me directions on how to start my first weld.

He explained exactly how far to hold the tip of the welder from my joint. The virtual screen I was watching gave me indicators too, lighting up green when I was positioned just right to begin my weld. Then with a pull of the trigger I was welding. The noise, bright light and smoke emitting from my weld showed I was actually doing it.

Arrows indicated how quickly to move along the joint to make a smooth weld and red lines let you know if you were moving off the target. At the end of my 3-4 inch weld, I got to see my weld closely. Not great looking, but it was a weld that would hold up, at least in the virtual world. I scored in the low 90s. Not bad I thought.

I thought that was fun, but I'll move on. Joe thought otherwise. My instructor had me start a new weld and this time I was more consistent yet my read out at the end showed precisely where I was going wrong. Where I went too slow or too fast, when my hand went slightly off track. The critique was very detailed. I was

impressed. Now a new group of students came in behind me and I was ready to move on, but Schotzko wasn't done with me yet. He had me weld once again, except this time I was to demonstrate a weld for others. No pressure right? This time I knew right where to start. I knew where to hold my hands. I knew how to operate this thing without explanation. When I finished my weld, it was a thing of beauty. I scored a 99. I didn't ask, but I am going to assume that was out of 100. Am I that good? Should I deny the world of my natural ability?

Now I am not going to say that you can hand me a real welder and I will now weld a perfect roll of quarters or create a weld that you could bet your car axle on. That I am sure takes much time behind an actual welder. What this virtual reality device did is show me the basics of what welding feels like. It can build your confidence enough to make the user say, "Maybe I could really do this?"

That's exactly the hope of the Big Ideas trailer and those who bring it to their locations all over Minnesota. It offers a free opportunity to try out the trades without the fear of breaking something or the hi cost of using actual materials.

"It kind of takes the fear away," Andrew Kish, mobile learning



Andrew Kish, mobile learning lab coordinator for Big Ideas Inc., shares how the skilled trades industry needs more young people and that virtual reality may be just the right tool to get them on their way down that

lab coordinator for Big Ideas, said. He explained how the paint simulator shows exactly how much paint you used and how much you wasted. It even translates that to a dollar amount. That way when you go to the real deal chances are you will understand how to avoid waste.

Kish said the Big Ideas trailer is close to visiting 100 sites. It all began in March 2021 in New Ulm, Minn. They are working on adding more simulators and bringing on a second trailer soon.

He was inside the Career Force center watching students work with virtual reality goggles dong painting and woodworking. Watching a room full of people with VR goggles painting and



Joe Schotzko (holding a welding gun) instructs an interested student in the proper use of a MIG welder on Nov. 3, in the Big Ideas mobile classroom.

lifting objects was quite

hystericaĺ.

"It's always easier to try something and say you don't like it than to never try it," Kish said.

Kish comes from a welding background and has traveled 49 states and to Europe thanks to his jobs. He loves his work. The lack of skilled workers like him drove him to do something to change that. He was 27 when he was in need of taking on more employees for his business. He could not find anyone under age 30 to apply for a job.

"That was the hardest thing to realize is, where are we going to go from here," Kish said. He shared that the industry desperately needs young people to enter skilled trades. Skilled trades may not be for everyone, but neither is a four-year degree.

"Trades kind of make the world go round,' Kish said. "Skilled trades are always going to be there."

What can it hurt to at least try out the trades. I can tell you the simulators take away risk of injury. Even the best welders still get burned from time to time. But not here. And where else could you hop in an excavator and expect to just take off without any repercussion for all the stuff you run over. Nowhere but here.

offers up 26 virtual careers. Dozens of Rural CEP members as well as students from the surrounding give it a try. Most were laughing through the experiences. The Big Ideas website even lists sewing as one of their classroom learning opportunities. Their goal is to have people walk away from this saying "I did that!" That's how I felt.

Fowler said she was thrilled to have the Big Ideas trailer come as it was one more tool they could use to try to get people into a career. The Detroit Lakes office got the trailer to come and they then brought it to all their Rural CEP

locations. "Just trying to spark interest in getting a job and how we might be able to help with that," Fowler said of the reason for bringing it to Wadena. Unsurprisingly, the career center has far more jobs available than people seeking them.

"If they are looking to change a career or get a different job or need help with job search or resume, those are free services that we can help them with," Fowler said of the Rural CEP office services.

Following the experience Rural CEP staff had us take a survey. I have to say this was a five-star experience for me.

Getting this mobile classroom and staff to your location is not free. Fowler mentioned schools can seek a This mobile classroom Perkins grant to pay to have this mobile tr come to their location to get more students trying these careers out. No harm in giving it a

Tri-County hosting virtual Auxiliary Auction

Staff reports Tri-County Health Care will again host their Auxiliary Auction virtually.

During the auction, community members bid on baskets filled with holiday themed items prepared by area businesses, community organizations and Tri-County departments. All funds go to the TCHC Auxiliary to make an impact for patients and staff, according to a news release from Tri-County.

Due to the continued prevalence of COVID-19 and space restrictions, the auction will be held virtually in 2021. Website bidding will begin on Nov. 26. Final bids need to be placed by 8:30 p.m. on Nov. 30.

Tri-County encourages

The deadline for baskets is Nov. 24. Baskets can be dropped off at the information desk in the Wade-

na Clinic. A live remote showcase of the auction items will take place on Nov. 30 at 6 p.m. Additionally, participants will be able to purchase raffle tickets to enter them in a drawing for a prize basket. The value of the prize basket ranges from \$100 to \$300. The auction will also feature a wine pull where participants can purchase a random bottle of wine for \$10. The randomly selected wine bottle can have a value from \$3 to \$18.

The Holiday Auxiliary Auction is a free event. Participants will be able to view the baskets and everyone to participate. watch the live showcase



Contributed / Tri-County Health Care Tri-County Health Care will have a virtual Holiday Auxiliary Auction.

at no cost.

The auction site can be accessed at one.bidpal. net/tchc/welcome.

The TCHC Auxiliary focuses on communi-

ty health and education. Funds raised help provide equipment and tools for facilities across the





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OBITUARIES

Melva Ament Memorial Services were held for Melva Ament, age 80 of Wadena, Minnesota on Thursday, November 11, 2021 at Karvonen Home Funeral in with Pastor Wadena Laurie Albertson Honorary officiating. Pallbearers were all of Melva's grandchildren

and great-grandchildren.



Melva Marie Ament (Denny) was born on March 11, 1941 to Benjamin and Florence Denny (Andersen) in Staples, Minnesota. She attended Staples High School in Staples, graduating with the class of 1959.

On March 8, 1960, Melva was united in marriage to John Ament. Their marriage was blessed with 9 children. Together they made their home in Wadena, Minnesota. Melva worked for Peterson-Biddick Seed Company, the Uptown Café, and provided childcare for numerous families.

Melva enjoyed reading, baking, canning, and cooking. She spent time outdoors gardening often and liked to travel. She loved attending all of her children and grandchildren's activities and events. She had a contagious smile and giggle and was loved by all.

On November 5, 2021 Melva passed away at her home in Wadena. She will be dearly missed by her family and friends. Preceding Melva in death are her parents: Benjamin and Florence; infant son: Scott Timothy Ament; grandson: Jesse Michael Pickar; sister: Freida Franks; and daughter-in-law: Robin Ament.

Surviving Melva is her husband of 61 years: John Ament; children: Cheryl (Dennis) Pickar; John D. Ament; Nadine (Dan) Wegscheid; Brenda (Matt) Peterson; Cindy (Collin) Suhl; Kevin (Nancy) Ament; Michael (Rhonda) Ament; and Jeremy (Angie) Ament; 23 grandchildren; 25 greatgrandchildren; siblings: Lawrence Denny; Laura Trana; Walter (Zela) Denny; Gladys (Gordon) Anderson; LeRoy (Tracy) Denny; Darrell (Jackie) Denny; and Gary Denny; many other relatives and a host of friends.

Please visit www.karvonenfuneralhome.com to leave memorials and condolences on Melva's

Arrangements provided by Karvonen Funeral & Cremation Service of Wadena, Minnesota.

Robert Bell

The memorial service celebrating the life of Robert Bell Minneapolis will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, November 19, at the Schuller Family Funeral Homes & Cremation Services' Verndale Chapel, with Father Germann Lauren presiding.



Visitation will be held

at the Verndale Chapel on Friday, from 9:30 a.m. until the time of the service.

Robert, age 64, passed away on November 11, 2021, in Minneapolis, MN.

Robert was born to Eugene and Pauline (Champagne) Bell on April 27, 1957, at St Barnabas Hospital in Minneapolis, MN. Growing up he attended Minneapolis & Verndale Public Schools, eventually achieving a GED, and later a truck drivers CDL license. His employment was varied and included bar owner, retired Metro Transit Bus driver, limo service, and stagehand. As an avid Elvis fan, Bob felt most fulfilled when entertaining an audience with his musical routine. He enjoyed everything that was musical! Robert was preceded in death by his father

Eugene: and brother. Roland Bell.

Robert is survived by his mother, Pauline Lease of Verndale; and siblings Richard Bell and

Raymond (Teresa) Bell; along with several extended family members.

Burial was held earlier in St. Hubert's Catholic Cemetery, Bluegrass, MN.

In lieu of flowers memorials are preferred.

Arrangements are with the Schuller Family Funeral Homes & Cremation Services, Johnson-Schuller Chapel, Wadena, (www.SchullerFamilyFH.com)

Larry Dague

Larry Gene Dague was born on October 10, 1953 in Wadena, MN to Donald and Alberta (Penner) Dague. Larry grew up in MN, Bertha. and graduated from Bertha-Hewitt High School with the class of 1971.

Larry married Debbie Ratzlaff on June 6, 1975. Larry worked in

the agricultural feed business for the majority of his working career.

He is survived by his loving wife of 46 years, Debbie; his sister, Carolyn Kaylor; many other relatives and extended family members along with a host of friends. Larry, age 68, passed away unexpectedly on

November 1, 2021.

MN. (www.SchullerFamilyFH.com)

The memorial service for Larry Dague will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 20 at the Verndale Alliance Church in Verndale. Visitation will be held at the church on Saturday, from 12:30 p.m. until the time of the service.

Arrangements are with the Schuller Family Funeral Homes & Cremation Services, Wadena, Joyce Kovar

Funeral Services for Joyce Kovar, age 77, of Deer Creek, were held on Tuesday November 16, 2021, at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Deer Creek with Pastor Donald Wagner officiating. **Pallbearers** were Tim Johnson, Jeff Stevens, Ed Wegscheid, Rick Wegscheid, Dave Guse. Darren Guse.



Dan Kovar, Don Melz, and Rick Garrels. Honorary Pallbearers were Andrew Bendlen, Kim Bendlen, Ryan Leaderbrand, Terance Kovar, Travis Kovar, Trina Kovar, Ashley Kovar, Stephanie Kovar, and Ana Cline. Joyce was laid to rest in Compton Cemetery, Deer Creek, Minnesota. Joyce Ann Riemer was born on October 25,

1944, in Pipestone, Minnesota. Her parents were the late Richard John and Esther Elsie (Buchholz) Riemer. She was baptized on November 19, 1944, in Pipestone and was confirmed on May 17, 1959, at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Deer Creek. Joyce attended Country School in Ruthton, Minnesota and graduated from the Wadena High School with the class of 1962.

Joyce was united in marriage with Joseph Kovar on August 24, 1963, at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Deer Creek. Their marriage was blessed with 6 children: Joseph Jr, Kelly, Kristy, Jeff, Jason, and

Joyce's first job was at the A&W Rootbeer Drive-In in Wadena. She was also employed as a telephone operator for Northwestern Bell. Joyce left the workplace in favor of being a stay-at-home mom but would still cook at the Deer Creek School for 10 years. She was also a part time waitress at the Eagles Café.

Joyce was very active in her community. She was an event coordinator for Seder Meal for 30 years, a vacation Bible School Coordinator for several years. Joyce was also a Sunday School teacher for many years. Joyce enjoyed cooking and baking, hunting, fishing, bird watching, and spending time with her friends and family.

Joyce passed away on November 9, 2021, at the Tri-County Hospital in Wadena. She will be dearly missed by her friends and family. Preceding Joyce in death are her parents, Richard and Esther Riemer, father and mother-in-law, Ed and Elsie Kovar and sister-in-law: Cleone Riemer.

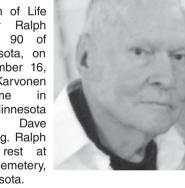
Joyce is survived by her loving husband Joseph; children: Joseph Kovar Jr, Kelly (Wayne) Leaderbrand, Kristy (Tom) Bendlen, Jeff (Beth Kirchenwitz Cline) Kovar, Jason (LaRae) Kovar, James (Krista) Kovar; 9 grandchildren; siblings: Richard "Bud" (Pauline) Riemer, Jean (Don) Kassube, Carol (Jim) Guse, Randy (Deb) Riemer; many other relatives and a host of friends.

Please visit www.karvonenfuneralhome.com to leave a message of comfort and support for Joyce's family.

Arrangements provided by Karvonen Funeral & Cremation Service of Wadena, Minnesota.

Ralph Knudson

A Celebration of Life was held for Ralph Knudson, age 90 of Bluffton, Minnesota, on Tuesday, November 16, 2021, at Karvonen **Funeral** Home Wadena, Minnesota Pastor with Seaton officiating. Ralph was laid to rest at Wadena City Cemetery, Wadena, Minnesota.



Ralph Guy Knudson was born on June 4, 1931, in Wadena, Minnesota. His parents are Gerald and Luella (Erckenbrack) Knudson. Ralph grew up in Wadena where he attended Wadena High School.

He spent the years combining in the Dakotas and into Wyoming. Ralph drove for Coca-Cola at the Wadena bottling company.

Ralph was married to Bernice Grewe on June 10, 1951. Ralph and Bernice were married 17 years and blessed with 3 children: Bart, Pam, and

He also was employed in the mines in Hibbing for several years, Knight & Gail Motors, and Goetz-Everson Motors in Wadena. After being semiretired Ralph enjoyed working part-time at Tom's body shop.

Ralph met Carolyn Schwartz they were together for 12 years, and a daughter Carmen was born.

In life Ralph enjoyed going to the casinos, coffee at Powerhouse, hunting in Minnesota and out west. He also enjoyed spending any free time with family and friends.

On November 2, 2021, Ralph passed away at Tri-County Health in Wadena, MN at 90 years of age. He will be dearly missed by his family and friends. Preceding Ralph in death is his parents, stepmother: Isabel, daughter: Sharon, brother: Darrell (MaryJane) Knudson, granddaughter: Jennifer, great-grandson: Kyle, First wife: Bernice, and companion: Carolyn Schwartz. Surviving Ralph are his children: Bart (Linda)

Knudson; Pam (Dave) Irlbeck; and Carmen (Dale) Robinson; 15 grandchildren; several greatgrandchildren, great-great-grandchildren, and a host of friends.

Please visit www.karvonenfuneralhome.com to leave memorials and condolences on Ralph's Tribute Wall.

Arrangements provided by Karvonen Funeral & Cremation Services of Wadena, Minnesota.

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wedding announcement, obituary, job posting, and more. Pet milestone options are also available. 3) Choose the Listing Dates

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DEATHS

Marlene Curtis

Nov. 28, 1940 -Nov. 14, 2021 PERHAM, Minn. Curtis, Marlene Perham, Minn., died Sunday, Nov. 14, in her home.

Visitation will be from 4-7 p.m., with parish prayers at Thursday, Nov. 18, at Karvonen Funeral Home in New York Mills, Minn. Visitation will continue from 12:30-1:30 p.m., followed by a funeral Mass at Friday, Nov. 19, at St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Rush Lake near Perham.

Arrangements Karvonen Funeral Home.

Gerald Gorentz

Dec. 14, 1934 -Feb. 20, 2021 PERHAM, Minn. Gerald Gorentz, Vergas, Minn., died Saturday, Feb. 20, in Perham Living.

Visitation will be from noon to 1 p.m., followed by a memorial service at 1 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 18, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Perham.

Arrangements Karvonen Funeral Home.

Joyce Kovar

Oct. 25, 1944 -Nov. 9, 2021 WADENA, Minn. Joyce Kovar, 77, Deer Creek. Minn., died Tuesday, Nov. 9, in Tri-County Hospital.

Services were previously held.

Arrangements Karvonen Funeral Home.

POLICE BLOTTER

2:06 a.m.: A woman beat up

4:21 a.m.: Caller stated the

8:28 a.m.: Caller spotted a

9:14 a.m.: Loose cattle were

wounded deer at Hwy 23 and 7.

reported. Officer met with the

owner and located the open

fence area. They were advised

driving slow looking at deer

when a male drove up and

started yelling at her, then tried

to back into her vehicle. The

woman drove away and was not

10:50 a.m.: A car killed deer

2:06 p.m.: Caller reported

3:41 p.m.: Caller reported a

12:46 a.m.: Daughter and

mother got into fight over home-

work. Daughter claims mother

hit her and locked her out of the

7:43 a.m.: Truck vs. deer

5:23 p.m.: Reporting party

7:32 p.m.: A man on his own

property said he was threatened

by a neighbor. The man said the

neighbor came up to him when

he was on his own property and

started yelling and saying he

was "lucky you still have your

teeth." The man was advised

to keep his distance from the

8:52 p.m.: Caller struck deer

6:28 p.m.: A man hit two deer

6:27 p.m.: Squad vs. deer

9:41 p.m.: Truck vs. buck was

reported. Caller wanted a permit

A car vs. semi crash oc-

curred on Hwy 10 in front of

Todd-Wadena Electric Coopera-

tive. No injuries reported.

to take the deer home.

and wanted to claim them. He

was issued permits for the vehi-

with his vehicle. The deer was

dispatched and a permit was is-

sued to take the deer.

claims they were hit and spit

in the face. Claims they were

reported. The deer did not not

neighbors goats were in his yard

again. Officer made contact and

sheep were put back in.

was picked up south of Wadena.

someone trespassed on his

property. He found fresh bull-

10:26 a.m.: Caller's wife was

power was shut off on him. Then

the reporting party during a do-

mestic. Caller was possibly im-

Wadena County

Sheriff's Office

Nov. 4

threatening him.

to contain cattle.

dozer tracks.

Nov. 5

house.

survive.

knocked out.

neighbor.

Nov. 7

cle killed deer.

was reported.

Nov. 10

Nov. 8

paired.

David Reese

Jan. 9, 1937 -Nov. 6, 2021 VINING, Minn. - David Reese, 84, Vining, Minn., died Saturday, Nov. 6, in his home.

Visitation will be from 4-7 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 18, at St. Edward's Church Catholic Henning, Minn. Visitation will continue from 10-11 a.m., followed by a funeral Mass at 11 a.m., Friday, Nov. 19, at the church.

Arrangements Karvonen Funeral Home.

Elaine McCormick

Feb. 15, 1931 -Nov. 11, 2021

MENAHGA, Minn. Elaine McCormick, 90, Sebeka, Minn., died Thursday, Nov. 11, in Rose Haven Assisted Living. Visitation will be from

10-11:30 a.m., followed by a memorial service at 11:30 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 20, at Karvonen Funeral Home Wadena, Minn.

Arrangements Karvonen Funeral Home.

Laura Jacobson April 24, 1954 -

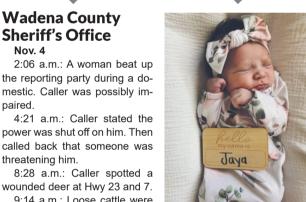
Nov. 10, 2021

YORK MILLS, NFW Minn. - Laura Jacobson, 67. New York Mills, Minn., died Wednesday, Nov. 10, in her home. Services

previously held. Arrangements

Karvonen Funeral Home.

NEW ARRIVAL



Jaya Lynn

Baby girl Java Lynn was born on October 20, 2021, to Mackenzie and Kyle. She weighed 7 pounds, 7 ounces and was 21 inches long. She was delivered by Bobbi Adams at Tri-County Health Care in Wadena. Proud grandparents are Matt and Darcy; and Kris and

Thank You

The family of Jim Peters would like to thank everyone for the love & support shown to us during the loss of Jim.

Thanking the facilities and doctors who have taken care of Jim over the past years and the assistance from Knute Nelson Hospice the final months.

Thanks to Karvonen Funeral Home, Father Aaron, Bluffton Choir and the ladies who prepared & served the meal for Jim's service.

The family of Jim Peters

PLACE YOUR AD HERE! CALL 218-631-2561



Pionëer Journal



LETTERS

Impressed by respect for veterans Shirley and Bob Anderson, Ruth and Larry Clark VFW Post 3922

As members of VFW Post 3922 and its Auxiliary, we attended the Veterans Day program at Verndale Public Schools on November 11, and we were so impressed with the program.

Perhaps even more impressive was the excellent behavior and respect shown by the K-12 students to the veterans and the guest speakers—students and adults alike. Unfortunately, respect and respectful behavior seem to be missing in many situations these days; therefore, the gratifying display of reverence and respect from the staff and students at Verndale Public Schools is to be commended. Keep up the good work!

ASK A TROOPER

Your life and others depend on safe driving

Minnesota State Patrol Question: I heard something about "Crash Responder Safety Week," can you

talk about that? Answer: Crash Responder Safety Week runs November 8-14. The goal is to reach out to every emergency responder, driver, and passenger to educate them in how to play their part in ensuring safe responses at crash scenes. Crash scenes can be dangerous, and it's in everyone's best interest, from emergency responders to passing motorists, to have the scene cleared quickly and safely.

Whether you are responding to a crash, involved in a crash, or passing by a crash, we all need to do our part to be sure that everyone makes it home safely.

For those working on or along the road:

- ► WEAR your high visibility vest or apparel.
- ► IMPLEMENT traffic control.
- ► WORK in the shadow of the blocking vehicle.
- ► NEVER turn your back to traffic.
- ► MAINTAIN situational awareness.

For those of you behind the wheel, slow down and move over. Your life and the lives of others depend on it.

The days are getting

shorter and the nights longer as we approach winter, but throughout the year this has been a dark year when it

comes to traffic deaths on Minnesota roads. We've surpassed 415 deaths on our roads and are on pace to have the most fatalities since 2007. The numbers aren't just statistics. Each of those deaths represents someone who is a spouse, a child, a brother, sister, friend, co-worker, and neighbor. Lives are forever shattered by their loss. For employers, crash fatalities and serious injuries mean not only the loss of a friend and colleague, but of loss of valued talent and expertise.

here in Minnesota. Across the U.S. and even around the world, we've seen a startling increase in traffic crashes, resulting in injuries and fatalities, particularly due to excessive speed and lack of seat belt use.

Help keep emergency responders safe and help keep yourself and other motorists safe. Don't become a statistic. YOU are important - to your families, friends, colleagues and everyone. If you drive, your time on the road is the most dangerous part of your day.

Drive smart and live.

If you have any questions concerning traffic related laws in Minnesota, please send your questions to: Trooper Jesse Grabow Minnesota State Patrol at 1000 Highway 10 West, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501. Or reach me at jesse. grabow@state.mn.us

W-DC students share why they're proud to be American

¬ifth and sixth graders from ■ Wadena-Deer Creek School were asked the question, "Why are you proud to be an American?" Their answers were varied, but it's clear a level of pride exists among these young

Top essayists in the fifth and sixth grade essay contest

Fifth grade

First place: Bristol Wynn, Cayden Clark, Aubree VanRoekel and Teeghan Robinson.

Second place: Danielle Lorentz, Faylynn Juaire, Adam Philippy and Jadeyn Malisheske

Sixth grade

First place: Hudson Hathaway, Emma Betterman, Addison Hilluka and Avery Flath

Second place: LilyMae Johnson, Lily Stroeing, Abigail Worden and Raliegh Parker Some ran in last week issue, here are the remaining:

By Emma Bettermann

I am proud to be an American because I have an amazing family and friends and also the best teachers. I love how many people sacrificed for us to have freedom and rights for women and men to be equal. I am also proud to be an American because we have rights to go to school and buy food so we can feed our family. In a book my teacher read to my classmates and me, this girl didn't have a right to go to school and speak up about how it is unfair for girls and women. She finally spoke up about it and she got hurt badly but her book and her words are traveling around the world and giving people hope. When I grow up I want to join the army to fight and protect America and everyone in it. If I can't, I will be happy that I am free and honor those who lost their lives for us.

By Lily Stroeing

I'm proud to an American because I can live where I want, work where I want, go where I want, go to church whenever and believe in what I want. Another reason America

is great is because we have clean and safe water to drink. We have lots of special places like the Statue of Liberty that represents freedom. Another special place is the Grand Canyon and Niagara Falls. These places represent the beautiful nature in America. Another place that represent our country is Mount Rushmore that was made in memory of some presidents.

A final reason that America is great are the men and women who died for me to be here on this day. I know it took a lot, so I thank them all. I also want to thank the people that served our country like my greatgrandpa George and grandpa John. That's why I'm proud to be an American.

By Addison Hillukka

This is a question that could be answered in many ways, but to me America is the place I call home. It is where I was born and has shaped me into the person I am today. There are so many things that make up my idea of why I am proud to be an American.

America is about opportunity, individuals can do great things in America that they may not have been able to do elsewhere. America is about fulfilling the ultimate dream. It's about equality no matter what they may look like on the outside. It's about democracy lending a hand to those in need and selflessness and coming together as one. Many others making sacrifices for America and their loved ones.

And that is why I am proud to be an American.

By Abigail Worden

I am proud to be an American because of all the freedom and liberty. There are kind, caring, gentle, sweet and helpful people. We remember those who lost their lives to save ours and for our freedom. We honor the Navy, Army, Coast Guard, Air Force and Marines. We'll keep our freedom no matter what the world throws our way. When we go to school, we learn about freedom and liberty and learn what it's like to be an American. Our opportunities are endless and we hope to keep it that way. Everyone should be glad to be an American. These are the reasons I'm proud to be an American.

By Avery Flath I am proud to be an American because of all the rights that we have. We get to go to school, wear what we want, and get to choose what job we want to have instead of having one picked for us. I am thankful for all the sacrifices that were made so that we can live free. I want to remember all the lives that were lost. They had to stare, be cold and miss their families. And we get to do sports and hang out with our friends. I am proud to be an American because of all the unselfish people who got us this freedom. Saying thank you is not enough. We should donate things to them and also have suppers with them. There are so many things we can do to show gratitude. I feel bad for the families who had to go through loss and other sacrifices. We should always be thankful and give appreciation.

By Raleigh Parker

I'm proud to be an American because we are free because of brave men and women. We also have free public education so that everyone can learn. We have so many opportunities to do things we love, like sports. Also, we have freedom of speech so that we can say what we believe. We have freedom of religion so that we can believe in what we think about our religion. I'm proud because we have the strongest army in the whole entire world. We wrote the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. These documents are part of why I'm proud to be an American.



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Congresswoman Michelle Fischbach, Dist. 7 2513 8th Street S Moorhead, MN 56560 Phone: (218) 422-2090

Shoebox gift collection through November 22

Staff reports

With over 4,000 locations open to collect Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts for the Samaritan's Purse project, the Wadena Alliance Church is a host site during National Collection Week, Nov.

The shoebox gifts include school supplies, hygiene items and fun toys for children worldwide. You can pick up a shoebox to fill during business hours at the church office.

The church is located at 1428 Jefferson Street South. You can drop off the shoeboxes on the following days and times:

- ► Monday, Nov. 15 from 3-5 p.m.
- ► Tuesday, Nov. 16 from 9-11 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 17 from 10 a.m. to
- ► Thursday, Nov. 18 from Noon-2 p.m.
- ► Friday, Nov. 19 from 2-4 p.m.
- Saturday, Nov. 20 from 9-11 a.m.
- ► Sunday, Nov. 21 from 8-10:30 a.m.
- At the Wadena Alliance Church Collection Center, Daryl Pearson (left). Pearson, Jean Kallevig and Dean Kallevig show boxes filled with shoeboxes of presents for Operation Christmas Child.

► Monday, Nov. 22 from 8-10 a.m. Gift suggestions are also listed on the church website.

Rebecca Mitchell / Wadena Pioneer Journal

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, Nov. 18

► Take in the wonderful "Wizard of Oz" with the Wadena-Deer Creek Drama department. Shows are Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7 p.m. in Memorial Auditorium.

Friday, Nov. 19

- ► Wadena Firefighters Bingo from 7-9 p.m. at the Wadena Elementary School.
- ► Bertha-Hewitt drama students perform "Arsenic and Old Lace" at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday along with a dinner show at 1 p.m. on Sunday in the '53 gym. Tickets are available in the district

Monday, Nov. 22

"Rural by Choice" screening

and discussion at the New

York Mills Public Library at 6:30 p.m. The film explores Cory Hepola's roots in Otter Tail County and examining why folks choose to live in rural places. Preregistration is requested at 218-385-2436.

Wednesday, Nov. 24

Thanksgiving Eve community meal at Trinity Lutheran Church in New York Mills from 4-6 p.m. with a service at 6:30 p.m. The meal includes turkey or ham, mashed potatoes and gravy, stuffing, glazed carrots, dinner roll and pumpkin dessert at no charge. Donations are accepted. You can call Karen at 218-385-2772 or 218-298-2214 for a delivered meal.

Thanksgiving, Thursday,

Nov. 25

- ► The 31st annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner serves from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Ann's Parish Center. This free meal is drive up and delivery only. Traditional Thanksgiving meal at no charge. They do accept donations of non-perishable food items of cash for the food shelf. Call 218-631-4042 to volunteer or 218-631-2617 to request a delivered meal.
- ▶ The Wadena City Library will be closed in observance of Thanksgiving Day. They will reopen on Saturday, Nov. 27, for normal Saturday hours, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- ► The Wadena Pioneer Journal will be closed Thanksgiving Day.

Listening for God's message during Christmas season

alk in our house this past weekend inevitably turned to the "chore" of what to

do about Christmas presents for the kids this year. And by kids, I mean growing teenagers and twentysomethings who haven't played with an actual tov since the movie "Trolls" was

DEVLYN BROOKS popular. But, as any parents

know, just because the kids have outgrown the toy stage, it doesn't mean parents still don't feel some pressure to produce the next great gift the kids will love. And by no means, does the pressure of gift giving end with the kids! There's the rest of the family to buy for too, and friends, neighbors, and a list of others important in our lives. ... Remember last year when the fad was to leave something for the package delivery folks to thank them for their continued hard work?

If we are truly honest with ourselves, the rampant consumerization of Christmas, or other similar religious holidays, has drained away so much of the joy and majesty of the moment, that many of us have begun to look at the holiday rituals, including gift giving, as just that: chores.

We know deep down it doesn't have to be this way. However, when we are bombarded with the constant societal message of "things = joy" ... well, it becomes excruciatingly hard to fight back against the desire to shower our loved ones with gifts so that we can elicit that momentary glimpse of happiness. Besides, everyone else is doing it!

But joy, as all faiths tell us, doesn't come from things. Joy comes from the heart. Joy comes

EDITOR'S NOTE: BECAUSE OF THE RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, SOME SCHEDULED MEETINGS OR SERVICES

in knowing our loved ones are safe and healthy. Joy comes from sitting down to a meal together, and hearing the laughter of growing siblings reuniting with each other after a long time.

In writing this column, I was reminded of my absolute favorite Christmas ever: Surprise! It had nothing to do with gifts that year. The celebration happened after Christmas, in fact, when our older son and his girlfriend were home during their winter college break. There was a winter storm, and it "trapped" us in the house for days. So for a couple of days and nights, our entire family was together, grazing on snacks all day, watching movies and playing games late into the night and peacefully sleeping late in the morning. I'd give anything to experience those three days again.

That was joy. That was what Christmas is about. And it never cost me one extra cent in interest on my credit cards.

I recognize that I write this from a privileged position. Should we want to, my wife Shelley and I could give our kids just about anything they wished for this Christmas. Many others aren't so

But I do have to wonder, if for a moment, we all stopped listening to the cash registers ringing, the Amazon trucks speeding away from our doors after having dropped the latest round of packages and the sound of last year's Christmas presents going to the trash, if we might be able to hear what God's message actually begs of us this Christmas: peace on earth and goodwill to men.

Devlyn Brooks, who works for Modulist, a Forum Communications Co.-owned company, is an ordained pastor in the Evangelical Church of America. He serves as pastor of Faith Lutheran Church in Wolverton, Minnesota. He can be reached at devlyn.brooks@forumcomm.com for comments and story ideas.

WRIGHTSTOWN UNITED



CHURCH DIRECTORY

Your Guide to Local Houses of Worship

Schedules are subject to change.
Please contact your church to confirm.

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

VERNDALE FAMILY LIFE CHURCH, **VERNDALE**Sunday Worship Service: 10 a.m.

Wednesday: Supper at 5:45 p.m. and program at 6:30 p.m. Rev. Amos Self, Rev. Kenneth Kjeldergaard and Rev. Tahna Rurup 445-5568

WADENA ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH, WADENA

Sunday School for all ages: 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship service: 10:30 a.m. Bus rides are available. 631-2896 Rev. Mike Maronev: 631-2

BAPTIST CHURCHES

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, HENNING Sunday Worship Service: 10 a.m.; (218) 583-2161 **FIRST MISSIONARY**

BAPTIST CHURCH, WADENA Sunday Worship Service: 11 a.m. Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Sunday Evening Worship: 5 p.m. Wednesday Evening Bible Study 6 p.m. Rev. Ed Lewis, 218-632-5019 **GRACE CONNECTION**

Meeting at the Maslowski Wellness and Research Center Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m. Pastor Jeff Heisler 640-0107 mygraceconnection.com

SOUTHBROOK BAPTIST CHURCH, WADENA Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Wednesday: 6 p.m. Kids and Youth Group Rev. Jake Heppner; 218-639-9990

CATHOLIC CHURCHES

ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY CATHOLIC CHURCH, MENAHGA Mass: Saturday 7:30 p.m. Father Aaron Kuhn Phone: 218-445-5786 Parish Office 218-445-5204 Email: vbmcatholic@wcta.net Web site: marysacc.org & facebook.com/

ST. ANN'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, WADENA

Mass Times: Sunday 10:00 a.m Friday 8:00 a.m. Father Aaron Kuhn; 631-1593

NTA

ST. EDWARD CATHOLIC CHURCH, HENNING Weekday Mass: Fridays 8:30 a.m. Holy Hour 9 a.m.-10:00 a.m.

Sunday Mass: 8:30 a.m. Confessions: 30 minutes prior to Mass; Rev. LeRoy Schik; 583-2490 ST. FREDERICK CATHOLIC

CHURCH, VERNDALE Mass: Saturday, 5:00 p.m.; Tuesday 9 a.m. Father Aaron Kuhn Phone: 218-445-5786 Parish Office 218-445-5204 Email: vbmcatholic@wcta.net

ST. HUBERT CATHOLIC CHURCH, **BLUE GRASS** Mass: Saturday, 7 p.m.;

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Wednesday 9 a.m. Father Aaron Kuhn Phone: 218-445-5786 Parish Office 218-445-5204 Email: vbmcatholic@wcta.net Web site: marysacc.org & facebook.com/

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC CHURCH, BLUFFTON Mass Times: Saturday 4:30pm Wednesday 8:00 a.m. Father Aaron Kuhn: 385-2608

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH, BERTHA Mass Times: Sunday 8:00 a.m. Thursday 7:00 p.m First Saturday 8:00 a.m.

Father Aaron Kuhn; 218-924-2144 ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH, CLARISSA

Sunday 10:30 a.m. Fr. Mitchell Bechtold; (218) 756-2205 STS. PETER & PAUL CHAPEL OF THE ORTHODOX CATHOLIC CHURCH

at St. Mark's Major Seminary, MOTLEY Divine Liturgy of the Mass Sundays, call for times (218) 352-6796

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

BLOWERS CHAPEL

Pastor Jay Tolleson Bluffton: 42772 Co Hwy 19, Sebeka, MN 56477 Sunday Worship Service: 10 a.m.

MAY HAVE CHANGED OR BEEN CANCELED. CALL AHEAD TO CONFIRM THAT EVENTS ARE TAKING PLACE AS SCHEDULED. **BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH EPICENTER CHURCH** (LCMC), MENAHGA Pastor Robert Segovia 119 SE 1st St, Wadena 218-631-5986

Sunday Worship Service: 10 a.m. FIRST ENGLISH LUTHERAN Wed. Children and Student ministries, KNECT (LCMC), MENAHGA Kids 7-12 6:30-8:00

THE OLD COUNTRY CHURCH, SEBEKA Sunday Worship: 10 a.m. Jerry Miller, 837-5690

CHURCH OF GOD

NEW LIFE CHURCH OF GOD, BERTHA Sunday worship 10 a.m.

Wednesday Kids for Christ and youth group 6-8 p.m. Senior Pastor Jason Knoll, Children's Pastor Sarah Collins, Youth Pastor Mike Quance; (218) 924-2085

EPISCOPAL CHURCHES

ST. HELEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, WADENA Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m. Church: 631-3928 Senior Warden, Michael Craig; 320-761-6740

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH,

WADENA Saturday Worship Service: 11 a.m. Pastor Roger Hagen; 632-7999 or 631-4030

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

FAITH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST,

Fellowship Time: 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m Pastor Dave Seaton; (218) 924-2106

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, WADENA Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Time: 10:30 a m Jim Stoneman, Licensed Minister 631-4646

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UCC 11 E. Gilman Street, New York Mills Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Rev. Muriel Hachfeld; (218) 847-7650 Asst. Pastor, Sheri N: (218) 640-3722

LUTHERAN CHURCHES

BALSAMLUND LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA), ALDRICH Sunday Worship: 8:15 a.m. Rev. Eric Clapp, 651-214-5491 BETHANY FREE LUTHERAN CHURCH

OF BLUE GRASS, SEBEKA Sunday School 10:15 Worshiop 9:00 Rev. Curtis Emerson 631-4595

Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m. Associate Pastor James Hallaway

Sunday Worship Service: 8:30 a.m. Associate Pastor James Hallaway

FRIENDS IN CHRIST COMMUNITY CHURCH (LCMC) 405 BECKER AVE N, SEBEKA Sunday Worship: 9:30amFellowship following worship 218-837-4660 friendsinchrist@wcta.net

GRACE EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD 500 WELLS AVE N SEBEKA Rev. Timothy Schmeisser Phone: (218) 837-5565; email: gracesebeka@wcta.net

Divine Service Worship at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays (September, October, November); Holy Communion on the 2nd and 4th

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA), WADENA Worship times: 8:30 and 10am Sunday Radio broadcast @ 9:30am on KWAD Coffee fellowship: 9:30 a.m Pastor Nate Loer: Pastor Megan Clapp (218) 631-2738

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH (MISSOURI SYNOD), BARTLETT TOWNSHIP Sunday Worship Service: 9:00 a.m. Rev. Robin Fish

NIMROD EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSOURI SYNOD, NIMROD Rev. Timothy Schmeisser

Phone (218) 837-5565; email: gracesebeka@wcta.net Divine Service Worship at 8:00 a.m. on Sundays (September, October, November) with Holy Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays

Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. **OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH** (ELCA), SEBEKA Sunday School Classes: 9 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service: 10 a.m. Rev. Eric Clapp, 837-5831 ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

(MISSOURI SYNOD) 710 Franklin Ave SW, Wadena, MN Sunday Worship Service-9:00a.m. Monday Worship Service-6:00p.m. Sunday School & Bible Study 10:15am Email: stjohnwadena1@yahoo.com Website: www.stjohnwadena.org Rev. Stephen Meltzer 631-3000

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, BERTHA Sunday Worship Service: 9 a.m. Rev. Blake A. Rickbeil; (218) 924-4051 TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

(MISSOURI SYNOD), HEWITT Sunday Worship Service: 2:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study/Sunday School: 3:00 p.m. Pastor Kirk Douglas

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH (MISSOURI SYNOD), DEER CREEK Sunday Worship Service: 9:00 a.m. Pastor Donald Wagner; 462-2465 ZION FREE LUTHERAN CHURCH 602 SOUTH JEFFERSON, WADENA

Sunday School 9:45 a.m Worship: 11 a.m. ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

NORTH GERMANY TOWNSHIP Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Rev. Timothy Schmeisser, (218) 837-5565 Sunday Divine Worship Service at 11:00 a.m. (September, October, November) Holy Communion celebrated on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. Sunday School starts September 12

UNITED METHODIST

CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. VERNDALE Sunday Worship Service: 9 a.m. Rev. James Middendorf 218-639-4225

HENNING UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, (Affiliated with Wrightstown UMC), Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m. Pastor Mark Bateson, 631-7997

HEWITT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.

Rev. Ken Uhren UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, SEBEKA Sunday Worship Service: 10:15 a.m.

Rev. Steven Koehne 837-5840 UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, VERNDALE Sunday Worship Service: 9 a.m. Pastor Ken Uhren 445-5108

JOYFUL SPIRIT UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PO Box 446 - Wadena, Minnesota 56482 Worship at: 61847 State Highway 29

Time: 11 a.m.

Pastor Ricardo Alcoser joyfulspiritumc.org PHYSICAL OFFICES

Pastor's Office and Church Office located here: First Congregational Church of Christ, in the attached building, facing Colfax Avenue: 110 Colfax Ave SW , Wadena, MN 56482 CONTACTS

Main Office: joyfulspiritmnumc@gmail.com Pastor Ricardo Alcoser 218-367-2270 218-631-4646, Donna Mayo-Fearing, Church Assistant Lay Leader: Kathy Techam -techam1@arvig.net YOUTH PROGRAMMING Young Disciples meets during worship

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METHODIST CHURCH, HEWITT

ALLIANCE CHURCHES

HOPE CHAPEL ALLIANCE CHURCH, VERNDALE Sunday Worship Service: 9 a.m.

Wednesday evening Bible Study: 5:30 p.m. Pastor Neal Malcore; 445-5643 **OYLEN CHRISTIAN &** MISSIONARY CHURCH, OYLEN

Sunday Worship Services: 11 a.m. & 8 p.m. Pastor Neal Malcore: (218) 472-3440 **VERNDALE ALLIANCE CHURCH, VERNDALE**

Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 a.m Rev Tony Stanley; 445-5619 Pastor Heath Belknap "Student Ministry

WADENA ALLIANCE CHURCH, WADENA

218-631-3563 Pastor Brian Malvig Sunday School 9am Adults and Children Sunday Worship Service 10:30am Wed Night Awana Ages 3-Grade 6, 6:30-8pm Wed Night Youth Group Gr. 7-12 6:30-8pm Youth Leader Matt Sweere Visitation Pastor Vaughn White

OTHER CHURCHES

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE, HEWITT Sunday Worship Service: 10:45 a.m. Pastor Wayne Hoffert; (218) 924-2028

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST **OF LATTERDAY SAINTS** 14711 125th Ave., Wadena Sacrament meeting, 10 a.m.

Relief Society and Priesthood meetings, THOMASTOWN COVENANT **CHURCH, STAPLES** 15940 251st Ave., Staples 218-894-3923

Sunday School, 11 a.m.

Pastor Scott Jorgenson

Sunday School 9:15 Worship 10:30 Wed. Eve Children & Youth 6:30 Wednesday - 6:30-7:30 WADENA CONGREGATION OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES, KINGDOM HALL, WADENA

Sunday Public Meeting: 10 a.m.

Wed. meeting: 7 p.m.; 631-1006 Do you have changes for the directory? Drop them off at the Wadena Pioneer Journal office or email them to brentz@wadenapj.com.



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HONOR

From Page A1

the government, embracing different ethnicities and people's strengths and showing patriotism without being harmful toward other countries is important.

"I think showing these attributes will make you and I great Americans," Knoll said. "I believe if we do this we can change the world for the better."

With 24 entries from Bertha-Hewitt for the Patriot's Pen contest, Eva Blashack received a quilt, Emery Winkler placed third and Miette Hansel second; Hansel also placed third amongst area schools. From the 11 Voice of Democracy audio-essay entries, Destiny Bartels received a quilt, Emma



Rebecca Mitchell / Pioneer Journal

Students and community members stand as American Legion William Larson Post 366 members present the flags at Bertha-Hewitt Schools' Veterans Day program on Nov. 11. The Color Guard members include Bill Kern, Gordy Barthels, Dale Mueller, Art Packard, Walt Packard, Mike VanHeel, John Vavra and Cindy Goepferd.

Stetson Guderjahn second and Taylor Lloyd first.

Veterans from World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam War and

the wars in the Middle East were represented. Lieutenant Colonel

and transferred to the Minnesota National Guard, and had many leader and instructor positions. Goetze lives in the Hewitt area, is a Wadena Veterans Park committee member and works as a substitute teacher at the Bertha-Hewitt schools. With a range of duties, Goetze said military members

(retired) David Goetze said service members

continue their vigilance

to protect Americans. He enlisted in the

U.S. Army Reserves

serve on planes, ships and on the ground as infantrymen, tankers, engineers, mechanics and personnel support.

"It is to them, the ones that set aside their personal wants and ambitions, who made the sacrifices, endured the heat, the cold, the time without family in foreign lands, away

to ensure our life and liberty, this sacrifice we celebrate on Veterans Day," Goetze said. "We do not fight for ourselves, we fight for the people that cannot fight for themselves and the freedoms and the opportunities we have here are not by choice or

by chance." Today, service members are volunteers, and what makes the United States military incredible, as Goetze said. He added that people don't have to enlist in the military to serve the country, people can serve and volunteer in the community.

"So here's to our country's heroes; they're a cut above the rest," sixth grader Aislinn Brown recited from a poem by Joanna Fuchs. "Let's give the honor that is due to our country's very best."

VERNDALE

From Page A1

Bobick placed third,

the American flag every morning and night while on base. Everyone within earshot of the playing of "Colors" stopped in their tracks to watch the raising and lowering of

the flag. Anson shared that while he was pulled to serve in the military, it's not for everyone. He asked the crowd of students present to stand if they had committed to serve. None stood.

"Military service isn't for everybody," Anson continued. "But service

about how you can serve, where you can serve and in what capacity you can serve, I encourage you to do so. Service is a beautiful thing. It makes us better people and it makes us better citizens."

Two Verndale students also read their Voice of Democracy essays, which spoke to the question, "America: Where do we go from here?"

First place winner Madison Schmitz shared in her essay that we need have our own beliefs and to be honest with ourselves and each other. She suggested we not hide past failures from youth, instead we learn from them.

end of a tunnel through all the dark our past may contain," Schmitz said. "Prepare them to avoid the mistakes we have made and preach on the importance of teamwork and coming together despite the adversity and division that they may

She said what the current generation can do is be better listeners.

face."

"Take the time to listen to one another," Schmitz said. "We all opinions, but attacking one another is only destroying our country and dividing us."

Second place winner Abigail Ervasti walked "Do not shelter our the audience through is for everybody. And youth any longer; help some history from the if you haven't thought them see the light at the beginning of the Unitsome history from the

ed States of America, through the Civil War.

What she drew from this tumultuous time period is that the country

remains divided. "We need to reach compromise and common ground with others that are different from us. Ervasti said. "We have the most diverse

and we should celebrate that and use it to our advantage, not rebuke those are not like us personally."

Ervasti, like Schmitz, agreed that we can learn from our past, not to let it haunt us, but to shape

Those attending heard songs from both the population on the planet Verndale choir and band.

During the playing of the different military branch songs, veterans were asked to stand and be recognized. Surrounded by students, the veterans were showered with claps and shown respect by the student body. The entrance to the school was also covered in messages thanking veterans for their service.

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COVID

From Page A1

group remotely by video. Meanwhile. hospital staff are dealing with full beds, working to find places for ill people to go and, yes, watching people die.

"I can't overemphasize, we are in our biggest surge to date," Beiswenger said of the increase in COVID patients.

the illness While spreads out throughout and staff are feeling the more oxygen devices to

Beiswenger delivered a patients. plea to the county board and those present to take enger spoke, COVID's the situation seriously. He described a situation last week where TCHC was using every oxygen device in the facility. Had they had one more person admitted in need of that life saving device, they would have had to pull their ethics group together and make the explained why he was difficult decision of who would get the care they need.

"Nobody wants to make that decision," Beiswenger said.The hospital has

Even before Beiswtouch could be felt within the board meeting. County commissioner Jon Kangas was absent for the second meeting in a row. He provided a short letter, read by Wadena County Coor-Ryan Odden. dinator In the letter Kangas gone, including 14 days he spent hospitalized with COVID. Kangas was now at home recovering, still on oxygen.

He's not alone as expressed since Beiswenger the country, hospitals been able to add three rural hospitals are full.

"My people are tired,"

hospital and clinic staff. would be lost. "They are stressed. We just don't see an end in sight over the next few

weeks." Beiswenger backed up his talk with graphs the hospital staff utilizes to watch trends in illness. It showed an upward trend in COVID cases and COVID hospitalizations.

While the trend did not appear to be dropping, staffing numbers have dropped, which he said was comparable to all industries experiencing a worker shortage and with the vaccine mandates coming soon, Beiswenger had He said he understood

"Almost certainly we will lose staff," Beiswenger said. "We hope to minimize that. In a situation that is already full — it is probably going to get worse."

So what's to be done?

"Vaccine is the best tool we have available to us," Beiswenger said.

Beiswenger asked again for people to get vaccinated and added that the mortality rate for the unvaccinated is far higher than those who are vaccinated. urgency in the situation. help fulfill a need for Beiswenger said of the no doubt that more staff that people may make

the personal choice to not be vaccinated but emphasized that other mitigation tactics should be put to use in those situations, like masking and social distancing or staying home if you are

COVID in the state

As of Tuesday, Nov. 16, the Minnesota Department of Health reported 857,791 confirmed cases, 9,047 deaths and 816,736 now released from isolation.

3,330,128 people have completed the vaccine series. For those 18 and older, that's about 79.8% of the state's population.

CHURCH

From Page A1

has a master of education degree in parent education and family relations; is licensed in emotionally focused therapy; and is a somatic experiencing professional. Chuck is a former Wadena County Commissioner and former pastor of Central United Methodist Church near Verndale. He now serves as business manager for the therapy business.

The couple moved into the new location in Wadena in June 2021. Prior to that they had a location in the Erik Olson CPA office on Jefferson Street in Wadena. The new site includes four counseling offices with room for more. There's even a play therapy room suited for serving children and families. This is in the former music room of the church.

Birch Lake Counseling also offers counseling at their other locations including Hackensack, Crosslake and Remer and Bemidji. Telehealth options are also avail-



Michael Johnson / Pioneer Journal

Chuck and Carol Horsager are co-owners of Birch Lake Counseling in Wadena.

Carol recognizes that finding the right therapist for your mental health needs is very important in achieving positive results. She remembers having to travel several hours to seek help years ago. She recommends talking with friends and family about who has helped them, looking at websites for therapist profiles or just calling counseling offices to find out what therapist may best fit your unique needs.

five therapists and two children's therapeutic services and supports throughout their five locations. Carol said the business offers in-home services and family peer support services. She has specific training in trau-

"I feel like as a counseling center, marriage is probably one of the things we do very well,' Carol added.

One Birch Lake Counseling there is a significant ognize that their beliefs the open house.

This business has that stands out is that the therapists themselves are the ones doing intake. Based on the clients needs, the therapist best qualified to help will reach out to determine a time to meet and begin counseling.

"That's what makes the difference, we as therapists contact a client. We don't do a middle person," Carol explained.

The Horsager's grew up in this region and about Carol recognizes that counseling. They rec-

need in this underserved area of the state. In seeking out counselors to join Birch Lake Counseling, Carol notes that they have to have a heart for this population of people.

One thing Carol said she is pleased to see these days is that people are less afraid of getting help. When parents see their child is in need, it is much more accepting to seek help.

The Wadena location was the perfect fit for the counseling office as each counseling room has a window. Each one has cozy seating in a relaxing environment. making clients feel totally comfortable because recogniz-Horsager es many are coming in with anxiety and stress. The hallways are covered in Carol's handiwork,

numerous quilts. "We try to be a real professional, caring, cordial. comfortable environment," Chuck

said. While the Horsag-Biblical training, their counseling is not specif-

may not be the same as those they are serving. Carol said she seeks to serve the whole body. The couple is formerly of Sebeka but now lives on a hobby farm in Clearwater County.

With the counseling center only taking up the west annex of the former UMC church building, it begs the question. What of the rest of that 111 year old church? The options are nearly endless, according to Chuck. He's hopeful to find the right group to make use of that portion of the historic building.

Find out more by call-Extra emphasis is put on ing Birch Lake Counseling at 218-632-2220. If you have ideas about how to use the other portion of the former church building, Chuck is open to ideas. You can reach him at 218-639-4225.

Open house

To see the place for yourself and to speak with staff, plan to attend their open house from ers have backgrounds in 1-6 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 18 at the office at 15 Dayton Ave. SE in Wadeically billed as Christian na. Refreshments, music and tours will be part of



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New York Mills headed to U.S. Bank Stadium after Class A quarterfinal victory

By Aaron Young Perham Focus

he New York Mills football team punched its ticket to U.S. Bank Stadium on Friday night in defeating the previously unde-

feated Deer River Warriors 20-6. "We're excited," New York Mills head coach Matt Radniecki said. "We beat a very good football team. We believe we're a good football team, but we (put up a) heck of a fight here."

Deer River's (11-1) Sean Drotts recovered a fumble on the opening kickoff. The Warriors moved chains several times but were turned away at the goal line. The Eagles (10-1) forced a turnover on downs at the three-vard line.

New York Mills' Ethan Ruther broke the scoreless stalemate when he ran the ball in for a three-yard touchdown four minutes into the second quarter. However, the extra point was blocked, leaving the

The Warriors were pinned deep in their own territory after a block in the back infraction on the ensuing kickoff. The New York Mills defense came up big once again when linebacker Brayden Ehnert took an interception on thirdand-long to the house. The Eagles punched in the two-point conversion and took a commanding 14-0

In the third quarter, the Warriors found a spark on offense. Josiah Herfindahl broke free for a



Aaron Young / Perham Focus

New York Mills defeats Deer River in the Class A state quarterfinal at Brainerd High School on Nov. 12.

within eight points.

New York Mills' Jonah Johnson pulled down a 43-yard catch with under seven minutes in the third. This led to Bren Salo's 13-yard rushing touchdown to put the Eagles up 20-6 a few plays later.

Late in the fourth quarter, Deer River's fourth-and-six pass fell incomplete, leading to victory formation for the Eagles. Radniecki was impressed to see his defense step up in the biggest game of the season so far.

"They've done it all year long, 99-yard rushing touchdown to pull and this is no different," Radniecki

said, "We keep saying every week, but we made big plays.'

"This is unbelievable," Salo said. "We've been talking about this since we were kids, and this is the goal. The goal is to make it to state. We didn't doubt ourselves. Being the (third seed), people doubted us. But we knew.'

The Eagles are headed to Minneapolis on Saturday, Nov. 20, for an 11:30 a.m. kickoff against Mayer Lutheran (11-1). Mayer Lutheran, the Section 2A champion, beat Murray County Central 34-18 in Jordan on Friday night.

Wolverines football team looks back on winning season

By Aaron Young Wadena Pioneer Journal

The Wadena-Deer Creek football team made history on the individual level and team in their third year under head coach Kyle Petermeier. From the first five-win season since 1999, to a plethora of passing yards, this year

was a fun one.

"Our goal was to win some games in the playoffs. I know we only won one but we lost to a good team last Saturday," Petermeier said. "We knew that Staples was the team that ended our season (in 2019) so we didn't want them to do that for a third time."

The Wolverines defeated Staples-Motley in the first round 23-12, advancing to the semifinals to face No .1 Osakis. Osakis beat W-DC 34-15 on Oct. 30, putting an end to their season.

Senior wide receiver Josh Dykhoff is thankful for the support of the fans and their role in the team's performance this

year.
"They helped us play that game hard (in Osakis) and play until the last minute we stepped on the field," Dykhoff said.

It is the end of an era for the Wolverines as their quarterback Payton Rondestvedt is graduating this year. He will miss the camaraderie of the team.

"Being with all the guys and all the time able to spend with them," Rondestvedt said of his high school football career.

For Payton, he will finish eighth all-time in passing yards for the blue and vellow with 4,652, 29 yards ahead of ninth place. In his final season he threw for 1,800 yards, more than double of any team in the district!

He wants to be remembered for the character he TD's on the year. That ment.



Michael Johnson / Pioneer Journal The Wolverine football team takes a break from running drills to load up on water during preseason practice on

the field.

"Somebody that somebody can look up to and be a good role model for the rest of the team or as a student and anybody

One wide receiver he had a connection with is Dykhoff, and it traces back to their childhood.

and always being around each other. Just that connection kind of comes with that, he said, "We've been around each other since freshman year. We've been buddies since (childhood)," Rondest-

"It's kind of weird because we know where each other are on the field

As a captain, Payton became a leader through courage and being around his teammates.

When reflecting on what he is most proud of,

he said grit. always fought and never quit any game," he said. a mentality that it doesn't His future is still up in the matter how big I am, how air, but he has left a mark big you are. I'm going to game due to COVID-19.

on Wolverine football. Josh Dykhoff is one of Payton's top targets, and attending Central Lakes

showed both on and off is in part due to the way they set up schemes.

"Big part is actually how we run our routes together," Dykhoff. On the defensive side

of the ball, senior defenthat's around me," he sive end Isaac Christianson made an impact this year. Leading the team with sacks, he has a way of getting to the QB.

"First you got to read "Being good buddies that it's a pass, and then go all out. Go get him,"

As the third captain for the Wolverines, he communicates with his players by pushing their limits and having them stay alert. Being a defensive end, it's easier to track the ball.

"Mostly about being at the right spot and the all the time," Dykhoff right time," Christianson said. "Being able to break down and make that tack-

> Coach Petermeier likes the way Christianson carries himself.

"He understood the schemes and he under-"The way the team stood what we're trying to do, but he also brought

bring it to you." Christianson plans on

has at least six receiving College for heavy equip-

With these seniors graduating, and six overall, Coach Petermeier is confident in the future of WDC football.

"Having some experience coming back is going to be important for next year especially with eight (returning)," he said, "They're going to have to kind of band together, and teach the younger kids who are coming up the ropes."

For Petermeier, the key to being on the team is the love of the game.

"I'd say the biggest thing is they love coming to practice and love football." Petermeier said.

As for who will step up as the next quarterback,

he has one name in mind. "We had a guy last year, Josiah Kallevig, who threw some touchdowns and threw some passes in the games when we took Payton out towards the

For those looking to be on the team, what does Kyle look for in an ath-

"We want people to be committed to the weight room," Petermeier said. From power lifts to olympic lifts, hitting the gym is priority No. 1.

Following that is the passion to be there, and love of the game.

"We want guys who want to be there," Petermeier said. "We want guys who like football. and enjoy football and want to come to practice every day."

In Petermeier's first year with the WDC football team, they went 0-9. In their second year, the Wolverines went 3-3 and

were denied a playoff The Wolverines will have to find a way to continue their momentum

that looks to continue to

swing in their favor.



Contributed / Wadena-Deer Creek Schools Wadena-Deer Creek senior volleyball players include Lauryn Gravelle (left), Ashley Lepinski, Summer Pettit and Kaylin Lupkes.

WDC volleyball seniors are academic allstars

By Aaron Young

The Wadena-Deer Creek girls volleyball team finished 10-14 this year and in their conference had a 4-3 record.

Their season ended against Foley (8-9-1) in the first round of the Section 6AA tournament, with a 3-1 final set.

Four girls will be graduating this year: setter Summer Pettit, opposite hitter Lauryn Gravelle, defensive specialist Kaylin Lupkes, and libero Ashley Lepinski. All four received aca-

In end of season awards, Kaylin Lupkes was honored for best serve with a 98% success rate, while Summer Pettit recorded the most

Addyson Gravelle was named as a member of the Section 6AA All-Tournament team, and the Park Region All-Conference. She is joined by Ashley Lepinski for All-Conference. Three Wolverines were also given honorable mentions: Summer Pettit, Payton Gravelle and Lauryn Gravelle.

Looking forward to the 2022 season, Payton Gravelle and Jenna Dykhoff are likely to make a big impact on the court.

Meanwhile, head coach Sue Volkmann ended her 34th year with a 592-318 record.



Contributed / University of Crookston The University of Minnesota Crookston women's basketball team recently announced the signing of Menahga senior Janie Tormanen (F/C, 6-0.) to a National Letter of Intent. Tormanen is the first signee for the Golden Eagles for the 2022 graduating class.

Menahga senior signs with Minnesota Crookston basketball team

The University of Minnesota Crookston women's basketball team announced the signing of Janie Tormanen (F/C, 6-0, Menahga, Minn./Menahga H.S.) to a National Letter of Intent. Tormanen is the first signee for the Golden Eagles for the 2022 graduating class, according to a news release from the University of Minnesota Crookston.

Janie a long athletic player that can stretch the floor with her ability to shoot the three, as well as playing inside," said Head Coach Mike Roysland. "Because of her versatility she can cause a lot of mismatch problems for teams. We're excited to have her as a part of Golden

Eagle women's basketball." Tormanen has competed in girl's basketball

and volleyball at Menahga H.S. Tormanen tallied 13.2 points and 5.0 rebounds per game for Menahga H.S. as a junior. Tormanen had a double-double of 30 points and 13 rebounds in a 70-31 victory against Sebeka H.S. Feb. 16, 2021. In volleyball, Menahga missed a chance at the Section 8AA North championship with a loss in the semifinals to Thief River Falls H.S. Tormanen had 10 kills in the match, playing as a middle hitter for the squad. Tormanen had 15 kills and three blocks in a 3-0 win over Bertha-Hewitt H.S. Sept. 27, 2021.

NORTHLAND

A SIMPLE LIFE, A SOLITARY HUNT

Beryl Novak has lived alone in his one-room deer shack for 44 years. That's the way he likes it

> By John Myers **Duluth News Tribune**

Greaney, Minn. eryl Novak bought 40 acres of forest here in 1966 for



room shack to the site for a deer hunting cabin and then liked it so much he moved in

for good. That was 1977. He hasn't lived anyplace

else since. He hasn't slept in any other bed, not a single night away, since May 1993. "I'm kind of a

homebody," Novak said. He also hasn't hunted deer anywhere else. And on Saturday morning, Nov. 6, Novak will be in his favorite deer "stand," a 5-by-8-foot tarpaper shack with a slide-up window, where odds are he will see some deer. Whether or not he gets a legal buck will be up to the fates, of course, much like the other nearly half-million Minnesota hunters out and about. But don't bet against

The stand is just 50 yards from his house about an hour's drive north of Hibbing overlooking a mowed clearing with a backdrop of spruce and balsam about 140 yards out. He has shot dozens of deer from this spot, most with his trusty .270 Winchester, some of them just minutes into the first morning of the

The annual deer hunt has become part of his life's routine, a rhythm that revolves around nature's seasons things like putting up firewood, tending his big garden, planting and grafting dozens of apple trees and walking hundreds of miles each autumn in search of grouse.

Already this season he's bagged two dozen grouse by walking slowly, watching and listening on forest trails.

"But it hasn't been easy. I figure it's about 5 miles walking for each bird," he said as we walked and talked in his woods, shotguns at the ready, on a brisk November morning. We



Steve Kuchera / Duluth News Tribune

Beryl Novak grouse hunts near his home Nov. 1. On Saturday, as he has for more than 60 years, he'll be deer hunting



Contributed / Beryl Novack A 10-year-old Beryl Novak poses with the buck he

shot in 1960.

flushed a couple grouse that day but didn't get any shots.

Óver the years living out here, Novak has had close calls with wolves and has battled with bears, but it all seems to come in stride for an outdoorsman who doesn't rattle easily, who seemingly has seen and done everything the northwoods has to offer.

Started young

Novak, 71, shot his first deer at age 10, in 1960, hunting alone. He still has the paper hunting license and aluminum buck tag pressed between pages in a photo album. Since then, Novak figures he's shot 75 deer in these woods northwest of Cook.

He has a memory like a steel trap, and rattles off dates and antler counts from hunting seasons a half-century ago like they happened vesterday.

Novak was born and raised in this country and graduated from Orr High School in 1968. He liked cars, of course, and girls. But his passion has always been the outdoors — hunting, fishing and trapping.

"My dad died when I was 5," Novak said. "But I had a mentor

teach me grouse hunting ... Joe Kasun. ... When I was 7, he gave me a single-shot .22 to use and one .22 short bullet and took me grouse hunting and told me not to miss. ... I got one."

Deer hunting, though, "I had to figure out on my own."

Ánd he has. Novak attended a vocational college and then, with a low draft number looming, enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and stayed in for nearly four years, from 1970-74. He was stationed at several bases across the U.S. and spent eight months in Vietnam, at the 483rd USAF hospital at Cam Ranh Bay, where the base would come under occasional rocket attack and where he saw the horrors of war firsthand with a parade of wounded on display.

Through his military service, he would come home on leave scheduled around hunting seasons.

"I came home to hunt," he said. "It's what I thought about when I was over there."

A northwoods living

Novak's one-room home is 16 by 20 feet, what city folks these days might call a tiny house. It has no running water. There's a hand

pump outside a few steps, an outhouse, of course, and a sauna shed, too.

"I don't have to worry about pipes freezing," Novak quipped. "It's an Armstrong pump." A big barrel wood

stove heats the place when it's cold, and Novak has a few seasons worth of fuel stacked neatly outside. There's a gas range for cooking, a bed in the corner and a small TV that gets three stations over the airwaves.

"Why would you need any more than that? Everything on TV is all so damned depressing anyway," Novak said. There's a 2017

calendar on the door still, next to a reminder note for next year's dental appointment. Dusty CDs and DVDs and piles of outdoor and gardening magazines cover much of the "kitchen" table. A few old buck antlers, trophies from long-past seasons, are stashed in the corner. A few mounted fish adorn the walls.

Novak worked the usual northwoods jobs over the years, including as a logger and then on a sand and gravei crew. He trapped and sold furs — beaver, otter, fisher and pine marten — until the bottom dropped out of the fur market and prices plummeted. He picked wild blueberries and sold them to grocery stores in town. He cut and sold balsam boughs and firewood for a spell, too.

Novak formally "retired" in 1995, meaning that's the point he stopped trying to earn a living and focused on the living part.

"It doesn't cost much to live up here. I get by pretty cheap," he said. It's not that he

doesn't like people, Novak said, just that he found it hard always trying to get along.

"You can't satisfy people. So I said the hell with it, and here I am," he said, adding that he doesn't consider himself a hermit. "I get visitors ... just not as many as I used to. Everyone is dying off."

His last car broke down in 2005 and he hasn't driven one since, although he does have a four-wheel ATV that can get him the mile or so down the road to another 43-acre parcel he owns and hunts on. He keeps mowed trails on his land that attract deer, grouse and other wildlife and make for easy walking. He has planted hundreds of apple, plum and pine trees along the trails.

Novak depends on the kindness of a few friends and neighbors to get him to his annual doctor and dental checkups or to bring him fresh food on occasion. In return, he shares crops from his garden or maybe a cleaned and packaged grouse breast. He stocks up on provisions in town a few times each year. Most everything else he grows or shoots on his own. Conservation officers occasionally add to his larder by dropping off an illegally killed deer.

This year's drought cut into his sweet-corn crop. But his melons, onions and carrots did well with him carrying water from the pump. A late-May hard freeze crippled Novak's apple crop, though, nipping the buds.

'It's the first time I've ever had a total failure for apples," he noted.

His last dog died eight years ago and he's not planning to get another.

"I didn't feel it was right to have a dog and not have a way to get him to the vet," he said. "It's bad enough for people to have to take me to the doctor's, but it's too much to ask someone else to take my dog to the vet."

Simplifying life

At his annual checkup in August in Hibbing, doctors proclaimed Novak perfectly fit. He takes no medications and goes years between suffering a cold or the flu because he doesn't mix in crowds.

And Novak noted that he has been perfectly situated to guard against the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I've been social distancing out here for 20 years," he said. Sometimes he goes

weeks, even months, without leaving his home area. During one stretch between October 2020 and February 2021, he went 134 days without leaving more than four months between trips to Cook, just 25 miles away.

"I didn't have any reason I had to go," he said.

He hasn't shaved or had a haircut since 2001, when he grew it out to spite his mom who had been nagging him about his appearance. She's long since passed, but he still hasn't relented.

"I don't have to live to suit anvone else." he said. His shoulderlength hair "falls out a lot. It doesn't get that long."

Novak cut off his landline service in 1995, tired of telemarketers, and went 20 years without a telephone.

"There wasn't anyone left calling me who I wanted to talk to," Novak said. "People would say, 'But we can't get ahold of you,' and I'd say, 'That's the point."

In spring 2015, a neighbor whose hunting land he keeps watch on gave him an inexpensive cellphone to report problems on.

"He got me one new one since. And he's still paying the bills," Novak said.

It's definitely not a smartphone. He has no computer, no email and no Facebook. It's as if the last 25 years of technology have passed him by. And it's clear he doesn't care. As long as he has his rifle and shotgun, and is fit to walk in the woods, he's happy.

Novak keeps a tattered, dog-eared paperback of Henry David Thoreau's essays on the virtues of selfreliant, backwoods living near his bed. It's become a sort of guidebook for his lifestyle. It might even be in his pocket on Saturday for the deer

opener. "If people would read what Thoreau wrote in the 1800s it might help them today," Novak said. "Simplify your life. That's what I've done. ... People out there working to make more money are just chasing their tails.

John Myers reports on the outdoors, environment and natural resources for the Duluth News Tribune. He can be reached at jmyers@duluthnews.com

BOWLING

Sunday, Sunset Nov. 7

Steve's Alignment 20 - 4, Gene's Team 18 - 6, Certified Auto Repair 17.5 - 6.5, Above All 17 - 7, MN Valley Irrigation 16 - 8, Bootleggers Bar & Grill 14 - 10, T&J Woodworking 10 -Team 7 - 17, RDO 6.5 - 17.5, Arvig 6 - 18, Lakeland Vet 4 - 20

High Team Series: Above All Bank 13 - 23 - 2748

High Team Game: Bootleggers Bar & Grill - 1036

High Individual Men's Series: Scott Petersen - 639, Darin Deckert - 624, Joey Price - 618

High Individual Women's Series: Char Sweere - 650, Tia Freitag - 620, Kaitlin Sweere - 578

High Individual Men's Games: Scott Petersen - 255, Darin Deckert - 246, Scott

Gaudette - 217 High Individual Women's Games: Kaitlin Sweere - 232,

Char Sweere - 227, Tia Freitag - 215

Monday, Early **Birds Nov. 8**

Bootleggers Bar & Grill 25 -11, Studio 10 21 - 15, MN Valley 14, Star Bank 8 - 16, The Fun Irrigation 20.5 - 15.5, Tia's 19.5 16.5, Wadena VFW 16 - 20, Local Legends 15 - 21, Star Bank 14 - 22, Wadena State

High Team Series: Bootleggers Bar & Grill - 1819

High Individual Series: Char Sweere - 623, Kylie Uselman -

596, Anna Almer - 594 **High Individual Games**: Char Sweere - 228, Kylie Uselman -226, Heidi Hansen - 227

Monday, Ten Pin Keglers Nov. 8

Wadena Lanes 24 - 12, Certified Auto Repair 24 - 12, Bootleggers Bar & Grill 19.5 - 16.5, KWAD 18.5 - 17.5, Romper Room Daycare 11.5 - 24.5, Mid Central National Bank 10.5 - 25.5

High Team Series: Bootleggers Bar & Grill - 2361

High Team Game: Bootleggers Bar & Grill - 824

High Individual Series: Char Sweere - 654, Lisa Rudolph -607, Kaitlin Sweere - 593 **High Individual Games**: Char

Sweere - 233, Lisa Rudolph 208, Kaitlin Sweere - 206

Tuesday, Twilite Nov. 9

Ottertail Aggregate 22 - 2, Super One Foods 22 - 2, American Family Insurance 21 - 3, Woodland Dental 21 - 3, Mid Central Quality 20 - 4, Olson Trucking 17 - 7, Schmitty's Lanes 132 - 168 Music & Vending 7 - 17, Wadena VFW 4 - 20, Certified Auto Repair 3 - 21, Olson Lawn Service - 3 - 21, Nimrod Bull Bash 2 - 24, RK Plumbing 0 - 24

Aggregate - 2110 High Team Game: Ottertail Aggregate - 726

High Individual Series: Jeff

Umland - 705, Joey Boehland -

High Individual Games: Jeff

667, Mack Olson - 639

Umland - 267, Cory Buker 237, Dick Houtkooper - 235 Thursday, City Nov. 11

RK Plumbing 181 - 119, Alley Gators 173 - 127, Ross Seelhammer Plumbing 164 - 136, MN Valley Irrigation 151.5 148.5, Gene's Team 146.5 153.5, Sundby Trailer Sales 144 - 156, Brasel Construction 144 - 156, Kimber Kustom 144 156, Ottertail Aggregate 141 -159, Olson Lawn Service 140 - 160, Arvig 138 - 161, Wadena

Kustom - 3462

High Team Game: Brasel Construction - 1192

High Individual Series: Ethan **High Team Series**: Ottertail Krofe - 709, Doug Brueske 690, Scott Sweere - 652

Individu-High **al Games**: Doug Brueske 296, Ethan Korfe - 248, Josh Mostowski - 237

Friday, Dutch Treaters **Nov. 12**

Timberlake Hotel 23 - 17, Tree Care Everywhere 22 - 18, XS Energy 18 - 22, Wadena Lanes 17 - 23

High Team Series: Timberlake Hotel - 1860

High Team Game: Timberlake Hotel - 643

High Individual Men's Series: Dan Hathaway - 621, Gordy Sharp - 590, Ethan Hieb 557

High Individual Women's Series: Kristen Bettis - 544, High Team Series: Kimber Macenzie Schultz - 521, Sherye Turek - 476

High Individual Men's Games: Dan Hathaway - 223, Gordy Sharp - 213, Ethan Hieb - 208

High Individual Women's Games: Kristen Bettis - 193, Macenzie Schultz - 178, Laura Sharp - 174

Visit the Cultural Center's Artist Bazaar

The New York Mills Regional Cultural Center will be hosting its 12th Annual Artist Bazaar Nov. 17–20. Attendees can purchase holiday season.

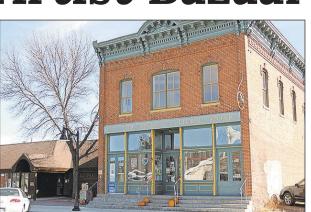
Featured artists will include Aryn Lill, Cheryl Bannes, Gen Keranen, Joy Cooley, Kari Briscoe, Missy Sundheim, Pam Robinson, Sandra Shaughnessy and Sue Kalseim. Items for sale will include mittens, pottery, jewelry,

The Stock-Up Sale will be Friday, Nov. 19 and Saturday, Nov. 20. Hours at the cultural center, located at 24 North Main gifts from local artists for the Avenue, are 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Friday, and 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Saturday. The annual Stock-Up Sale will include the following deals: Spend \$50 to get 5% off; spend \$75 to get 10% off; spend \$150 to get 15% off; spend \$175 to get 20% off. Cultural Center members get an additional 10%

There will also be a special kids-only shopping area with items from \$1 - \$5 to allow kids the chance to shop for the holi-

All are invited to the event. The center continues to follow COVID-19 safety guidelines and asks people to stay home if sick.

Perham Focus / File photo The Regional Cultural Center in New York Mills



Thomsen hired as Menahga's interim city administrator

By Shannon Geisen

Park Rapids Enterprise The Menahga City Council voted 4-1 to hire Betty Thomsen as inter-

im city administrator at their Monday, Nov. 8 meeting.

Council member Art Huebner was opposed.

Thomsen has 20 years of experience in city management. She served as Park Rapids' interim city administrator from Sept. 2020 through mid-January 2021. She was city administrator from Feb. 2000 through Feb. 2004 in Park Rapids and from Dec. 1986 through Feb. 2000 in Minneota, Minn.

Mayor Liz Olson and Durwin Tomperi, meeting as the hiring committee, scored four candidates for the interim position. Tomperi reported that three did not meet the minimum requirements, based on a League of Minnesota Cities rating sheet.

After interviewing Thomsen over the phone, Tomperi said the committee recommends hiring her at \$45 per hour, with no benefits, for the position of temporary city administrator-clerk-treasurer.

Huebner objected to not getting a chance to ask Thomsen questions.

After the meeting, temporary administrative support technician Jensine Kurtti clarified that the hiring commit-

tember when Kurtti was hired. "The process of how the administrator's hire was going to happen have a debt study comwas also stated at last Friday's budget meeting. All the council was there," she reported.

Intent to terminate Kreklau

According to minutes of the Oct. 20 meeting, it is the council's intent to terminate City Administrator Curt Kreklau upon expiration of his veterans' preference timeline or hearings, whichever is later, based upon these six findings:

► The council has not received any accurate financial data, causing the auditor and the unreliable numbers. Specifically, a motion was made on Feb. 4 requiring financial data to be provided to the council by Feb. 22. This was not completed and still has not been provided as of the date of the complaint.

▶ Minutes are not being provided in a timely manner. To date, the council had not received minutes for July 26, Aug.

2 and Aug. 20 meetings. ► Agendas are not being provided as per the bylaws, which call for delivery at least six days prior to the meeting.

The council asked

had not been done.

► The council asked Kreklau on May 10 to pleted, and that had not been completed.

► The city of Menahga has had to expend additional dollars in order to complete both a bank reconciliation and an audit for the city, which is the responsibility of the city administrator. More than \$35,000 was expended for the 2020 audit, and, to date, another \$16,000 expended for forensic auditors, who were unable to reconcile the city's accounts as of Oct. 20.

GoToMeeting suspension

Huebner asked why council to work with GoToMeeting was no longer being used for remote council meetings. The council suspended its use on Oct. 22 – two days after Huebner called a "special meeting" that only he and Keranen were able

to attend. Huebner then used GoToMeeting to hold a two-hour "public forum," in which he spouted numerous allegations against fellow council members.

On Monday, Huebner handed out copies of a Nov. 4 letter he sent to the state auditor, claiming "evidence of malfeasance and misfeasance" on the part of Olson, Kreklau on April 12 to Tomperi and council tee was put in place at have PMA assist with member Daniel Warm-

a meeting in early Sep-city investments. This bold. He also complained exception of Oct. 25 and Ahlf replied. of receiving the agenda only four days prior he was under a 10-day to council meetings, not giving him enough time to prepare. Finally, he claimed the Oct. in an attempt to thwart 20 meeting to consider preliminary allegations or charges against the minutes. an employee should not have been closed. However, Minnesota Statute allows public meetings to be closed for this reason. The minutes also state that City Administrator Curt Kreklau requested that the meeting be closed.

At Monday's meeting, two Menahga residents requested the resumption of GoToMeeting, citing health concerns about attending in person due to COVID-19.

Another resident expressed dismay that the council could not get be required to implement

Meeting minutes Approval of the minutes is normally a technicality, but Huebner ransacked it to reiterate his objections to any motion that passed during the Oct. 12, Oct. 20, Oct. 22 and Oct. 25 council meetings.

Olson reminded Huebner that he was at these with

Oct. 29. Huebner stated quarantine at that time.

Olson called two five-minute recesses Huebner's interruptions. He opposed approval of

Vaccine mandate for nursing home

Greenwood Connections Administrator Laura Ahlf reported there were three positive COVID-19 cases among residents between Oct. 28 and Nov 2.

Staff testing continues daily, Ahlf said.

Assisted living residents received the Moderna COVID booster on Nov. 2 and nursing home residents on Nov. 3.

Ahlf noted that Greenwood Connections will a federal COVID vaccine mandate for health care workers. All staff will need to have at least their first vaccine by Dec. 4. Some exceptions will be allowed. Ahlf said she would like to set up a committee to review exception requests.

Council member Durwin Tomperi inquired how many staff are vaccinated.

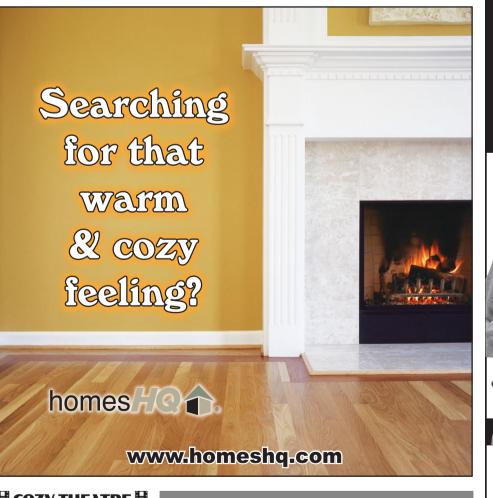
About

Tomperi asked, "What is your contingency plan if these people walk?

Ahlf said they would need to drop their census and admissions.

After the meeting, Ahlf issued this statement: "As care providers for older people in our community, we pledge to take all possible precautions to keep those we serve safe from COVID-19. The severe shortage of employees in long-term care makes this vaccine mandate very difficult to implement and also adds more burden on facilities from an administrative standpoint regarding receiving exemptions and additional policies and procedures we must have in place.

"While we are concerned that some individuals may leave our setting rather than becoming vaccinated, providing safe, quality care to the seniors in our community is our highest priority. Our intent is to retain our staff if they are eligible to apply for a religious or medical exemption and we are hoping that those who do not have a sincerely held religious belief or a medical exemption will percent, be vaccinated."







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CAPTURING LIFE: Nestled in the trees

By Rebecca Mitchell Wadena Pioneer Journal

s we say goodbye to fall, I can't help thinking how grateful I am that we have this season. The trees come alive in fiery passion and the brilliant blue sky makes every bit more beautiful. We're reminded to slow down and look up, and soak in every second we can in nature. And this happens every year—even though it was different with this year's drought.

Fall is my favorite season to take photos. Pink shoelaces and camera strapped to the side, I'm ready to experience every moment. It reminds me of my nature photography-rooted start in journalism and the simple prompting to capture life.

Sometimes it's frustrating because I know exactly how I'd like the photo to look, or what my eyes are able to see, but I can't capture it quite right. In these moments, I have to remember to take photos with joy instead of expectation. To let it help me enjoy the journey instead of only the results. To remember the adventure, and the excitement of seeing the fall leaves. So, like the kid who cheered at Blacks Grove Park, "Let's go find more color!"

Let's take a few moments when we're out for a walk to slowly take in the sights and sounds, and we'll find a smile bursting right out of us. I love trying to remember it all,



Photos by Rebecca Mitchell / Pioneer Journal

A quick photo of a bird feels like a magnificent gift.

whether my camera is strapped alongside or not, because there is so much beauty right here. Maybe you can look out your window and spot a bird nestled in the snow. And if you're hoping to take a picture of the beauty, remember how we have to pause to enjoy it and that photos take patience. You'll get blurry wings, way too bright sunshine, colors that simply don't live up to the real deal, birds will get spooked, dark splotches will ruin the background and they'll be far too many ones to delete. But at least we will be enjoying this gift of creation.

Even with the cold arriving, I hope you have fun and enjoy nature!

Got a park or trail recommendation? Feel free to send them to rmitchell@wadenapj.

Rebecca Mitchell is a reporter with the Wadena Pioneer Journal and Perham Focus



A tree exploding with golden leaves in Blacks Grove Park greets visitors on one of the opening trails.



trees to show the array of fall colors.



Leaves burst in an array of colors at Blacks Grove Park in October 2021.

LOCAL BRIEF

Tri-County receives CALS certification

Staff reports

Tri-County Health Care recent-ly renewed its comprehensive advanced life support certification. Tri-County has been a CALS hospital for over two decades. CALS training honors rural

healthcare facilities and the communities they serve by teaching advanced lifesaving techniques, according to a news release from Tri-County. This special training benefits every hospital department serving patients in critical situations.

"CALS focuses on a multidisciplinary team approach to the stabilization and management of critically ill or injured patients," explained Tom Krueger, EMS education coordinator at Tri-County. "There is pre-course work involved as well as a substantial classroom and skills component over a three-day period." Sever-



Contributed / Tri-County Health Care Tri-County Health Care staff were awarded a certificate of recognition for hosting and completing their 2021 CALS training.

extensive training in October. Tri-County has hosted 16 dif- please visit calsprogram.org.

al staff members underwent the ferent CALS courses thus far. For more information on CALS,

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The St. Ann's Catholic Church choir performs during a past Empty Stocking fundraiser. The group joins an upcoming concert April 28 in Wadena.

Prepare to fill an 'Empty Stocking'

The time of year has come once again to consider how the community can help those less fortunate have a plentiful Christmas.

The Empty Stocking Fund helped 246 families receive a Christmas meal and 626 children received Christmas gifts from funds raised by the Empty Stocking Fund. This fund reaches families in Menahga, Sebeka, Verndale, Bertha-Hewitt and the Wadena area.

The 95th annual Wadena Empty Stocking Talent Program will be held from 7-10 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 8, at the Wadena-Deer Creek Middle/High School commons area. Come see it in person or listen to local radio station 920

Donations are accepted during the event. They can also be mailed to Wadena Empty Stocking Fund, PO Box 543, Wadena, MN 56482 or drop off at any of the Tree Trimmer sites.

Tree Trimmer sites include:

Central Minnesota Credit Union, 1776 Clothing Company, Hometown Crafts, Merickel's Ace Hardware, West Central Telephone in Sebeka and Menahga, Wadena Pioneer Journal and Wadena State Bank in Wadena, Bluffton and Deer Creek.

Truck collides with car near Menahga Saturday

MENAHGA — A truck full of occupants were taken to the hospital with non-life threatening injuries following a collision with another vehicle Saturday, Nov. 13, near Menahga.

A 2013 Chevy Impala driven by 18-year-old Anita B. Lehto, was headed east on County Road 16 and failed to stop at the intersection of Hwy 71, according to a Minnesota State Patrol incident report. Her car hit a 2020 GMC Sierra headed north on Hwy 71. The driver of the Sierra, Robert A. Overmoe, 62 and passengers Rebecca M. Overmoe, 60, Carla L. Vasilakes, 61, and Michael J. Vasilakes, 63, were all of Menahga. All the occupants of the Sierra were taken to North Memorial Hospital.

All were wearing seat belts and alcohol was not considered a factor in the crash. Road conditions were snowy and icy at the time of the crash. The Wadena County Sheriff's Office, Menahga Police Department, Menahga Fire, Tri-County Ambulance and North Memorial Ambulance assisted the state patrol at the crash.

EARLY DEADLINES

Due to early printing for the Thanksgiving Holiday the deadline for the November 25th Pioneer Journal will be 2:00pm on Friday, November 19th.

OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED Thursday, Nov. 25th and Friday, Nov. 26th

Happy Thanksgiving Pioneer Journally November 3

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DEADLINESPJ-5PM Monday

Classified ads **must** be paid before publication!

Please note deadlines may vary due to holidays.

HOLIDAY/SEASONAL

Santa's Christmas Trees

Santa's Christmas Trees will not be open for business this year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, Dan & Debbie

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HELP WANTED -FINANCIAL SERVICES/

HELP WANTED -ENGINEERING & ARCHITECTURE

Assistant County Engineer

The Assistant County Engineer is responsible for managing the development and implementation of highway construction projects, including road and bridge projects, and supervising staff and contractors in the design, construction, and maintenance of roads and bridges. Assists in

overseeing the day to day operations of the Wadena County Highway Department.

Minimum Qualifications:

Bachelor's Degree in engineering or similar field; and three years relevant experience; or equivalent combination of

Monday through Friday - 8:00am to 4:30pm. 2021 Wage Range: \$30.31 to \$41.31 per hour (starting wage dependent on qualifications). Health, vision, dental, disability, and life insurances, PERA retirement with employer contribution match, generous paid vacation and sick leave.

An online application and job description are available at: www.co.wadena.mn.us, the Human Resources office in the Wadena County Courthouse, 415 Jefferson Street S, Wadena, MN 56482. Posting will close on Friday December 3rd, 2021

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Piönëer Journal

HELP WANTED -FINANCIAL SERVICES/



Loan Officer - Parkers Prairie, MN

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Responsibilities in this position include developing and maintaining superior relationships with lending customers, maintaining and servicing an existing loan portfolio; developing and underwriting new loan requests; and representing the bank through community involvement.

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For questions please contact Erica Keppers at 218-631-7629 or rica.keppers@co.wadena.mn.us

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may start at a higher starting step

at 218-631-7707 Completed applications are to be submitted to the following City Official: David Evans Interim City Administrator City of Wadena 222 2nd Street SE

Wadena, MN 56482

Street ŠE, Wadena, MN 56482

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a 9x9 grid,

a sudoku,

formatted as

into nine 3x3

the numbers

1 through 9

row. column

number can

appear only

once in each

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ACROSS 1. Curved symmetrical structure 5. One's partner in

- 11. Male admirer 12. Spend in a period of
- 17. Doc
- 19. Gratitude
- 25. Driving
- 30. Lions do it 31. Large quantities
 33. Become less intense
- 38. Emerges 39. Rare Hawaiian geese
- 40. Dance style 43. Drove
- 44. Measures speed of an
- engine (abbr.) 45. Yankee hero Bucky
- and northwest 50. Monetary unit of
- Samoa 51. Makes clothing
- 56. Injury treatment
- 58. Cools your house
- 59. Imaginary line 60. New convert
- windows 64. Wore away

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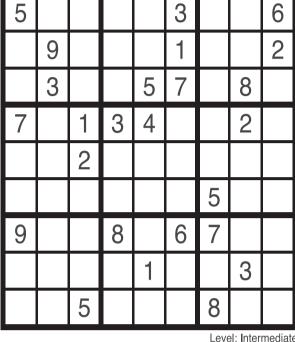
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8

6

3

7

2

9

HERE'S HOW **TODAY'S PUZZLE SOLVED** 9 6 8 5 3 7 9 6 9 Þ G 9 7 8 3 t broken down 7 L ħ 9 9 ļ 6 8 boxes. To solve 3 6 8 L 9 5 9 8 7 6 Þ 3 G 9 must fill each 8 9 9 3 6 L b and box. Each 7 9 3 8 ħ 6

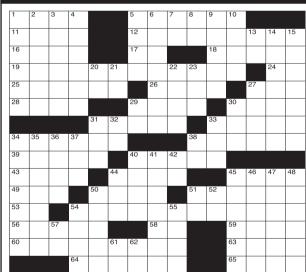
> 3 6 7 8

row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

7

9

CROSSWORD



- 18. Bearing a heavy load 24. The Mount Rushmore
- 28. Makes a mistake 29. A defined length of
- 34. Famed peninsula
- 49. Midway between west
- 53. Spielberg's alien
 54. Agreeable to the taste
- 63. Some do it to their 65. Work units

- 1. Remove body tissue 35. Go in again Harvester 36. In a different, more Harvester
 Roadside living positive way 37. A place for sleeping quarters 4. Excessive self-38. Blood type

34. Belgian city

- 46. Magical potion
- rendezvous 50. Cavalry sword
- 54. Bullfighting maneuver 55. Breezed through 57. Santa says it three and behold
- 62. 36 inches (abbr.) 33. Southern constellation

A T O 3 3 T N 3 a A B M A J

PUZZLE SOLUTION

confidence 40. Syrian news agency (abbr.) 5. Lapp dormancy 41. A salt or ester of acetic acid
42. Millihenry
44. Populous Israeli city 16. Popular Éaster meal Bicycled Entrance to a passage Western U.S. state Grain towers 10. "Westworld" actress Aviv 45. Widen Rachel Wood 13. Commercial 47. Acknowledging 48. Private romantic 26. Girl 27. British thermal unit 14. One who left a will 15. Makes it through 20. Within (prefix) 21. Sea patrol (abbr.) 22. Cigarettes (slang) 23. A doctrine 51. Terabyte 52. Artificial intelligence

27. Constrictor snakes 29. Atomic #73

30. Baseball stat

31. Female sibling

32. A soft gray metal

DOWN

Delta variant drives big increase in breakthrough infections

Health officials: Trend shows **importance** of boosters

By Christopher Magan St. Paul Pioneer Press

ST. PAUL — Minnesota is seeing dramatic growth in breakthrough cases of the coronavirus, adding to evidence that vaccines wear off over time and may be less effective against the now dominant delta strain.

In early May, fewer than 5 percent of new cases in the state were among fully vaccinated residents, according to data first released Friday by the state Department of Health. By early October, fully vaccinated people accounted for nearly 40 percent of new infections and similar shares of hospitalizations and deaths.

For health officials, the trends highlight the importance of booster shots, which soon may be available to nearly every adult, as well as continued preventive steps like social distancing and wearing masks in public.

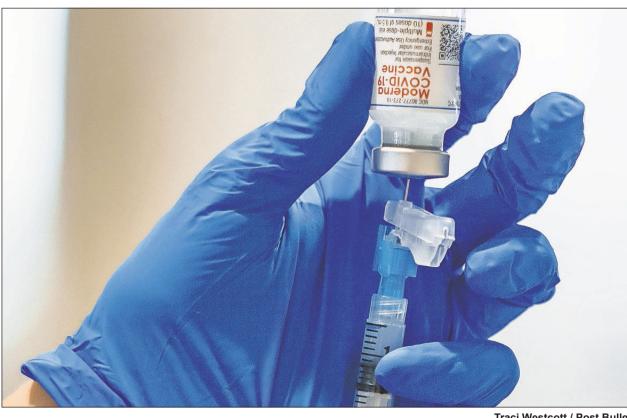
"We want to make sure people are aware of the fact that the landscape has really changed since last spring," said Kris Ehresmann, director of infectious disease prevention for the Minnesota Department of Health.

Ehresmann acknowledged she was among many public health officials who "naively" thought last spring that vaccines would control the pandemic. But vaccine skepticism and the emergence of variants changed that.

"We are seeing the impact of delta," she said. "I think we are in a very different place right now.

For the year in Minnesota, 16 percent of coronavirus infections, 15% of hospitalizations and 14% of deaths from COVID-19 have been among vaccinated residents, a Pioneer

Press analysis found. Despite their limitations, vaccines remain the best way to avoid a severe infection and to



Traci Westcott / Post Bulletin

coronavirus, health offi-

cials say.

"You are 15 times more likely to be hospitalized or to die of COVID if you are unvaccinated," Ehresmann said.

What we know about breakthroughs

Minnesota has been tracking breakthroughs since January, soon after vaccinations began. The health department first reported them publicly Aug. 10 when there were only about 5,600 cases out of 2.9 million people who were fully vaccinat-

Since then, the number of breakthroughs has jumped to nearly 65,000 cases out of 3.2 million vaccinated residents. Of those, 2,956 have been hospitalized and 483 have

Health officials released weekly rates of vaccine breakthroughs for the first time last Friday. While they show a considerable increase in not only breakthrough cases but also hospitalizations and deaths, the vast majority of the most research suggests severe cases are among older residents.

slow the spread of the about 2% of fully vaccinated Minnesotans have tested positive. Overall, 14 percent of Minnesota's 5.8 million residents have tested positive for the coronavirus since March

COVID-19 booster shots may soon be available to nearly every adult.

Dr. Andrew Badley, who leads the Mayo Clinic's COVID task force, said the overall rate of breakthrough cases is in line with expectations of vaccine efficacy. No vaccine is 100% effective, he said.

acknowl-Badley edged growing evidence that protection from the vaccines decreases over time, especially in seniors and people with conditions that suppress their immune systems' response to vaccines.

"Their immune response to the vaccine is not perfect. It's also not zero," Badley said.

State health department data support that view. Ehresmann says that while the average age of a Minnesotan with a breakthrough case is 49, those who end up in the hospital are 74 on average, and those who die are 81 on average.

What the latest

A study on the midterm effectiveness of vaccines, Further, even with the published Nov. 4 in the dramatic growth, only journal Science, exam-

ined health care data from 780,000 veterans. It found the efficacy of all three vaccines dropped dramatically six months after people received their last dose — especially for the one-shot Johnson &

After six months, the Moderna vaccine's effectiveness had dropped from 89% effective to 58%; Pfizer's from 87% to 43%; and the Johnson & Johnson from 86% to just 13%, researchers from the Public Health Institute, the University of Texas and Veterans Affairs found.

One of the study's authors, Barbara Cohen, said their study adds to the mounting evidence that the pandemic is far from over. She hopes the new information will help people better protect themselves and their families against more dangerous variants.

"It is very clear that vaccines are protective," said Cohen, a director and senior researcher at the Public Health Institute.

However, "the vaccines have declined in their ability to protect you fully from breakthrough infections. Our data shows that it looks like that's because delta overwhelmed the

vaccine," she said. not challenged these about whether it always have zero protection.

assertions. In fact, they've used similar evidence to strengthen their cases for providing booster shots to all adults.

A recent study of Israeli hospital data found booster doses refortified the protection vaccines initially provided — even againsť the delta variant.

Finally, while the vaccines and prior infection both protect against future disease, there's growing evidence that vaccines give the immune system an added boost.

A recent report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention found patients who had previously tested positive for COVÍD-19 were 5.5 times more likely to catch the coronavirus again compared to those who were fully vaccinated.

Being vaccinated after recovering from a COVID infection provides even stronger protection, the report said.

What remains

unclear

Despite the ongoing research into vaccine effectiveness and the impact of coronavirus variants, there's a lot that remains unknown.

The delta variant is more contagious, but Vaccine makers have some uncertainty remains have not been vaccinated

causes more severe illness in both the vaccinated and the unvaccinated.

A lot of evidence points to ves.

Minnesota is more than three months into its fourth wave of coronavirus cases, and the current rate of infections, hospitalizations and deaths is the highest it's been all year. Nearly all new infections are caused by

Dr. Hannah Lichtsinn, who works at a Minneapolis clinic, said she's regularly seeing fully vaccinated patients with breakthrough cases that "don't just have the snif-

Patients are complaining of fever, body aches and other serious symptoms typical of COVID-19 infection.

"My reaction when I see them is, thank god these people are vaccinated," Lichtsinn said. "If they are this sick with the protection from the vaccine, I can't imagine how sick they could be without it."

There also are ongoing questions about how long the renewed immunity from a booster shot will last. There's growing talk that COVID-19 will become endemic.

Badley, of the Mayo Clinic's COVID task force, thinks regular boosters may be necessary. "It's too soon to tell how often that's going to be," he

Finally, delta may be the variant getting all the attention now, but coronaviruses constantly are evolving. With well under half the global population fully vaccinated, it's apparent new variants will emerge.

That's why health officials will continue to push vaccine holdouts to get the shot, even as more and more people who already are inoculated get boosters.

"We need to continue to emphasize the importance of primary vaccination, because although there's definitely evidence of waning immu-nity, people who have been vaccinated have some protection," Ehresmann said. "People who

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218-631-2561

Pioneer Journal

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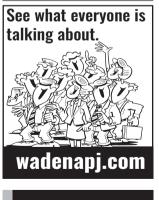
Wadena Library

Board Vacancies Interested in matters involving the Wadena Library? Serve on the Li-

brary Board. There is currently one vacancy on the Wadena Library Board, with three-year term ending January 31, 2024

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday, every other month. Special meetings are held as needed.

Please submit your letter of interest by December 31, 2021, to Interim City Administrator David Evans, PO Box 30, Wadena, MN 56482



PUBLIC NOTICE

THIS WILL AFFECT YOUR 2022 PROPERTY TAXES AND ELIGIBILITY FOR PROPERTY TAX REFUND

Have you purchased or moved into a property in the past year? Contact your county assessor to file a homestead application if you or a qualifying relative occupy the property

as a homestead on or before December 31, 2021. What is a qualifying relative? For unoccupied agricultural property, a qualifying relative includes the child, grandchild, sibling, or parent of the

owner or owner's spouse. For occupied agricultural or residential property, a qualifying relative also includes the owner's uncle, aunt, nephew, or niece,

When do I apply?

You must apply on or before December 31, 2021.

Once homestead is granted, annual applications are not necessary unless they are requested by the county assessor. Contact the assessor by December 31, 2021 if the use of the property you own or occupy as a qualifying relative has changed during the past year.

If you sell, move, or for any reason no longer qualify for the homestead classification, you are required to notify the county assessor within 30 days of the change in homestead status.

218-631-7628

2021 DEFR HUNT A SUCCESS FOR THESE SKILLED HUNTERS

Tyson Barthel, 16 of Wadena, caught a glimpse of a deer during the opening weekend of the Minnesota deer rifle season that was headed for the neighbor. Lucky for Tyson, the neighbor missed and the buck, still chasing a doe, headed back towards Tyson and his stand west of Sebeka.

When the buck stopped at 50 yards and gave Tyson a look at his rack he fired a shot killing the big deer. Little did he know this was the deer "the big one" his cousin had been watching for three years. The 19-point buck weighed 233-pounds dressed. An unofficial score on the deer shows 216 6/8 inches. It's likely one of the largest deer racks we've seen this year of those who submitted their deer photos to the Pioneer Journal. Great job to all that found success this year!



Tyson Barthel, age 16 of Wadena, shot this 19-point buck that weighed 233-pounds dressed. He shot it opening morning west of Sebeka.



Shawn Beversluis shot this 8-point buck Monday morning. It's the first buck he's harvested in 21 years, his first being a small 9 point when he was 12. Pictured with him is his son Lance, age 5.



Logan Meyer of Wadena shot two bucks within 15 minutes.



Lex Tucker, 11, from Wadena, shot his first deer, a 9-point buck, Saturday evening south of Deer Creek.



Brittney Ewert with her 11-point, 169.9 pound buck shot south of Sebeka.



Kyle Camacho dropped this 14-point buck near Wadena on opening morning.
Kyle is pictured with his son Kayden.



Angle Moats harvested this 13-point buck by Deer Creek.



Dominic Pete, age 14, with his first deer shot during the youth weekend.



Logan Meyer of Wadena shot two big bucks within 15 minutes.



Kristy Helmbrecht shot this 9-point buck weighing 190 pounds on opening weekend near Henning.



Travis and Jake Roggenkamp both shot at this deer and one or both hit it.

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