



Photos by Nicole Stracek / Wadena Pioneer Journal

Guests at the Spring Fling had a blast dancing to music from DJ Dean Willits.

Dancing up a storm at the annual Spring Fling

BY NICOLE STRACEK
Wadena Pioneer Journal

NEW YORK MILLS — The annual Spring Fling is a semi-formal dance for 16-plus individuals with disabilities. Put on annually, this year Freshwater Education district stepped in at the last minute to coordinate and host the event. Guests put on their best formal dance attire and enjoyed dancing the day away with DJ Dean Willits.

Taking place Friday, May 3, at the New York Mills Ballroom, the Spring Fling dance featured a Cinco de Mayo theme complete with a taco bar provided by A Farmer's Daughter. Freshwater invited various group homes, schools, and organizations to participate. Guests also enjoyed dressing in fun Cinco de Mayo-themed props before stepping into the photo booth with professional photographer Jamie Kopveiler from Overflow Creative.

The dance aims to provide recreational and leisure activities for individuals aged 16 and above with intellectual disabilities, as well as promote community participation and social skills development.



The annual semi-formal dance is a chance for people with disabilities to spend a fun afternoon dancing. The theme this year was Cinco De Mayo and featured a taco bar.

Formerly hosted by Wadena Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), Freshwater's Alternative Learning Center Superintendent Eric Weber said that he learned about the need for a host through the Wadena Lion's Club. Through that Weber learned at the last minute the spring fling needed an organization to step in and take over. Freshwater staff took the lead making sure to continue the annual dance.



The spring fling semi-formal dance also included a fun photo booth complete with Cinco De Mayo props.

DFL endorses Hobson for House District 5A

WADENA — Brian M. Hobson received the Democratic-Farmer-Labor endorsement for the House District 5A seat at the DFL Senate District 5 convention April 21 in Wadena.

District 5A includes parts of Cass, Hubbard, Wadena and Becker counties, including the area cities of Backus, Chickamaw



Hobson

Beach, East Gull Lake, Hackensack, Lake Shore and Pine River, along with the area townships of Barclay, Bull Moose, Bungo, Deerfield, Fairview, Home Brook, Loon Lake, McKinley, Pine River, Powers, Walden and Wilson.

Hobson ran two years ago against Republican Krista Knudsen, R-Lake Shore, who won the seat.

For more information on Hobson, visit hobson-forhouse5a.com.

Walz appoints Karl Schmidt to fill 7th Judicial District vacancy

ST. PAUL — Gov. Tim Walz Friday, May 3, announced the appointment of Karl Schmidt as District Court Judge in Minnesota's 7th Judicial District.

Schmidt will be replacing the Honorable Michael S. Jesse and will be chambered in Foley in Benton County.

Minnesota's 7th Judicial District encompasses Becker, Benton, Clay, Douglas, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Otter Tail, Stearns, Todd, and Wadena counties.



Schmidt

"Karl Schmidt will be a great addition to the Seventh Judicial District," Walz said in a news release. "He has been a steady hand and a leader in Benton County for decades, which gives me the confidence that he will administer justice fairly with the community's best interest in mind."

Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan said: "I applaud Karl Schmidt's appointment.

Mr. Schmidt's commitment to Benton County is clear — both in longtime service to the community and pursuit of equitable outcomes for those involved in the justice system. I look forward to his continued public service on the bench."

Schmidt is the Benton County attorney. He previously served as a senior assistant Benton County attorney, where he primarily handled felony prosecutions, as well as fugitive and extradition cases.

Schmidt also served as an assistant public defender in the 7th Judicial District and as a judicial law clerk for the Honorable Bruce W. Christopherson in the 8th Judicial District. His community involvement includes volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, and he is a member of the Minnesota County Attorneys Association. He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota and his law degree from Hamline University School of Law.

Screen

(Classic Seating)
HELD OVER 2ND TERRIFYING WEEK!
"TAROT"
Fri. thru Wed. May 10 - 15
Fri. & Sat. 2 Shows at 7:15 & 9:30
Sun. thru Wed. 1 Show at 7:15
Matinee Sun. May 12 at 1:30 pm

Screen

(Recliner Seating)
"KINGDOM OF THE PLANET OF THE APES"
Fri. thru Thurs. May 10 - 23
Fri. & Sat. 2 Shows at 6:45 & 9:30
Sun. thru Thurs. 1 Show at 7:00
Matinee Sun. May 12 at 1:15 pm

Screen

(Stadium Seating)
HELD OVER 2ND WEEK!
"THE FALL GUY"
Fri. thru Thurs. May 10 - 23
Fri. & Sat. 2 Shows at 7:00 & 9:30
Sun. thru Thurs. 1 Show at 7:10
Matinee Sun. May 12 at 1:25 pm

COZY THEATRE
WADENA, MN

Tuesday Bargain Night - All Seats \$5.00
Matinee Admission - All Seats \$6.00
cozytheatre.com

HOT DEAL

Valid until May 31, 2024

Rafters 4-ft. o.c.

TOTAL COST ERCTED
\$22,995.00
Other sizes available

INCLUDES

- 12' Sidewalls
- 16'x10' White Garage Door
- Include one 48x36 white window
- 1-3 ft white service door
- Rafters 4' O.C.
- Roof & Walls screwed
- Steel Ridge Cap
- Colored roof & Walls
- Profile Vent

Contractor ID # BC 356311

30' X 40' POLE SHED

SEBEKA HOMES, INC

Sebek, MN 56477
218-837-5631

www.sebekahomesinc.com
1-800-860-5631

Do you or does someone you know find it hard to use the phone due to a hearing loss, physical or speech disability?

The Telephone Equipment Distribution Program can help!

Phone: 800-657-3663
Email: dhs.dhhsd@state.mn.us
Web: mn.gov/deaf-hard-of-hearing

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING SERVICES DIVISION

WADENA COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY
Socialization and Obedience Classes for the Family Dog
Classes begin May 6, 2024 • 8:30 P.M.
4-H Building
Located at: Wadena County Fair Grounds

This is an Eight (8) week fun filled course for you and your dog to become a disciplined happy working team. Exercises include: heeling, sit, sit stay, down stay, stand for exam, recall (come) and interaction with other people and dogs.

For additional information and registration, please contact Lucille Belch at (218) 639-1824 or the Wadena County Humane Society at (218) 632-5938. We use only positive reinforcement.

Cost: \$75.00

Other classes offered:

- Advanced Obedience
- Rally & Agility

218-632-5938 • wadenacountyhumanesociety@gmail.com

Pioneer Journal
Your Community Newspaper since 1877

320 Jefferson Street South
Wadena, MN 56482
Pete Mohs, Publisher
pete.mohs@brainerddispatch.com
218-855-5855

CONTACT US
Mon.-Thurs. 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Fri. 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Walk-ins: by appointment only
Phone: 218-631-2561
Email: editorial@wadenapj.com
classifieds@wadenapj.com
Fax: 218-631-1621
Online: www.wadenapj.com

NEWSROOM
Matt Erickson, Editor
matt.erickson@brainerddispatch.com
Frank Lee, Reporter
flee@wadenapj.com

CIRCULATION
Helen Allee
hallee@wadenapj.com

Nicole Stracek, Reporter
nstracek@wadenapj.com
Jeremy Millsop, Sports Editor
jeremy.millsop@brainerddispatch.com

SUPPORT STAFF
Robert Berndt
Driver

DEADLINES
PIONEER JOURNAL
Display Advertising,
Inserts & News: Mon., 12 p.m.
Classifieds: Tues., 10 a.m.

SUBSCRIBE
Thursday Mail Delivery + Digital All Access:
\$139.88 per year / \$12.99 per month
Digital All Access:
\$125.00 per year / \$11.99 per month.

Postmaster:
Please send address changes to
the Wadena PJ, 320 Jefferson St
South Wadena MN 56482.

EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE STATED HEREIN OR REQUIRED BY APPLICABLE LAW, YOUR SUBSCRIPTION FEE IS NONREFUNDABLE. If you cancel your subscription, you are not entitled to receive any refund or credits for the time remaining in your Billing Periods, and you will continue to have access to your subscription until the end of your current Billing Period (unless we provide you with a refund or credit).

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

BUSINESS OFFICE
Diann Drew, Business Manager
ddrew@echopress.com
Britanie Rentz,
Customer Service Lead
brentz@wadenapj.com