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WASECA COUNTY PIONEER

LOCAL COMMUNITY-DRIVEN NEWSPAPER SERVING ALL OF WASECA COUNTY
 No. 18 Vol. II \$2 Office at 103 South State Street Waseca Friday, May 5, 2023

Inside



Waseca Prom

Waldorf plant sale set for May 13

The Waldorf Petal Pushers Garden Club will hold a plant sale Saturday, May 13 from 8 to 11 a.m. at the Waldorf Community Center. Annual and perennial flowers, tomatoes, succulents, house plants, etc., will be available.

Waldorf Ladies Spring Salad Luncheon May 9

All ladies of the community are invited to attend Ladies Spring Salad Luncheon on Tuesday May 9 at noon at First Lutheran Church of Waldorf. Speaker Julie Tesch will be sharing her "Faith Journey."

Graduation Open house ads available

Celebrate this year's graduates in the paper with a photo and open house announcement. Cost is \$20 for one week or \$30 for two weeks.

Please email news@waseca-countypioneer.com or call 837-6767

Music at the Museum May 7

The Waseca County Historic Museum is hosting a musical event featuring Mary DuShane and Nick Jordan from 3 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, May 7.

Sponsored by the former Bothy Folk Club of Mankato, the event will include a spicy range of roots music, bluesy old time, and jug band songs. The event is free and open to the public at 315 Second Ave NE in Waseca.

Jeff Yalden to speak on suicide prevention May 11 at Waseca PAC

Nationally known speaker Jeff Yalden will speak to Waseca high school students during the school day on May 11, and then again to the public at 7 p.m.

Margarita Mingle at Mill May 5

The third annual "Margarita Mingle" will be from 4 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 5.

Salad Luncheon May 5 at 11 a.m.

First Congregational Church is sponsoring a salad luncheon from 11 to 1 on Friday, May 5. Cost is \$12.

The Mill's fifth-year anniversary May 13

The Mill will celebrate its fifth anniversary by bringing back the first band which ever performed at the venue: the Blue Ringers on the evening of Saturday, May 13. Doors open at 7 p.m. No cover charge.

A word from The Word

Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me, for I am poor and needy. Preserve my life, for I am godly; save your servant, who trusts in you—you are my God. Be gracious to me, O Lord, for to you do I cry all the day.

Psalm 86:1-13

JWP speaker shares harrowing experience

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

Anxiety, depression, and suicide are serious topics that are tough to discuss.

On Thursday, April 27, Janesville-Waldorf-Pemberton invited speaker Emma Benoit to tackle these mental health topics with JWP students in grades 5-12 along with Trinity Lu-

theran's students grades 5-8.

Sponsored by Greater Mankato United Way, the program featured a film "My Ascension," which was two hours long and documented Benoit's journey tackling mental health and bringing awareness to it. After the film, those attending were given the chance to submit anonymous questions for Benoit to answer; some

were also able to meet with her one-on-one.

The film's name was inspired by the county of Ascension Parish, Louisiana where Benoit was raised.

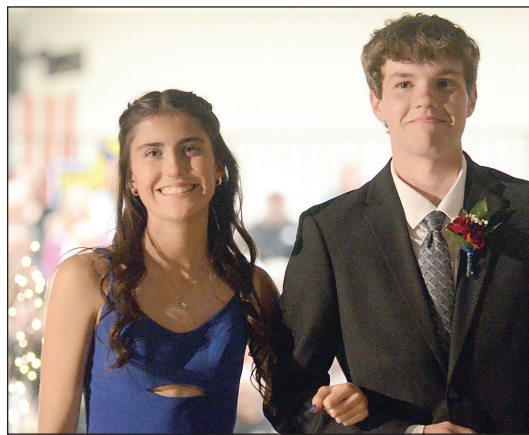
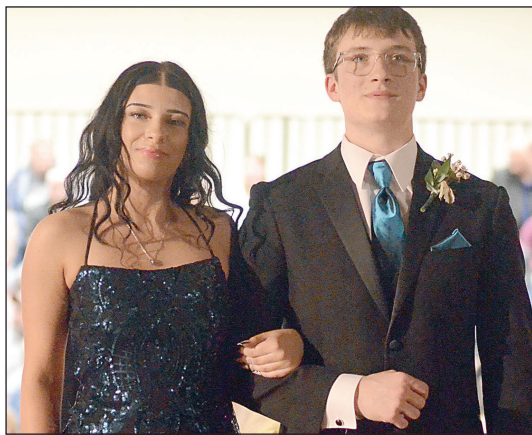
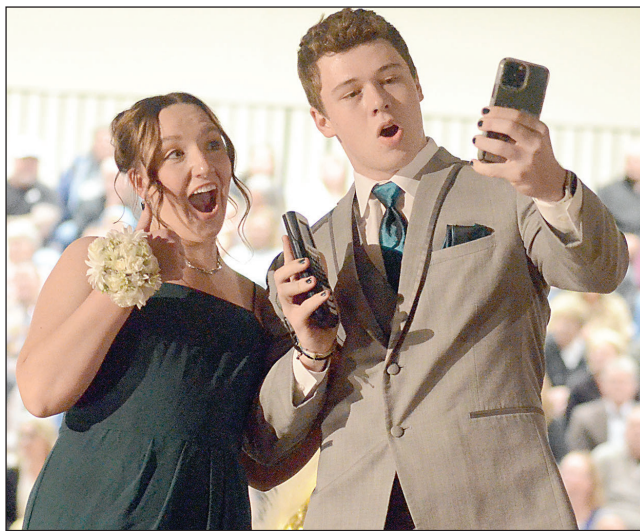
When Benoit was 16, she attempted suicide using a firearm. Although her shot wasn't fatal, she

Speaker continued on 11



Emma Benoit, a survivor of a suicide attempt at 16 years old, spoke to JWP and Trinity Lutheran students about mental health awareness on Thursday, April 27. Pioneer photo by Michael Roy

'Midnight Masquerade' Saturday, April 29



A NIGHT TO REMEMBER - A total of 117 couples walked the magic carpet during Waseca prom Saturday, April 29, 2023 in the high school gymnasium. The night's theme was "Midnight Masquerade." Photos of couples walking at Grand March can be found on Pages 3, 4, 13, and 14. All other photos can be found on the Pioneer's Facebook page. Pioneer photos by Eli Lutgens

WASECA CITY COUNCIL

Vandalism at three city parks

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

A report by city manager Carl Sonnenburg that there had been recent vandalism at three Waseca parks led to some heated discussion at the Tuesday May 2 city council meeting.

Most of the damage occurred in restrooms. Clear Lake Park received the worst vandalism; Sonnenburg claimed that the soap dispensers for both bathrooms in the park's beach house were ripped off the walls, with the soap bags ripped and strewn all over the floors.

"Toilet paper was also all over the floor," he added. "It looks like they tried setting it on fire."

Trowbridge Park received similar damage to the men's restroom; a soap dispenser and toilet seat were broken by vandals.

Perhaps the most vulgar act had been done the previous week at Northeast Park, where someone defecated on the floor of the men's restroom.

To "bring a shining light" to the conversation, Sonnenburg shared that, at a cost of about \$7,900, the city is in the process of installing cameras at Lakeview Park. The cameras come from Streamline, a security company out of Waseca, which is providing the cameras and performing the installation.

Sonnenburg pointed out that cameras for University, Northeast, and Trowbridge parks are already included in the city's capital improvement plan for 2024-26. However, he suggested that the recent acts of vandalism may warrant expediting those installations. He informed council members that adding cameras at the three additional parks would bring the total cost to about \$25,000. He talked to the city's financial advisor for recommendations, and it was agreed that since the city saved so much on its road construction projects, a financial amendment would not be needed to move forward with this.

"If the council wouldn't want to do this, my alternate recommendation would be to close the bathrooms and rent port-a-potties," Sonnenburg offered. "But I don't feel like we should close the bathrooms for [nearly all] our citizens because of a few brats."

Council members Jeremy Conrath and John Mansfield were pretty passionate about this topic.

"If it's an issue with juveniles, unfortunately I'm not sure there's much we can do," Conrath said. "Would they be held accountable?"

Council continued on 11

Sacred Heart exceeds goal

Fundraiser brings in \$43,000

By MICHAEL ROY
Editor

For any school district, especially a private one like Sacred Heart Catholic School, it's always important to receive support from the local community. Waseca has provided it in spades.

After setting a fundraising goal of raising \$35,000 by Friday, April 28, as Principal Chris Dahle put it, they

didn't only reach the goal—they crushed it.

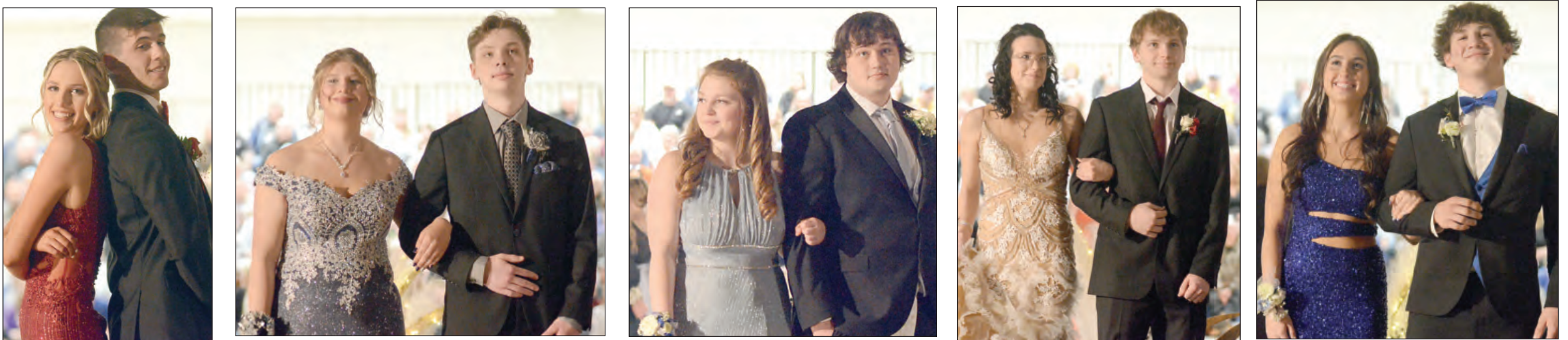
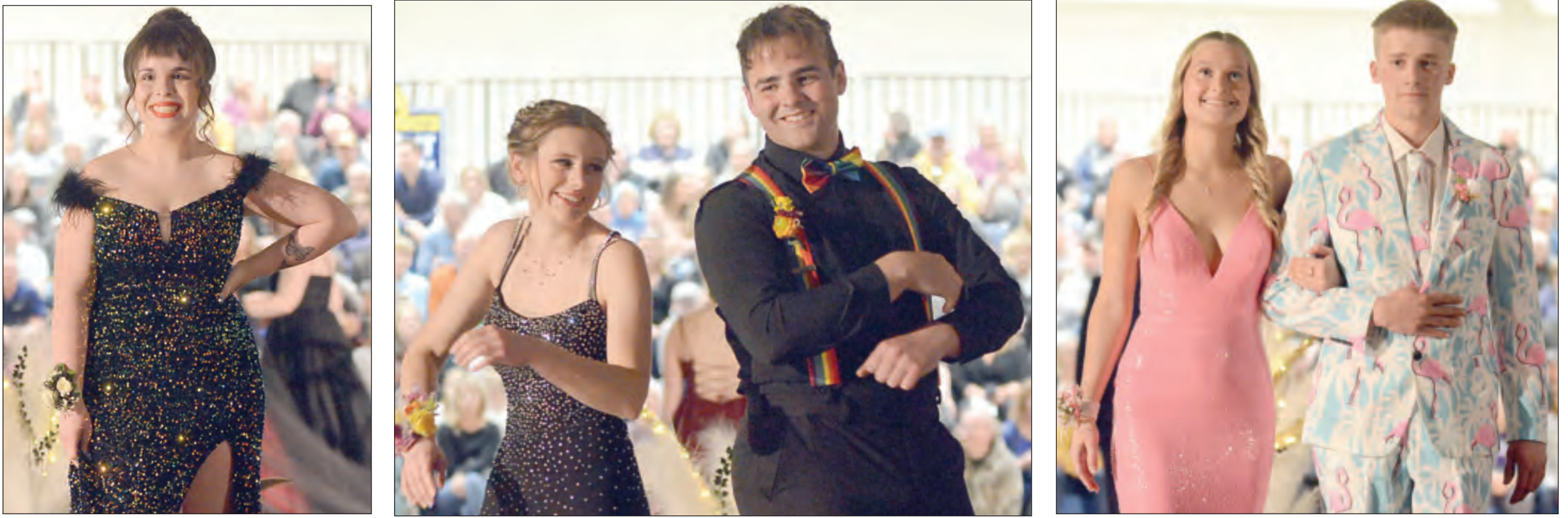
"We couldn't do it without the help of everyone in our community," he added. "We are so fortunate to have such generous businesses and individuals in Waseca who care about us and the students at Sacred Heart."

Fun-drive continued on 12



Sacred Heart Catholic School Principal Chris Dahle jumps for joy at the school's annual marathon Wednesday, April 26. The school raised \$43,576 by the end of the month, well over its goal of \$35,000.

Waseca High School Prom • Saturday, April 29, 2023



**Pioneer photos by
Eli Lutgens**

Attending Waseca Prom

Lexi Spielman, Erin Jacobson, Erika Bowers, Avery Madson, Arianna Krogseng, Ella Sexton, Eva Keck, Ava Norland, Maia Bartelt, Grace Lapides, McKenna Miller, Hannah Wilder, Lola Guggisberg, Sophie Farris, Aubree Hansen, Josie Madson, Alex Anhorn, Evelvn O'Brien, Randi Piha, Tricia Cox, Samantha Azure, Logan Bultman, Alivah Barstad, Morgan Honstad, Kendra Young, Katelyn Hodgkins, Veronica Dela Fuente, Leah Bartelt, Kya Hoof, McKyla Hasselquist, Lucia Mansfield, Josie Perrizo, Megan Kanewischer, Brooklyn O'Malley, Ines Sanchez, Cade Kalbow, Leo Harguth, Oliver O'Brien,

Alexander Honstad, Adam Eustice, Alexis Miller, Noah Flom, Ran Cloutier, Ralph Roesler, Joseph Feldkamp, Eli Allen, Brandon Busse, David Hodgkins, Tristan Gross, Alison Mumme, Christian Rodriguez, Joshua Wright, Trista Stinehart, Maxwell Wirtz, Jay Wieman, Jenaro Delgado, Samuel Nelson, Payton Garza, Isaac Sipe, Camille Ring, Jakub Eull, Rudy Moncada, Elias Nevalainen, Griffin Krautkremer, Kaelyn Larrabee, Carter Miller, Tristan Godwin, Logan Hansen, Reagan Thompson, Stormie Schmidt, Lilly Droisbach, Jan Schoen, Isabella Hadley, Meghan Callahan, Braelen Budin, Katrina Brekke, Macy Ander-

son, Sage Barnett, Janeli Garcia, Kyrie Walker, Madelyn Malecha, Shanece Brown, Kloe Wadd, Jayme Sandbeck, Sarah Robbins, Lindsey Kopetzki, Hannah Fordham, Cecelia Huttemier, Abbey Titus, Destiny Woitas, Evelyn NyDegger, Haydn Lynch, Alexis Kaus, Teagan Flatau, Bailey Hodgkins, Takara Slattery, Kendall Bowers, Cierra Ingalls, Riley Ruedy, Eustice Raetz, Piper Srp, Olivia Frye, Lexi Kanewischer, Joshua Cummins, Michele Menghini, Xavyer Torres, Timothea Volkmer, Cole Schultz, Kaleb Robeck, Jacob Kehler, Levi Flom, Mason Droog, Mackenzie Hoffman, Kanin Hable, Jaden Wilson,

Ejay Spears, Jared Beranek, Tyson Reger, Jacari Jellum, Eddie Herman, Kamryn Rice, Hailey Dettmer, Lucas Androli, Leah Davis, Corbin Connors, Kedrik Volkmann, Elijah Biehn, Korbin Schumacher, Hunter Myers, Carter Ellis, Keaton Roeker, Benjamin Schoenrock, Connor Bjorling, Chloe Schumacher, Brice Anderson, Ruweida Osoble, Seth Eaton, Jennifer Hernandez, Ava Hansen, Hannah Petersen, Cassie Tuma, Elizabeth Mortensen, Ava Omtvedt, Hannah LeCroix, Cheyenne pilaczynski, Gabriela Lopez, Catrina Headline, Jaydyn Gaul, Ella Bartelt, Caliann Owens, Thyme Lang, Cecelia Bjerke, Elaina Andrs, Aliyah

Taylor, Makenzi Ferch, Quinn Dahle, Stacy Reyna, Savanna Benson, Ella Dufault, Callie Dufault, Sarah Haley, Paige Swenson, Mia Kanewischer, Cherilyn Thissen, Samuel Hyland, Tyler Jellum, Ashley Barrientos, Britney Ross, Kiana Sands, Addison Bomsta, Maria Magana-Torres, Kelsey Tobon, Jack Anderson, Joshua Azure, Thomas Mens, Preston Miller, Gabriel Emery, Joshua Teachout, Eli Wetzel, Mason Jes, Maximilian Neaves, Carter Roemildt, Grace Below, Eduardo Gallegos, Kiera Landrum, Anthony Fette, Ashton Groves, Andrea Herrera, Zachary Theobald, Joseph Adamek, Andrew Robran, Addison

Wieseler, Bobby Mortensen, Cody Vagts, Brandon Jascha, Colten Schroeder, Jayde Donovan, Colton Muntean, Jordyn Sturdivant, Elijah Miller, Charlet Harguth, Jersey Castle, Melanie Quintero, Sydney Kofstad, Bridget Blowers, Josie Von Bank, Isabelle Wilhelm, Sophia Gilomini, Kayley Lindsay, Tayla Schaal, Ava Drake, Hailey Smith, Hannah Thursdale, Jacqlyn Mathern, Ahmed Farroq, Logan Bultman, Jordan Sell, Alexis Guse, Jalysa Acevedo, Emma Keith, Haylee Sommers, Riley Myrom.

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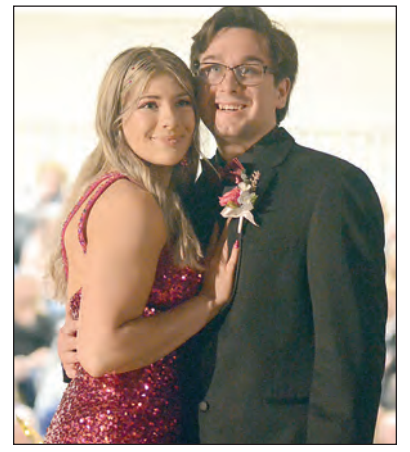
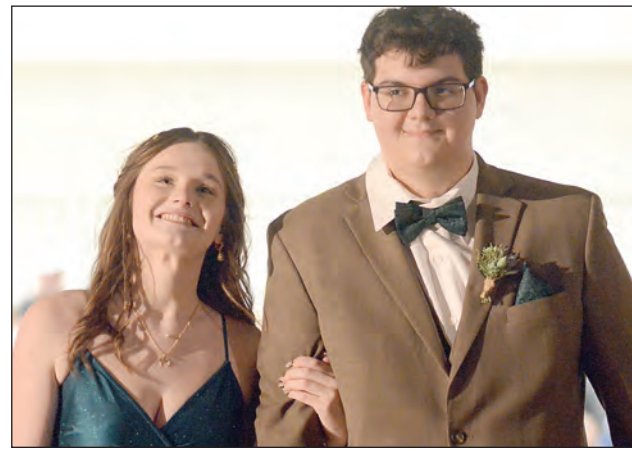
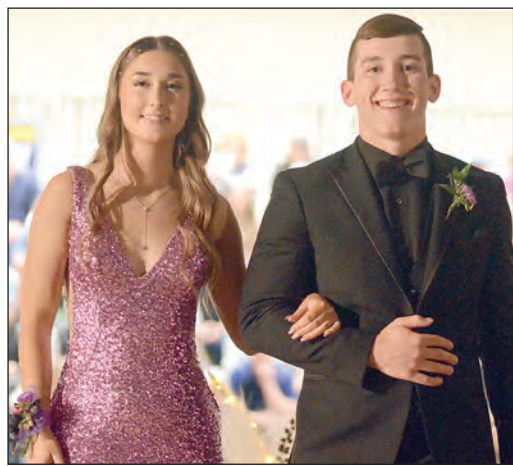
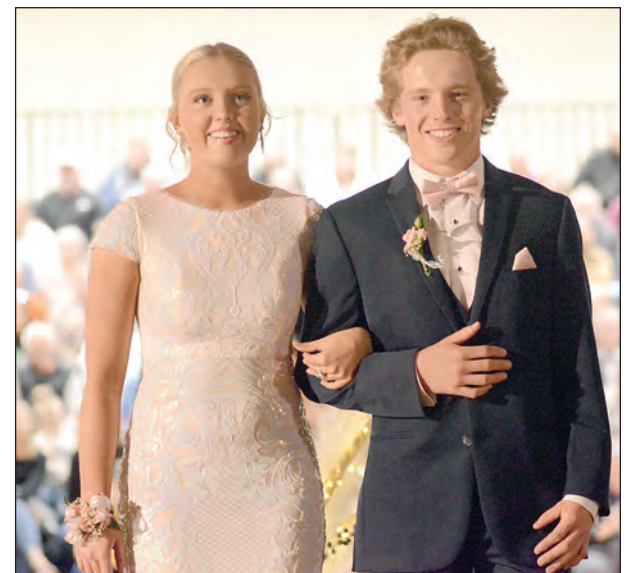
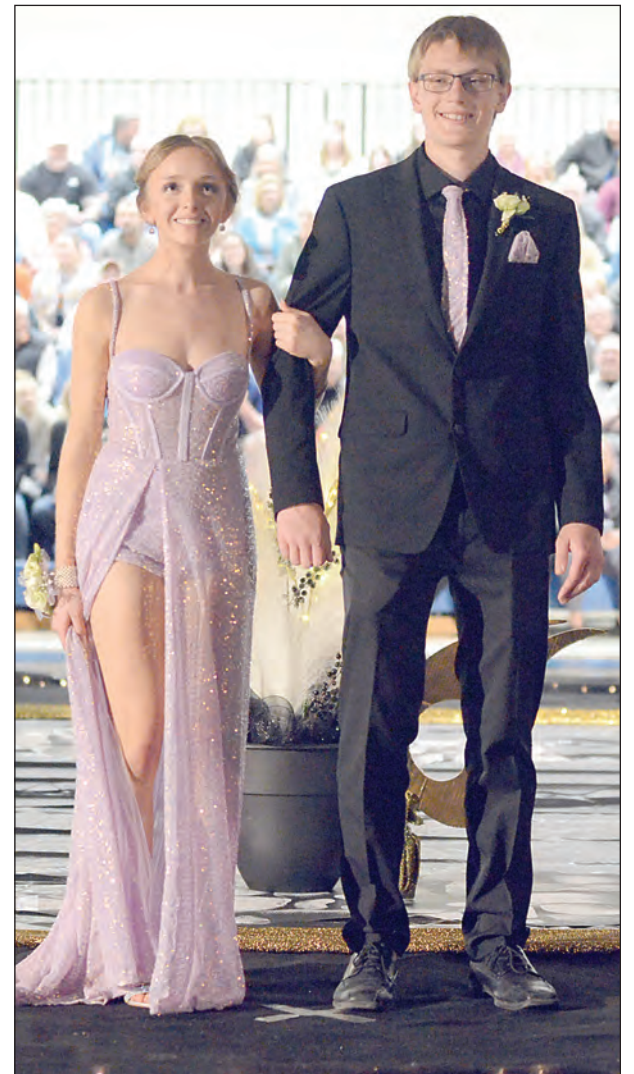
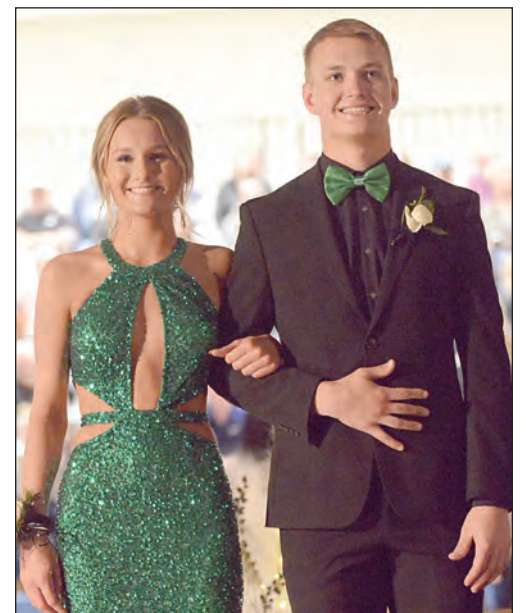
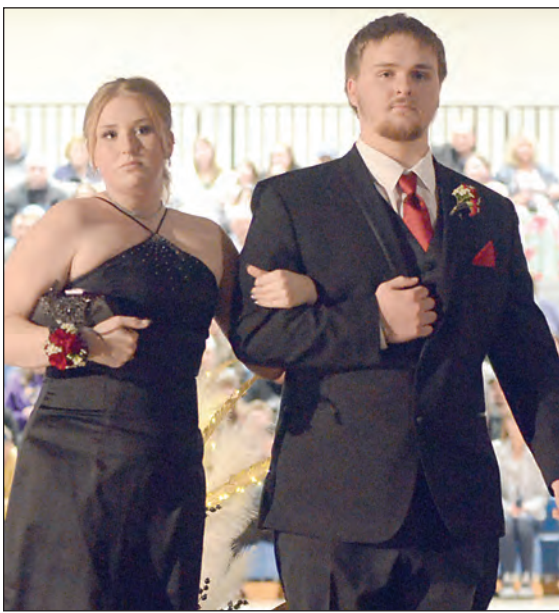
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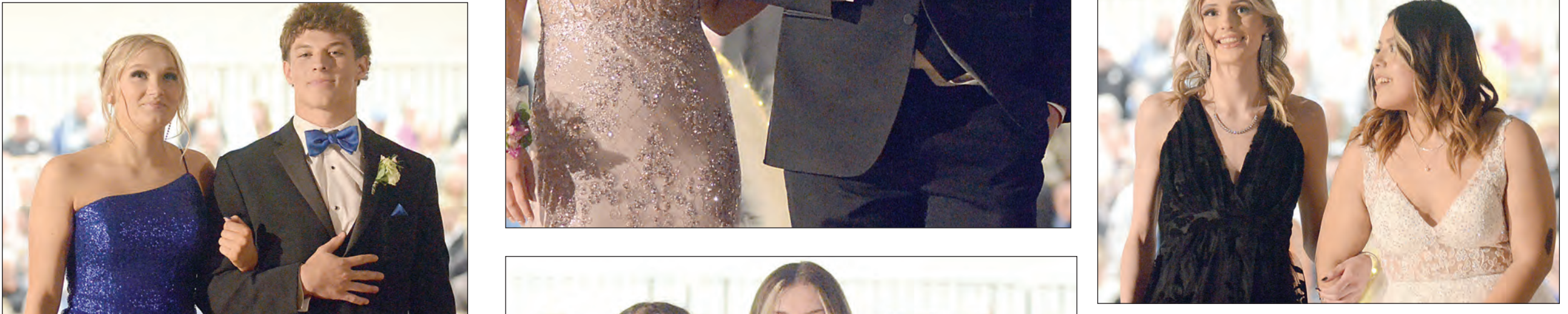
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