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Waterford's best friend

Soon-to-open upscale men's shop has a furry namesake

ALEX RODRIGUEZ

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Lyon love boxers. When a friend from Woof Gang Rescue in Racine informed them that they had a new boxer in the foster system come in, they were hesitant to own another

They already had the very sassy Dixie Rose. They adopted the second boxer anyway.

would become the face of their next venture, Rusty's Dry Goods.

Rusty's Dry Goods is an upscale men's gift shop set to open Saturday, July 23, in Waterford, 307 E. Main St. The location is a former up and following someone else's dental office located conveniently WATERFORD - Vana and Ward across the street from the Lyons' other store, Main Street Mercantile, a similar style store to Rusty's that features more female-oriented gifts.

The Lyons opened Main Street Mercantile in September 2020. Vana has 15 years of corporate experience, having worked for Harley-Davidson, Kohler and Kohl's When they took Rusty into their on the corporate level. After the repeat customers coming in every home in February 2021, they never death of her father in 2019 put

expected that the loveable pup things into perspective for her, That's when the Lyons decided to go into business for themselves.

> "Life is too short," Vana said. "I really don't want to be waking dreams and putting more money in their wallet and not being happy with myself and what I was doing."

> Vana wrote her business plan in two weeks and everything started coming together for Main Street Mercantile after finding the location, not to mention the business partners to help fund the endeavor. Vana says the reception to Mercantile has been overwhelming, with

While the aim of Rusty's is to Vana grew tired of corporate life. cater to a male demographic, Vana considers all the different products sold at the store to be gender neutral. Even though the store is a "Men's Store," the Lyons aim to have something for everyone. Vana herself prefers more masculine scents when it comes to candles

Rusty's was created to scratch the shopping itch the men of Waterford, and beyond, have and don't often scratch. While Mercantile would sell lavender scented bath products and other items of the sort, you can find scents like beer and cigarettes at Rusty's.

Please see **RUSTY'S**, Page B2



ALEX RODRIGUEZ, ALEX.RODRIGUEZ@ JOURNALTIMES.COM

Rusty serves as the namesake and mascot of Rusty's Dry Goods. He is a 51/2-year-old purebred boxer rescue from Georgia.

EXPERIENCE-BASED LICENSES

Program serves as perfect fit

For those who find teaching as second career

RYAN PATTERSON

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RACINE - Keith Cruise, Valerie Freeman and Megan King all became teachers by applying for experience-based licenses through the State of Wisconsin.

To earn an experience-based license, instructors-to-be must pass four courses in three years while they are also teaching.

It's a much faster path to becoming a teacher than getting a traditional education degree from a four-year university.

Alex DeBaker, Racine Acad-



DeBaker

tive director, estimated that 75-80% of the RUSD career and technical education instructors have EBLs. As such, the majority of those

teachers previously worked in the fields they now teach.

DeBaker said it is important for students to learn from instructors with hands-on experience, some of whom can teach courses that would not otherwise be taught.

"It's the way education is moving, is career-focused ... (and) engaging students in what they're passionate about," De-Baker said. "They come with a ton of skill sets that they've learned over the course of their careers in the field."

That's at the core of what RUSD's Academies of Racine are all about.

"Academies are small learning communities that provide real-world experiences with local businesses and professionals, linking schoolwork and the workplace," RUSD's official description states. "Regular coursework, including math, language arts, science and history, is presented within the context of the academy's fo-

For Freeman – who has degrees in computer and electrical engineering, and previously worked as an engineer on an Air Force base in Tennessee - it was exciting yet challenging to teach new courses.

"It was all me figuring it out on my own, and I think that was the most difficult part, and sometimes it still is difficult," said Freeman, who is now a manufacturing and robotics teacher at Park High School. "You have no one to bounce it off of to say, 'Hey, what did you guys do? How did that work?' It's all on me."









Clockwise from top left, Lori Nasci, Keith Cruise, Valerie Freeman and Megan King all came into teaching after years of doing something else.

'Never did I think I would be a teacher'

An engineer on an Air Force base. A cop. A financial advisor. Now, they're all teachers in Racine

RYAN PATTERSON

ryan.patterson@journaltimes.com RACINE – Lori Nasci was tired of arresting children. So she became a teacher.

As a deputy sheriff in New Mexico, Nasci often handcuffed juveniles. After a few years away from law enforcement to raise her children, she decided to work with kids, hoping to keep

handcuffed. Nasci went back to college, earned an education degree and has worked in schools since 2006, including the last two years as principal at Roosevelt

Elementary in Racine. "When you start to get to know (students), how could you do any other job?" Nasci said. "I could tell that this was what I needed to do."

It's not uncommon for teachers to be in their second or third career. Here, The Journal Times features four different teachers who, like Nasci, came into teaching after years of doing something else.

At first, she laughed

Valerie Freeman initially laughed at the idea of being a teacher.

The mother of a student she was tutoring suggested Freeman teach, but she thought other-

"I thought it was the funniest thing ever," Freeman said.

But as time went on, more people mentioned it. Freeman, who was trained as an engineer, eventually filled out an application to be a substitute math instructor at middle schools and high schools.

She did that for a few years resources.

before starting full-time at Park she is a manufacturing and rocoaches Park softball and girls basketball.

Freeman grew up in Pontiac, Michigan, and always liked numbers. She didn't think about a career in education.

"I was introduced to engineerthem away from ever being ing and wanted to know what it was about and what it was like, and I fell in love," Freeman said. "Never did I think I would be a teacher. It was never, ever a consideration. I thought that I didn't have the patience for it."

Freeman graduated with an electrical and computer engineering degree and then worked as an engineer for two years at an Air Force base in Tennessee. She and her husband moved to Racine in 2010. A new home, plus difficulty finding an engineering job during the Great Recession, led to her being in education.

It was challenging to learn classroom management, but Freeman said she quickly developed empathy for students.

Freeman said the toughest aspect of the job is preparation.

"Teaching the students and making relationships and building bonds, that's the easy part," Freeman said. "The harder part is planning and making sure that you are equipped for the job."

Megan King agreed. "I feel like I'm in my element when I'm with my kids in the classroom," King said. "My stress is usually around, 'Am I giving them what they need? Is the content relevant?""

King previously worked as a family counselor and in human

She went into teaching af-High School in fall 2017, where ter seeing a job opening. King ence, and I was like, 'OK, my kids started teaching in Februbotics pathway teacher; she also ary 2021 and is now a Horlick High School business pathway teacher; she also coaches track and field.

> King is also a life coach, which often involves her telling clients about the importance of courage. She needed to follow her own advice and apply for the teaching position.

"I felt like it was something that fit," King said. "I don't think that I ever wanted to be a teacher, I just wanted to work with people. Then, the older I get, the more aligned we are with naughty ones the best, because what our purpose is, and I think they remind me of me." that that's kids."

Adjustments

Keith Cruise also said his biggest adjustment was lesson planning. He seems to have adapted well to teaching but is always searching for areas to improve.

"I'm still not comfortable," Cruise admitted. "When kids aren't doing as well as I think they could do, or they're struggling, I look at: 'Am I not (teach-

ing) them in the right way?"" Cruise, also a Horlick High School business pathway teacher, was a substitute teacher before going full-time in February 2021. He also coaches wrestling and football. Cruise had several previous jobs, including financial advisor, bank vice president and firefighter.

Cruise moved to Racine in 1993. He made a career change because he wanted to help students, and teaching was more and it's important." realistic in 2021 because his children were adults

"I've got a lot of life experiare all out of the house, money's not such a big deal," Cruise said. "I want to make a difference in the lives of some of the kids, be a positive influence."

Nasci does as well. She has been with Racine Unified for nearly a decade in several roles but always wanted to work at the elementary level so she could reach young students "before they're completely in trouble."

"Especially in elementary, they are just a bundle of joy, even the naughty ones," Nasci continued. "Actually, I kind of like the

Rewards

Cruise said teaching "gives a sense of purpose." He said it's rewarding to gain a student's trust and have conversations about life decisions.

"It's really nice," Freeman added, "to watch students grow and become young, successful adults, and to know that maybe you had a hand in that."

Freeman appreciates being a black teacher in a school that had 73% students of color in 2020-21, but she wishes there were more educators who looked like her.

"It's nice to be an African American female teacher teaching engineering, but it's not nice to be the only one in the building," Freeman said. "I hope that we will hire more, but then I also hope that the next generation of students will go into education, because it's definitely necessary,

Please see CHANGES, Page B2

Changes

Cruise shared a similar sentiment, saying he was surprised to be one of the only black male teachers at a school whose student population was 26% black in 2020-21.

RUSD's teachers have become more diverse in recent years, but slowly.

In the 2018-19 school year, about 85% of Racine Unified teachers were white. About 60% of Unified students are either black, Hispanic or mixed race. In 2010, 92% of RUSD's teachers were white, according to Wisconsin Policy Forum, a nonpartisan, independent statewide policy research organization.

Trying again, and again

Freeman said similarities exist between engineering and teaching, mainly that there is a process for growth and development. She "one thousand percent" misses being an engineer but called teaching "the best of both worlds."

"Though I'm not in the engineering field, I get to still teach it to students," Freeman said.

King said education is similar to her previous roles, where employees and families needed someone to listen to and challenge them.

Of working with high schoolers, King said "They can have conversations, they have a little bit better understanding of their emotions and their feelings.

Thinking about teaching

Are you a professional who wants to move into teaching the next generation what you do? Learn how to get an experience-based teaching license by going to dpi.wi.gov/licensing/ apply-educator-license

"They also are just big

kids that need that hug while

being told, 'You got to do

better? I think that is prob-

ably where my strength is."

misses being a deputy sher-

iff "every day," but she said

education is the right career

between teaching and law

conducting oneself in a con-

general attitude you bring

forth," Nasci said. "When

you have a super mild-man-

nered, maybe not as confi-

dent air, the kids do not re-

Similarly, for Cruise,

teaching and his prior ca-

reers require understanding

how best to reach someone.

the personalities," Cruise

said. "You're going to have

people that rub you the

wrong way, even people

you're supposed to be help-

ing ... We're all humans,

individuals, and we have to

figure out how to relate to

somebody in a way that is

helpful to them and allows

us to do what we need to get

"Everything is all about

spond very well."

"A lot of it is just the

trolled, assertive manner.

There are similarities

including

at this stage of her life.

enforcement,

Likewise, Nasci said she

February 2021 after leaving a business career; she marketing at Horlick High School.

Program

"It's the best of both worlds: it's business, it's teenagers," King said. "Don't get me wrong, King started teaching in there are days where you're like, 'What the hell?' But (there are) 24 now teaches business and hours in a day. It's going to be over. You get to try again."

Rusty's

"We're this as brother and sister stores," Vana said.

men's products to Merdid very well. But with her marketing background, she found the masculine energy just wasn't jiving with Mercantile's aesthetic. Instead of continuing to shoehorn the product into the already established store, the Lyons decided to break off and do something for the men specifically, esholiday season in sales at

candles and reed diffusers, another aspect of the products sold at Rusty's is the bar products - focusbeer and whiskey.

Rusty's is partnering with Brooklyn Brew Shop to sell make-your-own beer kits, which include 11 different beer options, are used to add a smoky products.

flavor to drinks, especially whiskey. Also for sale will be accessories like bottle openers, whiskey stones and bullet-shaped drink

Vana tried to bring for men of many different age groups, and a seleccantile in the past, which tion of grooming products such as straight razors and "bar-scented" bar soap.

things," Vana said, "gifts for people you can't just go to Target or other big box retailers and find."

Values

Many of the products you can find at Rusty's are military themed, this pecially after a fantastic comes from the business itself being veteran Along with products like sergeant in the Air Force and will be retiring in February after 21 years of service.

All the products sold at her research into all prod-

and also bottle and capper mades sold at Rusty's are sets. The store will also all vegan; typical pomade sell smoke boards, which usually uses some animal

CRIMINAL COMPLAINTS

JULY 11-15

This list is not comprehensive. Municipalities are listed as they appear on the criminal complaint. Suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. To see mugshots of the accused, visit journaltimes. com/gallery. Additional information about the complaints can be found at: journaltimes.com/ news/local/crime-and-courts.

Angel Alderete Sr., 1600 block of West Boulevard, Racine, operate motor vehicle while revoked.

Anarion N. Benjamin, Zion, Illinois, obstructing an officer. Junior A. Calderon-Aguilar, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, hit and run (injury), obstructing

an officer.

Keleaf P. Carothers, 3200 block of Kearney Avenue, Racine, deliver designer drugs (between 3-10 grams, possession with intent to deliver/distribute a controlled substance on or near a park), manufacture/deliver THC (less than or equal to 200 grams, possession with intent to deliver/ distribute a controlled substance

Oriece W. Carothers, 3200 block of Kearney Avenue, Mount Pleasant, possession with intent to deliver or manufacture THC (between 1,000-2,500 grams, use of a dangerous weapon).

on or near a park).

Tara L. Combs, Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin, possession of methamphetamine, misdemeanor battery.

Zedtric D. Cottingham, 2500 block of 21st Street, Racine, failure to report to jail.

Shantrice P. Craig, 900 block of Hamilton Street. Racine. felony personal ID theft (financial gain).

Patrice M. Cunningham, 1800 block of West Sixth Street, Racine, physical abuse of child (in-

tentionally cause bodily harm). Stephon D. Currie, North Chicago, Illinois, possession of a firearm by a felon, possession of THC, possession of drug paraphernalia, misdemeanor bail

Daniel J. Downey, 600 block of Foxtree Circle, Burlington, strangulation and suffocation. misdemeanor battery, misdemeanor bail jumping.

of Superior Street, Racine, obstructing an officer, disorderly conduct.

Joseph A. Flowers, 900 block of 18th Street, Racine, possession of THC.

Jamauel A. Ford, 1800 block of Roosevelt Avenue, Racine, carrying a concealed weapon, obstructing an officer, attempt first degree intentional homicide (use of a dangerous weapon), first degree recklessly endangering safety (use of a danger-

the influence (3rd offense, general alcohol concentration enhancer), operate motor vehicle while revoked, misdemeanor bail jumping.

Melissa R. Gibson, 4300 block of Kennedy Drive, Racine, possession of methamphetamine, possession of cocaine, possession of drug paraphernalia.

Keshari D. Gordon, 700 block of 17th Street, Racine, possession with intent to deliver fentanyl (greater than 50 grams), possession with intent to deliver/ distribute/manufacture THC (less than or equal to 200 grams), possession of drug paraphernalia.

Devontae D. Gray, 1400 block of West Street, Racine, operate motor vehicle while revoked.

Gabriel S. Henderson, 1800 block of Center Street, Racine, operate motor vehicle while revoked, failure to install ignition interlock device, misdemeanor bail jumping.

Tina (aka X Kenesha) M. Higginbottom, 1000 block of Pearl Street, Racine, disorderly conduct (use of a dangerous weapon).

Monica M. Hoffmann, 4800 block of Kinzie Avenue, Racine, disorderly conduct.

Lee D. Holton, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, operate motor vehi-

cle while revoked. Chester K. Isom, 700 block

of Villa Street, Racine, operating a motor vehicle while under the influence (5th or 6th offense, general alcohol concentration enhancer).

Kenneth Johnson, 1600 block of Boyd Avenue, Racine, felony bail jumping, misdemeanor retail theft (intentionally take less than or equal to \$500).

Gregory I. Johnson-Russell, 1700 block of Packard Avenue, Racine, strangulation and suffocation (domestic abuse assessments), substantial battery (domestic abuse assessments), criminal damage to property (domestic abuse assessments), disorderly conduct (domestic abuse assessments).

Lewis Anthony Johnston, 100 block of South Summerset Drive, Mount Pleasant, resisting an officer, disorderly conduct.

Leon Kahill, 2000 block of

Douglas Avenue, Racine, disorderly conduct, misdemeanor

bail jumping. **Emonjae James Kinney**, 1100 block of Park Avenue, Racine, receiving stolen property (less

than \$2,500). Trevor James Klingbeil, 1300 block of Center Street, Union Grove, possession of narcotic drugs, misdemeanor bail jumping.

Billie J. Lacy, 1900 block of Washington Avenue, Racine, misdemeanor theft (intentionally take less than or equal to \$500), disorderly conduct.

Ruben Leal, 1300 block of Chatham Street, Racine, strangulation and suffocation (domestic abuse assessments), misdemeanor battery (domestic abuse assessments), disorderly conduct (domestic abuse assessments).

Waylon J. Lenfestey, 4300 block of 75th Street, Kenosha, misdemeanor theft, felony bail iumping.

Tremayne D. Martin, 3500 block of 59th Street, Kenosha, possession of THC.

Dandre I. Martinez, 2400 block of Mount Pleasant Street. Racine, operating a motor vehicle without owner's consent, criminal damage to property, disorderly conduct (domestic abuse assessments), misdemeanor battery (domestic abuse assessments).

Donnie J. Maynor, 500 block of Edgewood Drive, Burlington, possession of drug parapherna-

lia, felony bail jumping. Jacob C. Miller, 2000 block of Gilson Street, Racine, felony bail jumping, resisting an officer.

Dennis (aka Jermie Shine) A. Myles, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, possession of THC, misdemeanor bail jumping.

Cale Rafe Neff, 13600 block of Bell Road, Caledonia, operating a motor vehicle while under the influence (4th offense, general alcohol concentration enhancer), failure to install ignition interlock device, operate motor vehicle while revoked.

Stephon E. Obor, 4700 block of Indian Hills Drive, Mount Pleasant, criminal damage to property, disorderly conduct.

Melissa A. Padilla, 2000 block of Racine Street, Racine, Daniel L. Dunum, 900 block possession of narcotic drugs, possession of methamphetamine, possession of THC, felony bail jumping.

Jordan D. Parker, 33600 block of Contour Drive, Burlington, manufacture/deliver LSD (less than or equal to 1 gram). misdemeanor bail jumping, possession of THC, operating a motor vehicle while under the influence (2nd offense), felony bail jumping.

Damian D. Patton. Waukegan, Illinois, possession with intent to deliver/distribute/manu-James D. Fuerstenau, Mil- facture THC (less than or equal to 200 grams) possession with a motor vehicle while under intent to deliver narcotics, obstructing an officer.

Paul (aka Joshua Pickard) Allen Puchter, 2900 block of Fleetwood Drive Racine first degree child sexual assault (sexual contact with a child under age 13), second degree sexual assault of a child under 16 years of age.

Sarah B. Reidenbach, 900 block of Hastings Court, Sturtevant, possession of narcotic drugs, possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia, possess/illegally obtained prescription.

Jose M. Rodriguez, 400 block of 7th Street, Racine, tampering with a global positioning system tracking device.

Cheyenne A. Roushia, 800 block of 53rd Drive, Union Grove, misdemeanor battery (use of a dangerous weapon).

Jamie D. Siler Jr., 700 block of Sheridan Road, Kenosha, armed robbery (violent crime in a school zone), attempt robbery (violent crime in a school zone), possession of a firearm by adjudicated delinquent.

Daiquon R. Tanner, Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, possession of THC, obstructing an officer, possession of drug paraphernalia. failure to install ignition interlock device, operate motor vehicle while revoked.

Mary A. Thornton, 5800 block of Lincoln Village Drive, Mount

Pleasant, disorderly conduct. Leonard S. Tobias, 4200 block of Victory Avenue, Ra-

cine, misdemeanor theft. Carmelo Torres, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, possession of cocaine,

possession of THC, possession of drug paraphernalia. Deserez A. Turner, 1900

block of Howe Street, Racine. possession of THC, felony bail jumping, misdemeanor bail jumping.

Lekecha M. Turner. 1900 block of Howe Street, Racine. possession of cocaine, obstruct-

ing an officer. Andrew S. Uick, 4200 block of Maryland Avenue, Racine, dis-

orderly conduct (domestic abuse assessments). Rodrigo Ramirez Zuniga,

2300 block of Washington Avenue, Racine, possession of THC. misdemeanor bail jumping.

positioning

Mercantile.

coolers. Rusty's also has apparel

"It's a lot of different

owned. Ward is a master

ing more on beverages like Rusty's are small business crafted, with Vana doing ucts being sold there.

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