

Youth can be part of fight against hate

History lessons of the Holocaust and its devastation on the Jewish communities in Europe could never hit home like hearing that the same hate still lurks, even in this part of Wisconsin.

A group of confirmation students and their adult mentors and religious leaders from Faith Lutheran Church in Valders spent part of a day at a synagogue in Sheboygan earlier this month. The visit fostered goodwill, allowed the Christian group to learn about their Jewish neighbors and opened horizons of understanding.

Among the many things the group learned that day was something that came as a shock: Jewish people in America—even right here—don't feel safe because anti-semitism continues to follow them like a dark shadow.

The small Sheboygan congregation feels it and wanted the Valders group to know so they can become allies in the struggle to stamp out the evil that fuels anti-Jewish sentiment, even threats and violence.

One of the Valders students said she thought such hatred ended with the Holocaust in the 1940s but was saddened to see it still happening.

The knowledge gained by this small group of local Christians and spoken by Jews who are part of the Sheboygan community is a wakeup call for people who think such things are of the past or far away or just for big cities.

Hate knows no such boundaries. This unfortunate information meshes with a recent report by the Jewish Community Relations Council of the Milwaukee Jewish Federation, which shows a dramatic rise in antisemitic activity in Wisconsin the past two years.

Much of that is shown through the actions of hate groups and comments on social media, both of which fuel the fire against Jewish people in America.

The organization's audit found 101 reported antisemitic incidents in the state in 2022, up more than 6% from the previous year. Alarming, much of the abhorrent behavior was found in schools, from K-12 through college campuses.

That means the seeds of this evil are germinating among our young people. Adults in their lives need to do better.

Much of this stems from conspiracy theories and old myths and beliefs about Jews, such as their "control" of major institutions, and geopolitical/religious conflicts going back centuries in the Mideast.

The reasons don't matter as much as the solutions. Small actions of good, like the visit by a group of Lutherans from Valders, can be a starting point.

Today in History...

Here are some highlights in world history on March 23:

1775—Patrick Henry delivers an address to the Virginia Provincial Convention in which he is said to have declared, "Give me liberty, or give me death!"

1806—Explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, having reached the Pacific coast, begin their journey back east.

1919—Benito Mussolini founds his Fascist political movement in Milan, Italy.

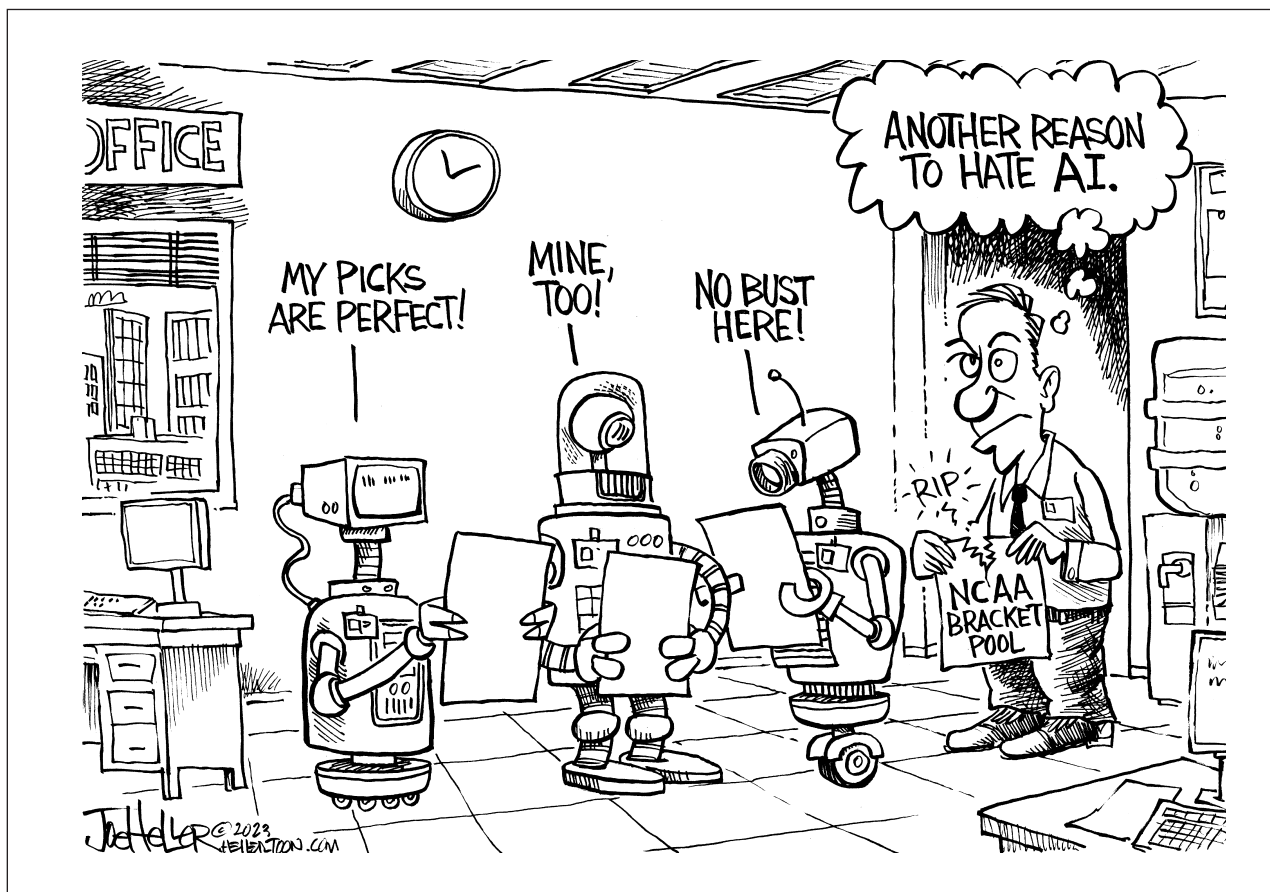
1965—America's first two-person space mission takes place as Gemini 3 blasts off with astronauts Virgil I. "Gus" Grissom and John W. Young aboard for a nearly five-hour flight.

1981—The U.S. Supreme Court, in *H.L. v. Matheson*, rules that states can require, with some exceptions, parental notification when teenage girls seek abortions.

1998—"Titanic" ties an Academy Awards record by winning 11 Oscars, including best picture, director (James Cameron) and song ("My Heart Will Go On").

2010—Claiming a historic triumph, President Barack Obama signs the Affordable Care Act, a \$938 billion health care overhaul.

In Our Opinion



Court race eclipses all spending records

The spring election isn't over until April 4. But already spending in this year's state Supreme Court race has demolished the state and national judicial spending records.

The most expensive state Supreme Court race in the United States had been an Illinois contest in 2004, when \$15 million was spent.

The most expensive Supreme Court campaign in state history was the 2020 race in which candidates and groups combined to spend some \$10 million, according to the Wisconsin Democracy Campaign.

As of March 17, the tally was at least \$30 million and climbing, according to numbers from WisPolitics.com.

And it's tilted very much in favor of the liberal candidate, Milwaukee County Judge Janet Protasiewicz. Until mid-March, conservative former Justice Daniel Kelly had yet to even air an

ad. That finally changed on March 17, when Kelly unveiled his first TV ad of the campaign, knocking Protasiewicz for letting "dangerous criminals back into our streets."

WisPolitics.com tracked more than \$21.3 million in spending post-primary through March 17. Of that, just \$6.3 million had gone to backing Kelly. That didn't include Kelly's first buy, details of which were still trickling in March 17.

That's a lot of green, even if it was St. Patrick's Day.

All of that for a 10-year seat on the state's highest court.

Why so much spending? A few reasons:

- The race will determine philosophical control of the court, which has been in conservative hands for more than a decade. Conservative Patience Roggensack is retiring. So the 4-3 conservative edge

could flip. • A liberal court could reinstate abortion rights, overturn a GOP-dominated legislative map and bring back voter rights favored by Dems, who worry about another

Capitol Report

By WisPolitics.com

close presidential election in 2024.

• The race has national implications, as Wisconsin is a purple state, a perennial presidential swing state and a favorite among big Dem donors.

It all adds up to big, big money.

Republicans appear to be fearing the worst, with Democrats trying to subdue their confidence and concentrate on the task at hand.

The race could also affect

the outcome of a vacant state Senate seat in suburban Milwaukee. That seat was once held by Republican Alberta Darling, and Republican Rep. Dan Knodl is competing against environmental attorney Jodi Habush Sinykin on April 4 to fill out Darling's term.

Democrats are hoping for an upset in the GOP-leaning seat because of the Supreme Court race turnout and the abortion rights issue.

Republicans would still control the state Senate if they lost the seat, but it would be another blow to longtime Republican dominance in the Milwaukee suburbs.

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FFA honors members of its alumni group

45 Years Ago—1978

—Two members of the Valders FFA Alumni were awarded Honorary Chapter Farmer Degrees at the recent Valders FFA banquet, which marked the chapter's 50th anniversary. The chapter honored Doris Borgwardt and Earl Glaeser with the alumni awards. Lee Glaeser of the FFA was named outstanding senior; Mark Zipperer received the Star Farmer Award; Wayne Glaeser was awarded the Star Greenhand Award and Larry Pritzl received the Star Chapter Farmer.

—The boys basketball team from St. Mary's School of Clarks Mills finished its season with a 22-1 record, going 12-0 in its conference, winning the Reedsville Athletic club Tournament and placing second in the Manitowoc County Catholic League Tournament. Peter Gintner was named most valuable player in the Reedsville tournament and named to the county all-tournament team. Tom Schuh and Joe Gintner were all-tournament team selections at Reedsville.

—Valders State Bank is offering customers a selection of men's and ladies' Timex watches or other timepieces or jewelry. People making qualifying deposits, whether to a new or existing savings

Looking Back

By Brian Thomsen

account or a new checking account, can choose from the gifts.

25 Years Ago—1998

—Students at Valders Elementary School have been working with art teacher Kim Becker and professional artist Scott Landwehr to create a large sculpture. The children helped make a clay mold featuring self-portraits and Wisconsin symbols, along with a Viking ship to represent Valders. A plaster mold will be made from the clay structure, and a permanent cast paper sculpture will be created for display in the school. Landwehr has been

on a two-week residency at the school, paid for by the PTA.

—Valders High School swimmer Sara Rutkowski received an award of excellence for outstanding athletic and academic achievement from Women's Sports Advocates of Wisconsin. The two-time state champion in the backstroke was honored at the organization's banquet in Menomonee Falls.

—A strange winter with many periods of freeze and thaw has not affected the area's alfalfa fields as much as feared. Manitowoc County agriculture agent Scott Hendrickson said the relatively warm winter, followed by periods of freezing, could have damaged the alfalfa plants, but they are looking sound so far.

10 Years Ago—2013

—The Valders Area School District is being faced with a need to cut \$420,000 to balance its budget next year, which will have staffing implications. Enrollment is also expected to drop. Two middle school teachers will be reas-

signed to fill open elementary positions, which will save \$120,000. Other cuts are being planned in various aspects of the budget.

—Among races on next week's spring election ballot, voters will choose a new Manitowoc County Circuit Court judge to replace Judge Patrick Willis, who retired last year. Candidates are Manitowoc Municipal Judge Steven Olson and District Attorney Mark Rohrer.

—The Clarks Mills Good Sports 4-H Club won first place in the Manitowoc County 4-H Talent Show with its skit, "A Crazy Mixed-Up Fairy Tale." The group will perform at the State Fair for the second straight year. The cast includes: Riley Hammel, Taylor Hammel, Nathan Robison, Mitchell Zutz, Ava Meulemans, Josey Olig, Savannah Litz, Gabrielle Rogler, Madison Moore, Alayna Litz, Ben Eben, Remon de Bruijn, Ali Fietz, Cassandra Zutz, John Miles, Josh Eben, Devan Meulemans, Marlee Meulemans and Joost de Bruijn.



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