

Mothers get it done all through the year

After the flowers fade and the cards are tucked away, mothers just go on doing what they do.

Mother's Day will be here on Sunday, the one day of the year specifically set aside to honor moms, grandmothers, stepmothers and others who act as mothers. That can look different depending on the people and the family.

Whether raising young children, guiding teenagers or having an empty nest, a mother will always play a special role, although that will change throughout the years.

"Mama's hands tend you when you're tiny, guide you as you grow, fold in prayer as you find your way, and never let you go," said Jeannie Hund, a writer for—who else?—Hallmark.

The greeting card sentiment, in all its saccharine sweetness—does sum up the way motherhood evolves. Moms move from one stage to another and deserve recognition along the way as they help other humans develop, grow and thrive.

Former Olympic softball pitcher and young mother Jennie Finch has been quoted saying that being a mom involves on-the-job training.

"You don't take a class; you're thrown into motherhood and learn from experience," she told an interviewer.

It's true that a classroom or Zoom class could never touch on everything a mother must know. Sometimes, a mom just does what she can with what she has and does better when she knows better.

Mother's Day is a sweet way to remember all the moms out there that have touched their children's lives for the good, but it's important to be sensitive to those who might be hurting on that day.

Some may have lost a child or be longing to be a mom without success. Others may be missing their own mothers, and some may have never had a true mother figure in their lives or be estranged.

Wherever they are on the continuum—future mom, expecting mom, young child mom, mother of teens or adults—those who bear the title or assume the role in some way truly are a special group of people.

Motherhood is simply woven into life and appreciation sometimes falls through the cracks, as artist and poet Ellen Brenneman mused: "It takes a lifetime to truly appreciate all the ways a good mom makes all the difference."

Today in History...

Here are some highlights in world history on May 11:

1927—The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences is founded during a banquet at the Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles.

1935—The Rural Electrification Administration is created as one of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs.

1946—The first CARE packages, sent by a consortium of American charities to provide relief to the hungry of postwar Europe, arrive at Le Havre, France.

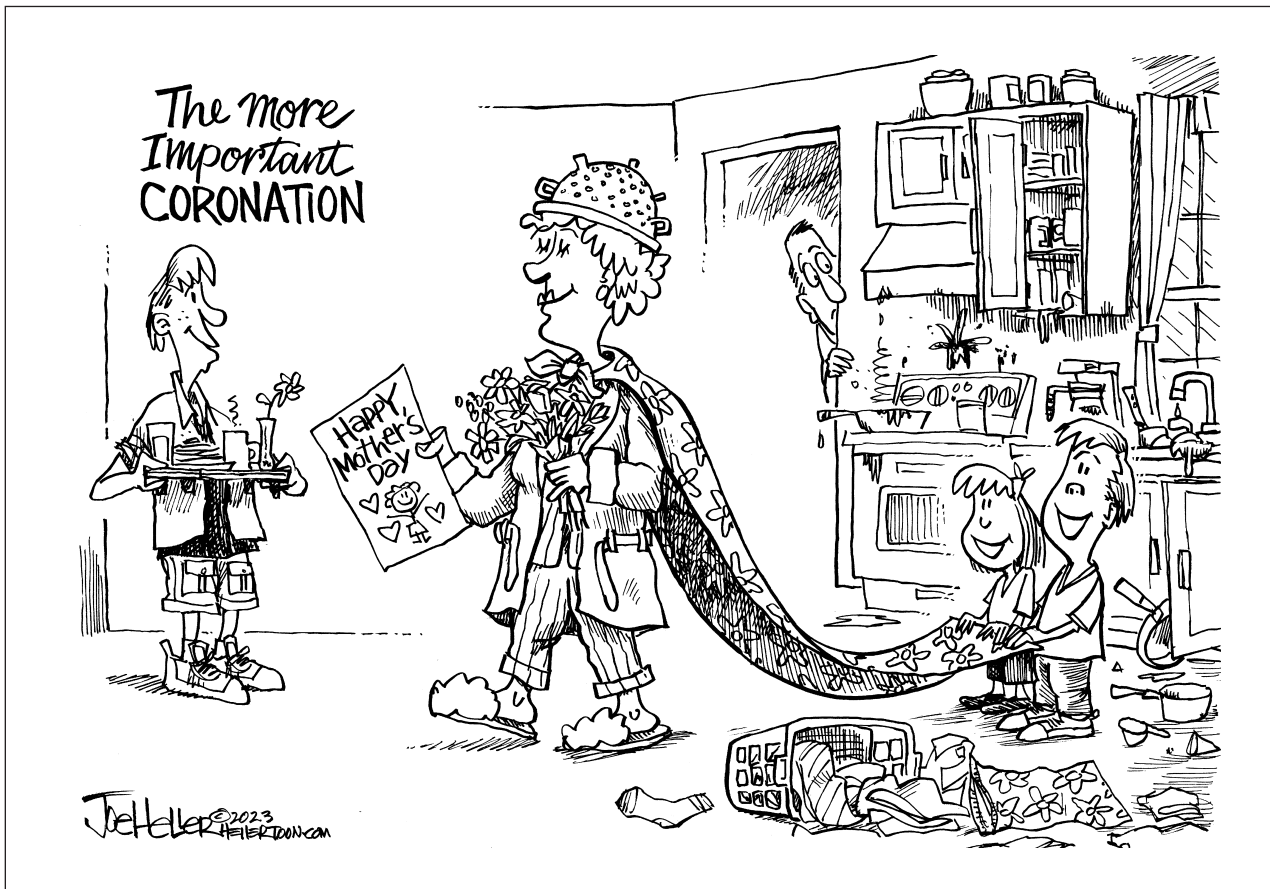
1960—Israeli agents capture Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

1973—The espionage trial of Daniel Ellsberg and Anthony Russo in the "Pentagon Papers" case comes to an end as Judge William M. Byrne dismisses all charges, citing government misconduct.

1996—An Atlanta-bound ValuJet DC-9 catches fire shortly after takeoff from Miami and crashes into the Florida Everglades, killing all 110 people on board.

2010—Conservative leader David Cameron, at age 43, becomes Britain's youngest prime minister in almost 200 years after Gordon Brown steps down and ends 13 years of Labour government.

In Our Opinion



Some in the know see recession coming

A lot of the economic stats are very, very good. Record low unemployment. Unprecedented state budget surplus. Resilient consumer spending. Easing of pandemic-era shortages, inflation, housing speculation and high gasoline prices.

But credit tightening, some big bank failures and labor shortages are getting executives and government officials worried that a recession could be on the horizon.

So maybe it shouldn't be a surprise that a recent gathering of smart financial minds in Madison resulted in a consensus recession forecast. The Wisconsin Economic Forecast Luncheon was held in late April in Madison. It was organized by WisPolitics.com, WisBusiness.com and the Wisconsin Bankers Association.

At the event, national and Wisconsin experts agreed the U.S. economy is likely headed for a recession later this year as federal officials continue their efforts to tamp down inflation.

That could be bad timing for President Biden, who is

seeking reelection next year. And if a recession is deep, it could exacerbate the housing shortage and demand tougher budgeting at the state level.

Todd Mattina, head economist for the State of Wisconsin Investment Board, said he and other economists need to be "cautious" about forecasting recessions given the uncertainty involved. But he noted peak inflation rates—like last year's rate of around 9%—are usually followed by recessionary periods.

"You don't come off peak inflation rates like that historically without a recession at the end," he said. "Usually the playbook is central banks hike interest rates and then that leads to a slowdown and a recession...I suspect we'll see some kind of dynamic along those lines."

But he and other speakers expressed uncertainty about the likelihood of a "soft landing" vs. a "hard landing," where regulatory efforts to stave off inflation lead to a more severe economic downturn.

In a separate presentation from the other panelists, a

managing director and senior economist for Wells Fargo's Corporate and Investment Bank said a soft landing is possible—but not likely. Sarah House noted job growth has been strong in recent months

Capitol Report

By WisPolitics.com

but added that's expected to change, pointing to "some cracks under the surface."

"If you look at temporary hirings...we've seen that contract over the past year pretty sharply," the Charlotte-based economist said. "So that suggests that you're going to see slower growth in hiring overall. And we are starting to see layoffs tick up."

Forward Analytics economist Dale Knapp predicted a recession will occur in the second half of this year. While he doesn't expect a major downturn, he said it will "probably be a little bit more than mild."

By the first quarter of 2024,

he expects the national economy to begin recovering. But he added that outlook depends greatly on "how well the Fed handles this," highlighting the challenge of balancing efforts to reduce inflation with maintaining a healthy economy.

Meanwhile, Marquette University professor David Clark said a recession is slightly more likely than not to occur.

"I think that there's probably a 50-50 chance—maybe even a 51-49% chance, I don't want to get too bold here, that they'll classify the beginning of a recession sometime in the second half of the year," he said, though he noted the National Bureau of Economic Research "takes a long time to make up their mind" about declaring a recession.

He said inflation is "probably a tougher problem to deal with" than the Federal Reserve would hope, though he said officials are likely pleased with the progress they've made already after inflation recently fell slightly to around 5%. Still, that remains well above the target

See Worries p. 15

Viking band to step out in new wardrobe

45 Years Ago—1978

—The Valders High School music department recently received new band uniforms. The marching band uniforms feature a red coat with white trim and gold and white braid, black pants and a hat with a plume. New black concert attire was also purchased.

—Manitowoc County Sheriff George Wanish addressed the Concerned Citizens for Better Education group last week to address concerns about drug use in the Valders schools. About 100 adults and several students attended. The citizens group previously blamed the high school merit pass program for allowing students access to drugs. Wanish said the first line of defense against illicit drug use by youths is parental guidance at home.

—Customers of Callsen's Super Market in Valders could share in almost \$230,000 in cash prizes in the most recent

round of Gamerama, sponsored by Piggly Wiggly-affiliated stores. Chances of winning a prize increase with the number of visits recorded.

Looking Back

By Brian Thomsen

25 Years Ago—1998

—Joe Beine resigned as Valders Elementary School principal to take a similar job at Heyer Elementary School in Waukesha. He cited his wish to work in an urban area as he pursues his eventual goal to teach in a university, along with moving closer to family. The school board has posted the job opening with a salary range of \$53,000 to \$60,000 a year. Beine taught in the Waukesha School District before taking the job at

Valders in 1994, his first administrative position.

—The Whitelaw Village Board accepted a bid of \$154,000 from Keller Structures of Kaukauna to build a new village hall. The board has saved about \$60,000 toward the project cost and will borrow the difference. Construction is expected to start in June and be completed by late summer on a lot along Menasha Avenue.

—The Valders High School boys golf team has been on a winning streak, beating Brillion and Denmark in dual meets and then winning a quadrangular with Howards Grove, Wrightstown and Mishicot. The team carded 158 in both dual meets, a new season low score.

10 Years Ago—2013

—Area farmers are starting the growing season with frustration after a harsh winter that killed alfalfa and wheat stands, followed by a cold

and rainy spring that has delayed planting. The overwinter crops were killed in many areas when the weather warmed enough to thaw the ground and then froze hard soon afterward.

—The Valders High School girls softball team suffered an unusual loss last week, despite two pitchers combining to throw a no-hitter against Menasha St. Mary Central. Brittany Erickson and Nichole Linsmeier issued no hits but together were responsible for 18 walks, and the Vikings lost, 10-2. The game was called after five innings because of cold, wet and windy weather.

—Members of the Valders High School art club have painted customized murals in the school halls, including a South American rain forest scene created by Phoenix Kaufmann and Amanda Singer near the Spanish classroom.



204 N. Liberty St., P.O. Box 400
Valders, WI 54245 • Phone 920-775-4431

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Brian ThomsenPublisher
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