

HAPPY NEW YEAR! HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

These New Year babies were able to celebrate twice

By Scott Thoma
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Shortly after Darlene Hanson (now Darlene Sigurdson) of Minneota went into labor at the hospital in Marshall, another Minneota woman, Lucille Christianson, arrived and went into labor.

This was in the evening of Dec. 31, 1956. It became an unofficial race against time to see who Minneota's New Year's baby would be; Cliff and Darlene Hanson or Les and Lucille Christianson.

The Christianson's arrival was delayed when Les, a Minneota attorney, was stopped by a State Highway Patrol for speeding. Upon explaining why he was traveling fast, the highway patrol escorted the Christianson's to the hospital.



Mark Hanson



Jim Christianson



Alice Bot

"I'm sure dad loved being escorted," said Jim Christianson, his son. "After dad told the officer that his wife was having a baby, it was full throttle to the hospital."

Darlene was only in labor for four or five hours with her husband Cliff at her side before she delivered Mark, who was born weighing 8 pounds, 2 ounces at 12:24 a.m. on Jan. 1, 1957.

The Christianson's son, Jim, was born later that afternoon.

"Mark and Jim became friends and classmates in Minneota until we moved to Fergus Falls when the boys were in

eighth grade," said Darlene. "And Lucille and I were roommates in the hospital during our three-day stay there."

Unfortunately, Mark was killed in a motorcycle accident on May 2, 2020 at age 63.

"We were really sad that we lost him. Mark and I were friends in school and played sports together," said Jim Christianson, who lives in Marshall. "We were all sad when he moved to Fergus Falls because he was such a good athlete and we could have used him in Minneota."

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Cliff and Darlene Hanson (now Sigurdson) pose with their New Year's baby, Mark Hanson, in the Marshall Hospital on Jan. 1, 1957. Contributed photo.

COVID affects local schools, businesses top 2020 news story

By Scott Thoma
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Many of the top local news stories of 2020 centered around the COVID-19 pandemic. As we look forward to the end of a trying year, we all hope 2021 will be much more enjoyable and bring back some normalcy in our lives.

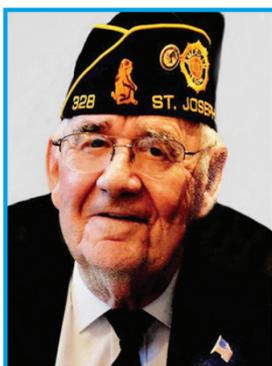
(1) COVID hits home

As COVID-19 spread and became a pandemic, the number of postponements/cancellations/shutdowns also spread across the nation.

The governor's order for the school closings was set to begin on Wednesday, March 18, but Minneota schools decided to shut down on Monday, March 16 instead to "be extra cautious", according to Superintendent Dan Deitte. A myriad of schools events were either postponed or cancelled, much to the dismay of the students and parents.



Les Josephson



Larry Tillemans

The Minneota Manor immediately sent out notice that the facility would be closed to visitors. Family members had to conduct "window" visits if they wanted to see their loved ones.

Stores throughout the state were having a difficult time keeping toilet paper, soap products, disinfectants, water and certain foods in stock as many people expected the

worst. Shelves at Brad's Market where some of these products sat were suddenly standing empty.

Local churches were limited to the number of people that could attend services, and some held virtual or outdoor services each week.

Minneota has long been regarded as one of the perennial high school sports power-

TOP 10 NEWS STORIES OF 2020

1. COVID-19 pandemic hits home
- 2-3. Two local icons pass away
4. Boxelder Bug Days cancelled
5. Graduation held outdoors
6. Pool reaches funding goal
7. Helping hands
8. SPMH regroup
9. Finnegan dies from COVID
10. Lighting contest lifts spirits

TOP 20 FEATURE STORIES OF 2020

1. Reliving history of last pandemic
2. A day he'll never forget
3. The house that Cass built
4. Hildegard comes home again
5. Learning is dog-gone fun
6. COVID around the world
7. Sculpting is his life
8. Friend of the feathered
9. Secret Snowmen
10. Haen becomes Eagle Scout

houses in the state, regardless of size. Cancelling, postponing and scaling back high school sports due to the governor's order amid the coronavirus pandemic may have affected Minneota more than the majority of other schools throughout the state.

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1918 pandemic hit Hettling family hard is top feature story

By Scott Thoma
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Even though 2020 was a tough year for nearly everyone, it also gave us a chance to look back into several historical events, as well as some uplifting current events that occurred.



Hildegard Kompelien

(1) Reliving History

As the world changed dramatically when the coronavirus turned into a pandemic, it gave people a chance to learn about the Spanish flu pandemic that reared its ugly head beginning in 1918.

For one area family, the Spanish flu hit especially hard. Charles A. Hettling lived on a farm three miles northeast of Ivanhoe with his wife, Effie, and their three children, Bernard, 6; Floyd, 4; and Della, 1 1/2.

Royal and Charlie Hettling, who own and operate the Vietnam Memorial and History Center in Minneota, are the grandsons of Charles A. and Effie. Their father was Floyd. Royal and Charlie also have three other siblings, Dan, Carol and Judy.

Effie contracted the influenza and died on Nov. 14, 1918 at age 31, along with her unborn child. At Effie's parents' request, Charles took Effie's body via a train to Humboldt, IA to be buried. When Charles returned to the farm after his wife's burial, he learned that Bernard had also died from the

influenza on Nov. 19. Bernard, who was born in Minneota, was one month shy of his seventh birthday.

Charles took the train again, along with Bernard's body, and returned to Humboldt for burial next to Effie's grave.

(2) A Day He'll Never Forget

Minneota insurance agent Ken DeBaere opened up about a tragic event that occurred in his life on Nov. 5, 2000. Telling the story to the Mascot, DeBaere broke down as he told of losing his best friend in a drowning accident.

DeBaere, Shawn Doyle, Scott VanOverbeke and Jeff Arendt set out around 5 a.m. on a dark and chilly morning to go duck hunting on Wood Lake five miles west of Lynd and six miles northwest of Russell.

Waves, kicked up by high winds, came over the boat. Unbeknownst to them because of the darkness of the hour and most of their equipment weighing down the back

Features Continued on Page 8



Sean Dilley (left) and Kim Bloch (right) posed for the Class of 2020's outdoor graduation ceremony. File photo by Brian Jeremison.



Bette Johnson sits on the front porch of her historic home with her cats on the southwest corner of Jackson and Second Streets in Minneota. File photo by Scott Thoma.

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News Continued from Page 1

After the girls basketball state tournament was cancelled prior to the semifinals, the boys basketball season was also cancelled. Wrestling had wrapped up its season the week prior to the girls' tournament.

In the spring, the virus did not dissipate enough for youth sports to begin. Spring sports, which have the shortest season of all, were all cancelled. Nolan Boerboom, a senior, was denied a chance to qualify for his fourth straight state golf meet.

As fall rolled around, the sports season began late and regular season games initially were reduced to conference games and matches only, and no state tournaments were held.

Winter sports for the 2020-21 season are currently getting a much later start to the season with practices not expected to start until January. Questions remain as to whether the state tournaments will be cancelled again.

The Minneota speech team, which had developed into an experienced and powerful group, also saw its season end abruptly in mid-March after they had been winning nearly every meet they were entered in to that point.

(2 & 3) Two local icons pass

Two of Minneota's most iconic people passed away within four days of each other with their obituaries appearing in the same issue of the Mascot. Lawrence "Larry" Tillemans died on Dec. 28, 2019 and Lester "Les" Josephson died on Jan. 1, 2020.

Tillemans and Josephson were each voted by local residents in a Mascot survey to be included in the "Minneota Mount Rushmore" in which the four most impactful people in the community's history would be carved on a hypothetical mountain.

Tillemans was only 19 years old when he was a typist clerk in the U.S. Army and sat in on the historic Nuremberg War Trials that eventually declared many Nazi leaders to be executed for war crimes in 1945. In a lengthy interview with the Mascot, Tillemans reflected on what it was like to be front and center in one of the world's most historic events.

"I spent hundreds of hours taking notes and later typed statements of the captured Nazi leaders through their attorneys," he said.

Eventually, Tillemans would speak to hundreds of groups, schools and other places to educate them on the horrific events before, during and after the war. A PBS documentary entitled "The Typist" focused on Larry's life and won an Emmy Award.

Josephson remains the only Minneota native to play sports professionally. As a standout eight-man football

player for Minneota, Josephson went on to play four years as a running back for Augustana College in Sioux Falls. It was the first time he had ever played 11-man football, but quickly adjusted enough that he drew the interest of the Minnesota Vikings and Dallas Cowboys, the latter who signed him as a free agent.

But due to injuries, the Cowboys were in desperate need of an offensive lineman and traded Josephson to the Los Angeles Rams, where he became a Pro Bowl selection in 1967 after rushing for 800 yards and four touchdowns, and catching 37 passes for 400 yards and four TDs when teams played 14-game schedules.



Brooke Moorse

(4) Boxelder Bug Days cancelled

For the first time ever, Boxelder Bug Days in Minneota cancelled all activities with the exception of the queen coronation and 5k Virtual Run.

The queen coronation was held outdoors on Sept. 12 with Brooke Moorse being crowned queen. Ellen Meagher was selected as First Princess, and Ava Larson and Morgan Wersal were Second Princesses.

The Boxelder Bug Days committee initially began scaling back several of the annual activities such as the Johnny Tillemans Chili Cook-off and the Smokin' BBQ contest. They also eliminated "hands-on" activities such as the bouncy houses/

But as the coronavirus spiked later in the summer, the committee decided to cancel the town's annual event.

"We just didn't feel it was worth the risk," said Bug Days Chairman Scott Josephson. "If we caused a spike in the number of cases, it would affect school here and also other schools in the county."

Belgian-American Days in Ghent and Harvest Fest in Porter scaled way back and only held a handful of events

this year.

(5) Graduation held outdoors

The 2020 Minneota graduating class was the first in school's history to hold its commencement exercises outdoors on Friday, June 26.

Following an unusual school year in which students distance learned due to the coronavirus pandemic and held graduation outdoors much later than previously scheduled. The majority of the seniors said "It was worth the wait" as the emerald green grass at K.P. Kompelien Field and the sun-splashed sky made for a beautiful setting.

"It's a perfect night," said Superintendent Dan Dettie that day. "I'm glad we were able to do this for the kids. It's a great class and they deserve it."

Each of the graduating seniors (two were missing due to a previous commitment) were allowed to invite four guests in order to limit the number of people attending in order to maintain social distancing.

"Can you believe we made it here today?" said Valedictorian Natalie Bot. "And not even by Zoom call either."

Following the commencement exercises, the seniors were paraded through town to allow the citizens to acknowledge and congratulate them as they passed by their homes.

(6) Pool reaches funding goal

In what many thought was an out of reach goal to raise enough money to keep the community pool open has come to fruition.

Southwest Health and Human Services, which inspects the pool each spring, had ordered the baby and toddler pool, as well as the main lap pool to be resurfaced by 2020 for safety reasons or the State Licensing Board would not issue it an operating license and the pool would be forced to shut down.

The City of Minneota paid for the completed resurfacing of the baby and toddler pool, leaving over \$275,000 still needing to be raised for the main pool. Because the baby and toddler pool's resurfacing were completed, the main pool resurfacing was granted an additional year to complete.

The resurfacing project was again put up for bid and a new company, Go Get FRED, Inc. came forward with a bid of only \$120,000 to do the work. Through fundraisers and donations, the pool had collected \$81,000 and the City of Minneota agreed to foot the bill for the remaining portion.

(7) Helping hands

With the coronavirus forcing the cancellation of many traditional holiday gatherings and also causing people to be out of work, several local

groups lent a helping hand.

Bethel Fellowship Church handed out free meals several times. The National Honor Society students volunteered their time to pass pack and distribute food at the school and Hope Lutheran Church. The Hope Lutheran Endowment was utilized for food.

The Christmas Angels program, coordinated by Amber Rodas, had its most successful year ever in amassing gifts, food and cash to help needy local families during a tough year for many.

Many local ladies took time and used their own money to make and give away masks for people to wear once the coronavirus health guidelines were introduced. Some of the ladies donated homemade masks to Gislason Hardware to sell with the money going toward the required swimming pool surface repairs.

There were also others who donated time, money and gifts to help others who wished to remain anonymous.

The First Responders and the Minneota Fire Department also drove Santa Claus around town at different times in order for the children to get a chance to wave and say hello since they were unable to sit on his lap and reveal what they wanted for Christmas due to the pandemic.

It takes a village.

(8) SPMH regroup

With the former Big Store being on the National Register of Historic Places and the top floor housing the iconic Opera Hall, the Society for the Preservation of Minneota Heritage (SPMH) reformed and began fundraising to repair and renovate the Big Store building that now houses the public library.

One of the first orders of business was to paint the Opera Hall, organize and document collections, tuck point the brick and mortar, and much more.

The SPMH was first organized in 1978. But Daren Gislason was the only surviving member of the original board of directors and had been doing his best to keep things in order over the years. Gislason is now the historian consultant of the newly-formed SPMH. Wendy Sarazyn is the president, Gary Buysse the vice president, and Sandy Josephson the secretary-treasurer.

"I became interested in Minneota's historical society because I love old buildings," Sarazyn said. "And the Society for the Preservation of Minneota's Heritage had the vision to save the Big Store and make plans to repurpose the building for a variety of possible community uses."

The SPMH has been meeting monthly and has been fundraising in order to get enough financial support to complete some of the much-needed

repairs in order to preserve local history.

(9) Finnegan dies from COVID

Former longtime grocery store owner Ed Finnegan Jr. died following complications from COVID-19. He was 76.

Finnegan, who was living in Gary, SD at the time of his death, owned and operated Finnegan's Super Valu in Minneota for many years before selling it to Brad Minnehan, who currently operates Brad's Market on the corner of N. Jefferson and 2nd Streets.

Minnehan worked for Finnegan in the store from his freshman through his senior year of high school.

Finnegan followed in the footsteps of his father, Ed Finnegan Sr., and his grandfather, John Finnegan; both who owned and operated a butcher shop and/or grocery store in Minneota.

"I will always remember Ed for his kindness and thoughtfulness," said Judy Hagen. "He gave great discounts on grocery items purchased for church dinners, benefits and fundraisers. Many people and organizations benefited from his generosity."

(10) Lighting contest lifts spirits

Because so many holiday events had to be cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic this year, the Mascot decided to hold a "Battle of the Bulbs" Christmas Lighting Contest.

Having no idea whether or not it would be successful, there ended up being 29 participants in Minneota, Ghent and Taunton.

Austin and Shannon Dritz of rural Taunton earned the highest score from the six judges and won well over \$500 in gifts. Gus and Mayra Molina of Minneota finished in second place and won over \$250 in gifts, while Tom and Kim Abraham of rural Minneota were the third-place winners of over \$100 in gifts.

Because so many local businesses in Minneota, Taunton, Ghent and Marshall donated prizes for the contest, the winning amounts ended up being much higher than promoted and two additional prizes were given. Peanuts and Ali Kloos of Minneota came in fourth place and won \$75 in gift cards, while Lynn and Barb Okrina of Minneota were voted fifth place and were given \$55 in gift cards.



First Place-Austin & Shannon Dritz

New Years Continued from Page 1

When Mark's daughter, Danielle Ballweg, was pregnant with her and her husband Lonnie's fourth child in 2013, she insisted on naming it after her father, whether it was boy or a girl. They had a girl, narrowly missing on also being a New Year's baby, Scarlett Mark Ballweg was born on Jan. 8, 2014. She weighed 8 pounds, 2 ounces.

"When we put her in my dad's arms and introduced him to his latest granddaughter, Scarlett Mark, he was pretty speechless," Danielle said.

"I'm sure it meant a lot to him. He was there for the birth of all four of my children."

Darlene recalls the local media having a story celebrating the New Year's baby.

"We got a lot of gifts for having the New Year's baby," said Darlene. "I know we got a savings account from the bank and a lot of other things, but I just don't remember everything we got."

Christianson still jokes about coming in second to Hanson to become the 1957 New Year's baby.

"It was a big deal back then. Mark came in first and got all those gifts and I came in second and

got nothing. I'm still mad about it," he laughed.

Bot turns 90

Alice Bot of Minneota was a New Year's baby in 1931. The daughter of Laurence and Jen Schmit was born around 8 p.m. on Jan. 1.

"They didn't give my parents anything for having the New Year's baby," she said. "That was back in the 'Dirty Thirties' when no one had any money."

Bot was born in Pringhar, Iowa and eventually moved to Minneota in 1944. She married the late Barney Bot in 1957.

Lyon County Historical Society Museum receives \$5,300 grant

The Minnesota Historical Society is pleased to announce the newest recipients of 42 Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Small Grants (\$10,000 and less), totaling \$361,234 in 29 counties.

Small grants are awarded quarterly to help nonprofits, educational organizations, government units and federally recognized tribes to preserve and share Minnesota history. This cycle of awards was approved by the MNHS Executive Council on Dec. 10, 2020.

This state-funded program is made possible by the Legacy Amendment's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the vote of Minnesotans on Nov. 4, 2008. The Legacy Amendment supports efforts to preserve Minnesota land, water and legacy, including Minnesota history and cultural heritage.

Lyon County Historical Society located in Marshall received a grant of \$5,300 to hire a qualified museum consultant to conduct a general preservation needs assessment survey and long range collections preservation plan.

The purpose of this project is to conduct a general survey of the Lyon County Museum's collections, assess the repository's interior environment, assess all policies and procedures related to the care and use of collections, and produce a long-range preservation plan.

This plan will incorporate both conservation and curatorial perspectives in establishing prioritized short-, medium- and long-term goals for the preservation of the collections. The plan will also identify specific activities and actions to address the recommendations.

Library Winter Reading Program begins Jan. 1

The Minneota Public Library will again participate in the Plum Creek Library System's Winter Reading Program. The annual program will begin on Jan. 1 and run through March 31, 2021.

The program, open to ages 16 and above, is held every year during the winter months, and rewards readers for doing what they love to do: read.

Participation is easy: Sign up at the Minneota Public Library. Librarians will give you a punch card or reading log to record the number of books read. Then get set to read at least 12 books during the three-month long program. Readers are encouraged to read as many titles as they choose, however in order for a punch card or reading log to be counted, a minimum of 12

books read is required. Titles may be found in any format, including audio books and e-books.

The library offers patrons a prize for completing the Winter Reading Program challenge and various incentives are available.

Make plans to stop at the Minneota Public Library today to register for the Winter Reading Program and to participate in the Winter Reading Program in January.

The Minneota Public Library is located at 200 N. Jefferson Street. Hours are: Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
 This week's birthdays & anniversaries:
Friday, January 1
 Alice Bot
 Share a name on our birthday and anniversary announcement (and website ad) for only \$2! Must be prepaid before published!
 Stop by the Mascot or call us at 507-872-6492.

HAPPY NEW YEAR
 Come celebrate with an Outdoor New Year's party at City Hall Bar & Grill!
 From 5-9 p.m. with fire pit available.
 Brats and chips sold for \$5.
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 This event is a fundraiser for staff members, with 15 percent of all sales going to serving and kitchen staff.
Take out available!
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Pet OF THE WEEK
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- TOP 10 SPORTS/ACTIVITIES STORIES -

Sports / activities had trying season

- 1. Girls basketball state tourney halted
- 2. Football teams wins section
- 3. Gillund qualifies for Boston Marathon
- 4. Five wrestlers to state
- 5-9. Individual milestones
- 10. Rolbiecki shoots 30

By Scott Thoma
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Sports and activities, which has been a mainstay in Minnesota for many years, underwent an unusual year due to the pandemic. All of them had a scaled-back season or no season at all.

(1) Girls basketball state tourney halted

The Minnesota girls basketball team was seemingly headed to a Class A state title after routing Red Lake 57-37 in the quarterfinals on March 13 at Williams Arena.

As the Vikings prepared to take the floor for a noon semifinal game against Waterville-Elysian-Morris-town on Saturday, March 14, state tournament officials gave the team the bad news; because of the rise in the number of COVID-19 cases the remainder of the tournament would be cancelled.

Players and coaches were devastated at the top-ranked Vikings were favored to win the state championship.

Minnesota finished the season with an impressive 31-1 record under coach Chad Johnston.

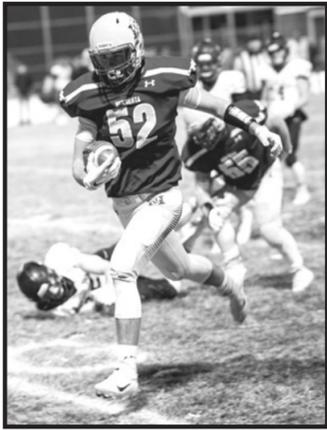
Abby Hennen was named the team's Most Valuable Player, as well as being All-State and the Camden South Conference Most Valuable Player. Morgan Hennen was All-Conference and All-State. Natalee Rolbiecki was also selected to the All-Conference team.

(2) Football team wins section

Despite having the regular season delayed and cut by two games, the Minnesota Vikings won all six conference games and then prevailed in the first Section 5A game.

Prior to the semifinal game, the Minnesota State High School League allowed only one more game to be

played due to the governor's recent order. So instead of playing the semi-final game, the section representatives decided that the only fair thing would be to let the top two seeds, No. 1 Min-



Jacob Citterman returns a second quarter blocked punt against Dawson-Boyd. That return set up a Vikings' touchdown. Mascot photo by Brian Jeremiason.

nesota and No. 2 BOLD, play for the championship. The other two semifinal teams played for third place with Lac qui Parle Valley topping Canby 27-12.

Minnesota beat BOLD 14-7 to win the Section 5A game on Friday, Nov. 20 in Minnesota.

In the season wrap-up, Minnesota's Beau Banish was named the conference's Most Valuable Lineman, while AJ Myhre was the Most Valuable Defensive Back and kicker Peyton Gillund was the conference's Most Valuable Special Teams player. Also earning All-Conference honors were Jacob Hennen, Jacob Citterman, Joey Rybinski and AJ Josephson.

(3) Five wrestlers to state

Five Minnesota wrestlers qualified for the state tournament after an impressive showing in the Section 3A meet in Canby.

Blake Reiss, a senior, won four of six matches and finished fourth in the state at 145 pounds at the Xcel Energy

Center in Minneapolis. He finished the season with a 39-10 record. He was also named an All-State Representative.

The other Minnesota state qualifiers were: Eric Carrasco at 113 pounds, Zack Fier at 126, Kade Lozinski at 132 and Jonah Gruenes at 138.

Fier, a freshman, and Lozinski, a sophomore, finished 2-2 at state. Fier finished the season 29-14 and Lozinski went 31-12. Gruenes, a sophomore, was 1-2 at state and finished the season 38-10.

Carrasco, a junior, lost his only match at state and finished 37-5.

(4-8) Individual milestones

(Boerboom scores 1,000th point)

Senior wing Nolan Boerboom recorded the 1,000th point of his career on a free throw and Minnesota defeated Adrian 65-62 in a boys basketball games on Feb. 10.

Entering the game on Parents' Night, Boerboom needed five points to reach the milestone. That point came late in the first half when his free throw spun around the rim twice before descending through the cords. He finished with 14 points and six assists to become the second Viking on this year's team with over 1,000 career points, following senior post Logan Sussner who reached the mark last season.

(Rolbiecki gets 1,000th kill)

Junior hitter Natalee Rolbiecki recorded the 1,000th kill of her career in the Vikings' three-set sweep of Russell-Tyler-Ruthton on Nov. 5 in Tyler.



Natalee Rolbiecki

Rolbiecki finished that match with 15 kills and 17 digs.

She was later honored for her accomplishment during the Vikings' Parents' Night match against Canby on Nov. 13 in Minnesota.

Rolbiecki joined teammate Abby Hennen, who recorded her 1,000th kill the previous season.

(Sussner notches 1,000th rebound)

Senior post player Logan Sussner had over 20 rebounds in a game four time during the season and eventually pulled down the 1,000th rebound of his career in a 66-57 loss to Central Minnesota Christian on Jan. 6.

Sussner finished that game with 13 rebounds and 14 points. He scored his 1,000 career point as a junior.

Sussner was selected the Most Valuable Player in the Camden South Conference. Nolan Boerboom and Jacob Citterman were also named all-conference.

(Yost gets 1,000th assist)

McKenna Yost, a junior, notched the 1,000th set assist of her career in Minnesota's 25-15, 23-25, 25-19, 25-18 victory over Willmar on Thursday, Nov. 19 in Minnesota.

Yost finished the match with 30 assists and 14 digs.

The Vikings finished the shortened season with a 13-1 record.

(Carrasco, Reiss win 100th)

Eric Carrasco, a junior, and Blake Reiss, a senior, each reached the 100-win mark for their careers in a home triangular on Jan. 28.

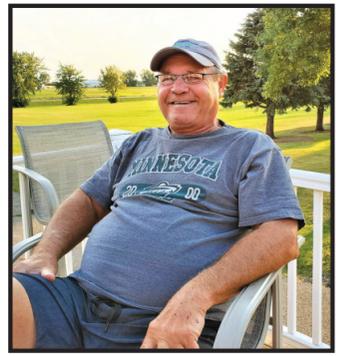
Carrasco secured his 100th career win with a 16-0 technical fall over Tyler Schickedanz of Dawson-Boyd/Lac qui Parle Valley/Montevideo United in his 120-pound match.

Reiss, wrestling at 152 pounds, pinned Avery Wittnebel of Dawson-Boyd/LQPV/Montevideo United in 4:30.

The Vikings beat DB/LQPV/Montevideo United 62-9, but fell to Worthington 32-30 in its other match.

(9) Rolbiecki's round of 30

Jim Rolbiecki shattered the Countryside Golf Club senior course record when he shot a 30 on Sunday, Sept. 6.



Jim Rolbiecki

Rolbiecki, a former longtime teacher and coach who was inducted into the Minnesota Athletic Hall of Fame in 2015, sank four birdies and an eagle in his bogey-free round while golfing with his wife, Becky.

He needed only 10 putts over the nine holes, with his longest putt needing to be only eight or nine feet. His previous low score was a "31 or 32".

His eagle came on the par-4 No. 8 hole. His tee shot took a big bounce and the ball landed pin high, settling only eight feet from the cup.

"That's the first time I've ever driven the green on that hole," said Rolbiecki, who sank the putt for an eagle-2.

(10) Robotics team wins region

The Minnesota Robotics team, competing in a three-team alliance, won the FIRST Robotics Northern Lights Regional title at the Duluth Convention Center on March 7-8.

This was the first time Minnesota made it to the best-of-three championship round in the nine years it has competed in the event. The previous year was the first time Minnesota had qualified for the playoffs.

St. Paul finished as the top seed and earned the right to select two other teams to join them for the three-team alliance. St. Paul selected Minnesota and New Brighton.

By winning the region title, Minnesota's team qualified for the National Robotics competition in late April in Detroit. But the Vikings never got the chance as the nationals were cancelled due to the pandemic.

Debbie Streier named Avera Marshall Regional President and CEO



Debbie Streier

Debbie Streier has been named the new Regional President and CEO for Avera Marshall Regional Medical

Center.

Streier is currently serving as the Vice President of Operations at Avera St. Luke's Hospital in Aberdeen, and she will begin her new role on Feb. 1, 2021. As Regional President and CEO, she will have leadership responsibilities over Avera Marshall Regional Medical Center in Marshall, Minn., as well as Avera Tyler in Tyler, Minn. and Avera Granite Falls Health Center in Granite Falls, Minn.

Streier was named to the post after a national search. She succeeds Mary Maertens who stepped down from her role with the organization in September.

Curt Hohman and Mark Vorthems have been providing interim leadership since September and will continue serving in that capacity until Streier begins on Feb. 1.

"Debbie's qualifications and experience make her the right choice for this role," said Bob Sutton, Avera Health President and CEO. "She has a natural ability to build collaborative relationships, integrate mission into our strategies and build effective teams. The Marshall region is a vibrant part of Avera and an important area of growth for our system. I am confident in Debbie's ability to lead this region and carry forth Avera's mission of ensuring access to quality health care for area residents."

"We had several strong candidates apply for the position – both from inside and outside of Avera," said Avera Marshall Board Chair Doug Olsem. "What sets Debbie apart is her passion as a servant leader. She has the proven ability to bring people together to achieve common goals. I believe

she is the right person to lead us into the future – ensuring an environment that enables patients to receive great care, physicians to practice high quality medicine, and employees to love where they work."

With more than 25 years of experience in the health care field, Streier is currently serving in operations at Avera St. Luke's, a role she has held since 2014. She joined Avera in 2008 as a clinic manager and has significant leadership experience in clinic and hospital settings. Streier has been instrumental in growing both the medical group and service offerings in the Avera St. Luke's region, as well as helping to lead an engaged and empowered workforce.

She holds a bachelor's degree in accountancy from the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks and a

master's degree in health care administration from Capella University in Minneapolis, Minn.

"I'm honored to take on this new role with Avera," Streier said. "I have a passion for the work we do and the role we play in our communities across the footprint. I look forward to joining the team in the Marshall region and becoming part of the community. I'm excited to work with employees, physicians, advanced practice professionals and leaders in carrying out our mission in service to the region."

Streier and her husband, Steve, plan to relocate to Marshall. They have two children, Megan a sophomore at the University of South Dakota, and Zach who graduated from South Dakota State University and is exploring graduate school.

Swedzinski: more help needed for business Dahms appointed to committees



Rep. Chris Swedzinski

The Legislature recently approved a \$216 million business relief package designed to help small businesses and workers impacted by Gov. Tim Walz's restrictions.

State Rep. Chris Swedzinski (R-Ghent) said the relief package will help, but the best remedy would be allowing Minnesota businesses to do more to safely re-open.

"Relief is not going to be a silver bullet that makes everyone whole, but it is a first step while I would like to see more being

done," Swedzinski said. "We absolutely have to get these businesses back on their feet in a real way.

"The arbitrary rules by Gov. Walz, keeping businesses closed, is destroying our rural economy. We need to change the way we view this. We need to change the opportunities that are around. If we are going to keep businesses closed, we need to pay them to be closed and not simply do this on the backs of these small-business owners."

The business relief package includes direct grants to businesses, license and other fee relief, and a 13-week extension of unemployment insurance for workers.

The grants are broken into three categories aimed at prioritizing speed. The first category will be \$88 million in grants administered automatically by the Department of Revenue to restaurants, bars, gyms, bowling alleys, and other businesses who have seen losses of more than 30 percent compared with last year.

The second category is approximately \$14 million administered by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development for movie theaters and large convention centers, and the third pot is \$112 million in grants that will be administered at the county level.

The county-based grants are intended to help additional businesses impacted by the recent closures that do not qualify

for the first two grant categories, however businesses which receive grants from the DOR are not precluded from receiving county-based grants.

Swedzinski indicated preliminary grant estimates for counties in District 16A were \$256,000 for Lac qui Parle, \$506,000 for Lyon, \$300,000 for Redwood and \$256,000 for Yellow Medicine.

The governor enacted the relief package on Wednesday.

In other news: Rep. Swedzinski issued the following statement regarding the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's decision to proceed with the California Cars Standard through the administrative rulemaking process, which likely will raise the price of vehicles for Minnesotans by up to \$2,500. The MPCA put the rulemaking process on hold earlier this year, citing the COVID-19 pandemic. Swedzinski is the Republican lead on the House Energy and Climate Finance Division.

"This is just another example of metro-centric liberals pushing their ideas on the rest of Minnesota," Swedzinski said. "The idea that this could not pass the Legislature should be evidence enough that this is a bad idea. California does not need to be in control of our energy policy. California has made bad decision after bad decision to pander to special interests. Minnesota is not being served well by the MPCA and Gov. Walz."

Dahms appointed to committees

This week State Senator Gary Dahms (R-Redwood Falls) received his committee assignments for the 2021 legislative session.

Dahms will continue to chair the Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection Finance and Policy Committee. He is also vice-chair of the Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee and was appointed to the committees of Capital Investment (Bonding) and Housing.

"I am pleased with my assignments and am particularly honored to continue serving as chairman of the Commerce and Consumer Protection Finance and Policy Committee," said Dahms. "Agriculture, affordable housing, and commerce are very important to our district. I will use my membership on these committees to strengthen Minnesota's agriculture industry, support rural Minnesotans, and grow Minnesota's economy."

The state budget forecast released earlier this month projected a \$1.3 billion deficit for the 2022 – 2023 biennium. Balancing the state's budget for the next two-year budget calendar is expected to be the primary focus of the upcoming legislative session set to begin on Jan. 5.

"To keep our state on a path toward fiscal recovery, we must continue to focus on policies that will encourage entrepreneurs, give confidence to existing businesses, and attract new companies into the state," Dahms continued. "My colleagues and I are prepared to look for efficiencies in the state's budget to live within our means and not balance the state budget on the backs of hardworking Minnesota families and businesses."

Senator Dahms was re-elected to his fourth term in November. He welcomes comments and questions and can be reached by telephone at (651) 296-8138, by mail at 2111 Minnesota Senate Building, St. Paul, MN 55155, or by e-mail at sen.gary.dahms@senate.mn. He also encourages constituents to sign up for his weekly Session email updates via his email address.

Lyon County Throwback



Lyon County 150th Anniversary

The 1920 Taunton town baseball team. Player identifications not available. . Photo Courtesy of the Lyon County Museum.

From the Mascot Files

100, 75, 50 and 25 Years Ago

100 Years Ago (Jan. 4, 1921)

Belgian farmer, local girl exchange vows

Edmund Vanderostyne and Emma Watermulen exchange wedding vows last week at St. Edward's Church in Minneota. The nuptial mass was celebrated by Father W.J. Stewart. Bernard Vanderostyne, the brother of the groom, was the best man. Eliza DeCock, a cousin to the bride, was maid of honor. Van-derostyne recently came here from Bruges, Belgium and now manages the Salmon Brothers farm.

Young woman dies of heart ailment

Emma Augusta (Berg) Hanson, the wife of Marvin Hanson and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P.M. Berg of Minneota died at age 23 from what was determined to be valvular leakage of the heart. Emma had been ill all summer and was sent to various doctors to seek relief from her ailment. She was survived by her husband and an infant daughter.

75 Years Ago (Jan. 4, 1946)

Record number of hogs go to market

The largest number of hogs ever brought into Minneota by farmers in this territory were handled at the stockyards here Wednesday when pork producers in the surrounding area markets 1,151 porkers. W.P. Tillemans and his sons paid out \$46,187.85 for the hogs, which weighed a total of 327,005

pounds. It was by far the largest single day's business in more than 50 years that Mr. Tillemans has been buying hogs here.

4 firms donate to community building

With \$2,000 donated by four local businesses toward the erection of a community building here, members of Minneota's American Legion Post building committee were making plans this week to continue soliciting additional funds in this village next week. Minneota firms which donated \$500 each to the building fund were the Farmers and Merchants State Bank, Geiwitz and Company, O.G. Anderson and Company, and V.V. Gislason.

Jaschke purchases local grocery store

John J. Jascke, who recently returned to his home here after serving in the U.S. Navy for three years, became the owner of Dahlmann's Grocery this week. The deal was completed on Wednesday morning when he took possession of the business. Sale of the grocery by Christine Dahlmann leaves Minneota without a Dahlmann in business for the first time since her father started a confectionary and cafe about 60 years ago.

Man applies for open justice spot

Minneota, which has been without a Justice of the Peace for some after no one ran for the position in the November election, recently had an applicant for the position. Samuel S. Dropsite of Arizona wrote to the City Council that he would take the job if

approved.

50 Years Ago (Dec. 31, 1970)

Robin spends winter time in Minneota

A robin that didn't feel the need to fly south for the winter has been spending the winter at the home of Dr. J.M. Schulte in Minneota. The bird has been living on red berries from a flowering crab and spending nights in an evergreen tree on the Schulte property. He occasionally flies around the neighborhood, but always returns to the tree.

Amundson retiring from bank post

Edward M. Amundson, who came to the First State Bank in Minneota bank from the Bank of Ivanhoe in 1928 and has risen from the position of teller to that of vice president and member of the board of directors, announced that he will retire as of Jan. 1, 1971. The public is invited to a farewell coffee party that will be held today during regular banking hours.

Nine locals attend NFO Convention

Nine people from the area were among 12,500 delegates to attend the National Farmers Organization (NFO) Convention held in Louisville, Kentucky, recently. The nine were: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Arndt of Echo, Mr. and Mrs. John Grengs of Taunton, Bernard Sturm of Minneota, John Kerkvliet of Cottonwood, Milton Jacobson of Clarkfield, Edward Caron of Ghent, and Daniel Gregoire of Marshall.

25 Years Ago (Jan. 3, 1996)

Ghent to host U of M Swine Day

The University of Minnesota Extension Service and Lyon County Pork Producers will sponsor their annual Swine Day program on Jan. 10 at the St. Eloi Elementary School in Ghent. Topics to be discussed will be networking strategies in swine production, grower contracts with producers, and principles of odor reduction.

Wrestlers fifth in St. James tourney

Minneota won one of three matches in a strong St. James wrestling tournament this past weekend and finished in fifth place. The Vikings lost to Canby 27-22 and to Scott West 47-10. They defeated St. Cloud Tech 33-21. Waylon Leo at 103 pounds was the lone Minneota wrestler to win all three of his matches. Kris Fier, Mark Myrvik, Josh Sanow, Scott Fier and Kurt Gil-lund all went 2-1.

Jaycees will pick up holiday trees

The Minneota Jaycees will do the community a real service when they pick up Christmas trees on Saturday. Residents are asked to place their tree near the curb by noon. The Jaycees will also accept donations of non-perishable food items to be given to the Community Food Shelf. The food items can be placed near the tree and the Jaycees will deliver the items for you.

Outside Looking In



By Scott Thoma

Goodbye, Knucksie

When I was a columnist and sports editor at a daily paper for many years, one of the perks was being able to attend professional sporting events and meeting players before and after games in the locker room and on the field.

I had the opportunity to meet many players, some polite and willing to talk, and some who wouldn't give you the time of day. The majority, unfortunately, were in the latter category.

Reggie Jackson was the least favorite professional athlete that I ever met. He was aloof, smarted reporters off, and would not sign autographs for kids at a time when most players did.

Guys like Kent Hrbek and Gary Gaetti of the Twins were among the most cordial and would always joke around with reporters.

But none of the professional athletes I came in contact treated me better than Phil Niekro, a Hall of Fame knuckleball pitcher who played for the Milwaukee/Atlanta Braves, New York Yankees and Cleveland Indians.

The first time I met Niekro was when the Indians came to the then-Metrodome for a game in 1986. As I came down the steps to enter the field during the team's batting practice prior to the game, Niekro stopped and said "hello" and asked my name and what paper I worked for. "You're from the enemy camp, huh?" he said jokingly.

When I told him I was a Los Angeles Dodgers fan, he slapped me on the back and said "That's even worse" as he pitched for many against the Dodgers while a member of the Braves.

Niekro, who was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1997, did this past Saturday at age 81 after a lengthy battle with cancer. He joins Lou Brock, Whitey Ford, Bob Gibson, Al Kaline, Joe Morgan and Tom Seaver as Hall of Famers who passed away in 2020. That is the most Hall of Famer to pass away in a calendar year.

Niekro was 48 years old when he last pitched for the Indians.

Before that game against the Twins, one young teammate joked to Niekro in the clubhouse: "Isn't it hard to pitch with one foot in the grave?" Everyone inside the clubhouse laughed out loud, including Niekro himself.

I interviewed Niekro in the clubhouse shortly after that outburst for a story I was working on.

"I over 20 years older than almost every pitcher on the team," he said. "They ask me where I park my walker when I'm pitching. After the game they will ask me if I want to go out with them for a bottle of Geritol. Things like that."

Niekro was usually very modest when talking about his accomplishment, but one thing he was most proud of had to do with his age.

"Only five American League pitchers won more games the last two years than I have," he said, referring to the back-to-back 16-win seasons he had with the Yankees in 1984 and 1985 before being released and signed with the Indians.

After his release from the Yankees, Niekro was on the mound pitching against them the following year. His mound opponent was Bob Tewksbury, the man who replaced Niekro.

"Some reporter had to point out that (Tewksbury) was only two years old when I broke into the majors," Niekro told me, laughing.

The Indians won the game 6-4, securing Niekro's 301st career win. Niekro pitched seven shutout innings, allowing only three hits, before the Indians' bullpen was touched for four runs.

He won 18 games in two seasons with the Indians and finished up pitching for the Toronto Blue Jays for three games and one final start with the Atlanta Braves in 1987.

Niekro won 318 games and struck out 3,342 batters in his 24-year career with a pitch that could barely break glass. He recorded 121 of those win after he turned 40 years old and pitched until he was 48 years old.

"Trying to hit Phil Niekro is like trying to eat Jell-O with chopsticks," former Yankees outfielder Bobby Murcer once said.

Despite all his success, he joked around with reporters and players from the other team instead of acting like a prima donna as many star athletes do today.

I asked Phil to show me where he gripped the knuckleball on the baseball, figuring I could use that as my changeup when pitching town team baseball in New London. I tried for years to throw the pitch that way, but could never get it to "dance" enough to use it in a game.

His brother, the late Joe Niekro, also a knuckleball pitcher, once pitched for the Minnesota Twins. The Niekro brothers combined for 539 wins in the majors, the most of any brother combination in Major League Baseball history.

Rest in peace, Knucksie. You were truly one of the good guys.



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Obituaries

James 'Jim' Regnier

Mass of Christian Burial for James "Jim" Regnier, 88, of Marshall, took place at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 30, 2020, at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Marshall.

A walk through visitation was held Tuesday from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. at the Horvath Remembrance Center in Marshall and Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. at the church.

Interment followed the service at Calvary Catholic Cemetery in Marshall.

James Gerald Regnier was born on October 12, 1932, to Philip and Evelyn (Wyffels) Regnier of Ghent. He attended Ghent Catholic School through eighth grade, afterwards he worked on the family farm.

On December 28, 1955, James was united in marriage to Edna Dunteman of Tracy. The couple lived south of Minneota where they raised hogs and farmed land. In addition to farming, Jim found enjoyment as a Kent Feeds Salesman for many years. Jim and Edna continued to live on the farm after retirement.

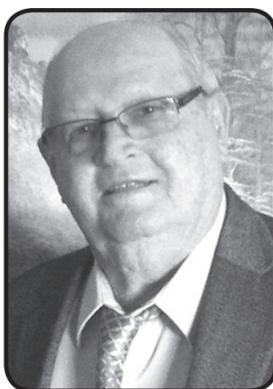
In May of 2019, they moved to Heritage Pointe Senior Living in Marshall. After Jim's retirement, he still enjoyed keeping a close eye on what his sons were doing each day on the farm. He did this by driving around on his side-by-side.

He also loved to drive this to go and visit with his neighbors. Driving his side-by-side gave him many hours of enjoyment, and even after moving to Heritage Pointe, he would occasionally come to the farm to ride it. He also loved watching Westerns on TV, and spending time with his family.

He loved having his grandchildren and great-grandchildren come to visit. Jim was a member of Holy Redeemer Catholic Church in Marshall.

Jim died on Sunday, December 20, 2020, at the Avera Morningside Heights Care Center in Marshall. He is survived by sons Phillip (and Renee) Regnier of Brooklyn Park, Warren (and Rita) Regnier of Marshall, Duane (and Theresa) Regnier of Lynd, Keith (and Lisa) Regnier of Lynd, and daughter Nadine (and Jim) Mayo of Crystal; 15 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife Edna (three weeks ago), brothers Elroy (and Mavis) Regnier, Norbert (and Mary) Regnier, Gerald Regnier and sisters Eileen (and Chuck) Culshaw and Delores (and Walter) DeCock.



James "Jim" Regnier



Ask the Chief

By Minneota
Police Chief Bill Bolt

Many folks to thank

Thank you to our Officers, Deputies, firemen, medical crews, tow drivers, and plow drivers who worked hard helping people during the blizzard.

Many collisions resulted in vehicles being towed and people going by ambulance to the hospital, several agencies came together and worked to do the best job possible under very dangerous conditions. There was a law enforcement vehicle, and a fire truck that was hit while trying to work an accident scene on Hwy 68, and thankfully no one was seriously injured.

The Minneota City Hall was opened to allow stranded drivers to have a safe place to wait out the storm. The Minneota Fire Department provided blankets and cots to give them some comfort during the long night.

Plow trucks started their work late last night and continue to keep the roads passable. We ask that everyone drives with extreme care and attention. The roads are still slippery and may have snow drifted back on them.

In Minneota, we strive to improve people's lives and this blizzard proves that we take that goal very seriously.

Swedzinski maintains post on Climate, Energy

State Rep. Chris Swedzinski (R-Ghent) has gained an appointment to continue serving as the lead Republican on the House's Climate and Energy Finance and Policy Committee when the 2021 legislative session begins Jan. 5.

Swedzinski, entering his sixth term in office, has served numerous terms on committees related to energy, evaluating policies of the state and assessing the impact on the future of the environment and the economy. It is his second consecutive stint as the top House Republican on energy.

"The state's energy policies significantly impact residents of Greater Minnesota and it is important for the people of District 16B to have a voice in those decisions," Swedzinski said. "I am pleased to be involved in those discussions because to make sure our interests are well-represented and that we are focusing on accessibility and affordability for all Minnesotans. I am grateful for this opportunity to continue making a difference on this subject, ensuring people from District 16A have a voice at the Capitol."

Lamke named new GM at Pioneer



Shari Lamke

The Pioneer PBA board of directors is excited to announce the agreement of employment with Sheree (Shari) Lamke as the regional public television station's new president and general manager. After an extensive national search involving dozens of applicants, the board chose Lamke who has more than 38 years of experience working at Twin Cities PBS.

Lamke will begin her new position on Monday, Jan. 4, 2021, nearly a year after former general manager Les Heen resigned from the position to become a government affairs specialist at the Libby Law Firm in St. Paul.

Lamke was raised in the Brainerd lakes area before starting her career at Twin Cities PBS, where she worked in both technical and creative leadership positions. Her focus and passion in building the partnerships that launched the MN Channel and in telling the under-told stories of communities is what attracted her to Pioneer PBS.

"I am truly honored to be chosen to join the great board and the incredibly talented staff at Pioneer PBS as the president and general manager," Lamke said. "I am excited to get started building upon the legacy of Pioneer PBS in sharing the stories of western and southwestern Minnesotans who I am thrilled to serve."

Police Blotter

The Minneota Police Department and First Responders received the following calls for service:

Monday, Dec. 14, 2020

- Permit to Purchase application.

Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2020

- Medical call in the 700 Block of N. Monroe Street.

Thursday, Dec. 17, 2020

- Online scam in Minneota.
- Animal Complaint in the 100 block of West 5th Street.

Friday, Dec. 18, 2020

- Assist other Agency in rural Minneota.

Saturday, Dec. 19, 2020

- 911 hang-up in the 300 block of North Adams Street.

Monday, Dec. 21, 2020

- Truancy in the 400 block of E. 3rd Street.

Tuesday, Dec. 22, 2020

- Assist Marshall Police Department with an attempt to locate.
- Welfare Check in the 500 block of N. Madison Street.
- Keys locked in a vehicle in the 100 block of E. Lyon Street.
- Fire Alarm in the 700 block of N. Monroe Street.

Wednesday, Dec. 23, 2020

- Assist the Lyon County Sheriff Department with Motor Vehicle Collision.
- Assist the Minnesota State Patrol with the closure of Highway 68.
- Assist five stranded motorists at Minneota City Hall.
- Welfare Check in the 500 block of E. Lyon Street.

Thursday, Dec. 24, 2020

- Permit to Purchase Application.

From the Mascot Kitchen

New Year's Meatballs

These meatballs are easy to make and make an excellent snack or appetizer to kick off the New Year.

INGREDIENTS

- 2 pounds ground beef
- 1 cup bread crumbs
- 2 eggs
- 1/4 cup parsley, chopped
- 2 tbl grated onion
- 2 tbl soy sauce
- 1/4 tsp garlic powder
- 1 16-oz. can jellied cranberry sauce
- 11/2 cups ketchup
- 2 1/2 tbl packed brown sugar
- 1 tbl lemon juice



DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. In a large bowl, mix ground beef, eggs, bread crumb, onion, soy sauce and garlic powder until thoroughly combined. Roll meat mixture into balls of approximately two teaspoons each. Place meatballs in a large, deep baking dish. Bake until meatballs are browns, approximately 25 minutes. Drain grease. In a saucepan, combine cranberry sauce, ketchup, brown sugar, and lemon juice and cook over medium heat. Stir until cranberry sauce is melted and brown sugar is dissolved. Pour the sauce over the meatballs and bake until meatballs are no longer pink inside; approximately 25 to 30 minutes.

Menus

MINNEOTA PUBLIC SCHOOL
COLD MEAT SANDWICH & SALAD BAR OFFERED DAILY

Monday, January 4

NO SCHOOL.

Tuesday, January 5

Breakfast: Long John or notable, fruit, milk.
Lunch: Chicken wrap or burrito, lettuce salad, fresh veggies, fruit choice, milk.

Wednesday, January 6

Breakfast: Pancake sausage or notable, fruit, milk.
Lunch: BBQ or corn dog, green beans, harvest chips, fruit choice, milk.

Thursday, January 7

Breakfast: Muffin/cereal or notable, fruit, milk.
Lunch: French toast sticks, or pancake sausage, scrambled eggs, tri tators, fruit choice, milk.

Friday, January 8

Breakfast: Uncrustable or notable, fruit, milk.
Lunch: Pizza or grilled cheese, lettuce salad, fresh veggies, fruit choice, milk.

ST. EDWARD SCHOOL

Menu unavailable at presstime.

— Minneota Area Community Churches —

Healing Waters Parish

Augustana, Clarkfield; Bergen, Clarkfield;
St. Lucas Lutheran, Cottonwood

Worship Times: All Bergen, St. Lucas, Augustana services will be live streamed at 10 a.m. on Sundays. Please watch the website and Facebook for more information.

Vicar Mort Meyenburg
Church Contact No. 320-841-1085

Yellow Medicine Lutheran Church

PO Box 119, 101 Main Street, Hanley Falls
www.yellowmedicinelutheran.org

Worship Time: All Sunday services will be live-streamed at 10 a.m. Sundays on Facebook (visit Yellow Medicine Lutheran Church). Please watch the website and Facebook for more information.

Church: 507-768-3417
Vicar Myron Crawford: 651-253-5379

St. Leo Catholic Church

St. Leo, MN

Mass Times: See Bulletin

Father Ron Huberty
Parochial Vicars: Fr. Michael Doyle and
Fr. Keith Salisbury

Winds of the Prairie Ministry

Bethany Lutheran, Arco and
Bethany-Elm Lutheran, Ivanhoe

Worship Times: Online Worship see Facebook page.

Pastor Jeff Greathouse

Cell #: 330-234-1317
pastorghouse@gmail.com
Church Contact No. 507-694-1238
windsministry@gmail.com

Hope Lutheran Church

Minneota

www.hopeminneota.org

Worship Times:
Sunday, January 3: Worship at 9 a.m.

Pastor Allen Campbell
Church Secretary Chris Pesch:
hopelutheran87@gmail.com
Church Contact No. 507-872-6446

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Minneota

Worship Times: Christmas Eve: 4 p.m. with communion; Sunday at 10:30 a.m.

Pastor Allen Campbell
Church Secretary: Chris Pesch
hopelutheran87@gmail.com
Church Contact No. 507-872-6446

Hernes Lutheran Church

Rural Minneota

Sunday Worship: No service
Minneota Manor Worship, 2:30 p.m., fourth Thursday of the month.
Pastor Ellen Munter

St. Eloi Catholic Church

Ghent, MN

Mass Times:
Saturday, January 2: Convent Mass at Noon
Sunday, January 3: Mass at 10:30 a.m.

Father Todd Petersen
Church Contact No. 507-428-3285

Bethel Fellowship Church

Hwy 68 - Minneota

Ephesians 2:8 - By grace you are saved.

Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.; Sunday School 8:50-9:45 a.m.

Wednesdays: Kids' Zone 6-7:20 p.m.; Prayer and Devotional 7:30 p.m.

Pastor Thomas Nomeland
Contact No. 507-828-1637

St. Edward Catholic Church

Minneota

Mass Times:
Thursday, January 31: Mass at 7 a.m.
Friday, January 1: Mass at 8:30 a.m.
Saturday, January 2: Mass at 5:30 p.m., confession 4:45 p.m.
Sunday, January 3: Mass at 8:30 a.m.
Wednesday, January 6: School Mass at 10:30 a.m.

Father Todd Petersen
Church Contact No. 507-872-6346

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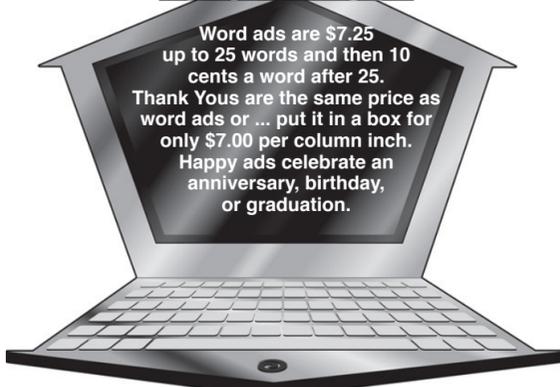
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Thursday, December 31, 2020

Page 7

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Features Continued from Page 1

end, the boat eventually filled with water. The four men then bailed out. DeBaere, Arendt and VanOverbeke made it back to shore, but Doyle did not. His body was later recovered by rescue workers.

DeBaere and Doyle were a year apart at Marshall High School and had become friends in school and as adults. They often hunted ducks, geese, pheasants and deer together.

For many years following Doyle's death, DeBaere made his way to the shore of Wood Lake and tossed a duck decoy into the water in honor of his best friend.

(3) The house that Cass built

One of the most iconic homes built in the area belonged to J.S. Anderson of Minneota. The home, located on the corner of Second and Jackson Streets and now owned by Bette Johnson, was designed by noted architect Cass Gilbert, who also designed the Minneota State Capitol, as well as state capitols in Arkansas and West Virginia.

The house was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in April of 1982, joining two other iconic buildings in town on the National Register - St. Paul's Lutheran Church and O.G. Anderson's Big Store.

Anderson was a wealthy Icelandic immigrant who sought out Gilbert to design his home. Using the finest materials available, the three-story home with an eye-catching octagonal tower that can be seen for several blocks

The couple lived on a farm outside of Minneota for 56 years before Don's passing in 2009. Hildegard stayed on the farm a few more years before eventually moving in with her son Wayne and his wife Rhonda in Lynchburg, Virginia.

This summer during the annual Winston Boe Memorial Gold Tournament at Countryside Golf Club in Minneota, Wayne, who won the tournament in 1990, '92 and '97, made the 1,300-mile trip from Virginia to play in the tournament with Hildegard and Rhonda. They visited the old farm site and some other sites in Minneota.

(5) Learning is dog-gone fun

Say the name Roger to anyone in the Minneota Public School and chances are good that they will know who you are talking about.

Roger is a cute chubby rescue dog owned by Caryn Hetland, who has been a Sped Paraprofessional at the school for 19 years. The five-year-old Corgi mix became an official employee of the school as a therapy dog and even has his own locker and is listed on the school's website under staff members.

Hetland brought Roger with her to school last year as a "guest reader" and the students responded in a favorable fashion. So the school decided to make Roger a therapy dog, completing all the necessary paper work needed for certification.

"Simply put, Roger has brought peace and joy to the school," said Elementary Principal Jen Mahan-Deitte. "We adore him and we can't imagine

way, whose host family in 2018-19 was Jeremy and Courtney Frie.

Most of the other countries had similar health guidelines, businesses shut down, distance learning and more. Some countries were arresting and/or fining people who had more than three people to a group.

(7) Sculpting is his life

Don Haugen grew up in Minneota and went on to become one of the country's top sculptors who has made statues for Jimmy and Rosalyn Carter, a bust of Ronald Reagan that sits in the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in California, and even a sculpture for the International Olympic Committee for the Olympic Games in Atlanta in 1996.

Haugen now resides in Marietta, Georgia, with his wife, Teena Stern, who is also a sculptor.

Haugen's favorite piece he was commissioned to sculpt was the "Faces of War" Vietnam Memorial in Roswell, Georgia, that he completed in 1997. "It focuses on the agony of war and many people have cried when looking at it," Haugen noted.

Haugen lived in Minneota until he was six years old and the family moved to Illinois. They returned to Minnesota and Haugen graduated from Spring Valley in 1952. When he got out of the service in 1956, Haugen returned to Minneota and lived there until 1961 when he attended the University of Minnesota.



Kevin Jerzak poses with the many snowmen he made in his workshop and gave one to each business in town. Contributed photo

gather to sleep or lay eggs. A sign on the outside of the shed reads: "Last one in is a rotten egg".

And when they are all inside the hen house at night, Kelly always tells them "Nighty night, sleep tight, don't let the raccoons bite", referring to a common predator of the hens.

(9) Secret Snowmen

When business owners went to work one morning in early December, they were greeted at the door by a three-foot snowman. Not your typical snowman made out of snow; these were well-made and maintenance free. Only a few knew who they came from, while most were in the dark.

The Mascot did a little digging and it was finally revealed that Kevin Jerzak and his family made the snowmen out of a 4 x 4 post sleeve with a face, buttons, hat, scarf and corncob pipe for all 57 businesses in town, including Minneota Building Materials, which he manages.

"I didn't do it for publicity or anything," Jerzak said. And I wasn't promoting anything or trying to sell anything. It was meant to brighten people's spirits. It was also for something positive and happy instead of negative news."

Kevin, his wife Sandy, and daughters Trisha, LeAnn and Kelly helped make and deliver the snowmen. A fourth daughter, Michelle, lives in South Dakota. Jerzak estimates it took him three months to make the snowmen, working on them off and on when he had the time. He paid for all the materials himself.

Who says you can't build

a snowman without snow?

(10) Haen becomes Eagle Scout

Jacob Haen, a 2020 Minneota High School graduate, officially became an Eagle Scout on Sept. 13 during a Court of Honor ceremony in Ghent.

Less than one percent of all scouts across the nation become an Eagle Scout, mainly due to the dedication, patience and commitment required.

"I've been working on it for 10 to 12 years now," said Haen, who earned 36 merit badges. "It's as hard as you want to make it. It just depends on how much work you want to put into it. I decided that I was willing to put in the time and effort."

To become an Eagle Scout, 21 merit badges must be earned; 16 of those are required while the other five can be selected by the Scout. He was awarded Bronze, Gold and Silver Eagle Palms; each palm representing an extra five merit badges over the required 21.

Haen is the son of David and Lisa Haen of Ghent. He belonged to Troop 30 of Minneota with Justin Knutson his Scoutmaster.



Jacob Haen speaks during his Scout of Honor ceremony Sunday in Ghent. Contributed photo



Soon after Kelly Myhre calls her chickens, all 13 come running toward her. File photo by Scott Thoma

away, cost only \$8,000 to build. The tower had a beacon in it to guide people during a snowstorm like a light-house guides ships in the fog.

Even though Johnson purchased the house in 1972 for only \$17,000, it has been appraised at nearly 10 times that amount now.

(4) Hildegard comes home again

Hildegard (Schicka) Kompelien was born and raised in Germany during the war years and often spent time hunkered in a sheltered area with her parents. Hearing bombs and air raid sirens became the norm.

Don Kompelien, a U. S. soldier from Minneota who was stationed in Berlin in 1950 as a Military Officer, eventually met and fell in love with Hildegard. Before he went stateside, he asked Hildegard to marry him and she accepted.

Having never before been to the United States and being only 21 years old, Hildegard boarded a ship on Sept. 9, 1953, and came to the United States. They were married on Oct. 24, 1953.

Four years later, the Kompeliens sent for Hildegard's parents to come to the United States. Hildegard's parents lived in Sioux City, Iowa, and are now buried next to her husband in the Hope Lutheran Cemetery.

school without him."

(6) COVID around the world

When COVID-19 became a pandemic, life became much different in the United States. We also wondered what it was like in other parts of the world. Did they have as strict of guidelines in other countries? Were people hoarding toilet paper and disinfectants? Were schools and businesses closed?

To find out, we reached out to several former Minneota exchange students. Not all of them responded, but we were will able to get a feeling of life around the world through six exchange students.

The six who responded to our questions were: Alessia Giondi of Fiori, Italy, whose host family in 2018-19 was Joel and Jackie Skillings; Sebastiano Beraldo of Treviso, Italy, whose host family in 2018-19 was Chad and Moriah Reiss, and Jim and Mary Myhre; Tsung-Tai (Amos) Tu of Hsinchu, Taiwan, whose host in 2017-18 was Brenda Swoboda; Wouter Janus of Veghel, the Netherlands, whose host family in 2016-17 was Mike and LuAnn Fier; Stephanie Vifian of Berlin, Germany, whose host family in 1986-87 was Jon and Barb Guttormsson; and Ida-Celine Ribe of Lyngden, Nor-

Perhaps the most commented story we published this year involved 12-year-old Kelly Myhre of rural Minneota. Kelly has a large following ... or is it fowl-ling?

The personable daughter of Rick and Stephanie Myhre oversees the 13 hens on the farm. She is like "Mother Hen" to them. When she calls out "Chick-a, Chick-a, Chick-a, all of the baker's dozen hens comes running . Kelly rides bike with one of them, swings with them, or relaxes on the deck while petting them until they fall asleep. They even follow her to the mailbox to get the mail.

She has names for all 13 of her feathered friends. There is a hen house on the property where the hens all

(8) Friend of the feathered

MNRAAA announces new board of directors

The Minnesota River Area Agency on Aging (MNRAAA) is excited to announce a new addition to their Board of Directors, Kellian Clink.

Kellian Clink, of Mankato, currently serves as a Professor at Minnesota State University-Mankato within the library and has been an active member on campus and in her communities. She has experience volunteering with hospice and at the Connections Ministry. Ms. Clink also works with the Blue Earth County Social Services Task Force and acts as a liaison between the student government and the faculty association. A member of the American Library Association and the Minnesota Library Association, Ms. Clink has received awards from Minnesota State University-Mankato and the Being a Difference Award from the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy Center for the Public Trust.

When asked why she was interested in serving with MNRAAA, she responded with, "As with other marginalized populations, it is hard to get it right. Is it hard to age? Yes! Is there

much to celebrate in aging? Yes. What are the struggles? How do we, as a community, respond to the needs? With strong listening and research skills, concern and sensitivity, we can discern the needs, celebrate the triumphs and lived experiences and make our community the best place to age!"

"Absolutely delighted to begin working with Kellian Clink as she begins her journey on the Board of Directors. Her enthusiasm is contagious, and she brings a wealth of knowledge from her volunteer role and her university role," stated Jason W. Swanson, Executive Director.

"The MNRAAA Board of Directors is fortunate to add another member with the qualifications that Kellian Clink has. We look forward to her contributions to our board in the future," stated Robert Roesler, Board Chair.

Ms. Clink joins the MNRAAA Board of Directors, which feature professionals from the twenty-seven-county area, ranging from a retired hospital administrator to a registered nurse.

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