

Connections

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Warren's Sky-Vu Drive-In: Our Local Gem



Written by Melanie M. Nelson,
WHS, Class of 1981

If you grew up as a Warrenite, sharing a crazy story about wild adventures at the Warren Sky-Vu Drive-In just comes naturally. Spend some time talking with any local and the drive-in will surely enter the conversation. It's an historical icon right here in our own hometown and people from all over the world (even a kangaroo!) have journeyed to visit this unforgettable landmark. Throughout the decades, the Warren Sky-Vu has been a gathering spot for all ages. Today, it is a nostalgic experience for many people; conjuring up memories for all generations, while continuing traditions for others. Enjoy this historical tour of one of the last drive-in movie theaters in Minnesota! Let's journey through the annals of history and learn a bit about our gem - one of the last original outdoor movie theaters, the Sky-Vu Drive In.

It all began, according to Terry Paulson (Oslo High School, Class of 1964), with a vision from his dad, Allen Paulson, who was in the theater business. He was quite enamored with outdoor theaters and he became the driving force behind the design and development of the Sky-Vu Drive-In Theater. As a young man, Terry recalls the allure of outdoor theaters when he and his family would travel to view movies outdoors. In 1955 or 1956 (purchasing the land from the Howard Brothers) when Terry was just a young lad, his folks oversaw the construction of the Sky-Vu Theater. At that time, his father also owned the Roxy Theater in Oslo. The design for the Sky-Vu theater was replicated from the Roxy.

Terry shared that one of the most challenging steps of the build was the calculation of the distance of the

screen to the lens/projector to ensure premium video quality. Allen carefully calculated the fine details. As a young lad, he remembers scaffolding along the bottom of the screen, but he didn't dare climb too far. It was high and scary!

One of the equipment pieces that appeared in the projection booth as 'one of a kind' was the sound amplifier which was built from scratch by Warren's hometown legend, Dr. Wally Lamb! Dr. Lamb and Allen were good friends and shared an extensive electronic background. This homemade amplifier provided excellent quality of the film's audio to each of the individual car speakers, which numbered at the time around 150. Dr. Lamb was a genius when it came to assembling the system, gathering used parts from many sources to provide a rich experience for all visitors to come. Terry recalls the amp built by Wally was so impressive that it could pick up a barking dog from the neighboring property. The two original projection machines were purchased 'used' with each having "Simplex" lamp houses utilizing arc carbons that provided the high intensity lighting that projected the picture from the booth to the screen. Terry recalls on one early mid-summer overcast, rainy evening, while opening the projection booth's viewing ports, there was a very loud 'BANG' and he caught a glimpse of a lightning bolt that had just struck the upper north corner of the screen, taking out around 10 feet or so. The bolt then traveled down the side of the screen until coming into contact with the guide wire, which then traveled directly to the ground. The guide wire momentarily glowed 'white hot!' Terry recalls the unit becoming very hot and a piped exhaust system needed to be

installed to bleed off the heat. Once, when Terry was 14 or 15 years old, they were about to open for the evening when they heard a big bang! He saw the first guide wire was white hot! Lightning had struck the screen and took off the top ten feet of the screen. He noted the repairs were completed by a group of handy farmers.

In preparation for the cars filling the parking area, the entire viewing space was graveled and room was made for "a couple hundred cars or so" (Originally, Sky-Vu could host 145 vehicles). The original road built to enter the drive-in has now become Leonard Novak's driveway; he moved the road when his home was built. Once Sky-Vu was up and operational, Terry recalls his mother running the ticket booth. As a family-run operation, they would arrive around 6:30 p.m. to start making popcorn and getting everything prepared for the show. Ticket prices at that time were 50 cents for adults and children under the age of 12 were free. He charged 10 cents for popcorn or 25 cents for buttered popcorn. Milky Way, Snickers and Mars bars were also sold for a nickel each. There were also a few beverages available in the snack stand. He spoke fondly of Harold Steffan and Oscar Erickson both being great customers.

When the drive-in opened in 1956, Terry stated that it was one of very few outdoor theaters within a 300-mile radius, with one being in Grand Forks. As he grew up, he trained as a projectionist and he served in that capacity for approximately three years (1961-63), a trait that carried over during his time in the U. S. Air Force when he was assigned to run the projection machine at his squadron's monthly "Commander's Call" meeting and occasionally at the base theater at his duty station. Allen had expanded his ambitions for another drive-in theater and proceeded to own and build the 59-High Drive-In located in Thief River Falls, Minnesota. This was a trade. This is where Bixby Knight enters the scene. Bixby and Allen met while working at the 59-High Theater. Bixby ran the projectors for Allen from 1955-56. He would later go on to purchase Sky-Vu from the Paulson family in 1963.

Bixby indicated he purchased Sky-Vu from Allen Paulson and Ray Batko in 1963 and ran it for ten years.

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Class Reunions

Please contact the Education Foundation with your class reunion details for our next edition of "Connections." We would be glad to give you our most current addresses for your classmates.

In return, we ask that you please share any address updates that you become aware of.

Warren-Mesa Picnic

February 18, 2023 in Mesa, AZ
See page 6 for more information.

Warren-WHS-WAO Florida Picnic

Feb. 11, 2023 - Noon to 4:00 p.m.
Small Pavilion at Maxine Barritt Park
1800 Harbor Dr. S., Venice, FL
See back page for more information

Marshall County Fair July 19-23, 2023

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Doreen (Chwialkowski) Felts, (WHS 1976), recently retired in 2022 from teaching in the Bemidji School District. After graduation from Bemidji State University, she stayed in the area spending 30 years teaching Bemidji Elementary school students. She capped off her devoted career being awarded Teacher of the Year by the Bemidji Education Association this summer. Her comments included, "I never doubted going into the teaching profession. I enjoyed going to school every day." Doreen and her husband, Ralph, are now both retired and have two sons. They hope to travel and also do some volunteer work throughout their retirement.

Amy (Maurstad) Bartels, (WAO 1996), was promoted to the position as the new Warren Postmaster this past spring. She definitely paid her dues working as a mail carrier for 18 years. After receiving the promotion, Amy stated, "It is a great honor to serve Warren as your new Postmaster. In my years with the U.S. Postal Service, I have seen first hand the role the Postal Service plays connecting neighbors and our community to the nation. We serve as a lifeline to our small businesses to reach customers no matter where they are. Our staff will continue to proudly provide the same public service as always in the Warren area." Amy is mother to two daughters and loves to tend her garden and can vegetables.

Marge (Potucek) Simonson, (WHS 1957), received a great honor recently as she was inducted into the Power, Montana High School Hall of Fame. She was raised on a farm in the Radium area with three sisters and two brothers. Marge, her husband Jerome and family moved to Power in 1970. She worked at Power Public Schools for 42 years starting in 1973 and watched all four of her sons graduate from Power. She worked as an aide primarily with the elementary grades. She was the playground supervisor, ran the school concession stand for 20 years and also was one of two women who were 20-year members of the local fire department. She now spends her time gardening, raising flowers and watching activities of their grandchildren.

Father Craig Vasek, (WAO 2002), is a priest of the Diocese of Crookston, Minn. He has been appointed as a specialist in the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat of Evangelization and Catechesis. Father Craig was raised on a small farm in Tabor. After his high school graduation, he began his seminary formation in 2003 at Cardinal Muenah Seminary in Fargo, N.D, which included course work at North Dakota State University. He graduated in 2006 from Seminary and University with a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy and Humanities. He also studied at the Pontifical North American College in Rome, Italy. Returning to the Crookston Diocese, he served multiple parishes and obtained a Master's Degree in Psychology at Divine Mercy University in Arlington, VA. Prior to his appointment to the USCCB, he has spent the previous four years at the University of Mary at Bismarck, N.D. as the Chaplain of Athletics, a program director of the Institute for virtue in sports. Father Craig is currently working on a doctorate in Theology on the topic of the divine indwelling of God in the soul.

Jared Wohlers, (WAO 2015), became the new owner of Main Street Cafe, formerly known as the Uptown Cafe. Jared purchased his business on July 20, 2022 and opened for business on September 1, 2022. Jared has worked in the restaurant service industry for over 10 years. He stated, "I worked at The Dell in Argyle and when I moved to the Fargo-Moorhead area while attending Moorhead State University, I worked at Applebees, Longhorn Steakhouse and Lucky Pub 13. I've gained experience in fine-dining, quick and fast food as well as late-night bar environments. I fully expect to be working 100 hours a week. I know what I signed up for. I'll do whatever needs to be done to be successful."

Capt. **Pat Znajda, (WHS 1983)**, recently retired after 17 years with the Department of Natural Resources and totaled nearly 36 years in law enforcement. He followed in the footsteps of his father, Ted Znajda, who was a game warden and conservation officer in Warren from 1959 until his retirement in 1989. Pat had the honor of pinning the badge on the third generation of Znajda Conservation Officers when

his daughter, Felicia, graduated from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Conservation Officer Academy in Little Falls. Pat also had an earlier honor in 2021 of pinning the badge on his son, Taylor, who graduated from the Minnesota State Patrol Academy and is now a state trooper in Hibbing.

Brad Swanson, (WAO 1999), is married to Katie (Kava) and they have two young sons. Brad is presently employed by a company called Simplicity Life, which is an insurance marketing organization supporting independent financial professionals along with financial institutions. After high school graduation, Brad attended the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks, N.D, earning a Bachelor's degree in Mass Communications in 2004. After college, he was employed by a couple of insurance marketing organizations in Fargo, N.D. He began a new job for Simplicity Life in 2008. The job brought him to an office in Monticello, MN for 11 years. Since Covid started in March 2020, Brad has worked three years from an office at his home in Otsego, MN.

Jeff Lahl, (1972 graduate of WHS), has been enjoying his first year of full retirement from being the Project Director for the Solar Electric Light Fund (SELF), a non-profit based in Washington D.C. that brings solar electrification (photovoltaics or PV) to developing countries. Jeff's work with SELF started 18 years ago as the organization's sole project manager and progressed to Project Director as the organization grew. During his time at SELF, Jeff led efforts to

Warren's Sky-Vu Drive-In: Our Local Gem *(continued from page 1)*



Harry and Art Howard were the landowners at the time of the acquisition.

Bixby echoes the praises of Dr. Wally Lamb, commending his skills in the audio system, stating that he was far ahead of his time in electronics.

Bixby reflected that the huge 48 foot by 60 foot screen had been damaged a total of three times in its history. In 1974 and again in 1979, the screen went down completely resulting from a storm hitting the area. In 1974, Steve Novak reported that Larry Korynta was working in the projector room and he heard a roaring noise. He noticed the screen was suddenly gone. Leonard grabbed Steve and pulled him under the fallen roof of the concession stand. The bathroom walls had caved in and were thrown into the field. During the storm of 1979, he recalls three workers having to take cover in the projection room. In 1986, a tornado came through the area and again damaged Sky-Vu, taking the roof of the concession stand.

Bixby ran the theater ten years prior to selling it to Leonard Novak and Darold Sundby in 1973. He commented that he would offer a "Buck Night Special" for \$1.00. His concession stand added Bar-B-Ques, corn dogs and hotdogs. Under his ownership, Elmer and Janet Sabol worked many nights in the ticket booth, serving food and keeping order among the movie-goers. Bixby shared that, at that time, the screen could be replaced in 4' x 8' panels, if needed. The upkeep of the screen included painting the panels with a special screen paint for a bright picture every couple of years. Bixby fondly recalls many of the old 30" x 40" movie posters. They came with the movies and were put up as advertising. They are now collector's items and many folks seek them out. He spoke of throwing stacks and stacks of them away. At the time, Bixby also operated the downtown Warren Theater, owned by Paul Snyder. The only change he made was to convert the sound system to radio broadcasting. Bixby recalls all local clientele with numerous migrant workers supporting the drive-in. He would be open from Memorial Day through Labor Day and always closed by September 1st. Sometimes he'd run a "Dusk 'til Dawn" event, showing four movies in one night a couple times per summer. This was always a hit and it was continued through the 70's and 80's. During those special evenings, people would get out of their vehicles and mingle around. He noted there were very few problems or issues. The local police would periodically drive through the parking area. This was the start of the memorable years at the Warren Sky-Vu! Upon moving on from Sky-Vu, Bixby moved to Grand Forks and operated the "Center Cinema" in East Grand Forks, Minnesota as well as the Golden Cue and later purchased Mr. Steak and Ugly's Restaurant near UND. Bixby holds many special memories of the Warren area and reminisces often while enjoying retirement in Colorado during the summer months and sunny Arizona in the winter.

After Leonard Novak (Shorty) and Darold Sundby purchased Sky-Vu from Bixby, Shorty and his family ran the successful theater until 2008 when it was taken over by his son, Steve in 2008. Most recently in 2021, Leonard's grandson, Chris joined the management team. At the time of the Sky-Vu purchase, the indoor Warren Theater was included as part of the sale. Sadly, the indoor Warren Theater was demolished in 1988, however some

theater seats survived and can be found around Warren in the old Opera House. Many Warrenites recall cozy winter nights near Christmas time when parents would drop off their children at the theater and see Santa while their folks did their Christmas shopping around town. It was a magical Christmas-time for movie lovers, children and parents alike. A favorite treat was when workers would put the packages of licorice in with the popcorn, making the licorice all warm and melty. Interestingly enough, when the theater first opened, a pack of cigarettes could be purchased for just 25 cents.

Steve's son, Chris has taken over management and operations of Sky-Vu since 2021. Together they continually work to keep the system updated and have kept plans for expanding and improving the facility. In a large project

in 1993, the projector was replaced with a much larger reel system, allowing 4 disks to be loaded, with fewer reel changes. In 2011, Sky-Vu updated and switched to a digital platform, requiring a process of acquiring "keys" to unlock and playback movies. Steve shared that he used to prepare Red Baron pizza for \$2.00 and now they provide homemade pizzas for \$18.00. Popcorn originally was 30 cents, 50 cents or 75 cents; current prices are \$4, \$5, and \$7 for popcorn. Prices for Bar-B-Ques and hot dogs have gone from 50 cents/25 cents to \$3.00 and \$5.00. Soda previously sold for 15 cents and can now be purchased for \$4.00. Candy was originally 10 cents and is sold now for \$2.50. Movie-goers are guaranteed to enjoy concessions while enjoying a family movie together.

Throughout its history, Sky-Vu has undergone many changes and improvements:

The biggest change Steve noted was the removal of alcohol being allowed on the property. During the 70's and 80's, alcohol was allowed and teens would flock to the drive-in to gather with classmates and friends - but didn't often watch the movie. As an owner, the Novak's felt it was not in the best interest for his business and allowing alcohol was then discontinued. Another change was the switch from the speaker system to the updated 93.1 FM radio system. This allows each vehicle to hear the movie through their own speaker system. Thirdly, the pricing for tickets - when Sky-Vu opened originally, ticket prices were just a buck for adults and children under the age of 12 were free. The Novaks offered "carload night," charging just \$3.00 for as many people who would fit in the car. This limit was challenged many times, with movie-goers in the '70's and '80's creatively hiding in trunks and pick-up boxes to get into the movies! Movie prices in the '70's were \$2 per person and in the 80's, the price raised to \$6. Gate admission is now at \$9 per person and hasn't been raised in 5 years, despite expenses being quadrupled. A fun addition to Sky-Vu began when movie-goers started signing the concession stand, creating a "memory wall" of sorts. Today, as you walk up to the concession stand, it is very likely you'll see names on the wall you recognize.

The Sky-Vu of today is a much different experience than in the past, but Steve finds that more families attend the movie, putting up their hatchbacks or grabbing a lawn chair or even sitting in the back of their vehicles. It's a family/pet-friendly perfect outing. On a typical summer night, Sky-Vu will host anywhere from 35-90+ vehicles. Work starts with Steve's son, Chris, mowing and preparing the lawn, starting the machines and tending to the concession stand. Chris, as the current manager, serves hot dogs, homemade pizzas, pretzels, BBQ's, popcorn, slushies and several candy snacks. There are currently 14 employees, all high school students. Chris, Steve, and his daughter, Ashley, work together to make the experience enjoyable for all. Movies always start at "dusk" and Chris noted that after June 22nd, the time shifts by 7 minutes weekly. Movies are shown from Memorial Day through Labor Day and on weekends until the snow flies.

So, what does the future hold for our hidden gem in Minnesota, the Sky-Vu Theater? According to Steve and

Chris, plans include possibly adding campsites and a gazebo to the grounds. There is discussion of an addition on the north side of the concession stand to include larger bathrooms. With Sky-Vu being one of the original drive-in theaters in the country still surviving, Steve and Chris look forward to the future with continued hope. Perhaps a historical showroom, featuring the projection units of the past, old movie posters and other memorabilia will be something forthcoming. Steve and Chris will be adding on to the clothing line to include hats, shirts, sweatshirts, tank tops and jackets.

Next year will mark the 50th anniversary of the Warren Sky Vu! We're reminded that it is a BIG DEAL to be fortunate to have this beautiful facility right in our own backyards, so, when in Warren, take the time to go out to the drive-in with your family. Bring a carload. Enjoy the rare experience with your children as we all did. Class and family reunions are encouraged to come out and reminisce and take in a movie. Warren's Sky-Vu is currently followed by 21,000+ people through social media and the Novaks look to bring in those families to take in a movie on the "Big Silver Screen" of the Sky-Vu Drive In: Warren's most historical site.

But until then, the Novak tradition continues with the third generation now working in the family business.



FALL 2022 NEEDS

Funded by the Ed. Foundation

- 5th grade, Johnson/Vigen, Brain Pop App - \$460.00
- Elem Library, Sellers, Junior Library Guild - \$945.12
- Preschool, Linder, Wooden Playhouse - \$134.88
- Preschool, Linder/Bergman, Pumpkin Patch - \$400.00
- 3 year old, Preschool, Linder/Crummy, Wagon - \$199.99
- 4th grade, Larson, Generation Genius - \$125.00
- 2nd grade, Stoffel, Scholastic Books - \$340.00
- 2nd grade, Gilbert, Nonfiction/Science Books - \$219.09
- K-3 Music, Nybo, Star Spangled Students - \$204.60 (District \$500)
- Elementary, Gornowicz, Read for the Record - \$150.00
- Elementary, Gilbert, Teaching Every Reader, Staff, Training - \$3,237.00
- Social Workers, Olson/ Yutzenka, Adaptive Seating - \$900.00
- FCCLA, Pribula, Star Events Materials - \$636.86
- Music, Becks, Choir Folders - \$403.50
- District \$403.50
- Music, Becks, Keyboards/stands - \$2,329.98
- Music, Fridstrom, Band books/music - \$974.41
- Special Ed, Stanislawski, Sensory Calm Down Area - \$606.46
- Special Ed, Stanislawski, Badge-A-Matic Machine - \$614.95
- Library, Maruska, Junior Library Guild - \$1,324.88
- Principal, Miska, Making It Better - \$2,250.00
- TOTAL: \$16,456.72**

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May 1, 2021 – October 31, 2022

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In Memory of Carol (Anderson) Reynolds

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In Honor of Cindy Franks

Paul & Anita Hess

In Memory of David Knutson

Robert Knutson

In Memory of Deanna Swanson

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Frances (Pinkerton) Fanfulik
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L. Peder & Karen Larson
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In Memory of Deceased

Classmates
WHS 1958
Charles & Dolores (Weiland) Zammert

In Memory of Deceased

Classmates
WHS 1975
Mark & Julie (Hess) Nowacki

In Memory of Dennis Mischel

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In Memory of Diane Lundgren

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In Memory of Iola (Johnson) Hennebry

Family of Iola (Johnson) Hennebry

In Memory of Jack Sedlacek

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L. Peder & Karen Larson
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Rona (Cook) Anderson
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In Memory of Jami Kay Hanson

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Faye Wallsten
George & Susan (Hill) Lee
Wayne & Carole (Stroble) Edgar

In Memory of Rita Hoff

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Elva (Nordling) Bustrack
Lowell Goplin
Treasure (Soltis) Omdahl

In Memory of Sandra (Stone) Forslund

Alan & Lana (Goplin) Schoenack

In Honor of Strunk Family

William (Billy) Saetre

In Memory of Stuart Hurst

Sharon Abrahamson

In Memory of Tim Munger

L. Peder & Karen Larson
Rick & Nancy Mattson

In Memory of Tim Swanson

Frank & Terri (Swanson) Konchan

In Honor of Treasure (Soltis) Omdahl

Kari Jo (Herbranson) Hanson

In Memory of Virginia (Anderson) Berg

Carl & LaVerne Anderson

In Memory of W.L. Lamb, O.D

Terry W. Paulson
Lyle & Nancy (Lamb) Grabowski

In Memory of Wallace Anderson

Frances (Anderson) Johnson

In Honor of WHS Class of 1980

Steve Saetre

In Memory of Zach Kasprowicz

Allyn & Susan (Matcha) Roley
Arlyn & Marilyn (Kuznia) Stroble
Carol J. Anderson

The WAO Education Foundation is a nonprofit organization and every contribution is greatly appreciated. Even though we have carefully compiled this list of Memorials and Donations, please notify the Foundation if you believe any error has occurred.

Where Are They Now . . .

Jacki (Knute) Omland, 1973 Alvarado High School, 1979-1983, AHS Teacher: "Retiring after 44 years of teaching. I just finished the last class of my teaching career. It all began in 1978 at Lincoln High School in Thief River Falls, MN. I remember my first day as if it were yesterday. I signed my contract on a Saturday and started the following Monday. I had not even seen my book or classroom before I walked in that Monday. From there, I came back to my hometown of Alvarado. I taught science and was a speech team coach there for 4 years. Additionally, I worked with the Drama Club and put on three plays each year. I then moved to Aberdeen, South Dakota, married my husband, Jay Omland and continued teaching." Jacki and Jay have one son, Brian and have taken in several foreign exchange students. They are proud to have seven grandchildren plus three additional from former exchange students." I taught physics and astronomy at Aberdeen Central High School until 2002, and at the NSU E-learning Center until 2022. I additionally taught physics as an adjunct instructor at Presentation College. My 44 years earned me the 1995 Presidential Award for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching, 1996 South Dakota Teacher of the Year and the 1998 Walt Disney American Teacher Award. Teaching has also given me opportunities to visit Space Camp, The Moscow Institute of Physics, the Sanford Underground Lab in Deadwood, SD and Fermilab." She and her husband have traveled to over 45 countries and look forward to more travels." My greatest reward, however, was that I've had the opportunity to share my love of science with over 4,000 of the best students in the world! They are who and what formed my love of my job! To all my former students, thank you for letting me be a part of your lives."

Kevin "Harv" Peterson, WHS Class of 1979. "Following high school graduation, I attended the University of Minnesota, Crookston, then advancing to North Dakota State University in Fargo and earning a B.S. degree in Animal Science

and also in Botany / Range Management. I worked for South Dakota State University at Ordway Prairie in South Dakota for the summer of '84. I attended graduate school at SDSU, earning a Master's Degree in Animals and Range Science. I began my career working in animal and range research at Fort Keogh in Miles City, Montana for Montana State University. In 1990, I moved on to law school in Missoula, Montana. In 1993, I graduated from the University of Montana School of Law and began my law career in Glendive, Montana for three years, followed by relocating to Billings, Montana. In Billings, I worked for Yellowstone County as a public defender (nearly three years) then a prosecutor for several years. There, I handled up to 80 cases in a day while handling the daily court calendar in front of five district court judges. Moving on from Yellowstone County in 2004 brought me to a position as Corporate Counsel for an agricultural research and economics specialty firm in Billings, Montana. My role was the general counsel and lead researcher and developer for a rangeland insurance pilot program. In 2006, I passed the bar exam for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and earned membership in the Bar as a patent attorney, relocating to the Twin Cities but not working in that field. Rather, I went to work at a law firm in Minnetonka for the next two years. An opportunity in 2008 brought me back to the State of Montana to work in natural resources law. I relocated to Helena and worked as a staff attorney for the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, specializing in Western Water Law, among other areas. In 2016, after eight years with the DNRC, I became an elected County Attorney for Musselshell and Golden Valley Counties in Montana where I served until 2022. I decided not to run for re-election and plan to return to Minnesota by 2023 to retire or semi-retire as a lawyer somewhere in lake country where I can continue filling the blank chapters in my life's book. I look forward to that hometown feeling I knew growing up in Warren."

WAO Alumni Hall Of Fame 2023

The opportunity is here again for you to recognize an alumnus to be included in the WAO Alumni Hall Of Fame.

The alumni Hall of Fame has been established to recognize Warren, Alvarado and Oslo Alumni that have distinguished themselves, their school, and their community. Currently there are 16 members of the WAO Alumni Hall of Fame. Each year, up to 4 former alumni, may be added. Short biographies of each current member can be found on the Hall of Fame Facebook page by searching "WAO Hall of Fame". The award criteria and nomination form are also found on the website. Additional information about the Hall of Fame can be found on the WAO Education Foundation website also.

A committee was formed to promote the principles of the Hall of Fame, to establish the eligibility standards, the criteria used in considering a person for the honor and to facilitate the award process. The committee is not responsible for completing the required forms or providing the supporting evidence to be used in consideration for the award. The nomination is then sent to a separate selection committee for making the final selections.

In preparing the form for the nomination, it may be useful to recruit the help of other people in researching the alumni's contributions by checking school yearbooks, local news articles, any information that maybe available on the internet and talking to other classmates and friends. Complete as much of the nominee's personal information as possible. On a separate sheet, address as many of the accomplishments and contributions listed on the nomination form as you can. It is an honor to be nominated to the WAO Alumni Hall of Fame, so the nominee deserves as much effort as possible in presenting his or her talents and contributions. The deadline for submitting the nomination is April 1, 2023.

Donations

May 1, 2020 – October 31, 2022

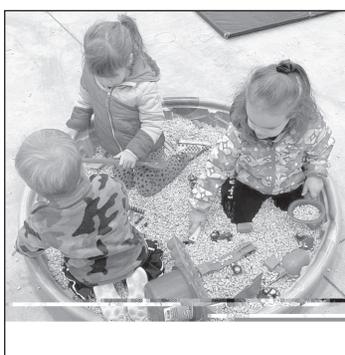
<p>Advantage Ag Air Ag Country Farm Credit Services Alan & Lana (Walker) Maruska American Crystal Sugar American Federal Bank Anderson Ag Farms Anne (Saetre) Josephson Argyle Builders Supply Argyle Service LLC Arthur & Charlotte Drenckhahn Ash Grove Ag, Inc. Ashley Stroble Audrey (Nice) Barta Austin Owens Auto Value Baylor Enterprises Ben & Kari (Stinar) Miska Bernatello's Foods Beth (Anderson) Olson Beverly (Fladland) Thureen Beverly (Peterson) Johnson Bill & Carol Sedgeman Billy & Cindy (Nowacki) Franks Bobbie Carr Bobby & Nancy (Pederson) Useldinger Brandon & Kelsey (Sorenson) Deschene Bremer Bank Brian Ljunggren C&R Cleaners & Laundry Calvin & Amber Schoepp Cameron DuBore Carl J Johnson Carol J. Anderson Chad & Catherine Brekke CHS Ag Services Chuck & Lovie (Johnson) Graham Circle M / Joey McGregor City of Warren Colliers Securities LLC Curt R. Kuznia Czeh, Wilson & Wilmer CPA D&D Commodities Dahlstrom Motors Dallas & Joyce (Andresen) Way Dan & Kay (Wittman) Finley Darren & Jessica (Myrfield) Carlson David & Donna Gehrls David & Kathy Goroski David Sholy Dean & Annabelle Narlock DelRoy & Marlene (Olson) Shane DelRoy Lieberg Dewey & Shari Swanson Digi-Key Dillon & Sara (Beaudry) Nelson Don & Ellen (Fillipi) Strickler Don & Pam Slusar Don Vettleson Dona (Fagerstrom) Nielsen Doreen (Hammerback) Jensen Doug & Jo Sorenson Dr. Tim & Kate Erickson DuBore Funeral Home Dvorak Brothers Farms Dwight W. Peterson Farms Eldor & Bonnie (Franks) Ornnquist Elm Crest Motel / Kelly Mattson Erdahl Heating & Air Eric & Kristi (Rosendahl) Flyen Eric & Lori (Toupin) Johnson Eric & Mary Stanislowski Ericco Tool & Mfg Evangeline (Torgerson) Guenther Ewing Oil (Cenex) Excelsior Logistics Family Chiropractic Fern (Abrahamson) Frothingham Fern (Hendrickson) Fleck Fert-L-Lawn First International Bank & Trust / Wayne Zink Frances (Anderson) Johnson Frandsen Bank & Trust Frandsen Wealth Management & Trust Garden Corner Garden Valley Technologies Garth & Richelle Kruger Gene & Sally Roller George & Susan (Hill) Lee George Erickson</p>	<p>Gerald & Sharon (Cheney) Cook Gerald & Suzie (Omdahl) Jevning Gerry & Patti (Olson) Evin GFWC Mawami Club Gloria (Hedquist) Casey Glow By Krissy Golf Center Goodwin Farms H & J Farms / Kurt Peterson Hamm's Repair Hapka Farms HLJ Farms, Inc. Hometown Realty Irmy Haugen Iron Wheel Fitness Irv & Kay Bergsagel J W Peterson Inc J&J Promotions / Jeff Hanson Jacob & Ashley (Pagnac) Anderson James & Marlene Aas James & Sally (Hill) Swanson James and Pamela Jubie Janet (Srnsky) Broesch Janet Arnold Jason & Stacy Hanson Jay Vansickle Jean Ranstrom Jeanne Johnson Jeff & Sara Steer Jenny Langevin Insurance Agency, Inc Jeremy & Jaime Woinarowicz Jet Stop Jim Dagg Insurance Agency Inc Joey & Casey Pierce John & Carol Bowman Johnson Controls / Dustin Boyle Johnson Family Farms Johnson Farms Jon & Brenda Ackerson Hapka Jordan & Brooke (Bork) Johnson Judith (Tillett) Stromberg Judy (Johnson) Dallmann Justin & Lindsey Buegler Katie Kleven KB Stump Removal Kirk & Heidi Thorstenson KROX (Attn: Chris Fee) Kurt & Emily Peterson Larson Construction Laura Efta Lawrence Torgerson Lee Hestnas Leroy & Carol (Bren) Holub Liberty Business Systems Linda Haugen Little Shop On The Prairie Lowell Goplin Lucille (Judovsky) Bruce Lyn Sinn Marc & Beth Kurz Mark & Judy (Evin) Flaten Mark Nelson MarKit County Grain LLC Marshall & Diane (Fabel) Melbye Marshall County Coop Marshall County SWCD Mary (Martin) Keller Matt & Ashley (Holien) Vongroven Matt Waterworth Meraki Hair Salon Michael & Mandy (Kuznia) Rosendahl MiChelle Nybo Micks of Warren Miller Electric Milton Sommers Minnesota Vikings Mintie Ferguson Misselhorn Tiling & Excavation Mode107 Molly Brusseau Molly Fridstrom Nathan & Amy Wozniak Nathan & Nikki (Boman) Peterson Nathan Peterson Farms NCTC Foundation Nordic Fiberglass, Inc. North Risk Partners / Thune Insurance North Star Ag Services, Inc / Scott Edgar</p>	<p>North Valley Health Center Northdale Oil Northern Plains Track Oakpoint Inc Ober Farms Old Dutch Olson Underground Inc One-N-Only Bar Otter Tail Corp Foundation Patricia (Neegard) Anderson Paul & Janet (Carlson) Aakre Phil Thompson & Associates PKM Electric Cooperative, Inc. Premium Waters Probitas Promotions Prudential Insurance/Charles Sobocinski R & R Farms, Inc Ralph & Cindy (Sabol) Melgard Raymond Larson Renee Borowicz Richard & Beth (Solmonson) DeZwarte Richard & Margaret Fanulik Richard & Mary Beth (Maruska) Edman Rick & Marie Schmiedeberg Rivard's Turf & Forage River 15 Cinema Robert & Delores (Elseth) Ricker Rock Solid Nutrition Rodney & Darly (Sundby) Myrfield Rokke, Aandal & Associates P.L. Rydell Auto Center, Inc. Sara Larson Seven Clans Casino Shane & Megan (Maruska) Dagoberg Sharon Nelson Simply Sjoberg CableVision Inc Solid Ground Construction Southline Farms c/o Derek Peterson Stephen & Elizabeth Murray Steve & Desilee Brekke Steve & Marie Goodwin Steve Saetre Stinar / Aakre Farms Strickler Farms, Inc./Brent Strickler Stroble Farms Sue Boman Sue Roley SuperMarket Foods The Dell The Silo Boutique Thomas & Rita D. (Czapiewski) Welch Thomas Hanson Todd & Jan (Narlock) Mortimer Tom & Jan Aafedt Tom & Michele (Pesch) Aubol Tony & Michelle Gullikson Town & Country Plumbing & Heating Treasure (Soltis) Omdahl True North Equipment True Value UND Foundation/ DeAnna (Carlson) Zink University of MN Crookston WAO Warehouse/Beth Murray Warren and Virginia Hagestuen Warren Eye Care Warren Jaycees (Attn: Brenna Olson) Warren Lions Club Warren Pharmacy Warren Riverside Golf Course Warren Sheaf Wayne & DeAnna Zink Wayne & Shawn Spidah Wayne T. Torgerson Farm Westberg Body Shop Wikstrom Telecom Internet WJB Insurance Agency/Bill Bienek, Agent Wok-N-Roll (Bob & Jiralyn Miller) Zachery Stene</p>
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Elise Oberg Competes At State Golf Meet



Elise Oberg shot 98 at the state golf meet. She hit the ball really well. Putting on the slick greens was a challenge. It was a good couple days. Way to represent West Marshall Fusion, Elise.

SOME WAO EDUCATION FOUNDATION FUNDED NEEDS FOR WAO SCHOOLS



Become a Member - Just \$25
So we can keep this newsletter coming to you!

Board Members:

Carol Anderson
Russell Miller
Jessica Syverson
Carol Bowman
Ed Rosendahl
Carol Sedgeman
Duane Swanson
Darren Carlson
Melanie Nelson

School Board Liasons

Sally Roller
Jordan Johnson



Jackie (Arnold) Lee

says it's that time again

MESA/WARREN Picnic

Is Coming!

Time to make your winter plans around the Warren area community fun event held yearly in Mesa, AZ. It's a great place to connect with hometown friends, share stories and to make new memories.

Rain or shine, the gathering will be held Saturday, February 18, at the NorthPoint Building, Viewpoint Golf Resort, 650 N. Hawes Road, Mesa, AZ 85207. Someone at the guard station will direct you to the building.

Look for a good old-fashioned potluck lunch from 11:30-3:00. Dinnerware and water will be provided. BYOB and a dish to share.

Donations are accepted for expenses with the excess going to the WAO Education Foundation. The Foundation has donated three of their cookbooks as give-aways for this event but you have to be there to win.

Committee members are: Marion Miska Hickman Pace, Jane Miska Sirek, Jackie Arnold Lee, Joanne Dahlman, Kay Hendrickson Root (kayroot@gmail.com) and many fabulous volunteers.

Chat with the Chairman

Greetings from the WAO Education Foundation!

Many exciting things have been happening with the Foundation and at WAO. The week of the Marshall County Fair was a fun time to have many alumni back "home" for their class reunions and gatherings. Our 17th annual golf scramble was held on July 22nd. 148 golfers joined us for a fun day of golf and activities. It was great to once again have administrators, school board representatives, and staff participate along with alumni, community members, and friends. The weather was perfect for a day of golf! We took in over \$27,000. Mark your calendars for Friday, July 21st for our 18th annual scramble!

In addition to the golf scramble, we held two raffles - one where only 120 tickets were sold at \$100 each. The winners were Price Jenkins - \$500, Jim Kuznia - \$500, Shari Swanson - \$1,000 and Jim Myrfield - \$3,000. The other raffle was a 50/50. Mandy Rosendahl was the winner totaling \$1,780. The \$6780 that the Foundation made will be used for classroom needs/requests, and for the scholarships that we fund.

Where would we be without our great volunteers? I know that our golf scramble wouldn't happen without them. Many of the volunteers sign up a year in advance to work at the event. All volunteers are underpaid, but they are worth gold. Thank you volunteers!

The Saturday of the Marshall County Fair found many class reunion members and their families along with alumni and friends visiting and touring the school buildings. Many comments were expressed about the cleanliness of the buildings. These were very fitting tributes to our great custodial staff.

If you are planning for a class reunion of any of the former schools or WAO in 2023 and haven't already contacted us for a list of addresses for your classmates, we can provide that for you. The only thing that we ask in return is an updated list that includes phone and e-mail contacts.

Email us at edfoundation@wao.k12.mn.us or call and leave a message at 218-745-4646 ext. 1317 and we'd be happy to provide the addresses for you.

Five new WAO staff members were each presented with a \$50 gift certificate to the WAO Wearhouse. In addition, new licensed full-time staff were given \$200 to purchase items for their classes/classrooms.

What will \$25.00 buy you? Many people have bought a one-year membership from the Foundation. This money, along with undesignated money from donations and memorials, is used for classroom needs/requests and the scholarships that we fund. It's a win, win!

This fall, we facilitated \$16,456 in needs for the staff. All staff were given the opportunity to submit requests for items that they would like to have for their classroom/department. These are all items over what the district provides.

If you were near our donor wall this summer, you saw many picture frames on the shelves. These contained pictures of our 2022 scholarship recipients. We're replacing those pictures now with the needs that we recently funded. Stop in and take a look when you're in the building.

During American Education Week in November we gave each school employee a \$10 gift card. We purchased these cards from Ewing Oil/Cenex, Jet Stop, and Northdale Oil all located in Warren.

If you're wintering in AZ or FL or planning a trip there, plan to attend the WAO gathering in Venice on February 11th or in Mesa on February 18th. You'll find many people there that will have 'connections' with you. See the specific details on another page in this issue.

Please remember that when you send in a memorial or donation that you can indicate if you would like it to go to a specific grade, department, or scholarship. All things that are not specified go into the general fund.

A reminder that we list the names of recently deceased alumni, staff, and friends on our website. We update this at least every other week. You'll find the Education Foundation link under the district at www.wao.k12.mn.us. Check it out under recently deceased family and friends. This list is only as up-to-date as you help us by sending us information.

None of us get through this life alone. We have all benefited from the assistance of others at some point along the way. As I write this on All Saints Day, I'm thinking of the saints that have reached out to me and influenced my life. Would you like to consider helping with a designated gift or donation to recognize someone who was a saint or is special in your life? This could help many staff members and students to enhance their learning experiences at WAO.

Thank you for all of your support over the years. As our motto states, "WE CAN'T SUCCEED WITHOUT YOU!" If any of our board members can be any assistance to you, please contact us.

May your holidays be bright and filled with peace and joy! Happy 2023!

Carol Anderson

2022 Class Reunions



WHS CLASS OF 1972 — CELEBRATING OUR 50TH CLASS REUNION: front row; left to right: Charles Pletsch, Betty Graham, Chris Ann (Swanson) St Germain, Laurel Wittman, Carol (Erickson) Tulibaski, Bev (Hanson)Torgerson, Jean (Mattson) Larson, Bruce Horgen, Cheryl (Swanson) Ernst and Bruce Salmonson. Row 2; left to right: Ann (Saetre) Josephson, Carol (Greene) Marty, Beth Johnson, Kristy (Edgar) Hanson, Jay Backstrom, Wayne Torgerson, LuAnn (Knudsen) Johnson, Kathy (Peterson) Swanson, Jeanne (Kotrba) Jones, Marlys Kasprick, Tom Harlow and Mark Flaten. Back row; left to right: Tim Howard, Curt Kuznia, Jeff Lahl, Dean Danielski, John Rogalla, Bruce Schantzen, John Wetterlund, Gale Short, Claudia (Sommers) Marks, Linda Plencner and Russ Steer.



CLASS OF WHS 1992 — reunion was held during the Marshall County Fair. From the left are, Eric Wittman, Stacy (Novak) Polley, Bobbi Jo Knoll, Rachel Loeslie, Amy (Filipi) Elfritz, Tricia (Kurz) Crawford, Wendy (Jones) Steer and Van Hapka.



WAO CLASS 2012 — From the left: Brenna (Miller) Olson, Zack Anderson, Andrew Lansing, Ashley Novak, Cory Myrfield, Angie (Erickson) Hougard, Katie Rehder, Zach Riopelle, Sarah Durand and Kristen (Ranstrom) Yackley.



WHS CLASS OF 1982 — Seated: Bruce Nelson, Craig Peterson, Tim Larson, Jim Duckstad, Scott Truhn, Brian Jadeke, Terry Nelson, Neil Larter Standing: Gwen (Nicholls) Nelson, Melanie (Teal) Brockpahler, Jill (Johnston) Anderson, Monique (DuBore) Collette, Terri (Swanson) Konchan, Nancy (Huderle) Koho, Paula (Vonasek) Bodell, Jane (Emerson) Holland, Mary Kay (Nicholls) Voll, Jill (Danielski) Carlson, Rhonda (Bodell) Kitley, Mary Anne (Horgen) Hamm.



OSLO CLASS OF 1972 — From left to right: Chester Grabinski, Wendy (Selnes) Hewitt, Bonnie (Bushaw) Hoverson, Mary (Dickson) Loomis, James Solem, Candace (Anvinson) VonRueden, Patrick Callahan, Carol (Gowan) Callahan, Mary (Mozinski) Ziebart, Nancy (Gothberg) Donahue, Lyn Norberg, Larry Stadstad, Gregg McFarland, Michael Lind, Dennis Duray, Vicky (Johnson) Jamieson, Jeff Kinney, Wayne Devine, Matthew Gerszewski.

Recently Deceased Alumni, Staff & Friends

These are death notices of alumni and staff that we have received. If you have additions or corrections, please contact the Education Foundation.

- 1940 WHS Audrey (Paulson) Flod
- 1941 Oslo Sister Paschal (Lyda) Martin
- 1942 WHS Iola (Johnson) Hennebry
- 1947 ALV Aloise "Dolly" (Bergan) Erickson
- 1948 WHS Joyce (Hedquist) Rousseau
- 1948 WHS Mildred "Mickey" (Taus) Yarde
- 1948 WHS George Erickson
- 1949 WHS June (Sorenson) Turnlund
- 1951 WHS George Hedquist
- 1955 Oslo Ila (Solem) Lind
- 1957 WHS Russell Goplin
- 1958 WHS Lois (Nybakken) Kresl
- 1963 WHS Arlene (Jagol) Tholkes
- 1964 ALV Rita (Strong) Hoff
- 1968 WHS Pat Ross
- 1973 Oslo Mark Mondry
- 1974 WHS Tim Munger
- 1975 WHS Betty (Rominski) Gottsacker
- 1977 WHS Steve McGregor
- 1979 WHS William "Billy" Saetre
- 1982 ALV Kathy (Johnson) Carlson
- 2003 WAO Zach Kasprowicz
- Para WAO Beverly Duckstad
- Staff WHS Pat Rasmussen
- Teacher WHS Deanna Swanson
- Teacher WHS William Stimac
- Teacher WHS James Larson
- Friend Vern Lysford
- Friend Jeanie Ulferts

Recently deceased family and friends list is updated weekly on the Education Foundation link at www.k12.mn.us



AHS CLASS OF 1953 — From the left are Jim Aas, Betty East and Don Mager. Couldn't make it were Delwyn Olson, Janet (Anderson) Peterson and Dan Grabanski.

The WAO Education Foundation appreciates any information sent in to be shared by past graduates from the Warren, Alvarado, and Oslo area. Keep them coming!

West Marshall Fusion Track Competitors Going To State Meet



Gavin Gullikson placed 1st in the Pole Vault at the Section 8A Track and Field meet on Friday, June 3 in Ada. Gavin vaulted 13'3".



Hannah Pederson placed 1st in the triple jump and 2nd in the 100 Hurdles at the Section 8A Track and Field meet on Friday, June 3 in Ada. Hannah jumped 34'4.25" in the triple jump and ran a 16.83 in the 100 hurdles.



Markelle Pederson placed 2nd in the High Jump at the Section 8A Track and Field meet on Friday, June 3 in Ada. Markelle jumped 4'11".

2022 Class Reunions



OSLO CLASS OF 1992 — Standing, left to right are Joel Osowski, Ronda (Olson) Biermaier, Sarah (Hammerlund) Cerney, Renae (Olson) Vanyo, Jennifer (Osowski) Rodgers, Ben Holter and Craig Nice. Seated, left to right are Karyn (Nelson) Vasek, Angie (Plutowski) Carpenter, Tracy Jamieson and Chad Anderson. Also present but not pictured were Kerrie (Hendrickson) Peltier, Becky (Michalski) Boman, Brent Farder, Brenda (Honek) Farder



ALV CLASS OF 1962 — Front row; left to right: Rita (Kotrba) Bailey and Fern (Hendrickson) Fleck. Back row; left to right: Marlene (Olson) Shane, Carol (Gulbranson) Janssen, Henry Pietrzak and Tom Vanyo.

The Warren WHS/WAO Florida Picnic

February 11, 2023



Pavilion at Maxine Barret Park – 12-4 p.m.

1800 Harbor Dr. S., Venice, Florida (just south of Sarasota)

Contact: dsholy@sandslandscaping.com for more information or questions.

Warren-Alvarado-Oslo Public School Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit organization to benefit education.

Gifts of \$100 or more to the Foundation are recognized on an attractive donor board located in the east entrance of the high school.

Please Contribute The Ed Foundation would appreciate your financial support, so we can continue to send you this newsletter.

Give Us Your Ideas Let us know what is interesting to you or what other information you'd like to see in this newsletter.

This gift is in memory of in tribute to

Name _____

Please specify here whom should receive notification of this gift
 Notice to: _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

GIFT RECOGNITION

For accumulated gift totals of \$100 or more, an engraved recognition plate bearing your name will be added to the Recognition Wall in the Warren/Alvarado/Oslo School.

www.wao.k12.mn.us email: edfoundation@wao.k12.mn.us (218) 745-4646

Enclosed is my contribution to support the work of the WAO Education Foundation

- \$ _____ Membership Tutor (\$1-99) Educator (\$100-499)
 Mentor (\$500-999) Scholar (\$1,000-4,999) Benefactor (\$5,000 or more)
 Class of: WHS _____ OHS _____ AHS _____ WAO _____
 Other: (specific) _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I would like information on the benefits of planning a gift to the WAO Education Foundation through my will gifts that pay life income an insurance policy

Make checks payable to: WAO Education Foundation
 (All gifts to WAO Public Education Foundation are tax deductible.)

Warren Alvarado Oslo Education Foundation

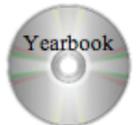
Alumni Yearbook Service Order Form

•The yearbooks are being transferred to digital format (PDF - Adobe Acrobat)
 Once the desired years are copied, they will be put on a DVD, CD or Flash Drive and sent via mail to the address below.

Name: _____
 (Please print legibly)

Email Address: _____

Phone: (Cell) _____
 (Home) _____



Address to send to:
 Street Address: _____
 City, State: _____ Zip Code _____

Yearbook year(s) you want copies of and circle the media choice:
 _____ DVD/CD or Zip Drive
 _____ DVD/CD or Zip Drive

Cost: \$10.00 for the first year copy and \$1.00 for each additional year copy
 (Note: Multiple years may be copied on to one DVD, CD or Flash Drive)
TOTAL: _____ (Please send payment with order)

•Please send check or money order to: WAO Education Foundation
 224 East Bridge Ave.
 Warren, MN 56762