

OBITUARIES

Annamarie Hegge

Annamarie Hegge, age 90, of Crofton, Nebraska, died Thursday, May 1, 2014, at Avera Sister James Care Center in Yankton, South Dakota.

Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:30 AM, on Saturday, May 3, 2014 at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, Crofton, NE with the Rev. Michael Schmitz officiating. Burial will be at the St. Rose of Lima Cemetery in Crofton.

Visitation will be on Friday, at church, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. with vigil service at 7:00 p.m. The family will be present from 6-8:00 p.m. Visitation will resume one hour prior to service on Saturday at church.

Pallbearers will be her four sons, Les Hegge, Lonnie Hegge, Bruce Hegge, and Brian Hegge. Honorary pallbearers will be her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Annamarie Hegge was born on August 20, 1923 in St. Helena, Nebraska to Carl and Mathilda (Lammers) Bruening. She grew up in St. Helena and attended the District country school. She worked for a veterinarian (Dr. Perry) in Yankton as a housekeeper prior to her marriage to George Henry Hegge on June 6, 1944 in St. Helena, NE. Annamarie and George lived in the St. Helena and Bow Valley areas where they farmed. They moved northwest of Crofton in January of 1972. She and George then moved into Crofton in 1976. George died on February 12, 1989 at the age of 73 years. Annamarie moved to the Sister James Nursing Home in Yankton in June of 2011. She welcomed this move as her home and thanked the staff every day until the very last day for their wonderful care.

She worked in the



Hegge

Catholic Church, its guild and Christian Mothers. She enjoyed walking, the Senior Citizens Bingo, gardening, quilting, and embroidery work.

Survivors include her eight children and spouses, Diane (Joe) Janssen of Crofton, NE; Linda Donner of Crofton, NE; Les (Linda) Hegge of Papillion, NE; Lonnie (Karen) Hegge of Omaha, NE; Sue (Gary) Pautler of Crofton, NE; Bobbi (Dave) Zavadil of Crofton, NE; Bruce (Vicki) Hegge of Omaha, NE and Brian (Karen) Hegge of Omaha, NE; 24 grandchildren; four step-grandchildren; 33 great grandchildren; 10 step great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband George; son-in-law Mel Donner; two grandchildren Steven Donner and Cody Zavadil; eight siblings and their spouses, Hilaria and Jul Bender, Ig and Helen Bruening, Hans and Hildegard Bruening, Art and Grace Bruening, Lucina and Otto Sudbeck, Hildegard Rainey, Edmund and Kathleen Bruening, Bernard and Gerry Bruening.

Yankton Press & Dakotan
May 2, 2014

WINTZ
FUNERAL HOME, INC.
Hartington * Coleridge * Crofton
203 W. Franklin, PO Box 505
Hartington, Nebraska 68739

Betty Clarken

Betty (Long) Clarken, daughter of Hermon and Elsie (Westrum) Long, was born April 11, 1938 in rural Dayton, Iowa.

Betty graduated from Webster City High School and then pursued a professional dancing career. She taught dance class and led the local drill team for several years. On May 20, 1956, she married Harold Clarken of Corwith, Iowa. They lived in Webster City, Humboldt, West Des Moines, and Wauke, Iowa. She was a member of St. Boniface Catholic Church in Wauke for 48 years.

She was preceded in death by one son, Danny Clarken, a sister, Bonnie Long in infancy, and both of her parents.

Survivors include one son, Kevin (Julie) Clarken, and three daughters, Debbie Hueholt-Hartman, Michelle (Todd) Van Maanen, and Annette (Grant) Duncan. She cherished her eight grandchildren- Jared (Meghan Walter) Hueholt, Erin (Joseph) Hill, Daniel Clarken, Kelsey Ihde, Taylor Sullivan, Justin Clarken, Jesse Van Maanen, and Molly Ihde as well as four great grandchildren, Wylie, Dawson, Amesley, and Natalie. She recently wrote about her 5 children and 8 grandchildren that, "Those, of course, are my greatest accomplishments rewards."

Betty died on April 29, 2014 at Mercy West Lakes Hospital in West Des Moines, Iowa from respiratory complications. She was surrounded by her family and close friends as she peacefully and gracefully passed away.

Mass of Christian Burial will be 11:00 AM, Monday, May 5, 2014 at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Wauke, Iowa. Visitation with the family present will be 4:00 pm-6:00 pm, Sunday, May 4, 2014 at the Ernst Funeral Home in Wauke, Iowa, with a Prayer Service at 6:00 pm. For more information or to send condolences, please visit www.diamondmemorial.com or call (515) 964-7543.

Memorial Contributions may be made to the family in loving memory of Betty Clarken.



Clarken

"GOD'S GARDEN"

*God looked around his garden
And found an empty place.*

*He then looked down upon the earth,
And saw your tired face.
He put His arms around you*

*And lifted you to rest.
God's garden must be beautiful,
He always takes the best.*

*He knew that you were suffering,
He knew that you were in pain.*

*He knew that you would never
Get well on earth again.
He saw the road was getting rough*

*And the hills were hard to climb.
So He closed your weary eyelids*

*And whispered "Peace be thine."
It broke our hearts to lose you*

*But you did not go alone...
For part of us went with you*

The day God called you home.

Author: unknown

AN OLD IRISH PRAYER

*Give us, Lord, a bit o sun
A bit o work and a bit o fun*

Give us in all the struggle and sputter

Our daily bread and a bit o butter

Give us health our keep to make

And a bit to spare for other's sake

*Give us, too, a bit of song
And a tale and a book to help us along*

Give us, Lord, a chance to be

Our goodly best, brave, wise and free —

Our goodly best for ourselves and others

Till all men learn to live as brothers

Yankton Press & Dakotan
May 2, 2014

IN REMEMBRANCE

Ronald G. Nyberg
2:00 PM, Friday
Calvary Baptist Church
Yankton

WINTZ & RAY
FUNERAL HOME
and Cremation Service, Inc.
605-665-3644

Annamarie Hegge
10:30 AM, Saturday
St. Rose of Lima
Catholic Church
Crofton

WINTZ
FUNERAL HOME, INC.
Hartington, Coleridge, Crofton
402-254-6547

BY RANDY DOCKENDORF

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Later this summer, Cedar County will gain two new school districts.

At Tuesday's meeting, the Nebraska Board of Reorganization approved the separate mergers. In the first request, Newcastle and Hartington will combine as one district. In the other request, Laurel-Concord and Coleridge will become one district.

Both new districts become effective Aug. 1.

Randy Anderson currently serves as the Hartington superintendent. He will serve one more year as the superintendent for the newly-merged district.

Anderson said he testified Tuesday on the merger, which received unanimous approval from state officials.

"The two schools are now in the process of transition, which includes transportation, attendance center needs, staffing needs and all of the support systems needed to conduct sound programs, such as food service, custodial and office management," he said.

"At the present time a Pre-K-4 program will be in place at Newcastle (for those students living in the current Newcastle district). The total enrollment will be approximately 12 students. This number may change, however, due

to final parent decisions."

The new district will not change Hartington's current Wildcat mascot or school colors, Anderson said. However, the new district will use the term Hartington/Newcastle on its programs.

One thing that will change is the size of the school board, Anderson said.

"The existing six-member board will now be a nine-member board for a period of two years and then return to a six member board in 2017," he said.

The new Laurel-Concord/Coleridge school district will also use an appointed school board, said Superintendent Randy Klooz.

The timing of the consolidation meant there couldn't be another election for the existing Laurel-Concord and Coleridge schools. In addition, a new board is needed to hit the ground running and make decisions for the new, enlarged district.

A nine-member school board will be created for the new district, using appointed members at first, said Supt. Randy Klooz.

"The Laurel-Concord board is going to appoint five board members, and Coleridge is going to nominate four board members," he said. "Three of the members from Laurel-Concord are serving four years, and the other two members will serve two-year terms. For Co-

leridge, two of the board members will serve four years, and the other two members will serve two years. Then, in the future, we'll get started with the regular cycle (of elections)."

In recent years, Laurel-Concord and Coleridge have shared a superintendent, high school principal and elementary/middle school principal, Klooz said. The sharing of administration and programs has greatly eased the transition toward the new enlarged district, he added.

In addition, the new district will continue the current location of pre-kindergarten through fourth grade in Laurel, fifth through eighth grade at Coleridge and ninth through 12th grade in Laurel.

The new district will enroll about 430 students at first, with the figure expected to remain stable for now, Klooz said.

The continuation of many parts of the current sharing arrangement should create a smooth path toward a new district, he said.

"My thinking, we need consistency on this," he said. "It's very important that we keep what is best for the kids as the main discussion."

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at twitter.com/RDockendorf

NRD

From Page 1A

Earlier this spring, a University of Nebraska-Lincoln study showed almost every Nebraska county — including all those in the Lewis and Clark NRD — experienced a water level decline of more than one foot from spring 2012 to spring 2013.

The Lewis and Clark NRD actually saw a drop of two to five feet, Sudbeck said.

In response to the situation, Moser said the NRD has taken steps to ensure adequate water. "We have been working with this for the last two years. It started in 2012, when we were looking at different options."

While the NRD has seen a surge in water demand, Moser doesn't see an immediate crisis.

"We are proposing these changes to head off any long-term problems," he said. "We see the possibility of a problem in the future, so how will we manage it?"

Moser doesn't see the need for stricter measures imposed by other NRDs. "The Lower Elkhorn (NRD in Norfolk) and the Lower Niobrara (NRD in Butte) have placed a moratorium on new well construction," he said.

However, the time for action is now rather than waiting years down the road, Moser said. He points to the desirability of handling the situation at the local level rather than have other agencies impose regulations on NRDs and landowners.

"It's a mix of political pressure and the irrigating. What can we do about regulations?" he asked. "You would rather have decisions made under local control than have the state or federal government come in. We would rather have the option to do it ourselves."

Even allowing the Legislature to impose new regulations would carry some risks, Moser said. "There are concerns that, at the state level, the rural will be picked on by the urban," he said.

Sudbeck noted the Lewis and Clark NRD proposal would require permits for irrigation wells pumping greater than 50 gallons a minute.

"Much of the rest of the state does that already," she said. "We would also require a permit for expanding irrigated acres. The permits are ranked based on the proximity of other wells."

An aquifer's characteristics include its transmissivity — how fast the water moves through the soil — and the thickness of the aquifer's formation, Sudbeck said.

If groundwater resource starts declining rapidly, the NRD has set triggers under the proposal to protect and monitor supplies. The action could include limiting irrigation usage for certain areas. Under the proposed



RANDY DOCKENDORF/P&D

An audience member picks up a proposed amendment to Lewis and Clark Natural Resource District (NRD) groundwater regulations following Thursday's meeting in Hartington, Neb. The NRD has seen soaring groundwater use, with 395 new wells during a three-year period because of increased irrigation for drought and crop demands.

amendment, irrigators need flow meters on new wells, Moser said.

"We would have the proper record on water usage. We would know the number of gallons used and the number of acres irrigated," he said. "We are trying to tabulate the data more accurately."

The proposed NRD amendment drew fire from at least one person at Thursday's meeting.

George Pick of Hartington blasted the NRD board members, claiming they weren't watching out for the landowners' best interest.

"This NRD board is a puppet show. Where is the local control? You're asleep at the switch," he told the board. "What are the rights of the property owners? What are you thinking of?"

Pick questioned the timing of the public hearing on a weekday afternoon and the small print used in the handouts for the proposed amendments.

He also criticized the introduction of flow meters. "We don't need another bureaucrat sitting on his rear end, reading a meter," he said.

The Hartington man also stated he didn't believe the NRD board gave the public enough time to learn about the proposals and raise their concerns.

"I think it's a shame where this (proposal) is headed," he

said. "It belongs in the shredder and then start over."

In separate comments to the *Press & Dakotan*, Sudbeck noted information meetings were held in Newcastle, Hartington and Bloomfield. Many of the people attending Thursday's public hearing were present for at least one of the previous meetings, she said.

However, the NRD board may decide to schedule more information meetings, given concerns raised Thursday, Sudbeck said.

Another information meeting is probably a good idea, said Dick Hammond, a groundwater scientist for 22 years in South Dakota who now works for Heine Electric and Irrigation.

"It's not very clear how they will apply the rules to different types of wells," he said. "This is a process that will take months. They shouldn't have crowded all the information meetings into one week. They should have spread them out."

Crofton retiree Keith Kube, who is running for the Legislature, said he sensed frustration among Thursday's audience.

"There's the feeling that there isn't a lot of time to react, and they'll have to live with whatever rules come down," he said. "There's a lot more information coming down the pipe, and people

won't deal with it as much as they'll react to it."

Kube also saw a benefit to breaking the meetings into smaller groups where audience members may feel more comfortable making comments.

On the other hand, Kube commended the NRD board for trying to head off an emergency down the road. And, despite some audience comments, he said the NRD board was actually protecting local control.

"The board here is being accused of doing things too fast. But they have seen, if we don't take care of things, the state and federal government will step in," he said. "What seems rushed by farmers is actually keeping the 'Big Bad Wolf' out of our backyard."

Moser has held the public hearing open for 10 days for additional written comments, which should be sent to the NRD office in Hartington.

The board is trying to strike a delicate balance, he said.

"We feel, as a district, that groundwater is important for agriculture," he said. "But we also need to protect groundwater resources for the next generation."

You can follow Randy Dockendorf on Twitter at twitter.com/RDockendorf. Discuss this story at www.yankton.net

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