

NEWS & OBITUARIES



Constance Erickson
March 29, 1945 —
December 27, 2024

Constance Ida Erickson, 79, of Milnor, ND passed away on Friday, December 27 at her home in Fargo, ND.

Constance was born on Holy Thursday, March 29, 1945 at St. Francis Hospital in Breckenridge, MN to devout Catholic parents Irene (Gully) Vaplon and Conrad Vaplon of Lidgerwood, ND. With their love she enjoyed her childhood years helping to build the family farm west of Lidgerwood. Less inclined to work indoors doing domestic work, she sought to be the protégé of her father, the farmer. From him, she learned many of the ins and outs of farming, but more importantly, she learned the value of stopping regularly, to eat, to rest, and to give thanks to God for the fruits of their labor. It is also during this time she gained a deep devotion to the Blessed Mother.

Constance married Vernon George Erickson on December 22, 1970. Together they built a farm near Delamere, ND where operating combines, tractors, and trucks was a source of pride for her. Her love for her husband was deep and productive with service to him of

cardinal importance. Her attitude toward farming never faded until her retirement in 1994. She then spent ten years working in food service proudly serving meals at two hospitals. From 2004 until death, she enjoyed the accumulation of grandchildren and doing 'whatever you want to do' from her home on the family farm in Delamere.

Constance was the proud mother of six children and fifteen grandchildren. She is survived by children, Janelle Schires, Tonya (Brian) Orr, Ellick Erickson, Idette (Keith) Struxness, Emeric (Jessica) Erickson and Calvin Erickson; siblings, Virginia Vaplon Goerger, Frank (Rose) Vaplon, Maggie (Jim) Miller, Corinne Vaplon and Helen (Michael) Sturgeon; and her grandchildren. Constance was preceded in death by her parents and her husband, Vernon.

There will be a Rosary on Friday, January 3, 2025 starting at 6:45 p.m. followed by a Prayer Service at 7 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Wyndmere. Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, January 4th at 10 a.m. at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church. Constance's funeral will be live streamed from her page on the Dahlstrom Funeral Home website. Burial will take place in the spring at Dunbar Cemetery near Milnor.

Those that knew her were familiar with her devotion to the Catholic Church. Therefore in lieu of flowers please consider a donation to the Constance Erickson Memorial Fund established at St. John the Baptist Church in Wyndmere ND.



SUBMITTED

There will be four-on-four games, but an extra donkey may appear during games as the excitement rises!

Donkey basketball returns to Hankinson

BY JOHN ANDERSON
Reporter

It's back! The Hankinson Parents of Post Prom announced the return of the Donkey Basketball doubleheader featuring local celebrities in action.

The event will be held on Sunday, Jan. 19 when doors open at 6 p.m. at the Hankinson High School West Gym for the two games that start at 7 p.m.

In the first game, the Hankinson Fire Department will take on the Lidgerwood Fire Department. In the second game, the Hankinson staff will take on the students.

Tickets are available

pre-sale or \$10 and \$15 the day of the event. The tickets are available at Hankinson Drug, Post's Hardware or use the QR code on the poster to purchase tickets online.

Michelle Roeder, who volunteers to make the Junior Prom a great event, introduced the idea to the Junior Parents Post Prom Committee.

Since then, the committee has worked diligently to plan and organize the donkey game event, which will support the Hankinson 2025 Post Prom scheduled for April 26.

Bethany Mauch, another volunteer, is excited to see how many

people stepped up to participate.

"So far, we have some great participation lined up, including HPS staff members Kevin Nesemeier (High School Social Studies teacher), Zach Nelson (High School Science teacher), Dillon Ostby (second grade) and Bria Eisen, our third-grade teacher, who have all volunteered to join a donkey basketball team," Mauch said. "Additionally, members of both the Hankinson and Lidgerwood Fire Departments will also be participating.

"Both girls and boys' basketball teams will be there to cheer the teams to victory. This

will be a fantastic community event, and it's all in support of creating a safe, fun, and memorable post-prom celebration for our high school students," Mauch added.

The committee will hold a 50/50 raffle the evening of the game and concessions will be available as well, featuring hot dogs, nachos, and more.

Dairyland Donkey Ball is putting the show on. They average 200 shows a year and this is their 20th year of entertaining. Hankinson held a game in 2012.

However, their original company started with donkey ball in 1934.

OFFICIALS

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governing underground storage areas, also known as pore space, also are being challenged.

Summit has also received pipeline route permits in Iowa and for a small section in Minnesota, but was denied a permit from South Dakota where the main trunk of the 2,500-mile pipeline network is planned to run. Summit is trying again for a permit in South Dakota, so pipeline opponents and supporters will be watching the state closely this year. If built, the pipeline would connect 57 ethanol plants in five states to the underground storage area in western North Dakota.

Summit calls the nearly \$9 billion pipeline the world's largest carbon capture and storage projects.

Supporters say it will benefit the ethanol industry and the farmers who sell corn to the ethanol plants. Some opponents call it a taxpayer-funded climate change boondoggle and some landowner see it as an assault on property rights.

A portion of property owners along the path of the proposed pipeline oppose the project, and refuse to provide easements to Summit. If Summit and the property owners are unable to reach an agreement, Summit may take the matter to court to seek eminent domain.

Higher education

Bismarck State College, Dickinson State University and Lake Region State College will all be looking for

new presidents in 2025, and the North Dakota University System also will be looking for a new leader.

Chancellor Mark Hagerott, who oversees the 11 colleges and their presidents, is stepping down at the end of 2025.

Bismarck State's Doug Jensen is done Thursday; Dickinson State has been using an acting president since Stephen Easton quit in July; and Lake Region's Doug Darling will retire at the end of June.

Inmate population

North Dakota's prison system has been over its capacity for men since July 1, 2023, resorting to using county jails and a waiting list for some prisoners to get into a state facility.

The state Legislature will be asked to address the North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation problem in the 2025 session.

Former Gov. Doug Burgum's budget proposal included \$6.5 million into pay equity for corrections employees, \$127.3 million for a new 600-resident facility for the Missouri River Correctional Center, and \$36.5 million to finish a building project for the Heart River Women's Correctional Center in Mandan.

Donnell Preskey, a government and public affairs specialist with the North Dakota Association of Counties, said counties are struggling to keep up, too, with several local jail expansions planned.

She said the issue is related to high incarceration costs and property taxes, since property taxes are the primary funding source for jails.

Recovering alcoholic still picking up pieces

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I were together for 11 years, married for six of them. I had an alcohol addiction for the last few years, which led to my being unfaithful. He never drank, so he had a hard time understanding my addiction problem. After I got a DUI, he finally left me.

Two weeks later, he was already in another relationship! We divorced a year later. I have spent the last 14 months changing my life. I have been sober this whole time, attended AA meetings and seen a psychotherapist as well as an addiction therapist. I have been devastated since my husband left. I have lost 20 pounds that I didn't need to lose, and I leave my house only to work. I haven't even entertained the idea of seeing or talking to another man.

My ex has been telling me off and on that he wants to try and work things out with me, which is something I want more than anything. I know I hurt him, and he's no longer the same person. I want to show



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

him I'm different and we can be happy, but he won't fully commit to anything and just keeps hurting me. Should I continue to pursue this or try to find a way to move on? — NOW SOBER IN VIRGINIA

DEAR NOW SOBER: If your sobriety is important to you, you cannot cling to a person who "keeps hurting you." (I wish you had mentioned how he does this, but in the end, you must do what is good for YOU.) Did the way he treated you — or your perception of it — have something to do with your drinking and infidelity?

You stated that he says he wants to work things out. His skittishness may stem from the hurt he experienced because of what you put him through. If you decide to rekindle your relationship, do so only under certain conditions: He must end the relationship with the person he's involved

with if they are still together, attend Al-Anon meetings so he can learn more about the disease of alcoholism and attend relationship counseling sessions with you.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 64-year-old gay man, originally from the Deep South, living in a large metropolitan area. I have been here for more than 30 years. My problem is, I am unable to keep my cool when talking with my aging parents. I have insisted several times that I do not wish to discuss politics, but my request is ignored by Mom especially because she refuses to acknowledge my sexual orientation. She sings the praises of the most anti-gay politicians with no regard for my feelings. When I try to gently change the subject, most times, she won't let it go.

I have reached the point that I no longer wish to speak to either of my parents. The hurtful things they

have said break my heart. Should I follow my gut and cut them off, or continue to remain silent and endure the hurt? I know they won't change. — WOUNDED HEART IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR WOUNDED HEART: Silence helps no one. As you have discovered, it leads only to more of the same. Tell them the hurtful things they have said are heart-breaking. You have already made clear to your mother that you do not wish to discuss politics. This time, tell them that if they raise the subject again, it will be the end of the conversation and you will hang up. If they ignore you and do it again, follow through.

DEAR ABBY is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

The Lidgerwood Rural Fire Districts Annual Meeting

will be held at 8:00 p.m.
Monday, January 20, 2025 at the
Lidgerwood Fire Hall.

Members up for re-election are:
Warren Lyon: Kingston Township
LeRoy Siemieniowski: Herman Township
Brian Anderson: Dexter Township
Loren Zietlow: City of Lidgerwood
Leon Helmer: Duerr Township

Annual Meeting of the Fairmount Rural Fire Protection District

Tuesday, January 21st, 2025
at 9:30 am
Location: Fairmount Fire Hall

Election of two directors
Kyle Kutzer, Sec.