

Obituaries/Church

Ronald Lynn Gotvaslee

November 24, 1958 - December 24, 2025

Ronald Lynn Gotvaslee, 67, Norwich, ND passed away Wednesday, December 24, 2025 in his home.

Ronald was born November 24, 1958 to Olaf and Evelyn (Boutilier) Gotvaslee. He grew up on the family farm near Norwich and attended Granville Public School. After high school, Ron attended the State School of Science at Wahpeton ND where he learned the Auto Body trade. Shortly thereafter, he met his future wife, Sheila Klinkhammer. They married in 1981 and went on to raise four children and many family pets.

Ron worked for Burlington Northern for 9 years living two of those years in Aberdeen, SD. He spent a few winters being a stay-at-home Dad while Sheila worked. He enjoyed it as much as the kids.

In 1990, the family moved to Buffalo, MN. Ron was so happy on his little hobby farm. He could be found in his shop collecting, trading and working on his various projects, or listening to talk radio. He was known to try to mow and grill at the same time which tended to end in a similar way each time.

Ron worked for LORAM in Hamel, MN from 1990 until he retired. He was Lead Maintenance for the entire plant. Ron was a hard worker and won many awards through the years for his work.

Weekends he spent with family, fishing grilling or sitting around the fire at Ottertail or Maple Lake. Ron gardened during the summers, enjoyed auctions, hunting and camping. He ate healthy and had an affinity for chocolate and cooking creative dishes.

Throughout Ron's journey of moves with his family, his 1967 Pontiac GTO got towed along the way.

In 2018 Ron retired and moved back to North Dakota.

Ron is survived by his 4 children, Robyn Gotvaslee, Shayna Gotvaslee (Glenn), Dustin Gotvaslee, and Gina (Jay) Isaacson; grandchildren, Daniel, Jonah, Shaylee, Jacob, Savannah, Cameron, Yanna, Austin, Avery, Tamia, Julian, Kashuis and Dalila; former wife, Sheila; siblings, Carol (Steve) Smith and Brian (Laurie) Gotvaslee; and other extended family.

Ron was preceded in death by his parents, Olaf and Evelyn Gotvaslee; and brothers, Wayne and Kenneth.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, January 31 at 10:30 at the Norwich Lutheran Church in Norwich. The service will be livestreamed for the public to view and can be accessed by going to the Norwich Lutheran Church YouTube page at Granville Norwich Lutheran Parish - YouTube. Burial will take place at a later date. Another memorial service will be held in Alexandria, MN, at a later date. Those wishing to sign the online register and share memories may access the online obituaries section at (www.thompsonlarsen.com).



Book of Jerry

(Continued from Front Page)

and through national legal organizations, what impressed him most was “the Chief’s” kindness.

“What stood out all the time is how attentive he was to everybody, and how kind he was to people, even though he was Chief Justice,” McDonald said. “It constantly amazed me.”

The other aspect was his sincerity and honesty, he said.

“He was extremely well respected by legislators no matter what and no matter what party it was,” McDonald said.

VandeWalle’s deep respect for the law and the standards of the legal system, as well as his egalitarian, humble and non-partisan nature, give him pause when looking at how the Supreme Court and other influential courts are now perceived at the national level, he said.

VandeWalle said framing by the national press over the years about liberal versus conservative judges – with stories often referring to the president and the politics of that president who appointed them instead of focusing more on the issues or decisions they preside over – is something that’s bothered him for some time.

It hasn’t helped that in recent years presidents have been playing into that and politicizing the courts.

“I’m concerned about the stature of courts generally after all this is through, because I think they’re going to be considered just another branch of government,” VandeWalle said.

Copies of the book will be available at the North Dakota Heritage Center and online.

*The North Dakota News Cooperative is a non-profit news organization providing reliable and independent reporting on issues and events that impact the lives of North Dakotans. The organization increases the public’s access to quality journalism and advances news literacy across the state. For more information about NDNC or to make a charitable contribution, please visit newscoopnd.org.*

Dale G. Niewoehner, CFSP  
Licensed Funeral Practitioner



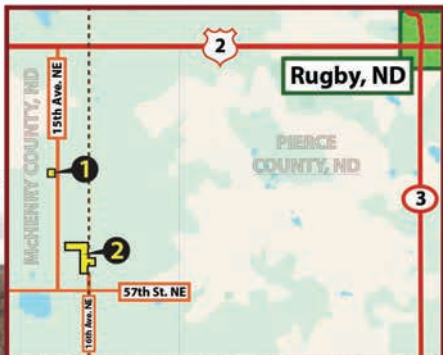
Native of Upham  
Class of 1963 - Upham High School

*Serving the community since  
1972 with funeral, memorial  
services and monument sales.*

**NIEWOEHNER FUNERAL HOME**  
Rugby • dmnieuwohner@gondtc.com  
701-776-6222

322 Acres • McHenry & Pierce Counties, ND  
**LAND AUCTION**  
OPENS: Friday, February 6, 2026 – 12:00 p.m.  
CLOSES: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 – 12:00 p.m.

- 93.49 +/- FSA Crop Acres
- 19.05 +/- CRP Acres - \$48.54/acre
- Strong Producing Cropland
- Excellent Hunting Opportunities
- Parcel 1 in McHenry County
- Parcel 2 in McHenry & Pierce Counties
- Available in 2026



OWNERS: Daniel & Donna Brossart

This sale is managed by Pifer's Auction Company, Kevin Pifer, ND #715. All statements made the day of the auction take precedence over all printed materials. The seller reserves the right to accept or reject any and all bids. Seller to reserve all sub-surface minerals.

**Pifer's**  
www.pifers.com



**Darin Peterson**  
701.220.5396 | darin@pifers.com

Upham News

Sympathy is extended to the friends and cousins of Even Garnant, he passed away on January 7th in Rugby. Services were held on Saturday, January 17th at the New Hope Lutheran Church in Upham.

Cole Strong, Scarlett, Max and Sawyer were Saturday callers at the Shirley Vormestrand home.

Mary Boehnke was a Friday afternoon caller at the Diana Brandt home. They had a good meeting.

Alan and Maria Vormestrand and Shirley Vormestrand were Saturday evening supper guests at the Carol Hashim’s home.

Wesley Goodman and Mary Boehnke were among those that attended the benefit held for Richard O’Toole on Sunday.

Brian and Deana Tranby were Sunday callers at the Diana Brandt home.

Diana Brandt was among those that attended the benefit held on Sunday for Richard O’Toole.

Mary Boehnke was a caller Tuesday afternoon at the Diana Brandt home. Later, she went to Towner and attended some basketball games.

Alan and Maria Vormestrand and Shirley Vormestrand attended the benefit held for Richard O’Toole on Sunday.

On Monday, John Brandt and Brian Tranby were callers at the Diana Brandt home, they put out a hay bale for the horses.

Happy Birthday to Mary Gorgi, Will Torr and Bill Petersen.

“Happiness adds and multiplies as we divide it with others.”



THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose  
under heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die;  
A time to plant, and a time to pluck what is planted;  
A time to kill, and a time to heal;  
A time to break down, and a time to build up...

Ecclsiastes 3:1-3

Aztec Sun Stone Calendar



**Ashley**  
EST. 1888

The City of Ashley ND seeks Economic  
Development Specialist.

Call (208) 440-2186 or Email

mkmbblack@gmail.com for more information.

**LYRIC**  
Theatre



Avatar  
Fri. Jan. 23  
Sat. Jan. 24  
Sun. Jan. 25



RATED: PG-13

Lyric  
Rugby, ND



FRI  
SAT

7 P M

SUN

2 P M

McHenry County Church Service Directory

ANAMOOSE

**St. Francis Xavier's Catholic Church;** Rev. Tom Graner, stfx@gondtc.com; 1st & 5th Sundays of the month 8 am 2nd Sunday of the month 10:30 am 3rd & 4th Sundays of the month 5 pm Saturday evening; 5th Sunday of the month 8 am  
**United Community Baptist Church**  
Danelle Olson, Pastor  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.  
**St. Martin Lutheran**  
Reverend Tim Stout  
Service @ 9 am, with Sunday School & Bible study at 8:00am  
Communion: 1st & 3rd Sun.

DEERING

**Deering Lutheran Congregation**  
Pastor David Myers (240-4225)  
Bethany (838-5196); Lay Pastor Daniel Bauder; Organist Diane Mogard  
Sunday Worship: 11:15a.m;  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

DRAKE

**United Methodist**  
Ph #: 465- 3757  
Worship Service: 8:30 am

Trinity Lutheran

Worship service-9:30am every Sunday  
**St. Margaret Mary's Catholic Church**  
Rev. Tom Graner, 1st & 2nd Sundays of the month 5 pm Saturday evening 3rd Sunday of the month 8 am; 4th & 5th Sundays of the month 10:30 am

GRANVILLE

**Hope Congregational United Church of Christ**  
Rev Cheryl McCullough  
Sunday Worship: 10am; Women's Guild: 2nd Sunday of month  
**First Lutheran Church of Granville**  
Guest Speaker  
Sun. Worship Service:9:00 am

KARLSRUHE

**Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church**  
Rev. Jered Grossman  
Sunday Mass: 8:30am

KIEF

**Liberty Baptist Church**  
Pastor Steve Martin  
Sunday Worship: 10:00 am; Sunday School 9:00 am

KONGSBERG

**St. John's Lutheran**  
Reverend Tim Stout Sunday Service: 10am; Bible Study 11am

NORWICH

**Norwich Lutheran Church**  
Interim Pastor Ben Carlsen  
Sun.Worship Service: 11 am; Handicapped Accessible. WELCA: 1st Thursday of the month at 2pm  
**Church of The Nazarene**  
Sunday School: 10:00 am; Morning Worship: 11:00 am; Evening Worship 7:00 pm;

TOWNER

**The Church of St. Cecilia**  
Rev. Michael Schommer  
Mass: Sat.: 5:00 pm.  
Sun. 10am Reconciliation: Sat. 4:30pm  
**Presbyterian Church**  
Sunday Church services at 9:30am  
Presbyterian Women meet 2nd Wednesday at 1:30.  
**Zion Lutheran Church**  
Sunday school at 9:00 am  
Worship 10:00 am  
**Faith Lutheran Church**  
Jonathon Bonine, Pastor  
Sun. Worship Service: 8am;  
Council meets last Mon. of month

at 7:30pm; Adult Bible Study open to the public at 6:30pm on the following dates: Oct 30, Nov 6, Nov 13, Nov 20. \*No Bible Study during Advent season\*

UPHAM

**New Hope Lutheran**  
9:30 am worship  
Sunday School 10:00 am  
**Bethlehem St. John Missouri Synod Church** Adult Bible Class 9:45, Sunday School 9:45, Church services 11:00am.

VELVA

**Oak Valley Lutheran**  
Worship 5:30 pm, Saturday evening  
10am Sunday morning.  
**Velva United Methodist**  
Geoff Hilton, Pastor  
Sundays: Worship Service 10:30 a.m.; Junior Church during Sermon for children ages 6 and younger; Wednesdays: Midweek Ministries 6:30-7:30 p.m. PreK-1st grade and 2nd-4th grades at the church, grades 5th-6th and Confirmation classes at Velva City Hall.  
**St. Cecilia's Catholic Church**  
Rev. Jered Grossman

Saturday 5PM/ Sunday 10:30 AM

WILLOW CITY

**1st Presbyterian Church**  
No Church Services  
Presbyterian Women @ 10:00 am on 3rd Wednesday unless notified.  
**Immanuel Lutheran Church**  
Rev. Christopher Neuendorf  
Worship Service at 9:30a.m.  
**First Lutheran Church**  
9:30 am church services.  
**Notre Dame Catholic Church**  
1st and 4th Suns., Sat. Evening at 5:00pm; 2nd Sun. at 11:00am; 3rd and 5th Sun. at 9:00am. Weekday Mass is Thursday at 9:00am.

Please email corrections to the McHenry County Church Directory to mrjads@srt.com or mail them to PO Box 268 Towner ND 58788.

McHenry County Church Directory Sponsored By:

