

# OBITUARIES & NOTICES

## HAZEL "TINY" BROHAUGH

July 1, 2022

Many of us knew her as "Tiny," her nickname because she was named after her mother, Hazel Goff, and thus she was "Tiny Hazel." This woman, Hazel Brohaugh however, was far from tiny. When Hazel "Tiny" Brohaugh nee Goff died July 1, 2022, at age 87, she left us all with huge impact. The beloved mother of two respected sons, grandmother of five upstanding young men, and great-grandmother of three beautiful young women. Tiny brought to this wondrous universe attitude, love, friendship, discipline, insight, and standards.



at the center of it, brought life and vigor to all of us. In her death, celebrate that life, that determination, that power, that love she gave us all.

Hazel Brohaugh was a gardener. She was a horsewoman. She was a survivor.

Hazel is survived by son William; grandsons Christopher, Guy, Kevin, Maximillian, and Samuel; and great-granddaughters Clara, Evelyn and Piper.

Visitation is Saturday, July 9, noon to 3, at Sonnenburg Family Funeral Home, 801 E. Monowau, Tomah. She will be laid to rest afterword in Mt. Vernon Cemetery, aside two people she loved so much, and who unfortunately preceded her in death: her son, Timothy Allen Brohaugh, and her husband, Earl Robert "Red" Brohaugh.

Please express your condolences by contributing to the charity of your choice in that very huge "Tiny" name.

Online condolences can be offered by visiting [www.sonnenburgfamilyfh.com](http://www.sonnenburgfamilyfh.com)

**Sonnenburg Family Funeral Home**

Tiny's middle name was Florence. How appropriate, given her lovely floral legacy—a yard some 65 years in the making, with lilies and mums and phlox and more lilies and living things with a long history: trees were transplanted from local woods by her father, assisted by at least one very young son, and her mother grew, among other things, rhubarb in her back yard. This family, and Tiny Hazel

## BILLY (BILL) JOE MADISON

December 20, 2021

SPARTA - Billy (Bill) Joe Madison, 70, passed away on Monday, December 20, 2021 at his home in Sparta, WI. A Celebration of Life will be held from 12PM-4PM,

Saturday, July 9, 2022, at The Zone, in Sparta.

Lanham-Schanhofer Funeral Home and Cremation assisted the family with arrangements.

## DONALD J. EBERT

February 12, 1933 — July 2, 2022

LA CROSSE - Donald J. Ebert, 89, of La Crosse, WI., passed away on Saturday, July 2, 2022 at Riverside Transitional Care in La Crosse. He was born in Sparta, WI., on February 12, 1933.



Donald Ebert

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 A.M. on

Friday, July 8, 2022 at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in La Crosse. Friends may call on the family Thursday evening from 6 until 8 P.M. at Schumacher-Kish Funeral and Cremation Services La Crosse chapel; 200 West Ave. S. Visitation will also be held at the church on Friday from 9:30 A.M. until the time of Mass.

To read Donald's entire obituary and leave condolences, please visit [www.schumacher-kish.com](http://www.schumacher-kish.com).

## JOHN D. PLEUSS

July 23, 1944 — July 5, 2022

TOMAH - John D. Pleuss, age 77, of Tomah, WI, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on Tuesday, July 5, 2022 at his home.



John Pleuss

He was born on July 23, 1944 to Arnold and Elsie (McCurdy) Pleuss.

He is survived by his wife, Mina Pleuss of Tomah; son, John Pleuss Jr. of Tomah; grandson, Asher; brothers, Thomas (Patricia) Pleuss of

Tomah and Arnold (Mary) Pleuss of Eau Claire; along with many nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Arnold and Elsie; and a twin brother, Ladd.

A Celebration of John's Life is being planned for a later date. The Torkelson Funeral Home of Tomah is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences are available at [www.torkelsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.torkelsonfuneralhome.com).

**Torkelson Funeral Home**

## JAY MELVIN JANZEN

May 18, 1949 — March 28, 2022

Jay, 72, of Sparta, WI passed away in his home on March 28, 2022. Jay was born in Marshall, MN and was the son of the late Melvin F. and Julia Ann (Helgeson) Janzen, Sparta.



Jay Janzen

He is survived by his brothers Kie (Kathy) of Lakeville, MN, Roy (Liz) of Oshkosh, WI, brother-in-law Michael Knop of Whitefish Bay, WI, 7 nieces and nephews plus 15 grandnephews and grandnieces.

He was preceded in death by his parents and sister, DonnaRae Knop.

Jay graduated from Sparta High School in 1967. Jay was drafted (then enlisted) into the Army during the Vietnam War, serving as a Communications Specialist stationed in Hawaii. After the Army Jay spent a year living in Modesto, CA before returning to Sparta.

Jay was an avid outdoorsman who loved hunting, fishing, camping, canoeing/kayaking, traveling and anything outdoors. His love for the outdoors began as a young man camping with his parents and family across the Midwest states and into New Mexico (Philmont Scout Ranch). Jay earned the rank of Eagle Scout. He was an avid hunter for pheasant (with his cousins in South Dakota), quail, whitetail deer, antelope, and bear. His passion was muskie fishing and anything muskie. The Chippewa Flowage and

River, plus the Nemekagon River were his frequent and favorite trips for muskie. Jay was very detailed, spending many hours fine-tuning his fishing and hunting equipment. He invented, created, and improved his outdoor gear to aid his outdoor adventures.

Jay spent several years working for La Crosse Plumbing Supply before changing careers to tax and financial services. Jay retired in 2021 as owner of Janzen Tax and Financial Services, LLC in Tomah, WI. His attention to detail and precision served his clients well in their tax and financial management needs.

Jay loved and cared for his parents in their later years. He was a proud Norwegian (mostly), often visiting his large extended family throughout Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and South Dakota. Jay was really in his element with a cup of coffee and a good story, either listening or telling, and laughing.

A memorial service to celebrate Jay's life will be held Thursday, July 14, 2022, 11:00 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church in Sparta, WI. Burial with full military honors will follow in the Woodlawn Cemetery, Sparta. Family and friends are invited for visitation from 10:00 a.m. until the time of service at the church.

In lieu of flowers, donations should be made to a charity of your choice to honor Jay's life.

Online condolences may be offered at [www.torkelsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.torkelsonfuneralhome.com).

**Torkelson Funeral Home**

## DELFINA MARIA "DEL MARIE" HEMMERSBACH

May, 2, 1935 — July 4, 2022

Delfina Maria "Del Marie" Hemmersbach, age 87, passed away peacefully on July 4, 2022. She was surrounded by her loving family. She had a unending faith that she was going to be with the Lord, and that brings great comfort to all who love her.



Delfina Hemmersbach

grandchildren: Emma Solverson, Blake, Sydney, Levi, Lathan, Aspen, Paisley, Kaylee, Caleb Hemmersbach, Hagen Herricks, Grace, Delilah, Kenneth Goodman and Emberly Erickson. She is further survived by her sister, Florentine Geier of Cashton; her brother, Willard and wife, Mary Ann Brueggen of Sparta; sisters and brothers-in-law: Marie Brueggen, Betty Brueggen, Madonna Brueggen, Bonnie Hemmersbach, Kenneth Hemmersbach, Rosie Hemmersbach, Bob Dickman, Roger and Marian Hemmersbach.

She is preceded in death by her beloved husband, Arnold in May of 1996; two dear daughters-in-law: Kaye and Linda; grandson, Adam Hemmersbach; her parents, Herman and Margaret Brueggen; sisters: Delores (George) Leis, Bernadine (Leonard) Klinkner, Angeline Dickman;

brothers: Silverius (Betty), Charles (Theresa), Philip, Harry, Roger Brueggen and an infant brother, Paul; brothers and sisters-in-law, Bernice (Norman) Brueggen, LaVern (Cecilia) Hemmersbach, Hank Geier, Chuck Hemmersbach, Rita Hemmersbach, Eugene Hemmersbach, Evelyn (John) Bulman, and Clarence (Lorraine) Schroeder.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on her grandson Adam's birthday, Friday, July 8, 2022, at the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (St Mary's Ridge) Catholic Church, rural Cashton at 11 am. Burial will follow in the St Mary's Cemetery immediately following the service. Family and friends are invited for visitation Thursday, July 7, 2022 at the St Mary's Ridge Church from 4-7 PM, with a Rosary starting at 4:00 pm. Visitation will also be held on Friday, July 8th from 9 am until the time of services, at the church.

The family is forever grateful to the friends and staff at Morrow Home Community in Sparta and Gundersen Hospice for the loving care and support Del Marie received.

Torkelson Funeral Home of Cashton, WI, is assisting the family with arrangements. Online condolences may be offered at [www.torkelsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.torkelsonfuneralhome.com).

**Torkelson Funeral Home**

She was born to Herman and Margaret (Mlsna) Brueggen on May, 2, 1935 and was one of 12 children. She attended Pine Hollow grade school, near Cashton. She was raised in a very musical family and although did not play an instrument herself, she enjoyed many evenings of dancing.

She met her husband Arnold at a Dance in Cashton. Arnold and Del Marie were married on February 27, 1957, at the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church on St. Mary's Ridge. They farmed in Pine Hollow for a few years and then moved to a beautiful farm on St Mary's Ridge. They worked together on the farm until moving to Cashton in 1993. Del Marie enjoyed large gardens, canning, raising chickens, mowing her lawn, baking, singing in the church choir and in her most recent years, playing dominos with her friends at Morrow Home. After her years on the farm she worked at Norseland Nursing Home in Westby, as a housekeeper. She touched the lives of so many during her time at Norseland. She was more than a housekeeper; she connected with the patients and families during some of the most difficult times of their lives.

Del Marie is survived by her children: Stanley (Lori) Hemmersbach of Westby, Donald (Barb Burnham) Hemmersbach of Dale (Sherri) Hemmersbach of Sparta and Jolene (Alex) Goodman of La Crosse; her 9 loving grandchildren: Amanda (Valente Brito) Hemmersbach, Danilyn Hemmersbach, Dane (Brandy) Hemmersbach, Brittany (Tim) Herricks, Joshua (Anna) Goodman, Jacob (Hannah Witt) Goodman, Lexi (John La Brec) Goodman, Miranda (Dillon) Erickson, Andrew Hemmersbach; 14 great

## Thank You

On behalf of the Darla Schreier Family, we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the following who provided care & services over the years and during her funeral: Torkelson Funeral Home, Rolling Hills Nursing Home, St. Croix Hospice, Dr. Brody at Scenic Bluffs Clinic, Gundersen Lutheran Hospital Systems, Father Berns for the service, pallbearers, Sacred Heart Catholic Church Choir & PCCW, Mabel's on Main and Cheryl Urbanek.

*Sincerely,*  
**Phil Schreier Family  
Lori Schreier Family  
John Rapp Family**

## RESIGNS

Continued from Front Page

"It has been a great honor to serve the Sparta Area School District as its superintendent," said Dr. Van Deuren. "I am very grateful to have worked with students, parents, teachers, administrators, and board members to achieve many important goals over the years."

Sparta School Board President, Anthony Scholze said, "On behalf of the school board, I would like to acknowledge Dr. Amy Van Deuren for her dedication to the Sparta Area School District and the students it serves. We offer Dr. Van Deuren our best wishes in her future pursuits."

The resignation ends Dr. Van Deuren's stint as

superintendent, which started July 1, 2017. Earlier this year Dr. Van Deuren's contract was extended through the 2023-24 school year. With the resignation, that contract is null and void. However, the Herald has learned that there was some sort of settlement package between the district and Dr. Van Deuren. The Herald has filed an open records request for the details on the settlement.

Following the joint statement, the board approved a motion to make Sam Russ superintendent on an interim basis for the 2022-23 school year. Russ said to the board, "thank you, it is very much appreciated." Scholze replied with, "thank you for stepping up and doing the work of the superintendent for the last few months."

## BUSINESS

Continued from Front Page

Comfort gives a free furnace to someone in need in cooperation with Lennox and heat up Wisconsin. Cindy said, "what if we did a summer one? I feel like this is a family that needs it." Cindy made the arrangements to get the equipment and the Key to Comfort donated everything.

Cindy wanted to meet with the family, the family was dreading having to tell us that they couldn't get the funding to purchase a new unit. The point of the meeting was to let them know that they were going to do that air conditioner at no charge. "We wanted to replace it as a gift back today to a family that has touched countless lives

in our community as well as all of ours," said Cindy.

Remona has served in the community of Sparta for many years. On June 17, the community gave back to her by installing a new air conditioner.

"We deal with people all the time that don't have the money to do something, but this was a very special case with a lot of personal and financial hardships and we felt the need to help them," said Dave.

In October the Key to Comfort does this again, but they partner with Lennox. If you are thinking "wow I know someone who served the community and is in need of help", nominate them using this link <https://www.feelthelove.com/>.

## HISTORY

Continued from Front Page

dripping tunnel ceiling.

The original railroad connected Madison, Wisconsin to Winona, Minnesota over 129 miles of track. Originally called the Baraboo Air Line Railroad, because of the straightness of the route, it was absorbed into the Chicago and North Western Railway. The Dakota 400 was the last passenger train to use the route in 1953 and by 1964 the rail line was abandoned.

The Wisconsin Conservation Commission, the forerunner of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, purchased the trail property for \$12,000, in 1965. The rails and ties were removed and smooth surface of crushed limestone was placed. The trail first came into use in 1966 and making Sparta the Bicycle Capital of America. The trail was added to the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy hall of fame in September 2008 and is one of the most popular trails in Wisconsin bringing thousands of bicycle enthusiasts to the area annually.

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