

Kristi Vande Vegte

Kristi M. Vande Vegte, age 42, died Thursday, April 6, 2023 surrounded by her family at Sanford USD Medical Center. A celebration of Kristi's life began at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, April 11 at Bethany Reformed Church in Canton, S.D. Visitation, with family present, was Monday from 5-7 p.m. at Bethany Reformed Church.



Kristi was born on April 24, 1980 in Orange City. She graduated from MOC-Floyd Valley High School in 1998. She later attended and graduated from Iowa Lakes Community College.

She married Jason Vande Vegte on April 6, 2002 at Alton Reformed Church in Alton. She worked in animal health until becoming a stay-at-home mom to her daughters, Allison, Kylie and Leah.

When she wasn't running the household, she could be found tending to her animals, gardening, and spending time outdoors. She also enjoyed canning, quilting and making homemade soups, soaps, jellies, and gifts. She treasured time spent with her family, especially her girls. She was a member of Bethany Reformed Church in Canton.

Grateful for sharing her life are her husband of 21 years, Jason; her daughters, Allison, Kylie and Leah; parents, Kurt (Lora) Prange; brother, Keith Prange; in-laws, Doug (Wanda) Vande Vegte; brothers and sisters-in-law, Mark (Allison) Vande Vegte, Matt (Amanda) Vande Vegte, and Nick (Christina) Vande Vegte; 12 nieces and nephews; grandparents, Norm (Dorothy) Prange; along with numerous extended relatives and friends. She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Derwood and Carol Getting.

Charlene Kloster

Charlene M. (DeBoer) Kloster, of Longmont, Colo. died Sunday, April 2. She was born in Le Mars, and was formerly raised in the Orange City-Alton area. She was preceded in death by her parents Douwe and Anna (Rowenhorst) DeBoer, as well as her brothers Homer, Dudley, and Robert DeBoer, and her husband Delnar Kloster. She is survived by her twin sister, local area resident Charlotte (DeBoer) Meyer, as well as her three children Jeffrey (Kristine) Kloster, Sheri Kloster, and Gary (Denise) Kloster (all of Colorado), her seven grandchildren, and six great grandchildren. Services will be held on Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. in Longmont, Colo.



Unity Christian band to perform at Dordt

SIOUX CENTER— On Friday, April 14, Dordt University will host its biennial High School Band Festival. This festival will feature 10 high school bands, along with both the Dordt University Wind Symphony and Campus-Community Band.

The participating schools include:

- Faith Christian High School
- Heritage Christian High School
- Trinity Christian School
- Central Minnesota Christian High School
- Rapid City Christian High School
- Unity Christian High School (Iowa)
- Pella Christian High School
- Covenant Christian High School
- Western Christian High School
- Sioux Falls Christian High School

The groups will perform during the day in the B.J. Haan Auditorium and will individually work with music professors Dr. Onsbay Rose, Director of Instrumental Activities, and Dr. Allegra Fisher, Assistant Director of Instrumental Activities, on their music. At 7 p.m., each ensemble will perform one piece in the B.J. Haan Auditorium and then move to the DeWitt Gymnasium for a mass band performance featuring over 600 musicians.

Rose says there are many exciting things about the band festival. "I love that I get to interact with hundreds of high school musicians in both a clinic and performance setting, as well as working with them and their directors on ways to continue to improve in the future. In addition, I get to put them all together for a true musical celebration with the mass band event at the end of the day!"

Selections with the mass band will be conducted by Rose and Fisher. This event is free and open to the public and will also be livestreamed at www.dordt.edu/livestream.



Lion's Club News
The Orange City Lions Club welcomed Jason Vore to the Monday, April 10th meeting. Jason gave a presentation about drones and how drone imagery can assist both local businesses and local authorities. The presentation can be viewed on the Orange City Lions Club Facebook page. (Photo submitted)

OBITUARIES

Nelvie Jonker

Ms. Nelvie Jonker, age 95, of Orange City, passed away on Wednesday, April 5, at the Prairie Ridge Care Center in Orange City.



A visitation with the family present was held on Saturday, April 8, from 10 to 11:00 a.m., at the First Reformed Church in Orange City. There was a funeral service on Saturday, at 11:00 a.m., at the church chapel with the Rev. Mark Haverdink officiating. Interment followed the service at the West Lawn Cemetery in Orange City. The Oolman Funeral Home in Orange City is in charge of arrangements.

Nelvie was born on September 15, 1927, in Orange City, the daughter of John and Alice (Oolman) Jonker. She was raised in Orange City and attended the MOC Public School. Following graduation, she attended Hope College in Holland, Mich., and earned her bachelor's degree in music education.

She then moved to California, where she taught vocal music in numerous schools around the Los Angeles area. Her love of music was evident in her large collection of records, mostly classical. She enjoyed spending her time listening to those records, especially Bach, and putting together puzzles.

In December of 2011, she returned to Orange City, and lived at the Landsmeer Ridge Retirement Community, until transferring to the Prairie Ridge Care Center in May of 2021. Nelvie spent a lot of time playing with the different animals around Prairie Ridge, specifically the cats, and liked their company.

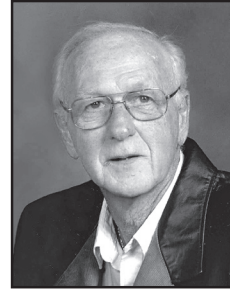
Survivors include her brother, Henry "Hank" Jonker, of Orange City; two sisters, Chalice Altena, of Orange City; and Vickie Domis, of Oregon; and several nieces and nephews and their families.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two sisters and their husbands, Leona and Don Hanesworth, and Hermine and Bill Windle; a sister-in-law, Rose Evonne Jonker; and two brothers-in-law, Erloy Altena and Jack Domis.

You are invited to leave a message of condolence, print a memorial folder, and watch a recording of the service at www.oolman.com.

Donald Wielenga

Mr. Donald Wielenga, age 85, of Orange City, passed away on Thursday, April 6, at the Good Samaritan Society in Le Mars.



A visitation with the family present was held on Tuesday, April 11, from 5 to 7:00 p.m., at the Oolman Funeral Home in Orange City. A prayer service took place on Wednesday, April 12, at 1:00 p.m., at the funeral home, followed by interment at the West Lawn Cemetery in Orange City. There was a memorial service on Wednesday, at 2:00 p.m., at the Immanuel Christian Reformed Church in Orange City with the Rev. Robert Drenten officiating.

Donald Dean was born on Feb. 10, 1938, in Orange City, the son of Andrew and Tina (Haarsma) Wielenga. He was raised on a farm near Orange City and attended country school.

On Sept. 25, 1959, he was united in marriage to Janice Marlene Jacobsma in Sanborn. They made their home in Orange City, where he was a long-distance truck hauler and started OC Sanitation. He and Janice also did Dojan Pearl Party Planning for 32 years and sold Miracle Maid Cookware.

Don enjoyed watching sports, especially baseball, and going to his grandchildren's activities. 'Hide the penny' was a game the grandchildren will never forget.

Survivors include his wife of more than 63 years, Janice, of Orange City; a son and his wife, Brad and Julie Wielenga, of Orange City; a son-in-law, Troy Albers, of Alton; six grandchildren, Samantha, and her husband, Preston Hoebelheinrich, and their daughter, Malia; Tamra, and her husband, Justin Van Kalsbeek, and their daughters, Ivy and Piper; Randi Wielenga, and her fiancé, Jaaron Paugh; London Wielenga, and his girlfriend, Jaedyn Wolfswinkel; Ruby Albers, and her boyfriend, Brady Singer; and Talon Albers; three sisters, Lois De Beer, Kathleen Van Wyk, and Delores, and her husband Henry Kramer, all of Orange City; a brother, Vern Wielenga, of Orange City; and a sister-in-law, Margaret Wielenga, of California.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a son, Lonnie Wielenga; a daughter, Sandy Albers; six siblings, Henry Wielenga, and his wife, Shirley; Marie, and her husband, George Kuik; Bernice, and her husband, Alfred Wassenaar; Enno Wielenga; Laurie Wielenga, and his wife, Janet; and Lawrence Wielenga, in infancy; two brothers-in-law, Fred De Beer and Pete Van Wyk; and a sister-in-law, Myrna Wielenga.

You are invited to leave a message of condolence and print a memorial folder at www.oolman.com.

NEW FIELDS WILL ADD MUCH NEEDED ATHLETIC SPACE

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contract with Zomer Auction, and after the school is cleared out, Zomer will organize an online auction for all items in the building. It will be a two-week online auction, with two weeks available for people to pick up items after the auction. Everything left over will be left to the city.

Earl Woudstra, City Administrator, confirms plans. "The City will take possession of the school property on July 1. We are following the Community Development Plan prepared by ISG and approved by the City Council in 2021; the plan will be to demolish the school building in the fourth quarter of 2023. The City is communicating with potential developers to redevelop the property as R-2 medium to high-density housing. The concept proposed in the ISG plan is for row housing and green space. The City is also considering opening 2nd Street and street improvements to Delaware Ave." The City Council is discussing plans and working with potential developers.

The original plan for the elementary school did not include a large-scale fields project, but an initiative spearheaded by Christine Koerselman, Mark Gunderson and Adam Doughan, will bring three million dollars worth of improvements and available field space to the Orange City Community. When the MOC-Floyd Valley School district proposed a bond issue for a new elementary school, part of the plan incorporated new athletic fields. The original proposal budgeted for baseball, softball, and football practice fields. Once the bond passed, school board member Christine Koerselman began thinking bigger. "I met with Mr. Gunderson about an idea. I just started dreaming and thought we could do better." And Mr. Gunderson was on board. They added Adam Doughan to the conversation and went to the drawing board.

"The desire to do more isn't for the benefit of MOC-Floyd Valley, but we just see this project as a huge asset to the community," Koerselman said.

The new plan will incorporate space to house all middle school athletics and provide much more to the community.

"The athletic complex will hold a football field with a regulation-size track surrounding it and a soccer practice field," said Mark Gunderson, athletic director for MOC-Floyd Valley. The football field will be turf with a 500-seat bleacher set and press box. The baseball and softball fields will also have bleachers, a press box, covered dugouts, and batting cages. All three fields will have

scoreboards. A storage building, concession stands, and public restrooms are also part of the plan, completing this full athletic complex.

"We are close to our goal and making a \$200,000 push to the end of the school year that will get us to our three million dollar goal," Gunderson said. There is an additional 800,000 needed in addition to the 200,000 to add lights to the fields, but the fields will operate with or without the lights. "The fields will be ready to go by the start of the 2023 fall season, with the first scheduled event, middle school football, scheduled on September 7," he said. Both the new elementary school and new fields will bring welcome relief to middle school athletics. "Once the new school opens, we will also bus seventh-grade volleyball girls over to the gym for practice, which is a much better space than the middle school basement gym."

The project is also looking for help from the community. "The baseball and softball press boxes will be built using volunteer labor. Anyone wishing to help can contact me for times and need," Gunderson added.

He recently purchased the eight-by-12-foot flag that will fly at the new fields. "I am anxious to get it up. My goal is when the flag is flying; we are open for business."

Updates on the elementary school will be a continuous process. "We are in the process of seeing what our busing needs will be," Adams said. And the district is also working on a summer open house that will happen before the school year. "We also plan to have in-person registration at the elementary school this year, offering an additional time for families to come and explore the space."

The goal for the elementary school is to get it to a place where teachers can start moving in after school is out. "Each classroom offers large storage closets and also open shelving. Principals from each building will work with teachers to decide what things will be transported to the new school and how individual rooms will be decorated."

Part of the bond passed in 2020 included high school renovations, which are now well underway. Dirt work began in April, and construction is in process for new front office spaces, a new secured entrance to the high school, and a new classroom space for the special education department. Parts of this project will be completed by the start of next school year, while the rest is scheduled to complete by October.

