

January 2024
Issue 315
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JANUARY 2024

This beautiful slipper and flower centerpiece was the focus of our food table at breakfast at Dan and Arlene's on November 21, 2023.

God's Blessing to all: Linda



January Birthdays

Sawyer Ibberson	Jan 05
Taylor Mages	Jan 09
Jessica Schmitz	Jan 09
Zach Mages	Jan 10
Luke Fischer	Jan 10
David Fischer	Jan 11
Kyle Strate	Jan 11
Andi Mages	Jan 11
Tom Mages	Jan 14
Cody Becker	Jan 15
Riley Strate	Jan 18
Ryan Wolf	Jan 19
Laura Wolf	Jan 20
Amanda Bemmels	Jan 20
Noah Mages	Jan 23
Arlene Mages	Jan 25
TJ Roiger	Jan 27
Ashley Mills	Jan 28
Autumn Butler	Jan 29
Poppy Hartly	Jan 29
Grace Mages	Jan 30

January Anniversary

Jory and Jessi Mages

Jan 11 01 year

A special Hello to our German cousins, Helmut, Birgit, Andi, Elena, Rosalie, Anton and Tobi
www.magesonline.com

News Deadline

20th of each month

Send articles and photos
to Linda at

lindagall@rocketmail.com

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Coming Events

January 26,27 & 28,2024 - Men and Boys Fishing at Emerald Hideaway.

March 31,2024 – Easter Sunday Mass 9:30 am for Dad and Mom at St. Mary's in Sleepy Eye

May 12, 2024 – Mass for Mom 9:30 am at St. Mary's in Sleepy Eye.

May 19, 2024 – Graduation party for Brandon Schmitz

July 20, 2024 – Magesfest - Springlake Park, North Mankato, Mn

October 05 & 06, 2024 – Hunters Women's Weekend by Debbie Fischer

Mages Family Cards November 21, 2024

On November 21 at 7:15 in the morning our family gathered at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Sleepy Eye, Minnesota for a special Mass praying for the deceased members of the Alphonse and Barbara Mages Family. After Mass we all drove to Dan and Arlene's home for a potluck breakfast. Arlene's egg bake graced the table along with fresh fruit, pastries, Jeff's (LeAnn's) homemade custard pie. There weren't any cards played today just conversation and reminiscing and lots of laughter. Our serious thoughts were for our brother Larry as he convalesces at home and the miracle our family received as he survived his ordeal.

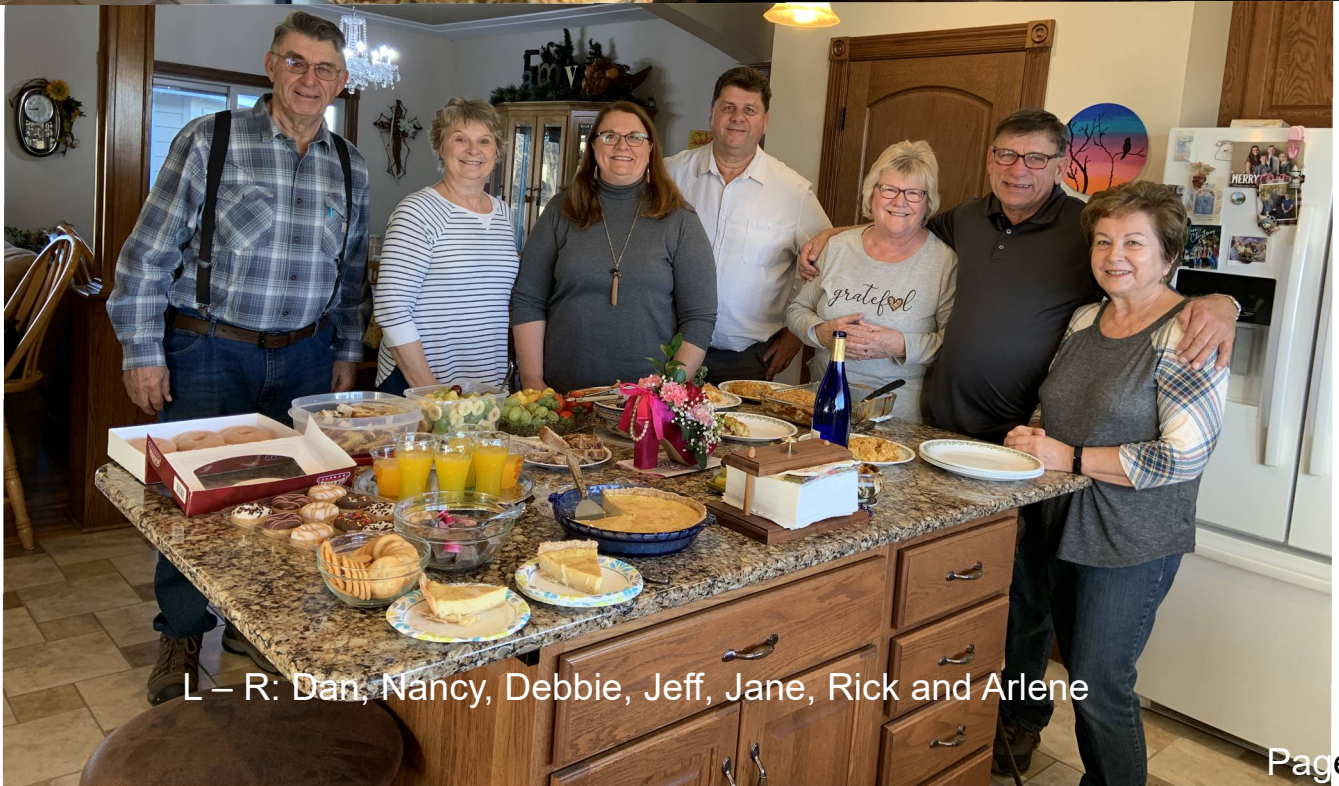
For lunch we all headed to Essig for a wonderful chicken dinner. Linda

Family Breakfast in Photo

L – R: Rick, Linda, Dan, Nancy, Debbie, Jeff, Jane and Arlene



L – R: Dan, Nancy, Debbie, Jeff, Jane, Rick and Arlene



Family Breakfast in Photo Continued



LeAnn's custard pie



Debbie brought pickled beef heart



Above photo is Dan and Jeff



Dan, Deb, Jeff, Nancy, Rick, Jane and Arlene



Amy's Retirement Projects by Mikayla Bruggeman

When I retired in November 2022, I felt the need to find some way to fill the “creativity void” in my life. For nearly 35 years, I put my creative side into my teaching career—with lesson plans, art projects and hundreds of bulletin board displays.

Having three beautiful grandchildren and another one on the way (Alex and Adrienn are expecting a baby in March!) fills the need to have children in my life. Grandparenthood is such a blessing!

As you probably remember, the winter of '22-23 brought loads of snow! Being snowed in left lots of time for me to explore my creative side. I toyed with macrame for a while making several things for gifts. Macrame lead to crochet. My grandma, Mabel Marso, who was also a teacher, taught me some of the basics of crochet when I was a child. I have so many memories of her teaching me to bake bread, make cut out sugar cookies (I still use her recipe today!) and crocheting.

I started to crochet a few baby blankets and beanies. But when our grandson, Weston, was scheduled to have surgery last winter, I decided I wanted to make him something to bring him comfort in the hospital. He already had a “favorite blankie,” so knowing he loved dinosaurs, I decided to make one for him to take with him. So began my toy-making adventure!

After losing my mother in October and mother-in-law in January, a person reflects on all the things our ancestors have passed on to us. I continue to make my mom’s famous caramels each year in her memory. When I work in my vegetable garden and with my flowers, I find joy sharing the produce as my mother-in-law did (on a smaller level of course). By crocheting, I can continue to keep my grandmother’s memory alive. I hope these three beautiful, inspirational women who were so much of who I am today, are smiling down on me as I try to continue to share the gifts they brought to our families.

Amy's Retirement Projects in Photo



Mike helping
Sleepy Eye
Center



Amy at the
Community



Greta Odette Scharmer – Born November 27, 2023 at 11:05 pm weighing 9# 9 oz and 20.75 inches long. Parents are Becca and Ethan and sister Wren. Grandparents are Lisa and Tony Schmitz

Greta eagerly joined our family on November 27, allowing us only 15 minutes before delivery upon arriving at the hospital. After the initial chaos, we savored some sweet newborn snuggles. Due to her swift delivery, she required additional intervention to boost her oxygen levels, leading to a brief stay in the NICU. She was able to come home on November 30. Greta has become the perfect addition to our family, and we are overflowing with love. Thank you all for your thoughts and prayers for our sweet Greta! Becca



Greta Odette Scharmer in Photo



Magesfest 2024

Magesfest is Saturday July 20, 2024 starting at noon. Spring Lake Park, North Mankato, Minnesota Shelter 1 (close to the pool) Nancy and family

Graduation Party

Graduation party for Brandon Schmitz Sunday May 19, 2024

Brandon 2023 -2024 Basketball Season

Brandon Schmitz, senior at St. Mary's is currently playing basketball for the St. Mary's Knights. Their record as of December 9 is 4-0 so they have an exciting season ahead of them. He has been scoring up to about 12 points per game and as a guard offers a lot of assists as well. Tony and Lisa are keeping busy as they will be hosting a huge basketball Christmas party at their home for all of the SMS jv and varsity boys basketball team players, coaches, volunteers and their families. The season is getting off to a wonderful start. GO KNIGHTS Lisa



Our January Angels



Barbara Leona Ann Kodet Mages

May 29, 1929 – January 05, 2023

Charles Leo Strate

November 26, 1947 – January 19, 2001



Margaret Cecilia Mages

September 02, 1951 – January 23, 2018



Mages Family Christmas – November 25, 2023 at Lake Henry, Mn

Christmas 2023 was a snowy fun day in Lake Henry Mn
SATURDAY Nov 25, 2023 with approximately 100 in attendance throughout the day.

This year's committee: John and Cindy, Jeff and LeAnn, Duke and Jermayne, Dean and Donna.

We rented the basement of St Margaret's in Lake Henry. Great venue for our family.

We had a noon potluck with roast beef, turkey, and all the fixings. It was delicious.

Lisa made a huge and tasty batch of Mom's Homemade Dressing.

Steven Mages bought his sound system and led us in the dinner prayer and we all sang Bless My Soul. Grandma Barbara's song.

The afternoon was full of fun things for everyone. Steven sang Christmas music, and we handed out reindeer headbands and gifts to all the kids that were 12 and under.

Steven led us in song and read the kids a Christmas story. Games were played for the rest of the afternoon and prizes were awarded during the games. We had color page books available, and a lot of crayons set on tables for the kids to come and go during the day and color. This was well used all day long.

Even some adults were coloring. Ha ha. We had decks of cards available if anyone wanted to play cards and some tables did.

We ended the day with a mini Potluck. We hugged our family members goodbye and our hearts were full. Merry Christmas to all!

It was so different with Grandma Barbara not being there with us this year.

Mom and Dad will always be in our hearts during this special time of the year.

Love you all, Donna



Mages Family Christmas in Photo



John



Everything was decorated so beautifully



Donna and Jermayne



Mages Family Christmas in Photo



Steven reading to the children and Calum is so amazed by the photos



Jacqueline



L – R: Amanda, Arlene, Sharon, Deb, Nancy, Emily, LeAnn, Linda, Amy, Jane, Kathy and Donna



Jeff and Stretch



Weston and Brody

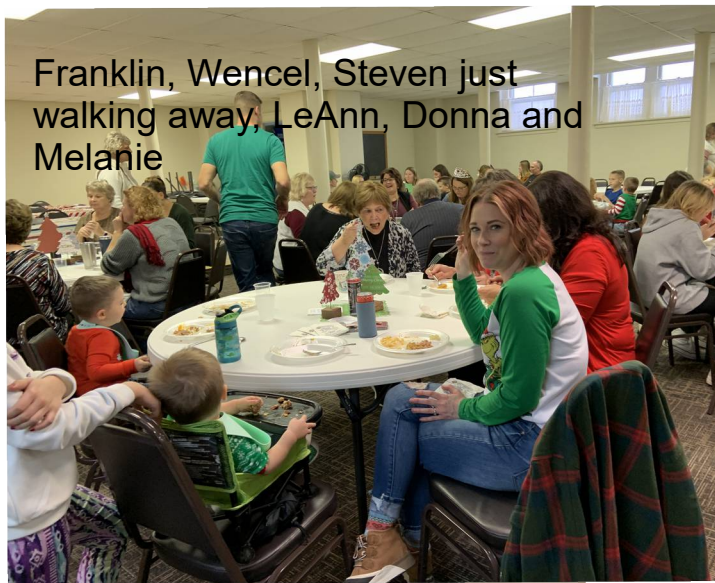
Mages Family Christmas in Photo Continued



Brinley, Ashley, Max? And Bella



Tim, Lindsey, Jennifer, Aubrey, Autumn, Allie and Peyton



Franklin, Wencel, Steven just walking away, LeAnn, Donna and Melanie



Brad, Tess, Matt, Greg, Barb, Kevin behind Curt and Curt



more beautiful decorations

Mages Christmas in Photo Continued



Tom, Jeff and Stretch



Rick, John, Dan, Melanie, Stevie and Roger



Billy, Jacqueline, Dylan, Amy, Mike and Mikayla



Lisa, Nancy, Laura, Connie, Theresa, Arlene and Mary Kay



Morgan, Calum, Hadley, Bonita, Eric, Stacie, TJ and Olivia

Mages Christmas in Photo Continued



Sharon, Ms. Magesfest Deb, Barb and Kevin



Kevin, Kathy and Jane



Having fun at the chalk board



Donna



Donna getting the great grandkids ready for games
Page 16



Steven reading a story like Grandma Barbara did each Christmas to the precious future generation of this wonderful family

Mages Family Christmas in Photo Continued



Jenny, Mike and Dan



Photo to the right is precious great grandkids having a fun time together

Photo below is Stephanie and Brooke



Photo below is Melanie playing another game with the little ones



Mages Sibling Christmas – December 12, 2023

Our day started at 7:15 am with Mass at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Sleepy Eye, Minnesota. We offered our prayers for all the deceased members of the Alphonse and Barbara Mages Family and for our personal special intentions. I know this has nothing to do with Christmas that day, but I have to tell you about the power of prayer. Larry walked into Mass having driven to Sleepy Eye that day. If there wasn't power in prayer that miracle won't have happened. I also have to tell you that I also offered my Mass for a special friend who was going that day for a cancer biopsy that they have been watching for a couple of months. I got a message from my friend that day that the doctors couldn't find any tumor. Wow!!

Back to the Christmas party. After Mass we all visited Dad and Mom's graves that Lisa had decorated so pretty for Christmas. We offered our prayers as a family that they are enjoying heaven this Christmas together. We miss them all so much especially this time of year, but God is taking good care of them. Larry rushed home as he and Debra were making egg bakes for all of our breakfast.

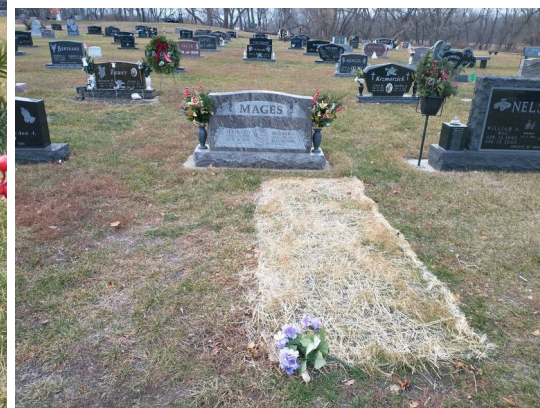
Debra's two beautiful egg bakes graced the kitchen with potluck brought by the rest of us.

After breakfast we played Grandma's game, but I'm sorry I don't remember the winner and I was the marker. Larry told all of us about his ordeal and Debra told us about all the things Larry doesn't remember as he was in an induced coma and on a ventilator for six day. You could of heard a pin drop as we all wanted to know how God was working in their lives. As everyone who knows us you know that there was lots of laughter along with the stories as Larry always sees the humor in all situations. Larry advised his siblings to get their hearts checked as this is a very hereditary condition in our family. We lost our loved brother Duane to this very condition.

We prayed for our siblings that weren't there, Dan and Arlene are in Arizona, Betty is in Florida, Barb wasn't feeling good, and Mike was meeting a very important deadline in his line of work. You were so missed.

As if we hadn't eaten enough now we had lunch. So many crockpots full of delicious food in Mages style, salads, desserts(Larry had Debra hide LeAnn's custard pie) He ate that after we all left. Ha ha! Actually we didn't let Larry get away with that.

A huge thank you to Debra and Larry for hosting our Sibling Christmas. It was so beautiful. Your home is so beautiful and Debra made sure everything was in the Christmas spirit. Linda



Sibling Christmas in Photo



Joe, Rick, Amy, Lisa, Sharon and Tom

Linda, Rick, Stretch, Amy, Lisa, Sharon, Tom



Our Host and Hostess – Larry and Debra

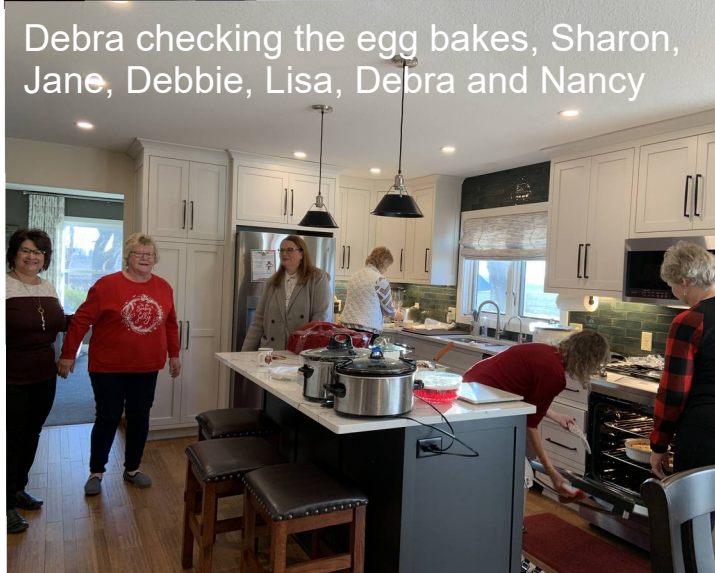
Sibling Christmas in Photo Continued



Lisa, Nancy and Debra



Joe, Larry, Jane, Tony, Rick, Stretch and Curt



Debra checking the egg bakes, Sharon, Jane, Debbie, Lisa, Debra and Nancy



Rick, Stretch, Curt, Joe, Tony and Tom



Larry telling us about his experience with Joe, Tony and Lisa looking on.



Debra telling us about the things Larry doesn't remember. Tony, Tom, Lisa, Rick, Nancy and Debbie looking on.

Sibling Christmas in Photo Continued

Joe, Larry, Tony, Tom, Lisa, Debra, Rick, Stretch and Curt. Table 2 is Nancy, Debbie, Sharon and Jane.



Toasting Mom with the wine Larry bought in the Czech Republic. Joe, Linda, Larry, Tony, Tom, Jane, Lisa, Nancy, Debbie, Stretch, Sharon, Debra, Curt and Rick

Sibling Christmas in Photo Continued



Curt passing out maple brandy shots



Larry with the bottle of wine he bought in Bechyne, Czech Republic in 2014. Mom's ancestors were from this town.



Larry and Curt



Larry and Curt



This bottle of Czech wine was reserved for a very special occasion. We toasted Mom and Dad. Larry holding bottle from 2014. Lisa, Deb, Nancy, Sharon and Rick looking on. Page 22

Sibling Christmas in Photo Continued



Debra



Lisa and Debbie
with Curt
pouring



Jeff



Jeff

Sibling Christmas in Photo Continued



Tom brought the finished bench that will to Bechyn, Minnesota on the grounds of St. Mary's Catholic Church. It just needs to be assembled yet. I'm sorry I couldn't get a better photo but my ability to climb into a pickup left a long time ago. Those looking at it above are Rick, Sharon, Lisa, Nancy, Debbie, Tom, Larry and Debra.

The December birthdays are to the right. Rick, Jeff and Linda



Sibling Christmas in Photo Continued



Grandma's game. Larry, Tony, Lisa, Debra, Jeff, Debbie and Sharon



Toasting Cindy's retirement. Cindy and John



Toasting Donna's retirement. Donna and Dean



Sharon and Donna checking if lunch is ready



Larry and Debra's grandkids made this plate of treats



Larry reading a letter found in Mom's things from her brother Ed who was in WWII. Ed called Mom by her nickname Bob Page 25



Merry Christmas 2023 from The Fischer's

I had a Xmas letter all written up and ready to go, but after reading it and Deb critiquing it, I realized I had to change a few things up. First of all, I spent most of the letter talking about our kids (How David is now 40 years old and Julia right behind him), how none of them changed jobs, and I also spent an entire page bragging about our grandkids. You know, like how intelligent they are and the fact that we now have 9 smart and growing fast, aged 4 mos. all the way to 14 years grandkids with numerous awards for athletics, musical talents and the like.

Deb also said that my letter wasn't as humorous as in other years. Well maybe she was right. My sense of humor is lacking a bit as of late. Maybe watching people around the world in conflict is having an affect on me. I'll quit reading CNN on my ipad. That'll brighten my mood. Also, I decided to insert a few "Dad Jokes" in what's left of this Christmas letter. Actually, the first one is a "Mom Joke".

"I wonder what my parents did to fight boredom before the internet came about. I asked all 15 of my brothers and sisters and they didn't know either." Actually, I liked that one but liked this one more.

"I came in the house one day to hear my wife yelling at the TV. She was saying: "Don't go in there! Don't go in the church, you moron!" Yep, she was watching our wedding video again".

Anyway, we stay extremely busy on the farm. We never had room to store many of our soybeans any given year so this year we built another bin for corn and will now use one of our corn bins for soybeans. We are also building onto our shop. A 32' addition to the back of our shop, mainly for tire and oil changes and cleaning of equipment, and a 20x24 addition in the front side of the shop for a bathroom and farm office.

It was an extremely dry year for our part of the state and some of our light sandy soils that our farm has did not take the heat very well. Soybeans averaged in the low 50's and corn just under 190 b.p.a. The corn on soybeans did rather well but wherever we had corn-on-corn the yield dropped about 30 b.p.a. Also, we bought a different combine after harvest, so we'll have some new green iron in the field come next fall. We bought a different JD410 backhoe also to replace the 310 that was getting tired.

Father Tanner Tooft is a priest at Sleepy Eye St. Marys who also loves farming as he grew up on a grain and beef farm. Anyway he put himself up for auction at a St. Marys school fundraiser and we were one of 4 high bidders to get Tanner for a day of farm work. Worked out great for the school as he raised 15,000 dollars and was great for us also as nothing seems to break down when he's there. As fast as he drives you wouldn't think that would be possible.

Cattle prices were great this year and we were also able to gain some extra money because we had a large number of cattle that were deemed Choice and Prime. We try hard to grow good high-quality animals and to have all but 1 of 550 head go Choice and Prime was great.

We tried to get a building permit so we could add on to our cabin with our kids' growing families. Unfortunately, we couldn't get the permit as our lot on Rice Lake didn't have enough green space due to the fact, we have a long driveway that goes down to the lake. The permit was denied, and we are not sure of our next step. To tear out the driveway to appease the county seems ludicrous, but Planning and Zoning has a lot of power.

This Joke is from my daughter

"What do lawyers wear to court." "Law suits."

This one comes by way of Matt Mages What did the drummer name his twin daughters?..... "Anna 1 Anna 2" I know some of you won't get that one. Give me a call. I'll be glad to explain.

I've been on the board of Compeer Financial for ten years now. While challenging at times, it can be very rewarding also. Every year we get together Regionally and Nationally during the winter and get to meet a lot of farmers and ranchers from different parts of the country. This year we will meet in Washington D.C. to do some lobbying on agricultures' behalf and our regional meeting is in Nashville.

Julia decided this year that for the July 4th get together at the lake that we should all wear red, white and blue shirts for a family picture. Our neighbor came over to take our picture and below is a picture of the entire clan on the beach at the cabin.

Most vacations for Deb and I over the last 10 years has been either to the cabin or Farm Credit meetings around the country. Most cities are beautiful and have a lot to offer culturally and I also love to hear about the history of the area we visit. Most cities are very clean and safe. Some not so much (Memphis and San Francisco). Anyway, this winter we decided we are going to spend time in Arizona visiting friends, going trail riding in the desert and maybe a little golf. Should be a lot of fun. Speaking of golf, I joined the Sleepy Eye Golf Club last year and golf 1 day a week with friends, once a week with brothers, and occasionally with classmates and such that are all now fully retired. I've gotten just good enough that I don't embarrass myself every time I go out.

I'm going to let Deb finish this letter as she writes about her dear Mother....

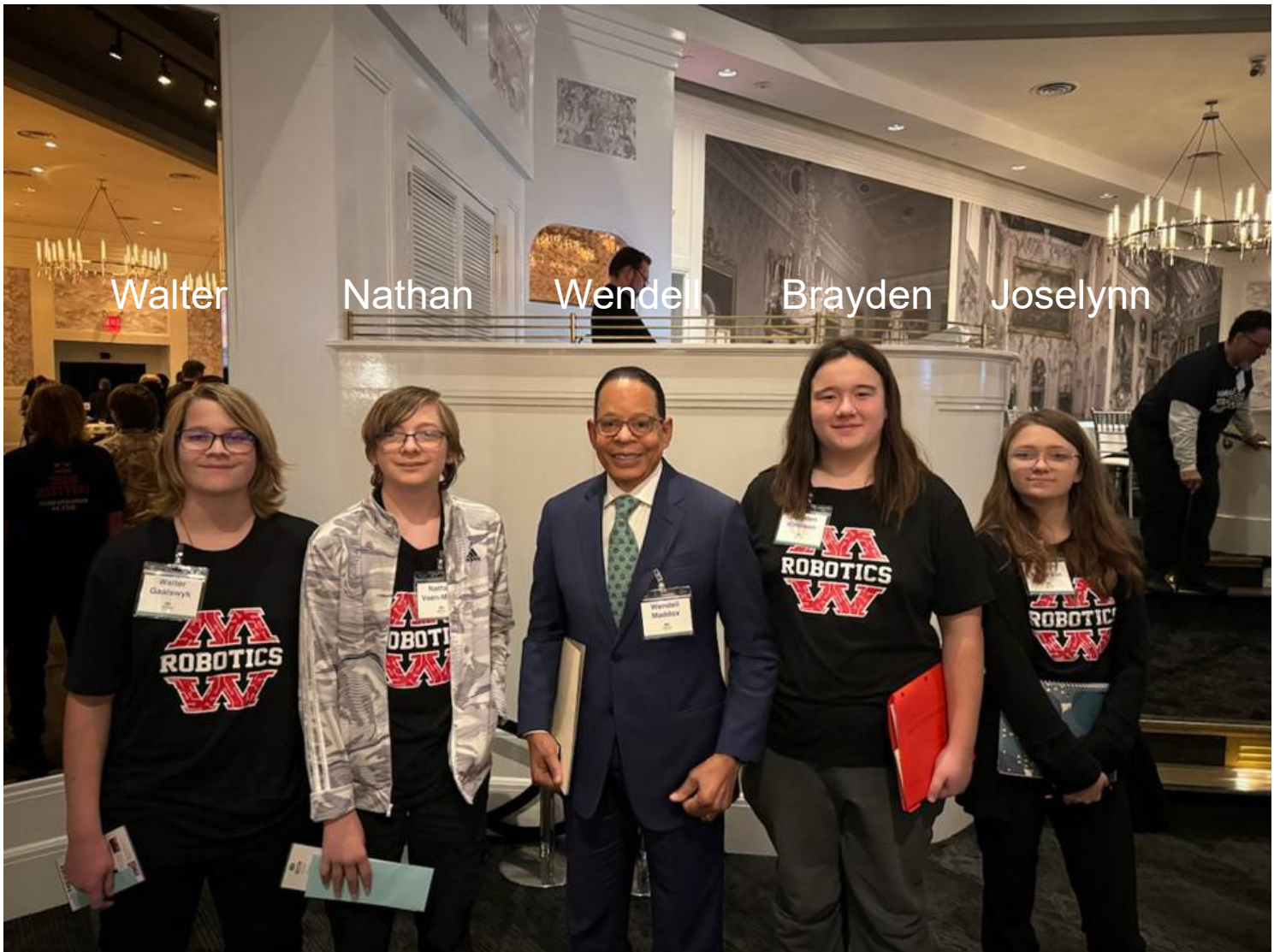
Hi, Merry Christmas Everyone, As we reflect on the blessings of this past year, We can't help but thank Jesus for the 93 years our dear mother Barbara Kodet-Mages was in my/our lives. Without a doubt I know she is in heaven's splendor beside our wonderful dad-Alphonse. I dream of their reunion of hugs and welcome greetings joining Jesus, Mary, Joseph & all our saints. I have always seen Mom as a living angel on earth to raise all her children in the eyes of our Lord so gracefully. I don't know of anyone who ever would have not liked Mom. As Queen of our large family, she was always so quick witted and willing to adopt another daughter or son or grandchild or neighbor. She would cook & bake a feast, so no one ever went hungry. I remember Dad complaining, while rubbing his stomach full, how Mom always made way too much food.... Mom would reply, I guess I just want to be ready in case Jesus comes knocking on our door. No kidding... not 10 seconds later, a knock came on the door. Mom with her precious smile greeted them in, you're just in time to join our table. Mom has given us all so many treasured memories during her full life. I am thankful when a person will comment, You Sound just like your Mother when you say....., She is now living in all our hearts carrying on her love of taught selflessness for others.

I'm thankful for my hubby-Stretch for working with me to create our Advent Wreath in our landscaping's front circle of our house. I'm sure I tested his patience on how I visualized it to come to fruition. Of course, always speaking very kindly to his remarks. You're the Best Honey! Stop by for visit if in the area. I made way too much food; I would love to share a meal at our table. God's blessing to you ALL!

Larry & Deb



Dakota Meadows Vex Team Invitation



Joselynn and her Vex Robotics team received a private invitation to attend a small seminar for students hosted by the CEO (Wendell Maddox) of Ion Corporation in the Twin Cities. There they learned about potential careers and challenges people entering into engineering may have. She took copious notes and was very enthusiastic about what she learned. She was also very excited to get the CEO's business card ☐ ☐

ION Corporation was founded in 1984 as a Veteran Owned Small Business (VOSDB) by Wendell Maddox to provide a variety of scientific, engineering, and custom manufacturing services to its clientele in the public and private sector.

For NASA programs, ION provided engineering services to integrate, maintain, and upgrade environmental control and life support subsystems for the NASA/MSFC International Space Station. ION manufactured and tested the payload and bus harnesses for the Earth Observing System (EOS) (AQUA and AURA) satellites, Defense Meteorological Satellite Program (DMSP), Television Infrared Observation Satellite (TIROS), Space Infrared Telescope Facility (SIRTF); slices for the guidance system of the Tracking and Data Relay Satellite System (TDRS); and the 20KW X-Band Power Amplifier for the Deep Space Program responsible for communicating with the Mars Rover.

Team CopyTech Secures Spot in State Tournament at MSU Mankato VRC Robotics Competition

MANKATO, MN - December 15, 2023 - Mankato State University hosted a thrilling Middle School Division VRC Robotics Tournament on Friday, drawing 40 teams from across Minnesota. The event saw young robotics enthusiasts from Mankato East, Mankato West, Loyola, New Ulm Cathedral, LeCenter, Fairmont, Albert Lea, Osseo, Wells, St Cloud, West St Paul, Adams and others competing for the coveted spots in the state tournament.

Team CopyTech, representing a blend of skill and strategy, emerged as one of the top competitors. Joselynn (daughter of Gina, granddaughter to Joe & Linda) is one of five members and is the team's driver. They played six challenging qualifying matches, showcasing their robotic prowess with an impressive 5-1 win rate, securing them a fourth-place ranking.

Despite facing mechanical setbacks, Team CopyTech demonstrated remarkable perseverance and ingenuity. In a turn of events during the competition, their robot suffered a significant mishap when it lost a wheel and both license plate holders were shattered, a testament to the fierce and competitive nature of the tournament. These challenges, however, did not deter the team's spirit.

Their journey through the R16 sudden death playoffs was marked by a convincing victory with a score of 55/32, propelling them into the quarterfinals. There, Team CopyTech continued their winning streak, dominating with a score of 91/30. The semi-final round proved to be their most challenging yet, as they narrowly clinched a win by just one point, 78/77, against their formidable opponents!

This victory was more than just a win; it was a ticket to the final match and an assurance of their place in the state tournament scheduled for March. The final round of the tournament, however, saw Team CopyTech face a tough loss with a score of 105/61. Despite this setback, their overall performance was enough to secure their spot in the state championship.

The MSU Mankato VRC Robotics Tournament was a showcase of emerging talent in the field of robotics, with teams demonstrating innovation, teamwork, and technical skills. Team CopyTech's journey to the finals was a testament to their hard work, determination, and the spirit of competition that defines the VRC Robotics Tournament.

As Team CopyTech prepares for the state tournament, they carry with them the experience, lessons, and the support of their community. The road to the state championship is paved with opportunities for growth, learning, and the chance to compete among the best young minds in robotics.

Robot Tournament at Mankato State University



Josie holding the robot



The above photo is Josie with her Mom, Gina holding the trophy Josie and her teammates earned at competition.



The photo to the left shows Josie driving the robot during a competition. Teammates D and Walter guiding her.

Anna

Anna Mages, daughter of Greg and Mary Kay, granddaughter of Dan and Arlene, brought down the house Sunday, December 17 in New Ulm playing with the Allegro Strings ensemble! The first half of the program was traditional strings music ranging from classical to modern. The second half of the program was a rousing Christmas sing-along ending with Handel's Hallelujah Chorus! Anna was delighted to have so many Mages relatives attend the concert. Anna has been playing violin since kindergarten, 9 years, the last two with Allegro Strings, the advanced performance ensemble of the New Ulm Suzuki School of Music.



Anna in Photo



Photo below, Front row, Mary Kay, Adam, Grace, Anna, Martin and Greg. Back row, Lisa, Connie, Taylor, Sharon, Tom, Tess, Arlene and Dan.

