



Estelline Alumni Association  
 PO Box 108  
 Estelline, SD 57234  
*Address Service Requested*

**FALL 2021**

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 PERMIT No. 38  
 Estelline, S.D.

Membership in the Estelline Alumni Association is open to all persons who attended or taught elementary or high school in Estelline, and anyone who is interested in the betterment of the school and community.

**OUR MISSION STATEMENT**  
**PROMOTING**  
**EXCELLENCE**



**1982 - 2022**  
 Estelline Alumni Association  
**40TH ANNIVERSARY**  
**CELEBRATION KICKOFF!**

**JUNE 16**  
**DUELING DUO**  
 Location and Time TBA

The dueling pianos show is made up of two guys, Andy Gibson and Ryno. Dan Witte joins in on vocals, trumpet, saxophone and violin. You can expect to hear your favorite songs because you will be choosing them!

**ALUMNI OFFICERS**

Jennifer Bjorklund Loban ~ President (2006)  
 Jordan Busch ~ Vice President (2011)  
 Hilary Gorder Suther ~ Secretary (2009)  
 Molly Watt Ronne ~ Treasurer (2017)

**EMAIL ADDRESS:**

[alumniestelline@gmail.com](mailto:alumniestelline@gmail.com)  
**WEBSITE:** [www.stellineschools.com](http://www.stellineschools.com)  
**FACEBOOK:** Estelline Alumni Association

# Class Notes

## CONGRATULATIONS

**JASON APPEL (1999)** has been appointed the Sioux Falls Community President at First International Bank and Trust, Sioux Falls. With nearly 20 years' experience in financial services, Jason was recently recognized by the South Dakota Bankers Association as an Emerging Leader.

## BIRTHS

Aug. 4 ~ girl, Makayla Mae to Leslie and **ZACH BUSCH (2008)** of Mankato, MN; joins brother Carson. Grandparents are **PAULA (PAPKA 87)** and Stuart Busch, Estelline. Great-grandparents are **MAUREEN (LINNEMAN 68)** and John Radtke, Brookings, and Connie Glines and **DENNY PAPKA (68)**, Estelline.

Aug. 12 ~ girl, Jordan Lavonna to Mikayla and **SAM KRAUSE (2013)** of rural Goodwin; joins brother Augustus. Grandparents are **SHERRI (MOORE 85)** and **GARRY KRAUSE (81)** of Estelline. Great-grandparents are Evelyn and **LARRY BAKKE (73)** of Estelline.

Aug. 24 ~ boy, Charles John, to Geonna and **JOHN KRAUSE (2008)** of Estelline; joins sisters Hope, Tessa, and Rylee. Grandparents are **SHERRI (MOORE 85)** and **GARRY KRAUSE (81)** of Estelline. Great-grandparents are Evelyn and **LARRY BAKKE (73)** of Estelline.

Aug. 31 ~ girl, Ava Lynn to Courtney and **GUNNAR HAUG (Estelline SPED teacher)** of Castlewood.

Sept. 1 ~ girl, Lottie Mae to **LINDA (TARRELL 99)** and Jon Greseth of Brookings; joins sister Grace.

Sept. 23 ~ girl, Bella Faye to Allison and **JESSE SAATHOFF (2008)** of Estelline; joins sisters Becca and Allie. Grandparents are **BETTY (SEEKLANDER 74)** and Lenny Saathoff of Estelline.

Sept. 25 ~ boy, Maverick John to Kellie and **BRIAN VOHLKEN (2013)** of Estelline; joins brother Harrison. Grandparents are **ANGELA (ANDERSON 87)** and **LYLE VOHLKEN (81)** of Estelline.

Sept. 29 ~ boy, Levi Don to Dustin and Anna Walraven; joins siblings Leo and Lily. Grandma is **JOANN (HEMMER 84)** Walraven of Huron.

Nov. 6 ~ boy, Trig Matthew to **KATLIN (WARD 2010)** and **JORDAN BUSCH (2011)** of Estelline. Grandparents are Patti and **MIKE WARD (73)** and **PAULA (PAPKA (87)** and Stuart Busch of Estelline. Great-grandparents are **MAUREEN (LINNEMAN 68)** and John Radtke, Brookings, and Connie Glines and **DENNY PAPKA (68)**, Estelline.

Nov. 9 ~ boy, Luka Ruben to **ANGELA (former teacher)** and **BRANDON KREIN (2010/4th grade teacher)**; joins brother Leo in Heaven.

Nov. 11 ~ girl, Iris Jean to **KEYANNA BEGALKA (2018)** and Shane Palmlund of Arlington.

Nov. 13 ~ girl, Emma Rose to Amanda and **JASON GERINGER (2004)** of Larchwood, IA; joins brother Lucas. Grandparents are **DONNA (MOELLER 77)** and **DOUG GERINGER (75)** of Bruce.

Nov. 19 ~ boy, Maddyn Adolph to **DANIELLE (THOMPSON 2014)** and **MAX GORDER (2012)** of Estelline. Grandparents are **DONNA (FOSTER 83)** and **ANN (retired teacher)** and **MIKE GORDER (77)**, and great-grandpa is **KENNY FOSTER (58)**, all of Estelline.

Nov. 19 ~ Taylee Shay Marie to Chrissy and Jason Hai; joins siblings Shawn, Koby, Hunter, Shelby, and Leia. Grandparents are **KATHY (STROSCHEIN 81)** and Dick Anderson of Garretson and **TAMMY (VANDYKHORST 83)** and **BOB GILLIGAN (72)** of Estelline.

Nov. 28 ~ boy, Kash Adam to **KAITLYN STEFFENSEN (2017)** and Austin Molengraaf, rural Bruce. Grandparents are LeeAnne and **TRACY JOHNSON (93)** of rural Bruce. Great-grandparents are **AMAINE (MOHAN 58)** and **GARY JOHNSON (66)** of Estelline.

## WEDDINGS

**NOLAN SONNENBURG (2015)**, son of **JEANNE (PRESTRUDE 89)** and **BRYON SONNENBURG (84)** of rural Estelline, and Tatum Ronke were married July 17, 2021. Nolan is employed at Marco Technologies as a network installation technician. Tatum is a fifth grade teacher at Sioux Valley Schools in Volga. They are living in Aurora, SD.

**KATIE HENDRICKSON (2012)**, daughter of Mary Beth and **BYRON HENDRICKSON (84)** of Estelline, and Cole Hoyer were married Aug. 7, 2021.

**MOLLY WATT (2017)**, daughter of **CHRIS (teacher)** and **JEFF WATT (80)** of Estelline, and Logan Ronne were married Aug. 28, 2021. Molly is employed at the Estelline Community Oil and Logan works at the Castlewood Farmers Elevator.

**MEGHAN WOUNDED HEAD (former teacher)** and Blake Van Gilder were married Sept. 5, 2021. Meghan teaches at Washington High School in Sioux Falls and Blake is employed in sales with Vermeer.

**BRITTNEY MOORE (2015)**, daughter of **THERESA (MACKEY 82)** and Darrell Moore of rural Arlington, and Taylor Shantz were married Sept. 18, 2021. Brittney works at PCC, a medical billing company, in Castlewood. Taylor is a Hamlin County deputy sheriff. They are living in Lake Norden, SD.

**KYLE HOLLENBECK (2010)**, son of **KRISTY HOLLENBECK (retired teacher)**, and Brianna Goble were married Oct. 1, 2021. Kyle is a paramedic/fireman with the Watertown Fire Department. Brianna is a cosmetologist at Lux. They make their home in Watertown with their daughter, Isabelle.

**KELSEY BEGALKA (2009)**, daughter of Kay and **GALE BEGALKA (80)** of rural Castlewood, and Lance Becking were married Nov. 6 2021. Kelsey is the Director of Programming for the Watertown Area Chamber of Commerce. Lance is a farmer/rancher at Becking Farms. They make their home in rural Florence.

# Class Notes

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

**LINDA (OINES 67)** and Jim Mannerud of Brookings celebrated their 50th anniversary on Nov. 27, 2021.

## GRADUATIONS

**MAKENSIE (SAATHOFF 2017)** Kerkvliet ~ Nursing ~ South Dakota State University

**LUIS MARTINEZ (2017)** ~ Business Associate ~ Lake Area Technical College

**ALYLE HENRICKS (2019)** ~ Human Services Technician ~ Lake Area Technical College

**TASHA VOHLKEN (2019)** ~ Law Enforcement ~ Lake Area Technical College

**TIFFANY VOHLKEN (2019)** ~ Med/Fire Rescue ~ Lake Area Technical College

## DEATHS

Johnny Hemmer, son of **LINDA (LINNEMAN 67)** and Dennis Hemmer of Clear Lake died in California on July 21, 2021. A private family service was held Aug. 7 with a celebration of life for family and friends on July 4 in Clear Lake.

**JANICE (BEGALKA 58)** Hanson died Sept. 11, 2021 at the Avera Prince of Peace Nursing Home in Sioux Falls. Funeral services were held Sept. 19 at Trinity Lutheran Church with burial in Lakeview Cemetery, all in Clear Lake.

**RICHARD "DICK" JONGELING (71)** died Sept. 21, 2021 in Austin, TX. A memorial service was held Sept. 24 near Austin and a graveside service was held at Hamlin Reformed Cemetery, rural Castlewood, on Nov. 6.

**LEONA (PETERSHAGEN 38)** Conner Fahey of Castlewood died Oct. 2, 2021. Funeral services were held Oct. 6 at the First Presbyterian Church, Castlewood, with burial in Mt. Hope Cemetery, Watertown.

Janene Kinney, wife of **BOB KINNEY (63)** of Cavour, died Oct. 2, 2021 at the Sanford USD Medical Center, Sioux Falls. Graveside services were held Oct. 8 at Hillcrest Cemetery, Estelline, followed by a celebration of life service at the Huron Christian Church.

**BUTCH SALMONSON (65)** died at his rural Estelline home on Oct. 6, 2021. Funeral services were held Oct 11 at the Estelline American Legion Hall.

**DAVID GARVIN (73)** of Brookings died Oct. 11, 2021 after a 15-year battle with colon cancer.

Lynnette Beste, wife of **JERRY BESTE (81)**, died unexpectedly on Oct. 18, 2021. Funeral services were held Oct. 23 at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Church in Idaho Falls, ID.

**DONNA (VERHOEK 70)** Langland of Volga died Nov. 10, 2021 at Sanford Hospital, Sioux Falls. Funeral services were held Nov. 19 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Brookings, with burial in Hamlin Reformed Cemetery, rural Castlewood.

## 2022 RODEO & REUNION WEEKEND JUNE 16, 17, 18 AND 19

Honoring Classes  
Ending 2 and 7

**THURSDAY, JUNE 16: DUELING DUO SHOW ~ location/time TBA**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 17: 9:00 am ~ GOLF FUNDRAISER** at Lake Region Golf Course  
6:00 pm ~ Rodeo followed by Firemen's Street Dance

**SATURDAY, JUNE 18: GAZEBO GALLOP 5K and ONE MILE RUN**

10:00 am ~ Parade - Classes are encouraged to have an entry

11:00 pm ~ **ALUMNI BANQUET**, Everyone Welcome. If you would like tables reserved for your class, please email: [alumniestelline@gmail.com](mailto:alumniestelline@gmail.com).

6:00 pm ~ Rodeo

**SUNDAY, JUNE 19: Pancake Feed** at Legion Hall



**More information about Reunion and Rodeo Events  
to be announced in the Winter and Spring 2022 newsletters.**

**Contact the Alumni Secretary for a mailing list if your class is planning a reunion.**

**The Fall 2021 Newsletter is being sent to the entire membership. Due to rising costs, the Winter 2022 Newsletter will only be sent to paid members and those in honored classes.**

**You might consider having the newsletter emailed to you. We just need your email address.**

**DUES ARE \$10/YEAR**

# Clarke honored as Grand Marshal

Carla (Foster) Clarke, a 1977 Estelline High School graduate, was chosen to lead the 2021 Homecoming parade.

Carla grew up in Estelline, attending school for all 13 years. Her parents, Ronold (1955) and Jeanette (Hutt 1956), also graduated from EHS, along with her brothers, Jeff (1980) and Todd (1982).

After graduation, Carla studied medical assisting at Lake Area Tech in Watertown. She has worked at the Estelline Nursing and Care Center for the past 25 years.

Carla served at the Estelline Alumni Association secretary from June of 1989 until June of 2018. She states she saw a lot of changes during that time but one thing that never wavered was the support the alumni association received from its membership. "So many of our alumni continue to donate for projects the association takes on."

During Carla's tenure, the association took on many projects, big and small, but Carla states she especially enjoyed the completion of Beckman Field and the wood floor installation in the Arena.

"I learned a lot from the teamwork it took from the association, donors, administrators, staff, school board members and the community with all of our projects," Carla said. "I will always remember Pat Gilligan's message at the groundbreaking ceremony at Beckman Field. He implored the students to remember 'Mr. Beckman's act as a guide for your own futures as well as your roots in the Estelline community.'"

Many people may also be familiar with Carla's voice as she announced track meets at Beckman Field for 18 years.

Carla says the most important thing she has taken away from serving is the friendships she made over the years. "Those friendships mean the world to me. From graduates starting in the 20's, to the present, I would never have gotten to know so many people."

Carla continues to remain an active member of the association as she serves as the newsletter editor and enjoys volunteering in the concession stand during football games and track meets.

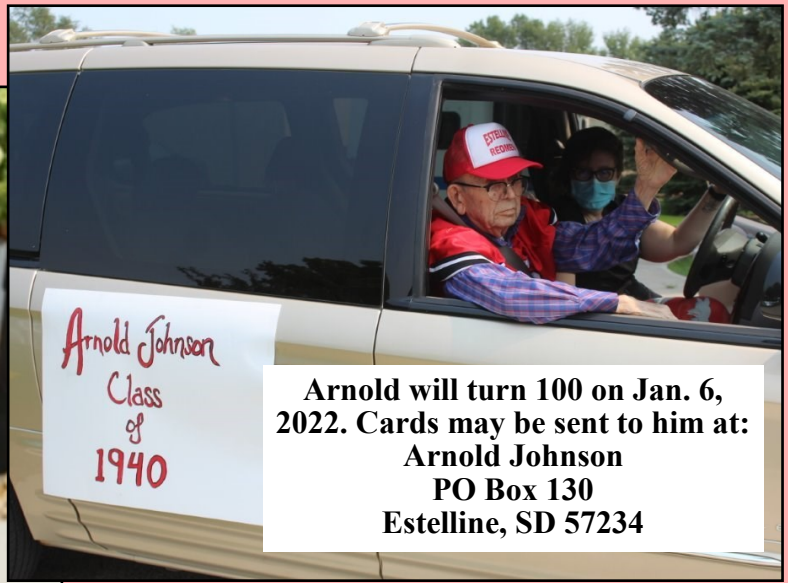
Carla married Tom Clarke (1978) and they celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in June. Their family includes Justin (2001), his wife Beth, and their daughter Chloe; Jameson (2004) and his wife Erin; and Nolan (2010) and his wife Miranda.



↑ Grand Marshal Carla Clarke led the Homecoming Parade.  
↓ Football Moms participated in the parade and led a cheer at the pep rally, "We got spirit, yes we do, we got spirit, how about you?!"

Thank you to Tammy Gilligan, Kristy McAninch and LeeAnne Dufek and Jenna Aderhold of the Estelline Journal for use of all the photos in this newsletter.





Arnold will turn 100 on Jan. 6, 2022. Cards may be sent to him at:  
Arnold Johnson  
PO Box 130  
Estelline, SD 57234

## Arnold Johnson, Class of 1940, Represents ENCC In Parade

Arnold was born on Jan. 6, 1922 at a farm in Grange Township near Estelline/Toronto to Ted Johnson and Anna Maria (Ness) Johnson. His siblings included Audrea and Elva, both deceased. Arnold has always lived in this area and has been a farmer all of his life.

Arnold completed high school at Estelline in 1940 where his favorite subject was history. Arnold is the oldest living graduate of EHS. Arnold represented eight of the alumni presently making their home at Estelline Nursing and Care Center in the homecoming parade.

Arnold met his future wife, Helen, one day when he went out to check the cattle in the pasture he rented from her father. Helen and her mother invited Arnold in for coffee and Arnold saw Helen's dad's fiddle. They soon became "fiddling friends." She would often accompany him on the piano. They were married on April 17, 1982 and "have been making music ever since." Arnold and Helen have a special kinship with music and enjoyed going to any events with old time music.

Arnold has been a long time member of the Old Time Fiddlers Group. He and his group have played many times at ENCC. One of his favorite things to do is visit. He likes to listen to What's Up on 950 AM Radio at 8:20am, Monday through Saturday, and he will often call into the program. Arnold also likes his John Deere tractors and enjoys visiting about them.



Legion Members of Post 184 led the Homecoming Parade and also display the colors at every home football game.

# Alumni Enjoy Parade



Larry Saathoff (1968) and Mike Ward (1973) represented the Estelline Rodeo Club with Mike's Clydesdales, Candy and Lady.



# Friday Night Lights



## THANK YOU TO OUR PORK FEED SPONSORS

Estelline Coop Grain ~ Ward's Store  
Reliabank ~ Elliott Enterprises  
Estelline Community Oil  
Hidden Beauty Salon & Boutique  
Country Corner Sinclair  
Minn-Kota Pest Control  
The Legendary Red Carpet  
Dakota Ringneck ~ Geise Funeral Home  
Skoglund Insurance ~ Alsville Crossing  
Siouxland Bar and Grill  
Siouxland Grocery  
Dakotaland Federal Credit Union



Scholarship recipients Riley Benning, Kylie Beare, Mariah Johnson, and Jordan Saathoff help serve at the pork bbq feed before the game.



A great crowd attended the pork bbq feed.



The cross country and volleyball teams also competed during Homecoming Week.



The EHS band, along with Hendricks peeps, played pep music at the football game. Director is Emily Peirce.



# Thank You For Your Donations

## SCHOLARSHIPS & ALUMNI PROJECTS

**MAUREEN (GILLIGAN 60)** and James Barnwell  
**BETTE GERBERDING (former teacher)**  
**PAULA (PAPKA 87)** and Stuart Busch  
**SONDRA (MOUL 59) and RON TIMMER (58)**  
**JEREMY FREESEMANN (90)**  
**STACY (DEVILLE 2004)** Hoitsma  
**DUANE RASMUSSEN (62)**  
**CINDY (PAPKA 69)** Rust

In Memory of **SHIRLEY (SALMONSON 54) and DENNIS EISNACH (54): DIANE (EISNACH 57)** Kidder

In Memory of **GERALDINE (ELLEFSON 48)** Christianson:  
Harold Christianson

In Memory of Ralph Schwartz and Lenny Ludwig:  
Shelly and **BRAD JONGELING (93)**

In Memory of **BUTCH SALMONSON (65):**  
**SHIRLEY (WAGENAAR 65)** Lacher

In Memory of **SHIRLEY (SALMONSON 54) and DENNIS EISNACH (54): CLEYON MULDER (54)**

In Memory of **KRISTI (COLBERG 82)** Dobbs:  
**PAUL WYCZAWSKI (former teacher)**

In Memory of Darlene Pedersen:  
Ken and Tammy Krein  
**DARLENE (PAPKA 54)** Colberg

In Memory of **RICHARD "DICK" JONGELING (71):**  
**TAMMY (VANDYKHORST 83) and BOB GILLIGAN (72)**

In Memory of **JIM FJERESTAD (64), RICH BEARE (64)**  
**AND GERRY HEISMAYER (64):**  
Karen and **ROGER ELLSWORTH (64)**

**JAXSON BERWALD SCHOLARSHIP (2030):**  
Kim and **DALE STROSCHEIN (76)**

**HELIA TRAUTMAN SCHOLARSHIP (teacher):**  
**RON FREESEMANN (64)**  
**RON BEARE (64)**

## RURAL SCHOOL MUSEUM

**STEPHEN WATTNEM (67)**

In Memory of **BUTCH SALMONSON (65):**  
**MARLENE SEEKLANDER (80)**

In Memory of **LEONA (PETERSHAGEN 38)** Fahey:  
Karen Schooley

In Memory of **JACKIE ZAFFT (79):**  
**NANCY (SWEEN 79)** Conlon

## HILLCREST CEMETERY

**GARNET (BALL 49)** Birner  
**CAROL (GILLIGAN 62)** Olson  
**DUANE RASMUSSEN (62)**  
**ROBERT ELLSWORTH (71)**  
**JUNE (TILL)** Wicks  
**JUDY (FENNIG 61)** Lagro

In Memory of **SHIRLEY (SALMONSON 54) and DENNIS EISNACH (54):**  
**DIANE (EISNACH 57)** Kidder

In Memory of Melvin Appel and Darlene Pedersen:  
**DIANE (HUTT 64)** Appel

In Memory of **GERALDINE (ELLEFSON 48)** Christianson:  
**DARYL ALSEIKE (49)**

In Memory of **JUDY (PAPKA 64)** Keimig:  
Karen and **ROGER ELLSWORTH (64)**

## REFLECTIONS MEMORIAL PARK

**VICKI (MULDER 64) and GARY WATTNEM (64)**

In Memory of **BUTCH SALMONSON (65):**  
**JOYCE (LICHT 70) and LYLE POPPEN**  
**MARY LOU (GASPER 65)** Malli  
Ken and Tammy Krein

In Memory of Bill Conlon: **NANCY (SWEEN 79)** Conlon

In Memory of LeRoy Bleeker: Ken and Tammy Krein

## ESTELLINE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION ~ PO BOX 108 ~ ESTELLINE SD 57234

Name/Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Dues \$10/yr: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Year Grad: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ SCHOLARSHIP FUND      \_\_\_\_ JAXSON BERWALD SCHOLARSHIP FUND      \_\_\_\_ ALUMNI PROJECTS

\_\_\_\_ RURAL SCHOOL MUSEUM      \_\_\_\_ REFLECTIONS MEMORIAL PARK      \_\_\_\_ HILLCREST CEMETERY

\_\_\_\_ SEND MY NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL (email the association if you do not use this form ~ we must have your email address)