We Can't Succeed Without Yo V

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A Publication of the Warren/Alvarado/Oslo Public School

**Education Foundation** 

P.O. Box 125, Warren, MN 56762

# George and Rick Erickson Are Successful Father and Son Team at Ericco Tool & Mfg.

onnections



One of the most successful familyowned businesses in Northern Minnesota is Ericco Tool and Manufacturing. It was founded by 1948 Warren High School graduate George Erickson and has continued to prosper under the leadership of his son, Rick, who is a 1975 graduate of Warren High School. The business is located 11 miles east of Warren, but is closer to the neighborhood area of Viking.

Ericco opened for business in 1975 and is still going strong today. The father and son team's recipe for success has been a fine blend of family values, hard work and foresight along with faith and perseverance. It has gone from beginning its operation in a small quonset on the family farm to an expansion of 25,000 square feet of manufacturing space and 15,000 square feet of warehouse

Employing 52 full-time and seasonal employees, Ericco is one of the largest privately owned businesses in Marshall County. Before the Ericco family began, the

Before the Ericco family began, the Erickson family had to be established. George married Emma (Bennett, WHS 1950) in 1951 and they have been married for 61 years. They have five married children and all are alumni of Warren High School. They include daughter, Kathy (1970) and sons, Russ (1972); Rick (1975) and twins, Joel and Jeff (1985). They also have 10 grandchildren and five great-grand-children.

Following high school, George farmed, worked for the pipeline and had other construction jobs. After a few years, he wanted to do something else with his life. He explained, "In 1955, I took my family to Milwaukee, Wisconsin where I got a job at Bucyrus Erie. It was there I got a good education learning the machining trades. As I gained skill, I was given bigger and more complicated machines to run. Those were good learning years for me. I continued working there until 1962." Then he made the decision to return home to the Viking area. He added, "We came back home to

He added, "We came back home to our family and farm where we raised turkeys and grain farmed for several years. I also worked for Arctic Cat in their machining areas. In 1975, I quit at Arctic Cat. An engineer I knew there suggested that I put a few machines like lathes and vertical mills on the farm. He said they needed more suppliers for machined parts. So I started up our business and it all worked out well until hard times hit Arctic Cat forcing them to file bankruptcy in the early 80's. We survived those hard times, but that was just one in a series of ups and downs through the years."

Rick married his wife, Sally, in 1978 and they have been married for 34 years. They have two married children including son, Ben and daughter, Trudy. They also have two grandchildren. Both Ben and Trudy along with her husband, Josh Veselka (a very popular participant of the WAO Ed. Foundation Golf Tournament) have high-profile management jobs in the business and one day will most likely be third-generation owners.

Rick has fond memories of his years at Warren High School. He stated, "I was fortunate to be able to perform in several dramatic and musical productions. One year we took first place in a one-act play contest. Our junior class play was a fun melodrama based loosely on the Dudley Do-Right and Snidely Whiplash characters. Naturally, I was the villain, Snidely, and it was so much fun to be on stage hearing the cheers, boos and laughter. I was also lucky enough to be in three musicals including Brigadoon, Westside Story and Guys and Dolls. With the choir, band, shop and art students involved, I made a lot of new friends and learned a lot about the importance of team work."

He also talked a little about the academic side of his time at WHS saying, "I liked biology; history; speech and choir. With my work duties at the computer, I am very happy I took typing, although at the time it was because the class was loaded with girls. I should have been a better student, but most of the time I was a solid C+ student. I liked most of my teachers, but Mr. Gladwin Lynne was my favorite. Besides my parents, the most influential person in my life was Lawrence Dargus who owned Warren TV and Appliance. I worked for him during my high school years. He was a good man who treated me well and taught me a lot about retail and business in general."

After high school, Rick attended three colleges in a period of less than two years. *Continued on Page 6* 

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### Elementary Winter Concert Refreshments

The Education Foundation board and volunteers will be serving Christmas cookies and ice cream in the high school cafeteria following the Elementary Christmas Concert on Thursday, December 6. Free will donations will go to purchasing eBooks for the Elementary library. Thank you to Bremer Bank for donating the refreshments.

Ed. Foundation Fundraiser Baked Rotato Supper Jan, 8, 2013 WAO Ponies vs. Stephen/Argyle Storm Boys Basketball Game WAO High School Cafeteria Serving: 5-7 p.m.

### **Golf Scramble**

The 9th Annual Education Foundation Golf Scramble Fundraiser will be held on Friday, July 26, 2013 at Warren Riverside Golf Course.

### **Marshall County Fair**

July 24 – July 28, 2013

### **Class Reunions**

Please contact the Education Foundation with your class reunion details for our next edition of "Connections." We would be glad to give you our most current addresses for your classmates. In return we ask that you give us any address updates that you become aware of.

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# 2012 Class Reunions



WHS CLASS OF 1957 GIRLS — Front row, left to right: Delores (Anderson) Sedlacek, Delores (Elseth) Ricker, Beryl (Bossman) Palmer, Bobbi (Schirber) Hedquist, Donna (Connett) Gram. Back row, left to right: Marilyn (Franks) Kasprowicz, Marlene (Diedrich) Mandeville, Alvina (Poolman) Henrickson, Cherry (Nicholls) Gumz, Kari Jo (Herbranson) Hanson, Treasure (Soltis) Omdahl, Shirley (Mykleby) Hamrick, Corrine (Goplin) Slaughter, Arnette (Johnson) Nelson.



WHS CLASS OF 1952 — front row, left to right: Darlene Opsund Hinrichs, Marlene Sommers, Ruth Omdahl, Elaine Salentiny and Edith Soli. Middle row: Ruth Johnson, Norita Beaudry, Jenny Ohnstad and Mary Eikness Larson. Back row: Lee Daby, Bill Crow, Charles Berget, Lee Skunes, Andrew Sherry and Dennis VanSickle.



ALVARADO CLASS OF 1962 — Front row, left to right: Tom Vanyo, Henry Pietrzak and John Hendrickson. Back row: Fern (Hendrickson) Fleck, Rita (Kotrba) Baily, Anita (Svard) Hellie, Carol (Gulbranson) Janssen, Marlene (Olson) Shane and Eunice Peterson Richter.



WAO CLASS OF 2002 — Front row: left to right: Mary (Myrfield) Lizakowski, Nikki (Boman) Peterson, Audrey Farder, and Lindsey (Teigen) Johnson. Back row, left to right: Tim Anderson, Mandy (Kuznia) Rosendahl, Anna Kliner, Melissa (Flaten) Gornowicz, Vanessa (Chandler) Hacker.



WHS CLASS OF 1957 GUYS — Front row, left to right: Warren Hickman, Marlin Fillipi, John Peterson. Back row, left to right: Don Hedquist, Buzz Omdahl, Don Omdahl, Erv Rokke, Bill Grange.



**AHS CLASS OF 1957** — From the left: Marlys (Hendrickson) Kleven, Avis (Gulbranson) Iverson, Emil Vanyo, Dorothy (Hagglund) Kiffmeyer and June (Werpy) Kleven. Unable to attend were Darrell Larson and MaDonna (Boushee) Tack.



**WHS CLASS OF 1962** — Kneeling, Lynn Maruska, left to right: Dorothea (Pederson) Bird, Nancy (Armstrong) Pederson, Courtney Pulkrabek, Barbara (Hess) Olson, Sharon (Owens) Kelly, Diane (Conely) Abrahamson, Phyllis (Botko) Erickson, Karen (Loeslie) Kifer, Pat (Hoaas) Sandberg, Mary Jane (Nicholls) Moffitt and Gary Neegard. Second row: Muriel (Solvik) Kaml, Michael Johnson, Kathie (Nygaard) Couch, Sandra (Potucek) Maruska, Janet (Anderson) Polucha, Marla (Madsen) King, Robert Peterson and David Flaten. Third row: Richard Karr, Maxine (Knudsen) Theusch, Carol (Knutson) Erickson, Carol (Kuzel) Bushy and Don Vettleson. Back row: Lloyd Fagerstrom, Clair Anderson, Donald Olson, Wayne Wood, Larry Rud, Duane Kotrba, John Berget, John Johnson, Howard Elseth, Robert Stroble and David Fischer.



WHS CLASS OF 1982 — Front row, left to right: Jerry Narlock, Kirk Saiger, Jim Erseth, Tim Larson, Bruce Nelson, Terry (Swanson) Konchan and Scott Truhn. Second row: Nancy (Huderle) Koho, Paula (Vonasek) Bodell, Monique (DuBore) Collette, Dean Kasprowicz, Betsy (Peterson) Stone, Deanna (Carlson) Zink and Nancy (Lamb) Grabowski. Back row: Jeff Poolman, Diane Rasmussen, Jay Vansickle, Rhonda (Bodell) Kitley, Gwen (Nicholls) Nelson, Terry Erickson, Terry Nelson, Mary Kay (Nicholls) Voll, Ron Ranstrom, Mary (Horgen) Hamm, Jim Duckstad, Mark Nelson (former classmate), Karen Flaten, Jill (Johnston) Anderson, Todd Mattison, Susan Anderson, Brian Jadeke, Kim (Turgeon) Fosse and Dave Saiger.



**VNHS CLASS OF 1992** — Kneeling, Kerrie (Hendrickson) Peltier. Front row: left to right: Rhonda (Olson) Biermaier, Jennifer (Osowski) Rodgers, Renee (Olson) Vanyo, Traci (Jamieson) Zawistowski, Bekki (Carpenter) Saelens, Marilyn (Veralrud) Yanish, and Becky (Michalski) Boman. Back row, left to right: Chris Corradi, Craig Nice, Russell Stoltman, Joel Osowski, Tadd Vanyo, Karyn (Nelson) Vasek, Ben Holter, Matt Ferry, Kris (Vacura) Schaefer.



WHS CLASS OF 1972 — Front row, kneeling: Wayne Torgerson, Jim Pearson, John Wetterlund and Charlie Pletsch. Second row: Beth Johnson, Curt Kuznia, Jeff Norman, Bev (Hanson) Torgerson, Jean (Mattson) Larson, Anne (Saetre) Josephson, Linda Plencner, Warren Hendrickson and Connie Sherwood. Third row: John Rogalla, Jeff Lahl, Tom Harlow, Mark Flaten, Bruce Schantzen, Deb (Zutz) Copp, Kathy (Peterson) Swanson, Claudia (Sommers) Marks, Marlys Kasprick, Russ Steer, Dean Danielski and Russ Erickson. Fourth row: Carol (Greene) Marty, Jeanne (Kotrba) Jones, Luann (Knudsen) Johnson, Sandy (Jagol) Johnson and Kristy (Edgar) Hanson. Back row: Tim Howard, Jay Backstrom, Dick Edgar, Gayle Short, Carol (Erickson) Tulibaski and Bruce. Salmonson. Missing from the photo are Greg Johnson and Betty Graham.



WHS CLASS OF 1967 — Sitting: Bob Kliner, David Engstrom, teachers OJ Peyton and Ken Sherwood, Mary (Stanghelle) Coleman and Duane Fillipi. Second row: Mynette (Copp) Kolnes, Wendell Kasprick, Leslie Landon, Roger Conely, Carolyn Torkelson-Beneke, Phyllis (Edgar) Nowacki, Cookie (Sandberg) Melby, Raeann (Olson) Halvorson and Dean Dahlman. Back row: Tom Short, David Sholy, John Halsa, Bruce Ranstrom, Bruce Fillipi, Howard Goplin, Craig Wetterlund, Ken Edgar, Ken Miska and Paul Slusar. Attending the reunion but not pictured were Dick Horning, Patsy (Cook) Heggen, Elden Elseth, Richard Edman, Steve Johnson, Rick Vanek and teachers Curt Hukee and Hank Johnson.



# 2012 Class Reunions



**WHS CLASS OF 1948** — Front row: Lila (Eukel) Golden, Birgit Anderson, Maxine (Paulson) Thoreson, Joye (Potucek) Olson, and Doris (Wimpfheimer) Erickson. Back row: Eddie Palmer, Dorothy (Connett) Palm, Marion (Taus) Yarde, Jim Spilde, Clayton Pearson, and Marvin Swanson. There were 43 members of their graduating class and at least 21 are still living.



WHS CLASS OF 1947 — Front row: Gloria (Oberg) Zak, Darline (Sillerud) McGlynn, Connie (Knutson) Edgar and Betty (Anderson) Evin. Back row: Gloria (Hedquist) Casey, Eloise (Lieberg) Snyder, a guest, Harvey Johnson, Douglas Gloude and Kenneth Sinn.



WHS CLASS OF 1940 — These four classmates of the Warren High School Class of 1940 got together for their 72nd class reunion August 1 at Melody's Cafe in Warren. Front, left to right: Robert Swanson and William (Bud) Anderson. Back: Donna (Copp) Drews and Lorene (Palmer) Engelstad. There were 40 members of their graduating class and at least 12 are known to be living.

WHS CLASS OF 1992 — Front row, left to right: Scott Steer, Shane Kiesow, Amy (Fillipi) Elifritz, Shawn (Fenning) Hricak, Greg Korynta, Becky (Strickler) Moen and Monica Torrez. Middle row: Jesse (Anderson) Omdahl, Rachel Loeslie, Heidi (Lochow) Woodle, Wendy (Jones) Steer, Tracy (Stauffenecker) Turner and, clowning, Kristy (Maurstad) Stoldorf. Back row: Garth Kruger, Stacy (Novak) Polley, Eric Wittman, Tatum Schuler, Van Hapka and Jennifer (Diedrich) Kazin.

## **Tribute and Memorial Gifts**

May 1, 2012 - October 31, 2012

- In Memory of James Corriveau Sharon (Botko) Kays
- Rovella (Franks) Weiland In Memory of Orville Parkin

In Memory of Lois Bergman

Bruce & Deane Fulks

program

James Spilde

Lola (Berg) Fulks

Sharon (Botko) Kays

Audrey (Berg) Cheney

Donald & Connie Omdahl

Steve & Marie Goodwin

In Memory of Evelyn Altendorf

Joyce (Altendorf) VonFeldt

Arlyn & Marilyn (Kuznia) Stroble

In Memory of Floyd & Evelyn Godel

In Memory of Evelyn Kujava

Shirley (Godel) Cockrell

Shirley (Godel) Cockrell

In Memory of Jim Cockrell

Shirley (Godel) Cockrell

Connie (Swanson) Moen

In Memory of Gloria Miska

Carol J. Anderson

WAO Class of 2001

Carol J. Anderson

Hazel Hendrickson

Donald & Melba Laidley

L. Peder & Karen Larson

Ed & Linda (Engelstad) Turn In Memory of Howard Pribula

In Tribute to WHS Class of 1946

In Tribute to WHS Class of 1969

Janelle (Kroll) Schoenbauer

Beverly (Peterson) Slocumb

In Tribute to WHS Class of 1952

Steve & Mary (Ovsak) Gazda

John & Rachel Peterson

Philip & Gloria Thompson

In Memory of Robert Sommers

Sheila L. (Sommers) Ballard

Roger & Treasure (Soltis) Omdahl

In Memory of Robert & Cora Ranstrom

Family & Friends

Gene Ranstrom

In Tribute to Class of 1962 Oslo High

Robert & Mavis Elseth

Carol J. Anderson

Marion (Taus) Gee

Sonia K. Engstrom

Ronald Ebertowski

School

Marian Allen

Neuenfeldt

In Memory of Franklin Johnson

Jeanette (Nordling) Anderson

Paul & Janet (Carlson) Aakre

Glenn & Jane (Miska) Sirek

In Memory of Gordon Wetterlund

In Memory of Harry C. Howard

Family of Harry C. Howard

Duane & Jerrilyn (Olson) Potucek

Richard & Mary Beth (Maruska) Edman

Murray & Betty (VanBaalen) Goodwin

John & Joyce Holmstrom & Jim

Gerald & Suzie (Omdahl) Jevning

Jim & Janice (Hanson) Pulkrabek

In Honor of Bob Swanson's 90th Birthday

In Memory of Georgia Godel

Fern (Hendrickson) Fleck In Memory of Donald Novak &

Maxine (Paulson) Thoreson

Microsoft Corporational matching gifts

In Memory of Dorothy (Strunk) Pumala

In Memory of Edward "Eddie" Nelson

- Gene & Jeanie (Parkin) Johnston
- In Memory of Jeff Evin WHS Class of 1982
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- Lyle & Nancy (Lamb) Grabowski Ron & Joni (Potucek) Ranstrom Wayne & Deanna (Carlson) Zink Nancy (Copp) Christner
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Mylo and Marlene (Bonnette) Carlson

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Ken & Kathy Dagoberg June (Goplin) DeWerff Richard & Mary Beth (Maruska) Edman Robert & Mavis Elseth Murray & Betty (VanBaalen) Goodwin Selmer & Elaine Heck Robert & Sharon (Nordin) Hegland Hazel Hendrickson Earl & Linda Johnson Glenn and Ruth Ann (Lundberg) Johnson Nathan & Stephanie LaBine Dr. W.L. and Janice Lamb Harvey & Ina (Ranstrom) Loeslie Bruce Nelson John & Rachel Peterson Kurt Peterson Mark & LeAnne (Loeslie) Poolman Jim & Janice (Hanson) Pulkrabek Charles G. Ranstrom **Duane Ranstrom** Jim & JoAnne (Edgar) Ranstrom Doug and Jane (Bennett) Safar Pat (Truhn) Schumacher Wayne & Shawn Spidahl David & Monica (Dahlman) Starrett

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In Memory of Ruth & Melvin Johnson Eugene & Judy (Johnson) Dallmann

- In Memory of Ulric Q Johnson Ginger A. Johnson
- In Memory of Wallace "Wally" Anderson Mr. & Mrs. Robert Johnson Hubert and Marlene Anderson
- Harold & Virginia (Anderson) Berg In Memory of Sharon Bergman Family of Sharon Bergman
- Carol J. Anderson In Memory of Steve Hillman Carol J. Anderson Robert & Mavis Elseth Betty (Anderson) Evin Selmer & Elaine Heck Greg & Sandy (Jagol) Johnson Harvey & Ina (Ranstrom) Loeslie Ralph & Cindy (Sabol) Melgard John & Rachel Peterson Jim & JoAnne (Edgar) Ranstrom In Memory of The Deceased members of the WHS class of 1964 Dick & Phyllis Rominski In Memory of Todd Larson Don & Ellen (Fillipi) Strickler William (Billy) Saetre In Memory of Tom Boman Carol J. Anderson Allyn & Susan Roley In memory of Vera (Potucek) Jackson Carl D. & LaVerne Anderson Paul and Henrietta (VanBaalen) Bergman Franklin & Delphia (Pearson) Johnson Connie (Swanson) Moen Donald & Melba Laidley Harold & Virginia (Anderson) Berg Duane & Jerrilyn (Olson) Potucek In Memory of William Porter Jerry & Lynne Molacek Mylo and Marlene (Bonnette) Carlson Richard & Mary Beth (Maruska) Edman Selmer & Elaine Heck Ken and Joanne (Maruska) Kostka Arlyn & Marilyn (Kuznia) Stroble

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Corrections from Spring Newletter: In Memory of John B. Goroski Cyndi Goroski - Routzahn In Tribute to Fern Gilbert Pat (Gilbert) Carlson

Ed & Linda (Engelstad) Turn

Howard and Nancy (Oberg) Sturman

The WAO Education Foundation is a nonprofit organization and every contribution is greatly appreciated. Even though we have carefully compiled this list of Memorials and Donations, please notify the Foundation if you believe any error has occurred.

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- E. Neil & Marilyn (Erickson) Mattson In Memory of Dick Nelson
- Janet (Sorensen) Foley
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- WHS Class of 1957 Classmates Richard & Mary Beth (Maruska) Edman Marlene (Wesolowski) Tureson Carol J. Anderson Robert & Mavis Elseth Dennis & Kyle (Anvinson) Erickson Donald & Connie Omdahl
- Roger & Treasure (Soltis) Omdahl John & Rachel Peterson Don & Corrine (Goplin) Slaughter Mylo and Marlene (Bonnette) Carlson Doris (Wimpfheimer) Erickson Harvey & Ina (Ranstrom) Loeslie Duane & Jerrilyn (Olson) Potucek

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May 1, 2012 - October 31, 2012

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## Where are they now ...

Coming the farthest for the 10 year reunion of the WAO Class of 2002, was **Zach Olson**. He and wife, **Katie (Johnson) WAO 2001**, reside in a suburb of Dayton, Ohio. They have 2 children, Elijah and Isabelle. Zach is an engineer for Cargill at a corn milling plant. Katie worked as a nurse and is now a stay at home mom.

On August 14, 2012, the **Alvarado Class of 1957** enjoyed a luncheon at "Ruby Tuesdays" in Grand Forks, celebrating their 55th reunion. Avis (Gulbranson), reports that their class has been very faithful to keep in touch with each other over the years. Once a year they try get together for a time of sharing and fellowship.

Jason Linnell, WHS 1991 and Joey Pederson, WHS 1993, spent many Friday nights, entertaining their fans at the River City Speedway in Grand Forks. They both took home Midseason Track Championship trophies. Jason races in the sprint car division and Joey burns the track driving a late model. Both racers live in the East Grand Forks area.

Members of the Alvarado High School graduating class of 1962 held their 50th reunion June 9th, 2012, with 9 of the original 19 class members attending. A social hour and dinner were held at Whitey's restaurant in East Grand Forks, hosted by Marlene (Olson) Shane. Class members attending were Tom Vanyo, Robbinsdale, MN; Henry Pietrzak, Moorhead, MN; John Hendrickson, Grand Forks, ND; Fern (Hendrickson) Fleck, Bismarck, ND; Rita (Kotrba) Baily, Richland, WA; Anita (Svard) Hellie, Sauk Centre, MN; Carol (Gulbranson) Janssen, Redding, CA; Marlene (Olson) Shane, Rice, MN; and Eunice (Peterson) Ritcher, Fargo, ND.

The Warren Sky Vu Drive-In Theatre was featured recently in the Grand Forks Herald. It is one of five remaining drive-ins in the state of Minnesota. Leonard Novak has owned it for more than 40 years. His family, all Warren High School graduates, **Steve**, **1983**, Warren; **Jackie (Novak) Schraeder**, **1985**, Plymouth, MN; Tom, **1988**, Oronoco, MN; **Theresa (Novak) Lamppa**, **1993**, Grand Forks, ND; have worked at the theatre in one capacity or another. About 90% of Sky Vu's business comes from more than 30 miles away. People just love experiencing a bit of nostalgia.

Alan Shoenack, WHS 1964, was reunited recently with Paul Summey, an old army buddy. Over Viet Nam, on June 2, 1971, they each flew a rescue mission, one taking over when the other one couldn't. They received Distinguished Flying Crosses for their dedication and bravery. While cards and phone calls kept them in touch over the years, on June 2, 2012, they met in Asheville, NC. Stories, laughs and tears were shared. They left promising to contact each other on June 2 of every year to follow. Alan left active duty in 1974, joined the ND Army National Guard and retired in 2006 after completing more than 36 years of military service. During those years he worked at a national grocery chain and spent 14 years commuting to Grand Forks as a Helicopter Flight Instructor at UND. Alan is married to Lana Goplin, WHS 1966. She is a retired nurse. They have three sons, four grandchildren and re-

side in Moorhead, MN.

**Tracy (Jameson) Zawistowski, VNHS 1992**, sent in a picture of those that attended their 20th reunion in July. Tracy has been a nurse at Altru for fifteen years, currently working as an Oncology Resource Nurse/Case Manager at Altru Cancer Center. She is very involved with the Grand Forks Relay for Life, co-chairing it for the last three years. She and her husband Dan live in Larimore. They have four children.

Elaine (Toftner) Deyo, WHS 1957, could not attend her 55th class reunion, but sent information to read to her classmates, as she was scheduled to be part of their program. She has authored 6 books. She chose "Annika at Wilderness Hotel" for her presentation. She says, "I wrote this book because I think girls should know that they can be heroes too. I'm a grandmother of nine intelligent, strong willed girls and step-grandmother to eight more. This book is for all girls, not just those living in the upper Midwest who can relate to Scandinavian ways and values. These standards were, and still are, powerful life maps for girls." Elaine lives in Branson, MO.

**Randy Swanson, WHS 1983**, works for Benchmark Electronics in Dunseith, ND. He returned to the Midwest, after spending 20 years at Edwards AFB in California, working as a flightline electrician for Jacobs Engineering. Randy says "I miss the roar of the jet engines but have replaced it with the sound of loons every night." He lives on Lake Upsilon near St. John, ND.

Howard Elseth, WHS 1962, attended his 50th reunion in July. Since graduation he has become a minister, serving as a pastor of several congregations around the US and also serving in the mission field. He has traveled extensively, with many interesting stories to tell. He was delighted to see a picture of the 1962 District Championship Basketball Team in the trophy case at the high school. As a player (#22) on that team, he recalls fond memories of the event. Howard lives in Garrison, TX, has 6 children and 4 grand-children.

**Corey Stoner, WAO 1996**, is a Systems' Analyst for Network Center Inc of Fargo. He works with many companies around the region consulting and implementing new computers, new servers and offering network solutions. Clients range from small startup companies to the largest in the Red River Valley. He lives in Moorhead with his wife, Megan.



For the second straight year, Andrew Lansing qualified for the Minnesota State Track and Field meet. He represented the West Marshall Fusion, which is a coop between Warren, Alvarado, Oslo and Stephen/Argyle. He competed in the 800 meter run.

# Father and Son Team

Continued from Page 1

At one of these schools, North Dakota State University, he met his future wife, Sally. During this period, his dad told him he was starting a tooling and manufacturing business and he asked Rick if he wanted to be part of it. Rick said he did. After getting an education for tool building and design at Staples Technical School, he worked as a tool designer in Fridley, Minnesota. He also got married. He stated, "We were in Fridley for a year and then returned to live in Thief River Falls where we still live. At that time, I ioined dad in the business in the small quonset on the farm. My mother gave the business it's name – Ericco Tool and Manufacturing."

Through the years, Ericco has manufactured parts for area local businesses like Polaris and Christian Brothers as well as large manufacturers as far away as Texas and Pennsylvania. However, its biggest customer is Arctic Cat who they produce a variety of aluminum parts for. In the early years of the company, they began making special tools for customer specifications, but the real "tool" part of the business name refers to the high-tech engineering that goes in the making these parts.

There have been changes in location and family ownership as well as expansion and customer growth. After the loss of Arctic Cat business during those tough years in the early 80's, George moved the business to Thief River Falls. Rick purchased the company in 1985 and George went back into the turkey business until the early 90's. When

Arctic Cat got back on its feet, George came back on board in 1992 and Rick moved the business back to the farm in 1993, remodeling turkey brooder houses into machining shops. In 1997, Ericco purchased its first CNC machine (Computerized Numeric Control). This milling machine runs production for Arctic Cat and today Ericco has 25 CNC's along with many support machines. Further building expansion is planned in the near future.

At 81 years old, George still helps out overseeing the saw shop, although it is turning more and more into a part-time job. He has other things to do. He has been an avid hunter and fan of all sports, but the major part of his spare time is spent in the woods north of his home where he has a cabin and has created and maintained many wildlife viewing trails. He says, "It's a joy when the family comes home and we go on 4-wheeler rides, look for birds and animals and spend fun times conversing around the campfire."

Besides his busy life with the business, Rick finds time to enjoy one of his biggest passions – music. In the early 90's, he formed a country gospel singing and instrumental group called the "Trinity Trio." They are a very popular area group and do about 30 performances a year. They are all very good friends and one member of the group, Mike Sorteberg, is the general manager at Ericco.

With all the positive things going on in Rick's life, you would think everything would be a bed of roses. by Duane Swanson

Here is where the faith and perseverance part of the success mixture comes into play. In December 2008, Rick found out he had cancer. It is a slow-growing form called Skeletal Myxoid Chondrosarcoma. During the past 3 years he has undergone surgeries, ČT scans and is now taking oral chemotherapy that has seemed to stop the growth for now. This summer he was an honorary guest speaker at the Marshall County Relay For Life and gave a very inspirational message. Commenting on this challenge, he very said, "The cancer has taken an emotional toll on me and my family, but feel it is better to focus on all my blessings. My family gives me a big reason to be hopeful. I do not know what the future holds for my battle with cancer, but because of my faith, I do know who holds my future and that is a comfort to me." Despite the seriousness of his illness, he misses little work time and continues to keep Ericco operating at a high level. That is called persevering. He gives a lot of credit for that to the Ericco family.

In a closing thought about the company he created George said, "It's been many years since I started the business and then turned it over to Rick. I'm proud to say we've enjoyed a good measure of success. Through the years, Rick and I have had a close working relationship, which is perhaps the biggest reason the "shop" has kept expanding and stayed successful." Every thriving business needs a focal point to establish a strong foundation. At Ericco, it is no secret it starts with family.

# Hard Hats and Shovels!!

These students are not planting flowers, but are showing what will happen to WAO Elementary during the summer of 2012. During the months of April and May they saw their teachers and other school personnel packing things into boxes and piling them

in what was once the library. They could no longer check out library books because the library was gone.

Hundreds of sturdy boxes, markers, clear packaging tape, and overflowing baskets of things that staff were parting with were familiar sights around the building. The area behind the school was lined with huge storage containers that were



filled by using lots of muscle power, dollies, and workers. Why was every last piece of paper removed from the building? A major renovation of the building was about to take place. The end result would be individual classrooms with walls, which was different from the portable boards, and waist high cabinets that were used when the building

### was built in 1969.

Also air conditioning and better lighting were to be added. The building has certainly gone from "Then" to "Now". Watch for a major story on this project in the spring "Connections" and make plans to tour/visit the building when you come back for a class reunion or visit in 2013!

### Warren/Alvarado/Oslo Public School

# Education Foundation

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Does your business/company have a matching gift program? This often enables your gift/ donation to double in size. If so, contact us for our tax ID number when you fill out the forms for the match.

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Carol Anderson, Chairman Ellen Strickler, Vice Chairman Arthur Drenckhahn, Secretary Shawn Spidahl, Treasurer Mark Saunders, Director Duane Swanson, Director Russell Miller, Director Tim Finseth, Director Donna Jenkins, Director Ed Rosendahl, Director



Back row, left to right: Mark Saunders, Russell Miller, Tim Finseth, Duane Swanson and Ed Rosendahl. Front row, left to right: Donna Jenkins, Ellen Strickler, Shawn Spidahl, Carol Anderson and Art Drenckhahn.

Life for our children, our grandchildren, and the neighborhood children will be better because of your efforts and contributions. Be a part of this campaign to ensure that our children are equipped to succeed.

### Pending Scholarship ~ WHS Class of 1969 Scholarship

The WHS Class of 1969 has passed the half way point of their goal of raising \$10,000 and is still seeking donations to become fully endowed. Any donations to this fund would be greatly appreciated. Please designate on the donation envelope if you are adding to this fund.

The scholarship fund is now at \$5,500.

# News and Notes . . .

**Carl Hoverson, OHS 1973**, was recently honored as Grand Marshall of the 2012, UND Potato Bowl Parade in Grand Forks. Carl is known as "Mr. Potato", as he runs Hoverson Farms at Larimore, ND. In the fall, his crew grows to more than 200 workers with 24 harvesters digging approximately 5,400 acres of potatoes. The harvest lasts about 30 days. It is likely that the French fry you eat in McDonald's came from Hoverson Farms. Carl was also named president of Northern Plains Potato Growers Association.

Sharon (Porter) Whitmer, WHS 1977, qualified for the 2012 AQHA Novice Championship Show in Las Vegas with her 9 year old American Quarter Horse. Sharon and "Versions Valentine" have been competing in AQHA approved shows for the past 3 years. They have been training under the guidance of **Bob Bjorgaard**, WHS 1980, and wife, Jen, from Aberdeen, SD. Bjorgaard Training was established in the early 1980's specializing in AQHA All-Around Events.

Kim Jenkins, WHS 1988, was inducted into the Northland Community College Athletic Hall of Fame. At Northland, Kim was a member of the Pioneer Women's Basketball team. She was named to the MCCC All-Division and All State Team and to the NCAA Region XIII All Conference Team. She also earned All Northwest Division honors in volleyball. Kim's success carried over to the classroom where she earned academic distinction. She continued her education, at the U of M, earning a degree in Fish and Wildlife Management. Kim lives in Thief River Falls where she works at Arctic Cat as a Compliance Manager.

**Don and Carolyn Matz**, (retired Warren school teachers), are one of three couples that own Cabin View Gardens in rural Thief River Falls. Their mission is to sell on site and supply produce for local Farmer's Markets. Their success has come from using 2 large high tunnel greenhouses where plants can be started earlier, diseases are at a minimum and the wind can be controlled. They had a very successful season and pride themselves in offering a major variety of vegetables.

Recently, at a Timberwolves Basketball exhibition game, **Kim Swanson (Kison)**, **WAO 2002**, sang the National Anthem. It was the first time she appeared in this type of venue. Players from both sides of the court gave her high fives for a job well done. **Evan Mattson**, **WAO 2008**, who just happened to be working the first day of his internship with the Timberwolves, was there to enjoy the event.

**Tony Hill, WHS 1983,** recently sent an email outlining what he thinks is the 4 most famous deceased alumni of Warren High School. *Alphabetical order.* 

1. **Oscar Knutson WHS 1920**, Served 25 years on Minnesota Supreme Court, second longest in history. Served 12 years as Chief Justice, second longest in history. Authored a record 578 majority opinions. Prior to court service, served 3 terms as mayor of Warren. Raised on a farm east of Warren.

2. **Paul Nelson WHS 1954**, Music critic for Rolling Stone magazine. Helped launch the career of Bob Dylan and cited as an influence by Bruce Springsteen, Rod Stewart, Warren Zevon, and Jackson Browne. Says Rod Stewart, "I admire Paul Nelson more than anyone. He's always been the one who's best understood what I've been trying to accomplish." Son of Clifford and Clara Nelson of Nelson Motor Co. credits WHS English teacher Mary Lou Sullivan with inspiring him to be a writer. Died in Manhattan in 2006.

3. **Ingomar M. Oseth WHS 1904**, Father of the Jeep. Son of pioneer settlers of Big Woods. After brief service as a schoolteacher in Vega Twp., studied law in ND and became a lawyer. Entered army and became a career Army Officer during WWI. He was cited as the Army's #1 Jeep expert in Time magazine just before Pearl Harbor. Retired as a full colonel after WWII and became a juvenile judge in Bismarck. Buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

4. Harold G Scheie WHS 1926, World-renowned ophthalmologist. Author of the standard textbook in eye surgery of his time. Founded his own eye hospital at the Univ. of Pennsylvania, now called the Scheie Eye Institute. Two diseases are named for him. While stationed in Burma in WWII, he saved the eyesight of Lord Mountbatten (Prince Phillip's uncle) and countless others. His father was an auctioneer and later had a meat market. Buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Mary Allen, Warren Kindergarten teacher for many years, was honored at the Warren Senior Center on her 95th birthday. Mary's son, **Tim WHS 1970**, from Juneau, Alaska, helped celebrate the special occasion. Other former faculty that have celebrated their 95th birthday this year are **Mildred Stroble**, Warren and **Fern Gilbert**, Richland, WA.

Happy 101st birthday, **Ida (Fischer) Meyer, WHS 1929**. Best wishes.

### NEWS FROM ACROSS THE RIVER

**Rahn Farder, ALV 1972**, recently retired from the Grand Forks Police Department. He spent 33 years with the department reaching the rank of Lieutenant.

Alan Hess, WAO 1996, has taken the position as Executive Chef at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks.

**Sue (Miscik) Shirek, WHS 1976**, has been recognized for 25 years of service in the Grand Forks Police Department. She attended the ND Law Enforcement Training Center and works as a School Resource Officer.

Gary Klegstad, WHS 1979, celebrates 10 years with the Grand Forks Engineering Department. He is employed as an electronic technician with the city.

**Mary (Ovsak) Gazda, WHS 1974**, Mesa, AZ writes, "Thank you for the good work you are doing for the school and community.

Thank you from **Sarah Durand**, **WAO 2012**, for the scholarships she was awarded from the WAO Education Foundation. She says, "I really appreciate it and will use them toward my education at Northland Community and Technical College."

"Thank you for awarding me the Lyle Engelstad Memorial Scholarship. It will help pay my expenses at MSUM during my second semester." Zach Anderson WAO 2012

Scholarship recipient **Erin Sundby**, **WAO 2012**, writes, "Without donors like you, many students would be unable to pursue the career of their dreams. I offer my sincerest thanks for your generous support."

### FALL 2012 NEEDS

Funded by the Ed. Foundation

Library	Junior Library Guild
Visual Arts	Student Creativity Festival Registration
Science	River Watch Program
Business	"Insight" program
Music	Donation towards a French Horn
Reading	Leveled literacy intervention materials
Kindergarten	Math and writing materials
Kindergarten	Chair Pockets, privacy shields, toobaloos
2nd Grade	Privacy shields, media document camera
Technology	9 digital cameras

\$7,954.55 was funded by the Foundation in October

## Recently Deceased Alumni, Staff & Friends

These are death notices of alumni and staff that we have received. If you have additions or corrections, please contact the Education Foundation.

1938 WHS Kenneth L Copp 1939 WHS Harry C. Howard 1940 WHS Evelyn B (Omundson) Neufeld 1942 OHS Irene (Vensland) Thompson 1944 OHS Margaret (Brodahl) Hendrickson 1944 WHS Ernest Bjorggaard Sr. 1946 AHS Yvonne (Hoff) Kamholz 1948 WHS Ron Colpron 1951 AHS Marion (Hedlund) Yanish 1951 WHS Vera D. (Potucek) Jackson 1953 AHS Don L. Sands 1955 AHS Gail (Hagglund) Jacobson 1955 WHS James E. Forbes 1956 WHS Paul Jensen 1957 AHS Sharon (Olson) Bergman 1957 WHS Donald Fulton 1957 OHS Cyril Stoltman 1958 WHS David Brda 1960 WHS James George Corriveau 1966 WHS Mary (Conely) Dahlman 1973 WHS Howard M. Pribula 1975 OHS Cynthia (Korynta) Mozinski 1976 WHS Edward "Eddie" Nelson 1977 WHS Steve Hillman 1983 WHS Tom Boman 1984 WHS Lori Grabanski 1989 WHS Cassondra (Johnson) Blackbird OHS Teacher Eve Freeberg WHS Teacher Irene Grange WHS Teacher William "Bill" Porter AHS Bus Driver Herbert Monk WHS Friend Willis Malm WHS Friend Birger Andeen

The WAO Education Foundation appreciates any information sent in to be shared from past graduates from the Warren, Alvarado, and Oslo area. Keep them coming!

# Chat with the Chairman

by Carol Anderson

Greetings from the Warren/Alvarado/Oslo Public School Education Foundation!

The raindrops are falling as I write this. What a refreshing sight after our dry summer and autumn. The drops are as refreshing as our alumni and friends. There wouldn't be a foundation without YOU. Thank you for your involvement and support over the years.

The summer of 2012 was a busy time with many class reunions, the Marshall County Fair, open house at the school, and our 8th annual golf scramble. Many friendships were renewed and new memories were made at class reunions throughout the area and in other cities where classes gathered. We were in awe of our generous sponsors, donors, and 140 golfers who contributed to our golf scramble on July 27th. This event netted us \$15,373. Wow! Thank you! The weather cooperated and provided us with a cooler day than the previous days. Mark your calendars for July 26th for our 2013 event. Send in your \$50.00 registration fee by July 19th and you'll be entered in a drawing to have your registration fee returned!

The Class of 2003 has turned over their Chris Riopelle Memorial Scholarship to the Foundation for us to facilitate. We also have two other new scholarships in the works. It's wonderful that many people are concerned and interested in assisting our students with college costs.

What will \$25.00 buy you? Many people have bought a one year membership in the

Foundation. This money along with undesignated money from donations and memorials is used for classroom needs/requests and scholarships. It's a win, win! Eight new staff members were each presented with a \$50.00 gift certificate to the WAO Wearhouse. In addition new licensed full time staff were given \$200.00 to purchase items for their classrooms.

As we look ahead, come join us for refreshments following the December 6th Elementary Christmas Concert. The proceeds will go towards eBooks for the iPads that we've purchased for the elementary library. We are most grateful to Bremer Bank for funding the food for this event again this year. January 8th is the night of our baked potato/toppings and salad bar supper. This will be a free will donation event before the Stephen/Argyle BBB Game.

We are so appreciative of the many notes, calls, and e-mails that we've received with address updates, e-mail addresses, and notices of deaths. Thank you for keeping us informed. More and more class reunion planners ask for e-mail addresses as it's much cheaper than snail mail. Won't you send us yours? Our 8,813 entries are only as accurate and up-to-date as you help make it.

Please consider making a donation to the WAO Education Foundation. If our board members can be of any assistance to you with more information, please feel free to contact any of us. "We Can't Succeed Without You!"



Former Warren Pony head basketball coach Gary Schuler, holds his plaque, representing his induction into the Minnesota State High School Coaches Assn. Hall of Fame. Family members left to right: Neil and Kison Miller, Shawna and Gary Schuler, Coley Schuler and finance Katie Wasco. Sons Tatum and Trek were unable to attend. Coach Schuler has a WAO High School endowed scholarship in his name which was funded by his former Pony players.



**FORMER FACULTY MEMBERS ATTEND THE 50TH REUNION OF THE WHS CLASS OF 1962 -** Those in attendance were left to right: Erv Behsman-Science/football; Bill Wagner-Math/ PE/basketball,/track; Irv Bergsagel-math,/basketball, Ron Nisbet-English/class plays; Ken Sherwood-vocal music/ musicals; Irv St. John-PE/basketball/baseball; OJ Peyton-Science/Geography; and Hank Johnson-Vo Ag/biology. Also, attended but not pictured were Barbara Larson, Home Ec/ Science and Merle Hanson, Music.

Alvaran

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Warren-Alvarado-Oslo Public School Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit organization to benefit education.

Gifts of \$100 or more to the Foundation are recognized on an attractive donor board located in the east entrance of the high school.

**Please Contribute** The Ed Foundation would appreciate your financial support, so we can continue to send you this newsletter.

**Give Us Your Ideas** Let us know what is interesting to you or what other information you'd like to see in this newsletter.

### **Thank You**

We, the board of directors of the Warren-Alvarado-Oslo Education Foundation, would like to sincerely thank all that supported the Foundation in the past months and years.

We have heard from many of you. Many of you have paid dues above and beyond what you needed to send or have given memorials or donations. We sincerely appreciate all your support. Without it, we would be very limited with our efforts.

Through your generosity, we are able to honor many requests made by the teaching staff at WAO and award scholarships for secondary education.

I/we would like to contribute to the WAO Public School Education Foundation

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