



Gary (605)272-5233

This paper printed for you by
DNB NATIONAL BANK
 Gary and Clear Lake SD
 We want to thank them for this service!



Clear Lake (605)874-2191

Not Your Normal Rodeo

The funnel had formed approximately 3 miles east of Clear Lake where it toppled a couple of agricultural irrigators north of South Dakota Highway 22 and then moved into a gravel pit and the Blue Bell Ranch rangelands on the south side of Highway 22. It crossed back over the highway at the end of Jim Fligge's driveway, taking down power lines and many trees. The tornado then travelled over farmland, scouring the crops and soils. The twister skirted the farmstead of Steve and Joyce McCormick, destroying at least three buildings and damaging the southeast portion of the roof of the house. There was also great damage to their tree grove. The McCormicks were not at home at the time. The tornado crossed over the township road, heading east and passed to the north of Justin Kindopp's acreage, causing no damage. It then moved directly east to Stuart Almos' farm. Stuart and his wife, Brenda, along with their niece, Jayden Almos, and her friend, Dominic Constant, sought shelter in the basement of the farmhouse. The entire farm site - house, barn and silo, outbuildings, grain bins, and grove - was completely destroyed. The occupants needed to be dug out of the basement, having been covered with debris including round hay bales. Stuart had injuries to his legs and Dominic severely sprained his ankle; both of whom did require medical attention. None of the injuries were life-threatening. A storm-chaser witnessed the destruction and was the first responder on the scene, followed by the Deuel County Sheriff and the Gary Fire Department.

Clean-up efforts began on Sunday and continued through the week as family, friends, and neighbors gathered to clean up the farmyards and fields. Neighbors with heavy construction equipment dug holes to burn and bury debris.



Photo Credit: Alyssa Nix

Photo taken at 8:18 pm from The Crystal Springs Rodeo Grounds

*You might have seen this photo on social media - huge props to Alyssa for catching the moment so perfectly!

Continued on page 5

**Independence Day
 Celebration**

Page 3, 7-8

Fairchild Farmgirl

Jesus Take the Wheel

Page 2

Where'd Rob Go?

Ahh, Some Free Time

Page 6

Fairchild Farmgirl

Happy 4th of July!!! So I'm going to talk about it...that crazy rain/tornado/lightening storm we had. We were in church at 7:15 mass. Suddenly phones and pagers go off. The singer says, "It's a tornado warning." The sweet priest said something that I wasn't sure I heard right, but I swore he said 'the angels were coming.' Ummm I hope not. Ain't nobody has time for that. I myself have much more to do on this Earth.

I'm sure you remember that ole derecho from a few years ago that leveled half our farm? Well, our family sure does. Poor Tedd whom was home alone with Jessica that night was starting to panic a little in the pew. I'm sure I would've too if I was 7 and the dishes were moving in the cupboard and the big old hip roof (I called her the Queen Mary) blew apart to smithereens as they watched it out the window. Ron and I were at another child's softball game about 60 miles away. We never knew it was going to be that bad of weather.

So back to Saturday night. Tedd was sitting next to me and was starting to get nervous. "Mom", he whispered, "is it going to get the farm again?" I reassured him, but I didn't know where it even was. We had kids at the Crystal Springs rodeo, thank goodness no one got hurt out there with that huge tornado and they left early so that was ok.

But as we sat there, I oddly felt okay about it. Which I'm a huge worrier. And honestly, that last storm we had where we had to put down animals ourselves in the aftermath, well that stays with a person. So does the financial aftermath. I just felt like God was saying it's going to be ok. Which when I told a friend they said, "well the man upstairs was probably like, 'I better take it easy on the Fairchild Ranchero this time'." Then the kind lady in front of us at church, who in a very reassuring voice said, "were ok here, it's going north east of Gary."

Ron and I looked at each other. We live north east of Gary. I thought I was Baptist for a second. Because even if the priest said the angels were coming, he literally was in no hurry to zip that homily up. No shame to my Baptist friends by the way, but your sermons are kind of lengthy. As the mass wrapped up, we took off. We saw the tornado out of town and we were fielding calls from our adult kids and friends wondering where the heck we were because they'd been trying to reach us for the last hour.

Then a really good friend called and asked how the weather was out by us. We didn't know, we were kind of scared to leave town. We got invited over to their house to weather the storm. When we were able to go home, we went through flooded roads and were honestly scared to death of what was waiting for us at home. But when we arrived we didn't even have standing water on the driveway. It was beyond crazy. We had left the overhead door on the chicken barn open and thought we'd have drowned birds because of all the rain. Dry as a bone in there. Incredible. We had three inches but I can't even explain it.

So I don't know if this was our "get out of weather scott free" card, but I'm taking it. Now let's enjoy July!

Until next time,

Fairchild "you know the alternative is snow, right?"

Farmgirl.

Take Me Out to the Ball Game

Upcoming Gary Home Games

Tues, July 15th Gary Women vs White 7:30pm

Tues, July 22nd Gary Women vs Goodwin Merchants 7:30pm

Tues, July 29th Gary Women vs Buck's (Toronto) 7:30pm

Concessions!

GARY AMERICAN LEGION DANCE HALL

Accepting Bookings for

- ≥ Wedding Receptions & Dances
- ≥ Graduation Parties
- ≥ Anniversary Parties
- ≥ Youth Events
- ≥ Birthday Parties

Contact Loran at 507-277-5525
Or email garylegionhall@gmail.com

Beat the Heat – Go to the Water Fights

Gary's Independence Day celebration started on Thursday, July 3rd. The Community Club did a fantastic job again. If you know a Community Club member – make sure to thank them because they work extremely hard organizing all these events. The 3rd started with Youth Events (30 minutes earlier this year): the kiddie parade, sack races, egg races, water balloon toss, turtle races and the traditional kiddie tractor pull at the City Park. Meanwhile, the big tractors were busy at the Tractor Pull at Buffalo Ridge.

The Gary Historical Association held their annual ice cream social featuring soft-serve ice cream again this year and sold out before the kiddie tractor pull even started. After lunch at the Rock Room or the Community Club Burger Feed, the kids, even the big ones, careened downhill in GHA's Soap Box Derby. There were a couple of new soap box cars this year. The Watermelon Eating Contest, also sponsored by the GHA, took place right before the annual Gary Development's duck race and then everyone headed uptown to get a pulled pork sandwich or root beer float at the 109 Club before watching the Firefighter's Water Fights. Firefighters could be congratulated after the fights at the first Firefighter's Gun Bingo at the Fire Hall. We finished the day with music at the Gary Bar and a fantastic fireworks display by Fireworks City.

Friday the 4th of July was also packed with activities. The early risers started the morning at the 3-on-3 Basketball Tournaments at City Park. The Four Moons Rising Rendezvous southwest of Gary was open to the public and the Grease Monkey Car Show & Burnout Competition took place on the main drag.



The 4th was also the first night of the Gary Rodeo. To prove that we're just as eventful as the Crystal Springs Rodeo, the weather went from hot and humid to downpouring rain, thankfully, no tornadoes. The 109 Supper Club was a great place to stay dry and get a delicious meal until Dakota Blue featuring Katie J started playing at the Legion Dance Hall since the weather prevented a typical street dance.

Saturday, July 5th, those early risers were at it again keeping in shape with at the Lake Cochrane Fun Walk/Run. I heard there was even a beautiful mermaid in attendance. The American Legion 109 held a Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser – I think they might make it an annual event. The Community Club still had activities for young and old: a Kid's Obstacle Course, Adult Games, and the Golf Cart Parade filled the afternoon. Then it was off to the Gary Rodeo again – no rain this time, supper at the 109 Club – have I mentioned they serve great food and drinks, and a legit Street Dance featuring Urbandale Lane sponsored by the Gary Givers.



Winner of the Medallion Hunt: Patty Meadors



Pictures on pages 7-8.

A Look Back...

100 years ago, July 1925

AC Larson closes restaurant
 Lutheran Church to hold mission festival with German in the morning and English in the afternoon
 Rev C G Snow new Presbyterian Church Pastor
 Washing machine gas engine fire at Will Lytle home
 Albert H Hendrickson new barber
 Birth: girl to Mr. & Mrs. Fred Seiverkrupp
 Marriages: Nettie Jibben & Ray Moeller
 Hazel O Hegdahl & Lavern Simonton
 Death: Mrs. Hannah Henderickson

75 years ago, July 1950

Swimming lessons July 10
 Howard Peterson buys Rehder Truck Service
 Frank Janssen new grain manager
 The Big Story of Gary featured in the Watertown Public Opinion
 Marriages: Velta Krauklin & Anton Lauckis
 Eleanor Engeseth & William Husinger

50 years ago, July 1975

Girls and boys physicals due
 E T Oswald, rural mail carrier, retires
 Loss heavy in barn fire at Roger Pederson's
 Dr. Gross's building demolished
 Births: Girls to: Mr. & Mrs. Randy Kloos
 Mr. & Mrs. Gene Bekaert
 Deaths: Orville Kenyon - Jens Jacobson -
 Wm Stanke
 Auction: Mrs. Hilda Benner

25 years ago, July 2000

Eleanor Giese, Gary Citizen of the Year
 Bloodmobile, August 3rd
 14th Annual Appreciation Days July 29th and 30th

Oh, what a night!

Saturday, June 28, 2025 is not a night we will soon forget. The day was very hot and humid with rain storms forecast to move in during the early evening hours. The final performance of the Crystal Springs Rodeo was to be held that evening at 7:30 and they run "rain or shine". At approximately 6:30 PM, the weather alerts started popping up - tornado watches and warnings for Deuel County. The rain began and then the lightning and hail. The rodeo attendees were told to evacuate and we headed home. We encountered many "storm chasers" along the way - I guess they have meteorological knowledge of supercell thunderstorms and when and where tornados may spawn.

We safely made it home at 7:40 to our home located 3.5 miles southeast of Gary. Note - we have no basement in our home. I watched the storms out my west-facing kitchen window and saw the funnel cloud form. I could not determine how far to the west the tornado was and watched as it built into a stovepipe form and continued to move to the east. We sought shelter in a basement in town and later heard that Patricia Fields, owner of the Buffalo Ridge Resort in Gary, offered shelter in the tunnels for any who may have needed it. I'll file that under "important information to know" for future reference.

We waited for the tornado warning to expire but it seemed as soon as one warning or watch expired, another one was issued. This made for a very long night.

- Patti Haas

Destruction at Stuart
 Almos's farm →



McCormicks House

GATE CITY GENERAL

A little bit of everything...

Monday - Saturday
 8:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Sunday
 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Grocery • Hardware • Gifts
 227 1st Ave. • P.O. Box 25 • Gary, SD 57237 • 605-272-5779
www.facebook.com/GateCityGeneral • GateCityGeneral@gmail.com

Twister continued

Farmers operating chainsaws helped to clear up fallen trees. The Deuel School football team came to help. Many walked the fields with trailers to glean the wreckage from the cropland. Friends and neighbors brought food and cold beverages to feed and hydrate the volunteers. This is how it's done in our rural communities. We are very thankful that the injuries are minor and no lives were lost - even the dogs have survived. The community steps up to do what they can and life will go on in a slightly altered state.

The National Weather Service determined the twister to be an F3 tornado that started 3.4 miles east of Clear Lake at 8:10 PM and travelled 7.52 miles in an easterly direction. It had an estimated peak speed of 155-165 miles per hour and was 100 yards wide. It ended at 8:49 PM, 1.9 miles southwest of Gary, SD.

An F3 tornado, according to the Fujita Scale, is a severe tornado characterized by:

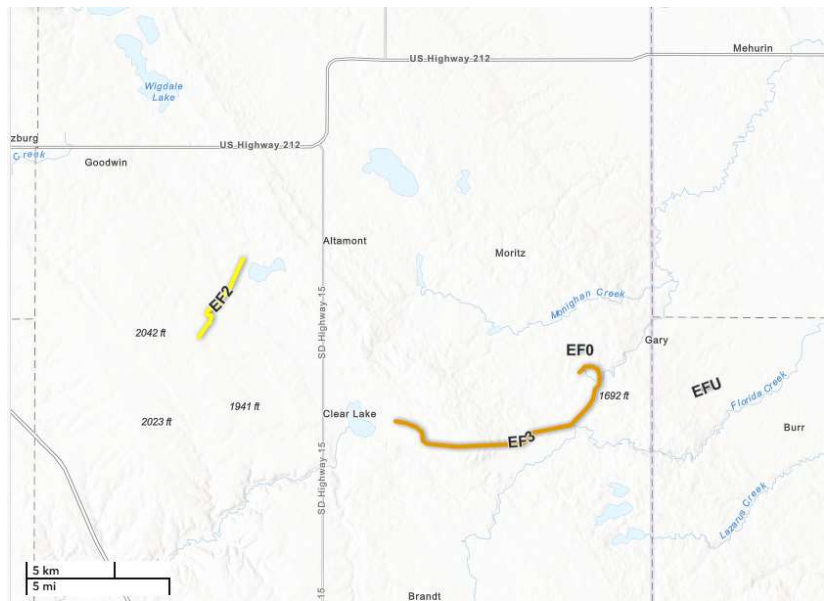
- Wind Speed: Estimated wind speeds between 158 and 206 mph (254 and 332 km/h).
- Damage: It causes severe damage, including:
- Roofs and some walls torn off well-constructed houses.
- Trains overturned.
- Most trees in forests uprooted.
- Heavy cars lifted off the ground and thrown.

The final results from the June 28, 2025 tornadoes are posted at <https://www.weather.gov/abr/20250628TornadoesandFlooding>

This definitely sounds like the twister we experienced on June 28, 2025. Side note: the PRCA made the decision to postpone the Crystal Springs Rodeo until Sunday afternoon. I guess "we run -rain or shine" doesn't include tornados!

Many "storm chasers" have posted amazing videos and photos of the tornados on YouTube and Facebook, just search Gary, South Dakota tornado. Shawn Cable has drone footage of the path of the twister which is very enlightening. Check it out!

Right: Looking from Lake Cochrane toward the Bar X hills, taken from one of the many YouTube videos of the event
Below: EF-3 between Clear Lake and Gary, Drone Photo by Shawn Cable
Bottom Right: US National Weather Service tornado paths



New Businessman Joins Gary's Downtown Business District

John Deslauriers has returned to his roots in Gary and has taken over Rob's Locker in downtown Gary. The locker was started by Ben Benner in 1941 in what had originally been the State Bank of Gary (1901) and later the First National Bank which closed in 1933. Through the years, it had been operated by Herb Hunt (1960-68), Jerry Squashingroff (1968), and Walt Ochsendorf 1968-81).

Helping on the farm was a necessity for Rob Deslauriers and his twelve siblings growing up. One of Rob's responsibilities was cutting and grinding meat for the family's personal consumption. His plan after completing high school was to attend butcher school but his father encouraged him to go directly into the workforce, apprenticing with the local butcher, Walt Ochsendorf, who owned Walt's Locker.

Rob was 18 years old at the time. In 1981, he purchased the locker on a contract for deed, borrowing money from two silent partners, and in return, splitting ownership into thirds. He got quite a deal from Walt, who carried the contract at 3% interest considering that banks were charging 20% at the time. The early years were challenging - replacing older, failing equipment and other challenges. Overcoming that, Rob continued the locker business and processed all kinds of meat including beef, pork, venison, chicken, and lamb/mutton.

Rob married Julie in 1990 and together they started a catering business. Rob ran the locker independently from the partners and paid off the note in 1995. He and Julie bought the shares and changed the name to Rob's Locker and Catering. They added four children to the mix, all of whom contributed over the years to the businesses, much as Rob had done on the farm. They developed a strong work ethic and enjoyed working together as a family at the locker. Rob had the support of his children and also of his siblings, Birdie and Craig, who help two days a week packing meat. Julie passed away in 2015 from ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease) and Rob and his family continued with the Locker and Catering businesses.

Forty-two years in the locker business and Rob has decided to hang up his apron and semi-retire. His oldest son, John, will carry on the locker business with his dad's guidance after years of on-the-job training where he learned to identify various types and cuts of meat. Following high school, John attended Lake Area Technical School for Precision Ag and worked at Cenex Harvest States in Gettysburg, South Dakota for 10 years. His wife, Jessica, is an x-ray technician in Hendricks, Minnesota. John and Jessica are excited to continue providing meat processing to the community and to offer ready-to-eat meats in the retail cooler. As for Rob, he will maintain the catering business with the help of his children as they did when they were young.



John and Rob Deslauriers



One of the few original pieces of equipment from Rob's earliest days - still located at Rob's Locker

Gary's Independence Day Celebration

Check out Gary, SD Community Club on Facebook for even more pictures!



Kiddie Parade Cuties



Kid Games



Face Painting



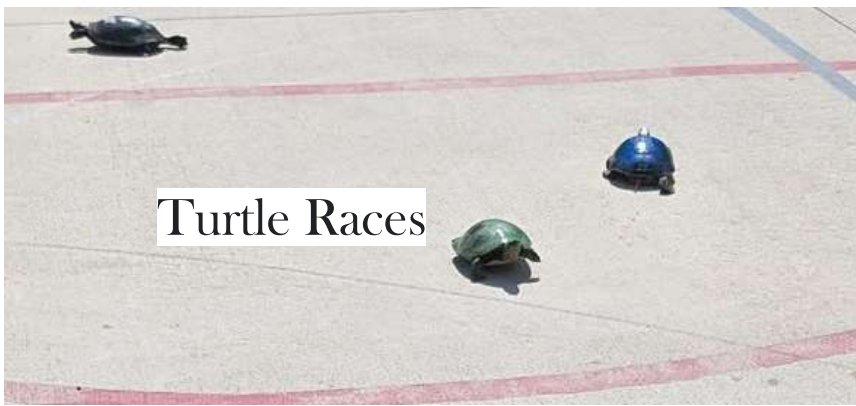
Watermelon Eating Contest



Senior Division Winners:
Jeff Nordseth, Jarrett
Theisen, & Joyce Andringa



Junior Division Winners:
Conrad Stangeland, Aidan
Pederson & Kasher Theisen



Turtle Races



Historical Soap Box Derby



Kiddie Pull



Over Age 10 Winners: 1st Rose Swoboda, 2nd DJ Knutson, 3rd Ayden Christianson



10 & Under Winners: 1st Lily Swoboda, 2nd Aspen Hoffmann, 3rd Violet Swoboda



3-on-3 Basketball Players



Results from the Gate City Development Assn RUBBER DUCKY races on July 3rd
1st Jamie Viessman 2nd Remy Lorenzen 3rd Jessie Denelsbeck
4th Grant Stoks 5th Angela Full 6th Amelia Kolbach Last: Sarah Kasuska



Obstacle Course

Gerda M. Denelsbeck Bliss

Gerda Denelsbeck Bliss, age 99, of Canby, MN, passed away Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at the Sylvan Court Nursing Home in Canby, MN. Visitation was from 4 – 6 pm with a Prayer Service at 6 pm on Sunday, June 15, 2025, at the Houseman Funeral Home, Birk Chapel in Canby, MN. Funeral services were held at 10:30 am on Monday, June 16, 2025, at the Dawson Covenant Church, rural Dawson, MN. Burial was at the Dawson Covenant Cemetery, rural Dawson.

Gerda Marjorie (Goplen/Denelsbeck) Bliss and her twin sister, Greta, were born at Brainerd, Minnesota, on September 21, 1925, to Ben and Frances (Lamb) Goplen. The babies were sickly; Greta died when only 17-days old.

After graduating from the Gary (South Dakota) High School in 1944, she enrolled in a Minneapolis technical school to learn to send and receive Morse code and to operate a teletype machine. Thus she acquired keyboard skills enabling her to enjoy email correspondence in her retirement. She worked as a train dispatcher clerk for the Atchison Topeka and Santa Fe railroad in Chanute, Kansas, for two years. Gerda married Gordon Denelsbeck, newly discharged from the US Navy, at the First Baptist Church of Canby on August 21, 1946.

Gordon and Gerda farmed in the Canby community raising four children and 10,000 fattened Holstein steers. They moved to their first farm in Oshkosh township, Yellow Medicine County, Minnesota, in February 1949. The farm was purchased with war bonds purchased by both Gordon and Gerda, Gordon's poker winnings, and supplemented by a half-interest purchased by Gordon's brother, Merton. In 1957, a larger farm was purchased in Hammer township. Gerda's role in raising all those Holstein calves was to stir powdered milk replacer into about a quarter of a million buckets of warmed water. In October 2024, at age 99, Gerda climbed the steps of a combine for her ride around her farm with her grandson/renter, watching the rivers of golden grain pour off the fields.

Gerda was a very socially active woman. Gerda belonged to a neighborhood Birthday Club and enjoyed being a "secret sister" to a neighbor woman each year. She enjoyed neighborhood Whist card clubs; she donated blood 138 times (17 1/2 gallons) until she was 95-years old. Gerda was a member of Doc's (Hustad) 1966 championship bowling team. She canvassed for Community Chest and Republican politicians. Gerda's warm hospitality was renowned. She fussed if she had "nothing in the house" to offer a visitor along with a cup of coffee.

A committed Christian, Gerda and her brother Gerald were baptized in the Methodist Episcopal Church in Motley, Minnesota, on July 1, 1928, with their grandmothers, Carrie Lamb and Sophia Goplen, serving as witnesses. Gerda dedicated her life to Christ Jesus when she was 14 years old and living in Cottonwood, Minnesota. In April 1943, she wanted to be a full member of the First Baptist Church of Canby, so she was baptized again, this time by immersion.

Eager for her children to be committed Christians, in the pre-TV era, days in the Denelsbeck home ended with readings from Egermeier's Bible Story book and the exciting Danny Orlis adventures, novels in which every challenging situation comes to a good end by applying Christian principles of living. In 1956, the Gordon Denelsbeck family joined the Dawson Covenant Church. Over the decades Gerda served her church family in many roles,

including treasurer/finance secretary, youth group leader and continuing well into her 80s to bake Swedish Tea Rings for sale at the annual Lucia Fest. Gerda was the oldest member of the Dawson Covenant Church; her granddaughter is now a member.

Gerda was a superb bread baker, winning Grand Champion in the 1941 Minnesota State Fair, Blue Ribbon at the Yellow Medicine County Fair in about 1954, and the esteem of her family for decades for her feathery light Grammy buns.

Gerda was a teller at the National Citizens Bank of Canby from 1960 - 1972. She was the favorite of clients like Bill Flieder, the Canby theater proprietor who trusted her to count his large amount of cash, and Eldred Buer, a seed corn grower who highly valued her beautiful and readable penmanship.

On a vintage 1940 Remington typewriter, Gerda produced hundreds of prayer letters for her brothers-in-law, Delbert and Lyle Denelsbeck, who were missionaries in Brazil.

About 1985 Gerda and Gordon Denelsbeck were founding members of the Blue and Gold Foundation that, now 40-years later, continues to award scholarships to Canby High School graduates. Her daughter served on the board and Gerda's grandson David Vogt, is the current president of the Blue and Gold Foundation.

Gordon died shortly after celebrating 54-years of marriage; Gerda married Gilbert Bliss on February 8, 2003. On November 11, 2012, Gilbert and Gerda moved to Sylvan Place, Gerda's home for almost thirteen years. Gerda loved and was loved by the staff of Sylvan Place; she was known for speed walking throughout the hospital and clinic as well as around Lake Sylvan, a one-mile hike.

Enjoying the blessing of remarkably good health throughout her life, macular degeneration greatly diminished Gerda's vision several years ago. She could no longer read, couldn't crochet or do crossword puzzles, nor enjoy email correspondence because she couldn't see her computer monitor. But Alexa, a gift from a granddaughter, opened a new world for her: time, weather, Twins' scores, and music, like Glenn Miller's String of Pearls, were all instantly available for the asking. Impaired vision was a grievous blow but, as throughout her life, complaining was minimal. When failing health dictated that she move to Sylvan Court, her response was to say, "I guess I'm just a vagabond."

Gerda is survived by her children Carolyn (Edward) Korbel, Jim Denelsbeck, and Nancy Salmon; a son-in-law, Larry Vogt; nine grandchildren: Kristine (Korbel) Graham, Gordon Korbel, Michelle (Denelsbeck) Driessen, Jacqueline (Denelsbeck) Carter, Jesse Denelsbeck, David Vogt, Lisa (Vogt) Schliess, Valerie (Meyer) Halvorson and Keith Meyer; 17 great-grandchildren; a brother, Marvin Goplen of Canby, a sister, Lynda (Goplen) Petrie, of Cambridge, Minnesota, and sisters-in-law Ellie (Stigen) Goplen and Virginia (Hubbard) Goplen. Those preceding her in death are her parents, siblings Gerald Goplen, Lorna Johnson, and Milton Goplen; her husbands Gordon Denelsbeck and Gilbert Bliss, her daughter, Sally Vogt, daughter-in-law Patricia (Pederson) Denelsbeck, son-in-law Bob Salmon, and infant grandson, Larry Denelsbeck.

Viessman
Since 1961
CLIFF VIESSMAN, INC.
HAULER OF SPECIALTY PRODUCTS
www.viessmantrucking.com

WAYNE VIESSMAN, CEO
Office: 605-272-3201
Home: 605-272-5251
Cellular: 507-380-5352
waynev@viessmantrucking.com

SmartWay
Transport Partner
Getting There With Chance-Air

Corporate: Box 175, Gary, SD 57237-605.272.5241 Fax: 605.272.6666 800.328.2408

NOSBUSH
PLUMBING
& **HEATING**
BRADY NOSBUSH

Cell: 507.829.8267
nosbushplumbingllc.wixsite.com/website

Find us on Facebook

Page
11