

Norseland News

THE OFFICIAL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF NORSELAND NURSING HOME



Check us out on Facebook!
"Like" our page
"Norseland Nursing Home"
 for updated photos, videos,
 and announcements.

Employee Highlights:

WORK ANNIVERSARIES:

- Jamie Haakenson: Nurse Manager 4 yrs.
- Trena Theige: CNA 7 yrs.
- Ashley Hoff: CNA 1 yr.
- Angelique Viau: Social Worker 8 yrs.
- Diane Wang: Dietary Aide 6 yrs.
- Wayne Peterson: Maintenance, Housekeeping, Laundry Supervisor 38 yrs.

NEW EMPLOYEES:

- Jessica Compton, RN

Announcements

ANNOUNCEMENT: TREE OF THANKS

We established a new program titled "Tree of Thanks" where Norseland staff members can nominate and recognize each other's much appreciated efforts. Each week on Fridays, we will draw from the pile of nominations and select ONE nominee that will receive recognition and snack basket prize. Thank you to our amazing staff members for your continued efforts to care for those we serve.



ANNOUNCEMENT: DIRECTOR OF NURSING

We currently have an interim Director of Nursing, Wendi Schoenfeldt, while we are actively looking to hire a full-time Director of Nursing. If you or someone you know may be interested in this position, please apply online at:

<https://bsjcorp.com/employment>

-Megan McLean, NHA
 Administrator

**WE ARE
HIRING**

Special Events



Vernon County Museum

Our Recreation Therapy Dept will be taking a group of residents to the Vernon County Museum on Thursday, October 5th from 1:30-3:30PM. We look forward to recalling memories of our past while learning more about local history!



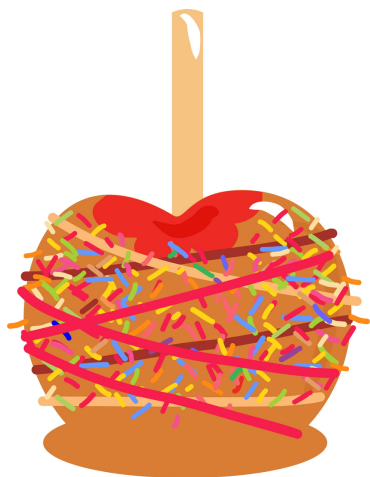
Norskedalen Outing

Our Recreation Therapy Dept will be taking a group of residents for an outing to the Norskedalen Nature & Heritage Center on Monday, October 9th from 2-3:30PM. We look forward to taking a golf cart ride while learning more about Norwegian Immigration and heritage. We can't wait to take in the views of the valley and the fall colors! Thank you Norskedalen for accommodating us.



UTV Fall Color Rides

Hooray! Our UTV is out of the repair shop and ready to take residents on "Fall Color Rides" to see the leaves change while weather permits. We look forward to getting outdoors and exploring our community! Be sure to wave "hello" as you see us cruising about the town.



Caramel Apple Bar

Who doesn't enjoy this seasonal sweet treat? We will be hosting a caramel apple bar on October 17 @ 3:00PM. Residents will have the opportunity to cover their apples in caramel and assorted candies. Yum!

Community Engagement



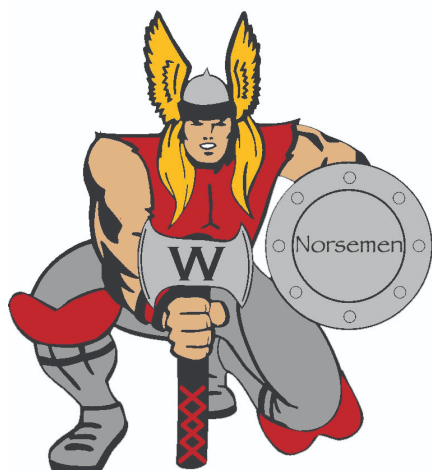
City Wide Trick or Treating

Norseland Nursing Home will be participating in the City Wide Trick or Treating event on Tuesday, October 31st from 3:30-5:00PM. If you would like to donate candy for residents to distribute to the trick-or-treaters, you may drop off at the Recreation Office. We can't wait to see all the goblins and ghouls that will visit!



Norseland Auxiliary Norsefest Fundraiser

Norseland Auxiliary will be hosting their annual Norsefest fundraiser for the first time since the 2020 COVID-19 shutdown. Please join us for bake sale items and pie and ice cream social on Saturday, Oct. 28th from 2-4:00PM. Pie & Ice Cream will be free will donation. All proceeds will go directly to the Norseland Auxiliary. Thank you for supporting our auxiliary members who continue to diligently serve our residents!



Westby High School

Thank you to the Westby High School band members who took the time out of their busy day and schedule to come during homecoming week to play homecoming songs for the residents. We certainly enjoyed being included in the city-wide celebration! Thank you!

Special Thanks to our Donors



Grant and Carrie Leum

Thank you to Grant and Carrie Leum for their generous monetary gift that provided us with the opportunity to remodel our outdoor patio space. Our hope is that this new outdoor space will serve as a place where families and residents can gather together and make memories! Construction is set to begin mid October 2023. Thank you Leum family for your generosity! This wouldn't be possible without you!



Norseland Auxiliary

Thank you to the Norseland Auxiliary for your generous donation of pumpkins for our pumpkin decorating competition. A special thank you to Janet Johnson, Norseland Auxiliary member for picking up and delivering pumpkins to our facility. We can't wait to decorate them.

In Memory of Gary Leum

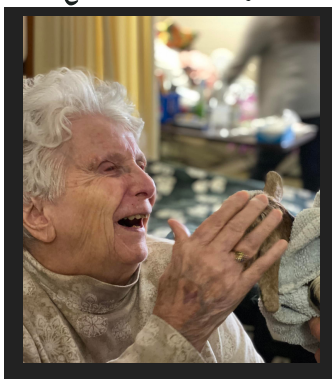


We would like to extend a special thank you to Cheryl Bland, Marcy Theis, and Dan Maxwell who donated to the Norseland Recreation Therapy Department in memory of Gary Leum. Gary was an active participant within the Recreation Therapy Department and loved to participate in special events, order-ins from local restaurants, and community outings. Every day, Gary would ask "What's going on for today?" Although the Recreation Room is a little bit quieter without his presence, we know he is smiling knowing that his legacy lives on. Thank you for choosing to share your generosity with Norseland Nursing Home.

In Memory Of....

"Those who touch our lives stay in our hearts forever."

Minnie Fortun



Nov. 25, 1924 - Aug. 7, 2023

Helen Angeline (Thompson) Lee of Westby, WI passed away peacefully at the age of 98, on Monday, August 7, 2023, at Norseland Nursing Home.

Helen was born on a farm in Decorah, IA on November 25, 1924, to Olaf and Minnie (Mickelson) Thompson. Helen was the fifth child of seven. In November of 1930, the family moved to Wisconsin and lived on a farm between Viroqua and Readstown. Helen attended grade school at Ole Torger School in rural Viroqua and graduated from Viola High School on June 2, 1944. After graduation, Helen worked as a housekeeper until March of 1945. From August 1945 to February 1947, Helen worked at Schultz Brother's Dime Store in Viroqua. On August 1, 1975, at the age of 50, Helen began her employment at Norseland Nursing Home in Westby working in the Dietary Department and later in the Housekeeping Department. Helen retired from Norseland on December 1, 1989.

Helen married her true love, Marvin Lee, on March 8, 1947, and together they celebrated 74 years of marriage before Marvin's passing on November 7, 2021. She partnered with Marvin throughout 20 years of raising tobacco. Helen planned and prepared the meals and coffee times treats for the tobacco crew as well as working in the field.

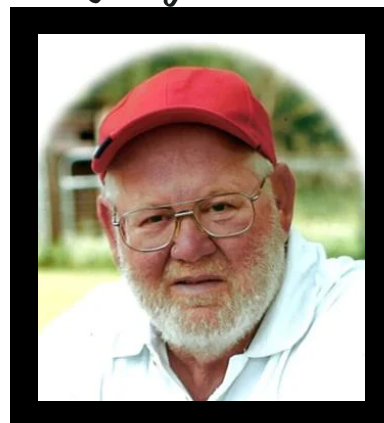
Helen devoted her life to raising her five children and celebrated the birth of her grandchildren and great-grandchildren as the families grew.

Helen is survived by her five children: Merlin (Denise) Lee of Withee, WI, Larry Lee of La Crosse, WI, Michael (Terri) Lee of Grafton, WI, Donna (Dave) Utpadel of Menomonie, WI, and Randy (Wendi) Lee of Wauwatosa, WI.

Helen has been blessed with 12 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren. She is also survived by a sister-in-law, Merle Thompson and many nieces, nephews, and friends. and many nieces, nephews, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Marvin; her sisters: Mildred Bober, Lillian (Richard) Nelson, and Ruth (Paul) Skrede; and brothers: Alvin (Elaura) Thompson, Milford Thompson, and Paul (June) Thompson.

Gary Leum



Oct. 7, 1946 - Sept. 16, 2023

Gary Eugene Leum, age 76, died peacefully on September 16, 2023, at Gundersen Hospital in La Crosse.

He was born on October 7, 1946, to Lloyd and Inez Leum, the second of 6 children. He met the love of his life, Marilyn Malin, at a party in Timber Coulee, and they married on January 19, 1980, at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Westby. They had three wonderful children; Katie, Ron, and Jessi; and raised dairy and beef cattle, along with the occasional pig, at their farm just outside Westby.

Gary was a lifelong Westby resident and had many happy childhood memories fishing and running around with his cousins. He graduated from the Wisconsin State College at River Falls with a bachelor's degree in Agriculture. For several years after his graduation, Gary was a substitute teacher and farmed with his brother Tommy. Since then, he worked in many professions, from farming to substitute bus driving, to bartending at various locations around Westby. He retired from the Vernon County Highway Department.

Gary loved sports, whether it was watching or playing. He spent many years playing softball with a great team. They were so in sync that it was like watching a choreographed dance—they didn't even need to watch where they threw the ball. They knew that someone would be there to catch it. He also loved bowling and participated in many leagues over the years, including couples bowling with Marilyn. He made sure each of his three kids knew how to bowl as well.

He also loved traveling and took two trips to Europe—one with his wife and son to visit his daughters when they studied abroad and one to celebrate Katie's graduation from grad school. He also loved music and could be found singing along to the radio, as long as you started singing first. In retirement, Marilyn and he loved to listen to live music around the Westby area. On Saturday mornings, he could frequently be found having breakfast with Ron at the Rod and Gun Club in Westby.

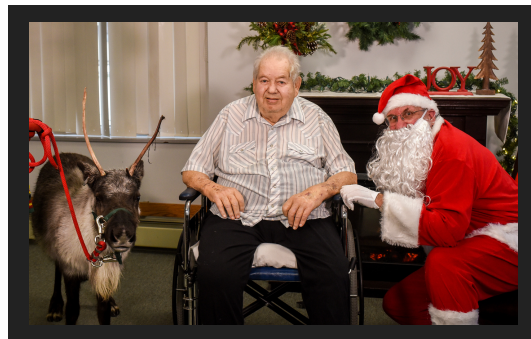
He is survived by his beloved wife Marilyn; his children Katie Leum (Jakob Kwarteng) of Denver, Colorado, Ron Leum of Westby, and Jessi Leum of La Crosse; his brothers Peter and Tommy; his sister Marla; his brothers-in-law Peter Bekkum, Mike Fencil, Tom Pederson, Stanley, Stuart, and Gary Malin, Roy Morton, and Howard Maxwell; his sisters-in-law Donna Leum, Joyce Malin, Jo Morton, Ruby Key, Sharon Unseth, Claudine Malin, and Loretta Morton; his son of the heart Justin Ray; his daughter of the heart Sherry Vieth; and his many nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lloyd and Inez; his parents-in-law Charlie and Annie Malin; his sisters Lou Ann Bekkum and Sharon Pederson; his brother John; his brothers-in-law Chuck Malin, Harold Maxwell, and Ray Key; his sister-in-law Dorothy Maxwell; and his nephews RJ Morton and Jeremy Grinnell.

Thank you to the staff at Gundersen Hospital and Norseland Nursing Home for their excellent care.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to Norseland Nursing Home Activities or the Auxiliary, or any other organization. He loved helping others and would love to know that his legacy was being carried on.

William "Barney" Huffar



April 14, 1938 - Sept. 23, 2023

William "Barney" Huffar, age 85, of Viola, a beloved figure in the local community and a man of many talents, passed away peacefully at Norseland Nursing Home in Westby on September 23, 2023, surrounded by his family. Born on April 14, 1938, Barney was known for his ability to fix anything, and his easy-going demeanor and infectious smile made him a friend to many.

Barney started his repair business in Illinois and in 1970, he purchased Viola Motors which became H&H Implement. Barney also subcontracted for Chaseburg Manufacturing in his later years.

Beyond his professional life, Barney was a man of diverse interests. He was an avid snowmobiler, finding joy in spending time with his cousins as they rode the country landscapes. He was also known for racing cars at his younger age. Barney was equally content in the tranquility of the great outdoors, often going camping on the Mississippi River. His love for these activities was only surpassed by his love for the people he shared them with and his dog, Sassy.

Barney's ability to make friends easily was a testament to his warm and witty personality. He had a knack for making those around him feel comfortable and valued, yet always able to make anyone smile with playful teasing whether they were his grandchildren or waitresses at the local restaurants.

Barney is survived by his wife of 33 years, Dolores; his children, Mike (Denise) Huffar and Colleen Vanderloop; stepchildren: Kathy (Ron) Freymiller, Richard (Kim) Krogan, and Becky (Greg) Swann; 15 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; his brother, Neil; his sister-in-law, Mabel; his brother-in-law, Marvin Christianson; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Jesse and Dottie (Strait) Huffar; his six brothers; his three sisters; Dolores' parents, Andrew and Verda Hanson; Dolores' brother and sister; and stepdaughter, Kris Mikkelsen.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Kickapoo Valley Rescue Squad in Barney's memory.