

Obituary for a fellow who shall live on in infamy

Tim Schrandt, age 63, of Spillville, IA died March 29 at Gundersen Health System in LaCrosse, WI after a short battle with cancer.

Burial will be in the church cemetery with full military rites.

Tim Schrandt (Lynyrd) made his last inappropriate comment on March 29. If you are wondering if you may have ever met him, you didn't—because you would remember. For those of you that did meet him, we apologize, as we're sure he probably offended you. He was world renowned for not holding back and telling it like it is.

Given Tim's demeanor he would have been the perfect weathered cowboy in the old west or rough and tough pioneer, or maybe he just should have been Amish.



**Tim Schrandt**  
Dead—but not forgotten--thanks to a brilliant obituary in the local newspaper

Tim was the 4th of 8 kids, the bottom rung of the top tier (the big kids). Instead of taking his place on that rung, listening to the older kids and doing as he was told by his older siblings, he decided to anoint himself “king” of the 4 little kids. Tim spent his childhood and early adulthood ordering them around and in general, tormenting them. He was a great orator, (not like Shakespear, but more like Yogi Berra), as he always had something to say, and always had to get in the last word.

His position as “king” and orator was challenged by the nuns at St. Wenceslaus school in Spillville. He may have

met his match. We're not saying the nuns won, but they put up a good fight, we mean literally - he got into a fist-a-cuff with a nun. In fairness, she probably started it. You didn't take a swing at Tim and not expect one back. Tim's fondness for authority (his own - not others) followed him to South Winneshiek High School in Calmar and later into the Army. This provided for many interesting episodes and stories, detentions and demotions, and a few “run ins” with the law, not just locally, but globally.

Tim worked at Camcar/Stanley Black and Decker in Decorah as a tool and die maker for 30 plus years. Tim worked with many friends and “a bunch of morons.” His words, not ours. Well not exactly his words, because that would have included a bunch of swear words.

Tim leaves behind a hell of a lot of stuff that his family doesn't know what to do with. So, if you are looking for a Virgin Mary in a bathtub shrine (you Catholics know what we're talking about) you should wait the appropriate amount of time and get in touch with them.

Tomorrow would be fine.  
He will be missed by his two granddaughters that he

Guy who died in Iowa has absolutely no connection or relevance whatsoever to the Pelican Rapids Press coverage area—but, so what. Ya just gotta read these final words...

Death isn't free--when it comes to telling the final story of your lost loved one.

Over the past couple decades, newspapers across the nation began charging a fee to print obituaries.

For many families, and those of us in the newspaper business, it was blasphemy. Obituaries were always a crucial part of the newspaper, and charging a fee to place a local obituary seemed somehow “unholy.”

In one of my previous lives in the newspaper business, a local funeral home operator constantly chastised me when we began charging for obituaries. And, I might note, that this was not friendly, gentle or constructive criticism. He absolutely despised the fact that obituaries were now treated with all the sanctity and dignity of a for-sale advertisement for a used manure spreader.

Well, as time passed, most folks have come to accept “paid obituaries” as a part of life--and death.

Truth is, newspapers really could no longer sustain the cost of publishing hundreds upon hundreds of obituaries, given rising expense of newsprint paper, printing, distribution, postage and other overhead costs--coupled with declining revenue. (We might note, however, that the Pelican Rapids Press has held its obituary rates to a bare minimum, starting at only \$50. Among the most affordable rates around---so if you're contemplating the eventuality of your demise...!)

Anyway, one of the fortunate side-benefits of “paid obits,” is that in many cases, families have in some cases become more creative, more spiritual or more amusing with their submitted obituaries. Since they're paying for it, well, some folks decide “heck, let's have some fun with it.”

In the past, newspapers faced so much competition for valuable space that editing standards were long-established for “free obituaries.” What this meant was obituaries

were edited and shortened, in an effort to be fair to everybody. And--the free obit basically limited the option for families who wished to elaborate, embellish or even entertain readers about their deceased loved one.

We're not necessarily advocating lengthy, semi-non-fictional obituaries, and frankly, since the local newspaper is still an important “historic record,” we do expect families to stay within the boundaries of truth, accuracy and taste.

But, having said that, what you're about to read is probably the most cleverly crafted obituary I've ever encountered--yet the key facts were still presented. (Our version is slightly edited, mainly for length. But it still captures the spirit of the guy.)

—Louis Hoglund, managing editor

Letters to THE EDITOR

Choir director outlines benefits of arts, music as Pelican school budget cuts revealed

*Editor's note: This statement was submitted to the Pelican Rapids School Board by Lori Paakh, high school choir director, regarding the budget cuts the school is facing. The Pelican Rapids Press is reprinting her statement here as a guest commentary.*

My name is Lori Paakh. I have been the PRHS choir director for almost three years. I direct four choirs, teach 10-12th grade students 15-minute lessons almost every week, and I also teach two sections of 6th grade classroom music.

Pelican Rapids High School has a music program and Fine Arts Auditorium the community can be very proud of. I must say though, it is very difficult to build strong music and sports programs. They take years to build. Once a program is cut, it is very difficult to build it up again and bring it back. It takes at least 3-4 years for programs to get strong. Fellow colleagues tell me

this, and I personally know it because I have taught at three different schools where it took about that amount of time to build.

I feel it behooves our school to maintain its music and performing arts programs because, like sports, performing arts showcase the talents of our students and they are an indicator of the health of our community. And, music and performing arts improve intelligence. They are the only activities that use 90% of the brain because they require all senses to be used: hearing, eyesight, touch/movement, hearing, and emotion.

It is my strong belief that you will regret the trickle down effect on our school and community if arts programs are cut.

So, I urge you to please not make any cuts in the Pelican Rapids music program

Our hats off to all who work with young children

It's Week of the Young Child, April 8-12, and we're thinking about all the many people in this community who help shape the minds and lives of our youngest citizens every day.

- The parents who work all day, but find time to sit down, read a book and cuddle with their child.
- The care providers and educators who offer children a safe, nurturing place to learn and grow.
- The dentists who are willing to give oral health exams to children as young as one because they understand the importance of early care and detection.
- The school board members who vote to include early learning as an integral part of their school curriculum.

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- The police officers who make it their mission to safeguard our little ones.
- The Early Childhood Initiative coordinators who bring all of these people together—and then some—to come up with ways to make your community the best place for your young children to thrive and succeed in school and in life. Learn more about your local ECI coalition at [eci.wcif.org](http://eci.wcif.org).

To all of you we say, thank you for a job well done. We are proud to be a partner with you.

**Nancy Jost, Director of Early Childhood West Central Initiative**

Minn. Viking football player was guest for sports banquet in 1969

100 years ago April 10, 1919

• Auto Hearse

**E.L. Skalman** is to have an auto hearse in the near future. He has one in process of construction which will answer the needs of his business admirably but it will take a few weeks before it will be ready. Pelican Rapids has felt the need of just such a modern convenience for a long time and the purchase of which demonstrates Mr. Skalman's progressiveness.

• Frogs and More Frogs

This village has never been known as “**Frogtown**” but from all indications the frog industry here is one of the most lucrative businesses now days that we have.

**The boys have been capturing millions of them** and making money as fast as the miners did in the old Klondike days. Some of the reports printed by other papers have been slightly “colored” but nevertheless the boys have made money. Some making as high as \$30 per day.

Up to yesterday about 6,700 pounds of frogs were shipped which netted the frog catchers around \$1,100.

• New Oil Station

The **American Oil and Tank Line Co.** have made arrangements to establish an oil station here this spring. The company has secured a location along the track and will start operations within a few weeks. **Edward Rosengren, Jr.** will have charge of the business here.

75 years ago April 13, 1944

• Scholarship Ratings

Students from Pelican Rapids who won high scholarship ratings at the Crookston Agricultural School include **Andrew Kollar** and **Jeanette Johnson**, both of Norwegian Grove.

• H. Tritabaugh Takes Possession of Friederich Store

**Mr. and Mrs. H. Tritabaugh** of Hutchinson are now citi-

zens of Pelican Rapids. Mr. Tritabaugh bought the **Friedrich Store** and has now taken possession. They will live in the apartment above the store.

Mr. Tritabaugh has had much experience in mercantile business, having been in the hardware business at Rockford for several years and at Hutchinson for some time. Recently he was in the furniture business also.

Mr. and Mrs. Tritabaugh have two daughters, one residing in Hutchinson and the other is on the west coast.

Pelican Rapids extends a hearty welcome to these people and hope they will have no reason to regret coming here. We wish them much success.

50 years ago April 10, 1969

• Trophy Presentation

Pelican Rapids High School athletes had several trophies to present to **Superintendent Chauncey Martin** during the program of the annual **Chamber of Commerce** athletic banquet held Tuesday evening. Among the trophies were the Heart O'Lakes Conference traveling football trophy, The District 23 championship basketball trophy, the Heart O'Lakes conference basketball trophy and the Region 6 basketball runner-up trophy.

The presentations were made before an audience of nearly 300 athletes, parents, coaches, school administrators, and fans. Joining Chauncey Martin on stage was **Charles Nord, Glen Trygstad, Paul Swan, and Dale Robley**.

The guest speaker at the program was **Dale Hackbart**, a defensive back for the **Minnesota Vikings**.

25 years ago April 13, 1994

• Grass fire season arrives

This is the third outing for Pelican Rapids firemen since the grass fire season started last week, but the volunteers aren't

Looking BACK

by Brenda Brand, Columnist



looking to extend the string. On the contrary. They are urging property owners to use extra care when burning trash or in spring clean-up efforts which involve burning.

**Pelican Rapids firemen** spent their Sunday afternoon trying to contain one fire near Erhard, and were also out one afternoon last week.

The fire at Erhard was reported early in the afternoon in the waterfowl production area on the south side of town. It burned across nearly 100 acres before it was over.

According to fire chief **Richard Peterson**, the fire was first noticed at a small parking area off Highway 59 on the south side of Erhard. It could have been started by a vehicle's catalytic converter because of the high, dead grass there.

It was not a small fire for long, however. Just minutes later it was out of control.

On Monday, they were at the **GVT Inc. feed mill** south of town where **Allen Ripley** used a backpack pump to contain the fire. A small grass fire in Pelican Rapids last week opened the season.

• Junior High honor band participants

Participating in the junior high honor band festival in Pelican Rapids Saturday, March 19, were these Pelican Rapids students: **Matt Soberg, Heather Wahl, Jeremy Haberman, Chad Peterson, Becky Gray, Emily Waller, Sarah Stadler, Mandy Wellnitz, Mindy Stadler, Sarah Arvidson, Melissa Jenison, Madeline Solien, Molly Moerke, Kim Haarstick, Laurel Ellison, Andrea Erickson,** and director **Lee Varpness**.

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