

# Stories

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Last month Bromenschenkel announced her plan to run for the state House of Representatives District 13B seat to advocate for medical privacy and pro-choice legislation in anticipation of the Roe v. Wade reversal. Although women make up a majority of the U.S. population, it's usually male politicians who are "telling us how we can regulate our own bodies," she said.

Bromenschenkel said she wishes people would realize there's a lot more that happens during a pregnancy "than just the baby coming out at the end."

"Somebody telling me that something I had no control over was my own fault and telling me that I killed my babies... it's too much. It's overwhelming. I go back into that headspace. You know, it's been almost a decade since the last one. But I'm just like, right back in that headspace," she said. "I could have gone to jail for losing an embryo, you know, for losing a pregnancy. On what planet is that in any sense OK?"

Growing up in St. Paul, 78-year-old St. Cloud resident Karen Nielsen said she heard stories about desperate women who got illegal abortions before the Roe v. Wade ruling in 1973.

"We would hear the horror stories of all the back-alley butcher jobs," Nielsen said. "Women did not have safe access to abortion. And women will always need abortions, and if you can't get someone who's qualified and you're in a safe place, you have no choice but to choose butchers. And women died or were violently ill or sterile afterwards. It was awful."

When she was 17, Nielsen gave up her baby for adoption and "the shame that was heaped upon us as birth mothers was horrific," she said.

Shocked that she was pregnant and with no option for abortion, even if she had wanted one, Nielsen said she knew she couldn't take care of a child on her own. She didn't even know how to take care of herself. She had no support from the father, family or friends.

"I can remember hoping that my child would be adopted by a good family, but the systems back then and the people

that were involved — there were not always good, healthy options," she said.

Nielsen remembers reading an article about a woman who gave her child up for adoption and found out later he had been abused by his adoptive mother.

"It just horrified me. And so you don't know who's actually going to get your child. There was absolutely no contact. Couldn't name your child, you don't hold your child, you never got a picture, you never got any information. It was horrible," Nielsen said. Then, through tears, "I never had any other children because it was so awful."

About 15 years after the adoption Nielsen said she remembers opening the Sunday paper one day and seeing a headline that said, "Mothers miss the babies they give away." She said she cried for three days afterwards because until she saw that, she had thought there was something wrong with her that she couldn't forget her child. In her 30s, Nielsen reconnected with her son, and said he has been forgiving and accepting and that she has a relationship with him.

"[Adoption] is one of the hardest things a woman will probably have to do. You don't just give up the child and not ever know anything about them," she said. "I know that adoptions are open now and things are different than they were back then. But it isn't all roses and happy, wonderful outcomes. There's suffering for everybody."

## Roe v. Wade reversal will impact women of color disproportionately

Asha Hassan is a reproductive health researcher with the Center for Anti-Racism Research for Health Equity. She's been researching maternal care, family planning, abortion care and structural racism in health care for about a decade and is a doctoral student in the health services research program at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health.

"Abortions are one of, if not the most safest procedures someone can have," Hassan said. "It's definitely safer than giving birth. Unfortunately in this country, we have a maternal mortality crisis. This is one of the worst developed countries in the world when it comes to how high our pregnancy-related deaths are.

And there are inequities with this. Black and Indigenous populations experience higher rates of maternal mortality than white birthing people. When you look at things in totality ... it's inaccurate to say that [abortion]'s not a safe avenue of care."

Hassan said medical technology is "a long ways away from the 1970s" so she doesn't expect to see a sudden rise in back-alley abortions. There are two kinds of abortion: medical abortion, which uses medication, and surgical abortion, which is the only option for people in Minnesota after 10 weeks of pregnancy, she said.

"There are self-managed methods for abortion care that are medically safe and there's been a lot of research that indicates that; it's just not very well studied how often [self-managed abortion] happens," Hassan said. "As you know, restrictions have surfaced in parts of our country. I think it's very clear from what we know that abortion restrictions don't necessarily decrease the incidence of abortion. It just decreases the ability for people to have access to those abortions in a clinical setting."

Some studies suggest the U.S. could see a 21% increase in pregnancy-related deaths if there is a total ban on abortion and a 33% increase in deaths among Black people, Hassan said.

On average, people seeking abortions tend to be overwhelmingly low-income, and having an abortion is usually life-changing, not only from an economic perspective but also a physical and mental health perspective, Hassan said.

Hassan said she doesn't know how lawmakers could enforce an abortion ban or restrictions in a way that reflects the nuances of why and how someone needs an abortion.

"A lot of people have really emphasized, 'Well of course there's exceptions, you know, if the mother's life is at risk.' If the mother's life is at risk 100%? What if they have a 70% chance of survival or a 60% chance of survival? I think it's a little too simple to think that this is a black and white issue," she said. "Abortion care, pregnancy, reproductive health generally is messy. It's not simple. And I think that's why this is probably the sort of decision that's best left to patients and providers to make determinations about

what is right for their bodies."

St. Cloud resident Cierra Brown, 23, said her grandmother was 12 years old growing up in southern Arkansas in the late 1940s when she got pregnant with her first child. She had five children by the age of 21, when she gave birth to Brown's father, then went on to have seven more children with little to no access to health care.

Brown said as her grandmother was preparing to give birth at age 12, she asked her doctor how girls become pregnant, because she didn't know.

"There was no access to sex education. Her body was not her own because she was forced, really, to have children because of my grandfather," Brown said. "When we talk about Roe v. Wade, it's not only about abortion, it's about education, it's about autonomy over your body."

Brown said despite the domestic abuse her grandmother endured, she remains grateful and rich in resiliency, heart and experience. When Brown graduated college this year, she said her family, and especially her grandmother, were "just so so so so so pleased because I've been able to obtain a lot of the things she hasn't, and I think that brings her joy to see that I've had a full education. My grandmother didn't."

"If people are being forced to give birth, that makes me very nervous. Because we're already losing women of color that are pregnant and giving birth. I think we're in a very troubling time," Brown said. "But I do have hope that people are organizing. People have been organizing, there are people on the ground that are going to continue to fight, continue to grow their power for the democracy that we know we deserve. Because I believe everybody has inherent dignity."

"It's really not an issue of living babies, it's really an issue of power, and who holds power, who controls power, wields power in this country and it just hasn't been women," she said. "It's been white men. And now I believe that [as] other groups of people and women are gaining more power, it's just really an attack on that."

Becca Most is a cities reporter with the St. Cloud Times. Reach her at 320-241-8213 or bmost@stcloudtimes.com. Follow her on Twitter at @becca\_most.

# Obituaries

## TODAY'S OBITUARIES AND DEATH NOTICES

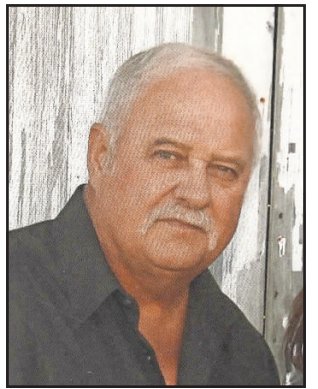
Name	Age	Town, State	Death Date	Arrangements
Anderson, Audrey (Swenson)	88	St. Cloud	19-Jun	Miller-Carlín Funeral Homes
Carlson, Marcia	75	St. Cloud	23-Jun	Williams Dingmann Funeral Home, St. Cloud
Carlson, Theresa E.	94	St. Cloud	21-Jun	Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home, Sauk Rapids
Dendinger, Richard D.	86	Sartell	15-Jun	Daniel Funeral Home, St. Cloud
Fandel, Wayne J.	78	St. Cloud	20-Jun	Daniel Funeral Home, St. Cloud
Gaida, Rosalinda "Rosie"	92	St. Cloud	22-Jun	Daniel Funeral Home, St. Cloud
Heinen, Lorraine O.	78	Waite Park	21-Jun	Daniel Funeral Home, St. Cloud
Hoeschen, James	79	St. Cloud	23-Jun	Daniel Funeral Home, St. Cloud
Jarnot, Donald "Don" P.	83	Sauk Rapids	21-Jun	Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home, Sauk Rapids
Landrum, Keith	73	Zimmerman	19-Jun	Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home, Princeton
Lisowski, Pamela "Pam" A. (Solien)	74	Monticello	18-Jun	Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home, Sauk Rapids
Marshall, Bonnie A.	74	Sauk Rapids	21-Jun	Daniel Funeral Home, St. Cloud
Merten, Joyce H.	88	St. Joseph	20-Jun	Daniel Funeral Home, St. Joseph
Moreno, Regina	87	St. Cloud	24-Jun	Daniel Funeral Home, St. Cloud
*Notsch, Wayne P.	69	St. Cloud	22-Jun	Williams Dingmann Funeral Home, St. Cloud
Petermeier, Adam J.	40	St. Cloud	21-Jun	Patton-Schad Funeral & Cremation Services, Melrose
Rohde, Joan V.	87	Burtrum	23-Jun	Patton-Schad Funeral & Cremation Services, Grey Eagle
Stark, Helen	97	Princeton	19-Jun	Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home, Princeton
Stein, Mary	79	Long Prairie	22-Jun	Williams Dingmann Funeral Home-Stein Chapel, Long Prairie
Trutwin, Victor "Vic" J.	89	Rice	22-Jun	Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home, Sauk Rapids
Von Wald, Bruce	81	Foley	21-Jun	Foley Funeral Home Inc.

### \* Additional information in display obituaries

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## Wayne P. Notsch

ST. CLOUD - Wayne P. Notsch, 69 of St. Cloud passed away Wednesday surrounded by his family at his home. Visitation will be Tuesday June 28, 2022 from 4-8 pm at the Williams Dingmann Family Funeral Home St. Cloud. A Private service will be held on Wednesday June 29, 2022 with Fr. Ronald Dockendorf officiating. Interment will be at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery, Little Falls.



Wayne was born March 2, 1953 in St. Cloud to Herman and Evelyn (Theisen) Notsch. He married Lois Poepping on October 8, 1977 at St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church, St. Rosa. Wayne owned and operated his own trucking business and farmed in Sobieski until 2019 when his health caused his retirement. He enjoyed deer hunting and watching old westerns and to tell a good joke. Farming with his Oliver Tractors, trucking with his freightliner truck and riding his Harley motorcycle were other activities he enjoyed. But he cherished most of all the time he spent with his wife, children and grandchildren and an ice-cold beer.

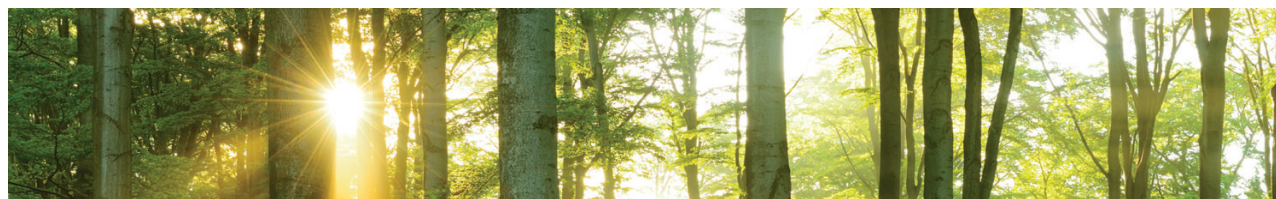
He is survived by his wife Lois, sons and daughter; Wade (Melissa) of Little Falls, Adam (Amanda) of Sobieski, Clint (LaTasha) of Rice and Heather (Ben) Phenow of Rice, grandchildren; Callie Notsch, Bella Notsch, Alice Notsch, Landon Notsch, Scarlett Notsch, Everett Notsch, Estelle Phenow, Caroline Phenow, and Graham Phenow, brothers and sister; Ronald (Evie) Notsch, Loren Notsch, Judy (Gary) Meyer, Rick (Laurie) Notsch and Glen (Mary Kay) Notsch.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and his sister Marilyn Simon.



**Due to the holiday, our office hours and obituary placement times may vary.**

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