

Hi, hello and welcome to our subscriber of the week:

Doug Petersen
Drayton, ND

Your Weather

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Saturday - Apr. 12
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Sports: Results from the RRVC track meet **PG. 2**



STATE: Armstrong has signed over 270 bills into law. **PG. 6**



EDUCATION: "Royal Hotel" prom photos **PG. 11 & 12**



Drayton Area Community Foundation annual recognition award

Drayton Area Community Foundation is seeking nominee individuals and groups for its 8th annual Community Award. This award is separate from the foundation's grant program and is a non-monetary recognition of those who have made significant impacts in our community through their commitment to civic causes. The annual Community Award winner will be revealed at a special upcoming Celebration Social.

Nominations for the Community Award can be submitted by a simple, brief write-up, in an envelope marked "Personal and Confidential" to Rob Boll, DACF, PO Box 369, Drayton, ND 58225.

For more information, contact Rob Boll 701-454-6104 or 701-454-3317 or email dacf@draytonND.com.

Deadline April 21.

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Altru Clinic Drayton has long history of teamwork

By Christine Jensen

Altru Clinic in Drayton has witnessed many changes through the years. As it prepares to close the doors as of May 1, 2025, a look back at its historical struggles and triumphs is powerful to understand the impact it had on the community and the people who kept it running even through some difficult times.

Shirley Jensen of rural Drayton graduated from Glenwood Hills Hospital in Golden Valley, Minn., in 1962. She worked there for two years in medical surgery and subsequently in the Intensive Care Unit. She served as an licensed practical nurse at Drayton's Altru Clinic. She started her position there in 1980, retiring in 2011, after 31 years of serving the Drayton community. Jensen started her position under the guidance of Dr. Mark Carter, working two days a week which is how many days per week the clinic was open at that time.

"Dr. Carter - now that was a doctor that fought for us and fought for the clinic to stay open," Jensen said. "When I started we drew lab and dispensed shots in the same room."

When Marie Anderson of Drayton started her position as a nurse practitioner under the guidance of Dr. Mark Carter in 1997, the clinic eventually opened full time.

The clinic had its set backs through the years as they dealt with floods including the 1997 flood. Water sifted into a crawl space in the clinic on a couple different occasions. They worked to get the crawl space cleaned out but services still continued on two separate occasions. They opened a temporary clinic first at Tisdale Manor and later at Drayton Lutheran Church.

"We had a mini clinic set up at Tisdale just for minor illnesses," Jensen said. "We never really closed down, we had temporary clinics until they built the new one at the north end of town."

There was a great deal of work to be done after the floods as well as setting up the new clinic Jensen said. They received help from a moving company as well as different community members but there was still a lot of work to do to get the clinic up and running.

"They moved all the big equipment but we had to get everything put in the rooms and get the front desk set up again. We did a lot of work getting things out," Jensen said. "For a time we had physical therapy set up in one of the rooms at the clinic."

Besides the clinic, both Jensen and Anderson were dealing with flooding at their own residences. Jensen said although it was a big job, they all worked together to keep the clinic going. In fact both her and Jamie Mattice who worked at the clinic for 27 years as an X-Ray/lab technician as well as a registered Radiologic Technologist and receptionist, had to take a boat every day to travel to work during the floods.

After taking time off to help her son Michael go through his eight year battle with cancer, Jensen decided to retire when she was 70-years-old.

"They had a new computer system and my son was sick with cancer so I was helping take care of him and we had to go to Boston for his radiation treatments. The computer system changed every time I came back so I just decided it was time to retire."

Jensen said her favorite part about



Aleah Pokrzywinski and Quinn Passa (left) were crowned King and Queen of the 2025 Drayton "Grand Royal Hotel" prom. Alyssa Hoyles and Trypp Castillo (right) were crowned prince and princess.

Photos by Andrea Johnston



working at Altru Clinic in Drayton was definitely the people, both patients and her co-workers.

"The patients were the most rewarding part. Just knowing we were helping people was important to me," Jensen said. "And working with Marie and Jamie. The three of us worked very well together."

Jensen, who has been through a few major surgeries as well as chemotherapy treatments in the last six months for ovarian cancer, said she was extremely sad to hear the clinic was closing.

"I think the community of Drayton needs a clinic. It is 22 miles to the nearest hospital and 45 miles to a large hospital, we need to have a clinic in town," Jensen said. "So many little things nobody thinks about that the clinic does."

Jensen said it doesn't matter where it comes from as long as we have the service. She said it is essential in our small community.

According to Mattice, who started at the clinic in 1996, working at Altru in Drayton gave her some of her fondest memories she will forever carry with her. She said she learned a great deal through the years and is proud of the work they did.

"Watching the clinic grow, serving our community, and knowing we made a positive impact in people's lives was rewarding," Mattice said. "I truly miss the strong bonds I formed with the citizens of Drayton, they will always be close to my heart."

Mattice said working with Anderson and Jensen through the years will remain as some of her most positive memories. She said they were a team and worked well together.

"The three of us went through a lot building up the clinic and making it successful," Mattice said. "We built a life long friendship along the way as well."

According to Anderson, Dr. Carter deserves a great deal of credit for the clinic remaining open. She said he had the foresight to know the Drayton community needed a clinic full time.

"I was in the right place at the right time," Anderson said. "Dr. Carter was so supportive and got Altru on board. I believe we were the first rural clinic to have a nurse practitioner full time



BROKEN RECORDS!

DVE junior Alyssa Holyes runs to a crowd of cheering teammates including Peyton Larson, Nulla Thompson, and Elizabeth Fedje after clearing 10' 6" on pole vault during the last event at the Red River Valley Conference Indoor on Friday. The vault not only won her first place at he meet, but it also broke meet and school records.

Photo by Jamie Rarick



Local students volunteered at the Great Plains Mobile Food Bank held in Drayton on March 20. They worked to unload the truck and distribute food parcels to families The event is sponsored by Drayton's FCCLA and National Honor Society groups. Pictured from left to right: Loki Sylskar, Jonah Rarick, Mrs. Quimby, Brookelynn Petersen, Gunnar Kuznia, Violet Hoyles, and Peyton Larson.

Their next mobile food bank will be on June 19 at the front of Drayton school. Submitted photo