

LAKESHORE LOCALS

Longtime Tonka Bottle Shop owner dies

His wife will continue running the store

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WAYZATA — The longtime owner of Tonka Bottle Shop died in early January, and his wife will continue to run the popular local liquor store.

Tim Bevins, 64, died on Jan. 5, 2019, due to complications from surgery to remove kidney stones.

When Tim Bevins was 20, he and his brother were involved in a serious car crash in 1974. He suffered a spinal cord injury, but it was so bad the paramedics initially told his mom he was dead.

"We were pretty fortunate to have him for 44 years. That was pretty amazing," Terri-Lynn Bevins told Lakeshore Weekly News, noting Tim Bevins lived for 44 years as a quadriplegic when, at the time, quadriplegics didn't live longer than about 15 years.

But Tim Bevins wasn't one to let being in a wheelchair slow him down, and three years after the nearly fatal crash he bought the Tonka Bottle Shop because it "seemed like a good idea," Terri Bevins said.

"He was just one of those



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Tim Bevins was known for taking kids for rides on his wheelchair. Here he is in a photo from a few years ago taking two of his grandchildren, Wyatt and Leland, for a spin.

"It's a new chapter for Tonka Bottle Shop. We're going to keep going, we're going to keep giving back, we're going to keep serving our customers.

liquor store.

So for now, Terri Bevins has no changes planned for Tonka Bottle Shop, they'll just keep moving forward and

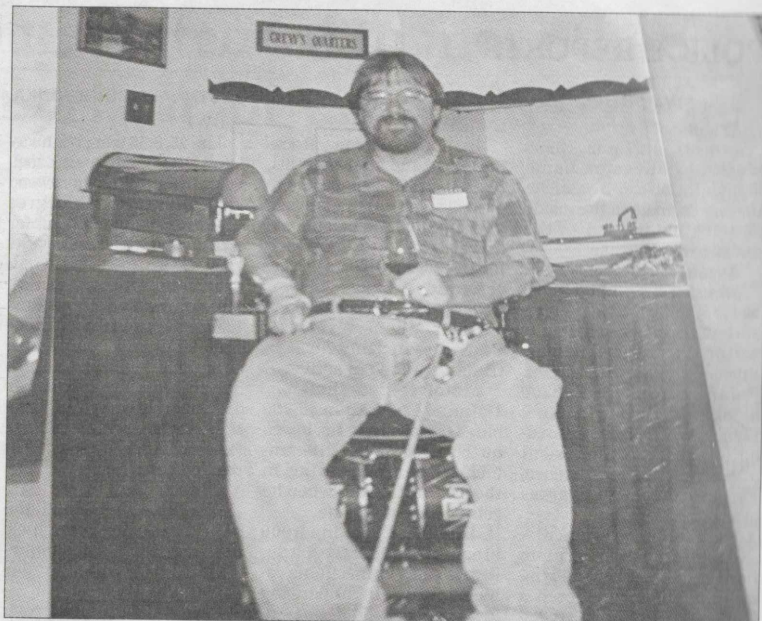


PHOTO BY MELISSA TURTIMEN

Tim Bevins will be remembered as a man who forgot more about wine than most people know about wine, his wife Terri-Lynn Bevins said as she fondly remembered her late husband.

planning to fly in from across the country.

Terri Bevins said Tim had a "very quiet impact on a whole lot of people's lives."



couldn't do it, he'd find a way," Terri Bevins said, noting he didn't want to end up sitting behind a desk at the bank.

"He still had a little bit of a wild side to him," she said. "He needed to do something, and he knew how to drink."

Terri Bevins, who grew up in Mound, started working at Tonka Bottle Shop in 1992, a year after Tim Bevins hired her as his in-home aid. They got married in 1995, and together raised Terri Bevins' two children while living in nearby Minnetonka, before moving to Nowthen about 14 years ago. Terri Bevins is now selling their home and plans to move back to the Lake Minnetonka area, where she will run Tonka Bottle Shop and Corcoran Bottle Shop, which Tim Bevins purchased in 1987.

TONKA BOTTLE SHOP

The liquor store at the corner of Highway 101 and Minnetonka Boulevard has become a staple for many people in nearby communities, and Terri Bevins hopes to keep it that way.

over the years she and her late husband made sure to donate to local nonprofits and schools.

"We're here. We've just been here, we're just part of the community. We're going to keep being part of the community. We're going to keep doing what we do," Terri Bevins said. "You can buy a bottle of wine anywhere. You can't get service anywhere, and that's what we do."

Employees make sure to carry out people's purchases, help them wrangle customer's kids while they're shopping, and will try to order what a customer wants if they don't already carry it.

"We're going to do what it takes to provide that service, and that's gained us, over the years, a very loyal following of fantastic people. We're very blessed to have the customers we do," Terri Bevins said, noting they took a few hits from when Sam's Club and Total Wine opened nearby or when Highway 101 was under construction, but overall their customers stayed loyal and continued to shop at the local

will get in." She did mention they may become a little more active on social media to start wooing the younger demographic, but that is about all she has in the works.

RAISING A CLASS TO TIM

Instead of a funeral, Tim Bevins will be remembered with a party, wine and stories about his dry sense of humor, his positive attitude, his shenanigans with friends, and how most of the time you could find him spinning in a wheelchair with a child on his lap.

"There's going to be hundreds of Tim stories at this event," Terri Bevins said. "There's a whole nother world that's going to come out at the memorial because there's a lot of stories. Many of them have alcohol. Excessive amounts of alcohol involved."

The open house-style celebration of Tim Bevins' life will be held at Paustis Wine Company, 17300 Medina Road, Suite 100, in Plymouth, on March 9 from 1-5 p.m. Terri Bevins believes 200-300 people may show up, including people

know how to say it, you admire him. You realize what he's accomplished is huge. He's an inspiration," she said.

There will also be a silent auction to raise money for the Always Lucy Strong Foundation, a local nonprofit that raises money to send families of people recently diagnosed with ALS on trips before the disease takes over. It was an organization that was important to Tim Bevins and his family.

"We enjoyed traveling and we knew Tim was on borrowed time," Terri Bevins said.

Tim Bevins was in another car crash in 2004, causing him to break both his femurs and spend two weeks in the hospital. And in the final 10 years of his life, he faced a slew of health problems, starting with a pressure sore that left him pretty much bedridden for eight years.

"It's one of those things that once you start on that downward cycle, you're going down. And the pressure sore was really that start. We knew it," Terri Bevins said.

Tim Bevins had five surger-



PHOTO BY MELISSA TURPIN

Tonka Bottle Shop opened in 1977, and has quickly developed a loyal customer base.

ies and after eight years the pressure sores were fixed, but he still faced kidney stones and other ailments. Eventually, a surgery to remove a kidney stone the size of a wine cork led to complications that Tim Bevins couldn't overcome.

Tim Bevins will be buried in a giant bottle of wine, before that can happen Terri Bevins and those closest to the family will drink the wine to celebrate his life. She said they'll leave a little wine in the bottle for Tim.

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