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JANUARY 29, 2025
NEXT ISSUE: FEBRUARY 26, 2025

VOLUME 02 ISSUE 08



Knoxville teenager Abi Vander Linden established her non-profit organization, Radiant, with its purpose of empowering individuals through service, education, and responsibility. Her first project has been partnering with Knoxville Hospital & Clinics (KHC) and making comfort bags for infusion patients. On January 13 she delivered the first comfort bags to staff at KHC. Abi, center, is pictured with KHC staff Kamryn Wilson, Rosie Reid, Ami Morgan, Nastassia Speck, and Kevin Kincaid.

Knoxville teenager brings her passion for helping others to patients at Knoxville Hospital & Clinics

Knoxville teenager Abi Vander Linden is already learning what it takes to work in health care—compassion. Health care workers share a desire to help others, especially those who are sick. Although she is just

a sophomore at Knoxville High School, Abi already has plans for her future to become a pediatric oncology nurse.

Abi has seen the compassion of nurses firsthand and how cancer

affects not only the patient, but their family. When her grandpa was diagnosed with brain cancer in April 2021, as heartbreaking as it was, she saw him accept the challenge and fight with

Continued on page 9

Local businesses are a vital part of our community

Pages 12 & 13 feature our 2025 Business Honor Roll. This is our way to recognize the businesses in our community. It can also serve as a reminder to support our local businesses that support our community.

These businesses have an established track record, spanning several years or even decades. They have a loyal customer base and have developed long-term relationships with their

clients or customers.

In today's business landscape, the ability to embrace change and respond quickly to new opportunities or challenges is imperative. Each of these businesses has remained agile, flexible and willing to pivot when necessary.

I encourage you to take a look around and pick out some businesses you may not have supported in the past before, especially those

towards the bottom of this list. They are an integral part of what makes our community what it is.

Marion County continues to grow, if you are new to town, use this list as a directory. If they can't help you chances are they will direct you to someone that can.

As a business that is in its infancy, we could not exist if it were not for the businesses on these pages.

Freedom for Youth - Knoxville almost ready for Daddy/daughter and Mommy/son dances

Party Like a Prince
(Mommy/son dance)
February 7th, 6-8:00pm

Party Like a Princess
(Daddy/daughter dance)
February 8th, 6-8:00pm

Hosted by Freedom for Youth - Knoxville Celebrate Church
1007 N. Lincoln, Knoxville

We at Freedom for Youth-Knoxville are just about ready for the daddy-daughter and a mommy-son dances! The bingo prizes, participation raffle

prize, and decorations are purchased. The snacks have been thought out, I personally love snacks and love making a beautiful snack table. The craft is prepped. The DJ has some exciting games planned. Now all we need is YOU TO BUY TICKETS.

This event is for boys and girls ages 5-12 and will be at Celebrate Church, one of our partner churches. The doors open at 5:45pm.

Tickets are \$35 per pair, \$5

for additional child tickets.

You can purchase your tickets online on the attached QR codes (page 5), make sure you select the correct dance and fill out the information. This is a credit card only option. If you would like to purchase them in person with cash or check we have four locations for you; Marion County Bank Pella, Marion County Bank Knoxville, Spire, and the Coffee Connection, these

Continued on page 5



1701 E Pleasant St, Knoxville

URGENT! These animals need homes.
Shelters everywhere are at capacity. Now is a great time to welcome a new pet into your home if you are able.
Meet your next companion at the Marion County Humane Society.

PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

Karizma Salon-Studio

ADOPT.
DON'T SHOP
for your new pet



MOON PIE

A 7 MONTH OLD TERRIER MIX. SHE'S VERY FRIENDLY AND LOVING. SHE GETS ALONG WITH OTHER DOGS, CATS, AND KIDS. SHE WEIGHS 17 POUNDS AND WOULD LOVE TO FIND HER FURREVER HOME!



TESSI

A BEAUTIFUL 7 YEAR OLD FEMALE. SHE'S A LITTLE SHY AND LIKES TO HIDE UNDER HER BLANKET IN HER KENNEL. BUT SHE'S VERY SWEET ONCE YOU GIVE HER TIME.



BAHAMA

A BEAUTIFUL 9 YEAR OLD FRONT DECLAWED FEMALE.



GIZMO

A 6 YEAR OLD CHIU/EENIE AND IS VERY SWEET. HE WEIGHS 12 POUNDS. HE LOVES OTHER DOGS AND IS GOOD WITH CATS AND KIDS.



BRAVEN

AN APPROXIMATELY 1 YEAR OLD YELLOW LAB MIX. HE'S VERY FRIENDLY AND HAS A LOT OF ENERGY. HE GETS ALONG WELL WITH OTHER DOGS AND KIDS. HE WEIGHS 58 POUNDS AND WOULD LOVE TO FIND HIS FURREVER HOME!

YOUNG
A PLAYFUL 1 YEAR OLD MALE.



GEORGIE

5 YEAR OLD MALE. HE LOOKS A LITTLE GRUMPY IN HIS PICTURE. BUT HE'S ACTUALLY VERY SWEET AND LOVES TO CUDDLE.



PEGGY BON BONNS

A.K.A. MAGGIE, IS A 5 YEAR OLD PIT/BOXER MIX. HER OWNER PASSED AWAY AND HE HAD NO FAMILY NEAR THAT COULD TAKE HER. SHE'S PICKY ABOUT OTHER ANIMALS. SO SHE WOULD NEED TO BE TESTED IF HAVE ONE AT HOME. SHE WEIGHS 51 POUNDS.

IF YOU'RE NOT IN A PLACE TO ADOPT, THERE ARE MANY WAYS YOU CAN STILL HELP DOG WALKERS, CAT SNUGLERS, MONETARY DONATIONS, FOOD DONATIONS & MORE. CONTACT MCHS FOR MORE INFORMATION: (641) 828-7387 | MARIONCOUNTYHUMANE@GMAIL.COM



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Marion County Bank celebrates new location

On January 16 Marion County Bank celebrated the opening of their newest Knoxville location at the corner of Hwy 14 and Pleasant St with a ribbon cutting hosted by the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce. The new space features spacious ceilings, walk-in and drive-up access to tellers and a drive-up atm.

Marion County Bank CEO, Steve Kraayenbrink stated "This story started about 10 years ago as we thought about what banking could look like in Knoxville. About 5 years ago, we completed the purchase of Iowa State Savings Bank. We really believe in Knoxville. There have been a lot of good things happening in the community and at the bank

since that time. We couldn't be more excited. Our commitment to Knoxville is very strong, and we want to do everything we can to serve the community well."



SUPPORT LOCAL

SHOP LOCAL EAT LOCAL **SPEND LOCAL ENJOY LOCAL**

<p>NEW!</p>  <p>1775 150th Pl., Knoxville Perfect blend of comfort, functionality & space with this 2.82 acre property. \$320,000</p>	<p>NEW!</p>  <p>1605 S. Park Lane Dr., Knoxville Charming 4 bedroom home, with a unique multi-level layout is a true gem \$270,000</p>	<p>NEW! SALE PENDING</p>  <p>2481 Osceola St., Tracy Older farmhouse looking to be brought back. 2 story, 4 bedroom. \$100,000</p>	<p>REDUCED</p>  <p>123 N Third St, Knoxville Charming 3 bedroom, 2 story home located minutes from downtown \$185,000</p>	<p>REDUCED</p>  <p>607 S 4th St, Knoxville Exceptional multi-family property with four units, quiet neighborhood \$347,000</p>	<p>REDUCED</p>  <p>101/107 W Main St, Knoxville Conic piece of downtown is now for sale, nearly 12,000 sq. ft. combined \$315,000</p>	<p>REDUCED</p>  <p>1105 McKimber Dr, Knoxville Quiet wooded acre, beautiful home blends privacy and convenience \$499,500</p>
<p>REDUCED</p>  <p>609 S Attica Rd., Knoxville Charming in-town acreage, this inviting 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom home \$335,000</p>	<p>REDUCED</p>  <p>713 S Third St., Knoxville Nicely updated 2 bedroom, bungalow with full basement & attached garage \$109,900</p>	<p>SALE PENDING</p>  <p>307 E. Main St., Knoxville Investment opportunity, downtown, 3 commercial spaces and 5 apt. \$750,000</p>	<p>REDUCED</p>  <p>1301 Sunrise Dr., Knoxville Welcome to this spacious 5 bedroom, 2 bath, offering nearly 2,500 sq ft \$399,900</p>	<p>REDUCED</p>  <p>1910 McKay Dr., Knoxville Looking for easy living... here it is! 3 bd, 3 bth has it all plus location \$229,000</p>	<p>REDUCED</p>  <p>3010 W. Larson St., Knoxville Stunning 5 bedroom, 4 bathroom blending comfort and elegance \$450,000</p>	<p>REDUCED</p>  <p>0 Terrace Lane, Knoxville Tax abatement available! 10 acre parcel, within city limits \$250,000</p>
<p>VETERANS DISTRICT KNOXVILLE, IA</p> <p>Knoxville's newest neighborhood is ready to welcome you home. Buildable lots now available.</p> 	<p>SALE PENDING</p>  <p>305 Parker Ave., Tracy Fixer upper offering much potential. 3bd, 1.5bth ready for personal touch \$50,000</p>	<p>SALE PENDING</p>  <p>1746 S Attica St., Knoxville Nestled in a peaceful rural location, beautifully updated 1 bedroom home \$119,000</p>	<p>SALE PENDING</p>  <p>814 E Marion St., Knoxville Beautifully updated 3 bed, 1.5 bath, featuring modern finishes & upgrades \$139,000</p>	<p>SALE PENDING</p>  <p>113 W Main St, Knoxville Well maintained commercial building downtown, investment opportunity \$160,000</p>	<p>SOLD</p>  <p>919 Marion St., Des Moines Charming fixer upper located in a lovely quiet neighborhood in SDSM. \$100,000</p>	
	<p>SALE PENDING</p>  <p>1483 Newbold Dr., Knoxville Stunning ranch style home on 2.16 acres. Spacious 4 bed, 3 bath. \$369,900</p>	<p>SALE PENDING</p>  <p>605 E Competine St, Knoxville You won't want to miss out on this recently remodeled home, great location \$189,900</p>	<p>SOLD</p>  <p>405 E Jefferson St, Knoxville Charming 2 bedroom home with a recently updated and inviting porch. \$128,000</p>	<p>SOLD</p>  <p>1440 W North Shore Dr, Knoxville 4 bdrm, 3 bth home with over 2,500 sq. ft. of living space in Knoxville Estates \$349,900</p>	<p>SOLD</p>  <p>409 N Roche St., Knoxville Recently renovated split foyer, a little over 1600 sq. ft., 4 bed, 2 bath \$189,000</p>	

We are ready to serve you!



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Broker/Owner
641-218-9938



Tim Vermeer
Realtor
641-891-0490



Hannah Vander Veer
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Sara Roberts
Realtor
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January 27-February 01

-KNOXVILLE ONLY- #54499

Fareway Cinnamon or Cherry Jelly Hearts
16 oz.

\$2⁸⁸

-Limit 4 total - Valid thru Jan. 24 - Feb 01

-KNOXVILLE ONLY- #54500

Blue Ribbon Classic Ice Cream
4 qt.

\$5⁹⁹

-Limit 1 total - Valid thru Jan. 24 - Feb 01

-KNOXVILLE ONLY- #54501

Fareway Microwave Popcorn
6 ct.

\$2⁴⁸

-Limit 2 total - Valid thru Jan. 24 - Feb 01

-KNOXVILLE ONLY- #54502

Whole Boneless Pork Loins

\$2²⁹ lb.

Valid thru Jan. 24 - Feb 01

February 03-08

-KNOXVILLE ONLY- #54503

Brach's Cinnamon or Jelly Hearts
12 oz.

\$2⁹⁹

-Limit 2 total - Valid thru February 03-08

-KNOXVILLE ONLY- #54504

M&M's Valentines Candies
9.84-10 oz.

\$3⁹⁹

-Limit 2 total - Valid thru February 03-08

-KNOXVILLE ONLY- #54505

Queen Anne Chocolate Covered Cherries
10 ct. All Var.

\$2⁴⁷

-Limit 2 total - Valid thru February 03-08

-KNOXVILLE ONLY- #54506

Beef Crock Pot Roast

\$5⁹⁹ lb.

Valid thru February 03-08

February 10-15

-KNOXVILLE ONLY- #54507

Fareway Glacier or Fudge Bars
12 ct.

\$2⁷⁷

-Limit 2 total - Valid thru February 10-15

-KNOXVILLE ONLY- #54508

Van de Kamp's Fish
All Var. 18-24.6 oz.

\$4⁹⁹

-Limit 2 total - Valid thru February 10-15

-KNOXVILLE ONLY- #54509

Hostess Donettes
9.5-11.25 oz.

\$1⁹⁹

-Limit 2 total - Valid thru February 10-15

-KNOXVILLE ONLY- #54510

Oven Ready Ham & Pork Meatballs

\$4⁹⁹ lb.

Valid thru February 10-15

February 17-22

-KNOXVILLE ONLY- #54511

King's Hawaiian Rolls or Butter Rolls
12 ct.

\$2⁹⁹

-Limit 2 total - Valid thru February 17-22

-KNOXVILLE ONLY- #54512

Clyde's Apple or Frech Toast Fritters

\$3⁷⁷

-Limit 3 total - Valid thru February 17-22

-KNOXVILLE ONLY- #54513

Natures Own Premium Select Bird Seed
40 lb.

\$18⁸⁸

-Limit 2 - Valid thru February 17-22

-KNOXVILLE ONLY- #54514

Thick Cut Boneless Pork Chops
8 oz.

\$1⁸⁸ ea.

-Limit 10 - Valid thru February 17-22

MARION COUNTY
Messenger
Your dependable hometown shopper and more

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Juanita at the Looking Glass

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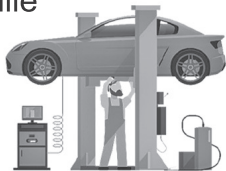
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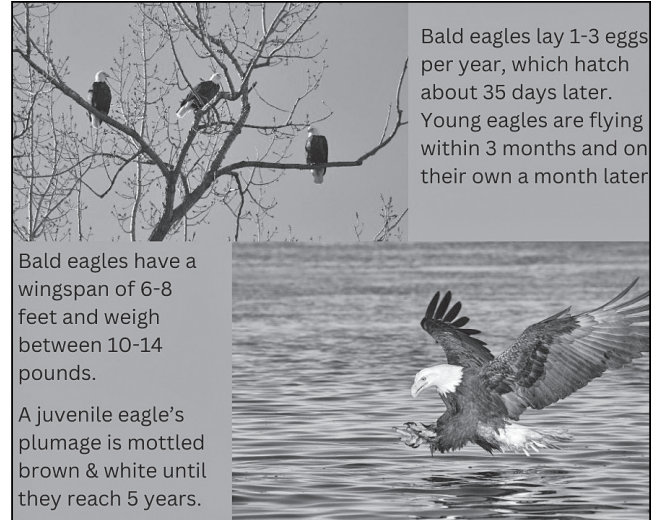
Flax's Barber Shop



After 58 years of styling hair, I am forced to hang up my scissors and clippers (retire).

I want to thank all of my dedicated customers for making my work so much fun. I will miss each and every one of you.

Betty



Bald eagles lay 1-3 eggs per year, which hatch about 35 days later. Young eagles are flying within 3 months and on their own a month later

Bald eagles have a wingspan of 6-8 feet and weigh between 10-14 pounds.

A juvenile eagle's plumage is mottled brown & white until they reach 5 years.

Have you spied a bald eagle this winter? Winter is one of the best times for bald eagle viewing. Head over to Horns Ferry Bridge Area to watch them soar, fish and roost in the trees. Share your eagle viewing experience in the comment section of the Marion County Conservation Facebook. (Courtesy of Marion County Conservation)



KNOXVILLE

Prowlers

12U Softball Fundraiser

Puzzle Night

To sign up:
Contact Jordan Swayne
641-891-1326

- \$200 per table
- 500 Piece Puzzle
- Groups of 4-6 people per table.
- Drinks will be available for purchase
- Bring your own snacks
- 1st team to complete their puzzle will receive \$300 cash
- 2nd team - \$200 cash
- 3rd team \$100 cash

***Proceeds will go to tournament entries, practice field rentals and all other costs associated for a travel softball team.**

March
22

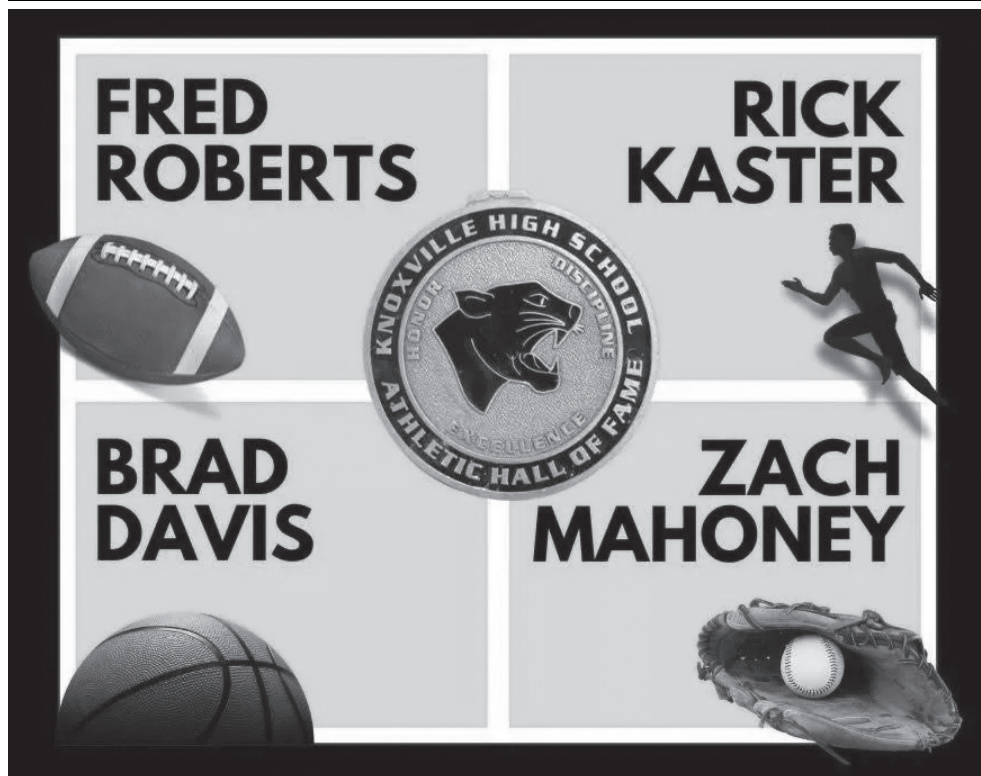
5:00PM-10:00PM

Raffles

- Yeti Cooler
- Solo Stove and Camp Chairs
- Bogg Bag Bundle Raffle

Dyer Hudson Hall

(1000 N Lincoln St. Knoxville, IA 50138)



Knoxville High School Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Luncheon

The Knoxville High School Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Luncheon is Friday, February 7th at noon at the National Sprint Car Hall of Fame.

The 20th Hall of Fame Class includes football player Fred Roberts from

the class of 1926, basketball player Brad Davis from the class of 1999, baseball player Zach Mahoney from the class of 2000, and cross country runner Rick Kaster from the class of 1981.

Tickets are now on sale for the event, which can

be purchased by calling or messaging Joe Cunnigham at 641-828-6173 or jcunning73@gmail.com. There will also be a medal ceremony between the girls and boys varsity basketball games that night against Albia.



Front row (L-R): Eli Vos, McKenna Lewin, Calee Ademeit, Hudson Cox, Jace Heiden, Trisha Schwerdtfeger. Second Row (L-R): Robert Poppe, McKenzie Kersbergen, Vanessa Szlachetka, Amber Angove, and Amanda Schwerdtfeger

Marion County Bank Hosts Inaugural Bucks for Baskets in Melcher-Dallas

Marion County Bank hosted its inaugural Bucks for Baskets event at Melcher-Dallas on Tuesday, January 14. Prior to the event, students participated in a schoolwide competition to determine who would take the court at halftime, where four finalists had the chance to earn money for

their school. Held in the school's new gym with a passionate crowd cheering them on, the students earned a total of \$1,350 by sinking layups, free throws, and long-range shots. Marion County Bank is proud to support local schools and appreciates everyone who participated

and attended. Since 2004, Marion County Bank's halftime events have earned over \$159,000 for area schools. Marion County Bank thanks all the students for participating in the halftime event and looks forward to bringing the event back next year.

Purchase your tickets now for Mommy/son and Daddy/daughter dances

Continued from page 1
locations will have physical tickets. Tickets will be on sale until January 31st, which is ALMOST HERE SO ACT FAST.

What to expect: FUN! Lots of fun making memories with your child that will last a lifetime. I know this was a highlight in my children's lives when they were young and we at Freedom for Youth - Knoxville want you to have those memories too.

When you arrive you will have the opportunity to get your professional photo taken by Treasured Portraits with your child(ren) for just \$20 cash or check.

We will have bingo, crafts, and snacks.

The kids get a chance to earn a raffle ticket for a prize at the end of the dance.

We have also hired an AMAZING DJ so be sure to wear your dancing shoes. The DJ will also have games throughout the event so be sure to check out the schedule that will be posted outside the dance area.

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

This is a formal event and a chance to dress up. Corsages and boutonnieres can be purchased at Candi's flowers. Small corsage is \$15, large is \$25, boutonnieres are \$10. Those pre-orders need to be in by January 31st.

We are asking you to refrain from using your phones and want to encourage you to be in the moment. There will be someone taking candid photos that night and will give you access to those pictures.

Finally, we thank you for joining us this year and hope to have many more for years to come. Please be sure to thank Spire for helping to sponsor this year's dances. If you are interested in sponsoring this event or others that we do throughout the year please reach out to Anna at ahumeston@freedomforyouth.org or call/text 641-820-0694. All profits go to Freedom for Youth - Knoxville, a local after school program.



Order your Daddy/daughter dance tickets here.



Order your Mommy/son dance tickets here.



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<p>NEW LISTING 1213 Hwy 14 ~ \$530,000 4 Bed / 3 Bath / 2-Car Garage + Shop</p>	<p>701 W Middle Street ~ \$109,500 2 Bed / 1 Bath / Garage</p>
<p>NEW PRICE 1733 S Attica Street ~ \$215,000 3 Bed / 2 Bath / 2-Car Garage</p>	<p>NEW PRICE 1737 Ashwood Drive SW, Altoona ~ \$429,500 5 Bed / 3.5 Bath / 3-Car Garage</p>
<p>NEW PRICE 1006 W Jefferson Street ~ \$224,000 4 Bed / 2 Bath / 2-Car Garage</p>	<p>NEW PRICE - COMMERCIAL 119 S Third Street ~ \$79,900 Highly Visible Commercial Space</p>
<p>209 N 7th Street ~ \$120,000 3 Bed / 1 Bath / Garage</p>	<p>*Fountain View Condo Lots 4 Units / 55+ Living ~ \$27,500 each</p>
<p>PENDING ~ 210 W Larson Street SOLD ~ 1005 W Madison Street</p>	<p>SOLD ~ 412 S Harlan Street SOLD ~ 102 Church Street, Melcher-Dallas</p>

DID YOU KNOW? WE CAN SHOW YOU ANY LISTED PROPERTIES?

"People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." - Theodore Roosevelt



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Left: Marion County Bank representatives with SSELC board mebers in front of their new "Banker Buddies" room dedication. Center: Pella Corporation representatives in front of their new "Innovation Station" room dedication. Right: Weiler foundation representatives in front of their new "Paving Pals" room dedication.

Update from Stepping Stones Early Learning Center: "Step Up" capital campaign

Representatives from Marion County Bank, Weiler Foundation, and Pella Corporation stopped in before the new year to check out their new room plaques honoring their businesses for making a \$50,000+ donation to the center during their "STEP-UP" capital campaign.

Marion County Bank
 "Stepping Stones Early Learning Center demonstrates an unwavering commitment to serving the children and families of Knoxville and the surrounding communities. All of us here at Marion County Bank are honored to support their efforts through our donation and to further our shared mission of serving other and building a stronger community says Vice President, Marketing Director Ryan Vos.

Weiler
 When asked why Weiler

chose to support the "STEP UP" campaign, Weiler Foundation member Katelyn Freeseaman said "Weiler employs many young professionals, and a big part of having a reliable workforce is ensuring that those individuals have reliable daycare for their young children. Many Weiler employees send their kids to Stepping Stones, which is the only daycare center in Knoxville. Having sufficient availability for childcare is essential to our community and something Weiler is passionate about supporting.

Pella Corporation
 "At Pella Corporation, we believe in the power of education and community development to create brighter futures. We are committed to the communities where our team members live and work. This goes beyond monetary contributions; it is

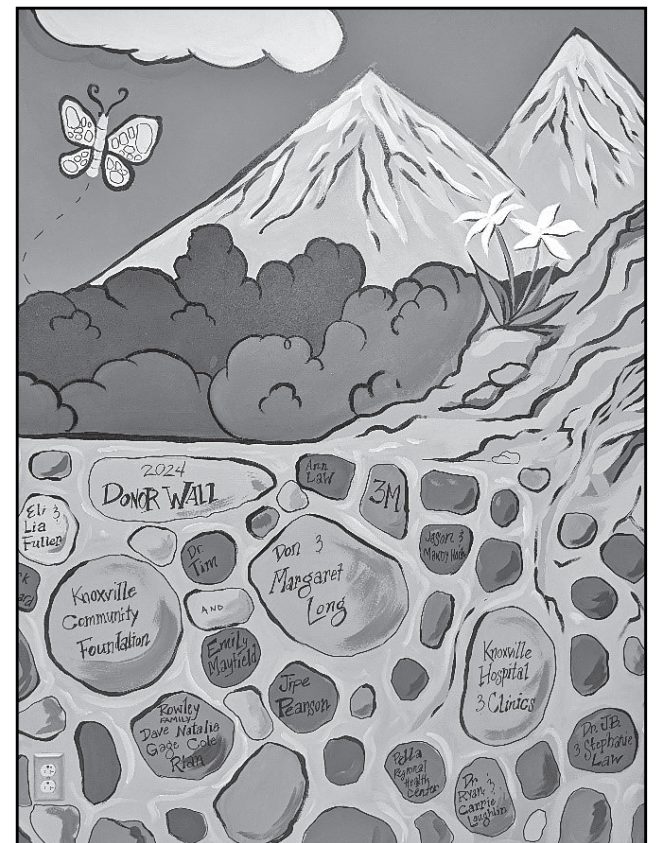
about actively participating and supporting causes that matter." Says Jessica Klyn de Novelo, Community Relations, and Foundation Manager.

As we "wrap up" the end of the 2024 year we are also bringing our "STEP UP" capital campaign to an end. We have spent the last year and a half raising funds to help our local child care center pay off the remaining balance on their mortgage. We are happy to announce that we have been successful in lowering our outstanding balance from \$800,000 to \$200,000 with the help of our local businesses and community members that we are proud to call our "friends to the center."

"To see small business, local business, people in our community step up to help us out is just heartwarming. They know the importance the center plays in Knoxville. They understand

the compassion that we have for helping kids get the best start to an education and they want to be part of it. We are blessed to live in a supportive rural community. Thank you to all of our donors. We are forever grateful for your kindness, generosity, and friendship. Donations are accepted all year long, please consider our local non-profit child care center" says SSELC Board Treasurer Stephanie Law.

Donations can be dropped off or mailed to the center at: Stepping Stones Early Learning Center, 300 Panther Drive, Knoxville, Iowa 50138. Venmo donations can be sent to @knoxvillesteppingstones or you can visit our website at www.knoxvillesteppingstones.com and click the donate tab.



The donor wall inside Stepping Stones Early Learning Center.

Bags Tournament
 February 22nd, 2025
 10:00 AM registration
 11:00 AM bags fly

Hosted at:
The Gathering Grounds
 2125 Hwy 5
 Bussey, IA 50044

Proceeds go to the
 Bussey 4th of July
 Fireworks show

Dinner and DJ to follow
 bags tournament

You Made It Through

5wks | 5wks

Nov. 16th | Jan. 22nd

Winter Solstice
 Dec. 21st

THE 10 DARKEST WEEKS OF THE YEAR



Left to right: Jeff Jorgenson, Open Air Education, with 100+ Men Red Rock leadership team members Dave Van Gorp, Jerry Van Wyk, and Dean Vanryswick

100+ Men Red Rock donated \$5,000 to Open Air Education

About Open Air Education
Open Air Education is an organization that was built to eliminate barriers to entry to aviation trades. We're ambassadors that promote aviation as an ideal STEM learning platform. Aviation affects nearly everyone, but few know much about it because it's taught in most public schools. We're making aviation accessible, affordable and achievable.
<https://openairflightclub.com/>

About 100+ Men Red Rock
We are a group of men committed to giving back to

the Lake Red Rock area by financially supporting the charitable organizations that serve the Red Rock region. We hold quarterly meetings to support local causes using a simple model:

100+ participating men x \$100 contribution = \$10,000+ to local charities in the Red Rock region.

Since our founding in 2015, we have been proud to have given \$300,000+ back to Red Rock organizations, a milestone that we surpassed in the third quarter.

<https://100menredrock.com/>

February is National Heart Month. Do you know the difference between cardiac arrest and a heart attack?

People often use these terms interchangeably, but they are not the same.

What is Cardiac Arrest?
CARDIAC ARREST occurs when the heart malfunctions and stops beating unexpectedly.

Cardiac arrest is an "ELECTRICAL" problem.

Cardiac arrest is triggered by an electrical malfunction in the heart that causes an irregular heartbeat (arrhythmia). With its pumping action disrupted, the heart cannot pump blood to the brain, lungs and other organs.

What Happens
Seconds later, a person becomes unresponsive, is not breathing or is only gasping. Death occurs within minutes if the victim does not receive treatment.

What to Do
Cardiac arrest can be reversible in some victims if it's treated within a few minutes.

First, call your local emergency number and start CPR right away.

Then, if an Automated External Defibrillator

(AED) is available, use it as soon as possible.

If two people are available to help, one should begin CPR immediately while the other calls your local emergency number and finds an AED.

Cardiac arrest is a leading cause of death.

Cardiac arrest affects thousands of people annually with about three quarters of them occurring in the home.

What is a Heart Attack?
A HEART ATTACK occurs when blood flow to the heart is blocked.

A heart attack is a "CIRCULATION" problem.

A blocked artery prevents oxygen-rich blood from reaching a section of the heart. If the blocked artery is not reopened quickly, the part of the heart normally nourished by that artery begins to die.

What Happens?
Symptoms of a heart attack may be immediate and may include intense discomfort in the chest or other areas of the upper body, shortness of breath, cold sweats, and/

or nausea/vomiting. More often, though, symptoms start slowly and persist for hours, days or weeks before a heart attack. Unlike with cardiac arrest, the heart usually does not stop beating during a heart attack. The longer the person goes without treatment, the greater the damage.

The heart attack symptoms in women can be different than men (shortness of breath, nausea/vomiting, and back or jaw pain).

What to Do
Even if you're not sure it's a heart attack, call your local emergency number. Every minute matters! It's best to call your local emergency number to get to the emergency room right away.

Emergency medical services (EMS) staff can begin treatment when they arrive — up to an hour sooner than if someone gets to the hospital by car. EMS staff are also trained to

revive someone whose heart has stopped. Patients with chest pain who arrive by ambulance usually receive faster treatment at the hospital, too.

What is the Link?
Most heart attacks do not lead to cardiac arrest. But when cardiac arrest occurs, heart attack is a common cause. Other conditions may also disrupt the heart's rhythm and lead to cardiac arrest.

Fast action can save lives.
For more information on American Heart Association CPR training classes in your area go to heart.org/cpr.

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100+ Men Red Rock Donates \$57,525 to Local Organizations in 2024

100+ Men Red Rock is a group of more than 150 local men giving back to the Lake Red Rock area by donating funds to non-profit organizations and other causes that serve the Red Rock region in Marion County, Prairie City, and Monroe.

In 2024, the organization donated \$57,325 to 10 local organizations – Clay Township Fire & Rescue, Marion County Humane Society, The Gathering Place, South Central Iowa FCA, Sheepgate, Knoxville Federated Garden Club, Celebrate Church Food Pantry, Helping Hands, Panther Food Pantry, and Open Air Education.

Since 2015, 100+ Men Red Rock has raised and given back \$325,525 to

local entities.

2025 marks the group's 10th year of supporting the Red Rock area. According to Tony Briggs, 100+ Men Red Rock President, the group has big plans to celebrate its 10th anniversary in 2025 and increase its impact.

"Our membership has grown significantly over the years, now exceeding 150 members, says Briggs. "We'd like to continue steady growth of our members, while contributing over \$60,000 to local charitable organizations in the coming year."

Briggs says the 100+ Men model is fairly simple. The group hosts one meeting each quarter, at a site in a different Red Rock community each time.

After a time of

fellowship and food, members can nominate a charitable organization for consideration during the business meeting portion.

The causes that are nominated must reside in and serve the Red Rock community. Three nominees are chosen randomly at the meeting, and the nominator is given five minutes to make a presentation on behalf of the organization. The group then votes by secret ballot, with the majority ruling.

Each member donates \$100 per quarter (\$400 per year). The group awards funds to two recipients each quarter. The top vote-getter receives \$10,000, and the remaining funds are given to the runner-up.

The next 100+ Men Red Rock meeting will be

held at Smokey Row in Pleasantville on February 11. Briggs invites men who are interested in making a difference to check out the meeting.

"There is no commitment to join or give for anyone attending the first time," says Briggs. "Just come, catch up with some familiar faces, meet some new people, and see what we're all about."

To register for the February 11 meeting, view upcoming meeting dates and locations, and to learn more about 100+ Men Red Rock, visit <https://100menredrock.com>, on Facebook (@100MenRedRock), or on Instagram (@100momrr).



Local realtor supports Habitat for Humanity's Critical Home Repair program

Habitat for Humanity of Marion County's Critical Home Repair Program got a big jumpstart for 2025, thanks to local Realtor Joshua Jenkins.

Jenkins' \$10,000 gift will help ensure owner-occupied homes in Melcher-Dallas and Pleasantville have the repairs needed to stay safe and warm this winter.

"Growing up in Melcher-Dallas and now living in Pleasantville, I know firsthand how some of our friends and neighbors are in need of assistance," says Jenkins. "As a Realtor, my goal is to help as many families as I can to buy or sell homes and enjoy home ownership. When I learned about Habitat's Critical Home Repair Program, I knew this was a terrific

way for me to give back to communities I care about and help ensure more people can live better within their own homes."

Last year, Habitat for Humanity completed \$300,000 in critical home repairs in Marion County, projects like roof replacements, HVAC repairs and ramp installations for neighbors who need better access to their homes.

"We had a busy 2024," says Amy Meyer, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Marion County. "But we expended all our funding around October and knew we had to raise additional funds to support people this winter."

The community stepped up in a big way, donating more

Continued on page 11

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Knoxville Teenager Brings Her Passion for Helping Others to Patients at Knoxville Hospital & Clinics

Continued from page 1
confidence and a positive attitude.

“Watching my grandpa continue to be a light even in his darkest days motivated me to help others find joy in all parts of their life,” shared Abi. “When Knoxville

Hospital & Clinics (KHC) opened the Don & Margaret Long Infusion Center, filling it with people just like my grandpa who are fighting a courageous fight, it inspired me to try and bring them a little comfort and joy.”

In the fall of 2024, Abi

established her non-profit organization, Radiant, with its purpose of empowering individuals through service, education, and responsibility. Her first project has been partnering with KHC and making comfort bags for infusion patients.

Abi has been collecting items for the comfort bags through a donation site set up at Elite Dance by Nicole [located at 203 E. Main Street in Knoxville] where people can donate items to be included in the bags. She made her first delivery to KHC on January 13.

“I am extremely grateful for this opportunity to bring joy to the patients,” said Abi. “Collecting items is the fun part of the project and I love to see how our community comes together. There is no item not appreciated and I love the ability to make each bag a little different.”

When receiving an infusion, patients can be at KHC for upwards of four hours, so it’s nice to provide a variety of items for the patient to find comfort and help pass the time.

Items in the comfort bags

include a variety of items like gum, mints, activity books, pens, journals, books, socks, blankets, lotions, chap stick, water bottles— anything that one would find comforting during their time in the infusion center. In addition to the items in the comfort bags is a special card of encouragement for the recipient of the bag. In October, Abi participated in KHC’s annual Girls Night Out event where she not only accepted donations for the comfort bags but also asked people to write a card of encouragement.

“It was so sweet and meaningful seeing the cards that were created,” said Abi. Abi’s inspiration to create Radiant was sparked two years ago when she began competing in pageants. In her first year of competing, Abi shares that she saw so many inspirational girls creating organizations and making a difference.

“Seeing all the amazing things that others were doing, really gave me the confidence to create my own project to make a difference in people’s lives.”

Continuing her passion

for helping others, Abi was recently crowned Miss Iowa Teen Volunteer where the pageant was largely focused on volunteer and community involvement. Now through March you will see her doing several events and fundraisers throughout Knoxville and other local communities reaching as many people as possible.

In March, she will be competing in the National pageant in Tennessee to be crowned Miss Teen Volunteer America.

“What is exciting about competing in this pageant is the focus on volunteerism and the extraordinary opportunity to partner with the Salvation Army and St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital,” Abi shared. “Sharing my passion for volunteering has been such a fun opportunity and every pageant I enter I hope to make my hometown of Knoxville and the state of Iowa proud.”

Abi is the daughter of Tyler and Nicole Vander Linden of Knoxville. When she is not busy competing in pageants and volunteering, she enjoys participating in

competitive dance and high school track and is actively involved in 4-H.

If you wish to join Abi in her passion of bringing comfort and joy to the infusion patients at KHC, items for the comfort bags can be dropped off at Elite Dance by Nicole Monday through Thursday from 5 to 7 p.m.

Knoxville Hospital & Clinics is a non-profit community hospital serving Marion County and the surrounding area. Named a Top 100 Critical Access Hospital, KHC’s highly skilled medical staff and specialists provide personal, compassionate, and innovative quality health care to patients. For more information regarding this release and other happenings at Knoxville Hospital & Clinics, call Public Relations at (641) 842-1418.



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Local realtor supports Habitat for Humanity's Critical Home Repair program

Continued from page 8
 than \$50,000 to help fill the gap until a local housing trust fund grant re-ups in February.

"We're so lucky for the support we received at the end of the year," says Meyer. "We never want to be in a

position where a furnace or water heater goes out, and we can't help. Thanks to donors like Joshua, we have the funds we need to help people in an emergency."

Applications for both the new homes as well as critical home repair can

be found online at www.hfhmci.org, picked up at the Habitat for Humanity office at 2004 Hempstead Drive in Pella, or emailed or mailed, if needed. If you have questions, please contact the Habitat for Humanity office at 641-828-8844.



Donation photo. From left—Robert Claypool (LSB), Val Stewart (LSB), Shannon De Bruin (LSB), Dwaine Knouse (LSB), Christopher Watkins (MCD), Carla Eysink (MCD), Steve Fopma (LSB)

Leighton State Bank Supports Marion County Development Entrepreneurial Event

Leighton State Bank President & CEO Steve Fopma and loan staff invited Carla Eysink and Christopher Watkins of Marion County Development to accept a \$1,000 donation for the Red Rock StartUP! program.

The StartUP! pitch event on April 14, billed as "Shark Tank without the sharks," allows applicants to showcase their ideas to receive a business startup grant. "The Red Rock StartUP! program is an opportunity to elevate entrepreneurship in the county as well as provide grants to startup businesses to enhance their operations," stated Eysink, MCD Director. "Through partnerships with our sponsors, we can provide startup businesses selected for the live pitch

event grants, which can be used to build a website or purchase equipment to foster their business growth and coaching to help them develop their business plan." Community leaders, business leaders, and potential investors are invited to attend, and the event is open to the public. Finalists will have the option of working with a business coach to improve their pitch for round two.

"Small businesses have long been integral to the United States economy. Leighton State Bank, a fellow small business that got its start in 1911, is pleased to join in supporting the Red Rock StartUP! event. We are excited to provide a platform for prospective entrepreneurs to make their business PITCH and have the opportunity to

START," said LSB's Fopma. Community banks have long supported small business growth. The St. Louis Fed reports that community banks have larger shares of small-business loans relative to their total assets than larger institutions. "Supporting local financial institutions is an investment in our community. By choosing to bank locally, you're not just opening an account; you're fostering economic growth, strengthening community ties, and ensuring your financial future is intertwined with the prosperity of the place you call home," said Watkins, MCD Assistant Director.

For more information about the program, visit <https://www.marioncountyia.com/business/startups/>.



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Obituaries



Corey Lane Lester

Corey Lane Lester was born August 25, 1971 in Centerville, Iowa the son of Steven F. Lester and Lorraine J. (Van Essen) Phillips.

As Corey was growing up, his family lived in Centerville, Pleasantville, and Tracy. He graduated from Twin Cedars High School with the Class of 1989. He then embarked on his career, working for Pella Corp. On August 25, 1990 Corey was united in marriage to the love of his life, Pamela Wright and the couple made their home in Pleasantville.

In his spare time, Corey enjoyed going to concerts. He was a handyman and could fix nearly anything. Corey was a devoted husband, father and Papa. He loved attending his kid's sporting events and being a grandfather.

Corey passed away Monday, December 16, 2024 at the Pella Regional Health Center at the age of 53 years.

He was preceded in death by his father, Steven and his brother, Chad Steven Lester.

Those left to honor Corey's memory include his wife, Pam; children: Cass (Halla) Lester and their children, Maddux and Moxon; Sierra (Zach) Hutton and their children, Ella and Gable and Cael (Erica Blankenship) Lester; mother, Lorraine (John) Phillips; siblings: Christine (Victor) Allen and Carl (Madison Martin) Phillips and many other family members and friends.

A funeral service for Corey Lester, age 53 of Pleasantville, was held Saturday, December 21, 2024 at the Indianola Community Church. The family received friends one hour prior to the service at the church. Burial was in Pleasantville Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Pleasantville Youth Initiative at <https://pvilleyi.org/take-action>. Mason Funeral Home is

handling arrangements and online condolences may be left at www.BertrandFuneralHomes.com.



Karen Sue Carter-Seibert

Karen Sue Carter-Seibert was born on September 30, 1953, in Belmond, Iowa, the daughter of Ray and Carol (Groth) Kennedy. Karen grew up in Walcott, Iowa, the oldest of five siblings.

On January 27, 1972, Karen was united in marriage to Danny Russell Carter at the United Methodist Church in Ames, Iowa. To this union, five children added laughter and shenanigans: Jeremiah, Elisa, Joel, Jonathan, and Josiah.

Karen graduated from Central Bible College in Springfield, Missouri and was ordained with the Assemblies of God. Karen served the Church in many ways, always looking to

bring the communities where she lived closer together. Harvey Assembly of God held a special spot in Karen's heart. In 1997, Karen began her work at Pella Corporation. She worked in Human Resources and Payroll until her retirement. She developed many enduring friendships with coworkers.

Karen loved her 50 wooded acres and pond. She welcomed her kids and grandkids to enjoy adventures in nature with her. Her pride in the land showed in her landscaping and love for the flora and fauna...except the moles. There was no end to the love she had for her dogs; treasured is an understatement.

Karen was united in marriage to Dennis Seibert on May 9, 2015. The couple enjoyed traveling, gardening and making music together. They were always laughing and enjoying each other's company. They had many wonderful years together.

Karen passed away on Wednesday, January 1, 2025, at the Comfort House, in Pella, at the

age of 71 years. She was surrounded by family, love, and prayers.

She was preceded in death by her father, Ray Kennedy; husband, Dan Carter; and stepson, Rick Seibert.

Those left to honor Karen's memory include:

Beloved Husband: Dennis Seibert Mother: Carol Kennedy Children: Jeremiah and Jozana Carter (Clayton and Evelyn); Elisa and Doug Klahsen (Annaleigh and Elaine); Joel and Sarah Carter (Josiah, Hudson, Mack, Holiday, and Hodges); Jonathan and Allyson Carter (Poe and Beck) and Josiah and Megan Carter (June, Genavieve, and Oliver)

Stepchildren: Conrad and Christina Carter (Laura, Anthony, and Paige); Ebon and Rancee Carter (Elizabeth and Hannah); Denise and Pat Rawls (Tylor and Chelsea)

Siblings: Stan and Lorraine Kennedy; Jeff and Judy Kennedy; Jennifer and Rick Byriel; Gordon and Patty Kennedy

Many other cherished family members (Selina, Layne, Brianna), friends, Sunday School kids and

church.

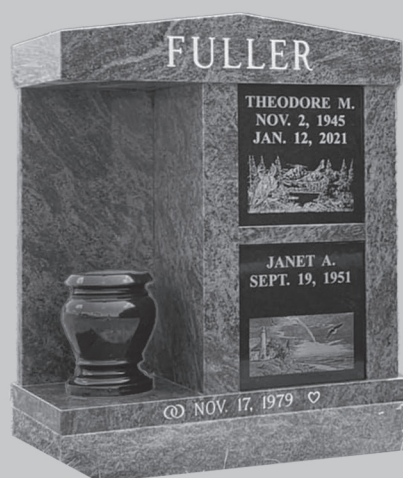
Karen loved sharing God's love to all His children. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse. Samaritan's Purse, PO Box 3000, Boone, NC 28607 or www.samaritanspurse.org

Any errors in this writing are because Karen was not available for proofreading.

A Funeral Service for Karen Carter-Seibert, age 71 of New Sharon, was held Saturday, January 11, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. at First Church in Pella, Iowa. The family received friends two hours prior to the service at the church. Burial was held at Peoria Cemetery at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse. Samaritan's Purse, PO Box 3000, Boone, NC 28607 or www.samaritanspurse.org. Bybee & Davis Funeral Home is handling arrangements and online condolences may be left at www.BertrandFuneralHomes.com.



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Obituaries



**Elizabeth Ann
"Betty" Moll**

Elizabeth Ann "Betty" Moll was born March 13, 1942 in Storm Lake, Iowa the daughter of Walter and Mamie (Kacmarynski) Guntren.

Betty was raised in the Storm Lake area and graduated from St. Mary's High School. Following graduation, Betty attended nursing school at Broadlawns in Des Moines, Iowa. After attaining her Registered Nurse Degree, Betty worked at the V.A. Medical Center in Knoxville, Iowa. She later received her BSN Degree from Buena Vista University. On November 19, 1966 she was united in marriage to Clarence Moll. Betty also worked at the original West Ridge Nursing Home before retiring from the V.A. Never an

idle person, Betty began working as a volunteer coordinator the D.H.S. office in Knoxville, before being hired full time as the Central Point Coordinator for Marion County. She retired for the final time in 2014.

In her spare time, Betty served St. Anthony Catholic Church on various committees and boards through the years. She also volunteered at Neighbor Helping Neighbor and Kinship Mentoring Programs.

Betty passed away Saturday, January 4, 2025 at West Ridge Nursing & Rehab Center at the age of 82 years.

In addition to her parents, Betty was preceded in death by her husband, Clarence; niece, Emily Harper; nephew, Rodney Dannels; sister-in-law Susan Guntren and sister-in-law, Helen and her husband, Robert Dannels.

Those left to cherish Betty's memory include her sons: David of Des Moines and Michael of Knoxville; siblings: Mary

Nicolls, Robert Guntren, Richard (Dodie) Guntren, Raymond (Karen) Guntren and Jeanie (Earl) Harper and many other family members and friends.

A Mass of Christian Burial for Elizabeth "Betty" Moll, age 82 of Knoxville, was held Saturday, January 18, 2025 at St. Anthony Catholic Church. A Rosary was recited on Friday, January 17 at St. Anthony Church and the family received friends at the church. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Food for the Poor, St. Joseph's Indian School or to St. Anthony Catholic Church. Bybee & Davis Funeral Home is handling arrangements and online condolences may be left at www.BertrandFuneralHomes.com.



**Cecelia Ann Hansen
Mesecher**

Cecelia Ann Hansen Mesecher was born March 15, 1941 in Ottumwa, Iowa the daughter of Leo and Muriel (Venator) Hansen.

She was raised in Ottumwa, graduating from Ottumwa High School with the Class of 1959. Following high school Cecelia worked for the Boy Scouts of America. On a blind date, at the Iowa State Fair, Cecelia met her future husband, Richard Darrell Mesecher. Cecelia and Dick were married January 7, 1967. They lived in Des Moines, before making their permanent home in Pleasantville. Through the years, Cecelia worked for the Ruan Company, Shorty's Steakhouse, The Marion County News, The Checkerboard and operated a cake decorating business

from home. She and Dick owned Video Valley, an arcade game room business and Mesecher Sanitation. Cecelia and Dick attended the Iowa State Fair every year celebrating the memory of their first date. They began State Fair camping with their children and grandchildren as a yearly extended family vacation. She was well known around central Iowa for the lavish decorations outside of their home on State St., which celebrated major holidays.

Cecelia passed away Saturday, December 21, 2024 at Accura Healthcare of Pleasantville at the age of 83 years.

In addition to her parents, Cecelia was preceded in death by her husband, Dick and her siblings: Mitchell Hansen, Ronald Hansen, Donald Hansen, Daniel Hansen, Mary Youngman, Sharon Doty, Michael Hansen, Patrick Hansen, Hugh Hansen and Brigetta Hansen.

Those left to cherish Cecelia's memory include her children: Merri Lea (Tim) DeWit, Ronda

Dee (Scott) Wicks and Donnie Dean Mesecher; grandchildren: James De Wit (Heather Satterly), Ryan DeWit (Bridget Karnik), Kirk Wicks (Allison Anderson) Jacob Wicks, Benjamin Wicks, Kyla Mesecher and Kelton Milani. Along with many nieces, nephews and other family members and friends.

A Funeral Service for Cecelia Mesecher, age 83 of Pleasantville, was held Thursday, December 26 at Mason Funeral Home. Burial will follow in Pleasantville Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Pleasantville E.M.S. The family invites all to share a meal at the Memorial Hall after the service. Mason Funeral Home is handling arrangements and online condolences may be left at www.BertrandFuneralHomes.com.



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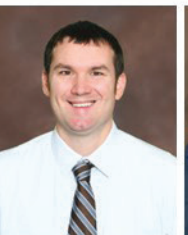
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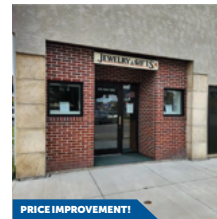


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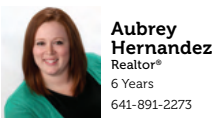
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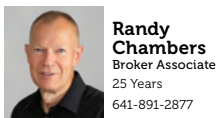
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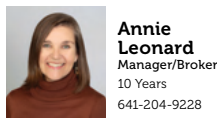
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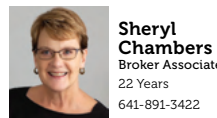
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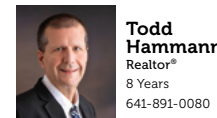
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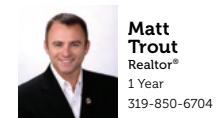
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