

Obituary

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He was proud of his children's accomplishments. He spent as much time as he could with his family in his short life.

Derik passed away unexpectedly on April 18, 2024. He was preceded in death by his grandparents Almeda M Estes, Richard D Estes, David Estes, and Joyce Estes (Andrews).

Those left to cherish his memory include his wife Megan, children Chloe-17, Aden-16, Gage-14, Cyrus-11, all of Clearfield; parents Deborah J Estes of St.

Joseph, MO; father David Estes of Creston, IA; sister Kendra M. Estes of St Joseph, MO; brother Eric D. Estes of Platte City, MO; half-siblings Katie Estes of St Joseph, MO and Walker Estes of Pattonsburg, MO; in-laws David S. Rapson and Lisa Rapson of St Joseph, MO; brother-in-law David Scott Rapson & wife and kids, all of Leavensworth, KS; grandparents-in-law Doug & Sherry Rapson and grandmother Rita Carr, all of Florida; several aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Obituary

JOHN HENRY BARBER

John Henry Barber was born November 7, 1947, to Manlea and Pearl (Senior) Barber in rural Bedford, Iowa. He attended school in Redding, Maloy and Mount Ayr and graduated in the US Army with his GED.

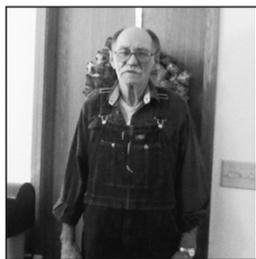
John was a construction worker in the Army in Vietnam and Alaska. He worked for local construction companies building ponds and roads and was in Des Moines working with McAninch and Elder Corporations.

John married Linda Hensley on April 25, 1970, in Grant City, Missouri. They enjoyed almost 54 years of marriage. To this union was born Dusty Verl in 1970 and Casey Lyle in 1977. His only grandson, Brenton Barber, was born to Casey and Charlotte Fletcher on August 10, 2000.

He enjoyed hunting with his favorite dog, Old Jim, and won many trophies with him. He also liked to fish and go mushroom hunting.

John tore down houses for materials to build the garage, CB shop and barn and helped with building their house 7 years ago. He ran the CB shop and enjoyed that until his health got worse.

John was diagnosed



John Henry Barber

with Alzheimer's in 2019 and was in the Alzheimer's unit in Clearview Home where he passed away on April 16, 2024, with hospice care.

John leaves his wife Linda; sons Dusty and Casey (Charlotte); grandson Brenton Barber; sister Keleta (Bill) Dunkeson; special cousin Madlyn Meek; sisters-in-law Myrna (Don) Harr, Dot Barber; brother-in-law Dick Hensley; nieces and nephews Bill Schuster, Belinda Jerald, Bea Weir, Barry Schuster, Kathy Quick, Kelly Roach, Karen Hill, Alex, Colby, Tyler, Kaylee, Henry, Laura, Jack, Sherry Hall, Scott (Dana) Harr; many great nieces and nephews, other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents Manlea and Pearl Barber; sister Frances; brother Tob; in-laws Verl & Nellie Hensley, sister-in-law Verlene; brothers-in-law Gary and Billy Hensley.

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PHYLLIS (SMITH) CREGEEN

Phyllis (Smith) Cregeen, 78, peacefully departed this world on April 12, 2024, in Rockford, IL.

Phyllis was born at home on February 8, 1946, to Cecil and Vesta Smith in Knowlton, Iowa. Phyllis married Dale Cregeen on June 19, 1966. In 1968, Phyllis and Dale Moved to Rockford. In July of that year, their son Douglas was born.

Phyllis is survived by husband Dale, son Douglas & (Debra) Cregeen; grandsons Mario (Stacy) McGuire and Jared (Melissa) McGuire; great granddaughters Haylee, Kyla, Keira, Harper and Finnley; sisters Irene Ayres and Barb Strange; brothers Jock (Robin) Smith and Gary (Brenda) Smith; sister-in-law Dorothy Smith. Phyllis also had many nieces and nephews and she loved them all.



Phyllis (Smith) Cregeen

She was preceded in death by her parents Cecil & Vesta Smith; sisters Betty Jean (Myran) Schnackenberg and Roxie (Charlie) Fletcher; brothers Cecil Edward Smith, Richard (Terry) Smith, John Smith and twins Lee and Dee Smith; brothers-in-law Bud Ayres and Bob Strange.

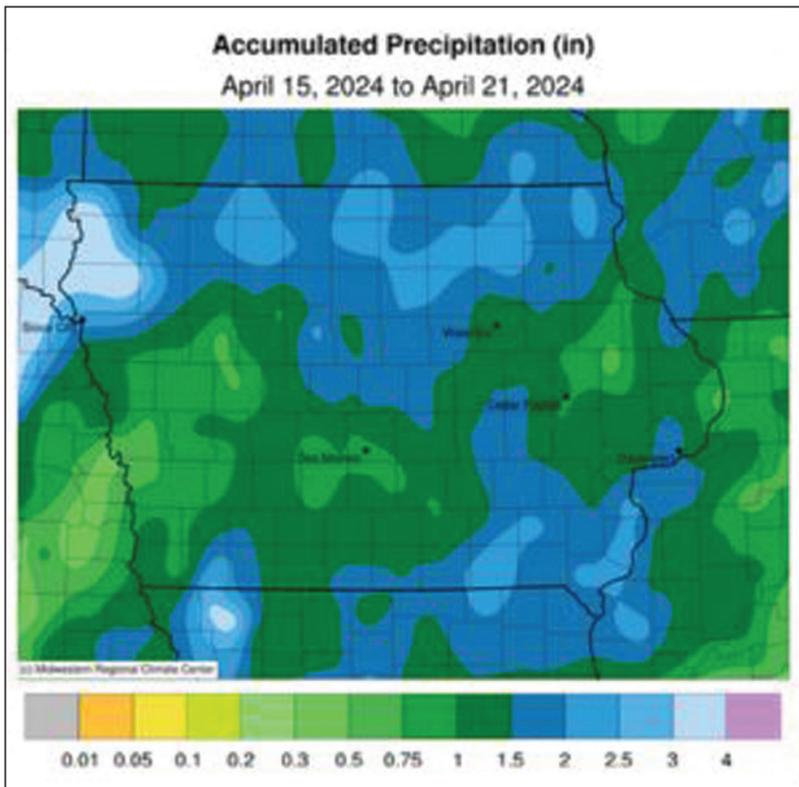
Memorials are to the American Cancer Society. Armstrong Funeral Home in Mount Ayr was in charge of the arrangements.

Funeral Notice

PARKER--Graveside services for A.J. Parker of Diagonal will be 2:15 p.m. Saturday, April 27 at the Rising Sun Cemetery, northwest of Diagonal. Family and friends are invited to meet at the United Church of Diagonal from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday and the funeral home will lead the procession out to the cemetery. A luncheon will follow back at

the church. Armstrong Funeral Home in Mount Ayr is in charge of the arrangements.

JOHNSON--Lloyd Johnson, 91, of Mount Ayr, passed away April 22. His services will be held later this week through Armstrong Funeral Home in Mount Ayr. His complete obituary will appear next week.



Iowa weekly weather summary released

Provided by Justin Glisan, Ph.D., State Climatologist, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

The first widespread severe weather event occurred early in the reporting period with all modes of hazards occurring through multiple waves of thunderstorms. At least 15 tornadoes were observed across Iowa along with large hail and straight-line winds. These thunderstorms brought widespread, above-average rainfall as well. Conditions were slightly warmer than average, especially over southern Iowa; the statewide average temperature was 51.6 degrees, 2.2 degrees above normal.

Sunday (14th) afternoon was sunny and unseasonably warm as daytime temperatures rose into the mid to upper 80s across southern Iowa; stations farther north reported upper 70s and low 80s while the statewide average high was 82 degrees, 22 degrees above normal.

Monday (15th) morning started with lows ranging from the mid 40s northeast to mid 50s southeast under clear skies and winds in a generally easterly direction. Afternoon highs returned to the upper 70s and low 80s with wind speeds rising as a strong low-pressure center approached Iowa. Thunderstorms pushed into southwestern Iowa towards midnight, expanding into northern Iowa before daybreak on Tuesday (16th). A second, stronger line formed during the later morning hours with embedded strong to severe thunderstorms.

The first tornado of the day formed near Minburn (Dallas County) and trav-

eled nearly seven miles, producing some structural damage. As the initial line strengthened and moved northeast, a more narrow but equally strong line formed behind, producing several severe and tornado-warned storms in eastern Iowa.

Enough wind shear and instability over northwestern Iowa fired off shallow-topped supercells that spun up a few weak tornadoes; Rockwell City (Calhoun County) experienced an EF-1-rated tornado with wind speeds estimated at 100 mph. A longer track EF-2 was observed near Salem (Henry County), producing winds near 130 mph and lasting for 42 miles; there were numerous hail and high wind events across the state as well.

Beneficial rain totals were observed across broad south-to-north swaths, particularly in northern and southeastern Iowa, with more than 110 stations collecting at least an inch; a station in Burlington (Des Moines County) reported 1.92 inches while Postville (Allamakee County) observed 2.62 inches with a statewide average of 0.74 inch.

Blustery, westerly winds built in as the system exited with overcast skies lingering into Wednesday (17th).

Daytime temperatures rose into the upper 60s over southwest Iowa where skies were clearing. Another weather disturbance brought additional rainfall to Iowa just before midnight and through much of Thursday (18th) with most stations observing at least 0.30 inch.

The wettest conditions were found in the north-

west and along the Iowa-Missouri border with numerous one-inch or greater totals; Le Mars (Plymouth County) measured an inch on the dot while two stations in Bloomfield (Davis County) recorded 1.93 to 1.97 inches. Skies began to clear late in the evening as morning lows on Friday (19th) dropped below freezing in northwest Iowa. Westerly winds increased through the day as spotty clouds drifted across the state with upper 40s north to upper 50s south.

Starry skies into Saturday (20th) allowed temperatures to settle in the low 30s statewide with persisting westerly winds.

Overcast conditions developed through the day with chilly temperatures in the mid 40s to low 50s; the statewide average high was 48 degrees, 15 degrees below normal. Skies cleared overnight with low to mid 20s registering in eastern Iowa on Sunday (21st) morning.

Weekly precipitation totals ranged from 0.51 inch in Sac City (Sac County) to 4.00 inches in Remsen (Plymouth County). The statewide weekly average precipitation was 1.58 inches, while the normal is 0.91 inch.

Winterset (Madison County) reported the week's high temperature of 89 degrees on the 14th, 29 degrees above average.

Elkader (Clayton County) reported the week's low temperature of 23 degrees on the 21st, 13 degrees below normal.

Four-inch soil temperatures were in the mid to upper 40s statewide with low 50s reported in far western Iowa as of Sunday.

Iowa Crop Progress and Condition Report

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig commented on the Iowa Crop Progress and Condition Report released by the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service.

The report is released weekly April through November. Additionally, the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship provides a weather summary each week during this time.

"Planters temporarily stopped rolling last week as thunderstorms produced severe weather across portions of Iowa along with above-average rainfall," Secretary Naig. "Warmer temperatures are forecasted this week with a more active weather pattern persisting as farmers look for windows of opportunity to get back into the field."

The weekly report is also available on the US-

DA's website at nass.usda.gov.

Crop Report

Although the week began with above normal temperatures, multiple storm systems brought cooler temperatures and much-needed rain, which only allowed Iowa farmers 3.0 days suitable for fieldwork during the week ending April 21, 2024, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Corn, soybean and oat planting continued this week when field conditions allowed. Topsoil moisture condition rated 10 percent very short, 27 percent short, 60 percent adequate and 3 percent surplus.

Subsoil moisture condition rated 19 percent very short, 36 percent short, 43 percent adequate and 2 percent surplus.

Corn planted reached 13

percent complete, 3 days ahead of last year and the 5-year average.

Eight percent of the expected soybean crop has been planted, 4 days ahead of last year and 6 days ahead of the average.

Seventy-eight percent of the expected oat crop has been planted, 1 week ahead of last year and 8 days ahead of the 5-year average.

Thirty-four percent of the oat crop has emerged, 10 days ahead of last year.

Pastures and hay ground continue to green up due to much-needed rain. No reports of cattle turned out onto pasture yet.

Sound advice:

"A man who stops advertising to save money is like a man who stops a clock to save time."

--Henry Ford

RCMA Minutes

The RCMA met April 15 at Wishard Chapel with ten members present.

The meeting was called to order by President Chishala with prayer by Pastor Bill Armstrong.

Lindsey Catanzareti from the Christian Church presented information on a new youth program called A.C.T.S. - Amplifying Christ Through Service. The program is for youth from kindergarten through high school. The goal is to build strong children to help fix a broken world. Monthly meetings will be on the first Saturday of the month from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m., beginning June 1, and will include lessons, fellowship, and service projects. All children are welcome. There will be registration forms online at ACTSYouth-Group50854@gmail.com. An initial meeting will be held on May 10 at the Christian Church from 5 - 6:30 p.m., with dinner and show.

March Minutes were approved with corrections.

The treasurer's report was approved as submitted. Breakfast with the Master served 401 people over the week, and 400 persons watched online. Donations exceeded last year's.

A review of needs met this past month was given by Michell Ricker.

Discussion to upgrade the RCMA Facebook page was held and will continue at the next meeting.

Rev. Lorinda Hoover hosted the planning committee for baccalaureate. Student committee members have arranged the service and selected speakers. The baccalaureate service will be held at the United Baptist Presbyterian Church on May 15 at 7 p.m. The seniors have chosen Mr. Dan Showalter to be the speaker. Local churches will provide cookies and refreshments. The community is invited.

CROP Walk will be held on October 13 this fall.

Ecumenical Vacation Bible School will be held at the United Baptist Presbyterian Church this summer. Dates and information will be available at a later date.

The Back-to-School supplies distribution was discussed. This will require some changes from past programs and was tabled for a later meeting.

The next meeting will be held May 20th at the Christian Church at 4:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer by Mike Maddy.

Egg production report for Iowa is released by USDA

Iowa egg production during March 2024 was 1.15 billion eggs, up 1 percent from the previous March, according to the latest Chickens and Eggs report from the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

The average number of all layers on hand during March 2024 was 44.2 million, down 1 percent from last year. Eggs per 100 layers for March was 2,599, up 2 percent from a year ago.

Talking newspapers

"I have always taken great comfort in newspapers. No matter how horrid an event, there is something in seeing it described in black and white that makes it somehow bearable."

— Susan Higginbotham