Submit community event announcements, news items and photographs to editor@OelweinDailyRegister.com • Phone: 319-284-9258

Al and Jean Baldwin to celebrate 60th wedding anniversary



Mr. and Mrs. Baldwin 2025

All are welcome to join us in celebrating the 60th wedding anniversary of Al and Jean Baldwin, lifelong residents of Oelwein. Al and Jean were married on July 17, 1965, at the First Baptist Church in Oelwein and have shared a remarkable journey of love and commitment ever since.

Family, friends, and community members are warmly invited to help

celebrate this special occasion with an evening of food, fun, memories, and well-wishes

The celebration will be 6-9 p.m. Friday, Aug. 8, at Transco Events on Frederick, 137 S. Frederick Ave., Oelwein. No RSVP is required, just come as you are. No gifts, please; your presence is the greatest gift of all.

With love, the Baldwin Family

EVENTS CALENDAR

Add your event to this calendar or change it by sending details to news@oelweindailyregister.com, editor@oelweindailyregister.com, mailing them attn: Calendar or bringing them to the Daily Register, 25 First St. SE, PO Box 511, Oelwein, IA 50662. Specific prices will not be included, so include contact info or a website.

SUNDAY, AUG. 3

Aurora Legion Auxiliary Breakfast, 8-12, biscuits and gravy, sausage, ham and scrambled eggs, milk, juice or coffee. 50-50 raffle, need not be present to win. Adults \$10, 5-8 years

MONDAY, AUG. 4

Buchanan County Conservation Board- Fontana Park honeybees/hive presentation at Oelwein Senior Center, 120 N Frederick Ave., at 10:30 a.m. If joining for lunch at 11:30 a.m., please call the Senior Center at 319-239-8019 the Wednesday, July 30, before 11 a.m.

Delwein Senior Meal Site service by The Kitchen of Decorah, 11:30 a.m., V.F.W. Post 1725, 120 N. Frederick Ave. Meals by Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging (NEI3A), open Monday, Wednesday, Friday. Older adults can reserve a meal two days ahead by calling the Oelwein Senior Center, 319-239-8019. Diners under age 60 must pay the cost of the meal. Sloppy joes, bun, fruit, veggie, fries.

TUESDAY, AUG. 5

Fontana Park/Buchanan County Conservation Animal Encounter — Fox. 9:30-10 a.m. Encounters are 15-30 minutes and are completely free. Attendees learn how they survive in the wild and how the animal came to be at Fontana. No registration is needed

Prevent Relapse 12 Step Program, 6:30 p.m., Evangelical Free Church, 225 20th St. SE, Oelwein, 319-240-9135

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 6

Oelwein Senior Meal Site service by The Kitchen of Decorah, 11:30 a.m., V.F.W. Post 1725, 120 N. Frederick Ave. Meals by Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging (NEI3A), open Monday, Wednesday, Friday. Older adults can reserve a meal two days ahead by calling the Oelwein Senior Center, 319-239-8019. Diners under age 60 must pay the cost of the meal. Salisbury beef, mashed potatoes, fruit, veggie, dinner

THURSDAY, AUG. 7

Healing Hearts (formerly Grief Support Group) meets at 1:30 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church. Contact Linda Jensen 563-380-7758

FOPS meeting, 5:15 p.m., Grace United Methodist Church. Call 319-283-0147 for more information.

FRIDAY, AUG. 8

Hootenanny, 6 to 9 p.m., Oelwein Coliseum. Live music, fellowship and dancing. Guest musicians are always welcome. Free will donation.

Delwein Senior Meal Site service by The Kitchen of Decorah, 11:30 a.m., V.F.W. Post 1725, 120 N. Frederick Ave. Meals by Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging (NEI3A), open Monday, Wednesday, Friday. Older adults can reserve a meal two days ahead by calling the Oelwein Senior Center, 319-239-8019. Diners under age 60 must pay the cost of the meal. Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, gravy, fruit, veggie and

MONDAY, AUG. 11

Oelwein Senior Meal Site service by The Kitchen of Decorah, 11:30 a.m., V.F.W. Post 1725, 120 N. Frederick Ave. Meals by Northeast Iowa Area Agency on Aging (NEI3A), open Monday, Wednesday, Friday. Older adults can reserve a meal two days ahead by calling the Oelwein Senior Center, 319-239-8019. Diners under age 60 must pay the cost of the meal. Baked chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, veggie and dinner roll.



FIELD NOTES FROM THE IRON SHEPHERD: Faith, Hope, and Love

What Soldiers Truly Need in the Combat Zone

By THE IRON SHEPHERD

I get asked often "what do Soldiers need"? And my answer is usually, "beef jerky, candy, protein powder and nicotine." Although true, the reality is, the answer might be found on the T wall pictured above that I saw today. In the harsh realities of a

combat zone, where danger is constant, comforts are scarce, and the weight of life and death hangs in the air, soldiers learn quickly to let go of the unnecessary and cling to what truly matters. In the end, it's not perfect gear, gourmet meals, or even well-laid plans that sustain the soul in the midst of war.

The Apostle Paul said it best in 1 Corinthians 13:13:

"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love "

These three are not just lofty Christian virtues—they are the spiritual rations that keep a soldier's heart beating steady through the storms of battle.

Faith: The Foundation in the Fire

Faith is the first and fiercest weapon a soldier carries. It's not a blind optimism, but a belief that even in chaos, God is in control. Faith reminds the warrior that they are not alone in the fight.

In Hebrews 11:1, we're reminded:

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not



seen.

A soldier with faith can walk through the valley of the shadow of death and not be overcome. Faith gives them a reason to rise each morning and face what others would flee. It tells them that there's a purpose behind their pain, and a sovereign hand guiding their steps.

Hope: The Anchor in the Storm

Hope is not a wish. For a soldier, hope is an anchor. When the mission stretches longer than expected and news from home brings tears, hope is what keeps the soul from drifting.

Romans 5:3-5 offers this promise:

"We glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.

And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts."

Hope keeps the fire alive when everything feels cold and distant. It tells the weary warrior that there is light beyond this darkness, peace beyond the fight, and a reunion beyond the separation. It whispers, "This is not the end."

Love: The Greatest Weapon of All

Probably my favorite. In a place marked by violence and destruction, love might seem out of place. But in fact, it is the greatest force on the battlefield. Love for one's fellow soldiers. Love for family back home. Love from God that surpasses all understanding.

John 15:13 declares:

"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

Soldiers don't fight out of hate (well, not all of them) they fight out of love. Love fuels their courage. It bonds squads tighter than family. It is what makes them rush into danger to protect a brother or sister-in-arms. And it's love that reminds them why they want to come home.

What Remains: Faith. Hope. Love. When the ammo runs

low, when sleep is scarce, and when the desert wind feels like it's eroding more than just skin, these three remain. They are more than just words. They are lifelines.

They are the quiet prayers whispered into the night.

The scripture tucked inside a helmet. The memory of a child's

laugh back home. The bond of a brother-

hood forged under fire. The promise that God is

near, even here.

And in the end, when the smoke clears and the mission is complete, a soldier will not be remembered by how much gear they carried but by how much faith they held, how much hope they gave, and how much love they lived.

"These three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love." -1 Corinthians 13:13

Editor's Note: Field Notes from the Iron Shepherd is courtesy of Tim Hadley, who is currently serving with the Iowa Army National Guard.

Engen named Northern Lights Women's Chorus director



Engen

Bethany Engen has been named the new artistic director of the Decorah-based Northern Lights Women's Chorus. Engen replaces Rachael Buresh, who directed the choir from fall 2019 to spring 2025.

"It is an honor to join this vibrant group of voices and come together through song to bring new energy to melodies from around the world," Engen said.

Engen earned two music degrees – a bachelor's from Luther College and a master's from University of St. Thomas in St. Paul. She serves as a music educator at MFL MarMac Community School District in Monona, directing the high school

concert choir and show

choir

In addition, she serves as an organist at Wilmington Lutheran Church and Faith Lutheran Church of Black Hammer Township, Minn. She previously taught music at schools in Spring Grove and Waukon.

The 2025-26 Northern Lights Women's Chorus rehearsal season kicks off Monday, Aug. 25, from 6-8 p.m., at First Lutheran Church in Decorah. The choir rehearses weekly prior to its concerts, which will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 23, and Sunday, April 19, at Decorah Lutheran Church.

Additionally, the choir regularly performs at Decorah community events such as Vesterheim Christmas and Holiday Lights, and at nursing homes. The ensemble provides food and volunteers for Decorah's community meal once a year and shares a portion of its concert donations with local nonprofit organizations.

New singers are encouraged to join the 50-member choir. For additional information, contact Engen at bethanyengen@gmail.com or 507-459-869.



Daily Register

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General

Published Daily except Sunday+ Monday and New Years, Independence Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas by Daily Register. Periodicals Postage Paid at Oelwein, Iowa 50662. Register Established 1881; Daily Register Established 1906; The Oelwein Established 1911;

Consolidated with Register 1923.

Regular business hours are 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday-Friday

Subscriptions

In-County Rates: 52 Weeks \$195.00

26 Weeks \$106.00 13 Weeks \$56.00

Out Of County Rates:

52 Weeks \$215.00 26 Weeks \$129.00

13 Weeks \$80.00

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