

OBITUARY

Helen Maxine Leachman

August 17, 1920 - June 22, 2025

Helen Maxine (Smith) Leachman, 104, of Strawberry Point, Iowa, passed away peacefully on Sunday, June 22, 2025, at her home in the Strawberry Point Lutheran Home. She enjoyed 104 years living in the Dundee and Strawberry Point area. Helen was born at home on August 17, 1920, during the summer Backbone State Park was dedicated, a couple of miles away from her parent's farm. She joined the William and Bessie (Sherwin) Smith family with sisters, Gladys, Ruby, Eveah and brother Warren. Backbone and Forestville Beach area were special places for her throughout her life.



Her sisters were much older and teaching in nearby country schools. By the time she was four she was riding in a horse and buggy with her sisters to attend their schools. During the winter her father taught her at home. This fostered a love for learning and teaching. Helen attended school in Dundee and then transferred to Strawberry Point High School to get her education classes. At 17, she wasn't old enough to teach yet so she attended Iowa State Teacher's College (now UNI) and later took classes at Upper Iowa in Fayette.

Helen met Bill Leachman in 1946. He came to Strawberry Point after serving in the South Pacific during World War II, to join his brother in the Leachman Lumber Yard. Fortunately, Helen lived with her parents across the street from the Leachman's. They were married in February, 1947. Helen

taught in country schools, one near Backbone Golf Course and at other locations. After her marriage she devoted her time to her family, church, and her community. She enjoyed teaching kindergarten Sunday School class for many years along with Vacation Bible School. Helen was very active in the community. She was a member of the United Methodist Church, the United Methodist Church Women, P.E.O. and Eastern Star for over 60 years. Helen served on the Strawberry Point Museum Board, the Lutheran Home Board and helped with the Meals on Wheels. She was a member of the Mayflower Society and DAR of Strawberry Point.

Before his death in 1982, the couple took numerous RV camper trips to Alaska to fish with their son Park. She was fortunate to have a couple of women companions to continue her travels. Helen enjoyed her trips across the United States, Europe, Australia, South America, Finland and Africa including a memorable hot air balloon ride over the Serengeti. She also

enjoyed sewing, quilting, and a variety of handiwork. Helen enjoyed feeding birds, gardening, and canning. Helen was a great cook and made awesome pies. She most of all enjoyed spending time with her family and took pride in their accomplishments.

Survivors include her two children, Park (Cheri) Leachman of Harper's Ferry and Harriet (Brandt) Echternacht of Iowa City; three grandchildren, Lindsey (Brian) Fuhrmeister, Jessica Echternacht, and Heidi Echternacht; step grandchild, Wayne Pugh; and two great-grandchildren, Lucille and Lukas Fuhrmeister; and her nieces and nephews.

Helen was preceded in death by her parents, her husband of thirty-five years, Bill; and her siblings, Gladys (Clyde) Cree, Ruby (Paul) Kramer, Eveah (Dean) Sauerbry and Warren (Irene) Smith.

The family requests that memorials be directed to Strawberry Point United Methodist Church.

Helen's family would like to thank the Strawberry Point Lutheran Home and St. Croix Hospice for their wonderful care of their mother.

Online condolences may be sent to www.leonard-mullerfh.com

Funeral Service was held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 26, 2025 at the Methodist Church in Strawberry Point, Iowa, Reverend Lisa Schroeder officiated. A lunch followed the service.

Visitation was held from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 26, 2025 at the Methodist Church in Strawberry Point, Iowa.

Interment: Cass Township Cemetery after the luncheon.

Northeast Iowa Community College Outdoor Learning Lab

open to the public for exploration and education

PEOSTA, Iowa—Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC) invites the public to explore and enjoy the Outdoor Learning Lab (OLL), a unique environmental education and conservation space open daily from sunrise to sunset at the Peosta campus.

Originally established in 2007 on former agricultural land, the OLL serves as a living demonstration of ecosystem reconstruction and sustainable land use. Located in a rich ecological transition zone between the Mississippi River valley and Iowa's prairie landscape, the restored area includes four reconstructed native ecosystems: forest, savanna, prairie and wetland. These represent the biodiversity of the region and serve as a vital educational and research resource for students, educators and nature enthusiasts alike.

With 3.5 miles of soft trails, the OLL is a public space that blends education, conservation and recreation, according to Matt Simon, NICC sci-

ence faculty and Sustainability Committee member.

"The Outdoor Learning Lab offers many benefits for groups and individuals. The accessibility to nature is important for health. Being in suburban Dubuque County, the opportunity for folks to have ready access to natural areas is dwindling as our land-use practices change in agricultural areas and residential communities sprawl into the landscape," Simon said. "As a restored diverse landscape, the OLL holds a variety of examples of the ecosystem types that would have been found prior to European colonization. The biodiversity that is present can introduce visitors to a host of species they may not be familiar with, including plants, animals and fungi."

NICC instructors, local school groups and students visit the OLL, as do Peosta community members with their pets for a relaxing nature walk. Science classes use the OLL during the year to catalog species in the area. A variety of birds utilize the

site and amphibians appreciate the mix of terrestrial as well as aquatic features that they need for their life-cycles. Foxes and other species are also encountered in the OLL, according to Simon.

The forest, covering six acres, was planted in 2009 and mimics three key local woodland types, including moisture-loving willows and cottonwoods, cool-climate sugar maples and pines and drought-tolerant hickories and oaks. Adjacent to this, the six-acre savanna—a mix of prairie grasses and fire-resistant trees—provides insight into a rare ecosystem shaped by fire, grazing and topography.

The prairie section spans 24 acres, with plantings in 2009 and 2015. With less than 0.1% of Iowa's native prairie remaining, this effort contributes to statewide prairie reconstruction science, replicating natural cycles like fire and grazing. The wetland—a six-acre site developed in 2009 and 2015—features a freshwater food web, water-filtering bioswales and

OBITUARY

Lonnie L. Robbins

April 5, 1951 - June 22, 2025

Lonnie L. Robbins, 74, of Oelwein, Iowa, died Sunday, June 22, 2025, at his home.

Private family services will be held.

Inurnment: Illyria Church Cemetery, rural Elgin, Iowa. Jamison-Schmitz Funeral Home in Oelwein is assisting the family.

Online obituary at www.jamisonschmitzfuneralhome.com

Lonnie Lee Robbins was born April 5, 1951, in Oelwein, the son of Howard Melvin and Vivian Priscilla (Kamoss) Robbins. He graduated from Starmont High School in 1969. In November of 1982, Lonnie was united in marriage to

Tracy Lynne Yearous and they were married for over 20 years. They later divorced but remained lifelong friends. Lonnie was employed for over 30 years with Fayette County Conservation. He enjoyed trout fishing, motorcycles, gun shows and going out to eat.

Lonnie is survived by sister-in-law: Teresa (Delbert) ODell of Fayette; brother-in-law: Kurt Yearous of Arlington; nephews and nieces: Darren, Trent, Nikole (Mark), Josh and Haylie; and great nephews: Waylon, Brodie, Westin and Elliot.

He was preceded in death by his parents; and former spouse: Tracy Robbins.



HOUSE
FOR
RENT

FOR RENT: SMALL, 2-3 BEDROOM HOME IN THE COUNTRY CLOSE TO STARMONT SCHOOL.

Furnished or unfurnished, negotiable. Central Air.
No indoor pets. References required.
Please call Linda at 563-920-1721

JOIN OUR TEAM!

Starmont CSD
2025-2026 Vacancies



We Are
HIRING

- Maintenance Director
- Athletic Director
- Wrestling Cheer Sponsor
- Boys Varsity Basketball Coach
- HS Assistant Football Coach
- HS Assistant Girls Basketball Coach
- MS Girls Wrestling
- National Honor Society Sponsor
- Bus Driver(s) (will train)
- Sports/Activity Bus Drivers
- Bus Route Driver
- Substitute Special Ed Drivers
- Subs for all positions

SCAN HERE
to download an application!



Starmont Community School District
3202 40th Street, Arlington, Iowa 50606

SUBS FOR ALL POSITIONS

Interested applicants should send a letter of application to the Building Principal/Superintendent.

Applications can be found here:
www.starmont.k12.ia.us/district/employment

critical stopover habitat for migrating waterfowl.

The OLL supports the College's commitment to multidisciplinary education, sustainability, cost-effective grounds management and the preservation of natural and cultural heritage. It is used by a wide range of academic disciplines and is a model for community-engaged environmental stewardship.

NICC invites individuals, families,

group leaders and educators from local schools and colleges to experience the Outdoor Learning Lab firsthand—no appointment required. Visitors are encouraged to follow "leave no trace" principles to protect the site's research integrity. Activities such as hunting, fishing and off-trail exploration are not permitted. Pets must be leashed and cleaned up after. More information is available at nicc.edu/outdoorlearninglab.


PUBLIC NOTICE
Starmont Community School District
STARMONT COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, June 24, 2025
Starmont Superintendent's Office
Teleconference Meeting
7:30 AM


"Empowering all students with knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for responsible, productive, and fulfilling lives."

1. Call to Order (Quorum)
The Starmont Community School District Board held a special teleconference board meeting on Tuesday, June 24, 2025, in the Superintendent's office, located in the high school. President Uhlenkamp called the meeting to order at 7:30 AM. Uhlenkamp read the following statement: "it is impractical due to the schedules of the board members to hold the meeting on this 24th day of June 2025, with all persons in person. Thus, the meeting will be held by electronic means pursuant to Section 21.8.2025 Code of Iowa. The public will be provided access to the meeting at 7:30 AM in the Superintendent's Office, Starmont School District, 3202 40th Street, Arlington, Iowa 50606. Roll call was taken. Members present: Jacob Moellers, Tony Recker, Vicki Althoff, Doug Puffett, Julie Uhlenkamp. Absent: none. Administration present: Superintendent, Robert Busch; Business Manager/Board Secretary, Katie Taylor; HR Director, Carmen Swales.
2. Approve Agenda
Motion by Puffett to approve agenda as provided. Seconded by Recker. Motion carried 5-0.
3. Approve Updated Job Descriptions
Motion by Recker to approve updated job descriptions for Maintenance Director, Activities Director, and Activities Director – Division of Responsibility. Seconded by Puffett. Motion carried 5-0.
4. Approve Employment of Personnel
 - a. Hires
 - i. Eric Bond – Maintenance Director
 - ii. Tracy Curtis – Activities Director
 - iii. Mike Augustine – Activities Director
 - iv. Cathy Smith – Activities Director
 - v. Katie Bockenstedt – Dance Sponsor
 - vi. Jen Aldrich – Dance Sponsor
 - b. Resignations
 - i. Deb Wills as Dance Sponsor. Thank you for your time, Deb!Motion by Puffett to approve personnel recommendations and resignations as presented. Seconded by Recker. Motion carried 5-0.
5. Agreement with Maintenance Director for Water License
Motion by Puffett to approve agreement with maintenance director for acquiring water license as presented. Seconded by Recker. Motion carried 5-0.
6. Adjourn
Motion by Puffett to adjourn. Seconded by Recker. Motion carried 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 7:37 AM.
Julie Uhlenkamp, Board President
Katie Taylor, Business Manager/Board Secretary
Published in the Press Journal the week of July 2, 2025

PUBLIC NOTICE
Clayton County Planning & Zoning
PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION MEETING
There will be a Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting on July 8, 2025, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the Public Meeting Room at 600 Gunder Road, Elkader. Please contact the Health and Zoning Office at 563-245-2451 or email pruff@claytoncountya.gov for more information on the following agenda items.
Application #PZ-2025-3: Rezoning request by Jared Funk to rezone from A-1 (Agricultural) to C-1 (Commercial) for storage units at 22301 Hwy 128, Elkader, Iowa.
Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to allow for Accessory Dwelling Units on the same lot as a single-family residence.
Data Center Presentation.
Published in the Press Journal the week of July 2, 2025.

Informed citizens build
stronger communities





IOWA
IPN
PUBLIC NOTICES
IOWA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION

iowapublicnotices.com



Fayette County Sheriff's Office

On June 8th, 2025, at approximately 6:10pm a Fayette County Deputy arrested Brett Richard Waring age 43 of Lamont. Waring was arrested and charged with Driving While License Revoked after driving to the Fayette County Sheriff's Office on a revoked license. Waring was held until his initial appearance and later released on a promise to appear.

On June 17th, 2025, at approximately 8:12 pm a Fayette County Deputy arrested Devin Jericho Howes age 23 of Hawkeye on multiple Fayette County warrants for 728.12(1) Sexual Exploitation of a Minor – Cause to Engage in Act, 709.8A(2) – Grooming, and 728.2 Dissemination and Exhibition of Obscene Material to Minors. Howes was transported to the Fayette County Jail and is currently being held on a 25,000 cash/surety bond.

On – at approx.. 9:20 a.m. Joshua J. Burke, 45 of West Union turned himself into the Fayette County Sheriff's Office on a valid Fayette County arrest warrant. The warrant was for Sex Offender-Registration Violation 1st Offense. Bond was set in the amount of \$2000.00 with 10% approved. Burke was booked into the Fayette County Jail.

Iowa Concern is a program of the Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. The program began in 1985 as a toll-free number serving the agricultural community. Today, Iowa Concern serves both urban and rural Iowans. Iowa Concern services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days per week at no charge. Iowa Concern has access to an attorney for legal education, stress counselors, and information and referral services for a wide variety of topics.

Access Iowa Concern Resources

- Hotline - toll-free at **1-800-447-1985**; language interpretation services available
- Live chat service that immediately connects you with a stress counselor where you can "talk" (type) one-on-one in a secure environment
- Email an expert with your legal, finance, stress, or crisis/disaster questions.

ISU Extension and Outreach Housing Program Earns National Award for Community Development Impact

By: Esther Crompton, ISU Extension and Outreach

The National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals has named Iowa State University Extension and Outreach's Community and Economic Development unit the 2025 National Winner of the Excellence in Community Development award for its Rural Housing Readiness Assessment program.

Since 2020, the program has helped more than 60 Iowa communities assess their housing needs and take action, generating more than \$132 million in investment, with another \$104 million in development.

Developed and facilitated by the Community and Economic Development unit within ISU Extension and Outreach, the RHRA helps communities understand their housing challenges and create practical solutions. The results include new housing construction, second-story apartment conversions, zoning changes, home repairs, downtown revitalization and creative tax incentives.

"This award is really about the local leaders," said Omar Padilla, community development specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach. "It's about the local officials, city staff and volunteers who care about where people live and who show up to help. But it's also about our team — community development specialists who listen, ask the right questions and stick with a community until they're ready to act."

Communities across Iowa have seen measurable progress. In Newton, city leaders invested nearly \$9 million in new housing and repairs. In Red Oak, more than \$15 million has gone into townhomes, new homes and mobile home replacement, alongside a \$1 million tax credit and an additional \$5 million in planned investment. And in Rock Valley, a local committee directed an \$8.3 million housing initiative that included single-family homes, downtown units and multifamily housing, with more projects still underway.

"The impact isn't just in the dollars or the new units," Padilla said. "We hear from communities one year, even three years later, about how they're still moving forward. The award reflects that kind of momentum, the kind that lasts."

That kind of progress doesn't happen on its own. Behind every RHRA success story is a network of support, from state partners to local champions and the ISU Extension and Outreach specialists who help guide the work.

"Our staff often travel long distances, attend evening meetings and work with local leaders who already wear five different hats," Padilla said. "It's quiet work, but it's building real change."

The Iowa Economic Development Authority has partnered with the program to offer cost-share grants that help communities implement their housing plans. About one-third of RHRA participants have chosen to fund the program entirely on their own, further underscoring local commitment.

New communities selected for the RHRA program will be announced later this year. Until then, ISU Extension and Outreach continues to track outcomes through an interactive dashboard, where visitors can explore housing strategies and local progress across the state.

Questions about the program can be directed to Esther Crompton, communication specialist, ecrompt@iastate.edu, or Omar Padilla, community development specialist opadilla@iastate.edu, with ISU Extension and Outreach.

Iowa State University announces spring 2025 Dean's List

AMES, Iowa – More than 11,300 Iowa State University students have been recognized for outstanding academic achievement by being named to the 2025 spring semester Dean's List. Students named to the Dean's List must earn a grade point average of at least 3.50 on a 4.00 scale while carrying a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded course work.

Arlington, Iowa

Anna Mary Hamlett, Environmental Science, B.S. (AGLS)
Evan Recker, Physics, B.S.
Raquel Olivia Rosburg, Apparel, Merchandising, and Design, B.S.

Edgewood, Iowa

Olivia Christina Welsh, Biology, B.S. (AGLS)

Strawberry Point, Iowa

Nathaniel Gaul, Agricultural Business, B.S.
Peyton Michael Gaul, Agricultural Studies, B.S.
Madeline Marie Harford, Animal Science, B.S.