

OBITUARIES

Barbara J. VanDusen



Barbara Joan VanDusen, 68, Wilton, and formerly of West Liberty, died on Friday, March 28, 2025 at her home in Wilton.

Graveside services will be held at 11 a.m. Monday April 7 in the Oakdale cemetery, Wilton.

The daughter of Wilbur and Bonita Keith Goodale, she was born on April 9, 1956 in Iowa City. She was a graduate of West Liberty High School in 1974. She married Russell VanDusen on Aug. 18, 1979 in Atalissa.

In her early years she had operated an in-home daycare prior to working HON in Muscatine, retiring after many years.

She enjoyed taking pictures, genealogy, quilting, was an avid rock collector and handmade gnomes to sell.

She is survived by two sons, Joseph (Terra) VanDusen, Nichols; and Robert (Sarah) VanDusen, Wilton, step-daughters, Wendy (Craig) Askam, Muscatine; and Julie VanDusen of the Quad Cities; 10 grandchildren, Maggy, Kate, Jacob, Megan, J.J., Taylor, Tracie, Wyatt, Andrew and Juliana; three great-grandchildren, Navy, Indie and Olive; and six siblings, Billy (Tammy) Goodale, Peg (Phil) McIntire, Bob (Sandy) Goodale, Dean (Vikki) Goodale, Sue Griffith and Casey (Christiana) King.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband in 2013 and her faithful companions, Charlie and Manning.

In keeping with her loving and generous spirit, she generously gave the gift of sight through cornea donation.

Memorial donations may be made to Barbara VanDusen Memorial Fund.

Michael Kisner



Michael Ian Kisner, 44, Tipton, died unexpectedly on Friday, March 21, 2025 at the University of Iowa Health Care Medical Center in Iowa City.

A Celebration of Life was held on Monday, March 31 at the First United Church of Christ in Tipton, officiated by Pastor Kerri Sandusky.

The son of Joyce Hauenstein and Michael Wayne Kisner, he was born on Nov. 28,1980, the youngest of four children but the only boy for Joyce. He was raised with his sisters in Columbus Junction. He played football, roller hockey and ice hockey, ran cross country and wrestled while in school. He graduated from Columbus Junction with the Class of 1999.

Mr. Kisner moved to Woodward, Okla. and worked in the oil fields. He met his wife Kelly Fogle in 2006. They married on Oct. 31, 2006. He and his daughter Jade Nicole welcomed Kelly and her daughter Madison Marie. They continued to grow their family by four more girls, Lillian “Lilly”, Kaylee, Ruby and finally Dahlia in 2013.

He received his bachelor’s degree in electronic engineering from Hamilton Technical College in Davenport in 2013 as well.

Mr. Kisner worked numerous jobs over the years supporting his family. His most recent employment being Culinary Coordinator and then Resident Assistant for Prairie Hills Assisted Living.

When he wasn’t working, he was never idle. He loved working on vehicles and showing the girls skills for later in life. He took time to help support the girls with their sports as well. From crafting shirts on the Cricut, to sharing moves, or just being in the stands to cheer them on, he loved his girls.

He is survived by his wife; daughters Jade, Madison, Lilly, Kaylee, Ruby and Dahlia; his mother Joyce Kisner; sisters, Michelle (Lester) Pace, Margaret “Maggie” (Dwayne) Wylie, Melinda “Mindy” (Andy) Badgett, and Danielle Kisner (Zak Kottke); and brother, Sean Kisner.

He was preceded in death by his father; his grandparents, James Wayne Kisner, Margaret Stokes Hill, and Ethel and Willard Hauenstein; his aunt and uncle, Diane Shildburg Newcomb and Eugene Newcomb; his honorary father and the girls’ grandfather, Jeff Ryan and his son John Charles Kisner.

Nancy McKean



Nancy A. McKean, 88, Lone Tree and formerly of Wilton, died on Saturday, March 22, 2025 at Lone Tree Health Care Center. Cremation rites have been accorded.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, April 12 at Bentley Funeral Home, Wilton. A memorial gathering will be held from 10 to 11 a.m., prior the memorial service.

The daughter of Gerald and Rebecca Reid Whetstine, she was born on Dec. 28, 1936 in Iowa City. She graduated from Wilton High School with the Class of 1954. She married Pat Taylor on Oct. 2, 1955 in Wilton. He preceded her in death on Sept. 25, 1999. She later married Carl McKean on Dec. 31, 2003 in Nobleton, Fla. He preceded her in death on May 8, 2016.

Mrs. McKean worked alongside her father, Dr. Gerald Whetstine, DO, for many years as a bookkeeper at his office in Wilton. She also worked as a scale attendant at North Star Steel in Wilton.

She was a former member of the United Methodist Church of Wilton, Grace United Church of Christ in Conesville, and a current member of Grace Lutheran Church in Muscatine. In her spare time she was a passionate seamstress and quilter. She spent countless hours sewing and quilting with friends, creating beautiful works of art. She cherished the time she spent with family and friends, both in Iowa and Florida.

She was an accomplished basketball player and an avid fan of Iowa Hawkeye Women’s Basketball. She was also fortunate enough to attend their Final Four appearance in 1993 with her husband, Pat. She leaves behind a legacy of kindness, creativity and devotion to her family and friends.

She is survived by five grandchildren, Nicole Moran, Penfield, Ill., Cody Taylor, Muscatine; Neil Taylor, South Elgin, Ill.; Megan (Jason) Cadogan, Covington, La.; and Ryan (Kara Mittman) Walker, Wilton; seven great-grandchildren; a daughter in-law, Laura Taylor, Muscatine; five step-children, Wendy (Bill) Moreland, Crystal O’Toole, Lance (Melissa) McKean, Kelly (Mike) Good, and Sara (Rob) Kinion; 18 step-grandchildren; 23 step-great-grandchildren; and one sister, Judi Whetstine, and her husband, Bob Rush, Cedar Rapids.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a son, Douglas Taylor; a daughter, Elizabeth Taylor; and her husbands, Pat Taylor and Carl McKean.

Memorials may be made to Shriners Hospitals for Children.

CITY OF TIPTON
FROM P1

After Bird dispute the allegations that his service line was the cause of or the contributing factor to the partial collapse, including appearing with an attorney at a council meeting, the parties reach an agreement to have Bird pay approximately two-thirds of the cost.

Bird agreed to pay his \$4,000 portion within 10 days. The parties also agreed that the agreement was binding.

Airport Bidding

The council awarded the low bid of \$208,946.45 from Heuer Construction, Muscatine, for the Mathew Memorial Airport apron rehabilitation and runway improvement project.

The engineer’s estimate for the work was \$376,395.

Other bidders were All American Concrete, West Liberty, \$225,045.65; Lynch’s Excavating, West Branch, \$257,054.80;

Ivan Hasselbusch



On March 28th, 2025, Ivan Hasselbusch, 81, of Solon, Iowa passed away peacefully in his home and was reunited with his late wife Bonnie who, we can imagine, has golf clubs in hand ready to play a round.

Ivan Hasselbusch was born on Nov. 19th 1943, the youngest of two sons of Martin and Leona (Conrad) Hasselbusch. Ivan grew up in Stanwood Iowa and graduated from Lincoln Community High School. He then went on to The University of Iowa to pursue a career in accounting where he took a short intermission to help his family take care of the farm to then come back and graduate with high honors. On June 26, 1965, Ivan and Bonnie were married and created a loving family of three children, nine grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Survivors include: his brother Larry and sister-in-law Lynann, son Jeff and daughter in law Michele of Keokuk, Iowa, daughter Jodi and son in law Matt of Dardenne Prairie, Mo., and lastly daughter Monica and son in law Matt of Solon, Iowa as well as his hoard of grandchildren Ryan, Andrew, Marissa, Lauren, Payton, Devyn, Kaitlyn, Ashlyn, and Justin. Ivan is also survived by his ever-extending family of great grandchildren Austyn, Maisyn, Dawson, and soon to be born baby girl Pentico. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Ivan’s career led the couple to live in such diverse places as Glen Ellyn, Ill., Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Decatur, Ill., Brussels, Belgium, The Hague, Netherlands and Cincinnati, Ohio. Ivan, Bonnie, and the family finally ‘settled’ in Keokuk and lived there for 36 years where they enjoyed a wide circle of friends from church, school, and social activities. Ivan and Bonnie moved to Solon, Iowa in 2017 after the diagnosis of Bonnie’s cancer where they have lived for nearly eight years.

Ivan’s passions included continuously growing better at the game of golf and meticulously maintaining his lawn. He eagerly looked forward to his Wednesday morning golf league out at the Lake McBride golf course and enjoyed playing with his son and son’s friends. Outside of that, Ivan devoted his time to helping the community and lending his vast amount of knowledge to anyone who would listen which, well, was just about everyone. His footprint in the places that he helped will forever remain etched there. Ivan also enjoyed the ‘give and take’ with his grandchildren and gave them grief over things like, paying half price for jeans that have too many holes in them, OOTD (outfit of the day) ratings, and wearing shorts when it’s a little chilly outside. His grandchildren can attest to his ‘vocal capabilities’ and will greatly miss the exercises they did to sing along with him.

Visitation was held Tuesday, April 1, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Chapman Funeral Home in Clarence, Iowa. A funeral service for Ivan will be Wednesday, April 2, at 11 a.m. at the Solon United Methodist Church. Burial will be in the Stanwood, Iowa cemetery. A celebration of life will be held at the Elks Lodge in Keokuk, Iowa at 5 p.m. on April 26.

Memorial gifts can be made to the Keokuk Community Foundation, Holden Cancer Center at the University of Iowa, or the Solon United Methodist Church.

Custom Obituary

Jerry Smith



On Feb. 27, 2025, after a long journey with Alzheimer’s disease, Jerry passed into the loving arms of Jesus. Jerry was born in Davenport, Iowa to Geraldine Leone Haney and DeLos Forbes Smith on June 13, 1943, and moved to Tipton when he was in the 4th grade. After graduation, Jerry attended Cornell College, where he met and married his wife, Joey. He completed his degree in 1965 and went into sales, first in pharmaceuticals, and then Mutual Funds.

After the birth of their second son, Jerry and Joey moved to Tempe, Arizona, where their daughter was born. Jerry worked for State Farm Insurance in several capacities, ultimately becoming a successful agent. He retired on May 1, 2001, to devote himself to ministry at East Valley Bible Church, which he helped start in 1993. Jerry served as an Elder and oversaw missions, counseling, and benevolence ministries. His love for Jesus and God’s people were clearly evident to all he met.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donation be made to Makers of Care, a non-profit, faith-obased, caregiver support organization at makersofcare.com. Checks can be sent to: Makers of Care, 2450 S Gilbert Rd. Suite 212, Chandler, Ariz. 85286.

Custom Obituary

Ronald Heick



Ronald E. Heick, 87, West Liberty, died on Sunday, March 23, 2025 at the University of Iowa Hospitals Downtown Campus.

A private family inurnment will take place at Oak Ridge cemetery in West Liberty.

The son of Henry and Alma Schneider Heick., he was born on March 30, 1937 in Muscatine county. He graduated from West Liberty High School in 1955, where he served as class president. Following high school, he dedicated eight years to the Army Reserves. He married Orma Chelf on Oct. 12, 1955 in West Liberty.

Mr. Heick was a lifelong farmer.

He was a fast-pitch softball pitcher for over 40 years and enjoyed watching sports, especially football, basketball and tennis. He enjoyed watching old Western movies, had a fondness for animals, and was an avid Iowa Hawkeyes fan.

He is survived by his two sons, Randy Heick and Dean (Mindy) Heick, both of West Liberty; three grandchildren, Jobe (Chelsea) Heick, Des Moines; Clay (Audra) Heick, West Liberty; and Troy (Mikayla) Heick, West Liberty; four great-grandchildren, Finley, Ella, Hadley and Cashus; a special friend, Denise Lenz; and his faithful companion, Pugsley.

He was preceded in death by his wife in 2022; his brother, Robert; and sister, Pat Terhune.

Memorial contributions may be made to the West Liberty Fire and Rescue Unit.

Triple B Construction, Wilton, \$257,928.50; Tschigfrie Exc. Co., Dubuque, \$262,319.70; and Boomerang, Anamosa, \$276,755.

The City of Tipton will pay for 5% of the project cost and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will pay 95%.

Other Business

In other business the council:

*Held a public hearing on the 2025-26 fiscal year budget proposed property tax levy of \$15.5530 per \$1,000 valuation, down from \$16,36581 in the current fiscal year. While the rate went down, many property valuations have gone up, which will result in higher taxes.

For a home with a \$100,000 assessed valuation after rollback, the tax will increase from \$758 to \$812, an increase of 7.12%.

For a commercial property assessed at \$300,000 after rollback, the tax will increase from \$3,347 to \$3,626, an increase of 8.34%.

*Set the public hearing on the 2025-26 fiscal year budget for 5:30 p.m. Monday, April 7 in the council meeting room at the Tipton Fire Station.

*Approved a resolution accepting the Federal Single Source audit report for fiscal year 2023-24 from CliftonLarsonAllen LLP,

Laurie Jo Waite



Laurie Jo Fankhauser Waite, Phoenix, Ariz. and formerly of Tipton, died on Tuesday, March 25, 2025. She suffered an aortic dissection and died on the operating table.

A Celebration of Life will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, May 23 at the Tipton VFW.

The daughter of Patricia Louise Green and Walter Lee Fankhauser, she was born in 1951. She had two younger brothers, Butch and Gary. She attended Tipton High School, graduating with the Class of 1969. She attended the University of Iowa and Texas A&M, earning a degree as a veterinarian technician.

After college, she worked in a number of businesses, including a gift store in Sea World in San Diego, Calif., as a cocktail waitress in Dallas, Texas, and as a vet tech in Hawaii. She returned to Iowa around age 30 and married Chuck Knouse. The couple had one son, Christon (Chris). She then worked in the labs at the University of Iowa, performing animal surgeries. In 1994 she married David Marc Waite and they blended families. Chris was joined by two new brothers, Tom Chapin Waite and Marc Sinclair Waite. In a year or two, they all moved to Tiffin, Iowa and built a new house. By 2009, Iowa winters won the battle, and the family dispersed. Laurie and Dave moved to Scottsdale, Ariz. All three boys married and started their families, moving all around the United States. Son Marc’s family resides in West Branch, and is composed of wife, Tabitha (deceased), and children Cheyanne, Zayden, Katlynn and Kiley. Tom’s family resides in Crofton, Md. and is composed of wife, Erin, and children Jack and Charlie. Chris’s family resides in Phoenix, Ariz. and is composed of wife, Bre, and children Ryder and Corbin.

Laurie Fankhauser Waite is best known by a very large number of friends as an instigator of fun. Full of ideas and a loving person.

Custom Obituary

Rebecca Anne “Becky” Harden-Heick
1949 – 2025



Becky Harden was born at St. Luke’s Hospital in Cedar Rapids on June 22, 1949, on her mother’s 23rd birthday. She was the second of five children born to Gene and Rhoda (Ocheltree) Harden. Becky grew up in Tipton and was a member of the Tipton High School class of 1967. She continued her education at Scott Community College and Kirkwood Community College (pharmacy med technician - graduating 1st in her class). She worked at Reeve Drug and the Remedy Shop in Tipton, the Williamsburg Care Center and later in home healthcare. Until moving away from Tipton, Becky was a member of St. Mary’s Catholic Church, where she was baptized and confirmed.

Becky and Bill Heick were married on Sept. 1, 1976, by the Reverend Henry Trevathan at Park United Methodist Church in Hannibal, Mo. Becky and Bill are the parents of and survived by James (Alejandra) Goethals of Chandler, Ariz., and their children, Alex and Zenah; Colleen Heick-Stanerson of Belle Plaine and her children, Trevor Stanerson, Ciara Stanerson-Edwards and twins, Conner and Brayden Peterson; and Stacey (Nancy Miller) Nelson of Georgetown, Texas, and her son, Cole. She is also survived by a great-granddaughter, Ka’Niya Jae Coles, the daughter of Kyleigh Stanerson.

Becky especially enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren; holidays with her siblings, children, and extended family; playing softball in her younger years; dancing; amateur photography; writing poetry; watching movies and listening to her favorite music. More than anything, Becky loved road trips she and Bill took to various parts of the southern and western U.S. and Mexico and collecting rocks that she made Bill haul home. She hoped to see more of the US via road trips following Bill’s retirement but her poor health didn’t allow that travel. She loved all types of people and enjoyed striking up conversations with people she didn’t know.

Becky was preceded in death by her parents and grandparents; her granddaughter, Kyleigh Stanerson; her brother-in-law, Norman McQuillen; a very special niece, Kelly Jo Harden; and a dear cousin, Kandy Tigerwright; plus, numerous aunts and uncles. She is survived by her loving and devoted husband of 47 years of Williamsburg; her children and grandchildren; her siblings, Bruce (Mary Ann) Harden, Spencer; Mike Harden, Tipton; Gloria “Skeeter” McQuillen, Rochester; Susan Harden, West Liberty; and many nieces and nephews. She also is survived by her precious kitty, Lola.

Becky has chosen to be cremated and there will be no services at this time, but a Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. It is anticipated joint services will be held upon Bill’s passing with burial at the Tipton Masonic Cemetery. Memorials may be directed to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Fry Funeral Home, Tipton, is handling arrangements. ©Fry Funeral Home

Custom Obituary

Cedar Rapids, due to spending over \$750,000 in federal funds. Completion of the audit ensures that the city remains eligible for future federally funded projects.

*Also approved a resolution accepting the 2023-24 fiscal year audit.

*Approved the purchase of a 69 KV circuit switcher for the electric department from Stuart C. Irby Co. in Des Moines for \$17,863.65. One other quote was received from Shermco in Des Moines for \$18,152.18. The unit, to be delivered in 24 to 25 weeks, will replace a leaking unit in the city substation.

*Approved completing the North Avenue overhead conversion and having two Tipton companies bring customer services up to date and into compliance. With the movement of overhead primary service portion underground last year, the secondary services work will be done this year. Roth Electric will complete three services on Cedar Street for \$10,900 and Crist Electrical Services will complete six on 10th Street, 11th Street, North Street and Cedar Street for \$10,105.

*Approved pay application No. 22 to Triple B Construction, Wilton, for \$11,130 for work on the Highway 38 construction project.

*Approved a Tipton Revitalization Incentive Program (TRIP) request for \$5,000 on a \$21,911 commercial project for Murry Mente, 42 Spruce Street, to open the northside wall of the former sports complex building and install a 24 foot by 16 foot overhead door.

*Approved a request from the Tipton Chamber of Commerce to hold a Kickoff to Summer event on the west side of the parking lot north of the courthouse, with setup beginning at 2 p.m. Friday, June 13. The event will run from 4 to 9 p.m.

*Approved a request for software upgrade at the James Kennedy Family Aquatic Center from Day Smart Recreation, Ann Arbor, Mich., for an annual subscription fee of \$3,000 in years one, \$3,150 in year two and \$3,306 in year three. A quote from Active Net, Richardson, Texas, was for \$6,500 per year.

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