



The Traer Historical Museum currently features an In Memoriam display made by members of Traer's American Legion Auxiliary as part

# Traer Legion Auxiliary to distribute poppies ahead of Memorial Day

TRAER — After World War I, the poppy flourished in Europe. Scientists attributed the growth to soils in France and Belgium becoming enriched with lime from the rubble left by the war. From the dirt and mud grew a beautiful red poppy. The red poppy came to symbolize the blood shed during battle following the publication of the wartime poem "In Flanders Fields" by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, M.D. while serving on the front lines.

On September 27, 1920, the poppy became the official flower of The American Legion Family to memorialize the soldiers who fought and died during the war. In 1924, the distribution of poppies became a national program of The American Legion.

In the United States, poppies are traditionally worn on or near Memorial Day, which this year falls on Monday, May 26. It is worn to remember soldiers who have given their lives for their country and honors their dedication and sacrifice. Poppies are handmade by veterans as part of their rehabilitation. They can't be bought, but are given in exchange for donations that assist disabled and hospitalized veterans. Americans wear a bright-red poppy as a sign of respect.

Traer's American Auxiliary Kubik-Finch Post 142 will be distributing poppies locally toward the end of this

This past Wednesday, May 14, Legion Auxiliary members Marguerite Hulme and Liz Bauch gave a presentation to North Tama Elementary fourth graders on the history of Memorial Day poppies, while also providing students with a coloring book, flag pencils, and poppies to

## Man sentenced for illegally reentering the United States after deportation

TAMA-GRUNDY PUBLISHING

CEDAR RAPIDS — A man who illegally returned to the United States after being deported was sentenced on April 30, 2025, to more than two months in federal prison.

Solis-Alvarado, age 34, a citizen of Mexico illegally present in the United States and residing in Traer, Iowa, received the prison term after a March 10, 2025 guilty plea to one count of illegal reentry into the United States after having been deported.

At the guilty plea, Solis-Alvarado admitted he had previously been deported from the United States and illegally reentered the United States without the permission of the United States government. Solis-Alvarado was previously deported in 2010. On February 4, 2025, immigration officials learned Solis-Alvarado had illegally returned

to the United States and found him at the Benton County Jail following his arrest on state charges for operating while under the influence.

Solis-Alvarado was sentenced in Cedar Rapids by United States District Court Chief Judge C.J. Williams. Solis-Alvarado was sentenced to 85 days' imprisonment. He must also serve a one-year term of supervised release after the prison term. There is

no parole in the federal system.

Solis-Alvarado is being held in the United States Marshal's custody until he can be turned over to immigration officials.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Adam J. Vander Stoep and was investigated by Enforcement and Removal Operations of the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

### **GORGE**

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However, over time, several concerns have been raised, and after careful consideration, the decision has been made to retire the Gorge installation. Efforts are being made to remove the remaining paint within the next few weeks.

This decision was not made lightly. It comes after extensive discussions with city officials, public works teams, community members, and guidance from state and federal transportation authorities. Several key factors aided in this decision, including:

Safety Concerns: While intended as visual art, the illusory nature of the Gorge has raised concerns about driver distraction and confusion, especially for those unfamiliar with the artwork. Maintenance Challeng-

es: The painting has required ongoing care due to weathering and traffic. Repainting and upkeep have become increasingly difficult to sustain with limited volunteer and financial

Federal Compliance: We have been informed that the current placement of the artwork on a public roadway does not meet Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) standards for markings on road sur-Non-compliance faces. could result in penalties or jeopardize funding for future infrastructure im-

While this chapter is coming to a close, we want to acknowledge the creativity, dedication, and collaboration that made the Gorge possible. We are deeply grateful to the vol-

provements.

unteers, artists, and supporters who brought this vision to life. The Gorge was never just paint on the pavement — it was a reflection of the heart and spirit of Dysart. Its impact will not be forgotten, and we look forward to exploring new ways to showcase local creativity in public

Thank you for your understanding and support as we look toward the future together.

Nicole Taylor is president of the Dysart Chamber of Commerce.

# REA CHURCH SERVICES

#### DYSART

Calvary Baptist Church Daniel Hartwig, Pastor Sundays: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages Sundays: 10:45 a.m. Worship Service Wednesdays: 7 p.m. Bible Study & Prayer Meeting Weekly Bible Studies in various

**Dysart United Methodist** Indoor Worship Service Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Church office, 602 Tilford St. open Mon-Thurs. A.M. The church is locked the rest of the days. For emergencies call Rev.

Mechille Boldt at 319-505-8366, or email pastordumc@fctc.coop.

#### Zion Lutheran Church Sunday worship

in-person at 10:00 a.m. The Home and Health Closet will be open from 9-11 am on Mon. & Thur. or by appointment (319) 476-5590 zion@fctc.coop

Crosspointe Church Sunday service - 10:00am Wednesdays - 7:00pm

**United Presbyterian** 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday

9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Youth Sunday School, Confirmation Class

# **Ripley United Church of Christ**

Sunday Worship 9am, Fellowship following Service at 400 South Main, RipleyUCCTraer@hotmail.com, 319-478-2482.

#### St. Luke Evangelical **Lutheran Church** Pastor Benjamin Baker Fellowship: 9:45 a.m. Worship: 10:30 a.m.

**Tracer United Methodist** Sunday Worship Services - 9:30 a.m.

Fellowship after service facebook.com/ traerunitedmethodist

**Prince of Peace - Cluster** Father Anthony Boahen Nketiah 319-478-2222

#### St. Paul's Catholic Church 1102 Walnut St., Traer

Father Anthony Boahen Nketiah Services: Saturday 5 p.m. 319-478-2222

St. Mary of Mt Carmel 1435 E Eagle Rd., Waterloo Pastor: 478-2222 Services Sunday 10:00 a.m.

Sacred Heart 1021 Poplar St. La Porte City Pastor 478-2222 Service is 8:00 a.m. Sunday

**Clutier Community Church** Sunday- Worship at 9 a.m.

Vining Christian Fellowship 210 2nd Ave., Vining Pastor Mike Nodland

### **Geneseo Methodist Church** Buckingham

Sun - 10:30 am worship

515-720-2142

3127-115th St, Buckingham Pastor Melody Williams (319) 478-8788 officegeneseo@gmail.com Sunday Worship Service – 9:15 a.m.

facebook.com/geneseomethodist geneseomethodistbuckinghamiowa.org Church of Promise -

> Buckingham Pastor Ben Lindley Worship: 8:45

#### Sunday School: 10:15 Elberon Christian Church

110 Main St., Elberon Sun. Worship - 9:30 a.m. After School Hangout Wed. 4-5:30 p.m.

**Amity Presbyterian Church -**Rural Reinbeck

Darryl Widmayer, CRE 9:30 a.m. - Worship

#### **CASUALITES** | Continued from Page 1

#### **Pfc. Stephen Craig Hass**

Oct. 16, 1947-June 21, 1967; age 19 - Army - Glad-

Burial: Maple Hill Cemetery, Gladbrook "It was emotional going through all of his things,"

wrote his niece, Stephanie Bowers, Times-Republican copy editor. "He was such an amazing guy. He loved playing his guitar and the card game pepper. My mother - Stephen's youngest sibling - was 11 years old when Stephen was killed and said she will never forget the day they learned of his death. The family was eating dinner and saw two servicemen walk past the window up to the door. My grandfather went outside and collapsed and then my grandmother collapsed." His sister, Deb Lang, wrote on the Wall of Faces web-

site: "I still miss you. I framed the hand print you gave me for my birthday when you were in Vietnam ... love you big brother."

#### Cpl. William Jay Balfour

April 7, 1945-Sept. 21, 1967; age 22 - USMC - Toledo Burial: Crystal Township Cemetery, Garwin

"Balfour was remembered by a neighbor as a tall and handsome man," according to Seda.

#### Pfc. Dale Earl Benson March 19, 1947-Jan. 15, 1967; age 19 - Army - Tama

Burial: Oak Hill Cemetery, Tama Benson attended Iowa State University (ISU), Ames,

before entering the service. He is remembered in the school's Gold Star Hall. "He was in my unit, but I did not know him well. And then he died. A true hero," wrote Vic Miller on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's Wall of Faces website.

#### **Sp5 Charles William Cook**

July 6, 1951–June 28, 1971; age 19 – Army – Tama Burial: IOOF Cemetery, Indianola

"As a member of the 27th Chemical Detachment, I pulled guard duty with 'Cook' once a week. What a loss of a great man," wrote Donald Shaffer on the Wall of Faces website.

#### Pfc. Gerald Carl Kinny

April 30, 1949-Jan. 31, 1968; age 19 - USMC - To-

Burial: Mount Calvary Cemetery, Dubuque

"Gerald was my big brother," wrote his sister Cindy Humphrey on the VVMFs "Wall of Faces" website. He was killed-in-action on the first day of the Tet Offensive in an ambush in Hue City. His unit entered Hue not knowing the night before several regiments of the North Vietnamese Army had captured the city. He was a machine gunner and was last seen setting up his machine gun to 'take out' the enemy shooter positioned on a gate tower. The squad leader and corpsman were killed and several laid in the street wounded. Gerald was found on the sidewalk. He had run back down the one-half block to meet up with the others being retrieved by members of his unit. He made it within a few yards of safety before he was fatally shot."

\*No profile photo available.

#### **Pfc. Terry Roberts**

Jan. 2, 1949-Dec. 20, 1967; age 18 - USMC - Tama Burial: Meskwaki Cemetery, Tama

"Terry was in my squad and a good Marine," wrote Cpl. Robert Meadows in the VVMF 'Wall of Faces' website. "We had just taken a village. Terry was standing near me when he was hit by a sniper and died instantly. We hit the deck. The sniper also killed another Marine. We never saw the sniper.

### **Pfc. Gary Ladd Squiers**

July 26, 1949-Jan. 28, 1969; age 20 - USMC - Toledo Burial: Haven Cemetery, Richland Township, Tama

"A few years ago, we were contacted by Manuel (no last name provided), Gary's fire team leader, on specific details about Gary's death," wrote Squiers' sister Lorell Squiers of Des Moines. "Manuel had led his team on a scouting mission. As they came to a small clearing, they were attacked by the Viet Cong with little cover. One of the men was wounded, and Manuel was able to get him to a helicopter. When Manuel got back to the clearing, he saw one of his men was pinned down and could not retreat without being killed, so Manuel tried to reach him, but was then wounded himself. He did not want anyone to come after him, because he was afraid they would be killed. He tried to tell the men to stay where they were. Then Manuel heard Gary say, 'I can get him.' He heard Gary moving in the brush and then a shot and assumed Gary had been hit. Eventually, the men were able to retreat and get to the helicopter for evacuation. Manuel was right next to Gary. I asked if Gary was still alive at that point, and Manuel said 'no, he died from that one shot... Manuel was near tears when he told me Gary was his hero for trying to save him."

### **Sgt. Richard Clive Youngbear**

Aug. 10, 1939-Feb. 3, 1966; age 26 - Army - Tama Burial: Meskwaki Cemetery, Tama

Youngbear was awarded the prestigious Silver Star for conspicuous gallantry. He was Tama County's first casualty in the Vietnam War.



18 22 17 16 2 8 9 3 15 7 Clue: Behind the subject of a photo

6 2 25 20 6 15 2

10 9 17 3 14

Clue: Illumination

Clue: Attention directed

B. background C. lighting D. focus