

# Worth it in the end

By Callum Meyer  
City of Algona Communications Intern

Learn what inspires Teri Curry to stay dedicated to her role at the front desk of the Algona Aquatic Center, serving swimmers every summer.

For the past 25 years, Teri Curry has served as the friendly face that greets visitors at the Algona Aquatic Center. Today she continues to welcome kids, parents and guests to the pool in the summer. Many of the local youth know Teri well—she’s spent 27 years supporting students as a Special Education Teachers’ Associate.

Her passion for both jobs comes from one thing: the kids. “I love kids, I love to see them grow and develop into young human beings,” she said.

In her time as a teachers’ associate and working at the pool, she’s seen many kids grow up and return as middle schoolers, high schoolers and graduates.

“Working in special education…it’s nice to see a student come in and still remember me,” said Curry.

Her role allows her the unique opportunity to experience how children behave in school and during their summer breaks, a rare treat which she says is one of her favorite parts of the job.



Teri Curry (left) receives the Congeniality award from Chamber Ambassador President Bridget Galligan during the chamber coffee on Friday, July 18, hosted by the Algona Aquatic Center.

“I love seeing how they act in a school setting and then coming to a pool setting. And it is different,” she said.

Curry’s motivation is to foster an environment for kids to be themselves, hang out and play. She has a mantra about her work: “I cannot change a child’s home life, but if I make their time with me fun and pleasurable, then I’ve done my job.”

When you speak to Curry, it’s clear how much she embodies that phrase with her 25-year commitment to making the Algona Aquatic Center positive and welcoming. She notes that it’s becoming harder for kids to find spaces where they can socialize, relax and just be kids, which is why she believes the Aquatic Center’s services are so important.

“It gives kids the opportunity to meet other people, because it’s not just Algona people that come to swim here,” she said.

Working at the pool is more than just a job to Curry; she’s dedicated to being a caring, compassionate figure in children’s lives. Even when it’s not a kid, she’s always willing to lend an ear.

“I’m kind of that mother figure, that person that’s there to help. Even with my guards…I’m always here to listen,” Curry said.

When she isn’t working, she volunteers at school events and enjoys cleaning. Curry also loves spending time with her three grandchildren.

“I’m a people person; I love the public. Kids, adults, I can pretty much communicate with everybody,” she said.

After 25 years at the pool Curry has gained some wisdom about maintaining a fulfilling career and her best advice is that doing what you love will always be worth it in the end.

“Enjoy your job, make it fun, and it’s a reward,” Curry said.

For more information about the Algona Aquatic Center, visit the Parks and Rec page online.

# Norwegians visit Blakjer Church

Lone Rock—It’s always special whenever Blakjer Norwegian Church can host visitors from Norway. On July 12, Erik and Brit Wilberg and daughters Ingrid and Ellen toured the House of Worship of their Jensen and Wilberg ancestors who were among the church’s first members when the congregation was chartered in 1876. Cousins from the area joining in the “reunion” were Bill Blomster and extended family from Fairmont, MN. Lowell and Kathy Jensen (Swea City), Roger P. Jensen, Larry and Jane Johannesen (Lone Rock). The Wilberg’s studied the historical photographs and architecture of Blakjer. Glenn Henriksen offered a most enjoyable mini concert on the church’s 1896 pump organ.

Relaying their observations about the United States the Wilbergs were especially moved by seeing the Statue of Liberty which was the first structure their ancestors saw on their journey that would eventually take them to the Seneca area of Kossuth County Iowa a century and a half ago. Over the years the Wilberg cousins have traveled to Norway also in search of family heritage in the much older, picturesque villages.

Erik and Brit own and operate a farm near Stavanger, Norway. This year their crop is barley. They were of course amazed at the flatness and expansiveness of our Iowa farmland. The couple met on a National Norwegian



Glenn Henriksen, the “Norwegians” Erik, Brit and daughter Ingrid and Ellen Wilberg. In back: Bill Blomster. Submitted photo

Blakjer Church was relocated to Lone Rock’s Historical Park in 2002. The building’s preservation was supported by donations, the Kossuth County Community Foundation and other grants. Available for events and tours. Call 515-925-3632.

Television show, “Farmer Seeks A Wife”, and remain happily together! It was also interesting to learn about the lives of their teenage daughters, they attend Christian schools where Eng-

lish, Social Studies and “life skills” are emphasized. Their hobbies include cross-country running, horseback riding, rock climbing, and music. They enjoy Christian camps, mission trips and traveling.

For the remainder of the day the Blomster family and Glenn Henriksen continued entertaining the Wilbergs. Their next destination was Seattle, WA.

It is a compliment to Blakjer Church and their midwestern cousins that the Norwegian Wilbergs planned (on their first trip to the United States) to discover common roots in Kossuth County.

Submitted by Letty Henriksen, Lone Rock Correspondent

# Camp Algona POW Museum seeking information



The Camp Algona POW Museum is doing research on farms in the local area that might have hosted German POW’s while the camp was in operation. In addition, if there are any local businesses that used POW labor, the museum would be interested in learning about the businesses and the work of the prisoners.

It could be a relative or a neighbor, any information that can be provided would be helpful as the museum continues to document the role that German prisoners played in the local economy during the war.

The museum can be reached at 515-295-2267 or pwcampalgona@gmail.com.

Photo shows a group of prisoners standing in a corn field. Submitted photo

## Don’t fall for this screaming scam

An Algona resident was recently the target of an online scam that seemed so real that she fell for it at first despite the uneasy feeling she had.

She was on the internet when a new pop-up window appeared that looked to be from Microsoft. She assumed she had hit something by mistake and tried to get rid of the unwanted window. That prompted an alarm to sound on her computer, similar to a weather alert, but much louder than what she had her volume set to.

The alarm sent her into a panic so she did as the box said and called the number it gave her. A pleasant man answered and identified himself as being from Microsoft. Everything seemed legit to this point so when he told her to download this program, she did.

The number is 888-807-5203. The

download is called Ultraviewer.net.

She started getting suspicious so she used her phone to look up the website. It is a legit microsoft download but for screen sharing and the boxes that were popping up were basically advertisements although they didn’t look like it.

She immediately stopped the download and called her son who told her to hit control-alt-delete and turn off her computer.

That took care of the alarm and she waited to see if she had downloaded enough to cause any harm. As far as she knows there have been no repercussions.

If you have something similar happen to you, do not panic, do not call the number and don’t download anything.

What you should do is hit control-alt-delete and turn off your computer.


## Union Slough NWR taking bids for hay harvest

Union Slough National Wildlife Refuge is soliciting sealed bids (per harvested ton) for hay harvest on three tracts of land to be harvested in August 2025. The tracts are located in Kossuth County as follows: Portland Township: Sections 5 and 10; and Ramsey Township: Section 29.

Bidders must place bids on forms provided by the Refuge and submit them in a sealed envelope labeled “Union Slough Haying.” Bid forms and maps are available at the refuge headquarters and on the Union Slough NWR website at [https://www.fws.gov/refuge/union\\_slough/](https://www.fws.gov/refuge/union_slough/). Applicants must be 18 years of age or older. Bid forms must be received at the refuge headquarters by close of business (4 p.m.) on Thursday, July 31st, 2025, to be eligible. The bid opening will take place at the refuge headquarters on Friday, August 1st, 2025, at 10 a.m.. Bidders are encouraged to attend, but do not need to be present. The successful bidder(s) will be contacted by phone if they are not present. The refuge headquarters is located 6 miles east of Bancroft, Iowa on County Road A-42. Please call (515) 928-2523 with any questions.

You are invited to an

OPEN HOUSE


Evolve Physical Therapy

Dr. Audrey Finer  
PT, DPT

714 E. State  
Algona, Iowa 50511

July 25, 2025  
9:30am - Chamber Coffee  
& ribbon cutting

Come and go until 12:00 noon



YOUR AD HERE

algona publishing company

IF YOU’RE READING THIS, SO ARE YOUR POTENTIAL CUSTOMERS!

CONTACT US AT:  
ADS@ALGONA.COM  
OR 515.295.3535

IOWA LAKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

GET TO it.

YOUR DEGREE. YOUR CAREER. IOWA LAKES.

800-242-5106 | iowalakes.edu



LEARN MORE!

