

## RECORDS

## OBITUARY

## Nancy Ann (Hulst) Wilson

NOV. 29, 1962 — DEC. 7, 2025

Nancy Ann (Hulst) Wilson, longtime employee of HyVee in Ankeny and Spencer, passed away Dec. 7, 2025, at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, with her husband Mike and son Nathan at her bedside. Nancy had recently turned 63. Nancy battled her ovarian cancer for over two years with an upbeat and positive attitude that was noticed by everyone around her.

Nancy was born on Nov. 29, 1962, in Orange City to her parents Betty/Jane Alice (Heeren) and Nick H. Hulst.

Nancy grew up in Hospers and attended the Newkirk Church with her family. She went to elementary school in Hospers and graduated high school at Floyd Valley High School in Orange City in 1981.

Nancy met her future husband Michael Wilson in Sheldon on the night of July 30, 1981. Back then, many teenagers would descend on Sheldon every Sunday night. While Nancy and her good friends Mary and Renae were relaxing in a Main Street parking lot, Mike and his good friends Mike S., Jeff V.R. and Rick W. came into the lot and started to toss a football around. Sparks flew and a lifelong adventure began! Nancy and Mike were married June 30, 1982, in Newkirk. Nancy's maid of honor was her future sister-in-law Laura (Wilson) Steigelman, while Mike's best man was his good friend David Van Roekel. Nancy's father, Nick, did not want to let her go as his cuff link caught on the sleeve of her wedding dress when he was supposed to let her join Mike at the front. Nancy and Mike's son, Nathan, was born in 1986 in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, while they were stationed at USCG Group Cape Hatteras in Buxton, North Carolina. Nathan and his daughter, Lillian, reside in Hillsboro, Oregon.

In January 1983, Mike joined the United States Coast Guard. While Mike went to boot camp in Cape May, New Jersey, Nancy and their black lab Snoopy stayed with Nancy's folks in Hospers. During Mike's 23 years on active duty, they lived in North Carolina; Kodiak, Alaska; Patterson, Louisiana; Huntington Beach, California; Palm Harbor, Florida; Ketchikan, Alaska; and Mobile, Alabama. Military service is a great way to see the country. After retirement in 2006, they moved back to their Palm Harbor home. In the summer of 2009, they decided to move back to their native Iowa settling in Ankeny. In 2014, they purchased an acreage outside Ruthven and built their home there in 2015 — getting it finished just before Thanksgiving.

Nancy held a wide variety of jobs as Mike transferred around the country. Waitressed at seafood restaurants in Manteo and Buxton, North Carolina. Babysat and then managed a bookstore in Kodiak, Alaska. Worked at an eye care office in Morgan City, Louisiana and then worked at Hobby Lobby. In Huntington Beach she babysat three children as Mike was often gone on his ship and Nathan was in elementary school. In Palm Harbor she worked at a Sweetbay grocery store as a cashier very near their house. Up next was Ketchikan, Alaska, where she again worked in an eye care office. In Mobile, Alabama Nancy again worked at Hobby Lobby. Back in Palm Harbor she again worked for the Sweetbay grocery store. In Ankeny she cashiered at a Hy-Vee grocery store. In northwest Iowa she continued her Hy-Vee career and worked until the cancer wouldn't let her anymore. She often went into Hy-Vee to grocery shop after having lunch with her coworkers. She really bonded with her coworkers and customers. If she ran into regular customers about town, they would often call her "The Hy-Vee Girl."

Nancy was well known for her deep love and feelings toward her friends, family and coworkers and received the same in return. She loved her multiple gardens and could often be found happily digging in the dirt and weeding, fertilizing and watering. She enjoyed shopping at the Spencer and Okoboji used stores. If she had a friend along, that was even better. She would pour over her grocery list with her weekly meal plan in mind while looking at the Hy-Vee specials online. After work she would get her groceries for the week. Once a year or so she liked to visit a casino with friends and family. Nancy and her sister-in-law, Sandi, would usually go when they visited over Christmas a number of years. She also went with coworkers, and they had so much fun. Nancy and Sandi often went on girls trips with the Pella Tulip Festival as one highlight.

Nancy was always positive and cheerful and a joy to spend time with. Her husband would often tell her she is a "glass half-full" person and she would call him a "half-empty."

During their travels together, the family enjoyed visiting numerous zoos, including the San Diego Zoo, New Orleans Zoo and the Tampa Zoo. She once rode a camel at the New Orleans Zoo with her granddaughter Lily. They also enjoyed Mardi Gras in New Orleans, Morgan City, Louisiana, and Mobile, Alabama. They drove through part of Canada after departing Ketchikan and really enjoyed the scenery and people.

Nancy was an excellent cook and really enjoyed it. She loved to barbecue as well and usually got the fire pit fire going. She enjoyed hotdogs over the fire and s'mores.

Nancy was a special lady and will be greatly missed by her husband, son, granddaughter, friends and family! She was lovingly supported by all during her over two years of battling her ovarian cancer. Her family greatly appreciated all the love she was given over this difficult time.

Survivors include her partner of 44 years, Michael. Son, Nathan, and granddaughter, Lillian, of Hillsboro, Oregon. Brother, Jeff, and his wife, Sandi, of Gladbrook, Iowa, and their children and grandchildren. Sister-in-law, Laura, and her family of St. Augustine, Florida. Sister-in-law, Diane, of Port Richey, Florida, and her family. Brother-in-law, Richard, and family of Big Lake, Alaska. Sister-in-law, Patty, of St. Augustine, Florida, and her family. Brother-in-law, Jim, in Largo, Florida, and his family. And her sister-in-law, Cathy, in Indiana and her family.

Nancy was preceded in death by her parents, Nick and Betty Hulst, of Hospers, Iowa; and brother-in-law, Tracy, in Florida.

Nancy absolutely adored the family dogs and cats. She helped rescue, care for, and found loving homes for the many stray cats that found their way to the acreage while some stayed as new family members. In lieu of flowers please consider a donation in Nancy's memory to the Spencer pet shelter — People for Pets, 2312 Hwy Blvd, Spencer, IA 51301. God bless Nancy and all who loved and cared for her!

A spring 2026 memorial service for Nancy is planned. Miller's Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

## FUNERAL NOTICE

Wayne Donald Wilson, 68, of rural Dickens, died at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, on Dec. 10, 2025. A celebration of life is planned for a later date. Warner Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements, warnerfuneralhome.com.



## Clay County libraries report strong year, request increase in funding

**NICK LOWREY**  
News Editor

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The Clay County Library Association asked the Board of Supervisors for a 5% funding boost during its annual update and funding request made on Dec. 9.

Spencer Public Library Director Sarah Beth Red Wing-Fuchsen described a year marked by increased demand, not only for traditional resources but also for digital materials and essential public services. At least some of the increased demand was due to the June 2024 flood.

"We're asking just for a 5% increase, just because everybody's hurting, and libraries can really

assist people with reducing their cost of living, at least for entertainment and information purposes," Fuchsen said.

Spencer's library even provided child care for three weeks, helping families clean up their homes during recovery.

The flood and its aftermath pushed the number of library items checked out to nearly 95,000 — a 6,000-item increase from the prior year, Fuchsen said. Digital checkouts continue to rise, though the cost of providing e-books and audiobooks is also rising due to licensing restrictions. Overall, library visits also climbed.

To meet growing needs, libraries undertook multiple improvements. The Spencer Library, for example, expanded its "Library

of Things" collection to include practical items like chain saws and dehumidifiers, items which saw plenty of use after the July 2025 derecho. The library also refurbished its Classics Collection.

The Everly and Peterson libraries both recorded facility upgrades and expanded programming. At Everly, the 100-year-old library building got a new roof, drywall and windows. Peterson's Kirchner-French Library hired a new director and more than doubled its program offerings for patrons of all ages.

The Board of Supervisors will consider the Library Association's funding request early next year as it finalizes a budget for fiscal year 2027, which begins on July 1, 2026.

## SCHOOL BOARD

*continued from 1A*

we're forced to incur, that (private schools) simply don't have, and those things are not cheap."

Property tax reform dominated the latter half of the meeting. Board President Bob Whittenburg asked Wills, Evans and Rowley how they thought the Legislature would approach the property tax issue. Property taxes account for a large share of school budgets, and there is concern that the reform effort likely to occur during this year's legislative session will

cause further financial strain on the district, which is still recovering from the June 2024 flood.

Wills, who sits on the House Ways and Means Committee, said he would rather leave property tax decisions up to local governments. Still, most of the constituents he talks to are deeply concerned about rapid increases in their property's valuation and tax liability. He said at least part of the problem is how complicated the system for determin-

ing taxable value is.

"I think we have to do something," Wills said. "I would rather not do something. But when I knock on 10 doors, eight of them, property tax is the No. 1 issue for them. Our slogan is, make it so easy that a third grader can understand. That's really what we need to do, because right now, they don't. The average person on the street doesn't understand."

The 2026 Iowa Legislative Session is set to begin on Jan. 12.

## PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING

*continued from 1A*

challenges such as the devastating June 2024 flood.

"The flood showed how important public health is for addressing community needs," Tiefertalher said.

The supervisors, for their part, expressed support for the department's mission, with chair Allen Batschelet noting that "public health and safety has got to

be one of our main priorities." However, Batschelet said, Iowa's county governments are likely to face a set of challenging financial circumstances over the next year as the state Legislature works to limit the growth of local government revenues.

"Because of what the state Legislature is doing ... our revenue is going to grow maybe 2%, and

you're asking for 26% increase in the county's contribution," Batschelet said. "So yeah, we're going to have to do some tough discussions about prioritization."

The Board of Supervisors will continue to review the budget proposal, with further discussions about prioritization and funding allocations coming in the first half of 2026.

## OBITUARY

## Kal Andrew Bovee

DEC. 21, 1954 — DEC. 10, 2025

Kal Andrew Bovee, 70, of Webb, passed away on Dec. 10, 2025, in St. Louis, Missouri. Born on Dec. 21, 1954, in Sioux Rapids, Kal was the son of Rodney and Beverly Bovee. He grew up on the family farm in Northwest Iowa where his lifelong love of agriculture began.


After attending Iowa State University, Kal returned home to continue the family's farming tradition. It was during this time at Iowa State that he met and married his college sweetheart, Barbara Robb, beginning a partnership that spanned nearly fifty years. Kal dedicated his life to farming, a career that not only defined his professional identity but also deepened his connection to the land and community around him.

As a young man, Kal worshiped at the United Methodist Church in Webb, while later in life he was a regular attendee of All Saints Episcopal Church in Storm Lake, where he found spiritual solace and fellowship. Beyond his professional and spiritual life, Kal had a passion for traveling and was an enthusiastic supporter of Iowa State football and basketball, often traveling to games and celebrating each season with fervor.

He is survived by his wife, Barb; his father, Rodney; his children, Leslie Lenzo (Justin) and Jason Bovee (Natasha); and his beloved grandchildren, Marcello, Matteo, Niccolo, Giovanni Paolo, Fiona, Tristan and Aurora.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Beverly.

Kal will be remembered for his deep love for his family, his dedication to his farm, and his unwavering support for his favorite sports teams. His legacy will live on in the fields he tended, the church he supported and the hearts of those who loved him.



## SNOW PARKING ORDINANCE


**City of Spencer Prohibits Street Parking during snow events.**  
**No Parking on city streets or alleys from 12:00 midnight to 7:00 a.m.**

This ordinance goes into effect if the National Weather Service predicts a snow accumulation of 2 or more inches or if new snow accumulation has reached 2 or more inches measured at the KICD radio station.

The snow event shall continue so long as snow accumulation continues and for an additional 48 hours after snowfall has ended. Non-compliance will result in a \$100 fine and/or towed.

City Code, Title 7-5-7 article A

## SIDEWALK SNOW REMOVAL



It is the responsibility of the abutting property owner to remove snow and ice accumulations from the public sidewalks adjacent to their residence or place of business after a snow event. In the Spencer downtown commercial district, 12 hours is allowed from the time the snowfall ceases. In all other areas of the city, 24 hours is allowed from the time the snowfall ceases. If an abutting property owner does not remove the snow and ice within the time specified, the city may do so and assess the costs, including an administration fee.

The complete city ordinance regarding the removal of snow from streets and sidewalks can be found at [www.spenceriowacity.com](http://www.spenceriowacity.com) under Public Notices - City Code - Title 5-1 Article E.

## COMMUNITY BRIEFS

## SPENCER SCHOOL BOARD MEETS TONIGHT

The board of directors for the Spencer Community School District meets Tuesday, Dec. 16, at 5 p.m., in the board room at the Central Administrative Office. The agenda includes administrative reports; Habitat for Humanity presentation; closed session with regard to purchase or sale of real estate; possible action after the closed session; board policies readings; public hearing on the 2026-27 calendar, and action; approved drop-out prevention/at-risk plan, and approve modified supplemental amount for the program application; GASB #75 OPEB service agreement; Clay County Conference Board appointment; Johnson Elementary School fire sprinkler installation project; and the superintendent's report.

## CLERK OF COURT APPOINTED FOR FOUR-COUNTY AREA

The Third Judicial District Court Administration announced Sarah Dehrkoop has been appointed as clerk of court in Subdistrict 3A for Buena Vista, Clay, O'Brien and Palo Alto counties. Dehrkoop is currently a supervisor in the clerk of court office and will bring several years of experience to her new role which will begin on Jan. 1. The vacancy was created by the upcoming retirement of current Clerk of Court Tami Christiansen, who will retire on Dec. 31.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## TUESDAY, DEC. 16

• Hy-Vee Bakery Bread — 9 a.m. Occasions, Spencer  
• Spencer Ambassadors Visit Clay County Heritage Center, 7 Grand Ave., Spencer — 9:30 a.m.  
• Chair Exercise — 10:30 a.m. Occasions, Spencer  
• Dinner Date — 11:45 a.m. Occasions, Spencer  
• Bingo/500/Pool/Snooker — 1 p.m. Occasions, Spencer  
• Spencer Girls Wrestling Club: Grades 3-8 — 6:30-7:30 p.m. SMS Wrestling Room

## WEDNESDAY, DEC. 17

• Tai Chi — 10:30 a.m. Occasions, Spencer  
• Dig In: Spirit of Harmony Choir — 11:45 a.m. Occasions, Spencer  
• Canasta/Pool/Snooker — 1 p.m. Occasions, Spencer  
• Everly Hap Happy Hours — 5 p.m. Hap Ketelsen Community Center

## THURSDAY, DEC. 18

• Chair Exercise — 10:30 a.m. Occasions, Spencer  
• Dinner Date — 11:45 a.m. Occasions, Spencer  
• 500/Pinochle/Bingo/Pool/Snooker — 1 p.m. Occasions, Spencer  
• Free Community Meal — 5-6:30 p.m. The Outreach, Spencer  
• Spencer Table Tennis Club — 6:15-8:15 p.m. Spencer SDA Church Fellowship Hall  
• Spencer Girls Wrestling Club: Grades 3-8 — 6:30-7:30 p.m. SMS Wrestling Room

## FRIDAY, DEC. 19

• Coffee Klatch — 9 a.m. Occasions, Spencer  
• Tai Chi — 9:30 a.m. Spencer Family YMCA  
• Canasta/Pool/Snooker — 1 p.m. Occasions, Spencer

## SUNDAY, DEC. 21

• Occasions Breakfast — 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Occasions, Spencer  
• Pinochle/500 — 1 p.m. Occasions, Spencer

## MONDAY, DEC. 22

• Dinner Date — 11:45 a.m. Occasions, Spencer  
• Mahjong/Bingo/Cards/Pool/Snooker — 1 p.m. Occasions, Spencer  
• Free Community Meal — 5-6:30 p.m. The Outreach, Spencer

NOTICE  
NEW DEADLINESFOR DISPLAY ADVERTISING,  
SUBMITTED NEWS ITEMS

**NORTHWEST IOWA SHOPPER**  
3 p.m.  
Thursdays

**TUESDAY SPENCER REPORTER**  
3 p.m.  
Thursdays

**FRIDAY SPENCER REPORTER**  
3 p.m.  
Tuesdays

## FOR LEGAL NOTICES &amp; CLASSIFIED ADS

**TUESDAY SPENCER REPORTER**  
Noon Thursdays

**FRIDAY SPENCER REPORTER**  
Noon Tuesdays

## NEWS DEADLINES FOR OBITUARIES

**TUESDAY SPENCER REPORTER**  
10 A.M. FRIDAYS

**FRIDAY SPENCER REPORTER**  
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