Mayme C. Skarda, Stephens, Cohron 1915-2025

Mayme was born August 28,1918 to Joseph V. and Josephine Prohaska Skarda in Bolivar, MO. She had an older brother and sister Richard and Anna. She also had 2 younger brothers, Harry and Elbert.

When Mayme was quite young, the family rode the train to Iowa. Josie and the 3 children as passengers and Joe with the cattle in the livestock car. They settled down in Ringgold County IA. She graduated from Mount Ayr high school after which she taught country school for 2 years riding her horse Emma standing for "am I gonna make it".

She met and married Gayland Stephens of Diagonal in 1938. Gayland was in the heavy construction business, working with his father. Later, he had his own construction business. Gayland passed away in 1961.

For the next 30 years she was employed at the local grocery store, then the First State Bank and Diagonal Insurance Agency where she worked until moving to Atlantic near her youngest daughter Patt. While in Atlantic she again worked in the insurance business until retirement.

In Atlantic she met and married Donald Cohron, a bridge builder. They made their home in Atlantic and summered at Lake of the Ozarks, MO. They later moved to St. George, Utah before returning to Atlantic, Iowa. Don passed away in 2014.

Mayme remained in Atlantic several years before moving to Independence Village in Waukee in January of 2024 to be closer to family.

Her survivors include two daughters and spouses, 4 grandchildren and spouses, 8 great grandchildren and 8 great great grandchildren.

Mayme was a loving mother, "grand" mother and good friend to many.

Services will be December 3, 2025, at Iles Brandt Chapel in Dallas Center, Iowa at 11 a.m.

Jeff Snyder

...Just Sayin

You never forget your first one.

Are words that important? I would say they are critical.

Throughout history, words have embedded themselves into the fabric of our lives and subsequently changed the way societies act.

"The only thing we have to fear is fear itself" Franklin Delano Roosevelt

"Ask not what your country can do for you, but ask what you can do for your country." John F. Kennedy

"One small step for man...one giant leap for mankind" Neil Armstrong.

"Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall." Ronald Reagan "

These are just a few examples of words that have endured through time.

It's easy to pick out words that are uttered in the public forum by famous people, but words spoken by regular people are no less impactful.

The compassionate and assuring words spoken to a losing high school basketball team by a coach that lives by the motto "It's only one game, and I'm proud of every single one of you"

The softly delivered eulogy spoken to a grieving family reeling from the loss of a loved one. Or the comforting embrace of a close friend followed by the words..."I'm here for you."

These are examples of the healing power of words when delivered with love and caring.

Unfortunately, words can have a more sinister impact when delivered in anger or with hate.

Social media has created an environment whereby unfettered and reckless speech has sadly taken root. People are emboldened by the relative safety of these electronic hideouts, which subsequently fuels more and more remote attacks.

The first amendment is amongst the most misunderstood of the freedoms granted us as Americans by the Constitution . While we all find refuge under these protections, we still must maintain our responsibility for guarded speech.

Besmirching ones employer over the airwaves is one easy example of the potential consequences that await the reckless. Even professional athletes must abide by the "rules" outlined in their contracts or risk the forfeiture of vast fortunes they have attained.

As we come into the holiday season it's a great time to turn over a new leaf. It's an opportunity to extend kindness rather than hate. It is a time for all to unite and enjoy the harmony that outreach creates.

So, stand under the mistletoe and say something nice. You may be surprised by the results.

If you still want to abuse words, wait until New Years when you lie for the tenth year in a row about your intended weight loss.

Just Sayin

Pets as a gift? Think first

stock photo

By JEFF SNYDER

MOUNT AYR, Iowa — It's that time of year again. A time for giving as well a receiving. One item frequently found on the Christmas list of children and even adults is a new puppy or kitten. It's important to make sure that this gift decision is well thought out and decided upon as a family or at least with the full understanding as to what goes into this decision.

Generally, the purchase of a pet is a happy time but it's important to think of the long-term implications of acquiring a new family member.

Is the child old enough to take on this new responsibility? Does everyone understand the commitment it takes to bring a new being into your home, even if the recipient is physically capable of handling the rigors of a new pet? These are the questions that need to be addressed prior to picking up your new friend.

Here are a few ideas that may suffice as a stand in to an actual puppy with a bow tied around its neck.

Consider scheduling a visit to a local rescue group which can introduce your child to professional companion animal care givers. These experts can share with your child the important things to consider when picking out a new pet.

A gift basket with toys or grooming supplies that could represent the gift that is coming. If a pet does not appear to be feasible for one reason or another you could also offer to help sponsor a dog or cat that are specially trained as support animals frequently used in hospitals or long-term care facilities which always need financial help.

Christmas is a wonderful time of the year but it can be hectic and scary for a new animal. Perhaps major decisions such as these can be delayed until such time the family has time to fashion a working plan for both them and their new family addition.

Companion animal experts encourage everyone to consider the pet adoption route.

Every year thousands of dogs and cats end up in shelters as a result of owners who were not fully informed or prepared for the large responsibility that comes with pet ownership.

New owners can quickly become overwhelmed and eventually end up surrendering the animal to a shelter thereby increasing the problems facing rescue groups and shelters all over the country.

Adoption solves a bunch of these problems. New owners get to meet their pet up close and personal and get a chance to test the chemistry that is almost always presents in these meeting. The dog or cat wins, the shelter wins and promises are fulfilled.

Responsible ownership contributes to less stress on adopting families, reduced pressure on shelters and a diminished population of unadopted pets.

Write a Letter to the Editor...

We welcome letters to the editor. Please email your letter to diagonalprogress@gmail.com or mail it to PO Box 346, Mount Ayr, IA 50854. All letters must be signed and include a contact phone number for verification.
Please keep to 250 words or less.

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CITY OF KELLERTON – REQUEST FOR ELECTRICAL BIDS

The City of Kellerton is seeking bids from qualified electricians for several maintenance and repair projects. Work to be completed includes:

- Repair of shop lights
- Inspection of a fuse box and outlets
- Reconnecting the City's old fire siren for use

Bids must be submitted to City Hall in person or by mail to:

City of Kellerton
P.O. Box 40
Kellerton, IA 50133

Deadline for submission: December 5th

Because City Hall is not staffed full-time, bidders must schedule an appointment to inspect the work before submitting a bid. Please contact City Hall to arrange a time:

641-783-2321 or 641-464-5664

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For God so loved the world that He gave his only Son, that who ever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.
John 3:16
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"Give thanks always." 1 Thessalonians 5:18:

United Church of Diagonal

Pastor Rodney Glazebrook
Church: 641-734-5704
Facebook: United Church of Diagonal
d3du@iowatelecom.net
Food Pantry - 8-9 a.m. each Saturday

Sunday, 9 a.m. Worship.

Worship leader: Heidi Lumbard
Communion Servers JP,

Wednesdays 10 a.m. prayer group.

Community Calendar

Princess Theater
7 p.m. on
Friday, Saturday
2 p.m. on Sunday.
December 5, 6, 7
December 12, 13, 14
WICKED: FOR GOOD
Rated PG

Lucky Lanes
Bowling
September through May
Friday and Saturday
6 -10 p.m. open bowling. Private Parties available by request.

MOUNT AYR EVENTS
Thursday
December 4
4-7 p.m. Christmas Market at ISU Extension Office Mount Ayr. Sponsored by Junior Farmers 4-H Club.

Saturday
December 6
5:30 - 7 p.m Marching Into Christmas at the American Legion in Mount Ayr, hosted by Owen and Mary Martsching. 5:30 Meal, bring a side or dessert. 7-8 p.m. First Things First entertainment. Free Will Offering. RSVP 641-464-8096

LAMONI EVENTS
Sunday
December 7
2-5 p.m. Holiday Home Show. Sponsored by City of Lamoni.

TINGLEY EVENTS
Saturday
December 13
2 p.m. Santa is coming to town. Will be in Tingley location yet to be decided.

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

December

1 Leslie Hingeley
3 Abby Eaton
4 Bryce Hower,
5 Jeremy Sobotka, Toni Schlapia, Josh & Jessie Haidsiak
6 Austin Still, Ty Jones, Aria Stephens
7 Ann Smith, Mark England
8 Mindi Hingeley, Mary Keller, Nancy Parker
9 Cindy Wolf, Kera Carpenter, Dillon Davenport, Kelly Allee
10 Jessica Hays, Dayson Gregg, Sherry Wiley
11 Shauna Stamps
12 Nathan Mercer
13 Andy Melody, Carter Lumbard
14 Kirston Lynam, Chase Johnston, Joey Novak, Kolbie Carson, Bob & Julie Malcom
15 Amy Whittington, Karleen Stephens, Randy/Jan Sobotka
16 Genna Naill, Sarah Stephens,
17 Marilyn Bear
18 Jerry Carson, Ann Schlapia
19 Claire Oshel, Jim Taylor, Dominik Sutton, Nathan Inloes, Lincoln Gunsolley
20 Claire Carol Grace, Terri Newton, Klisa Lynam, Emilee Austin, Randy Andrews, Jim & Joy Goins
21 Winter Sostice, Ryker Mason
22 Kaydyn Bolinger
23 Jennifer Tull, Alice Elliott, Chris & Wendy Richardson
24 Donavan Houghmaster, Bessie Austin, Steven & Becky Stamps, Isaac & Kylene Lumbard, Derald and Brenda Schaefer
25 Beth Stump, Karie Wasteney
26 Tony Lohmann, Doug Ruby, Brent Ricker Steve & Edie Stephens
27 Trey Strange, Trevor Wolf, Sawyer England
28 Darla Sobotka, Max Dickinson, Tom Shiflett
29 Pat & Fran Rouse
30 Darin Goins
31 Justin Cook

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