

Harlan Literary Club holds
end-of-year luncheon

HARLAN — The Harlan Literary Club closed out their year with a luncheon at the Goodfellows Restaurant in Woodbine. The Club celebrated Lynette Miller's 85th birthday and enjoyed good memories of the past year.

Next year's officers are as follows: President, Julianne Ferry; Vice-President, Meg Swanson; Secretary, Kathy Holdeman; and Treasurer, Marge Ahrenholtz.

Pictured are (front row, left to right) Meg Swanson, Mary DeHaan, Marge Ahrenholtz, (Middle row) Sally Nairn, Kathy Holdeman, Lynette Miller, Linda Mosher, (third row) Julianne Ferry, Diane Lawson, Kathy Block, Sandy Nelson. Not pictured is Barb McCall, Carol Moon, Kathy Baxter, Sue Pauley and Sharon Dabrawow. (Photo contributed)



Rebecca Erlemeier named
2025 Iowa Mother of the Year

STATEWIDE — American Mothers, Inc.® is proud to share that Rebecca Erlemeier of Harlan, was announced as the 2025 Iowa Mother of the Year®. She was chosen for her outstanding contributions as a mother, ministry leader, mentor, and community volunteer who has faithfully served her family and neighbors with compassion, strength, and purpose.

As the mother of five children, Rebecca Erlemeier lives a life rooted in faith, family, and service. Her youngest son, Isaac, who has Down Syndrome and is on the autism spectrum, has further deepened her understanding of love, advocacy, and the beauty of every individual's unique journey.

Originally from northeast Nebraska, Rebecca was shaped by a childhood grounded in faith, music, and education. Following a call to ministry, she attended Bible college and missions school, and in 1998, married her husband Jeffrey. Together, they have spent 25 years in ministry, currently serving at Faith Family Church in Harlan, where Rebecca is the Assistant Pastor and Worship Director. In this role, she helps oversee multiple departments and outreach efforts while mentoring women, teens, and children in both formal and informal settings.

Rebecca's ministry extends well beyond the church walls. She has volunteered her time at a local pregnancy resource center, where

she supported women facing unplanned pregnancies. Moved by their stories, she now organizes annual community drives to provide diapers, wipes, baby essentials, and financial support to mothers in need. Rebecca has also served at the local elementary school, helping children with reading—a passion that stems from teaching all five of her own children to read and from her lifelong love of books.

A central part of her impact has been mentoring young women and teens through Faith Family Church's Elevate youth program and other young adult ministries. From leading group talks on purpose and integrity to mentoring one-on-one through counseling, coffee conversations, music lessons, and small group dinners, Rebecca has been a steady source of encouragement and guidance.

Rebecca Erlemeier was recognized along with other State Mothers of the Year® from across the country during the 90th National Convention of American Mothers, Inc.® in San Juan, Puerto Rico, from April 24th–26th, 2025. During this event, Joslynn Skelton of Ventura, California was announced as the 2025 National Mother of the Year®.

Joyce Stevens, National Board President of American Mothers, Inc.®, said, "For 90 years, American Mothers, Inc.® has been proud to honor exceptional mothers like



Rebecca Erlemeier

Rebecca Erlemeier, who not only enrich their families but also have a profound impact on their communities. Rebecca joins a distinguished group of women who exemplify the heart of motherhood, and she now has the opportunity to represent Iowa and all mothers in the running for the title of National Mother of the Year®."

Rebecca was nominated for Iowa Mother of the Year by Kayla Weis.

Editor's note: An article in the May 9 Harlan News-Advertiser identified Rebecca as the Shelby County Mother of the Year. This honor was given to Joyce Rosenborn. Joyce's story may be found on the front page of today's Harlan News-Advertiser. We apologize for the error.

COLLEGE NEWS

FAYETTE — Upper Iowa University is pleased to announce the Dean's List for the Spring 2025 semester. To be honored, the undergraduate must have earned a minimum 3.50 GPA and be enrolled as a full-time student.

Among those named to the Dean's List was Jennifer Wright, a Instruc Strat: BD/LD/ID major from Portsmouth.

SIoux FALLS, SD — Kayla Powers of Defiance was named to the Southeast Technical College President's List for the spring 2025 semester. To be named to the President's List, students must be seeking a degree and have a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher.

Powers is enrolled in STC's Surgical Technology program.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Arriaga Girl

Shaila Bird and Roberto Arriaga of Avoca announce the birth of their daughter, Destiny May, born June 5, 2025. She weighed 5 pounds, 8 ounces.

Destiny has a two-year-old sister, Journey. Grandparents are Shannah and Andy Nelson of Avoca, Sonia and Donnie Chandler of Avoca, and Charlie and Cim Bird of Avoca. Great-grandparents are Sheila Griffen of Shelby, Jen Wingert of Minden, and Patricia and Chuckie Qualls of Avoca.

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Applegate Boy

Luke and Kate Applegate announce the birth of their son, Micah Luke, born April 15, 2025. He weighed 8 pounds, 11 ounces.

Micah has three siblings: Eleanor, age 7; Edith, age 4; and Joel age 2. Grandparents are Larry and Evelyn Oliver of Woodbine and Doug and Kathy Applegate of Oakland. Great-grandparents are Velma Oliver of Woodbine and Don Applegate of Oakland.

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Kloewer Boy

Brian and Jessica Kloewer of Defiance announce the birth of their son, Kody Mark, born April 10, 2025. He weighed 9 pounds, 12 ounces.

Kody has a two-year-old sister, Hailey Kloewer. Grandparents are Nicki Farrell and Lynn Arnold of Harlan and Mark and Susie Kloewer of Defiance. Great-grandparents are Bob and Karen Kloewer of Defiance, Vivian Arnold of Harlan, David and Betty Lindsey of Springfield, MO, and Roger and Linda Groves of Sioux City.

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Peterson Girl

Chelsea Schwery and Axl Peterson of Earling announce the birth of their daughter, Aubrey Louise, born May 17, 2025. She weighed 5 pounds, 10 ounces.

Grandparents are Jan Peterson, Jan and Kyle Rutherford, and Bill and Kim Schwery.

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Swanson Boy

Sage and Zack Swanson of Harlan announce the birth of their son, Morgan Eric Leslie, born April 18, 2025. He weighed 8 pounds, 11 ounces.

Morgan has four siblings: Ashtyn, age 9, Brian, age 8, Caroline, age 5, and Ember, age 4. Grandparents are Lisa and Jerome Christensen, and Brenda and Jesse Schwisow. Great-grandparent is Sherry Koch.

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Segebart Boy

Danielle and Jeremiah Segebart of Manilla announce the birth of their son, Wade Nicholas, born March 25, 2025. He weighed 8 pounds, 4 ounces.

Wade has two older siblings, Wesley and Ava.

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Krajicek Girl

Marye and Zach Krajicek of Kimballton announce the birth of their daughter, Indie Neal, born May 2, 2025. She weighed 8 pounds, 7 ounces.

Indie has a one-and-a-half-year-old sibling, Arlo. Grandparents are Neal Jacobsen, Sandy and Tom Holland, and Gary Krajicek. Great-grandparent is Nadine Jacobsen.

4-H Club
Shelby County Youth Council



The Shelby County Youth Council met Sunday June 1 at the Extension Office in Harlan. The meeting was called to order by Vice President Macey Goshorn at 5:48 p.m. There were eight members and two leaders in attendance.

New Business: All of the events for County Fair-Ag Olympics have been decided. Stuffed animal pet show update as given. The flyer is made, ribbons and suckers are purchased for the participants. Kindness Rocks flyer is made, and prizes for turning in a rock have been purchased.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Lillian Niklasen, Reporter



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