

# Popular restaurant up for sale

The Raider in Williamsburg looks for a buyer

By Winona Whitaker, Hometown Current

WILLIAMSBURG — The Raider Drive-in in Williamsburg isn't really a drive-in, but it sells traditional drive-in food at its walk-up window and offers indoor and outdoor dining.

The ice cream and sandwich shop at 817 S. Highland says it's been family-owned since 1969, though it was closed for a couple of years when Kirby White bought it six years ago.

White sees a steady of stream of customers during operating hours, but he's ready to retire and is selling the local icon.

The Raider Drive-in was originally a Tastee-Freez, the first in Iowa, said White.

The Williamsburg Tastee Freez was built in 1960 by Joel Sandven of Kellogg. John Buell moved from Ottumwa to Williamsburg to manage it during the 1960 season, according to an article written by Rita Stahl which hangs on the wall of the Raider dining room.

The menu featured malts, milk shakes, sundaes, cones, sandwiches and pop. It closed for the season in late September.



Kirby White, who bought The Raider Drive-in six years ago, is selling the popular restaurant. He's already had inquiries, he said. (Winona Whitaker/Hometown Current)

Jesse and Dorothy Smith took over in 1961, and Dale and Ruth Mayberry and their son Larry took over in 1962, operating Larry's Tastee Freez until 1963.

The Mayberrys sold the business to Joe and Esther Evans and their son Gary who called it Gary's Tastee Freez.

In 1966 the Evanses held a contest to rename the business. Connie Meade, of Parnell, won the contest, and the shop became The Raider

Drive-In.

The Evanses sold the business to George and Rita Stahl in 1969.

The Stahl family operated The Raider for 26 years. Their daughter, Barb Grauer purchased the business in 1993 and added the patio dining area.

The White's bought the business and equipment six years ago. They don't own the building, White said.

Under White's management, The Raider

serves burgers, tenderloins, chicken sandwiches, soft serve ice cream, foundation drinks and sports drinks. "I just call it drive-in food," White said.

White doesn't need to advertise, he said. The Raider is always busy. White puts notices on the company's Facebook page.

White and his wife, Kim, took over The Raider in 2020. The dining room was closed because of COVID, said White,

but people wanted to get out. Students were home from school and people were looking for work.

The Whites served customers from the walk-up window. White had a full-time job, but he worked at The Raider during the evenings and on weekends. His wife, who worked from home, ran The Raider during the day.

White tweaked the menu to make it as close as possible to the original Raider Drive-in menu, he said. He uses the Stahl's recipe for his loose meat sandwiches.

"The town loves The Raider," said White. So do travelers. "We get a lot of traffic off the interstate," White said. People traveling from the east coast to the west coast. They're are tired of chain restaurants, said White.

Every business needs a hook, said White. The previous owner of The Raider served pie blended into ice cream, a practice White and his wife continue.

Brownie and cookie dough blends are still the most popular, though, White said.

The Raider have a featured flavor of ice cream each week. Lemon is the most popular, and black raspberry is second.

White and his cook came up with the Raider Steak Melt, featured on The Iowa Gallivant's Facebook page in April.

The biggest improvement White made was putting in an ice cream freezer with quarts and pints for sale. "I sell a lot of quarts," he said.

The Raider opens each year in mid March and is open through the end of October. "We're always extremely busy when we first open," said White, in April, May and June, because people missed it during the winter.

"The employees are really a good team." Some have been with him for four years.

White and his wife love living in Williamsburg, he said. They love the town, but they want to spend more time with their grandchildren.

The Raider was going to be sold eventually, so why not now, said White. "I'm 66 and want to travel."

Whoever buys the restaurant will have an established customer base, said White. They'd have to do something really terrible to fail, he said.

The Raider's location is "primo," said White -- ball fields behind, the aquatic center a block away and the recreation center beyond that.

White said he's had inquiries about buying the business since last fall.

The Raider is open Wednesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 8 p.m.

## Memorial

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In case of rain, the services will be held at the high school in Brooklyn and at the Legion Hall in Malcom.

### SLACK-LIGHT, DRESDEN, GUERNSEY AND DEEP RIVER

The Deep River Morrison Schrader Post 296 of the American Legion is hosting Memorial Day services at four area cemeteries May 26.

Services at Slack-Light Cemetery will begin at 8:45 a.m. Residents should meet at the Deep River Legion Hall at 8 a.m.

The service will be under the direction of American Legion Post 296 Commander Steve Shaffer. Pastor Larry Naylor will offer a prayer to departed comrades.

The Post 296 firing squad will deliver the three-volley salute with bugler Zach Van Waardhuizen performing taps.

Services at Dresden Cemetery will begin at 9 a.m.

The service will be under the direction of

American Legion Post 296 Commander Steve Shaffer. Pastor Larry Naylor will offer a prayer to departed comrades.

The Post 296 firing squad will deliver the three-volley salute with bugler Zach Van Waardhuizen performing taps.

Services at Guernsey will begin at 10 a.m.

The service will be under the direction of American Legion Post 296 Commander Steve Shaffer. Auxiliary President Tina Widmer will deliver the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Guernsey Church Lay Minister Gerald Slaymaker will lead the opening prayer.

Guest speaker will be Iowa Department of the American Legion Past Commander Randy Johnson. Also taking part in the service will be Auxiliary Unit 296 President Tina Widmer, SAL 296 Squadron Commander Bob Wilhelm, 5th District Commander Gary Quinlan, 5th District Auxiliary President Tammi Quinlan and 5th District Jr. Auxiliary President Ava De Weese

and Secretary Karlie Mostek.

Unit Chaplain Liz Roberts will read the poem "Freedom is Not Free," and Auxiliary member Francene Cranston read Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

The Post 296 firing squad will deliver the three-volley salute. Bugler Zach Van Waardhuizen will perform taps.

Deep River services will begin at 11 a.m.

The service will begin with the national anthem played by the Montezuma High School Band. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag will be under the direction of Auxiliary President Tina Widmer.

Pastor Larry Naylor will provide the invocation.

Guest speaker will be Iowa Department of the American Legion Past Commander Randy Johnson. Also taking part in the service will

be the Auxiliary Unit 296 President Tina Widmer, SAL 296 Squadron Commander Bob Wilhelm, 5th District Commander Gary Quinlan, 5th District Auxiliary President Tammi Quinlan and 5th District Jr. Auxiliary President Ava De Weese and Secretary Karlie Mostek.

Unit Chaplain Liz Roberts will read "Freedom is Not Free. The 5th District Auxiliary President Tami Quinlan will read "Flanders Field," and Auxiliary member Francene Cranston will read Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

Adjutant Ed Evans will lay wreaths at markers.

Michelle Williamson, with the United Church of Deep River, will deliver a prayer for the nation.

The Post 296 firing squad will deliver the three-volley salute. Bugler Zach Van Waardhuizen

will perform taps.

### OTHER INFORMATION

The Golden Rod Cemetery Committee is serving lunch at the Deep River Community Center following services. The price of the meal is a donation to support the cemetery.

Poppies and flags along the Avenue of Flags will be placed Friday, May 23 at 5 p.m. Flag pick up will be Monday, May 26 at 5 p.m.

### GRINNELL

The Grinnell American Legion Post 53 and the VFW Post 3932 invite area residents to Memorial Day services Monday, May 26 at 10:30 a.m. at Grinnell Central Park stage.

If it rains, the event will be held at the Elks Lodge.

A wreath laying presentation and the playing of taps will take place at Hazelwood Cemetery in Grinnell at 3 p.m. This ceremony is part of the National Taps Across America Ceremony.

### VICTOR

The Victor American Legion Post 54 is hosting a Memorial Day service Monday at 10 a.m. The event will be held at the American Legion Post at 601 Third St. The HLV High School band will play and the Victor Community Choir will sing Patriotic songs.

After the service, there will be a short ceremony across the street from the Victor Memorial Cemetery with the laying of the wreath to the Unknown Soldier, a three-volley salute and the playing of taps.

## Historical society to meet

MONTEZUMA — Poweshiek County Historical and Genealogical Society will meet Thursday, June 5 at 1:30 p.m. in the lower level of the Carnegie Research library building at 200 South Third Street in Montezuma.

The lower level is

handicapped accessible.

After a brief business meeting the program will be given by Howard McDonough from Grinnell.

Anyone interested in Poweshiek County history is invited to attend. Refreshments will be served.

## FARMLAND AUCTION

Wednesday, June 18th, 2025 1:00pm

TAMA/POWESHIEK COUNTY, IA 410.21 +/- ACRES

**FARMLAND DETAILS:**

TRACT 1 - 107 +/- Taxable Acres - 102.66 +/- Cropland Acres - 95.9 CSR2 Average - 91.2 CSR - Tama County, Iowa - Salt Creek TWP, Sec. 20	TRACT 3 - 196.06 +/- Taxable Acres - 178.14 +/- Cropland Acres - 84.5 CSR2 Average - Poweshiek County, Iowa - Jefferson TWP, Sec. 6
TRACT 2 - 107.15 +/- Taxable Acres - 30.11 +/- Cropland Acres - 86 CSR2 - 9.21 +/- CRP Acres - 76.89 +/- Riverbottom Acres - Tama County, Iowa - Salt Creek TWP, Sec. 20	

**SELLER:**  
Mary R. Lamb Trust  
(Known As "Jon Lamb Farms")

**SALE LOCATION:**  
Michael J. Manatt  
Community Center  
105 Jackson St.  
Brooklyn, IA 52211

Farm Lease: Cropland is leased for 2025 agricultural season. Buyer's are to receive prorated portion of the 2025 farm cash rent income.

**VIEW DETAILS AND LAND FOR SALE AT**  
IOWALANDCOMPANY.COM

**OFFICE LOCATIONS:**  
GRUNDY CENTER | URBANDALE | VINTON

**Contact Your Local Land Agents**

<b>Nick Skinner</b> 515-650-0974	<b>Cody Skinner</b> 515-443-6343
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