

## OBITUARIES

**KATHRYN M. "KATHY" SWANK**

Washington

Kathryn M. "Kathy" Swank, 59, of Washington, passed from this life on Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at the University of Iowa Hospital in Iowa City. A funeral service was held Saturday, February 28, 2026, at 11:00 AM at the Kalona United Methodist Church. The service was available via Livestream at the Beatty Peterseim Facebook and YouTube pages. Her body will be cremated following the service and private family burial will be held at the Hawkeye Cemetery near Oakville, Iowa at a later date. Visitation was held Friday, February 27, 2026, from 4 – 6 PM at the Peterseim Funeral Home in Kalona. Memorial funds may be directed to Camp Reece, Systems Unlimited of Washington or the Kalona United Methodist Church.



Kathryn Marie Swank was born November 24, 1966, in Iowa City, Iowa, the daughter of Paul and Lois (Kimmel) Swank. She graduated from Washington High School and worked at WCDC in Washington and Lending Hands. Kathy was a member of the Kalona United Methodist Church and participated in the Special Olympics and attended Camp Reece at Lake Darling for many years. She enjoyed dancing, singing, and needle work. Everyone knew Kathy, and to know her was to love her. She loved people, and especially giving hugs.

Survivors include her mother Lois of Washington; two sisters: Deborah Swank of Riverside, Theresa (Marty) Fleskes of Highlands Ranch, CO, one niece Samantha Fleskes, one nephew Austin (Shelby) Fleskes, and a great-nephew Myles Fleskes.

Preceding Kathy in death was her father Paul in 2015.

**ROBERT "BOB" LANE**

Agency

Robert "Bob" Lane, 88, a resident of Agency, passed away Friday, February 20, 2026 at Harvest Acres Nursing and Rehab in Keota.

There will be no services held at this time. Memorials may be made to the family. Behner Funeral Home in Fairfield is assisting the family.

Bob was born April 20, 1937 in Illinois, the son of Alvin and Katherine (Brown) Lane. He married Emma Lou McElfish, May 23, 1959. She preceded him in death November 20, 2018.

Bob worked in construction, building bridges and culverts, and later drove a dump truck. He was active in the Boy Scouts, enjoyed family time, hunting, fishing, and camping. Bob served in the United States Navy and enjoyed attending his naval ship reunions.

Those left to honor his memory include his son, Robert Alvin Lane of Keota; granddaughter, Brittany Lane of Marion, Iowa; and sisters, Kathe, Cindy, and Cheryl.

In addition to his wife, he was preceded in death by his parents; son, Thomas; brother, Paul; and sisters, Sandy and Patty.

**FREDRICK LEE "FRED" JEWETT**

Mount Pleasant

Fredrick Lee "Fred" Jewett, 78, of Mount Pleasant passed away on Friday, February 27, 2026, at the Henry County Health Center in Mount Pleasant.

Fred was born on October 3, 1947, in Mount Pleasant, the son of Franklin C. and Geraldine E. (Slusher) Jewett. Fred graduated from Mount Pleasant High School in 1967 and went on to graduate from Southeastern Community College in 1969. In his younger years he played in a band called the Vagabonds. After meeting the love of his life, Pamela J. Edwards, they were united in marriage on February 14, 1970, in Mount Pleasant and had just celebrated 56 years of marriage. Fred was a tool and die maker, working for different companies such as Heatilator Goodyear, Mount Pleasant Tool Works and Design Engineering of New London. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, playing cards and was an avid Iowa Hawkeye fan. While working for Shop Services he had the opportunity to work on the Michael Jackson train.

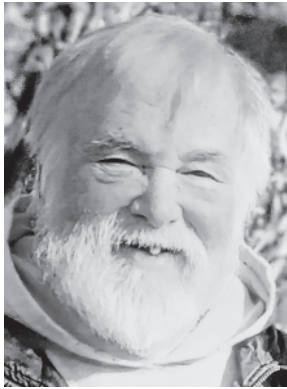
Those thankful for sharing in his life include his wife, Pam, of Mount Pleasant, his children, Shelly (Jim) Smith of Mount Pleasant, Chris (Missy) Jewett of New London and Steve (Debbie) Jewett of Mount Pleasant, his loving grandchildren, Alyssa (Gannon) McGuire, Jenna Smith (Will Mueller), Mahala Jewett (Daniel Brechtel), Xen Jewett (Anna Graf), Tierany (Vanessa) Jewett, Taven Jewett, Ashton Jewett, Tristan Jewett, Ethan Jewett and Serenity Jewett, his loving great-grandchildren, Gracelynn McGuire and Wynonna Jewett, and his brother, Gary Jewett of Mount Pleasant, along with several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Janet.

Friends may call after 2 p.m. on Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at the Murphy Funeral Home of Mount Pleasant where the family will be present from 4 to 7 p.m. that evening. A graveside service will be held on Friday, March 6, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. at the Forest Home Cemetery in Mount Pleasant. A memorial has been established to be determined by the family at a later time.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.murphyfuneralandmonuments.com](http://www.murphyfuneralandmonuments.com).

The Murphy Funeral Home of Mount Pleasant is honored to serve the family with love, comfort and dignity as we celebrate the life of Fred Jewett.

**PAUL HAGIST JR.**

Brighton

Paul Hagist Jr., age 91, of Brighton, Iowa, passed away on Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at Parkview Home in Wayland, Iowa.

Graveside services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 5, 2026, at Hillcrest Cemetery in Brighton, with Reverend Rick Zickefoose officiating. Visitation will take place from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at the Jones & Eden Funeral Home. Memorials have been established for Hospice Compassus and Friends of Lake Darling. Online condolences may be sent for Paul's family at [www.jonesfh.com](http://www.jonesfh.com).

Paul was born on December 30, 1934, in Kinross, Iowa, the son of Paul and Laurene (Wagamon) Hagist. He attended school in Brighton, graduating from Brighton High School in 1953. Paul married Janet Renoux, and while they later went their separate ways, they remained lifelong friends.

Paul worked for Doc and Jack Scheeler before beginning his career with Mullikin Fertilizer in 1963. He later became a part-owner of Kent Feed and Brighton Ag. Throughout the years, as the businesses transitioned through various ownership changes, Paul remained a steady and trusted presence for his customers. He concluded his career in sales and customer relations with Nutrien Ag Solutions of Fairfield, retiring in November 2025. His work in agriculture was more than a profession — it was a lifelong passion and a steadfast commitment to the farming community he cared so deeply about.

Paul was known for his generous spirit and quick wit. He never missed a chance to tell a joke, share a laugh, or surprise someone with a thoughtful gift. Being named Grand Marshal of the Whoopee Days Parade was a proud moment, reflecting the deep respect his community had for him. He could often be found at local events across the counties, quietly supporting organizations and cheering others on. Giving wasn't something he did occasionally — it was simply who he was. Gifting was his love language.

Outside of work, Paul enjoyed hunting, fishing, going on drives to check fields, and attending dirt track late model races. He was an avid sports fan and loved watching games on television, never missing a Hawkeye game. In his earlier years, he played fast pitch softball. Paul was a true dog lover and will be deeply missed by his faithful companion, Harley.

Paul is survived by his children: son, Donald Hagist of Brighton, Iowa; son, Robert Hagist (fiancée Lisa) of Brighton, Iowa; son, Walter (Nancy) Hagist of Searsboro, Iowa; and daughter, Jackie (Richard) Williams of Wellman, Iowa; 10 grandchildren: April Hagist, Tyler (Dallas) Hagist, Bobbi (Ben) Miller, Heather (Ryan) Robbins, Amanda Greiner, Ashley (Noah) Bolduc, Richard (Emily) Williams, and Rachelle (Juan Gonzalez) Williams, Dawn (Paul) Hammock, Jesse Hicks; 13 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his sister, Helen (Walt) Schneider of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa; and special friends, Carolyn and Dan Schlicher of Brighton, Iowa.

He leaves behind many memories that his children and grandchildren will carry with them.

Paul was preceded in death by his parents; granddaughter, Shawna Hicks; and one great-granddaughter, Aubrey Robbins.

**RALLON L. MESSER**

Mount Pleasant

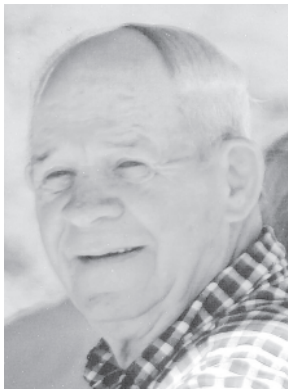
Rallon L. Messer, 85, of Mount Pleasant, died Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

Rallon was born at home December 28, 1940, in North Dakota, the son of Monroe and Evelyn (Anderson) Messer. He graduated from Hannaford High School. Rallon served in the North Dakota National Guard. On April 27, 1968, he was united in marriage to Carol King in Mount Pleasant. Following their marriage the couple moved to Jamestown, North Dakota, before returning to Mount Pleasant in 1974, where they made their home ever since. Rallon farmed and worked at Goodyear for 27 years. He was a member of the Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church. Rallon enjoyed playing cards and square dancing with friends, doing word search puzzles, and tending to his garden. Rallon took pride in meticulously caring for his lawn.

Rallon is survived by his son Bryan of Mount Pleasant; three sisters Nita (Arden) Saxberg, Joyce McCarthy, Carolyn (Phillip) Messer Grage all of North Dakota; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife Carol; siblings Marvin Messer, Maynard Messer, Bernice Baker, Romaine Messer, Rodney Messer, Lyle Messer, and Connie Messer.

Funeral Service will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 7, 2026, at the Olson-Yoder Funeral Home, with Pastor Jeff McPherson officiating. Burial will follow in the Forest Home Cemetery. Visitation will be held 1:00-6:00 p.m. at the Olson-Yoder Funeral Home, where the family will be present to greet friends from 4:00-6:00 p.m. A memorial fund has been established for Mt. Pleasant Veterans Hall. The Olson-Yoder Funeral Home is caring for Rallon and his family. [www.olsonyoderfh.com](http://www.olsonyoderfh.com)



# Iowa J, Wayland, National T.T.T. Society hold meeting

Members of Iowa J of Wayland met Tuesday evening, Feb. 24, 2026 at 6 p.m. at the Wayland Community Center.

Meeting opened with the singing of Sword of Gold. Recording Secretary Cori Kuntz gave minutes of the January 27th meeting. They were approved as read.

President Georgia Fort gave a brief Treasurer's report in absence of Treasurer.

Treasurer Lori Messer had reported receiving notification from the National Office of the receipt of Memorial Donation to National Project Fund in Memory of Kenny Fischer, husband of Iowa J member Donna Fischer.

Correspondence included a letter from member Joni Huisenga. Camp forms for 2026 season will soon be coming out. When Georgia receives the list of needed items for the camper, she will send out an email giving members a chance to sign up for

an item or more; and the chapter will plan a "shower" for the camper at the May meeting. Tracy Hill reported having been in contact with Chapter Iowa L as to possible campers for them to contact. Once session of camp will be held at Bear Creek Camp June 7 – 12th. Iowa J and Iowa L will car pool and take campers to camp and go get them.

Georgia Fort and Lori Messer were voted to be sent as Delegates to Iowa State T.T.T. Convention in Johnston, Iowa, April 10th and 11th.

WACO Prom is April 11. Chapter Iowa J voted last month for a donation to the After Prom.

Next regular meeting will be held March 24th. Location will be announced to members later. Meeting adjourned with repeating the Closing Creed.

**Judith Hueholt, Iowa J Vice-President**

## Crawfordsville News

By Billie Jo Rose

**SACHA CLUB HAPPENINGS**

Nine members of the Sacha Club met Monday, February 23, 2026 in the Ainsworth Community Church basement.

President Brenda Bean called the meeting to order and roll call was answered by each telling their favorite board game. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved as read by Linda McNeil. Karen Megchelsen gave the treasure report.

Old Business: Linda McNeil reported on the recent Blood Drive. Thirty three units were collected. Those who did the calling, worked and those who donated cookies were thanked.

New Business: The Easter Egg Hunt will be held, Saturday April 4 at Marr Park beginning at 9:30 a.m. Preschool through 5th graders are welcome to attend.

The program was making May Day Baskets.

The meeting closed with the Club Collect. Brenda Bean served refreshments.

**CROOKED CREEK CHRISTIAN CAMP**

Crooked Creek Christian Camp would like to make your life easier by providing entrées and sides to take care of your Easter lunch. They are offering take and bake ham balls and a cheesy potato casserole. For more information and to order, visit their website at <https://www.crookedcreekcamp.org/take-and-bake-order-form.html>. Orders are due in by March 9.

Their Spring Craft Retreat is happening March 6-8 and registration is open! You may respond to this website: <https://www.crookedcreekcamp.org/craft-retreat.html>

Tuesday, March 10 is their Lenten Quiet Day pilgrimage. A light lunch will be provided. For more information on this visit <https://www.crookedcreekcamp.org/lenen-quiet-day.html>.

## Bank

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cause for delay and while there is no time frame at the moment, this is still the very early stages of the project.

"We don't want to move and develop and do any construction until we know who might be interested in the space so we can customize it or utilize any of the assets," Michelle said.

This is just the start of an exciting journey the Redlingers are now undertaking and with the main goal being so beneficial to the City of Washington it should

come as no surprise the fervor this project gained, and time will tell just how big the excitement can grow.

"There's still opportunities for us to have challenges along the way, and to have some pivots as we go along," Michelle said. "But, hopefully people see that we're doing it because we believe in the community, and we want to see it grow."

If you have interest or ideas for the lower commercial space contact Shawn Redlinger at 319-461-3142 or Rob Redlinger at 319-461-9027.

## Lamm, Truong named to Upper Iowa University's Dean's List

FAYETTE — Upper Iowa University is pleased to announce the Dean's List for the Fall 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 Tate

Lamm, a Conservation Mgmt major from New London and Binh Truong, a Financial Management major from Fairfield.