

## Carolyn Jean Lantz, 72



Carolyn Lantz

Carolyn Jean Lantz, age 72 of Charles City, died Thursday, March 12, 2026, at Floyd County Medical Center in Charles City.

Friends are invited to greet the family from 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at the Charles City VFW located at 1505 N Grand Ave in Charles City.

Inurnment will take place at Greenwood Cemetery in Nashua.

Carolyn Jean Lantz — a cherished mother, wife and friend — passed away peacefully in her hometown of Charles City on March 12, 2026, having been born there on August 24, 1953, the daughter of Orvall and Betty (Stillions) Herman. Her life was a testament to her unwavering strength, her boundless love for her family, and the joy she found in life's simple pleasures.

Carolyn's early years were spent in the nurturing community of Charles City, where she received her education and grew into a woman of many talents.

It was there, in the course of her work, that she met the love of her life, Francis Lantz. Their romance blossomed, leading them to exchange vows on Sept. 20, 1969, at Faith Bible Chapel. Together, they embarked on a journey of love and partnership that saw the birth of six beautiful children.

In the initial years of motherhood, Carolyn devoted herself to her family, pouring her heart into raising her children and managing the household with a grace that made it seem effortless.

As her children grew, she stepped into the workforce, taking on house cleaning jobs that reflected her meticulous nature and strong work ethic. No task was too small or too large for Carolyn; she approached every job with a

level of dedication and excellence that earned her the respect and admiration of those around her.

Carolyn's interests were as varied as they were vibrant. She possessed an infectious enthusiasm for gambling, savoring the excitement of casinos and the anticipation that came with each scratch ticket. Camping trips with her family were cherished occasions, and her skill in gardening was evident in the lush beauty of her well-tended plants. Thrifting was another joy, as she delighted in the thrill of uncovering hidden treasures among the forgotten.

An admirer of Elvis, Carolyn could often be found swaying to his music, a testament to her being a fantastic dancer.

Her love for "do-it-yourself" projects knew no bounds, and she tackled each new undertaking with vigor. Conversations with Carolyn were always a pleasure, filled with her quick wit and the humor that made her company so enjoyable.

Above all, Carolyn was a

woman who found her greatest fulfillment in the time spent with her family. They were, without question, the center of her universe. Her presence was a source of comfort and joy, and her absence will be felt deeply by all who knew her.

Carolyn's legacy is one of laughter, resourcefulness, and an unwavering commitment to her loved ones. Her ability to find happiness in the everyday, to face life's challenges with a smile, and to make a house a home are qualities that will be remembered and celebrated by her family and friends for years to come.

Carolyn is survived by four children, Jason (Lisa Tepner-Brevig) Lantz of Mason City, Chad (Destrie) Lantz of Charles City, Dan (Brandi) Lantz of Charles City, and Paul (Amanda) Lantz of Charles City; 24 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren; five brothers, George (Darlene) Herman of Charles City, Orvall Jr. "Tike" Herman of Nashua, Bob (Annette) Herman of Charles City, Brian (Rhonda) Herman of Charles City, and John (Kari) Herman of Charles City; and five sisters, Gloria Foster of Floyd, Vila Kellogg of Camdenton, Missouri, Katie Nash of Clear Lake, Cindy (Franny) Marvin of Britt; and Sue (Rod) Stewart of Charles City.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Francis, in 2018; one daughter in infancy; one son, Frank, in 2021; one brother, Kenneth Herman; one sister, Bonnie Miller; one sister-in-law, Cheryl Herman; and two brothers-in-law, James Foster Sr. and Tom Nash Sr.

## Patricia (Pat) Betsinger Homeister, 78



Pat Homeister

Patricia (Pat) Betsinger Homeister, age 78 of Waverly, passed away Sunday, March 15, 2026, at Allen Hospital in Waterloo.

She was born December 8, 1947, in Waverly, to Charles and Dora (Stafford) Betsinger and was raised in the Plainfield area.

Pat graduated from Plainfield High School in 1966.

On June 12, 1966, Pat was united in marriage to Paul Homeister at the Trinity United Methodist Church in Waverly. While Paul served in Vietnam, Pat attended Hawkeye Tech for secretarial training.

After graduating from Hawkeye, she worked at the Waverly and Nashua newspapers. They settled in Horton, where Pat babysat local children, worked at Henke Manufacturing and later became a home health aid.

One of the family's greatest joys was bringing their son Lee

home. Pat spent the remainder of her life helping raise him, in their home.

Pat was a member of the Plainfield United Methodist Church. She enjoyed driving tractors, traveling to visit family, reading, riding motorcycles and cruising in her convertible or golf cart.

After retirement, she enjoyed accompanying Paul on his Vietnam reunions and tractor rides.

She is survived by her husband, Paul Homeister of Waverly; son, Lee (Shani) Homeister of Waterloo; sister, Sandra (Michael) Denington of Waverly; sister-in-law, Susie Smith of San Antonio; brother-in-law, Lester Homeister of Waverly, granddaughter, Destiny Kofron (Jacob); and great-granddaughter, Jenna.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Charles and Dora Betsinger; infant brothers, Earl Roger, Tommy and Leland; brother, Chuck Smith; and sister, Peggy Homeister.

Pat was cremated. A celebration of her life will be held Saturday, March 28, 2026, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in Plainfield.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to Beyond The Pink, a local cancer organization.



Bob Fenske/Reporter

When the snow fell this weekend, it made traveling in and around Chickasaw County downright treacherous.

## This winter has been the snowiest since 2018-19

### WEATHER: FROM 1

climbed into the 60s and today is going to offer more of the same.

And then there is Saturday, a day in which we may want to break out the shorts and flip-flops because our high is supposed to be 71.

Now, it's not going to last, but there are a lot of 50s in next week's forecast.

That beats the heck out of what we endured on Sunday and into Monday, when a major winter storm clipped Northeast Iowa.

Nashua's recording station at the Northeast Iowa Research and Demonstration Farm received just 3.3 inches of snow, but winds that gusted in excess of 50 miles per hour made travel, in a word, hazardous — especially Sunday night into the early morning hours of Monday.

That led Nashua-Plainfield Community Schools to keep students at home for an e-learning day.

Still, it could have been far worse as historic snow amounts of 20-plus inches fell on parts of southeastern Minnesota and in Wisconsin.

Hopefully, that's the last of the snow for the 2025-26 winter season.

Nashua has recorded 39.1 inches of snow this year, the most since the winter of 2018-19, when almost 70 inches of snow hit the area.

The good news is that since November, the city has received 7.48 inches of precipitation, up from the normal amount of precipitation, 6.71 inches, the area receives between Nov. 1 and March 19.

It also means none of the area's counties — Chickasaw, Bremer, Butler and Floyd — appear on the latest U.S. Drought Monitor report that came out on Thursday.

The same can't be said for parts of southeastern and northwestern Iowa, which are enduring moderate to severe drought conditions as farmers gear up for the upcoming planting season.

**Hugeback Johnson**  
Funeral Home & Crematory

## County gets lower-than-expected ambulance bids

### SUPERVISORS : FROM 1

official actually makes the final decision on wages for their deputies as long as the wage is not more than 85 percent of the elected office holder. The pay for the clerks in those offices are determined by supervisors.

Suckow pointed out that some counties have gone to having "assistant" and "clerk" positions, but Laudner said that may work for semantics but Iowa law is clear on the issue.

"It really doesn't matter what you call them," Laudner said. "You can call them an associate to the elected official, you can call them an assistant to the elected official. You can call them whatever you want to call them. Legally, there are only two things; they're a deputy or they're a clerk. The difference is who decides what they get paid."

Hackman said he's not looking at decreasing the pay for the deputy that would become a clerk.

"I don't like pay cuts," Hackman said. "I don't think a pay cut is an option in my book on this because you'd better take duties away then."

But clerks are paid vastly different wages. Hackman pointed out that currently the treasurer's office clerks are paid between \$19.58 and \$24.46 per hour while the hourly wage for the deputy in question is \$29.41.

That discrepancy could lead to another issue, Supervisor Scott Cervinske said.

"So if I was one or two people on the first

floor," he said, "I would be knocking on this door next Monday. I don't know what the right answer is, but we'd better be ready for that."

Board members will take up the resolution at a future meeting, although it appears it needs to be tackled relatively soon because as Hackman pointed out, the county is hoping to certify its budget by the middle of next month.

In other news from Monday's supervisors' meeting:

- Board members received and opened three requests for proposals (RFPs) for a new ambulance for Chickasaw County EMS. The bids included the seller's trade-in price for the ambulance the service is replacing and ranged from \$237,314 to \$296,765.

The county plans on purchasing the Ram chassis for the ambulance, and after the meeting, EMS Director Joel Knutson said the bids came in lower than expected.

Supervisors, though, held off on approving the RFP and will take up the matter this coming week so that Knutson will have time to look over each one.

- Supervisors also approved a 4 percent increase to the county for health insurance costs even though the renewal of its current health plan is set at 2.6 percent. The remainder of the money will be put into the county's partially self-funded insurance fund. The county had originally told department heads to budget 6 percent for insurance agreements.

## County attorney, recorder and treasurer file for re-election

### ELECTION: FROM 1

Three incumbents — Republican Attorney David Laudner, Democratic Recorder Shirley Troyna and Republican Treasurer Matt Ysbrand — filed for re-election last week, but as of Thursday, they were the only candidates who are assured of being on the primary ballot this summer.

The District 5 seat that includes the Fredericksburg and Lawler areas is also up for election this year, and

there may be a rematch this fall for that seat. Incumbent Republican Travis Suckow said earlier this week he does plan on filing for re-election, and if he does, he could meet Jason Byrne for a second straight election.

Byrne, who served on the Board of Supervisors from 2009 to 2013 and again from 2017 to 2021, filed this week for the seat and will run as a Democrat.

The primary filings, though, could be buttressed with the

addition of non-party political organization (NPPO) candidates and other petition-only candidates. Their filing deadline will be June 2, but they won't be part of the primary process.

The filing for NPPO candidates is a change from previous years, when there was a separate filing period in the summer and potential candidates could wait to make a decision whether to run after they knew who the political party candidates were.

## Briefs

### Chickasaw County EMS to dedicate memorial bench

A bench that will memorialize a popular Chickasaw County EMT who passed away last spring will be dedicated Saturday morning at the ambulance's station in New Hampton.

The bench will be placed to honor the memory of Brock Schmidt, who had a long career in rescue services as a firefighter and an ambulance employee for both the Chickasaw Ambulance Service and Chickasaw County EMS.

The dedication ceremony will take place at 11 a.m. on Saturday.

### Park Board to celebrate St. Patrick's Day Saturday

The Nashua Park Board is inviting area residents to put on their green, enjoy a meal and celebrate St. Patrick's Day this Saturday at the Nashua Town and Country Club.

The board is putting on a corned beef and cabbage meal that will also include potatoes, carrots, bread and dessert.

The event begins at 4:30 p.m. with a team trivia contest and the meal will be served between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. Both dine-in and carryouts are available.

Tickets are available at First State Bank, Lincoln Savings Bank, S&T Collision, Nashua City Hall and the Town and Country Club and will also be sold at the door. Advanced tickets are being sold for \$15 while tickets the day of the event will be sold for \$20.

All proceeds from the fundraiser will go to Pa's Playground, and for more information, contact Nate Sinnwell at 641-257-7044.

### EMA to take part in statewide tornado drill

The Chickasaw County Emergency Management Agency will be taking part in the annual statewide tornado drill on Wednesday, March 25, beginning at 10 a.m. Additional information about the tornado drill can be found on local National Weather Service websites.

For more information on severe weather preparedness, visit ready.iowa.gov.

# A Life Remembered. A LEGACY PRESERVED

## Let Us Help You Honor Their Memory!

For more than 80 years, Black Hawk Memorial and Nashua Monument Works have provided comfort and solace during life's most difficult moments by creating beautiful, custom memorials that honor what matters most. Our experienced craftsmen walk beside you every step of the way, thoughtfully guiding you through the process of creating a tribute that reflects your loved one's life, story and legacy.



With the largest selection in Northeast Iowa, we offer a wide range of memorial options, from upright and lawn-level monuments to benches and more, each crafted with care, respect and lasting quality.

Tour our showrooms today!

**BLACK HAWK**  
MEMORIAL COMPANY  
5325 University Ave. | Cedar Falls, IA 50613  
(319) 266-0282

BlackHawkMemorial.com

**NASHUA**  
MONUMENT WORKS  
723 Greeley St. | Nashua, IA 50658  
(641) 435-2242

NashuaMonumentWorks.com

(across from the high school)

"Where Quality Prevails"