

SIoux RAPIDS BULLETIN PRESS

CHURCH CALENDAR

<b>IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 4840 40th Ave., Alta 712-286-6222 Pastor Rhonda Wykoff Pastor David Olson	<b>Pastor Tylor Sarchet</b>  <b>SUNDAY, JAN. 18</b> 9:30 a.m. — Worship, Lunch to Follow
<b>FOR THE LORD’S CUPBOARD:</b> January — Dish Soap <b>SUNDAY, JAN. 18</b> 11 a.m. — Worship, Annual Meeting to Follow Worship	<b>RIVERSIDE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH</b> 102 W. High St., Linn Grove RiversideChurchIowa.com  <b>SUNDAY, JAN. 18</b> 9:30 a.m. — Worship 6:30 p.m. — Ignite 7:15 p.m. — Salt Youth
<b>TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 105 High St., Linn Grove 712-296-4438 Pastor Rhonda Wykoff Pastor David Olson	<b>FIRST UNITED CHURCH</b> Sioux Rapids Pastor Kari Etherington  <b>SUNDAY, JAN. 18</b> 11:15 a.m. — Worship
<b>SUNDAY, JAN. 18</b> 8 a.m. — Worship	<b>FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> Sioux Rapids Vicar Susan Rohan  <b>SUNDAY, JAN. 18</b> 9 a.m. — Worship
<b>OUR SAVIOR’S LUTHERAN CHURCH</b> 107 N. Broadway Ave., Rembrandt 712-286-6222 Pastor Rhonda Wykoff Pastor David Olson	<b>BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Sioux Rapids Pastor James Marshall  <b>SUNDAY, JAN. 18</b> 10 a.m. — Sunday School 11 a.m. — Worship <b>THURSDAY, JAN. 22</b> 7 p.m. — Bible Study
<b>SUNDAY, JAN. 18</b> 9:30 a.m. — Worship 10:30 a.m. — Sunday School <b>TUESDAY, JAN. 20</b> 1 p.m. — Quilting	
<b>VALLEY LIGHT COMMUNITY CHURCH</b> Sioux Rapids	

SCHOOL MENU

<b>MONDAY, JAN. 19</b> <b>Breakfast</b> — Cereal, toast, fruit, juice, yogurt <b>Lunch</b> — Pork burger, baby carrots, baked chips, applesauce, milk	<b>Lunch</b> — Mr. Rib on a bun, baked beans, coleslaw, apple, milk
<b>TUESDAY, JAN. 20</b> <b>Breakfast</b> — Scrambled eggs, cereal, toast, fruit, juice, yogurt <b>Lunch</b> — Creamed chicken, mashed potatoes, peas, strawberry cup, mini roll, milk	<b>THURSDAY, JAN. 22</b> <b>Breakfast</b> — Blueberry muffin, cereal, toast, fruit, juice, yogurt <b>Lunch</b> — Orange chicken, stir-fry vegetables, brown rice, banana, milk
<b>WEDNESDAY, JAN. 21</b> <b>Breakfast</b> — Pizza, cereal, toast, fruit, juice, yogurt	<b>FRIDAY, JAN. 23</b> <b>Breakfast</b> — Doughnut, cereal, toast, fruit, juice, yogurt <b>Lunch</b> — Cheese breadstick with marinara sauce, broccoli, peaches, milk

FISHING REPORT

**STORM LAKE**  
There are large areas of open water. Ice conditions have degraded with the weather last week; many areas are unsafe.

**SPIRIT LAKE**  
Water temperature is 32 degrees. Ice thickness is 10-plus inches in most areas. Porta-potty units are available at Marble Beach and Mini-Wakan boat ramps. Black Crappie — Good: Anglers are catching crappie on jigs with minnows or plastics, as well as Berkley Power Bait Shiners. Yellow Perch — Good: Reports of anglers catching 9-plus-inch perch.

**WEST OKOBOJI LAKE**  
Water temperature is 34 degrees. The lake has almost entirely frozen over. Some bays may permit fishing, but the main lake is still not recommended. Black Crappie — Fair.

**EAST OKOBOJI**  
Water temperature is 32 degrees. Most areas have around 10-12 inches of ice. Reports of anglers catching quality-sized panfish species. Hole hopping may be needed. Black Crappie — Fair, Bluegill — Good, Pumpkinseed — Good.

• For more information, call the regional office at 712-336-1840.

CLIMATOLOGY BY KEITH STOEBER

Date	High	Low	Precip.	Snow
Jan. 4 .....	30 .....	19 .....	0 .....	0 .....
Jan. 5 .....	44 .....	25 .....	0 .....	0 .....
Jan. 6 .....	37 .....	25 .....	0 .....	0 .....
Jan. 7 .....	45 .....	23 .....	0 .....	0 .....
Jan. 8 .....	53 .....	24 .....	0 .....	0 .....
Jan. 9 .....	40 .....	27 .....	0.22 .....	0 .....
Jan. 10 .....	30 .....	12 .....	Tr .....	0 .....
Jan. 11 .....	34 .....	11 .....	0 .....	0 .....

OBITUARY

Shari Bral

JULY 23, 1976 — DEC. 30, 2025

Shari Ann Bral, 49, of Ottumwa, passed away from complications of influenza A at 10:29 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 30, 2025, at Mercy One Hospital in Des Moines.

Shari, the daughter of Marvin N. and Judy (Halverson) Moss, was born on July 23, 1976, in Clarion. Shari was baptized and confirmed in the Lutheran Church and remained strong in her Christian belief, regularly attending church and Sunday School, serving on the church council, singing in the church choir and even leading the singing for church. Her favorite song was “O Holy Night.”



Shari attended Dows Community School, where she graduated as salutatorian of the Dows High School class of 1995. During her school years, Shari was involved in track, speech, band and chorus. Outside of school, Shari was active in 4-H, earning numerous ribbons and awards at both the local and state levels. Some of Shari’s prize entries at the Iowa State Fair were her home-canned sauerkraut, angel food cake and refinished antique teacher’s desk.

Shari attended University of Northern Iowa, receiving two degrees in Spanish: Bachelor of Arts in 1998 and Master of Arts in 2001. Upon completing her college education, Shari was employed in various areas in Cedar Falls and Colorado Springs, Colorado. In 2003, Shari taught Spanish at Des Moines Area Community College; In 2004-2005 Shari worked at Work Force Development in helping people find employment.

Since 2005, Shari had been employed as an Income Maintenance Worker with the State of Iowa Department of Human Services in Ottumwa. At DHS Shari used both Spanish and English in working with clients on the eligibility to various government programs and services.

On October 7, 2005 while doing a play together for Ottumwa Community Players, Shari met her future husband, Slade Bral. On March 12, 2011, Shari and Slade were married at First Lutheran Church in Ottumwa.

Shari loved to cook and bake, with her specialties being molasses cookies and angel food cake; she won blue ribbons for both at the Iowa State Fair. Shari was known by her family as the expert fisherman, even ice fishing with her dad.

Shari Bral is survived by her parents, Marvin and Judy Moss of Galt; brother, Kyle Moss of Clarion; aunts and uncles, Sandra Halverson of Spencer; Joan (Jon) Horton of Earlham; Gary Moss of Benton, Arkansas; Kevin (Sue) Moss of Clarion; Cousins, Julie Horton of Ankeny; Carla (Gordon) Morgan of Boquete, Panama; Matthew (Katina) Moss of Bryant, Arkansas; Timothy (Renee) Moss of Benton, Arkansas; Great Aunt Ardyce Hanson of Ames, friends, co-workers, and anyone who was fortunate to have been inspired by Shari.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents; aunt, Pam Moss in 2023; her faithful dog, Furbie; and her beloved husband, Slade Bral, in 2015.

Services have been held.

Memorials may be made to First Lutheran Church in Ottumwa or St. Paul Lutheran Church in Ottumwa or St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church in Albion.

### REBEL OF THE WEEK

**SOPHIA EPPES**  
Sophia is the daughter of Cheyenne and Tyler Eppes. She has siblings, Nevaeh, 9, Chloe, 7, and Jiraiya, 3. Sophia loves playing outside with her siblings. She also loves spending times with her grandparents (papa and grandpa, nana). Sophia enjoys looking at bugs and riding her bike. Sophia’s favorite is getting to love on cats. When she grows up she wants to be a vet.

**Community State Bank, Sioux Rapids**

OBITUARY

Thomas ‘Tom’ Siefken

OCT. 14, 1957 — JAN. 9, 2026

Thomas “Tom” Siefken, 68, of Storm Lake, died Jan. 9, 2026, at Methodist Manor Retirement Community in Storm Lake.

Celebration of Life services will take place at a later date. Burial will be in the Lone Tree Cemetery in Sioux Rapids. The Sliefert Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of the arrangements.

Tom was born Oct. 14, 1957, to Richard and Norma (Haroldson) Siefken in Storm Lake. He was baptized and confirmed his faith at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Rembrandt. In 1977, Tom graduated from Rembrandt Consolidated School. He served in the U.S. Air Force from 1980 until his honorable discharge in 1982.

Tom loved the outdoors, especially fishing and hunting. He enjoyed listening to music and was proud of the fact that he taught himself how to play his guitar. Cribbage was his favorite card game. In the warmer months, Tom enjoyed challenging his friends and family to a game of frisbee golf. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Left to cherish the memory of Tom include his brother, Greg (Angie) Siefken, of Storm Lake; sisters, Margret (Dave) Aaberg of Pelican Rapids, Minnesota; Nancy (Dennis) Falline of Washington; Jan Kamies of Orleans; Karen (Dennis) Roberts of Sioux Rapids; Paula (Roger) Lamoureux of Columbia, Missouri; Susan (Kevin McGee) Reeves of Peterson; sister-in-law: Lori Siefken of Cherokee; a host of nieces, nephews, extended family and many friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Richard and Norma (Haroldson) Siefken; brother, Jay Siefken; sister, Lelah Siefken; and brother-in-law, Brad Kamies.



COMING EVENTS

- CHICS will meet Jan. 19 at 7 p.m. at the home of Martha Castro.
- The Sioux Rapids Area Historical Association will meet for its regular meeting on Monday, Jan. 26, at 6:30 p.m.
- The Sioux Rapids Food Pantry is open on the third Saturday each month at First Lutheran Church from 8-10 a.m. Contact Dolly Huffman at 712-260-0447.

DAYS GONE BY

- 10 YEARS AGO**
- Jonathan Wahlburg was proud to announce that the “doctor” that he has worked so hard for over the last few years is now official.
  - The 56th annual Northwest Iowa High School Honor Choir was held Jan. 18. Attending were Madelyn Bjork, Anna Ehlers, Rachael Mouw, Anita Salmeron, Manuel Menchaca and Levi Marcoux.
  - Congratulations and thank you to these firemen who received their years of service awards at the Sioux Rapids Fire Department: Scott Haldin, 10 years; Mike Wernimont, 30 years; Craig Middendorff, 30 years; Jim Wise, 20 years; and Steve Jarvis, 10 years.
- 20 YEARS AGO**
- Ben Skelton, a graduate of Sioux Central and son of Dan and Karen Skelton, ran in the Paris Marathon.
  - The new mayor and City Council were sworn in, and the group met to attend to city business. Members of the council were: Jim Wise, Dave Rassler, Allen Sorenson, Valerie Small and David Althaus. Mayor Nathan Leidahl conducted his first meeting.
- 30 YEARS AGO**
- The Sioux Baves 4-H Club and Sioux Rapids-Rembrandt Girl Scouts collected over 29,000 pounds of newspaper over a year, taking them to the Buena Vista Work Activity Center.
- 40 YEARS AGO**
- The Sioux Central basketball cheerleaders included Donna Patterson, Stephanie Johnson, Melanie Johnson, Kim Dubois and Lorie Leidahl. The mascot of the group was Kim Cavanaugh.
  - Second-class postage, which affects the Bulletin Press, along with other newspapers and periodicals, took a large increase in postal rates on the first of the year.
- 60 YEARS AGO**
- Postmaster Paul Schmidt presented accident-free driving awards and certificates to two rural mail carriers of the Sioux Rapids Post Office: Charles Barnhardt earned an eight-year award and Donald Stanzel earned a three-year award.
- 120 YEARS AGO**
- O.R. Thomas, Ed Skinner and John Hart rented the main room in the Goodrich building and had fitted it up for a gymnasium. The room was open evenings and the boys proposed to run it right. Boxing gloves, dumbbells, and other gymnastic apparatus were on hand or being ordered. Such a club, if properly conducted could be made of great benefit to the young men of Sioux Rapids and it should have the encouragement of the citizens.

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