

Smile Machine gets an oil change

We have all heard the term, the squeaky wheel gets the oil. In the case of the Norman and Evans track-style carousel at Midwest Old Threshers, that squeak led to a summer of work for Threshers volunteer Linda Enearl.

She knew the axles had to be lubricated, but the question was how? After speaking with someone who works for a carousel restoration company, she learned about the oiler boxes that sit above the axles and wick oil down onto the axles. One problem, those 14 oilers were full of grease. On top of that, the track had been greased coating the wheels.

Linda got to work, spending many hours under the carousel deck cleaning grease off the track and wheels and cleaning out the oilers and replacing the packing material. While under the deck, she noticed some mold growing. A thorough, professional cleaning was in order.

As we approach the 2026 Midwest Old Threshers Reunion, the historic Smile Machine will celebrate its 127th birthday with a new lease on life.



Toby & Susie return to the stage

Step inside the Theatre Museum for a special 60-minute performance of *Toby and the Senator* during the 2026 Midwest Old Threshers Reunion!

Enjoy an entertaining show filled with classic humor, a glimpse into the Theatre Museum's rich history, and old-fashioned candy sales that bring back memories of days gone by.

Friday, September 4 & Saturday, September 5 - Performances at 11:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m. in the Theatre Museum. Free Will Donation! Bring the whole family for an hour of laughter and nostalgia that's fun for all ages!

Trouper Tales

Join past cast members of tent shows throughout the country as they reminisce and tell stories about their time traveling under "The Tent." Come to the James V Davis Performance Center in the basement of the Theatre Museum Thursday, September 3 - Sunday, September 6 from 1-2 p.m.

A 60-Minute Treat! ■■■■■■
FREE WILL DONATION

FRIDAY SEPT 4 Thru SATURDAY SEPT 5
11 AM & 3 PM IN THEATRE MUSEUM

- A peek into the Theatre Museum's rich history
- Enjoy classic candy sales like days gone by!
- Laugh Along with Toby & the Senator

STARRING TOBY
In a special shortened performance of
Toby and the Senator

"TRIMMED DOWN JUST FER Y'ALL — BUT STILL LOADED UP WITH LAUGHS!"
— TOBIAS T. TOLLIVER

A Message from the CEO

Dear Old Threshers Friends and Family,

Sometimes, I forget to *Thank* the people who make our lives happy in their own simple ways. Sometimes, I fail to tell them how much I appreciate them for being a part of our Old Threshers world. Today is just an ordinary day, nothing is really special, but hey! Thanks for being part of today and tomorrow and for being part of the Old Threshers Family.



Terry McWilliams

I wondered how many different ways I could say Thank You to you all for what you have already done in 2026 at Old Threshers and for what you are going to do soon. So here is my best attempt to cover all the ways:

Thank you. Thanks! Many thanks. Much appreciated.

I appreciate it. I'm grateful. I'm thankful. I truly appreciate this.

I'm very grateful. I sincerely appreciate it. I'm deeply grateful. I'm forever grateful.

I can't thank you enough. You have my gratitude. Please accept my thanks. I'm indebted to you.

You have my sincere thanks. I appreciate your kindness. I appreciate your help. I'm grateful for your support.

Your kindness means a lot. That means so much to me. You've been incredibly helpful. I'm touched by your generosity.

I'm thankful for your thoughtfulness. I owe you one. I owe you big time. You're a lifesaver. You saved the day.

You're a gem. You're the best. You're amazing. You're incredibly kind.

That was so thoughtful of you. You're too kind.

I'm lucky to have your help. I'm lucky to have you. I'm grateful you were there. I'm glad you helped me. Your help made a difference.

You made my day. You really came through for me. I'm so glad you did that. I appreciate everything you've done.

I'm grateful for everything. I value your kindness. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. I'll always appreciate this. I won't forget your kindness.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you. Thanks a Million!

Remember together we can pull off lots of great and amazing things when we work together. The Reunion doesn't just happen, it takes all of us to make an impact on the lives of the visitors, the volunteers, and our own families. See all of you at the Old Threshers Reunion, Sept 3-7, 2026.

Oh yeah, Thanks!



CELEBRATING
AMERICA **250** *Midwest*
Old Threshers Reunion



★ JIMMY ★
FORTUNE

THURS., SEPT. 3



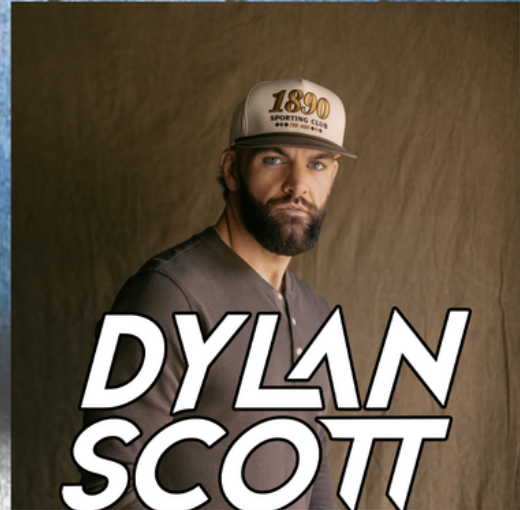
COOPER ALAN

FRI., SEPT. 4



TYLER FARR

SAT., SEPT. 5



**DYLAN
SCOTT**

SUN., SEPT. 6

**GRANDSTAND OPENS AT 6:30 PM
SHOW STARTS AT 8:00 PM
INCLUDED WITH YOUR ADMISSION.**

Threshers hits the road

Midwest Old Threshers spent part of the summer away from the grounds, taking a little bit of Mount Pleasant tradition on the road.

OT staff and volunteers made several stops throughout the season, including Herbert Hoover Days in West Branch, where visitors had the chance to connect with Iowa history and learn more about Old Threshers.

Threshers also co-sponsored a booth at the Iowa State Fair, helping spread the word about the Reunion and all there is to see and do in Mount Pleasant and Henry County.



Another stop took the Association to the Mount Pleasant square and the very first National Homesteader Day on August 15, where the traditions of early rural life were right at home alongside the history Old Threshers works to preserve.

The summer would not be complete without a stop at the West Point Sweet Corn Festival where the Association-owned 75hp Case steam engine was put to work cooking sweet corn.

No matter where they were, Old Threshers volunteers were proud to share history, heritage and traditions with new audiences.

The latter part of August finds everyone back in Mount Pleasant and ready to celebrate the 76th Midwest Old Threshers Reunion September 3-7!



Button Collectors' Update

by Carolyn Sidebottom | Plymouth, Minnesota

2026 Button Collector's Forum

Button collectors will meet for the 24th Annual Button Collectors' forum in Colfax School at 9:30 on Sunday morning September 6, 2026. Colfax School is located just south of Campground Hospitality and the Theater Museum. Mark your Old Threshers daily schedule.

2026 Souvenir Button Design

The 2026 Steam Engine of the Year is the 1919 Port Huron 19-65hp "Longfellow" compound engine serial number 8250. The Port Huron Engine and Thresher Company manufactured over 6,000 steam traction engines at its plant in Port Huron, Michigan from the late 1880 into 1920s. Later models of the Port Huron engines were often called "Longfellow" because of the longer boilers designed for greater efficiency and better steaming capabilities.

Rob and Tammy Nelson and their family are the proud owners of this year's Engine of the Year. Rob and Tammy are featured standing next to the drive wheel on the 2026 Old Threshers button. The Nelsons acquired the engine in 2005 and have been upgrading components to keep the engine in top running condition. These include replacing the firebox, the mains, and they are currently working on the governor.

According to Rob, the engine was originally purchased from Port Huron's branch operation in Des Moines and spent its entire working life in northeastern Iowa. The 1919 Port Huron 19-65hp features an original cab, which makes this engine somewhat unique.

2026 Button Design Artist

The 2026 Old Threshers button was designed by Steven Mendenhall. This is Steve's sixth year as the button's major designer, designing both the engine portrait and the button layout.

This year's button is not signed. Apparently, Steve "forgot" to include his initials as a design element.

2026 Button Construction

The 56 mm diameter button is constructed as many previous buttons have been—a plastic coated paper formed over a metal shell and held together by a silver-colored metal backing disk. The attached silver-colored pin has the loop-style catch.

Button Varieties

As of May 2026, no new varieties of past years buttons have been reported by our sharp-eyed variety collectors.



Based on a limited number of samples of the 2026 buttons, there appear to be a slight difference in the shade of purple between the Souvenir button, the Volunteer buttons. It is likely that it is simply a normal variation between manufacturing runs and is not sufficient to create a variety.

2026 Engine of the Year Special Souvenir Button

Old Threshers has again issued a limited quantity of the 2026 Souvenir button in the large format. This eighteenth "giant button" makes an interesting supplemental button for the core collection. It also allows one to view the artwork in greater detail. These giant buttons have limited availability while supply lasts from the Old Threshers Office prior to the Reunion and official souvenir locations during the Reunion.

Official Supplements

The 2026 10-hour Volunteer continues the design change initiated in 2025. Like the main Souvenir button, the Volunteer button is a 56 mm diameter button with a plastic-coated paper formed over a metal shell and held together by a silver-colored metal backing disk. The Volunteer button coordinates with the colors of the main Souvenir button (purple, white, and black). The volunteer's name will be printed on a clear adhesive label that is affixed over the white rectangle on the face of the button.

The 10-hour Volunteer button is given by Old Threshers to those individuals who have completed (or will complete) their 10-hour volunteer commitment to Old Threshers prior to the opening of the Reunion. The 2026 "volunteer year" began at the end of the 2025 Reunion. Old Threshers is always looking for volunteers to help prepare for and put away after the Reunion. The 2026 Exhibitor/Staff button is an oval name-window button. An attached, coordinating ribbon will identify the main Old Threshers activity area of the wearer.

Both the 10-hour Volunteer Button and the E/S Button and Ribbon are earned for volunteer work at Old Threshers and tend to remain in the collections of the individuals who earned them. Old Threshers has never sold either of these buttons.



10-hour button



Exhibitor/Staff button

Continued on page 6

Button Collectors' Update, cont.

Updates:

The following charts summarize updated facts about the 2026 Old Threshers Button collections. Be sure to add this important information to the inventory charts in your copy of *The Elusive '54, The Complete Guide to Old Threshers Button Collecting*, third edition.

ENGINE PORTRAITS

YEAR	MODEL	OWNER
2026	1919 Port Huron 19-65hp	Rob and Tammy Nelson Lockridge, Iowa

MEMBERSHIP/SOUVENIR BUTTONS

DATE	SIZE (Dia.)	OBSERVE COLOR	REVERSE COLOR	PIN TYPE	MARKING	VALUE
2026	56 mm	Pantone 2952C Purple Black White	Silver	Silver L	None	\$1.00

VOLUNTEER BUTTONS

DATE	SIZE (Dia.)	OBSERVE COLOR	REVERSE COLOR	PIN TYPE	MARKING	VALUE
2026	56 mm	Pantone 2952C Purple Black White	Silver	Silver L	None	Market, Not Sold by OT

EXHIBITOR/STAFF BUTTONS

DATE	SIZE (Dia.)	OBSERVE COLOR	REVERSE COLOR	PIN TYPE	MARKING	VALUE
2026	46 mm by 71 mm	Pantone 2952C Purple Black White	Silver	Silver L	None	Market, Not Sold by OT



2026
Featured
Steam Engine
1919 Port
Huron 19-65
HP
Owned by:
The Rob
Nelson Family
of Lockridge,
IA



MIDWEST
OLD THRESHERS
REUNION

FREE
CHILD SAFETY
WRISTBANDS!

NEW FOR 2026!

Write your child's name and your contact information on the wristband.
If your child gets separated, we can help reunite you quickly!

COURTESY OF
Fullenkamp
INSURANCE
West Point, Iowa - Est. 1963

GET YOUR FREE WRISTBAND AT:

- ANY OF OUR 4 INFORMATION BOOTHS
- THE PAUL ANDERSON WELCOME CENTER
- THE IOWA STATE PATROL BOOTH UNDER THE GRANDSTAND

Thank you, Fullenkamp Insurance, for helping keep our youngest visitors safe during the Reunion!

THRASHERS
house of terror
2
YEARS OF
FACING THE TERROR

October
8-10, 15-17,
22-24, 29-31
14 and Under Must Be Accompanied by an Adult

Admission:
General \$15
Fast Pass \$25

Thursdays
6:30 to 10 PM
Fridays & Saturdays
6 to Midnight

\$20
Per Person!
Ages 4 and under FREE!

MIDWEST
HAUNTED RAILS
MOUNT PLEASANT, IOWA

Ghost Train of No Return & The Ghostly Trolley

October 16-17, 23-24, 30-31
Fridays 6 to 10 PM
Saturdays 6 to 10:30 PM
Last Ticket Sold 30 Mins before Closing

Feature Gas Engine for 2026 – Lennox – Marshalltown, IA

by Barry Tuller | Stevensville, MI

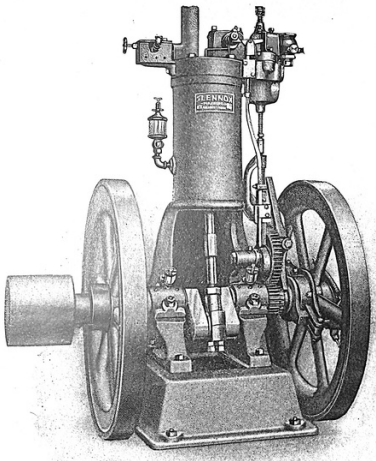
Midwest Old Threshers is featuring the gasoline engines made by Lennox Machine Company of Marshalltown, IA at the 2026 show. It promises to be a great show, as Lennox made many unique and interesting gas engines, and we are hopeful to get a big turn out to showcase the variety.

Our featured gas engine exhibitor for 2026 is Jerry Balvin of Chelsea, IA. Jerry got his start in the engine hobby about 50 years ago. Jerry will be bringing a rare vertical Lennox engine for the feature display. Vertical Lennox engines of this style first appeared in advertisements in March of 1902. They were regularly included in advertisements through 1906, and were still shown in the 1913 catalog. This style is distinctive as it has a C shaped open crankcase. The engines were offered in two sizes, 2 and 3 horsepower, with this one thought to be the smaller size.



The engine's working history is not known. It has been in collectors' hands since at least the 1980s, being a part of big collections in South Dakota, Minnesota, and Iowa, before Jerry was able to add it to his collection. The original ignitor had been replaced with a spark plug long ago. Jerry is a skilled craftsman and machinist, and was able to build an ignitor and trip system to match the original. He mounted the engine on a heavy cart, and added cooling and gas tanks, a battery box, and a flywheel driven magneto. The engine now runs very well, and we are excited to have Jerry and the vertical Lennox at the show!

History Of Lennox Machine Company



Lennox Machine Company traces its origins to 1880, when a 24-year-old David Lennox moved to Marshalltown. Here, he established a machine shop, and soon was building boilers, steam engines, shears, and other products.

Lennox began offering gasoline engines during the 1893-1895 timeframe. Ads started to appear by 1898 for engines, and a catalog was available. The earliest style of engine offered would become known as the Standard. It was offered in various sizes from 2 to 35 horsepower. Hot tube was the ignition source on the earliest engines. Electric spark ignitor was added as an option prior to 1900, and engines could be equipped with either ignition type or both.

A small vertical pumping engine was introduced in 1899, in 1-1/2 and 2-1/2 hp sizes. The unique engine featured an open sided A frame, and a single flywheel. A geared, walking beam pump jack was included as part of the engine. The engine was advertised with the names, Little Daisy or Little Giant.

It was only in the line until early 1902, when the C frame vertical was introduced. The Lennox engine line was enlarged in late 1904 with the introduction of a new 2 hp horizontal tank cooled engine. A unique feature of this engine is its subbase was extended to provide for mounting a tall cooling tank. This style of engine would become known as the O.K. engine, and would be the basis for additional line extensions. O.K. engines with air cooling, screen cooling, and hopper cooling were added by 1908, in sizes from 2-1/2 to 7 horsepower. Engines could be equipped with electric ignitor or sparkplug, each option having its own valve operating design. A 1-1/2 hp air cooled engine was first advertised in 1909, which featured the base, crankcase, and cylinder cast as a single part. It was an attempt by Lennox to offer lower priced engines. Lennox also offered a two-cylinder opposed hopper cooled O.K. engine for a time.

The last style of engines offered by Lennox would be small two cycle engines of 1/4, 1/2, and 1 horsepower. These were introduced in early 1913, and were last referenced in ads during 1914. Lennox Machine Company was reorganized in early 1910, with ownership and control of the company shifting to Ryerson of Chicago. Labor problems plagued the company in 1910-11, with a worker strike greatly reducing output. Disaster struck in June 1911, when a large portion of the factory was destroyed by fire. Multiple attempts were made to get engine production going again, including outsourcing to a company in Hampton, IA, and refitting the foundry in Marshalltown as a machine shop. These efforts were mostly unsuccessful, and production numbers were quite limited. The remains of the factory in Marshalltown was sold in August 1915 to a furnace company. Only a couple ads for Lennox engines appear after this, listing the address as Chicago. The last ad from early 1918 offered low prices, likely to clear any remaining stock.

A 4th of July Find: Dick McElhinney's 1955 Chrysler New Yorker Deluxe St. Regis

Sometimes the best stories begin with a simple classified ad.

For Dick McElhinney and his wife, Fran, the story of their 1955 Chrysler New Yorker Deluxe St. Regis began on the Fourth of July in 1990, when they spotted an advertisement in the Des Moines Register. The car caught their attention, and they decided it was worth a closer look.

On July 5, Dick and Fran made the drive to see the Chrysler. By the end of the day, they were headed home as its proud third owners.



The couple who sold the car had owned it for 34 years and had finally decided to part with it after purchasing a new one. They may not have realized it at the time, but they were passing their Chrysler along to someone who would become an equally devoted caretaker. Thirty-six years later, the New Yorker is still in Dick's hands.

For 10 years, the Chrysler underwent a complete body restoration as Dick worked to return the impressive automobile to the condition and appearance it deserved. The result speaks for itself. Dick and Fran eventually took the restored St. Regis to a national Chrysler meet in Michigan, where their years of work were rewarded with a first-place award.

The St. Regis was something special from the beginning. Only 11,076 St. Regis two-door hardtops were produced for 1955, with a base price of approximately \$3,690—making it a decidedly upscale automobile in its day.

Today, Dick's New Yorker is more than a beautifully restored automobile. It represents more than three decades of memories for Dick and Fran, a decade-long restoration project, a national first-place award and the continuation of a story that began more than 70 years ago. Fran is no longer with us, but one hopes she is with Dick in spirit as he parades this year's featured car through the Cavalcade of Power.

And while the car itself is impressive, its owner has quite a story to tell. Be sure to attend Dick McElhinney's car talk in front of the Car Building at 10:30 a.m. on Reunion Saturday. You'll hear firsthand how a Fourth of July classified ad led to 36 years of ownership, a restoration, awards and memories with one very special Chrysler.

Featured Garden Tractor: 1968 Minneapolis-Moline 114



This year's featured garden tractor at Midwest Old Threshers comes with a story that spans generations, decades and a long-awaited return home.

Clayton Jennings' 1968 Minneapolis-Moline 114 was originally purchased new by his grandfather from a dealership in Hamilton. Built for Minneapolis-Moline by Jacobsen, the 114 was part of a line of vintage garden tractors that brought the familiar Moline name into yards, gardens and small-acreage work.

The tractor remained in the family for many years before Clayton's grandfather traded it in during the early 1990s. Fortunately, the story did not end there. A family friend purchased the tractor and kept it for the next 30 years. A couple of years ago, Clayton had the opportunity to buy his grandfather's tractor back, bringing the 1968 Minneapolis-Moline 114 back into the family

where its story began. A friend later restored the tractor, returning it to the sharp appearance visitors will see at this year's Reunion.

The 114 is not Clayton's only Minneapolis-Moline garden tractor. His collection also includes a Moline 110 and a Moline 108, making the featured tractor part of a larger appreciation for the make and its history.

Clayton is no stranger to Midwest Old Threshers, either. This year marks his 18th year at the Reunion, where he continues to share his interest in vintage equipment with fellow exhibitors and visitors.

Midwest Central Railroad Making Progress

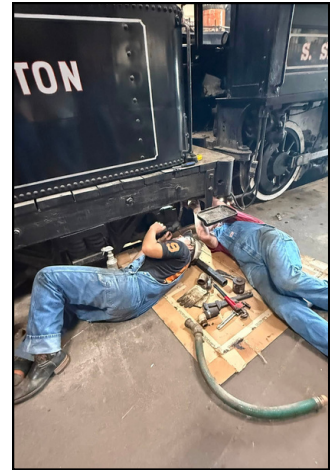
by Kendall & Lauren Osier | Ames, IA

The Midwest Central Railroad shop has been a flurry of activity the past several months. Several projects have been making great progress.

Engines No. 6 and No. 9 have been undergoing off-season maintenance to prepare them for another season of operation. Valves have been lapped on both No. 6 and No. 9, No. 9's brake cylinders are being serviced, No. 6 is receiving some drafting modifications, and No. 9 is ready to receive a few new staybolts, which it is scheduled to receive very shortly (as of the time of this writing).

Coach No. 301 is receiving new siding inside and out, and some mechanical work will follow as soon as the woodwork is completed. It is also receiving new lamps to match the last two cars that we have shopped.

A contractor came in this April with a specialty boring bar setup and bored No. 2's cylinders out enough to accept cylinder sleeves. This was done due to the fact that the cylinders had been bored so many times over the years that the wall thickness was no longer acceptable. New cast iron liners will be applied shortly and pinned in place. Various other miscellaneous work on No. 2 has been happening as time allows.



Many have likely noticed that the Milwaukee Road signal tower that is southeast of the water tower on the north end of the grounds has been looking a bit worse for wear the past several years. It has received a significant amount of attention this summer, and should look fantastic by Old Threshers.

It has received a new roof, all new siding on the second story, new window sills, a great deal of new trim, some framing work, and fixed up and reglazed windows. At the time of writing, we are about ready to prime the second story and get to work on fixing some of the bad siding and trim on the first story. This work should keep this historic circa 1905 building from Washington, Iowa, looking great for years to come.

We can't wait to see everyone at the Reunion this year and do what we are there to do, run steam engines!

Midwest Electric Railway Back on Track with 1779

by Maddy Murphy, Trolley Area Director | Mount Pleasant, IA



Midwest Electric Railway has some exciting news! In June we received our open Rio de Janeiro car back! The car 1779, went out of service in 2022 to have the trucks and motors rebuilt. Gomaco and 3M did a great job getting the trucks rebuilt and the motors redone so that we can have our popular open car back.

The trucks arrived on a flat-bed truck and with help from our wonderful volunteers and staff we were able to get the trucks unloaded and on the rail without issues. Gomaco was able to get the trucks under the frame and rewired in two days and back on the rail for testing. Everything went without incident and 1779 is ready for the Reunion. We will have six cars operating this year for the Reunion and we are hopeful that we can continue to raise donations, so that our Waterloo car, 381, can be up and running again in no time. If you are interested in donating to our 381 fund, please reach out to the office!

Silent Auction at the 2026 Midwest Old Threshers Reunion

We are thrilled to present another one-of-a-kind oil painting by local artist Annie Guldburg—available only at the 2026 Midwest Old Threshers Reunion!

This stunning, hand-painted masterpiece captures the 32hp Reeves traction steam engine during a spark show in a way only Annie's work can.

Whether you're an art collector, steam engine enthusiast, collector of all things Old Threshers, or simply looking for a unique treasure to adorn your home, this is an opportunity you won't want to miss!

Auction Details:

Artist: Annie Guldburg

Medium: Oil Painting

Location: Midwest Old Threshers Foundation Room In Heritage Museum A

Date: September 3-7

Bidding Starts at: 9 am on September 3

Closing Time: 10 am on September 7



Don't miss your chance to own this extraordinary piece of art and support Midwest Old Threshers. Visit the auction table in the OT Foundation Room to place your bid, and may the highest bidder take home this incredible painting! Happy Bidding, and Good Luck!

Harvest Day Parade Grand Marshals

We are proud to honor Jeff & Sherri McPheron as the 2026 Harvest Day Parade Grand Marshals.

You may not recognize Jeff's face, but you certainly know his voice. Jeff opens each day of the Reunion with a prayer and words of encouragement over the PA system. You may recognize Sherri as her alter ego, Miss Violet from the North Village.

Their dedication, support, and commitment to the Old Threshers community have helped keep the traditions of the Reunion strong for generations. We are excited to celebrate them as they lead the Harvest Day Parade during the 2026 Midwest Old Threshers Reunion in Mount Pleasant.



Free Admission. Opens Daily 8am.
Swap Meet: Saturday 8am-Noon

Purchase a VIP PASS for Friday Only!
This pass allows supervised access to all equipment plus one-on-one instruction. Hand feed the 14-ton 00 Miehle press, cast your name on the Ludlow, make your own paper, and more!! Pass is \$50.
Be sure to wear clothes that can get inky.

Purchase online at oldthreshers.org/other-events/printers-fair



Featured Truck: 1923 REO Firetruck

This year's featured truck at Midwest Old Threshers is a familiar sight to many vintage vehicle enthusiasts in Southeast Iowa—a 1923 REO firetruck now owned by Hempen Farms of Hamilton, Illinois.

The REO name comes from Ransom E. Olds, the founder of Oldsmobile. Before Oldsmobile became the well-known automobile brand remembered today, a variety of REO vehicles helped represent an important era in early automotive history. This 1923 firetruck is one surviving example of that time.

The truck is no stranger to the area. For many years, it served as the mascot for the Red Flag Horseless Carriage Tour, becoming a recognizable part of the group's activities and appearances.

Its journey to becoming the truck visitors see today was anything but simple. The REO originally came to members of the Tour in the form of several boxes filled with parts. Over the course of several months, members carefully sorted through the pieces, figured out what went where and gradually put the vehicle back together. Their work eventually transformed those boxes of parts into the completed 1923 REO firetruck seen today.

When the Red Flag Horseless Carriage Tour recently disbanded, the organization's 501(c)(3) status required its assets to be liquidated, including the firetruck.

That is when the Hempen family stepped in. Mark Hempen, his brother Tim and their mother, Darlene, purchased the REO in April, already knowing it had been selected as this year's featured truck. Pictured with the firetruck are Phil and Sylvia Graber. Phil and his brother Danny have taken care of the vehicle when it was in the hands of the Tour and are the ones who painted and striped it following its assembly.

The Hempen family is looking forward to participating in the daily Cavalcade of Power, where visitors will have the opportunity to see the REO moving under its own power, just as vehicles of its era once did. They are also excited to visit with Reunion guests and share more about the truck, its history and the unusual path it took from boxes of parts to a featured vehicle.

Be sure to stop by the Car Building to see the 1923 REO firetruck up close, and don't miss the Hempen family's car talk Sunday at 2:30 p.m. It is a great opportunity to hear more about a vintage vehicle that has already spent years making memories in Southeast Iowa—and is now beginning a new chapter with the Hempen family.



Built for Work: Belgians Take Center Stage as This Year's Featured Horse Breed

There are few sights at Midwest Old Threshers that connect visitors to the farming past quite like a team of draft horses at work.

The sound of harness leather, the steady rhythm of hooves and the sight of a powerful team leaning into a load offer a reminder of a time when "horsepower" truly came from horses. This year, one of the breeds that helped provide that power for generations will receive special recognition as the Belgian Draft Horse is the Featured Horse Breed of the 2026 Midwest Old Threshers Reunion.

Belgians have long been known for their tremendous strength, muscular build and willing disposition. The breed originated in Belgium and became increasingly popular in the United States during the late 1800s and early 1900s, just as American agriculture was expanding and farmers needed dependable horses capable of handling heavy work. On Midwestern farms, horses were once as essential as tractors would later become. Teams pulled plows and cultivators, hauled grain, powered stationary equipment and transported families and goods. A good team was not simply livestock—it was an important part of the farm operation. During this year's Reunion, make time to visit the Horse Area and talk with the exhibitors.



Horseshoes return to Old Threshers

There is an old saying that “close only counts in horseshoes and hand grenades,” and this year visitors to Midwest Old Threshers will have the chance to find out just how close they can get.

Horseshoe pitching is returning to the Reunion, led by Steve Miller of Wayland, Iowa. Fresh off competing at the Iowa State Fair and the World Horseshoe Tournament in Wisconsin, Steve is bringing his experience and enthusiasm for the sport to the Old Threshers grounds.

Steve grew up pitching horseshoes on his family farm, but he did not begin competing seriously until 2017. Since then, the sport has taken him to competitions throughout Iowa, Missouri and Wisconsin.

During the Reunion, visitors will find Steve set up just west of the Paul Anderson Building. Beginning each day at 9 a.m., everyone is invited to stop by, pick up a horseshoe and give pitching a try. Free teaching sessions will also be offered, making it a perfect opportunity for beginners to learn the basics or for experienced pitchers to sharpen their skills.

At 11 a.m. each day, visitors can watch the Down & Back 4-Shoe Challenge. Those who think they have what it takes can also enter the competition for just \$1.

Organized horseshoe events will continue each afternoon from noon to 5 p.m. Thursday features Amateur Social Singles, followed by Blind Draw Doubles on Friday, Competitive Blind Draw Doubles on Saturday and Competitive Singles on Sunday. Monday will be reserved for demonstrations and open pitching from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Whether you are a longtime horseshoe pitcher or have never thrown one before, this is a chance to enjoy a traditional pastime that fits right in with the spirit of Midwest Old Threshers.

Stop by, meet Steve, learn a few pointers and give it a try. After all, when it comes to horseshoes, getting close really does count.



Be sure to visit the Horseshoe Pitchers Hall of Fame display at the Old Threshers Reunion.

HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT

THURSDAY THRU SUNDAY

9:00 AM
PITCHING DEMONSTRATION,
TEACHING SESSIONS,
OPEN PITCHING

11:00 AM
DOWN & BACK 4-SHOE CHALLENGE
\$1 ENTRY FEE WINNER TAKES THE POT.
CERTIFICATES AWARDED THROUGH 5TH PLACE.

12:00 PM TO 5:00 PM
\$0 THURSDAY AMATEUR SOCIAL SINGLES
\$5 FRIDAY BLIND DRAW DOUBLES
\$10 SATURDAY COMPETITIVE BLIND DRAW DOUBLES
\$10 SUNDAY COMPETITIVE SINGLES

MONDAY
9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM
DEMONSTRATIONS & OPEN PITCHING

SPECIAL SPEAKERS

FRIDAY: MARTY SPRAGUE — PRESIDENT OF IOWA HAWKEYE PITCHING ASSOC.
SATURDAY: BERT LOGSDON — FORMER IOWA CHAMPION, TOP 10 WORLD PARTICIPANT
SUNDAY: VER KOLLASCH — MULTI-YEAR STATE CHAMPION

2026 Miss Sweet 16 Participants

Molly Baker – Mt. Pleasant, IA

Parents: Jill and Jeff Baker



Molly enjoys painting, making flower bouquets, spending time with her family and cats. She loves expressing her creativity through different projects and activities. During the school year, she participates in the Panther Marching Band in the color guard and runs track and cross-country. She enjoys being silly all the time.

Molly has helped work the Reunion gates in the mornings and her church tent, St. Al's. She has also helped set up and participate in the Thrashers House of Terror in past years.

Molly has always admired girls in her community who helped others and spread kindness. Watching them inspires her to help and give back as well. She loves helping and putting genuine smiles on people/other's faces, she would love to represent her community through Sweet 16.

Mackenna Craig – Solon, IA

Parents: Beth and Ray Craig

Mackenna participates in Fall Club Softball, Student Council, Future Business Leaders of America, Octagon Club, FFA, Archery and is dual enrolled at Kirkwood Community College. She is a member of 4-H in Johnson County, 4-H Youth Council, Johnson County 4-H Youth Development Committee, and State 4-H Council. She attends St Mary's Church.



Mackenna has come to the Reunion since she was born. She is involved with the Schantz steam engine during the Reunion and has enjoyed the Festival of Lights and the Thrashers House of Terror.

As a small girl, Mackenna has always admired the Sweet 16 girls during Old Threshers. They were always kind and took time to help others. She looks forward to being on the grounds, greeting, meeting and helping others during the Reunion. This is also a very special experience for her since both her mom and her sister have participated in Sweet 16.

Gracie Forquer – Mt. Pleasant, IA

Parents: Kim and Adam Forquer



Gracie has interests in scrapbooking, art and participates in her church youth group.

Gracie has not volunteered for Old Threshers yet but is looking forward to the experience.

Gracie wants to be a part of the Sweet 16 program so that she gains experience serving her community.

Eleanor Griebahn – Mt. Pleasant, IA

Parents: Erin and Zach Griebahn

Eleanor enjoys reading, painting, cooking, baking sourdough, and being outdoors. She also enjoys helping her mom at home, caring for her baby brother, working with her dad and brothers in the family business and being involved with her church and youth group.

Eleanor hasn't formally volunteered for Old Threshers, but she has attended every year since she was 4 and has represented her family business in the Harvest Day Parade. She has guided many family and friends throughout the grounds and looks forward to showing the grounds to new visitors each year.



Eleanor truly enjoys learning about the history, hard work and ingenuity that formed rural America. Regardless of if she wins, she will visibly and enthusiastically represent Old Threshers, her family and her faith in Jesus to all the Reunion visitors by helping them learn about our country's rich history.

2026 Miss Sweet 16 Participants

Swaylin Henderson – Mt. Pleasant, IA Parents: Vanessa and Brock Henderson



Swaylin is involved with color guard in the Panther Marching Band, showband, jazz band, theater, soccer and church activities.

Swaylin has been volunteering at the Log Village during the Old Threshers Reunion and during the Festival of Lights. In the fall she is an actor in the Thrashers House of Terror.

Swaylin has always noticed the joy and charm the Sweet 16 girls add to the Reunion and she is excited to be a part of it. Participating will allow her to play her part in bringing Old Threshers to life.

Paisley Jalas – Mt. Pleasant, IA Parents: Jen and Dean Jalas

Paisley is involved with the Mt Pleasant Community School color guard in the marching band. She is also in show choir. Out of school she enjoys singing, watching movies with her family, volunteering and helping with her church.

Paisley has volunteered at the Log Village for the last 4 years in the schoolhouse or in the public house selling beverages.

While growing up, Paisley has always admired the Sweet 16 girls, and she wants to help other young girls have the same experience that she did. She wants to be someone that they can look up to.



Chloe Kremer – Iona, MN Parents: Katie and Brian Kremer



Chloe is involved in band, volleyball and track during the school year. Outside of these activities she enjoys playing club volleyball in the winter months. She also enjoys helping on her family's farm and babysitting in the community. During the summer she loves to spend time outdoors, especially camping and swimming with her family and friends. She enjoys watching her brother play baseball and practicing with him at home.

Chloe has been attending the Reunion since she was 4 months old. She enjoyed volunteering at the Lutheran Church tent clearing tray and tables as well as serving in the food line. As she has gotten older, she wants to be more involved. She is a junior conductor for the Midwest Central Railroad for the last four years and enjoys visiting with the passengers about their favorite part of the Reunion or where they have traveled from. Additionally, you can find her at the dance barn each night teaching square dance lessons.

As a young girl attending Old Threshers each year, she has always admired the Sweet 16 contestants and has looked forward to being a part of the Sweet 16 program. She is excited to have the opportunity to volunteer even more across the grounds this year like the previous Sweet 16 have done. So, for her, she is excited to help create great memories for all who attend this year's Reunion and to share her love for Old Threshers with others.

2026 Miss Sweet 16 Participants

Quintrie Lee – Mt. Pleasant, IA

Parents: Hollisa and Adam Lee

Quintrie is involved with the Mt. Pleasant Community High school band and is a color guard for the marching band. She is the Vice President of The Mount Pleasant FFA chapter. Her athletic involvement is extensive including Wrestling, Track, Softball, Cross Country and Hot Stix traveling softball club. She is a part of the Henry County 4-H and 4-H teen council. Her hobbies include kayaking, playing fetch with her dog, fishing, camping, and hiking. Her interests include watching plays and musicals, trying new food, listening to music and meeting new people.

Quintrie has volunteered during the Old Threshers Reunion in the Drive a Tractor exhibit, at the Pork Shoppe, Elk Tent, as ground train conductor and performing with the marching band for opening/closing ceremonies. During the fall, she volunteered at the Thrashers House of Terror.

Looking back, one of her first memories was dancing in a purple dress in the saloon entertaining guests. Another memory was driving her pony around the grounds. These are memories she will never forget and are the reason she wants to be the next Sweet 16, to share old memories, make new ones and to keep tradition.



Ella Leonard – Mt. Pleasant, IA

Parents: Randi and Cody Leonard



Ella is an active member of the Mt. Pleasant Community High School band, choir, jazz band, show choir and theater group. She loves performing and the sense of community it brings. She recently joined soccer and is eager to continue growing.

Ella has performed with the marching band at the opening/closing ceremonies. Even though she has not volunteered for Midwest Old Threshers, she has helped at the North Pole Express and Haunted Rails with the Midwest Central Railroad.

Ella would like to be more involved in the community and learn more about it while helping others as well as becoming an active, positive role model.

Rachel McWilliams – Mt. Pleasant, IA

Parents: Cyndi and Terry McWilliams

Rachel is active in many activities at the Mt. Pleasant Community High School. She is involved with band, choir, show choir, theater and speech. Rachel enjoys reading, meeting new people, and spending time with her family and friends.

Rachel has been a volunteer scare actor at the Thrashers House of Terror for four years. During the Reunion you can find Rachel volunteering in the log village for the past three years.

Rachel wants to participate in the Sweet 16 program so she can have valuable experiences and meet new people.



Eden Millard – Mt. Pleasant, IA

Parents: Agape Boston and Kristopher Millard



During the school year, Eden is involved with band, choir, show choir, and trap shooting. She volunteers and works at Scooters along with babysitting.

Eden volunteers for Thrashers House of Terror. She hasn't volunteered yet during the Reunion but is looking forward to it.

Eden believes Sweet 16 is an amazing opportunity to interact with new people. She has always loved seeing all the girls in the Sweet 16 growing up and it would be an honor to be one of them. Sweet 16 is something her family has always talked about and wanted her to do.

2026 Miss Sweet 16 Participants

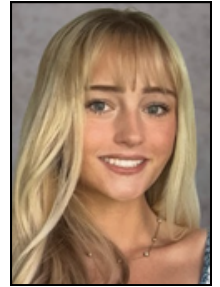
Lucca Moyes – Mt. Pleasant, IA

Parents: Sara Moyes

Lucca plays tennis for Mt. Pleasant Community High School. She is also involved in speech, theater and volunteering.

Even though Lucca attends the Reunion each year, this year is her first time volunteering.

Lucca is involved in the Sweet 16 program so she can volunteer more, and she has always looked up to the previous Sweet 16 contestants that have participated.



Megan Newton – Mt. Pleasant, IA

Parents: Monica and John Newton



Megan is involved with dance, cheerleading, and show choir. In her free time, she enjoys going on walks or reading a book. She loves to hang out with her friends and family because she is never not laughing.

Megan has volunteered with the St. Alphonsus food tent each year. She also gets to be a part of the Harvest Day parade as a Mt Pleasant Panther cheerleader. The people and the opportunities are truly what gets her so excited to come back.

Megan wants to be the next Sweet 16 because she wants to be a role model for everyone. Growing up with a big sister has had the biggest impact on her life. She wants to have the chance to support, help and influence the community just like her sister has done for her.

Kendra Schafer – Lockridge, IA

Parents: Alyssa and Nathan Schafer

Kendra is involved in color guard, wrestling and football cheerleading, choir and Tri-M lifeline project. She loves to hang out with friends and family. She really loves to do makeup and hair. She would like to become a firefighter like her dad.

Even though Kendra has not yet volunteered for Old Threshers, she certainly has enjoyed the Reunion. Some of her favorite sights are the antiques, tractors, steam engines, watching the gun slinger shows and of course going to the Log Village to learn of earlier days.

Kendra would like to be a part of the Sweet 16 program because it would be something new to try and it is a family tradition. Kendra is very helpful, understanding, loyal and always has a smile on her face. She has a positive attitude and works well with others. She believes that Sweet 16 offers a unique opportunity to celebrate her newfound independence and will increase her personal responsibility.



Tylee Jo Unternahrer – Wayland, IA

Parents: Tabitha and Tyler Unternahrer



Tylee Jo enjoys reading, cooking, animals, gardening and helping in the garage.

Tylee Jo has attended the Old Threshers Reunion with her family. She and her family exhibit tractors and movers over the years.

Tylee Jo wants a chance to dress up in the period clothing, to have fun with the other candidates and to help others.

2026 Miss Sweet 16 Participants

Arabella Vanway – Bettendorf, IA

Parents: Sarah and Jeremy Vanway

Arabella really enjoys reading in her free time. She also goes to many medical expos to learn about her hopeful future career.

Arabella has been attending Old Threshers since she has been in the womb. She has been learning to talk about antique cars with her grandpa. She helps run the State Fair Booth and volunteers at events like the Festival of Lights.

Since Arabella was young, coming to Old Threshers, she has seen the Sweet 16 girls with their smiles be the ambassadors. She wants to bring the same smiles and representation that makes Old Threshers special.



Clare Whalen – Mt. Pleasant, IA

Parents: Alicia and Joe Whalen



Clare is involved in marching band, choir, band, chamber choir, show choir, theater, student council, STP (student teen panel for the Iowa National Guard and Youth) track, wrestling cheer, individual and group speech. Clare loves to sing, dance, bedazzle, hang out with friends, play with her siblings and watch movies.

Clare has volunteered for almost five years on the ground trains. She has also volunteered for a variety of cold and windy nights at the Festival of Lights for four years. Clare also performed in the Panther Marching Band during the opening and closing ceremonies for the Reunion.

As a proud Mt Pleasant native, Clare would be honored to represent as the next Miss Sweet 16 for Midwest Old Threshers because it reflects her values of service and community. It would allow her to give back while inspiring others to get involved in continuing these rich traditions.

Brianna Wibstad – Mt. Pleasant, IA

Parents: Darcy Wibstad

Brianna is involved in band, color guard, choir, show choir, basketball cheer, football cheer, track and softball. Outside of school activities, she enjoys baking, crafting, nature, reading, practicing her faith, and spending time with her loved ones.

Brianna has attended Old Threshers every year since she was one-year old. Even though she has not volunteered in the past, she has performed with the band for the parade and opening and closing ceremonies.

Brianna would be honored to be chosen as the next Sweet 16 to represent the years of tradition that Old Threshers is built on and the amazing community of Mt Pleasant. She is excited to dedicate her time and passion to the Reunion while also creating bonds and memories with the other participants.



Joanna Wissmann – Milford, NE

Parents: Abi and Josiah Wissmann



Joanna loves to do things outside, like gardening or anything sports-wise. She also loves to read, clean and hang out with her friends and family. She loves playing the piano and helping with worship and kid stuff at church.

Joanna has participated in the entertainment side of Old Threshers by singing with her family at the Family Tent.

As a little girl, Joanna dreamed of running for Sweet 16 and now she can do that! She wants to be the next Sweet 16 to encourage younger girls to dream big and then stand back and watch what God does.

IN MEMORIAM

Duane Coonrod

Duane Virgil Coonrod, 90, of Cedar Rapids, died at his home on Wednesday, October 22, 2025.

Duane was born January 23, 1935, in Palo, Iowa, the son of Virgil and Lillian (Rawson) Coonrod. He attended school in Palo and served in the Iowa National Guard. On June 6, 1970, he was united in marriage to Frieda McCormick in Moline, Illinois.

A hard-working and talented man, Duane was a crane operator for Coonrod Wrecker & Crane, where he worked until his retirement in 2008. He helped build and innovate equipment that shaped the business into what it is today; creating the first enclosed-cab skid loader, developing wheels for the cranes to be driven on the rails to clean up derailments across the Midwest, and designed and built angle beams to upright a loaded semi. He made concrete spikes for wreckers, and even designed platforms and forks for the end of the crane boom. P & H rented his crane so the engineers could copy his clutch design. He was known for his steady hand; so precise he could thread a needle with a crane.

Duane was a member of Operating Engineers Group #234 and was inducted into the International Towing and Recovery Hall of Fame on September 27, 2002. He was often seen around town with his beloved dogs and treasured the time he spent with his grandchildren.

He is survived by his loving wife, Frieda Coonrod of Cedar Rapids; two daughters, Dana (Kris) Sjobakken of Marion and Kelly (Bill) Zbanek of Shueyville; granddaughters, Sara and Samantha Sjobakken; brother, Donald (Shirley) Coonrod; sisters, Dorene Delaney and Diane Spicer; brother-in-law, Harold (Jean) McCormick; nieces, Karen Coonrod and Joni Delaney; nephews, Dean (Shelly) Spicer, Tommy Delaney, and Dan Delaney; long-time friend, Speed; and his faithful companions, Duke and PoJo.

He was preceded in death by his daughter Kimberly Coonrod, nephews Keith Coonrod and David Spicer, niece Denise Spicer, brother-in-law Tom Delaney, and many loyal Schnauzer companions.

Shirley Gorrell

Shirley Evelyn Gorrell, 85.98 years old, left us on June 1, 2026, surrounded by her family at her home near Burlington, Iowa.

Shirley was born on June 7, 1940, in a small farmhouse outside of Webster, Illinois. She was the daughter of Cecil and Margie (Klossing) Shipman. Shirley was raised in a big loving family with four brothers and two sisters. She married Paul Gorrell of Burlington, at a church in Webster, Illinois, on July 19, 1959.

Shirley was a 1958 graduate of LaHarpe High School. Shirley attended beauty school and then worked as a cosmetologist for a short time before beginning her family, at which point she became a full-time mom and homemaker to her five children. Together Paul and Shirley built their home, where she lived the rest of her life. Shirley was a member of SE Iowa Antique Gas Engine Club, Blackhawk Auto Restorers, Antique Studebaker Club and Crosley Automobile Club.

Family was everything to Shirley and she was the heart of the home. She enjoyed cooking meals for everyone and if you happened to stop by the house, you ate! Shirley loved her flowers and her garden and spent countless hours canning, freezing, and preserving the fruits and vegetables of her labor. There was nothing else that brought her more joy than to be with her family, especially all her grandchildren. She never turned down a chance to babysit, attend a ball game, recital, competition or program. Shirley was quick to smile, laugh, or offer a hug. She thoroughly enjoyed daily walks, listening to country music, and helping others.

Together, Shirley and Paul loved to travel with their five children across the country attending car shows and picking up collectible cars and parts, while site seeing along the way. As a family, the seven of them visited 48 states and Canada. Shirley loved every moment of their travels, especially to the shows

where she built lifelong friendships, who later became like family.

She is survived by her husband of 66 years, Paul; five children: David (Laura) Gorrell, Becky (Bryan) Nelson, Sherry (Michael) May, Bruce (Sherri) Gorrell all of Burlington, and Duane (Phyllis) Gorrell of Danville; ten grandchildren; twenty-one great grandchildren and two great-great grandchildren; siblings: Cecil (Iola) Shipman of Carthage, Illinois, and Carolyn Read of Olive Branch, Mississippi and sister-in-law Janet Shipman of Blandinsville, Illinois. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents Cecil and Margie; siblings and their spouses: Mildred (Marion) Lewis, Clifford (Jeanne) Shipman, Carl Shipman, Henry (Sonja) Shipman and brother-in-law Vernon Read.

Memorials have been established in her memory for Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center Home Health and Hospice and the American Alzheimer's Association.

Samuel Ruth

Samuel A. Ruth, 76, of Mount Pleasant, passed away June 11, 2026, at the Klein Center in West Burlington.

Sam was born October 4, 1949, in Ottumwa, the son of William W. and Edna (Logan) Ruth. Sam graduated from Mount Pleasant High School in 1967. Following graduation, he enlisted in the United States Navy, where he proudly served his country for nearly four years during the Cold War. He was honorably discharged in 1972, and his military service remained a source of great pride throughout his life.

Sam worked for General Electric, John Deere, Heatilator, Barker's, and The Hassenfritz Company during his career. Outside of work, he had a deep passion for air-cooled gas engines and enjoyed displaying them for many years at Midwest Old Threshers. He appreciated the history, craftsmanship, and mechanics behind the engines and took great pride in sharing that

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interest with others.

Sam was also an avid motorcycle rider and could often be seen around Mount Pleasant on his bike. He especially enjoyed his rides with the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association.

Sam is survived by his brother, Fred (Suzanne) Ruth of Walnut Grove, Missouri; his daughter, Amy (David) Ruth Spotts of Fremont, Michigan; his nephew, Jeff (Charlyce) Ruth of Rogersville, Missouri; grandchildren Sara Schripsema, Melissa Sommer; and great grandchildren Rudy, Landon, Vanelope. He was preceded in death by his parents, William W. and Edna Ruth.

Sandy Moore

Sandra Lynn Moore, 74, of Mt. Pleasant, passed away on June 18.

Sandy was born on April 11, 1952, in Albert Lea, Minnesota, to Clifford and Dorothy Sabin. She was raised on the family farm near Bricelyn, Minnesota, and graduated from high school in 1970.

She attended Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, where she studied English and Education and met the love of her life, Lennis Moore. The two were married in 1972. After Sandy earned her bachelor's degree from Luther College in 1974, they moved to Cherokee, Iowa, where they lived for four years before settling in Mt. Pleasant in 1978.

Sandy began a long and fulfilling career teaching English at Mt. Pleasant Middle School and Junior High, where she inspired generations of students over the course of 30 years. She was a beloved educator whose humor, passion for literature, and genuine care for her students defined her teaching. Her dedication to education was recognized in 2003 when she was named the Wal-Mart Iowa Teacher of the Year. She retired in 2008.

Committed to lifelong learning, Sandy earned her Master's degree in Education from the University of Iowa while teaching full-time. She was also an enthusiastic participant in the Iowa

Writers' Project, where she found friendship, inspiration, and a vibrant community of fellow educators and writers. A gifted writer herself, she regularly submitted her poetry for publication and remained devoted to the written word throughout her life.

Sandy was an avid reader who spent countless hours with a book in hand, delighting in discovering new authors and eagerly sharing her favorite reads with friends and family. On sunny summer afternoons, she could often be found on the front deck with an iced tea and a good book, savoring the simple pleasures she loved most.

Sandy and Lennis cherished gathering with loved ones and created a home filled with warmth, laughter, and hospitality. Around their kitchen table, family and friends shared stories, meals, celebrations, and countless memories. Their door was always open, welcoming a wide circle of loved ones, including children, grandchildren, neighbors, lifelong friends, and new acquaintances alike.

A member of First Presbyterian Church, Sandy always encouraged her children to sing as loudly as they could from the pews. Her love of music filled her home and touched those around her. She delighted in playing piano duets with her son, Lucas, and never missed an opportunity to entertain family and friends with beloved songs from Andrew Lloyd Webber musicals.

Sandy's memory will be cherished by her children: Lucas Moore and his wife, Erin, of Norman, Oklahoma, and their daughters, Amber and Linden; Benjamin Moore and his wife, Sarah Frydenlund, of Decorah, Iowa, and their daughters, Alvina and Iona; and Catie Scott and her husband, Bob, of Washington, D.C., and their sons, Anderson, Sam, and Ezra. She is also survived by her brothers, Steve Sabin and his wife, Kathy, and Bill Sabin; her sister,

Gretchen Sabin Hansen, and her partner, Mark; and many beloved cousins, nieces, nephews, and extended family members.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Lennis Moore; her parents, Clifford and Dorothy Sabin; and her brother, Jim Sabin.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Mt. Pleasant Community School Foundation in honor of Sandy's lifelong commitment to education.

David Bardy

David Charles Bardy, 83, of Burlington, died June 29, 2026, at the Harmony Cedar Rapids in Cedar Rapids.

Born October 15, 1942, in Evergreen Park, IL, he was the son of Charles and Virginia (Montgomery) Bardy. On September 23, 1972, he married Jule Ann Sitek in Superior, WI.

David attended Lyons Township High School before graduating. He later joined the United States Army and served during the Vietnam conflict. After returning home, David worked for the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad for 36 years.

David held a lifelong appreciation of trains and everything railroad related. When he was younger he traveled and saw much of the United States via rail. He enjoyed taking his children to various rail depots and historic rail lines to see the excursion trains. His railroad knowledge was encyclopedic and his personal rail library rivaled several museums.

David also loved model trains. Aside from having a very extensive collection, he was a 55-year member of the Twin City Model Railroad Museum. He had many fond memories of his membership with the club and seeing the changes over time. David was also a member of the Burlington Route Historical Society, and always looked forward to working as the train conductor at Old Threshers and during the Christmas celebrations.

David loved his family deeply. He

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enjoyed the time he was able to spend with them going out to see the various trains and railroads. He will be truly missed.

Survivors include his children, Randy of Burnsville, MN, and Wendy (Art) of North Liberty, IA; grandchildren, Evan, Christine (Nathaniel), and Eli; great granddaughter, Persephone; siblings, Daniel, Kevin, Brian, and Marcia.

Besides his wife, he was preceded in death by his parents; and siblings, Scott, Melissa, and Marianne.

Memorial contributions are suggested to either Divine Mercy Parish or the Twin City Model Railroad Museum.

Karen Van Brocklin

Karen Sue Prehm Van Brocklin, 69, of Montrose, formerly of Danville, died June 30, 2026 at Southeast Iowa Regional Hospital surrounded by family following a valiant battle with cancer. She was born November 5, 1956 in Mt. Pleasant to Arlo August and Ardith Louise Gaunt Prehm. Karen was a 1974 graduate of Danville High School and a 1984 graduate of Carl Sandburg College. She was a member of Long Creek United Methodist Church, Danville and a member of Methodist Women's Circle.

Karen married John Moyes and they later divorced. On January 17, 1992 she married Robert Van Brocklin in Norwood, Illinois. She worked selling ads for the Mt. Pleasant News and The Shopper; was a dealer at Catfish Bend Casino. sino; and retired from TLC where she was a telemarketer. In 1992, Karen and Bob opened Alley Greenhouse and Garden Center and she proudly enjoyed selling her produce and flowers at area farmer's markets and events in eight different towns. She belonged to Flutter Wheels and enjoyed square dancing; loved her pets; attending Old Threshers and was a member of Sonara Grange. Karen's

favorite color was green, and she really loved green popsicles. Spending time with her family was precious to her, especially with her grandchildren and Bob.

She is survived by her husband of Montrose; one son Jason (Trinity) Van Brocklin of Hedrick; four daughters, Heather (Andy) Cook of Mebane, NC., Samantha (Brad) Hanson of Grinnell, Toni Van Brocklin of Montrose and Molly (Marcus) Dosier of Montrose; twelve grandchildren, Trevor, Tiffany, Brinley, Brickston, Cale, Addie, Andrew, Isabella, Bryce, Brevin, Macklin, and Taylin; one brother Mark (Jackie) Prehm of Danville; two sisters-in-law, Konni Prehm of Danville and Norva "Babe" Deweese of Montrose; and two nephews, Logan Prehm and Dusty Trail. She was preceded in death by her parents; one brother Michael; her special Aunt Alice Prehm; and brother-in-law Kenny Deweese.

A memorial has been established for the family and online condolences may be left at www.elliottfuneralchapel.com.

Tom K Ritchey

Tom K Ritchey, 88, of New London, passed away surrounded by family at Southeast Iowa Regional Hospice House in West Burlington, on July 20, 2026.

Tom was born November 8, 1937, in Burlington, Iowa to Howard and Lorene (Ensminger) Ritchey. Tom grew up in New London and was a 1955 graduate of New London High School. He attended The University of Iowa graduating from the Madison School of Banking. On July 19, 1959, Tom married Donna (Morningstar) in Shueyville, IA. During their 67 years of marriage, Tom and Donna had three beautiful daughters; Lisa, Julie, and Amy.

Tom was a local banker at Danville and New London for 30 plus years. In retirement, he and Donna created a business from their passion of buck skinning and rendezvousing. They set up at the Old Threshers Reunion for 35 years and the Iowa State Fair for many years. Tom was very active in

the community and was proud to be a lifetime member of the New London United Methodist Church. He served on the Board of Directors at the Dover Museum. Tom enjoyed spending time with his family, golfing, big game hunting in Wyoming, and fishing. Later in life he enjoyed painting.

Survivors include his wife Donna; two daughters, Lisa Ritchey and Amy (Paul) Newman both of Cedar Rapids; son-in-law Tim Liechty of Mount Pleasant; fifteen grandchildren, twenty-six great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandchild on the way; his brother Jim (Ginny) Ritchey; and three sisters-in law, Connie Morningstar (Victor Alexander), Judy Morningstar, and Terri Morningstar.

He was preceded in death by his daughter Julie Liechty on April 27th of this year; his parents; brother Ron Ritchey; and two brothers-in-law Richard Morningstar and David Morningstar.

Memorials have been established for the New London United Methodist Church and the New London Dover Museum. Online condolences may be left at www.elliottfuneralchapel.com.

David Wagaman

There was no Biz like Showbiz for. David was born October 13, 1939, in Williamson, and took his final curtain call August 5, 2026.

He was the third of five children born to Raymond and Wilma Wagaman and was a 1958 graduate of Burlington High School.

He became a professional actor before he even graduated high school acting and performing with the Players Workshop.

He started with the Tilton comedians and after spending a summer with them, he came back to Burlington to work for I.A.A.P. Shortly after he joined the circus! He became part of a little one-ring affair out of Adair that toured Iowa and Missouri. During his time with the circus, he was trained to be a contortionist and to ride elephants.

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"His Follies are No Folly" and in 1961, David tried out for the Junior Women's Club Follies in Burlington and won Solo Song and Dance. In 1965, he appeared on the "Bell Telephone Hour" Chataqua production of "Paintin Aint Easy" which was a play based on a Tom Sawyer theme and danced in the chorus line of the Broadway production of "Funny Girl."

These opportunities led him to earn a job with Cargill Productions and with the company he performed and produced more than 300 shows around the country. He stayed with the Cargill company until 1987. While with them he met and worked with many of the Hollywood Elite such as Clint Eastwood and Tony Bennett, in addition to having the opportunity to take publicity shots with Joan Fontaine's Rolls-Royce.

David eventually moved to Los Angeles where he was trained at Montgomery Park Hospital to become a dialysis technician, which he went on to do for 20 years. He continued in acting and was involved in many shows including, "Power Rangers," "Twin Peaks," "X Files," "Unsolved Mysteries," and "X Factor." Once he entered his film career, he was an extra in the HBO movie "Night of the Running Man," "Moonlight Mile," starring Dustin Hoffman, Susan Sarandon, Holly Hunter, and Jake Gyllenhaal.

In 2007, his one true film credit came in a spot on "Slip Stream," where he played a double for Anthony Hopkins.

David moved back to Burlington to help with his aging mother and became involved in Civic Music and volunteered his time with the Des

Moines County Historical Society, the Bart Howard Room Committee and the Advisory Board of the National Society for the Preservation of Tent, Folk, and Repertoire Theater in Mt. Pleasant.

He was an honored member of the Screen Actors Guild (SAG), Fraternal Order of Eagles #150 and the Grand Lodge of Iowa A.F. & A.M. Malta Lodge #318 Masons.

This blonde-haired, blue-eyed director did not know a stranger, had many friends, and his one-of-a-kind charisma would draw you in for a great conversation, with little effort. He will be sorely missed by his two sisters, Mary Storch and Carol Forsythe and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers Ron Wagaman and Richard "Rick" Wagaman.

2026 Calendar of Events

September 2—Harvest Day Parade
September 3-7—2026 Midwest Old Threshers Reunion
September 17-19—Printers' Fair
October 8-10, 15-17, 22-24, 29-31—Thrashers House of Terror
October 16-17, 23-24, 30-31—Haunted Rails
November 14—OT Annual Meeting | Foundation Annual Meeting
November 21-22—Festival of Lights Holiday Light Stroll
November 25-December 31—Festival of Lights
December 5-6, 12-13, 19-20—North Pole Express

Old Threshers Reunion

Sept. 3 - 7, 2026 * Mount Pleasant, Iowa