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Lifelong romance is something we all strive for. But with nearly half of all marriages ending up in divorce, some question whether a man and a woman can remain happily and faithfully married for a lifetime and if marriage is worth the risk. Ask those featured in this month's cover story, and they will tell you that the answer is a resounding yes. They say that although marriage certainly has its challenges, it really does get better with time.



The divorce statistics verify their claims, too, as the longer people stay married, the less likely they are to split up. Those who think the grass will be greener in round two of marriage may want to consider that second marriages have a 10 percent higher divorce rate than first marriages. So maybe, just maybe, there is some truth to the values of patience and understanding in marriage and that wisdom does come with age.

Regardless of how you feel about marriage, or what challenges life has thrown your way, one can't help but respect those who are able to make it work for the long haul. And simply by their lead, their children are more likely to stay married, too. That's one of the many circles of life, and we are pleased to share stories of these lifelong romances this month.

Thanks for reading. ■

Shane Goodman
Publisher



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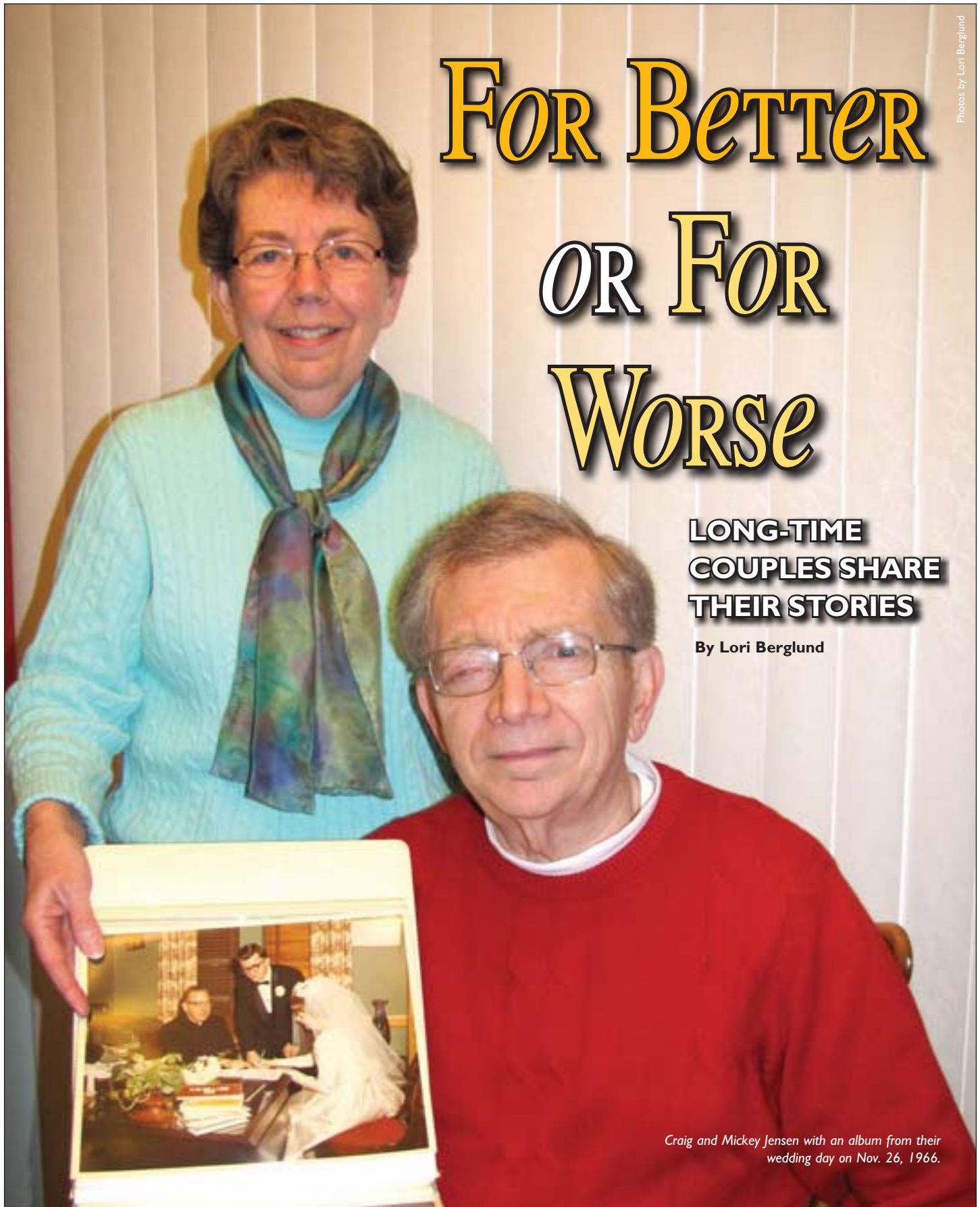
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Iowa
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FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

**LONG-TIME
COUPLES SHARE
THEIR STORIES**

By Lori Berglund



Craig and Mickey Jensen with an album from their wedding day on Nov. 26, 1966.

Marriage: a lifetime commitment for better or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health. Love: it's all that and a box of chocolates.

It's just not always the same box.

Before marriage, your loved one arrives on Valentine's Day with a heart-shaped box of chocolates to take you out for a romantic dinner for two.

A few years down the road of marriage, that same loved one — now you're ever-loving husband — says, "Let's take your car," offers you some Junior Mints as you drive to the buffet down the road, unknowingly spills half the box on the seat, and sits on them, squashing them into his pants and your car's plush seats.

But, you made a vow, so you tuck your arm in his and proudly walk into the restaurant beside the man with the very questionable chocolate stain on his backside, reminding yourself all the while to wash those pants as soon as you get home.

A girlfriend would never believe that this story is true. A wife knows that it has to be so.

Yep, marriage is a box of chocolates all right.

Clear Lake couples who have shared decades of Valentine's Days, and more than their share of chocolate surprises, seem to agree that marriage and dating don't always have that much in common. And yet they have weathered the storms, savored the sweet days, banished the bitter days from their memories, honored the commitment made to each other so long ago and never regretted a minute of it all.

A lifetime commitment

Craig and Mickey Jensen were married on Nov. 26, 1966, having met at a local dance studio while each was (sort of) dating someone else, occasionally ending up on the same double date, as they were also good friends with one another's significant other.

Still, Craig and Mickey's interest in each other was readily apparent, and Mickey — quite the catch — pulled off the ultimate dating double, with two dates on one day, each with different men!

Her old steady had asked her to accompany him on a photo shoot in the afternoon, as he was working for the local newspaper at the time. That wasn't too exciting for Mickey, so when Craig asked her to a movie the same evening, she jumped at the chance — and the rest is history.

As for the other guy, "he dropped out of the picture after that," Mickey recalls.

But Craig adds that he was a gentleman and didn't really cut in on someone else's gal.

"He had told me that if I wanted to date



Don and Sandy Christ with their wedding photo from 1963.

Mickey, I should go ahead," Craig says.

While it may have been dance lessons that first brought them together, dance also demonstrates how the two are sometimes opposites.

"He's a dancer, and I'm not," Mickey says.

To which Craig answers, "She doesn't like crowds."

"We have gone to some dances, and usually the way it works is that she sits and talks to someone else's husband, who doesn't like to dance, and I dance with the other gal," Craig says. "But I always come and get her for the slow dances."

More than anything else, Craig and Mickey say their life together has been one of sharing simple times. They raised three daughters — Michelle, Lisa and Sara — and have four grandchildren.

"We always spent our time together and with our kids, in a family, doing things," Mickey recalls. "And now you see 'Girls Night Out' and 'Boys Night Out,' a guys' trip here, and a girls' trip there, and I think there isn't the same kind of commitment to families."

For Mickey and Craig, who is now legally blind, marriage has brought a few health challenges and some lean times over the years, but they were raised in a time when marriage was

respected and honored above all other obligations.

"I think people considered it a lifetime commitment," Mickey says. "They didn't just, at the first bump in the road, decide, 'Oh, I've had it. I'm out of here.'"

Room for each other to grow

"There's something about having a wedding that's different from making a marriage. The two don't necessarily go together," says Sandy Christ, married to her husband, Don, for 48 years.

Don and Sandy, married on July 6, 1963, are yet another couple that proves opposites often attract.

"I'm not big on anniversaries, big parties or big celebrations. I just like to enjoy the common, day-to-day of life," Sandy says.

To which Don answers, "That's part of the opposites attract; I love to celebrate my birthday and our wedding anniversary."

"We are very much opposites," Sandy agrees. "He loves the outdoors and roughing it. I prefer camping at the Holiday Inn."

But to be married to an opposite also requires a little compromise. When their children were young, they did a lot of camping as

a family. As the children grew up, Don got his outdoor fix as an avid leader for Boy Scouts. He loves the serenity and isolation of the Boundary Waters where he can be alone with nature, and she has no desire to see it.

"He wouldn't have any fun if I went along," she says knowingly.

And while they may have different interests, they still make time to be together.

"If she wants to go to a concert or a play, I'm with her," Don says. "I love those things."

"What we agreed upon very early was that we are individual people," Sandy says. "You do your thing, but we do make room for each other."

Don and Sandy also learned early on about the challenges that can come with marriage when he suffered a broken neck during a wrestling practice while stationed in Germany as a service member.

"It changed our lives," says Sandy, who had traveled to Germany with Don at the time. "What really changed our lives was his being drafted into the military three months before he would have been of age to be exempt."

"I went through basic training at 26 years of age with 19-year-old boys," Don recalls.

The neck injury left him with severe pain

for the rest of his life, but neither Don nor Sandy let that pain become the dominating factor in their marriage.

"We grew together by getting through that," Don says.

And Sandy notes that changes and challenges are a part of every life and every marriage.

"Perfect is not a human condition. There's always going to be something to deal with," Sandy says. "A lot of young couples go into marriage with the notion that they can just get divorced if it doesn't work out. If you go into it with that as an option, the chances of you using that option are relatively high."

But by making room for each other to change and grow, Don and Sandy built a family and a lifetime with their four children — Barbara, Sarah, Jack and Kate — and six grandchildren.

Making service a part of life

While we found many couples who say they are opposites, Art and Kay Mahon, married Aug. 4, 1951, say that they have a lot in common, despite having grown up thousands of miles apart and in very different family settings.

Art was an only child raised in Boston, Mass. Kay was raised in a bigger Catholic family

in Flint, Mich. They met when he was attending the GM Institute in Flint, and she was working as a soda jerk.

"I went in and asked for a pine float," Art recalls. "Water and a toothpick," he explains. "When you don't have any money, that's what you go for."

Kay recalls that she had been hurt a few times and was cautious when she met Art, but he eventually won her over. Art proposed on Christmas Eve, 1950, but had to wait for Kay's dad to rush the rest of the family out of the living room before he could propose. Her dad knew what was coming, as Art had asked his permission first.

"Back in the old days, you used to do that," Art recalls.

For the next 27 years, Kay and their growing flock of children followed Art around the country as he was transferred from base to base as a U.S. Air Force pilot.

"I asked him how many children he wanted, and he said 'Oh, 12.' I said, 'OK, I'll have six and you have six,'" Kay recalls with a chuckle.

They ended up with seven — Rick, Mike, Steve, Dawn, Jerry, Scott and Matt — and now have 22 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

It was the children who were Kay's best

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allies when Art's service took him overseas. He served stints in Guam, Thailand and a year in Vietnam in 1969. Kay recalls one time when the children learned that their father's base had been hit by enemy fire. The kids hid the newspaper, trying to protect her, and were furious when a well-meaning relative called to voice her concern.

"That was a bad time," Kay recalls. "My sons were so mad," because they didn't want her to worry.

Art returned safe and sound from Vietnam and retired from the service as a full Colonel several years later. The couple moved to Clear Lake more than 30 years ago and say they love the community.

While a military career puts demands on any marriage, Kay is proud of her husband's service.

"People would say, 'If my husband went overseas, I'd divorce him right there.' I say, 'You don't know the meaning of love, do you?' I didn't like the idea that he was gone, but I was proud of him."

The couple have made volunteering a part of their lives in Clear Lake, and are sometimes asked why they do it.

"Until you volunteer, you'll never under-



Photo by Lori Berglund

Art and Kay Mahon will mark their 61st wedding anniversary later this year.

stand why we love to do it," Kay says simply.

Three very different couples, all of whom honored the vows made, man to woman, woman to man, so many years ago; for better

or worse, for richer or poorer, in sickness and in health. They had no idea what they were getting in to, but they each made it a joyful commitment worth sharing. ■

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Dalena Barz and Alica Hanley of Three Eagles Communication were the hosts of the Health and Wellness Expo held at the Surf on Jan. 21.



Kristy Meinders with Advocare had a booth at the Health and Wellness Expo held at the Surf on Jan. 21.



Julie Dueggel and Crystal Stratmann at the Health and Wellness Expo held at the Surf on Jan. 21.



Kat Rogers had a booth for Serenity Spa at the Health and Wellness Expo held at the Surf on Jan. 21.



Jessica Hepperly had a booth for the YMCA at the Health and Wellness Expo held at the Surf on Jan. 21.



Max Lund had a booth for Complete Nutrition at the Health and Wellness Expo held at the Surf on Jan. 21.



Melissa Einertson and Tim Einertson at the Health and Wellness Expo held at the Surf on Jan. 21.



Laura Stensrud had a booth for Stensrud Insurance at the Health and Wellness Expo held at the Surf on Jan. 21.



Jacob Lee had a booth for Oakwood Care Center at the Health and Wellness Expo held at the Surf on Jan. 21.



Beverly Petersen and granddaughter Nicole Petersen had a booth for Beauti Control at the Health and Wellness Expo held at the Surf on Jan. 21.



Jon Danielson had a booth for Life Serve at the Health and Wellness Expo held at the Surf on Jan. 21.



Lisa Ebel and David Ebel at the Health and Wellness Expo held at the Surf on Jan. 21.

Obtaining a small business loan

Learn how to improve your chances

By Tim Esbeck, community president, Manufacturer's Bank & Trust, Clear Lake branch

Small businesses are critical to the American economy. For small companies to survive and generate new jobs, they need credit on affordable terms.

If you've considered starting a small business, have you thought about how to fund it? Borrowing money is one of the most common sources of funding a small business. It is a good idea to understand as much as you can about the factors the bank will evaluate when they consider your application.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC) offers the following tips to help improve your chances of getting a good loan.

- Prepare or update a business plan. This summary of the company's goals, needs and financial projections will be crucial to your success, whether you're just starting out or you've been in business for years.

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) offers the following tips for writing a solid business plan:

- Begin with a statement of purpose. You should be able to explain your business in 25 words or less.

- Illustrate how your business will work and why it will be successful. List the owners.

- Describe the company's products or services, the customers, the market and the competition. List the managers and their credentials.

- Supply three years of projected financial statements. Include income, loss and cash-flow projections.

- Provide supporting documents, such as references from creditors and potential clients and

suppliers, and evidence of insurance.

- Understand the risks and costs of different kinds of loans. Your best option may be a bank loan guaranteed by the SBA. Under this program, the SBA backs a certain portion of the loan which enables a small business owner to qualify for attractive interest rates and financing.

Credit cards may appear to be an easy source of money, but they can be an expensive way to finance a small business. You can probably get a better rate on a business loan from your bank.

Home equity lines of credit also may be a source of funding, but you may not want to risk your home to launch your business venture. Carefully consider the risks involved.

Know your options. There are generally three types of business loans: short-term (including lines of credit used to help finance ongoing expenses), intermediate-term loans typically paid back in five to seven years (often used to purchase machinery, furniture or fixtures or to finance renovations and expansion) and long-term financing that can be available for 20 years or more (typically for commercial mortgages for buildings or major equipment purchases).

Don't overlook state, county and city governments when you're looking for financing. Many economic development offices have lending programs for qualified small firms that may offer special terms.

Learn from other professionals: www.sba.gov, www.fdic.gov/smallbusiness, <http://www.niacc.edu/pappajohn/>. ■

Information provided by Tim Esbeck, community president, Manufacturer's Bank & Trust Clear Lake Branch, 1919 Hwy. 18 East, Clear Lake. For more information, call 641-357- 6161.

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Friday, Feb. 3

- 2nd Annual Rockin' & Boppin' Record Show, Best Western Holiday Lodge, free, 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Rockin' Kids Show, Surf Ballroom, \$5, 9 - 11 a.m.
- Winter Dance Party, Surf Ballroom, open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., concert doors open 7 p.m.
- 23rd Annual British Buddy Holly Society Luncheon, Best Western Holiday Lodge, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Wedding Renewal Ceremony, Surf Ballroom, 1:30 p.m.
- National Model UN at Chicago
- Varsity girls and boys BB vs. St. Edmond, 6:15 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 4

- Winter Dance Party, Pat Boone performs, Surf Ballroom, open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. for \$4 admission, concert doors open 7 p.m.
- 1950's Variety Show & Luncheon, Best Western Holiday Lodge, \$20, purchase tickets at Surf Ballroom, 11:30 a.m., show begins 12:15 p.m.
- Alan Clark and the Classics perform, Clear Lake Arts Center, 2 - 4 p.m.
- Thunder on Syrup go-karts, ATVs and motorcycles, North Iowa Fairgrounds, all day
- French Film: "Seducing Dr. Lewis," MacNider Art Museum, Mason City, 2 p.m.
- National Model UN at Chicago
- Large Group State Speech

- Wrestling sectionals at Algona, noon

Sunday, Feb. 5

- Super Bowl Sunday
- National Model UN at Chicago

Monday, Feb. 6

- Marvelous Mondays, grades 4 - 5, Clear Lake Public Library, 3:15 - 5 p.m.
- Clear Lake City Council meeting, City Hall, 6:30 p.m.
- EXCEL Open House, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 7

- Terrific Tuesdays, grades 1 - 3, Clear Lake Public Library, 3:15 - 5 p.m.
- Quilting Basics, Clear Lake Arts Center, \$30, 1 p.m.
- JV/V boys and girls BB vs. Webster City, 4:30 p.m.
- After School Program, Clear Lake Arts Center, 3:15 - 5 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 9

- Thursday Thrillers, grades 1 - 3, Clear Lake Public Library, 3:15 - 5 p.m.
- Northern Band Festival at UNI
- 3rd grade music concert, CC gym, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 10

- Iowa LeMans Snowmobile Championship, Jack Helgren Memorial Race, McIntosh Woods State Park, www.thejackrace.com for info
- Northern Band Festival at UNI
- JV/V boys and girls BB vs. Humboldt, 4:30 p.m.
- CARES Silent Cake Auction during BB games beginning at 5 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 11

- Iowa LeMans Snowmobile Championship, Jack Helgren Memorial Race, McIntosh Woods State Park, www.thejackrace.com for info
- Arti Gras "Hair Tails and Cocktails", Clear Lake Arts Center, 7 p.m.
- North Iowa Fairgrounds Flea Market, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Film: "Page One," MacNider Art Museum, Mason City, 2 p.m.
- Northern Band Festival at UNI
- NCIBA MS Jazz Festival at Clear Lake
- Wrestling districts at Forest City, noon
- JV/V boys and girls BB vs. Charles City, 1 p.m.
- Second Saturday Demonstration, Clear Lake Arts Center, Essential Oils, free to the public, 1 - 2 p.m.

Sunday, Feb. 12

- North Iowa Fairgrounds Flea Market, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 13

- Marvelous Mondays, grades 4 - 5, Clear Lake Public Library, 3:15 - 5 p.m.
- Morning Coffee, MacNider Art Museum, Mason City, 10 a.m.
- Track practice begins
- Mid Winter Band Concert, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 14

- Valentine's Day
- Terrific Tuesdays, grades 1 - 3, Clear Lake Public Library, 3:15 - 5 p.m.
- Clear Lake Library Board meeting, 5:15 p.m.
- JV/V boys BB at Algona, 6:15 p.m.
- 5th and 6th grade band concert, 7:30 p.m.
- 7th and 8th grade jazz band concert, 7:30 p.m.
- After School Program, Clear Lake Arts Center, 3:15 - 5 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 15

- "The Magic Flute," E.B. Stillman Auditorium, free, 7 p.m.
- State WR duals at Wells Fargo Arena, DM
- Girls BB regionals

Thursday, Feb. 16

- Thursday Thrillers, grades 1 - 3, Clear Lake Public Library, 3:15 - 5 p.m.
- Varsity state WR tournament at

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- Exploring Techniques with Polymer Clay, Clear Lake Arts Center, \$15 + \$2/supplies, 6 - 8:30 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 17

- Clear Lake Schools no classes
- HOOPLA, middle schoolers are invited to mystery party, Clear Lake Public Library, 1:30 - 3 p.m.
- Varsity state WR tournament at Wells Fargo Arena, DM

Saturday, Feb. 18

- 11th Annual Color the Wind Kite Festival, Downtown Seawall, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Varsity state WR tournament at Wells Fargo Arena, DM

Sunday, Feb. 19

- The Gizmo Guys, EB Stillman Auditorium, Clear Lake MS, \$15 - \$35, 7 - 9 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 20

- President's Day
- Clear Lake City Council meeting, City Hall, 6:30 p.m.
- Boys BB districts

Tuesday, Feb. 21

- Terrific Tuesdays, grades 1 - 3, Clear Lake Public Library, 3:15 - 5 p.m.
- Girls BB regionals
- Class 2A boys district final at HS gym, 7 p.m.
- After School Program, Clear Lake Arts Center, 3:15 - 5 p.m.
- Lotions & Healing Skin Balms, Clear Lake Arts Center, \$15 + \$5/supplies, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- Photoshop, Clear Lake Arts Center, \$30/3 Sessions, 7 - 9 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 22

- Ash Wednesday
- Clear Lake Park & Rec Advisory Board meeting, Parks Office, 800 First Ave. S., 6:30 a.m.

Thursday, Feb. 23

- Thursday Thrillers, grades 1 - 3, Clear Lake Public Library, 3:15 - 5 p.m.
- UPA Americup Dance Nationals at Minneapolis
- Boys BB district finals

Friday, Feb. 24

- Mardi Gras featuring Hairball, Surf Ballroom, \$15, 8 p.m.
- UPA Americup Dance Nationals at Minneapolis
- Spring Play, E.B. Stillman Auditorium

- Individual District Speech

Saturday, Feb. 25

- Montgomery Gentry, Surf Ballroom, \$40, 8 p.m.
- UPA Americup Dance Nationals at Minneapolis
- Spring Play, E.B. Stillman Auditorium
- Individual District Speech

Sunday, Feb. 26

- UPA Americup Dance Nationals at Minneapolis

Monday, Feb. 27

- Dr. Seuss' Birthday, Clear Lake Public Library, 5 - 7 p.m.
- UPA Americup Dance Nationals at Minneapolis
- Girls state BB tournament
- Iowa Assessment Testing
- School Board meeting, 5:15 p.m.
- Boys BB substate

Tuesday, Feb. 28

- Terrific Tuesdays, grades 1 - 3, Clear Lake Public Library, 3:15 - 5 p.m.
- Book Chat for Adults, Clear Lake Public Library, 2 - 3 p.m.
- Girls state BB tournament
- Iowa Assessment Testing
- After School Program, Clear Lake Arts Center, 3:15 - 5 p.m.
- Fused (Stained) Glass, Clear Lake

Arts Center/John Larsen Studio, \$35 (some supplies are extra), 1 - 4 p.m.

- Knit/Felt Purse, Clear Lake Arts Center, \$20 + \$20/supplies (2 sessions), 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- Photoshop, Clear Lake Arts Center, \$30/3 Sessions, 7 - 9 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 29

- Leap Day
- Iowa Assessment Testing
- Girls state BB tournament

Thursday, March 1

- Clear Lake Schools dismiss 1 p.m.
- Clear Lake Schools conferences
- HOOPLA, middle schoolers make an unwanted book into something else, Clear Lake Public Library, 1:30 - 3 p.m.
- Lake Area Quilters' Guild meeting, City Hall, 7 p.m.
- Girls state BB tournament

Friday, March 2

- Read Across America Day
- Girls state BB tournament

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Submit calendar items for your school, church, business, organization or family to darren@dmcityview.com.

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Photo by Lori Berglund

A French Dip with tender slices of roast beef, served au jus.

Family-style fare

New Seven Stars offers satisfying choices

By Lori Berglund

Family restaurants — genuine family-style restaurants — are few and far between these days, but my dining companion and I have found a new favorite spot for casual dining in a home-style atmosphere.

My toughest decision on a recent visit to the newly-opened Seven Star Family Restaurant was whether to order breakfast or dinner. The second hardest decision was what kind of pie to have to top off that dinner.

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Fri. - Sat.: 5 a.m. - 9 p.m.

Sun. - Thur.: 5 a.m. - 8 p.m.

But let's talk about breakfast first, because it's really our favorite meal to eat out on most days. My dining companion fills up on the full order of biscuits and gravy, while I'm torn between a Belgian waffle, topped with fruit, of course, or fluffy pancake drowning in butter and syrup. We happen to be experts on farm fresh eggs, collecting our own each evening from a flock of spoiled hens we call the girls. "Seven Stars" also offers Country Fresh Eggs, and they live

up to their billing.

The variety of omelets is impressive, from Western with ham, green peppers and onions, to a Southern omelet stuffed with hash browna and smothered in sausage gravy.

In short, breakfast is not to be missed at Seven Stars; in fact, you can practically make breakfast a seven-course meal here. But on this particular day it was late enough for me to enjoy a sandwich and salad, choosing a French dip with tender slices of roast beef and plenty of broth for dipping. With a fresh green salad on the side, I was quite content, until I heard about the pie.

There was pumpkin, pecan, cherry, Dutch apple, all like Grandma used to make. And, of course, you can get them ala mode, but the cherry pie alone needed no dressing up and I enjoyed it sans ice cream. Peeking from under a flaky crust, the cherries had a fresh-picked sweetness that couldn't be denied.

As inviting as the food was the atmosphere at this family-style restaurant. Nearby, a table full of local farmers downed pots of coffee as they talked over the markets and some wild farm sales. There was no need to rush; everyone is welcome to sit a spell at Seven Stars.

In a town full of outstanding dining choices, we'll be coming back often to relax and savor the flavors. ■

Winter activities for all ages

Library offers plenty of variety in February

By Jean Casey

Our busy schedule of winter activities continues at the library during the month of February with some special programs that you will not want to miss.

Michigan-based author Bill Jamerson will present a music and storytelling program about the Civilian Conservation Corps at the library on Tuesday, Feb. 28 at 6:30 p.m. This hour-long program, "Dollar-a-Day Boys," will include stories, video, reading excerpts from his novel and performances of original songs including "City Slicker," "Chow Time" and "Tree Plantin'" and "Fire Fightin' Blues."

Clear Lake Public Library

200 N. Fourth St.

641-357-6133

clplib@netins.net

www.cityofclearlake.com

Mon. - Thur.: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Fri. - Sat.: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The Civilian Conservation Corps was a federal works program created by President Franklin Roosevelt during the heart of the Great Depression. Jamerson's novel, "Big Shoulders," follows a year in the life of a teenager from Detroit who enlists in 1937 and spends a year in a rugged work camp in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. In his talk, Jamerson will share many stories from former CCC boys who he has met over the years. The Friends of the Library is sponsoring this free program, and all are welcome to attend.

The Friends is also sponsor-

ing the ever popular "Dr. Seuss Birthday Party" family event on Monday, Feb. 27. This is an open house event running from 5 - 7 p.m. The Cat in the Hat will be present for the first hour — bring along your camera to take your child's picture with the Cat. "If I Ran the Circus" is the theme, and there will be circus-related games and activities, plus popcorn. Remember to wear your "Cat in the Hat" hat from previous years or plan to purchase one for \$2. Please register for this event by calling the Youth Department at 357-0315.

Reading program continues

The Friends' "Novel Destinations" Winter Reading Program for all ages continues through the end of February. Register weekly for prize drawings of book bags and notebooks. There is also a "My Novel Destination: a Favorite Travel Story" writing contest. In 500 words or less, tell of a favorite personal journey. The journey can be near or far; what matters is that it was memorable for you. Writing contest prizes will be awarded at the adult, middle school/high school and elementary school levels. Bring your entry to the library or email it to clplib@netins.net by Feb. 24.

The Friends of the Library sponsors all of the above activities. They also sponsor on-line resources, purchase books, media and equipment, provide volunteers for library events and do so many wonderful things for our community library. Join the Friends today — use the Friends of the Library membership form on the library Website. ■



Photo by Lori Berglund

A mild winter is allowing Dave and Patty Theiss to enjoy an extended season in their three-season porch with a pristine lake view.

Making memories

Dave and Patty Theiss' have history at home

By Lori Berglund

At home, they often say, is the place where you make your best memories.

Home is the place where you know that the Christmas tree always goes in the same corner, where the mistletoe is always hung in the same doorway, where family members share their favorite memories and make new ones for the years ahead.

For Dave and Patty Theiss, their home at 318 Lake View Drive in Clear Lake is a storehouse for decades of memories, dating to even before they took up residence in the corner lot with a priceless lake view.

"This has been a family home for a long time," Dave explains. "We've lived here for 19 years, but my mother lived here for 18 years previous to that."

That continuity over the years is something the whole family treasures.

"The nicest thing for us is that this is where we celebrated Christmas and Thanksgiving, birthdays and family events, and the Fourth of July is at the top of the list," Dave says, and it's where their extended family continues to gather for celebrations.

Dave and Patty admit they

couldn't have kept it all together without all the family sharing that same goal.

"My mother was retired and wanted to simplify her living quarters, and actually, I was very blessed that my sisters — when Mom wanted to sell — said, 'Why don't you wait until Dave and Patty can afford to come down here,' which allowed us to maintain the family home," he says.

As the years went by, yet another generation came to enjoy the home, with Dave's grandchildren living just "tricycle distance" away, even if they have now outgrown the tricycle stage.

Both Dave and Patty love the fact that their home is a gathering spot for family and friends.

"We love the location. On the Fourth of July, our yard is full of friends, and we really like all the summer celebrations," he says.

Dave was already in college when his parents moved to Clear Lake, but it's an adopted hometown he has come to love.

"I love the people here. This is the warmest community I have ever found. We have met so many neat people over the years," he concludes. ■

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Zumba Dancers were high energy entertainment at the Health and Wellness Expo held at the Surf on Jan. 21.



Nick McColley, Melissa McColley and Vicki Higgins were in the booth for Optimum Health Chiropractic at the Health and Wellness Expo held at the Surf on Jan. 21.



Michelle Jurgensen and Brenda Westendorf led the Zumba dancers at the Health and Wellness Expo held at the Surf on Jan. 21.



Twyla Steenblock had a booth for Lillians at the Health and Wellness Expo held at the Surf on Jan. 21.

French silk pie

Luscious dessert is easy to make

By Beth McDonald

One of my favorite pies is French silk pie, a creamy, chocolate creation.

It is perfect when it is served really cold, topped with real whipped cream. This simple and delicious pie is a great way to satisfy my chocolate cravings. It has that chocolate mousse texture, and when you add that to the crunch of a crust and the smoothness of the whipped cream, it is the perfect combination.



Once you look at this recipe you will see that there is no need to go order this pie from your local pie shop. With that said, this recipe does come with a warning; it contains raw eggs. It is recommended that pregnant women, young children and elderly should not consume raw eggs. You can use pasteurized eggs such as Egg Beaters, and they are quite easy to find in the store. If you are concerned about the raw eggs you can find variations to this recipe that don't have eggs; however, I just don't think the pie is the same.

You can also make variations with this pie by adding some instant coffee to get the mocha flavor, or you could also try adding peanut butter. However, this is one pie that I stick to the traditional version, so I don't typically make any variations. ■

French silk pie

Ingredients

- 1 cup sugar
- ¾ cup of butter (has to be real butter)
- 3 squares (3 oz.) of unsweetened chocolate, melted and cooled
- 1 ½ teaspoons of vanilla
- 3 eggs
- 1 9-inch pie crust
(Bake the pie crust first and let it cool)
- Whipped cream

Directions

1. In a small bowl, cream sugar and butter until fluffy. (About 4 minutes). Stir in cooled chocolate and vanilla.
2. Add the eggs one at a time and beat until mixture is stiff. After each addition scrape the sides of the bowl and continue to mix. Turn into the pie crust and let set for several hours or overnight.
3. Top with whipped cream.

Beth McDonald is a wife, mother and works full time in Des Moines.

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Special events at Clear Lake Arts Center

The Clear Lake Arts Center will be showing 1950's-era films Thursday, Feb. 2 and Friday, Feb. 3 during the Winter Dance Weekend. The showings are free to the community. On Saturday, Feb. 4, the arts center will feature "Rave On X." The exhibit contains Baby Boomer Era works by regional artists. Alan Clark and The Classics will perform from 2 - 4 p.m.

Memorial race rescheduled for Feb. 10 - 12

The Iowa Lemans Championship - Jack Helgren Memorial Race has been rescheduled to Friday, Feb. 10 - Sunday, Feb. 12 in Clear Lake. The weekend is filled with family-friendly snowmobiling fun. Friday evening starts with guided snowmobile cruise around the lake which highlights many of the area's finest eating/drinking establishments, fun and historic places. Saturday features snowmobile racing including Leman's "style" racing and radar runs. The races consist of vintage through current snowmobiles. There are many classes including a class where rider and the age of the rider and sled must add up to 80 (the older you are, the newer the sled you can ride) and also includes a ladies-only class. Additionally, there will be a Vintage Snowmobile Show, food tent and raffle for a vintage restored 1977 Ski-Doo. Saturday night will have a live band (Split Second) playing uptown. The event is a memorial to Jack Helgren, an area businessman, avid snowmobiler, dealer, racer and promoter of snowmobiling in the area. This is the third year of the event, and it has been enjoyed by all who have attended. You can visit www.thejackrace.com to get all the latest info and details.

Local food producer winter workshops

Local food producer winter workshops are coming up. Fee and registration will be requested. For complete registration details, contact Healthy Harvest of North Iowa Coordinator, Jan Libbey at libbey.jan@gmail.com or 515/571-3383

- **Small Farm Planning 101.** Saturday, Feb. 18, 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., 4-H Learning Center, North Iowa Fairgrounds, Mason City. Come learn what resources and strategies can help you gain clarity for the focus of your business — active participation to flesh out your goals and bone up on financial management. Speakers include Andy Larson, ISU Extension Small Farm Sustainability and Mark Olchefske, Pappajohn Center's Small Business Development.

- **Working Together to Grow More.** Complete details coming soon. Explore the opportunities to work collaboratively to grow and serve new markets.

For more information, contact libbey.jan@gmail.com, or call 515-571-3383 ■

New year

Many faith-based events in Clear Lake

By Lucas McMillan

Making resolutions and setting goals are as much a part of New Year's as the Times Square ball drop or a toast of bubbly with friends. Join these Clear Lake churches as they set goals of their own, reflect on their history and look forward to worship, service and fun in 2012.

The **Clear Lake Evangelical Free Church**, 1310 U.S. Highway 18 W., will stage a production based on Janette Oke's inspirational bestseller "Love Comes Softly" the weekend of Feb. 18 and 19. The show, directed by Toby Waldowski, focuses on the tribulations of a young widow in the 19th century American West. There will be a production on Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon, times to be determined. Admission is free, but an offering is encouraged.

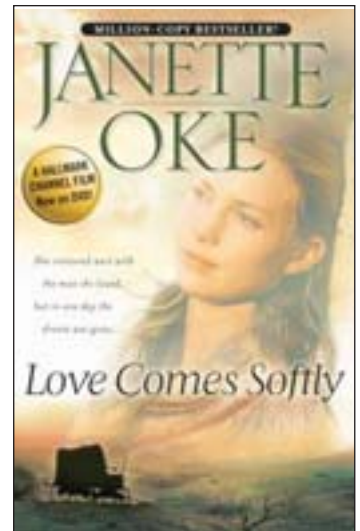
Another Emmaus weekend retreat opportunity is coming up in early February for folks at **Clear Lake United Methodist**, 508 Second Ave. N. The Men's Walk is being held at the West Des Moines United Methodist Church Feb. 2-5, and the Women's Walk is at the same location Feb. 9-12. For more information, application forms or sponsorship, contact Pastor Diana Hoover or Pastor Rhoda Preston at 641-357-5247.

Spread the Word

Have an upcoming event or church news you would like to announce? Send information to darren@dmcityview.com.

The Congregational Care Team at Clear Lake United Methodist is also in need of someone to take Communion to Oakwood Care Center once a month. For more information, contact Tracy Hansen at 357-1179.

As part of the 175th anniversa-



Check out the stage production of best-selling novel, "Love Comes Softly" at the Evangelical Free Church on Feb. 18 and 19.

ry celebration of the Archdiocese of Dubuque, the Archdiocese has commissioned a coffee table-style history book containing brief notes on the histories of parishes, hospitals, colleges and other Catholic institutions in the Archdiocese. **St. Patrick's Catholic Church**, 1001 Ninth Ave. S., has purchased two of these full-color hard covered books as well as the soft-covered "comic book" style book. They are available to parishioners for loan or purchase. Anyone interested in viewing or purchasing these books, may contact the parish office at 357-3214.

Get family members of all ages involved for family night every Wednesday from 7 - 8 p.m. at the **Open Bible Church**, 609 S. Eighth St., which involves a youth group, an adult bible study and a clubhouse for the kids.

Agape Christian Family Church, 2810 U.S. Highway W., also offers a kid-friendly service called Big Dreams, for participants between 4 years old and fifth grade, every Wednesday night from 7 - 8 p.m. ■

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education

Submit story ideas to darren@dmcityview.com

Meet Angela O'Tool

P.E. instructor speaks up about her passions

By Lori Berglund

It's hard to imagine Angela O'Tool not telling it like it is, especially when she's talking about one of her passions, of which there are many.

A Tipton native and daughter of two music teachers, O'Tool spent her college years at the University of Iowa on the football field — playing trumpet and marching in the Hawkeye band.

"It was very intense," she says, recalling three-hour practices Monday through Friday during football season.

"And on weekends, if you had a home game, you had to be up at 4:00 or 5:00 in the morning practicing in Kinnick before the crowd would get there."

O'Tool says she just missed out on the Chuck Long era, but did go to two Holiday Bowls and a Peach Bowl with Hayden Fry. She gave up the band her final year to make room for another passion, student teaching, and recalls the rigors of her first job search.

"I sent out 250 applications all over the United States," she said, "and I had maybe five or six interviews, in which I really stunk it up."

Well, evidently not too bad; she did land a job teaching ninth grade P.E. in Victorville, Calif. She stayed for two years before returning to Iowa, and has been at Clear Lake Middle School since 1994. O'Tool says physical education is as important for the mind as it is for the body and wants kids



Photos by Lori Berglund

Angela O'Tool is the physical education instructor at Clear Lake Middle School.

to be involved in a variety of activities.

"They need to go outside and play. As kids, we were outside all the time. We played, we entertained ourselves. I think we became really good leaders because we would have neighborhood pickup games, and we had to deal with it — we were responsible for what was going on," she says.

In her view, a game is sometimes more than just a game.

"I think because we don't have those sandlot baseball games, we're losing our leadership," she says. "Technology is keeping our kids inside. We're not getting socializing going on as much, and the interaction we do have over the Internet isn't always supervised."

Marching band or sandlot games, they are each physical, social, mind- and body-building. And they leave kids with memories to last a lifetime.

"We should all be making physical fitness a priority," she concludes. ■

Suggest a teacher

for a *Clear Lake Living* education column,
call Darren Tromblay at 953-4822, ext 304
or email darren@dmcityview.com



What do you like best about Mrs. O'Tool?



Darby Betz:
"She cares about the kids and plans fun activities."



Nicholas Holtz:
"She's awesome; really lots of fun to be around."



Ben Hillyer:
"She's cool and kind of funny."

Littlefield

Visually exploring the European-style Littlefield is downright enjoyable. Rectangular stacked stone veneer covers much of the front facade and flanks the garage door. Soldier courses of raised brick contribute outlining and textural contrast, as does the wavy wrought iron railing that rims the porch. Classic keystones accent the arches that highlight two front windows, the widest of which boasts a particularly graceful Gothic transom.

Natural light washes into the foyer through slender sidelights. French doors on the right swing open to access a room that could be a dining room, parlor, or perhaps a home office.

Straight ahead is a richly windowed gathering space that comprises the great room, kitchen and nook. The fireplace offers warmth and color on dark days and chilly nights. Standing at the kitchen sink, you can chat with folks at the conversation bar, enjoy the fireplace flames, serve informal meals on the raised eating bar and keep tabs on activities inside and out.

Via the transverse hallway right past the dining room, you can reach any room in the house. Three bedrooms, including the owners' suite, are to the left, along with a two-section, general use bathroom. The owners' suite, of course, has its own private bathroom, complete with a dual vanity, deep soaking tub, towel hutch and large shower. The suite also boasts a roomy walk-in closet.



Heading down the hallway to the right brings you to the Littlefield's kitchen and a pass-through utility room that links with the two-car garage. At the rear of the garage is an exceptionally deep storage/workshop area. A recreation room, bathroom and walk-in storage closet are upstairs, over the garage.

Visit AssociatedDesigns.com for more information or to search our home plans. A review plan of the Littlefield 30-717, including floor plans, elevations, section and artist's conception, can be purchased for \$25. The home plan catalog, featuring more than 550 home plans, costs \$15. Both are available online, by mail or phone. Add \$5 s/h. Associated Designs, 1100 Jacobs Dr., Eugene, OR 97402, (800) 634-0123. ■



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Vickie Swanson and Monte Swanson at the Health and Wellness Expo held at the Surf on Jan. 21.



Ava Richtsmeier and Jaden Ainley led the youth Zumba charge at the Health and Wellness Expo held at the Surf on Jan. 21.



Nancy Dunbar, Donna Dunbar and Kelli Dunbar attended the Health and Wellness Expo held at the Surf on Jan. 21.

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