

Obituaries

Joe Myhra

Jan. 14, 2023

Joe was born to Jeane Elizabeth (Mikes) and Arnold Hendrick Myhra in Des Moines, Iowa on April 1, 1945. Joe often joked he was both an April Fool's Day baby and an Easter surprise. He passed away in Castle Rock, Colorado on January 14, 2023.



Joe grew up in Colfax playing on the banks of the Skunk River, delivering the daily and Sunday Des Moines Register paper, water skiing at the gravel pit, riding motor-

cycles and working on the railroad during the summer. Joe gave credit to his paper route as an early lesson for success in business. During his early years in Colfax he developed many friendships which continued through the years. He attended school in Colfax, until he enrolled at Wentworth Military Academy where he graduated from high school and junior college. At Wentworth he attained the rank of Captain and Company B Commander, developed leadership skills and built lasting friendships with his classmates. He finished his college education at Tarkio College.

After graduation he worked in sales and management for the fer-

tilizer division of Chevron Chemical Company for 23 years. After leaving Chevron he worked for Farmland Industries and CHS for a total of 46 years in the agriculture industry where he made many longtime friends. Joe was a valued mentor to business associates, friends and family members. He enjoyed hunting, boating and fishing on Leech Lake in Minnesota, classic cars, NASCAR races, overseeing our farmland in Iowa, traveling, reading western novels and recently watching Yellowstone. He loved his family and friends. Joe was a great conversationalist who enjoyed long talks with friends and family and always had a great story to tell.

He is survived by his wife, Cheryl (Stoner), son Brian (Sheri) Myhra, daughter Nikki (Aric) Addnesen and five grandchildren, Avery, Logan, and Austin Myhra and Jaxson and Madison Addnesen. His three brothers, Tony (Jane), Richard and Eric (Dawn) also survive as well as his nieces and nephews Lynn, Jeff, Sabin and Suzanne.

Memorials in Joe's name may be directed to the Colfax, Iowa Historical Society at P.O. Box 123, Colfax, Iowa 50054. Condolences may be left at https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/11107470

A celebration of life and Internment will be held in Iowa later in the year.

Nature Tots program: Antlers and Horns



Children ages 3-5, accompanied by their favorite adult, are invited to attend a free, fun and educational program about Antlers and

Horns from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Feb. 4 at Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge. Listen to a story, make a nature craft and explore the tallgrass prairie. Nature Tots programs are educational and specially designed for young learners. Lessons focus on engaging children's senses and using hands-on and interactive activities. Registration is requested. To register or to get additional information, call 515-994-3400 or email nancy_corona@fws.gov.

For more information about the refuge and event, including driving directions, visit https://www.fws.gov/refuge/neal-smith or Facebook https://www.facebook.com/NealSmithNWR. Specific questions can be directed to Nancy Corona at nancy_corona@fws.gov or 515-994-3400.

RSVP volunteers will assist with income tax preparations

Experienced volunteers with the RSVP Tax Assistance Program are prepared to help you this tax season. Free income tax assistance is available for those over 60 years of age and clients on low or fixed incomes.

Newton DMACC appointments are available from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, Feb. 1 - Feb. 28; Tuesdays and Wednesdays March 1 - April 12. Appointments are also available from 5

to 7 p.m. March 2 and March 23; and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 11. Colfax Library Drop-off only appointments are available from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 10. All locations are by appointment only. Call the Iowa State

University Extension Office at 641-792-6433 any Tuesday or Wednesday, beginning Jan. 10, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. to schedule your appointment. Also required — In addition to photo IDs and social securi-

ty cards, clients must bring last year's tax return or a tax transcript to their appointment. Transcripts can be obtained from the IRS. Current returns will NOT be prepared without this information.

Candle Bar

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tell us that they can't smell their candle." Next they moved on to wicking the candles, which was its own challenge. Due to the coconut wax being much softer they had to add a filler to make it harder and to get better wicking.

Once the candles were ready to go, they started developing the business and soon added wax brittle and themed mixers for people to attend.

"The wax brittle is a lot more fun. You can add color to it. We haven't perfected color into the candles or sprinkles. The wax brittle, you can do so much more with it," Stravers said. "We did a 'Cy-Hawk' mixer, a 'Girls Night Out' and because we partner with Juan (Hernandez of Cocina Hernandez Mexican Restaurant), that is a huge game changer, too. This wouldn't be nearly as fun if he didn't offer a full bar. He serves it right at the candle bar, he makes special themed drinks for the mixer. He

really spoils us." From bridal parties to work groups and women's clubs to birthday celebrations, the candle bar has stayed busy since it began welcoming guests. Schweickerath even came up with a fun way to break the ice with people, having them describe themselves in four words when first arriving.

"Then one of them ends up becoming your name tag. People really say that it is the funniest thing," Stravers said "Some people then also name their candles with their name tag. We try to have fun."

The bar can accommodate up to two 12 people at one time. People can choose to make up to two candles and either a half pound or full pound of wax brittle. Prices vary based on the vessels used.

"We want everybody when they come here to experience it together. We want them to experience the smells together. That is part of the fun," Stravers said. "We want the experience to be more than what they are taking home."

To book a party or learn about the latest mixer theme, visit the AYB Candle Bar Facebook page.



Wax brittle has become a fun, creative favorite of the makers at the AYB Candle Bar. Multiple colors and sprinkles can be used in the brittle which burn in warmers, also available at AYB.

EMS

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Halferty said the sheriff's office's ambulance could be used as a loaner. Or it could be used during special events or events with multiple patients.

If the county orders the ambulance right now, the base price is \$290,000. Of course, additional modifications would increase the price. Halferty stressed the need for a Power-LOAD Cot system, saying he does not know a single EMS agency that would purchase an ambulance without one. It would add \$50,000.

"Our patients are getting bigger. We're having more calls. Having a Power-LOAD Cot has been a tremendous asset to these services," Halferty said.

However, Halferty

said there will most likely be an 8 percent increase in costs to the Power-LOAD Cot system on Feb. 1. Which would make it \$54,000. There is a prolonged wait time in purchasing an ambulance regardless if it is before Feb. 1. Halferty said it would take 24-30 months to deliver the ambulance.

"If we wait two years, or even a year, to order this, it could be longer," Halferty said. "So I just want you to think about that."

But Halferty also met with an Iowa-based emergency vehicle manufacturer called Arrow Manufacturing Inc., which had a unit reserved for another client before the client backed out. Halferty asked them to submit a proposal for the ambulance, which includes the Power-LOAD Cot System and a stair

chair.

The proposal from Arrow was \$354,338, but the approximate wait time was significantly less at six to eight weeks. Halferty had budgeted \$400,000.

"I've always been the one to be prepared," Halferty said. "I want to have the right equipment that's going to be usable. I want to support our services and I would much rather have this and have it not utilized a lot initially than us realizing we need a unit sooner and we're going to wait two years to two-and-a-half years."

In addition to the ambulance purchase, Halferty told supervisors that the sheriff's office

is currently working on a partnership with the Iowa Speedway, which has a care center that sits empty unless the race-track is hosting events. The center has an ambulance bay with offices and storage.

"We're going to be meeting with the county attorney and preparing a memorandum of understanding where we basically partner with Iowa Speedway to help provide a need to them as well," Halferty said. "They usually only have a few events each year and we believe we can help ... cover some EMS needs."

In exchange, the sheriff's office would get to use the care center and ambulance bay. Halferty

said this saves the county from spending money to rent or find a location to store the ambulance. Halferty said the partnership with Iowa Speedway would be beneficial.

"We had 75 or 80 calls, medical calls, at Iowa Speedway on the hot day of Indy last year," Halferty said. "Fortunately a lot of those people weren't transported, but I definitely think we can make an impact there and we appreciate that partnership."

Purchasing the ambulance would come out of the county's American Rescue Plan Act funds. Halferty said the ambulance helps the county prepare for the future, and he estimates the

unit will last 10 years. If someone comes up with a better solution than the ALS program, Halferty said he has a plan for the vehicle.

"The market is really good right now for ambulances," he said. "A county west of Des Moines wrecked an ambulance and needed to replace it. They could not find a replacement. They're having to rent one at a significant cost now while they wait a couple years for a new build."

Implementation of the ambulance is earlier than the ALS team had anticipated, but Halferty said right now is the perfect opportunity to have it available.

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CITY OF BAXTER 2023 MOWING CONTRACT. The City of Baxter, Iowa is now accepting bids for the 2023 City mowing and grounds maintenance contract for Restland Cemetery. For Bid details please contact Baxter Public Works at 641-227-3354 or maintenance@baxter-iowa.com. Bids should be submitted to the City Clerk's office, P.O. Box 415, Baxter, IA 50028 by Monday, March 6th at 5 pm. Proposal forms can be found at www.baxter-iowa.com. EOE