

OPINION



RICK MORAIN
GREENERY

Re-committing to love

Kathy and I are getting married this weekend.

Well, almost. What we're doing is renewing our wedding vows in a ceremony at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Jefferson.

Our close friend the Reverend Roger Linnan, former priest at St. Joseph and now of Sioux City, will perform the ceremony. It's his first crack at us — we were married nearly 43 years ago, on Feb. 2, 1980, in my parents' home at Lake Panorama, with the late Iowa Supreme Court Justice David Harris of Jefferson officiating and with all our close relatives present.

(Feb. 2 is Ground Hog Day. That's a big help as a reminder, given my memory challenges, which were always present but disturbingly more so these days.)

Our four children, bless them, will all be there this weekend, as will our daughters-in-law, son-in-law, and all but one of our six grandchildren. Daughter Molly and her husband are flying in from Texas, son Matt from North Carolina, and granddaughter Laura from Arizona. Dan's family lives in Ames and David's in Adel. Kathy has organized a role for each of

them at the ceremony.

We won't have a musician this time, except for some recorded music. At the Panorama event my late brother Tom played for us on Mom's piano.

We appreciated Tom's willingness to play. We told him what musical selections we wanted, and he said he could handle them. He seemed eager to do so. The reason became clear at the start of the ceremony.

As Kathy and I entered the living room for the processional, Tom substituted "Send in the Clowns." As a remembrance, I'll play that as the processional this weekend.

We had three readings at our 1980 wedding, and grandchildren will reprise them.

We'll savor the wedding feast afterward back at our house, on takeout from a local restaurant. In 1980 we reserved a banquet room in The Port restaurant at Panorama. It was February, and The Port that winter was closed, but management opened it up for us. Unfortunately the heat hadn't been on long enough, and we all dined in our winter coats.

Kathy should have no

trouble finding the church. That's different from our wedding day back in 1980. She had been to my parents' place at the lake a couple of times, but I had always taken her there. She still lived in Ames, and on our wedding day she drove over with her family members.

As many of you know, the roads through the Lake Panorama residential areas wind around. It's confusing to newcomers. It was confusing to Kathy. As H-Hour approached I kept looking at my watch, and as the minutes ticked by, I kept telling myself that she had not got cold feet, that she indeed would show up. She did, after taking several wrong turns and backtracks. My heart rate, already pumped for the day, returned closer to normal.

We won't be wearing what we wore in 1980. That should come as no surprise.

Anyway, it was a signal day back then, and it will be again this weekend. We're grateful to everyone who made it memorable then, and those who do so now. After almost 43 years we're convinced more than ever that we did a good thing.

Gov. Reynolds joins 20 governors asking to repeal Biden's vaccine mandate for Armed Forces

Special to the Jefferson Herald

Governor Kim Reynolds joined governors from 20 other states across America sending a letter to Congressional Leadership Wednesday requesting immediate action to repeal the Biden Administration's Covid-19 vaccine mandate for members of the U.S. Armed Forces.

"The Biden vaccine mandate creates a national security risk that severely impacts our defense capabilities abroad and our state readiness here at

home," Gov. Reynolds said. "As Governors, our ability to respond to natural disasters and conduct emergency operations is contingent upon the strength and size of our National Guard units. As Congressional leaders, it is your duty to provide for the national defense, and therefore, we call upon you to protect the men and women in uniform—who protect us—from an unnecessary vaccine mandate. As President Biden, himself, stated on Sept. 18, "The pandemic is over." Top ranking leadership in

the Armed Forces continue to report major recruitment shortfalls and thousands of men and women have been discharged for refusing to comply with the Biden Administration's Covid-19 vaccine mandate.

Governor Reynolds joins Governors from: Tennessee, Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, and Wyoming in signing the letter.

Your letters

To the editor,

Oh, what a difference 365 days can make. This time last year Greene County and the Greene County Medical Center continued to see roller coaster COVID-19 numbers, masks were a daily part of our lives and there was still a strong reliance on technology for interpersonal communications.

2022 has seen Greene County Medical Center and the communities we serve bouncing back to some of our more normal routines. The frequency of our face-to-face interactions at meetings, training and events has steadily increased. We were finally able to lift the mask requirement at the Medical Center in September and we are excited to hold holiday gatherings and ceremonies in-person for the first time in years.

In addition to these milestones, Greene County Medical Center's commitment to our patients and their families has resulted in new and expanded services and more opportunities for quality healthcare to be delivered right here at home. A Cosmetic Clinic was opened in May of 2022 and there have been phenomenal results reported by patients at the Greene County Medical Center Pain Clinic that opened in January of

this year. We have added Urology to our specialty clinics and seen a marked increase in the number of people utilizing the Orthopedic surgical and clinical services performed right here in Jefferson. We welcomed new providers and have seen all of them remain steadfast in their pursuit of excellence through continuing education for themselves and support of educational opportunities for patients.

As we enter into my favorite time of year—the giving season—I took some time for reflection. It became clear the successes of our patients and our Medical Center are because of the individuals, organizations and businesses in our service region. I continue to be amazed at the ways you demonstrate how what we do is important—from those who trust us with their healthcare; those who generously volunteer their time to the health of the community; to the many financial supporters of the Medical Center's Mission, Vision and Values.

It is also amazing to see the impact each of these has on the other, and how they come together full circle, strengthening us all. By utilizing the services provided at Greene County Medical Center and the giving of personal and financial sup-

port, you ensure we remain vital and viable. This also allows us to support the tax base, bring millions in financial impact to our region and to take part in the celebrations, fundraisers and good works of our friends and neighbors.

As you plan your year-end giving, I ask that you consider an investment in exceptional healthcare close to home.

The Greene County Medical Center Foundation's annual Greene Backer campaign offers you the opportunity to provide that vital support to our Medical Center and our patients with new equipment, new services and new programs through tax-deductible donations. For more information or to donate, contact me at 515-386-0108, go to the mobile app at bit.ly/GreeneBacker or text GREENEBACKER to 41444.

Thank you for supporting quality healthcare for current and future generations by becoming a Greene Backer through a year-end, recurring or legacy donation. And thank you for choosing Greene County Medical Center as a partner in your care and the care of those you love.

Nancy Houska
Greene County Medical Center Foundation Director

For Iowa's deer hunters, the wait is nearly over, shotgun deer seasons begin Dec. 3

Special to the Jefferson Herald

Iowa's most popular deer hunting seasons are just around the corner, when roughly 100,000 blaze orange clad hunters take to the timber and wildlife experts are forecasting another good year.

"Our deer population is stable to slightly increasing statewide, so hunters should expect to see numbers similar to last year," said Tyler Harms, with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The two shotgun seasons see the highest numbers of hunters participating, which also leads to significant deer harvest, all condensed into less than three weeks in December.

"About half of our annual deer harvest statewide each year occurs during these two seasons," Harms said. Shotgun one is Dec. 3-7; shotgun two is Dec. 10-18.

While seasonal weather is finally arriving, the mild, dry fall has benefited hunters in the earlier deer seasons.

"Hunters have reported harvesting more than 23,000 deer so far, which is about 8 percent higher than last year, so we're on track to harvest more than 100,000 deer statewide again this year," Harms said.

Last year, hunters reported harvesting nearly 103,000 deer, down from 109,600 in 2020. The Iowa DNR has a goal to manage the herd to provide an annual harvest of 100,000-120,000 deer. A key piece to the population management plan is harvesting antlerless deer.

"We encourage folks in counties where antlerless licenses are available to use them to help us to effectively manage the deer herd," Harms said.

The Iowa DNR has a listing of counties with antlerless licenses in real-time. To check the number of licenses in each county, visit www.iowadnr.gov, then click on the "available tags, quota information" tab on the hunting page and select "Resident Antlerless Deer by County" in the dropdown box.

New this year is the Excess Tag January Antlerless Season. Any county with unsold county specific antlerless licenses on Jan. 11, is eligible for this season.

"This is an opportunity to harvest late season deer, but this new season has a limited method of take — only centerfire rifles from .223 to .500 caliber may be used," said Harms.

Counties that typically have unsold licenses at the end of the season in the past were those with higher quotas, in the southern and northeastern parts of the state.

"We also have the Population Management January Antlerless-only Season to manage the herd in localized areas. This season will be available in Allamakee, Appanoose, Decatur, Monroe, Wayne and Winneshiek if the county has more than 100 antlerless tags available on Dec. 19," Harms said. "Although this season is only available in those six counties, it allows all legal methods of take, in addition to the .223 to .500 centerfire rifles."

The Population Management January Antlerless-only Season is in select counties where chronic wasting disease has been confirmed. The season, if open, will be Jan. 11-22, 2023.

Deer donation program

The Iowa Deer Exchange is in its third year of connecting participants willing to provide deer meat with those willing to accept it. Heading in to the shotgun deer hunting seasons, the Iowa DNR is encouraging Iowans to sign up for the program.

Participants who signed up previously are encouraged to review their profile to make sure they are still considered active and the offer good until date hasn't passed.

"We're encouraging hunters who are making their plans now to consider picking up another doe tag and registering with the deer exchange to donate venison," Harms said.

To sign up for the Iowa Deer Exchange, go to www.iowadnr.gov/deer then scroll down to Iowa's Deer Exchange Program link and fill out the required fields. The database creates a map and table with information deer donors and deer recipients can use to get connected. There is no cost to participate. It is illegal to sell wild fish and game in Iowa.

The deer exchange, along with the Help us Stop Hun-

ger (HUSH) program, allows hunters an opportunity to provide high quality lean protein to their neighbors, while continuing to do what they enjoy — hunting deer.

Hunter who prefer to use the HUSH program are encouraged to contact a participating locker before they harvest a deer to see if the locker has any additional drop off instructions. The list of participating lockers is available at www.iowadnr.gov/deer the scroll down to the Help Us Stop Hunger link. The HUSH program is a partnership between the Iowa DNR, the Food Bank of Iowa and participating meat lockers.

Changes to deer seasons

- Population Management January Antlerless Season will be available in Allamakee, Winneshiek, Decatur, Appanoose, Monroe and Wayne counties if the number of unsold antlerless licenses on the third Monday in December exceeds 100. Licenses will be available the same day the season is reinstated. Only antlerless deer may be taken during the Population Management January Antlerless-only season. Hunting is allowed on public land, and private land with permission. Shotguns, handguns, muzzle-loaders, bows, crossbows and center-fire rifles .223 caliber to .500 caliber with a published or calculated muzzle energy of 500-foot pounds or higher may be used.

- Excess Tag January Antlerless Season will be available in all counties with unsold county antlerless tags on Jan. 10. Licenses will be available beginning Jan. 11, until quotas are filled. Due to the compressed timeline, these licenses will not be available online. Only antlerless deer may be taken during the Excess Tag January Antlerless-only season. Only centerfire rifles .223 caliber to .500 caliber with a published or calculated muzzle energy of 500-foot pounds or higher are allowed in the Excess Tag January antlerless season.

- Antlerless quotas have changed in 17 counties, see p. 8 in the Iowa Hunting, Trapping and Migratory Game Bird Regulations for current quotas.

Funeral Services



Obituary of Sanford Morton

Sanford George Morton was born June 15, 1942 at home in Coulter, Iowa. He was the son of Edward and Myrtle (Madsen) Morton.

Sanford proudly served in the U.S. Navy from 1960-1964 on the U.S. Coral Sea CVA-43 aircraft carrier. He traveled around the world and brought back many stories to share with family and friends.

He was a Boy Scout

leader for many years.

He was involved with the Coulter Christmas for 40 years. He and his helpers made sure every child got a gift, every single year, along with a variety of entertainment. He always loved helping kids, making them feel special and smile.

He was in sales most of his life. He managed the fertilizer plant in Coulter for 20 years, then sold water conditioning products and was #1 in sales in the nation one year.

Sanford was very involved in the community and served on the Coulter Town Council, Coulter Fire Department, Nazareth Lutheran Church board. He was a Boy Scout leader for many years.

For over 25 years, Sanford and his son, Chad, went on their

annual Canada fishing trip. He loved those trips and the memories made. Each of the four grandsons were able to go at least once and will remember forever.

Sanford Morton died Nov. 22, 2022 in Jefferson at the age of 80 years. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers: E.J. 'Mort' Morton and Dallas Morton; sisters: Peggy Guldberg and Marlene Wheeler, and an infant son, Mark.

He is survived by his wife, Carole Morton; daughter, Jill Morton; son, Chad Morton (Deb Morton); sisters: Dixie Jurgens and Emelia Tate; and four grandchildren: Michael (Sara), Noah, Carter, and Jackson; and two great-grandchildren: Oliver 'Sanford' and Luka; and several nieces and nephews.

Send us a letter

The Herald does not edit letters, other than to correct for spelling, punctuation, etc. Letters can be submitted to news@beeherald.com. The deadline is 3 p.m. Monday.