

OBITUARIES



RICHARD E. "RICK" ALDEN

Richard E. "Rick" Alden, 64, of Toluca, passed away on Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 8:03 p.m. at OSF St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria surrounded by his family.

Visitation was held on Friday, April 10, 2026, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Calvert-Johnson & Froelich Memorial Home in Toluca. Funeral services were held on Saturday at 11:00 a.m. at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Toluca. Fr. Patrick Greenough officiated. One hour of visitation was held Saturday at the church before the funeral. Burial will be at a later date at Antioch Christian Cemetery in Toluca. Memorials may be directed to the Wenona Fire Department or to the Illinois Cancer Center.

Rick was born January 24, 1962, in Oregon, IL to Harold and Wilma (Zumdahl) Alden. He graduated from Mt. Morris High School, class of 1980. He also graduated from Northern Illinois University in 1984.

Surviving are his two sons, Josh (Mollie Healy) Alden of Wenona, and Zach Alden of Renton, WA.; his life partner, Judi (Ehrnthaller) Jesse; his siblings, Al (Sue) Alden of Duluth, GA, Bill Alden of Mt. Morris, Ron (Lynda) Alden of Rockford, Jan (Terry) Glogovsky of Warsaw, IN; his extended family, Christina (Brian) Hanson of LaSalle, and Jordan Jesse of Ames, IA. He is also survived by his special granddaughter, Laken Alden, who was the sparkle of his life. He also has many nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife Nancy (Parent) Alden, and his parents.

Rick's life was too short. Just two weeks into his retirement on July 2, 2025, he was diagnosed with lung cancer. He fought bravely and courageously with the help of his many caretakers and his partner Judi.

He moved to Toluca in 1989 to start his career with Bernardi Food Services. He married Nancy (Parent) Alden on October 20, 1990. They made Toluca their home and where they would raise their family, sons Josh and Zach.

Rick gave 38 years of his life working for Keebler, Bernardi Foods, Windsor Foods, and Ajinomoto Foods. He was also passionate about making a positive impact within the Toluca community.

Anyone who knew Rick enjoyed his unique sense of humor. He has always been an avid Chicago Bears and White Sox fan. He enjoyed his time traveling, visiting Siesta Key, and spending time with his life partner, Judi Jesse. Online condolences may be made to: www.calvertmemorial.com.



IRIS IRENE TAYLOR

Iris Irene Taylor, 103, of Lacon, IL, passed away on Sunday, April 12, 2026, surrounded by the love of family.

Iris was born on January 22, 1923, and grew up on the family farm in rural Sparland, IL, the 2nd youngest of 8 children born to the late Elov Sven and Dora (Rickey) Swanson. On August 11, 1940, she married Merle W. Taylor, who preceded her in death in 2009. Together, they raised six children, once again on the farm.

Surviving to cherish her mem-

ory are Ronald (Mary Lou) Taylor of Tennessee, Patsy Smith of Lacon, Gary (Terry) Taylor of Peoria, and Cheryl (John) Budd of Lacon. Also surviving are grandchildren Terry (Nellie) Taylor, Todd (Sonya) Taylor, Tonya (Scott) Oliver, Taryn (Brent) Owens, Mark (Nikki) Manning, Whitney (Rob) Klobuchar, Erin (Greg) Nevitt, Jill (Ed) Moorman, Maggie (Josh) Hovey, Kristen (Aidan) McLeod, and Chadd (Jennifer) Taylor.

Iris is also survived by 37 great grandchildren, and 13 great-great grandchildren. Also preceding her in death were her 7 siblings; sons Charles Taylor & Allen Lee Taylor, and grandsons Kevin & Doug Manning.

Iris loved the simple life of growing up on the farm. She was an accomplished seamstress, and enjoyed needlework and crafts, as well as quilting. She became a hairdresser and opened a shop in her home. She and Merle loved camping with friends and traveling in the western states. After retirement they often wintered in Texas. Iris especially loved her gardens, her vegetables as well as her flowers. Her favorite was her gladiolas.

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." (Psalms 116:15) She was precious indeed. She was part of our past and will remain part of our future as she leaves a legacy of 5 generations of love and family.

Cremation rites have been accorded and a memorial service for Iris will be held at Calvary Bible Church north of Lacon on Saturday April 18th at 11am with visitation held one hour prior to service. Burial will follow in the Lacon Cemetery. Memorials can be made to Calvary Bible Church or St Jude. Online condolences can be left at lenzmemorialhome.com

Bureau, LaSalle & Marshall-Putnam 4-H Public Speaking Contest Results

Youth from Bureau, LaSalle, and Marshall-Putnam Counties displayed their public speaking skills during the 4-H Public Speaking Contest at Illinois Valley Community College. This contest was an inaugural multi-county event where participants brought energy to the stage. State delegates will be able to compete at the 4-H State Public Speaking Contest held on April 25 at Parkland Community College in Champaign, Ill. Participants in this year's competition are as follows:

- ♦ Caroline Klostermann (Bureau County): Best Speech (Bureau County) and State Delegate
- ♦ Paisley Brewster (Bureau County)
- ♦ Sariah Brewster (Bureau County)

Original Works Speech Division:

- ♦ Lillian Miller (LaSalle County): State Delegate
- ♦ Gwen and Josie Heeley (Marshall-Putnam): Best Speech (Marshall-Putnam County) and State Delegates

We congratulate the participants from this year's contest for demonstrating this skill effortlessly!

To learn more about 4-H opportunities, call University of Illinois Extension at 815-433-0707 or email Shasta Hladovak at shlad@illinois.edu.

Formal Speech Division:

- ♦ Myracle Johnson (LaSalle County): Best Speech (LaSalle County), Overall Best Speech, and State Delegate

Illustrated Speech Division:

- ♦ Raylen Campbell (Marshall-Putnam): State Delegate



4-H members from Bureau, LaSalle, and Marshall-Putnam Counties demonstrated their public speaking skills at the multi-county competition. Public speaking is one of many life skills taught and practiced in 4-H. Photo by Karina Delgado.

From left to right: Josie Heely, Gwen Heely, Lillian Miller, Sariah Brewster (back left), Paisley Brewster, Caroline Klostermann, Myracle Johnson, and Raylen Campbell.

BRIDGETOWN EVENTS

102 North Ida St., Lacon, Illinois

- ♦ Weddings (Indoor/Outdoor)
- ♦ Funeral Dinners
- ♦ Meetings
- ♦ Reunions
- ♦ Showers
- ♦ Parties
- ♦ Banquets



PHONE (309) 442-2020

April Events

Lacon Area Community Center

April 15-Wed.	11:00 am	Lutheran Church Service
	6:00 pm	Card Players (call for more info.)
April 16-Thurs.	9:00 am	Marshall Co Democratic Convention
April 20-Mon.	9:00 am	Luminous Unveiled Homeschool Co-op
April 22-Wed.	11:00 am	Lutheran Church Service
	1:00 pm	Sparland Baptist Bible Study
	6:00 pm	Card Players (call for more info.)
April 27-Mon.	9:00 am	Luminous Unveiled Homeschool Co-op
April 29-Wed.	11:00 am	Lutheran Church Service
	6:00 pm	Card Players (call for more info.)

For more information about any of these programs, other activities and building rental use please contact us: (309)246-4050 Laconcommunitycenter@gmail.com or find us on Facebook.

RETAIL SPACE FOR RENT

233 5TH Street, Lacon

Main Floor Retail Space - over 1,200 sq ft (can be divided) with Kitchen

- In the Heart of downtown Lacon
- Premium Corner Location
- Plenty of Customer Parking
- Restroom

For more information contact:
ctzproperties@comcast.net
602-821-6690



Annual Midland FFA

Plant Sale!



Order On-Line ** Starting Wednesday, APRIL 1st

Order on-line at the website listed below from April 1st - 15th and choose your plant pick-up day from the following:

Pre-Ordered Plant Pick-Up Days: April 21st, 23rd, and 25th

- Website may be opened at 8:00 am on April 1st.

- Greenhouse will be open for on-site purchases starting April 30th.

<https://midland-ffa-chapter-spring-plant-sale-2026.cheddarup.com>



Baskets

Ivy Geranium, Begonia, Fuschia, Petunia Waves

8" and 10" Baskets



Vegetable Plants

Tomato, Pepper, Red & Green Cabbage, Cauliflower, Kohlrabi, Broccoli, Eggplant, Cucumber, Melons, and Herbs



Annals

Petunia, Vinca, Dusty Miller, Coleus, Portulaca, Salvia, Impatiens, Gerbera Daisy, Geraniums, Vinca, Vinca Vine, Marigold, Spikes, and more...



FUNDRAISER

\$35

11x14 Wrapped Canvas

Truck N For A Cause

Paint Party!

MONDAY
6:00-8:00PM

20

APRIL
20TH

SPINS SLOTS & TAVERN

220 S. CHESTNUT ST.
WENONA, IL

FUNDRAISER

\$40

24' Wooden Surfboard

Register and pay with card : <https://beth-hanlon.square.site>
To use PayPal, Venmo, cash or check message Beth (309)258-4525