



# CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NEWS

Another benefit of your West Union Chamber Membership!

[www.westunion.com](http://www.westunion.com)

**JUNE 2013**

## FIREWORKS

The annual 4th of July fireworks show will be held on Thursday evening, July 4th. The show will again be held at the West Union Rec Center beginning at 10:00 p.m. Donations are still being accepted for the show which costs \$4300 to produce each year.

If you would like to make a contribution to the show, please send a check to the Chamber of Commerce earmarked for fireworks. You may also contribute by donating your beverage cans in the collection bin located at Old Mill Redemption Center (located by Jay's Automotive). Thanks to those community members and businesses who have already donated and to Fundraising Chair Marge Crandall!

## 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION

The West Union Chamber will again be coordinating a Community Celebration for the Fourth of July to be held in conjunction with the annual fireworks display and Miss West Union coronation. There will be fun and entertainment for all ages at the West Union Recreation Center on Thursday, July 4th!

At 4:00 pm, take a turn on the Jurassic Survivor Inflatable Obstacle Course or the Carousel Bouncer for younger children. There will be carnival games, kiddie train rides, and face painting for families to enjoy as well. At 5:00 pm, pull up a lawn chair and enjoy listening to the Miles Adams Band. The band will break at 7:00 pm for the announcement of the 2013 Miss West Union! The annual Pool Carnival at the West Union Aquatic Center will be held on July 4th as well. Brats, hotdogs and cold drinks will be available for purchase at the Rec Center.

In case of rain, the band and Miss West Union ceremony will be held at the Fayette County Fairgrounds in the Dance Pavilion. Rain date for the fireworks display is July 11th. Watch for more details in the coming weeks!



The Miles Adams Band is made up of musicians that were born and raised in N.E. Iowa. The members of the Miles Adams Band have played in many venues over the years. Members of the band include: Bill Adams (bass guitar) from Spillville, Gwen (guitar, flute, sax, keyboards) and Dan Silhacek (male lead singer, percussion, guitar, harmonica) from Spillville, Bob Huinker (lead guitar, trumpet) from Lawler, Kat Bauer (keyboard) is from Hawkeye, and Chris Miles (drums) is from West Union.

Everyone in the Miles Adams Band sings, and everyone plays at least one instrument. Two are former high school band directors (lead guitarist Bob Huinker and Gwen Silhacek). All of them have been making music for most of their lives -- and they want their band to be about having fun with the music they love.

Aside from a shared commitment to having a great time, each of the seasoned musicians in the Miles Adams Band values the discipline that comes from working with other professionals.

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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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<b>Bridget Parker</b>	<b>Administrative Assistant</b>
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### Chamber Spotlight: West Union Monument

It was in 1970 when Archie Luhman began running a monument business in Mason City. His sons Thomas and David learned the trade from their father and in 1972 the family bought out the memorial company located in Decorah which had been owned by the Peterson family. It was 1978 when the Mason City location was sold and the business moved to West Union.



Tom Luhman is pictured in the showroom of West Union Monument located at 126 Franklin St.

David Luhman operates the Decorah location, while Tom operates the West Union location. The business now has a parent company, Blackhawk Memorial, out of Cedar Falls. While the Decorah location has a show room, the majority of the memorial fabrication is done at the West Union location, 126 Franklin Street. The businesses operate in a 50 mile radius and the typical turnaround is 90 days. Tom is proud of his business, which is primarily walk-in because West Union Monument is known across the region for their outstanding service and attention to every detail.



West Union Monument primarily does retail monument sales, but also does cemetery restoration work and monument lettering. Tom explained that one of the changes he has seen over the years is an increase in personalization of monuments. The business has an amazing artist who comes to West Union to do the etching work right on site at the shop. Nearly anything can be etched to look realistic, especially on a highly polished black granite stone.

West Union Monument has served our community and the area, providing beautiful monuments for many years and will continue for many more!

**Thank you West Union Monument for your Chamber membership and support!**

### Explore Northeastern Iowa Mississippi Valley

The Good Samaritan Society in Postville and West Union, are teaming up with Legacy Tour and Travel (a division of Hawkeye Stages) to bring you "Explore Northeastern Iowa Mississippi Valley on Thursday, June 13th.

Depart out of West Union or Postville aboard a luxurious Legacy Tour and Travel bus and travel to Prairie Du Chien; where we will board the *Mississippi Explorer River Cruise for a 2-hour river* cruise of the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge with an expert naturalist guide. The eagles are nesting along the river banks and the fish are jumping, so bring your camera!

Following the river cruise, *Lunch will be served at Miltys' Restaurant*. After lunch take time to explore the town of Lansing home to the world famous *Horsefall's Lansing Variety Store* or cross the street to the *Red Geranium* or the *Painted Lady*.

We will continue up the scenic trails of Northeastern Iowa to the home of WW Homestead Dairy. From this farm milk is supplied to the creamery for its non-homogenized milk, cheese and ice-creams. Following our brief farm tour we will continue on to Waukon and stop at the creamery for a tour, wine and cheese tasting. Return home early evening filled with memories of our beautiful area of Northeastern, Iowa.

To sign up, Please contact Melody at (563) 422-3814 by June 4th. Cost of the trip is \$100 and checks need to be made payable to Legacy Tour & Travel.

### GOOD BLOGS

This spring, the Northeast Iowa Business Network (NIBN) is launching an innovative and unique blogging platform that will allow Iowans living in Northeast Iowa to write and read about all the great things going on here.

And we want YOU to blog for us. Have an amazing stretch of river you love to kayak? Share it. Just discovered the most delicious dish ever at an area restaurant? Blog about it. Wondering what would be a great family day trip in the area? Ask away!

Oh, and did we mention that every blog post that gets voted to our homepage scores \$15?

To sign up to be notified when we launch, go here now:

<http://www.goodblogs.com/exploreiowa/>. We'll shoot you an e-mail when we go live.



**GREEN PILOT UPDATE**



**DISTRICT GEOTHERMAL SYSTEM:**

The City of West Union continues to research options for lease and operation of the downtown district geothermal system. They have consulted legal advice to help determine the fair market value of the system which is needed to determine a fair lease amount to a third party operator.

**MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING PROJECT:**

This project involving renovation of 3 downtown buildings is currently out for bid. The project will provide 12 new rental apartments in 3 buildings and is set to begin in July. Any local contractors interested in bidding as a general or a sub-contractor should contact AHTS Architects in Waterloo for the full plan specs on the project. A set of plans and the construction manuals is also available for review at the Main Street West Union office. To schedule an appointment please contact the office at 422-8655.

**FAÇADE MASTER PLAN PROJECT:**

Thirteen buildings remain in this project which will provide façade improvements to several downtown buildings. Currently requests for asbestos inspection and mortar sampling are taking place on the buildings involved. Initial designs have been forwarded to the State Historic Preservation office for review prior to releasing bids.

**HISTORIC STREET BRICKS FOR SALE:**

The City of West Union continues to sell the historic street bricks recycled from the downtown streetscape project for 25 cents each. Anyone interested in purchasing them for a landscaping project should contact City Hall at 422-3908.



**BUTTERFLY RELEASE**

Palmer Homecare Services Hospice and Gundersen Health System are sponsoring a Celebration of Life Butterfly Release on Sunday, June 23rd at the West Union Recreation Center from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. All are invited to attend this fellowship in remembrance of a loved one.



**WEST UNION TRIATHLON & AQUATHON**

The sixth annual triathlon will be held June 30, 2013, at the West Union Recreational Area. It will include a 3.1-mile run, 16-mile bike ride, and 200 yd swim. Individuals or teams can enter the competition. Deadline to register is Thursday, June 27th. Registration forms may be picked up at the Park & Rec office or printed online from [www.parkandrec.com](http://www.parkandrec.com).

We also hold an Aquathlon for children 5-11 years old. They will run 1/2 mile and swim 100 yds. All participants will receive a medal and t-shirt. The Aquathon registration form can also be found on the website or at the Park & Rec office. This year we have also invited several different vendors in the area to showcase their products. Come and see what West Union has to offer!

**23rd Annual KCRG "Our Town" Feature**

West Union has been selected as one of the 2013 KCRG "Our Town" features! The local news station will be featuring West Union from July 8th-12th which will also coincide with our Green Pilot Project Grand Opening. Coverage will be on the KCRG -TV9 Morning News at 6:00 am and News at 6:00 pm. There will also be a special program featured on August 10th at 6:30 pm.

This is an exciting opportunity and will be some great marketing for our community! If you have any questions about the program or are interested in advertising during the week of the feature, please contact PJ Cahill at [PJ.Cahill@KCRG.com](mailto:PJ.Cahill@KCRG.com).



**Green Pilot Project Celebration**

A Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Celebration has been planned for the Green Pilot Project on Thursday, July 11th. A tentative schedule of events includes: Ken Root Live Broadcast at 1:00 pm, Streetscape tours beginning at 1:00 pm, ceremony and ribbon cutting at 3:00 pm, the band Fusion will perform at the Civic Plaza Downtown beginning at 5:00 pm. All members of the community are invited to attend!

**APPRAISAL FAIR AT FAYETTE COUNTY HISTORICAL CENTER**

The Fayette County Historical Center will be hosting an antique appraiser on Saturday, June 22 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Chuck Wolfe is an antique appraiser from Maquoketa and he will be giving both written and oral appraisals as part of the event. The appraisal fair has been a popular fundraising event for the Historical Society for several years.

People with items they would like to have appraised should call 422-5797 to schedule a time slot. There will be lunch available at noon and there is no admission charge for persons who would just like to come watch the appraisals. Cost of each appraisal is \$5.



## WESTUNION CHAMBER of COMMERCE

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### Kaleidoscope Campaign Nears \$1.3 Million

The Kaleidoscope Kids Childcare Center (KKCC) Capital Campaign continues toward its total funding need of \$1,575,000 with \$1,253,000 in gifts and pledges raised to date.

“With your help, we truly believe we can reach the total funding goal,” said Kaleidoscope Board Chair LeAnn Meyer. “We still need your financial support to close the \$322,000 funding gap remaining to do everything needed for this Kaleidoscope Kids Childcare Center Building Project. Our campaign volunteers continue to be active so they will likely visit with you if they haven’t yet or please contact our Kaleidoscope office at 422-5379 to give,” Meyer added.

Other campaign volunteers you can contact include: Marcia and LeRoy Soppe and Barb and Mike Heins as Capital Campaign Co Chairs, Don Mueller and Steve Story as Capital Campaign Honorary Co Chairs, Ron Beermann, Courtney Bentley, Robin Bostrom, Tobin Britt, Deb Chensvold, Deb Dessel, John and Sally Falb, Tami Guyer, Carolyn Havenstrite, Kara Johnson, Pastor Scott Kober, Janell McElree, LeAnn Meyer, Steve Murray, Mary O’Kones, Ron and Barb O’Kones, Deb Rovang, Nicole Russler, Bob Vagts, Jessica Wegner, Deb Willhite, and Bill Ziegler. The campaign is directed by Ralph Savoy, Consult Savoy, Inc. of Cedar Rapids.

The Kaleidoscope Kids Childcare Center building project is a new facility of approximately 8,500 square feet to be built next to the North Fayette Valley High School.

“Your gift is needed today,” added Meyer. “We have formed a building committee to begin making final decisions on the new building. Your gift is needed now so we can break ground on this project this fall,” Meyer said.

