



# STORY LINE

STORY CONSTRUCTION NEWS & VIEWS

WINTER 2013



**80**  
YEARS  
1934-2014



**STORY**  
CONSTRUCTION



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PROJECT FOCUS

## Broer Center Brings Hoop Dreams to Quakerdale Academy

In the world of troubled youth, unfortunately, few have dreams to see them through the hard times facing them. Quakerdale, a place that focuses on helping disadvantaged kids, is working hard to change that. And one of the vehicles they're using at the New Providence location is competitive basketball. A few years ago, Robert Talbot, Executive Director of Quakerdale, set out to assemble a team to provide the boys with the things we all hope for – something to work for, pride in that hard work and a dream for the future. In 2011, Quakerdale sought to improve the gymnasium used for the boys' practices, games and tournaments. But, budgetary constraints meant scaling back on those plans. Story and StruXture worked with the Quakerdale team to accomplish what could be done within the budget. By demolishing one wall of the existing gym, it was increased to the regulation-size necessary to compete. This Phase I work also included remodeling the classrooms, and providing

a concession kitchen, storage, restrooms and an open commons space. Then, in late 2012, Quakerdale was endowed with an anonymous \$1 million gift. The Quakerdale, Story and StruXture teams went back to the drawing board for Phase II. Still watching the budget closely, Phase II added 4,900 sq. ft. of "shell" space to house future locker rooms, offices and classrooms. The unfinished space also includes an operational exit corridor that the academy plans to finish using volunteer time and skills. Meanwhile, the team is thriving; adding players from across the U.S. and competing in games and tournaments. And dreams are coming true. Players have earned positions at all levels of college competition, from junior college to Division I schools.

### EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

## Larry Dix Retiring After 37 Years at Story

**HOMETOWN:** Emmetsburg, Iowa

**FAMILY:** Wife Bonnie; Son Ethan; Daughter Elisa; Two granddaughters, 6 and 2-1/2 yrs old

**EXPERIENCE:** With a father who worked as a superintendent for a construction company, Larry grew up in the business. He worked alongside his dad during summer breaks from high school until coming to Ames to attend ISU. After two years in college, a new wife and growing family, Larry decided to forego college and work full time. In 1976, he was hired as a superintendent at Story (then Allen Construction). In 1983, Larry attended ISU while still working and in 1988, received his Construction Engineering degree. During his Story tenure, Larry has held several positions, including heading up the very first dedicated Estimating Department, where he says he enjoyed "putting together a good plan and getting the win." He was also operations manager and project manager (his current title) and served on the Board of Directors. Larry became a stockholder in the company in 1990.

**REFLECTIONS:** Larry plans to spend retirement traveling with his wife and enjoying more family time. He has valued his time at Story "building things with a good group of people." His advice to Story co-workers and those just entering the construction field is, "Enjoy what you're doing and take pride in your hard work and attention to detail." *Best of luck to you, Larry. You will be missed by your Story family.*



PROJECT FOCUS

## Iowa Great Lakes Sanitary Lift Stations Receive Face Lift

The Iowa Great Lakes region is a popular destination for fishermen, both in summer and winter, as well as being a popular vacation destination in Iowa; during the busy season, the population can grow to over 100,000. The Iowa Great Lakes Sanitary Sewer District owns and operates approximately 125 miles of sewer along with 64 sanitary lift stations and the wastewater treatment plant located northeast of Milford, Iowa. The District treats an average of 3.7 million gallons of wastewater a day.

The facility's lifts (pumps) were originally installed in the 1970s. While they have been well maintained, after 40 years, it was time for replacement of the pumps and an upgrade to the electrical system. Story was hired as the general contractor to remove and replace pumps, process pipe and electrical systems inside seven small lift stations and nine larger ones; 14 in East Okoboji and two in surrounding areas. The project also included the replacement of pipe/valves at 41 air release/vacuum manholes.

This project presented the first series of lift stations to be replaced by Story Construction. The challenge of this particular project was to keep the overall system operational while upgrading it. Each lift station had to have its contents pumped into semi trucks and offloaded to a separate site. Once the process started, the team had a set window of time in which to complete the pumping, cut and replace the piping, install the isolation valve and get back online. Scott Kutchen, a Story project manager, devised a formula for the timing of each lift station. As the saying goes, we 'did the math' and it worked. While the nature of this work brings with it the potential for disaster, superintendent Denny Johansen and the crew were successful in renovating all lift stations – in extreme weather conditions – without incident.

In 2013, Jerry Long, project manager, marks his 30th anniversary with Story and has focused on this type of construction since joining the company. He clearly enjoys it, saying, "You have to have great processes to get this type of work done for the client. It's very rewarding."



Owner: Iowa Great Lakes Sanitary District; Milford, Iowa

Delivery Method: General Contractor

Engineer: Howard R. Green

Project Manager: Jerry Long

Project Superintendent: Denny Johansen

Project Engineer: Zach Smith

Project Cost: \$4 million

Projected Completion: May 2013



Crews worked 20 feet under ground in Iowa winter, but the temperatures stayed around 50 degrees.



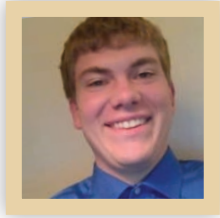
Workers install one of the isolation valves; each weighs approximately 1,000 lbs.



The sanitary system runs smoothly through the use of unobtrusive electrical stations.

# Story Awards Scholarships to Assist Employees' College-Bound Kids

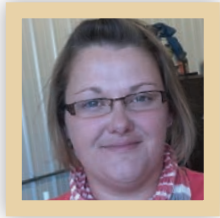
## 2013 Story Scholarship Recipients



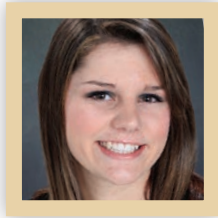
Cole Cummings



Shelbey Ellsworth



Taji North



Alicia Wieland

Each year, Story Construction awards college scholarship money to children of Story employees. Scholarship candidates must submit an application plus a written essay addressing the importance of furthering their education and what the scholarship would mean to achieving their goals. The applications and essays are then reviewed by the Story Scholarship Committee, who makes the final decision on fund distribution. This past fall, Story was pleased to award scholarship money to the following recipients:

- **Cole Cummings**, son of Randy Cummings; junior in software engineering at Iowa State University
- **Shelbey Ellsworth**, daughter of Balinda Ellsworth; freshman at Des Moines Area Community College, studying nursing
- **Taji North**, daughter of Ron North; freshman at North Iowa Area Community College, studying to be a physical therapy assistant
- **Alicia Wieland**, daughter of Mark Wieland; junior in industrial engineering at Iowa State University

Congratulations and best of luck to these scholarship recipients. Story is proud to contribute to your success.



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