

## All In The Family

By: Meagan Moellers

**J**im and Joyce Klunder have a passion for cooking. Almost 26 years ago, they opened Klunder's Kafe on Highway 63, a popular stop not only for local residents, but also the many truckers passing through town would make Klunder's their usual stop. "All of the food we serve today started by incorporating long-time favorite recipes that originated from our family's heritage," says Joyce. "Doing what I love makes me happy, especially when I can utilize family heirlooms throughout the restaurant decor and in our recipes."



Owners Jimmy, Joyce and Jim Klunder of Klunder's Kafé in New Hampton.

The restaurant business has been a vital part of the Klunder family for over 33 years. After raising their six children in this environment, two of them decided to also make their career in the food industry. The oldest son Jimmy attended Iowa State University and graduated with a degree in restaurant



and hotel management. He now manages the family restaurant and it's not surprising that his three teenage children also work part-time at the restaurant. Jimmy's wife Susie created and designed the menus and helps with the many office duties, keeping it "all in the family"! Jayne Zwanziger, one of Jim and Joyce's daughters,

and her husband Phil own and manage the Pinicon, another restaurant located in New Hampton.

In January, the Klunders were faced with an important decision regarding their restaurant, whether or not to make their establishment smoke-free. "We are very satisfied with our decision to provide our customers with a non-smoking environment," explains Jimmy. "We have many regular customers that still come to our place to eat, but just make their way outside to smoke. We also have some waitresses who are thrilled with our decision." This issue is very important to the Klunder family. Last October, long-time employee Sharon McDowell passed away from cancer. She worked as a waitress at Klunder's Kafe for over 40 years and never smoked a day in her life, but her life was truly affected from second-hand smoke.

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**Office Closed  
in observance  
of Memorial  
Day Monday,  
May 28**

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The decision to go smoke-free was also implemented in their new restaurant which just opened in April. You can find the new restaurant located in the New Hampton Industrial Park on Hwy. 18. Hawkeye REC not only provides electricity to the Klunders in order for them to cook their treasured recipes, but also provided funding from Hawkeye's Revolving Loan Fund which was an important ingredient in the construction of the new restaurant. Hawkeye is proud to be a part of economic growth in our rural communities.



*The waitresses and cooks take a quick break from serving their busy, daily lunch crowd.*



*Joyce proudly showcases their giant homemade cinnamon rolls.*

**"We are very satisfied with our decision to provide our customers with a non-smoking environment."**

**—Jimmy Klunder**



*A western theme was incorporated when they designed the new building, making it resemble a barn-like structure. This family photo (taken when the Klunder kids were younger) hangs on the wall fitting in nicely with the western theme.*



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