Des Moines’ parking meters are more of a necessary evil than a cash cow.

by Chad Taylor
In a squeeze

Gary Hedlund (blue shirt) and Cassie Rodish take it to the mat while sparring at the Des Moines Jiu-Jitsu Academy last Saturday morning. CV

By Dan Hodges
CITYSCAPE LOUNGE Runner-Up BEST NEW RESTAURANT

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Great-grandma knows best

I am an avid reader of Cityview and always enjoy Civic Skinny. I’m also thankful for Brian Duffy’s cartoons. I was raised in a newspaper family, so I always read the articles thoroughly, which is why I was so taken aback while reading your comments about Marty Tillo and the snee, unnecessary remark about KRNT’s music for people over 95! Well, sonny, I’m only a great-grandmother of 80 years (and able to use a computer), but KRNT is my radio station of choice to hear the pleasant, relaxing music and songs I’ve listened to all my life. The other stations only offer loud noise with indiscernible lyrics. Now I’ve been snide, but these words were necessary. So, cop the attitude, apologize to your great-grandparents and hope you can reach 95 so you can enjoy KRNT’s music. Try it — you might like it! Have a better day, and don’t worry, I’ll continue to read Cityview.

Judy Marshall
Des Moines

Ernst needs to let her actions do the speaking

It is a long way from Red Oak to the inner cities of our nation. While bread bags may have protected Joni Ernst’s one pair of shoes while growing up in rural Iowa, there are children in this country who may have no shoes at all. Ernst is living the “American Dream” as she emerges from her humble background to being the rising star of the national Republican Party. Yet, today, in the richest nation in the world, one in five children is living in poverty (2012 U.S. Census Bureau) with one in five children being bread bags. The “American Dream” can only be achieved by children who have access to affordable, quality healthcare; when women are allowed to make their own health care decisions; when parents make a living wage, have paid sick days and mothers receive equal pay for equal work; when entitlement programs are available; when there is equal opportunity for all, then we can talk about Joni Ernst’s humble beginnings. Ernst needs to put her “vote” where her “bread bags” are.

Barb Yankey
Clive

Koch’s bid to buy free speech in America

Every American should be concerned about the Koch brothers’ announcement to spend close to $1 billion on the 2016 campaign. That amount will exceed the combined amount that both the Democratic and Republican Parties spent in 2012. It will give these two brothers the unprecedented advertising power of a third political party and the ability to pick and choose individual candidates. They held their first audition of possible 2016 Republican presidential candidates last week at their secret meeting in Palm Springs. Directing their vast sums of money for a specific candidate or aiming it against their opponent, the Kochs will be able to dictate the choice for voters. The two Kochs, ranked fifth- and sixth-richest men in America, could conceivably buy all the total advertising time of every television and radio station in America leading up to the 2016 campaign. The 2010 Supreme Court decision (Citizens United) case, which struck down limits on corporate and individual campaign spending, was based on a “right to free speech” argument. It is now obvious that it has enabled the wealthiest Americans to buy all the free speech and the ability to silence every opposing voice in America.

Rick Smith
Urbandale

The Kate Upton lesson

In your story about computer hacking, you said/implied that people’s online behavior is why they get hacked and their private photos stolen and leaked on the Internet. While on the one hand I agree that people should be careful what they do online, I feel it may be worth mentioning that Kate Upton’s leaked nude photos had been deleted several years ago.

Julie Luepke
Windsor Heights

Missing Heidi Soliday

As a local television sportscaster on channel 8, Heidi Soliday always made me smile. With her runner-up selection in last week’s “What The…?” caption, she shows she can continue to entertain central Iowa readers.

Mike Rowley
Clive

Cityview Magazine: Donald Trump said he could have won the last election against President Obama. What do you think?

Adam Swihart: I don’t think about Donald Trump. And neither does anyone else who lives in reality.

Lorrie Smith Culp: He is delusional

Cityview Magazine: What would you do with bread wrappers?

Chivas Rivas: Hold bread

Ben Wantland: They’re the best bags for picking up dog poop.
PollPosition

This week’s question

Were the Super Bowl commercials better or worse than previous years?

☐ Better
☐ Worse

Scan the QR code to cast your vote, or go to www.dmcityview.com

Results from last week’s poll

Did you get a flu shot this year?

![Pie chart showing 63% Yes and 37% No]

ReTweets (unedited)

@KenJennings: The camera adds 10 pounds but a barbershop smock and fluorescent light is more like 25.
@Cheeseboy22: There’s both a McDonald’s and a blood pressure machine at our Walmart. Circle of life.
@UNTRESOR: Time to get in my wheel box to go to my work box so I can pay for my home box until I’m ready for my death box.
@what_eve_r: my dad always makes fun of me for taking selfies all the time but if he didn’t want such a beautiful child he should’ve kept it in his pants
@david8hughes: [shipwreck diary] Day 44: Some of the survivors have resorted to drinking their own piss. Nobody wants to drink mine cos it’s ‘too chunky’.
Gleanings from the final round of campaign reports from state and local candidates:

Bruce Rastetter appears to have given more money to state and local candidates last year than any other Iowan. All told, he gave $104,846.19, according to reports on file at the Iowa Ethics and Campaign Disclosure Board.

Almost half of the money — $50,000 — went to House Speaker Kraig Paulsen’s committee; Paulsen used that to support the party and, in a roundabout way, to funnel money to Republican candidates for the Iowa House, which remained firmly in GOP hands after the Nov. 4 election. All told, Paulsen’s committee gave $950,000 to the state party last year. (Gov. Terry Branstad’s committee gave the party $826,950.)

The second biggest giver last year — just a few dollars behind Rastetter — appears to have given $15,000 given in 2013 — and $15,000 to the Benton County Republican Central Committee, $7.50 in an in-kind contribution to the Marion County Republican Central Committee and $10 in-kind to the Hamilton County committee. She and her husband together gave $100 to the successful Iowa senate campaign of Dan Zumbach of Delaware County.

Former politicians also were not big givers. Former governor — and perhaps future Congressional candidate — Chet Culver gave $750 last year, all to Brad Anderson. Former Gov. Tom Vilsack and his wife, Christi, gave $1,750, including $1,000 to Hatch. Longtime Congressman Neal Smith gave $1,500 — $1,000 to the Polk County party, $250 to the state party and $250 to the re-election campaign of Attorney General Tom Miller. Miller himself gave $700 — $500 to the unsuccessful state legislative campaign of Assistant Attorney General Nathan Blake, and $185 to the Dubuque County Democratic committee.

The Iowa Democratic Party received 10 contributions of $20,000 or more from individuals in 2014, and all were from out-of-staters. Five of the 10 checks came from Henry H. Goldberg, a real-estate developer and investor with addresses in Maryland and Florida, and his wife, Carol B. Goldberg. He gave the Iowa party checks of $50,000, $25,000 and $20,000 last year, and she threw in two more $20,000 checks.

The state Republican Party got just two checks of $20,000 or more. Both were for $25,000. One was from Tim and Brenda Kapucian of Keystone, Iowa, and the other from lawyer and legislator Chris Hagenow of Windsor Heights.

The state Democratic Party got big checks from labor. Public Employees Organized to Promote Legislative Equality, the national political arm of AFSCME, gave $950,000, while the state branch of AFSCME added $150,000. The teachers’ union in Iowa gave $375,000, and the committee controlled by Senate Majority Leader Mike Gronstal gave the party $385,000.

Odds and ends from the campaign reports:

Odd: Sam Clovis, the losing candidate for state treasurer — a job that requires precision in finance and reporting — is listed as “delinquent” in filing the campaign report that was due Jan. 19.

End: David Vaudt, who resigned after 10 years as state auditor in the middle of 2013 to become chairman of the Government Accounting Standards Board in Norwalk, Conn., cleaned out his political account in the latest period. He donated the money, about $118,000, to the state Republican Party. The Connecticut appointment was for one seven-year term.

Odd: Until late in the game, the Democrats were confident that Stephen Siegel of Ottumwa would oust incumbent senator Mark Chelgren. But Siegel said a stupid thing — asked in a questionnaire if he considered himself pro-life, pro-choice or undecided, he answered: “Kill them all & let God sort it out” — and trouble loomed. In the two weeks before the election, the state party poured more than $75,000 into the race, on top of more than $100,000 contributed earlier, but it went for naught.

End: Tyler Olson, whose run for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination was derailed by marital troubles, apparently returned all contributions received after Jan. 30. Earlier supporters were stiffed. Two contributions not returned: $100,000 from AFSCME, $50,000 from his parents. One that was returned: $10,000 from Iowa City’s young Ravi Patel, who might need it if, as rumored, he decides to run for Congress in the First District next year.

A final note on money: According to the magazine for the Iowa Bar Association, “a survey of all members conducted between Nov. 17 and Dec. 2 showed 67 percent believe that providing legal services to Iowans who can’t afford an attorney is a societal issue, not an attorney issue.” CV
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The two faces of Lisa Takes

The smell of clean causes your nose to flare when you enter the room. Sharp. Astringent. With an undertone of earthy. A fine wine. Laughter crosses from over the busy side of the counter. It’s mixed with distant barks and the sounds of people clipping, trimming, talking. When it is your turn to check in, your dog inevitably decides to investigate the far corners of the room, leaving you with one arm firmly on the leash and the other gripping the counter. Certainly you would have confessed the name of your dog with a little less drama. But there you are. Shouting out her name while stretched out on a self-made rack.

Saturday morning at Starch Pet Hospital. The vet today is a woman. Hair pulled back tight. Blue lab coat open at the neck. The smell of clean is surprising as you enter through the carpeted doorway. No wonder. The owner’s mom (yes, mom!) is vacuuming, wiping down, dusting. Constantly. But the undertone of sweat is inevitable in the gym. The clang of iron echoes sharply in the large room, although muted by the steady beat of treadmills, elliptical machines and new-fangled cardio equipment. But it is the slabs of iron, stacked and sorted and placed on racks, that beckon. Like Stonehenge. They are a little primordial. A little old school. And definitely a little crazy.

Sunday morning at Anytime Fitness in Beavercreek. Hidden at the far side of the room is a woman lifting. Back toward me. Tucked behind the lifting rack. The muscles separate and bulge as she strains at the weights, serrating her back into an anatomy lesson. Trapezius, triceps, biceps, lats, delts. Yup, they’re all there.

Lisa Takes smiles shyly at me. She isn’t quite comfortable talking about this part of her life. She’ll tell you she is married. She’ll tell you she has a 12-year-old kid. She’ll tell you she’s a veterinarian. But she probably won’t tell you she is a professional bodybuilder. Did you know she came in first in her last regional tournament? Of course, you didn’t.

“There was a trainer I started working with here in Des Moines. Dado Kantariev. I started to see big changes. Then he asked me to do a show. I laughed at him. He had me watch a video of girls competing. Again, I laughed at him. It took me a year and a half to actually commit. I am still with Dado six years later.”

Takes continues her routine. Straining at the weights. The point of exhaustion comes and goes as the iron is moved from here to there. Sweat drips from her forehead. There’s no stopping today.

“We tried to do Figure first. There is Bikini, which to me is more beach body. Real lean. Not a lot of muscle. A little bit, not much. And then there is Figure. They are looking for wide shoulders, big lats. Like a V-taper they call it. Very feminine. You’re in heels. I was in beginner and I got third at my first one. I enjoyed it.”

“Enjoyed it” is an understatement. Takes was hooked. But she was looking for something a bit more.

“I’m more muscular, and I decided I was too muscular for Figure. So I did Bodybuilding. I like Bodybuilding better. I didn’t have to be as girly. Because I’m not like that. I didn’t have to wear heels. I like to lift heavy. And I like to work out hard. I like it a lot. I went pro my next year.”


By the way, of all people, she must be happy when she looks in the mirror. Right?

“I’m looking at myself critically. I never go to the mirror and am totally satisfied. I look in the mirror and say I need to do this.” She smiles, shaking her head.

And then there is that small fact that Takes is a month from turning 50. “There are not a lot of women nearly 50 like me. There is a master’s category, but I usually do the open — which is everybody.” She smiles again, giving a small glimpse of the confidence needed to strut on stage.

And that’s enough conversation. She heads down the floor, a weight in each hand, doing front squat after front squat after front squat.

“Life as a professional bodybuilder.”

Joe Weeg spent 31 years bumping around this town as a prosecutor for the Polk County Attorney’s Office. Now retired, he writes about the frequently overlooked people, places and events in Des Moines on his blog: www.joesneighborhood.com.

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Adieu to the relevance of the Iowa caucus and straw poll?

The Iowa caucus and straw poll have over-stayed their welcome on the nation’s political scene.

That seems to be clear to most people, except for the religious right and the Iowa press.

Exhibit One in the caucus straw poll demise is the recent Iowa Freedom Summit and its gaggle of supposed candidates for the presidency.

Talk about being boring, predictable, redundant and useless. The Freedom Summit and the news coverage were a political take off on the egotist’s line: “But enough about me. What do you think of me?”

Even The Des Moines Register’s owner and its flagship paper USA TODAY declared: “The Iowa Freedom Summit highlights the influence that social conservatives play in the state’s caucuses.”

Scott Galindez of Reader Supported News offered a harsher take on the Freedom Summit: “I feel sorry for God and pigs. I’m sure [presidential wannabes] will be castrating pigs and demonstrating how they fear god more than the others…”

“Iowa Republicans are god-fearing, pig-castrating, gun-toting wackos. Wait, that’s their freshman senator.”

(With regard to U.S. Sen. Joni Ernst, Charles Pierce wrote something for Esquire that seems to have eluded an Iowa enamored of Ernst — namely that her dad, uncles and other relatives had received more than $460,000 in government farm subsidies between 1995 and 2009.That works out to more than $30,000 a year in being on the public dole, while Ernst opposes a federal minimum wage that would prove about half that to people trying to work for a living.)

But the Iowa press did pay lots of attention to another wacko, Donald Trump, reporting in straight-faced fashion Trump’s absurd claim that he would have beaten President Obama in the 2012 election.

The Freedom Summit offered little, if anything, that was positive or helpful in screening candidates for the presidency. Register columnist Katrhie Obradovich said the best Summit comment was made by a non-candidate, U.S. Sen. Mike Lee. (R-Utah). Basically, Sen. Lee said a presidential candidate needs to stand for something and not be against everything. But apart from him, the Freedom Summit was for God and the Lord and against Obama, and that’s about it.

Immigration reform? Climate change? Crisis in the Middle East? Candidates generally avoided those and other topics. They recognize the risk in saying anything sensible that would, of course, infuriate the religious right and the Iowa GOP. The two are pretty much the same when it comes to the Freedom Summit, the Straw Poll and the GOP caucus.

Yes, of course, it is easy to cherry pick negative online comments about the Iowa religious right — but the stuff quoted above seems increasingly common in the non-Iowan press.

And, yes, plenty of people might say it is wrong to suggest that the Iowa caucus and straw poll have overstayed their welcome on the nation’s political scene. But given the nonsense of the Freedom Summit, here is something even more troubling for the nation: I may be wrong.

Herb Strentz is a retired administrator and professor in the Drake School of Journalism and Mass Communication and writes occasional columns for Cityview.

A ‘dirty’ deal on those burdensome regulations

You hear a lot of politicians talking these days about burdensome government regulations. Gov. Terry Branstad is one of them.

But a proposed regulation moving through state government leaves citizens with the clear impression that the state is engineering a change that is advantageous to certain businesses while being detrimental to consumers and our environment.

At the heart of the issue is topsoil.

And in Iowa, a state where our topsoil is our biggest natural resource, you would think everyone would be up in arms about this. But if you think that, you would be wrong, because the proposed change is moving along too quietly through government.

Here’s some background:

Iowa now requires real estate developers and builders to provide at least 4 inches of topsoil across the yards of new homes. Those business owners don’t like the requirement.

They would prefer to operate without the current rule. Maybe it’s because of the cost, or maybe it’s because they would rather use that topsoil elsewhere or sell it.

The Iowa Environmental Protection Commission, a state board that is misnamed if you ask me, is made up of members who are selected by Gov. Branstad. The commission is moving ahead with a new regulation that would waive the 4-inch rule if a builder decided it was not feasible.

That’s right. The change in wording in the rule would allow those builders to ignore the 4-inch requirement if they decide it isn’t feasible to abide by the rule. That’s a loophole large enough to drive a bulldozer through.

The effects of this change would be significant for people buying new houses and for the state’s rivers, streams and lakes. And the change represents another troubling signal that while Gov. Branstad likes to assure Iowans he wants clean water, his actions show otherwise.

The experience of a friend in Marion illustrates the impact of the proposed rule change.

He and his wife bought an almost-new house seven years ago — before the 4-inch rule was enacted. When their first spring in their new home rolled around, they tackled some landscaping projects — flower beds, shrubs, etc.

But these Earl Mays found their landscaping efforts to be a struggle.

The topsoil that existed in their yard when it was still a cornfield was pretty much gone. The builder had laid down sod, but it went on top of clay, not topsoil. That made it difficult to grow much of anything there.

The rule for 4 inches of topsoil was enacted by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources in 2012. The rule was intended to reduce runoff of rainwater and lawn chemicals. Topsoil acts as a giant sponge, soaking up rain.

But yards that are sod and clay aren’t effective sponges. That leads to runoff into storm sewers, which channel the water to streams, rivers and lakes.

Although Iowa’s water quality problems are predominantly a result of intensive agricultural practices, the runoff from yards adds to the fertilizer problems the state is trying to combat.

But some of the state’s biggest homebuilders are pushing for the giant loophole in the topsoil regulation.

The president of Hubbell Realty, a big Des Moines-area builder, has called the 4-inch topsoil rule “silly.” He says it adds about $1,200 to the cost of a new house. Of course, requiring indoor plumbing adds thousands to the cost of a new home, too, but do we really want to make indoor toilets optional, the way they were generations back?

It will cost Iowa hundreds of millions of dollars to clean up our polluted rivers and lakes. It will cost homeowners in money and frustration to deal with yards with little or no topsoil.

And there is another big cost that will come from this topsoil proposal:

Changing the regulation will show that state government is more concerned about the bottom line of some builders and is less concerned about actions that are detrimental to consumers and our state’s all-too-fragile environment.

Randy Evans recently retired as opinion editor of The Des Moines Register. He now writes a weekly column for his hometown newspaper, the Bloomfield Democrat, where this originally appeared.
A little bit of exercise goes a long way. Whether you’ve been sedentary for years or just found yourself in a bit of a lazy patch, today is the day you can begin to make healthy changes in your life. And you can even start small.

Not ready for the local 5K yet? No worries, try the Red Dress Dash to get you up and off the couch. The event will take place on Friday, Feb. 6 at Nicole’s School of Dance, 311 S. W. Walnut St., Ankeny.

“It’s fun and silly but centered around a very serious and deadly disease that is killing one in three Americans,” said Juliette Olejnik, Go Red For Women director. “We hope that this event will inspire women to take charge of their heart health. We hope to be the difference between life and death.”

Did you know that running for just seven minutes every day can decrease your risk of dying from heart disease? Research published in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology (2014) reveals running for less than 51 minutes a week — or about seven minutes a day — reduced the risk of dying from heart disease. What’s more, those who ran for less than an hour a week benefited as much as those running more than three hours a week.

Every step counts toward helping you maintain a healthier heart.

“We hope to raise awareness for everyone’s heart health,” said Olejnik. “However, most women are not aware that heart disease kills more women than men. Ninety percent of women have one or more risk factors for developing heart disease, but only one in six women believes that heart disease is her greatest health threat.”

The Red Dress Dash has become a tradition in various cities across the country. It stemmed from the Go Red For Women movement, which is the American Heart Association’s solution to save women’s lives — educating and connecting women of all ages on the personal and urgent truths of heart disease.

Plus seeing everyone dressed to the nines is a sight to see outside in February. But it’s a bit chilly to wear a dress without warmer layers underneath, warns Olejnik.

“I suggest finding one that is a couple sizes larger than what you would normally wear,” she said.

For those looking to compete in the Best Dressed competition, remember that it’s not all about looks — attitude goes a long way.

“Best Dressed will likely be determined by a small group of Uptown Ankeny Chamber members,” Olejnik said. “I anticipate creativity will play a big part, but there is no doubt that the right spirit and enthusiasm can add a lot to any ensemble.”

The mission of the American Heart Association is the build healthier lives, free of cardiovascular diseases and stroke.

“Come with a friend and make them wear a dress, too. It’s also a great conversation starter and makes for a great Facebook photo,” Olejnik said. “If you don’t have a red dress or don’t feel comfortable wearing one, just be sure to wear red.”

David Rowley is an Iowa native with a bachelor’s degree in journalism from the University of Iowa and a master’s in film journalism from the University of Glasgow in Scotland.
Meredith Corporation reports jump in profits

Des Moines-based publishing company Meredith Corp. announced a profit increase of almost 30 percent in the second quarter, the same day it announced its acquisition of Shape magazine from American Media. Meredith will put its first issue of Shape out in May with a starting publishing base of 2.5 million. In the last six months, Meredith has also acquired the rights to two Martha Stewart magazines, a wedding planning site and a digital advertising firm in New York. Meredith also reported a 12.6 percent jump in quarterly revenues for a total of $398.9 million.

Waukee prepares for growth with new apartment complex

Construction will begin this spring on a 434-unit apartment complex in Waukee. A local development team is behind Autumn Ridge, the $40 million market-rate apartments on Alice’s Road. The project will take shape in four phases, and it includes 13 two- and three-story buildings with the first units scheduled to open in August and the final phase to end in 2018. Another $30 million apartment complex, Springs at Prairie Crossing, is set to open this summer.

Moe’s Southwest Grill expands to Iowa

The fast-casual restaurant franchise that offers burritos, tacos, quesadillas and other southwestern items is coming to Iowa. Scott Davis, Matt Middendorp and Mike Middendorp signed a franchise agreement and plan to build 12 Moe’s locations in the state, including four or five in the metro area. The partners also own Pizza Ranch restaurants in several cities around Iowa. Moe’s makes its food fresh and customized to each order. It also offers free chips and salsa. The first Iowa location will open later this year in Davenport.

Dahl’s assets up for bidding

Hy-Vee and Kum & Go have both made offers to buy some of the bankrupt grocery store’s assets. Dahl’s filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy on Nov. 9, 2014. Hy-Vee Inc. plans to purchase the pharmacy assets of three Dahl’s stores, while Dahl’s has plans to sell one property to Kum & Go. The property is located at 5003 E. True Parkway in West Des Moines, and documents showed Kum & Go is looking to buy the property and equipment. Hy-Vee plans to buy pharmacy assets at the E.P. True location, along with those at 3400 E. 33rd St. in Des Moines and 8700 Hickman Road in Clive.

Stylist opens salon in home furnishing store

Chrystal Wuertz has been a stylist for nine years and has recently opened a hair salon inside Renovation Home. The downtown furnishing store offers both new and vintage items. It is located at 106 11th Street. Wuertz previously worked at Pure Aveda Salon and Spa in Ankeny. She will offer cuts, colors, highlights, waxes and up-dos at her new salon, which opened Feb. 3. A 20 percent discount will be given to new clients through the end of March. The salon will be open on Saturdays, as well as Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon and evenings. To make an appointment, call 515-491-3541 or visit www.chrystalw.genbook.com.

Better Business Bureau moves

The Better Business Bureau relocated earlier this year to 2625 Beaver Ave., where the consignment shop Fashion Junction was formerly located. The Bureau had been previously located at 505 Fifth St. in the Insurance Exchange Building for many years. The new building is larger and more accessible to the public. Its hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Call 515-243-8137 or visit www.bbb.org/iowa.

Metro West Learning moves

Though it didn’t go far, Metro West Learning has moved its offices to 13300 Hickman Road, Suite 110 in Clive. The center, which offers students support through social language groups and tutoring, was previously located at 2555 Berkshire Parkway in Clive. Metro West helps students with autism and behavior challenges and offers speech, occupational and physical therapy among its other services. Call 515-987-8853, visit www.metrowestkids.com or find it on Facebook.

CrossFit moves from East Village

CrossFit 8035 recently moved into a renovated building called The Garage from its previous spot in the East Village. The new location at 1221 Keosauqua Way in Des Moines was formerly the Owen Crist Auto Body. CrossFit now has 6,000 square feet of space that includes a workout area, kid’s room, three bathrooms and showers, an office and a lobby. Hours are 5 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily, and grand opening activities are set for 8 a.m. to noon on Feb. 14. CrossFit offers classes, yoga and competition classes, along its open gym. Visit www.thegaragedsm.com or find it on Facebook.
Two of a kind?

Surprise, surprise! Another NFL star, Junior Galette, was arrested on Jan. 5, this time for domestic violence — simple battery. Galette, 26, was charged and taken into custody at his home after he allegedly pushed a woman to the ground to get her to leave his house. His bond was posted at $600.

Crimestoppers

This information was obtained from the Polk County Crime Stoppers website. All suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Des Moines Police Detective Bureau asks that anyone with information on the location or identity of this suspect call 515-283-4864 or The Polk County Crime Stoppers anonymously at 515-223-1400.

The Clive Police Department is seeking an individual who was tampering with two ATMs at the 7 Flags Event Center in Clive. Around 7:30 a.m. on Jan. 20, the individual attempted to steal the money at the 7 Flags Event Center in Clive. Around 2:30 a.m. on Jan. 20, the individual attempted to steal the money at the 7 Flags Event Center.

Blotter — Des Moines

Caught on another charge

Police responded to a robbery on Jan. 28 at the Git N Go on E. University. They met with Joe, the man running the register at the time of the robbery. Joe stated that just before the gas station closed, the suspect walked through the front door with a gun and demanded all the money in the cash register. The suspect took the unknown amount of money and put it in a Puma backpack (it was later identified as an Adidas bag) and also took the store telephone. Joe removed the phone from the wall, handed it to the suspect and watched the suspect flee the scene. The suspect was a younger white male, possibly in his mid-teens, and was wearing a light colored hoodie with dark sweatpants.

The suspect was later identified as a person the police were looking for on a previous domestic dispute case and was arrested for first-degree robbery.

Bad partners in crime

On Jan. 27, police responded to a burglary call from the downtown restaurant RoCA. Police met with Matthew Holt and Preston Malfero who witnessed the incident. Malfero witnessed one suspect leaning up against a brick wall in the alley behind the restaurant. It seemed suspicious, so he went to tell Holt about it. When the two returned, they saw one suspect still standing against the brick wall and another inside of RoCA’s cooler. Holt closed the suspect in the cooler. Police arrived and arrested both men for burglary, even though the first suspect claims that he was not acting as a lookout, but that he knew what his partner was doing. He claimed he told the other suspect to do what he wanted, but he was going to stand there and smoke a cigarette.

Bad place to drill

Samuel Farley, general manager of Storage Mart on E. Army Post Road, alerted police on Jan. 26 about a burglary at his business. Upon their arrival, Farley explained that when he arrived at work that morning he received a note from the assistant manager that instructed him to get a case number regarding burglaries that had happened in their storage units from the night before. Farley reported that the assistant manager found four units broken into by the suspect drilling a hole through the locking units. Farley explained that protocol is to notify and secure the customers’ units and wait for them to arrive, because they cannot access the units without the customers’ consent.

Paid for by taxpayers...

Des Moines City Hall

Paid on Jan. 22
Amount: $225.51
To: Starch & University West Pet Clinics
For: Canine vaccinations

Amount: $448
To: State Chemical Solutions
For: Air fresheners

Amount: $39.95
To: Stivers Ford Lincoln Waukee
For: Tire alignment

Amount: $176.70
To: Sun Badge Company
For: Police officer badges

Amount: $296.55
To: Televend Services Inc.
For: Prepaid fax cards

Amount: $293.76
To: Trans-Iowa Equipment Inc.
For: Flexible hose guide

Amount: $1,441.50
To: TruGreen
For: Snow removal

Money

Salaries and such

Name................. Wendy Wintersteen
Title ................. Dean
Department ..... Iowa State University
Annual Salary .. $284,773

Travel

The Des Moines City Council approved travel expenses for Detective Jake Lancaster to visit Kansas City, Missouri, from March 15-20. He will attend the death and homicide training seminar offered through the Public Agency Training Council, which will provide instruction on cold case homicides and the three phases of homicide investigation: crime scene, follow up and courtroom presentation. The focus of the training will be on the importance of homicide crime scene reconstruction through the use of blood pattern analysis, the application of DNA to homicide and death scene investigations and serial murder investigation. This comes at a cost of $1,344 to taxpayers.
From the Des Moines City Council minutes

100 years ago (January 1915):

Welsbach Street Lighting Company to install a gas street lamp at West 37th street and Kingman Boulevard. Des Moines Electric Company directed to install an incandescent street lamp at 32nd and Iola.

West Grand Avenue from 14th to 18th to be made 50-feet wide, and from 18th to 19th to be made 40-feet wide. (Only dirt roads, remember.)

In 1914, the auditor was requested to make full payment to Archie Knox for upkeep of Grandview Golf Links in the amount of $100. (About $2,400 in today’s money for a year’s effort. And who had time to golf 100 years ago?)

Resolved that “the Christian Volunteers be permitted to use the first floor of Municipal Lodging House Saturday night and to leave it in the same condition as they find it.” (Reasonable request, but the Boy Scout directive is to leave it in better condition.)

The Superintendent of Streets and Public Improvements was directed to fix heating plant “of the Detention Hospital so old boiler can be used in conjunction with the new in extreme cold weather, at an expense not to exceed $50.00.” (The “Detention Hospital” was east of where the current Broadlawns Hospital is located. People with tuberculosis and other communicable diseases were quarantined and made to live in isolation from others there. A history source claims it was “one of the most feared places in Des Moines,” and known as the “Pest House.”)

Application of J. B. Foley for transfer of saloon at 407 E. Fifth St. to 517 Mulberry St. (Now, Tacosapocalypse is located at 407 E. Fifth.)

C.C. Kimball granted permission for the operation of the skating rink at the Municipal Bath House. (With regard to the “Municipal Bath House,” research shows that all larger cities provided public bathing facilities.)

Resolved, “...no City employee be allowed street car tickets from his home to his work and return, and anyone making such use of tickets be subject for discharge.”

50 years ago (January 1965):

The Des Moines-Kofu Friendship Commission was established to further cultural and economic understanding with Kofu, Yamanashi-Ken, Japan.

Ordinance was passed establishing a new job classification and salary for a school crossing guard. Salary is $1.31 per hour. (About $10/hour in 2015 dollars.)

Johnny and Kay’s Motor Hotel was approved to rent a display case at the Des Moines Municipal Airport for one year for $300. ($2,400 in today’s money.)

Cities of Des Moines and West Des Moines and Polk County agreed to the construction of a bridge across Raccoon River near 63rd and add paved roadways from the bridge to connecting streets and highways. A.J. Allen Plumbing and Heating Company was approved for the plumbing work relative to the construction of the Children’s Zoo in A.H. Blank Park.

Class “B” beer permits were issued to Fifth Avenue Bowling, Des Moines Catering, LaPizza House, Billies and Freddies Golden Nugget, Armands Alpine, Francie’s Tap, Timber Tap, Tony’s Grand Tavern, The Nip, The Keo Tap and Madge’s Locust Tap. Class “C” liquor licenses were awarded to P.S. Lounge, Cliff’s Tavern, Triangle Café, Tom’s Grocery on Beaver and Yale Drug on Penn Avenue.

25 years ago (January 1990):

The Skywalk Commission warned of smoking and failure to obey peace officers in the skywalk system.

Contract for the renovation of the men’s and women’s restrooms in the Main Library was issued to Big Boy’s Construction (Orville Bellville, Pres.).

An Early Warning Weather Alert System to be purchased for $16,729. ($30,280 in today’s money, and probably were a bunch of weather radios at that.)

Granted permission to International Cinema Artists of West Des Moines to close 19th Street from Ingersoll to Grand on Thursday the 25th from 7:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. (Any guess what the company did?)

Approved vacating part of East First between East Locust and Walnut for the Embassy Suites Project.

Authorized more than $40,000 for a New York firm to do a “nuisance odor source study...to identify odor emitting sources” from Southeast 14th East to city limits and from Market Street south to the Des Moines River. Also, an ordinance “establishing an Odor Hotline and a Citizen Odor Board.” (Have you noticed since then how much better that area smells? Wonder if the Odor Hotline was active for very long?)

Steve Nelson-Vaux is a retired Iowa farmer-turned-library explorer and vintage prospector digging Des Moines’ and S.E. Polk’s historical aether-ore.

HOSPITAL JOBS AVAILABLE IN DES MOINES!

WE’RE HOSTING A JOB FAIR AT Hilton Garden Inn 205 S 64th Street West Des Moines (near Jordan Creek Mall) WEDNESDAY, 2/4

Meet UHS employees and discuss openings anytime between 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM

UHS, Universal Hospital Services, Inc. is the leading provider of medical equipment outsourcing & services to hospitals in Des Moines, IA.

WE ARE CURRENTLY SEEKING: Hospital Operations Manager (1st shift) 8 Part-time and Full-time Hospital Service Representatives (1st and 2nd Shifts)

Main responsibilities of the Hospital Service Representatives are to clean, track and deliver medical equipment within the facility. Previous hospital or healthcare experience preferred, basic computer skills, excellent communication, customer service skills and the ability to walk up to 8 hours per shift. Learn more and apply on-line, www.uhs.com

Each hour we’ll have a 10 minute presentation, and an opportunity for you to meet a UHS Representative! We look forward to meeting you!
Big-tent mentality

The Project Theater Board at Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts, decided in January to cancel its upcoming annual presentation of the feminist classic “Vagina Monologues.” The all-women’s college recently declared it would admit males who lived and “identified” as female (regardless of genitalia), and the basis for cancellation of “Vagina Monologues” was that the unmodifiable script is not “inclusive” of those females — that it covers only experiences of females who actually have vaginas.

No good deed goes unpunished
Kathi Fedden filed a $30 million wrongful death lawsuit in December against Suffolk County, New York, police after her 29-year-old son, driving drunk in 2013, fatally crashed into an office. She reasons that the son’s death is the fault of the police officer who stopped him earlier that evening and who must have noticed he was already drunk but did not arrest him. The officer, who knew the son as the owner of a popular-with-police local delicatessen, merely gave the son a lift home, but the son later drove off in his mother’s car, in which he had the fatal crash.

The new normal
The website/smartphone app Airbnb, launched in 2008, connects travelers seeking lodging with individuals offering private facilities at certain prices. About a year ago, entrepreneur Travis Laurendine launched a similar smartphone app, “Airpnp,” to connect people walking around select cities and needing access to a toilet, listing residents who make their utilities available, with description and price. Laurendine told the New York Post in January that New York City is a promising market (though his two best cities are New Orleans and Antwerp, Belgium). The prices vary from free to $20, and the facilities range from a sweet-smelling room stocked with reading material to a barely maintained toilet (with no lavatory), but, said one supplier, sometimes people “really need to go, and this will have to do.”

Government in action
Kentucky, one of America’s financially worse-off states, annually spends $2 million of taxpayer money on salaries and expenses for 41 “jailers” who have no jails to manage. Research by the Kentucky Center for Investigative Reporting in January noted that Kentucky’s constitution requires “elected” jailers despite the fact that 41 counties have shut down their jails and house detainees elsewhere via contracts with sheriffs. (Though the jailers may be called upon to transport prisoners from time to time, the 41 counties are mostly small ones with few detainees.) Several jailers have full-time “side” jobs, and one jail-less jailer employs five deputies while another has 11 part-timers.

Irons
Timothy DeFoggi, 56, was sentenced in January to 25 years in prison on child pornography charges — unable to keep his illicit online transactions hidden from law-enforcement authorities. Before his conviction, he was acting director for cyber security in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and, one would assume (wrongly), an accomplished user of security software. …

The Tampa Bay Times (formerly St. Petersburg Times), reeling financially, pledged several properties it owns (including its downtown headquarters) to borrow $30 million last year from a distressed-property lender and now announces an intention to pay back that loan by selling the properties. As reported by the local St. Petersblog website, the sore-thumb loan was almost exactly the amount the Times paid in 2002 for “naming rights” to the Tampa concert-and-hockey venue, the Ice Palace (which became the St. Petersburg Times Forum and is now Amalie Arena). Thus, St. Petersblog wrote, “do the math,” concluding that the Tampa Bay Times was pressured to sell its own headquarters building in order to pay for the 12-year privilege of being able to name someone else’s building.

Recurring themes
Rose Ann Bolasy, 60, of Great Neck, New York, last year created a trust fund for her 3-year-old Maltese (dog), Bella Mia, that will allow spending $100,000 a year on fashions and spa treatments so that Bolasy can pamper “the daughter I never had.” Bella Mia reportedly has 1,000 outfits in her custom-made walk-in closet, including ball gowns, along with diamond and pearl jewelry, and she sleeps on her own double bed. Previous News of the Weird reports of ridiculously rich dogs involved inheritances, but Bolasy still lives with her husband and has two adult sons (who are said to be fine with their mother’s intention to will Bella Mia a house in Florida if she outlives Bolasy and her 82-year-old husband). CV

Read more weird news at www.dmcityview.com or www.WeirdUniverse.net.
Iowa Nice Guy and Mount Carmel native Scott Siepker, who blends satire and passion for rural Iowa on social media, has delivered something of a video love letter to agriculture with his with his filmmaking team’s latest release — “Farmer Nice.”

Now up on YouTube, and going viral with close to 30,000 views, “Farmer Nice” portrays farmers as technological savvy innovators who are not only feeding the world but also growing crucial ingredients for a wide range of products.

“It’s one of those videos that I think will continue to roll down the hill and snowball,” Siepker said in a phone interview.

Fans of the video from South Carolina and Georgia, as well as the Midwest, already have contacted him.

Siepker, 32, an adjunct professor of drama at Drake University, jumped into the national spotlight during the 2012 presidential race with “Iowa Nice,” his snarky defense of all things Iowa (with 1.2 million views on the uncensored YouTube version alone).

The Iowa Nice Guy character he created has since appeared on ESPN and opened doors to continued speaking engagements for Siepker around Iowa and beyond.

As a rural Iowa native, Siepker, whose grandmother, Mary Lou Schultes, spent most her life on a farm between Dedham and Willey, appreciates farming and has it in his blood.

But, Siepker said, he’s smart enough to know what he doesn’t know about agriculture — and that’s the case with most Americans who aren’t directly engaged in farming.

“We wanted to say, ‘Thank you’ on our own,” he said of Iowa Filmmakers, his creative Des Moines-based organization.

The Iowa Farm Bureau underwrote the 2-minute video.

“While you’re using your iPad to play Farmville, farmers are using their iPad to work smarter,” Siepker says on the video in one farm location, with a drone hovering over his right shoulder.

Later in the video, sitting in his trademark fireside chair, opining on life with a jab at urban elites here, a poke at stereotypes there, Siepker reels through products tied to farms, from buttons to makeup to tires to car wax to pharmaceuticals to the crayons a production assistant throws into his lap as he talks.

“Raise a glass to farmers, they deserve it,” Siepker says in the video.

Next up for Siepker: an appearance on Iowa Public Radio Wednesday at 10 a.m. during which time he’ll speak about agricultural literacy and what the general public gets and what it doesn’t about American agriculture.

And beyond that, look for the Iowa Nice Guy to show up with presidential candidates — both Republican and Democrat — as campaigns for the Iowa Caucuses have started.

Douglas Burns is a fourth-generation Iowa newspaperman who resides in Carroll. He and his family own and publish newspapers in Carroll, Jefferson and other neighboring communities.

“Your food doesn’t start with the factory or the Keebler elves; it starts with farming. Your body requires 1,400 pounds of food per year. How much of that do you want to grow yourself?”

— Iowa Nice Guy Scott Siepker

HAVE AN EVENT COMING UP?
LET OUR READERS KNOW ABOUT IT!
WWW.DMCITYVIEW.COM
YEAH THAT’S RIGHT, 6 MORE WEEKS. NOW PUT ME BACK BEFORE I FREEZE.
THE PRICE TO PARK

Des Moines’ parking meters are more of a necessary evil than a cash cow.

by Chad Taylor
In virtually any city of respectable size, there will likely be a parking meter. The further away from the downtown corridor you get, the less likely you are to see them due to the increase in residential parking and businesses with parking lots, but most downtowns are full of them. Des Moines is no different.

For as many parking meters as there are in the city — 4,000, according to the Department of Traffic and Transportation — it seems reasonable to expect that the city makes a tidy profit off the little buggers.

Turns out, not so much.

“It has never been intended to be a profit-making proposition,” Traffic Facilities Administrator Mike Berry said of the city’s parking situation. “It has always been intended to break even.”

The whole point of the parking meters, Berry went on to say, is twofold. The first is to help regulate parking downtown. Metered parking keeps people from camping out in the good spots: 55 percent of the city’s parking meters have 10-hour limits so people who work downtown can feed it and forget it. But Berry says those are located primarily on the edges of the downtown core. The closer in you get to the good stuff, the shorter the times become. So if you’re looking to lock down one of the spots around the Des Moines River and 10th street, you’re either going to run out every two hours to plunk in more money, move or get ticketed.

If you choose the first option, you’re going to feel the difference in your change drawer, too. The city sets the pricing on the meters to further encourage turnover in those prime, downtown spots: paying for an hour of meter parking in the East Village will run you 60 cents. By Gateway Park, it’ll jump to 75 cents. But park on Court Avenue, and that rate becomes $1.25.

The second reason the meters exist is to help pay for parking. The City of Des Moines operates more than just those individual meters. It also maintains the downtown public parking ramps and needs a way to pay for the heating, electricity and upkeep for them. Fees collected from just the parking ramps themselves do not come up to nearly enough, so that is where the revenue from the parking meters comes in. Their contribution to the cause is not insubstantial.

“There is right at $100,000 per month collected from parking meters,” Berry explained. “Those revenues pay for all the heating, maintenance and employee costs. There are no charges to the city’s general fund for upkeep of the system.”

The money that does not go into keeping the parking ramps operating smoothly is used to maintain the parking meters themselves. Standing in the open means they have to stand up to everything Iowa’s seasons can throw at them, along with the daily wear and tear brought on by the city’s residents. As you might expect, a typical parking meter is designed to take a beating and keep working, but the miles pile up, and nothing lasts forever. This is a source of one of the few headaches associated with Berry’s job.

“Generally, the parking meters last about seven years,” he said. “We are able to afford replacements about every 10.”

One of the drawbacks to a completely self-sustaining system is that the income dictates the schedule.

“We do what we can,” he continued. “We don’t keep junk on the street, but it is hard to find the money to do the repairs that we need to do.”

METERED HISTORY

The first parking meter was used in Oklahoma City in July 1935. The first parking ticket was handed out a month later. In the years that followed, as more and more cities hopped on the idea, various legal challenges arose regarding their legality. The greatest challenge to the potential of parking meters has been financial. Courts have long established that cities cannot raise money for themselves through non-voter-supported means. In short, if it makes the city money, the voters did not approve it, then it amounts to an unauthorized revenue tax and is not legal. Many cities around the nation challenged their parking meters under this legal test. Only one (Sioux City in 1940) was successful in having its parking meters ruled illegal.

Eventually, a precedent was established, and parking meters were allowed everywhere in the country, provided they were run as close to breaking even as possible. Or, as the California Law Review put it in 1947: “A municipality may validly install a system of parking meters upon its streets and exact a fee for parking as long as the amount charged bears a reasonable relation to the service rendered and the cost of rendering it.”

Which is why, in the ensuing years, the cost of parking has increased with inflation, but remained relatively low in most areas. As any city decides where to set its parking fees, it walks a fine line. The fees need to be high enough to cover the costs of keeping everything clean and running properly, but not so high that people just stop using the meters or vandalize them out of spite. It is for that reason that city parking divisions have learned to be masters at efficiency.

KEEPING LEAN

“I’m the only full-time person paid by the parking system,” Berry said.

What if I don’t pay?

Meter parking can be a pain. You don’t always know how much time you need, you don’t always have enough change, and sometimes you can’t get out and feed the meter again in time. Park downtown often enough and odds are good that you will get a parking ticket eventually. Des Moines tickets are $15. But what happens if you don’t pay it? Here’s the timeline, courtesy of City Clerk Diane Rauh.

Tickets that are 30 days unpaid are assessed a $5 late fee.

After that, things go kind of quiet, and you might think it’s been forgotten and you are in the clear. Not so. After 130 days, vehicles registered in Polk County are forwarded to the Polk County Treasurer to place a stop on license plate renewal. Need new tags? You have to pay those fines first.

Also after 130 days, all vehicles with unpaid citations are forwarded to the Iowa Department of Revenue to place a hold on the Iowa Income Tax Refund of the vehicle owner. In other words, if you still don’t want to pay, the State will just take it from you on tax day.

Finally, vehicles with four or more unpaid citations are placed on the Tow List, which means a habitual offender is risking racking up towing and storage fees as well as any unpaid fines, just to get his or her car back.

If you live outside of the state of Iowa, you’re not subject to any of the above, except the $5 late fee. The bad news is that since they can’t take your taxes, the State just forwards you to a collection agency, and your credit takes the hit.
Berry has been the administrator for the Department of Traffic and Transportation for the past 19 years. He’s been with the department in some capacity or another for more than 30, and with the city for 33, so he knows all about getting the most bang for his buck and keeping everything moving as smoothly as possible on a limited staff.

“There’s one assistant and a fellow in charge of cleaning the parking ramps,” he continued. “But they are part-time.”

For other employees, like the attendants who work in the ramps themselves, the Department of Traffic and Transportation employs a contractor, ABM Parking. The only other workers associated with the parking system are the Parking Enforcement Officers (PEOs), of which the city employs two.

While the PEOs are technically under the purview of the Des Moines Police Department, their salaries are not paid through taxpayer money like the rest of the police force.

“All of their costs are paid for out of the parking system, too,” Berry explained.

And what of the money those officers help generate? Parking tickets are the bane of every business commuter and tourist the world over. Few things are as annoying as needing to park downtown for a few minutes then discovering that you do not have any change on you. Or realizing you have sat at Java Joe’s for four minutes longer than expected and have to make that walk of dread back to your car, eying your windshield for the telltale white envelope.

Nobody likes Parking Enforcement — colloquially referred to as “meter maids.” The name was first coined in the late 1950s to describe the first, all-female crew of Parking Enforcement Officers hired in New York City. The name stuck and is now used derivatively to describe PEOs around the world, regardless of sex. Des Moines’ PEOs, however, have a relatively easy time of things. You can chalk that up to “Iowa Nice,” if you like, but another contributing factor is the relatively low cost of a parking ticket in the capital city.

Parking fines in the downtown core run $15, which is light in the face of cities like Minneapolis ($42), Seattle ($44) and New York ($65). As such, when you see a PEO pull away from your vehicle, it might give you a fleeting moment of annoyance, but it is rarely the kind of thing you have to adjust your weekly budget to cover. And yet, for as low as the fees are, the city pulls in a hefty amount in parking violations. And it is not going down.

According to numbers provided by City Clerk Diane Rauh, Des Moines’ Parking Enforcement Officers collected $1,071,460 in the fiscal year 2012. The next year that number jumped to $1,216,293, and in fiscal year 2014 it was $1,448,357. So, on average, the amount pulled in by parking tickets each year outstrips the amount actually brought in by the meters themselves.

Additionally, unlike the revenues from the meters, parking fines don’t fall under the same “unauthorized revenue tax” requirement. This means that while the quarters you pop into the meter go right back into the parking authority, the dollars you pay on your parking tickets do not. At least, not for long.

“The revenue that is generated by the tickets that they write does come back to the parking system,” Berry explained. “It is counted as revenue, but is then taken back out of the system and put into the city’s general fund.”

So if you are looking for a way to ensure that your parking money helps to pay for public services like the fire or parks departments, there it is: Save your quarters and take the ticket.

**ONE SPACE OR TWO?**

The vast majority of Des Moines’ parking meters are of the traditional, single-space variety. Dual-space meters have been around since the 1980s, and electronic, multi-space meter boxes have been available since the late 1990s. But Des Moines has stayed with the single-space meters until the last decade.

When the last round of old meters needed to be replaced, Berry looked at what was available and thought that a newer, dual-space model might be a viable option. On paper it makes a lot of fiscal sense: A meter that can cover two spaces means you need half as many meters in the first place. What Berry did not factor in, however, was the public reaction.

“We’ve had a lot of feedback that people don’t like the double space meters,” he admitted. “What we found is that people don’t read, then they just drop money into a double space meters and it doesn’t go where they want.”

The biggest issue stems from the fact that the double-space meters look pretty much exactly like their single-space brethren.

“I used one for the first time the other day,” said Des Moines resident Natalie Matthews. “It caught me off guard because I didn’t even think about it being for two spaces. And you have to select your space before you start putting money in. If you do it out of order, you’re just giving the city your money.”

And so, like any good business that deals with the public, Berry listened. The city stopped ordering the double-space meters and has now started investing in multi-space meters that accept credit cards. This time, Berry has made sure to vet the new machines.

“What we’ve ended up doing is having public meetings,” he said. “We brought these meters out and actually demonstrated them to folks. We asked for feedback, and through those public meetings, we decided that people were looking forward to using the new style machines.”

“We want to make Des Moines a destination,” he continued, speaking to the new machines’ practicality. “When someone comes here from Clear Lake or Sioux City or whatever for the wrestling tournaments or for meetings, they often have to park downtown. People don’t always have two quarters in their pocket. But they’re going to have a credit card.”

Berry knows that no matter what decisions he makes, he is not going to please everyone. But his job is a vital one, and he knows that anyone in his position has to approach their job kind of like a sports referee: you know you have done your job well, when nobody realizes you are even there.

“When people leave Des Moines, we want them to have had a great time,” he said. “We don’t want them to have had to worry about where they’re going to park.”

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Tell us what you think. E-mail your letter to editor@dmcityview.com.

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The City of Des Moines has invested in multi-space parking meters that accept credit cards after holding a series of public meetings to discuss residents’ needs and wants.
Lawyer Up


“Allegiance”
Thursday, Feb. 5 (NBC)
Decades ago, KGB agent Katya (Hope Davis) was given the mission to seduce and recruit an American businessman (Mark Cohen). Instead, she fell in love with him and the Kremlin just said, “Go ahead and move to the U.S.; we’ll be in touch.” Guess who now wants a favor from the couple and their newbie CIA analyst son? “Allegiance” sounds ripped from today’s headlines about “The Americans,” but there are differences: It’s not the ’80s, theirs isn’t a KGB-arranged sleeper-cell marriage, and Davis can’t maintain a Russian accent. Still, it’s a solidly acted drama that somehow paints spy drama as dull as family drama and, like everything else NBC cranks out these days that isn’t “The Blacklist,” will probably never be seen again after 13-ish episodes.

“Helix”
Fridays (Syfy)
So … what happened? Season 1 of “Helix” was a tense, claustrophobic “Walking Dead”/“Andromeda Strain” mashup set in the frozen Arctic that, while imperfect, still delivered a rush of dread and consequences. Now, four episodes into Season 2, it’s like a whole new show taking an uneventful walk-about on the island of Dr. Moreau with two storylines (one in the present, one in the future) competing for my indifference. Did creator/producer Ronald D. Moore (“Battlestar Galactica”) think the jumping timelines would work here as well as on his other current series, “Outlander”? Maybe TV has hit the ceiling of apocalyptic dramas and it’s time to make some cuts, starting with “Helix.” Sorry, Ron.

“The 57th Annual Grammy Awards”
Sunday, Feb. 8 (CBS)
The good news: This year’s Rock nominees do, for the most part, actually rock — nary a banjo-beardy in the bunch and, as a bonus, what’s left of AC/DC is going to perform. The old news: The Grammys is still an utterly useless barometer of quality music, and LL Cool J is hosting again. (Is it part of his “NCIS: Los Angeles” contract, or what?) Also: Does Ariana Grande have to perform on every TV special ever from now until her 2016 expiration date? She does? OK, understood.

“Better Call Saul”
Sunday, Feb. 8 (AMC)
While the early clickbait reviews touting “Better Call Saul” as “better than ‘Breaking Bad’” may have been premature (only two episodes were made available for preview, fergawdsakes), the “BB” prequel/Saul Goodman origin story does arrive with more dramatic confidence and stylistic swagger than the introduction of Walter White did all those years ago — show runner Vine Gordon origin story does arrive with more dramatic confidence and stylistic swagger than the introduction of Walter White did all those years ago — show runner Vine Gordon

Bill Frost writes about television for Salt Lake City Weekly, talks about it on the TV Tan Podcast (Tuesday on iTunes and Stitcher), and tweets about it at @Bill_Frost.
Battle for the Social Network Championship

The Super Bowl is hands down the biggest television event in the country. For six years straight, the National Football League’s season-capping game has broken the record for largest television viewing audience. While the Super Bowl is the ratings champion, it seems sitcoms, award shows, live broadcasts and other sporting events are forever trapped in the race for second place. The obvious tech equivalent to the Super Bowl is Facebook.

In the world of social networking, Facebook rules. Try as they might, Twitter, Pinterest, Google Plus, LinkedIn and startup Ello are locked in an eternal struggle for second place. Google Plus technically has more users, Pinterest refers more traffic to online businesses, and Ello has that new car smell, but Facebook is king. Facebook has 1.35 billion active monthly users, 4.5 billion user “likes” daily, 300 million daily photo uploads, the largest population of 25-34 users anywhere online (the demographic advertisers crave) and far and away the most popular mobile application.

Back in the world of television, the only annual event with cultural cache close to the Super Bowl is the Academy Awards. In fact, looking at global viewer ratings, the Academy Awards dwarf the Super Bowl’s viewership. Once again, social networking has a similar parallel. Twitter is the Academy Awards. Not only does Twitter have the global reach and cultural pull, but just like the low U.S. viewership for the Academy Awards, Twitter’s American userbase is pathetic compared to Facebook.

What makes tech different is Twitter may one day have a shot at besting its rival. How? Oddly enough, to beat Facebook, Twitter must assimilate some of its best features. Over the years, Twitter has followed Facebook by including photo albums, embedded links, user profiles and banner images. But Twitter isn’t alone in feature theft. As is generally the case in all industries, as soon as one company jumps ahead of the pack with a cool new feature, everyone else must follow suit. In today’s mobile environment, the hottest attributes are private messaging and the ability to film and share video from your mobile device. Snapchat and WhatsApp blew the door off the private messaging arena, whereas Vine and Instagram made short mobile videos the hot mobile trend.

Both of these trends caught Facebook and Twitter off guard, but in true tech tradition, each made good on these sins by throwing money at the problem. Facebook acquired both WhatsApp and Instagram, while Twitter purchased Vine. Still, acquisitions don’t make the main service any cooler. Hoping to recruit more users, Twitter unveiled a new mobile video feature and private group message service.

Twitter’s mobile video tool mirrors Facebook’s recent efforts to turn its network into a more visual service. Cannibalistic as it sounds, Pinterest — the third place social network — is growing leaps and bounds based off its nearly 100 percent visual interface. With no status updates or GPS check-ins, Pinterest has accrued nearly 100 million avid users who not only love the site but also use it to make online purchases. Twitter and Facebook want their users to be spend-happy consumers as well, and if clustering their sites with videos and pictures is how to get there, that’s what they’ll do.

Sadly, Facebook’s had private messaging and mobile video creation features for months now, meaning Twitter is even farther from first place than ever. So just as the Super Bowl set another ratings record and Facebook closes in on 1.3 billion users, Twitter and the Academy Awards will once again be stuck wondering if they’ll ever be on top. CV

Patrick Boberg is a central Iowa creative media specialist. Follow him on Twitter @PatBoBomb.

‘Abandoned America: The Age of Consequences’

A book by including photo albums, embed-
It takes a professional to weather a blackout. The lights quit unexpectedly midway through the first act of “The Elephant Man” — perhaps this had to do with the blizzard outside — yet Bob Baskerville kept on, unfazed. As Gomm, head of the hospital providing sanctuary to the deformed title character, he went on delivering some bad news to an underling.

“You are truly sacked,” declared Baskerville. Even in the dark, you could make out his ramrod, unforgiving posture. By the time the lights came back, Steve Hickle, as the former orderly, could only slink away.

The production comes off with laser focus and makes rattling, swift work of a Bernard Pomerance script that, at worst, would come across like a history lecture. First performed in 1977, this “Elephant Man” has little in common with the David Lynch movie; it does without latex or special effects. Still, both works are based on the brief, tragic life of John (or Joseph) Merrick, a freakshow unto himself back in Victorian England. After Merrick was taken in by a London hospital, he became a darling of high society. But he died as he lived — alien and incurable.

Pomerance enhanced these ironies with super titles such as “Mercy and Justice Elude Us,” and Tallgrass put an edge on these, projecting them on fluttery, fraying canvas. Otherwise, the set keeps things simple, with black cage-lamps on white brick pillars. The direction shuttles the cast from side to side to create scene changes as well as using blackouts — intentional in every case but one.

Still, nothing put this show across like its experienced and versatile cast. While Gomm gave his orderly the sack, off to one side stood Michael Davenport, one of the few local actors with a resume to match Baskerville’s. As Dr. Treves, Davenport deferred to his boss. As the savior of the Elephant Man, he shows up in almost every scene, and in a hair-raising freefall, goes from a star doctor to a near-psychotic. Along the way, Davenport makes canny use of his Brainiac forehead, poking it as if his mind has betrayed him.

As for Andrea Markowski, the actress who provides Merrick’s entrée to rarified social circles, she delivers her richest performance to date. Even when naked to the waist, her hands cupped over her breasts, she makes you notice her glare: wounded, angry, yet hoping against hope.

The true energy source, however, remains the Elephant Man. Anthony Swee generates electricity in a way that recalls David Bowie, the first to play the role on Broadway. As Swee contorts his lean body to mimic Merrick’s disfigurement, his hips seem to go out of joint, his neck seemingly lengthening a few inches as well. Even more startling is his voice, turning glottal, almost burpy, yet ever a challenge to his visitors, biting off sharp-edged questions. No lecture ever sounded so unpredictable, so penetrating.
Thrillers, especially modern ones, tend to follow a basic pattern. The audience is given a portion of the story early and allowed to try and figure out the rest as the film develops. Usually, viewers are trying to read the clues and figure out whodunit or some variation therein. Then comes the plot twist in the third act, which, if you have been following along closely enough, you might see coming. Bad thrillers are like children’s morality plays: viewers can see their endings coming an hour or more away, and any actual “thrills” are lost along the way.

But every so often there comes a film with none of the usual trappings. “Black Sea” is one such film. Ironically, given its title and subject matter, the film is not very deep. There is only one minor “twist” to the story, and even that one is practically an afterthought. And yet, the film is wholly engrossing and completely effective as a thriller.

“Black Sea” centers around Jude Law’s Captain Robinson, a submarine pilot who was recently relieved of his job working for an undersea scrap and salvage company. Through flashbacks, we learn he has sacrificed his family for his career — his wife leaves him for a man who is not inaccessible for months at a time and takes their son with her — and now Robinson feels betrayed by a company that fired him to save a buck.

Sitting in a bar with some friends who have suffered similar fates, Robinson finds a way to stick it to his old bosses: the company has the salvage rights to a German U-Boat they found in the Black Sea — one that is rumored to have $180 million in gold bars sitting in its holds. The company, however, is bogged down in the red tape of a shifting political climate and cannot salvage the wreck right away, giving Robinson time to field a pirate crew, secure a sub and grab the gold first.

With the help of a shadowy financial backer, a mothballed Russian sub is procured, and a crew of like-minded men — half-English, half-Russian — is assembled. Everyone is stuffed into the claustrophobic confines of the submarine, submerged below the Russian Navy that patrols the waters of the Black Sea. The crew is given a curious piece of mental arithmetic to mull over: Robinson promises every man an equal share of the loot, but if an untimely accident were to befall one crewman, everyone else’s share sees a little bump.

From there on out there is very little to figure out about the plot, but writer Dennis Kelly and director Kevin Macdonald have stitched together such a tightly told story, that you remain on the edge of your seat regardless. Even when you figure out the ultimate ending before it gets there (and if you are paying attention, you will), it does not matter. The film effectively grabs you and plays with your sense of danger.

The film is not a masterpiece. The plot is thin, and there are some liberties taken with physics and plot devices that will require a little more suspension of disbelief than they should. But for people who love a good, suspenseful film that does not rely upon a lot of jump scares or unlikely plot twists, “Black Sea” brings a lot to the table.
The worst of 2014
So much room for improvement

ACROSS
1) The P of PBR
6) “How do you measure, measure ___?” (“Rent” lyric)
11) Org. for pinheads?
14) Birth country of Amy Adams and Rose McGowan
15) Music in some “Weird Al” Yankovic medleys
16) Cafeteria coffee holder
17) She got a Worst Actress nomination for a 10-Down for “The Other Woman”
19) Hang behind
20) “Dark Angel” star Jessica
21) “Aw, shucks!”
22) Many South Africans
24) #2 on Time’s 10 Worst Songs of 2014
28) Absolute last-minute day for shopping
29) Formal footwear
30) Bicycle shorts material
33) Go after flies
35) Aspirations
38) Reptilian squeezer
39) Sworn enemy
42) Grammy winner Kool Moe ___
43) It’s not worth much
45) Facts
46) Out there
48) “The Golden Notebook” author Lessing
50) Anti matter?
51) “Conscious Uncoupling” person of 2014, instead of just saying “divorce”
52) The Daily Bruin publisher
53) “Thirteen” actress ___ Rachel Wood
54) Prevent, as a disaster
56) ___ Thins
60) 911 responders
63) The Mavericks, on scoreboards
64) “Never Mind the Bollocks” closer (or label)
65) “Aladdin” monkey
66) “Morning Edition” producer
67) Big top figure
68) 2006 movie subtitled “Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan”
69) Eeyore, for one
70) “The Waste Land” poet T.S.
71) Apartments, e.g.

DOWN
1) 12-point type
2) In any way
3) Animated ruminant
4) ___-Kinney (band with Carrie Brownstein of “Portlandia”)
5) Norse god
6) Breathing interruption
7) Climber’s calling?
8) Whitney with a gin
9) “Alias” equivalent
10) Award celebrating bad movies
11) Bring into a private conversation
12) Author of “The Car Who...” mysteries
13) Teen turmoil
14) Fearsome sort
15) Movie subtitled “Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan”
16) John Travolta mispronunciation that made Rolling Stone’s “Worst TV Moments of 2014”
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Solution for last week:

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Minneapolis has a well-earned reputation for pumping out quality music. Legendary acts like Prince or the Replacements are the most obvious examples, but they’re hardly the end-all. Hit up a club any night of the week there, and you can see the direct descendants of acts like those performing throughout the city.

One of the benefits of being situated where we are is that, in addition to our own talented scene, we’re able to check out talent from markets like the Twin Cities on a fairly regular basis as they make their way through town.

Your next chance to do so comes in the form of The Usual Things, a Minneapolis five-piece created by frontman Aaron Shekey.

“My drummer and I have been playing shows together for 15 years,” Shekey said of the band’s origin during a phone interview. “We played in a project based in Madison, Wisconsin, called ‘Apparently Nothing,’ which is a terrible band name. We played together until 2006 under that band name, and that was all just childhood friends playing in the basement and learning to play together.”

But bands change as people grow, and Shekey’s developing tastes and desires caused a shift in style and direction.

“We were all about 23 at the time, and that’s kind of a weird age for bands,” he explained. “At that age, a lot of people start to figure out who they are and what they want to do with their lives. So we found a Craigslist guitar player and changed our name to ‘The Usual Things.’ ”

From that core, the band continued to develop its sound, occasionally altering its lineup along the way until the current roster was established in 2013. Now consisting of Shekey, drummer Layne Knutson, guitarist Dan Braak, bassist Will Caesar and keyboardist Andriana Lehr, Shekey says the group feels as though it’s ready to take the next step.

“It always takes a little bit to form a final lineup, but this feels like it,” Shekey said. “The joke at practices is, ‘Man, we sound really good. OK, which one of you is gonna quit?’ ”

The Usual Things released its album “Home Sweet Alone” in 2013. They’re working on new material, but Shekey still considers “Home Sweet Alone” and its deeply personal, emotionally raw subject matter to be the band’s best work.

“I had just ended a 10-year relationship that was two weeks shy of a marriage,” he said of the album’s creation. “It was the record I had to make. It was a breaking up record. Not a breakup record, because ‘a breakup record’ implies that everyone has moved on.

“I was of the mind that, if I’m writing something that I can maybe be embarrassed by in two years, that maybe I’m touching on something good as a songwriter. I wanted the songs to be an accurate representation of their time.”

True to form, Shekey admits that some of the lyrics on “Home Sweet Alone” give him the flush of embarrassment now. But he remains proud of the end result and how honestly the album continues to feel.

“Breakups are universal,” he said. “But at the time, when you’re in them, you’re the only person who’s ever done this. It’s such a singular experience, and for a songwriter like me, that’s how you get through that experience. We’ve all been through it, I just happened to release it.” CV
Not apathetic about the future

Say what you will about Dead Horse Trauma’s music — the band is a divisive one artistically — but there’s no debate about how hard the band works at its stage show and the promotion of the same. Now for a look at what the hardest-working act in Des Moines metal was like in its early days, all you have to do is peek your head into an Apathy Syndrome show.

Officially founded in late 2011 by vocalist Joe Day, guitarist Tanner Corn and drummer Zach Jones, the band was slow to get rolling. The first show wasn’t until August of 2012 and was followed by a five-month hiatus. Tweaks to the lineup followed over the next two years, with DJ Nick Stone being added in 2013, keyboardist Adam Williams coming on board in early 2014 and bassist Tim Sigler joining just a couple of months ago.

But now the band is fully loaded and, after spending most of the past year cultivating a local following, they are ready to take their sound regional. They credit their friendship with the guys from DHT with helping drive home the importance of hustling.

“(DHT frontman Eric Davidson) has helped us out tremendously,” Day said. “Just all the advice he’s given us on the day to day, what not to do.”

Seeing how a solid work ethic has helped DHT has also helped to instill a similar drive in Apathy Syndrome’s members.

“We promote and promote,” Corn said. “We want to bring the best performance possible.”

“It’s work,” added Jones. “But you love it. It’s not like going to a job.”

“Developing a following is about being more than a band member,” Williams concurred. “It’s doing your homework.”

Even when the band is not prepping for a show, they are talking to fans, handing out fliers and supporting the rest of the music that is being played in the capital city. Because another thing Apathy Syndrome knows well, is that you give love to get love.

“We’re always at other shows, giving other bands the support that they give us,” Day said. “It’s a brotherhood in the Des Moines music scene.”

Bob Dylan
“Shadows in the Night”
Columbia

Bob Dylan must be getting bored with just being a legend. Seemingly bereft of any good, new ideas, Dylan has chosen to package together a series of Frank Sinatra covers for his latest album. Consisting mostly of deeper cuts from Ol’ Blue Eyes’ catalog, the result is a disjointed, weird-sounding album that never takes off. Dylan’s trademark wail is altered almost beyond recognition here, as the 73-year-old tries his hand at some old school crooning — to mixed results. “Full Moon and Empty Arms” sounds good, and “Autumn Leaves” is vulnerable and raw, but for the most part the album is just a curious decision in general. When you have gotten to the level that Dylan has, you do not have to explain yourself to anyone, least of all me. But this just feels like a pet project that was knocked out in spare moments for the edification of no one.

Diana Krall
“Wallflower”
Verve

Another collection of covers sees Diana Krall abandon her jazzier roots to offer her take on rock and pop songs from the 1960s and ’70s. Dylan’s work makes an appearance (the title track), as do The Mamas and the Papas, Elton John and The Eagles. Much like the man mentioned above, Krall takes absolutely no chances here. The songs are all well known, and she does not do a lot to make them her own. Even more frustratingly, all the responsibility for arrangement and instrumentation goes to her producer, David Foster, who proceeds to make a heavy, string-laden mess out of everything. If the album had put the focus on Krall’s voice and piano, it might have been salvageable. But, as it is, it just sounds confusing.

Jason Mraz has announced a show date in Ames this spring to kick off the next leg of his “Yes” tour. Mraz will perform at Stephens Auditorium on March 9, with tickets going on sale on Friday, Feb. 6. Tickets will range between $25 and $75 and will be available at the Stephens box office, or you can get them through Ticketmaster.

This week’s Pick o’ the Week is at Vaudeville Mews on Friday, Feb. 6. Get there at 9 p.m. and check out Bad Friends playing along with Goodcat and Minneapolis-based The Usual Things. Admission at the door is $5. Mahalo.

Chad Taylor is an award-winning news journalist and music writer from Des Moines who would love to take his talents abroad if the rent were not so much more affordable in Des Moines.
Tell us what you think. Email your letter to editor@dmcityview.com.

THE SOUND
FRONT ROW

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by Dan Hodges

Moreland And Arbuckle
at Winter Blues Fest
by Dan Hodges

The Mercury Brothers
at Winter Blues Fest
by Dan Hodges

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The gut-busting state of bacon elegance  

By Jim Duncan

This year Bacon Fest coincided with Super Bowl week, creating a perfect storm of hyperbole. The pork belly celebration marked its eighth year as a bona fide tourist attraction by passing several milestones. Ticket buyers came from 10 foreign countries and 40 different states. Those are Drake Relays-like numbers. The event now has avatars in Iceland and Colorado, plus bike riding events and an entire week of various activities. Altogether, Bacon Fest sold 42,000 tickets in 2014 and expects to surpass 50,000 by 2016 according to Bacon Fest impresario Brook Reynolds. That’s amazing growth for an event that had failed previously at Living History Farms. The current festival began as a party at El Bait Shop eight years ago and has grown exponentially each year since then.

This year’s week-long celebration kicked off with the sixth annual Bacon Elegance dinner. Instead of saying grace, Bacon Board member Marshall Porter led the group in the chanting of bacon fest’s cheer “oooo bacon.” Porter explained that the chant must end “in that part of human anatomy that has never evolved or changed.” This year’s dinner was prepared by Mike Holman, executive chef of Catering DSM, Big City Burger & Greens and Dos Rios. Holman was fresh off his victory in the Des Moines regional of Culinary Fight Night. That event returns to Des Moines on April 25-26 for the national semifinals when Holman will face off with the winners of regions in Chicago, Minneapolis and Milwaukee.

His menu for the Elegance dinner began with “Macho Man’s Pigs in a Blanket.” A Slim Jim made with bacon was stuffed into a puff pastry with Swiss cheese. It was served with smoked ketchup and stone ground mustard and with shoestring potatoes that had been cooked in bacon fat. The course was paired with Peace Tree Brewery’s Red Rambler Ale. The following course, called “Nature Boy Salad,” featured arugula, Brussels sprouts, bacon lardons, turnips, butternut squash, toasted sunflower seeds and, of course, kale, also known to food faddists as “the pork belly of vegetables.” The salad was dressed with an interesting vinaigrette which featured a bacon brown butter and was paired with a spiced apple cocktail.

Holman’s main course seemed connected to Culinary Fight Night. Called “The Main Event — Eight Man Tag Match,” it featured a piece of pork belly wrapped in bacon that had been crusted in bacon salt. Creamed leeks were served with pancetta and a bacon cheddar gratin. These were plated with a bacon-washed Bourbon and cider reduction, candied bacon and micro greens that were dressed with a salty bacon vinaigrette. That course was paired with an Edna Valley Chardonnay, a wine just fruity enough to balance bacon’s salinity.

This year’s take on the state of bacon elegance concluded with something called “the powerhouse gut-buster.” Holman infused marshmallows with bacon and toasted them before stuffing them with chocolate covered, candied bacon. That was plated with homemade Graham crackers and a sauce made of espresso and chocolate. The dessert was paired with a “Red Snapper” — a cocktail made with Templeton Rye whiskey, Amaretto, cranberry juice and ginger.

The event was held in the atrium of Capitol Square, which is anticipating a remodeling soon that will add a few nooks and crannies with personalized flooring. Next year’s Bacon Fest will be moved back a month, to late February, in order to avoid caucus season.

Side Dishes: David Baruthio says the opening of his downtown steakhouse Prime, previously expected by this new year, has been delayed by issues dealing with the building’s historic status. He hopes now to be open this spring when he will also begin a new series of French cooking classes… B&B Grocery, Meats and Deli in Des Moines, and Goldie’s Ice Cream Shoppe in Prairie City, were named sources of the nation’s 10 best pork tenderloins by Serious Eats.
American
B-Bops: We have the best burgers in town! For 21 years we’ve won Cityview’s “Best of Des Moines” readers’ poll and are proud to serve these burgers at more than seven locations throughout the metro. Multiple locations in Des Moines, Ankeny, Altoona, Urbandale and Ames. www.b-bops.com.

Big City Burgers and Greens: Located on the first level in Capital Square in Downtown Des Moines, Big City is fresh, healthy and socially responsible. Serving local meats and greens, using organic beef and free-range poultry and being one of Iowa’s first 100 percent compostable restaurants, Big City is “green.” Catering also available. 400 Locust St., St. 195, 537-8433. Order online at www.bigcityburgergreens.com.

The Club Car: While great food and service may be the “primary products” of The Club Car, the casual atmosphere also elicits captivation from the moment you walk in the front door. Railroad memorabilia, original framed posters, model train cars and signs from “way back” always draw attention. 13435 University Ave., #200. Clive. 226-1729. www.clubcardining.com.


Holiday Inn Cityscape Lounge: Discover the delicious Cityscape Lounge for downtown dinner and drinks… with a view! Located in the Holiday Inn downtown, Cityscape Lounge offers daily Happy Hour drink specials and half-price appetizers Monday-Friday during Happy Hour. From our almond-crusted tenders and skyline platter to our cowboy steak and old-world, baked cavatelli pasta… whatever you do, make sure you save room for dessert! Come escape the day and enjoy the view. 1050 Sixth Ave. 283-0151.

Jackpot Buffet: The Jackpot Buffet at Meskwaki Casino is one of the largest buffets in the Midwest with more than 20 homestyle entrée choices along with our fresh, never-frozen, broasted chicken, many homemade desserts and, of course, our famous Friday Seafood Night featuring jumbo snow crab, shrimp scampi, fried whole catfish, fried shrimp, herbed-baked fish, clam strips and many other seafood favorites. The Jackpot Buffet is also well known for an outstanding breakfast, which is served daily Monday through Saturday. Meskwaki Bingo and Casino, 1504 305th St., Tama. (641) 484-2108. www.meskwaki.com.

Quinton’s: Located at 506 E. Grand in the East Village, Quinton’s is open seven days a week from 11 a.m.-2 a.m. and serves food until midnight. Our unbeatable all-day drink specials are supplemented with a daily happy hour from 3-7 p.m. featuring $3 23-oz. domestic Big Girl beers, $4 premium Big Girls, $5 Big Girl mixed drinks and half-price chips and salsa, C.C.Q. and spinach artichoke dip. We can accommodate groups of up to 60 people. Visit us at www.quintonsdm.com to check our menu of unique sandwiches, breadbowl soups, giant loaded spuds, fresh salads and gourmet burgers, with take-out always available.

Trostel’s Greenbriar: Trostel’s Greenbriar is offering a new menu featuring five seasonal specialties, cracker-crust pizzas, and of course, your favorite entrees. Not just for special occasions but for every occasion when you want… Simply the best! Reservations accepted. 5810 Merle Hay Road, Johnston. 253-0124. www.greenbriartrostels.com.

Twin Peaks: Twin Peaks is your ultimate man cave. 48 big screen TVs, made-from-scratch comfort food, 29 degree beer; all served up by our beautiful Twin Peaks girls. Eats-Drinks-Scenic Views. 4570 University Ave., West Des Moines. 528-8294.

Asian
King & I: Authentic Thai cuisine as well as sushi bar at 86th Street and University Avenue in West Des Moines. Dine in or order to go. Head Chef Mao Heineman. Beer, wine and sake served. Select American menu items for kids of all ages. Our 11th year! Please come and enjoy with our Thai family. 1821 22nd St., West Des Moines. 440-2075. www.king-and-i-thaicuisine.com.

BBQ
Jethro’s BBQ: If you’re looking for some of the best BBQ in town, this Drake neighborhood sports bar is the place to go. Jethro’s racked...
up the awards in Cityview’s 2011 “Best Of Des Moines” readers poll, winning Best BBQ and runner-up for Best American Food and Best Nachos. Serving ribs, pork, beef brisket, whole chickens and turkey that is smoked daily in our 750-lb. capacity smoker. Stop by and see why we are the best. 3100 Forest Ave., Des Moines; 2601 Adventureland Drive, Altoona; 9350 University Ave., Waukee; 1425 S.W. Vintage, Ankeny, and 5950 56th St., Johnston. www.jethrosdesmoines.com.

Jethro’s BBQ Pork Chop Grill: The State Fair Pork Chop, Pork Chop on a Stick, The Shake and Bake Pork Chop, a Stuffed Pork Chop, a double cut Smoked Pork Chop — you will find them all here as Jethro pays homage to the 21 million pigs in Iowa. This brand new Johnston Jethro’s features 29, huge 60- and 70-inch TVs that will bring you all the sports. Twin 900-lb. smokers cook all of Jethro’s award-winning “Amazing Slow Smoked Meats.” Jethro’s Pork Chop Grill, Your Johnston Neighborhood Sports Bar. 5950 N.W. 86th St., Johnston. 421-4848. www.jethrosdesmoines.com.

Woody’s Smoke Shack: Woody’s has championship BBQ and offers catering, dine-in or carry out options. Home to the best corn bread in Iowa. Come early, call ahead or even fax your order! 2511 Cottage Grove Ave. Phone: 277-0005. Fax: 277-0022. www.woodys-smokeshack.com.

Catering
Catering DSM: Catering DSM, located in Capital Square in downtown Des Moines, offers a full range of catering services and cuisine options. With partnerships with venues such as Dos Rios and Big City Burgers and Greens, Catering DSM can do it all; from office parties to wedding receptions. Contact us to plan your next event! 400 Locust St., Suite 193, 508-0829. www.CateringDSM.com.

Deli
Palmer’s Deli & Market: At Palmer’s, we believe in “Great Food. Great Health. Great Life.” Palmer’s Deli is about community, family, and quality food — quality products and quality ingredients. We offer many delicious choices to eat right and live healthy. We use fresh products when preparing our sandwiches, soups and salads. Our breads and desserts are baked from scratch everyday. Classic favorites… irresistible tastes! 4949 Westown Parkway #180, West Des Moines. 223-0123. 7509 Douglas Ave. #1, Urbandale. 270-6561. 655 Walnut St. #219, Des Moines. 288-4466. 110 N. Ankeny Blvd. #200, Ankeny. 963-4500. 2834 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines. 274-4004. www.palmersdeliandmarket.com.

Coffeehouse
Smokey Row: Open Monday through Thursday 6 a.m.-10 p.m., Friday 6 a.m.-11 p.m., Saturday 7 a.m.-11 p.m. and Sunday 7:30 a.m.-10 p.m. 1910 Cottage Grove, Des Moines. 244-2611.

Greek
Yanni’s: We offer a wide variety of fine Greek and Italian dishes prepared by a team of professional chefs and wait staff. Our commitment is to provide a high-quality, authentic dish at an affordable price. Our menu offers a rainbow array of Greek and Italian dishes that are guaranteed to please the most demanding taste. Not only do we offer Des Moines and Ankeny fine Greek and Italian cuisine, but we also have a fully stocked wine menu and full bar/lounge. Have a business meeting, reception or just a get together? We have private facilities and meeting room available for the asking. 3160 8th St. S.W., Altoona (515) 957-9391. 410 S. Ankeny Boulevard, Ankeny, (515) 965-7802. Tues-Fri: 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Saturday 4-10 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m.-2 p.m. (Brunch). Closed Monday.

Indian
India Star: Welcome to India Star, offering the best Indian cuisine in Des Moines. Here you delight in the finest variety of authentic North Indian dishes. Come and enjoy an exceptional and memorable dining experience! Dinner reservations accepted. We also offer take-out and catering services. Lunch buffet is Monday-Sat-
Italian

Biaggi’s Ristorante Italiano: Biaggi’s is a fun, casual, white-tablecloth restaurant that offers an extensive menu featuring a full selection of house-made and imported pasta, soups, salads, pizza, seafood, fresh fish, chicken, veal, steaks and desserts. Fresh. Affordable. Italian. 5990 University Ave., West Des Moines. 221-9900. www.biaggis.com.

Mediterranean

Fresh Mediterranean Express: Fresh meets Waukee. When you enter our doors you will be greeted by the sights, sounds, scents of the Mediterranean. Send your taste buds on a journey of discovery with our fresh menu items. Now open at 15 N.E. Carefree Lane, Waukee. 987-6870. www.freshmediterraneanexpress.com.

Mexican

Cabo Sol: Cabo Sol is a great place to eat — combining a family-friendly atmosphere with great tasting, authentic food that will make your taste buds have a fiesta. Come in to enjoy our daily specials. Inside dining, carry-outs, catering and full-service bar. 5010 Mills Civic Parkway, West Des Moines. 515-223-6319.

Dos Rios: More than just a typical Mexican restaurant, Dos Rios offers tableside guacamole, homemade corn tortillas, top-notch margaritas with house sour and 100 percent blue agave tequilas, chocolate and pumpkin inspired moles, fried plantains, fresh herbs, local produce and free-range chicken, beef and pork. You won’t be disappointed! 316 Court Ave., Des Moines. 282-2995. www.dosriosrestaurant.com.


Tapas

Stuffed Olive: The Stuffed Olive is all about the entire “Martini Experience.” From your favorite classics to new and exciting blends you’ve never seen before, you’re sure to find a cocktail to love on our vast martini menu. Add a warm, comfortable atmosphere, great wines, beers and top-shelf spirits, and The Stuffed Olive will become your favorite place to start, end or spend your evening. Our tapas menu offers appetizer-sized portions of globally influenced entrees, for a sampling and sharing dining experience. 208 3rd St., Des Moines. 243-4456. CV

Prime Cut Grill: At the Prime Cut Grill, we serve the best steaks available along with a full line of pasta, seafood, sandwiches and cocktails, open Wednesday through Sunday nights. Some of our guests’ favorites include hand cut boneless ribeye steak, bacon-wrapped filet mignon, hand-breaded deep-fried jumbo shrimp, pan-friedwalleye fillet, traditional French onion soup, and of course our slow-roasted prime rib, which is served every Friday and Saturday night. After dinner don’t forget to stop by the lounge where we have live bands every Friday and Saturday night with no cover charge. Meskwaki Bingo and Casino, 1504 305th St., Tama. (641) 484-2108. www.meskwaki.com.

Steakhouse

Jethro’s ‘n Jake’s Smokehouse Steaks: Now in Altoona. Still at Drake. No Australian or Texan spoken here. These steaks are comfed, Iowa-raised, USDA Choice meat, hickory smoked over a campfire and broiled to perfection in our 1,600 degree Jethro’s ‘n Jake’s fire machine. This seals in the juices and flavors. All our steaks are seasoned with black pepper and salt and finished with a touch of smoked garlic butter. Your Altoona Neighborhood Sports Bar. 2601 Adventureland Drive, Altoona. 957-9727. www.jethrodesmoines.com.

John and Nick’s: After 30 years, John Jaeger left his family business and opened John and Nick’s Steak and Prime Rib in Clive. Enjoy his famous salad bar — bigger and better with more than 60 fresh homemade items, including homemade shrimp and crab salads, a wide selection of olives and too many more to list. The best part is the salad bar comes with your meal. Enjoy hand-cut black angus, USDA choice steaks, aged 21 days for maximum taste and tenderness, including Shot gun Blackened Rib-eye, New York strip, filet mignon, Steak De Burgo, and many others. Try the amazing selection of incredible seafood, such as Parmesan crusted Mahi Mahi, Salmon Florentine, Yellow Fin Ahi Tuna, Bacon Wrapped Scallops, and many others. The offerings continue with chops, pasta and John’s house specialty, Prime Rib, USDA choice ribeye slow roasted and carved to order, plus many other tasty menu items. The cozy atmosphere and delicious food will make your dinner experience unforgettable. 15970 Hickman Road, Clive. 987-1151. www.johnandnicks.com.
What makes a bar truly amazing? Is it the atmosphere or the huge pool table? The great DJ or the glowing dance floor? For most, it’s probably a combination of these. But what really sets a bar apart is the combination of fantastic food and even better beer.

Hidden just off of University Avenue is Rock Bottom Restaurant & Brewery. Here patrons find what they search for in a bar: fabulous food and delicious beer. Rock Bottom has won more than 35 awards for its outstanding beer, including Brewpub Brewer of the Year in 2013.

The rustic, lively and man cave-esque atmosphere accompanied by great service make Rock Bottom a place customers visit again and again. The menu is large and varied, from pasta to Mexican food to classic Ball Park Pretzels. Equally important is the drink menu.

Rock Bottom makes and brews its own beer, which isn’t sent to the bar until it’s approved by the “brewmasters,” also known as beer scientists. The main ingredient in Rock Bottom’s house-made beer is malted barley. After the barley is roasted it is sent to the mill where the brewmaster selects the recipe and puts the grains into the grain mill, which crushes them. From there, the ground grain (in the beer world it’s called “grist”) is stored in the grist hopper, which drains them. It’s then sent to the mash tun where the strained grains have water added to them to form a liquid. From there the hops are added to create the beer type in the brew kettle. The beer then gets cooled in the plate heat exchanger and fermented in the fermentation vessel. Finally, the beer is ready to drink — an easy eight-step process to create Rock Bottom’s signature and delicious beers.

Once everything is approved, guests can choose between six house beers: Brewmaster’s choice (a creative combination of all things beer, allowing the brewmasters to create something unique and delicious); India Pale Ale (made with Yakima hops and has a citrus flavor); Kolsch (suggested for new beer drinkers, as it has a mild hop taste); Red Ale (a crystal hop and toasted malt flavor); Specialty Dark (a range of porters and stouts — specialty dark is the boldest beer that Rock Bottom brews); and White Ale (a mixture of citrus spice and sourness). With any of Rock Bottom’s signature in-house beers, you can’t pick a bad one.

Don’t like beer? No worries. Rock Bottom has all the martinis, mojitos, mixed drinks and sangrias the heart could ever desire. For something a little softer, choose from about eight different types and brands of wine. For an evening of great food and even better drinks, one can’t go wrong with Rock Bottom.

4508 University Ave.
267-8900
Sun. – Thurs. 11 a.m.-11 p.m.
Fri. – Sat. 11 a.m.-12 a.m.
Happy Hour
3-6 p.m. weekdays
Late Night
Sun. – Thurs. 9 p.m. – close
Fri. – Sat. 10 p.m. – close
TIME TO HANG OUR HATS UP SOMEWHERE NEW

WE ARE MOVING...

We will be DOUBLING our space, expanding the bar, and moving two floors up into the former location of People's and The Venue to be able to better serve more of you crazy country fans!

Come join us February 19 for our OPENING NIGHT of the new location. Worry not, we will remain open in our current location until the remodel is complete.
Thursday, Feb. 5

TOAD’S TAVERN
Price-is-right happy hour 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Spin the wheel to drink for cheap! $2.50 any rum, 6 p.m.-2 a.m.
3002 State Ave. • 264-8623
www.toadstavern.net

EXTRA INNINGS
Karaoke 8:30 p.m. – 1 a.m. $3.50 Tall Boys & $3 Fireballs. Free house shot if you sing!
1500 S.E. First St.

MANNING’S
Come see April! Busch Light – Two cans for $4! $3 Captain & Cokes. $3 Jack & Cokes. Two for $5 Sambuca. $2 cans of Old Milwaukee.
2102 Indianola Ave. • 288-0030

TAPZ PUB
Buy one get ones 4-6 p.m. $5 Moscow mules, $3 Three Olives, $4 bombs.
8450 Hickman Road, Clive • 276-2266

THE STUFFED OLIVE
$3 spice rum, $3 domestic tall boys.
4845 Merle Hay Road, Suite B • 278-2810

Friday, Feb. 6

TOAD’S TAVERN
Price-is-right happy hour 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Spin the wheel to drink for cheap! $3 Fireball all day.
8450 Hickman Road, Clive • 276-2266

VOODOO LOUNGE
Happy hour 4-6 p.m. $2 off select tapas. $2 off all martinis. $2 off select wine. $2 Fireball, beers, drinks 6 p.m.- 12 a.m.
208 Third St. • 243-4456
www.voodoo DSM.com

THE STUFFED OLIVE
Happy hour 4-6 p.m. $2 off select tapas. $2 off all martinis. $2 off select wine. Half price C-martinis 6 p.m.- close.
208 Third St. • 243-4456
www.thestuffedolive.com

Saturday, Feb. 7

TOAD’S TAVERN
5 minute happy hour every hour from 10 a.m.-2 a.m.
3002 State Ave. • 264-8623
www.toadstavern.net

EXTRA INNINGS
College football. Bloody Mary Bar. $3 Fireballs. $3 Tall Boys.
1500 S.E. First St.

THE DERRY’S LOUNGE
$3 assorted Bacardi flavors, $3 shots of Fireball, Jager and Rumple Minze.
4845 Merle Hay Road, Suite B • 278-2810

TAPZ PUB
$12 buckets during games, $4 bombs, $3 tallboys.
8450 Hickman Road, Clive • 276-2266
VOODOO LOUNGE  
Happy hour 4-6 p.m. $2 off select tapas. $2 off all martinis. $2 off select wine. $3 cider beers, $3 Kinksy, $3 bombs 6 p.m. - 12 a.m.  
208 Third St. • 243-4456  
www.vooodoordsm.com

JOKER’S  
All mixed drinks are served as doubles 8-11:30 p.m., POWER HOUR $4 bombs and $4 fireball shots midnight - 1 a.m.  
216 Court Ave. • 237-5427  
www.jokersdsms.com

THE STUFFED OLIVE  
Happy hour 4-6 p.m. $2 off select tapas. $2 off all martinis. $2 off select wine. $2 off S, A & T martinis 6 p.m. - close.  
208 Third St. • 243-4456  
www.thestuffedolive.com

Sunday, Feb. 8

TOAD’S TAVERN  
All day happy hour. Free pool, 10 a.m. - close.  
3002 State Ave. • 264-8623  
www.toadstavern.net

EXTRA INNINGS  
Game day. Bloody Mary Bar. $3 Tall boys all day long. $2.50 bottles.  
1500 S.E. First St.

Monday, Feb. 9

TOAD’S TAVERN  
Price-is-right happy hour 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Spin the wheel to drink for cheap! SIN night: late night happy hour from 10 p.m.-2 a.m.  
3002 State Ave. • 264-8623  
www.toadstavern.net
EXTRA INNINGS
Football. $3 tall boys and $2 wells during the games!
1500 S.E. First St.

MANNING’S
Come see April! Two for $5 domestic bottles. $2 shots of peppermint schnapps!
2102 Indianola Ave. • 288-0030

TAPZ PUB
Buy one get ones 4-6 p.m. $2 domestic draws, $3 captains, $3 jagermeister.
8450 Hickman Road, Clive • 276-2266

VOODOO LOUNGE
Happy hour 4-6 p.m. $2 off select tapas. $2 off all martinis. $2 off select wine. Half priced potions 6 p.m. - 12 a.m.
208 Third St. • 243-4456
www.voodoodsm.com

THE DERRY’S LOUNGE
$2.50 domestic bottles, $3 dom. tall boys, $3 shots of Fireball, Jager, Rumple Minze.
4845 Merle Hay Road, Suite B • 278-2810

THE STUFFED OLIVE
Happy hour 4-6 p.m. $2 off select tapas. $2 off all martinis. $2 off select wine. Half price martinis 6 p.m. - close.
208 Third St. • 243-4456
www.thestuffedolive.com

Tuesday, Feb. 10

toadstavern.net

TOAD’S TAVERN
Price-is-right happy hour 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Spin the wheel to drink for cheap! Mug night: $5 for a mug then $2 refills all day.
3002 State Ave. • 264-8623

JEANNIE’S BOTTLE
Happy hour 4-6 p.m. $2 off select tapas. $2 off all martinis. $2 off select wine. Half price martinis 6 p.m. - close.

THE STUFFED OLIVE
Happy hour 4-6 p.m. $2 off select tapas. $2 off all martinis. $2 off select wine. Half price martinis 6 p.m. - close.
208 Third St. • 243-4456
www.thestuffedolive.com

Tuesday, Feb. 10

TOAD’S TAVERN
Price-is-right happy hour 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Spin the wheel to drink for cheap! Mug night: $5 for a mug then $2 refills all day.
3002 State Ave. • 264-8623
www.toadstavern.net

JEANNIE’S BOTTLE
Happy hour 4-6 p.m. $2 off select tapas. $2 off all martinis. $2 off select wine. Half price martinis 6 p.m. - close.

THE STUFFED OLIVE
Happy hour 4-6 p.m. $2 off select tapas. $2 off all martinis. $2 off select wine. Half price martinis 6 p.m. - close.
208 Third St. • 243-4456
www.thestuffedolive.com

Tuesday, Feb. 10
EXTRA INNINGS
Steak Night 5-9 p.m. 2 for 1s from 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. $2 domestic draws.
1500 S.E. First St.

MANNING’S
Come see April! Busch Light – Two cans for $4! $2 cans of Old Milwaukee.
2102 Indianola Ave. • 288-0030

TAPZ PUB
Buy one get ones 4-6 p.m. $3 import draws, $4 Guinness, $6 domestic pitchers.
8450 Hickman Road, Clive • 276-2266

THE DERRY’S LOUNGE
$2.50 well drinks, $1 off Long Islands
4845 Merle Hay Road, Suite B • 278-2810

VOODOO LOUNGE
Happy hour 4-6 p.m. $2 off select tapas.
$2 off all martinis. $2 off select wine.
Half priced top shelf liquors 6 p.m. - 12 a.m.
208 Third St. • 243-4456
www.voodoodsm.com

THE STUFFED OLIVE
Happy hour 4-6 p.m. $2 off select tapas.
$2 off all martinis. $2 off select wine.
Half price beers 6 p.m. - close.
208 Third St. • 243-4456
www.thestuffedolive.com

Wednesday, Feb. 11

EXTRA INNINGS
$4 bombs and $3 Fireball 9 p.m. – close.
1500 S.E. First St.

TOAD’S TAVERN
Price-is-right happy hour 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
Spin the wheel to drink for cheap! $3 you-call-it on wells and calls, 6 p.m. - 2 a.m.
3002 State Ave. • 264-8623
www.toadstavern.net

MANNING’S
Come see Moll! $3 Fireballs. $4 vodka Redbulls!
2102 Indianola Ave. • 288-0030

THE DERRY’S LOUNGE
2-for-1’s 9-11 p.m. (calls, well, bottles),
$3.50 Jack, Crown, Devils Cut, Jameson.
4845 Merle Hay Road, Suite B • 278-2810

TAPZ PUB
Buy one get ones 4-6 p.m. $3 Captains, $3 tallboys.
8450 Hickman Road, Clive • 276-2266

THE STUFFED OLIVE
Happy hour 4-6 p.m. $2 off select tapas.
$2 off all martinis. $2 off select wine.
Half price wine 6 p.m.-close.
208 Third St. • 243-4456
www.thestuffedolive.com

VOODOO LOUNGE
Happy hour 4-6 p.m. $2 off select tapas.
$2 off all martinis. $2 off select wine.
Half priced Moscow Mules with purchase of a cup 6 p.m. - 12 a.m.
208 Third St. • 243-4456
www.voodoodsm.com

KARAOKE
6 NIGHTS A WEEK!
STARTING AT 9PM TUES-SUN
STARTING AT 7PM WED, FRI & SAT

DOUBLE BUBBLE! 2 FOR 1 DRINKS
ALL DAY ON MONDAY 3PM-CLOSE!
EVERY DAY 3-6PM
SUNDAY, TUESDAY-THURSDAY 11PM-1AM

JEANNIE’S BOTTLE
3839 Merle Hay Road • 278.9797

Tell us what you think. E-mail your letter to editor@dmcityview.com.
Thursday

ART & GALLERIES
- Making Art Public. Making Art Public explores the beauty and history of public art in Iowa, 9 a.m. State Historical Museum of Iowa.
- Art Exhibit at Simpson College - David Helm. 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Farnham Galleries.

CHILDREN/FAMILY
- Ice Skating. Our warm and safe synthetic ice surface called “Super Glide” is easy for beginner skaters, 1 p.m. The Ice Ridge.

CONCERTS/LIVE MUSIC
- Max Wellman performs jazz standards every Thursday and Sunday evening at 6 p.m. at this longtime Des Moines establishment, 6-8 p.m. El Patio.
- The Kinsey Report (Seated Show). 8 p.m. The M-Shop.
- Powerman 5000. With (HED) PE, Knee High Fox, Slyde, Apathy Syndrome, Ashes Armada, 5:30 p.m. Val Air Ballroom.
- PROF. With St Paul Slim, prettygirlhatemachine, 8 p.m. Vaudeville Mews.
- Soul Brothers. 9 p.m. Star Bar.
- The Soul Searchers. Blues, no cover, 9 p.m. The Greenwood Lounge.

FAITH & PHILOSOPHY
- The Common Thread. Discussions pertaining to Spiritual / Metaphysical studies, 10:30 a.m. 414 31st St. in basement of Unity Church.

FOOD & WINE
- Tour & Tasting. The price is $20 per person and includes: Cellar Wine Tour, Tasting of Summerset Wines, Cheese Platter, Summerset Logo Wine Glass to take home, 3 p.m., Summerset Winery.

HEALTH/SUPPORT GROUPS
- Opiate Support Group for Women. Call 633-7968 or 274-3904 for questions and to RSVP. 7 p.m. Friends House Conference Room, 4211 Grand Ave.
- Caring and Sharing Group. 1:30 p.m. Unity Church of Des Moines. 414 31st St. Des Moines.

KARAOKE
- Karaoke. 9 p.m.- 1:30 a.m. Beaver Tap. 4041 Urbandale Ave. Des Moines.
- Karaoke At The Camelot. 7-10 p.m. Family hour from 7-8 p.m. The Talent Factory. 1114 6th St. Nevada.

Friday

ART & GALLERIES
- Making Art Public. Making Art Public explores the beauty and history of public art in Iowa, 9 a.m. State Historical Museum of Iowa.

LECTURE/WORKSHOP
- Embracing Dyslexia - Movie Screening and Panel Discussion. Embracing Dyslexia is a thoughtful and moving exploration of dyslexia from an insider’s perspective, weaving together interviews with parents, adult dyslexics, researchers, educators and experts to provide an accurate portrayal of a learning difference that affects 20 percent of the population. 6:30-8:30 p.m., Fred Maytag II Scout Center.

CHILDREN/FAMILY
- Ice Skating. Our warm and safe synthetic ice surface called “Super Glide” is easy for beginner skaters, 1 p.m.

CONCERTS/LIVE MUSIC
- Owl Prowl. Join Warren County Conservation for a hooting good time as we learn all about owls of Iowa and hike on the moonlit trail to call for wild owls. Come prepared for the cold February weather. Please register by Monday, Feb. 2. Register at www.warrenccb.org/owlprowl or call (515) 961-6169, 6:30-8 p.m. Annett Nature Center.

OUTDOORS
- Open Mic. The Last Laugh Comedy Theater’s open mic night for aspiring comics. Admission is free. 8-10 p.m. The Last Laugh Comedy Theater. 1701 25th St. West Des Moines.
- The Best of the Second City. The Second City returns to Des Moines with an all-new production, 7:30 p.m. The Temple Theater. 1011 Locust St. Des Moines.
- Nick Griffin. 7:30 p.m. The Funny Bone.
- "Men Are From Mars, Women Are From Venus LIVE!" A one-man fusion of theatre and stand-up starring Peter Story and based on the New York Times No. 1 best-selling book of the last decade by John Gray. Moving swiftly through a series of vignettes, the show covers everything from dating and marriage to the workplace, 7:30 p.m., Iowa State Center-Fisher Theater.
• Author. With Projekt Theory, Anticonscience, 5 p.m. Vaudeville Mews.
• Magic Bus. Music of Woodstock. 8:30 p.m. - midnight. Riverside Casino.
• Abby Normal Live. 9 p.m. Sudsuckers.
• Heath Alan Band. Blues, no cover, 9 p.m. The Greenwood Lounge.
• Plastic Apartment. 9:30 p.m. Star Bar.
• Tommy Browder and the Country River Band. Country music '70s recording artist. Cover Charge is $5 for members and $6 for non-members. The Eagles Lodge. 6567 Bloomfield Road. Des Moines.
• Dakota Park. 7 p.m. Hotel Pattee.

HEALTH/SUPPORT GROUPS
• Caring and Sharing Group. 1:30 p.m. Unity Church of Des Moines. 414 31st St. Des Moines.

KARAOKE
• Friday Night Karaoke. 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. AJ's on East Court. 419 East Court Ave. Des Moines.
• Fireball Friday Karaoke. 9-11:45 p.m. Overboard Sports Bar. 1101 Army Post Road.
• Karaoke. 9:30 p.m. - 1 a.m. Striker's Sports Bar. 655 N.E. 56th St. Pleasant Hill.
• Karaoke. Weekly karaoke challenges with prizes to be won. 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. Okoboji Grill Ankeny. 2010 S.E. Delaware. Ankeny.
• Karaoke with Live Music Videos. 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. Mickey's Irish Pub Waukee. 50 S.E. Laurel St. Waukee.

LECTURE/WORKSHOP
• AMA Iowa Experience. This day-long conference will transform your thinking about marketing and bring together speakers from across Iowa to discuss some of the trends and biggest challenges facing the marketing industry, 7 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. rake University Olmstead Center, Parents Hall.

MISCELLANEOUS
• Open Mic Karaoke Night. Open Mic Poetry Night. Come enjoy original poetry and other performances by local poets, artists and musicians. 6-8 p.m. Java Joes DART Bus Station. 620 Cherry St. Des Moines.

NIGHTLIFE

THEATRE AND COMEDY
• The Best of the Second City. The Second City returns to Des Moines with an all-new production, 7:30 p.m. The Temple Theater. 1011 Locust St. Des Moines.
• Nick Griffin. 7:30 p.m. The Funny Bone.
• “A Streetcar Named Desire.” Tennessee Williams’ tragic story begins with fragile former schoolteacher, Blanche DuBuis, who leaves her family plantation home and moves to New Orleans to live with her sister, Stella, and Stella’s animalistic husband, Stanley. She quickly gets a gritty life lesson in the seamy, steamy underbelly of 1940s life in the French Quarter. Des Moines Community Playhouse.

Saturday

ART & GALLERIES
• Making Art Public. Making Art Public explores the beauty and history of public art in Iowa, 9 a.m. State Historical Museum of Iowa.
• Art Exhibit at Simpson College - David Helm. 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Farnham Galleries.
• HEARTFEST “A Fine Art Show.” Featured are 50 Midwestern artists’ works in jewelry, metal, fiber, clay,
photography, paper, painting and mixed media. The event will include a FREE "Make-a-Puppet" KidzDuArt family workshop (directed by VSA Iowa artist, Gwynne Burke) from 12-3 p.m. both days. 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Valley West Mall.

- Prints, Drawing and Paintings. Byron Burford, Jules Kirschbaum, Cornelis Ruhtenburg, Opening Reception, 5-7 p.m. Olson Larsen Gallery.

**BENEFIT/CHARITY/FUNDRAISER**

- Small Shops/Big Hearts: Charity Shop Hop for YESS. Find shops featuring antiques, vintage, home decor, locally handcrafted jewelry as well as sales on plenty of other goodies, wine tasting, craft station and much more! Plus all participating shops will be donating 10 percent of all proceeds of the day to YESS (Youth Emergency Services & Shelter) 10 a.m. Headquarters: Finding Iowa.

**BOOKS/AUTHOR**


**CHILDREN/FAMILY**

- Museum Trek: A Closer Look at the Exhibits. 11 a.m. to noon. Get interesting facts and a closer look at artifacts on display with a museum guide. Free for visitors of all ages. State Historical Museum of Iowa. 600 E. Locust St. Des Moines.
- Ice Skating. Our warm and safe synthetic ice surface called "Super Glide" is easy for beginner skaters, 1 p.m. The Ice Ridge.

**CONCERTS/LIVE MUSIC**

- Dueling Pianos' Andy Anderson & Party! Party!. 8 p.m.-12 a.m. Prairie Meadows: Finish Line Show Lounge.
- "70s Saturday Night. Casino Level 2 near the Table Games area, DJ Disco Joe plays all your favorite hits from the 70s, 7 p.m. Prairie Meadows.
- Charleston Trio with Amber Duijmstra. 7-10 p.m. Chuck’s Restaurant.
- Vinyl Vagabonds. Classic Rock and R&B, $5, 9 p.m. DG’s Taphouse.
- 2014-2015 Masterworks: Jorge Mester conducts La Mer. Mexican-born conductor Jorge Mester leads the Orchestra in one of his signature pieces: Debussy’s beloved La Mer. His interpretation of this impressionistic work is considered one of the most poignant and historically authentic. 7:30 p.m. Des Moines Civic Center. 221 Walnut St.
- Land of Blood and Sunshine,. Brooks Strause, The Wheelers, Pure Gut, 10 p.m., The Vaudeville Mews.
- John Mark Nelson. 9 p.m. The M-Shop.
- Words Like Daggers,. With: Intentions, ghosthive, Devil In The Details, Porch Swing, 5 p.m., The Vaudeville Mews.
- B. John Burns. songwriter, 7 p.m. Smokey Row.
- The Papa Proffitt Band. Free, Blues Rock, 9 p.m. Maingate Bar & Grill.
- Opus Taylor. 9 p.m., The Thirsty Sportsman.
- Hello Weekend. Top 40 dance music from Chicago. 8:30p.m. - midnight. Riverside Casino.
- Abby Normal. 9 p.m. Sudasuckers.
- Jeff Banks Band. Rock, no cover, 9 p.m. The Greenwood Lounge.
- Matt Woods. 8-11 p.m. Trotzel’s Dish.
- The Soul Searchers. Tickets $12 in advance, $15 at the door available at Westminster church office or Uptown Music in Beaverdale. Free daycare provided, 7-10 p.m. Anchor Coffee House @ Westminster Presbyterian Church.
- Bob Pace and the Dangerous Band. 9 p.m. Star Bar.

**FAIRS & Festivals**

- Girls in Science Festival. Featured in learning more about what the life of a female STEM scientist is like? Girls and families of all ages are invited to SCI’s Girls in Science Festival to explore a variety of careers in the STEM Zones” and connect with female role models and mentors, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Science Center of Iowa.

**FOOD & WINE**

- Chili Cook-off. Come out and try up to 15 different types of Chili and vote for your favorite! 2-4 p.m. Mickey's Irish Pub Waukee.
- Wild Women on Wine,. For ladies only. Cost is $45 per person and includes themed appetizers, three drink tickets, wine sippy cup, entertainment and door prizes! RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED, 7-10 p.m., Summerset Winery.
- Tour & Tasting. The price is $20 per person and includes: Cellar Wine Tour, Tasting of Summerset Wines, Cheese Platter, Summerset Logo Wine Glass to take home, 1 p.m., Summerset Winery.

**HEALTH/SUPPORT GROUPS**

- DBSA (Depression/Bipolar Support). “We’re been there, we can help.” Contact Debbie at wally3610@yahoo.com for more info. 2 p.m. Lutheran Hospital. Penn and University Level 8 Private Dining Room.
- Caring and Sharing Group. 1:30 p.m. Unity Church of Des Moines. 414 31st St. Des Moines.

**KARAOKE**

- Friday Night Karaoke. 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. AJ’s on East Court. 419 East Court Ave. Des Moines.

**LECTURE/WORKSHOP**

- Learn on Saturdays. Drawing from Iowa’s horticultural professionals and skilled gardeners, the series will showcase a curated array of programs, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden.
- “Lose to Win” Makeover. Join Maximized Living as we lead the health revolution with Lose to Win! Thousands of people across the world will come together to drop all the crazy extreme diets, gym binges and guilty feelings that fuel New Year’s Resolutions. 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. First Church of the Open Bible, 2200 Beaver Ave.

**OUTDOORS**

- Conservation and Cocoa. Join us to kickoff a year full of celebrating Warren County Conservation Board’s 40th Anniversary! Starting at noon enjoy a refreshments and open house. At 1 p.m. we will welcome our guest speaker Tom Hazelton, CEO of Iowa’s County Conservation System, 12-2 p.m., Annett Nature Center.

**SPORTS**

- ISU Women's Basketball vs. West Virginia. 6 p.m. Hilton Coliseum.
- ISU Basketball vs. Texas Tech. 1 p.m. Hilton Coliseum.
- Iowa Energy vs. Ft. Wayne Mad Ants. 7 p.m. Wells Fargo Arena.

**THEATRE AND COMEDY**

- The Best of the Second City. The Second City returns to Des Moines with an all-new production, 7:30 p.m. The Temple Theater. 1011 Locust St. Des Moines.
- Nick Griffin. 7:30 p.m. The Funny Bone.
- “A Streetcar Named Desire.” Tennessee Williams' tragic story begins with fragile former schoolteacher, Blanche DuBois, who leaves her family plantation home and moves to New Orleans to live with her sister, Stella, and Stella’s animalistic husband, Stanley. She quickly gets a gritty life lesson in the seamy, steamy underbelly of 1940s’s life in the French Quarter. Des Moines Community Playhouse.
- Improv Comedy with Trabajos De Manos. Special guests Hardon Collider from the exotic land of Omaha! The show will include different styles of improv comedy including a long form Armando. $5 at the door for all the laughs you can eat, 8 p.m. Java Joes 4th Street Theater.
- Voice Message children’s musical. Children’s musical depicts a group of kids with a passion for reaching people with the Gospel, 4/5 p.m. Faith Lutheran Church.

### Sunday 8

**ART & GALLERIES**

- Making Art Public. Making Art Public explores the beauty and history of public art in Iowa, 9 a.m. State Historical Museum of Iowa.
- Art Exhibit at Simpson College - David Helm. 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Farnham Galleries.
- HEARTFEST “A Fine Art Show.” Featured are 50 Midwestern artists’ works in jewelry, metal, fiber, clay, photography, paper, painting and mixed media. The event will include a FREE “Make-a-Puppet” KidzDuArt family workshop (directed by VSA Iowa artist, Gwynne Burke) from 12-3 p.m. both days. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Valley West Mall.
- HYBRID EXPRESSIONISM: an exploration with Thomas Prinz. The exhibition will feature work by Thomas Prinz and Drake Art+Design students. Hybrid
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**CHILDREN/FAMILY**
- **Ice Skating.** Our warm and safe synthetic ice surface called “Super Glide” is easy for beginner skaters, 1 p.m. The Ice Ridge.

**CONCERTS/LIVE MUSIC**
- **Dale Menning and the Starbuckers.** Swing and big band jazz music, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Prairie Meadows: Finish Line Show Lounge.
- **The Murrays, Free, rock & roll, 9 p.m. D.G’s Taphouse.**
- **Chris Falcon.** Acoustic, no cover, 8 p.m. The Greenwood Lounge.
- **Cafe Scientifique - Hormones of Happiness.** Join us for a look at how our body improves brain function, boosts immune response, heals and maintains a youthful look when it’s in a euphoric state. We will discuss the effects of dopamine, endorphins and oxytocin that are brought on by laughter, enjoyment and having fun, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Jasper Winery.

**FAITH & PHILOSOPHY**
- **Teen Youth Group & Activities/All Ages Classes.** Nursery provided. 6:30 p.m. New Life Center. 1057 23rd St. Des Moines.

**FOOD & WINE**
- **Adventure Tours: Wine Down & Potluck.** Have you ever traveled with us or even thought about traveling with us? If the answer is, “yes” then you are invited to attend this event. This year we’re going to FRANCE! Come visit with old friends and make some new ones. There is no cover, but bring a dish to share. Summertime Winery.
- **Tour & Tasting.** The price is $20 per person and includes: Cellar Wine Tasting, Tasting of Summertime Wines, Cheese Platter, Summertime Logo Wine Glass to take home, 12 p.m., Summertime Winery.

**HEALTH/SUPPORT GROUPS**
- **EA Peer Sessions for Personal Inventories & Support.** Contact Duane at 243-1742 or virgilduaneebeets@yahoo.com for more info. Skywalk accessible. 1 p.m. 7th & Walnut. 1st Floor, Suite 131. Des Moines.
- **Emotions Anonymous.** Des Moines Emotions Anonymous Chapter. EA fellowship of weekly meetings in a warm and friendly environment. Emotions Anonymous is a Step 12 program of recovery for emotional issues and maintaining emotional health. 12:15-1:15 p.m. Java Joes, 214 4th Street, Des Moines.
- **Caring and Sharing Group.** 1:30 p.m. Unity Church of Des Moines. 414 31st St. Des Moines.

**KARAOKE**
- **Wed Night Karaoke.** 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. A.J.’s on East Court. 419 East Court Ave. Des Moines.
- **Flavaproductions DJ Rod.** Karaoke and dancing. 8 p.m. - midnight. Yo Yo’s Bar and Grill. 2400 East Dean Ave. Des Moines.
- **Karaoke, 9 p.m. - 1:30 a.m. Beaver Tap. 4041 Urbandale Ave. Des Moines.**
- **Karaoke.** 9:30 p.m. - 1 a.m. Strike’s Sports Bar. 655 N.E. 56th St. Pleasant Hill.
- **Party! Party! - The Ultimate Karaoke Band.** 9:30 p.m. - 2 a.m. The Keg Stand. 3530 Westown Parkway. West Des Moines.
- **Kara4ke.** 9 p.m. - 1 a.m. Mickey’s Irish Pub Waukee. 50 S.E. Laurel St. Waukee.

**LECTURE/WORKSHOP**
- **Heartland Plastic Surgery Valentines Seminar.** Meet with Dr. Cherry for one-on-one consultations. Featuring Soma Intimates displaying their lingerie, undergarments and fragrances, Botox and cosmetic tattooing demonstrations, 6-8 p.m. Heartland Plastic Surgery.

**SPORTS**
- **Iowa Energy vs. Sioux Falls Skyforce.** 10:30 a.m. Wells Fargo Arena.

**THEATER AND COMEDY**
- **“Streetcar Named Desire.”** Tennessee Williams’ tragic story begins with fragile former schoolteacher Blanche Dubois, who leaves her family plantation home and moves to New Orleans to live with her sister, Stella, and Stella’s animalistic husband, Stanley. She quickly gets a gritty life lesson in the seamy, steamy underbelly of 1940s life in the French Quarter. Des Moines Community Playhouse.

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**Tell us what you think. Email your letter to editor@dmcityview.com.**

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PETs needing People

**ARL-Iowa.org**

**MARTHA the Dog**
Martha loves to be close to her companions! She’ll take a seat next to you or maybe on you. Martha loves all the attention she can get from those she’s close with. She’s not a fan of some other dogs so she would do best being the only dog in the home. Learn more about Martha at ARL-iowa.org.

**FREYA the Cat**
Freya loves catnip toys, being petted and sleeping next to her human companions. She’ll curl up on the couch next to you, too, though she may not enjoy laying in your lap. Freya prefers a calm environment and is looking for a home without young kids. Learn more about Freya at ARL-iowa.org.

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