

NOVEMBER 2016

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BY KENT CARLSON | PHOTOS BY DAN HODGES

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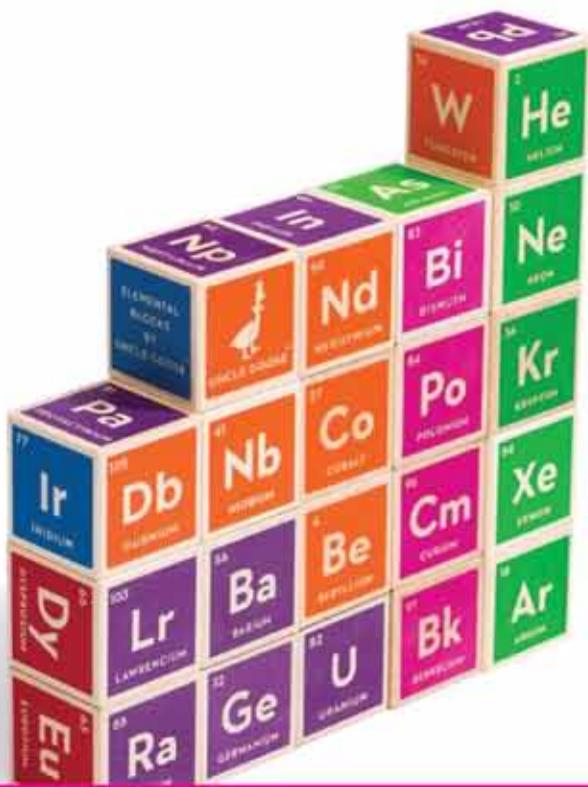
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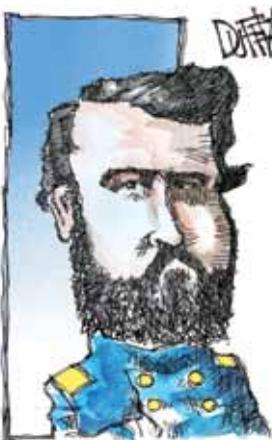


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WHO ARE THESE GUYS?

Illustrations by Brian Duffy

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WHO ARE THESE GUYS?

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The people behind the famous Des Moines names

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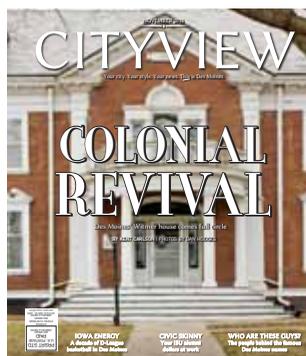
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Cover photograph by Daniel Hodges.



2016-17 SCHEDULE

IOWA WILD



NOVEMBER 2016

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	GR 4 6:00 PM	MIL 5 6:00 PM
RFD 6 5:00 PM	7	8	9	CHA 10 10:30 AM	CHA 11 7:00 PM	ONT 12 7:00 PM
13	14	15	RFD 16 7:00 PM	17	CHI 18 7:00 PM	CHI 19 7:00 PM
20	21	MB 22 7:00 PM	MB 23 7:00 PM	24	25	CHA 26 5:00 PM
CHA 27 12:00 PM	28	29	30			

FEBRUARY 2017

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2	CLE 3 6:00 PM	CLE 4 6:00 PM
5	6	7	CLE 8 7:00 PM	9	GR 10 7:00 PM	GR 11 7:00 PM
12	13	SD 14 9:00 PM	ONT 15 9:00 PM	16	17	18
CLE 19 3:00 PM	CLE 20 7:00 PM	21	22	23	24	CHI 25 7:00 PM
CHI 26 3:00 PM	27	28				

DECEMBER 2016

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1	GR 2 6:00 PM	CHI 3 7:00 PM
4	5	MIL 6 7:00 PM	7	8	SA 9 7:00 PM	SA 10 7:00 PM
11	12	13	CLE 14 5:00 PM	15	CLE 16 6:00 PM	17
MB 18 3:00 PM	MB 19 7:00 PM	20	21	22	23	24
25	RFD 26 7:00 PM	27	MIL 28 7:00 PM	29	RFD 30 7:00 PM	CHI 31 3:00 PM

MARCH 2017

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3 RFD 4 7:00 PM
5	6	7	8	9	10 TEX 11 7:30 PM	TEX 12 7:00 PM
12	13	14	15	16	MIL 17 7:00 PM	MIL 18 7:00 PM
19	20	CHA 21 6:00 PM	CHA 22 6:00 PM	23	24	25
CLE 26 2:00 PM	27	RFD 28 7:00 PM	29	30	CHI 31 7:00 PM	

JANUARY 2017

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	GR 4 6:00 PM	5	6	MB 7 7:00 PM
MB 8 2:00 PM	9	10	11	12	SA 13 7:30 PM	SA 14 7:00 PM
15	SD 16 7:00 PM	17	GR 18 7:00 PM	19	TEX 20 7:00 PM	TEX 21 7:00 PM
22	23	24	GR 25 6:00 PM	26	RFD 27 7:00 PM	RFD 28 7:00 PM
29	30	31				

APRIL 2017

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
						1
CLE 2 5:00 PM	3	CLE 4 7:00 PM	5	RFD 6 7:00 PM	7	CHI 8 7:00 PM
MIL 9 5:00 PM	10	11	12	CHI 13 7:00 PM	CHI 14 7:00 PM	RFD 15 7:00 PM

OPPONENTS

CHARLOTTE (CHA)	ONTARIO (ONT)
CHICAGO (CHI)	ROCKFORD (RFD)
CLEVELAND (CLE)	SAN ANTONIO (SA)
GRAND RAPIDS (GR)	SAN DIEGO (SD)
MANITOBA (MB)	TEXAS (TEX)
MILWAUKEE (MIL)	

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DECEMBER 31 - NEW YEAR'S EVE AND FIREWORKS



YOUR VIEW

POLL POSITION

Results from last month's polls at www.dmcityview.com

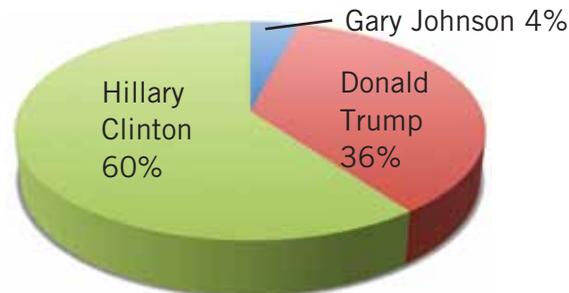
When was the last time you washed your car?



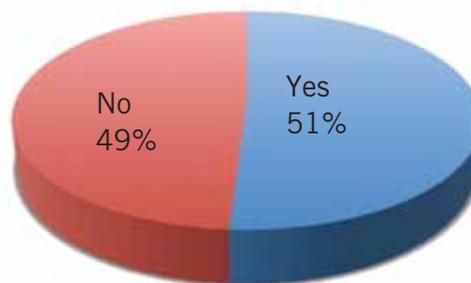
How many books do you read in a year?



Who will be the next President of the United States of America?



Do you vote straight ticket?



facebook

cityview magazine
(comments unedited)

Cityview Magazine: What, if any, part of our election system is rigged?

Bill Thyberg: Zero

Thomas Tully: Nothing! Total and complete fear mongering! Voter fraud has NEVER been a widespread, organized effort...it is statistically insignificant...the REAL crime is voter suppression!!!

Mike Mazza: Well. The dead occasionally vote as do pets by absentee ballot. We have seen instances where people are voting at multiple locations. People who are not eligible are voting. There have been instances where machines are not counting correctly. Do I need to continue? I fail to understand why showing a form of identification is considered voter suppression or racism. You need an ID to buy certain products, drive a motor vehicle, apply for employment or credit, etc.

Cityview Magazine: NFL viewership on TV is down drastically. Why?

Nick Marvelli: Goodell is a punk

James E. Bierly: More options to stream games versus traditional media.

Adam Swihart: Rules changes and officiating.

Grace Calvert-Gilborn: Boring and overpaid. There is no love of the sport, just a love of the fans dollars.

Corey Dickey: Oversaturation, games last too long, as well.

David Michael Schmidt: Is football that stuff between the beer and ED treatment commercials?

Cityview Magazine: Do you still have a home phone? If not, when did you cut it?

Andy Winegar: Haven't had one in 10 years

Doug Bucklin: Yes. Same landline number since

RETWEETS (comments unedited)

@1follownodad: I like the religions where they're like "god left after he made earth." that's exactly what I would do if i created this mess.

@AbbyHasIssues: "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes" is actually a song about everything that will hurt when you hit about 30 years old.

@LuvPug: I love how Prince Charming is so dumb he doesn't recognize Cinderella without her shoe.

@HousewifeOfHell: So we're on for next Friday? Perfect. I'll call you Thursday to reschedule.

@mactx85: Do you think clouds look down on us and think, that ones shaped like an idiot.

@Sanbel11: Do I just call you or should we resolve this quickly with 200 text messages?

@bbrewerstandup: My favorite selfies are the ones people post of themselves looking off in the distance, like they didn't realize they were taking a selfie

@markydoodoo: The sheer terror of laughing at a joke you didn't understand and then someone asking you to explain it to them.

@JimmerThatIsAll: I learn something new every day that I didn't want to know.

@pattymo: A pelican just flew away with my sandwich. Rigged! The media!

@kyry5: [first day on the job as a drug dealer] *giggles* "We don't have coke, is Pepsi ok?" *gets stabbed*

@Home_Halfway: ONLY 70S KIDS WILL REMEMBER THIS: Their parents doing cocaine while watching Jaws at full volume when you have a math quiz in the morning

@rockthepurple: I'm just a girl, standing in front of half a pizza thinking it's been long enough since I ate the 1st half to consider this a different meal

1988. Until cellphone quality meets landline standards I will have one.

Cityview Magazine: What are you really, really good at?

Scott Southard: Being a dad

Kathy Hinrichs Boe: Loving my granddaughters

Julie Luepke: Poetry and making funny memes.

Michael Clouse: Crop dusting

Cityview Magazine: What stinks?

Jonathan Peters: The Cubs first couple innings at bat today stink.

Angela J Holcomb: The 2016 presidential candidates

Catherine Gray: Racism!

Jessica Rieper: The rendering plant downtown.

Rick Trevillyan: Farts

The American Dream — jobs or justice?

As we come to terms with election results — and the frustration or despair with the 2016 campaigns — here are three topics worth considering:

1. How will we define the American Dream in the 21st century?
2. How does the 1940 election shed light on 2016's and Iowa's role in both?
3. How do we make America better if not "great again?"

1. Defining the "American Dream" in terms of jobs or justice is illustrated in the contrast between the experiment in self governance envisioned by Thomas Jefferson and James Madison and the 1928 GOP promise that election of Herbert Hoover would mean "a chicken in every pot and a car in every garage."

One American Dream reflects the 18th century thought of those like James Otis that the best government is neither that which governs most nor least, but that which is most just. Nowadays, it seems at times the American Dream is Hooray! Regardless of potential risks and damage, the Dakota Access oil pipeline will create thousands of high paying jobs.

A dilemma for the American Dream is that poverty stricken families are hard pressed to engage in self-governance when their children are suffering, and better-off families are so insulated from survival woes that they can ignore the dream envisioned by the founding fathers.

Regardless of which version of the American Dream dominates the day's events, neither dream has yet to deliver sufficient jobs or justice for millions of citizens. And it should not be an "either/or" choice.

We still have a way to go to fulfill our dreams as a nation.

2. If the issues of 2016 were scary, consider the election of 1940 when the nation agonized over whether Nazi Germany posed a threat to us. In 2016, Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton characterized some supporters of Donald Trump as "baskets of deplorables," partly because of their racism. In 1940, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, seeking a third term, characterized isolationists on the political right as "cheerful idiots" — who included American hero aviator Charles Lindbergh and his infatuation with Adolf Hitler.

In 2016, the governor and other Iowans evaluated candidates as to who could best reward Iowa with support for ethanol and the Iowa caucuses. In 1940, Iowans gave more than they asked for. Iowan Henry Wallace was the Democratic candidate for vice president; Iowan Harry Hopkins served FDR so well he was dubbed the "deputy president" — one of the few people FDR relied upon and did not play games with. The Cowles brothers, Mike and John, publishers in Des Moines and Minneapolis, boosted the GOP candidacy of Wendell Willkie, whose nomination was almost as much a blow to the Republican establishment as was Trump's this year. Willkie's political views, however, were similar to FDR's and maybe to 2016's Bernie Sanders — evidence of how out-of-step the Iowa GOP of 1940 would be with the party in 2016.

Perhaps the lesson of these comparisons and contrasts is that almost every presidential election is considered critical and scary because, after all, it is. (The 1940 election is covered well in Susan Dunn's book, "1940: FDR, Willkie, Lindbergh and Hitler.")

3. "Make America Great Again" — the Trump slogan — just didn't work for

many of us. "Great Again" for whom? Older white men? The line has Machiavellian overtones of how it is better to be feared than to be loved. How about working to make the world better and making the American Dreams work not only for immigrants but also for our own citizens? As Emma Lazarus wrote for the Statue of Liberty, we can offer hope to "your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free... Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Or as former White House aide and PBS commentator Bill Moyers wrote: "In one way or another, this is the oldest story in our country's history: the struggle to determine whether 'we, the people' is a reality — one nation, indivisible — or merely a charade masquerading as piety and manipulated by the powerful and privileged to sustain their own way of life at the expense of others." ■

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



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CIVIC SKINNY

Your ISU alumni dollars at work: \$1.1 million was paid to foundation bosses Leath ordered fired without cause.

The Iowa State University Foundation has spent more than \$1.1 million to buy out the contracts of two foundation presidents fired by university President **Steve Leath**.

The two men were fired for no cause — other than the fact that Leath apparently didn't like them. Both raised millions for the university and were widely admired by their colleagues.

Documents obtained by Cityview under the Freedom of Information Act show that the foundation paid at least \$760,000 to **Dan Saftig** and about \$340,000 to his successor, **Roger Neuhaus**.

Saftig was fired March 11, 2012, just two months after Leath became head of the university. Saftig had headed the foundation since 2003. He was heavily relied on by President **Greg Geoffroy**, who after Saftig's firing called him "the absolute best fund-raising professional I know [and] a great leader."

Leath apparently had a dissenting view. Saftig accompanied the new president and his wife on a fund-raising trip early in 2012, and at the time an ISU person told Cityview that the Leaths didn't feel they were treated with the respect they believed was due them. Weeks later, the foundation president was fired.

Saftig was replaced by **Roger Neuhaus**, who started work in January of 2013. He built on the success posted under Saftig and worked to restore the morale that had been damaged by the firing of Saftig. The foundation raised more than \$100 million in 2013 and again in 2014, but Neuhaus was unceremoniously dumped in March of 2015.

Neuhaus's "separation agreement" bars him from saying anything "disparaging or detrimental in any respect to the reputation or goodwill" of the university. Nor can the university or any of its employees say anything bad about him, according to the agreement.

But people close to the university say Leath and Neuhaus slowly became wary

of one another. University foundations are big business — the ISU Foundation employs more than 125 people and had assets of more than \$900 million as of June 30 — and most are legally independent from their universities. But most are, in fact, simply arms of the office of the universities' presidents, who usually sit on the foundations' boards. What the president wants, he gets — and foundation boards, often sprinkled with loyal alums, usually just go through the motions of approving requests from a president. Sometimes, they don't even do that.

Indeed, no one can remember a time when the ISU Foundation ever turned down a request from an ISU president.

But Leath, unlike Geoffroy, had several unusual requests. One was to buy an airplane for \$3 million to \$4 million, which would have allowed him to avoid disclosing that to the Board of Regents or the public. The plane then would be given to the university. It's unclear how Leath accomplished this — one board member says the foundation never voted on the issue — but a person familiar with how foundations work said there often are back-doors into and out of foundations. At any rate, in February of 2014 the foundation bought a Beechcraft King Air 350 for \$2,875,000 and spent another \$600,000 on upgrades and furnishings. The foundation then gave the plane to the university.

The contract was signed not by Neuhaus but by **Lisa Eslinger**, the foundation's senior vice president for finance and operations.

(The July 2014 contract to buy a single-engine, four-seat plane for \$470,000 was directly with the university, perhaps because the price was below the threshold that required notification to the Board of Regents. It is this plane that pilot Leath damaged a year ago, an accident he didn't report to the Board of Regents.)

Neuhaus was soon gone. In return for his silence and an agreement not to sue, the foundation paid him \$28,125

a month for 12 months and agreed to pick up the full cost of medical insurance for a year. He also got \$4,685 in accrued-vacation pay. Foundation tax forms say Neuhaus was paid \$332,960 in 2014 plus about \$40,000 in "other compensation."

Saftig, who had been at the foundation for nearly a decade, got a richer deal. His "separation agreement" guaranteed \$35,000 a month for 18 months, full medical benefits for the 18 months, \$81,254.57 from a deferred compensation account, \$6,250 for payments into a deferred-comp plan, \$7,500 for legal fees and up to \$10,000 for hiring a search firm to help him find a new job. He also got to keep his company car.

Saftig ultimately took a big fund-raising job at Arizona State University and now is a senior consultant in Arizona for Marts and Lundy, a large consulting firm based in New Jersey. Neuhaus now is the chief development officer for Habitat for Humanity of Central Arizona.

The foundation now is headed by **Larissa Holtmyer Jones**, who signed a three-year, \$340,000-a-year contract in April of last year. If the foundation fires her without cause, she gets full payout of her contract or a year's salary, whichever is greater. Her contract is not unlike the contracts given to football and basketball coaches: She can leave at any time without a financial penalty. ...

Bert Iannone is a well-known Des Moines cardiologist. **Kathleen Stahl** is a well-known travel agent dealing in "luxury and high-end travel," her website says. Don't sit them next to one another at your next dinner party.

Three years ago, Iannone and his wife, **Dee**, decided to take a two-week trip to Europe to celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary. They went to Stahl to book a cruise on the Danube and visits to five countries.

At one point, Dee Iannone noted that her passport would expire on Oct. 23, just a few weeks after the Sept. 13

end of the trip. Not to worry, Stahl said, according to documents filed in Polk County district court last month. "You will be fine with your passport as long as you're back before it expires," Stahl emailed.

So on Aug. 31, the Iannones flew to Minneapolis and boarded a plane bound for Paris. But before the plane took off, according to court papers, "security personnel boarded the plane and removed the Iannones from that flight with all passengers watching, as though the Iannones were a grave security risk. The Iannones were told that, because of Mrs. Iannone's passport, they could not leave the United States for the planned trip."

In fact, most European countries will not accept tourists or business travelers whose passports expire within three months of the date of departure, according to the U.S. State Department. So the Iannones were stuck. They asked Stahl for their money back, but she refused, according to the lawsuit. Rather, she noted they had bought travel insurance, and, the court papers say, she advised them to tell the insurer falsely that one of them suffered from a medical condition and had to cancel the trip.

The Iannones consulted their lawyer, who advised them against that. They then told Stahl of the lawyer's advice. "I would not have said anything to an attorney," she responded in an email, according to the lawsuit.

The lawsuit alleges breach of contract and negligent misrepresentation. The Iannones have asked for compensation

Regents President Bruce Rastetter didn't throw his friend Steve Leath under the bus the other day at the Board of Regents meeting when he said he was "extremely disappointed" in Leath's personal use of university aircraft.

But the Regents head clearly walked the university president to the bus stop.

DAN JOHNSTON

Dan Johnston leaves two legacies.

As a 30-year-old lawyer in 1968, he argued and won a United States Supreme Court case that ensured the free-speech rights of students. “Students do not shed their Constitutional rights at the schoolhouse gate,” Justice Abe Fortas wrote in the 7-to-2 decision involving the rights of students in the Tinker family to wear black armbands to schools in Des Moines to protest the Vietnam War.

Though the decision has been diluted over the years, it was and remains a great victory for freedom in America.

And as a still-young lawyer in 1972, he argued an Iowa Supreme Court case that led to new rules for apportioning state legislative districts — a system now viewed as a model for American states.

He was equally, and rightfully, proud of both.

He was a smart and complicated man. Raised in Marshalltown, he graduated from Drake Law School in 1964 and was elected to the Iowa House in 1966 after a stint as an assistant Iowa Attorney General. Two years later, he won a three-way primary to get the Democratic nomination to run for Attorney General, but he lost to Dick Turner by more than 100,000 votes in a million-vote election. Backed by organized labor, he was appointed Polk County attorney in 1977, when Ray Fenton was appointed to the bench, and he won a full term in 1978. He was re-elected in 1982.

At the time of his elections, he was a closeted gay and the subject of whispering campaigns. He recalls ducking the issue on a

radio call-in show, but others say the caller in effect outed him before the 1982 election. Though he won handily each time, he remained in the background as the gay-rights movements began to sweep the country following the Stonewall Riots in New York in 1969.

He left as county attorney in 1985 and moved to New York, where, among other things, he became a strong advocate for gay rights. He moved back to Iowa about 10 years ago.

In his retirement speech from Polk County, he acknowledged his homosexuality.

“I made three points in that speech,” he said the other day from his hospital bed. He spoke out against the death penalty, he recalled. He said there was “no inconsistency between law enforcement and civil liberties,” he said. And, he recalled, “I said I had stood up for children and immigrant farm workers, but never for the group whose oppression I know the best — my gay and lesbian brothers and sisters.”

He had a 35-year love affair with Norman Jesse, whom he met at Drake Law School and who served in the Iowa Legislature for 12 years. They lived apart but were often together in a relationship that became increasingly open. Jesse, who died in 2000, was “the love of my life,” Johnston said.

If Jesse was the love of his life, civil rights came in a close second. He had an unshakeable belief in the equality of laws and the dignity of man — for a while he was a staff lawyer for the Iowa Civil Liberties Union. And he had an unbreakable



faith in unions — though as county attorney he stood with police during the bitter, 19-month Delavan strike by the Auto Workers in 1978 and 1979 to ensure that non-union replacements could safely cross picket lines; he also believed in law and order.

He never made any money — he got no fee for the Tinker case, though Joe Rosenfield picked up the \$500 in expenses — and in recent years he had a spartan life style. He mentored young lawyers who shared his beliefs and took great pride in their efforts and accomplishments. At lunch, he always talked more about them than about himself, about their cases and about how they were fighting the good fight for the good cause.

He often ate lunch alone, at

a high table at the Cub Club at Principal Park, and, wan and slow-moving and a bit disheveled, at times he seemed almost a ghost from the past as he stopped by to talk with judges and lawyers and others lunching there. But his mind was always in the present — expressing outrage at this injustice or disbelief at that absurdity. More recently, he was astonished by the presidential race. His final request to a kind nurse who watched over him at Iowa Methodist was to take him downtown to the Election Office to vote. She did, on Oct. 10. The next day, he was moved to Kavanagh House to die.

He was 78 and riddled with cancer when he died there on Oct. 21. ■

— Michael Gartner

“and such other relief as the court deems just.” They also have asked for a jury trial. Attorneys for Stahl have not yet filed their response. ...

John Tate and **Jesse Benton** are two of the three men convicted in federal court in Des Moines this year for their roles in funneling money to former state legislator **Kent Sorenson** to get him to switch his allegiance from **Michele Bachmann** to **Ron Paul** in the 2012 presidential caucus fights. In May, Federal Judge **John Jarvey** sentenced them to six months of home confinement and then two years of probation. A third defendant, **Dmitri Kesari**, was

sentenced to three months in prison. (Sorenson is scheduled to be sentenced Jan. 17.)

The probation conditions barred them from associating with any person convicted of a felony — which would mean one another — without permission from the probation officer. The other day, Tate asked the court to remove that prohibition. It turns out the three men are back in politics, with Tate and Benton employed by the same political action committee and Tate and Kesari “in negotiations to be engaged by candidates and political action committees involved in Virginia state

elections [in 2017] that will require them to work together,” according to court papers filed in mid-October.

The papers, filed by Tate’s lawyer, asked that the restriction be removed because “if they are barred from having any contact with each other...the ability...to be employed in their lawful profession of thirty years, in their home state, will be severely diminished.”

Not so fast, the government replied. “All three defendants argued [in sentencing hearings] that they should receive lenient sentences in large part because, they said, their careers in politics were over.” Now, the government

noted in opposing the request, “all three are right back at their former political employment less than a month after sentencing, apparently suffering nothing like the adverse career consequences they asserted in open court.”

Judge Jarvey has not yet ruled on the request.

Kesari has not yet begun his prison sentence. But the papers in the Tate plea indicate Kesari could well be planning to operate a political-consulting business out of federal prison. A Justice Department lawyer in Washington involved in the case didn’t respond to a question about that. ■

DUFFY'S VIEW



No, Rudy, men behind the curtain aren't like Trump

Ladies, let me take you behind the curtain of male privilege and entitlement, into the locker rooms and fraternity chapter chambers and other sanctuaries of unapologetic American maleness.

Right up front, I'm here to tell you, Donald Trump's admissions of genital groping — of breath-mint-popping, lip-puckering readiness for forced kisses he planned to unleash on women who met his exacting physical standards — cannot be casually waved off as a "boys-being-boys" episode.

Trump surrogate Rudy Giuliani told CNN's Jake Tapper on "State of the Union" that "men at times talk like that."

No, Mr. Mayor, that's not true. There's no big reveal here about men as a gender. This is all about Donald Trump. Nothing more.

I'm a fraternity guy. For four years, in the late 1980s and early 1990s, I lived, studied and partied in the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity at Northwestern University.

I've played a lot of golf, even made my way on to some exclusive courses, places with "men's grills" — bars off the lockers where women aren't allowed.

What's more, I've been the best man or a groomsman in a number of weddings. This means bachelor parties. Which, yes, at times, means strip clubs.

I vacation each year with a group of guy friends — all of whom served in the military except for me. Beers flow, the ribbing and joking and jocular and off-color comments start early. This is not a politically correct crowd.

But I've never heard any men, in any of these places, speak with the toxicity of Trump about women, or come even close to hitting the high notes of his effortless blend of entitlement, easy-reach vulgarity and matter-of-fact admissions of sexual assault.

The guys I know would wrap a 9-iron around my neck if I even started in a Trumpian direction with comments about women — even if it was intended as but a joke on my part. They love their daughters and wives, after all.

Tapper has been behind the curtain, too. He understands the features and boundaries of male-dominated clubs and pursuits.

"I am happy to throw a stone," Tapper told Giuliani in

the exchange. "I have been in locker rooms. I have been a member of a fraternity. I have never heard any man, ever, brag about being able to maul women because they get away with it — never."

Yes, men can be crude braggarts, brimming with misogyny. They'll talk about exploits and conquests. Most of the time, men who talk like that, though, become the object of unrelenting mocking from other guys who see through it a mile away.

If the women of Iowa stand with Donald Trump, look the other way on what by all fair and reasonable accounts is predatory sexual activity, buy Trump's bogus apologies, fall for the slippery surrogate spin, what are they teaching their sons and grandsons?

On this, ladies, I am sure. Men do not talk like Trump. Believe me. ■

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



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TECH TALK

BY PATRICK BOBERG

Rampant intellectual pickpocketing

Stealing is wrong. Right after we teach children to share, we have to teach them that sharing doesn't mean taking what's not yours. At that age, theft means taking someone else's toys, bike or seat in the family van, but as you get older, it takes on all types of meanings. Stealing someone's bike or wallet are obvious forms of theft. Poaching someone's girlfriend or taking credit for someone else's work are misappropriations of an entirely different order. In these smaller examples, it is obvious a wrong has been committed — it's not until you get industry-scale larceny that culpability becomes blurry. Case in point, the entire smartphone market, which is a mess of pilfered ideas.

This fall, one of the biggest cases of intellectual property theft went before the Supreme Court. After years of battling in lower courts, Apple finally got its day in the highest court in the land, accusing Samsung of pirating key aspects of the iPhone, starting in 2011. Specifically, Apple believes Samsung lifted the iPhone's round corners, outside case design and grid layout of applications. To be fully informed, one must know Samsung has been manufacturing hardware for Apple for years, so copying and pasting the iPhone design would not be a hard heist to pull off.

Intellectual property cases are among the stickiest crimes to adjudicate. Apple holds a great deal of patents on iPhone and its design, but an incredible cache of prior art and similar products existed prior to its consumer release. Without going into arguments about tablets being smartphone-like devices existing in decades of cinematic science fiction, practically every computer, laptop and device with a screen has incorporated round edges and a hard durable outer case. Grid-based applications have been a feature of graphical user interfaces for decades. The only real argument Apple has is its patents and Samsung having detailed iPhone design plans prior to launching its own smartphone line in 2011.

Patents are one of the worst double-



edge swords in modern society.

Protecting product designs or original ideas is important for carving a niche in the modern marketplace, but at the same time, virtually anything can be patented, and a patent holder doesn't need to produce a product or be the first to come up with an idea to exercise his or her legal ownership of a concept. Apple obviously doesn't fit into this crowd of litigious, silent patent trolls, but this case is emblematic of the issue. Why does anyone get to plant a legal ownership flag on the concept of a personal electronic device with rounded corners? Look at the edge of every surface in the room you're currently in, and you'll discover nearly everything has a rounded corner.

If anyone should be upset it should be Motorola or BlackBerry. Before Apple, Samsung or anyone became the king of the cellular mountain, these companies set the standard, including rounded edges and screens with neatly laid out program icons. If anything, this Supreme Court hearing should have happened eight years ago with the plaintiff being BlackBerry. The iPhone is really nothing more than an intuitive BlackBerry with a color screen you touch with your finger instead of a stylus.

Of course, the hot potato of intellectual property theft will continue to be passed around, with Google unveiling its in-house designed and manufactured Pixel line of phones. And wouldn't you know it, the Pixel looks a lot like the iPhone. The vicious theft carousel goes round once more. ■

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



AROUND TOWN

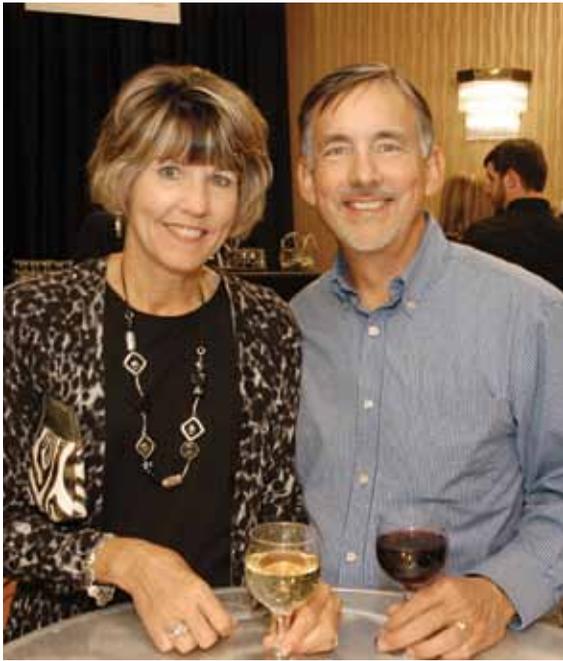
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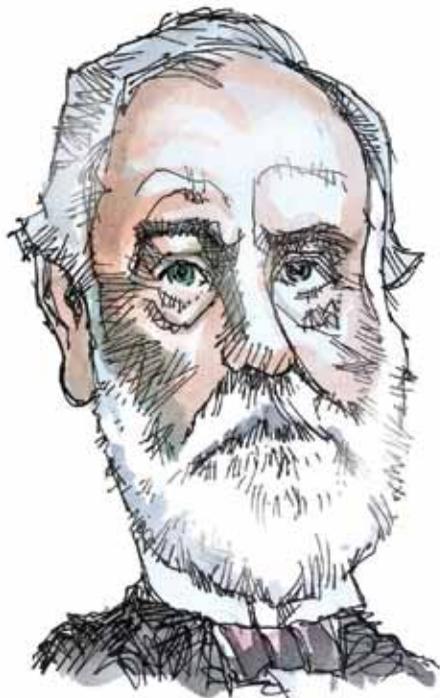
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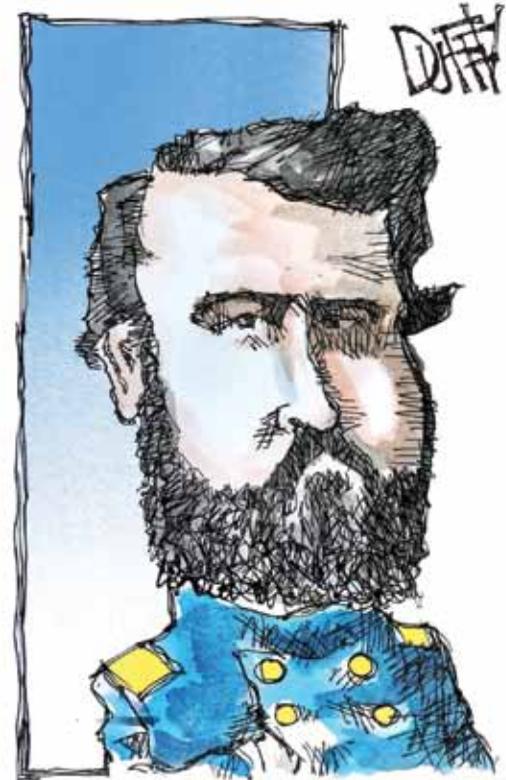
The people behind the famous Des Moines names



HOYT SHERMAN



JOHN MCVICAR



FRANCIS DRAKE



MERLE HAY



JOHN MCVICAR JR.



HENRY BRUNNER

BY JIM DUNCAN

“What’s in a name? That which we call a rose would smell as sweet by any other,” mused Will Shakespeare’s Romeo. As Romeo soon discovered, his thinking was fatally flawed. In the third millennium, names have only temporary quantifiable value, at least when it comes to things that endure much longer than a rose. Remember when the local baseball park was called Sec Taylor Stadium, the Iowa State football stadium was Clyde Williams Field, and the main north/south road west of downtown was Warren Harding Way?

Today, honorary names are ephemeral. Buildings are built to become obsolete, and naming rights are sold with expiration dates. Political correctness has factored into name changes as quickly as statues of Mussolini were toppled or the Ten Commandments were chiseled off courthouse facades. Yet some names endure and become more famous than the memories of the people who inspired them.

Consider the MacVicar Freeway in metro Des Moines. That name is here to stay, but who was this MacVicar guy? The freeway named for MacVicar has been one of central Iowa's great construction feats of the last half century. Its northeast by due west route directed future population changes in central Iowa. Suburbs with seamless freeway connections to or from Interstates 35 and 80 — West Des Moines, Waukee, Clive, Altoona and Ankeny — grew dramatically faster than other, less-connected suburbs.

When the freeway's first section (from Keo Way to Cottage Grove Avenue) opened in 1961, my high school football coach marveled that the trip from Roosevelt to East would soon be shortened by more than 10 minutes. The further the freeway extended, the more astounding the time savings became. Today it is Iowa's busiest road, with 75,000 to 125,000 cars a day, yet rush hour traffic jams are insignificant compared to those in larger cities across America, including Omaha and Kansas City.

Still, almost no one today has any idea who MacVicar was. Actually, he was two former mayor-bureaucrats of Des Moines — a father and son team. **John MacVicar Sr.** was mayor from 1896–1900, 1916–1918, and in 1928. **John MacVicar Jr.** was mayor from 1942–1948. The elder MacVicar was Canadian by birth and came to Des Moines in 1882, making it big in the wallpaper business. In 1888, he was elected recorder of North Des Moines and that former town's mayor a year later. After North Des Moines was annexed by Des Moines, he became the larger city's mayor as well as Superintendent of the Department of Streets, a fiefdom he ruled for decades. He is buried in Woodland Cemetery. John, Jr. followed his father as long-time Superintendent of Streets and as a one-term mayor. The two held office in Des Moines for half a century. When naming of the local freeway was discussed, it was pointed out that Chicago's Dan Ryan Expressway was named after a local official who had worked to expand the streets and highways of the Windy City.

HENRY BRUNNIER

The Brunnier Museum anchors the Iowa State Center, a series of cultural and sports complexes south of the main campus. It is internationally renowned for its 28,000-piece permanent collection. European and American decorative arts, glass and Christian Peterson sculptures are its major strengths.

It is named for **Henry Brunnier**, an Iowa State graduate who turned down an offer from the Pittsburgh Pirates baseball club to seek his fortune in San Francisco, where his legend grew Dimaggio-sized. Brunnier went west after the fire and earthquake of 1906 had decimated the city and completely wiped out its transportation system. During the next 50 years, his engineering firm would build many of "The City's" landmarks such as the Embarcadero sea wall, the Santa Cruz wharf and the Sharon Building (where his firm still resides). In partnership with famed architect George Kendrick, Brunnier built the San Francisco Public Library, Standard Oil Building, the Mount Davidson Cross, Federal Reserve Bank Building, Shell Building and Russ Building which, until 1964, was San Francisco's tallest skyscraper.

Brunnier was technologically ahead of his time. The old ballplayer also built Seals Stadium, the baseball park that was considered America's most beautiful minor league stadium. It was the country's first ballpark built to host night games. He also supervised the construction of Oakland Bay Bridge, the nation's first bridge built to withstand earthquakes. In World War II, he supervised the construction of a state-of-the-art submarine base in Panama.



Image courtesy of University Museums, Iowa State University, Ames

HOYT SHERMAN



Sherman Hill is one of Des Moines' oldest neighborhoods, known for its Victorian mansions, restaurants and gentrification. It's also home to Hoyt Sherman Place, the home of the Des Moines Women's Club since 1907. The club added an art museum — the city's first ever — to display its collections. In 1923, it built a 1,400-seat theater to host speakers such as Amelia Earhart and Helen Keller. In 2003, the theater was modernized and downsized to 1,252 seats. It's a niche venue for musicians like Lyle Lovett and Elvis Costello, who miss the mainstream but have loyal followings.

But who was **Hoyt Sherman**? The brother of the infamous Civil War General William Tecumseh Sherman, Hoyt was born in Ohio, the son of a Supreme Court justice. His other older brothers were a U.S. senator and an Ohio Supreme Court justice.

He moved to Fort Des Moines, then on the western frontier of America, in 1848. One year later, he was admitted to the bar and began to practice law while starting a real estate business. The same year he was appointed by President Zachary Taylor to be postmaster of Des Moines, holding that position until the inauguration

of President Francis Pierce. He was then elected clerk of the District Court. In the next few years, he began the banking house of Hoyt Sherman & Co. When the State Bank of Iowa was established, Sherman became cashier of its Des Moines branch and a director.

When the Civil War broke out, Sherman was appointed by President Abraham Lincoln to be paymaster in the Union army with the rank of major. He later became a founder of the Equitable Life Insurance Company of Iowa, and was, for many years, its general manager. After the war, Sherman became a member of the House of the Eleventh General Assembly where he was chairman of the committee on railroads and a member of the committee of ways and means. In 1886, he became a founder of the Pioneer Lawmakers' Association for which he served as president. In 1877, Hoyt Sherman built a grand mansion, which is now Hoyt Sherman Place.

FRANCIS MARION DRAKE

Drake University is one of the best-known private institutions in central Iowa. It has 3,160 students, and its graduate programs in business, law and pharmacy are renowned. Its law school is the nation's 25th oldest. The school has cosmopolitan connections with well-regarded exchange programs in China, France and other countries, and extensive foreign language programs. It hosts an internationally known athletics competition known as the Drake Relays. When Drake upset a powerful Colorado football team in a 1980s game, *Sports Illustrated* wrote that "Colorado lost to a school named after a track meet."

They were wrong. Drake is named for **Francis Marion Drake**, a Civil War hero and a banking and railroad mogul in the coal-driven southern Iowa economy. Born in 1830 in Illinois, Drake came to Centerville, Iowa, at age 7. He was an adventurous soul, leading two expeditions of Iowans to California during the Gold Rush. On one occasion, he defeated an attack of 300 Pawnees without major casualties to his band. On the second trip, he brought one of the first herds of English cattle to California. On his return from that trip, he survived a shipwreck that killed 800 fellow passengers.

A brigadier general, he fought in several Civil War engagements in Mississippi and Arkansas for Ulysses S. Grant's Army of the West. After the Battle of Helena in 1864, Drake was promoted to command the 2nd Brigade, 3rd Division, 7th Corps in addition to his Iowa Regiment. He was severely wounded at the Battle of Mark's Mills. Fourteen months later, he felt recovered from his wounds and returned to service, with increased command assignments.

He returned to Centerville after the war and practiced as a criminal lawyer for six years. After railroads crossed the Mississippi River, he turned to building and managing railroads for the next 30 years. He was president of the Missouri, Iowa & Nebraska Railroad; the Indiana, Illinois & Iowa Railroad; and the Albia & Centerville Railroad. He also founded the Centerville National Bank for which he was president

until his death.

In 1881, the Disciples of Christ Church decided to move its support for Oskaloosa College to a new college in the woods outside Des Moines. They announced that the largest financial pledge to the project would include naming rights. Drake, a church member, easily outbid everyone with a \$20,000 pledge in railroad bonds.

The naming rights were contentious, especially because Drake stipulated that his gift would take place only after the first structure had been completed. Officials from Oskaloosa, many of whom wanted the school to be named for someone else, pressured Drake to contribute sooner. He refused adamantly until, for reasons unknown, he suddenly withdrew his stipulations and doubled his pledge while asking that a large share go to building a School of Music.

Despite the fact that the city was still without paving or sewers, Drake University grew dramatically. In less than 10 years, it included eight departments, 53 professors and 800 students. Francis Drake would also endow schools in India and Japan. In 1895, he was nominated as the Republican candidate for governor of Iowa. He was elected by an overwhelming majority and served from 1896 through 1898.

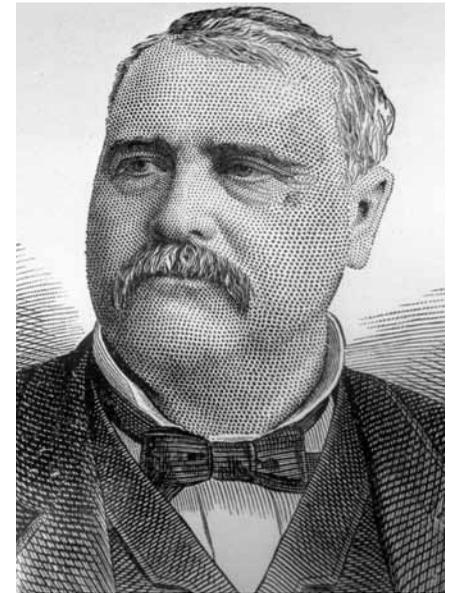


Photo courtesy of Drake Library Archivists.

MERLE HAY

Merle Hay Plaza was central Iowa's original suburban mall. It is named for Merle Hay Road on which it is situated. But who was **Merle Hay**? Merle David Hay was a Carroll County farm boy and farm implement salesman who volunteered for military service, despite being too young for the draft, during World War I. His 15th Infantry Regiment was sent to St. Nazaire, France, in 1917. Posted in a trench near the village of Artois, Hay's regiment was attacked by the Imperial German Army on Nov. 3. He and two companions became the first Americans to be killed in the "War to End Wars."

The marker on his tombstone in Artois reads, "Here lie the first soldiers of the illustrious Republic of the United States who fell on French soil for justice and liberty." In the 1920s, his body was interred and returned to Glidden, Iowa, for reburial. That cemetery was renamed then for Hay. Merle Hay Road was named for him because it was built to connect Camp Dodge to Des Moines. The first American casualty of World War II was also an Iowan — Andrew native Robert Losey, who was killed while trying to evacuate the American diplomatic corps from Norway after that country was attacked by Germany.



EDWARD O. FLEUR

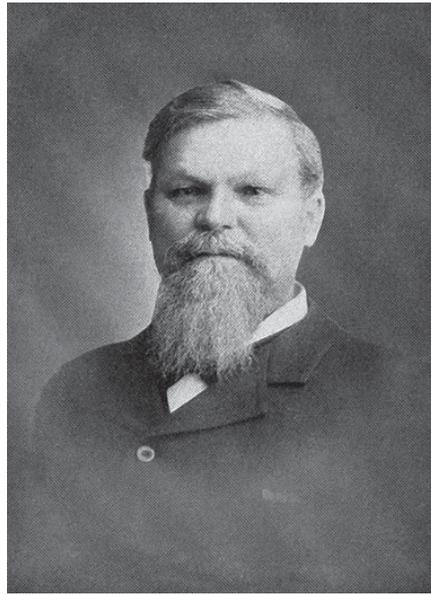
Des Moines' Fleur Drive is also named for a local casualty of World War I.

Edward O. Fleur was a career military man in a career military family. When the U.S. entered the war, he was promoted from second lieutenant to captain and sent to France with Camp Dodge's 168th Infantry. He was killed by German gas in the Third Battle of the Aisne in June 1918. Today, Capt. Fleur rests not far from the street that bears his name, in the Gold Star section of Woodland Cemetery.



EBENEZER JARED INGERSOLL

Ingersoll Avenue is named for a little known Iowan who loved a good card game. **Ebenezer Jared Ingersoll** came to Des Moines from New York and practiced law while acquiring land holdings for breeding livestock. During an 1865 game of whilst (similar to bridge), Ingersoll's card playing buddies talked about the need for an insurance company in Des Moines. All companies at the time were out-of-state operations with an office in town. Ingersoll took the idea to heart and soon founded the Hawkeye Fire Company, later Hawkeye Insurance. After his death in 1891, the city named a new east/west street after "the father of Des Moines' insurance industry."



These are but a few of the names that have endured the test of time in central Iowa. As for the stories behind them, Mark Twain wrote it best: "Names are not always what they seem." ■



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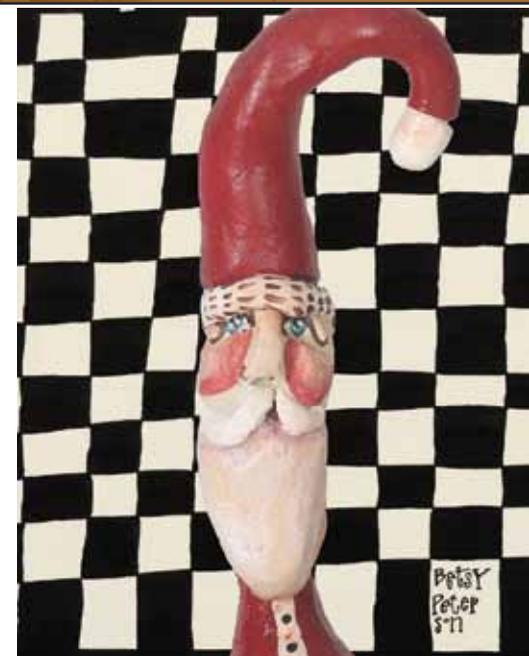
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COMING UP

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THINGS TO DO

"THE BOXCAR CHILDREN" — THE PLAYHOUSE

Nov. 4-20

Generations of readers adventured out with The Boxcar Children, and now is the chance to see the tales come to life, live on stage. Watch as Henry, Jessie, Violet and Benny — depression-era orphan siblings — run away from foster care to make home sweet home out of an abandoned railway boxcar. The kids' motto? "We stick together like glue." The story highlights themes of personal integrity, maturity and making do with what you have. Visit www.dmplayhouse.com for show times and ticket prices. The play will be performed at the Kate Goldman Children's Theatre at the Des Moines Community Playhouse — 831 42nd St. in Des Moines.



Photo submitted

"UGLY LIES THE BONE" — STAGEWEST THEATER COMPANY

Nov. 11-20

The 2014 winner of the Woodward/Newman Drama Award, "Ugly Lies the Bone" by Lindsey Ferrentino, is coming to Des Moines Social Club's Kum & Go Theater. A newly discharged female soldier returns home with vivid memories to match her painful scars from the war in Afghanistan. The Social Club is in downtown's Western Gateway district — 900 Mulberry St. in Des Moines. Visit stagewestiowa.com for showtimes and ticket information.



Photo submitted

OPEN ICE — BRENTON SKATING PLAZA

Nov. 18

It's a wonderful time of the year, which means it's time to put on the ice at Brenton Skating Plaza. The rink reopens on Nov. 18, so sharpen your "blades of steel" and get out there and face your fear of falling. The rink is located downtown at 520 Robert D. Ray Drive in Des Moines. Visit brentonplaza.com for ticket prices and the rink's full calendar and hours.

BEN FOLDS AND A PIANO — HOYT SHERMAN PLACE

Nov. 6

The career of Ben Folds is said by many to be a "genre-bending" buffet of "musical art." Folds is bringing his piano-pounding magic to Des Moines on his solo tour. The show starts at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 6 at Hoyt Sherman Place — 1501 Woodland Ave. in Des Moines. Visit www.hoytsherman.org for information.



Photo submitted



Photo by Lucas Moser

"RENT" — CIVIC CENTER

Nov. 25-27

No one likes the landlord. But you'll enjoy watching "Rent," even if you don't like paying it. The Des Moines Civic Center and The Des Moines Performing Arts is delivering this classic Broadway hit. Pay up. You'll be glad you did. The Civic Center is located downtown at 221 Walnut St. in Des Moines. For showtimes, tickets prices and other details, visit www.desmoinesperformingarts.org.



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COMING UP

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LIVING HISTORY FARMS RACE

Nov. 19

Living History Farms is hosting its 38th annual Living History Farms Race — this year's event is put on by Fitness Sports. Take the challenge and traverse the world's richest farm land, cross creeks, dodge wild animals and claw to the top of Iowa hills. And forget about staying clean. The seven-mile race begins at 9 a.m. at Living History Farms which is located near the intersection of I-80 and Hickman Road in Urbandale. Visit www.lhf.org for more information.



Photo submitted



Photo submitted

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY — VALLEY JUNCTION

Nov. 26

Are you your own man — or woman? Do you work for yourself? Are you your own boss? Do you want to be? Or maybe you want to support the engines that drive the American economy. Valley Junction is home to more than 150 specialty shops, restaurants and service providers. This is the day to do your holiday shopping while supporting the local little engines that could. Many small businesses will have special sales for this event which will last all day in the area surrounding Fifth Street and Railroad Avenue in West Des Moines. For more information, visit www.valleyjunction.com.

FESTIVAL OF TREES AND LIGHTS

Nov. 23-27

Get ready to "ooh" and "ahh" at the Festival of Trees and Lights. This five-day spectacular raises funds for Blank Children's Hospital — services that wouldn't be possible without the generous support of the community. Come see the best of the beautifully decorated trees, and enjoy the entertainment, children's activities, food, shopping and more. Get in the holiday spirit and decorate a tree, donate a book, volunteer or make a contribution. The event is hosted at Veteran's Memorial Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center, 833 Fifth Ave. in Des Moines. Tickets are \$5 for adults, and children 2 and younger are free. Visit www.unitypoint.org for more information.



Photo submitted

2016 EAST VILLAGE HOLIDAY PROMENADE

Nov. 18

A "prom" is a formal dance, the kind most high schools put on for upper classmen at the end of the year. The word "prom" is short for "promenade." The 2016 East Village Holiday Promenade isn't a dance, but it is a fun event to kickoff a season full of festivities. The event is scheduled for the hours of 5-9 p.m. in the Historic East Village. Visit eastvillagedesmoines.com for more information.

IOWA ENERGY — WELLS FARGO ARENA

Nov. 19

Coach Matt Woodley makes his pro coaching debut on the road on Nov. 11 against the Los Angeles D-Fenders. The team will play its home opener at Wells Fargo Arena on Nov. 19 versus the Delaware 87ers. Tipoff is at 7 p.m. To purchase tickets, call the Iowa Energy at 515-564-8550 or visit www.iowaNBA.com.



Photo courtesy of NBA/Getty Images

LIGHTS! CAMERA!

FEATURE STORY

IOWA ENERGY!

A decade of D-League basketball in Des Moines.
A look back. And the vision forward.

BY JEFF PITTS



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It may be hard to believe, but it has been a decade since the Iowa Energy surged onto central Iowa's basketball scene.

During the summer of 2016, the Energy — guided by General Manager Chris Makris — hired a new head coach in Matt Woodley. Together the dynamic duo is the driving force behind the city's NBA Developmental team.

Can this pair of talented young guns get the Energy back to a championship level? Des Moines is chomping at the bit to find out.

GENERAL MANAGER CHRIS MAKRIS

Makris is a Des Moines transplant. He may have started as an outsider to central Iowa, but the fellow Midwesterner — he grew up in Wisconsin — has logged nearly half his life in the metro area. The 37-year-old first came to town as a Drake Bulldog.

"I was a finance major," he recalled. "And I played football."

After graduating, Makris worked in the financial world but says he missed the competition of athletics. He attended San Diego State and attained an MBA, and when he was finished, the Energy job was open. He applied, and 10 years later, here he is.

"I've been here since Day 1," he said. "My title originally was, 'assistant general manager.' But there was no general manager. So I've pretty much had the same position for all 10 years."

Makris says the public's perception of the team has changed with time. When it was first introduced, some people were skeptical because minor league basketball doesn't have a rich history in the capitol city.

"I'm proud to be a part of something that has been here for 10 years and will be here for a very long time," he said. "It's neat overall, and it's a testament to our ownership group, our employees, everyone who has been a part of it, and, of course, to our fan base. We have really passionate fans and people who love our product."

Passion is a product of success. In seven of the Energy's nine seasons, the team has finished above .500, winning four division titles, including a D-League championship in 2011.

"And we've given back to the community, which I think is a huge part of our story," Makris said. "We're not here just to play basketball."

He lists the community efforts the team has been involved in such as the Read to Achieve program with the local schools or serving meals to the homeless. He adds that the team donates free tickets to many non-profits.

"Those are the reasons we are here — to give back to the city, make Des Moines a better place and to hopefully make a difference in people's lives and in children's lives as they grow up," Makris said.

Mission accomplished?

"I would say so," he says. "I mean, it's never done, because there is always more we can do. We can always get out in the community more, and give back more, sell more seats. The owners never started this team to make money. They didn't want to lose money, but it was to give back."

"I would say we've done a fabulous job. We probably don't toot our horns enough, because that was never the goal. But when you really dig into it and see the impact that we've made in this community, I think it's tangible, and I think people are benefitting from the Iowa Energy being in Des Moines."

Maxie Esho drives to the hoop for the Iowa Energy. The NBA Developmental League, or NBA D-League, tipped off in 2001 and serves as the NBA's only official minor league. Its goal is to prepare players, coaches, officials, trainers and front office staff for the big time. Photo by NBAE/Getty Images



Iowa Energy's Chris Makris with the hardware the team has earned through the years. With Makris at the helm, the Energy has finished with an above .500 record in seven of nine seasons. The team has won four division titles and in 2011 brought home a D-League championship. Photo by Jeff Pitts

D-LEAGUE CHANGES FOR THE UPCOMING SEASON

The Energy will play in the Western Conference for the first time this season, and Woodley thinks it's a good thing.

"These West coast teams will be coming here when it's 20 below zero," he laughs. "That's a home court advantage."

The Energy will move to play in the Southwest Division of the Western Conference as the D-League welcomes three new teams — the Greensboro Swarm (Charlotte Hornets), Long Island Nets (Brooklyn Nets) and Windy City Bulls (Chicago Bulls).

Two other teams have relocated, the Northern Arizona Suns (formerly the Bakersfield Jam) and Salt Lake City Stars (formerly the Idaho Stampede).

NEW HEAD COACH, MATT WOODLEY

Leading the 2016 version of the Energy will be Woodley, the new head coach and former Valley High School standout and Drake University alum who was hired on May 6.

He becomes the fifth head coach in the team's history.

Woodley spent the last two seasons with the Energy as an assistant. Before that, he spent three seasons as head coach of the Truman State Bulldogs.

Woodley doesn't plan on changing his coaching style.

"You need to be yourself," he says. "I always want my teams to be hard-nosed and defense oriented. We want to be hard to score on. We will play with pace. And I like to shoot a lot of threes."

Woodley replaces Bob Donewald Jr. who moved on after compiling a 52-48 record with the Energy during the previous two seasons. The squad went 26-24 last year.

Rosters in the D League are volatile, and carryover from year to year is generally small. The coach says teams in the D-League undergo massive personnel movement and roster turnover, so it's hard to gauge the upcoming year based on the previous year's results.

"There are a lot of guys coming and going, but it's the same for everybody," he said.

Woodley said the bar of excellence was set high early in the organization's history, but each year brings a fresh challenge. The goal is to win and develop young players.

"We're trying to put together the best team, not just a collection of talent," he said. "You either adapt or die," he says, referring to how analytics have changed the game, with more teams spacing the floor and shooting frequently.

He said he looks for tough players who are good teammates and have high character.

"And I like players who can shoot," he added.

Woodley said that coaches want upper management with similar goals and priorities. He and Makris have worked together for a while now, and each has the other's trust and respect. He has confidence Makris will deliver what he needs.

"He's the architect of putting those rosters together," Woodley said of Makris' role in constructing the Energy's successful teams of the past. "Our relationship is really good. We're aligned. Our goal is to win a championship. I feel fortunate to work with him."

In his 17 years of coaching, Woodley has experience on many different levels of basketball, and he's excited for a new challenge.

"I've always wanted to coach professional basketball. This is their (the players') job," he said. "This is their passion."

Matt Woodley is the Energy's fifth head coach. The local product was hired in May after spending the last two seasons with the team as an assistant.



Photo by NBAE/Getty Images

Before joining the Energy, Woodley spent three seasons as head coach of the Truman State Bulldogs. He has also been an assistant for Washington State University (2006-2009), Middle Tennessee State University (2004-2006) and the University of Denver (2001-2004).

Woodley envisions a hard-nosed, defensive-oriented team that is hard to score on, plays up tempo and consistently nails three pointers.

He comes from a coaching family. His dad, Mike, coaches Grand View University's football team along with his brother, Joe, who is the associate head coach. Matt's other brother, Brian, coaches Johnston High School's varsity football team.

Woodley replaced former coach Bob Donewald Jr.

WHAT IS THE D-LEAGUE, AND WHY DOES IT EXIST?

The NBA developmental league — or NBA D-League — tipped off in 2001. It serves as the NBA's only official minor league, and its goal is to prepare players, coaches, officials, trainers and front office staff for the big time.

Woodley says the NBA experiments with rule changes, but for the most part, the basketball in the D-League is similar to the NBA.

"(The NBA-DL) is growing product and a good one," said Woodley. "It's great basketball."

Iowa Energy tips off its 10th season this month on the road against the Los Angeles Defenders on Nov. 11. A scheduling quirk has the team playing three games on the road before heading home for opening night at The Well on Saturday, Nov. 19 at 7 p.m. against the Delaware 76ers. Then the Energy go back on the road, playing a total of seven away games in November and hosting only one. Home games are at Wells Fargo Arena in downtown Des Moines.

If the Energy qualifies for the playoffs, the games will go on, otherwise the schedule concludes in April.

IOWA ENERGY 2016-17 SCHEDULE

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
NOVEMBER			1	2	3	4	5
	6	7	8	9	10	11 LAD 9:30 PM	12 NAS 8:00 PM
	13	14	15	16 SCW 9:00 PM	17	18	19 DEL 7:00 PM
	20	21	22 WES 5:00 PM	23 GRD 6:00 PM	24	25 CTN 6:00 PM	26
	27 FWN 4:00 PM	28	29	30			
DECEMBER					1	2	3 SXF 7:00 PM
	4	5 TEX 7:00 PM	6	7	8	9 RNO 9:00 PM	10 NAS 8:00 PM
	11	12	13	14	15 AUS 7:00 PM	16 RNO 7:00 PM	17
	18	19	20 SCW 7:00 PM	21	22	23 SXF 7:00 PM	24
	25	26	27 RGV 7:00 PM	28	29 RGV 7:00 PM	30 AUS 7:30 PM	31
JANUARY	1	2	3	4	5 LAD 9:30 PM	6 SLC 8:00 PM	7
	8	9	10	11 TEX 7:00 PM	12	13	14
	15 GBO 4:00 PM	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25	26 OKL 7:00 PM	27	28 NAS 7:00 PM
	29	30	31				
FEBRUARY				1 RNO 9:00 PM	2	3 SCW 9:00 PM	4 SLC 8:00 PM
	5	6	7 OKL 10:50 AM	8	9 OKL 7:00 PM	10	11 TEX 7:30 PM
	12	13 RNO 7:00 PM	14 SXF 6:30 PM	15	16	17	18
	19	20	21	22	23 SLC 7:00 PM	24 LIN 7:00 PM	25
	26 AUS 5:00 PM	27	28				
MARCH/APRIL				1	2	3 OKL 7:00 PM	4
	5 MNE 3:00 PM	6	7	8	9	10	11
	12 SCW 4:00 PM	13 TEX 7:00 PM	14	15 LAD 7:00 PM	16	17 LAD 7:00 PM	18
	19	20	21 AUS 7:00 PM	22	23 WCB 7:00 PM	24	25 NAS 7:00 PM
	26	27	28 SXF 6:30 PM	29	30 ERI 7:00 PM	31	1 RGV 7:00 PM



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ENERGY OWNERSHIP

Two years ago, the original ownership group — an all-local group — decided it was time to pass the team on to someone who shared its passion for basketball, would keep it going and would keep it in Des Moines. That someone was Jed Kaplan.

Kaplan is a minority owner of the Memphis Grizzlies and the managing partner of the Energy. He sees potential in the NBA-DL, envisioning a full one-to-one affiliation similar to minor league baseball.

Makris says it was important to the original owners that the new owners keep the team in Des Moines. He thinks it's even more important to Kaplan.

"He feels a sense of responsibility," he said. "He sees the attendance we have, the passionate fans we have relative to other D-League cities and minor league teams, and he says, 'Des Moines should forever have a D-League team.'"

Makris explains there are three ownership models for D-League teams.

The first is NBA-owned teams, such as the Windy City Bulls. In this arrangement, the ownership group controls the business operations as well as the personnel and player developments.

The Energy, however, is owned under what is called a "hybrid affiliation," where the team's business operations are run by its ownership group, which in this case is Kaplan and his investors. The basketball operations are run by a separate entity, the Memphis Grizzlies.

Makris is employed by the Grizzlies, and as the G.M., he technically works for the Grizzlies, but he also oversees the business operations for Kaplan.

"Both sides want to see each other succeed," he said.

The third ownership type, which isn't currently utilized, is an independently owned

PROMOTIONS AND OTHER FUN TIMES...

Woodley said basketball fans should check out the Energy.

"You're seeing NBA players in your town for a very affordable price. If you are a fan of basketball, you can see the future stars of the NBA."

What about for non-basketball fans?

Woodley has four kids, and he says they love attending Energy games, even though they don't know who is playing on the floor, he laughs.

Besides a fun brand of up-tempo basketball, the Energy treats its fans to a plethora of fun promotions, including autographs after the game, ladies' night, guys' night, the High Voltage Dancers and the Spark Plugs along with the team's mascot, Surge.

Iowa Energy mascot, Surge, spurs the fans at Wells Fargo Arena to be louder. Photo by NBAE/Getty Images

team. This arrangement allows the basketball and business to be owned and operated by the same entity that is not directly affiliated with a NBA organization. Teams of this sort maintain an indirect relationship with NBA franchises in order to acquire players. The Energy used to be this type of team, but Makris doesn't envision this as a viable vehicle in the future.

"That ownership situation, we'll probably never see again," he said.

Makris said it is technically available, but too many NBA teams prefer placing players with organizations under their control and who run the same system with the same terminology, philosophy and training regimens.

"The league has 22 teams now," he said. "We'll get to 30 in a couple of years. When we get to 30, there will be that one-to-one affiliation like you see with the I-Cubs and Chicago Cubs."



FEATURE STORY

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ONE STEP FROM THE NBA

D-League rosters generally contain players at various stages of their playing careers. According to dleague.nba.com, about 40 percent of NBA players have NBA D-League experience.

Player acquisitions unfold via a variety of ways.

In addition to a six-round draft, organizations attain up to four “affiliate players” from parent NBA teams through local tryouts and free agency.

With the addition of five new teams in 2016-17, the league now has 22 teams.

Teams in the NBA-DL are stocked using a variety of mechanisms. Players may traverse many different paths. Familiar faces from big-time colleges come in to hone skills, as do small-school lesser-knowns and undrafted players hoping to raise eyebrows.

The Energy’s affiliation with the Grizzlies means that the NBA parent team may send any player it deems worthy to Iowa.

Makris said the eight NBA teams without affiliates may potentially send players to Iowa under the “flex-assignment system.”

“But they aren’t necessarily running their NBA parent club’s NBA offense, defense or using its terminology,” he said. “So there is a huge benefit to the teams who have invested in the D-League.”

He explains that the parent clubs need players to be game ready when called up. Makris remembers one such instance with current NBA player, Hassan Whiteside.

“He was playing for us on a Thursday night,” he remembered. “And then I think he was on TNT (in the NBA) on Saturday blocking 10 shots.”

According to Makris, the Grizzlies set an NBA record last year by suiting up 28 different players because of injuries, an all-time NBA record. ■



Iowa Energy guard, Terry Whisnant, 6, congratulates his teammate Alex Stepheson, 33. Photo by NBAE/Getty Images



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Locally Owned

GUIDE

The importance of local ownership

Locally owned. Does it really matter?

In our case with this magazine, we don't have corporate shareholders who own it, or east coast bosses who run it. We think that is important. Of course, we are biased.

I am a proud Iowan, and I am a proud publisher and involved owner who makes the day-to-day decisions at this publication. Unfortunately, we are living in a time when most media companies are owned and operated by people who don't know the difference between Altoona and Algona. They don't understand the history of Des Moines and central Iowa, and, quite frankly, they don't care. They are concerned with one thing — their career opportunities — and they will do whatever it takes to pad their resumes and make their shareholders and out-of-state bosses happy.

We simply report to you, our readers, as your loyalties to Cityview and our other publications are our lifeblood. Without readers, we can't deliver results for our advertisers, and some media companies are discovering this the hard way. Fortunately for us, we have nearly 70,000 readers like you who look to us each and every week for news and information they can't find elsewhere.

This locally owned special section is one way for us to honor what we and other independent companies do, and we appreciate the opportunity to publish it.

Thank you for allowing us to serve you. ■



- *Shane Goodman*
President and Publisher

CITYVIEW

Catch the 24/7 action

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ENTERTAINMENT

Along with our modern casino, we feature the hottest national, regional, and local entertainment in our spacious, non-smoking venues. Our November lineup is a spectacular mix of music and personalities. Friday, Nov. 18 stand-up comedian Bill Engvall will perform two shows at the Meadows Events Center. Best known for his signature "Here's Your Sign" bit, this member of the Blue Collar Comedy group will have you laughing the night away. Get your tickets now at the Prairie Meadows Gift Shop or at prairiemeadows.com. You can also rock out with us for free every Friday and Saturday night while listening to great local and regional musical acts at the Finish Line Show Lounge on casino level 2.

But that's not all. Our Triple Crown Buffet is serving a multitude of

Holiday buffets this season. Let us do the cooking this year with our special Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's buffet offerings.

And our awesome events don't end there. All year long we offer cash giveaways and other amazing prizes. This month, we're giving away BIG cash prizes every Wednesday with our Build the Bank promotion. With more than \$30,000 up for grabs, make sure you come out and enter for your chance to win!

HOTEL AND DINING

After your fun night out, our award-winning 168-room hotel is the perfect place to kick back and recharge. Come enjoy our contemporary rooms and impeccable service. When you get hungry, our delicious restaurants are your best bet for any meal. If you're craving steaks and quality seafood, AJ's Steakhouse is the place to go. If you're into lots of choices, try Triple Crown Buffet, the best and most flavorful buffet in Central Iowa. And if you want an overall great experience for breakfast, lunch, or dinner, check out Café at the Meadows. No matter what you choose, we know you're going to love it.

Come out to Prairie Meadows to catch all of the nonstop, 24/7 action. For more details, visit www.prairiemeadows.com. ■

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YOUR FAMILY WANTS ONE.
EVERYONE WANTS ONE.**



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The Learning Post

Address: Deerfield Crossing Center, 2761 100th St., Urbandale

Phone: 515-331-8008

Website: learningpostltd.com

Store hours: Monday – Friday 10 a.m. – 7 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Remember the good old days before video games, iPads and smartphones when you would hear your kids yell “Yahtzee!”, “Hit! You Sunk my Battleship!”, “Right hand Red!” or “I want to be the Scottie Dog!”? The tradition of sitting around the kitchen table playing “Family Game Night” is back and stronger than ever at The Learning Post in Urbandale.

Owner Kym Howe and her staff have been busy stocking the 13,000-square-foot store for the upcoming holiday season with thousands of hard-to-find specialty toys and unique gifts. Howe has always enjoyed playing board games with her family and friends, so this season she added a new “Must Have Family Games” section.

“We chose games that are unique, fun and build on important skills,” Howe says. “We have a matrix of ‘Age vs. Category’ to help people easily find the type of game that suits them best.”

And what can be more fun than to try it before you buy it? The Learning Post has set up demo tables for certain games for parents and kids to try them out. If the game you want to try is not set up, they will offer to open any of the more than 50 games they have in this new “Must Have Family Games” section to play with them. You’ll be confident that you are leaving with a game that will invite your family to unplug for hours of good old-fashioned fun.

Nov. 12 is Neighborhood Toy Store Day. Save the date! This is a day to come together and celebrate the special role that locally owned neighborhood toy stores play in their communities. Join your neighbors, support your local economy, and inspire your child with the best toys on the market that can only be found at The Learning Post. Everything in the store will be 10 percent off, and there will be prizes, free balloon animals and more. Check The Learning Post website or their Facebook page for details.

To make gift shopping easier this holiday season, Howe also added sections for “must have” toys for each age group — 0 to adult. When in doubt as to what to buy, you can always pick up The Learning Post gift card for just about anyone on your list or to thank that special teacher.

For more than 39 years, The Learning Post has been known for being one of Iowa’s largest resources for educational products and classroom supplies for teachers, homeschoolers, daycares and parents. It also features a huge assortment of workbooks, puzzles, games, toys, books and a large variety of arts and crafts that will educate and challenge your child’s thinking while he or she is having fun. ■



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Educational Toys • Specialty Toys • Unique & Hard to Find Toys

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NEIGHBORHOOD TOY STORE DAY

10% OFF ENTIRE
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Store Hours: 10am-5pm

Save the Dates! -

Extra 10% off entire store on:

- Nov. 25th (Black Friday) 8am-8pm
- Nov. 26th (Small Business Saturday) 8am-8pm

The Learning Post

2761 100th Street Urbandale • 515-331-8008 • learningpostltd.com

- Play “Are you Smarter than a 5th Grader” with KJJY’s Monk & Kelly, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Stock up on Games for “Family Game Night”
- New “Must Have Family Games & Toys” sections
- Try out new fun games at our game tables!

BALLOON ANIMALS

12pm-3pm



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East Village Foot and Ankle Surgeons

Owner: Dr. Justin Raatz

Address: 500 E. Court Ave., Des Moines

Phone: 515.282.6067

Website: www.eastvillagefootandankle.com

I drove by Des Moines University the other day. I was waiting at the stoplight at 31st and Ingersoll and noticed the third-year students walking by. Some of them had new scrubs on. Their colored scrubs weren't as faded as they will become later this year — as they always do following wash after wash. I laughed a little thinking of their new white coats pressed and on a hanger and how that will soon change for them. But I remember all too well that feeling of a perfectly pressed white coat and the emotion I felt putting it on. Feeling like I was on my way — well, part of the way — to accomplishing my lifelong dream of becoming a doctor. Then I thought about how many times I've grabbed my wrinkled white coat from my car or the back of my chair. Such a difference almost a

decade makes.

It's crazy to think how far those students still have to go, chipping away at their education and worrying about their upcoming residency. I remember those days like it was yesterday, and yet, it seems like a lifetime ago. Since my days at Des Moines University, I feel like I've lived a lifetime.

In my fourth year of medical school, I was fortunate enough to be accepted into several rotation programs such as Beth Israel at Harvard in Boston, Massachusetts, and Yale/New Haven Hospital in New Haven, Connecticut. My wife and I bounced from city to city on the east coast as I continued my training before graduation. After graduation, we landed in Kansas City for several years where I completed surgical residency at Truman Medical Center and was chief resident.

My wife and I brought a beautiful baby girl into the world and were ready to find the perfect place for me to practice. I was offered an amazing opportunity in western Nebraska near Colorado. We love to ski and the outdoors, so we jumped on

the opportunity, and it was awesome.

More than four years and another bouncing baby (a boy this time) later, it was getting more and more difficult to be so far away from family. At some point, you take a leap of faith, and after a lot of preparation, you go for it. We made the move back to Des Moines, and we are thrilled. Everything fell into place. It was absolutely meant to be. All my training, helping thousands of patients, completing thousands of surgeries, led up to my return to Iowa.

After that reflective drive past Des Moines University that day, I pulled into my new clinic in the East Village and walked in. As I prepared for the day, my nurse came in my office and said my first patient was ready for me. After a quick review of the patient's chart, without looking, I reached for my wrinkled white coat on the back of my chair — but it wasn't there. I looked up, and there in the corner of my office was a stack of freshly-pressed white coats on hangers. I smiled, knowing it was the start of something great. ■

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info@evfootankle.com

Hall of Laureates

Address: 100 Locust St.

Phone: 515-245-3783

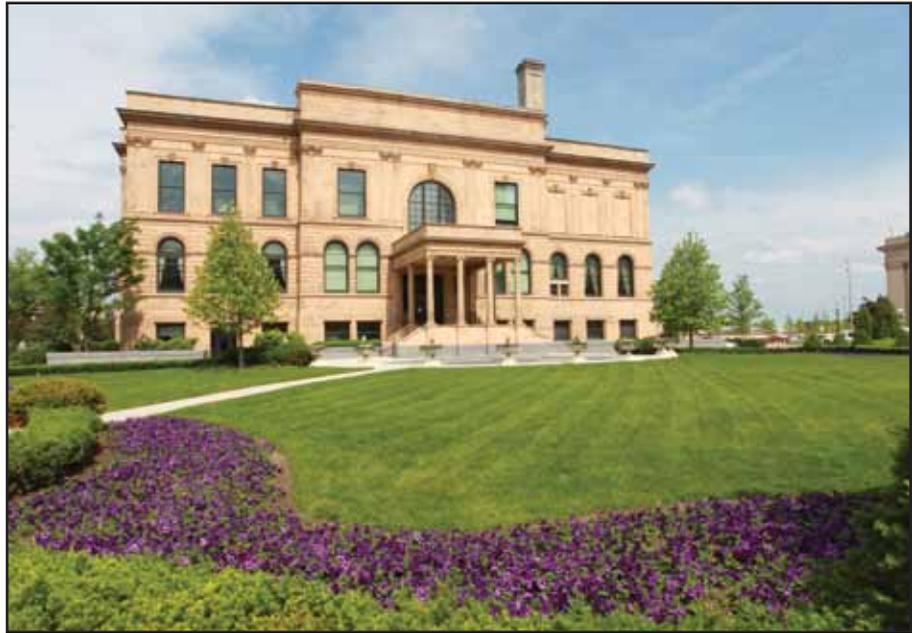
Website: www.worldfoodprize.org

The Norman E. Borlaug Hall of Laureates — home of The World Food Prize — is a public museum, educational facility and a place of inspiration for all Iowans. It is a magnificent setting where visitors can explore the awe-inspiring stories of some of Iowa's greatest heroes and the achievements of world-renowned scientists and leaders who are helping to feed the world.

More than 100 pieces of specially commissioned artwork tell the stories of heroes such as Dr. Norman E. Borlaug — founder of the World Food Prize — as well as the 35 World Food Prize laureates, and features within the building also showcase the history of agriculture.

The World Food Prize Hall of Laureates serves as:

- a world-class museum to recognize great achievements in agriculture and fighting hunger;
- a convocation center at which to hold events during the World Food Prize International Symposium — the Borlaug Dialogue;
- a home for the expanding Global Youth Institute, which aims to inspire the next generation of leaders;
- an educational facility featuring interactive displays on hunger and food security;
- and a conference center and event space available to other groups and organizations for their meetings and other activities.

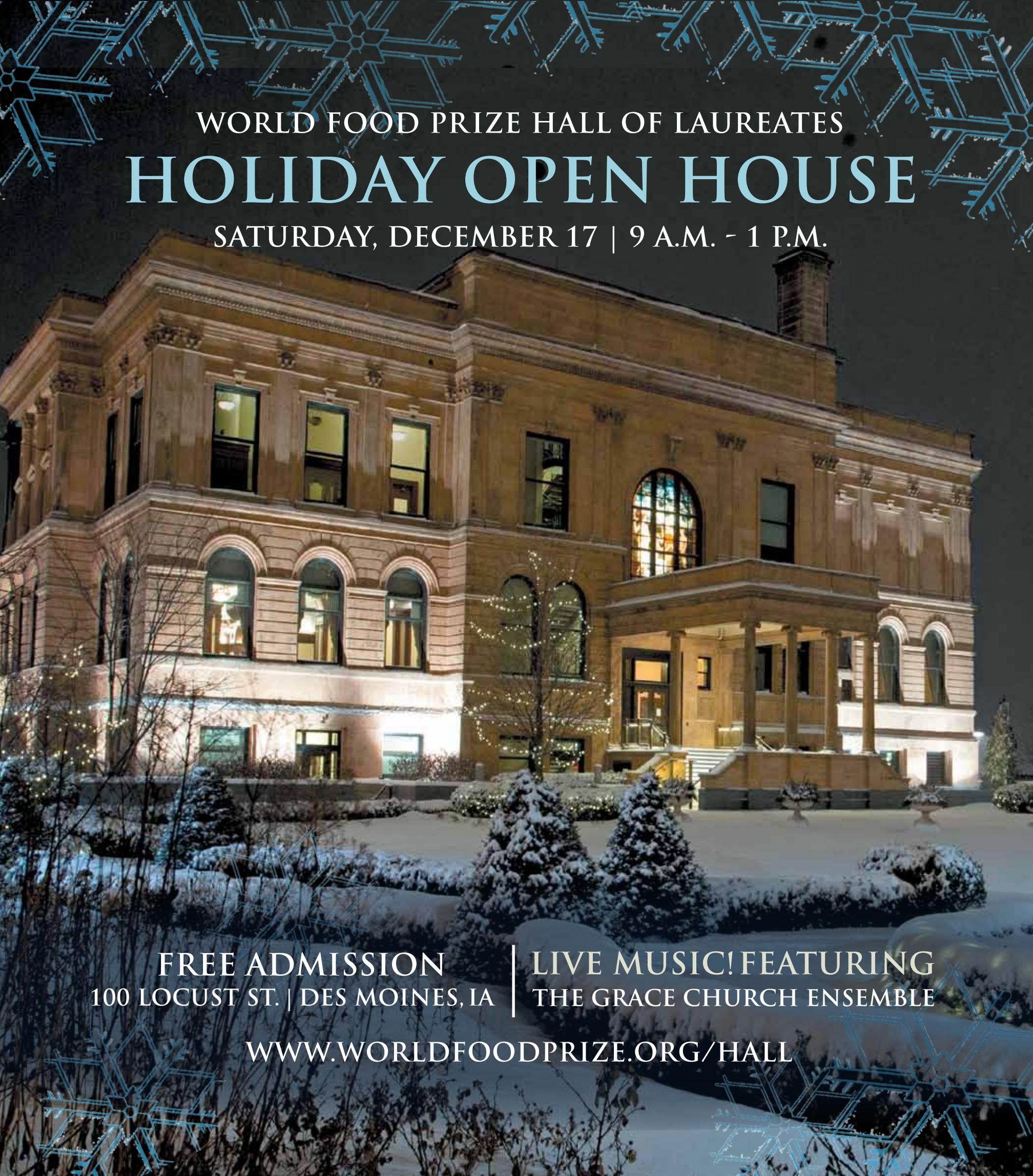


This magnificently restored Beaux Arts space celebrates the spirit of giving, emphasizing the importance of global food security. Dr. Borlaug is honored for his role as the Father of the Green Revolution and the man who has saved more than one billion lives with his innovations in agriculture. The building also pays tribute to the World Food Prize Laureates and Iowa's agricultural and humanitarian pioneers for their significant contributions to the global fight against hunger and helping to feed the world and improve the lives of others.

Walk-in visitors: Tuesdays: Guided Tours are given at 9 a.m., 10:30 a.m., noon and 1:30 p.m. Saturdays: Self-Guided Tours, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Docents available to talk with visitors.

Pre-Booked Tour Groups: Wednesdays and Thursdays have been reserved for group tours scheduled 10 business days in advance. Wednesdays: Tours available 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Please schedule in advance. Thursdays: Tours available 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Please schedule in advance.

To schedule a tour, please contact Nicole Barreca, 515-245-3735. More details, including photos and videos of the World Food Prize Hall of Laureates, are available at www.worldfoodprize.org/hall. ■



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WWW.WORLDFOODPRIZE.ORG/HALL

District 36 Wine Bar & Grille and Urban Grill

Owner: Dave & Jean Thompson

Address: 1375 S.W. Vintage Parkway, Ankeny and 3651 86th St., Urbandale

Phone: 261-2502 and 278-1016

Website: www.district36winebar.com and www.theurbangrilldm.com



Dave and Jean Thompson, owners of The Urban Grill and District 36 Wine Bar & Grille, began their journey as restaurant owners in October of 2013. Dave worked in the industry long before, managing The Urban Grill before purchasing it. The Urban Grill is the definition of a family-run business, with the Thompsons as board members, managers and hosts, as well as many staff members who are regarded as family. Dave and Jean began construction on their second restaurant, District 36 Wine Bar & Grille, in June 2015 and opened its doors in May of 2016. Both restaurants are family owned and the owners take pride in being on premise to see that all of their guests receive the quality service and food they deserve.

The Urban Grill has a warm, rich environment with Honduran Mahogany walls where you can relax and enjoy. It combines a cozy neighborhood, family atmosphere with All-American food, wine, beer and spirits. The Urban Grill is in the heart of Urbandale and easily accessible from interstates 80, 35 and 235. Enjoy a great covered patio during the months of beautiful weather, and it's a perfect place to enjoy a cocktail. When the patio is closed, there are fireplaces throughout the restaurant, creating

ambiance and warming you up during the cold Iowa winter. Open for lunch and dinner six days a week; come relax, refresh and indulge.

District 36 Wine Bar & Grille is also open Monday – Saturday for lunch and dinner. Enjoy early appetizers, late afternoon business meetings, social hour or family celebrations — they have it all covered. District 36 celebrates a spin on classic food and promotes community craft beers and new liquors, and it has an extensive wine list. The sophisticated, upscale casual décor of The Urban Grill is mirrored at District 36. There are various atmospheres based on your needs, whether you are planning a business meeting, gathering with friends, special events, hanging out for football, or enjoying dinner for two on the patio overlooking the lake at Prairie Trail. No time to eat in? They can help with that, too. At both locations, you can call and order dinner or lunch to go. District 36 Wine Bar and Grille is a place for exceptional food, wine and spirits. ■



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Owner: Michelle Nulph

Address: 2311 Rocklyn Drive, Urbandale

Phone: 402-9317

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Canine Clean is the perfect place to bring your canine friends for all their washing needs. They offer professional, high-waist tubs and non-slip ramps to make your dog-washing experience easier. Aprons, towels, brushes, combs, shampoo, conditioner and professional dryers are also available for use to pamper your pup! Flea and tick, whitening and neutralizing shampoo are also available for additional costs.

Check out their Facebook page for additional details. ■



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Michelle Flesher, Owner

2311 Rocklyn Drive Urbandale
515-402-9317
www.facebook.com/caninecleandsm

Scratch Cupcakery

Address: 7450 Bridgewood Blvd., Suite 215, West Des Moines

Phone: 518-8962

Website: www.scratchcupcakery.com

It doesn't get more homegrown than living where you were grown. For Scratch Cupcakery, Iowa is where all of their stories began. Since opening its doors first in June of 2010 as a very small, locally owned business in Cedar Falls, Scratch Cupcakery has expanded by the grace of its customers and is still being run by the same locals who started it. Fast-forward four years later, Scratch now has four locations throughout Iowa: Cedar Falls, Waterloo, West Des Moines and Coralville.

Scratch offers more than 25 different flavors of cupcakes every day, with its menu expanding to more than 200 flavors total! From classics like Wedding Day and Peanut Butter Cup, to new fan favorites like Sully and Brownie Batter, Scratch has something for everyone's sweet tooth! You can also stop in to Scratch and pick up a delicious smoothie, freshly squeezed lemonade, gourmet cup of coffee, cake balls, or even a treat for your favorite furry friends! Stop in to the Scratch Cupcakery near Jordan Creek Mall today or go to www.scratchcupcakery.com to learn more! ■



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Westside Auto Pros

Owner: Ron Haugen

Address: 1901 N.W. 92nd Court, Clive

Phone: 225-9090

Website: www.westsideautopros.com

“My goal is to take the best possible care of our customers and the best possible care of our employees. If I accomplish that, I am successful.”
Ron Haugen, owner, Westside Auto Pros, June, 1997

His journey started with two employees and a small two-bay shop in Des Moines and has grown into a nationally recognized, award-winning, cutting-edge service center with 14 bays and 24 employees with a combined 166 years of automotive repair experience. Yet Ron and his team have never lost sight of what is most important: taking care of customers, and each other. For almost 20 years, Westside Auto Pros has been serving Des Moines car owners with a singular focus on delivering exceptional service and building strong customer relationships.



The numerous awards that Westside Auto Pros has garnered over the past two decades include AAA's "Top Shop" award for 14 consecutive years (the only shop in Iowa to be awarded so many years in a row), the prestigious "Facility of the Year" award at VISION, the number one automotive trade show in the country, voted "Best of" by the readers of Cityview for nine consecutive years, and being selected by AAA to be their exclusive Mobile Battery Provider and exclusive provider of towing and roadside assistance for the entire Des Moines area. This combination provides service to well more than 15,000 stranded motorists a year with a fleet of 12 vehicles which are in service 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The shop that started 20 years ago as one man's dream has since become a trusted friend to



thousands of satisfied customers. From dedicated non-stop shuttle service and free loaner cars with repairs, to multiple financing programs and a team of Master Certified Technicians, Ron Haugen and the Westside Auto Pros staff work hard, every day, to create an unparalleled experience that makes people say, "WOW!" ■





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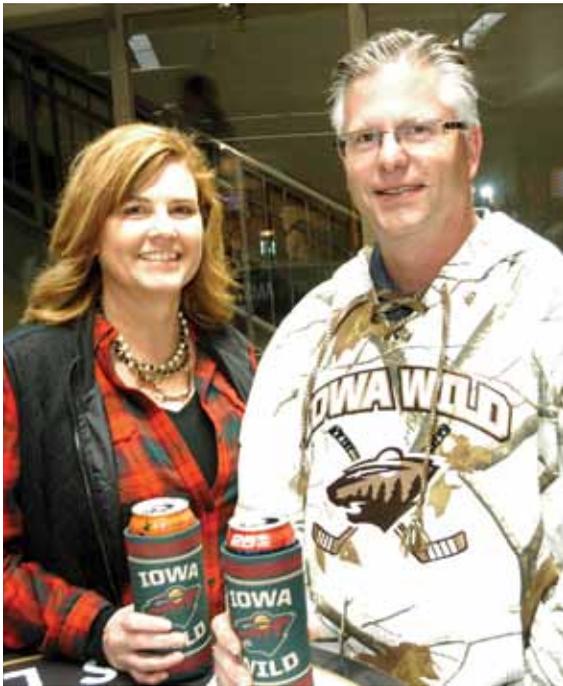
225-9090

www.westsideautopros.com



AROUND TOWN

PHOTOS BY DAN HODGES



Lani and Jeff Lonning



Molly Torchia, Courtney Callahan and Matt Eberling



Cheri and Brian Lundquist



Andrea Kontor and Dalton Anderson



Sarah and Fana Teffera



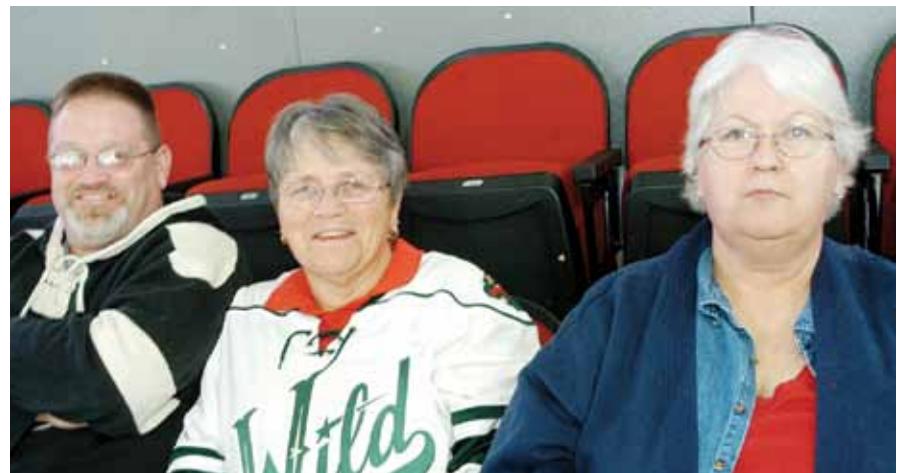
Tonie and Anne Curran

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Mike Hagen and Ben Hagen



Kelly Jensen, Brenda Jensen and Pam Clausen



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HOME OF THE \$3 LONG ISLANDS

LUNCH WITH...

GRAHAM COOK

Talking insurance, art collecting and retirement at Exile

STORY BY JIM DUNCAN | PHOTOS BY DAN HODGES

Graham Cook has been Des Moines' most eccentric corporate leader for decades. Standing more than 6-foot-6-inches tall and skinny, he jokes that he would be typecast to play a mortician in a horror film. Usually dressed more like a 19th-century poet than a president/CEO of a conservative insurance corporation, Cook and his art collection have long been the envy of many souls trapped in conformity.

After hearing that he was somewhat lost amidst the free time of retirement, we asked to lunch recently. He chose Exile, a pub and brewing company in the Western Gateway. He marveled that brew pubs and craft breweries have become so successful.

"They had a short run in the 1970s and early '80s, but those almost all failed rather quickly. When I was young, the crowd I ran with was content with the cheapest beer," he said, agreeing that young folks today have more expensive tastes.

Cook thinks that has become a challenge for the life insurance industry.

"I don't think many millennials are willing to insure any kind of risk. They want to spend their money on more immediate gratifications. We had a matching 401K program at Homesteaders, and few signed up," he observed.

Cook's success in the industry was as unconventional as his wardrobe. He began working part time at Homesteaders Life when he was a student at Drake. An English major, he was assigned to write and publish the corporation's newsletter.

"That was before computers. Publishing a newsletter required skills with scissors, paste pots, cameras and printers, but it was a good way to learn about the company," he recalled.

The company liked Cook's work enough to offer him a full-time job upon graduation in 1969.

"I was paid the grand sum of \$500 a week. My mentor, Jim Wilson, liked me enough to let me do all kinds of different things — stuff no 21-year-old kid probably should have been doing. My big perk was that they flew me all over the country, first class. I had to be one of the only \$500-a-week employees in the nation with a drawer full of first-class amenities," he joked.

How did the company change during Cook's five decades there?

"When I started, we sold everything. We were not big enough to be doing that. We needed a niche where we could stand out. In the 1970s, prefunded funerals were not yet on line. I was writing ad copy for the company then. I remember one of my taglines like I wrote it this morning: 'Don't let your final expenses become a burden for your loved ones.'

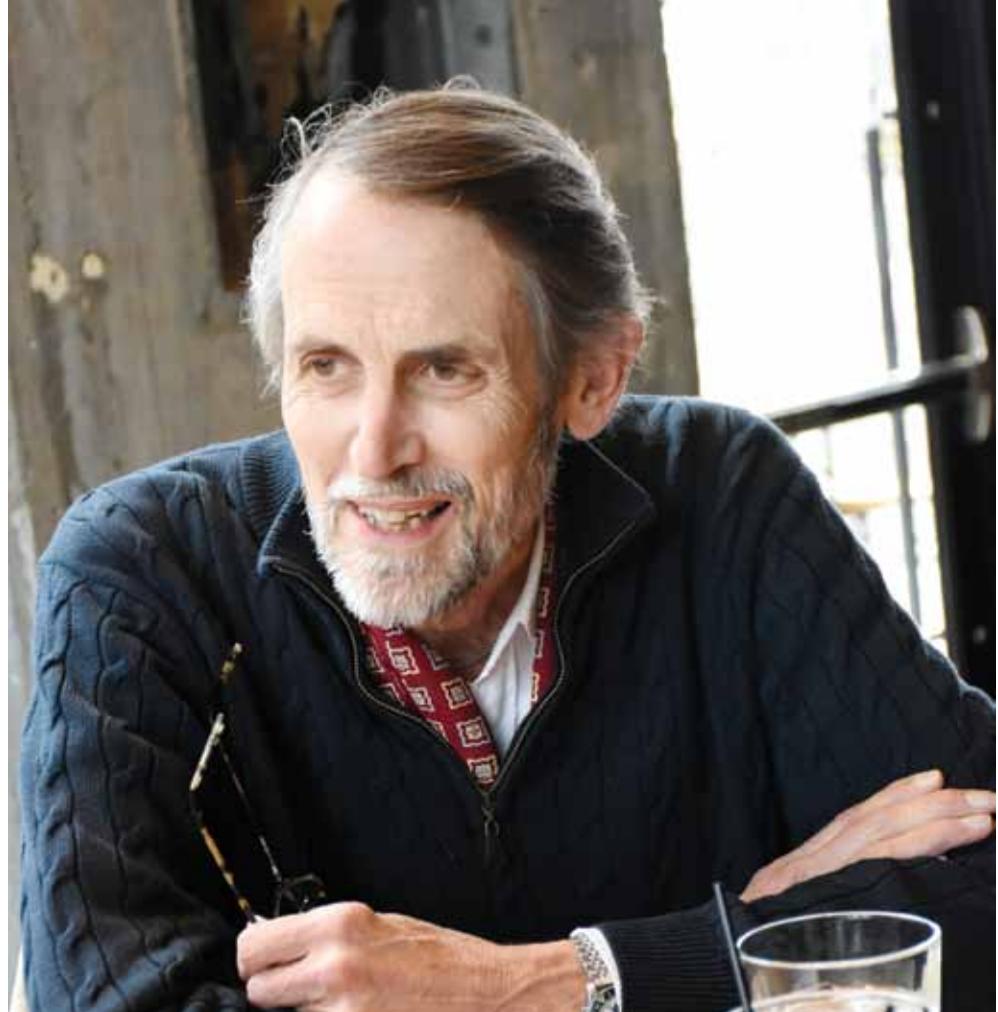
"That became our niche. We flipped pre-funded funerals into life insurance funded funerals. Now everyone does it, but we were early through that door. Funeral homes became one of our biggest customers. Now, \$4 billion a year is spent on prefunded funerals. That number grew dramatically when the feds allowed prefunded funeral policies to become tax shelters and shelters for income regarding Title 19," he explained regarding the maximum assets someone can have and still be eligible for Medicaid.

Cook said his English-major-to-president/CEO journey was a strange one.

"I spent about 70 percent of my time visiting funeral homes, casket makers, morticians and embalmers. I never dreamed when I was in high school that my life would take that direction. No one does, I hope," he recalled.

The challenges to the industry are already here, he said.

"The popularity of crematoriums is a huge challenge to funeral homes," Cook said. "They used to make their margins on the sale of hardware like caskets and tombstones. With more people choosing cremations, they have to move into services. Today, casket companies are starting their own insurance companies to sell Granny a guarantee that she will be laid to rest in a cemetery rather than being tossed to



the wind. Funeral homes resemble car dealers in this. The money is made now on services, not on profits off car sales. This is harder today. Price is the main factor in most purchases, other than beer. I think the last full-service gas station in town is closing. I always paid their higher prices in case I needed them to come and tow me sometime.

"The next biggest challenge to life insurance is low interest rates. They cut our margins, and they do not appear to be going up again in the near future."

Retirement hasn't been a boon to increasing Cook's art collection, however. Simply put, he ran out of places to put it.

"I will say this though. Bonnie Percival (Percival Gallery) told me to 'never buy a piece that sticks out in an artist's body of work. Evaluate the entire body of work, and you will be successful collecting.' This has served me well. Despite the fact that I did reject offers to buy a Chuck Close self-portrait and a Robert Cottingham marquee painting that would have made me lots of money. Today, I am mostly interested in lesser-known artists. If you go to an art fest, don't buy the only painting you like in an artist's booth. Like them all or don't buy," he said.

Retirement hasn't been all it's cracked up to be either.

"I don't like it. I loved the regularity of fully scheduled days," he said. "I drive by schools today, and I can't understand where all these kids are going at 2 p.m. When I was in high school, I was busy until after dinnertime with classes and activities. College was the only previous time in my life when I had gaps in my schedule. I didn't like it then either. I recently joined a skeet shooting group. All the others are retired military guys, and I like being around their discipline."

Cook is on many boards of directors, and his favorite is Drake's interdisciplinary leadership curriculum.

"It is a brilliant idea," he said. "Only 6 percent of American universities have leadership courses in multiple disciplines. Yet leadership is the No. 1 thing 80 percent of businesses look for in graduates. And they don't mean being a fraternity pledge master.

"Kids today are so much more mature and capable than I was at their age. One Drake student came to Homesteaders to pitch us on joining their movement to get rid of disposable plastic water bottles. Someone told him we would have to do a cost benefit analysis, and he presented us with one," he said. ■

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The Café at the Meadows has Ultimate Burger



The Café at the Meadows

1 Prairie Meadows Drive, Altoona
967-1000

Daily 7 a.m. - 2 p.m.,
Tuesday - Thursday 5-10 p.m.,
Friday - Saturday 5-11 p.m.

EAT & DRINK

The Cafe at the Meadows Ultimate Burger.

Each fall, Cityview holds a contest to let readers select the ultimate local version of a popular food. Sandwich lovers picked B&B Grocery Meat & Deli's pork tenderloin as the ultimate sandwich. Steakhouse fans went with Chicago Speakeasy, noodle lovers chose Noodle Zoo, and barbecue aficionados selected Woody's. Twice we held pizza runoffs with Gusto yielding its title last year to Taste of New York. In this, the most contentious of political years, we decided it was time to let you pick the ultimate burger in town.

We began in September with 64 specific burgers from different restaurants, all nominated by readers. Only a few resembled what was known as a hamburger a few decades ago — ground beef patty on a bun with pickle, mustard, ketchup and onion. Zombie Burger, which has 27 different burgers on its menu, was represented by The Walking Ched, which has a breaded and deep fried macaroni & cheese bun, plus a beef patty, macaroni & cheese, caramelized and red onions, bacon and mayonnaise. Saints nominated its Juicy Lucy, a Minneapolis invention in which cheese melts in the middle of the beef patty instead of on top. The Ankeny Diner was represented by its "Maytag burger" despite the fact that the government has kept Maytag from producing its famous blue cheese for months. We salute that grand gesture of protest.

One person's idea of an ultimate burger could scare another person. Alba's fried green tomato burger represented that much honored restaurant, but how many people in Iowa eat fried green tomatoes? Many places featured a burger with one specific, off the beaten path ingredient. The Spot's pastor burger; Dino's candy bacon cheeseburger; Guru BBQ's brisket burger; popper burgers from Draught House 50 and The Beerhouse; and rarebit burgers from Gilroy's, Maxie's and Spectators Sports Bar & Grill all fit that description. Americana's tiki burger includes something from every food group, plus an umbrella.

When we tabulated the top 16 vote getters, we found that most readers prefer simpler burgers. B-Bop's, Bennigan's, BW's, Café at the Meadows, Club Car, Dino's, G Mig's, Granite City, Kelly's Little Nipper, Local Yocals, Noah's, The Other Place, Trophy's, Vivian's and Zombie made the cut, mostly with versions of cheeseburgers with nothing much stranger than bacon and or ham added. Zombie was the exception. Local Yocals made the cut with a superb lamb burger.

The top three vote getters pretty much defined what central Iowans like best on their burgers. Bronze medalist G Mig's "George's prime rib burger"

SIDE DISHES

Nick's won the Iowa Pork Producers annual best tenderloin designation. It's about time... Iowa moved up to ninth in percentage of obese people. Mississippi was No. 1 as usual.

concentrates on high quality beef, with a wild mushroom blend, caramelized onions and jack cheese on a ciabatta bun. Silver medalist Trophy's Trophy burger tops their beef patty with ham and cheese.

The winner — The Café at the Meadows — offered a similar burger, grilled with two kinds of cheese, two slices of ham, two rashers of bacon, lettuce, tomatoes, pickles and mayonnaise on a homemade bun. The Café is a top spot for breakfast, which is served all day and night. I would love to have its recipe for pancake and waffle batter. Its lunch and dinner service deserves to poach a few customers though, from the super-popular Triple Crown buffet in the same complex.

Situated on the main floor of Prairie Meadows hotel, the Café is more accessible than the casino's other restaurants. It's easier to find parking near the door. Decorated in a comforting combination of teal, tan, burnt orange and yellow, its 60 seats include both booths and tables. TVs are tuned to news and sports without volume. Light rock plays quietly. ■

PLACES

AMERICAN

B-Bops: B-Bops has the best burgers in town! For 23 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.

Café at the Meadows: Café at the Meadows is a convenient stop for a hearty breakfast, delicious lunch or a spectacular evening dinner. Whatever you choose, we know you're going to like what we've got prepared. Located next to our hotel lobby. Enjoy breakfast served all day. 1 Prairie Meadows Drive, Altoona. 967-1000.

Down Under: Des Moines' favorite sports bar! Located in northwest Des Moines, it's a neighborhood bar that offers a large covered patio, great food and beverages, pool, darts, video golf and other videogames. You can watch sports,

all the games with The NFL Sunday Ticket, on 20 flat-screens, plus they feature daily specials, fun events, various contests and much, much more.

Granite City Food & Brewery: A polished casual American restaurant featuring fresh, high-quality menu items prepared from made-from-scratch recipes. Granite City is passionate about creating fresh menu items from scratch and uses its patented brewing process to deliver the best brews. 12801 University Ave., Clive. 224-1300. www.gcfb.net.

Triple Crown Eatery: The Triple Crown Eatery is hands down the best and most extensive buffet in central Iowa. Indulge yourself with outstanding entrees and sides prepared fresh daily by our award-winning chefs. You'll be amazed at the selection and the prices. 1 Prairie Meadows Drive, Altoona. 967-1000.

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. greenbriartrostels.com.

BACON

Jethro's Bacon Bacon: Mmmm...bacon! Breakfast served always at this location. Try the Bacon Bloody Mary, the Bucket of Bacon, Triple Bacon Benedict, bacon wrapped ribs or any of Jethro's World Famous, award winning "Amazing Slow Smoked Meats." 1480 22nd St., West Des Moines. 868-0888. www.jethrosbbq.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-pound capacity smoker. 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. The Johnston Jethro's features 29 huge 60- and 70-inch TVs that will bring you all the sports. Twin 900-pound 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.

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CAJUN

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Jethro's BBQ Lakehouse: Jethro has built his very own LAKEHOUSE in the booming city of Ankeny. Two patios overlook the serene water of Prairie Trail Lake as a giant moose and trophy elk gaze. Twenty-two big screen TVs bring you all the sports action. Twin, 750-pound hickory fired smokers cook all of Jethro's award-winning "Amazing Slow Smoked Meats." The Cajun Creole Creations made famous at Jambalaya are proudly served. Imagine how good the taste of walleye served fresh from the lake is at Jethro's LAKEHOUSE, your Ankeny neighborhood sports bar. 1425 S.W. Vintage Parkway, Ankeny. 289-4444. www.jethrosdesmoines.com.

CHINESE

China Star: Great Chinese cuisine. Available for dine in, carry out and delivery. 7164 University Ave., Windsor Heights. 279-2456.

China Garden: Great Chinese cuisine. Available for dine in, carry out and delivery. 2020 Grand Ave., Suite 1300, West Des Moines. 255-5115.

China One International Buffet:

"China One International Buffet has moved to a new location! Now located at 4804 S.W. Ninth St., Des Moines, they serves a variety of Chinese, Japanese and American food. Available for dine in or take out. 237-0022 or 244-6211.

DESSERT

Cupcake Addict: Cupcake Addict is located in Johnston, and specializes in made-to-order cupcakes, unique flavors and creative designs. While cupcakes are their specialty, Cupcake Addict also provides cakes, cake balls, cupcake cakes and chocolate-dipped pretzels. All cupcakes can be custom-made to order and are never frozen, using only the high-quality ingredients to create a high-quality product. Cupcake Addict is proud to be locally owned and operated by Janet Hoch. Visit cupcakeaddictdm.com for a full list of flavors, products and services or stop by at 8705 Chambery Blvd., Suite 400, Johnston. Hours are Tuesday-Thursday 11 a.m. - 8 p.m., Friday and Saturday 11 a.m. - 9 p.m., and Sunday 11 a.m. - 6 p.m.

ITALIAN



Biaggi's

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.

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Noah's Ark Ristorante: Noah's Ark Ristorante has been a well-known Ingersoll tradition for decades. It offers a comfortable, relaxed, inviting atmosphere combined with a friendly and helpful staff. Serving up a full menu of delicious Italian cuisine, you are sure to find something you love. 2400 Ingersoll Ave. 288-2246.

Tumea & Sons: Don't feel like cooking dinner? Come to Tumea & Sons for a tasty Italian meal. With a host to choose from including traditional pasta dishes and homemade Italian pastries – the whole family will be satisfied. 1501 S.E. First St., Des Moines. 282-7976. www.tumeaandsons.net.

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. 223-6319.

El Tapatio: One of the best-looking Mexican restaurant in the metro. All furniture is custom-made with La Tapatia's sombrero logo and pineapples, the international symbol of the hospitality industry. Both are hand-carved into wood and leather booths and inlaid under



El Tapatio

laminated tables. Slate walls, tile floors and fabulous, large paintings of both Guadalajara and Des Moines complete this 210-seat restaurant's ambiance. The menu also catered to west side preferences in Latino food. Chips came with a mild red salsa and a bean dip. Ground beef and chicken tacos are featured on all combo dinners and in specials. 3751 E.P. True Parkway, West Des Moines. Mon.-Thurs. 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. Fri. - Sat. 11 a.m. - 10:30 p.m. Sunday 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.

PIZZA

Godfather's Pizza: Godfather's Pizza is celebrating 40 years of making abundantly topped pies for passionate pizza people. We make pizza the way it was meant to be — with an incredible crust, delicious veggies, hearty meats and a ton of 100 percent real cheese. It's absolutely irresistible. There's nobody's pizza like Godfather's pizza. Visit today at one of three convenient metro locations. 4119 University Ave., Des Moines. 277-6344. 200 S.E. Gateway Drive, Suite 111, Grimes. 986-2228. 5919 Ashworth Road, West Des Moines. 226-8880. www.godfathers.com.

SEAFOOD

Splash Seafood Bar and Grill: Splash Seafood Bar and Grill is a great place to enjoy fresh fish, oysters and hand-cut steaks, all in a fun and vibrant surrounding right in downtown Des Moines. Visit the oyster bar for some of the freshest original menu items or the famous clam chowder. 303 Locust St., Suite 100. 244-5686. www.splash-seafood.com.

Waterfront Seafood Market: This family-owned, casual seafood restaurant, market, sushi and oyster bar is undefeated as the metro's best seafood for the past 23 years. Most of the fish and seafood is bought directly from the docks where the fishermen bring in their catch. The fish and seafood arrive via airfreight and are hand-cut by a full-time fish cutter. For hours, specials and more information, visit www.waterfrontseafoodmarket.com. 2900 University Ave. Clocktower Square, West Des Moines. 223-5106. 2414 S.E. Tones Drive, Ankeny. 963-1940.

SHARED PLATES

RoCA: RoCA, short for "Restaurant on Court Avenue," is Des Moines' premiere restaurant located in the Historic Court Avenue District of Downtown Des Moines. The savory, locally sourced menu items pair perfectly with the exciting wines and hand crafted cocktails. Join for drinks and a meal in the main restaurant, in the lounge, or at the bar. Have a party in the RoCA room with seating for up to 36 people. Book your reservation online or call during business hours at 515.282.3663 for availability. 208 Court Ave., Des Moines. www.rocadm.com.

SMALL PLATES

Trostel's Dish: You'll love the unique dining experience at this restaurant which offers small dishes with fresh flavor from



Trostel's Dish

around the world and seasonal selections every three months. Enjoy wine flights and cheese flights. Private dining area for business meetings or intimate gatherings. Bar opens at 4 p.m., Monday – Saturday. Dinner starts at 5 p.m. 12851 University Ave., Suite 400, Clive. 221-DISH. www.dishtrostels.com.

STEAKHOUSE

Iowa Beef Steak House: Now serves lunch Monday through Friday 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. This is new for Iowa Beef Steak House, and they are sure you will love lunch just as much as dinner, served Monday through Sunday from 5-10 p.m. Iowa Beef has recently been taken over by new ownership and has added some new menu items they are sure you will love. They are now offering a freshly ground burger with all the works, thinly sliced Philly Cheese Steak Sandwich, salad bar prepared in-house, and The Pier's famous clam chowder. They are located in the same great location at 1201 E. Euclid Ave., Des Moines. 262-1138

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

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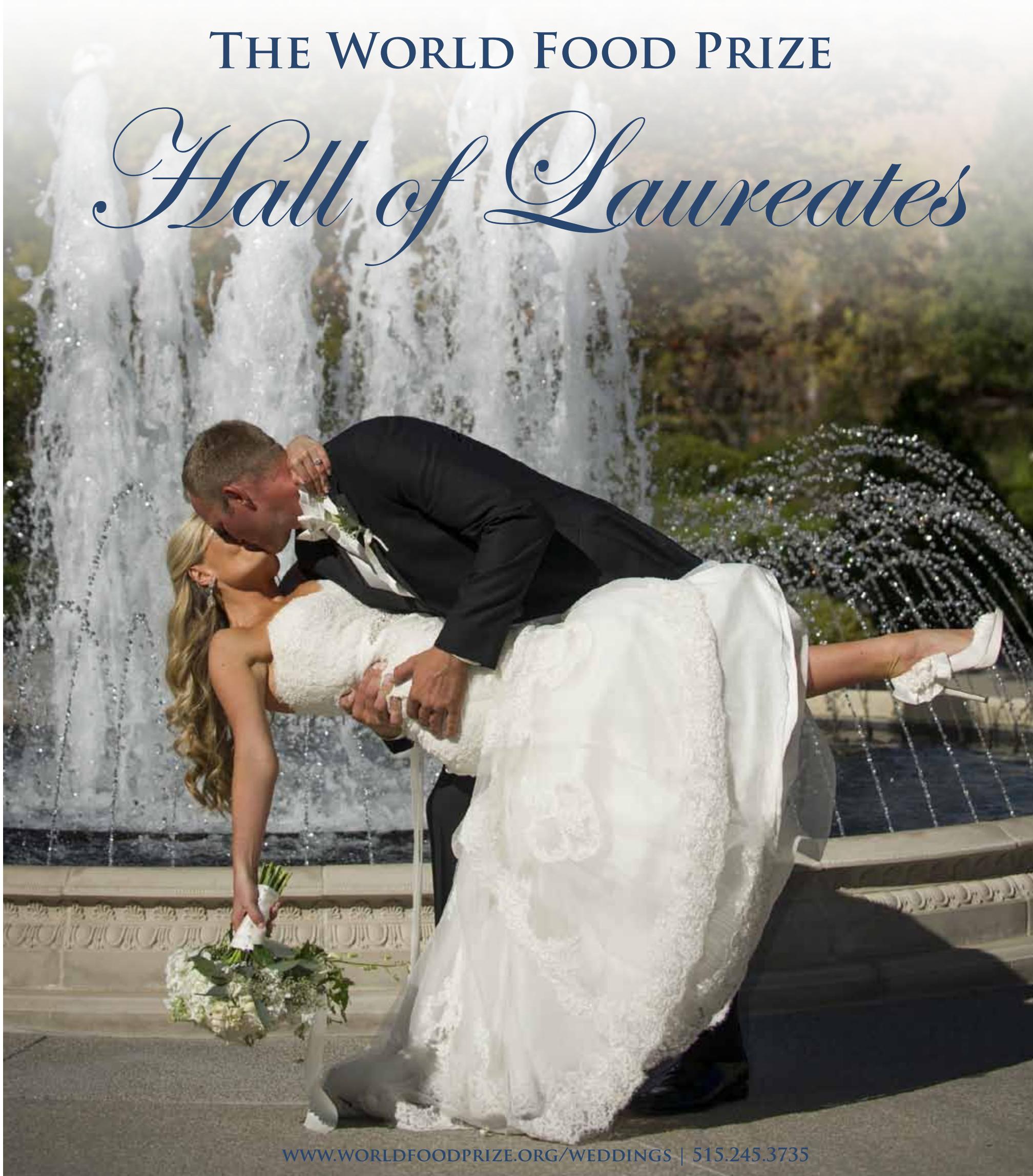
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APRIL						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
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30	HOME GAMES		FIREWORKS			
COL	AWAY GAMES		OFF DAYS			
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
MAY						
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29	30	31	DAYS AND TIMES SUBJECT TO CHANGE			
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JUNE						
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29	30	31	HOME GAMES		FIREWORKS	
ALB	ALB	AWAY GAMES		OFF DAYS		
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
AUGUST						
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29	30	31	PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE PLAYOFFS			
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
SEPTEMBER						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5



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 DECEMBER 1, 2 & 3, 2016

A sampling of more Pella holiday events:

- Pella Historical Village Christmas Walk—Nov 12-Dec 31*
- de Kerstdagen (Tour of Stores)—Nov 21*
- Arrival of Sinterklaas—Nov 26*
- Davis Folkerts & Friends Holiday Show—Nov 27*
- The Christmas Post Musical—Dec 2, 3, 4, 6, 9 & 10*
- Christmas Candlelight Concert—Dec 9-10*
- Scholte House Christmas Tea—Dec 12*

Plus shopping in our quaint village boutique stores!

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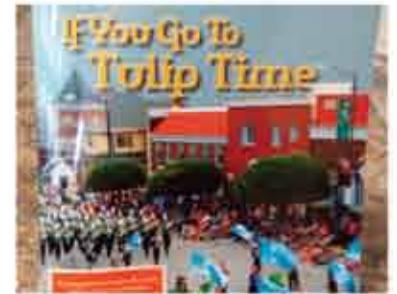
Gift Guide for Christmas

{DUTCH TREASURES IN PELLA}



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PELLA NOTE CARDS

These quality note cards highlight our stunning Dutch architecture. www.silverliningpella.com



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Holiday Events

{EARLY DECEMBER ACTIVITIES}

CHRISTMAS TOUR OF HOMES

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 1 1 pm - 8 pm

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2 10 am - 8 pm

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3 10 am - 2 pm

We invite you to be Merry and Bright as we celebrate the 54th Annual Christmas Tour of Homes! This event is a tradition that will warm your heart as you tour four beautiful Pella homes decorated for the holidays.

Ticket price: \$13 before Nov. 25, \$15 thereafter

www.visitpella.com | 818 Washington St. | 641.628.2626

MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2 10 am, noon, 2 pm, 4 pm and 6 pm

Pella Opera House

In this Christmas classic, an old man going by the name of Kris Kringle fills in for Santa in Macy's annual Thanksgiving Day parade. When Kringle claims that he really is Santa Claus, it leads to a court case to determine his mental health and authenticity. Ticket price: Free

www.pellaoperahouse.org | 611 Franklin | 641.628.8625

COMBOS CHRISTMAS CONCERT

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2 8 pm

Central College Cox-Snow Music Center Recital Hall

Ticket price: \$5

www.central.edu | 812 University | 641.628.5383

FLYING PANS STEEL BAND CARIBBEAN CHRISTMAS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3 7:30 pm

Central College Graham Conference Center Vermeer Banquet Room

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DECEMBER 2, 3, 4, 6, 9, 10

Dec. 2, 6 & 9 at 7:00pm, Dec 3, 4 & 10 at 2:00pm

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Pella Community Center, 712 Union St.

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Tickets available on-line 30 days prior to performance at: www.unionstreetplayers.com

| Box Office: 641.204.1094

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SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 3 pm

Central College Douwstra Auditorium

Free and open to the public

www.central.edu | 812 University | 641.628.5383

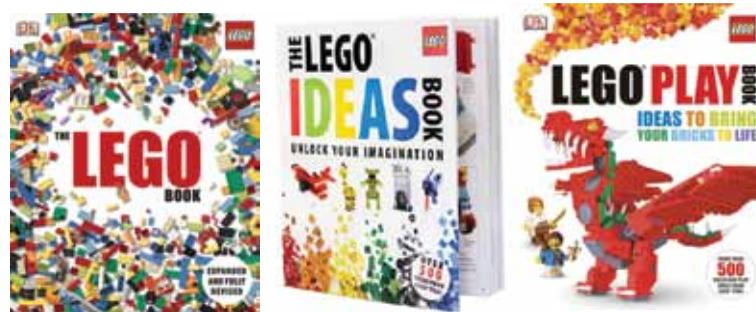
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Cityview's guide to...

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Maureen Geis, maureen.geis@marriott.com

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700 GRAND AVENUE | DES MOINES, IA
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DOWNTOWN

World Food Prize Hall of Laureates



The internationally renowned World Food Prize Foundation invites you to explore the World Food Prize Hall of Laureates for your upcoming event. This magnificently restored Beaux Arts space celebrates the spirit of giving, emphasizing the importance of global food security. Dr. Borlaug is honored for his role as the Father of the Green Revolution and the man who has saved more than one billion lives with his innovations in agriculture. The building also pays tribute to the World Food Prize Laureates and Iowa's agricultural and humanitarian pioneers for their significant contributions to the global fight against hunger and helping to feed the world and improve the lives of others.

One of Iowa's most spectacular venues, the Hall of Laureates, offers a magnificent setting for any occasion. Whether you want to host a formal dinner or reception, board meeting, a world-class conference or a memorable and elegant wedding, this Iowa architectural treasure has a rich

history with every modern amenity necessary for your event.

Outside of the Hall of Laureates, the World Food Prize garden features an inlaid world map, the grand fountain as well as prominent statues of Dr. Norman Borlaug and John Ruan Sr.

Only one event is scheduled at a time in the Hall of Laureates, so guests can exclusively enjoy all the public spaces, as well as the array of story-telling elements and artwork featured in the building. Staff and security personnel are also present behind the scenes to ensure events are implemented seamlessly.

They would be happy to arrange a tour of the Hall of Laureates for you. To learn more about events at the World Food Prize Hall of Laureates, visit www.worldfoodprize.org/reservespace.

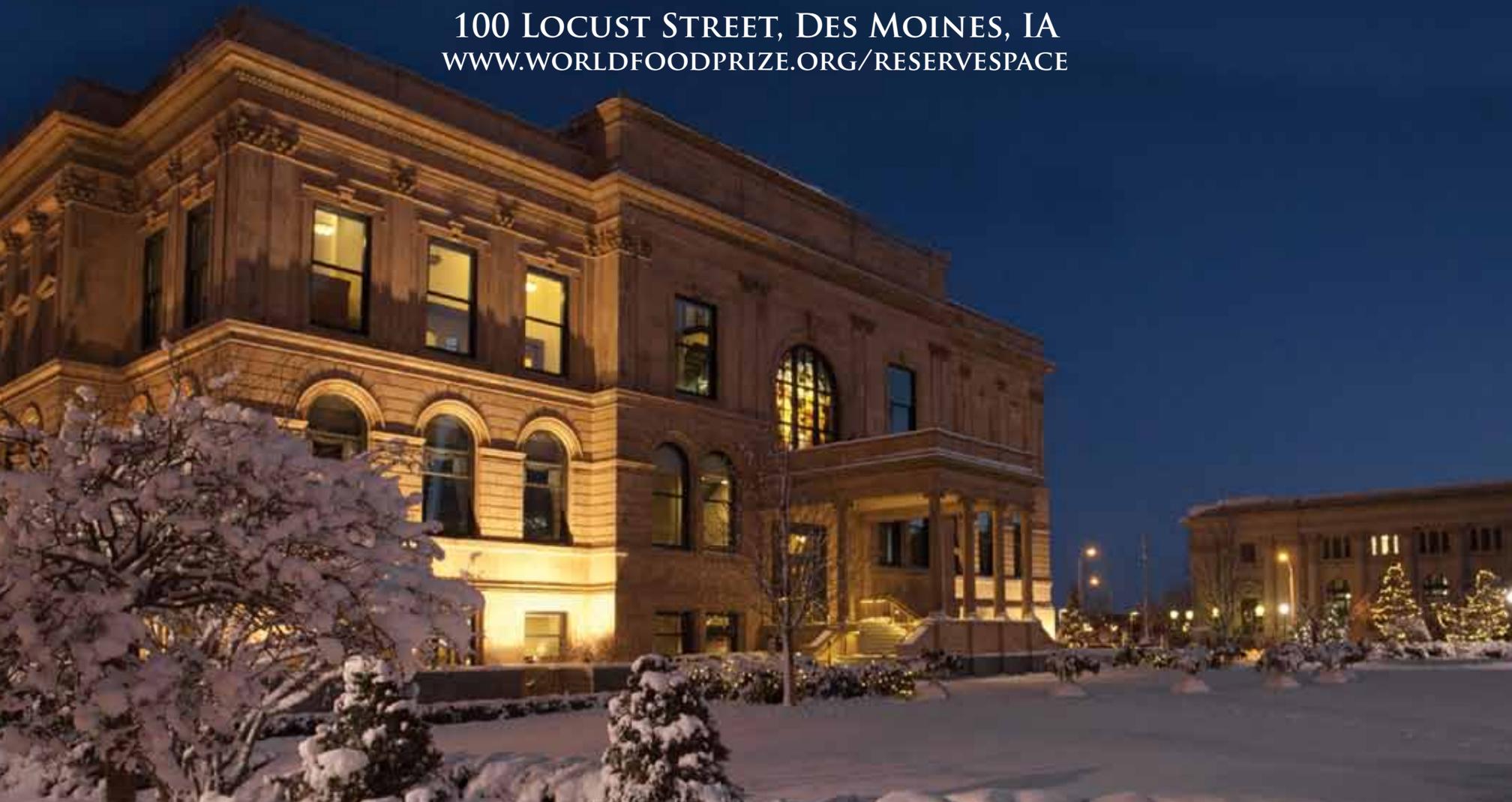
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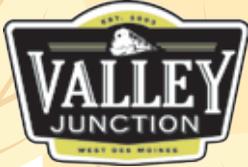
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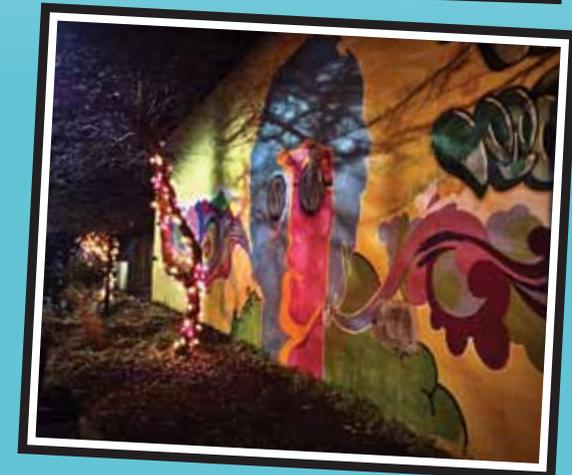
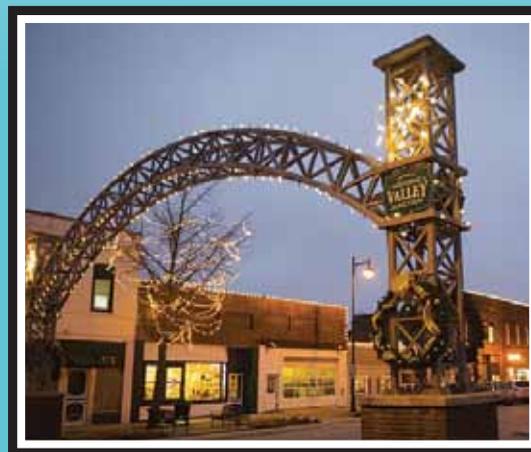
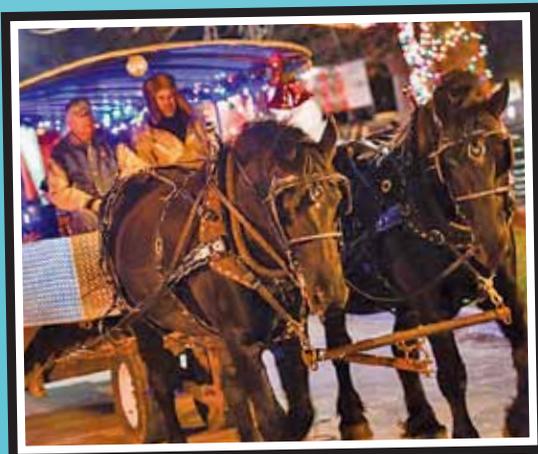
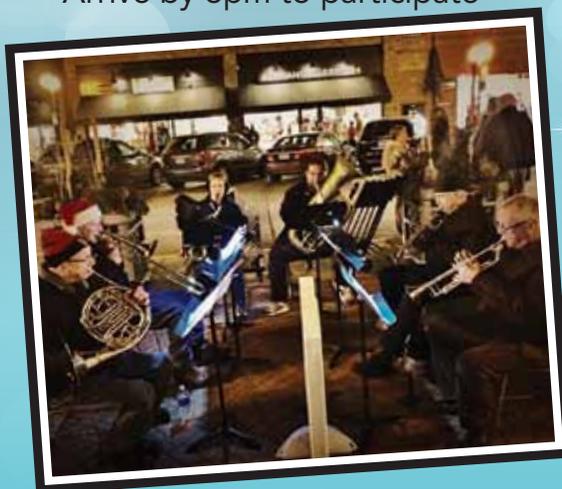
NOVEMBER 26

All day!

JINGLE IN THE JUNCTION

DECEMBER 1, 8 and 15

5pm to 9pm



For more information, visit www.valleyjunction.com

BELLY UP

EAT & DRINK



Trophy's Sports Bar & Grill — Plaza Lanes
2701 Douglas Ave., Des Moines
515-255-1111
plazalanesdm.com
Hours: Sunday through Tuesday, 3 p.m. to midnight; Wednesday, 11 a.m. to midnight; Thursday, 11 a.m. to 1 a.m.; Friday and Saturday, 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. Karaoke starts at 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, and at 9 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

Meghan Powers, the sales and program director for Trophy's.

TROPHY'S SPORTS BAR & GRILL

BY JEFF PITTS

The pulse quickens under the heat of the bright lights. The man with the hot mic is elevated on stage. The vocal chords quiver. The pupils dilate — it's go time.

"I had a heart attack six-and-a-half weeks ago, so I've had to tone it down," says Frank Munch, a karaoke singer by night and a construction manager by day.

It's Wednesday night at Trophy's Bar & Grill, and this is his third stop of the night. He says he'll be on to his fourth after this. Before the problem with his ticker, he would hit a dozen or more karaoke nights per week. He is a self-proclaimed karaoke snob, and he sings karaoke as often as he can.

"On any day of the week, I could name you three places, minimum, that have karaoke," he says. "I'll sing anything."

"September" by Earth, Wind and Fire is his go-to song. He says he's learned that picking a fan favorite song is the key to pleasing.

On Wednesdays at Trophy's, a winner is selected to advance to have the right to face off at the end of the year for a grand prize of \$200. It might not be a life-changing sum of money, but karaoke loyalists

like Carrie Davis say she is OK with that. She comes every Wednesday.

"It's very addicting," she says. "Lots of people come out."

The song she sings when she needs to kill is "Little Red Wagon" by Miranda Lambert.

"How 'bout you" by Eric Church is Johnny Walker's money song.

"We don't come every Wednesday night," he says. "But we do come very often."

"We follow Rick everywhere he goes," Carrie chimes in. "He hosts a karaoke night every single night somewhere."

She is speaking of the karaoke jockey Rick Ludwig, who has been a professional mobile D.J. since 1985.

"We do it Wednesday, Friday and Saturday," he says. "At 10 p.m. each week, the top four move on to the finals in December."

Trophy's offers other forms of competition, too, including bowling, bags and sand volleyball. But it's karaoke that bedazzles the bar's onlookers tonight.

"It's a great place to have fun," says Meghan Powers, Trophy's sales and program director for karaoke and much more. ■

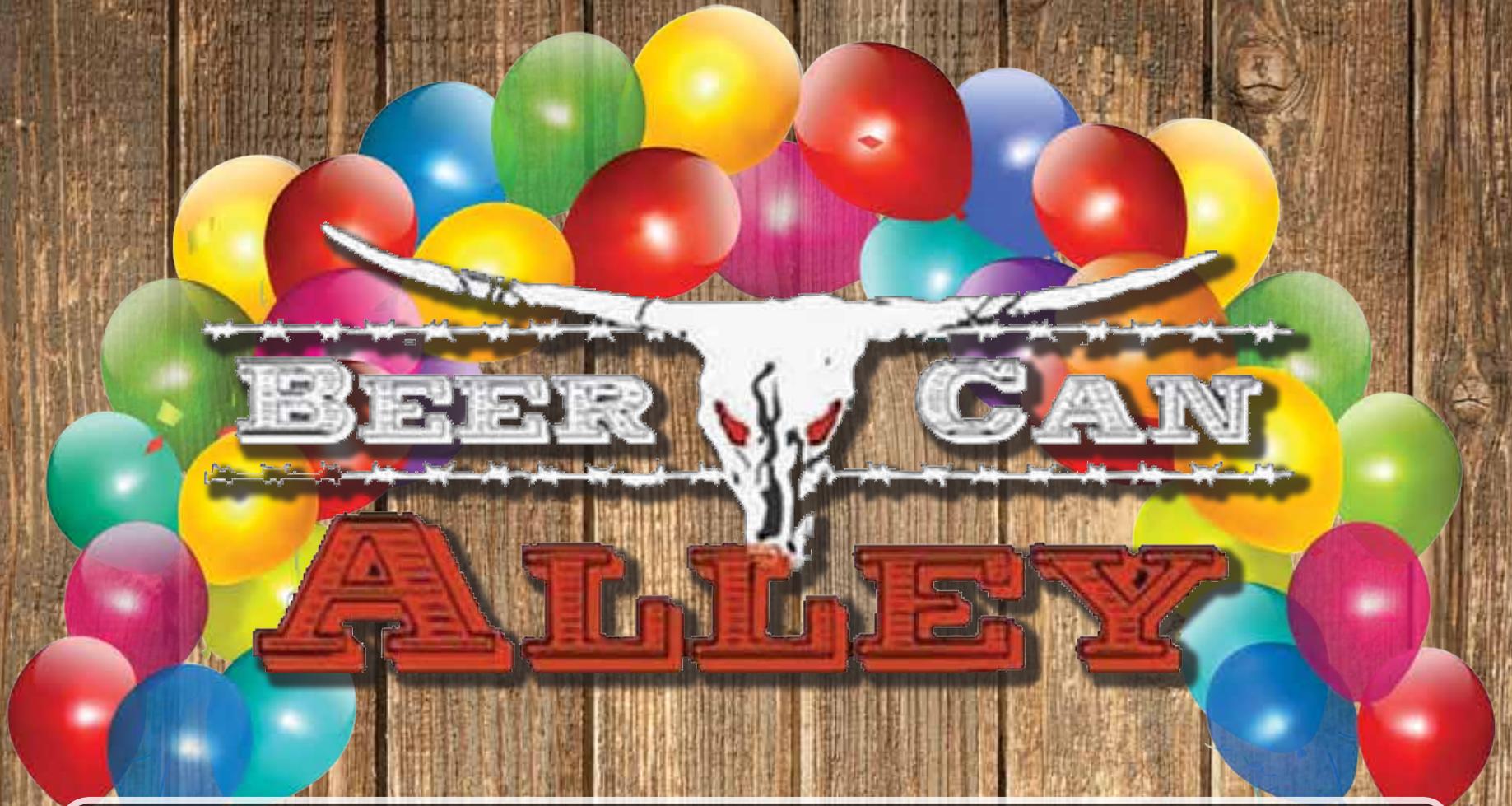


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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

CENTER STAGE

"Ugly Lies the Bone," StageWest
 Kum & Go Theater
 Nov. 11-12 and Nov. 16-19, 7:30 p.m.;
 Nov. 13 and 20, 2 p.m.



A MYSTERY WITH A HAPPY ENDING

BY JOHN DOMINI

The Oscar winner "Shakespeare in Love" has a great bit about theater. According to the man who runs Shakespeare's company, he's always facing "insurmountable obstacles on the road to imminent disaster."

And how does the show go on? "It's a mystery," he shrugs.

Todd Buchacker, artistic director of StageWest, knows just how he feels. The company has earned all sorts of esteem in 20 years of producing edgy, contemporary work. Just this fall, it had a hit in "Hand to God." A romp both at once obscene and humane, "Hand" sold out every night, according to Buchacker. Yet at the end of the run, StageWest was squarely on the road to disaster.

"We'd lost about \$60,000 in revenue since 2014," Buchacker explains.

That was a year of big changes for the company. Buchacker replaced the founding director, and they moved into the new Kum & Go Theater. These moves all seemed like winners, but for many longtime patrons and subscribers, they wound up creating confusion.

"On key issues, there was a lack of communication," Buchacker admits.

Lately, then, getting the word out has become crucial — indeed, a lifesaver. The company would've collapsed, abandoning the season after a single show, if Buchacker and others hadn't begun hustling for funds. Their goal was \$50,000. Appeals popped up across social media, and Buchacker, as he says, "had a whole lot of meetings."

What he wanted locals to understand, first, was how rare it was for a city the size of Des Moines to get the kind of material StageWest offers — feisty and up to the minute.

"Des Moines has got something truly rare and exciting," Buchacker argues.

Case in point, the show planned for November, "Ugly Lies the Bone." The drama concerns a woman who fought in Afghanistan, who returns home to Texas burdened with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). The Lindsey Ferrentino script has won awards and raves, but its Off-Broadway debut came just a year ago, and the StageWest production is one of the first since. The company, even in crisis, went ahead and arranged a director.

This was John Graham, and the job has him fired up.

"Ferrentino's a smart, smart playwright," he gushes. "She packs so much into every moment."

Graham began rehearsals, too. He points out that his lead actress, Kim Haymes, is a veteran of Chicago theater, attracted by the kind of roles StageWest can offer.

"She gets it," he says. "This company's all about doing the best you can with whatever you've got."

Buchacker adds that, for community theaters everywhere, ticket sales cover about half the costs of production.

"StageWest does all right, actually," he insists. "We've had sellouts. Still, expenses run far higher than income."

To cover the shortfall, a company needs angels, and this past month a few have landed on StageWest. Fundraising goals were met, with the average contribution less than \$200. While steep challenges remain, for now, the show will go on. It's a mystery.

Overheard in the Lobby: Tallgrass has begun its season, with the comedy "Calendar Girls." ■

John Domini is a published local author who has lived on both coasts and abroad and enjoyed theater everywhere. See www.johndomini.com.



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ART PIMP

LOTS OF GOOD NEW SHOWS

BY JIM DUNCAN

Gallery Night this fall drew big crowds. Most people credited the marvelous weather, but top-notch shows had something to do with it, too. Artisan Gallery 218 assembled a busy show that covered a range of media. John Evans is showing landscape pastels, Elizabeth Rhoads Read brings some interest paper sculptures. Annick Ibsen exhibits her signature ceramic sculptures. Mary Kline-Misol shows her inimitable large paintings of innocent birds in eerie woods, a perfect Halloween season show. She also exhibits some glicees works that are much softer in spirit. Tom Whally brings some amazing pieces of turned wood, including one bowl made with 5,000 different pieces of wood. Hilde DeBruyne shows her sculptures. Amy Witt brings some mixed media transfer prints. Victoria Herring shows some prints from her travels in North Africa. Jacqueline Stoken shows some from her trips through the American west. Jewelry, scarves, quilts, dolls and candles are also represented in this versatile show.

Olson-Larsen Galleries' new show by contrast focuses on just two artists. They are two of the state's most talented younger artists. Grinnell College professor Lee Emma Running explains her work in her artist's statement. "Everything I create investigates the beauty and complexity of natural phenomena. I use the simple tools of projection, tracing, stenciling and cutting to identify and expand characteristics of biological ephemera. I utilize both close handwork and digital manipulation to inspect found detritus like a twist of animal hair, a network of leaf veins or a cluster of roots. Transforming the scale of these bits of nature reveals their intricate networks and identifies the universal nature inherent within them."

That's academic speak for doing cool things with stuff that most people either ignore or take for granted. One part of her exhibition is of bone art. Running scours the ditches, creek beds, woods and cornfields of central Iowa, a neighborhood that is home to 400,000 deer, according to the artist. She picks up incomplete skeletons that have been

gnawed to the bone by vultures and insects and polishes them to a porcelain shine and engraves an image of a lacy network onto their surfaces. She carves them, removes their marrow and gilds their internal chambers.

She also shows some of her homemade paper art, with coyote hides and automotive paint. The third part of her show includes self-portrait prints in pastoral environs. They have a Stephanie Bruni-like quality of innocence in peril.

Iowa State professor Brent Holland has built a considerable reputation doing super realistic, psychologically revealing self-portraits. He brings one of those to this new show along with an intriguing portrait of a tattooed woman with a butterfly. He focuses more on a new direction — multidimensional abstractions created of digital prints and thousands of layered drawings with resin ink. He calls these "meditations upon time, space and my sphere of existence."

Moberg Gallery's annual Bill Luchsinger and Karen Strohbeen show is combined this year with a "Printober" exhibition of 23 Midwest artists, many not seen before in Des Moines. To showcase the diversity of contemporary printmaking, it includes traditional etchings, lithographs, screen prints and relief prints, as well as digital prints and immersive installations. Luchsinger and Strohbeen's show this year includes more glimpses of the natural world and fewer of the one man made.

Gallery Talk

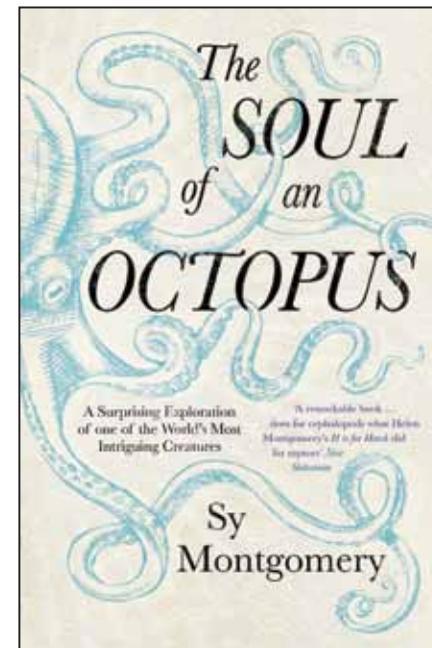
Sarah Grant is moving from Olson-Larsen to Moberg Gallery. She will have her first show at her new gallery in early December... Des Moines' Shakespeare Experience artistic director Lorenzo Sandoval picked up a couple top honors. Cambridge University Press of England named him one of the top five adapters of the bard in the world, from 300 submissions. He won for his "Romeo and Juliet — Thrice Told Tale." He also won an international Dmitri Fellowship, which he will use this January-May while in residence at Morningside University in Sioux City. ■

BOOK REVIEWS

'The Soul of an Octopus'

"The Soul of an Octopus," by Sy Montgomery, is one of the most interesting books I have read of late. I started learning new things on literally page two. I discovered that the plural pronunciation of octopus is, in fact, octopuses, and not octopi. The book is divided into chapters named for the different octopuses that Montgomery is observing. The striking thing is how different each octopus is from one another. Each has its own unique personality. Most people know that octopuses are smart, but I was still surprised at the ways in which they used trickery and creativity to get food or escape from their enclosures. Random things I learned: octopuses have beaks, they change color based off of mood, and they are capable of recognition. I walked away from "The Soul of an Octopus" with a newfound respect for octopuses. I highly recommend it. ■

— *Reviewed by Hunter Gillum*



By Sy Montgomery
Atria Books
April 5, 2016
\$16
272 pages

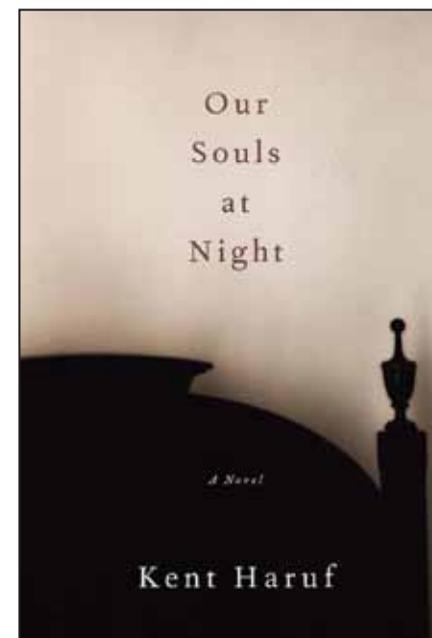
'Our Souls at Night'

Readers of Kent Haruf's previous five novels will recognize the fictional eastern Colorado town of Holt in Haruf's final novel, "Our Souls at Night." Long-widowed Addie Moore approaches Louis Waters, a widower, asking him to come to her house to sleep in her bed in the hope that they can help each other combat the loneliness that seems to consume her at night.

Skeptically, Louis agrees, and slowly their lives begin to synchronize. They find comfort in each other's company as they reflect on their lives, discussing their joys and tragedies.

Not everyone in small, insular Holt approves of the relationship; Addie's son, living across the Rockies in Grand Junction, is dismayed by it.

In Haruf's unique style, extended conversations are told without quotation marks, written as if the author were speaking aloud. Both heartbreaking and inspiring, this short novel is a quick read that will not soon be forgotten. ■ — *Review by Sally Wisdom*



By Kent Haruf
Knopf
June 28, 2016
\$24
192 pages

FILM REVIEW



“Keeping Up with the Joneses”

PG-13

Director: Greg Mottola
Stars: Zach Galifianakis, Isla Fisher, Jon Hamm

‘KEEPING UP WITH THE JONESES’

BY DAVID ROWLEY

When you hear names like Zach Galifianakis, Jon Hamm, Isla Fisher, Patton Oswalt, Matt Walsh and Maribeth Monroe, one might expect to see a film littered with laughs and gut-wrenching guffaws. However, “Keeping Up with the Joneses” is a lackluster attempt at a suburban mystery/spy flick.

With their children at summer camp, Jeff (Galifianakis) and Karen (Fisher) Gaffney prepare for a sexless summer filled with snooping on their new neighbors. Jeff, who works as a Human Resources rep for MSI — a non-descript agency that develops computer chips for the U.S. government — believes that all issues can be resolved through communication. Karen, though supportive of her husband, follows her gut instinct and is a strong woman with stronger intuition.

Their new neighbors — the Joneses — settle in the cul-de-sac, and their flawless looks and tales of world travel quickly wear thin on Karen as she suspects they may not be who they claim. Their beautiful physiques, fascinating work life and sexual chemistry are simply too perfect to believe.

This movie fails to deliver for a litany of reasons. Galifianakis seems too restrained, and his comedy tends to come from absurdist reactions to otherwise straitlaced situations. His mannerisms are reminiscent of a reined-in version of his “twin brother,” Seth Galifianakis. Hamm fits in his role best as the James Bond-like spy who one can’t help but think he is better than his peers.

Fisher delivers the most comedy of the bunch, wonderfully capturing the paranoid neighbor who can drop all her plans on a moment’s notice

to follow her strange neighbors around town. A scene in her bedroom where she’s sneaking around and rolling under windows to avoid detection by neighbors was especially funny.

However, Gal Gadot’s Mrs. Jones character seems more at home in “Mr. and Mrs. Smith” than in this suburban comedy. One scene features a scantily-clad Gadot trying on lingerie. The set-up is that she calls her husband to describe how the outfit makes her feel — her “thing” to keep the spice in their marriage. However, this slowly shifts to five minutes of uncut screen time in which two women who don’t know each other try on underwear and give each other unsolicited marriage advice.

“Keeping Up with the Joneses” has likeable actors but is a disappointing film. When the comedy doesn’t deliver in an action/comedy, the action must pick up the slack. This was not the case here, as movie-goers are given predictable car chases and an ambiguous villain with an unfortunate name.

There’s nothing surprising or unexpected about this movie. Does exposure to the Gaffneys’ humdrum lifestyle awaken a yearning in the Joneses for the more mundane aspects of life? Ding-ding! Do the Gaffneys find the spark their dull marriage desperately needs? You’re damn right it does.

Those of you looking for a great comedy about paranoid neighbors and how that paranoia can destroy your neighborhood, watch Joe Dante’s “The Burbs.” If you want to see Fisher and Gadot living out a stereotypical male fantasy, check out “Keeping Up with the Joneses.” ■

PREVIEWS

‘Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them’

PG-13

Director: David Yates
Stars: Eddie Redmayne, Ezra Miller, Colin Farrell

“Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them” is a story about Newt Scamander (Eddie Redmayne), a wizard, adventurer and the Magizoologist who wrote the textbook of the same name. The book is known as the greatest of its kind on the subject of magical creatures in the wizarding world, written entirely from personal experience. The film opens in 1926, where Newt has just completed a global excursion to find and document an extraordinary array of magical creatures. Arriving in New York for a short stopover, his plans are thrown off when a No-Maj (American for Muggle) releases some of Newt’s fantastic beasts. Newt sees the beauty and wonder in these creatures, but others can only see them as monstrosities that endanger the lives of anyone around.



‘Hacksaw Ridge’

R

Director: Mel Gibson
Stars: Teresa Palmer, Andrew Garfield, Hugo Weaving

“Hacksaw Ridge” is the extraordinary true story of Desmond Doss (Andrew Garfield), a Seventh-day Adventist conscientious objector who refused to bear arms during his time in the Army. During the Battle of Okinawa — the bloodiest battle of World War II — Doss saved 75 men without firing. He was the only American soldier in WW II to fight on the front lines without a weapon, as he believed that, while the war was justified, killing was nevertheless wrong. As an Army medic, he single-handedly evacuated the wounded from behind enemy lines, tending to soldiers while being wounded himself by a grenade and hit by snipers. Doss was the first conscientious objector awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. It’s a film that leaves much to consider, and your politics may very well shape your reaction to this story.



‘Doctor Strange’

PG-13

Director: Scott Derrickson
Stars: Benedict Cumberbatch, Chiwetel

Ejiofor, Rachel McAdams
Marvel’s “Doctor Strange” follows the story of the brilliant neurosurgeon Dr. Stephen Strange (Benedict Cumberbatch), who, after a horrific car accident, must put his ego aside and learn the secrets of a hidden world of mysticism and alternate dimensions, which leads him to the Ancient One (Tilda Swinton) and the sorcerer Baron Mordo (Chiwetel Ejiofor). Based in New York City’s Greenwich Village, Strange must act as an intermediary between the real world and what lies beyond, utilizing a vast array of metaphysical abilities and artifacts to become the Sorcerer Supreme and protect the Marvel Cinematic universe. ■



COLONIAL REVIVAL

Des Moines' Witmer house comes full circle

The Witmer House was built in 1903 by William Wirt Witmer. It was designed by the architectural firm of Liebbe, Norse & Rasmussen. The historic mansion is now home to John Beard, who has restored and preserved the home's history.

BY KENT CARLSON | PHOTOS BY DAN HODGES

It was the 1960s. We had a big car and a small house. That helps explain why driving around the city was one of our family's favorite pastimes. Perhaps we were trying to see how the other half lived, not that I really knew the difference. We would hop in the car on a warm summer evening and drive through Des Moines' winding streets, stopping at the Dairy Queen along the way. Before seat belts were law, I sat perched with my head and arms over the back of the front seat listening to Dad tell stories about the homes we passed. He was a Realtor, so he had some insights. I was a sucker for anything old, and architecture was an interest. So a drive through older neighborhoods, under a canopy of century-old trees with the sound of katydids flowing through the car windows, was heaven. Of course, any day ending with ice cream was, and still is, a good day in the Carlson family.

My favorite drives included trips down Ingersoll or Grand Avenue. On the northeast corner of 42nd and Ingersoll, hiding behind a tall hedge, was the Pearson Mansion. I loved

that house. When I heard it was going to be torn down, I was dumbfounded. How could anyone destroy something so beautiful? The trauma of losing the Pearson Mansion was the catalyst for a passion for preservation that still drives me 50 years later.

Another house that caught my attention was the Governor's Mansion. Today most people would assume that was Terrace Hill. But from 1947 through 1976, it was a stately brick house on the southwest corner of 29th Street and Grand Avenue that was home to Iowa's governors. Etched in my mind is a beautiful brick home with spotlights that made the curved portico glow as we slowly drove past. With majestic flags waving lazily in the summer breeze, knowing our governor actually lived there seemed to add to the mystique.

Little did I know that long before it was home to Iowa's governors, it was home to an extended family that quite literally shaped our city to a greater degree than any of the elected occupants who followed.

WILLIAM WITMER, NEWSPAPERS AND LOANS

At almost the same moment Fort Des Moines was being established at the confluence of the Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers, William Wirt Witmer (W.W. Witmer) was born in April of 1843 in Pennsylvania, the 12th of 13 children. Witmer attended Pennsylvania College at Gettysburg until he enlisted and served in the latter months of the Civil War. He studied law after the war and was admitted to the bar in January of 1867. Soon afterward, Witmer moved near Muscatine with his family and began a law practice. But he also took a strong interest in the newspaper business. In November of 1871, Witmer married Mary Stein in Philadelphia. A month later, they visited Des Moines, decided to move here and purchased what remained of the defunct "Weekly Statesman." Witmer founded the "Evening Leader" with the Barnhart brothers and was the editor for 10 years. His strong support of Democratic politics ended up costing him some business. Between 1854 and 1933, there was only one Democratic governor in Iowa. However, Witmer's support of tariff reform in the 1870s gave him broader exposure. In 1877, Witmer bought a group of failing small-town papers called "Ready Prints." Within a few years, this became the Western Newspaper Union and had offices in Omaha, Kansas City and St. Paul. In 1882, he left the Leader and started a weekly paper called "The Million" that was dedicated to tariff reform, a subject he continued to promote.

But the newspaper business was hardly William Witmer's only interest. He was a true entrepreneur. Des Moines was experiencing explosive growth. In 1860, Des Moines was a city of less than 4,000 people. In 1870, two years before his move to the city, Des Moines had a population of 12,000. By 1880 the city's population had grown to 22,400 people. In May of that year, Witmer began buying land west of Terrace Hill, just south of Grand. It was here where Witmer built a new house, moving from the Sherman Hill area. In 1881, the area between 28th Street west to 42nd Street was incorporated as "Greenwood Park." Not to be confused with what we know as Greenwood Park today, this was east of the park and was platted for development. Witmer purchased land from 28th Street to "Linwood Lane" — which is now 29th Street, south of "Greenwood Avenue" — now Grand Avenue. He named the development "Owl's Head." Witmer also developed an area north of Woodland he named "Middlesex" and another north of Kingman Boulevard he dubbed "Wessex." In 1890, the city of Des Moines annexed Owl's Head, along with all of Greenwood Park, and it became part of Des Moines proper.

During this period, Witmer entered into a business with Daniel O. Eshbaugh and Wilber F. Bartlett, forming "New England Loan and Trust Company." Witmer kept an office in Des Moines, but Eshbaugh

and Bartlett moved to Montclair, New Jersey, and operated from offices in New York City. Eshbaugh was president, Witmer was vice president, and Bartlett was secretary and treasurer. The company started business in 1882 with an emphasis on farm mortgages. By all accounts, the company did well for a number of years. Witmer financed his own Owl's Head properties through the company. Eventually the company sold mortgages in Omaha, Kansas City, Dallas and beyond. But the Panic of 1893, and the depression that followed, proved to be tough years, especially on financial institutions. Five hundred banks failed, and unemployment tripled. In 1898, New England Loan and Trust was in real trouble. When the treasurer, W.F. Bartlett, died in August, it became clear just how bad things were. On Sept. 26., the failure of the company was announced. That same day, Eshbaugh disappeared. Nobody knew what happened to him until they found his body the following Saturday floating in the North River at Hoboken, New Jersey. About 700

bondholders also took a bath. Witmer was the only one of the three original partners who walked away from the company alive. Exactly how it affected him financially is unknown, but a few years later he built his beautiful Grand Avenue home.

THE SAVERY HOTEL II AND THE KIRKWOOD

As if Witmer's real estate development wasn't enough to keep him busy, in 1887 he partnered with George H. Maish and Frank Risely to build a new hotel. On July 1, 1888, the Savery Hotel II opened. Its namesake, James C. Savery, had a minority interest in the operation. Savery built a hotel during the Civil War but lost it during an economic downturn in 1878. The new owners changed the name to the "Kirkwood," in honor of Iowa's former governor, senator and secretary of the interior... and Republican, Samuel Kirkwood. Witmer



The dining room with the original custom-built dining table and chairs in the Witmer house.

and Maish resented the name change and decided on the Savery name before ever asking Savery to be involved with the project. George Maish died just two months before the Savery opened. “Savery II” opened in 1888 and was 132 foot square, five stories high, had 175 rooms and featured Romanesque arches and turrets. Perhaps the most unique feature of the day was electric lighting. By 1890, Witmer controlled the Savery. The hotel lasted barely 30 years before being replaced by the “Savery III” in 1919, the hotel we are familiar with today. By the way, The Maish house at 1623 Center St. remains a showpiece of Italianate architecture in Sherman Hill, thanks to the late Ralph Gross and his wife, Martha. The house is only a block or so west of where W. W. Witmer lived before his move to Owls Head.

In 1887, Witmer also became a partner in Eureka Coal and Mining Company. The initial mine was located in “Sevastopol” and was the largest in the county at the time. The boundaries of the mine itself were South Union to the west, Indianola Road to the east, Bell Avenue to the north and Park Avenue to the south.

THE ARCHITECTURE, WEDDINGS AND HEIRS

Just after the turn of the century, William and Mary Witmer commissioned Liebbe Nourse and Rasmussen to design their beautiful brick Colonial Revival home. Formed in 1899, the firm was the successor to Foster and Liebbe. The architects designed some of the most beautiful homes in

From 1947 through 1976, it was a stately brick house on the southwest corner of 29th Street and Grand Avenue that was home to Iowa’s governors. Etched in my mind is a beautiful brick home with spotlights that made the curved portico glow as we slowly drove past.

Des Moines, as well as several Carnegie libraries, schools banks and a beloved downtown icon lost to fire in 2014 — the Younkers Building. The home originally incorporated classic traditional features including that beautiful curved portico, split pediments above first floor windows,

fluted pilasters, Ionic columns, Palladian windows, dentil moldings, architectural urns and wonderful symmetry.

The architecture bespoke the residents. They were steeped in tradition. The Witmers had four children, but only two made it beyond infancy. Mabel Witmer was born in 1879 and Helen in 1881. Both were married at home. Mabel married Jay E. Tone on Nov. 7, 1904. The day is made more significant because

it was the 33rd anniversary of William and Mary. That evening, Mabel wore her mother’s wedding dress, and Helen, her maid of honor, wore the same dress her aunt wore as maid of honor in 1871 for her mother Mary. Ten years to the day later, Helen married Gerard Nollen

at the Witmer home. This time Helen wore her mother’s wedding dress, and Mabel, her matron of honor, wore her aunt’s dress. In 1941, Helen and Gerard’s daughter, Johanna, married Lieutenant James Bragg at the Witmer home. Her sister, Sara (Sally) Witmer, was maid of honor. In 1943, it was Sally’s turn. She married Richard Kassander, and Johanna was matron of honor. Sadly, Helen had passed away at age 59 in 1940 after a lengthy illness.

William Witmer died on Nov. 10, 1916, at his home. He lived to see his city grow to 110,000 people and his family grow as his daughters wed. He was there for the birth of his grandson, Jay E. Tone Jr., in 1908. Mary, who had nurtured a successful family while her husband built his successful business empire, passed away in 1921. With the passing of that generation, the daughters and their husbands took control of Witmer’s holdings. It’s hard to imagine more capable heirs.

THE TONE BROTHERS

Jay E. Tone was born in 1873, the same year his father, Isaac, came to



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IT'S GOOD TO BE A GUY

Des Moines. Isaac's brother, Jehiel, was convinced that Iowa's capital city was the place to build a new spice company. Isaac had been living in Ohio and had owned unrelated businesses. Jehiel had worked in the spice trade in Michigan. Both were natives of New York, but the West was where opportunity existed. The Tone Brothers were the first to sell pure ground pepper in the U.S. and the first to sell roasted coffee west of the Mississippi. Though he had once dropped out of high school, Jay E. Tone Sr. graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and joined the company in 1897. He developed more than 40 patents over the years but wouldn't become president until 1939. He held that position for 30 years. If you are doing the math, you realize he was 96 when he retired in 1969. The company sold later that year, but Tone lived to age 100. Though his son only briefly held the title of president, he did inherit his father's good genes. Jay Tone Jr. died in 2003 at age 95. Jay Tone Sr. also served as president of the Savery Hotel and helped run Witmer's other real estate interests. His wife, Mable, died in 1960.

THE NOLLENS

Helen Witmer married into a family with accomplishments that are truly legendary. Gerard Nollen's grandfather founded Pella. Hendrick Peter Scholte left Holland with a group of people who shared in their frustration with the national clergy. After years of deliberation, they decided to start anew in the United States. In 1847, the group purchased 47,000 acres in Marion County and founded Pella. John Nollen settled at Pella in 1854. He was an assistant editor at the Pella Gazette and a cashier at the Pella bank. He married Hendrick Scholte's daughter, Johanna, in 1864. Nollen didn't believe this country's public schools were best for educating his children. Thanks to their expert tutoring, the Nollens produced five exceptionally brilliant children. Like the Witmers, they lost two other children very young.

John Nollen served as president of Grinnell College from 1931 to 1940. He previously had been president of Lake Forest University and had both studied and tutored in Europe. Henry, the eldest sibling, became Bankers

Life's first actuary in 1893. He was a gifted mathematician, as was Gerard. Ironically, he left Bankers Life in 1912, the same year his younger brother, Gerard, joined the company. Henry went to work for the Hubbells at Equitable of Iowa and became president in 1921. The iconic Equitable Building was built in 1924. It was the tallest building in the city for 49 years. He served as president until 1939. He remained president of Pella State Bank until his death in 1942. Gerard's business career began after graduating from Grinnell with a degree in philosophy in 1902. He started out at Bankers Life but soon left to work for Royal Union Mutual and then Equitable. In 1912, he rejoined Bankers Life, two years before marrying Helen Witmer, and two years after the death of his first wife, Laura Thompson Whitman. Nollen became president in 1926 and remained in that position for the next 20 years, overseeing the new Art Deco headquarters built in 1939. He served as chairman of the board until 1951 and remained on the board until 1957. When he joined the company in 1912, Bankers Life had assets of \$20 million. When he left the board in 1957, the company's

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assets totaled \$900 million. Nollen was at the helm during both the Great Depression and World War II.

Lesser known are the two Nollen sisters, Sara and Johanna (Hanna) Nollen. The sisters never married and more closely followed their brother John's scholarly path. They both taught and studied in Europe. They started a school in 1914 and taught the children of the Hubbells, Inghams, Merediths, Darlings and other well-heeled patrons. Helen Witmer Nollen taught with the sisters during the five years the school existed. The sisters continued their education, and educating others, throughout their lives.

The area around 29th and Grand remained a family compound for the next generation. The Tones moved into the original 1880 family home at 450 29th St. after they married. Later they moved into the larger home at 2900 Grand before moving to 35th Street. Gerard and Helen built a home on the south end of the original homestead property in 1914, the year his father died. The beautiful brick Colonial at 402 29th St. later became the home of Henry Nollen. Gerard and Helen built a "double house" at 2848-50 Grand, immediately east of the Witmer home across 29th Street. This was originally the Scholte Nollen School that Sara and Hanna Nollen founded. To the south, at what was 465 29th St., was a home that at one time or another housed the Nollens' widowed mother, Johanna Scholte Nollen (who lived until 1928), Sara and Hanna Nollen and even Henry Nollen. Gerard and Helen lived in the main home after the Tones moved, following the death of Mary Witmer in 1921. As mentioned, Helen also died at the home in 1940. In 1946, Gerard was a retired widower. His daughters



The parlor with the original fireplace.

were married, and he was living in a 6,000-square-foot house. As successful as both Gerard and Henry Nollen became, they were still very conservative men.

THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION AND IGHSAA

In December of 1947, Gerard sold the Witmer Home to the State of Iowa, and it became the Governor's Mansion. Gerard moved into one side of the double house he built for his sisters 33 years earlier, while his sisters remained next door. Gerard Nollen died on Sept. 4, 1965. Hanna died on the last day of 1965. Sara died on Valentines Day in 1967.

Though it was Gov. Robert Blue who sought a home for Iowa governors, it was his successor, Gov. William Beardsley, who was the first governor to live in the Witmer House. The state paid \$27,200 for the house and spent another \$22,421 to furnish and decorate the home. With inflation, that purchase price is still only \$290,000 in today's dollars. Over the 29

years the state owned the house, seven governors lived in the home.

In 1976, the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Association paid \$150,000 (\$632,000 in today's dollars) and made it the association headquarters. The kitchen was removed, and the home became more institutional. However, the mechanicals were maintained. In 2011, the association put the home up for sale. Though it still maintained much of its grandeur, there was work to make it a home again.

ENTER JOHN BEARD

Beard is no stranger to huge projects. He has renovated homes in Sherman Hill, the Kingman area, Highland Park and River Bend. In fact, compared to the Colby House at Sixth and Arlington (another Liebke Nourse and Rasmussen design), the Witmer House is a piece of cake. When he spotted the "for sale" sign in the yard, the adrenaline rush began for Beard. And the roller coaster of selling his previous home and closing

on the Witmer House was a ride he'd just as soon forget. His passion for preservation drove him across the finish line. Familiar with Grand Avenue's history, Beard knew a developer will happily erase a historic landmark for the right price and replace it with another mundane, multifamily cash cow. With that in mind, he persevered. Thanks to his design skills, the place has become a showcase for his antiques. Along the way, he's put a little twist on tradition. John and his partner, Mark Harrington, were married in the house New Year's Day. And, like the Witmers, they hope they will die in the house — after a long, happy life, of course.

Fifty years later, it's now my wife and I who enjoy our drives through Des Moines. Like Dad, I have a few stories to tell along the way. The Witmer House still glows at night. And thanks to the conscientious effort of the home's new private owners, I can sleep a little better knowing it won't end up like the Pearson Mansion any time soon. Of course, ice cream always helps. ■

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GUN VS. NEEDLE

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- ASK A PROFESSIONAL PIERCER -

Q: What is better, a piercing gun or a piercing needle? - Stacy

A: Originally manufactured to tag cattle and other livestock, the piercing gun was later modified for use on humans. Hygiene, healing, and jewelry biocompatibility were not necessarily primary considerations given to livestock at the time, and although things have improved over the years, none of these factors have been thoroughly addressed as the gun transitioned to human use.

There are a few concerns that should be noted regarding piercing guns: such as cleanliness, education, technique, and jewelry.

Reusable piercing guns, often used at mall kiosks and novelty jewelry stores, cannot be properly decontaminated or sterilized before being used on a client. Fluids collected on the gun from one client and can transfer to the jewelry used on the next client. This could spread harmful bacteria or viruses between clients.

Minimal education often goes hand-in-hand with the use of piercing guns. Inadequate handwashing facilities/practice, the lack of single use marking pens, improper gloves, aftercare knowledge/products are also common concerns. The piercing gun practitioner can introduce even more opportunities for bacterial transfer and poor healing.

The trauma caused by the jewelry used in piercing guns is much greater than a professional piercing needle. The solid pointed tip will force its way through the tissue creating a rough raw wound, this leads to excessive swelling and vascular damage. These negative factors are amplified when this solid blunt force is applied to cartilage. This structural tissue can create an effect much like shooting a cannonball through a brick wall. The cartilage can end up shattered and permanently damaged. Since tissue type, thickness and density can vary, the gun has the potential to get stuck during the piercing and the jewelry may not go all the way through as intended.

The jewelry material commonly used in piercing guns does not meet implant-grade specifications. Phrases like, "sterling silver", "surgical steel" and "hypoallergenic" often give clients a false sense of security, when none of these are safe for long-term healing in the body. The jewelry design is a "one size hopefully fits all" and doesn't allow for adequate swelling or cleaning. Most of these jewelry surfaces are highly porous, which means they are more likely to harbor bacteria promoting infection. Neither the piercing gun practice or jewelry meet the minimum standards set by the Association of Professional Piercers (APP).



In contrast, hollow piercing needles are single use, sterilized, razor sharp, and will make a clean cut as they pass through both soft and cartilage tissue. This creates an environment that is less traumatic, more comfortable, and easier for the body to heal. The education level of each piercer will vary, but a professional piercer should be knowledgeable and experienced in aseptic technique. Jewelry used in professional studios should be appropriately fitted per client anatomy, meet implant-grade specifications, and have a mirror surface finish to maximize healing success.

By piercing with a single use piercing needle, with proper sterilization and piercing techniques, the problems most commonly associated with piercing guns are eliminated. For more information, feel free to visit the APP website at safepiercing.org. ■

Send comments and questions to: AskAProfessionalPiercer@gmail.com

Passion lives at Prysmpiercing.com

WHAT THE...

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Send us your best caption...

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Next month's photo:



This month's winner

"Classic example of a Ski Don't."

Scott Heckart

Runners-up

"Skip had just shouted, 'I guarantee the throttle won't stick if I just...' gahhh."

Dave Tanner

"The Jet Ski race was supposed to be one lap, but Cindy thought they said one loop."

Mark Alvord

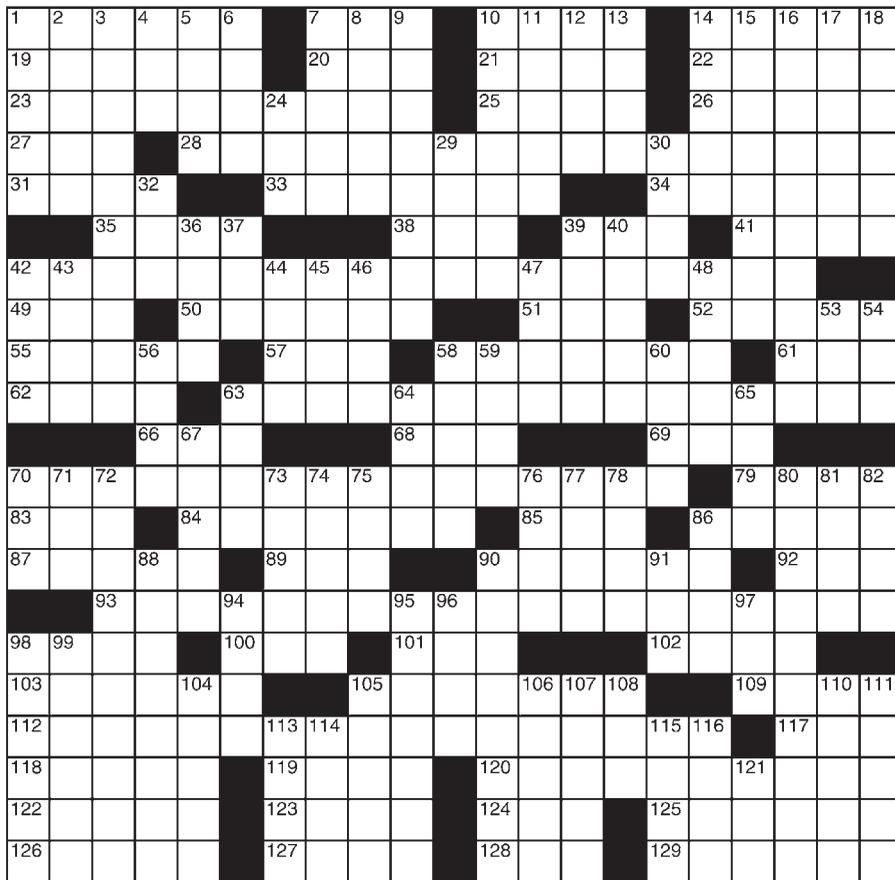
"Jack was not the brightest lad... he thought the Bass Pro fishing tournament's 'Wide mouth division' was how he was supposed to catch the fish not what he was supposed to catch."

Jim McCool



Send your "What The...?" caption and image entries to celeste@dmcityview.com

School orders



- ACROSS**
- 1 Loch monster moniker
 - 7 -- Tome
 - 10 Party giver's abbr.
 - 14 Disk units
 - 19 And much more of the same: Abbr.
 - 20 Waters off Fla.
 - 21 Part of BSA: Abbr.
 - 22 Target for an exterminator
 - 23 Start of a riddle
 - 25 "Me neither"
 - 26 Hunky-dory
 - 27 Address book no.
 - 28 Riddle, part 2
 - 31 Polar vehicle
 - 33 Puts on the burner again
 - 34 Fair-haired folks
 - 35 Sainly glow
 - 38 On top of that
 - 39 Wall St. insider, maybe
 - 41 Brewery oven
 - 42 Riddle, part 3
 - 49 Crooner Jones
 - 50 Lament
 - 51 Perp's charge
 - 52 "Later, Jose"
 - 55 Ample
 - 57 Trawl, e.g.
 - 58 Typical Tiger Beat readers
 - 61 Brewery tank
 - 62 Round hairdo
 - 63 Riddle, part 4
 - 66 Toshiba rival
 - 68 Neighbor of Arg.
 - 69 U.K. "Inc."
 - 70 Riddle, part 5
 - 79 "---Ca-Dabra" (1974 tune)
 - 83 Stadium shout
 - 84 Without help
 - 85 With 4-Down, gear up
 - 86 Newbies, so to speak
 - 87 Die marks
 - 89 Numbered hwy.
 - 90 Like red soil
 - 92 Ore- -- (maker of Zesties!)
 - 93 Riddle, part 6
 - 98 "Mamma Mia" quartet
 - 100 Suffix for an enzyme
 - 101 Stadium shout
 - 102 Vatican site
 - 103 Detonate
 - 105 African cat
 - 109 Meat stamp inits.
 - 112 End of the riddle
 - 117 Cal. units
 - 118 Holy Roman emperor known as "the Great"
 - 119 Ian who played Bilbo Baggins
 - 120 Riddle's answer
 - 122 Ban Ki-moon heads it, for short
 - 123 Run up -- (drink on credit)
 - 124 "A," in Caen
 - 125 Submissive
 - 126 Big mattress maker
 - 127 Setup on eHarmony
 - 128 Signing need
 - 129 Many stage mutterings
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Colorful amphibians
 - 2 Merman of "Gypsy"
 - 3 Warrior's suit with small, overlapping plates
 - 4 See 85-Across
 - 5 -- -bitsy
 - 6 Audio effect
 - 7 Ketchup, e.g.
 - 8 Words after attorney or heir
 - 9 Language of early inscriptions
 - 10 Rampaged
 - 11 L.A. hazes
 - 12 Stylish Wang
 - 13 Rigidly formal
 - 14 Bar fight
 - 15 Gave an attention-getting shout
 - 16 Fallen suddenly
 - 17 Clicked-open greetings
 - 18 Least bold
 - 24 "The Skin of -- Teeth"
 - 29 Author -- Hubbard
 - 30 Peters out
 - 32 Penn & Teller, e.g.
 - 36 July gem
 - 37 Bonobo, e.g.
 - 39 "Law & Order" actress -- de la Garza
 - 40 Push away
 - 42 Razor choice
 - 43 Slip up
 - 44 High-end hotel chain
 - 45 Antagonists
 - 46 Way to go
 - 47 Glenn of the Eagles
 - 48 Laces into
 - 53 Sculler's tool
 - 54 Bourbon and Wall: Abbr.
 - 56 Funny Sahl
 - 58 Govt.-issued security
 - 59 Snaky swimmers
 - 60 Bank (on)
 - 63 God that's part goat
 - 64 Conical woodwind
 - 65 The date 6/6/44
 - 67 Earthen pot for liquids
 - 70 Tax-taking org.
 - 71 Tot's break
 - 72 One given to ostentatious display
 - 73 Golf vehicles
 - 74 Offering-plate share
 - 75 Notion, to Fifi
 - 76 Eye creepily
 - 77 -- tide
 - 78 About 5.88 trillion mi.
 - 80 Wedding VIP
 - 81 Traveled by bus, e.g.
 - 82 "That is -- commentary"
 - 86 Old toy company
 - 88 Defrosts
 - 90 Rises slowly
 - 91 Always, in odes
 - 94 Neck part
 - 95 West African tree
 - 96 Oscar winner Guinness
 - 97 Rhea relative
 - 98 Monastery heads
 - 99 Actress Danner
 - 104 Wake -- cold sweat
 - 105 B soundalike
 - 106 Macduff, e.g.
 - 107 Tunesmith Harold
 - 108 Pork product
 - 110 Sir Arthur Conan --
 - 111 Mules' sires
 - 113 Landlocked African land
 - 114 Tiny amount
 - 115 Fanta, e.g.
 - 116 Grandson of Adam
 - 121 College dept.



"At least my ex-wife isn't bugging me for _____ anymore!"

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

- Climb
LACES
- Tip
THIN
- Robust
DUSTRY
- Disturb
MOPSI

TODAY'S WORD

SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

	2			8		5	
8			6				3
		7		9		6	
9			5		3		7
		1		7			8
	5		2			1	
		4	3				7
5				2			1

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY: ♦♦

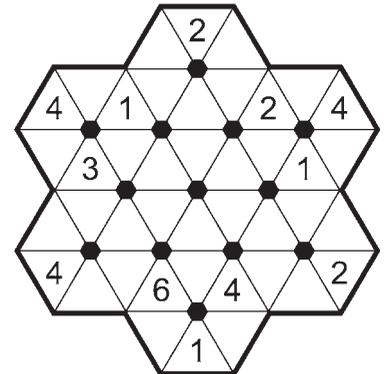
- ♦ Moderate
- ♦♦ Challenging
- ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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SNOWFLAKES

by Japheth Light

There are 13 black hexagons in the puzzle. Place the numbers 1 - 6 around each of them. No number can be repeated in any partial hexagon shape along the border of the puzzle.



DIFFICULTY: ♦♦♦

- ♦ Easy
- ♦♦ Medium
- ♦♦♦ Difficult

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GO FIGURE!

by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

	+		×		25
×		+		×	
	×		÷		27
-		×		+	
	÷		×		24
28		20		21	

DIFFICULTY: ★

- ★ Moderate
- ★★ Difficult
- ★★★ GO FIGURE!

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THE SOUND

DAVY KNOWLES: REINVENTING BLUES MUSIC

Isle of Man reflects on 10 years in his musical Mecca

BY JOE LAWLER



It's closing in on 10 years since Davy Knowles first came to America. Then 19, the blues rock musician came to the states from the Isle of Man with his three piece, Back Door Slam, to play the 2007 SXSW. He's been living in America since that year, now calling Chicago home.

"It was an entire dream come true," Knowles recalled of his first visit. "The states were kind of a Mecca to come and play. At the same time, I think all three of us (of Back Door Slam) had this mentality that we were going to treat this musically like we did back home in the pubs. That's where our music worked best, in small, dingy, packed clubs. We were just going to play."

On Nov. 4, Knowles will be performing at the Des Moines Social Club's Kum & Go Theater, performing material from his recently released third solo album, "Three Miles from Avalon." The album was written and recorded while Knowles and his band were out on the road in support of 2014's "The Outsider."

Knowles felt his band was playing very tight after all the time on the road, and since they had already been playing songs from "Three Miles from Avalon" in shows. For instance, the Willie Dixon track that closes the album, "What in the World," was a song Knowles and his band would often jam on during sets. Knowles first heard the song as performed by Irish guitarist Rory Gallagher, who has been one of the big influences on his career. Knowles included a homage to Gallagher's fusion of blues and celtic sounds on "Three Miles from Avalon" with the song "What You're Made Of."

"I was attracted to the total madness of it. It was so chaotic, so energetic and so ag-

gressive," Knowles said. "It had a total all-out mentality. I also liked what it stood for. He stood his ground and knew where he wanted to be and what his music wanted to be. Growing up so close to Ireland, it really connected for me."

Gallagher died when Knowles was only 8 years old, so he only ever got to appreciate his idol's music in recordings. But over the last decade, Knowles has had the chance to work with musicians like Jeff Beck, Joe Satriani and Peter Frampton, who co-produced Knowles' 2009 solo debut, "Coming Up for Air." Not a bad consolation prize when it comes to working with guitar greats.

At 29, Knowles is the next generation for a style of music that sees blues greats pass away with increasing regularity. He sees the blues as a format that can be reinvigorated by anyone with the right touch.

"I think that, because this is a folk music of sorts, the joy of it is you can manipulate it and move it around and hopefully that's what's in the back of your mind when you're working on this stuff," Knowles said. "It's important to pay tribute and respect everything that came before. If you don't do your homework, I don't know how you can try to move anything on. But if you're not bringing anything new to the table... I think that's the important thing. You should always attempt to bring something new while being respectful to what came before." ■

Joe Lawler is a music writer who has probably interviewed your favorite band. And your least favorite band.



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ALTITUDE

RAW MEAT

Karen Meat gets personal

If you want to hear the new Karen Meat songs live, you've only got one chance. The Des Moines singer is releasing a new tape this month, "She's Drunk Like the Rest of Us," but a Nov. 10 show at Vaudeville Mews will be the last time she performs them.

"I was more hesitant to put these out, because they hit so close to home," said Arin Eaton, who performs under the name Karen Meat. "I was afraid I would be stepping on toes, since Des Moines is a tight-knit community."

The songs on "She's Drunk Like the Rest of Us" do strike a different tone than her material with the band Karen Meat & The Computer. Eaton wrote and recorded the vocals this summer without the help of her bandmates John Huffman, Phil Young and Brad Turk. Instead, she turned the material over to Dana Telsrow of Iowa City's Flat Black Studios. He handled the instrumentation, hiring Iowa City musicians to play on the tracks.

Karen Meat & The Computer won't be playing as a full band at the show, but all the members of the band will be performing. Eaton and Telsrow, who makes music under the name Dana T, will perform the new material. Young will play with one of his other bands, Tires; Turk with his band Easy Fruit; and Huffman with his new solo project, Mommy. Also on the bill are Anthony and the Nashville band Birdcloud, which Eaton traveled with this summer as tour manager.

"The show is on my 26th birthday," Eaton said. "There are six bands on the bill. I keep telling people, 'It's my party, and I'll have as many bands as I want to.'"

Eaton recorded "She's Drunk Like the Rest of



Us" without even telling her bandmates. She said she felt guilty having taken up so much of their vacation time working on the Karen Meat & The Computer debut album, but she still had songs she wanted to record. She initially performed the songs at an October show and decided Nov. 10 would be her last time playing them.

"I've been through a lot, and I don't know what I want to do or the person I want to be," Eaton said. "There's a lot of self-reflection in these songs. They're serious, but I still joke about them."

"I live in a basement and spend a lot of time down there and kind of lost my mind a bit. I'd stay there for two or three days, write songs and not see the sun. After all that, I decided I had to do something with them. I'm never afraid to put anything out."

Looking forward, Eaton has more work to come with The Computer. She and her bandmates are writing and recording for a second album or EP to come out this winter or in early spring. She's also planning a tour with Dustin Smith of The Maytags in January, with each of them performing their solo material. ■

SOUND ADVICE

Grammy award-winning husband/wife country artists **Tim McGraw and Faith Hill** bring their Soul2Soul The World Tour 2017 to Wells Fargo Arena on June 10 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are on sale through Hy-VeeTix.com, 844-55-HYVEE, the Wells Fargo Arena Box Office or any Des Moines/Ames Hy-Vee location. **Scott Bradlee's Postmodern Jukebox** will perform on Jan. 21 at 8 p.m. at Hoyt Sherman Place. Tickets are on sale and can be purchased at the Hoyt Sherman Place Box Office (1501 Woodland Ave.), online at Ticketmaster.com or by phone at 800-745-3000. The 2nd annual **Brazilian 2wins Christmas** kicks off the holiday season at Hoyt Sherman Place on Dec. 1. Showtime is 7 p.m. Tickets will be \$25 in advance and \$30 day of show and can be purchased at the Hoyt Sherman Place Box Office, charged by phone at 800-745-3000 or online at www.ticketmaster.com. California-based reggae/rock band **Rebution** will make a stop at Wooly's on its Falling Into Place Tour on Nov. 9. Showtime is 7 p.m. and tickets are \$20-\$25 and can be purchased at the door or www.woolysdm.com. Pop punk/surf rockers **SWMRS** will be playing Lefty's on Nov. 20. Showtime is 5 p.m., and \$12 tickets can be purchased at the door or leftyslivemusic.com. ■

Angle

"Talkin' Story"

One Leg Up Productions

For years, Jarid Catenrich has been an unsung hero of the local hip-hop scene, releasing material on a regular basis under the name Angle. On his latest album, "Talkin' Story," Angle shows that he still has incredible flow and the ability to put together



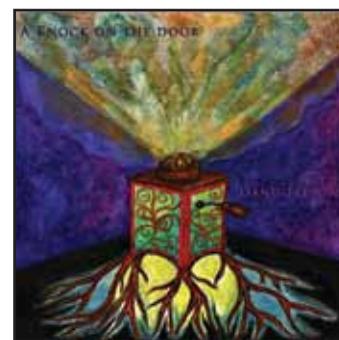
catchy hooks that will rattle around your brain for days. "Talkin' Story" also makes good use of its guest stars, notably Kurt Loving on "Until It's Gone," with its reworking of "While My Guitar Gently Weeps" as filtered through Loving's Bill Withers-esque voice. Felix Thunder ("Out That Loop"), Kyka 9 ("On a Clear Day") and regular Angle contributor Prate ("All Alone") also help strengthen their tracks. "Talkin' Story" isn't groundbreaking, but anytime Angle picks up a mic, it's worth a listen. This one is definitely good for a few spins. <http://angle1.bandcamp.com/album/talkin-story> ■

Dang Felton

"A Knock on the Door"

Nova Labs

There's nothing flashy or showy about Des Moines singer-songwriter Dang Felton's work. On "A Knock on the Door," he showcases his solid guitar work, melodic voice and strong songwriting skills. He's performing without a safety net, but by playing to his strengths, he doesn't



really need one. With some clear debt owed to Nick Drake (and a touch of Cat Stevens), Felton has crafted 10 songs that are warm and inviting. At times, the songs blend together in style, but that's the cost of only having a guitar and a voice to carry every song. Felton uses his tools well over the course of "A Knock on the Door," building a consistent little world for his tunes to exist in. It's an intimate album, perfect for a fall evening. <https://soundcloud.com/dang-felton> ■

Joe Lawler is a music writer who has probably interviewed your favorite band. And your least favorite band.

FRONT ROW



MUSIC

Disturbed
at Wells Fargo Arena
by Darren Tromblay



Carrie Underwood
at Wells Fargo Arena
by Dan Hodges



Elvis Costello
at Hoyt Sherman Place
by Dan Hodges



Larkin Poe
at Hoyt Sherman Place
by Dan Hodges



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JOE'S NEIGHBORHOOD

BY JOE WEEG

A Thanksgiving story: the Pilgrims and same-sex marriage

Knocking on the door of No. 9 Beschuitsteeg in Leiden is unsettling. Don't get me wrong, not the unsettling of eating slimy raw herring by the tail, a Dutch delicacy that is plenty unsettling, but more like "my wife is going to wonder one more time why she's married to such a dope" type unsettling.

This nondescript door — in a deserted, narrow, cobblestone street, with darkened windows and an ancient exterior — does not seem like the entrance to a major museum about the American Pilgrims. Of course not. It's Holland, not America. I have so made a mistake. Perhaps I should try Plymouth, Massachusetts, next time? Duh. I turn to flee down the street before some elderly Dutch man opens the door insisting that I join him for raw herring.

Too late. The top half of the door opens, and a square, solid man with grey hair looks out, blinking rapidly in the bright light.

"Are you Dr. Jeremy Bangs?" I ask hopefully.

Gestured into the small room, I duck my head under the door, breathe the dry, stale smell of old books, and look around in the light and shadow. Half a dozen folks are sitting or standing in the cluttered room. Candles are lit. Large volumes are spread out on the center table. And Dr. Bangs, director of the Leiden American Pilgrim Museum, begins his presentation.

"I offer people various rates to come into the museum. The normal cost is 5 euros. University students are free, but they have to pay tuition, which is 5 euros. 7.50 is if you try to convert me. 10 euro if you don't want jokes."

No smile. No change in the flat, deep, monotone delivery. No pause for a laugh line. This guy has taken dry humor to the furthest reaches of the Sahara.

I come to find out that Dr. Jeremy Bangs left Chicago 30 years ago. He earned his doctorate at the University of Leiden in art history and began working for the town archives in Leiden. And it

was the folks at the town archives that got him started on the Pilgrims.

"They said to me, 'You're an American, what do you know about the Pilgrims?' I said, 'Nothing.' I had specialized in 15th and 16th-century artistic and cultural activity in Leiden. But, as a result of their request, I started doing Pilgrim stuff."

Well, "Pilgrim stuff" resulted in authoring multiple books on the Pilgrims, several years as the Chief Curator at the Plymouth Plantation in Massachusetts, visiting curator of manuscripts at the Pilgrim Hall Museum, and finally, director of the American Leiden Pilgrim Museum. Yup, he's as close as you're going to get to black shoes and a buckled hat — which, lo and behold, is not a true Pilgrim fashion statement after all.



Dr. Bangs told me that the Pilgrims came to Leiden because they had problems with King James and his religion back in England.

"The Pilgrims were Calvinist dissenters from the state Church of England — the Anglican Church. They called themselves 'separatists' because they wanted to be separate from the Anglican Church. So they made their way from England to Amsterdam and then to Leiden in 1609."

Leiden was still reeling from the war with Spain, where they had survived a long siege of the city but lost half their population.

The Pilgrims were one of many groups of refugees in town. And not the largest by far, as folks of various religions from around Western Europe gathered

in Leiden where jobs were plentiful and the City was tolerant.

And this is where it gets weird.

"Civil marriage was invented in Leiden. In 1575. The Dutch Reformed ministers were chosen and appointed by the magistrates of the City of Leiden. Which meant that for purposes of marriages, they were civil servants. Catholic priests, Lutheran priests, Mennonite leaders, were not. To provide for legitimacy in marriage and inheritance, Leiden invented civil marriage, and it was followed very soon by other Dutch cities."

OK. Interesting. But why is this important?

Well, in 1620, the Leiden Pilgrims left Holland for America with a short stop in England to pick up the Mayflower. Dr. Bangs said that they left Leiden because of concern that Spain would soon start up another war with Holland. They wanted no part of that. So off to America they went, husbands, wives and kids.

"And now we have the book William Bradford mentions by page number as the source for civil marriage in America."

Of course. I knew that. Now, who exactly is William Bradford?

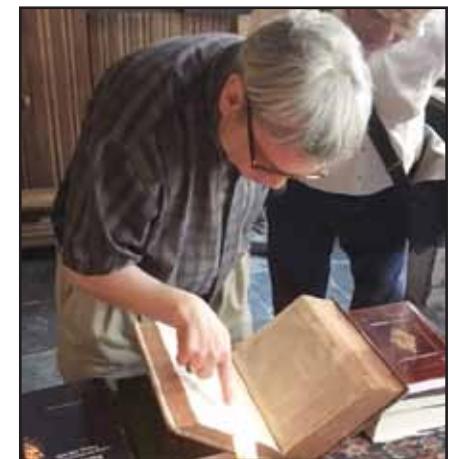
Bradford, it turns out, is an original Pilgrim on the Mayflower and was the governor of the Plymouth Colony in 1621 — and for about 30 years after that. A big shot, as my mom would say.

"Bradford mentions the practice in Leiden, and he also points out that marriage is not a function of the church in the New Testament. They realized the colony would have people who weren't part of their church. But they thought everyone had the right to legitimacy in marriage and inheritance. Civil marriage in America starts with the Pilgrims, and it comes from Leiden."

No kidding.

"The Pilgrims introduced civil marriage and consequently the beginnings of the separation of church and state. Bradford's authority for this claim, according to him, is found

on page 1029 of the 'History of the Netherlands.' And here's the book, and here's the page."



And why should you care about something that occurred nearly 400 years ago?

Well, if you go to the amicus brief arguing in support of same-sex marriage, filed by the California Council of Churches with the United States Supreme Court in the landmark same-sex marriage case of Obergefell v. Hodges, you will find a citation to Dr. Jeremy Bangs and the practice of civil marriage by the Pilgrims. In the very first sentence of the very first argument.

No kidding.

And, according to the Council of Churches, civil marriage begets same-sex marriage.

"I was very surprised. I was very pleased," Dr. Bangs smiles for the first time during my visit.

Hallelujah.

So there you have it, a direct link between the Pilgrims and same-sex marriage. Go figure. ■

Joe Weeg spent 31 years as a prosecutor for the Polk County Attorney's Office. Now retired, his wife is once again assisting in the prosecution of war criminals in the Netherlands. He writes about being an Iowan in Europe on his blog at www.joesneighborhood.com.



YOUR NEIGHBORS

Coach Ron Gray is a history teacher and a hall of fame coach. The Dowling Catholic mainstay has coached teams to championships in three separate sports and has also been inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.



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PLEASE AND THANK YOU

Dowling coach has a lot to be proud of

BY JEFF PITTS

Was Dowling Catholic's wrestling program the most dominant in Iowa high school sports history?

Maybe.

"We only had one dual meet loss during the decade of the '80s," says Ron Gray, former Dowling wrestling coach. He says that crosstown rival, Valley, was the only team to beat them during the entire span from the late 1970s through the early 1990s.

"We won 82 in a row, Valley beat us (in 1986), and then we won another 136 in a row."

Gray knows something about dominance. He has won championships coaching three separate sports in his 39 years at Dowling Catholic High School. The list of coaches who can say that is short. He's been inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, and he was part of the dominant Dowling wrestling teams that won five state tournament titles — 1975, 1978, 1984, 1988, 1990, 1991.

In 1987, Iowa added a dual state tournament.

"We won the first six," he said. "And we were second in the seventh."

The Maroons went 210-1 during that span, and it might be the most dominant dynasty in Iowa high school history — the next longest dual meet win streak in Iowa history is 92.

"We wrestled the best. We didn't duck anybody," Gray remembers.

He says the teams often traveled to seek out the toughest opponents, even crossing state lines to face the best teams in Minnesota.

Gray was an assistant coach until he took over for legendary Bob Darrah for the 1989-90 season. He has also coached the boys' golf team since 1989 and the girls' squad since 2012.

He says he's "old school" and admits to having done some "hollering," but he has mostly discontinued the practice. He knows the value of discipline and attempts to teach his athletes to be respectful, to have accountability and how to be a cohesive team members.

Coaching girls is different than coaching boys, he says. And coaching kids in the '70s is different than in the '90s. And coaching golf is different than coaching wrestling. But according to Gray, one thing is always the same.

"We are going to teach life through athletics," he says of the philosophy he and Darrah decided to use a long time ago. "You treat the student athlete with respect, but you hold them accountable for their actions and decision-making."

That begins with getting the kids to buy into

the system, he says. He's been around long enough to see the process through and the fruit it has born. He enjoys when former students return. Gray recently had a former student visit a practice. He asked him to tell the current kids what he remembered about the program.

"I learned how to say 'please' and 'thank you,'" the former student said.

Believe it or not, Gray's proudest accomplishment isn't the unprecedented winning streak. Nor is it any of the state titles in any of the three sports. In fact, it doesn't involve a win at all — at least not directly.

"We've had kids who have stepped into the varsity lineup as junior varsity kids because of injuries and place at the state meet," he says. "Probably the greatest was in 1991, my 171-pounder found out the day before districts he couldn't wrestle — he'd gotten third in state the year before. We bumped up a reserve 160-pound wrestler.

"We coach the entire room."

The backup at the lower weight ended up placing third at the state meet. Dowling went on to win the state tournament and the state dual meet.

"He accounted for 15 team points," the coach recalls. "And we won by 14." ■

LEAN ON ME

A lifetime of dogs

STORY BY JEFF PITTS | PHOTOS BY DAN HODGES

Who do you call when you find an abandoned dog, just 4 months old, tied to a stake in a yard, stuck in the freezing temperatures at what appears to be an abandoned home?

The dog's stomach was sucked in, and its body was taut, its muscles were too lean. It was starving to death, and water wasn't anywhere in sight.

Who would you call?

If you don't know, then keep reading, because you soon will. Her name is Nancy Walter, and she's been rescuing animals for her entire adult life. When her veterinarian found the aforementioned dog — affectionately known as "Doug" — tied up in these conditions, after leaving a sign on the door with a number to call if the person wanted the dog back, the vet called the same person who she'd called many times before when help was needed for a furry friend — Nancy Walter.

"He was a big boy," she recalls. "He grew to 90 pounds or so."

After taking the Husky mix into her home, the second-grade teacher did the best she could. She nursed it back to health for six years until it became ill, and then the search was on for what was wrong. It seemed Doug was allergic to food, and in the pantheon of things to be allergic to, food is one of the worst.

"We think, at the end, he was allergic to potatoes," she said. "And most dog food has potatoes."

They had not tried kangaroo yet, she laughs. They shot a deer, and that seemed to work. And she added a little treat from the Mexican store, Yucca.

"I was cooking deer meat for him two times a day," she says.

She would photograph the pile that would come out the other end to send to the vet for analysis.

Doug had always had irritable bowel disease, but it worsened.

"Had we known sooner, he might have lived longer," she says.

But in the end, it was too late. Too much damage had been done. Doug passed away in January. The dog was survived by its canine friends and housemates, Koda and Jazzy Eileen, the latter named so because of the broken leg it had when the vet found it, forcing it to lean to stay standing up.

Koda is a runt, rescued from a puppy mill. It has been with Nancy since 2010.

"He'd been through a lot when I got him," she said.

Nancy's heart has been through a lot as well; it isn't easy watching misery walk through the door. But her home is where abandoned pets find a warm home, out of the cold.

"You can find an animal that needs a home," she said. "You don't necessarily need to buy one."

R.I.P, Doug. ■



PERSONALITIES



Top: Nancy Walter and Jazzy Eileen.

Left to right: Romeo, Jazzy Eileen and Koda.

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BRYAN DROST

Bryson Drost paid \$20 for his Calvin Klein Slim necktie. To add class to his night on the town, he tied it with an Eldrige knot.



CHRIS MAHARRY

Chris Maharry loves bow ties. He wears one six or seven days a week. This little pink bow was gifted to him from a high school classmate a year ago. "I'm not me without a bow tie," Maharry says.



CHARLIE ROSE

Charlie Rose was wearing his Michael Kors tie with a Half Windsor knot. His mom paid \$85 for it a couple of years ago.



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WALKS OF LIFE

BY JEFF PITTS



ALESSANDRA MESCHINI

Master of Foccacia bread

Alessandra Meschini likes to cook and teach others about the art as well.

“I am Italian. I was born there and lived there for 26 years,” she says.

Meschini has lived in a variety of other places including Nigeria, Mexico City and Paris.

“I traveled the world a little bit,” she says modestly. “Des Moines is the best place.”

ZACH TOMLINSON

Indescribable

“I’ve never been good at describing who I am,” Zach Tomlinson says.

He tries to be hard working, light hearted, easy going and friendly. He also says he enjoys being outside and working out, but his favorite thing to do is to play X-Box. Tomlinson said patience is the key to “Rainbow 6: Siege.”

“That holds true for any part of life,” he says. “Patience really is a virtue.”



TROY JOHNSON

Open-minded and looking to make himself better

“I’m an open-minded person looking to better myself,” Troy Johnson says.

He grew up in Chicago and has only been in Des Moines 45 days, so he’s still getting used to it.

“I don’t like it,” he laughs. “It’s slow; it’s a big change of pace.”

Johnson has family in the city. And he has dreams. He currently works a job with Titan Tire, but he says he is saving money to start his own business.

“It’s easy to make money,” he says and then laughs. “But it’s easy to spend it, too.”

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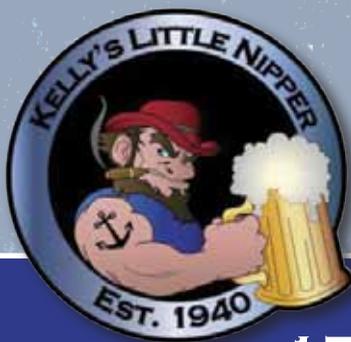
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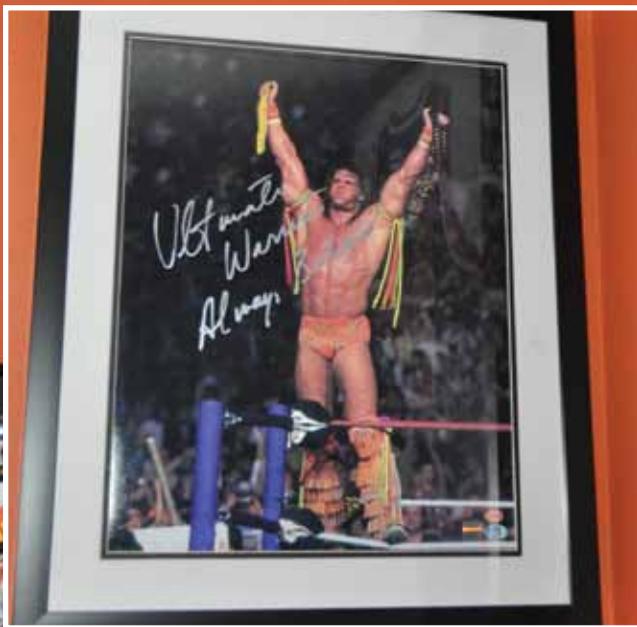
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Tony Kirby's autograph collection has overtaken his new home. Kirby, 31, collects the signatures of famous athletes, actors, wrestlers and others. He attains the autographs by attending autograph shows, as well as other venues.



EVERYWHERE A SIGN

Getting autographs is about having fun

STORY BY JEFF PITTS

When two become one, it's a beautiful thing. But a wedding isn't just a joining of love; it's also a combination of two tangible sets of real-world items. When two people's souls are united, two people's stuff now needs to merge under one roof.

Tony Kirby is engaged to be married. But before his future wife signs on the marriage license, the pair might need to figure out what to do with Tony's overflowing man cave filled with an estimated 350 autographed items scrawled across dozens of jerseys, approximately 70 mini helmets and a multitude of other memorabilia.

Tony originally obtained authorization to fill the basement. He thought the cellar walls offered plenty of space. But the up-and-coming man cave is full, and there isn't enough room for everything.

"She likes that I have a hobby," says Tony. "But the volume of it might be too much."

For Tony, this hobby began in first grade when his dad took him to get a Mr. T comic book signed.

"I lived in Lincoln, Nebraska, and Mr. T was in town," he remembers. He says the rest is history. "He had the big gold chains and the gold goblet with him."

Tony still has that first signature, and he's added many more. His favorites aren't necessarily the ones that are worth the most. They include Pete Weber, the pro bowler; Tony Hawk, the pro skater; and NBA stars Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Bill Russell.

He spends time thinking about which item he would

like signed by any given celebrity. For him, half the fun is finding the perfect match for a given individual, like when he had professional wrestler "Hacksaw" Jim Duggan sign a 2x4, or Hulk Hogan autograph an un-ripped yellow T-shirt.

Every autograph hound has at least one story about a person who wouldn't scratch his gloss, and Tony does, too.

At the wrestling shows and music concerts, it's easier to get celebrities to sign for free, but Tony gets most of his autographs from paid shows where a hierarchy exists as to how much you pay for the signature. Not all autographs are created equal. It costs more to get a helmet or a jersey signed than it does to get the same signature on a piece of paper or a ball. The rationale is that the autograph has a multiplier effect, and it is therefore more valuable on a more significant item.

In high school, Tony was a big fan of Emmitt Smith but was a little short on cash. He bought an inexpensive ticket granting him the right to a lower priced signing, but he brought in a helmet, hoping the Cowboy great wouldn't notice he didn't have the proper ticket to get such an item signed. He and another young friend planned a strategy of slightly folding the ticket so the athlete couldn't see exactly what had been purchased.

His friend went ahead of him, and like many teenagers with "brilliant" schemes, he was busted. Tony was next in line, and his ticket was scrutinized closely by

Emmitt's handlers, and, of course, the stub wasn't up to par. The Cowboy running back signed the helmet anyway, but when it was time to snap the photo, Emmitt wasn't smiling, and Tony had a sheepish look.

"This was my all-time favorite player," he laughs now. "I guess it's my fault for doing that, but it was a bad experience. Obviously I should have just paid for it."

The most he's ever paid is \$300 apiece for hockey great Mario Lemieux and football legend Peyton Manning to sign, and that doesn't include the price of the jersey or the framing.

Tony doesn't resell his signings, because it's not about making money — it's about making memories.

"It's all about having fun," he says. "Just going with friends and then getting to meet that person — that's the real value of it."

Some of Tony's favorite signatures include notorious baseball slugger Jose Canseco and gory movie actors like Bruce Campbell from the "Evil Dead" trilogy, John Carpenter from "Halloween," Robert Englund as Freddie Krueger ("Nightmare On Elm Street") and Kane Hodder, who portrays Jason Voorhees in "Friday the 13th."

And what about the overflow of signatures that won't fit in the basement?

He shrugs his shoulders, shakes his head and chuckles, "I don't know."

Pity the fool. ■

PARTING SHOT



BATTERIES NOT INCLUDED

PHOTO BY DANIEL HODGES

Jordan Lambrecht and Ally Frame are a real-life “Operation” team at the Des Moines Community Playhouse Hollywood Halloween on Oct. 21. ■

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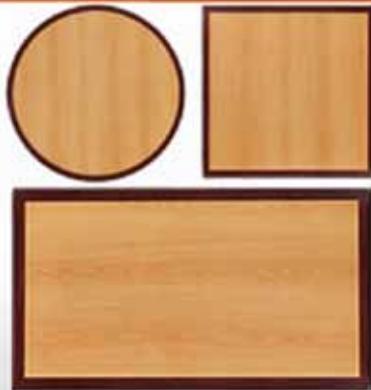
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