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## The return of RECORD SHOPS

Music medium  
resurges in the  
age of streaming.

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# FROM THE PUBLISHER

## When to put up the Christmas tree?

And how to avoid related injuries.

If you want to start a good holiday debate, ask a friend when the best time is to put up the Christmas tree. The answer is usually quite personal and is typically related to when the tree was put up in the home of that person's parents. Makes sense.

But in this seemingly growing world of anti-Christmas sentiment, do people still put up Christmas trees? The answer is an astounding and reassuring yes. According to a survey from ValuePenguin, four in five Americans intend to have at least one Christmas tree in their home. More than likely, if you are in the 80%, you have put up your tree by the time you are reading this. Even so, you may wonder, when should a tree be put up?

When struggling with important questions such as this, I turn to household guru Martha Stewart. She says the average evergreen lasts roughly four to six weeks from its harvest date, with some exceptions. To play it safe, Stewart says you should put up your tree in early December if you hope to keep it through the month.

Of course, that's if you have a "real" tree. Those of us with the artificial option can put them up on the Fourth of July, if we so choose.

My wife, Jolene, and I put up our artificial tree and interior decorations in mid-November — the earliest we have ever done so. It's nice to have those tasks completed, and the house does have that holiday feel to it now. That's good, because we can now begin to work on the family Christmas letter. Ugh.

Christmas trees were traditionally put up to mark the beginning of Advent, a time of celebration anticipating the birth of Jesus. Advent starts four Sundays before Christmas day, so it falls on Nov. 27 this year. But if you look back to the Victorians, who popularized the Christmas tree, they didn't put up trees until Dec. 22 or even Dec. 24. There is even a superstition that says it is bad luck to put up a tree before Dec. 1, which may explain the number of injuries related to this process. Yes, there are apparently a large number of accidents that happen when putting up Christmas trees. According to the aforementioned ValuePenguin survey, the percentage of people who said they've suffered injuries from their Christmas trees is 20%. One in five. Seriously.

My dad had the best solution, at least from my perspective. In his later years, he decided to simplify the Christmas tree installation process. He had a small tree with lights and decorations that he covered with a large garbage bag and put in storage each January. The next year, with a magician's touch, he simply brought the tree out and pulled off the bag. Ta-da! Post-Thanksgiving. No injuries. Enough said.

Martha Stewart may not have approved, but Dad did — and that's good enough for me.

Have a merry Christmas and a festive holiday season. And, as always, thanks for reading. ■

**Shane Goodman**  
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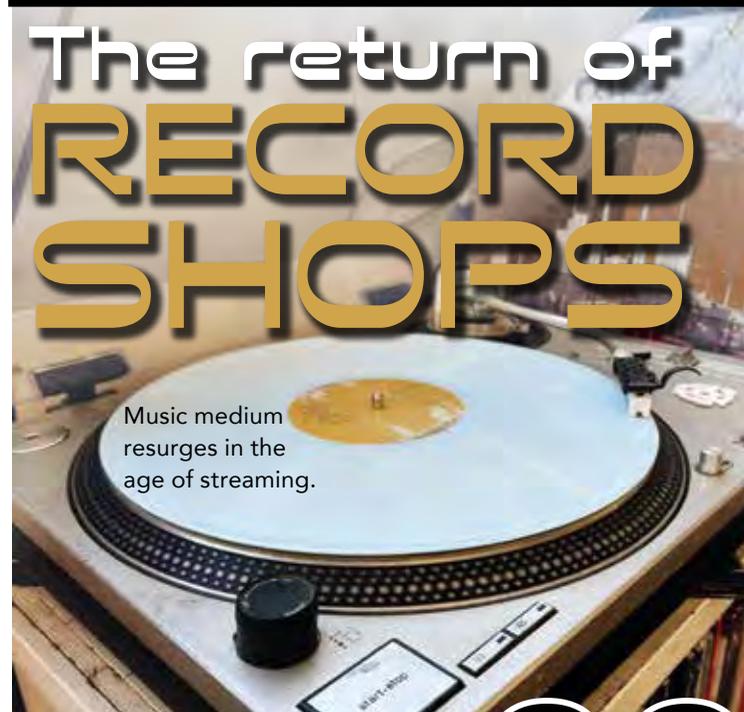
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# FEATURE 30 THE RETURN OF RECORD SHOPS

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# ASK CITYVIEW

By CITYVIEW staff

Ask CITYVIEW anything by emailing [editor@dmcityview.com](mailto:editor@dmcityview.com).

**Q.** **With all the close elections this year, it made me wonder how election recounts work?**

**A.** Some states recount votes automatically following narrow margins of victory; others allow recounts after voter petitions. In Iowa, a recount must be requested “not later than 5:00 p.m. on the third day following the county board’s canvass of the election in question,” according to provisions laid out in Iowa Code section 50.48.

Recounts are conducted county by county by a three-person board, with the leading and trailing candidate each designating one board member, then agreeing on a third. Recounts can be completed either by hand or machine.

If the margin between candidates is less than 1%, costs are covered by each county (i.e., taxpayers). Otherwise, the candidate requesting a recount is required to post a bond, which is returned if the recount reveals a different result. In all other cases, the bond is deposited into the general fund of the state or county.

**Q.** **I enjoyed learning about veterans’ organizations in the Adel Living magazine. The story mentioned flag retirement burn pits, but isn’t flag burning a way to protest?**

**A.** Federal law in Chapter 5 of Title 4 of the United States Code known as the “flag code” establishes many guidelines on the appearance and display of the U.S. flag. The language used in the law is non-binding, so the guidelines are not mandatory and no penalties are laid out. The flag code also states that “the flag should never be used as wearing apparel.”

Historically, the Flag Protection Act of 1968 prohibited flag desecration, which included flag burning. In the landmark Texas v. Johnson decision in 1989, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that burning the American flag was protected speech under the First Amendment. Flag desecration was prohibited in 48 states at the time. Several attempts to ban flag burning and other desecration on a federal level have made their way through Congress, but the form of protest remains protected, albeit contested.

While flag burning often signifies protest, it is also the preferred way of retiring a U.S. flag. Section 8k of the Flag Code says: “The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem for display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning.” The flag should be completely burned to ashes. If burning isn’t an option, burial is an acceptable alternative. Anyone can retire a flag, but several local organizations provide the service; many have drop boxes. Check with your local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) post, American Legion, Boy and Girl Scout troops, or Elks Lodge.

**Q.** **Why are there so many blue streetlights around Des Moines?**

**A.** No, it’s not a blacklight, and it’s not an invitation to host a rave. The blue and purple tints aren’t intentional. MidAmerican Energy said some LED bulbs are discolored due to a manufacturer defect, and the issue is impacting several cities across the continent. If you see a discolored streetlight, you can submit a repair form at [midamericanenergy.com/streetlight-repair-form](http://midamericanenergy.com/streetlight-repair-form). Note “purple or blue light” in the comment box. ■

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# YOUR VIEW

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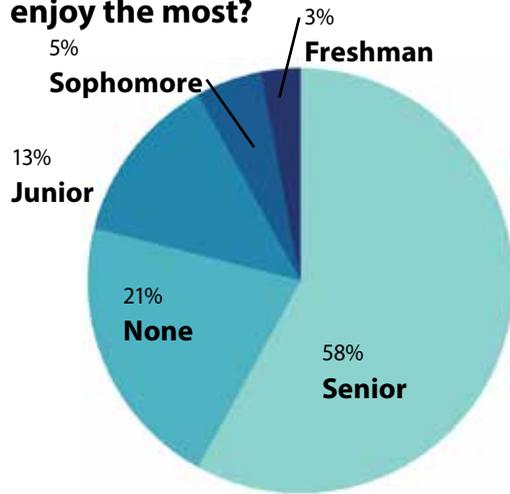
## Join the conversation!

Do you have a comment or photo you'd like to share with the readers of CITYVIEW through this page? Use the hashtag #dmcityview on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter — or email [editor@dmcityview.com](mailto:editor@dmcityview.com).

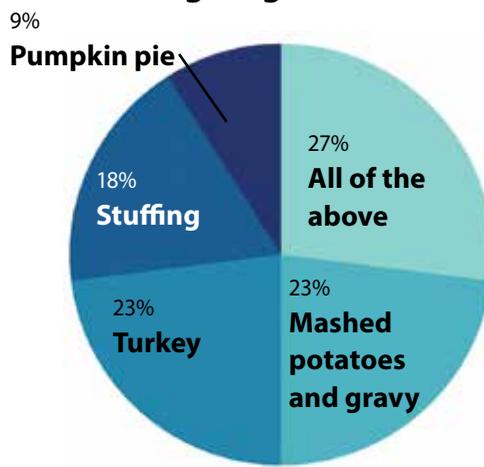
## POLL POSITION

Results from last month's polls at [www.dmcityview.com](http://www.dmcityview.com)

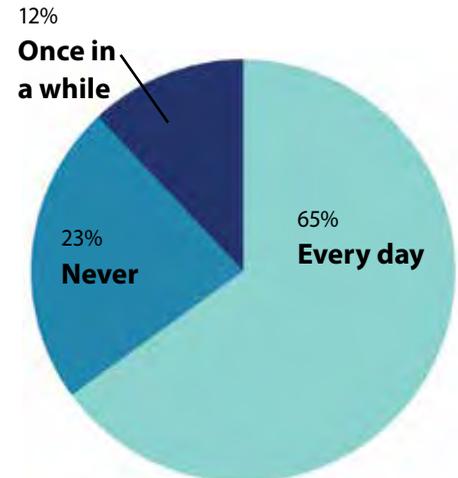
### Which year of high school did you enjoy the most?



### Which is your gotta-have-it part of the Thanksgiving meal?



### Do you wear a wrist watch?



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Political Mercury review

If CITYVIEW continues to lean on The Des Moines Register and other left-leaning newspapers for commentary, CITYVIEW will be located in the fiction section at the library. Example, Doug Burns' article in the November 2022 issue. What silent majority wants Senator Grassley out? He won the election, the largest number of votes in midterm elections in the history of the state, by over 12%! Not the 3% poll numbers published in CITYVIEW. "Franken... has a shot to defeat the seemingly invincible Grassley." Who really believes that? But that is what The Des Moines Register story published and so did CITYVIEW. Did they disclose that the veteran mentioned in the story (with tears in his eyes after meeting Franken — so the story goes), actually voted for Grassley like the majority of Iowans?

-Dave Roszak

**Editor's note:** Please note the word VIEW in CITYVIEW. This publication has all kinds of them, including Political Mercury columnist Doug Burns. And Dave Roszak's.

## FACEBOOK COMMENTS



cityview magazine  
(comments unedited)

**Cityview Magazine:** What is your preferred method of voting: early voting in person, absentee voting by mail or in person on Election Day?

**Sue Welsch:** Absentee

**Ellie Stone:** Early, in person.

**Marie Robertson-Pavon:** In person.

**Kerry Hall-Reeves:** In person

**Jeanne Kutsch:** In person

**Michael Leland:** By mail.

**Jessica McIntyre:** In person election day

**Leslie Logel:** Election day

**Crystal Pyle:** Absentee

**Janet Shannon McGovern:** Absentee

**Cityview Magazine:** Were you surprised by the outcome of the election?

**Lemon Smith:** Disappointed

**Cactus Bob's BBQ Corral:** State, no. Federal, a little.

**Sara McKay:** How can a winner be declared

before the polls close? How is that fair?

**Vivian Masters:** Disappointed

**Micklus Noble:** Dinosaurs walk among us

**Rene Rodriguez:** Nope

**Lanny D Nuese:** Losing Tom Miller hurts.

**Staci Zirkle:** Heck no! Same ol, same ol.

**John Euel Cook:** More saddened than surprised.

**Kathy Hinrichs Boe:** Not really.

## RETWEETS



(comments unedited)

**@JasonNotEvil:** "it's just like riding a bicycle"

Oh cool the one vehicle I've crashed the most

**@MaxStynn:** What did "hello" say to "goodbye"? You always have to get the last word in!

**@OillyConic:** [prison]

PRISONER: what's for breakfast

GUARD: every meal is bread & water

PRISONER: [is a duck] oh baby

**@LifePitts:** We have family pictures in 10 days. If everyone starts getting ready now we can still be late.

**@Rollinintheseat:** \*talking to a baby\*

Me: Can you say 'dog'

Baby: \*patronizingly\* Can you say 'Worcestershire'

**@ilovepie84:** When I die dress me like Amelia Earhart and place me on top of the tallest tree you can find

**@Buckylsotope:** ME: I found a genie today

WIFE: that's wonderful, I have some great ideas for wishes

ME: \*looking at brand new unopened copies of Shrek 1, Shrek 2, and Shrek 3\* I can't wait to hear them

**@topaz\_kell:** Sorry I disappeared for 3 years. I was putting my jeans on.

**@\_maybe\_not\_ever:** it's common knowledge that a house isn't a home until there are at least five different boxes of cereal open at once

**@cookie\_mumbles:** Them: Follow your dreams!

Me: \*goes back to school without pants\*

**@julcasagrande:** every time i take my cat for a walk on the beach i imagine how mind blowing it is for him to be in a giant litter box ■

# HOLIDAY HULLABALOO



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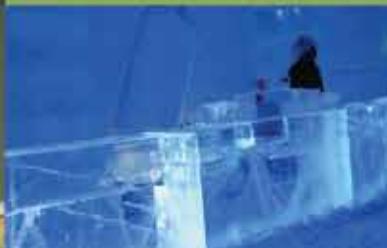
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# STRAY THOUGHTS

BY RANDY EVANS

## Could another Mamie Till bring gun change?

What people saw outraged them.

Mamie Till came along at the right time in American history.

During the 1950s, in an era when many Americans were blind to the grotesque toll of racial hatred, this courageous Illinois mother stepped forward and opened America's eyes.

What people saw outraged them — the mutilated body of her 14-year-old son, Emmett, lying in an open casket. His horribly disfigured face bore little resemblance to anything human. An ear was severed. An eye was missing. His teeth were gone. He had been wrapped with barbed wire, and his head was swollen like a deformed pumpkin.

The black teenager had been kidnapped, tortured and killed for whistling at a white woman who was working in a tiny grocery store in Money, Mississippi, in August 1955. Mamie Till had allowed her only child to travel from Chicago with relatives to visit cousins on his great-uncle's cotton farm not far from Money.

I was in Illinois a few weeks ago for a family get-together. We were 20 miles and 67 years removed from where the Till family lived on the south side of Chicago and where Emmett's funeral attracted thousands of mourners.

During our trip to Illinois, there was time to reflect on the pivotal role Mamie Till's decision played in U.S. history. We watched the new "Till" movie in a bustling theater. We heard sobs and moaning from people in the audience at key moments in the powerful film.

I found myself wondering whether another mother might someday show similar courage the way Mamie Till did and decide to make public the horrific

photographs of her child lying in a casket after being gunned down in one of the school shootings that are all too common.

Might such a mother decide that is a way to ensure her son or daughter makes a lasting contribution to a better society? Could such courage galvanize public action and lead our nation's leaders to deal in a meaningful way with the rampant gun violence that is rotting away the notion of our schools being places of safety and security for children?

After the massacre in May of 19 children at a school in Uvalde, Texas, David Boardman, dean of communications at Temple University in Philadelphia, told the Los Angeles Times, "I can't imagine that most Americans would look at a photograph of the damage that an assault weapon does to a child's body and then not be horrified."

Boardman said there is too wide a gap between "the horrendous reality" of gun violence and what the public comprehends when they only see photographs of the children's smiling faces before their deaths.

Before Emmett Till's death, the victims of racial violence often were invisible beyond their own families and their circle of friends. Then, just as now, the news quickly moves on to other events, but the families of victims rarely are able to move on.

Emmett Till's was not the only racially motivated murder in Mississippi that summer in 1955. The Institute for Southern Studies notes that on May 7, 1955, the Rev. George Lee, the first Black person to register to vote since Reconstruction in Humphreys County, Mississippi, was shot to death for refusing to

remove his name from the voter registration rolls. On Aug. 13, two weeks before Emmett's murder, World War I veteran Lamar Smith was shot dead in front of the courthouse in Lincoln County, Mississippi, for encouraging other Black people to sign up to vote.

But Mamie Till's decision to have an open casket for her son and to encourage a news photographer to make pictures of his mutilated corpse became a catalyst for the civil rights movement that transformed our nation.

Might another mother be able to break America out of its business-as-usual approach these days to dealing with mass murders?

Might another mother bring change to America by acting the way Mamie Till did when she said, "I wanted the world to see what they did to my boy"?

**Footnote:** There is an Iowa angle of sorts to the Emmett Till tragedy. Four months after a jury found two white men not guilty of his murder, "Look" magazine published the men's confession that they had taken Till from his uncle's home, beaten him, shot him and then thrown his weighted-down body into the nearby Tallahatchie River. The men were Roy Bryant, the husband of the store clerk Till whistled at, and the husband's half-brother, J.W. Milam.

"Look" was a biweekly news magazine founded in Des Moines and published by brothers Gardner and John Cowles, longtime owners of The Des Moines Register. The magazine closed in 1971. ■

Randy Evans can be reached at [DMRevans2810@gmail.com](mailto:DMRevans2810@gmail.com).



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# CIVIC SKINNY

## Merry Christmas...

Twelve drummers drumming...  
...for **Randy Peterson**, who has been writing sports at The Des Moines Register for 50 years...and **Felipe Nogueira** of Brazil, coach of the championship men's volleyball team at Grand View University. (And how come Grand View (two words) University is on Grandview (one word) Avenue? Sounds like an investigative project for the Capital Dispatch's **Clark Kauffman** — that's Kauffman with two f.s.)...for Drake sharpshooter **Okay Djamgouz** of Canada and University of Iowa punter **Tory Taylor** of Australia and Iowa State forward **Aljaz Kunc** of Slovenia...for sports photographer **Dylan Heuer**, his wife **Ursula** and their new son, **Ben**...and **Jeff Tilley**, who will shoot his 100,000th T-shirt out of the Iowa Cubs Fun Gun next summer. But who has been counting?

Eleven pipers piping...  
...for whoever makes the hamburgers at Sully's...and **Lisa LaValle** at the Trellis Cafe at the Botanical Garden, one of the town's gems...and **Marty Scarpino** at the Embers on Ingersoll, and his brothers who help out behind the bar...for the crew at the Waveland Cafe...and everyone at Lucca...and **Kathy Fehrman**, who is planning a new restaurant on Ingersoll... and the wizards at The Grateful Chef.

Ten lords-a-leaping...  
For newlyweds **Chuck Offenburger** and **Mary Ritchie**...and best man **Randy Evans**...for **Amy Duncan** and **Mark Davitt**, who are bringing old-fashioned journalism back to Indianola...for south-siders **Deene** and **Dari Ehlis**, one of whom makes a great rhubarb pie...for Big Green Umbrella Media's **Shane** and **Jolene Goodman**, who know that names make news...for warring county supervisors **Angela Connolly** and **Matt McCoy**, who probably don't like to see their names in the same sentence.

Nine ladies dancing...  
...for a bunch of folks who are moving on: outgoing State Treasurer **Mike Fitzgerald** and Attorney General **Tom Miller**, who devoted their lives to serving the state... the hundred or so golfers who have resigned from the Wakonda Club in protest of the

board's costly plans to redo the golf course and clubhouse. (And why no stories on this? Rich guys vs. rich guys is always a good story.) Anyway, welcome to Echo Valley... retiring Register columnist **Rekha Basu**... and **Cindy Axne**, who was knocked down by the Red Wave in Iowa...for Channel 8's **Steve Karlin**, who is retiring...and so are Art Center director **Jeff Fleming** and Library Foundation Director **Dory Briles**... for **Gary Slater**, who is retiring from the Iowa State Fair...and, especially, for **Brian Cooney**, who is more or less retiring after 40 years behind his bar in Beaverdale.

Eight maids-a-milking...  
...for **Ben Waseskuk**, who for 33 years delivered the New York Times in the wee hours of the morning — he calculates he delivered 2.5 million copies — until the Times abandoned the Iowa readers of the daily print edition... (And whatever happened to news-boxes on the street — and telephone booths — and milkmen — and soda fountains — and streetcars and “Curbliners”?)!... (And have you ever seen a sentence that ended with that many punctuation marks?)...for the people who make the egg nog at Anderson Erickson... and **Herb** and **Kathy Eckhouse**, the prosciutto makers, who are selling La Quercia.

Seven swans a-swimming...  
...for **Rachelle Keck**, the new president of Grand View, and **Christy Anderson** and **Marilee Mitchell**, who like dogs... and **Renee Hardman** at Broadlawns... and **Angela Franklin**, who is building a huge new campus for Des Moines University — as the folks on Grand Avenue wonder what will happen to the current campus, which was founded in 1884 as Saint Joseph's Academy, a Catholic girls' high school where the girls wore uniforms and didn't chew gum... for **Zachary** and **Mackenzie** and **Chris** and **Maggie**, never on Santa's naughty list...and weatherman **Ed Wilson**...and **Chuck Betts**, who has a Cadillac emblem on his motorized scooter.

Six geese-a-laying...  
...for the old-timers who gather around a table at the Village Inn each Wednesday to talk about sports — and they know what

they're talking about. It's hard to stump **Mike Mahon** or **Larry Morgan** or **Laura Leonard** or **Dave Stockdale** or **Chuck Schoffner** or **Rick Leiserwitz** or **Dave Mills** or the others. But a quick call to **Sam Bernabe** or **Randy Wehofer** could clear up any baseball arguments...for Drake's **Vince Kenney**, who knows the difference between a tuba and a euphonium, and everyone else at Music Under the Stars...for **Trudy Hurd**, who is everywhere...and Principal's **Dan Houston**, who must be the busiest — and maybe the nicest — man in town.

Five gold rings...  
...and a crown for Mitchellville's **Randi Estabrook**, the reigning Miss Iowa...for **Luis** and **Adrian** and **Mayra** and **Rick** at Dreamers Roosevelt Barbershop... and hairstylist **Kelly Morris**...for **David Johnson**, assistant librarian in Ocheyedan, who would never burn a book...and 91-year-old **Elaine Estes**, who integrated the Drake dormitories in 1949 and led the Des Moines Public Library for a generation...for the journalism faculty at the University of Iowa (who surely didn't teach 1991 grad **Kari Lake** to tell reporters that “I'm going to be your worst frickin' nightmare”)...and **Laura Belin**, who didn't need a journalism degree to become a terrific reporter.

Four colly birds...  
...for World Series umpire **Pat Hoberg** of Urbandale, who calls 'em as he sees 'em...and umpire supervisor (and trumpet player) **Mike Everitt**, who worked around 2,700 Major League games — and ejected 81 players...for **Stephanie Sinovic**, who raises money for Drake, and **Matt Sinovic**, who raises questions in Progress Iowa... and architect **Kevin Nordmeyer**, whose Harkin Center at Drake is a model for accommodating folks with disabilities...for the very organized **Katie Miller**...for **Scott Sailor**, who has files on everything... and **Beth Giudicessi**, onetime employee of the year.

Three French hens...  
...for **Rob** and **Jessica Tyler Feeney**, carrying on the Tyler tradition at the Coca-Cola business in Iowa. And Jessica's grandpa **Jim Tyler** in Atlantic...and the

friendly folks at the downtown Y... for **Tavian Banks** and **Rodney Filer** at the Grubb recreation center...and Pilates instructor **Gigi Filer**, too...for **Marty Tirrell**, who is back in town...and everyone at Molly's Cupcakes.

Two turtle doves...  
...for some folks in Ankeny: software engineer **Todd Brady**, who invented the Internet Vaccine Hunter and the Formula Finder — but lost in his bid for the Iowa senate...and 84-year-old opera singer **Simon Estes**, who has sung around the world but still knows the Centerville High School fight song...for **Trevor** and **Ethan** and **Blake** and **Cooper Conkel**...Polk County Supervisor **Steve Van Oort**...all the generous Lombardis...and track star **Tyrese Miller**.

And a partridge in a pear tree...  
...in memory of the wonderful **George Drake**, Rhodes Scholar, Grinnell graduate and then trustee and then president, and baseball fan...the lovely and kind and generous **Mary Pappajohn**...the Rev. **Carlos Jayne**, who fed the poor and fought for peace...photographers **John Hetherington** and **John Gaps**...golfer and politico **George Kinley**...Broadcasters **Mac McCausland** (more precisely W.D. McCausland III) and **Rick Swalwell** and businessman **David Hoak** and Irishman **Marty Walsh**...State Auditor **Richard Johnson**, a stand-up guy, and public servant **Jim Riordan**...longtime Grand View coach and athletic director **David Sisam** and former East High Principal **Earl Bridgewater**...**Mary Ann Beno** and **Lavon Schattschneider**...dentist and winemaker **Bill Brown**...**Stan Reynolds** and **Wes Ritchie** and **Kay Polydoran Wright**...watchdog **Dick Goodson** and **V. Hale Starr**...**Dr. Bill Hornaday**... **Phil Hildebrand**, who loved and served Pleasant Hill...kind and upbeat **Scott Kirkpatrick**...businessman and teacher **Bob Galligan**...banker and entrepreneur **Brian Chittenden**...longtime legislator and school-board member and feminist **Betty Grundberg**...  
...and, always, the first **Christopher**. ■

— *Michael Gartner*



# 2022-2023 IOWA WILD PROMO SCHEDULE

PRESENTED BY **MERCYONE**

## GAME DATE & PROMO

 **12/3 • WWE NIGHT**

 **12/4 • PUCKS 'N PAWS**  
Dog Bag Dispenser Giveaway (First 400 Dogs)

 **12/16 • TEDDY BEAR TOSS**

 **12/17 • VIDEO GAME NIGHT**

 **12/23 • STAR WARS NIGHT**

 **12/30 • NYE CELEBRATION**  
Post Game Fireworks

 **1/7 • LOCAL HEROES NIGHT**  
10<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Hat Giveaway (First 1500 Fans)

 **1/8 • DECADE DAY**

 **1/21 • HAWKEYE NIGHT**  
Matt Boldy Bobblehead Giveaway (First 1500 Fans)

 **2/11 • PINK IN THE RINK**  
Specialty Jersey Auction & LED Wand Giveaway (First 5000 Fans)

 **2/19 • CRASH'S BIRTHDAY BASH**  
Youth Jersey Giveaway (First 1500 Fans, 12 & Under)

 **2/24 • PRIDE NIGHT**  
Pride Scarf Giveaway (First 1500 Fans)

 **3/12 • KIDS TAKEOVER DAY**

 **3/24 • JOE HICKETTS BOBBLEHEAD**  
Bobblehead Giveaway (First 1500 Fans)

 **4/1 • BEACH DAY**  
Beach Towel Giveaway (First 1500 Fans)

 **4/2 • PUCKS 'N PAWS**  
Rope Toy Giveaway (First 400 Dogs)

 **4/7 • FAN APPRECIATION NIGHT**  
Trading Cards & Team Photo Giveaway (First 1500 Fans)

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DAMIEN GIROUX

*Damien Giroux*

# CIVIC SKINNY

BY CITYVIEW STAFF

## Bauder's for sale. Final election finances. Central Iowa's highest nonprofit salaries.

A “for sale” sign has been spotted at Bauder's, Des Moines' iconic ice cream shop and former pharmacy.

Owner **Kim Robertson** said she is simply looking for a transition.

“I've been here 51 years of my life, so I think it's time that I just pursue options,” she said. “It's just a feeler.”

The store opened in 1916 under the ownership of **Caroline Bauder** and was bought out by Robertson's father, **Charles Graziano**, in 1961. She started working at the store when she was 13, making ice cream in the kitchen — which, coincidentally, was what she was doing when we called to confirm the potential sale.

Although a family of pharmacists, Robertson closed the pharmacy portion of the business in 2016 following a highly publicized scandal. Allegations of illegal activity first surfaced in 2012 surrounding her brother and former owner of the store, **Mark Graziano**. In 2015, he was sentenced to two years in federal prison for tax evasion and diversion of more than 700,000 narcotic

-pills.

The Graziano family soldiered on with the business, focusing on their nostalgic soda fountain and ice cream offerings. Their signature peppermint bar is a famed frozen treat at the Iowa State Fair.

Robertson appeared to be open to either selling the business or closing entirely.

“It depends on what somebody is interested in,” she said. “There's lots of moving pieces to Bauder's.”

The store is located at 3802 Ingersoll Ave. in Des Moines. ...

A reader tells CITYVIEW that his friend had problems when trying to vote in Urbandale on Election Day. The poll worker who was handing out ballots informed her that she would not be allowed to vote, stating, “Voters cannot wear any clothing promoting a political candidate.” Our reader's friend was wearing a Tommy Hilfiger T-shirt. After explaining who Tommy Hilfiger was, she was eventually allowed to vote. ...

Official voter turnout and election statistics had yet to be released as CITYVIEW went to press, but we've gathered the next best thing: campaign finance reports.

By the end of the U.S. Senate race (i.e., Oct. 19, or the most recent data available), Sen. **Chuck Grassley** had amassed \$10.22 million. Challenger **Mike Franken** reported \$9.29 million. Rep. **Cindy Axne** had raised \$6.67 million during her campaign, although it wasn't enough to hold off Representative-Elect **Zach Nunn**, who reported only \$2.38 million in total receipts.

In the state election, Gov. **Kim Reynolds** raised \$2.25 million and spent \$5 million during the final stretch of the campaign season, reported from July 15 to Oct. 14. In the same period, **Diedre DeJear** raised \$805,000 and spent \$943,000. In the latest filing period covering up until a week before Election Day, Reynolds reported \$1.4 million cash on hand and DeJear \$95,000. Last-minute contributions to Reynolds in the final month included \$15,000 from former



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Adventureland CEO **Michael Krantz**, \$10,000 from businessman and casino-owner **Gary Kirke**, and \$2,500 from MercyOne CEO **Bob Ritz**. ...

Last month's Civic Skinny covered the highest dollar home sales of 2022, and medical professionals and executives dominated the list. One can't help but wonder what the compensation is for folks who can buy those prices of homes. After digging into tax documents reported in 2019, the latest year data was available, we compiled a list of the highest-paid health care executives and physicians in central Iowa.

**Kevin Vermeer**, the 20-plus-year CEO of UnityPoint who resigned in the early days of the pandemic, received a salary of \$2.62 million. **Sue Thompson**, who served as interim CEO during the transition, made \$1.26 million. Other top salaries included \$1.37 million to **Denny Drake**, general counsel, and \$1.34 million to **Art Nizza**, COO.

Among local physicians at UnityPoint Clinic, the top three earners were all cardiologists: **Dr. Saurabh Aggarwal** with \$1.14 million, **Dr. Craig Stark** with \$1.14 million and **Dr. Rajeev Fernando** with \$1.18 million. Other top salaries included \$810,000 for **Dr. Enrique Bedia**, OBGYN; \$707,000 for former CFO **Keith Seashore** and \$665,000 for **Dr. Dan Allen**, chief medical officer.

In the UnityPoint Health - Des Moines branch, doctors specializing in radiation oncology were reported as the highest earners: **Dr. Robert Isaak** with \$1.15 million, **Dr. John Triantafyllos** with \$1.13 million and

**Dr. Arshin Sheybani** with \$1.08 million. CEO **David Stark** earned \$890,000, and Blank Children's Hospital President **Dr. Steve Stephenson** \$903,000 in 2019. The highest-paid employee that year was **Dr. Mark Purtle**, VP of medical affairs, with \$1.34 million.

Within the MercyOne network, CEO **Bob Ritz** reported \$1.33 million in compensation in FY 2020. General counsel **Marcia Smith** made \$818,000 and CFO/COO **Mike Wegner** \$729,000. Among other highest compensated employees were former MercyOne Medical Group CEO **Kent Carr** with \$752,384, former Mercy Medical Center - Des Moines President **Karl Keeler** with \$699,000, and cardiologist **Dr. Mark Tannebaum** with \$813,000.

On the public hospital side, Broadlawns CEO **Jody Jenner** earned \$882,000 during FY 2020. Jenner retired last year after 15 years with the Polk County hospital. ...

Many hospitals operate as nonprofit organizations, but how about other nonprofits? We pulled data on the top 10 non-healthcare nonprofit organizations in the Des Moines area, sorted by the highest reported gross receipts, along with their highest-paid executives.

First up is Prairie Meadows, which showed \$1.7 billion in gross receipts in 2019. Aside from the well-known compensation of CEO **Gary Palmer** (\$1.4 million this year), the next highest-paid executive, COO **Ann Atkin**, made \$475,184 in 2019.

Next-highest in reported gross receipts was Lifespace Communities, with \$668.6 million in 2019. The top

salary of \$640,095 went to **Larry Smith**, CFO who was serving as interim CEO during the period reported.

Third, the Iowa Farm Bureau Foundation reported \$411.1 million in 2019. Its former executive director **Denny Presnall**, who was with the organization for 36 years, was paid \$3.35 million. His replacement, **Joe Johnson**, made \$982,405.

Numbers four through 10 on our nonprofit list include:

- Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines (\$224.9 million in gross receipts in 2019), where **Kristine Knous**, president, made \$232,399;
- Food Bank of Iowa (\$46.7 million in FY 2019), where **Michelle Book**, CEO and the only salaried staff member reported, was paid \$168,270;
- United Way of Central Iowa (\$31 million in FY 2021), where former president **Elisabeth Buck** made \$241,677;
- Goodwill of Central Iowa (\$20.6 million in 2019), whose former CEO, **Jacqueline Norris** — a senior advisor in the Biden-Harris campaign and recently appointed to the President's Commission on White House Fellowships — earned \$237,488;
- Girl Scouts of Greater Iowa (\$13.24 million in 2019), where CEO **Beth Shelton** made \$144,352;
- Easterseals Iowa (\$10.2 million in FY 2020), whose CEO, **Sherri Nielsen**, made \$155,848;
- and Variety - The Children's Charity (\$4.2 million in FY 2020), whose executive director, **Sheri McMichael**, made \$136,588. ■

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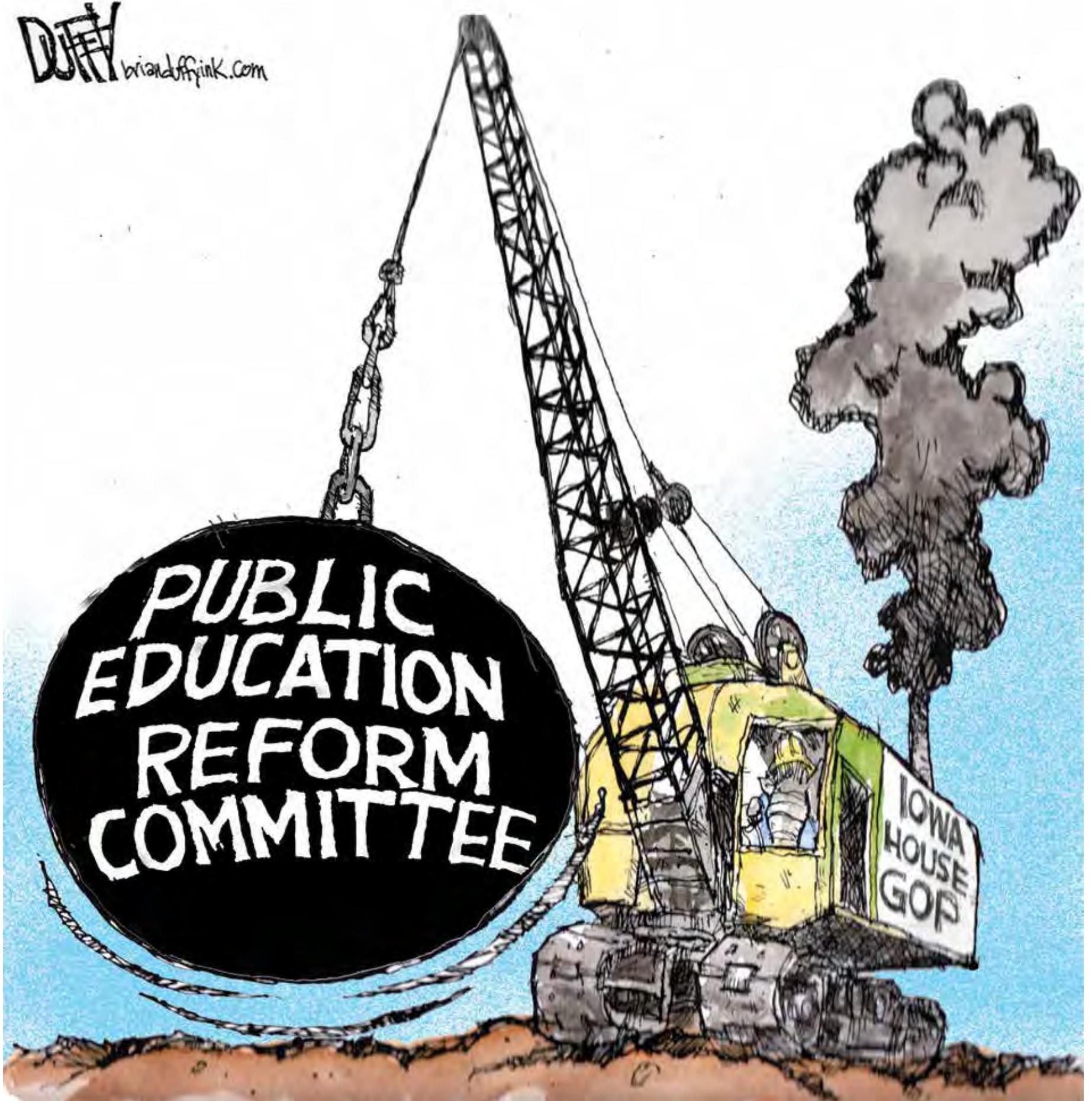
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DECEMBER 2022 | CITYVIEW | 17

# DUFFY'S VIEW

BY BRIAN DUFFY

DUFFY [brianduffyink.com](http://brianduffyink.com)



## Challenges, resilience in a rural Iowa newspaper's last stand

We are still publishing here in Carroll, Iowa. There is life in this newspaper, gasping as we may be at times.

The talented and intrepid reporter Dave Hoekstra, a former 30-year writer with the Chicago Sun-Times, spent the better part of three years chronicling the struggle of independent newspapers like my family's to survive amid a perfect storm of challenges and attacks that have shuttered thousands of locally owned papers or forced them to sell to chains with scavenger instincts that diminished once-vital community organs into ghosts of their former beings.

With penetrating questions, passion and empathy, a ready pen, and a trained observer's eye for details we miss about ourselves, Hoekstra traveled the nation — from Charleston, South Carolina, to Bakersfield, California, with stops in the Midwest, where he gave great care and interest to my family's newspaper — the Carroll (Iowa) Times Herald — and its daily pursuit of survival through reinvention and relentless optimism.

The result is an inspiring book. The title: "Beacons in the Darkness: Hope and Transformation Among America's Community Newspapers."

We are forever grateful to Dave and his book.

I can think of no one with more preparation to tell our story. Dave spent hours with our family and staff inside the Carroll Times Herald offices, and he followed up with dozens of phone calls to me personally, generally on Sunday nights. I spoke openly with him about our family's fears, my own sense of failure at this enterprise of newspapering in the modern era, while also detailing our fierce determination to outrun the Grim Reaper engineering The Great American Newspaper Decline, a central reason for the rot eating our democracy from the inside, the insatiable whipworm of a growing fascism.

The book was both inspiring and painful for me to read.

Because I trust Dave, I was open and honest with him about our newspaper, my role in it, where we have thrived and fallen short, and the mental-health toll this essential, but often seemingly doomed, final charge at saving a newspaper took on me and those I love the most.

As a proud daily newspaper with 100 years of family ownership, we were down to two days a week of publishing, a smaller staff and near-hourly conversations about our financial mortality when Dave Hoekstra entered our offices in the years before the pandemic.

Dave's book is a love letter to America at its best, to towns large and small, and a cautionary tale about the proliferation of news deserts in which Americans don't know what they don't know about local government and the happenings around the block from them, not to mention in our courthouses and statehouses where the fourth estate is increasingly absent in a culture that values the whiz-bang silliness of Instagram influencers more than the grit of determined beat reporters on democracy's guard duty.

"I see your book being incredibly relevant in two ways," I told Hoekstra in August 2020. "Either it will be an instruction manual or inspirational book that will have ideas that have helped preserve or resurrect newspapers. It could be a big part in saving journalism. Or, even if we get to the point where coronavirus ravages the nation even more and the for-profit journalism model is largely done, your book will be like chronicling the last Comanches — those of us who are still independent and family owned. It's almost surprising when you see one of us. 'Whoa, you're still covering county government?' 'Whoa, you're still covering state government?' 'Whoa, you still print a newspaper?' We're at that point where, if a lot of us are gone, even me gone, you will literally have written a book about the last stand."

We are still publishing here in Carroll, Iowa. There is life in this newspaper, gasping as we may be at times.

Here are five observations about newspapering life in contemporary America from me that Hoekstra includes in the book. There are many more, but this is a sample:

"I was in my teenage years when I saw stories about family farmers killing themselves. I had a condescending attitude about it — just tough it out. 'So you can't farm anymore? Move to St. Louis.' It's what you would expect from a 14-year-old with the whole world in front of him and nothing built behind him to see. But now, I've thought about killing myself. You can quote me on that. I haven't, of course, but I've spent 30 years of my life on this. We were the best paper in the state (named by the Iowa Newspaper Association in 2013). What for? Maybe I'll catch coronavirus. I've been flying around all over the country trying to find ideas and implementing dozens of them, working myself probably to an early grave trying to keep this paper from going to an early grave."

"They (people) just don't see community like they used to. They live in narcissism pods. Place doesn't matter like it used to. Place used to be essential to identity. Now people have an online avatar that's almost more important to them than where their physical being is. So, if you're in this narcissism pod where you have your Facebook friends, your Netflix queue, and your Amazon wish list, what the (expletive) does it matter whether you live in Carroll, Iowa, or Dubuque, Iowa? Every time I drive to Des Moines, there's a new subdivision, a new store going up. These places have no past and no future. They exist entirely in the present. They are purely consumer, commercial-driven monstrosities. Iowa is losing a lot of its character because of it. And that comes down to our business because people don't feel the same way about community things thanks to (expletive) Mark Zuckerberg."

"I've heard 'Let's go all digital.' I've heard to cut our staff as much as we can. You talk about building an airplane as it's flying. I've built a squadron of (expletive) airplanes in the sky. At this point anybody who will criticize a newspaper owner that is still open can go (expletive) themselves. You can use the F-bomb, and I'll be disappointed if you don't quote me accurately using the F-bomb."

"We got hit by a (expletive) duopoly known as Facebook and Amazon. They wiped out the fourth leg of the table of democracy in the fourth estate. We can't have the independent unattainable model. I used to be the guy in the room who could pretty much tell anybody they were wrong. I don't have that leverage anymore. It's tragic. Because the one person in the room that could tell people in positions of power to do that in smaller rural areas was the newspaper owner. He or she had the credibility of being a big community booster, and also, it's our job."

"The good thing about running a community newspaper is that I've always felt we're just temporary stewards of the newspaper. The community really owns the newspaper." ■

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



# COMING UP

SUBMIT ENTRIES AND PHOTOS TO [EDITOR@DMCITYVIEW.COM](mailto:EDITOR@DMCITYVIEW.COM)

**NOTE:** The following events and attractions are subject to cancellation or last-minute changes. Before attending, be sure to check with each event individually to verify its status, start times, offerings and other details.

THINGS TO DO



## SANTA'S WONDERLAND

**Through Saturday, Dec. 24  
Bass Pro Shops, 1000 Bass Pro Drive N.W., Altoona**

Experience Santa this holiday season, free of charge. Visitors will receive a printed 4x6 photo with Santa, enjoy holiday-themed games and festive giveaways, and may drop their wish list into a mailbox to be sent to the North Pole. Reserve a spot to see Santa up to one week in advance at [basspro.com/santa](http://basspro.com/santa).



## HOLIDAY HULLABALOO

**Through Saturday, Dec. 31.  
Horizon Events Center  
2100 N.W. 100th St., Clive**

This immersive, family-friendly holiday experience will surprise and delight guests this holiday season. Enjoy a variety of activities, entertainment and festivities including a snowball fight arena, Santa's workshop, Command Center, Marketplace, life-size gingerbread house and more. Evenings are adults only and will feature live music in the Ice Bar. Dec. 31 will be the Silver Bell Soiree New Year's Eve Party with live music by the Dirty Rotten Scoundrels. Proceeds benefit human trafficking survivors through Dorothy's House. Find details, tickets and a full schedule at [holidayhullabaloo.com](http://holidayhullabaloo.com).



Photo courtesy of Historic Valley Junction Foundation

## JINGLE IN THE JUNCTION

**Thursdays, Dec. 1, 8, 15  
Along 100 to 300 blocks of Fifth Street, West Des Moines**

Historic Valley Junction will offer three blocks of free entertainment and more than 125,000 holiday lights. Find the perfect gift and enjoy dinner in a picturesque setting. Local boutiques and businesses will host extended hours from 5-9 p.m. Details at [valleyjunction.com/events](http://valleyjunction.com/events).



## CHRISTKINDLMARKET

**Thursday - Sunday, Dec. 1-4  
Principal Park, 1 Line Drive, Des Moines**

Experience a centuries-old European holiday tradition at this annual outdoor Christmas market with food, shopping, entertainment and Glühwein: warm mulled wine. The festival is free and open to the public. Hours are 5-9 p.m. Thursday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday. Details at [christkindlmarketdsm.com](http://christkindlmarketdsm.com).



Photo courtesy of Catch Des Moines

## HOLIDAY PROMENADE

**Fridays, Dec. 2, 9, 16  
Historic East Village, Des Moines**

Downtown Des Moines will exude holiday cheer during this free celebration with holiday activities, entertainment, shopping and family fun. Many East Village businesses will be open until 9 p.m. For a full schedule of events, visit [dsmpartnership.com/downtowndsmusa/experiencing-downtown/festivals-and-markets/holiday-promenade](http://dsmpartnership.com/downtowndsmusa/experiencing-downtown/festivals-and-markets/holiday-promenade).

## DES MOINES BUCCANEERS

**Buccaneer Arena, 7201 Hickman Road, Urbandale**

This month's home games for the Des Moines Buccaneers. Find tickets and details at [bucshockey.com](http://bucshockey.com).

- Dec. 2 at 7 p.m. vs. Tri-City Storm
- Dec. 3 at 6 p.m. vs. Sioux City Musketeers
- Dec. 10 at 6 p.m. vs. Dubuque Fighting Saints
- Dec. 16 at 7 p.m. vs. Waterloo Black Hawks
- Dec. 17 at 6 p.m. vs. Sioux City Musketeers

## ALTON BROWN LIVE

**Tuesday, Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Des Moines Civic Center, 221 Walnut St., Des Moines**

Food Network and Netflix personality Alton Brown brings his "Beyond The Eats – The Holiday Variant" tour to Des Moines. Brown says fans can expect "more cooking, more comedy, more music, and more potentially dangerous science stuff with a sprinkle of seasonal spices. Plus, you'll see things I've never been allowed to do on TV." The show is interactive, but beware — Brown warns, "Prepare for an evening unlike any other and if I call for volunteers... think twice." For audience members ages 5 and older. Tickets are \$35-\$145 at [dmpa.org](http://dmpa.org) or the Civic Center box office.



# COMING UP

SUBMIT ENTRIES AND PHOTOS TO [EDITOR@DMCITYVIEW.COM](mailto:EDITOR@DMCITYVIEW.COM)



## PEPPERMINT TRAIL

**Saturday, Dec. 10**  
**The Avenues and Roosevelt Districts**

Local shops, restaurants and businesses will be featuring peppermint or holiday-themed specials and decor at each stop along the Peppermint Trail. Find discounts on holiday goods, drinks and sweet treats for shoppers, service projects, giveaways, photo opportunities, pop-up shops — and more surprises. A list of all participating businesses and their specials will be at [theavenuesdsm.com/peppermint-trail](http://theavenuesdsm.com/peppermint-trail).

## LIVE NATIVITY

**Saturday - Sunday, Dec. 10-11**  
**First Church of the Open Bible, 2200 Beaver Ave., Des Moines**

Head to the Beaverdale neighborhood to enjoy a live nativity scene and fellowship from 6-8 p.m. There will be a drive-thru in the parking lot for free cookies and hot chocolate. In addition, the church's popular holiday lights display, synchronized to holiday tunes on the radio, may be viewed any time through Dec. 31.



Photo via Unsplash



## GREATER DES MOINES COMMUNITY BAND

**Sunday, Dec. 11 at 2 p.m.**  
**Stilwell Junior High, 1601 Vine St., West Des Moines**

The Greater Des Moines Community Band (GDMCB) will present a holiday concert with a special treat for the children in attendance. They will be given a chance to help direct the band along with a visitor from the North Pole. Many great holiday pieces will be performed to entertain both adults and children. Find the band online at [facebook.com/gdmcbiowa](https://facebook.com/gdmcbiowa).



Photo by Matt Christine

## MANNHEIM STEAMROLLER

**Friday, Dec. 23 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.**  
**Des Moines Civic Center, 221 Walnut St., Des Moines**

Join the classic holiday music group founded by Chip Davis, celebrating more than 35 years of its annual Christmas concert tour. Mannheim Steamroller has sold more than 41 million albums, with 31.5 million in the Christmas genre. Their concert will feature Christmas hits from the group's albums paired with dazzling multimedia effects. Tickets are \$40-\$94. Details at [dmpa.org](http://dmpa.org).

## NEW YEAR'S EVE POPS

**Saturday, Dec. 31 at 8 p.m.**  
**Des Moines Civic Center, 221 Walnut St., Des Moines**

Ring in 2023 with the Des Moines Symphony during "New Year's Eve Pops: Frank & The Great Ladies of Song." Award-winning vocalists Capathia Jenkins and Tony DeSare will perform hits from Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald and other legends from the Great American Songbook. Tickets are \$40-\$95. Details at [dmsymphony.org](http://dmsymphony.org).



Photo by Ben Easter

## 'A THIN BUT POWERFUL DIFFERENCE: RACE | EMBODIMENT'

**Through Friday, Feb. 17**  
**Harmon Fine Arts Center, 1310 25th St., Des Moines**

Twelve historical artworks and rare artifacts will explore issues of race and embodiment in Iowa. The Anderson Gallery is free to visit, located on the ground floor of the Harmon Fine Arts Center on the Drake University Campus. Hours are noon to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday, Thursdays until 8 p.m. and closed Mondays. More information at [andersongallery.wp.drake.edu](http://andersongallery.wp.drake.edu).

# Breaking BARRIERS

Local organizations provide programs and support for adults with disabilities.

By Sofia Legaspi Dickens



Among its 19 programs, Easterseals offers vocational training for individuals like Dillon Carlson across various local businesses. Photo courtesy of Easterseals

Emily Brown loves to sing — and she does it well. The 25-year-old was born with a rare disorder called septo-optic dysplasia, but she hasn't let that slow her down.

“Even though I do have a disability, I focus more on my abilities and show people that it's not about my disabilities — it's about my abilities,” she said.

Brown's impressive repertoire has included performances on the Bill Riley stage and singing the national anthem at several sporting events, including Iowa Cubs, Iowa Wild and Drake Basketball games. Dirt track races are her favorite. She participates in pageants and has been crowned 2017 Iowa Miss Amazing Jr Miss, 2018 Dreams Made True and 2021 Iowa Miss Amazing (she was national runner-up at the national pageant in Nashville, Tennessee, last year), and 2023 Polk County Ms. Heart of the USA. She also sang for President Barack Obama in 2016.

“I will admit — I'm pretty darn popular,” she joked. Brown, who says she is very outgoing, aspires to be a professional singer and was recently awarded the Kodi Lee Gives Back Grant via the Flutie Foundation. Singer Kodi Lee made waves

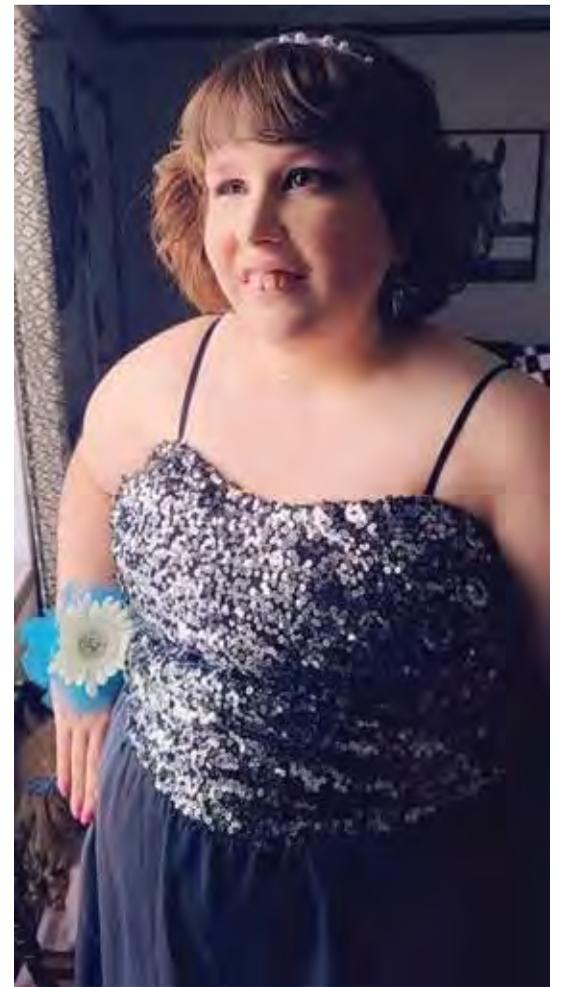
with his audition for the 14th season of America's Got Talent, which he won.

“He's blind and autistic like myself,” Brown said. The nonprofit will work with Brown to jump start her career, starting with professional headshots and recording sessions.

In the meantime, Brown is deeply involved in the local community. She enjoys volunteering with ChildServe, Single Parent Provision and Des Moines Public Schools, takes dance classes at Encore Dance Academy in Ankeny, and is working towards becoming a certified Braille proofreader through the National Federation for the Blind.

Brown also participates in programs through Night to Shine, Train to Inspire and Easterseals — just a few of the several services for adults with disabilities in the Des Moines area.

Organizations like these are key in the lives of individuals with disabilities and their families, removing barriers to recreation, employment and quintessential life experiences. And, often, volunteers and employees find the programs are just as rewarding to them as they are beneficial to participants.



Emily Brown dressed up to attend a virtual Night to Shine event in 2021. Photo submitted

A large graphic advertisement for the Hall of Laureates. The background is a deep blue. On the left, there is a large, detailed image of the ornate interior of the Hall of Laureates, showing a grand staircase and high ceilings. Two circular inset images are overlaid: the top one shows the exterior of the brick building with a green lawn, and the bottom one shows an interior lounge area with red walls and framed artwork. On the right side, white text provides information about public access and appointment times. At the bottom, the website URL and the organization's logo and name are displayed.

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**By appointment:**  
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[www.halloflaureates.org](http://www.halloflaureates.org)



## Braille Plate Drivers

Learn more at... [mydogtag.com/blog/braille-plate-drivers](http://mydogtag.com/blog/braille-plate-drivers)

FEATURE STORY

Shelby Klinger has been friends with Brown, an avid racing enthusiast, for more than a decade. Klinger, whose boyfriend races at Boone Speedway, wanted to do something special for Emily and searched for a way to include her in the racing experience. She settled on a small metal plate attached to each race car, displaying the driver's name and car number in Braille.

"Then I thought, if Emily likes this, there's got to be more people out there who are into racing, and it would benefit them as well," Klinger said.

Braille Plate Drivers started in 2020 with 25 drivers in central Iowa. Now, it's grown to include more than 700 drivers across the United States, Canada and Australia.

Participating drivers share their photos and stories on the "Braille Plate Drivers" Facebook group. Interested drivers can order plates via an online form on the page; the \$6 fee covers the cost of the plate and shipping.

"Ideally, I think it'd be cool to make it all the way to NASCAR," Klinger said. "It'd be so great to see the involvement in the community. You know that there's people out there that are visually impaired, that are watching NASCAR and enjoying it, so it'd be cool to have something inclusive for them."



Thanks to Braille Plate Drivers, race car drivers can attach Braille plates to their vehicles to create a more inclusive experience for fans with visual impairments. Photos courtesy of Shelby Klinger

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# Night to Shine

Learn more at... [risingsunchurch.org/night-to-shine](https://risingsunchurch.org/night-to-shine)

On a special evening each February, churches around the world host “Night to Shine.” Originated by the Tim Tebow Foundation, the evening offers a memorable prom experience for individuals with special needs.

After two years of virtual events, 2023’s Night to Shine returns in person on Friday, Feb. 10. Central Iowa locations include Valley Church in West Des Moines and Rising Sun Church of Christ in Pleasant Hill, where Tracy Hutchinson is the coordinator.

When Rising Sun leaders first approached Hutchinson with the idea of bringing the event to their church, she wasn’t sure she could handle such a formidable task. And yet, here she is, seven years later.

“It turned out to be a huge blessing and an amazing journey to do this,” she said. “To see the looks on their faces when they come into the prom night — the glow, the look, the reactions just absolutely melt your heart. They’re so excited to be there, to be in the moment, to just be themselves, and feel safe and comfortable and just have a really good time.”

Each host church has its own spin on the event, but at Rising Sun, Hutchinson ensures guests receive the star treatment. Each guest is paired with a volunteer “buddy” who spends the entire evening with them. Together, they’ll walk down the red carpet and into an

unforgettable experience.

“There’s a whole group of folks standing there cheering them on, telling them how beautiful or handsome they are, and just really encouraging them and just making them feel wonderful,” Hutchinson said.

Special guests can receive corsages or boutonnieres, enjoy a full catered meal, hit the dance floor, get their makeup and hair done and shoes shined, pose for a professional photo, try a photobooth, sing karaoke, or even take a limo ride around the neighborhood. Each one is crowned prom king or queen, with sashes and crowns as a finishing touch.

There is no cost to attend Night to Shine, and thus, Hutchinson relies on monetary and in-kind donations from the community.

“I put it in God’s hands, but it’s pretty stressful trying to come up with just enough money to cover my basic cost,” she said. Donations can be directed to Rising Sun Church, and partnerships with local businesses are always welcome. The church website also includes a link to an Amazon wish list for party supplies.



FEATURE STORY

Night to Shine guests spend their prom evening with a volunteer buddy. Photo courtesy of Rising Sun Church of Christ

Rising Sun opens slots for 100 special guests, and with that, needs 100 buddy volunteers each year. Although guests must be at least 14 years old, there is no upper age limit. So far, the church’s oldest guest was 89.

“I just want people to know and understand that this is truly a God thing, and we try to shine his light in everything that we do, and this is just another way to show this group of folks how much they are loved,” Hutchinson concluded. “We just want them to have an amazing night, and like it says, a night to shine.”



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## Train to Inspire

Learn more at... [ttoiowa.org](http://ttoiowa.org)

While well-established organizations like Special Olympics and the Miracle League dominate the scene, a lesser-known nonprofit was founded by Joe Hogan circa 2014. Train to Inspire (TTI) places “seemingly impossible” physical activities within reach for its participants.

“We’re breaking the stigma of what society thinks is possible for people with disabilities,” Hogan said.

“For generations in the past, and still yet today, people with disabilities are told they can’t or shouldn’t, either because of perceived safety issues or people are concerned about liability.

“And we come in and say, bullshit — you can do this. Within reason, you can do most things with a disability, and we can do it next to you.”

Hogan utilizes ingenuity to “push the envelope” in accessibility. One of his favorite TTI programs is a nerf gun battle. He worked with high school students from Waukee’s APEX program to modify and mount an electric nerf gun onto a wheelchair, allowing those with decreased muscle tone to participate independently.

“We’re always trying to do something different,” he said. “If another nonprofit is doing it, I typically stay away.”

TTI participants have also enjoyed rock climbing, go-kart racing, dodgeball, accessible obstacle courses and a slip and slide. Last summer, Hogan created a new event called the “Sky Race” via national fundraiser Over the Edge. He trained an athlete who is blind to climb a 10-story building, using special alpinism and caving gear.

“That’s just an example of the crazy stuff we do,” Hogan said. “And when I say ‘crazy,’ it’s crazy because no one’s ever done it or thought it was possible — but it’s always safe.”



Train to Inspire hosts classes at East Coast Tae Kwon Do in Altoona. Photo submitted

Safety is paramount, but never a barrier. For most activities, a volunteer is right next to the participant. Hogan also ensures that athletes start slowly and take as much time as they need to reach their goal, whether it’s rappelling down a building, running the Grand Blue Mile during the Drake Relays, or simply getting in shape.

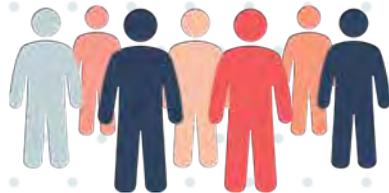
Today, due to a shortage of staff and funds, TTI hosts a pared-back version of its programming. They host one-on-one personal training sessions for individuals with intellectual disabilities at BrickHouse Fitness in Bondurant and taekwondo classes by Norman Rigley at East Coast Tae Kwon Do in Altoona. Both welcome TTI into their facilities free of charge.

“The Lohse family in Bondurant has really been good to us,” Hogan said. “And Norm Rigley — he has just been a long-time supporter of the mission.”

In the long-term, Hogan is working to make TTI sustainable, laying the groundwork and finding the funding so he can hire staff. Currently, the organization’s biggest needs are donations and volunteers with fitness and personal training backgrounds.

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# Raccoon Forks

Learn more at... [raccoonforks.com](http://raccoonforks.com)

Scattered throughout Iowa are 10 Raccoon Forks microbusinesses, owned and operated by Optima LifeServices. Through the Raccoon Forks program and other supported employment services through Optima, more than 200 individuals with mental illness and disabilities are employed.

Multiple studies have shown employment as a significant barrier to individuals with special needs being successful in the community, said Raccoon Forks Coordinator Andrew Bassman.

“This is our way to give employees a valued role and help them on their path to success,” he said. “We try and meet them where they are.”

Known as customer-employees, individuals work with job coaches at River to River Bakery & Pizza in Adel, two retail locations in Ottumwa, a food processing business in Ames and farms in Redfield and Runnells. Microbusinesses in Des Moines include Railroad Bill’s Diner and Food Truck, Raccoon Forks Trading Company (an antique store), and Plain Talk Books and Coffee — all located in the East Village.

Ford Eastman is assistant manager at Plain Talk who started as a job coach two years ago. While his job is to work alongside and support customer-employees, he said he enjoys taking steps back and “phasing them out.”

“You get to see people grow into their own, and it’s just, like, so-and-so is making a whole sandwich by themselves and handling a rush, and it’s no big deal,” he said. “It’s just really rewarding to see customer-employees grow their skill sets and kind of get into their own level of comfort.”

At Plain Talk, customer-employee shifts typically last around 3.5 hours. They make above minimum wage, and those who have graduated from job coaching often make much more.



FEATURE STORY

Ford Eastman is a job coach and assistant manager at Plain Talk Books and Coffee in the East Village, a Raccoon Forks microbusiness. Photo by Sofia Legaspi Dickens

“The biggest thing I see is, once they’re trained and get in there and get experience, their confidence really grows,” Bassman said. “It’s wonderful to see people start to be a bit more sure of themselves; they get a little money in their pocket. And that confidence starts to spill over into other parts of their lives. Sometimes they just need a safe place to make a few mistakes.”

As with many businesses, staffing at Plain Talk and other Raccoon Forks locations has been challenging. They are currently hiring job coaches and employees who would enjoy the social work aspect of the job.

“It’s a job that can offer a unique perspective,” Eastman said. “It’s more than a paycheck at the end of the day.”

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## Easterseals Iowa

Learn more at... [easterseals.com/ia](http://easterseals.com/ia)

One of the largest and oldest nonprofits of its kind, Easterseals has been supporting individuals with disabilities for nearly a century. Each year, its Iowa branch serves about 3,500 individuals throughout the state, including their families, across 19 programs.

“A lot of people think Easterseals’ primary clients are children, and that’s not actually true. We serve far more adults than we do children,” said Krable Mentzer, chief communications officer.

Easterseals programs fall under four key areas of impact: enriching education, elevating community, expanding employment, and enhancing health and wellness.

Through the Supportive Community Living program, Easterseals supports persons with disabilities to live independently in the community. This could look like planning trips to the grocery store, preparing meals or keeping homes clean. Clients and families can opt for either a 24-hour or hourly program.

“Something that sets us apart from other providers is we don’t own the homes we work in, so we’re guests in their home,” Mentzer said.

Also of note, the nonprofit’s Rural Solutions program has been around since the mid-1980s, pioneered by Easterseals Iowa and duplicated across the nation.

“We all know Iowa farmers aren’t going to stop

farming; they’re going to keep going,” Mentzer said. “We help them to do that safely.”

Other services for adults include: Life Club, a day habilitation program; Clients Socially Integrated, a skills-based day program; brain health services; the popular Camp Sunnyside summer program; a lending library and other services through their Assistive Technology Center; and respite camps every other weekend.

Currently, Easterseals’ biggest barrier is finding employees. Waitlists for those who need services are “a mile long,” Mentzer said.

“We have no problem finding people that need the service; we have a huge problem with getting people in the door for employment.”

The nonprofit utilizes some volunteers to help with groundskeeping at camp, special events and activities at Life Club. However, volunteers are unable to provide direct service; only team members can do that. Easterseals currently has more than 30 open positions.

“We have a beautiful training program,” Mentzer said. “It’s all about, ‘Do you have a caring, kind heart? Are you willing to learn?’ If the answers to those two things are yes, we can train you on the rest.

“All of our clients are amazing. We get so much more from them than we ever give to them. They teach us so much.” ■

## Sheltered workshops and vocational programming

For years, sheltered workshops were separate places of employment for people with disabilities, subject to different labor laws than workplaces for able-bodied people. The system has since been criticized for isolating and exploiting its employees, who were often paid sub-minimum wage to perform menial tasks.

Today, nonprofits favor job coaching and skill development that help prepare individuals for community-based employment. Easterseals was one of the first to close its sheltered workshop more than 20 years ago, Mentzer said, replacing it with more vocational programming.

For to us,  
*a child is born,*  
to us a son is given.

- Isaiah 9:6



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CITYVIEW'S

# BUSINESS JOURNAL



## The return of RECORD SHOPS

Music medium resurges in the age of streaming.

By Colson Thayer

Mike Enloe may have been a struggling student at Drake University in 1975, but he kept an eye on the music industry. He decided to take a chance and open his own record store.

“My wife and I hopped in a car one day; we drove down Ingersoll Avenue looking for this building for rent,” Enloe said.

He immediately fell in love with a quaint little shack on Ingersoll’s 3700 block next to the Ingersoll Dinner Theater. He began renting out the space in the winter of 1975. On March 15, 1976, Peeples Music Shoppe was born. It became a staple of Des Moines’ music industry for decades.

Zzz Records is located at 2200 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines.  
Photo by Colson Thayer

## FEATURE

Over the course of almost 50 years in the industry, Enloe has seen drastic changes in the way people consume their music. It began with LP records, then the advent of CDs, the growth of downloading and streaming and, eventually, a resurgence in traditional forms of music media. To be successful, Peeples and other Des Moines record stores needed to exemplify business flexibility to stay afloat. Today, a steady increase in the sales of physical music formats shows promising signs for the future of record shops.

### LP Records

When Enloe first opened Peeples in the late 1970s, LP records were the primary format of music consumption.

“Records were a real viable thing,” he said. “In no time, really, I was running a successful business.”

But, at the time, there was plenty of competition. Stores like Music Circuit, Music Land, Music Factory and others competed for the same business. In fact, all these stores were selling the same items.

“I’d imagine that every store was pretty much like me. We all sold the same thing, really. All the record salesmen all went to the same stores,” he said. “Des Moines was a viable market where every record company had a rep that came by once a month to sell his new releases.”

By 1980, customers had two main options — LP records or cassettes — but people continued to enjoy the glamor of LPs. They not only included the visual cover art, but Enloe considered them to have better sound quality as well.

Enloe’s business was doing well enough, and he opened a second location in Ames. He described it as a “hole-in-the-wall” store. He advertised it as a hidden record store on Lincoln Way, and students loved it.

### CDs

“By 1985, the record hype was gone. It slowly got replaced by CDs,” explained Enloe.

By 1987, LPs were near-obsolete, and they were not being sold in stores anymore. Record companies quit producing new albums and began to run out of titles. Customers quickly adapted to the new technology. When CDs were first introduced, CD players cost anywhere from \$500-\$1,000. However, within a few years, those prices dropped substantially. After two years, CD players were everywhere, even in cars.

“People were buying CDs like crazy from 1985 till 1998,” Enloe said. “Everybody had to have them — everybody.”

The exciting new technology is considered the



Mike Enloe at Jay's CD and Hobby on S.E. 14th Street. Photo by Colson Thayer

driving factor for the popularity of CDs in the mid-1980s, but they had another thing working in their favor, too: the rising prices of LPs. Record companies continued to raise the price of records as the years went on. Famously, Tom Petty protested the rising prices of LPs and threatened to withhold his album “Hard Promises” in 1981 when MCA Records announced it would raise the price of their albums by a whole dollar.

### Napster

1999 saw the release of Napster, a digital file distribution software that revolutionized the way people listened to music. Consumers could easily download music onto CD-Rs. While this made music much more accessible, it proved to be a challenge for independent record stores.

“You can’t beat free,” said Enloe. Both his Ames store and his metro store held steady business until the release of Napster. He found Iowa State students would go to the computer labs and record their music on discs instead of visiting his store. Enloe had to close his Ames store in 2000. Meanwhile, his metro store continued to struggle.

Napster affected not only Enloe’s businesses but the entire industry. Independent record stores in the metro area also began to close their doors. Nate

Niceswanger saw this as an opportunity to open his own business.

### Zzz Records

Niceswanger was a record collector. He would often travel to other cities like Minneapolis, Iowa City, Omaha and Sioux City to find additions to his collection. He realized that these cities, some larger than Des Moines and some smaller, had way more record shops.

“There’s 75,000 people in Sioux City; they got three stores. We got a couple hundred thousand people, and we have zero,” he realized.

“Finally, I got the nerve and quit my job and decided to just go for it. My goal was just to see if I could make it a year.”

And every year since, his goal has stayed the same: make it one more year. He had his 22nd anniversary in 2022.

“In the beginning, I was smart enough to know that not everyone had a record player at that time... it was not the cool thing to have,” Niceswanger said.

When he first opened his doors, his inventory was two-thirds vinyl and one-third CDs.

Niceswanger didn’t carry the big names in music at the time like Mariah Carey or Britney Spears. Instead, he offered what he considered to be more

alternative music including Neutral Milk Hotel, Death Cab for Cutie, White Stripes and The Strokes, among others.

Zzz Records became the only independent music store in town when Enloe had to close his doors in 2006.

“CDs were a pretty big part of our store up until about 2007 or maybe 2008, and that’s when the recession hit,” Niceswanger said.

At that time, high-speed Internet became much more reliable and available. Consumers could start listening to music from their phones.

“[Technology] changed the ways CDs were selling pretty dramatically, and CD sales really tanked. Luckily, right around that time, vinyl sales started to take off.”

## Resurgence of vinyl

Since 2010, vinyl record sales have seen a steady increase, as have the number of record shops in the metro. It is hard to say for certain why vinyl records are on the rise again, but Niceswanger had a few guesses.

“There’s something about having a physical copy in your hands,” he said. “Vinyl, especially, is exciting to people because you got the larger artwork; you got a 12x12 picture as opposed to a CD.”

Luke Dickens agreed that listening to vinyl is a completely different experience.

“It’s one thing to throw on a Bluetooth; it’s another thing to pull out a record and pass the cover around, read the liner notes, look at the title of the song, look at the cover and the art behind it — it’s a piece of art.”

Dickens owns and operates Vinyl Cup Records in Beaverville, Omaha and Cedar Falls. The business was born out of a Facebook group Dickens started in August 2017 with 40 people. In February 2018, the group had grown to 2,000 members, and the size of his basement record collection was 20,000. At his partner’s request, Dickens moved his

collection and business to his current Beaverville location.

In March 2019, Marv’s Record Shop in the East Village was going out of business. Dickens bought it out and brought it back to life. Marv’s sells new records while Vinyl Cup primarily sells used vinyl. On the surface, Marv’s and Vinyl Cup appear to be very similar businesses, but to Dickens, they are quite different.

“I feel like Marv’s is the beginning to a new story and Vinyl Cup is a way to carry on a story.”

Dickens doesn’t think Marv’s is as personable as Vinyl Cup, but they both serve their own clientele.

## The age of streaming

“There’s another record store that says ‘Spin, Don’t Stream.’ I tell them to shut the hell up,” said Dickens.

He said he thinks record shops and streaming services can coexist.

“People can listen to a new record released Friday on Spotify or Apple, any streaming service that they use... They know if they want it or not, [and then] they go to the record store and buy it.”

“It doesn’t really concern me too much,” Niceswanger explained. “There are going to be some people that just listen to music for free their entire life.”

Dickens recognizes the pros and cons of streaming. On one hand, musicians are paid pennies for each time their music is streamed. However, without it, their music might never be heard. Streaming is an opportunity for consumers to get exposed to new music.

“I think streaming is a great gateway. I don’t think it’s the primary way to listen,” Dickens said. “I also think vinyl has a more wholesome authentic sound that you’re not going to get from streaming.”

The hope is consumers exposed to new music through streaming will end up buying physical copies of music, supporting both local record shops and the artists themselves. ■



Nate Niceswanger owns Zzz Records. Photo by Colson Thayer



Luke Dickens owns and operates Vinyl Cup Records in Beaverville, Omaha and Cedar Falls. Photo by Colson Thayer

CITYVIEW'S BUSINESS JOURNAL  
**EXPERT ADVICE**  
 ON ISSUES THAT MATTER TO YOUR BUSINESS

**TECHNOLOGY**

**What are some basic needs for good business continuity?**

'Tis the season, and even the jolly ole man who delivers most of your gifts this month has a backup plan. His plan became more effective over the past few years when the world had to pivot to the higher demand for delivery.

This past month, I certainly got to experience firsthand (pun intended) an emergency. While at the ER with my son, I was quick to realize that our healthcare system is broken. Fortunately for me, we were not at the healthcare organization that was dealing with a cyber-attack; eight hours was long enough.

Business continuity plans are very important — think like a process manager to identify all functions required to run a business. Realize the risk in the event a function is compromised, work to implement strategic defenses restoring that function quickly, and a backup plan in the event those plans fail. Back up everything, people, and your data.



**Scott Hardee**

*Business Development Executive – Branch Manager*



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**ACCOUNTING**

**What is the difference between hiring contract labor or hiring an employee?**

The biggest difference between a contractor and an employee is payroll taxes and insurance. An employee is more expensive to your business because the business has to match the FICA and Medicare tax, pay unemployment as well as work comp insurance.

The deciding factor between contractors and employees is "control."

- Do you dictate the individual's schedule?
- Do they use your tools?
- Are they strictly allowed to work for your company?

If the answer to all three of these questions is yes, then they are employees, and you are required to withhold taxes. The average expense of hiring an employee is about 7.65% for FICA and Medicare, plus the unemployment tax and work comp.

As a business owner, you should keep in mind the deductible amount of the employee is their gross wage because you are paying taxes on their behalf. The deduction is the gross wage, plus the FICA/Medicare match and the unemployment tax.

Our office provides payroll services, and we would be happy to discuss any payroll-related questions you may have.



**Ann M. Hartz**

*CPA*



7109 Hickman Rd., Urbandale  
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**ADVERTISING**

**What is SEO?**

SEO stands for "search engine optimization." In simple terms, it is the process of improving your website to increase its visibility when people search for products or services related to your business on Google, Bing and other search engines. The better visibility your pages have in search results, the more likely you are to garner attention and attract prospective and existing customers to your business.

Some simple ways to optimize your website and online presence:

1. Optimize your Google business profile listing and social profiles.
2. Ask for Google reviews.
3. Create a blog page, services page and galleries on your website.
4. Build backlinks on your website.
5. Generate local citations.

SEO can boost the long-term success of your business. Unlike many other traditional marketing campaigns, SEO is a long-term and ongoing strategy.



**Megan Pugh**

*Digital Account Executive*



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SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION LOANS

Borrower Name	City	County	Cong. District	\$ Amount	Jobs Created	Jobs Retained	Existing Jobs	New Vs. Existing	Business Type
One Movement LLC	Cedar Falls	BLACK HAWK	01	\$678,200	5	1	1	NEW BUSINESS	Offices of Real Estate Agents and Brokers
Madrid Hardware LLC	MADRID	BOONE	04	\$125,000	7	0	0	NEW BUSINESS	N/A
Madrid Hardware LLC	Madrid	BOONE	04	\$1,742,000	6	1	1	NEW BUSINESS	N/A
Bryce Ackerman	Sumner	BREMER	01	\$189,000	0	1	1	EXISTING BUSINESS	Car Washes
Godfather's Pizza Cherokee	Cherokee	CHEROKEE	04	\$150,000	0	14	14	EXISTING BUSINESS	Full-Service Restaurants
At Home Design, LLC	DENISON	CRAWFORD	04	\$255,000	0	3	3	NEW BUSINESS	N/A
Field of Fitness, LLC	Dubuque	DUBUQUE	01	\$25,000	5	5	2	NEW BUSINESS	Fitness and Recreational Sports Centers
Field of Fitness, LLC	Dubuque	DUBUQUE	01	\$349,000	5	5	2	NEW BUSINESS	Fitness and Recreational Sports Centers
Driftless Water Ventures LLC	DUBUQUE	DUBUQUE	01	\$900,000	0	1	1	NEW BUSINESS	N/A
KO Properties LLC	Cedar Rapids	LINN	01	\$349,000	5	0	20	EXISTING BUSINESS	Masonry Contractors
Maivis Holdings Inc.	Cedar Rapids	LINN	01	\$597,000	4	0	4	EXISTING BUSINESS	General Automotive Repair
Cannonball Leasing Company, LLC	Marion	LINN	01	\$219,000	3	0	4	EXISTING BUSINESS	Automobile and Other Motor Vehicle Merchant Wholesalers
Naughtea LLC	ANKENY	POLK	03	\$10,300	2	1	1	NEW BUSINESS	Snack and Nonalcoholic Beverage Bars
Accent Tag and Label, Inc	DES MOINES	POLK	03	\$735,000	1	22	33	EXISTING BUSINESS	Other Commercial Printing
Outdoor Kitchens of Iowa LLC	Grimes	POLK	03	\$183,200	4	1	1	NEW BUSINESS	N/A
Curing Crack Chiropractic, LLC	Johnston	POLK	03	\$50,000	0	1	1	NEW BUSINESS	Offices of Chiropractors
Dental Studio Johnston, LLC	Johnston	POLK	03	\$523,000	4	0	12	EXISTING BUSINESS	Offices of Dentists
Regenerative Medicine of Iowa, P.C.	West Des Moines	POLK	03	\$130,000	3	2	2	EXISTING BUSINESS	Offices of Physicians (except Mental Health Specialists)
Roane Properties, LLC	Council Bluffs	POTTAWATTAMIE	03	\$248,000	6	0	10	EXISTING BUSINESS	Computer Systems Design Services
Terry & Andy's Tacos, Inc.	AMES	STORY	04	\$150,000	10	3	39	EXISTING BUSINESS	Full-Service Restaurants
Adelphi Holdings LLC	Indianola	WARREN	03	\$235,000	8	0	12	EXISTING BUSINESS	Plumbing, Heating, and Air-Conditioning Contractors



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A woman in a grey long-sleeved shirt and a blue denim apron stands in the center, smiling and holding a tablet. Behind her, a server room with rows of racks and glowing lights is visible. To the left, a bakery scene shows a woman in a white chef's uniform and hat carrying a basket of breads.

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COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS IN POLK COUNTY FROM OCT. 11, 2022 THROUGH NOV. 9, 2022

**3011 FOREST AVE., DES MOINES**  
 SALE DATE: 2022-10-12  
 SALE PRICE: \$275,000  
 SELLER: TSM HOSPITALITY LLC  
 BUYER: TBJ LLC  
 SQUARE FEET: 2,000  
 ACRES: 0.124



**660 E. FIFTH ST., DES MOINES**  
 SALE DATE: 2022-10-13  
 SALE PRICE: \$18,650,000  
 SELLER: PARAGON INVESTMENTS LLC  
 BUYER: VARECO 660 E 5TH LLC  
 SQUARE FEET: 123,337  
 ACRES: 2.519

**810 E. PARK AVE., DES MOINES**  
 SALE DATE: 2022-10-13  
 SALE PRICE: \$165,000  
 SELLER: INDIANOLA HEIGHTS CHURCH  
 BUYER: IGLESIA APOSTOLICA EFESIOS 2:20 SENDERO DE PAZ INC  
 SQUARE FEET: 10,870  
 ACRES: 1.098

**526 48TH ST., DES MOINES**  
 SALE DATE: 2022-10-13  
 SALE PRICE: \$995,000  
 SELLER: AHC INGERSOLL LLC  
 BUYER: HSIEH, EMMA  
 SQUARE FEET: 9,308  
 ACRES: 0.884

**737 34TH AVE. S.W., ALTOONA**  
 SALE DATE: 2022-10-13  
 SALE PRICE: \$1,436,850  
 SELLER: 737 34TH AVENUE CARWASH RE LLC  
 BUYER: TWAIN GL XXXVII LLC  
 SQUARE FEET: 0  
 ACRES: 1.844

**2705 S.W. NINTH ST., DES MOINES**  
 SALE DATE: 2022-10-14  
 SALE PRICE: \$435,000  
 SELLER: GJB INVESTMENTS LLC  
 BUYER: AL3 PROPERTIES LLC  
 SQUARE FEET: 4,338  
 ACRES: 0.343

**900 GRAND AVE., WEST DES MOINES**  
 SALE DATE: 2022-10-17  
 SALE PRICE: \$365,000  
 SELLER: DCJC LLC  
 BUYER: PINKY INC  
 SQUARE FEET: 1,616  
 ACRES: 0.319

**2211 UNIVERSITY AVE., DES MOINES**  
 SALE DATE: 2022-10-18  
 SALE PRICE: \$300,000  
 SELLER: KUM & GO LC  
 BUYER: NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT CORP  
 SQUARE FEET: 0  
 ACRES: 0.667

**1458 NORTHRIDGE CIRCLE N.E., ALTOONA**  
 SALE DATE: 2022-10-18  
 SALE PRICE: \$1,662,000

SELLER: F & S ROSENBERGER LLC  
 BUYER: NWT 1458 LLC  
 SQUARE FEET: 0  
 ACRES: 8.986



**109 S. ANKENY BLVD., ANKENY**  
 SALE DATE: 2022-10-19  
 SALE PRICE: \$5,000,000  
 SELLER: CWP WEST CORP  
 BUYER: DROUGH DAIRY LP  
 SQUARE FEET: 5,240  
 ACRES: 1.452

**1901 S.E. 11TH ST., GRIMES**  
 SALE DATE: 2022-10-19  
 SALE PRICE: \$5,000,000  
 SELLER: CWP WEST CORP  
 BUYER: DROUGH FAMILY REVOCABLE TRUST  
 SQUARE FEET: 5,385  
 ACRES: 1.9



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**915 MULBERRY ST., DES MOINES**  
 SALE DATE: 2022-10-20  
 SALE PRICE: \$10,600,000  
 SELLER: HUBBELL TOWER II LLC  
 BUYER: VAST PROPERTIES 2900 LLC  
 SQUARE FEET: 78,554  
 ACRES: 0.424

**1002 W. WASHINGTON AVE., POLK CITY**

SALE DATE: 2022-10-21  
 SALE PRICE: \$399,000  
 SELLER: REALCO POLK CITY IA LLC  
 BUYER: ON WITH LIFE, INC.  
 SQUARE FEET: 19,765  
 ACRES: 3.4



**1930 S.E. SIXTH ST., DES MOINES**  
 SALE DATE: 2022-10-24  
 SALE PRICE: \$290,000  
 SELLER: REVOLUTION PROPERTIES LLC  
 BUYER: BEACHHAUS PARTNERS LLC  
 SQUARE FEET: 1,842  
 ACRES: 0.516

**5721 N.W. 57TH AVE., UNIT 10, JOHNSTON**

SALE DATE: 2022-10-24  
 SALE PRICE: \$500,000  
 SELLER: NEYMEYER, LYNETTE  
 BUYER: JOHNSTON COMMERCIAL PLAZA INC  
 SQUARE FEET: 3,294  
 ACRES: 0.132



**2301 INGERSOLL AVE., DES MOINES**  
 SALE DATE: 2022-10-26  
 SALE PRICE: \$32,870,000  
 SELLER: 2301 INGERSOLL LLC  
 BUYER: SOLL OWNER, LLC  
 SQUARE FEET: 195,609  
 ACRES: 2.197

**NO ADDRESS LISTED**  
 SALE DATE: 2022-10-26  
 SALE PRICE: \$130,000  
 SELLER: 2300 HIGH LLC  
 BUYER: SOLL OWNER II LLC  
 SQUARE FEET: 0  
 ACRES: 0.403

**NO ADDRESS LISTED**  
 SALE DATE: 2022-10-26  
 SALE PRICE: \$900,000  
 SELLER: ESHELMAN, D KEVIN  
 BUYER: FORRET ACRES LLC  
 SQUARE FEET: 0  
 ACRES: 8.97

**600 E. 14TH ST., DES MOINES**  
 SALE DATE: 2022-10-27  
 SALE PRICE: \$420,000  
 SELLER: 600 E 14TH STREET LLC  
 BUYER: CASEY'S MARKETING COMPANY  
 SQUARE FEET: 0  
 ACRES: 1.001

**2575 N. ANKENY BLVD., UNIT 203, BLDG 2, ANKENY**  
 SALE DATE: 2022-10-27  
 SALE PRICE: \$455,000  
 SELLER: HP CAPITOL LLP  
 BUYER: GATICA, STEFANIE  
 SQUARE FEET:  
 ACRES: 0.134

**10000 MEREDITH DRIVE, URBANDALE**  
 SALE DATE: 2022-10-27  
 SALE PRICE: \$460,000  
 SELLER: 10000 MEREDITH DRIVE LC  
 BUYER: CKJD LLC  
 SQUARE FEET: 3,328  
 ACRES: 0.65



**3614 SIXTH AVE., DES MOINES**  
 SALE DATE: 2022-10-28  
 SALE PRICE: \$400,000  
 SELLER: ADAMSON PROPERTIES II LLC  
 BUYER: 36 ON 6TH LLC  
 SQUARE FEET: 10,100  
 ACRES: 0.287

**1021 RAILROAD AVE., WEST DES MOINES**  
 SALE DATE: 2022-10-28  
 SALE PRICE: \$227,883  
 SELLER: MILLER, STEPHEN  
 BUYER: BURCH AUTO REPAIR LLC  
 SQUARE FEET: 2,304  
 ACRES: 0.302



**1201 E. BELL AVE., DES MOINES**  
 SALE DATE: 2022-10-31  
 SALE PRICE: \$2,715,000  
 SELLER: 1201 E BELL AVE LLC  
 BUYER: VC7 LLC  
 SQUARE FEET: 38,997  
 ACRES: 2.156

**670 18TH ST., DES MOINES**  
 SALE DATE: 2022-10-31  
 SALE PRICE: \$286,000  
 SELLER: SETSTONE REALTY LLC  
 BUYER: CURRIE PROPERTIES LLC  
 SQUARE FEET: 2,293  
 ACRES: 0.143

**4019 MERLE HAY ROAD, DES MOINES**  
 SALE DATE: 2022-10-31  
 SALE PRICE: \$975,000  
 SELLER: CEDAR HILLS LAND & CATTLE COMPANY INC  
 BUYER: COLLINS COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION  
 SQUARE FEET: 4,764  
 ACRES: 0.587

**1311 E. NINTH ST., DES MOINES**  
 SALE DATE: 2022-10-31  
 SALE PRICE: \$195,000  
 SELLER: FLETCHER, JOHN  
 BUYER: SCHWARTZ, THOMAS  
 SQUARE FEET: 2,531  
 ACRES: 0.334

**4440 COLLEGE AVE., DES MOINES**  
 SALE DATE: 2022-11-01  
 SALE PRICE: \$755,000  
 SELLER: MIZO CHURCH OF IOWA INC  
 BUYER: FRONTIER CHURCH  
 SQUARE FEET: 14,266  
 ACRES: 0.683



**1204 S.E. 16TH COURT, ANKENY**  
 SALE DATE: 2022-11-01  
 SALE PRICE: \$11,450,000  
 SELLER: HFB LLC  
 BUYER: AMERCO REAL ESTATE COMPANY  
 SQUARE FEET: 149,074  
 ACRES: 3.933

**4221 S.E. 13TH ST., DES MOINES**  
 SALE DATE: 2022-11-03  
 SALE PRICE: \$1,300,000  
 SELLER: PEDAL CAST SOUTHVIEW LLC  
 BUYER: SOUTH VIEW APARTMENTS LLC  
 SQUARE FEET: 14,256  
 ACRES: 0.65

**209 S.E. MAIN ST., GRIMES**  
 SALE DATE: 2022-11-03  
 SALE PRICE: \$295,000  
 SELLER: BUSINESS WEB BUILDERS LLC  
 BUYER: GDT HOLDINGS LLC  
 SQUARE FEET: 2,228  
 ACRES: 0.2



**125 VALLEY WEST DRIVE, WEST DES MOINES**  
 SALE DATE: 2022-11-08  
 SALE PRICE: \$2,250,000  
 SELLER: IOWA ENT CENTER PLLC  
 BUYER: 105 LLC  
 SQUARE FEET: 18,176  
 ACRES: 2.347

**1471 N.E. 70TH AVE., ANKENY**  
 SALE DATE: 2022-11-09  
 SALE PRICE: \$315,000  
 SELLER: THORPE LAND COMPANY LLC  
 BUYER: BMR GROUP LLC  
 SQUARE FEET: 0  
 ACRES: 2.173 ■

CITYVIEW's  
NONPROFIT

*give guide*



The frontline folks fighting for community causes believe giving is better than receiving. So do the generous hearts lending them financial support. If you feel fortunate this holiday season, consider helping out.



Goodwill of Central Iowa  
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Through programs such as day services, skills training, and supported employment, Goodwill helps individuals with barriers to employment find and secure jobs. With classroom and paid, hands-on training programs, Goodwill of Central Iowa has helped hundreds of individuals develop knowledge, confidence, skills, and greater financial independence.

*That is why Goodwill strives to make the most of every donation received through responsible stewardship.*

With more than 300 employees working together, Goodwill of Central Iowa processed 367,182 donations in 2021 alone. Ranging from clothing to household goods to office equipment, each donation was given a second chance to be used and loved.

By extending the lifecycle of products through resale, salvage, and recycling, 17 million pounds of household goods were diverted from area landfills. As a result, more than \$300,000 in estimated tonnage costs were alleviated from local municipalities.



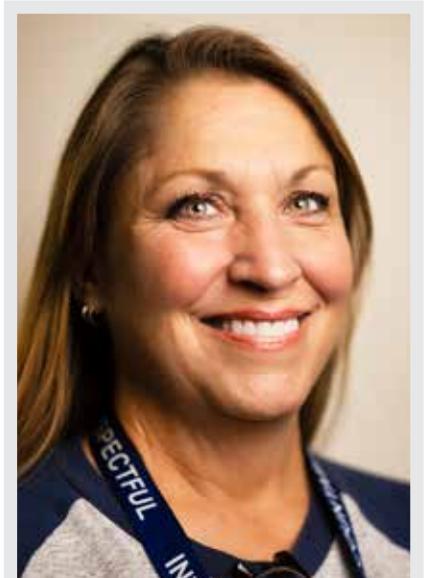
Whether you are dropping off a physical donation, shopping at Goodwill retail stores, making a financial contribution, or lending your time to support our mission, you are making a positive impact.

*When you give, we give, and our community continues to grow stronger, one donation at a time.*

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## Donate to Easterseals Iowa today

Support individuals with disabilities and special needs to live with independence and hope!

Easterseals Iowa is leading the way to 100% equity, inclusion and access through life-changing disability and community services. For more than 95 years, Easterseals has worked tirelessly with our partners to enhance health, expand employment, enrich education and elevate communities. And we won't rest until every one of us is valued, respected and accepted. We provide a wide range of support for children and adults with disabilities to promote independence and opportunities throughout their lives. Easterseals Iowa gives the gift of hope, creating change and finding solutions.

At Easterseals, we believe that when individuals receive the right support at the right time, our whole community benefits. Your support as a donor will enable us to serve more individuals in Iowa and make our communities stronger! Fortunately, the support that we have received from our Iowa communities has made it possible for us to serve well over 3,000 Iowans and their families every year. In order to maintain our services, each year we must fundraise approximately \$1 million in operational support, and we are proud that 93 cents of every dollar that comes into the organization is spent directly on mission delivery. We hope that the thousands of Iowans who have been able to get jobs within their communities, enjoy life-changing camp experiences and keep their families together has been a rewarding outcome of our community's investment and trust in our mission.



As we look to the bright future of our organization, it is helpful to reflect on our rich history of serving Iowans. Easterseals Iowa began in central Iowa in 1926, and, throughout our 95-plus year history, we have served hundreds of thousands of Iowans through many different service lines. One such program, Camp Sunnyside, began back in the early 1960s. Camp Sunnyside was built on donated land by nearly 100% volunteer labor because the community said, "We need a place where children of any ability can have the same summer camp experience that any other child would have." Since then, Camp Sunnyside has offered hope to families who were hopeless, given confidence to children who had none and provided our community with a joyful place where anyone, of any age, with any type of disability or special need can thrive and be successful.

## Donate today!



401 N.E. 66th Ave., Des Moines 50313  
515-289-1933





Many Hands Office  
 709 Main St., Pella, IA 50219 • 641-629-6633  
 www.mh4h.org • www.manyhandsthrift.com

# give guide

## Generously growing impact locally and globally.

Many Hands is an Iowa-based nonprofit creating local and global life transformation. Established in 2008, we aim to ignite generosity, grow community, and take people on IM-PACT journeys to carve a new, better path to live. Each year, the organization reaches at least 25,000 people through its operations and connects with more than 300,000 customers through the Many Hands Thrift Markets located in Iowa.

In Haiti, we strengthen and develop individuals, families, and communities for long-term sustainability. We believe every child deserves to be fed, and every parent deserves the power to care for their family. Through our programs, we walk with more than 400 families weekly, providing meals, education, training, and support. By rebuilding these foundations and restoring families, the people of Haiti have the dignity to lift themselves out of poverty, creating a new story for their families and their communities.

In the United States, we ignite generosity through meaningful thrift stores. Shopping, donating, and volunteering at the Many Hands Thrift Market helps fund local and global impact. We believe this generosity culture fires up churches, businesses, schools, and communities to give and serve with open hands to be love in action. Through relationships, we take the broken and discarded things of this world and remake them into something new, something better.

We believe by generously growing impact, we can be love in action for our communities, transforming lives locally and globally forever.



### Ways to generously grow impact with us:

- Monetary donations to Many Hands
- Shop at our stores located in Clive, Grimes, and Merle Hay
- Donate your gently-used items
- Volunteer at our stores
- Host a group volunteer event at your business
- Sponsor our programs in Haiti
- Attend or sponsor our yearly events

Learn More!



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



Clive - 8801 University Ave.



Grimes - 2900 S.E. Grimes Blvd.



Merle Hay - 4353 Merle Hay Road



give guide

The Des Moines Playhouse is in its 104th season of live theatre. As one of the oldest, continuously operating community theatres in the country, we are proud to offer year-round classes, camps, and programming for children and adults. Hundreds of volunteer actors, performers, and backstage crew come from right here in Central Iowa come together to put on a dozen shows each year.

In October, we announced Tomorrow Begins Today, our \$3.5 million campaign to reimagine and upgrade our Kate Goldman Children's Theatre and adjoining spaces. To date, we have raised \$2 million toward our ambitious and vital goal.

Join the more than 100 donors who have already given. Donate today! We accept gifts of stock, donor advised fund distributions, IRA charitable rollovers, and more.



Junie B in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells!, 2021-22 Season



Stuart Little, 2020-21 Season



Disney's Lion King Kids, Performance Academy, Spring 2019

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515-277-6261

# A foster-based animal rescue organization

give guide

We are committed to saving homeless companion animals, assisting other shelters/rescues through rescue transports, offering low-cost spay/neuter services for our community, and educating the public on the issues of pet overpopulation, responsible pet ownership and puppy mills.

We are a unique rescue organization in that we exist mainly to bridge the gap between traditional animal shelters and no-kill rescues in two different ways:

**1) By providing free transportation for dogs from traditional shelters to other no-kill rescues all over the Midwest and Canada.** We are licensed by the USDA and have two transport vehicles that are equipped specifically for the safe transport of these precious lives. Our transport volunteers typically drive dogs from Bethany, Missouri, to Clear Lake, Iowa. Sometimes we take them as far north as Minneapolis, Minnesota, or go as far south as Houston, Texas for pick up. We have been east to Illinois and west to Omaha, Nebraska.

**2) By pulling dogs out of traditional shelters that are on death row and placing them in foster-based programs and ultimately forever homes through our organization.** When dogs and cats are scheduled to be euthanized or gassed in shelters, we pull as many out as we can and place them in temporary homes ("foster homes"). Then we get them completely vetted (rabies and core vaccines, heartworm test + prevention, FeLV tests, flea/tick prevention, spay/neuter, dewormer medications, and microchip). Once all vet care is taken care of, we find forever homes through adoption events and posting cute photos and descriptions online.

AHeinz57 Pet Rescue & Transport also provides animal control services to surrounding cities and throughout rural Dallas County. To support the homeless animals in our community, we have a shelter building for dogs and a separate building for cats. We also have an Adoption Center where dogs transition from the shelter when their stray hold is up. The Adoption Center is also equipped with a special section just for nursing mama dogs and puppies.

We do all of this with a very small staff, so we always need committed volunteers and donors to make this work!



AHeinz57 Pet Rescue  
4002 Ash St., De Soto, IA 50069  
515-834-1157 • business@iheinz57.com

[iheinz57.networkforgood.com](http://iheinz57.networkforgood.com)

Wish List [www.ihinz57.com/wish-list/](http://www.ihinz57.com/wish-list/)

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CITYVIEW's

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The world's best magic, by far, is seeing the gleam in the eyes of special people after you've given them the perfect gift. If you don't yet have a plan for presenting the perfect something that brings joy, peace and happiness to your son, or your daughter, or your spouse, or your significant other or your someone special... CITYVIEW's gift guide has you covered. Happy holidays!



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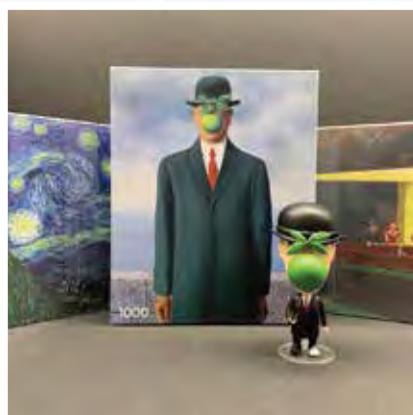
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*Gift Guide*



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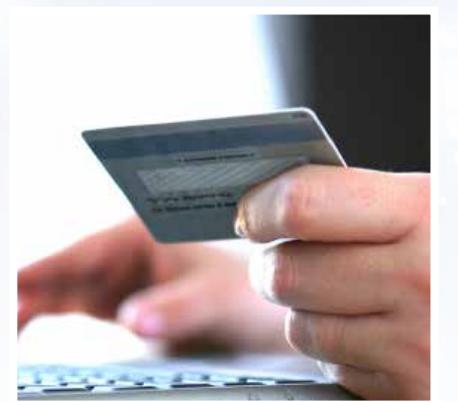
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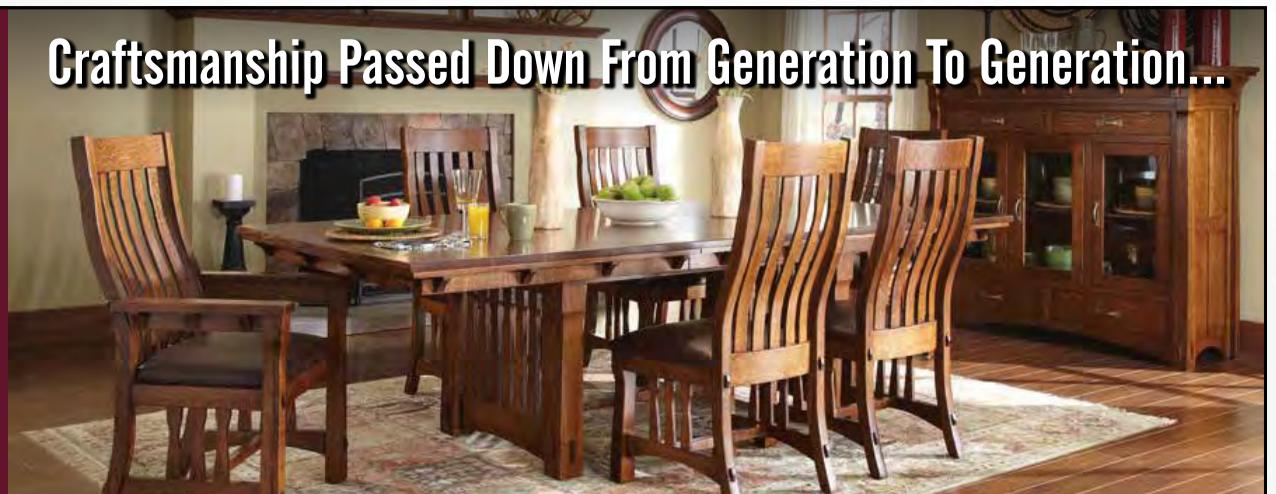
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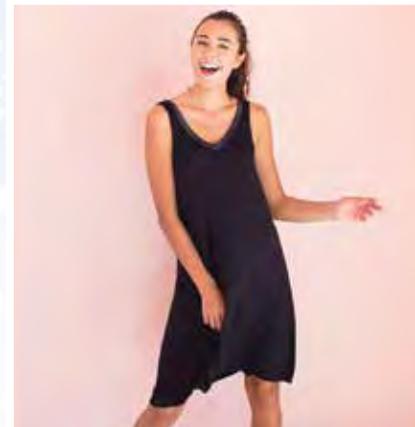
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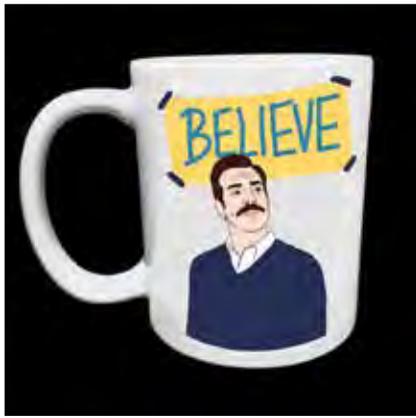
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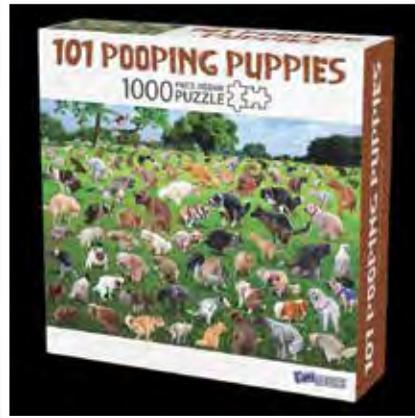
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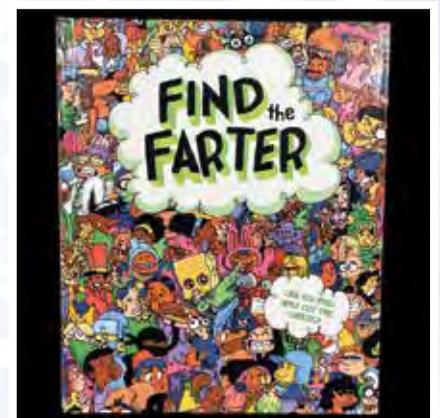
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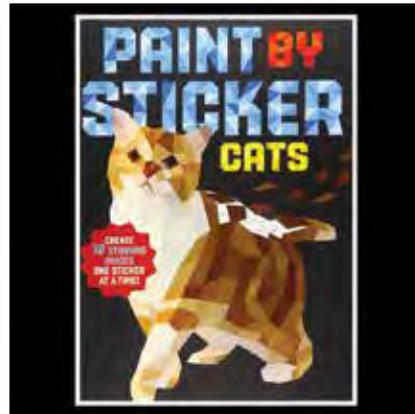
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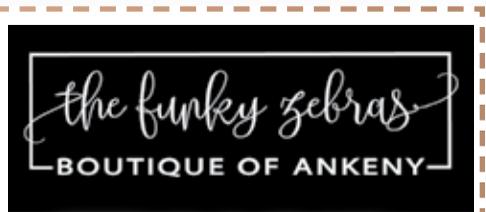


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# allspice



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**Veg Out** - \$28. Check out this gift box for the vegetable lover in your family. Set contains six of our favorite, extra flavorful blends to kick up those vegetables to the next level of fabulous.



**Mama's Homestyle** - \$24. Mama's favorite for chili, meatloaf, spaghetti, burgers, tacos and chicken. While it would be impossible to exactly recreate your mom's recipes, we think our Mama's Homestyle Box comes pretty close. These six special blends will make your weeknight meal prep a breeze.



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**Popcorn Gift Bag** - \$15. Our POP[CORN]! gift bag is sure to please your favorite popcorn-lover! The set features two bags of Farmer's Best Microwave Popcorn, our delicious Tangy Herb & Dill popcorn seasoning and new Cheddar-Head popcorn seasoning.



**Longhorn Chili** - \$28. When we think of classic Southwestern Chili, this recipe is what comes to mind — a rich, tomatoey chili with tender chunks of beef which are simmered to perfection. Cumin and smoked paprika add warmth which pairs nicely with mild heat from ancho chiles and our Texas Chili Seasoning. Finally, Mexican oregano adds a pleasant earthiness to the mix.



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# Gift Guide



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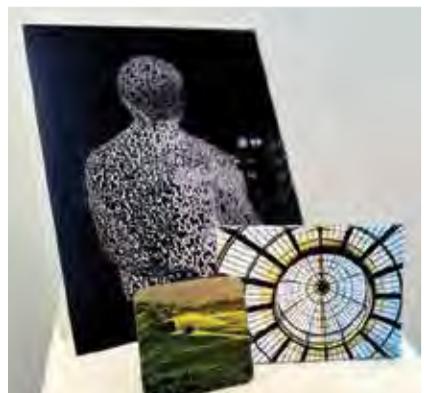
**Anne Temple's eco-printed botanical cards**  
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**Various types of photographic art by Victoria Herring**  
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# AG218

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But, as you know, change is inevitable.

We are writing to let you know that as of December 31st we will be closing Artisan Gallery 218. In 2023 and beyond, our partners will be creating new works of art in their studios rather than "minding the store." History is filled with artists' biographies in which creativity wins over commerce. We are following that creative urge.

We will be investing our time with inspiration and will continue to be available online for your needs. Please stay in touch when you are:

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Marybeth Heikes, Victoria L. Herring, Anne Temple





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# 'Twas the night before...

A Christmas classic for the holidays



♪ SILENT NIGHT ♪

DUFFY

STORY BY ROBERT HULLIHAN  
ILLUSTRATIONS BY BRIAN DUFFY

*Publisher's note: Forty years ago, when Michael Gartner was editor of The Des Moines Register, he walked over to the desk of writer Bob Hullihan and said, "How about writing me a Christmas classic for the holidays?" Hullihan said, "Sure." And he did. It ran in the Register and years later in the Ames Tribune. Gartner sent the story to me in 2007 and asked that I consider running it in CITYVIEW. I did, and it has been running each year since as part of our holiday tradition.*

*Merry Christmas. — Shane Goodman, publisher.*

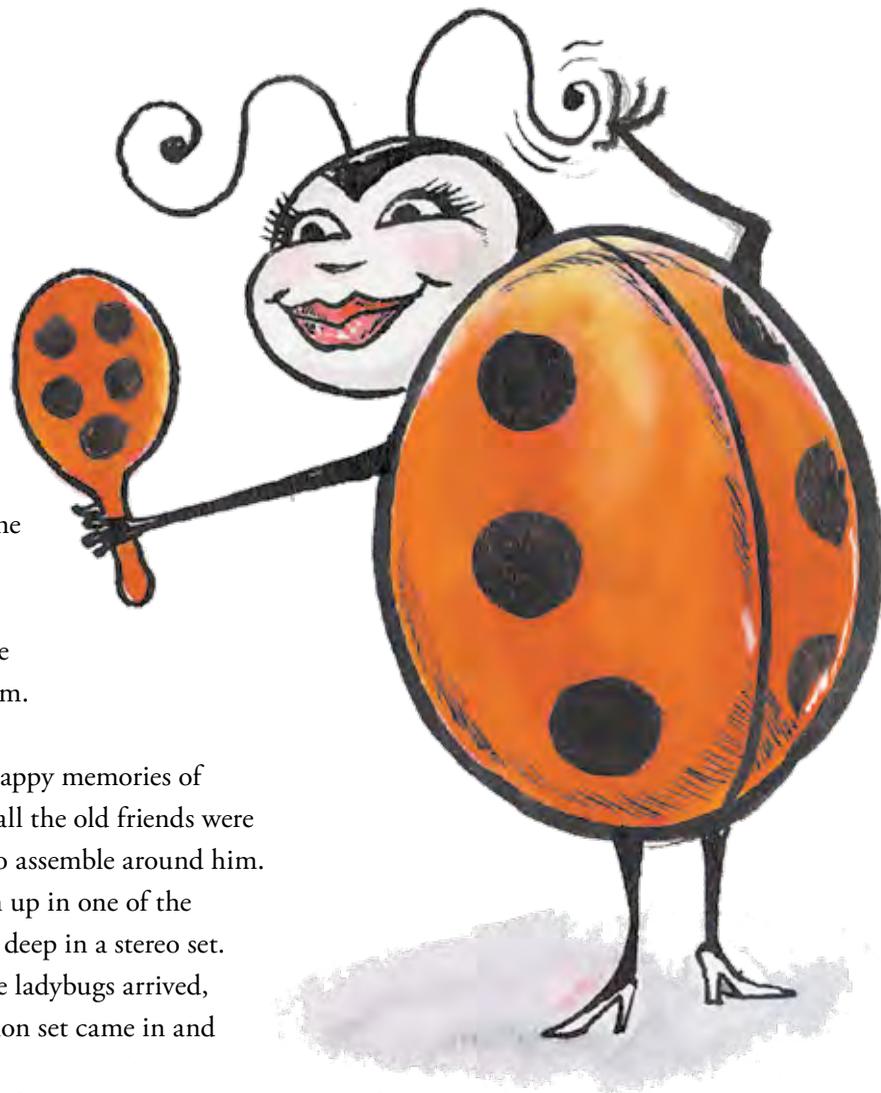
“Now I know you are all new creatures in the house. This will be your first Christmas Eve here. It is my duty to tell you that there must be no stirring on that night. We are under a severe and clear directive.”

— The waterbug

The waterbug had grown old and weary. And he was alone. He was the only one of his kind left in the house. He knew he would never survive the next spring cleaning. He could not scurry away from the poison sprays anymore. Still, the waterbug had been so clever in his youth, and he had lived so long, that now he was the senior creature in the house. He knew that he had a last duty to perform.

So, as Christmas Eve approached, he called a meeting of all the creatures in the house. They met at a dark joint in the woodwork. It was a place that had happy memories of youth for the old waterbug. Once he had gathered with old friends here. Now all the old friends were gone. The waterbug did not recognize any of the young creatures who began to assemble around him.

There was a pair of silverfish, shameless and brazen because they had grown up in one of the popular novels on the bookshelf. An insolent young spider came. Her web was deep in a stereo set. She greeted the old waterbug with: “Hey, old daddy... what’s happenin’?” Three ladybugs arrived, carefully made up and proud of their beauty. A cricket who lived in the television set came in and began acting like a game show host.



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The old waterbug looked at the creatures sadly. He knew he was dealing with a new generation. But he cleared his throat and began:

“Now I know you are all new creatures in the house. This will be your first Christmas Eve here. It is my duty to tell you that there must be no stirring on that night. We are under a severe and clear directive. Not a creature in this house may stir on Christmas Eve, especially not the mice. It is a Tradition.”

When he said that, the old waterbug stared directly at a wild young mouse who had come late to the meeting. The mouse had been born in the fields of summer and had only come into the house when the nights grew cold. The old waterbug drew himself up in all of his brittle majesty. He sensed that he would have trouble with the mouse. The mouse was wild and resentful and, yes, he was a troublemaker.

“Stop! This is quite enough. Creatures have always obeyed the Tradition on Christmas Eve. It’s been handed down from generation to generation. I don’t know why, and I don’t know what it means, but there will be no stirring of creatures in this house on Christmas Eve! Is that understood?”

— The old waterbug

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“Wait a minute,” said the mouse. “Whose tradition? That’s a human tradition you’re talking about. It has nothing to do with us creatures! We can stir around all we want to, Christmas Eve or not!”

“Right on, man,” said the spider.

“Stay tuned, stay tuned,” shouted the cricket. The silverfish giggled indecently and the ladybugs batted their long eyelashes.

“And why should we cooperate with the humans, anyway?” the mouse shouted, wild now with rebellion. “They’re trying to kill all of us. Why, right now, there’s a trap set for me in the basement. And you, you poor doddering old waterbug, you can scarcely get your breath from all the poison they’ve sprayed at you! Stir? I’ll show you stirring! I’m going to race around this house all Christmas Eve, and I just hope the other creatures will join me.”

It was a full-scale revolt. The old waterbug could only draw a painful breath and thunder at the creatures: “Stop! This is quite enough. Creatures have always obeyed the Tradition on Christmas Eve. It’s been handed down from generation to generation. I don’t know why, and I don’t know what it means, but there will be no stirring of creatures in this house on Christmas Eve! Is that understood? I am senior creature here, and you will answer to me!”

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“ Wait a minute. Whose tradition? That’s a human tradition you’re talking about. It has nothing to do with us creatures! We can stir around all we want to, Christmas Eve or not!”

— The mouse

The old waterbug dismissed the meeting, but he made one more attempt to establish his authority as the creatures left. “And you silverfish,” he shouted. “If we ever have another meeting like this, I want you to come fully dressed. I will not tolerate nudity!” But the silverfish just giggled in their naughty way and wiggled off to get back into their popular novel. The old waterbug watched them go; he had never been more discouraged in his life.

He began to think about the wild, young mouse and the fiery way he had spoken out. The old waterbug did not understand the mouse at all, but he rather admired him. He did not want the mouse to come to harm. The old waterbug thought about the trap set in the basement. He thought about the day when the mouse, being young, would foolishly attempt to take the bait. Perhaps, in an act of bravado, he would try to do it that very Christmas Eve. The old waterbug sighed and thought about what he must do.



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He crawled painfully through the rooms of the house until he came to the Christmas decorations. For hours he gnawed away at a sprig of holly until he had removed a small piece of it. He carried it into the basement and found the trap set for the mouse. Risking his life, the old waterbug carefully pushed the cheese bait off the trap and replaced it with the bit of holly. He didn't get back to his dark place under the drain until dawn. He was exhausted.

The very next night was Christmas Eve. The little wild mouse came bounding out of his hole determined to stir around the house all night. He saw the trap with its bit of holly and stopped short. He knew at once that this was the work of the old waterbug. "Why, the old fool," thought the mouse, "he knows I don't eat that stuff." And then the mouse realized that was the point. The old waterbug had brought a gift of warning and good will. They might never understand one another, but they could wish one another well.

The little mouse thought about that idea as he went on through the house to the Christmas tree, where he was to meet the other creatures. He had promised to lead them "in a night of stirring around in this house that they won't soon forget." The silverfish, the ladybugs, the spider and the cricket were waiting for him. But they were strangely silent. None of them had ever seen a Christmas tree lighted before. It awed them.

The mouse looked at the tree and knew he had never seen anything so beautiful, not even in the fields of summer. He didn't understand what it was. He thought, "This must be the Tradition the old waterbug is so hyper

about." Dimly, the mouse knew that something was on display here that surpassed all the creatures and all humanity. The mouse made a decision and quickly told the other creatures what to do. He knew the old waterbug would be coming out soon to see what was going on.

And, sure enough, the old waterbug came crawling slowly out, but he stopped in confusion when he saw what the creatures were doing. The little mouse stood motionless among the tiny plastic animals around a manger. The spider had spun a brilliant web on the tree, and it shimmered in the lights. The silverfish and the ladybugs hung like glittering ornaments from one limb of the tree, and the cricket quietly sang a simple, peaceful song.

The old waterbug looked carefully at what the creatures were doing. He wanted to remember this sight for all the rest of his life. Then he turned and crawled back to his place under the drain. He slept deeply and, for the first time in many nights, he did not have a nightmare about the dreaded Orkin man who would surely come for him in the spring. He knew that the Tradition had been passed on.

The little mouse watched from the corner of his eye as the old waterbug left. Then he stepped out from among the tiny plastic animals and called to the rest of the creatures. "All right, fellas. Let's knock it off for the rest of the night, OK?"

All the creatures went quietly back to their places. Something had happened to them when they made their display for the old waterbug. They did not understand it, but they felt good about it.

Not one of the creatures stirred for the rest of the night. ■

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## Stroganoff, eggplant and nostalgia

Holidays bring out the tastes and aromas.

EAT & DRINK

Marcel Proust translated the memory of a grandmother's madeleine cookies into the 3,000-page novel "Remembrance of Things Past." Ever since, taste and smell have been the senses of nostalgia. The holidays bring out the tastes and aromas of *les temps perdus* more than any other time of the year.

This year, I have been wondering whatever happened to beef Stroganoff? Sure, it's still around, and I found six excellent versions in town. But in the 1950s and 1960s, it was the gold standard of recipes using cow meat. It was almost always made with the best cuts of beef — tenderloin, strip and ribeye. Then a lovely lady did a terrible thing, even if she wasn't even real.

In 1970, Betty Crocker introduced an entire new line of food to the American public — dehydrated and dried instant dinners. Beef Stroganoff was one of Hamburger Helper's best sellers and still is, but it cheapened the dish horribly. It was made with ground beef, imitation sour cream, dehydrated mushrooms, etc. It cost next to nothing. Suddenly, no one considered the classic recipe worth the price a good restaurant charged for it. The late restaurateur Ralph Compiano used to say the steak de Burgo replaced beef Stroganoff because people were willing to pay more for it.

Still, one can find at least six versions of the old-style, high-end dish. Like de Burgo, the six different recipes have little in common with one another, but all were superb. Probably the closest thing to what I remember from my childhood are those of Hessen Haus and the High Life Lounge. Both of those places make a conscious effort to transport customers to another time and place. Both used pot roast chunks, real creams, and real mushrooms. Both were bargain priced, around \$13. Only the noodles differed.

The version at Alba was the most different. It was made with slices of NY strip and included local mushrooms, shallots and a mustard sauce with a heavy homemade noodle. It was sold in different sizes, beginning at \$23. Similarly, Simon's used a combo of strip and loin and not much sour cream. It is not always on their menu, though. When last it was, it was \$19.

Irina's sells it at both locations. Remember it is a



A new room design at Surety Hotel

Russian dish, and Irina's is a Russian restaurant. But they removed chicken Kiev from their menus for lack of interest. This Stroganoff is made with sirloin tips and cost about \$28.

Also ringing a bell with nostalgia food lovers, the new Gusto Pizza Bar has revived the eggplant sandwich. They call it Frank's Special, and they made it famous at Metro Market, Frank's, Café di Scala and Gusto. They use provolone instead of mozzarella with basil pesto, tomato and red onions and ciabatta. They also make three different styles of pizza, including a New York style. I tried one of those that included red sauce, soft mozzarella, house meatballs, Graziano's hot sausage, giardinera, cherry peppers, yellow onion and an herbed ricotta. It cost an amazing \$7.50 because it was Happy Hour.



Beef Stroganoff at High Life Lounge

Also on the subject of nostalgic dining, both Mulberry Street Tavern and Proudfoot & Bird opened their lavish dining spaces for Thanksgiving. These are throwback hotels in newly remodeled buildings. Neither could confirm they will open for Christmas, but the Surety Hotel on Mulberry has remodeled four rooms with sensational style by four local designers. That is what made The Savoy in London the world's top hotel, back in the glorious, nostalgic days of Gilbert & Sullivan. ■

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*Jim Duncan is a food writer who has been covering the central Iowa scene for more than five decades.*

# LUNCH WITH... BY JIM DUNCAN

## Inventor Amy Vohs

We discussed inventions, marketing, sports and the role of the impresario over dark roast coffee and mango matcha at the West Glen Scooter's.

Amy Vohs is an inventor of mostly baby products. She has sold more than 1.1 million at Walmart, Buy, Buy Baby and Amazon, plus in boutiques and on her website. We asked her to lunch recently, and she chose the Scooter's in West Glen.

Scooter's is an Omaha-based coffee chain that features artisan espresso drinks, fruit smoothies, baked-from-scratch pastries and a signature drink, the Caramelicious. The company also recently added depth to its profile with a line of organic hot and iced teas, single-origin coffee, and cold brew and cream. The store was busy at an odd hour. That should not surprise. According to the latest market trends compiled by the National Coffee Association, 60% of Americans drink coffee daily. That's more than reported drinking tea, juice, soda, or even tap water. And the number of people who reported buying coffee at a coffee shop or restaurant has risen 20% since January of 2021. So, over dark roast coffee and mango matcha, we discussed inventions, marketing, sports and the role of the impresario.

**Many inventors have never attended college. Tom Edison never even attended high school. Did Vohs plan her career as an inventor from a young age?**

"No, not really. I never graduated from college. I just didn't see the ROI (return on investment). I was working for Mercy Franklin as a psychological associate when I first got an idea to market.

"My son was a baby then, and he was a notorious chucker. He would throw things across the room or drop them onto the floor. Items that were supposed to go into his mouth like sippy cups and spoons landed in some of the most unsanitary places like the public bathroom at the mall or onto filthy restaurant floors. I am a germophobe, so I had to do something. Outings quickly became a search-and-rescue mission for the items he lost, and sanitizing everything became a logistical nightmare."

**How long did it take to bring her first invention to market?**

"Two years, and that was mostly to test the right materials. The first 20 did not work. Then we found something similar to silicone, but unlike silicone, this is recyclable. We have four colors. It's called 'universal cup strap.' They are dishwasher safe and cost about \$10."

**How long did the patent take, and how did you find partners to help with distribution?**

"The patent took five years, but we could sell 'patent



pending.' Walmart, Toys R Us and Buy Buy Baby (which is a division of Bed, Bath and Beyond) liked our stuff. Lisa Rae of Sweet Dreams in East Village really helped me with lining up boutique stores."

**What came next?**

"My son complained about the taste of his teether. There were lots of plastic necklaces and teethers on the market, but none were flavored. So, I experimented with flavors that my son liked and found several. They were all owned by Kraft Foods. I partnered with them, and we came up with four flavored straws that are based on Kool Aid products. They are called Yummeze, like the teethers. Mothers love them because they encourage kids to drink more water, without adding calories or sugar. Their market is even bigger than baby products. Adults even like them."

**Vohs has partnered with Kraft and sold to Walmart. How did she pull that off?**

"I just made the phone call. If you don't make that first phone call, you will never know what might have been."

**What about growing up in Iowa? How did that shape your attitude and make you inventive?**

"I grew up in Grundy Center and Cedar Rapids. Then, my parents got divorced, and I moved to Wellsburg. At the time, that was the end of my world. I lost my friends and my teachers and missed the bigger towns. It turned into a great life-changing move for me, though.

"I think you have to always be looking for the silver

lining. Kurt Vonnegut wrote in 'Cat's Cradle' that 'Abrupt changes in travel plans are dancing lessons from God.' They are if you are open to the possibility. You control your life situations if you believe you do."

**Vohs is also active in not-for-profit enterprises. How did that start?**

"My son grew up and started loving football. So, I began asking for used footballs and started a 10-team league for middle-school-aged kids. Then, I thought about how to involve more young athletes. I called Alan Lazard of the Green Bay Packers, Iowa State and Urbandale. He said he'd love to hold an instructional camp for 8- to 17-year-olds. Three-hundred-fifty showed up for that. Alan is a fabulous guy. He waited around two hours to be sure every kid who wanted a selfie or an autograph got one. You have to make that first phone call.

"He explained himself as 'I am here for the kids.' Very few Iowans who make it in the major leagues come back to Iowa to do such things. Fred Jackson and Bob Hanson did, but few. You just never know what can be if you don't make that first call. I am going to Minneapolis tomorrow to talk about bringing a star Timberwolves player here.

"It is also amazing in Iowa how people direct you if you flail. I called Iowa State University's College of Industrial Design. After a couple suggestions, I met David Ringholz. He assigned the design of one of our products to a senior industrial design class. That was a big help." ■



# BELLY UP TO:

## McDivot's Indoor Sports Pub

Golf and drinks in Grimes

BY JACKIE WILSON

EAT & DRINK

It's Iowa. It's winter. It's cold and snowy. What can Iowans do to keep warm and dry during these dreary months? Here's an idea. Head over to McDivot's Indoor Sports Pub, where you'll find indoor games, drinks and food.

Located just off Highway 141 in Grimes at 3390 S.E. Crossroads Drive, McDivot's opened in August 2022.

The pub's main attraction includes four HD sports simulators, where patrons can play golf or queue up 30 other virtual, hands-on games. Choose from traditional games, such as baseball and soccer, or try skeet shooting, dodgeball or carnival games.

The golf simulators are separate from the bar and down the hallway. On a Wednesday evening, all four simulators were full of golfers during golf league. Other players sat in the bar area with their golf club bags, awaiting an open course.

While sipping drinks in the bar, we heard the occasional flap, thud and whack of a ball hitting the durable fabric simulator. These players are using real golf clubs, while slicing, driving and chipping on a PGA championship golf course, such as Pebble Beach and Torrey Pines.

Golf league play is on Sundays through Thursdays, starting at 6 p.m. Other dates and times, including the weekends, can be reserved for games or golf.

High-top tables near the golf simulators mean players can sit, drinking their favorite beverage until it's time to slice it. The course isn't easy. The message on the simulator screen often warned the shot wasn't valid. No cheating on this one — you can't accidentally nudge your ball two feet from the water hazard to get a better shot.

Get there early for happy hour from 3-6 p.m. for \$1 off domestic beers, well drinks and specialty drinks. Daily specials include \$1 off drinks for whiskey Wednesdays. Try a shaken old fashioned, poured over a giant ice cube, with fresh garnish for only \$7.



The menu includes pizza, calzones and a half-dozen apps, including pretzels and nachos. The thin-crust pizzas are named after championship golf courses. For example, the Pebble Beach SOB included sausage, onion and bacon with a barbecue pizza sauce. Small pizzas run \$14 while a 16-inch cost \$22.

Besides the golf simulator, the bar area includes darts, televisions and a digital jukebox. Children are welcome until 9 p.m.

Co-owner Kyle Pieper worked in the golf and bar industry for 20 years and wanted to venture out on his own. He said the big draw is a realistic simulator.

"People like the fact that it's a real golf course," he said. "Bring your own clubs, or you can rent them from us."

He chose the Grimes area as it was easily accessible from other parts of the metro.

"There's a lot of growth in the north suburbs. We are a local business, and we support local," he says.

A stroll toward the simulators sounded like a real golf course with a player's running commentary after a bad shot. Nobody threw down a club, but they did slam down a shot. Wintertime in Iowa means creating your own fun. Find it at McDivot's Indoor Sports Pub. ■

# AROUND TOWN

PHOTOS BY NICK NOAH



Junior and Trish Ibarra



Mike Noah and Beth Dieleman



Elizabeth Newton, Ryan Grant and Crista Grant

## IOWA WOLVES PREMIERE NIGHT

Wells Fargo Arena  
Nov. 5, 2022



Kara Mohs, Josh Koch, Jessica Mitchell and Megan Sennikoff



Henry Hannam, Charles Hannam and Skyler Hoth



Ryan Doty and Brad Youngblut

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A CITYVIEW SPECIAL SECTION THAT HONORS  
CENTRAL IOWA'S ESTABLISHED BUSINESSES.

# MILESTONES

Where did they start?  
How did they grow?  
What are they proud of?

**SEVEN CENTRAL IOWA  
BUSINESSES THAT  
HAVE SOMETHING  
TO CELEBRATE.**

48 YEARS

# HOMEMAKERS FURNITURE, MATTRESSES & ACCESSORIES

10215 Douglas Ave., Urbandale  
515-276-2772  
www.homemakers.com

In 1974, Carl and Ina Mersman founded Homemakers Furniture, starting a family tradition of excellence. What started as a 31,000-square-foot store with 10 employees has grown to more than 300 employees and a 215,000-square-foot showroom. Throughout Homemakers' 48-year heritage, the roots, vision, and passion the company was founded on have remained.

As a family-operated and Iowa-founded business, Homemakers understands and values community. From becoming the second annual Iowa State Fair Grandstand Concert Series Sponsor and Grand Champion Sponsor to recognizing the incredible accomplishments of local women through sponsoring the annual Remarkable Women event, Homemakers is dedicated to being a pillar of the Des Moines community.

Homemakers wants shoppers to feel good about supporting a local, environmentally conscious business that strives to continuously give back to the community. Activated in May, one of Homemakers' many environmental efforts is their nearly 3,000 solar panel array, which converts more than one-third of Homemakers' power usage to green solar energy. Employees are also given paid time off to volunteer throughout the community at organizations such as ARL of Iowa, City of Urbandale Parks and Rec, YMCA Supportive Housing Campus, Primary Health Care – PHC, and Habitat for Humanity.

When you shop Homemakers, you can enjoy a no-pressure shopping experience. The commission-free sales team is complemented by their management team with 230 years of combined experience, an A+ rating from the Better Business Bureau (BBB), and near-perfect ratings on Google and Facebook. At Homemakers, it's truly about making your house a home.



## THE HISTORY OF HOMEMAKERS

Before founding Homemakers, the Merschman family opened their first furniture store in St. Paul, Iowa in 1940. Homemakers maintains the same family-operated roots, vision, and passion today.

### 1974

Homemakers was founded by Carl and Ina Merschman. They purchased the former Gray's Furniture Store on Hubbell Avenue, a 31,000-square-foot-store with only 10 employees.

### 1985

The Parker Brothers Factory in Urbandale, where Monopoly boards were made, was then purchased and opened as a second store.

### 2000

Nebraska Furniture Mart, a Berkshire Hathaway company, purchased Homemakers Furniture.

### 2009

Grand opening of the newly remodeled Urbandale location with special guest speaker Warren Buffet.

### 2014

Homemakers' 40th anniversary is celebrated by launching a transactional e-commerce website allowing customers to browse and buy online.

### 2016

A new 120,000-square-foot warehouse is constructed, marking Homemakers' sixth major renovation.

### 2018

Celebrating a non-commission sales team and the addition of the Homemakers Outlet stocked with budget-friendly furniture.

### 2022

Launched new and improved Homemakers.com to give customers a stress-free and user-friendly online experience.

For more information on Homemakers' History visit [homemakers.com/about-us/our-history.html](http://homemakers.com/about-us/our-history.html).

35 YEARS

# ABENDROTH RUSSELL BARNETT LAW FIRM

2560 73rd St., Des Moines  
515-278-0623  
abendrothandrussell.com

Abendroth Russell Barnett Law Firm was established in 1987 in Urbandale. Since then, we have been providing valued legal services to meet the needs of our clients. Our practice areas include wills and trusts, probate, estate administration, guardianships and conservatorships, Medicaid and asset protection, real estate transactions, business formation and compliance, and Social Security Disability. We strive to exceed our clients' expectations, and with our staff of skilled professionals, we work to deliver an exceptional customer experience throughout the most difficult legal matters.

Community is important to us – that's why we partner with local police on safe housing issues and work closely with community service providers such as On With Life and Brain Injury Alliance.

We love our clients and look forward to serving them for many years to come.



## 1987

The law firm was established by Mark Abendroth and David Russell.

## 1999

Abendroth and Russell moved to their current location in Urbandale.

## 2000

Ross Barnett joined the firm, specializing in probate, estate planning, and real estate

## 2012

The firm celebrated 25 years in business.

## 2014

Charlotte Sucik joined the firm, specializing in landlord/tenant law, real estate, and business formation.

## 2016

The firm eliminated the Collection Department and developed a more service-oriented approach to our clients.

## 2017

Gail Barnett joined the firm, specializing in Social Security Disability, probate, and Medicaid planning.

## 2018

Charlotte Sucik and Gail Barnett were made partners at the firm.

## 2020

In October, Ross Barnett celebrated 20 years with the firm.

## 2021

Mark Abendroth retired.

## 2022

Celebrating 35 years in business. Ross Barnett is managing partner.

## GOOD LIFE THERAPY

5000 Westown Parkway, Suites 104 & 340, West Des Moines  
515-679-3947

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

### MARCH 2021 - GOOD LIFE THERAPY OPENED IN WEST DES MOINES

In starting Good Life Therapy, the vision was to build a mental health practice that was warm and welcoming for both clients and staff. Starting with one clinician, our goal was to fill our nearly 5,000-square-foot office space by 2022.

### JANUARY 2022

Our team consisted of six clinicians, one therapy dog, and two administrative staff. Populations served included adults and adolescents. As people began reaching out for services, we recognized the need for increased services for children and medication management providers. Extended waitlists were making it difficult for those in need to be seen. It was then we decided to expand in an effort to meet the needs of those in our community seeking mental health services.

### JUNE 2022

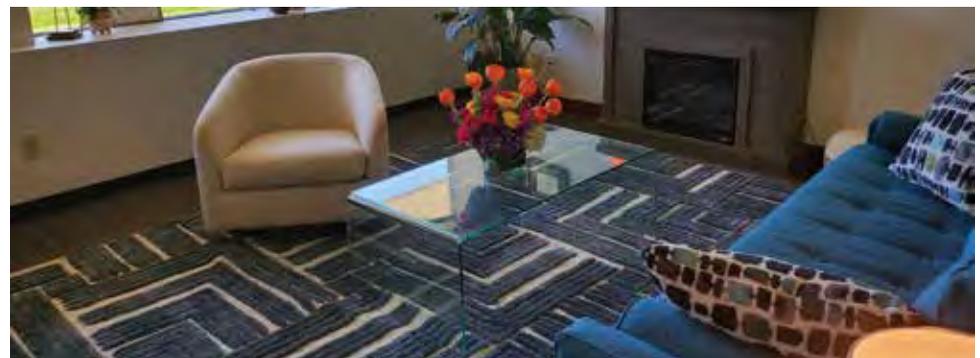
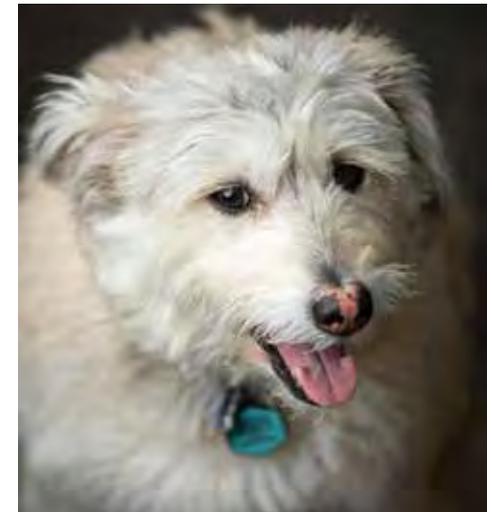
We were elated to find additional office space on the third floor of our current office building and opened our third floor space in June of 2022. With an additional 5,000 square feet of office space, our third floor location has seven offices, with a focus on expanding services for children and adolescents, including space for play therapy and expressive arts therapy.

### AUGUST 2022

We welcomed Adreanne Perkins, a psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner, to our team and began offering in person and telehealth medication management services for children and adults.

### DECEMBER 2022

With 11 clinicians, one nurse practitioner, two graduate counseling interns, and an administrative team, we are excited to have openings for those in the community seeking expanded mental health services for all ages!



90 YEARS

# MERCHANTS BONDING COMPANY

6700 Westown Parkway, West Des Moines  
 800-678-8171  
[www.merchantsbonding.com](http://www.merchantsbonding.com)

Surety bonds. If you're not *sure* what they are, you're not alone, even in a city that's steeped in insurance! A surety bond is a unique type of insurance, a three-party agreement, and the sole focus of Merchants Bonding Company. As we approach a major milestone, our 90th anniversary, Merchants is celebrating our past and eagerly looking to our future.

**The Past:** E.H. Warner and Merle Milligan founded Merchants Mutual Bonding Company in 1933. The company's first transaction? A permit bond for the sale of beer! The founders grew the company with a steady, consistent, common sense approach to surety that remains the cornerstone of Merchants' success.

**The Present:** Today, Merchants Bonding Company ranks among the top sureties in the United States with a growth rate that consistently exceeds the industry average (SFAA). Our company is headquartered in West Des Moines, Iowa, with more than 25 branch offices to better serve our partners in all 50 states. We value excellence, integrity and continuous improvement in all that we do. Our culture is positive and collaborative, supported by trust, loyalty and respect amongst our associates. We support the communities we're a part of through the Merchants Bonding Company Foundation, and we love to celebrate and have fun!

**The Future: We are Hiring!**

Merchants made it to this milestone by saying YES to the best associates, who are the core of our company. And as we look to our future, we believe it's fueled by our courageous culture and dedicated to fulfilling our purpose of being the most trusted team in surety. Join us!



**1933**  
 Merchants Mutual Bonding Company founded

**1969**  
 First branch office opened in Austin, Texas

**2006**  
 National expansion completed

**2008**  
 Merchants Foundation established for 75th anniversary

**2020**  
 Surplus exceeds \$200 million

**2023**  
 Hiring for the future

74 YEARS

# DUPACO COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION

1701 E. First St., Grimes, Iowa  
www.dupaco.com

Dupaco Community Credit Union is a not-for-profit, member-owned financial cooperative. The credit union is dedicated to the financial well-being of its members and specializes in personalized financial counseling, money advice and education.

It offers savings, loans, investments, insurance and wealth management products for individuals and businesses. Headquartered in Dubuque, Dupaco serves residents in 112 counties throughout Iowa, northwest Illinois and southwest Wisconsin. Membership has grown to more than 143,000, with assets exceeding \$2.6 billion. It has more than 600 employees and recently opened its 20th branch in Grimes, Iowa. Dupaco is a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI). It's a Forbes Best-in-State Credit Union and a Des Moines Register Top Workplace.

Coming from humble beginnings, Dupaco was chartered as Dupaco Employees Credit Union in 1948, when 10 employees of the Dubuque Packing Company pooled their money and founded the credit union on the philosophy of cooperation and mutual self-help. While its membership has grown exponentially over the years, the credit union's not-for-profit mission and structure remain the same, said Dupaco President and CEO Joe Hearn.

"Dupaco's cooperative structure still provides an opportunity for members to use and control their own money — on a democratic basis — to improve one another's lives," said Hearn. "It's still people helping people. And that's the credit union difference."

Dupaco now is making an even bigger positive impact in the lives of more members, added Hearn. As Dupaco's membership and branch locations have grown, so has its ability to provide an expanded range of cost-effective financial services. Through its free Money Makeovers, Credit History Lessons, Bright Track credit score monitoring and other services, Dupaco continues to help its members love life and create a brighter community for all.



**Top:** Dupaco President and CEO Joe Hearn and Dupaco board chair Ron Meyers celebrate the opening of the new Grimes Learning Lab in Grimes, Iowa, during a ribbon-cutting ceremony in April, 2022. Photo by Scott Morgan.

**Bottom Left:** Dupaco Credit Union is chartered by the State of Iowa on July 17, 1948. The original Articles of Incorporation is signed by Dupaco founding members Marie B. Hauptert, Melvin Schumacher, Alfred Carroll, R.W. Reavell, Larry Vize, William Moore, Ronald Nennig, Marjorie Alm, Nellie Tucker and Manley Alm.

**Bottom Right:** Dupaco staff in Madison's E. Washington branch celebrate International Credit Union Day, October 20, 2022. Photo by Kayla Wolff.

## 1948

### DUPACO IS FOUNDED

With \$5 each and a loan for \$123.20 from their local union, 10 Dubuque Packing Company employees start their own credit union. They borrow six letters from their employer's name (**D**ubuque **P**acking **C**ompany) and call it **D**upaco.

## 1950

### BEGINS FUNDING HOME LOANS

Dupaco borrows \$5,000 from the Iowa Credit Union League and uses the money to begin funding home loans.

## 1951

### RENAMED DUPACO EMPLOYEES CREDIT UNION

Dupaco bylaws are amended to change the name from Dupaco Credit Union to Dupaco Employees Credit Union.

## 1975

### SERVICES EXTENDED TO ALL DUBUQUE PACKING COMPANY EMPLOYEES

Dupaco services are extended to Dubuque Packing Company employees at all nine of its plant locations nationwide.

## 1986

### RENAMED DUPACO COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION

Bylaws are amended to change their name to Dupaco Community Credit Union. An in-house credit card processing system is installed.

## 1996

### DUPACO.COM IS INTRODUCED

Dupaco makes its official online debut with the introduction of Dupaco.com.

## 1997

### ONLINE BANKING IS INTRODUCED

Dupaco launches their online banking platform, providing added convenience to their members.

## 1998

### MEMBERSHIP EXTENDED TO ADDITIONAL COUNTIES

Membership eligibility is extended to anyone living or working in Allamakee, Buchanan, Cedar, Clayton, Clinton, Fayette, Jones, Linn, Scott and Winnebago counties in Iowa; Crawford, Iowa and Lafayette counties in Wisconsin; and Carroll, Rock Island and Whiteside counties in Illinois.

## 2005

### FREE CHECKING, 1ST RATE CHECKING AND HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS ARE INTRODUCED

Dupaco introduces Free Checking, 1st Rate Interest-Bearing Checking and Health Savings Accounts. It also becomes the first financial institution in the tri-state area to introduce 24/7 online mortgage applications.

## 2008

### 60TH ANNIVERSARY, MONEY MAKEOVERS ARE BORN

Dupaco celebrates 60 years of serving members. Free Money Makeovers are introduced to help members (and nonmembers) improve their overall financial well-being.

## 2016

### DUPACO LAUNCHES THANK USE

Dupaco launches Thank Use and rewards more than 45,000 participating members with more than \$2.85 million for using their credit union. Field of membership expands to include people living or working in 45 additional counties in Iowa.

## 2017

### DUPACO SURPASSES 100,000 MEMBERS

While Dupaco's membership has grown exponentially, the credit union's not-for-profit mission and structure remain the same.

## 2018

### 70TH ANNIVERSARY

Dupaco celebrates 70 years of service to its members.

## 2022

### DUPACO EXPANDS

Dupaco opens its 20th branch in Grimes, Iowa. Field of membership is expanded to include Columbia, Dodge, Jefferson, Rock, Walworth and Waukesha counties in Wisconsin. Dupaco acquires former Home Savings Bank branches in Madison, expanding to 22 branches.

For an extended timeline and to learn more about Dupaco go to [www.dupaco.com/history](http://www.dupaco.com/history)

# NFM

15500 Hickman Road, Clive  
515-727-6500  
www.nfm.com

Looking back on 85 years of NFM’s history, it’s hard to believe where it all began. Rose Blumkin’s basement shop grew into a community of stores spanning four states, with the first store opening in Omaha in 1937. It’s easy to attribute our success to our foundational motto: sell cheap and tell the truth.

We have strived to make the comforts of home accessible for everyone. Because it’s not just flooring and appliances. They’re pieces that set the stage for the lives we want to live. Where we share laughs, big feelings, and make memories. At their best, our homes bring us together. To do what we love with the people we love. That’s why we’re here. For home life, done right.

From our inception, we’ve provided outstanding selection and service. By keeping our principles in mind, we believe we can fulfill our true mission: improving people’s lifestyles.

We support our community’s well-being through jobs, revenue, and the meaningful history of a fourth-generation family business. The business may have been born in Nebraska, but NFM is where your house becomes a home. NFM is a family-run business that still follows the vision Mrs. B set from the very beginning. We’d love to see you in Clive to help find the perfect appliances, electronics, flooring, window treatments, countertops and small gifts for practically anyone in your life!



## 1893

### IN THE BEGINNING...

Rose Gorelick (Mrs. B) is born in Shirdeen, Russia, outside of Minsk.

## 1917

### COMING TO AMERICA

Rose immigrates with her husband, Isadore Blumkin, to America.

## 1937

### HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

Rose Blumkin begins Nebraska Furniture Mart in the basement of her husband’s downtown shop.

## 1950

### NEW DOWNTOWN LOCATIONS

Electronics and appliances are added to the store. NFM’s growing success leads to moves to various downtown locations, and 2205 Famam becomes the flagship store.

## 1970

### WESTERN EXPANSION

A new Omaha retail location is added on South 72nd St., supplementing the 22nd and Famam downtown store.

## 1983

### SIMPLY A HANDSHAKE

A simple handshake between legendary investor Warren Buffet and Rose Blumkin seals a \$60 million deal that adds NFM to the Berkshire Hathaway fold.

## 1994

### MEGA-EXPANSION

A new building, the “Mega-Mart,” is added to house electronics and appliances, which become their own divisions. Modernization updates also occur to the store and the rest of the 77-acre campus.

## 1997

### HARD WORK

Mrs. B works at NFM until she’s 103.

## 2001

### AN ACQUISITION

Remodel of Omaha store. NFM’s Iowa store moves to Clive, a Des Moines suburb, now selling flooring, appliances and Sony electronics. NFM purchases Homemakers, a furniture store based in Des Moines.

## 2019

### NEW DES MOINES STORE GRAND OPENING

The Des Moines NFM store moves to a brand-new location and offers customers new ways to shop appliances, electronics and flooring.

# SHADE TREE AUTO

1750 S.E. 11th St. 515-986-5241  
 3831 70th St., Urbandale 515-512-1095  
[www.ShadeTreeAuto.biz](http://www.ShadeTreeAuto.biz)

After graduating DMACC with a degree in automotive technology, our owner, Clint Dudley, started Shade Tree Auto in a small garage in Johnston, Iowa, back in 2001. His philosophy was simple: bring back the classic repair shop that educated customers on what was needed, and what was not.

With a belief that a true repair shop should be able to repair cars and trucks, and a commitment to respecting our community, employees and customers, Shade Tree Auto quickly became a favorite in the greater Des Moines area.

In 2005, Shade Tree Auto found a home in Grimes with a 2,400-square-foot facility that doubled in size two years later when an adjacent suite opened up in the building. For the next 10 years, the little shop found success through chamber membership and community involvement. As the company grew, the need for a larger shop was apparent, and in 2017, Shade Tree Auto moved to a new 13,000-square-foot building along Highway 141 in Grimes. Along the way, the little shop from Grimes began to earn the attention of the business world. Recognition came from the 2015 and 2016 U.S. Chamber Dream Big Award, the BBB Integrity Award, the 2018 American Business Award for Small Retail Company of the Year, and 2017 and 2018 International Business Award as Small Retail Company of the year. The accolades are a testimony to our staff and support from our local community.

While Shade Tree Auto has continued to grow as a company, the mission has stayed the same: to help customers make informed decisions about their vehicle and provide recommendations and repairs that are cost-effective and within customers' best interests. As Shade Tree Auto grows, they have expanded into Urbandale with their second location at 70th Street and Douglas Avenue, managed by seasoned Shade Tree Auto manager, Dustin Klein. Pam Woodard helped create the success of our Grimes location and continues on as our store manager.



## 2001

Shade Tree Auto was founded in a 900-square-foot garage in Johnston.

## 2005

STA moved to a rental space in Grimes.

## 2007

STA expands to 4,800 square feet.

## 2009

Recognized as a blue seal shop.

## 2014

Named Small Business Community Champion.

## 2015 & 2016

U.S. Chamber of Commerce Dream Big award recipient.

## 2017

Bronze winner of the International Business Awards (Small Retail Company of the Year) in Barcelona, Spain.

## 2017

Moved to 13,000-square-foot facility in Grimes along Highway 141.

## 2018

Gold Winner of the International Business Awards (Small Retail Company of the Year) in London.

## 2018

Gold winner of the American Business Awards.

## 2022

Opened our second location in Urbandale.

## Shaun Johnson

Musician is part of the acapella group Tonic Sol-fa, as well as The Big Band Experience.

When musicians perform two nights in a row, it's generally the same concert. However, when Shaun Johnson appears at Hoyt Sherman Place two consecutive nights, he'll perform completely different concerts with The Big Band Experience and Tonic Sol-fa on Dec. 16 and 17.

Johnson is part of the acapella group Tonic Sol-fa. He joined the original group in college when they added a fifth member. He's been the lead vocalist for the past 15 years.

When the group first started singing, they struggled to fit in with other musical genres.

"There wasn't a lot of acapella groups at the time," says Johnson. "We'd try to convince people that we could sing for more than an hour. We competed with punk groups and other pop groups. It's not just singing, but the entertainment part. We had to show people we didn't just sing doo-wop songs."

Since then, the acapella group's popularity has exploded into the mainstream with groups such as Pentatonix and Straight No Chaser. Acapella means performing without instruments. Rhythm and beat sounds often are created by the singer's hands or mouth.

Tonic Sol-fa has sold \$2 million in albums, with 15 albums to their credit. Tonic Sol-fa won an Emmy Award in the Musical Composition/Arrangement category. They play approximately 100 concerts a year in 48 states. They were inducted into the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame, as that's where the band originated from — St. John's University.

Johnson founded his second group in 2016. The Big Band Experience began as a Christmas charity event. Johnson explored big-band-era music, such as Frank Sinatra and Michael Bublé type songs, studying what

constitutes a big-band sound.

He knew a traditional big band might be too large. "It's a nod to the original big bands. We started with different arrangements. That grew to a wide variety of songs," he explains.

After several years of charity shows at Christmas time, he wanted to take the band a step further. In 2018, the Big Band Experience began touring and was on its own televised PBS television special, "The Spirit of the Season." The band's debut album, "Capitol," debuted at No. 5 on the Billboard Jazz Chart. Music lovers of all age groups attend the concerts.

"People are rediscovering that era, and anyone who loves music can appreciate it. I consider myself a traditional pop vocalist but not like the pop you hear on the radio. The older crowd says to keep the music going," he says.

He's worked on arrangements, written new songs and wants to entertain folks with his own music.

"I didn't want to do an ode to Frank Sinatra. It's considered a small big band," he explains.

His band includes talented musicians, including one of the Tonic Sol-fa singers, Theo Brown, who plays piano in his Big Band Experience.

As a native of Algona, Johnson didn't ever imagine singing professionally. He attended college to study law. When the opportunity for Tonic Sol-fa came, he jumped on it.

"I could always go back to law school if it didn't work out," he recalls.

Johnson is pleasantly surprised at his full-time singing career.

"The hardest part is marketing and treating music as a business," he says. "I have a couple, Michelle and



Photo by Mary Johnson

Gary, who have been wonderful business mentors over the years. I've learned it's not just about singing."

He's written songs for the Prague Orchestra, along with other music collaborations, and is releasing a new album soon. The Big Band Experience has opened up touring opportunities.

"There's venues I never thought I'd play at with Tonic Sol-fa, but now the Big Band Experience plays at different clubs, outdoor festivals and more. It's such an adventure," he says. "It's exciting to do both." ■

## SOUND ADVICE

BY JACKIE WILSON

Get your Christmas list checked off by purchasing tickets for all your music-loving friends. **Chicago** is coming to Stephens Auditorium in Ames on May 25. The legendary rock and roll band with horns, Chicago is one of the highest-charting American bands in Billboard Magazine's Top 125 history. Tickets from \$80-\$129.

Find that ugly holiday sweater and wear it to xBk on Dec. 15 for the Ugly Sweater Winter Party featuring **Colo Chanel**, **Big Smoke Sp**, **Tony Guns** and **Static Soul**. Tickets: \$10 in advance or \$15 day of show.

Listen to a triple treat at Wooly's on Dec. 16. A tribute to three iconic bands

includes: **Hashpipe: A Tribute To Weezer**, **American Dookie: A Tribute To Green Day** and **Nevermind: A Nirvana Tribute**. Tickets \$15.

The **Des Moines Symphony New Year's Eve Pops** concert is a long-standing Des Moines tradition. On Dec. 31, Broadway brass meets old-school class in a fresh take on the music of Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald and more, performed by award-winning vocalists Capathia Jenkins and Tony DeSare. Tickets \$40-\$95.

Wooly's New Year's Eve party features **Pianopalooza** and **The June Bugs**. The 21-and-older show tickets start at \$15. ■

# FILM REVIEW

BY DAVID ROWLEY

## Wink, wink jokes of 'Spirited' reek of eye-rolling smugness

While the Christmas movie is comfortable mocking itself, it also ends up feeling embarrassed at the decision to make it a musical.

While Charles Dickens may be the inspiration for "Spirited," this flick stands no chance of knocking any previous venture in the Christmas Movie game off a top 10 list. While there are some genuinely unexpected plot developments, the gags are hit and miss, too reliant on the now-standard Reynolds glib.

"Spirited" attempts to invert Dickens' story, focusing instead on the ghosts' missions rather than the malcontent's moral redemption. The Ghost of Christmas Present (Will Ferrell) is feeling disillusioned with his haunting job alongside his colleagues Jacob Marley (Patrick Page), the Ghost of Christmas Past (Sunita Mani), and the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come (Loren Woods but voiced by Tracy Morgan). He's started to wonder whether their hauntings make any real difference in the world.

For his next redemption project, Present chooses Clint Briggs (Ryan Reynolds), a cynical, self-serving spin doctor who lies and manufactures conflicts on social media for a living. He's a cynical Scrooge, a charismatic combination of, as Present says, Mussolini and Ryan Seacrest. As Present helps guide Clint through his Dickensian journey, Clint turns the tables each step of the way, leaving Present examining his own past, present and future — with the help of a few show tunes along the way, naturally.

Oh — did I mention this is also a musical? Or at least there are musical numbers sprinkled throughout this period comedy featuring two non-musical leads. This is all to say, if you are a fan of musicals, keep an eye on the backup crew because their choreography is quite impressive.

While "Spirited" is more than comfortable mocking itself ("Christmas with Deadpool" might have been more entertaining as its working title), it also ends up feeling embarrassed at the decision to make it a musical. The songs are frequently interrupted by other characters and forgotten entirely during the overlong Christmas Past section. One "oh no, not a song" gag is fine, but repeating it makes "Spirited" act like it's too cool for musicals.

The wink, wink jokes for the adults reek of eye-rolling smugness (it's the kind of film where a character watches a song-and-dance number and asks, "Why are they singing?" to the answer of, "Because they're in a musical"), and this clashes with the film's often embarrassingly straight-faced earnestness, most



### "Spirited"

PG-13 | 127 minutes

Director: Sean Anders

Starring: Will Ferrell, Ryan Reynolds, Octavia Spencer

visible in the film's many, many musical set pieces.

By far the strangest and biggest miss in this movie was the inclusion of child suicide. While covering heavy subjects in a comedy isn't unheard of, this was something that wasn't developed enough and came out of left field. It's never good when you leave the audience feeling bad for not feeling bad about watching a child commit suicide.

Clint's whole thing as a PR executive is to create (often fake) outrage online to benefit his clients. When his niece Wren (Marlow Barkley) comes to him for help for the student council president election, Clint decides to use this tactic to help her win.

He asks Kimberly (Octavia Spencer) to do opposition research on Wren's competition Josh (Maximillian Piazza). When it comes to the Yet-To-Come section, Clint watches on as Wren leads the student council; he then finds himself at a memorial — and it's revealed that Josh has died, implying that he died by suicide as a result of online bullying.

Covering such topics in a festive movie isn't a no-go, but it needs to be addressed with more depth and care than "Spirited" does.

Clint obviously realizes the severity of the situation after the child is dead but insists he wasn't to know. The main issue I have with the scene is that even before he deals with that, he runs into the next Yet-To-Come scenario where he sees his grave and jokes, "93. Not bad."

"Spirited" goes from covering an implied child's suicide to a glib joke about old age in a minute. It's this muddled tone that ultimately has no resolution for the character. It's trauma for the sake of trauma. If you're going to include such a serious subject for emotional effect, you need to give it the careful attention it deserves. ■

# PREVIEWS

BY DAVID ROWLEY

## 'The Whale'

R | 117 minutes

Director: Darren Aronofsky

Starring: Brendan Fraser, Sadie Sink, Ty Simpkins



Charlie is a morbidly obese English teacher based in the state of Idaho. At about 600 pounds, Charlie's obesity has made his range of movement limited, and he shares his passion for literature (particularly within his favorite novel, "Moby Dick") entirely virtually from his own couch. In addition to his morbid obesity, Charlie is also depressed to the point where he is suicidal, as he is essentially trying to eat himself to death. The only thing that is really stopping Charlie from achieving this goal sooner is another want to reconnect with his teenage daughter, Ellie (Sadie Sink). Charlie seems to have come to terms with the fact that he doesn't have much time left on Earth, regardless of if he's trying to expedite the process by overeating. However, with the help of Ellie, Charlie's nurse and closest friend Liz (Hong Chau), and a Mormon missionary named Thomas, perhaps Charlie may get a chance to find a source of meaning and happiness that he's been missing for so many years.

## 'Marlowe'

R | 110 minutes

Director: Neil Jordan

Starring: Liam Neeson, Diane Kruger, Jessica Lange



Based on Booker Prize-winning author John Banville's book "The Black-Eyed Blonde," "Marlowe" presents a gripping noir crime thriller set in late 1930s Bay City and centers around a brooding, down-on-his-luck detective, Philip Marlowe (Liam Neeson) who is hired to find the ex-lover of a glamorous heiress (Diane Kruger), daughter of a well-known movie star (Jessica Lange). The disappearance is the first twist in a series of bewildering events, and soon Marlowe is embroiled in a deadly investigation that puts him in the crosshairs of several of the city's richest and most dangerous constituents.

## 'Babylon'

R | 188 minutes

Director/Writer: Damien Chazelle

Starring: Brad Pitt, Margot Robbie, Jean Smart



From Damien Chazelle, "Babylon" is an original epic set in 1920s Los Angeles featuring Brad Pitt, Margot Robbie, Diego Calva, Jovan Adepo, Toby Maguire, Li Jun Li, Eric Roberts and Jean Smart. A tale of ambition and outrageous excess, it traces the rise and fall of multiple characters during an era of unbridled decadence and depravity in early Hollywood. Brad Pitt's character is reported to be based on John Gilbert, a silent-film star whose career declined when talkies started taking over. Margot Robbie is playing actress Nellie LaRoy based on Clara Bow, who successfully made the transition to talkies and came to personify the Roaring Twenties. Additionally, there's Jean Smart, playing what is presumed to be the fictional character of a Hollywood journalist/critic who can make or break careers. ■

## The year ahead

The Des Moines Art Center now has hundreds of photographs in its collection and is sharing them in a series of small thematic exhibitions over the next few years.

Next year should be big for Des Moines arts institutions. In recent years, the Des Moines Art Center has worked to improve its collection of photography, particularly that of the early to mid-20th century. This era was often ignored by art museums but has now been embraced as not only an essential element of visual culture but a critical record of the world in decades past. Via gifts and targeted purchases, the Art Center now has hundreds of photographs in its collection and is sharing them in a series of small thematic exhibitions over the next few years.

“Postcards,” the first show, focuses on landscapes, travel documentation and the scenic routes artists have taken with a camera in hand. Works in the exhibition date from photography’s 19th-century beginnings to contemporary works.

“Postcards: Recent Photography Acquisitions to the Art Center’s Collection” is organized by Curator Laura Burkhalter. It will play Dec. 16 to April 16.

“Art Center: 75 Years of Iowa Art” will initiate the Art Center’s 75th anniversary year. That exhibition will reflect the work of artists who have lived and worked in Iowa and their connections to the Des Moines Art Center. The creative work of these individuals, exhibited and collected by the museum, have helped cement DMAC’s place in the community and foster the creative culture of our state, as well as reach out to local, national and global audiences.

From its founding in 1948, the Art Center has showcased the work of Iowa artists in various ways, including its Iowa Artists series, which began in the early 1950s and has run almost every year since. Building on this core aspect of the museum’s identity, the Art Center will showcase historical artwork featured in these exhibitions, work collected by artists based in Iowa or with Iowa roots, and recent work by artists working across the state today. A select number of newly commissioned artworks will showcase the dynamism and diversity of Iowa’s contemporary art.

“Art Center: 75 years of Iowa Art” is organized by Curator Laura Burkhalter and Associate Curator Mia Laufer. This exhibition is sponsored by the Harriet S. and J. Locke Macomber Art Center Fund and plays



Peter Sekaer American (born Denmark, 1901–1950). Untitled ca. 1935-1940. Vintage gelatin silver print, 5 7/8 × 7 5/8 inches. Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Gift of Joel Meyerowitz, 2016.174. Photo by Rich Sanders, Des Moines

Feb. 10 to May 7.

Although best known for its exceptional holdings in modern and contemporary art, the Des Moines Art Center owns a remarkable collection of works on paper that date back to the 15th century, including work by Albrecht Dürer, Canaletto, Katsukawa Shunsho, Utagawa Toyokuni and Francisco de Goya. In celebration of the museum’s anniversary, a special exhibition will showcase some of the oldest works in the collections, including 15th to 18th century prints from across Western Europe, South and East Asia.

Artworks featured will cover an array of styles and subject matter, including portraiture, landscape, religious and mythological scenes, and natural history studies. Some of these works have periodically been included in larger thematic exhibitions, but this will be the first opportunity in almost 25 years for audiences to enjoy the scope and breadth of this important part of the Art Center’s collections. “Before Modern Art” is

organized by Associate Curator Mia Laufer and plays April 21 to Aug. 27.

Barcelona artist Ruben Sanchez is showing his bright-colored geometric paintings and a few sculptures through Dec. 3 at Moberg Gallery. Sanchez works evolved from graffiti and skateboarding art. You would not know it for its contemporary sophistication. Following that, the gallery hosts its always popular Winter Group Show.

Des Moines Metro Opera announced its 2023 season. The productions include mainstage performances of Georges Bizet’s beloved “Carmen,” Bela Bartók’s psychological thriller, “Bluebeard’s Castle,” and Sergei Prokofiev’s absurdist comedy, “The Love for Three Oranges,” as well as productions of Susan Kander and Robert Gumbel’s “dwb” (driving while black) and Zach Redler and Jerre Dye’s “The Falling and the Rising” as part of the company’s 2nd Stages Series. ■

# IOWA ARTISTS

BY JACKIE WILSON

## Claire Sedovic

Art teacher, illustrator



Sedovic's artwork is often inspired by favorite childhood memories, translating into whimsical and vibrant pieces.



Sedovic illustrated children's book "Odd Animal ABC's" by June Smalls.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Claire Sedovic feels fortunate to embark on a dual role in her art career. She's currently a visiting professor of graphic design at Drake University, teaches kids painting classes and taught at Grand View the past summer. Her second artist role is a freelance graphic illustrator, creating art out of her studio at Mainframe Studios.

Sedovic became familiar with Mainframe Studios as she was the third artist to occupy Drake's alumni studio. Her freelance illustrations include her favorite medium — watercolors.

"There's so many nuances to it. The colors can be super-saturated, and it's fun to use," she explains.

She illustrated a children's book called "Odd Animal ABC's." Author June Smalls wrote the book, while she illustrated the unique animals. The collaboration with the author offered Sedovic a creative say in the design.

"The author would write out notes and ideas on the page. It was fulfilling to have a connection with the author," she says.

Sedovic laid out the book's design in addition to the illustrations.

"As I laid out the pages and text, it allowed me autonomy with the book. Since I have an interest in both mediums, I could easily integrate the two — art and design together."

This wasn't her first book. Her parents encouraged her love of reading and visits to the library. She recalls an Eric Carle book, which was her favorite.

"I wrote a sequel to it when I was 3 and a half years old," she laughs. "I was always interested in art."

Her favorite art pieces stem from memories of her own

childhood. Artwork is translated into child-like whimsical pieces and vibrant colors.

"I love the children's book audience. There's a lot of playfulness to do it well. You have to put that in the mindset of being a kid," she explains. "It's gratifying to come back to that playful experience."

She teaches watercolor to young students and adults at select times at Mainframe Studios. She enjoys all ages, but says it's fun to see kids create.

"So many adults get frustrated. Kids are uninhibited."

Teaching college students is a fulfilling part of her career.

"It's gratifying for me to be on the flipside and to see others experience that a-ha moment and see their progress," she reflects.

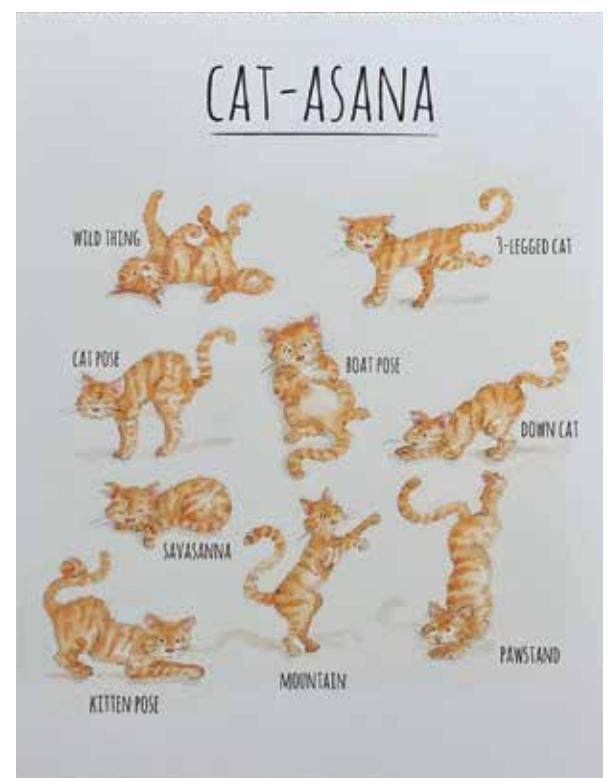
She encourages her college design students to dream big. She recounts how she took the plunge from a stint in the corporate design world to becoming a freelance illustrator and designer.

"I always wanted to do something with art. I quit my corporate job because it was unfulfilling. It wasn't a consideration for me whether I got paid or not. I was fortunate when I made a leap when I did," she says.

In the classroom, she tells students that the world of art and design is wide.

"It's widening. Don't hold back because you think you're not talented enough. There's always space to do more — to do art. Des Moines has a thriving art culture, and I'm here to support that," she says.

She enjoys the summers off from teaching so she can work on her personal art and commissioned pieces. She's



Sedovic illustrated these cat yoga poses for a class.

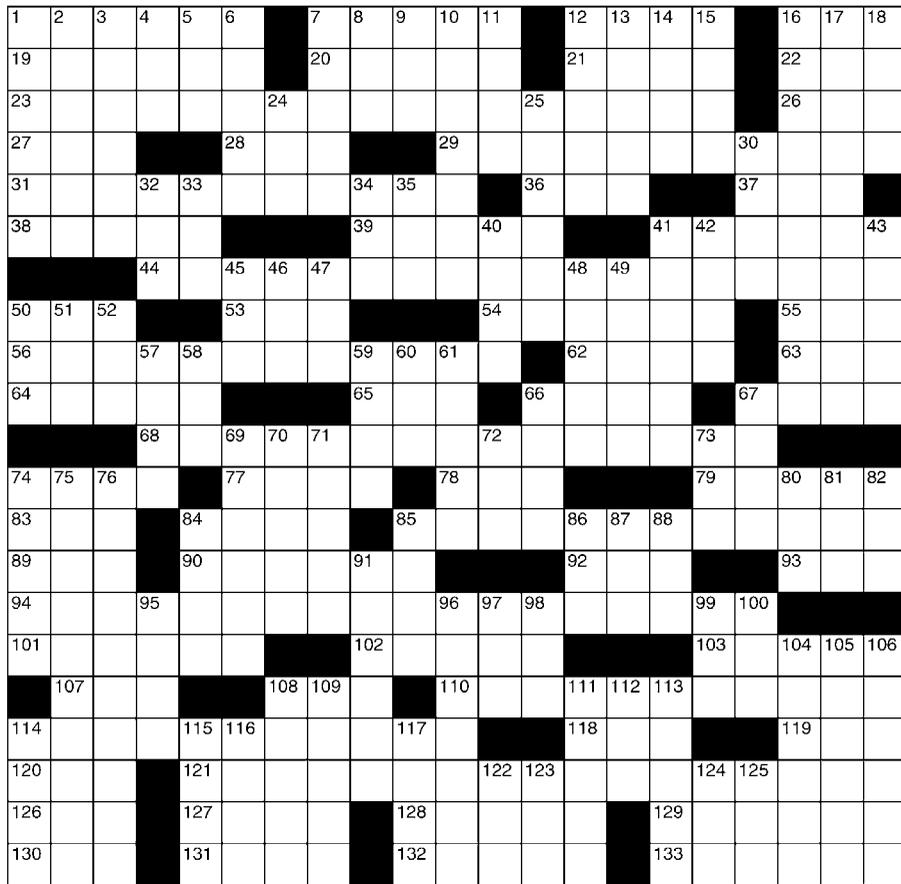
in the process of illustrating another children's book.

"There's an ebb and flow to children's book design. It's gratifying when someone connects with a piece of my art. I feel lucky I get to come and make art. That's what I love most. I appreciate the connection to the community," she says. ■

# PUZZLES

Find answers at [www.dmcityview.com/the-games](http://www.dmcityview.com/the-games)

## EASY-PEASY



- ACROSS**
- 1 Conceptual framework
  - 7 Nickname of jazz pianist Earl Hines
  - 12 Cat feature
  - 16 Mailbox item: Abbr.
  - 19 Cajoles
  - 20 Backcountry
  - 21 Actor Alan
  - 22 Before
  - 23 Saving a Hilton from being demolished?
  - 26 Rove (about)
  - 27 Eisenhower, informally
  - 28 Dawn deity
  - 29 Country that's the setting of a story told by Jesus?
  - 31 Confusion when a golfer can't find the club for the green?
  - 36 2000-15 CBS show
  - 37 Two racing Unsters
  - 38 Strike -- (do some modeling)
  - 39 Admission of defeat
  - 41 "The way things now stand ..."
  - 44 Road named for a head of state?
  - 50 Intent
  - 53 Golf average
  - 54 Mental sharpness
  - 55 Santa -- winds
  - 56 One who's bad at playing practical jokes?
  - 62 Richard of "The Jackal"
  - 63 Former AT&T rival
  - 64 Creepy
  - 65 Tax audit org.
  - 66 Hunchback creator Victor
  - 67 Belgian river
  - 68 Favorite crucifix style?
  - 74 "I see!," facetiously
  - 77 Match units
  - 78 Cruise of "Top Gun"
  - 79 Actress Bette
  - 83 No, in file
  - 84 DVR choice
  - 85 Evangelizing in remote areas?
  - 89 Fast internet svc.
  - 90 Final words from a bully
  - 92 Tirana's nation: Abbr.
  - 93 Picnic pest
  - 94 Subatomic matter that may or may not exist?
  - 101 "Penn & Teller: --" (TV series)
  - 102 Maui "hello"
  - 103 Hunter constellation
  - 107 Three in "minimum"
  - 108 Big tea vessel
  - 110 Aviator who was really courageous?
  - 114 Little squeeze from a fuddy-duddy?
  - 118 Grain variety
  - 119 NASA's Eagle, e.g.
  - 120 Suffix with resin or riot
  - 121 Forehead border you had before you started going bald?
  - 126 -- kwon do
  - 127 Coal source
  - 128 Door reply to "Who's there?"
  - 129 Most current
  - 130 Antiquated
  - 131 Fax, e.g.
  - 132 "The battle --!"
  - 133 Provides, as with power
  - DOWN**
  - 1 Italian tenor Tito
  - 2 Devise, as a plan
  - 3 Would really rather not
  - 4 Application filename extension
  - 5 Actor Gibson
  - 6 According to
  - 7 Not stale
  - 8 Vienna's nation: Abbr.
  - 9 Two after uno
  - 10 Persists in discussing
  - 11 Thomas -- Edison
  - 12 British bye-byes
  - 13 Perp's excuse
  - 14 Revered one
  - 15 Narrow road
  - 16 Groups of trial lawyers
  - 17 Fleeting quality
  - 18 Comic Foxx
  - 24 Mythical bird
  - 25 Bitterly cold
  - 30 Jungle den
  - 32 Recipe qty.
  - 33 Always
  - 34 Assistance
  - 35 Bullring holler
  - 40 Sky light
  - 41 40-Down studier's sci.
  - 42 Eyelid melody
  - 43 One of a flight of steps
  - 45 MPG monitor
  - 46 USA's Uncle
  - 47 A Gershwin
  - 48 Be an omen of
  - 49 Feudal vassal
  - 50 Big galoot
  - 51 Outrage
  - 52 Impair
  - 57 Frank Sacks' "-- the Unicorn"
  - 58 Plunk lead-in
  - 59 Helpful hints
  - 60 Get it wrong
  - 61 "-- Be My Girl" (top 5 tune for the O'Jays)
  - 66 Source of CBD oil
  - 67 "Right on!"
  - 69 Ancient Egyptian god
  - 70 Dwarfs' count
  - 71 Vodka brand, familiarly
  - 72 In support of
  - 73 Govt. health agcy.
  - 74 "-- you act now ..." (infomercial segue)
  - 75 Is unrivaled
  - 76 Hardly ever employed
  - 80 By way of
  - 81 Hostel
  - 82 Mil. officer
  - 84 Bean curd
  - 85 Touch
  - 86 Traitor
  - 87 Yale alum
  - 88 "The Good Doctor" aier
  - 91 Virgin Mary's mother: Abbr.
  - 95 Actress Lanchester
  - 96 Many #1 songs
  - 97 Calder Cup rink org.
  - 98 Writer Santha Rama --
  - 99 Email giggle
  - 100 Verdi's "-- tu"
  - 104 Instead (of)
  - 105 Danish port
  - 106 Big Apple MLB squad
  - 108 Coll. in Philly
  - 109 Made grain-sized
  - 111 Skater Sasha
  - 112 Python in "The Jungle Book"
  - 113 Scrabble 4-pointer
  - 114 Hernando de --
  - 115 Engine stats
  - 116 A Great Lake
  - 117 Roman 402
  - 122 Sydney's state: Abbr.
  - 123 Non- -- food
  - 124 Sprinted
  - 125 "Inc." relative

### 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!

Look

RUPEES

Grow

SPROUT

Trap

RENCOR

Think

NEEDS

**TODAY'S WORD**

"Now I know why Mom says that raising a \_\_\_\_\_ child is easy."

### SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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.

	-		x		5
÷		÷		-	
	+		÷		3
-		+		x	
	-		x		6
2		5		4	

1 2 3 4 5 7 8 8 9

**DIFFICULTY: ★★**

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult  
★★★ GO FIGURE!

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# WHAT THE...

## Think you're funny?

Send us your best caption...

Email to [celeste@dmcityview.com](mailto:celeste@dmcityview.com) — **BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR NAME**

Next month's photo:



PHOTO COURTESY OF GRATISOGRAPHY

## This month's winner

"Note to oneself... lock aluminum foil drawer during naptime."

— Mary Wedewer



## Runners-up

"Chuck's desire of being noticed was foiled again." — Brian Kreps

"During the holidays, hanging out with the food could get you wrapped as a leftover!" — Ronda Bennett

"Alas, all Donald's plans...foiled again!" — Debra Lane

"Roger thought the aluminum foil hat wasn't adequate." — John Frank

"Mark was taking no chances on having his brain waves scrambled by aliens or the government." — Jim McCool

Send your "What The...?" caption and image entries to [celeste@dmcityview.com](mailto:celeste@dmcityview.com).  
**BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR NAME.**

# Jingle in the Junction



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5pm - 9pm

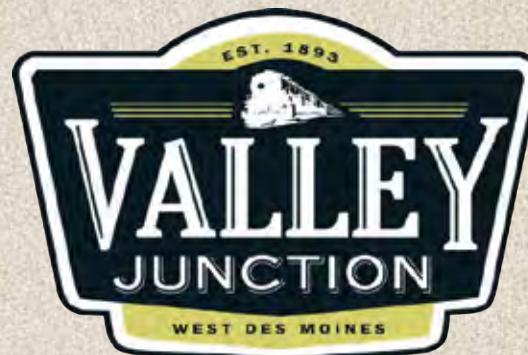
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# JOE'S NEIGHBORHOOD

BY JOE WEEG

## Indomitable spirit

Rich Krumme had that kind of spirit tattooed on his soul.

Rich Krumme died the other day. Most of you don't know him. He farmed outside of Des Moines, near the small town of St. Marys, far from stoplights and Starbucks. His farm was just off a curving gravel road, on the other side of a pond, up on a small rise. Livestock and hay were all I ever saw him work. Whenever I showed up, he could be found standing near his barn, silver hair trimmed and combed, collared shirt tucked into jeans, and his eyes bright behind the frames of his glasses. A handsome man for sure, but any such observation would merit no consideration from him and perhaps a mild distrust. A good man? Now that is something to talk about.

Oh, yeah, he was also the long-time editor-in-chief of Successful Farming magazine... and there was that sixth degree blackbelt in tae kwon do, too.

"Kihap," Rich yelled as he smashed his bloodied knuckles down toward the three stacked bricks. This

was not his first attempt at breaking through the blocks, and there are few things worse than bringing all your power and energy up through your feet, then whipsawing that power from your hips and waist, and finally spiraling that tornado down your arm and out your first two knuckles with a resounding... thud? And the failed attempt sends all that power back up your arm and straight to your brain that starts gonging like a church bell on Sunday morning. Ouch! Your first recognizable thought is that you won't be doing that again. Ever.

But Rich does it again. Of course. His bloody knuckles smash through the three blocks. Then, with no dance of joy and barely a smile, he looks at me and says: "I think I'm ready."

One of the tenets of tae kwon do is that a person should strive for an indomitable spirit. Indomitable spirit sounds like something a comic character

possesses along with X-ray vision or the ability to leap high buildings. General Choi Hong Hi, in his book "Taikwon-do," describes indomitable spirit as "shown when a courageous person and his principles are pitted against overwhelming odds." Hmm. I don't know if that is helpful. How about a more Brené Brown type of approach? Like, a person has indomitable spirit when he or she is willing to accept a difficult challenge, persevere when it is darn hard, risk people's negative opinion, gamble on love. Rich Krumme had that kind of indomitable spirit tattooed on his soul.

I didn't know this about Rich, until I did.

Rich and I were practicing tae kwon do back in the late 1980s. We were sparring — fighting without hurting each other, not counting the bruises. Suddenly, Rich said he didn't feel so hot.

"Really?" I said.

"I think I might be having a heart attack."



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I didn't quite believe it. We headed out to my car. Rich was in more pain. I drove him to the hospital. Rich's only words to me: "Could you drive a little faster?"

Yup, a massive heart attack.

The next day, I was with Rich at the hospital.

"The doctors say I have, at most, 10 years to live," Rich told me as if explaining that he had to pick up some milk at Hy-Vee. Rich's own father had died very young of a heart attack. What does a hospital visitor say to the news of mortality? "Bummer"?

Hah. The doctors didn't know Rich. Rich immediately signed up for the Dean Ornish program, followed the diet, the exercises, the meditation, the spiritual component... and, voila, this man showed that his indomitable spirit was still intact. He was ferocious in the face of death.

But that was nothing.

A son needed help. So Rich and his wife, Marge, helped. They signed on to raise a grandchild — with all that entails. Parents again. And not so young. But I never heard Rich mention anything but love. Listen, Rich loved all his grandchildren (and great-grandchildren). And he and Marge devoted the rest of their lives to them. And when Marge died in 2015, Rich continued to carry the water through good times and bad.

Rich told me this summer that he was having difficulty with his breathing. But what he wanted to talk about was his kids. Of course he did. What did I think? What about this? What was best? In other words, he worried about those he loved and wanted to make their lives better. And then Rich said, "How are you, Joe?"

And now, Rich has died. More than 30 years after our drive to the hospital, and 20 years after the doc's prediction. There is no longer a handsome, silver-haired man waiting at the end of the curving gravel road, on the other side of the pond, up on a small rise. But I like to think that his indomitable spirit is still here, in the air, free to anyone who wants to reach out and grab a handful.

May Rich rest in peace. ■

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



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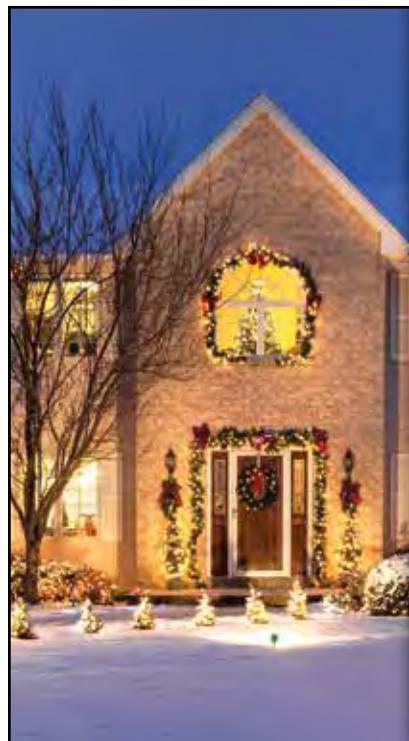
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# BOOK REVIEWS

COURTESY OF BEAVERDALE BOOKS

## 'Drawn to Birds: A Naturalist's Sketchbook'

I'm a fan of pretty books. Yes, the story is the draw, but give me a book with gorgeous pictures and passionate writing, and I will come back to it again and again — even if the topic is outside my usual, like birds. I never thought I'd be drawn to a book on birds. I'm a spaceship kind of girl, but I was utterly fascinated with this stunning and unique overview of the everyday kind of nature.

Rich with details and insights into the avian world, this art book contains far more than beautiful, detailed watercolors. Notes on how to interact and observe wildlife, the value of understanding the world around you, and the extraordinary variety of avian life fill the pages alongside the skilled art that is sure to captivate the reader.

This would be an excellent gift for anyone, young or old, with an interest in birds or wildlife. It even includes a journal section to record your own observations. Come for the art and stay for the infectious joy littered throughout the pages. ■

— Review by Julie Goodrich



By Jenny deFouw Geuder  
6/14/22  
144 pages  
\$29.95  
Adventure Publications

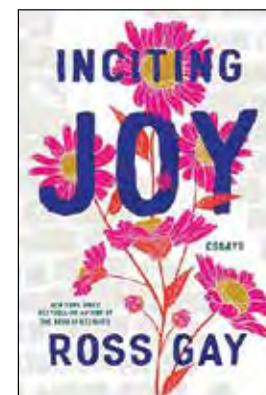
## 'Inciting Joy'

If there's someone on your gift list in need of a pick-me-up, oh do I have the book for you. Ross Gay's gorgeous poetry has become a beacon of hope in a gray world, and it shouldn't be a surprise that his foray into essay writing meets with equal success.

Filled with timely, effusive stories that call to the human in all of us, Gay takes the simple, universal connections we experience and has written the book we all need. After years of anger, depression and isolation, some of us need a breather. Writing about both the joyful and the bitter, Gay takes small stories and makes them profound, encouraging the reader to not just find the joy but create it.

I love that this book encourages finding joy not in ourselves, but in each other. It's both that simple and that complicated. It will make an excellent gift, yes, but read it yourself first. We can all use a little joy. ■

— Review by Julie Goodrich



By Ross Gay  
6/14/22  
256 pages  
\$27  
Algonquin Books

## Syphilis is on the rise in Iowa.

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted infection. It is **more common** and **easier to get** than you might think. Early symptoms can include a painless sore or rash, which you may not notice.

Syphilis is **curable** but can lead to **serious health problems** without treatment. It can permanently damage the eyes, brain, heart, and nervous system.

If you are sexually active, make sure that getting a blood test for syphilis is part of your regular health routine.



Find a testing location near you: [gettested.cdc.gov](https://gettested.cdc.gov)  
Free & low cost options available.

Learn more about syphilis at [ashsexualhealth.org/syphilis](https://ashsexualhealth.org/syphilis).

Public Health  
IOWA HHS

# AROUND TOWN

CITYVIEW magazine hosted its annual event honoring local business leaders who have made a difference. Jolene Goodman presented the awards.



John Forbes, Pharmacy Manager, Medicap Pharmacy in Urbandale



Jay W. Brewer, Past President, Grimes Volunteer Support Services



Shirley McAdon, Adel City Councilmember



Lu Anne Gafford, Underwriting Director, Life 107.1



Val Veiock, Owner, Bing's



Tom Boesen, President and Owner, Boesen the Florist

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Tiffany Luing, Economic Development Coordinator, City of Bondurant



Brenda Easter, President and CEO, Indianola Chamber of Commerce



Brian Buehe, President and CEO, Grimes Chamber & Economic Development

## Seasonal stage offerings abound

The Des Moines Community Playhouse has established a magical tradition each holiday season.

Take a break from shopping, work and school and let others entertain you for an evening or afternoon. Regional theatre companies are delivering gifts of memory-making live theatre: Des Moines Playhouse/ Kate Goldman Children's Theatre ("Cinderella"), Iowa Stage Theatre Company ("A Christmas Carol"), Tallgrass Theatre Company ("A Very Merry Tallgrass Holiday"), Ankeny Community Theatre ("She Loves Me").

The Des Moines Community Playhouse has established a magical tradition each holiday season by presenting a family musical, and this year brings Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella" to vibrant life. First experienced by many of today's grandparents in the 1950 Disney animated classic by the same name, it is the only musical by this dynamic musical theatre team specifically written for television in 1957. Audiences delighted in this full color version, starring new Broadway sensation Julie Andrews (as Eliza Doolittle in "My Fair Lady") in the title role. This stage musical is filled with unforgettable songs like "In My Own Little Corner," "Impossible/ It's Possible," and "Ten Minutes Ago." The first known written occurrence of the Cinderella tale happened in 1634 when Giambattista Basile wrote a quintet of stories in the Pentamerone. This collection included other classic stories: "Rapunzel," "Puss in Boots," "Sleeping Beauty"

and "Hansel and Gretel."

In a new tradition for Greater Des Moines is its professional company, Iowa Stage Theatre Company, as it presents a marvelous adaptation of "A Christmas Carol." This version, created three decades ago in Houston at the Alley Theatre, has a local connection. Award-winning designer Jay Michael Jagim was its original designer, as well as co-writing its script. He masterfully conceived how to adapt this innovative telling of Charles Dickens' classic tale into the Stoner Theater space. This production brings fresh perspectives and insights into this beloved tale of yuletide redemption.

Just like a chocolate-filled advent calendar, Tallgrass Theatre Company's "A Very Merry Tallgrass Holiday" holds a delightful assortment of nostalgic holiday memories — and, some with a twist. This family show will cover the gamut in triggering each person's own seasonal reminiscences, bringing laughter and even a few warm tears. Thanks to a treasure trove of plays for kids from Drama Notebook, this promises a most tantalizing assortment of festive performances, pulling from familiar and new stories that include " 'Twas the Night Before Christmas," "Trees of Thrope," "Scrooge's Christmas Eve," "For You or For Me," "Fruitcake the Gift that Keeps Giving," "The Elf Locker Room" and "Santa Letters." This show has a limited run, so get your tickets early.

With the charm of a Hallmark movie, "She Loves Me" takes to the Ankeny Community Theatre stage. This musical (book by Joe Masteroff, music by Jerry Bock, and lyrics by Sheldon Harnick) reveals the competition between perfume shop clerks Amalia and Georg. Bock and Harnick's most famous musical was "Fiddler on the Roof." The story is about two people who don't see eye to eye. They both respond to a "lonely hearts advertisement" and now live for the love letters that they exchange. But the identity of their admirers remains unknown. Think "You've Got Mail" put to tuneful music.

### Traditional rite of passage "Nutcracker" takes to stages in central Iowa

"The Nutcracker" is scored with some of the most recognizable music ever created. As soon as any of the musical passages are heard, the listener is hard-pressed to keep visions of sugar plums from dancing in their



Scene from Iowa Stage Theatre Company's award-winning "A Christmas Carol." Photo courtesy of Iowa Stage Theatre Company

memories. For many, "The Nutcracker" was their first live performance experience. This tradition continues now, and, for any family with young ones who have not experienced this ballet, now is the time to book your tickets. Greater Des Moines has options from which to select.

To fully appreciate this timeless tale, harken back to 1892 when a two-act ballet, known as the "fairy ballet," was performed in Russia. From a libretto adapted from E.T.A. Hoffmann's 1816 short story, "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King," Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky wrote the score that has become part of the international fabric of ballet and classical music. The first full United States performance didn't happen until Dec. 24, 1944, by the San Francisco Ballet.

Ballet Des Moines brings this classic experience to vibrant life at Hoyt Sherman Place Theatre. Its elegant setting makes this a memory-making way to introduce neophytes to the beauty and energy of this "movement language" artform, as the company's Artistic Director, Tom Mattingly, likes to refer to ballet. Another production happens in Ames at C.Y. Stephens under the guidance of the Robert Thomas Dancenter, which includes some 200 local children in that version. ■

*John Busbee is a creative project developer, critic, playwright, author, producer and media professional. He has produced his weekly show, The Culture Buzz, on KFMG since 2007.*



### OVERHEARD IN THE LOBBY

#### Tallgrass Theatre Company

Dec. 2-3. "The A Sisters & Friends, A 1940s Holiday Cabaret"

#### Ankeny Community Theatre

Dec. 2-11. "She Loves Me"

#### Des Moines Community Playhouse

Dec. 2-18. Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella"

#### Ballet Des Moines

Dec. 8-11. "The Nutcracker." Hoyt Sherman Place Theatre

#### Iowa Stage Theatre Company

Dec. 9-18. "A Christmas Carol"

#### Kate Goldman Children's Theatre/Des Moines Community Playhouse

Dec. 9. "Hansel and Gretel" interactive children's show

#### Robert Thomas Dancenter

Dec. 11-12. "The Nutcracker." C.Y. Stephens Auditorium

#### Tallgrass Theatre Company

Dec. 16-18. "A Very Merry Tallgrass Holiday"

#### Pura Social Club

Dec. 17. "A Merry Little Holiday Show"

#### Des Moines Performing Arts

Dec. 22. "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer"

# DES MOINES FORGOTTEN

BY KRISTIAN DAY

## The PS Lounge and The Blue Goose

Sounds almost romantic.

I love the history of gay bars. One of my favorite films is “Cruising,” directed by William Friedkin, based on the book by Gerald Walker. Seedy gay bars in the New York City Underground blasted funk, disco and punk rock until the early hours in the morning. The uniform was Wranglers or Levis topped with leather or flannel. Blue-collar dudes worked hard during the day and then headed out on their motorcycles into the night. Sounds almost romantic.

Des Moines isn't New York City or San Francisco. So, when it comes to our city's gay bar history, we often hear only about Blazing Saddles, and rightfully so. The Saddle is a beautiful place with a story that couldn't be 100% told before tomorrow's sunrise. It opened in 1983 and spent the next four decades becoming the legend that it is today. But there were others before it.

Two bars that not many will remember were The PS Lounge (Peggy's and Shirley's), located on Second Avenue, where the fountain for the World Food Prize building is located; and The Blue Goose, which was originally on Court Avenue before it moved to Third Street. This is going back to the 1960s and 1970s (maybe even the 1950s?). Others have come and gone over the years, and, to be honest, nothing has been well documented. My barber, Rick Adkisson, told me in the chair last week that he drove a cab in 1972 and would take people down to The Blue Goose.

“The logo on the place had a goose in a tuxedo with his hand facing straight out,” he said. “It was classic.”

While doing some Internet sleuthing, I found this great message board discussion on the Des Moines Development Forum:

Hawk61401 wrote on June 4, 2008:

“The PS Lounge was in a building which is now the west parking lot in front of the old library. It had a pool table, dance floor, and it was the place for the young hip crowd. I started going there when I was in my mid-teens. I looked older because I was a big ol' football player and good Catholic boy from Dowling. The Blue Goose was directly west across the street from the Federal Building. It had been around since the 1960s. Heck, maybe even the '50s. The Blue Goose attracted the older crowd. Each bar had a jukebox that you fed money to play 45 rpm records. I preferred The Blue Goose because the older guys were more loose with their money. I never had to buy my own beer. And, just in case I did, I had a fake ID made by the best in Des Moines. The jukebox at The Blue Goose had the best selections. If I had enough beer to shake my booty, I dropped a quarter in the jukebox and played ‘Going to a Go-Go’ by Smokey Robinson & the Miracles.”

I fell down a rabbit hole with a now shutdown website on Ames/Iowa State's LGBTQ history. It was created by Dennis Brumm in 2001 and shut down around 2011. Through the Internet Archive, I was able to pull this story about Dennis' first account of discovering disco in the early 1970s:

“I first went to a gay bar during the summer of 1972. I began frequenting them regularly in the winter of 1973; generally, I would travel with a group of friends from



The second Blue Goose owned by Mel Greenway and Marlus Watson. Photo taken in 1983 by JD Larson

Ames to what we knew as ‘the bars’ (or more often ‘the bar’) in Des Moines. The PS Lounge was the bar we usually visited, as it had a younger crowd, a pool table, and a dance floor. Most of the music featured sounds we didn't hear on Iowa AM/FM radio of the day, soul music, not mostly the kind that crossed over to white audiences. It all had a regular good dance beat, which was, of course, why people liked it. Many weekend evenings (Friday and Saturday, for bars in Iowa were closed on Sunday) right before the drinking establishments across the state of Iowa closed at 2 a.m., the staff at the PS would announce an ‘after hours’ party, giving the patrons an address and suggesting they bring beer or whatever to the soirée. Lots of people who had been at the bar then flocked to those parties where dancing and socializing continued into the wee hours of the morning, essentially extending the bar into a private setting.”

There has been a lot of conversation from the recent shooting at Club Q in Colorado Springs. Things haven't always been friendly within our own community, but there has thankfully been nothing as tragic as what has happened there. This is why I see hope in Des Moines and in Iowa. Our community is our family, our neighbors, and the people we work with every day. Even when we feel like we are moving backwards as a whole, Iowans eventually show their common sense.

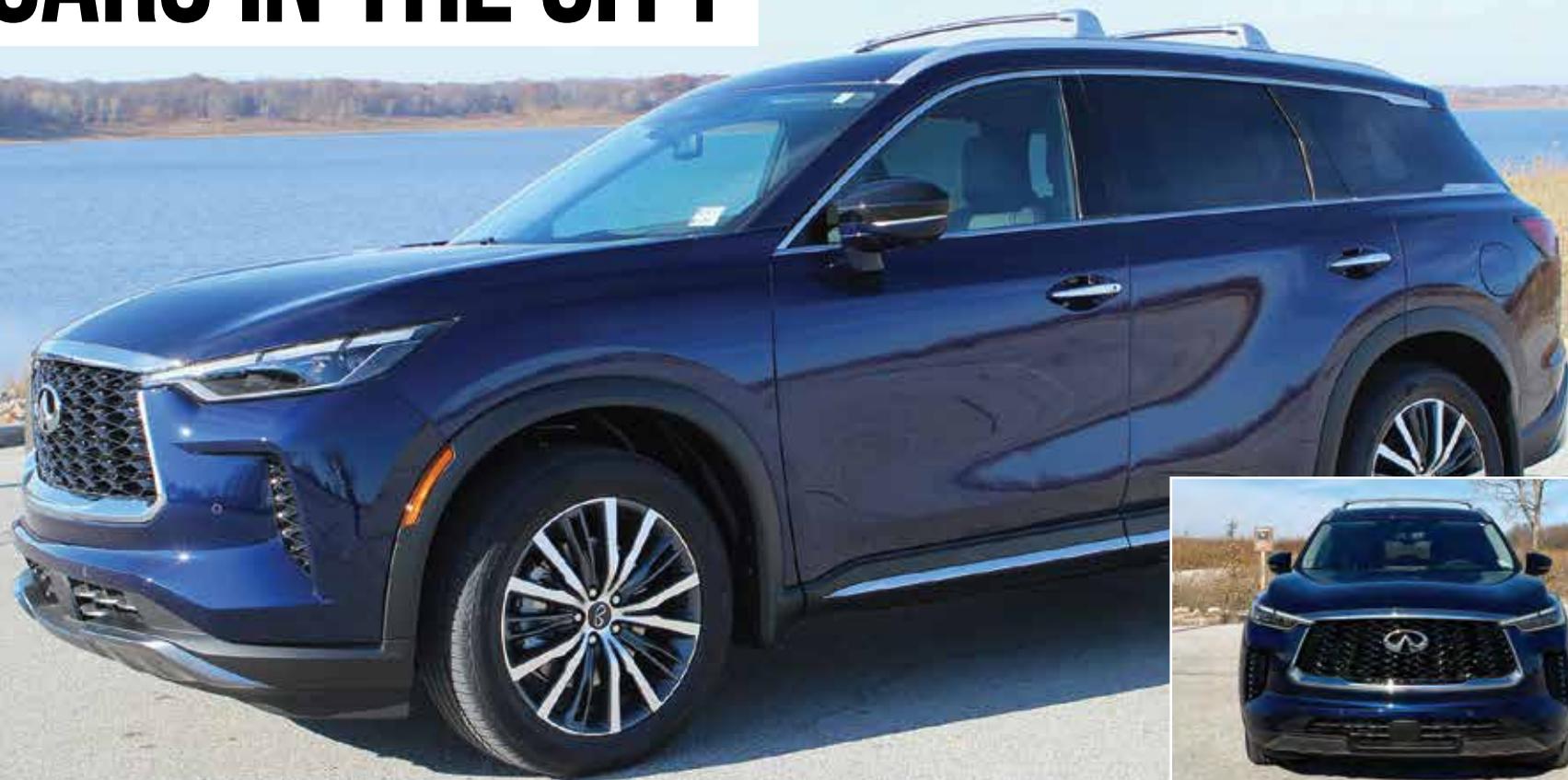
Decades ago and today, all we ask is to live our lives peacefully and without judgement. ■

*Kristian Day is a filmmaker and writer based in Des Moines. He also hosts the syndicated Iowa Basement Tapes radio program on 98.9 FM KFMG. Instagram: @kristianday Twitter: @kristianmday*



# CARS IN THE CITY

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



## To Infiniti... and beyond

Passengers are king in Infiniti QX60.

BY JACKIE WILSON

“To infinity... and beyond” is a quote from Buzz Lightyear in “Toy Story.” This article may as well read, “To the Infiniti dealership... and go beyond ordinary.” Because that’s what the carmaker strives to do — stand out among luxury brands.

The 2023 Infiniti QX60 is redesigned. After a pandemic and a chip delay, the 2023 models of Infinities have ramped up on the lots. The mid-level SUV crossover price tag is a luxury model at \$66,200. This vehicle includes many safety features, which are standard. Unlike decades ago when I first had a car with intermittent wipers and power windows, I thought I got quite the upgrade.

The all-wheel drive Infiniti includes around view monitoring, which senses moving objects within the camera’s view. This helps with parking and backing up — especially good for those with stiff necks who can’t look over their shoulders. Glance at the rearview mirror and it gives you a clear view what’s going on in the back of the vehicle, whether you have passengers or cargo in the back or not. Now you can load up your vehicle with “stuff” — and the stuff of those ever-constant college

kids who are schlepping their belongings between home and dorm.

Passengers are just as important as the driver in this vehicle. With three rows of seating, it’s a roomy ride for normal-sized adults. And with theater-type seating, the height in the backseats is higher. This means they can have a better view in front of them, and not just focus on that one unraveling thread on the back of your buddy’s hat.

With seven USB ports located throughout the vehicle, all passengers can keep devices charged. There are roof-mounted vents in the second and third rows. That solves my common complaint of sitting in the back seat, either freezing in the winter or sweating in the summer because the front passengers get all the comfort. The QX60 does it right.

Another feature I liked on the 12.3-inch display was minor, but helpful. For example, when changing screens to view the map on the display, you press a button. This actually has a click-feel, so you know you depressed the correct screen.

The first time I drove a vehicle with massaging seats,

it was the Volvo XC90 — for the April 2021 Cars in the City column. I was hooked. Every car since then, I’ve fiddled with the buttons at the base of the seat, hoping for a seat massager. When melting into the high-grade Infiniti leather seats, I found the Infiniti’s seat massager. My sister asked, “Isn’t massaging seats too relaxing as you’re driving along?” No. Once Iowa winter sets in, a heated massage hits the lower back on just the right achy spots.

With 295 horsepower, it gets 23 miles per gallon combined city and highway. The motion-activated liftgate is convenient when you have a bag of groceries or your college kid’s stuff. Just kick your foot underneath the back hatch, and it opens hands-free.

Infiniti is a fairly new vehicle brand. Nissan carmakers wanted to offer a luxury brand to compete with the higher-end imports. In 1989, the first Infiniti debuted in Japan as an import. Today’s model reviewed is made in Tennessee.

If you’re looking for a luxury vehicle where passengers are king, consider an Infiniti. ■

## Supporting a cultural icon

Husband-wife duo are longtime volunteers at the Des Moines Playhouse.

Kim and Steve Blakesley have welcomed thousands of guests into the Des Moines Playhouse. They've volunteered for nearly every production for the last 15 years.

It started when Kim's mother, who regularly volunteered with her best friend, invited her daughter to fill in one day. Ever the people-person, Kim knew she'd enjoy interacting with patrons — but then she watched the play. She was hooked.

"I was blown away by the quality of the actual acting and stuff because they're all volunteers," she recalled. "And the amount of effort and time they put into that and just pull off a flawless play — it was incredible."

The next step was to involve her husband, Steve.

"I went home and told him what a great time I had and how wonderful it was, and then he started going, too."

Through the years, the couple has worked in concessions and as ushers, ticket-takers, greeters, and helped with just about every detail possible for show night. Always together.

"You usually don't get one of us without the other," Steve said.

Now, they've settled into their niche slot: preview night, held exclusively for sponsors and donors before opening night. Community support is vital to the Playhouse's operation, as ticket sales cover less than 65% of production costs.

In between volunteer duties, the Blakesleys enjoy being among the first to watch new productions. And with the Playhouse's average of 12 productions annually, Steve and Kim have seen more than 100 shows at the theatre — "Matilda" and "Charlotte's Web" have been some of their favorites.

They've also witnessed many changes over the years, from staff coming and going, to continual repairs and renovations to the Playhouse's near-century-old facility.

During the pandemic, the Blakesleys marveled as the Playhouse quickly adapted by pivoting to outdoor productions. Patrons could set their lawn chairs in front of the stage or watch from their vehicles — drive-in style. It was that sort of innovation that first hooked Kim years ago, she said.

"The staff is great," Kim said. "They're innovative and creative, and they're always open to ideas and suggestions, which is really what you want in leadership and a cultural center like the Playhouse."

Many of those suggestions come from volunteers. When the Playhouse needed a more effective way to organize concessions, Steve and Kim, who works in operational efficiency, suggested a way to better direct the crowd and divert long lines.

Even through its constant evolution — the Playhouse is currently in its 104th season — what really hasn't changed is the theatre's audience.

"The audience is the best," Kim said. "There are people who show up in suits and dresses, and then you have the people who show up in shorts and flip flops. So it's a community theatre, and it's truly come-as-you-are."

Kim's favorite audience members are the Playhouse's youngest patrons.

"Kids who have read the books before they come to the play — sometimes they dress up in their favorite character, and it is so cute. And then sometimes, little girls wear more formal dresses, like it's a big deal for them to go to the play. That's really cool. I love to see that culture ingrained at such an early age."

Despite the ever-increasing prevalence of television, film and online entertainment, the Blakesleys are firm believers in theatre.

"You're participating live in the story and the entertainment, instead of just watching," Steve said. "It's important that our culture doesn't lose that."



Kim and Steve Blakesley have volunteered at the Playhouse for nearly 15 years. Photo courtesy of the Des Moines Playhouse

Still, even as the most enthusiastic of theatre supporters, both Blakesleys laughed at the prospect of being center stage.

"No, I can't memorize anything," Kim admitted. Steve, who did theatre in high school, just smiled and said, "I don't think so."

However, there have been two times when the Blakesleys have stood on the Playhouse stage. In 2018, they were selected as Volunteer of the Year at the Playhouse's annual Dionysos Awards. And at this year's ceremony, they were recognized as the Dick Brown Superior Volunteers of the Year.

Steve said they were surprised when they received the phone call about the second award.

"We just looked at each other," Kim said. "We didn't respond — she was probably on the other end of the phone, thinking, 'Hello? Hello?' But we just couldn't believe it."

With a professional staff of just 13 people, the Playhouse is truly a community effort. About 800 volunteers assist with scenery, props, lights, costumes, backstage crew, stage managing, auditions, guest services and even a photo station.

Next, the Blakesleys are looking forward to volunteering at the Playhouse's Christmas show, Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella" — and seeing how many kids come dressed in powder blue ball gowns.

For those who have never been, Kim encouraged a visit to what she called "a cultural icon, a gem."

"Come see a play and watch how it's all orchestrated." ■

## Brian Connolly and his axolotls

He hopes to breed various types to produce desirable colors, such as a leucistic — an albino with black eyes.



When Brian Connolly was a young boy, his parents raised exotic animals, including a monkey, an ostrich and an emu. So it was only fitting he has axolotls as pets.

So, what is an axolotl? Ask any child who plays “Minecraft.” When “Minecraft” featured an axolotl in 2021, the real pet’s popularity skyrocketed.

An axolotl (pronounced similar to “Camelot”) is an amphibian in the salamander family. However, the gilled axolotl must remain underwater. Certain breeds “glow” when put under a black light. Axolotls can regrow a body part if injured. They’re 8 to 15 inches long, weigh up to a half a pound and can live 10-15 years. Their diet consists of meal worms or salmon.

Connolly became interested in the animal, as his wife worked at a store that sold plush axolotl Squishmallow toys, and she began collecting them. He questioned his wife, why not just get a real one?

When he first obtained axolotls from a breeder, he was unsure of the sex. It takes 18 months to sex them, so he put a few in the same tank together.

Before long, Jaelyn, his female axolotl (named after a Squishmallow) had a clutch of approximately 800 eggs in the tank, resembling mosquito larvae.

Once the eggs were laid, Brian studied their

habitats and survival tips. Axolotls are originally from a lake in Mexico City. With high elevation and low water temperatures, the axolotls thrive. However, due to diminishing environments and habitats ruined by humans, the axolotls are dying out. “The lake is polluted. I want to help produce as many babies as I can. You never know how many eggs survive,” he says.

He’s sold several, kept some eggs and is now raising and selling axolotls. He keeps them in plastic containers and doesn’t control the tank temp with heaters. Instead, he keeps his home at a constant temperature as the water temp needs to be between 59 and 66 degrees. “My wife doesn’t like it that our place is so cold,” he says.

Out of 50 remaining eggs, he hatched 42; with eight “duds.” With different varieties of axolotls, the coloring varies. With this batch, she produced all melanoid including copper melanoids. A golden albino is a rare breed. Some with special genes cost from \$700 to \$1,200; a very rare axolotl can fetch \$6,000.

He hopes to breed various types to produce desirable colors, such as a leucistic — an albino with black eyes.

“There’s a chance that, when you breed, mutations can create crazy patterns. It’s like winning the lottery,” he says.

The axolotls are slippery — not slimy — and he holds them gently when changing water. “If I walk up to the tank, they know I’m here. They develop personalities. They’re very docile. They’ll come up and check me out,” he says.

Yet axolotls do better alone, as opposed to sharing a tank with other fish.

“Fish might think that the axolotls are food or vice versa. They aren’t the smartest creature. Sometimes they’ll nip at each other,” he says. “One had his front foot nipped off, but it started to grow back.”

He’s got a separate “rehab” tank where he keeps injured axolotls that are regenerating or deformed. He’s happy to report that one of the axolotl’s gills grew back.

Connolly is passionate about ensuring the pets are properly cared for.

“They need a certain habitat, and cold water is key. They live a long time compared to other pets,” he says. “I want people to realize what’s involved in caring for an axolotl.”

He spends hours with his axolotls.

“It’s fascinating to grow from nothing into something,” he says. “There’s a satisfaction to help produce these magnificent creatures.” ■

## Roller derbies and cornbabies

Full-contact sport on wheels

When Katie Akin moved to Des Moines in 2019, she didn't know a single soul in town.

Then, in a Starbucks bathroom, she saw a poster advertising a local roller derby. It could be fun, she thought, so why not?

Her first practice came with a steep learning curve.

"I could not skate at all. I'd been to birthday parties — that was the level I was operating at. So I was not a particularly good skater, but I was, like, 'We'll see what happens!' And I ended up just really loving it."

Derby players use quad skates (not rollerblades) and a full set of safety gear including a helmet, wrist guards, elbow pads, knee pads and mouthguard. Two teams of five skaters compete on an oval-shaped track. Each team has a jammer, designated with a star on the helmet, who must try to lap opposing skaters as many times as possible. All other team members are blockers, playing offense and defense at the same time.

"And this is all happening at once," Akin said. "It's very crazy, and it's very chaotic."

It's chaotic in the best way, and a big reason Akin chose to stay in Des Moines. Originally from Maryland, she went to school in Chicago and came to Des Moines for an internship — initially.

"I've been in Des Moines way longer than I thought I would," she said. "But I really liked roller derby, and then I made friends here and I made friends in other space. And, yeah, I just really love it here."

The Des Moines team is skater-coached and consists of 15 or so active members, although Akin said the team is in a "post-COVID growing period" and focusing on recruitment and training.

The team changed its name to Des Moines Roller Derby in 2019. Before that, they were known as Team United Roller Derby — or TURD, for short.

"I know," Akin joked. "They loved it. It was on purpose."

As per tradition, team members are known under often-punny derby names. Some are simple — Akin's is "Skatie." Other names are even more creative: Apocalypse Meow, Kriss of Death, Karly Marx, Tour de Pain, and the list goes on.

Des Moines Roller Derby is just one of hundreds of amateur leagues across the United States. As a flat track team, they can be flexible on practice locations. Some teams practice in skating rinks, others in parking lots. The Des Moines team regularly meets in a gym at Franklin Junior High.

Less prevalent today are banked track roller derbies, where a slope in the track lends to a quicker — and often more violent — sport.

"A lot of people, when they think of roller derby, they think of what it looked like back in the 1960s, where there was a lot of fishnets and punching," Akin said. "It's not like that anymore. It used to be a lot more rough and tumble."

The sport finds its roots during the Great Depression, when Leo Seltzer introduced a multi-day endurance race on skates. In 1938, sportswriter Damon



Katie "Skatie" Akin is the organization's events director. Photo by Yvette Sojka



Des Moines Roller Derby holds weekly practices at Franklin Jr. High. Photo by Sofia Legaspi Dickens

Runyon urged Seltzer to ramp up the violence. The crowds loved it. In the glory days, derby players were some of the highest-paid female athletes of their time.

Roller derby had mostly fizzled out by the 1970s but has recently resurged on the amateur level. While it has mellowed on the theatrics, it continues to maintain its cultural significance as an inclusive sport. Akin's team welcomes adult recruits of all genders and abilities.

As a novice on the team, you'll have the honor of being known as a "cornbaby."

"It's mostly just a joke that got totally out of hand," Akin said with a laugh. The cornbaby mascot she designed is strangely... endearing? See and decide for yourself. Stickers and merch are available via TeePublic.

Cornbabies or not, Akin and her team strive to make roller derby accessible to all members of the community.

"It's really fun, and truly anyone can do it," she said. "You don't have to be a great skater; you don't have to be super badass and tough. We're happy to teach people, and there's a lot you can do and a lot you can learn."



*Des Moines Roller Derby is open to anyone older than age 18. More information is at [desmoinesrollerderby.com](http://desmoinesrollerderby.com). For those younger, Des Moines Derby Brats is open to recruits ages 10-18, with a non-contact junior roller derby for kids ages 3-9. Find their website at [desmoinesderbybrats.com](http://desmoinesderbybrats.com). ■*

# WALKS OF LIFE

COMPILED FROM THE IOWA LIVING MAGAZINES

## Veterans' organizations

While Veterans Day has passed, each day of the year can present an opportunity to celebrate our veterans and to recognize the contributions they have made — and continue to make — to their country and community. While World War I and World War II veterans shaped the veterans' organizations we know today, it is the veterans of subsequent generations who will determine the future of these groups.



**Gregory Allen**  
WEST DES MOINES

Valley Junction's Emerick-Williams Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 8879 celebrated 75 years last year. Gregory Allen took command of the post two years ago.

Allen, who served during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm in the U.S. Army, became involved with the VFW later in life, when the busyness of raising a family and working full-time eased.

The VFW Post 8879 has about 100 registered members. Most are retirement age, Vietnam or Desert Shield veterans. Allen explains why younger veterans may not join the VFW.

"When they get home from deployment, they want to spend time with their families, not those they were deployed with," he says.

Allen says he's concerned about the lack of younger veterans.

"We're starting to get a few younger members, which makes me excited," he says. "If we can get activities that involve families, then we'll grow. I've got a lot of hope for the future."

Allen says he is glad he's become involved with the VFW.

"This is the best thing I've gotten into in a long time. The VFW is a really good comfort to help veterans. I feel good I'm able to help guide people."

Source: *Jordan Creek Living November 2022*; by Jackie Wilson

Read the full story here:



**Dennis Appelhons**  
JOHNSTON

Dennis Appelhons has been a member of the VFW since 1977 and joined Post 9668 in 2016, where he has served as post commander for the last five years.

He explains that local organizations fill in the gaps when it comes to veteran support, because the federal Department of Veterans Affairs cannot do it all.

Post 9668 has helped veterans pay their mortgage or car repairs, provided a down payment on a house for a single mother with three kids, provided transportation and connected them with a VA service officer to arrange medical treatment.

"For the VFW and the Legion, we want to get more involved in community activities and get our names and post information out in front of the public," Appelhons says.

Activities have included holding flag retirement ceremonies, distributing poppies around Memorial Day, placing flags on veterans' graves and hosting food drives.

"If the community is aware of what our groups can do for veterans, we're most likely to hear about those who might need our help," Appelhons says. "It goes both ways — people helping people."

Source: *Johnston Living November 2022*; by Ashley Rullestad

Read the full story here:



**Dean Yordi**  
NORWALK

Dean Yordi enlisted in the Navy in December 1963 and spent most of his service on a ship in the Mediterranean Sea with 1,200 other Marines, ready to enter Vietnam should the troops need them. He eventually ended up in Norwalk as the city's public works director. Since then, he's been active with the local American Legion Post 562.

"This is how I continue to serve my fellow comrades and friends," he says.

Yordi jokes that his involvement keeps him busy and out of trouble. He explains that the American Legion Post 562 in Cumming has 227 active members who do things like honor guards at funerals, color guards in parades and elsewhere, and support other local activities like the high school baseball team. The organization is very big in supporting Boy Scouts.

"We are very active," Yordi says. "It's kind of my family, the Legion."

Ultimately, for Yordi, living as a veteran in the Norwalk community is something he does with pride. He wears his Navy cap when he's out and about and shares that people come up to him often to thank him for his service.

"That's very rewarding," Yordi says. "I'm very proud to be an ex-service person."

Source: *Norwalk Living November 2022*; by Lindsey Giardino

Read the full story here:



**Paul Meyer**  
ANKENY

Paul Meyer served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War and has been a member of the Legion for more than 30 years.

"I have served in various ways through the years," he says. "I was commander at one point and chaplain, secretary, and did the color guard."

The Albaugh-McGovern American Legion Post 42 post was established early in the history of the American Legion, in 1919. It currently has 180 members, with 12-15 active, Meyer estimated. At age 92, he's one of the older members.

"The young veterans are not joining the Legion because they want nothing to do with the military at all," says Meyer. "A few of us old guys are keeping the Legion going. We are working at getting more young people involved."

"It's important that veterans consider joining these organizations just to continue promoting the fact that America is a free country. There are also benefits to membership, like a \$1,000 funeral benefit that goes to your survivors if you're a Legion member. If you don't honor veterans... They're the ones that in many cases gave up their lives to preserve our freedoms, and it's important for a community to remember those who served others around them." ■

Source: *Ankeny Living November 2022*; by Ashley Rullestad

Read the full story here:



# get the **JOB**

Helpful tips for your employment search

## 3 reasons why skills-based education aids in career success

(BPT) The pandemic catalyzed a new way of learning, and an increased need for upskilled employees across a number of industries emerged. As a result, many high school graduates are pursuing nontraditional education pathways, with 73% of high schoolers believing a direct path to a career is critical in considering postsecondary education. And adults, especially those working in more technical fields, are seeking continued education to gain the skills needed to advance their careers. Meanwhile, organizations find skills-based education valuable too, with many organizations reporting that professional certification increases confidence in the reliability, knowledge and competence of its staff.

As students balance career opportunities and the demands of everyday life with learning, they need flexible programming that will give them skills relevant to their current or desired careers. And as they weigh the different education options that exist, non-traditional education options such as DeVry University, that offers skills-based learning, play an important role in empowering workforce readiness amongst all types of learners.

Previously, a traditional four-year higher education track was positioned as the only viable option for students looking to carve out a successful career path. To succeed in today's economy, learners need to absorb future-ready and technical skills through continued education, which may not include a traditional four-year degree. Skills-based learning provides students with the opportunity to

develop a strong academic foundation while providing real-world on-the-job experience.

Here are three reasons why acquired-skill learning is an important driver for career development and helps move the economy forward:

**1. Higher education institutions should provide more flexibility for traditional and nontraditional learners to pursue a desired career path.** In a time when skill is being given the same credence as education in hiring practices, nontraditional learners have an opportunity to advance in their careers due to accessibility, where upward mobility may not have previously existed. Higher education institutions should work to support nontraditional learners by incorporating skills-based learning models that are adaptable based on industry and employer needs. Acquired-skill learning pathways empower students to refine and commoditize their skillset in parallel.

**2. Apprenticeships represent one form of skills-based learning that encourages students to further their education without having to pursue a four-year degree.** These programs provide hands-on learning experience that education institutions can integrate into their academic framework to satisfy a student's desire to learn while becoming proficient at a specific trade or skill in tandem. An example of this is DeVry's partnership with CompTIA which brings tech and IT apprenticeship opportunities to students from diverse backgrounds, while helping organizations recruit new talent to fill their staffing needs.

**3. Skills-based learning increases employer and employee confidence in industries of high importance.**

Acquired-skill learning opportunities are being offered across a variety of industries to satisfy a need to fulfill critical job roles in an increasingly technology-forward society. Industries such as engineering, cybersecurity and tech require employee skills to be as up-to-date as possible. Hands-on learning models provide learners with the training and abilities they need to be proficient in their respective industries.

"It's paramount for higher education institutions to continue creating shorter, agile forms of education, and work closely with partners such as CompTIA, to provide hands-on learning experience while preparing learners to thrive in careers shaped by continuous technological change," said Elise Awwad, DeVry University's chief operating officer.

Skills-based programs comprise a vital part of the U.S. workforce and are a key contributor to the economy. Competency-based programming provides students with highly flexible alternative education pathways, making them accessible to all types of learners. An increased awareness and recognition of these career pathways also allows companies to hire from a diverse pool of talent, sparking innovation and creativity in the workforce. As skills-based education gains momentum, students of all kinds have the ability to chart a path towards professional success that's tailored to meet their academic needs. ■

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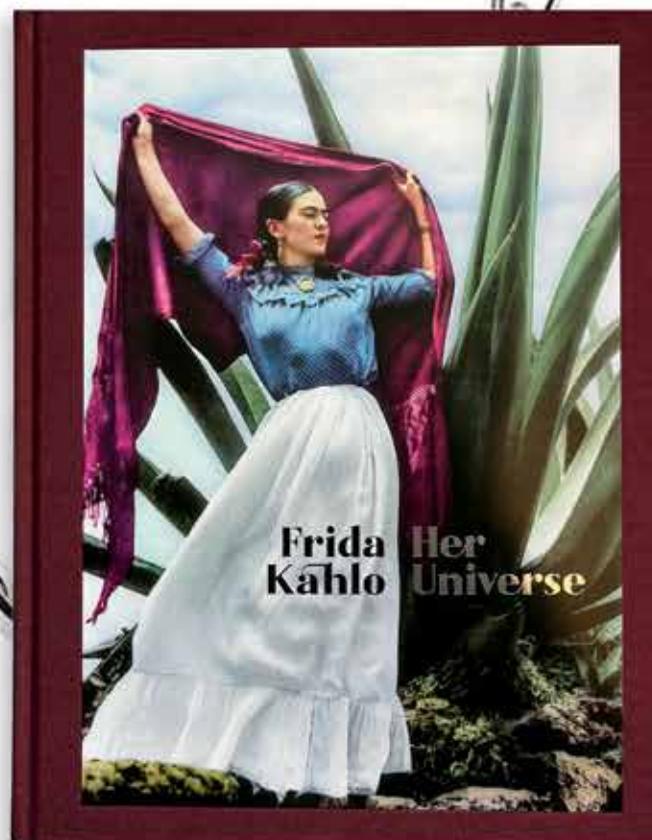
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