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APRIL 2021

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**Ends at puck drop

APRIL 2021

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

MAY 2021

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



HOME



AWAY

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ASK CITYVIEW

By CITYVIEW staff

COVID-19 business casualties?

Local hotspots that called it quits
during the past 12 months

Ask CITYVIEW anything by emailing editor@dmccityview.com.

Q.
A.

COVID-19 has hurt many local businesses, but which local operations have closed in the past year?

COVID-19 business casualties? It's not feasible to pinpoint the reason a business has shut down, but we asked around and compiled the following list of the businesses that have closed (or who have said they will close soon) since last March. This list is not meant to be comprehensive, but the following enterprises have closed, according to the people we informally polled....

The day the music died?... Vaudeville Mews, 212 Fourth St., Des Moines

'Cause every girl crazy 'bout a sharp-dressed man... Badowers men's clothing store on Ingersoll announced it will close after 70 years of service. In a note to online visitors, the parent company, Midwest Clothiers, stated its intention "to sharpen its focus on its flagship store," Mr Bs in Beaverdale and The Backroom.

Gone the way of Betamax... Video Warehouse, 5801 Franklin Ave., Des Moines, has closed its doors. Ditto for several Family Video stores, the chain has or will close locations in Urbandale, Boone, Indianola, Des Moines and West Des Moines.

SHHH! Down in front... Flix Brewhouse in Merle Hay Mall is temporarily closed. The same goes for Fleur Cinema and Cafe. "We are evaluating the situation on an ongoing basis," says the Fleur Cinema and Cafe website. ...

Ankeny restaurants/eateries that have closed include... Pig & Pedal, 710 S.W. Third St. ... The Fletcher Kitchen + Bar, 1802 N. Ankeny Blvd.

Clive restaurants/eateries that have closed include... Trostel's Dish, 12851 University Ave., Suite 400 ... Granite City, 12801 University Ave.

Des Moines restaurants/eateries that have closed include... Bonanza Steakhouse, located on N.E. 14th Street just north of Interstate 80/35 ... The Continental, downtown East Village, closed but could reopen in a new location ... Teddy Maroon's, 2301 Ingersoll Ave., is now known as Whiskey River Ingersoll ... BAH Brazilian Steakhouse, 2301 Ingersoll Ave. Suite 500, Des Moines ... SKØL, 401 S.E. Fifth St., Des Moines ... the downtown East Village building that housed Blu Thai has been demolished, but the eatery could find a new location ... Saints Pub & Patio in Beaverdale.

West Des Moines restaurants/eateries that have closed include... Vino209 Wine Bar & Bistro, 209 Fifth St., West Des Moines ... Jimmy's Egg, 9250 S.E. University Ave., West Des Moines ... The Chicken Coop Sports Bar and Grill in West Des Moines.

NOTE: Spaghetti Works in Des Moines is NOT closing, according to a social media posted by the long-time downtown pasta place. The post was necessary due to a recent media report that used a picture of Spaghetti Works while listing other now-closed restaurants. ■



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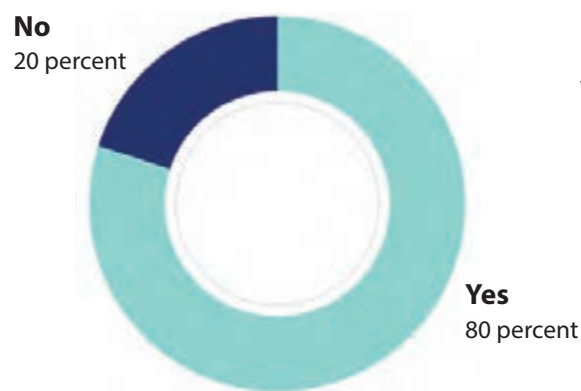
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YOUR VIEW

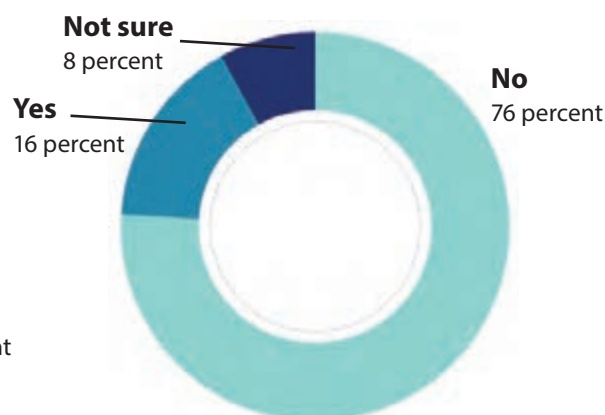
POLL POSITION

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

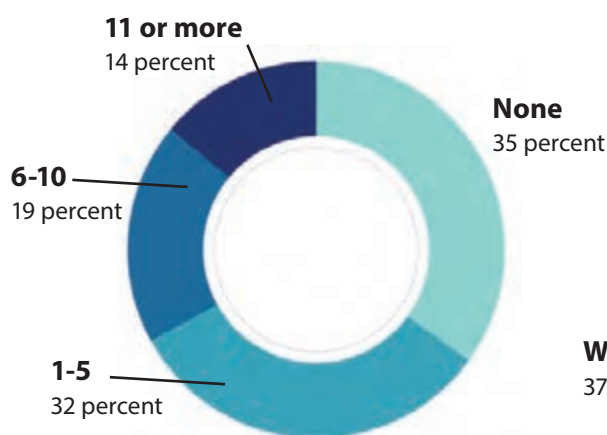
Were you spanked as a child?



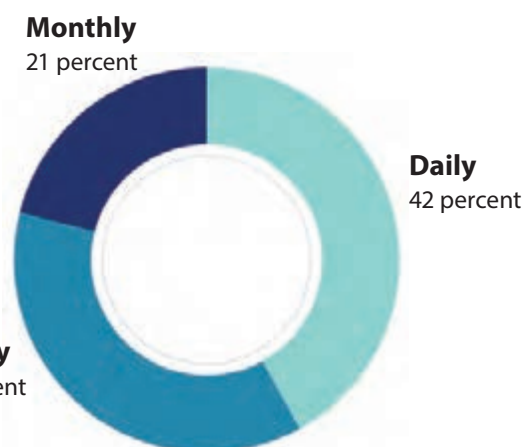
Should apes receive COVID-19 vaccinations before humans?



How many video conferencing calls are you on per week?



How often do you use the bathtub?



facebook cityview magazine
(comments unedited)

CITYVIEW: What do you miss the most from pre-COVID-19 days?

Maria Angelica Gonzales: Not much. I'm a nurse used to wearing a mask. Home is my happy place, I don't have to be going somewhere all the time.

Michele Hukill Combs: My parents. And concerts. And vacations.

Michael Refky: Concerts. Operas. Festivals and fairs. Vacations.

Claire Marsh: Hugging people, live music, drunken comradery.

Joel Bader: Social dancing-swing, salsa, tango, ballroom!

Lemon Smith: Theater, comedy, concerts, vacations, festival, farmers market, visiting, group activities, classes...

Suzy Moffitt: Raw dogging the air

Peter Spaulding: Coughing in people's faces.

David Ewart: Live music

Matt Herrin: Freedom to go and do whatever I want.

Lisa Mae DeWaard: Live theater

Crystal Pyle: Everything

Marie Bynum Hickie: Baseball games

Abandoned Iowa: H1N1.

CITYVIEW: What's next for Tiger Woods' career?

Kenneth R. Davis: I can't give a funny answer for this one. Very sad.

Matt Herrin: He'll be back. Modern medicine is amazing.

Jill Klinkefus Clapper: Retirement, speaking engagements

Christian Ucles: A road to recovery and then he can destroy at the Senior PGA.

S Lynn Felt: Product endorsement.

Gina Telk: Wheelchair advertising

CITYVIEW: In terms of money, how much of it makes someone "rich"?

Adam J. Moraine: ANYONE making \$40,000+ a year. Especially, two income households. Who could not live off of \$80,000 a year?

Stephanie Gonzales: \$328,000

Richard Stockstad: A net worth exceeding \$2.5 million and available cash of \$1 million.

Cheryl Fogle: More than me

Jeffrey Guynn: Is it really money that makes you rich?

Robin Jacobson: Making \$60K a year right out of college.

CITYVIEW: How do you like your popcorn?

Amanda Sedars: Stovetop with white truffle oil, black pepper and salt. Also burnt.

Kathy Kozuch Daub: Stovetop! My dad made the BEST homemade popcorn ever! He wouldn't use oil, he used shortening! Then lots of butter and salt! Yummy!

Patricia Davis: Air-popped with a touch of butter.

C Dub U Russell: Salty, buttery, and with hot tamales.

Nikki Chambers: Air popped with lots of real butter and salt

RETWEETS (comments unedited)

@Lisabug74: I love how my car's check engine light turns off. Of course this means the engine has healed on its own.

@kimtopher22: My new rescue dog has figured out how to step on the pedal and open the trash can. I don't think my children ever learned that.

@shannabanana67: Who called them baby pickles and not cutecumbers?

@michelleDbelle: My 3yo nephew asked if he could marry me. I told him no because I already have a boyfriend. He thought for a bit and said, "But I have a scooter."

@sweetg35: Sometimes going with the flow you end up in a sewer.

@Torgo_phylum: Shania Twain: That don't impress me- Me: [takes all of my laundry out of the dryer without dropping any of it on the floor] Shania Twain: oh...wow

@LittleMissAngr1: Elevator rides become way more exciting if you announce to everyone that only one person is getting out alive.

@mommajessiec: My neighbor is trying to organize a block party and it's like, I think we all know each other well enough, Tall Lady On Corner.

@_steamy_mac: I used to skateboard 15 hours a day and now I have to stop and rest half way through putting my socks on.

@realHamOnWry: I think if we leave a bunch of cell phones in the forest, eventually Big Foot will be tempted to take a selfie.

STRAY THOUGHTS

BY RANDY EVANS

Iowa should stop keeping police discipline secret

It's good government — and common sense.

The actions of journalists and police officers were in the spotlight recently in a Des Moines courtroom.

The scrutiny came at the trial of Andrea Sahouri, a Des Moines Register reporter. She was arrested while covering a chaotic protest last May 31, six days after George Floyd died under the knee of a Minneapolis police officer.

The jury sorted through questions and allegations about the actions of Sahouri, who has worked for the Register since 2019, and Officer Luke Wilson, a Des Moines Police Department employee for 18 years.

In the end, jurors believed Sahouri, not Wilson.

Polk County Attorney John Sarcone made an interesting comment in defending his decision to charge Sahouri: "No one is above the law," he said.

The jurors who decided Sahouri did not overstep her rights as a journalist announced their decision in open court. But when police officers are accused of violating a statute or departmental policy, the public rarely learns how these complaints end.

This needs to change. Keeping the outcome of citizen complaints and internal police investigations secret only erodes public trust and confidence in law enforcement.

Here's how this problem developed.

In 2017, the Legislature amended Iowa law to require information from the personnel files of government employees to be made public if certain disciplinary action is taken. With the change, the law says the "documented reasons and rationale" for firing or demoting an employee, or for the employee resigning in lieu of termination, must be made public.

But if the employee is not demoted to a lower job classification, then the public typically remains in the dark — although police chiefs, sheriffs and top officials

of other law enforcement agencies have authority, but no obligation, to share the disciplinary action they take against employees.

Some recent cases show the need for more transparency:

• **KATIE AKIN:** One day after Andrea Sahouri's arrest, another Register reporter, Katie Akin, covered a Black Lives Matter protest on the grounds of the Iowa Capitol. She was standing well away from the demonstrators, recording video and narrating the events.

As police officers and Iowa State Patrol troopers started moving in a line to clear demonstrators from the Capitol grounds, Akin began retreating to get farther away. You can hear her repeatedly telling officers, "I'm press! I'm press! I'm with the Register! I'm going! I'm going! I'm press!"

Suddenly, you see a Des Moines police officer rush up and pepper-spray her in the face. She shrieks in pain.

The newspaper asked the police department to conduct an internal review of the officer's actions. Officials agreed. But nine months later, the newspaper has been told nothing about that investigation — or even if it occurred. There has been no announcement of whether the officer was reprimanded or cleared of any misconduct.

• **STEPHANIE SWARTZ:** Des Moines police officer Stephanie Swartz exited Interstate Highway 235 at 42nd Street on a December night in 2019. There was a red light at the intersection, and a sign warned, "No Right Turn on Red."

Swartz was on her cellphone and made the turn anyway. Her police car struck Shirley Streiber, 70, who was crossing the intersection on a "Walk" light with her dog. Streiber suffered a concussion.

Swartz did not receive a ticket for her improper turn. Instead, police said she was disciplined — although officials refused to say what that punishment was.

• **TRAFFIC STOP:** On the evening of July 15, 2018, officers Kyle Thies and Natalie Heinemann pulled over a car near a Des Moines city park after it supposedly rolled through a stop sign after being in the park after hours.

For the next 15 minutes, Thies grilled the driver, Montray Little, and his passenger, Jared Clinton. The men were compliant and polite as Thies repeatedly told them he suspected they had marijuana and a gun — accusations they denied.

Thies ordered Little out of the car and threatened to take him to jail if he didn't comply. Little was handcuffed, but no gun or marijuana was found in the car. The men finally were released without any tickets.

The men filed a civil rights lawsuit against the city, alleging they were victims of racial profiling. The city paid \$75,000 to settle, but taxpayers do not know whether Thies and Heinemann faced any discipline.

Law officers have much more authority over the lives of Iowans than other government employees have. Officers can deprive people of their liberty by arresting them, and officers have the ultimate power, the use of deadly force.

It's time for lawmakers to require state and local governments to make public the outcome of citizen complaints and internal investigations of job-performance allegations against officers. It's good government — and common sense. ■

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CIVIC SKINNY

Jim Nahas is fired by county, and it's a mess. He lawyers up as supervisors hunker down.

Jim Nahas has been fired as head of human resources for Polk County.

It's complicated, it's messy, it's unusual — it's hard to get fired by the county — and, like many things in the county, it's political. It's full of intrigue, allegedly with secretly taped interviews and unannounced meetings, and there's a lot more to it than just the firing of the 52-year-old Nahas from the \$160,000-a-year job he had held for more than six years.

It revolves around, among other things, an allegation from a female employee that Supervisor **Matt McCoy** made a particularly vile comment that involved her.

It all dates back to early October, but still nobody at the county is talking out loud. Several of them are hiring attorneys, though. Nahas has hired two strong lawyers — one has a solid record of winning suits against governments — and he isn't going quietly.

According to a “termination of employment” letter to Nahas, a letter CITYVIEW obtained through a Freedom of Information request, Nahas made “inconsistent statements” when questioned about what happened at an Oct. 6 meeting he attended with McCoy and **Frank Marasco**, a McCoy supporter who had just lost out on a three-to-two vote to **John Norris** in his bid to become county administrator.

The purpose of the meeting itself is insignificant — Marasco, who is a top guy at the Sheriff's Department, wanted a higher job classification, and McCoy wanted to know how to go about getting that done. It was a short meeting, 15 or 20 minutes, and Nahas spent most of that time preoccupied on the phone on other subjects with Supervisor **Tom Hockensmith**, who was vacationing in Florida.

The letter says a female county employee overheard conversations at that meeting, and it says she alleges McCoy said “I won't blow my head off like Hockensmith does. I'll take the high road, but the first chance I get, I'll take the kill shot.” According to the letter, “the complainant alleged that this statement was made in reference” to Norris, who was backed by Hockensmith in that 3-to-2 vote.

The termination letter also says the employee “further alleged that at this meeting Supervisor McCoy made the following statement that was targeted at her: ‘This is her

fault; she is going to regret this. I'm going to stick it up her pussy and break it off.’”

The woman, **Sarah Boese**, director of community relations for the county, alleged that “based upon additional conversations she overheard” the statement was based on “the wrongful belief that she had convinced a majority of the Board of Supervisors to” support Norris instead of Marasco, the termination letter says.

Following the Oct. 6 meeting, she complained to Hockensmith “that she had been the subject of a hostile work environment and had been retaliated against” by McCoy, according to the letter. Boese, who has worked for the county since 2008, has hired Matthew Sahag of the Dickey law firm. “Sarah is a victim of workplace sex harassment in an unimaginable manner,” he told CITYVIEW. He added: McCoy's comments “shook her to the core in a way that made her want to withdraw from her job and social and personal interactions out of fear, intimidation and humiliation.”

The county then began an investigation, and it twice interviewed Nahas. The questioning occurred several weeks after the Oct. 6 meeting, and Nahas told the investigators he had been on the phone with Hockensmith for 11 minutes and the conversation at the meeting was just “white noise” to him. In March, he told CITYVIEW the same thing. He didn't hear it, but he wasn't really listening.

His answers to investigators were inconsistent, the letter says, and then the tables turned. “An investigation was initiated into your conduct,” the letter told Nahas. That investigation determined that Nahas was “either evasive or dishonest” in answering questions, particularly his answer about the alleged McCoy quotes.

The investigators secretly taped the interviews.

“Your inability to recall whether the inflammatory and discriminatory statements referenced in the complaint occurred, or did not occur has raised questions of your honesty and credibility,” the letter says.

And so he was fired.

The firing came just a few months before Nahas was to become fully vested in IPERS, the public-employee pension system. He took the county job in 2014 after 20 years with the Iowa Cubs, where he rose to become vice president and assistant general manager.

The termination letter was signed by Norris, who joined the county in the middle of all this.

“I sought input from Board members regarding Mr. Nahas' performance and my decision to terminate Mr. Nahas but no formal, or informal vote was taken as that is not required and has not been a practice of the Board,” Norris told CITYVIEW.

The five supervisors — Democrats McCoy, Hockensmith and Chair **Angela Connolly** and Republicans **Bob Brownell** and **Steve Van Oort** — were asked by CITYVIEW if they favored or opposed the firing, but only McCoy replied. He sent along an email that he sent to Norris on Dec. 30 “to establish a record of my opposition” to the decision “that my colleagues have made” to get rid of Nahas.

It is believed the supervisors met without notice at least twice to discuss the mess. One meeting was about the allegations against McCoy, CITYVIEW was told. He brought a lawyer to that meeting, and at one point both he and the lawyer were told to leave, CITYVIEW was told. The other meeting might have been about firing Nahas.

But closed meetings to discuss personnel were never on the agenda, which would have been required. The board has gone into closed session only twice since October, board minutes show, and each of those was to discuss “strategy with counsel in matters where litigation is imminent.” After each meeting, the board took no public action. (Under Iowa law, votes cannot be taken in closed sessions.)

Nahas initially hired lawyer **Nick Mauro** to look at the case. (Mauro is the nephew of former supervisor **John Mauro**, who was responsible for hiring Nahas and who was defeated in the 2018 Democratic primary by McCoy.) Nick Mauro then brought in **Michael Carroll**, an employment-law specialist who has a strong record of winning suits against governments. Most recently, he won a \$2.2 million jury verdict against the state in the sexual-harassment case brought by former Iowa Senate Republican staffer **Kirsten Anderson**.

So this is serious stuff. The board itself has turned for advice to **Michael Galloway**, a former labor-relations lawyer for the county and now with the Ahlers firm, as well as Ralph Marasco, an assistant county attorney who

regularly represents the board. (Ralph Marasco is no relation to Frank Marasco.)

There are a lot of cross-currents on the five-person board these days. The Democrats still control it, as they have for decades, but they are fractured. McCoy and Hockensmith don't have much use for one another, which might be an understatement, and the relationship between Connolly and her two Democratic colleagues isn't particularly warm. Her relationship with McCoy, which had been workable, was fractured, when at the last minute, she decided to be the third vote in support of Norris.

The board misses John Mauro, who seemed to hold things together and who could smooth over disputes before they became public, insiders say.

Indeed, in recent years, the supervisors "didn't always trust each other," says a person who knows them all, "but now it seems that they actually don't like each other."

And employees and visitors alike to the third floor suite of offices in the Polk County office building readily attest that the language from some of the supervisors can be more ribald than refined.

Norris simply got tossed into the middle of all this. At 62, he is a political pro. He was chief of staff to Gov. **Tom Vilsack**, had some big jobs in Washington, has consulted for presidential campaigns and has run (unsuccessfully) for governor and Congress. He has a law degree from the University of Iowa. But "he probably

didn't know what he was getting into" when he took the county job, says an outsider who always seems to know what's going on at the county.

And outside lawyers say he certainly shouldn't have signed that letter to Nahas. Nahas was an "at-will" employee, they note, and could have been fired without reason. The county simply could have told him it had decided to "go in a different direction" or "seek someone with different credentials," they say.

Instead, the county sent the letter — who actually wrote it is unclear — that brought the dirty linen into the open. Conspiracy theorists think the letter is really an attempt to force McCoy to resign, that the Boese allegations were added in the hopes the letter would go public. Under this theory, Nahas, Boese and **Frank Marasco** are just collateral damage. (The supervisors are "fuckin' with everyone, they're out of control," one high county official told a person on the edges of the mess.)

At any rate, in all likelihood the letter will be the basis for a lawsuit by Nahas. Indeed, in his note to Norris opposing the firing of Nahas, McCoy wrote: "I have seen individuals routinely retained as county employees for much more serious infractions, including violation of Polk County's established Employment Policies. I am fearful that if litigation is pursued by Jim Nahas that this represents a liability to Polk County and the taxpayers."

Any suit would probably include a claim of wrongful termination, of failure to pay wages, of violation of the

open-meetings act and one or two others, say lawyers briefed on the situation. And they say the letter signed by Norris could open him to a charge of defamation.

Meantime, at the March 16 Board of Supervisors meeting, Connolly announced that **Jeff Edgar** is the new head of the human-resources operation. He is an employment lawyer who had been acting head of the department. He is in his 30s.

And that could add another element to any suit: Age discrimination. Nahas, at 52, is in a protected group in terms of discrimination suits. ...

NOTE: Lawyers and other people who watch such things think that Des Moines lawyer **Nick Sarcone** will be picked by President **Joe Biden** to be the next U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Iowa. They think **Emily Hughes** will be tapped for the job in the Northern District, in Cedar Rapids. She is associate dean for academic affairs and a professor at the University of Iowa College of Law, where she has been on the faculty since 2010. ...

CITYVIEW joins those saddened by the death of **Robert Larson**, an Iowa farm boy who fell so in love with opera that in 1973 he founded the Des Moines Metro Opera and for the next 37 years was conductor and stage director for all 120 productions as it grew to international fame. Eccentric and charming, he was a great story teller and a great Iowan. He was 86 when he died on Sunday, March 21. ■



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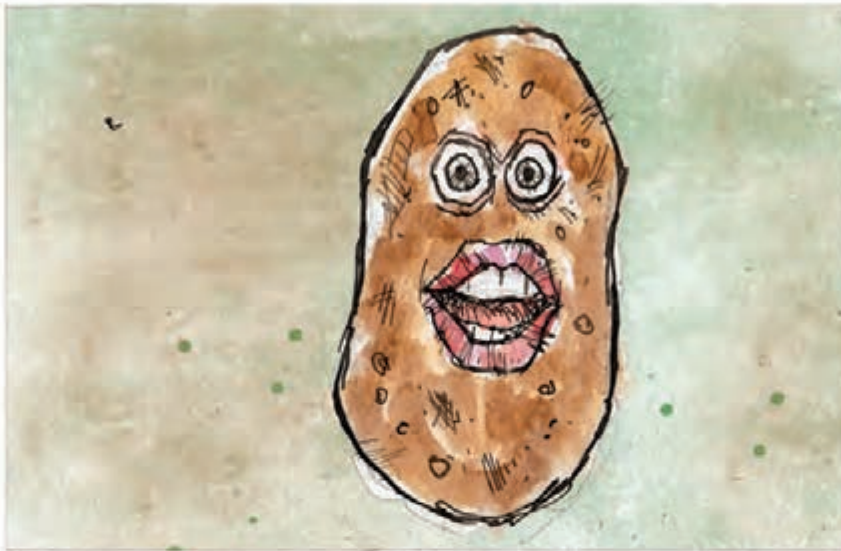
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DUFFY'S VIEW

BY BRIAN DUFFY

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DUFFY

Meet the man behind Iowa's Twitter vaccine finder

Brian Finley launched Iowa Vaccine Alerts on social media to help Iowans get appointments for shots.

The mother of a 7-year-old Iowan said she's used the recently launched and increasingly popular public-minded Twitter account Iowa Vaccine Alerts as a real-life and contemporary example of what the iconic children's television host Mr. Rogers used to advise kids in need.

"When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping,'" Rogers told his audience, perhaps most famously in the wake of 9/11.

Today, one of the state's more-visible helpers is Iowa City-based web developer Brian Finley, who launched a Twitter account — Iowa Vaccine Alerts — that's helped thousands of Iowans connect with COVID-19 vaccinations.

The inspiration of the Fred Rogers observation is very much in his mind.

"That kind of hit me in the feels," Finley said of the Mr. Rogers line in a phone interview from Iowa City.

Finley, 35, working in a volunteer capacity, started Iowa Vaccine Alerts on Twitter in March. The account scoops information on available appointments for vaccines across the state at Hy-Vee, CVS and Walgreens and spins out tweets on available slots. He spends four to five hours a day managing it.

In a few weeks, Iowa Vaccine Alerts has collected nearly 30,000 Twitter followers. Finley, who makes no money from the process, has launched similar Twitter presences in Illinois and Minnesota, and may add more states.

His Twitter feeds are flooded with messages of gratitude and have spawned more volunteerism as younger, or more tech-savvy visitors, are helping older people use the system to get vaccine appointments.

"I've had tons of people find slots for themselves," Finley said.

In the early days of the pandemic, Finley, whose wife, Carolyn, is a nurse with the University of Iowa's Stead Family Children's Hospital, used a 3-D printer to help craft shields for front-line workers.

With the changing criteria from the state, he became eligible himself for a vaccine. In searching around for a location to get a shot, he saw firsthand the "Hunger Games" environment in which Iowans are seeking



and landing vaccines. He wanted to democratize the information and create an account where people were helping other people find them.

"You don't have to be in an old-folks' home to have trouble with Twitter and Facebook," Finley said.

Iowa Vaccine Alerts is not without criticism. The account allows people in Des Moines and Cedar Rapids to find openings in small towns and drive for hours to get shots. This raises concerns that some remote rural regions may be losing shots to urban residents of Iowa who are able to navigate the technology. Finley said he struggles with that.

One rural western Iowa doctor contacted Finley and said computer-smart people are getting appointments — and driving some distance to his town. That makes it harder for the physician to send people to local places for shots, which had, prior to Finley's Twitter account, not been challenging, Finley said of his conversation with the doctor.

But in the end, the avalanche of positive stories about frustrated and confused Iowans getting help to find shots has Finley persuaded that his original selfless "helper" motivation is correct. He's even hearing now from out-of-state residents who have assisted their older Iowa relatives and friends in finding vaccines.

And then there is the fact that in some places, Sioux Center, for example, many appointment slots remain open with no takers, Finley said. The account merely identifies them for use — and Finley is imploring followers and commenters on his Twitter account to



Brian Finley, who launched Iowa Vaccine Alerts, is pictured with his son Owen. The Twitter account has assisted thousands of Iowans in getting access to COVID-19 vaccines. Photo courtesy of Brian Finley

volunteer their time to help older and less tech-literate Iowans find shots, reasoning that at this point, with the criteria so broad (overweight people and any current smokers are eligible for shots, according to the Iowa Department of Public Health) it makes sense to get as many people vaccinated as quickly as possible.

"That's kind of where I landed," Finley said.

What's more, Finley is seeking to improve what he believes is a flawed appointment scheduling system statewide.

"In perfect world, it would be a much less cut-throat situation to get a vaccine," Finley said.

That said, he hopes to be able to shut down the Twitter account as obsolete.

"I'd love to delete it as soon as possible," Finley said.

Before that happens, he may add more than just Iowa, Minnesota and Illinois to his roster of Twitter accounts alerting people to vaccine appointments.

"I'm trying to reach out to my friends in other places," Finley said. ■

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

NOTE: Due to the circumstances surrounding COVID-19, the following events and attractions are subject to an increased risk of cancellation or last minute changes. Before attending, be sure to check with each event individually to verify its current status, start times, offerings and other details such as social distancing, safety protocols and if attendees must wear masks.

THINGS TO DO



EASTER AND EGG HUNTS

First weekend in April

At: Across the metro

Easter services are on the agenda for this first weekend in April around the metro at local churches. After hearing the good news, kids traditionally set out on Easter eggs hunts. A few such events that were already scheduled as CITYVIEW went to press are listed below.

- Saturday, April 3: Chaos Free Easter Egg Event at Howell's Greenhouse and Pumpkin Patch, starts at 10 a.m.; howellsgreenhouseandpumpkinpatch.com/howells-floral-events.htm
- Saturday, April 3: Living History Farms, 9 a.m. - noon; www.lhf.org
- Saturday, April 3: Eggstravaganza at Blank Park Zoo, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.; www.blankparkzoo.com



Photo credit: Shane Abbitt/Iowa Wild

IOWA WILD

Multiple April home games

At: Wells Fargo Arena

The Iowa Wild plays in the American Hockey League, just one step away from the best ice hockey in the world... the NHL. For more information, visit www.iowawild.com/games. Iowa Wild home schedule:

- Friday, April 9: vs. Chicago Wolves (7 p.m.)
- Saturday, April 10: vs. Chicago Wolves (7 p.m.)
- Tuesday, April 13: vs. Rockford IceHogs (7 p.m.)
- Friday, April 23: vs. Rockford IceHogs (7 p.m.)
- Sunday, April 24: vs. Rockford IceHogs (6 p.m.)

DSM BOOK FESTIVAL

Saturdays: April 3, April 10 and April 17, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

At: Downtown Des Moines and online

The DSM Book Festival features nationally acclaimed authors, hands-on learning activities, writers' workshops, children's activities and more in a hybrid in-person and virtual format. A Festival highlight will be the Prairie Meadows Author Series where a headlining author will give a virtual presentation each Saturday at 3 p.m. The schedule is as follows:

- April 3: Chuck Klosterman, author of "But What If We're Wrong?"
- April 10: Lara Prescott, author of "The Secrets We Kept"
- April 17: Taylor Jenkins Reid, author of "Daisy Jones and the Six"

For more information, visit DSMbookfestival.com.



MONSTER JAM

April 16-18

Iowa Events Center

Unexpected, unscripted and unforgettable, Monster Jam features world-class athletes competing for championships on perfectly engineered dirt tracks that push these ever-evolving, state-of-the-art trucks to the limit. For more information, visit MonsterJam.com.

TRUCK LINEUP:**
Megalodon driven by Adam Anderson; Grave Digger driven by Oskaloosa native Tyler Menninga; Devastator driven by Aaron Basil; Jailbird driven by Kaylyn Miguez; Overbored driven by Jamey Garner; and Black Pearl driven by Cole Venard. **Truck and driver lineup subject to change



'THE AGITATORS'

April 16-25

At: online

Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony share a common purpose when they meet in Rochester in the 1840s. But as each grows into being a cultural icon, their quests for freedom and equality collide. For more information, visit www.iowastage.org.

COMING UP

SUBMIT ENTRIES AND PHOTOS TO EDITOR@DMCITYVIEW.COM

POLAR PLUNGE

Saturday, April 17

At: Lake Ahquabi in Indianola

Ready? Set... Freeze! Plunge solo or with coworkers or alongside your friends and family. This “cool” event is a signature fundraiser for Special Olympics and offers a unique opportunity for individuals and organizations to raise money and support Special Olympics Iowa athletes by jumping into frigid waters. It is brrrrrutal, but it’s worth it. For more information or to register, visit www.classy.org/campaign/2021-warren-county-polar-plunge/c322202. This event is open to the public to sign up.



WAUKEE’S CITYWIDE GARAGE SALE

Saturday, April 24

At: Throughout Waukee

Waukee residents join in to construct makeshift clearance racks while boasting leftover goodies at cut-rate prices. And for the things that don’t sell? The city’s Curbside Spring Clean-Up Week is set to follow, April 26-30. For more information, visit www.waukee.org



LIVE HORSE RACING - OPENING DAY

Friday, April 30 through Sept. 25

At: Prairie Meadows Casino, Racetrack & Hotel

Live horse racing returns to Prairie Meadows as the Altoona operation opens its 32nd season of Thoroughbred and Quarter Horse action this month. Live racing post times are set for 6 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and 4 p.m. on Sundays and Mondays, with exceptions for special race days, events and holidays. The season is scheduled to end on Saturday, Sept. 25. For more information, visit www.prairiemeadows.com.



DRAKE RELAYS

April 21-24

At: Drake Stadium

Many of track-and-field’s biggest names — Jesse Owens, Wilma Rudolph, Carl Lewis, Michael Johnson, Herschel Walker, Gwen Torrence, Jim Ryun, Al Oerter, Steve Scott, Alan Webb, Ryan Crouser, Jeremy Wariner, Bob Hayes and others — have competed at Drake. Attendees have witnessed 17 world records, plus numerous American and collegiate records. The Drake Relays is one of only a few U.S. track meets where athletes can experience the atmosphere that makes the sport so popular in Europe — the track is close to the stands so that fans can exchange high-fives, get autographs and take selfies with world-class athletes as they take victory laps, although spacing may be modified this year due to COVID-19 precautions. The Relays take place at Drake Stadium, 2719 Forest Ave., in Des Moines. Visit www.godrakebulldogs.com for more information.

DES MOINES BUCCANEERS

Multiple April home games

At: Buccaneer Arena

The Des Moines Buccaneers ice hockey team plays home games at Buccaneer Arena. For more information, visit www.bucshockey.com.

- Thursday, April 1: Tri-City Storm (6:30 p.m.)
- Friday, April 2: vs. Waterloo Black Hawks (7 p.m.)
- April 10: vs. Fargo Force (6 p.m.)



OPENING IN MAY

THE NATION'S BIGGEST SKATEPARK

Des Moines' \$7 million, Olympic-caliber skatepark will be able to host amateur and world-class professional events.



By Lindsey Giardino

The biggest skatepark in the nation? In Des Moines?

Yes.

Roughly 15 years in the making, the Lauridsen Skatepark is set to open at the end of May in the heart of downtown Des Moines. Located on five acres at the northern edge of the Principal Riverwalk, and just east of Wells Fargo Arena and the Iowa Events Center, the massive park — totaling 88,000-square-feet of skateable terrain — already has the attention of the

Dew Tour and other pro skateboarding circuits. That's sweet.

The \$7 million, Olympic-caliber skatepark, designed by California Skateparks, will be able to host amateur through world-class professional events, and since skateboarding is now an official Olympic sport, effective this summer at the Tokyo Olympics, the Lauridsen Skatepark could possibly even host future Olympic trials.

One of the park's physical highlights includes the nearly quarter-mile Skate

Promenade. This one-of-a-kind feature uses the previously existing Riverfront Road footprint to provide a 38-foot-wide space populated with street skating features, including flat-rails, curbs and quarter pipes. There's also the amoeba pool and junior flow bowl, providing areas for skaters of all skill levels to master tricks in style. And to really impress skaters and spectators, there is a large sculpture that spells "WOW" that is designed to be skated on.

AMPIING UP THE LOCAL SKATE SCENE

Time will tell if the new park draws “local, regional, national and Olympic-qualifying events,” as organizers have suggested it could, but regardless, the 88,000 square feet of freshly poured concrete has the attention of local skateboarders like Mirza Jasarovic.

In the past, Jasarovic, who’s been skating for 11 years, had to travel to skateparks in Knoxville or Oskalooska if he needed a certain obstacle to train on. What excites him most about the Lauridsen Skatepark is that now he won’t have to go far to find the elements he’s looking for.

“It provides the opportunity for skaters to learn every type of skating that they want to and allows for a lot more progression than was available before,” Jasarovic says of the skatepark.

And that’s really why he skates in the first place — the ability to progress. Jasarovic wants to feel he



The Lauridsen Skatepark features 88,000 square feet of skateable terrain. Photos submitted

is better at his craft than he was the day before, and skating allows for the feeling of improving every day.

Lately, he and his friends tend to find themselves at the recently built skatepark in Valley Junction’s American Legion Park. At 5,000 square feet, the park is “kind of just holding us over until the new one is done.” When the downtown park officially opens next month, “I’ll probably be there almost every day,” Jasarovic says, adding that he thinks the park will bring in lots of new

skaters.

“I’ve already seen so many new skaters popping up just because the skatepark is about to open,” he says. “Then, after it’s open, I’m sure there will be tons and tons more. So, in a way, I feel like the skate scene will explode after the skatepark is built.”

Local skater Seth Morgan agrees.

“I think it’ll bring a lot more skaters downtown and to central Iowa,” he says. Like Jasarovic, he often skates

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at American Legion Park or Walker Johnston Park in Urbandale. Morgan also hits up the streets of downtown or a parking garage if it rains or snows, so having the new park will offer him access to all the skating elements he enjoys in one spot.

A skater for about 14 years, Morgan loves it because it's challenging.

"I was never really interested in sports as a child that revolved around other people," he says. "I'd rather go at my own pace and work on myself as an athlete rather than focus on other people. With skateboarding, it's just you and a piece of wood, and it all revolves around what you can do with it."

With the Lauridsen Skatepark, Morgan believes skaters in Des Moines will get more attention.

"I'm mostly excited for more brands and more sponsors to come to Iowa, because Iowa has always had a relatively small skateboarding scene," he explains. "We've only ever really had smaller brands come to Iowa, so it's exciting to see newer brands, bigger brands come to Iowa and see what talent we have here."

Ultimately, the Lauridsen Skatepark gets Morgan pumped because it'll challenge him to grow at his craft, and he'll get to practice what he's passionate about at a best-in-class park right in Des Moines.

"I'm just excited to go skate this summer," he says.

A LONG TIME COMING

So how exactly did this remarkable skatepark come to be?

In the early aughts, members of A Mid-Iowa Organizing Strategy (AMOS) had a retreat in which they debated critical and unmet needs in the community. One conversation, led by a youth group, focused on the need for skateboarding facilities in the area. A public skatepark quickly became a project to pursue, so AMOS put together a committee and sought support from the City of Des Moines, which donated two acres of riverfront property for the skatepark.

Doug Romig, who at the time served as a recreation manager with the City of Des Moines Parks and Recreation Department, was one of the folks in attendance at the retreat. Though the project took time to find its footing, perseverance from community members enabled the flame to stay lit.

"Over my career, I would hear bits and pieces of this project, but it was the local youth and their parents who kept this vision alive," Romig says.

Romig now works as the deputy director for Polk



One of the features of the park is the WOW sculpture that is designed to be skated on.



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AROUND TOWN

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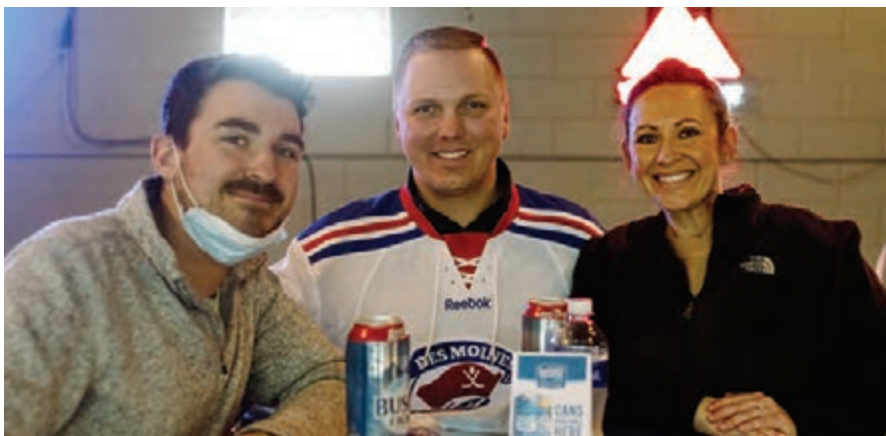
Cyndi Cook and Tim Cook

DES MOINES BUCCANEERS

Buccaneer Arena
March 6



Barry Merical and Lisa McVay



Michael McCabe, Jamie Elliott and Meghan Elliott



Adam Berry, Paige Berry, Tricia Berry and Matthew Berry



Kevin Jones, owner of Subsect Skateshop, has been a champion of the Lauridsen Skatepark from day one. Photo submitted

County Conservation, which was recently approached by the Polk County Board of Supervisors to manage the skatepark moving forward. That agreement was approved by both parties last year.

“While not a traditional element of a conservation organization, it does meet our mission to promote outdoor recreation, and we are excited about this opportunity,” Romig says.

Since being given oversight, Polk County Conservation has issued bids for operational services at Lauridsen Skatepark, such as lawn care and custodial services.

THING TO WATCH FOR

Designed and constructed by California Skateparks, the Lauridsen Skatepark is poised to host local, regional, national and Olympic-qualifying events, and it reportedly has the attention of the Dew Tour.

They also entered into an agreement to provide on-site WiFi and live streaming cameras throughout the park, which, in addition to being for security purposes, will allow anyone to watch what’s happening at the skatepark.

Romig explains that the benefits of having a world-class skatepark in Des Moines are numerous.

“First and foremost, it provides a unique place for metro youth to develop and advance their sport,” he says. “It aids in attracting and retaining young business talent, and it provides an economic boost to the local economy from families vacationing to Des Moines to skate at the park, as well as our ability to host regional, national and international events, as two of the elements meet Olympic requirements.”

Polk County Conservation has also teamed up with Skate DSM, a local non-profit founded in 2019, to develop and implement programming for skateparks across central Iowa and to provide on-site camps, clinics and exhibitions to aid in growing the sport of skateboarding.

The community’s backing of the Lauridsen Skatepark is evidenced by the combination of grants, private donations and public funding sources that made its existence possible.

A \$50,000 grant from the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines helped secure the skatepark design by California Skateparks — which dubs itself the “world’s most recognized skatepark design and build firm” — and in 2015, a \$500,000 challenge grant from the foundation was provided to encourage others to support the

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Owner of The Dark Slide, Joel Jackson is excited to see the local skate scene grow because of the park. Photo submitted

project, and people rose to that challenge.

In 2017, a Skatepark Campaign Cabinet was formed to provide leadership for fundraising efforts. Chaired by Brad Anderson, who's now the state director of Iowa AARP, Polk County Supervisor Angela Connolly and retired Des Moines City Council member Christine Hensley, the cabinet, which also included community leaders and skatepark enthusiasts, helped secure a \$1 million leadership gift from the Lauridsen Family Foundation.

DEW TOUR ANNOUNCEMENT

As CITYVIEW was going to press, the Adventure Sports Network Group announced that its annual summer Dew Tour skateboard competition and festival will move to the new Lauridsen Skatepark and be held next month, **May 20-23**. The weekend will be part of the grand opening kickoff of the new downtown park.

The event will include World Skate sanctioned men's and women's skateboarding Street and Park competitions, serving as the only U.S. based global Olympic skateboard qualifying events for 2021.

Skateboarding will make its debut at the Olympic Games this summer in Tokyo, which were rescheduled in 2020 for July 23 - Aug. 8, 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

More than 300 of the world's top male and female skateboarders will compete in individual Park and Street events for a chance to win the Dew Tour title, while earning valuable points toward their country's Olympic skateboarding team.

Expected to compete at this year's event include USA Skateboarding national team members such as Nyjah Huston, Jagger Eaton, Cory Juneau, Mariah Duran, Jordyn Barratt, Brighton Zeuner as well as international skaters Aurelien Giraud (FRA), Pedro Barros (BRA), Pamela Rosa (BRA), Leticia Bufoni (BRA), Misugu Okamoto (JPN) and Keegan Palmer (AUS).

Lauridsen Skatepark's Street and Park courses have been approved as Olympic-level competition venues.

Dew Tour will be livestreamed in its entirety on DewTour.com, Facebook Live, YouTube and other major platforms for a total of 25+ hours of LIVE video. Additionally, more than four hours of Dew Tour coverage will air on NBC and NBCSN this summer. Stay updated at DewTour.com and on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, TikTok and YouTube by following @DewTour. ■



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LAURIDSEN SKATEPARK

WHEN: The grand opening is scheduled for May 22, 2021.

WHERE: In downtown Des Moines along the west bank of the Des Moines River, at the north end of the Principal Riverwalk.

WHAT: Organizers say the multi-million-dollar project is “Olympic-caliber” and the largest skatepark in the nation. Designed by California Skateparks along with Snyder and Associates, the 88,000-square-foot park includes a promenade, flow bowl, amoeba pool, snake run and a skateable art piece entitled “WOW.”

HOW: A combination of grants, public funding sources and private donations, including a \$1 million lead gift from the Lauridsen Family Foundation.

WATCH: A live construction feed can be watched at: app.oxblue.com/open/polkco/lauridsenskatepark.

Since then, numerous other individuals, corporations, foundations and nonprofit organizations have donated to the project.

Yet perhaps no one has championed the creation of the Lauridsen Skatepark more than Kevin Jones, owner of Subsect Skateshop in the East Village. Jones has been advocating for the Des Moines skate community for years, and while it was a long road to bring this new skatepark to fruition, he didn’t give up.

“I guess you could say I never would shut up about it,” he jokes. “I just kept pounding and saying the importance of it and would just never let it go.”

His resolve to get the Lauridsen Skatepark built certainly paid off. With its opening right around the corner, Jones, who’s been skating for 34 years, is thrilled that, after all these years of being involved, he’ll still be able to skate the park himself. He also believes the skatepark will help grow the local skate scene, especially since, in the last two years, he’s already seen a spark with more kids getting interested, including more females. Jones says even older skaters are dusting off their skateboards and hopping back on. He thinks that the Lauridsen Skatepark is serving to get people fired up, and since the park will bring events and crowds of people to



In the past, Mirza Jasarovic has skated on whatever terrain was available. He looks forward to all the different elements the Lauridsen Skatepark will provide. Photo by Derrick Lambertz

town, it’ll help boost the local economy as well.

“I’m excited for what it can do for the city, especially after the year we’ve had,” Jones says. “The city could use a win, and I think this park will bring some wins.”

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PARK PUTS DES MOINES ON MAP

Though conversations about building this massive downtown skatepark began in 2004, a groundbreaking event wasn't held until 2018. It's been several years in the making, but now that the official opening is just weeks away, the local skate scene is one of anticipation. SportsTravel magazine even named the Lauridsen Skatepark one of its new sports venues to watch in 2021.

This dream of many is about to become a reality.

Joel Jackson, owner of The Dark Slide, a skateboard shop in Merle Hay Mall, moved to the area last fall, but he's already dialed into the local skate community and can see what an advantage the skatepark will be.

"It's just exciting that the country's largest skatepark is coming to Iowa," he says. "Especially right after moving here, it's so amazing to find out how we're going to be the new hotspot for skateboarding. You don't picture Iowa and skateboarding hand in hand like that, but this will be the new Midwest mecca. That's very exciting."

Jackson helps lead a local skate club for beginner and intermediate skaters, and although they need to learn the basics before jumping into a skatepark as big as the Lauridsen, his mission is to get the kids skilled enough so they can soon maneuver the park.

"They're anticipating 60,000 to 70,000 outside skaters a year visiting," Jackson says. "That's huge



From stairs to dips to sidewalks, the park has a variety of skate obstacles. Photo by Lindsey Giardino

just because that's potentially drawing in some pretty advanced skaters. When you skate with folks beyond your ability, that tends to push you and make you better."

Getting more kids involved in and enthusiastic about skateboarding — an activity that has many benefits, from providing a cardio workout to encouraging social skills — is another bonus to having the skate park available.

Take it from 12-year-old Cash, who's beyond thrilled to skate at the park and hopes to see skateboard legend Mike Vallely there — not a stretch of the imagination since Vallely just moved himself and his skateboard company, Street Plant, to Des Moines.

Young Cash sums up best why the Lauridsen Skatepark will be so great.

"I'm really excited because I get to be outside and have fun," he says. ■



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CITYVIEW'S

BUSINESS JOURNAL



PROTECTING personal and business assets

Avoiding losses due to liability

By Tammy Pearson

A customer is about to enter your business on an icy Iowa day, slips and falls, breaking a bone... A diner in your restaurant gets sick after eating your special of the day... A shopper in your establishment trips over a loose carpet, falling against a shelf and cutting his arm... You are thrilled to have a new light fixture installed in your lobby — until it falls on a client and breaks her nose...

... And, next thing you know, you are being sued and wondering if you will lose your business, your home and your life's savings.

No doubt, accidents happen. However, if you have taken the right precautions, you can breathe a little easier knowing your personal assets are safe, and your business will survive.



One of the most common lawsuits filed against a business follows an injury after someone slips and falls on the premises.



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Charlotte Sucik practices primarily in business and landlord tenant law. When working with business owners, Charlotte helps her clients establish and grow their business as they see fit, with the future always in mind. To protect her clients' interests, she crafts operating agreements, commercial leases, employee handbooks and more, and works with her clients to determine the best course of action.

Charlotte also represents residential landlords of all sizes to protect their legal interests in court. By gathering all necessary documentation and filing all required court documents, Charlotte is with her clients throughout the eviction processes, including in court. Because Charlotte offers flat-fee evictions, the client is never surprised with additional fees, hidden costs, or extra invoices.

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Gail combines her practical experience and her expertise in the law to work with clients who have physical disabilities and mental impairments. She helps clients obtain Social Security disability and remain eligible for other benefits. Her knowledge of Medicaid allows her to assist clients apply for Title XIX benefits and guide them through asset-protection planning. She also works with families to establish guardianship and conservatorships and special needs trusts. Her expertise covers several practice areas.

When you need someone with the kindness, knowledge, and know-how to assist in a difficult time, Gail is your attorney.

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Choose the right business structure

Protecting your personal assets begins at the beginning — with setting up your business in a structure that will keep your personal and business finances separate.

When business owners incorporate their business or create an LLC (Limited Liability Company), then their personal assets are not at stake if the company gets sued. If that customer's broken bone requires surgery, followed by physical therapy, long-lasting pain, and inability to work, at least you can rest a bit easier knowing that Junior's college fund isn't going to get wiped out.

However, for those whose businesses are structured as sole proprietorships or partnerships, their personal assets can be in danger in a lawsuit. Not only might they lose the college fund, but they might also lose the Christmas shopping fund and the proverbial roof over their head.

"The most important legal tip I share with business owners is that you need to set up an LLC or a C or S corporation," said Kimberley Baer, Baer Law Office, 838 Fifth Ave., Des Moines. "The reason for this is that it protects your personal assets. If you are not set up as a company or a corporation, and someone has a claim against the business, the person who has a claim can also sue you personally. There are a lot of people out there operating as a sole proprietorship, and this offers you no protection for your personal assets in Iowa."

Because of liability issues, sole proprietorships are becoming increasingly less common, said Michael Jones, Patterson Law Firm, 505 Fifth Ave., Suite 729, Des Moines.

The cost of setting up an LLC is far less than the cost of defending a lawsuit.

"A lot of law firms will help you set up an LLC for less than \$500, so the cost is not as high as a lot of people expect," said Baer.

Get the right insurance

Once a business is structured to protect personal assets, the business owner needs to have insurance. A comprehensive general liability insurance policy will cover a wide variety of issues and is essential, said Jones. For example, it covers premises liability.

"If someone slips on the sidewalk or takes a product, eats it and gets sick," the insurance will "provide a wealth of coverage," said Jones. The standard policy will provide for the cost of defending against a lawsuit.

Baer concurs, adding that property insurance for an office building is essential even if the business

owner is leasing.

"It is important in case someone trips or falls and breaks their leg or has some type of accident on the property. With the Iowa winters, we see a lot of claims arising from falls and injuries on the ice and snow," she said.

"People hate paying for insurance, but if you are really determined to protect your business assets, you need it," said Jones.

Liability insurance policies tend to set a cap on the amount that they will cover. If someone sues and is awarded an amount higher than the policy's limit, then business assets may be at risk. To help mitigate this risk, Jones said business owners should consider an umbrella policy that would cover a certain amount above the liability insurance limits.

In addition, professionals such as doctors, dentists, architects, engineers and others not only require general liability insurance to cover their business, but also require professional liability coverage in case they are sued for malpractice, said Jones.

Managing risk

Larger companies often have risk managers on staff to evaluate the risks of getting sued and implementing ways to avoid lawsuits, said Jones.

"The bigger companies can afford the cost of having risk managers to try to prevent bad things from happening before they do," he said. For example, construction companies often have safety experts who inspect work sites.

Some insurance companies have risk-control specialists inspect businesses, and owners of smaller businesses can benefit from their services, said Jones.

Perhaps the most effective means of warding off lawsuits is to have "effective management," said Jones. "From a legal aspect, the quality of management — the degree to which it takes safety seriously" plays a large role.

Jones uses QuikTrip, a client of his, as an example of a company that "takes risk control very seriously," adding that management routinely inspects the property, inside and out, looking for any concerns.

The U.S. Small Business Administration suggests that a business' management team have regular meetings to discuss risks so that the topic is addressed on a regular basis. It also advises business owners to "create a checklist of the physical building that includes areas of upkeep, needs and repairs." A monthly walk-around is recommended to "note areas that require attention, as is a "weekly review of the facility for less significant items."



Having security cameras can help protect businesses from false injury claims as well as provide evidence of steps the company takes to keep the premises safe.

What will the jury say?

Perhaps contrary to what people may think, Jones said that juries tend to side with businesses that demonstrate they take safety seriously by having a plan and implementing it.

Slips and falls regularly result in lawsuits against establishments, but "the jury doesn't expect the business to be perfect," he said. For example, if a business has a plan to deal with icy conditions — such as routinely spreading ice melt or having a contractor who does that — and the plan has been carried out, then a jury may not find fault for a slip when the weather conditions are bad.

Similarly, if someone trips on an uneven sidewalk, "the jury wants to see if it's been like that forever, which would indicate the management of the property hasn't taken property maintenance seriously."

Having written procedures related to safety "does some good, but you have to follow them," said Jones.

Security cameras are playing an increasing role as evidence in determining liability, said Jones.

While cameras were originally installed at many businesses such as QuikTrip years ago, they were primarily meant to help identify robbery



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suspects, said Jones. Now, QuikTrip and many other businesses “have gone to comprehensive cameras that can capture the inside and outside of the business. Those are very effective,” he said, adding that the footage usually helps the business being sued, not only by showing what happened, but also showing the safety standards being enforced.

“If you’re doing a good job, you shouldn’t be worried about the camera,” said Jones.

In fact, cameras are so common these days that juries tend to be suspicious if there is no camera footage presented, he said.

New areas of liability

As the business world and technology change, so do liability issues.

While many business owners are aware and concerned about their computers being hacked, many may not realize that a data breach can lead to the business being sued if a customer’s personal information is accessed. Insurance is now offered to protect businesses from such a lawsuit.

“Cyber insurance is becoming a more popular add on,” said Jones.

However, business owners should do more than just get insurance. The SBA advises business owners to mitigate the risk, as they would with any other potential liability issue.

“The common belief that small businesses ... are too small or ‘unknown’ to be targeted by cyber criminals needs to end. Every business that depends on a computer system and the Internet is a potential target,” the SBA advised in an article called “The ‘It can’t happen to me’ mindset must change about Cyber Security.”

“Small businesses are targeted because cyber criminals know most don’t have the financial resources or know-how to protect their data, intellectual property, transactions or websites from being compromised,” the article continued.

The SBA offers advice on some practical steps business owners can take to reduce risk, such as keeping operating systems and software updated, training employees to identify possible threats and avoid them, restricting admin privileges, removing non-essential software, maintaining strong password protections, etc. And, since a risk will still exist, it recommends cyber security insurance.

As with all potential liability issues, no amount of prevention and care can protect business owners from a potential lawsuit. The risk of an injury on the premises or of a cyber breach cannot be totally eliminated. However, experts agree, having the appropriate insurance can help protect a business owner from a catastrophic loss. ■



As technology becomes an increasingly important part of business operations, the possibility of having customer information stolen increases — along with liability concerns.

Ludicrous lawsuits

Sometimes lawsuits make us shake our heads and wonder what the person suing was thinking.

Here are some shared by Yahoo!entertainment.

- A Chicago woman filed a \$5 million class-action lawsuit against Starbucks in 2016, claiming the company puts too much ice in its cold drinks. The lawsuit accused Starbucks of advertising iced drinks as 24-ounce beverages when the cup only contained 14 ounces of fluid. This was named the most frivolous lawsuit of 2016 by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Institute for Legal Reform. The case was dismissed.

- A Missouri man filed a lawsuit claiming that the Hershey company intentionally sells partially full packages of Whoppers, Reese’s Pieces and other products. His \$5 million class-action lawsuit was thrown out in 2018. The judge concluded that The man wasn’t really harmed, as evidenced by the fact that he kept buying the candy.

- In 2013, a group of Subway customers filed a class-action lawsuit against the chain, claiming its footlong subs didn’t always measure up to 12 inches. Some of those suing wanted as much as \$5 million. Subway was cleared of deceptive marketing practices.

- A class-action lawsuit against Home Depot in 2017 claimed the store’s four-by-four lumber actually measures out to 3.5 inches by 3.5 inches on each side. Home Depot and other lumber suppliers have explained that four-by-four is just the name of the boards, as the industry-standard dimensions actually are 3.5 inches by 3.5 inches. Nevertheless, the plaintiffs sought more than \$5 million in damages. They didn’t get it.

- Webster Lucas sued McDonald’s for \$1.5 million in 2014 because he only received one napkin with his meal, which led to an argument that he said

left him emotionally distressed and unable to work. Turns out Lucas had a habit of submitting “frivolous” lawsuits. No, he didn’t win.

- A man, who happened to be an administrative judge, filed a \$67 million lawsuit against a dry cleaner for allegedly losing a pair of his pants. The pants were found, but he said they weren’t his and demanded a new suit. The cleaners refused, so he sued for a “more reasonable” \$54 million. Not only did he lose, he was banned from practicing law for two years.

- In 2013, Beck’s beer aficionados filed a class-action lawsuit against Anheuser-Busch, seeking upward of \$5 million, because they claimed deceptive packaging caused them to believe the beverage was manufactured in Germany when it was actually made in the U.S. They won their lawsuit, but not for the millions they wanted. Customers with receipts were awarded up to \$50 per household or up to \$12 without a receipt.

- Imprisoned pimp Sirgiorgio Sanford Clardy sued Nike for \$100 million in 2014, claiming his Air Jordan sneakers should’ve come with the warning that they could be used as a dangerous weapon. Clardy received a 100-year prison sentence for stomping on the face of a “customer” who tried to flee a motel without paying. The case was dismissed.

- A “Fear Factor” viewer sued NBC for \$2.5 million in 2005 because a segment where contestants ate rats mixed in a blender caused him to vomit, become disoriented and run into a doorway. He felt the stunt went “too far,” but was unable to turn the television off fast enough to avoid seeing it. The lawsuit was dismissed. ■

Source: <https://www.yahoo.com/entertainment/crazy-lawsuits-ridiculous-payouts-090000559.html>



Matt Demming, MaKayla Augustine, Chris Spaulding, Nick Shaull, Nate Staudt



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SALE DATE: FEB. 01, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$3,990,000
SELLER: FOUNTAIN HEALTH CENTERS INC.
BUYER: OFFICE PARK REALTY LLC
SQUARE FEET: 78,374
ACRES: 7.125

ADDRESS: 1074 31ST ST., DES MOINES
SALE DATE: FEB. 02, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$261,900
SELLER: H. LECHUGA PROPERTIES LLC
BUYER: INVEST DSM INC.
SQUARE FEET: 3,112
ACRES: 0.344

ADDRESS: 101 RHOTEN AVE., RUNNELLS
SALE DATE: FEB. 03, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$430,800
SELLER: BLACK, CHRISTOPHER J.
BUYER: 101 RHOTEN, LLC
SQUARE FEET: 6,468
ACRES: 1.05

ADDRESS: 8165 UNIVERSITY BLVD., CLIVE
SALE DATE: FEB. 03, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$949,000
SELLER: REGAL SUPPLY COMPANY INC.
BUYER: DOUBLE R. RANCH LC
SQUARE FEET: 12,196
ACRES: 1.129

ADDRESS: 130 N.E. GEORGETOWN BLVD., ANKENY
SALE DATE: FEB. 04, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$2,853,930
SELLER: JNM DEVELOPMENT HOLDINGS LLC
BUYER: KAE, LLC
SQUARE FEET: 12,098
ACRES: 2.504

ADDRESS: SOUTH OF COTTAGE DRIVE, Pleasant Hill
SALE DATE: FEB. 05, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$20,000
SELLER: THE WOODS OF PLEASANT HILL LLC
BUYER: THOMPSON, RUSTY D.
SQUARE FEET: 0
ACRES: 3.505

ADDRESS: 2221 E. EUCLID AVE., DES MOINES
SALE DATE: FEB. 07, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$650,000
SELLER: QUIK TRIP CORP
BUYER: FIREWORKS LEASING, LLC
SQUARE FEET: 4,356
ACRES: 1.615

ADDRESS: 1320 E. 25TH ST., DES MOINES
SALE DATE: FEB. 09, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$125,000
SELLER: SOUTH STORY BANK & TRUST
BUYER: SHOP N SAVE NEWTON, LLC
SQUARE FEET: 2,816
ACRES: 0.23

ADDRESS: 2000 S.E. 44TH COURT, GRIMES
SALE DATE: FEB. 09, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$170,000
SELLER: EA SWEEN COMPANY
BUYER: DURACHEM, LLC
SQUARE FEET: 1,392
ACRES: 1.08

ADDRESS: 2750 N.W. 36TH ST., ANKENY
SALE DATE: FEB. 11, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$454,330
SELLER: ROCK CREEK COMMERCIAL LLC
BUYER: MURPHY COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES LLC
SQUARE FEET: 0
ACRES: 2.464

ADDRESS: 8650 N.W. 62ND AVE., JOHNSTON
SALE DATE: FEB. 11, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$4,050,000
SELLER: HURD CRESCENT LLC
BUYER: COMPOUNDING CAPITAL HOLDINGS LLC-SERIES B
SQUARE FEET: 12,388
ACRES: 1.535

ADDRESS: 2804 BRATTLEBORO AVE., DES MOINES
SALE DATE: FEB. 12, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$143,000
SELLER: HOPPENWORTH, ABBY M.
BUYER: YOUNG, MATTHEW G.
SQUARE FEET: 2,358
ACRES: 0.152

ADDRESS: 302 S. SECOND ST., POLK CITY
SALE DATE: FEB. 12, 2021
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SQUARE FEET: 3,885
ACRES: 0.374

ADDRESS: 1506 GARFIELD ST. S.W., BONDURANT
SALE DATE: FEB. 16, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$575,000
SELLER: SWIFT PROPERTIES LLC
BUYER: TKRG HOLDINGS LLC
SQUARE FEET: 5,000
ACRES: 3.18

ADDRESS: 17 MAIN ST. S.E., BONDURANT
SALE DATE: FEB. 16, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$175,000
SELLER: DNG PROPERTIES LLC
BUYER: BAD FRIEND LLC
SQUARE FEET: 2,145
ACRES: 0.106

ADDRESS: 5250 DAKOTA, WEST DES MOINES
SALE DATE: FEB. 16, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$665,000
SELLER: TRIPLE A. COMPANY LC
BUYER: 5250 DAKOTA LLC
SQUARE FEET: 7,680
ACRES: 0.523

ADDRESS: 1920 S.E. 15TH ST., DES MOINES
SALE DATE: FEB. 17, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$30,000
SELLER: KARAMANLIS, JOHN
BUYER: MANKO HOLDINGS LLC
SQUARE FEET: 0
ACRES: 0.296

ADDRESS: 1250 S.W. STATE ST., ANKENY
SALE DATE: FEB. 17, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$4,300,000
SELLER: ONE SOURCE SERVICES LLC
BUYER: SH INVESTMENT PROPERTIES, LLC
SQUARE FEET: 26,136
ACRES: 4.202

ADDRESS: 1623 E. EUCLID AVE., DES MOINES
SALE DATE: FEB. 19, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$1,968,450
SELLER: 1614 E. EUCLID AVE. LLC
BUYER: HA 1031 LLC
SQUARE FEET: 46,973
ACRES: 4.796

ADDRESS: 1825 NINTH ST., DES MOINES
SALE DATE: FEB. 22, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$13,000
SELLER: RM MADDEN CONSTRUCTION INC.
BUYER: HOME OPPORTUNITIES MADE EASY, INC.
SQUARE FEET: 0
ACRES: 0.153

ADDRESS: 7500 S.W. 22ND ST., DES MOINES
SALE DATE: FEB. 22, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$222,000
SELLER: FLEUR PROPERTIES LC
BUYER: WIES-DOIS DEVELOPMENT, LLC
SQUARE FEET: 0
ACRES: 2.636

ADDRESS: 1570 11TH AVE. N.E., ALTOONA
SALE DATE: FEB. 22, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$1,519,020
SELLER: FRANZEN-ALTOONA-180 PARTNERSHIP
BUYER: LINEAGE LOGISTICS, LLC
SQUARE FEET: 0
ACRES: 8.718

ADDRESS: 59 CLARK ST., DES MOINES
SALE DATE: FEB. 23, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$189,900
SELLER: ORLONDO'S LLC
BUYER: ALL MIGHTY MOVERS LLC
SQUARE FEET: 2,000
ACRES: 0.298

ADDRESS: 1513 DES MOINES ST., DES MOINES
SALE DATE: FEB. 24, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$179,900
SELLER: CREATIVE CRONOS LLC
BUYER: CHANG, WEIYU
SQUARE FEET: 2,806
ACRES: 0.172

ADDRESS: 1920 S.E. 15TH ST., DES MOINES
SALE DATE: FEB. 25, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$30,000
SELLER: WOLFE, EVERETT
BUYER: MANKO HOLDINGS, LLC
SQUARE FEET: 0
ACRES: 0.148

ADDRESS: 4041 URBANDALE AVE., DES MOINES
SALE DATE: FEB. 25, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$888,000
SELLER: VISTA REAL ESTATE & INVESTMENT CORP.
BUYER: MARIGNY, LLC
SQUARE FEET: 5,044
ACRES: 0.344

ADDRESS: 10303 N.W. 62ND AVE., JOHNSTON
SALE DATE: FEB. 25, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$360,830
SELLER: TUT GROUP LLC
BUYER: EXPERTIESE INVESTMENTS, LLC
SQUARE FEET: 0
ACRES: 2.301

ADDRESS: 4131 E. 14TH ST., DES MOINES
SALE DATE: FEB. 26, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$1,000,000
SELLER: IMPERIAL PROPERTIES INC.
BUYER: MCKEE AUTO CENTER, INC.
SQUARE FEET: 18,316
ACRES: 2.355

ADDRESS: 5229 MERLE HAY ROAD, JOHNSTON
SALE DATE: FEB. 26, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$600,000
SELLER: 5229 LLC
BUYER: 5229 PARTNERS, LLC
SQUARE FEET: 988
ACRES: 0.84

ADDRESS: 5194 N.E. 16TH ST., DES MOINES
SALE DATE: FEB. 26, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$812,740
SELLER: HEINSON ENTRPRISE I LLC
BUYER: BBRE, LLP
SQUARE FEET: 24,360
ACRES: 1.133

ADDRESS: 12951 UNIVERSITY AVE., CLIVE
SALE DATE: FEB. 26, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$2,125,000
SELLER: GRAPNEL PROPERTIES LLC
BUYER: SILVERADO FARMS, LLC
SQUARE FEET: 16,468
ACRES: 0.778

ADDRESS: 118 11TH ST., WEST DES MOINES
SALE DATE: FEB. 26, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$30,000
SELLER: ELQUEST, JANET
BUYER: SIMPCO PROPERTIES, LLC
SQUARE FEET: 1,400
ACRES: 0.166

SOLD!... THE FORMER PRAIRIE LIFE FITNESS BUILDING
The home of the giant West Des Moines workout facility sold on Feb. 26 for \$5.8 million, according to Polk County Assessor records. Genesis Health Clubs is the building's current occupant.
ADDRESS: 4875 MILLS CIVIC PARKWAY, WEST DES MOINES
SALE DATE: FEB. 26, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$5,872,180
SELLER: STORE MASTER FUNDING XIII LLC
BUYER: GENESIS HEALTH CLUBS MILLS CIVIC LLC
SQUARE FEET: 63,777
ACRES: 7.784

ADDRESS: 210 S. PRAIRIE VIEW DRIVE, WEST DES MOINES
SALE DATE: FEB. 26, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$28,600,000
SELLER: SM SIGNATURE PLACE LLC
BUYER: VA7 JORDAN CREEK LLC
SQUARE FEET: 243,217
ACRES: 16.313

ADDRESS: 3408 101ST ST., URBANDALE
SALE DATE: MARCH 1, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$1,900,000
SELLER: MOUROT, RANDALL G.
BUYER: FLEETPARK 101 IA, LLC
SQUARE FEET: 13,014
ACRES: 4.99

ADDRESS: 3102 COTTAGE GROVE AVE., DES MOINES
SALE DATE: MARCH 2, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$238,100
SELLER: H. LECHUGA PROPERTIES LLC
BUYER: INVEST DSM, INC.
SQUARE FEET: 4,199
ACRES: 0.388

ADDRESS: 909 N. THIRD ST., POLK CITY
SALE DATE: MARCH 2, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$45,000
SELLER: BRUCE A. BOLAND TRUST
BUYER: DYOWA, LLC
SQUARE FEET: 0
ACRES: 1.563

ADDRESS: 115 E. VISTA LAKE AVE., POLK CITY
SALE DATE: MARCH 2, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$634,200
SELLER: BOLAND, BRUCE A.
BUYER: DYOWA LLC
SQUARE FEET: 3,200
ACRES: 2.348

ADDRESS: 1720 FULLER ROAD, WEST DES MOINES
SALE DATE: MARCH 2, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$3,990,000
SELLER: BELL AVENUE PROPERTIES INC
BUYER: BARKLEY GROUP, LLC
SQUARE FEET: 57,620
ACRES: 4.865

ADDRESS: 3621 MERLE HAY ROAD, DES MOINES
SALE DATE: MARCH 3, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$1,700,000
SELLER: 4 G PROPERTIES II LLC
BUYER: JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NA
SQUARE FEET: 3,414
ACRES: 1.135

ADDRESS: 4000 S.W. NINTH ST., DES MOINES
SALE DATE: MARCH 4, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$450,000
SELLER: SCHAEFER, CHARLES C.
BUYER: KINGDOM LIVING IOWA
SQUARE FEET: 9,302
ACRES: 0.684

ADDRESS: 210 S. ANKENY BLVD., ANKENY
SALE DATE: MARCH 4, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$900,000
SELLER: MJ & SON'S INC.
BUYER: KB HOLDING, LLC
SQUARE FEET: 10,210
ACRES: 0.735

ADDRESS: 206 VAN DORN ST., POLK CITY
SALE DATE: MARCH 5, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$315,000
SELLER: WHITE CALF LLC
BUYER: K VENTURES, LLC
SQUARE FEET: 4,320
ACRES: 0.112

ADDRESS: 2400 S.E. EIGHTH ST., DES MOINES
SALE DATE: MARCH 8, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$130,000
SELLER: NGUYEN, ROBERT
BUYER: TRITON PROPERTIES, LLC
SQUARE FEET: 2,140
ACRES: 0.128

ADDRESS: 614 DOUGLAS AVE., DES MOINES
SALE DATE: MARCH 8, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$165,000
SELLER: OPEN DOOR PROPERTIES IA LLC
BUYER: D. CLAIRE PROPERTIES, LLC
SQUARE FEET: 2,354
ACRES: 0.153

ADDRESS: 5800 S.E. DELAWARE AVE., ANKENY
SALE DATE: MARCH 8, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$27,868,990
SELLER: RYAN COMPANIES US INC.
BUYER: DEERE & COMPANY
SQUARE FEET: 0
ACRES: 35.338

SOLD!... FOR \$42 MILLION...
This newly constructed downtown parking garage is part of the struggling development project known as "The Fifth." Plans for a proposed 40-story skyscraper are in limbo.
ADDRESS: 235 FIFTH AVE., DES MOINES
SALE DATE: MARCH 9, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$41,958,230
SELLER: CHRISTENSEN DEVELOPMENT 1, LLC
BUYER: CITY OF DES MOINES
SQUARE FEET: 292,479
ACRES: 0.687

ADDRESS: 3304 CRESCENT DRIVE, DES MOINES
SALE DATE: MARCH 9, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$200,000
SELLER: SWCMJC LLC
BUYER: LEHS, KENT
SQUARE FEET: 1,824
ACRES: 0.167

ADDRESS: 5197 N.E. 15TH ST., DES MOINES
SALE DATE: MARCH 9, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$975,000
SELLER: ALLIED OIL & SUPPLY INC
BUYER: BBRE, LLP
SQUARE FEET: 23,600
ACRES: 2.17

SOLD!... HOME OF HIGHLAND PARK COUNTRY CLUB
Highland Park's commercial district has seen many upgrades recently, and renovations are also expected at this building — home to Highland Park C.C. — as well.
ADDRESS: 3523 SIXTH AVE., DES MOINES
SALE DATE: MARCH 10, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$372,840
SELLER: MARILYN H STEINBACH TRUST
BUYER: 3523 6TH AVE., LLC
SQUARE FEET: 8,870
ACRES: 0.328

ADDRESS: 3524 SIXTH AVE., DES MOINES
SALE DATE: MARCH 10, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$320,000
SELLER: FRANK STEINBACH JR
REVOCABLE TRUST
BUYER: 3524 6TH AVE., LLC
SQUARE FEET: 11,985
ACRES: 0.273



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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
SqI Investments, LLC	Waterloo, IA	Black Hawk County	IA (01)	\$68,000	8	1	4	NEW	Accommodation And Food Services
Essence Aesthetics And Health, Pc	Waverly, IA	Bremer County	IA (01)	\$70,000	1	1	1	NEW	Other Services (Except Public Administration)
Bn Skip'S L.L.C.	Clear Lake, IA	Cerro Gordo County	IA (04)	\$112,800	4	0	0	NEW	Retail Trade
Sandra Beatriz Galdamez	Denison, IA	Crawford County	IA (04)	\$93,000	5	0	0	NEW	Accommodation And Food Services
Duck Duck Pi Llc	Spirit Lake, IA	Dickinson County	IA (04)	\$542,000	25	1	1	NEW	Accommodation And Food Services
Positive Friday Real Estate Investments, L	Amana, IA	Iowa County	IA (02)	\$118,000	1	3	0	NEW	Manufacturing
Iowa City Storage Llc	Iowa City, IA	Johnson County	IA (02)	\$300,000	1	1	1	NEW	Real Estate And Rental And Leasing
Brainetrust Storage, Llc	Cedar Rapids, IA	Linn County	IA (02)	\$5,000,000	7	1	1	NEW	Real Estate And Rental And Leasing
Robert E. Carstensen, Inc.	Cedar Rapids, IA	Linn County	IA (02)	\$557,300	2	22	22	EXISTING	Wholesale Trade
1150 Old Marion Road, Llc	Cedar Rapids, IA	Linn County	IA (01)	\$407,000	6	0	13	EXISTING	Professional, Scientific, And Technical Services
Community Law Office, PLLC	Cedar Rapids, IA	Linn County	IA (02)	\$50,000	2	2	2	NEW	Professional, Scientific, And Technical Services
Community Law Office, PLLC	Cedar Rapids, IA	Linn County	IA (02)	\$25,000	2	2	2	NEW	Professional, Scientific, And Technical Services
Positive Friday Investments, L.L.C.	Robins, IA	Linn County	IA (01)	\$200,000	1	3	3	EXISTING	Manufacturing
Ready To Work Equipment Llc	Knoxville, IA	Marion County	IA (02)	\$10,000	0	0	1	NEW	Wholesale Trade
Bho Holdings Llc	Des Moines, IA	Polk County	IA (03)	\$860,000	4	2	2	NEW	Accommodation And Food Services
Lmu Hearing, Llc	Des Moines, IA	Polk County	IA (03)	\$213,000	4	3	3	NEW	Health Care And Social Assistance
Invictus Media, Llc	Des Moines, IA	Polk County	IA (03)	\$62,000	1	5	5	NEW	Information
Invictus Media, Llc	Des Moines, IA	Polk County	IA (03)	\$53,000	1	5	5	NEW	Information
Dinghy Guy	Des Moines, IA	Polk County	IA (03)	\$50,000	0	0	1	NEW	Retail Trade
Invictus Media, Llc	Des Moines, IA	Polk County	IA (03)	\$35,000	1	5	5	NEW	Information
Q & S Llc	Grimes, IA	Polk County	IA (03)	\$603,500	3	1	1	NEW	Transportation And Warehousing
Q & S Llc	Grimes, IA	Polk County	IA (03)	\$100,000	3	1	1	NEW	Transportation And Warehousing
Duty Calls, Llc-Org Only	Polk City, IA	Polk County	IA (03)	\$110,000	4	0	2	NEW	Construction
Duty Calls, Llc-Org Only	Polk City, IA	Polk County	IA (03)	\$100,000	4	0	2	NEW	Construction
Primrose School Of Urbandale	Urbandale, IA	Polk County	IA (03)	\$631,600	38	41	3	NEW	Health Care And Social Assistance
Roush Group Properties, L.L.C.	Urbandale, IA	Polk County	IA (03)	\$373,000	2	0	1	EXISTING	Health Care And Social Assistance
Majestic Cleaning Service Lc	Urbandale, IA	Polk County	IA (03)	\$15,000	0	0	1	EXISTING	Administrative And Support And Waste Management And Remediation Services
Sweat Iowa, Llc	West Des Moines, IA	Polk County	IA (03)	\$400,000	6	2	2	NEW	Other Services (Except Public Administration)
Rocoza Llc	Grinnell, IA	Poweshiek County	IA (01)	\$25,700	1	1	1	NEW	Professional, Scientific, And Technical Services
Nerdspeak Brewery, Llc	Bettendorf, IA	Scott County	IA (02)	\$676,000	5	0	5	NEW	Manufacturing
The Grain House, Llc	Hull, IA	Sioux County	IA (04)	\$400,000	17	3	3	NEW	Accommodation And Food Services
D & K Properties Of Hull, Llc	Hull, IA	Sioux County	IA (04)	\$289,000	0	0	12	EXISTING	Construction
Jkm Midway Lc	Ames, IA	Story County	IA (04)	\$75,000	15	0	23	EXISTING	Accommodation And Food Services
Batz Pizza, Llc	Creston, IA	Union County	IA (03)	\$430,000	22	2	2	NEW	Accommodation And Food Services
Sioux City Re, Llc	Sioux City, IA	Woodbury County	IA (04)	\$784,000	0	0	27	EXISTING	Accommodation And Food Services

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CITYVIEW'S

Wedding

GUIDE

Once you announce your plans to get married, there's a good chance that people close to you will be ready and willing to dispense their share of advice. Some words of wisdom will be priceless, while others you can store away for another day.

When polling married couples, you will likely find they would change "this" or "that" about their weddings if given the chance to do it all over again. Here is some advice that you can choose to follow for your wedding day.






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Destination weddings

How to plan your dream celebration in uncertain times

(BPT) - Something old, something new, masks for guests and hand sanitizer, too — weddings during COVID-19 look different than those in the past. However, love is leading the way as couples are making thoughtful adjustments to their ceremonies to reflect their personalities and commitment to each other while prioritizing health and safety.

“Expect the unexpected is a phrase wedding planners have shared with couples for decades, and the global pandemic is certainly having an impact on matrimony traditions,” says Jonalee DeNoble, associate director of meetings and events at Destination Kohler. “Although the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way weddings are typically planned and performed, that doesn’t mean you can’t still have a dream wedding in a memorable location.”

Jonalee offers expert insights for planning a wedding during the pandemic and the top wedding trends that smart brides and grooms are embracing:



Smaller groups provide intimacy enjoyed by all

Having hundreds of people gather for a wedding or reception simply isn’t possible right now. Don’t sweat the change and instead embrace the intimacy that only smaller celebrations can provide. This might be a few

dozen of your closest friends and family or something as simple as the bride and groom and their parents. There is a beauty in smaller ceremonies that truly reflects the unconditional love a couple has for each other. When planning, remember group gathering restrictions vary by state and can change at any time, so be sure to plan accordingly and be conservative in your numbers.

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Destination weddings continued....

Road trips rule for local destination weddings

Jetting to a tropical country or international destination for a wedding is not currently a great option; however, you can still enjoy a dream destination wedding in a picturesque setting when you explore options within driving distance. For example, Kohler, Wisconsin, is the premier wedding destination for people in the Midwest, with the new Straits Chapel at Destination Kohler that's an intimate location surrounded by the beauty and serenity of nature. The picturesque setting of Straits Chapel, complemented by its modern design and proximity to Whistling Straits golf course, will captivate guests looking to celebrate as well as seeking a place for tranquility.

Nature-based settings are stunning and spacious

Opting for celebrations in nature over urban settings helps guests feel more comfortable knowing there is ample space for safety and social distancing. For example, Straits Chapel is nestled in the woods on the edge of bluffs overlooking Lake Michigan, which provides stunning views with plenty of access to the outdoors. When planning a wedding, consider if you want an indoor or outdoor ceremony, and how the natural benefits of parks, gardens and other nature-based destinations can enhance your wedding aesthetically while also providing a safer setting for everyone who attends your special day.



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Streaming ceremonies and celebrations online

So many people are working and attending school online, it's no surprise that the wedding ceremony has gone digital, too. Knowing celebrations will likely be smaller, this is a wonderful way to make people feel included even if they can't attend in person. Research platforms and streaming options, as many have pros and cons, and choose the best one for your needs. Then, on the big day, you can broadcast the ceremony and celebration to loved ones who want to watch as you say "I do" and share your first moments as a married couple.

Request contactless accommodations

For guests who are attending the ceremony in person and need a place to stay overnight, research the safest and most convenient options so they can choose which they are most comfortable with. Many hotels have upgraded cleaning routines and offer contactless accommodations for a safer experience. Guests at Destination Kohler might consider the new Lake and Pond cabins with upscale features in a beautiful location that is secluded from other guests. Reach out and get the details on different options to make it easy for guests to feel comfortable with their stay.

"COVID-19 has forced us to go back to the drawing board and create unique and luxury experiences while keeping everyone safe," says DeNoble. "With great thought and our proactive measures, you can have a dream wedding with memories to last a lifetime." ■



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Simple tips for a better *wedding registry*

(Family Features) For some couples, the idea of registering for wedding gifts is an exciting way to start planning for the home they'll be sharing as newlyweds. For others, the registry is just one more chore to check off the wedding to-do list.

Regardless of where you fall on the love-it-or-hate-it spectrum, most experts agree a registry is a good idea, especially for couples who will be setting up a home together for the first time. Keep these tips and etiquette guidelines in mind to get the most out of your registry.

Take inventory of what you have and what you need

For couples who've lived alone or together, the registry may be a way to fill in gaps for necessities neither of you already have. It's also a good way to begin upgrading the less expensive kitchen items and furnishings you had as college students or singles. Make a list of your needs and wants so you don't forget any essentials. If you're still in doubt, request a checklist from the store where you'll be registering so you can do some planning.





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Register for things at a wide range of price points

The whole purpose of a registry is to make it easy for your guests to get you things you'll like and need. Part of making it easy is recognizing your guests have diverse financial situations. While it's customary to gift the bride and groom, not everyone can afford an extravagant gift, especially if they've spent money on travel and attire to attend. While it's a good idea to offer modest options, don't shy away from bigger ticket items that a small group might chip in on together.

Keep access in mind when you choose where to register

Avoid stores that are local or regional if you have many guests who live out of the area. Also avoid the temptation to choose online only options, as some guests will prefer to see what they're buying. Aim for a mix of large national stores and online retailers.

Plan to block off at least a few hours for an in-person registry

It will take time to get everything set up. Traveling through the store, debating options and making your selections could take longer than expected. Also be sure to ask how you can add to or edit your registry after your initial visit.



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

Get your partner involved

There are bound to be some parts of the registry your partner may not care about, but asking for input and making decisions together lets you both share in the excitement. Focus on things you'll each find useful as

you settle into your new home. For example, the person who will be responsible for taking out the trash should get to pick the new kitchen trash can.

Find more inspiration for planning your way to wedded bliss at eLivingtoday.com. ■



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4 ways to celebrate the *power of love*

(BPT) - Love is what makes the world go round. And for that matter, it's how everyone got here. And it's how everyone gets up every morning. Love has been a big part of how people have made it through this year — together, even when they are apart. So here is a love letter to you: There are no limits to what love can do. There's no distance it won't go, and there's no way it can keep you apart.

Take the opportunity to kiss more, fill their hearts more and remind everyone to share the love. This is an important time to put more love out there, however you express it, because there are #NoLimitsonLove and what it can do.

Here are just a few of the many ways that you can show the ones you love how much you care about and appreciate them.

1. A written message

Whether you send them an e-card or mail a handwritten note, writing out your feelings can sometimes be an easier way to express that you care. You can take the time to craft a message that goes

straight to their heart — and that will be cherished by the person you're sending it to. Don't know what to say? How about telling the story of how you met from your point of view, or sharing a cherished memory with them?

2. Positive actions

Showing your love through a helpful action can speak volumes. Don't wait to be asked. Run an errand for someone, help them do something around the house or take care of them in other concrete ways to let them know they're on your mind.

3. Gifts from the heart

Send or give someone a special gift, just to let them know you much they mean to you. You can choose classic gifts like flowers or chocolates, or find something that speaks directly to your relationship or their unique personality.

4. Share your love with the world

Have an inspiring story about your own beloved family



member, teacher, spouse or friend? Why not post your own love story so everyone knows how much that person means to you?

Join the celebration of love on 1800flowers.com/nolimitsonlove and share your story with the hashtag #nolimitsonlove. Then read about inspiring stories of love from people around the country to lift your spirits. No matter what kind of love you share, there truly are no limits to what this powerful emotion can do. ■

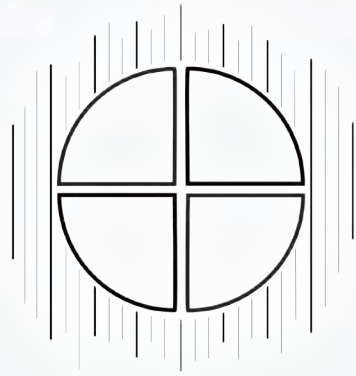
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...How to budget for health care?

...What are glucose gummies?

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The cremation trend

Since 2015, Americans have chosen cremation over the traditional casket and graveside burial. This trend is growing every year. More than half of American citizens will choose cremation this year according to statistics from the National Funeral Directors Association, or NFDA. The association also predicts that in 20 years almost 80 percent of Americans will choose this option.

There are three factors driving this trend: cost, religious affiliation and a transient society. Funeral costs continue to rise along with burial plots and the extras families do not plan for. Fewer people consider themselves religious today, therefore feeling no need for a traditional funeral. The Catholic church has lessened its restrictions on cremation, allowing it but still requiring a ceremony along with burying the ashes. Families and friends are spread out all over the United States, making the traditional funeral tough to attend for some. With cremation, family members can carry the remains and celebrate where and when is convenient. Many people like the idea that their loved one is still with them, whether it is an urn, jewelry, stuffed animal or other keepsake.

As people have attended more celebration of life ceremonies in the past few decades, they have enjoyed them and opted to have the same for their loved ones, feeling they are less restrictive and formal.

Cremation can be an affordable option to celebrate the life of a loved one. Research your options and choose the best for yourself, in advance, to take the worry from your family. ■

*Information provided by Blair A. Overton, Brookes Funeral Care,
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Embrace aging: compassion, mindfulness and the cultural cure

Anxiety, depression and other emotional challenges can overwhelm families as they try to adjust to new realities in their lives.

Jake F. Li, a licensed independent social worker with Des Moines Pastoral Counseling Center, has advice for meeting retirement or declining health, especially mindfulness for opportunities and new goals.

FOR CAREGIVERS

On the topic of Alzheimer's Disease and other dementias, Li says compassion and mindfulness are ways to combat internal expectations of what life was supposed to be for both the patient and the caregiver, and to reduce depression, anxiety and grief in this journey.

He talks often with clients about how some of the greatest challenges that we face aren't our fault.

"There is pain and suffering in life," said Li. "But we can have the wisdom to not blame ourselves."

Fundamentally, he says compassion and mindfulness are the idea of stepping out of the "autopilot of our lives." He describes that mindfulness is the ability to turn all of your senses on to a single focus and to be present with it. Specifically, mindfulness helps us understand the rising thoughts, emotions and body sensations.

CULTURAL CURE

There are 47 million people experiencing dementia across the world. With no remedy on the horizon, Anne Basting works on what she calls the Cultural Cure, bringing the tools of imagination and creative expression to care relationships.

As an educator and artist, Basting transports people out of isolation, bringing meaning back into the lives of elders with dementia wherever they live. She helps caregivers shift from the expectation of memory to the freedom of imagination.

"People with dementia are living in a world of metaphor," Basting says. "We just need to move into it."

Basting says dementia breaks rational language and the order of time. Shifting to symbolic, emotional communication lets people access and express strengths "instead of going to the loss and asking them to communicate with you out of loss."

She encourages "beautiful" questions in personal dialogue — evading cognitive disability with queries that open a shared path of discovery. For example: "What is the most beautiful sound in the world? And can you make it?"

ONLINE LIBRARY

For two years, a coalition of organizations led by Calvin Community hosted Li, Basting and other expert-led discussions in Des Moines on issues associated with aging. Now, the Embrace Aging online library serves older adults, family members and caregivers with practical information on how to handle issues associated with aging. Embracing Aging is presented in 2021 by American Enterprise Group. You can see the 12 expert-led discussions in the Embrace Aging online library at https://www.calvincommunity.org/resources/embrace_aging/ today. ■

Since 1965, Calvin Community has provided services to older adults in a caring, Christian community designed to meet their physical, social spiritual and psychological needs and contribute to their health, security and happiness. You can learn more about Calvin's Beaverdale campus and continuum of care at www.calvincommunity.org or by calling 515-633-2566 today.

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Build a better health care budget

(Family Features) Managing a chronic disease takes plenty of special planning and attention, and in many cases, a lot of money. In some cases, the expenses associated with disease management are overwhelming, forcing patients to skip essential treatments or medication and risk serious health complications.

One example is diabetes. A study published in the “Journal of American Medicine” found that 1 in 4 individuals with diabetes had rationed their insulin, which can impact short- and long-term health. Since 2002, the list price of insulin has risen, often costing customers without health insurance or on high-deductible insurance plans upwards of \$1,000 for a one-month supply.

Consider these ideas to help manage the expense associated with a chronic disease:

1. HEALTH INSURANCE

Whether you have a chronic condition or you’re generally healthy, it’s important to understand the different types of health insurance available to you. Commercial health plans can be purchased by anyone and may be available through your employer, or you may be eligible for government-funded health care, but there are numerous other options and variables to consider.

Understanding the costs associated with insurance plans means taking into account both your monthly premium and out-of-pocket costs like co-pays, co-insurance and deductibles. When choosing a plan, decide whether you’d rather pay a higher amount each month (premium) and less when you see the doctor (co-pays, co-insurance or deductible), or if you’d prefer to pay less each month and more when you need to see the doctor or fill prescriptions.

Another consideration is the plan’s network. There can be a significant budget impact when you see doctors in-network vs. out-of-network. Other potential cost-saving options include health savings accounts or flexible spending accounts, which might save you tax dollars.

2. DOCTOR VISITS

Avoiding visits to the doctor because of the expense can end up costing more in the long run if you leave serious symptoms untreated or fail to properly manage a chronic condition. Make sure you understand all costs associated with your visits, including what’s covered by insurance, your co-pay and any out-of-pocket costs. Labs and tests aren’t always covered, and certain conditions like diabetes can require many test-related expenses. Sometimes saving money can be as simple as having lab work done at an in-network facility and sent

to your doctor.

In addition to a primary care doctor, many patients with diabetes also see an endocrinologist and have more frequent visits to the eye doctor. Indirect costs like transportation and childcare may also impact the overall expense of a visit.

3. PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Doing your research can make a major difference in what you pay for your prescriptions. For many conditions, such as diabetes, the cost of medication may make it tempting to skip doses to make a prescription last longer, but that can have dire medical consequences.

Instead, conduct price checks with various pharmacies and discuss your medication options with your doctor, including which of your prescriptions have generic alternatives available. If a generic is a possibility and your doctor believes it’s a good match for your condition, be sure the prescription notes that substituting is allowed. You can also look into coupon savings and patient assistance plans.

In addition, some programs are available to help people with certain conditions. For example, GetInsulin.org, created by nonprofit organization Beyond Type 1, is a one-stop tool for anyone with diabetes who is having trouble accessing affordable insulin in the United States.

“High-quality, modern insulin must be available to people with diabetes regardless of employment or insurance status, across all demographics, without barriers and at an affordable and predictable price point,” said Thom Scher, CEO of Beyond Type 1.

Through the website, users answer a few questions and receive customized action plans to guide them through the access solutions that best serve their unique circumstances such as location, insurance type, income and prescription.

4. MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Devices like oxygen tanks, pacemakers, blood glucose monitors and CPAP machines for sleep apnea play vital roles in treating serious medical conditions. If you’re worried about the cost of equipment recommended to help you navigate a short- or long-term diagnosis, work with your doctor and insurance company to figure out the most cost-effective method to achieve your treatment goals.

5. EMERGENCY CARE

A medical emergency isn’t only a drain on your physical and mental well-being, it can deliver a major blow to your finances. Emergency care can cost thousands



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

of dollars per visit, especially with high-deductible insurance plans. Some conditions like diabetes are associated with a higher likelihood of emergency care needs for complications such as diabetic ketoacidosis and severe hypoglycemia. To offset the impact of potential emergency care expenses, plan ahead and build a savings account for your medical needs.

6. FOOD

Certain diets cost more to maintain, and that can be especially true when you’re eating to accommodate a medical need. When planning food costs, be sure to account for the foods you’ll eat regularly, as well as the extras you’ll need, such as glucose gummies and snacks to treat low blood sugar for those living with diabetes.

Learn about options to help manage your diabetes-related expenses at [GetInsulin.org](https://www.getinsulin.org). ■

SEARCHING FOR SOLUTIONS

After her father passed away from complications of uncontrolled diabetes, Christine Kanderski was determined to never relive that pain. This meant finding a way to afford treatment for her mother’s type 2 diabetes and her son’s type 1 diabetes.

“There was no way that my family and I were going to let diabetes take another one of our family members,” Kanderski said.

Kanderski budgeted for a laundry list of costs: appointments, health insurance, needles, test strips, glucose meters and insulin. One trick she found to save money was sharing supplies between her mother and son.

When things seemed hopeless, Kanderski reached out to the diabetes community for support and resources. Tools like [GetInsulin.org](https://www.getinsulin.org) can help people find affordable insulin. Users answer a few questions and receive customized action plans to guide them through solutions that best serve their unique circumstances. ■



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Won't you be my neighbor?

The city of Des Moines charts 52 neighborhood associations. We share a few of the success stories.

By Jeff Pitts

A map of Des Moines outlines the 52 official neighborhood associations chartered by the city. These groups of hard-working volunteers aim at bettering the spaces surrounding their family, friends and anyone who lives nearby. Too often, local headlines are dominated by negativity, but these salt-of-the-earth laborers deserve recognition. We hope you enjoy meeting a few of the fine folks who deserve pats on their backs. We certainly did.

After getting engaged in the community and the Highland Park Neighborhood Association, Drew and Kara Kelso recognized a need for additional venues for people to meet socially in their neighborhood. To meet this demand, the Kelsos opened The Slow Down Coffee Co. at 3613 Sixth Ave. Photo by Jeff Pitts

Northside developments...

Highland Park/Oak Park Neighborhood

Drew Kelso's first neighborhood association meeting was nearly the organization's last.

"It was going to disband that night," he remembers.

Only a handful of members attended, and the group was largely uninigorated. But Drew, discouraged by national politics and its seeming futility, was eager to take local action. Affecting change on a presidential scale felt impossible, but getting things done in his own backyard? Drew knew he could accomplish worthwhile objectives locally that would be of help to people.

Kara Kelso, Drew's wife, didn't attend that first meeting. After two-and-a-half hours of waiting for her husband's return, she started wondering what kind of calamity could have befallen him. She'd soon learn that Drew was the newly elected vice president of the Highland Park Neighborhood Association.

That was four years ago. Much has changed in the area since then, and Drew is excited to see even more positive developments in the future. Riverview Park's grand reopening is scheduled for Friday, June 4. Hiland Bakery has been refurbished and operates under new ownership. A remodeled Chuck's Pizza will reopen soon. Highland Park's main thoroughfare, Euclid Avenue, will take part in a Three Lane Pilot Project, converting the main drag along Second Avenue to 12th Street into a three-lane cross-section

roadway which will induce slower traffic and make room for on-street parking on both sides of Euclid — between Sixth and Second avenues.

Highland Park's commercial area hit a rough patch at a time that roughly correlates to its removal of on-street parking along Euclid. The hope is that slowing traffic down might multiply the current progress being made at the north-side shopping district.

In addition to these and other area upgrades, the Kelsos recently opened The Slow Down Coffee Co. at 3613 Sixth Ave., across from Chuck's and next door to Hiland Bakery in the old Hiland Park Hardware space. The shop offers customers a chance to slow down a bit, just like the drivers on Euclid, and enjoy the company of a local friend while sipping something tasty.

In order to focus on the shop's operation, Drew has stepped aside from neighborhood leadership duties. But helping the community thrive is still the goal. He thinks the coffee shop is doing just that.

"We're really excited to see neighbors meeting up and being a gathering place for people in the city," he says.

"We just want the neighborhood celebrated," adds Kara.

Highland Park/Oak Park Neighborhood

Population estimate: 6,138, Oak Park; 12,358, Highland Park

High school: North High School

Neighborhood boundaries: Highland Park and Oak Park have recently merged into one association.

Highland Park boundaries: North city limits, Hull to Second Avenue to the Des Moines River, Chicago N.W. Railroad Tracks, and Sixth Avenue

Oak Park boundaries: Aurora Avenue, Des Moines River, Sixth Avenue (west side), and Des Moines River

Hotspots: Chuck's Pizza, Hiland Bakery, Highland Park Country Club, All African's Food Market, Riverview Park, The Slow Down Coffee Co., Aqualand, Des Moines Mercantile, Variety Star Playground at Riverview Park

Website: www.facebook.com/HighlandOakDSM

President: Ashley Kennebeck

Projects: Riverview Park Grand Opening Celebration: Friday, June 4 at 6 p.m., 710 Corning Ave., Des Moines; *watch for details regarding attendance restrictions

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A vibrant poster for a 'Groovy Goods' event. At the top left is a circular seal that says 'CITYVIEW BEST 2021'. To its right, the number '420' is written in large, bubbly green letters. Further right, a yellow circle contains the text 'April 16-20th'. Below these elements, the words 'Event & Sale!' are written in large, bold, green letters with a black outline. In the center, there is a cartoon illustration of a blue and white hippie van with 'GROOVY GOODS' written on its side, decorated with flowers and a peace sign. To the left of the van is a cartoon character with a large afro and a red and yellow body. Below the van, the text 'Your 1-Stop Hippie Shop!' is written in a red, outlined font. Underneath that, 'Smokeshop, Clothing, Incense & Tapestries' and 'Herbs, Stones & Metaphysical Supplies' are listed in yellow and orange fonts. At the bottom, social media icons for Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter are shown next to the handle '@GroovyGoodsStore' and the phone number 'Ph 515-274-2799'. The last line of text says 'Open Daily 11A-6P 2300 University in Des Moines'.

You find out who your friends are....

Fairmont Park Neighborhood Association

Permission denied?

That was the answer when a Fairmont Park resident applied for what should have been a routine but necessary permit for making improvements to her home. The City of Des Moines requires these sorts of permits when homeowners make significant modifications to real estate, but...

"The city, in October of 2019 — in the area west of I-235, and south of Guthrie to Easton — they rezoned them to industrial (from residential)," explains Jeff Witte, president of Fairmont Park Neighborhood Association.

This new classification might sound harmless, but it meant that a handful of homes in this neighborhood, and a few dozen houses elsewhere in the city, could no longer pull the required permits in order to undertake important construction projects.

And like a good neighbor... The Fairmont Park Neighborhood Association rallied neighbors and alerted City Councilperson Linda Westergaard. Together, the group went to work, along with the Des Moines City Council, to alleviate some of the short-term hardship, and they are now working toward a long-term solution.

"That's just one of the projects we're working on at Fairmont Park," says Witte.

Helping out at Garton Elementary School, at 2820 E.

24th St., Des Moines, is another of the many endeavors of the association that Witte is proud of. Garton is a "magnet school" that offers courses or resources that are unique or in high demand. These schools attract students from all around the area and not just from its own neighborhood. With hundreds of kids coming in on a regular school day, Witte noticed that too many were in desperate need of winter coats.

And like a good neighbor... Witte and the Fairmont Park Neighborhood Association have repeatedly endeavored to raise money to procure coats in order to offer them to the children in need.



Jeff Witte serves as president of Fairmont Park Neighborhood Association and Northeast Neighbors and Friends, which is a collaboration of 15 northeast Des Moines neighborhoods. Photo submitted

Fairmont Park Neighborhood Association

Population estimate: Nearly 5,000

Founded: 2000

High school: East High School

Neighborhood boundaries:

E. Euclid, south to Easton Boulevard, east to Hubbell, north to E. 33rd Street, and west to Delaware.

Mission: The Fairmont Park Neighborhood Association, established in 2000, is a nonprofit that is dedicated to improving the lives of its residents and the overall health of the neighborhood.

Website: <http://fairmontparkdsm.com>

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Northeast Neighbors and Friends

Northeast Neighbors and Friends is more than a single neighborhood association.

“We’re a consortium of neighborhoods,” says Witte, who works double duty by serving as president of this group and the Fairmont Park Neighborhood Association (mentioned previously). These 15 northeast Des Moines neighborhoods band together to form one cohesive association in order to better serve the interests of its 63,000 residents. The group advocates for civic improvements and reforms for the benefit of the northeast area of Des Moines.

“We amplify the area’s voice,” he says. Hosting political candidate forums, opposing unpopular commercial development and raising money and providing resources for schools are all things the group has done well, according to Witte.

“We’ve had a lot of success,” explains Witte. As the president of both his own neighborhood association and the Northeast Neighbors and Friends consortium, Witte has learned a thing or two about organizing neighbors.

“The meeting will last at least 90 minutes,” Witte states matter-of-factly. “If you can’t come for at least

“The meeting will last at least 90 minutes,” says Jeff Witte matter-of-factly. “If you can’t come for at least 90 minutes, then don’t come at all.”

90 minutes, then don’t come at all.” That’s because, previously, when he didn’t get this message out, after certain hot-button issues were covered, people would get up en masse to leave, often right in the middle of a guest speaker’s presentation. It seemed disrespectful. “I’m not a dictator,” he says. “I’m trying to run a meeting, and we have a lot of good qualified people involved.”

Northeast Neighbors and Friends

Population estimate: 63,000; 15 neighborhoods

Founded: 2005

Neighborhood boundaries: Bordered on the north and east by Des Moines’ city limits and on the south and west by the Des Moines River.

High school: East High School

Purpose: Northeast Neighbors is a nonprofit that aims to advance the interests and vitality of the Northeast Des Moines neighborhoods in its membership.

Projects: Since its inception, Northeast Neighbors and Friends has worked to unify the voice of the neighborhoods it represents while helping that voice be heard in the community.

Website: www.northeastneighborsandfriends.org

President: Jeff Witte



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Millions of dollars infused into Dogtown...

Drake-area neighbors are getting stuff done.

FEATURE STORY

The Drake area is one of the oldest neighborhoods in Des Moines. Its residential boulevards boast mature trees and turn-of-the-century homes, and it is home to one of central Iowa's most diverse populations, but despite some positive attributes, the area has struggled at times with economic development.

Dawson Urquidez has spent months as an intern working in the school's Office of Community Engagement and poring over archives from student newspapers and other local media outlets. The first-year honors student is compiling a comprehensive history of Dogtown, and while doing so, he has picked up on an interesting pattern that might bode well for what is happening right now in the area.

"Drake is more than it appears on the surface," he says. "The mid 1950s and 1960s were the Golden Age of Drake, and it was really attractive because of the interaction between the school and the community. ... The relationship between the University and community... they became almost as one."

During that era, Urquidez points to community events and happenings that promoted that near inseparability. He found stories about beard-growing contests judged by Dogtown barbers, art exhibitions held in conjunction with the school and the community, and, of course, the Varsity Theatre played a role by attracting portions of every available demographic.

With the millions of dollars being poured into the area near Drake, and with the potential for millions more still to come, the current revitalization effort could draw droves of apartment dwellers, retail shoppers, foodies and people looking to have a nice time. If so, the fun will be happening right alongside Drake's campus, right where



The mural at 25th Street and Carpenter near the Varsity Cinema welcomes people to campus at Drake University. Likewise, recent commercial developments in the neighborhood surrounding the school might welcome an increased level of interaction between the university and the community. Photo by Jeff Pitts



A crowd of students, circa 1951, on a standard school day. Photo submitted

it's likely to induce a similar type of interaction with the school and the community as it did once upon a time. If you throw in the fact that the old Varsity movie theater is being overhauled, and if you compare the sum of these parts to the neighborhood's prior recipe for success, the one pointed out by Urquidez, it could be that the Drake Neighborhood's future might be so bright that Griff the Drake Bulldog mascot will need to wear shades.

Get your popcorn ready!

Dogtown's movie theater, Varsity Cinema, will soon be screening art house flicks.

Des Moines was once home to an array of historic movie palaces. But these local theaters have all disappeared, except for one.

Ben Godar of Des Moines Film works as the director of the nonprofit that operates Varsity Cinema just north of University Avenue on 25th Street near Drake University. He says fundraising is underway to renovate the historic venue and that they have raised about one-third of their \$3 million goal. If all goes as planned, the Varsity will be hosting film screenings by early 2022.

In the meantime, the Varsity offers a slate of virtual showings that are in line with what you can expect when the doors open. Programming at the historic theater will offer arts-based films, says Godar. Other potential

Drake Neighborhood Association

Population estimate: 15,197

Projects: The second-oldest neighborhood association in Des Moines. The association helps give the neighborhood a voice in government decisions, encourages neighborhood beautification and safety improvements, and hosts special events that build community.

Hotspots: Drake University, The Library, Witmer Park, Hope Church,

Website: www.drakeneighborhood.org

High school: Roosevelt High School

Neighborhood boundaries: Franklin Avenue, I-235, Martin Luther King Junior Parkway, and 42nd Street

President: Lori Calhoun, Drake Neighborhood Association



The photo depicts a potter at Drake University showcasing his craft at an art fair in front of some neighborhood children who were visiting the event. Open-air art fairs like this one facilitated interaction between Dogtown residents and Drake students. Photo submitted

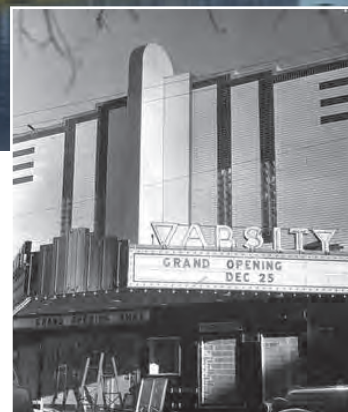
"We want to grow the film culture and cast a wide net," explains Ben Godar, director of Des Moines Film, a nonprofit that is renovating and will operate the Varsity Cinema near Drake University.



Des Moines was once home to an array of historic movie palaces and neighborhood theaters, but all have been lost except the Varsity, according to Ben Godar, director of the nonprofit that will run the theater and that is working to renovate its historic building.

THEN: The historic Drake area movie theater known as the Varsity first opened in 1917. Photo submitted

COMING SOON: This is a rendering of what the movie theater could look like when it starts screening next year. Photo submitted



film options include kids programming, midnight movies, independent films and genre flicks.

“We want to grow the film culture and cast a wide net,” Godar says.

Art house films and other attractions will soon return to the big screens at the renovated movie theater, but for now, movies are showing online virtually.

The theater’s restoration includes more than just a facelift. Highlights include what will be a newly installed 45-seat auditorium upstairs; and the lobby will be expanded along with its offerings that will include wine, beer and alcohol.

Des Moines Film is a nonprofit dedicated to growing a vibrant local film culture. Since 2015, the group has produced a variety of unique events, brought a diverse mix of films to Des Moines, and offered educational opportunities and financial support for local filmmakers. The remodeled theater in Dogtown will offer year-round, arts-driven programming. ■

Timeline: Movies at the Varsity Cinema: 1207 25th St., Des Moines

1917: Built ... later renovated into a Coca-Cola bottling plant

1938: The Varsity was renovated again into a movie theater

1960s: The theater debuted French and Italian New Wave films in the early 1960s and focused primarily on art house films by the mid 1970s.

2015: Des Moines Film established

2018: Varsity Theatre closes

2020: Des Moines Film purchases the historic movie theater

2021: \$3 million fundraising campaign launched

2022: Theater scheduled to reopen to live audiences

Des Moines Film presents:

Varsity Cinema, 1207 25th St., Des Moines
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LUNCH WITH...

Alex Hall at St. Kilda's

Restaurateur expresses love for Valley Junction, hatred of social media.

BY JIM DUNCAN

Alex Hall is a London-born, Melbourne-raised kid who opened five restaurants in New York City before moving to Des Moines. Another five restaurants later, and he is only 47 years old. We asked him to lunch recently, and he met us at St. Kilda's Collective in Valley Junction. The restaurant is what Hall describes as his dream place, and for good reasons. It is a gorgeously restored building from the 19th century that was most famously a Ford dealership.

"Tim Rypma (landlord) is a genius. I am so thankful that he believed enough in my vision that he helped realize it. This reconstruction cost a hell of a lot."

So how did a guy with five cafés in Brooklyn end up in Des Moines? Alex's answer is a familiar one.

"Love is all you need. I met my wife in New York, and she talked about this ideal small city. As soon as she got me here, I realized what was possible compared to in New York. I used to spend a whole day going to all five restaurants there. I do not miss New York. Maybe I miss London, but not New York at all," he said.

If Alex misses London, his accent misses Melbourne.

"OK, maybe, but I am truly attached now to Des Moines. I love it here."

What about St. Kilda's in Valley Junction makes it his dream café?

"Look at it. It's gorgeous. I have a wood-fired grill. I have a state-of-the-art espresso machine. The private space in the back has the potential to pay the rent for the whole place. We opened with COVID, so that has not happened yet, but I still think it will," he said.

What does Alex like about Valley Junction?

"Everything. So many people told me not to come here. That made me want to come here all the more, and what a great decision that was for me. Matt Hauge (Historic Valley Junction Foundation executive director) is brilliant at bringing events in that work for brick and mortar businesses. In Valley Junction, the snow not only gets shoveled, it gets carried away. In East Village, the snow piles up till late spring if your business is on the south side of the street. Matt is a fabulous promoter, and Valley Junction promotions complement the local brick and mortar businesses, unlike downtown

and East Village. Nights like Art Walk, Farmers Market and Bike Nights are fabulous for us. They have one-way streets here. And they don't make my customers pay to park anytime. Downtown, they enforce parking meters.

"Events downtown do not help brick and mortar businesses; they hurt us. The parking meters are covered five days before events start, so people just drive by to somewhere else. Even without special events, parking meters are enforced on nights and weekends in Des Moines. Here, parking is free for customers," he said.

What else is different between the inner city and the suburbs?

"There is more diversity here. It's not just restaurants. We have a barber shop still. One of my goals is to bring an ice cream shop here. Another is to bring back an old-fashioned butcher shop," Hall said.

How is business in the year of the pandemic?

"We are finally back to making our bills on schedule here in Valley Junction. Breakfast and brunch have so much to do with that. I don't understand why most places are closed on Sundays, holidays and mornings. We produce 50 percent of our revenue on brunch. We are open seven days a week. We need to be, for stock and staffing purposes. I love waking up at 4:30 excited to go to work at 6. It energizes me," he said.

What Aussie influences has Alex brought to Iowa?

"Australia is so diversified, and Des Moines people are well traveled. They want to have things here that they discover on the road. We put a tandoori chicken sandwich on our menu here, and it stayed on and is now a best seller. Bahn mis is popular here, too. I would like to cook more fish on our wood-fired grill, but so far Des Moines only seems to want salmon. That might change, though," he said.

"Mainly, Australia is more casual than America, and so am I. I don't believe in fine dining. I don't even drink wine. Aussies treat coffee as a cultural event. For many Americans, it's just a jump start to the day. I want this place to be a cultural center, a place to come and mingle. I love my customers, and I think they love the casual atmosphere. In a pandemic, people will still go out for a meal that costs less than \$20. That's where I want to be," he said.



Anything else different in the suburbs than the inner city?

"Suburban people look more for values. They aren't interested in individual-sized pizza; they want one pie to feed them all. They prefer to order exactly what they want to eat, not orders that come with side dishes and salads, et cetera," he said.

What about America bugs him?

"I doubt it's just America anymore, but negative social media drives me so crazy I cannot read it. My wife does and tries to respond to everyone. She just showed me a review that compared our food to vomit that no one should eat. I wish people would just tell us about issues in person so we can fix them. But so many now would rather walk out mad and write a negative review. I spend too much time encouraging staff to address problems and make people happy. Now they don't get a chance because too many people want to walk out and write about their anger on Yelp or many other places," he said.

What is next for Alex?

"I hope to open several new places soon, mostly in the suburbs." ■

AROUND TOWN

PHOTOS BY AUTUMN MEYER



Danni Yan and Yan Wang



Rodrigo Acevedo, Danni Finn, Mariah Deppe and Taylor Hoffman



Will Roepke and Bianca Zerwas



Ssang Gebelein and Ryan Blane



Amanda Rush and Joe Simpson



Sarah Kotcon and Sam Finneseth

PI RUN

Fleet Feet Des Moines
March 13



Melissa Wilson, Nancy Moore and Bill Snyder



Marcie Morrison and Sharon Fuller

Mulberry Street Tavern

This place goes the distance to provide unusual worldly experiences not often found in Des Moines.

EAT & DRINK

Mulberry Street Tavern, in the newish Surety Hotel, covers the world to provide a cross sampling of marvelous amenities from both small villages and large cities. A Chicago boutique chain, Surety specializes in modernizing historic buildings. The rooms here are handsome if not large. They all feature Sferra sheets, the northern Italian linen maker known for producing the world's best bed ware since the 19th century. Some sets of Sferra sheets cost as much as most people spend on large beds.

The lobby is gorgeous and occupies some hallowed ground that once included a state-of-the-art Italian coffee shop and Tommy's Chicago Italian beef sandwiches, a local legend. Meeting spaces are excellent, Wi-Fi is free, and the excellent bar and restaurant will deliver to your room. Art work is from Olson-Larsen, a mostly Midwestern gallery. A recent rate check showed rooms going for \$125-\$164. I was told weekdays are a better deal than weekends, which shows how much Des Moines has changed since the Savery remodeled.

The restaurant is also a handsome devil of a place highlighted by a taxidermic raccoon with a flamboyant flair in her wardrobe. Wood, metal and barstools, so heavy their movement sounds like an industrial accident, highlight the decor. High tops and short tables are equally divided.

Steaks are a piece de resistance, especially the chef's cut for two, which presented superb rib meat sliced off the bone and served with de Burgo sauce and horseradish cream. Steaks are served with Laguiole knives. Those are renowned pieces of craftsmanship from the town in Aveyron province in southern France where most of the 1,200 people work for the knifemaker or a famous cheesemaker. On one occasion, there was a divine black truffle pasta, but on a return visit it had been replaced with carbonara. Also, a tasty short rib dish had been replaced, as it often is when winter yields

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- Saturday, 5-10 p.m., brunch on

Saturday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

to spring.

A superstar of the menu was pappardelle, the wide pasta often served with Bolognese. Here it is served with duck confit ragu. Steak tartare and five spice pumpkin gnocchi were crowd pleasers. Lamb skewers produced something more like meatballs than typical skewer meat. A cheeseboard was less interesting than a charcuterie board. We tried some chicken liver mousse and both raw and grilled oysters. We could not pull the slot handle on tinned fish even though it was from Preserved States, the Chicago company with a reputation for instant tinning on boats. Salmon was from Skuna Bay, near Vancouver and renowned. Staff said that the grilled half chicken and the meat pot pies were two of the most popular orders. Both kale and arugula salads pleased our table.

There was no dessert menu on my visits. Wine lists, tap beer and booze flights were upgrades over most. Suntory Japanese whiskey is worth trying if you have not had an opportunity yet. Fancy drinks like "smoke and mirrors" are within the bartenders' repertoires.

Brunch opportunities included a whole wheat pancake dish with real maple syrup, burgers and fried chicken and waffles, with eggs to order.



Steak frites at Mulberry Street Tavern

Bottom line — this place goes the distance to provide unusual worldly experiences not often found in Des Moines. It's a stylish place to be seen or just to drop in for a nightcap.

SIDE DISH

The former Red Rossa will become a Franka pizzeria sometime soon. It's been vacant more than a year. ■

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

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BELLY UP TO:



The Beaver Tap is located in the heart of Beaverdale. The local favorite is housed within the building that was formerly occupied by A.K. O'Connor's and Bon Ton. Photo by Jackie Wilson

Beaver Tap

Beaverdale hangout has new kitchen and is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

BY JACKIE WILSON



Beaver Tap offers a full kitchen and a menu that includes pizza, burgers, sandwiches and appetizers. Photo by Jackie Wilson



Mike Ketchum performs in front of delighted fans in Beaverdale. Photo by Jackie Wilson

The Beaver Tap is located in the heart of Beaverdale, and its building has been a mainstay in the neighborhood for more than half of a century. As different bars have come and gone, today it continues to be a hangout for locals in search of a friendly pub and grub.

Since our last Belly Up review, the Beaver Tap now has a full kitchen, which opened in December 2020 after a management change. Its sister location across the street, Saints Pub and Patio, closed at the same time.

The kitchen is now open, starting at 8:30 a.m. for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Menu items are similar to Saints and include pizza, burgers, sandwiches and appetizers.

On a recent Friday evening, the Beaver Tap included a mix of locals. One couple that lives a few houses down the street has walked to this location for years.

Another patron, Karen, recalled several occasions when she visited the place —when it was A.K. O'Connor's and the Bon Ton.

“The Bon Ton used to be more lit up, and we watched people play pool,” she remembers.

Recently, the pool tables were removed. Assistant General Manager Shannon Boswell explains why.

“After a decade of being just a bar, we got rid of the pool tables to start fresh,” she says. “We want to be more like the old A.K. O'Connor's and serve food for all ages.”

The bar inside is well worn — with renovations in the

works. An assortment of beer signs are displayed along the walls, and there are more than a half dozen tables and high tops for seating. An outdoor patio is a roomy addition. Bike nights will be offered this summer as the bike trail goes right past the joint.

Happy Hour, from 2-6 p.m., includes \$1 off wells and draws, along with half-price starters. Local brews with a full bar offer thirsty patrons numerous beverage choices.

While chatting with the patrons, it seems that nearly all of them live in the neighborhood or have that Beaverdale connection.

Mike Ketchum, for example, declared he'd been coming to the Beaver Tap for more than 10 years. Then he asked if I'd ever seen a fat guy do the splits. I pondered whether it was a trick question and replied truthfully with a simple “no.”

In a matter of seconds, Mike was on the floor doing the splits while chugging his beer. No warm-up for this limber dude, and the seam of his jeans remained intact. His secret?

“I was blessed with this body,” he says. “I played baseball and slid into bases. I'm a farmer, so I'm limber.”

The bartender laughed, as I'm sure she'd witnessed his shtick dozens of times. It made for an interesting evening. As we walked out of the bar, no other acrobatics occurred. But on any other evening, it might happen again. ■

MARGARITA WARS

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| ☐ Cancun Grill & Cantina | ☐ El Rodeo Mexican Restaurant | ☐ Los Laureles | ☐ Star Bar |
| ☐ Cazador | ☐ El Toreado Mexican Bar & Grill | ☐ Los Tres Amigos | ☐ Tacos La Familia |
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| ☐ Clyde's Fine Diner | ☐ Gastro Grub & Pub | ☐ Mi Mexico Restaurant | ☐ The Bartender's Handshake |
| ☐ Coa Cantina | ☐ Gilroy's Kitchen + Pub + Patio | ☐ Mojito's Mexican Restaurant | ☐ The Dam Pub |
| ☐ District 36 Wine Bar & Grille | ☐ Guadalajara Mexican Restaurant | ☐ Monterrey Mexican Restaurant | ☐ The Republic on Grand |
| ☐ El Azteca | ☐ Habanero Mexican Restaurant | ☐ Nacho Tequilas | ☐ The Walnut |
| ☐ El Barco Mexican Restaurant | ☐ Hacienda Vieja | ☐ Old West Mexican Restaurant | ☐ Viva Mexican Restaurant |
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Suede

Band provides rock and roll to move your soul.

It was nearly four months since the group Suede played for a live audience indoors. For their first concert in their 2021 “Come Back Tour,” they played Doc’s Lounge in Johnston, performing for a live-music starved audience.

“It felt like we were playing in Wells Fargo,” says Suede’s lead singer Jenn Kintzle. “The energy in the place took you to another place. It was pure joy seeing everyone singing along. I think people hadn’t listened to live music in a while.”

Suede was formed in 2015 by Kintzle and drummer Steve Lesch. Lesch explains he was doing work at someone’s home and noticed a guitar at the house. He inquired with the owner and told him he was looking for a lead singer. He gave Lesch the number for his cousin Kintzle, who had just moved to town from Pennsylvania.

The rest of the lineup includes Steven Belknap, keyboard; Michael Jones, bass guitar; Jay Parnau, guitar; and Brian Devick, sound. Lesch and Belknap played trumpets in high school band together. All of Suede’s members have played in various bands over the years, including Round About, Misfit Toys and Rathbones.

They named the band Suede, as it sounds smooth and goes with their motto, “rock and roll to move your soul.”

“It was a good fit for Jenn’s voice,” says Lesch.

The first time the band played together at a gig, Kintzle recalls being nervous.

“It had been a few years since I’d sang, and I said to the band, ‘You want only one person in the front?’ ” she



Suede plays the Down Under Lounge on April 9; Doc’s Lounge on April 16; and Kenny’s Garage in Waukee on April 30.

asked.

“If you want to sing in the band,” Lesch replied, “you have to be in the front.”

Jitters aside, the group plays a variety of rock and roll, pop and country from the 1970s to today. All of the band members sing or harmonize. Songs include “Radar Love,” “Sweet Home Alabama,” “Bobbie McGee” and tunes by Rush, Styx, AC/DC and more.

The band was on hiatus during COVID, and Kintzle didn’t practice with the band because she is a nurse practitioner. Once she received her COVID vaccine, the band resumed practices.

“I couldn’t go to a bar and then go to a hospital to work,” she explains.

Today the band remains solid, and they are all

friends.

“We have a fantastic time and go out together,” Lesch says. “Before COVID, we used to watch other bands and support them.”

The most challenging part is the late nights and tearing down and setting up gear. “It takes a toll on the body,” says Lesch. “We need our own roadies.”

Once they get playing, Lesch’s body aches disappear. “I feel no pain when I play,” he explains. “The endorphins kick in, and the energy is amazing.”

You can catch Suede playing at the Down Under Lounge on Friday, April 9; at Doc’s Lounge on Friday, April 16; or at Kenny’s Garage in Waukee on Friday, April 30. ■

SOUND ADVICE

BY JACKIE WILSON

Hinterland announced its upcoming music festival for Aug. 6-8. Held at the Avenue of the Saints Amphitheater in St. Charles, it boasts two dozen acts over three days. A sample of the lineup includes **Avett Brothers**, **Leon Bridges**, **Black Puma**, **Tanya Tucker** and **Shooter Jennings**. Find out details at www.hinterlandiowa.com.

The Iowa State Fair is the site of Grammy-award winning, Rock and Roll Hall of Famers, **The Doobie**

Brothers on Aug. 22 for their 50th anniversary tour. Tickets start at \$37 plus fees and fair admission, available at the Iowa State Fair box office.

Emma Negrete, a singer songwriter from Des Moines, released her new single, “Lost in Translation,” along with the EP “Breaking Down the Algorithm,” found on streaming services. Emma, who lives in L.A., spoke with CITYVIEW about the single, saying, “Lost in Translation puts a simple

positive twist on breakups, escaping the blame game, and giving it all up to the universe. This song expresses a journey of self awareness. You must love yourself unconditionally and fully acknowledge the dark bits before you can try to do that for someone else. Sometimes two people can have the same pure intentions, but it will always get ‘lost in translation’ when the two just don’t speak the same love language.” ■

ART NEWS

40 Years of Print Club gifts

The Des Moines Art Center and the Print Club arranged a virtual exhibition of 76 pieces plus 22 others conserved with donated funds.

BY JIM DUNCAN

Forty years ago, a few art lovers got together to create a Print Club. Modeled on similar clubs attached to major art museums in Cleveland and Philadelphia, the club would collect 481 prints and give 76 prints, photos and drawings to the Des Moines Art Center. In the year of the virus, the art center and the Print Club arranged a virtual exhibition of those 76 pieces plus 22 others conserved with funds donated by the Print Club.

The 76 Gift and Commissioned Prints are displayed in chronological order of their creation. The tour can be accessed from links on the Des Moines Art Center's web page. Clicking on each print, one can find excellent notes about the works. The club's contributions have been a marvelous addition to the Art Center's collection. Many of the most educational exhibitions shown the last 40 years have been print shows. Beginning in 1982, Print Club has made annual gifts of works of art to the Permanent Collections, ranging from early 16th-century to contemporary prints. With the director and curators, Print Club researches prints for consideration. Some years, the focus is on finding works that fill a gap in the Art Center's holdings of a particular time period, printmaking technique, historic style, or individual artist. The Club prepares an educational presentation about the proposed prints and then, at an annual meeting, members vote to select one or more of the prints to donate.

Since the 10th anniversary year, Print Club has commissioned 27 contemporary artists to create prints in editions of 50 to 60 prints. Members have priority before sales are open to the public. Proceeds from the sales support the purchase of Gift Prints, conservation of prints, print exhibitions, and related publications. Available prints can be purchased in The Shop at the Art Center.

Nationally and internationally known artists including Glenn Brown, Cecily Brown, Enrique Chagoya, Jun Kaneko, Phyllida Barlow, Ann Hamilton, Martin Puryear, and Jaume Plensa have designed prints exclusively for Print Club. Editions have been printed in New York; Venice, Italy; London, England; and Madrid and Barcelona, Spain. To date, Print Club has commissioned lithography, intaglio, relief, screen printing, and digital processes.

To illustrate the historic and educational range of the collection, we picked a few of our favorites from the virtual exhibition. Salvator Rosa's "Alexander and Diogenes" was the club's first gift to the museum. It features Alexander the Great meeting with the strange philosopher who lived in a barrel. It is reported that Alexander said, if he were not Alexander, he would like to be Diogenes. James Tissot was one of the few 19th-century artists to use mezzotint as an original printmaking medium. Invented in the 17th century, mezzotint gained popularity among reproductive printmakers because it was ideal for copying the darks and lights of oil paintings. In "Le Matin," the entire plate is roughened with a toothed tool that is rocked over the plate. The artist then uses a burnishing tool and scraper to work highlights back into the dark areas, capturing a maid's backlit diaphanous dress and the glint of light on silver, china and glass.

Byron Burford was a University of Iowa art professor who influenced two generations of students. His work was happiest when focused on the circus, much like Federico Fellini's films. In "Lynne Marie," he allows us to visit a vanished American culture. Enrique Chagoya's "Liberty Backwards" mixes a cartoon character with a postcard of a hanging, disturbing and disturbingly moving.

The exhibition can be found at Des Moines Art Center Print Club Gifts: Celebrating 40 Years | selected works | art.spaces | KUNSTMATRIX. ■



Salvator Rosa (Italian, 1615 - 1673), "Alexander and Diogenes," 1661, etching and drypoint on paper. Sheet: 18 × 10 15/16 in. (45.7 × 27.8 cm.) Image: 17 7/8 × 10 5/8 in. (45.4 × 27 cm.). Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; Gift of the Des Moines Art Center Print Club, 1982.13. Photo credit: Rich Sanders

IOWA ARTISTS

Transforming tree stumps into art

Dusty Buzzard is a chainsaw carver.

BY JACKIE WILSON

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Dusty Buzzard shows off his chainsaw carving. Photos by Jackie Wilson

After the derecho decimated hundreds of thousands of trees on Aug. 10, 2020, a chainsaw carver known as Dusty Buzzard received more than a hundred calls following the disaster.

"It was a wild week," he remembers. "All of a sudden, I have too much to do."

Dusty began chainsaw carving almost by accident more than 25 years ago. While working for a tree removal service, he cut down hundreds of trees. One day someone asked if he could carve the stumps into mushroom figures. As he tried it, all the neighbors were watching.

"People took pictures, and there was a lot of buzz," he says. "I thought I might have a new profession. People responded positively and loved it."

Early in his career, he researched which tools worked best besides a chainsaw. He owns more than a dozen chainsaws in varying sizes and uses up to five saws for each carving.

The most popular carved item is an eagle.

"After you've carved a bird 50 times, you know how to do it by now," he says.

He's carved a variety of wildlife and animals, as well as a 12-foot Civil War soldier holding a musket.

"It was a real fun one," he says. "People came dressed in Civil War garb, and it was a cool reenactment."

His most unusual request was from a man who wanted a dead raccoon in a coffin.

"The guy's wife said no," he laughs.

Iowa trees are hearty, and he prefers oak or ash for carving wood. To ensure the wood is solid, he first drills a hole into the center. If it's hollow or if he runs into decayed wood, he won't carve it.

One man flew him to California to carve a stump in front of his cabin. Since the carving process can take anywhere from a half day to a whole week, out-of-town folks offer him a place to stay in their homes while he completes the project.

Dusty says he has never had an accident with his chainsaw. However, last year while buzzing away, he came close as the scaffolding platform he was standing on dropped.

"I only tore a ligament, and fortunately the saw

didn't get me," he says.

The physical demands are the most challenging part of his craft.

"Try holding a heavy saw and bending, squatting and reaching with it," he says. "You don't just stand there with a saw."

His favorite carving sits in West Des Moines' Stilwell Junior High School. It is a carving of a tiger paw in honor of the school's mascot, Valley Tigers.

"My son was in seventh grade going to that school at the time," he explains. "Kids told him, 'Wow, your dad is awesome.'"

Carving keeps his mind happy and occupied.

"I'm in the middle of a project and get lost focusing on the wood. Three hours have gone by, and it feels like 15 minutes. I get paid to do this. It's crazy," he reflects.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dusty Buzzard's real name is Dave Bussard, with his last name pronounced "buzzard." He thought the chainsaw dust, along with his last name, was an ideal name for a chainsaw carver. ■

FILM REVIEW

'Zack Snyder's Justice League'

A markedly different film than what was released in theaters in 2017

BY DAVID ROWLEY

"Zack Snyder's Justice League" is finally here, and it is a markedly different film than what was released in theaters in 2017 after Warner Brothers brought in director Joss Whedon to finish the movie with various reshoots and edits.

First things first: Yes, it's better than the original theatrical release. But four hours is one hell of a slog to get through, so words like "better" or "worse" perhaps shouldn't be taken at face value.

Since this movie has been released in one version or another for the past four years, I thought it might be helpful to break down everything that changed from one cut to another.

- **The R rating.** One thing you could not miss is the overall tone of this flick. The theatrical version was rated PG-13, but the Snyder cut is rated R for violence and some language, and it definitely earns it with tons of blood and both Batman and Cyborg getting in on the profanity. One of the major things that Snyder wanted to do with his version of "Justice League" was to have the film reflect that darker, more serious tone of his previous movies. However, Warner Brothers, with the Joss Whedon reshoots, tried to make the film echo the MCU schtick by giving it a less grim vibe and more comedy relief. Those are removed from the more dramatic Snyder cut.

- **A different score.** The Snyder cut score by Thomas Holkenborg (aka Junkie XL) was replaced by Danny Elfman for the theatrical release, but now it's back along with some new songs. Elfman usually goes hand in hand with DC projects. While his Justice League score wasn't bad, it was a far cry from his "Batman" days.

- **The length.** "Justice League" was trimmed down to two hours for the theatrical version, but the standard cut clocks in at four hours and two minutes and is divided into six chapters. Much of the added time is used to extend many of any action scenes that had been trimmed down for the theatrical version.

- **Desaturated colors are back.** It's notable how the theatrical cut had brighter coloring, and the final battle was shaded in red, whereas the new version has Snyder's signature desaturated colors, and that red filter is nowhere to be seen.

- **The Martian Manhunter.** J'onn J'onzz, better known as Martian Manhunter, is one of several heroes we hoped to see in the theatrical cut. While we got no such appearance in that version, Snyder initially had plans for the character on a commentary track for the ultimate cut of "Batman vs Superman." Snyder mentioned that Martian Manhunter was Lieutenant General Calvin Swanwick incognito in a storyboard that didn't make Whedon's version. The Snyder cut officially solidified Swanwick and Martian Manhunter as one in the same when he visits Lois Lane's apartment under the guise of Martha Kent.

- **Cyborg is the heart of the group.** Cyborg's entire



"Zack Snyder's Justice League"

R | 242 minutes

Director: Zack Snyder

Stars: Henry Cavill, Ben Affleck, Gal Gadot

story was rebuilt for the Snyder cut to position him as the heart of the story as Snyder originally intended. Overall, it's not just Cyborg's origin story that was missing from the theatrical cut but also his key role in the breaking of the unity, the full scope of the abilities he's been blessed/cursed with by the Mother Box, and his relationship with his father, Silas Stone. Silas proves to be a key supporting character in the Snyder cut, as we see more of his work at Star Labs.

- **Darkseid is... here.** We knew Darkseid wouldn't be the central villain in the theatrical cut, but at the very least, we thought the film would set him up for future installments. Aside from a brief mention, Darkseid was a no show. Portrayed by Ray Porter, Darkseid made his long awaited live-action film debut — basking in the glow of empty life and of existence. This version also made room for some of Darkseid's followers, including Desaad and Granny Goodness.

- **Understood motivations.** This movie picks up following Superman's death knell that reverberates across the DC Universe and wakes up the Mother Boxes. This is of vital importance, as it is explained later in the film that we know it was the Mother Boxes that signaled to Steppenwolf and his master Darkseid that the planet was vulnerable without a Kryptonian (Superman) there to protect it. The Snyder cut also delves deeper into Steppenwolf's backstory and motivation, as well as his dynamic with Darkseid.

- **Leto steals the scene.** After the mostly negative reception to "Suicide Squad," Joaquin Phoenix's Oscar-winning portrayal of Joker, and not even getting a cameo in "Birds of Prey," Jared Leto's future in the DCEU seemed to be up in the air. So you can imagine our surprise when Leto popped up at the end of the Snyder cut trailer, complete with longer hair and messy lips popping off about how "We live in a society..." Although Snyder didn't originally intend to incorporate the Joker, Leto was enlisted after the director's cut got the go ahead. Joker plays an important role in this version, having stolen the Mother Box that allows the Flash to travel back in time. ■

PREVIEWS

"Mortal Kombat"

R | Director: Simon

McQuoid

Stars: Lewis Tan,

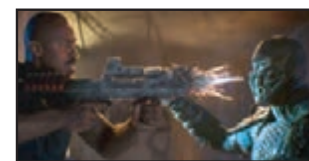
Jessica McNamee,

Josh Lawson

MMA fighter Cole

Young (Lewis

Tan), accustomed to taking a beating for money, is unaware of his heritage or why Outworld's Emperor Shang Tsung (Chin Han) has sent his best warrior, Sub-Zero (Joe Taslim), an otherworldly Cryomancer, to hunt Cole down. Fearing for his family's safety, Cole goes in search of Sonya Blade (Jessica McNamee) at the direction of Jax (Mehcad Brooks), a Special Forces Major who bears the same strange dragon marking Cole was born with. Soon, he finds himself at the temple of Lord Raiden (Tadanobu Asano), an Elder God and the protector of Earthrealm, who grants sanctuary to those who bear the mark. Here, Cole trains with experienced warriors Liu Kang (Ludi Lin), Kung Lao (Max Huang) and rogue mercenary Kano (Josh Lawson), as he prepares to stand with Earth's greatest champions against the enemies of Outworld in a high stakes battle for the universe. But will Cole be pushed hard enough to unlock his arcana — the immense power from within his soul — in time to save not only his family but to stop Outworld once and for all?



"Godzilla Vs. Kong"

PG-13 | 113 minutes

Director: Adam

Wingard

Stars: Alexander

Skarsgård, Millie Bobby

Brown, Rebecca Hall

Legends collide in

"Godzilla vs. Kong" as these mythic adversaries meet in a spectacular battle for the ages with the fate of the world hanging in the balance. Kong and his protectors undertake a perilous journey to find his true home, and with them is Jia, a young orphaned girl with whom he has formed a unique and powerful bond. But they unexpectedly find themselves in the path of an enraged Godzilla, cutting a swath of destruction across the globe. The epic clash between the two titans — instigated by unseen forces — is only the beginning of the mystery that lies deep within Earth's core.



"Voyagers"

PG-13 | 108

minutes

Writer/Director:

Neil Burger

Stars: Colin Farrell,

Tye Sheridan, Isaac

Hempstead Wright

Set in the near future, the film chronicles the odyssey of 30 young men and women who are sent deep into space on a multi-generational mission in search of a new home. The mission descends into madness, as the crew reverts to its most primal state, not knowing if the real threat they face is what's outside the ship or who they're becoming inside it. ■



CARS IN THE CITY

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



The car was test driven at Willis Volvo. Base price \$69,750, with Inscription Package (model driven) \$84,390. 55 mpg electric and gas; 27 mpg, gasoline city and highway.



Volvo va-va-voom

While navigating a busy I-235, enjoy a relaxing heated massage up and down your aching back.

BY JACKIE WILSON

Once you step into a new car, the first thing you do after buckling yourself in, is to put the car in drive and depress the accelerator, anticipating an exciting take-off into suburbia.

But for the Volvo XC90, I was content to sit in the parking lot and soak in the comfort. I made the mistake by trying out the massaging seat first. Yes, it's true. While navigating a busy I-235, you're receiving a relaxing 10-point heated massage up and down your aching back. It doesn't seem right feeling refreshed while other drivers appear so uptight.

This was just one of the numerous features of the Volvo Hybrid SUV, which qualifies for a federal tax credit.

One highlight is the Bowers and Wilkins stereo system. With settings such as Concert Hall or Studio Stage, the acoustics are replicated as if seated in the front row of a symphony concert. Just choose your music wisely. I'm not sure an AC/DC riff produces the same effect, but fiddle with the bass or download a live concert version.

Other touches include real driftwood inlay, where no two cars are alike. A crystal shifter knob looks like a lid of a high-end whiskey decanter. When putting the car into gear, you don't shift. You simply depress the shifter backwards twice to put it in drive, then twice to the front to go in reverse.

The Napa leather seats are soft and supple, especially with all the massaging going on. Luxury is top notch for the Swedish import, but what about safety?

Volvo is on the leading edge of safety. How do I know? Because they have the patent to prove it.

In 1959, Volvo engineer Nils Bohlin created and patented the three-point harness seatbelt. Then they did what few companies do, they gave away the patent for free to any carmaker that wanted to use the seatbelt. Because of this spectacular invention, many lives have been saved and injuries have lessened over the past 60 years around the world.

Besides seatbelts, 360-degree surround view cameras take inventory of possible road dangers. A

run-off road mitigation system steers the car back into safety. A pilot assist lends almost a hands-free driving experience. The steering wheel simply feels the weight of your hands and drives the car, keeping it centered. Auto brakes offer imminent collision protection. If safety is what you want, you got it.

If you're a parallel-parking avoider, like myself, activate the parking assist feature. I attempted this; however, after pushing various buttons, I realized the park assist only works if you have curbs and other cars, not just an open concrete lot.

Download the OnCall app to start your car on your phone, control the temp or send the address of your next destination directly to the touchscreen display.

The hybrid model offers up to 55 mpg when using both the electric and gas; just check the display to show how many miles remain with either method.

But, really, who cares about miles per gallon when you can experience a relaxing massage any time you want. ■

BOOK REVIEWS

Courtesy of Beaverdale Books

'Jubilee: Recipes from Two Centuries of African American Cooking'

African-American influence is felt but rarely seen in so many aspects of modern American life, and nowhere is this more evident than in the cuisine we cherish as quintessentially American. In a gorgeous, fascinating and utterly delicious new book, Toni Tipton-Martin presents a showstopper that is part history book, part love letter to the roots of African American cooking. The author brings together the often surprising stories of classic recipes and ensures the recipes themselves translate seamlessly to modern cooking.

There are plenty of recognizable dishes (biscuits, lemon meringue pie, chicken pot pie) and a horde of more unusual, interesting recipes worth reviving (spoon bread, plantain chips, pickled shrimp). The details and anecdotes Tipton-Martin writes for each section reveal a whole world of culinary history and startling connections that have been sorely missed from modern cooking literature.

Together with the interesting and richly flavored recipes are some truly stunning pictures. The bread pudding on page 296 stopped me in my tracks. That alone was enough to add it to my already overburdened cookbook shelf. ■ — *Reviewed by Julie Goodrich*



By Toni Tipton-Martin
Hardcover: \$35
Published by Clarkson Potter
2019
320 pages

'The Once and Future Witches'

Alix Harrow writes with such an ethereal yet firmly grounded beauty that sometimes I think she must be from another plane of existence. I'm officially becoming a massive fan of every word she writes, and "The Once and Future Witches" positively drips with the addictive literary magic I've come to crave from her books.

The year is 1893, and three sisters — Juniper, Bella and Agnes — find each other after seven bitter years apart. The tattered remains of their relationship is about to be tested in ways they can't imagine as politics, magic and progress combine into a violent storm around them. Women's suffrage becomes about more than the vote as they struggle for equality not just as women but as witches. Powers — both overt and covert — will fight them at every turn with none more insidious than the tangled past they are all trying to run from.

A beautiful, haunting and ultimately redemptive story of family, history and the power hiding deep within humanity makes this one of my favorite stories of the year. The lyrical quality of Alix Harrow's writing may just be the new addiction you're looking for. ■ — *Reviewed by Julie Goodrich*



By Alix E. Harrow
Hardcover: \$25
Published by Redhook
2020
528 pages

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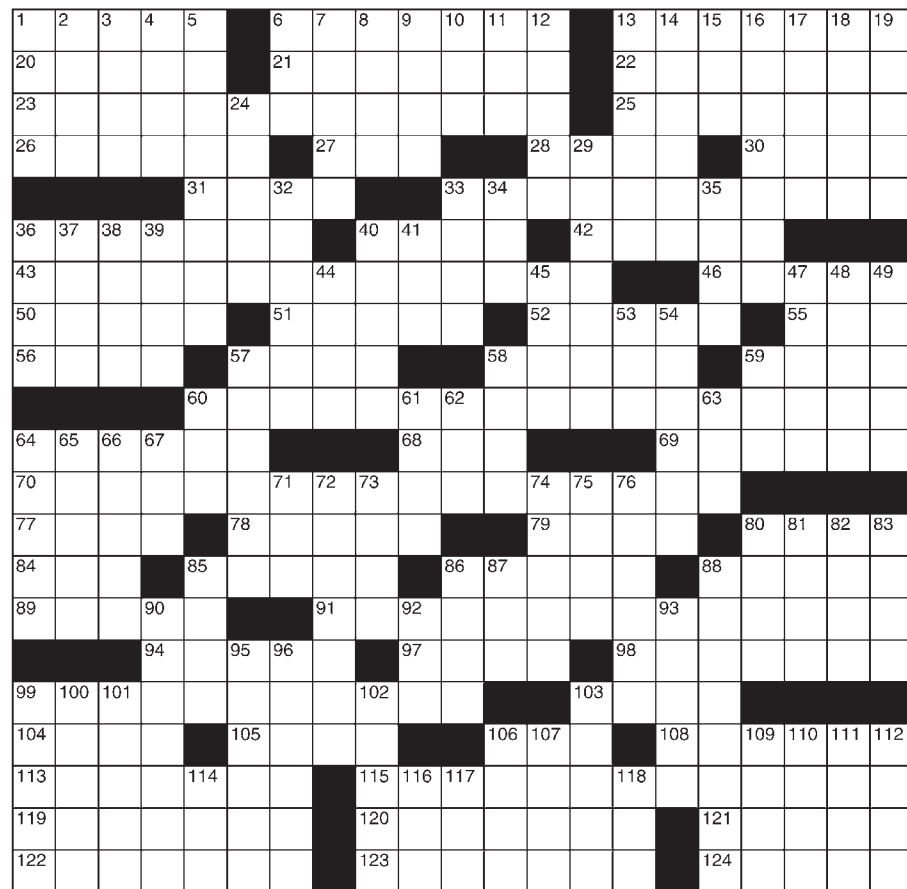
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PUZZLES

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OPENING CUTS



ACROSS

- 1 Past artifact
6 Steal the scene from
13 "Chicago P.D." or "Law & Order"
20 Kagan of justice
21 Indigenes
22 Euphoric
23 Change in the side of a military formation
25 Gates of philanthropy
26 Karate instructor
27 Female bleater
28 Not docked
30 Perfect site
31 Court throw
33 Really funny
36 Talk up
40 Get tangled
42 Paid to get a hand
43 Body that voted for the trial resulting in Charles I's execution
46 "Baloney!"
50 Creative flashes
51 Rain forest, for one
52 Sunset's direction, in French
55 Tokyo sash
56 TV's "Warrior Princess"
57 With 77-Across, has a connection with
58 "Ad -- per aspera"
59 Resting atop
60 Twilight
64 Liaison
68 Excited, with "up"
69 Wipes away
70 Single bullet, say

DOWN

- 77 See 57-Across
78 Dress up
79 Sign gas
80 Last letters
84 Big bother
85 "Help!" co-star Ringo
86 Encountered
88 Gnat's kin
89 Oahu porch
91 Vision test
94 Bow of film
97 Wine vat sediment
98 Most snooping
99 "Walker, Texas Ranger" star
103 Ernie's buddy
104 Dialogue bit
105 -- facto
106 Toothpaste tube inits.
108 Louise's film partner
113 Fatty
115 Old ad question that's apt for this puzzle's theme
119 Colonist, e.g.
120 Russia and Turkey's place
121 Good odor
122 Own
123 Distributing
124 Benefactor

- 9 Noon, e.g.
10 "Hail, Cato!"
11 High mil. rank
12 Founded, on city signs
13 "Enter"
14 Like many short plays
15 Buddy
16 Safeguards
17 Language of India
18 Limerick writer Nash
19 Strike heavily and loudly
24 Mazda roadster
29 Ordinance
32 Belgrade's land
33 Vatican City surrounder
34 Suffix with Wyoming
35 Retained
36 Grand -- (race event)
37 Uncouth
38 Premonition
39 Film-rating gp.
40 Mall stall
41 Home to Hanoi, briefly
44 Mortgage claim
45 Quick bite
47 Kachina doll carvers
48 Dry as --
49 Birds flap them
53 Prior to, to bards
54 Get for less
57 ENT part
58 Abbr. at the top of a 111-Down
59 Actress O'Connor or Merkel
60 Comic Caesar
61 "Jeepers!"
62 Pot-au- -- (French dish)
63 Suffix with 93-Down
64 Popular typeface

- 65 Actress Jane
66 Portable bed
67 Year, in Rio de Janeiro
71 -- diavolo (pasta sauce)
72 Unpaid debts
73 Steenburg of "Ink"
74 Peruvians of old
75 Crawl (with)
76 Chemical "I"
80 Tubular pasta
81 Actress Falco
82 "I" problems
83 Email status
85 Lustrous fabric
86 Service costs
87 Wood splitter
88 Editorial page feature
90 Consents to
92 Film director Roth
93 Missouri-to-Iowa direction
95 Licoricelike seeds
96 People using lassos
99 Bracelet part
100 Baseball's -- Nomo
101 Army squads
102 Used oars
103 Sink part
106 -- Sea (shrinking Asian lake)
107 Arnaz of 1950s TV
109 Long Spanish river
110 Spinks of boxing
111 Office note
112 Not nearby
114 Bullfight cry
116 -- and cry
117 Noted period
118 Present label



"We can discuss a date after you get

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!

Average
MAILED
Ship
FIGHTER
Tasty
VARYOS
Cycle
PLEAD

TODAY'S WORD

SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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: ♦

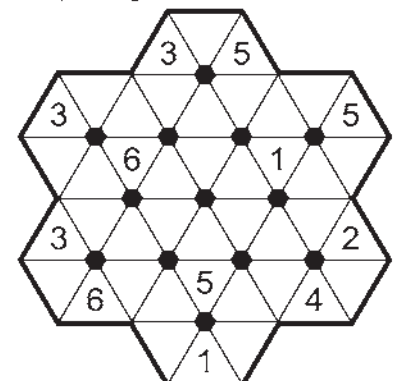
♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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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.

DIFFICULTY: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	+		×		30
×		×		×	
	×		+		27
+		-		+	
	+		÷		13
16		25		22	

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 7 8

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WHAT THE...

Think you're funny?

Send us your best caption...

Email to: celeste@dmcityview.com

Next month's photo:



This month's winner

"Despite their personality conflicts, the monkey found the banana to be quite a peeling."

Mary Wedewer



Runners-up

"It is time for a little monkey business before the banana splits."

Dennis Moore

"I hate it when my food acts up on me."

Linda Oleson

"Some days you're the chimp, others you're the banana."

J Hess

"Curious George got more than he bargained for when he planted those magic beans Jack had left over."

Jim M.

Send your "What The..." caption and image entries to celeste@dmcityview.com.
Be sure to include your name.

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JOE'S NEIGHBORHOOD

BY JOE WEEG

Vaccine — do you need another reason?

I need some of my own me-time to begin some long overdue woodworking projects, and maybe I'll rewire the house or just pour some concrete.

Seven of my siblings wait in line before me. Judy, Carol, Marla, John, Joyce, Jim and Cathy. I'm at the tail end. One at a time, they go into a small room at our grade school and then out they come with one sleeve rolled up, a mark on their arm, and a few tears glistening on their cheeks.

"Next," the school nurse says.

I'm not someone who embraces pain, like a Democrat in the Iowa legislature, but I'm not a chicken either, as I told the older boy who beat me up on the way home from school in fourth grade and who later in life became a priest. I'm just a little nervous about getting this vaccine.

Smallpox is the concern. The vaccine is delivered

with a device that appears like a gun. Everyone tells me it is totally painless.

I don't buy it.

"Next?" the school nurse asks again.

I'm it?

I look around panic stricken.

I flee the school.

Running into the large parking lot, I find our family station wagon, jump inside and lock all the doors.

No way am I getting that shot.

And that was 60 years ago.

So why am I at the grocery store parking lot today waiting for the COVID-19 shot?

Well...

Did I tell you that isolating with my wife during the pandemic has been a ton of fun?

The first fun moment was early on when she advised me to no longer follow her into her closet.

"Really? But I want to tell you about my dream from last night," I said enthusiastically.

She glared at me as only she can — and in her best lawyerly voice threatened to get a restraining order.

OK. I got it. I too am independent. I do what I want. I don't need my wife's constant companionship. I'm a man and will start doing man things that do not involve following my wife into the closet.

What are "man things," by the way?

A week or two or three passed.



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“This vaccine could save your life,
you knucklehead.” — Dad

Then one day, after my morning monologue, she told me that the morning is her “quiet time” where she does the newspaper crossword puzzle. By herself.

“But what if I need to tell you that I filled the bird feeders or that the cat litter is clean?” I said with just a hint of desperation.

She ignored me.

Certainly everyone needs a few moments to themselves. A chance to practice gratitude for the wonderfully strong marriage someone might have after 40 years of wedded bliss. Who am I to begrudge the love of my life a few moments to work on five down or even six across?

Anyway, I need some of my own me-time to begin some long overdue woodworking projects, and maybe I’ll rewire the house or just pour some concrete.

Of course, I’ll start those projects after I finish this romance novel involving a pirate and an interesting weekend in Paris.

Several months pass like this. In the meantime, my wife purchased multiple crossword puzzle books. She started doing the books after completing the daily newspaper crossword puzzle.

“Quiet time” started to take on a monastic length.

“Austere monk taking a vow of silence.” Three across. “Trappist.”

At least we still had our nights together.

Until a week ago...

I told my wife about my entire online therapy appointment I had that day. It was fascinating and conversationally took several unexpected twists. Quite entertaining.

“Shhhh,” she said sharply, interrupting my clever observations, “I’m trying to finish the New York Times Thursday crossword.”

Ah ha! At last, I got the message. She couldn’t have been more clear. I wasn’t listening. She wanted me to do crossword puzzles WITH her. The couple that plays together stays together. How romantic.

Oops.

That interpretation of my wife’s message seems to have been aspirational only.

“Perhaps blinded by love,” I said to her.

She locked herself in the bedroom. Without me.

So here I am in the grocery store parking lot waiting to get my first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

I am thrilled to death to be able to get the shot and feel lucky and grateful for all the obvious reasons. As my father told me 60 years ago when he dragged me from the family car by my feet to get my smallpox vaccine:

“This vaccine could save your life, you knucklehead.”

How true.

But did you know it could also save your marriage?

Yup, you heard it from this knucklehead first. ■

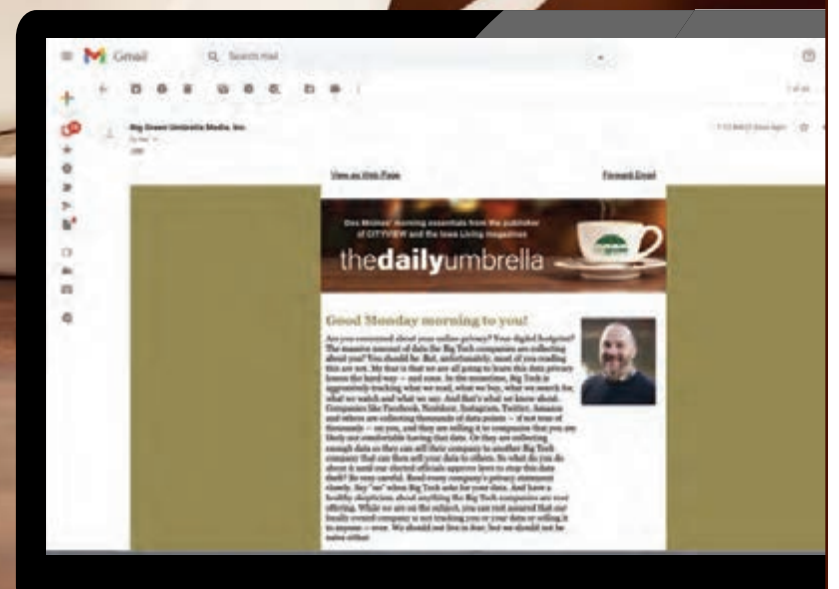
Joe Weeg spent 31 years bumping around this town as a prosecutor for the Polk County Attorney’s Office. Now retired, he writes about the frequently overlooked people, places and events in Des Moines on his blog: www.joesneighborhood.com.



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CENTER STAGE

The evolution of central Iowa theatre continues

One benefit of virtual presenting has been that those who are geographically separated have been able to share performances.

BY JOHN BUSBEE

Performances persist. Creativity will find a way to release, fulfilling the needs of both the creators and the consumers. Central Iowa's producers have proven to be resolute in their commitment to share new shows and offerings to their patrons. The overall results are that central Iowans can be proud of local producers in responding to the fluid pandemic situation.

One proven benefit of the virtual means of presenting has been that family and friends who are geographically separated have been able to share performances. They can discuss these shows, the players involved, and have more shared experiences than pre-pandemic live performances previously allowed.

The Des Moines Community Playhouse has found a successful presentation groove thanks to having its John Viars Theatre. Still restricting attendance to a fraction of its theater capacity, it has successfully presented two sets of shows in repertory, including offering virtual viewing for those still apprehensive about in-person attendance. April brings another appealing twin bill: "Some Enchanted Evening: The Songs of Rodgers & Hammerstein" (opening April 9) and "The Velveteen Rabbit" (under the Kate Goldman Children's Theatre banner, including virtual performances for schools, opening April 16).

Iowa Stage Theatre Company will present its next streaming production, "The Agitators" by Mat Smart. This critically acclaimed play tells the enduring but tempestuous friendship of Susan B. Anthony (Alissa Tschetter-Seidschlaw) and Frederick Douglass (Pernell Ferguson). After the commanding virtual production values from their last show, audiences are looking forward to this one, which runs April 16-25.

Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre brings its next virtual performance, "She Kills Monsters: Virtual Realm," to audiences April 15-17, 7 p.m. and April 17-18 2 p.m. Through this high-octane dramatic comedy laden with homicidal fairies, nasty ogres and 1990s pop culture, acclaimed playwright Qui Nguyen offers a heart-pounding homage to the geek and warrior within us all.

Ankeny Community Theatre continues its April Readers Virtual Theater with two free, online shows: "Stuck at Home" by Bryan Starchman (April 11, 6:30

p.m.) and "Amber Waves" by James Stills (April 25, 6:30 p.m.).

Class Act Productions continues its monthly offering of MadCAP Improv, now virtual, on April 17, 7-9 p.m. This program is billed as "a wild, fast-paced improvisation games workshop" for young adults grades 6-12. Details can be found on their Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/CAPtheatre/>.

Des Moines Metro Opera partners with Iowa Public Radio to broadcast DMMO's 2018 production of Johann Strauss II's uproarious comedic masterpiece, "Die Fledermaus." Streaming Saturday, April 3 at 8 p.m. and Sunday, April 4 at 4 p.m. For its 2021 Arias in April series, Iowa Public Radio will broadcast the 2014 DMMO production of Jake Heggie and Terrence McNally's "Dead Man Walking," available on IowaPublicRadio.org on Saturday, April 10 at 8 p.m. or Sunday, April 11 at 4 p.m.

The Des Moines Symphony presents a trio of "Fireworks & Fanfare" shows in April. Tuesday April 13 at 7 p.m. will be "Remix," a free and fun evening of cupcakes, cocktails and trivia held live on Zoom. "Classic Conversations" will be Wednesday April 14 at 6:30 p.m. when Dr. Eric McIntyre of Grinnell College presents an online class that combines wine, cheese and great music. Thursday April 15 at 7 p.m. is an All Brass affair – "The Rejoicing" from Handel's "Royal Fireworks" as the opener for an exhilarating evening of brass and percussion music. <https://www.dmsymphony.org>.

Other performance opportunities and camps not mentioned above:

- Des Moines Community Playhouse - Friday Funday (Interactive theatre for children ages 4-6) April 2021: "Cinderella." <https://www.dmplayhouse.com/friday-funday-2/>
- Des Moines Performing Arts – registration is open for MUSICAL THEATER CAMP, June 14 – Aug. 6, 2021. Check out full schedule of one-week camps. <https://desmoinesperformingarts.org/classes-camps/>
- Des Moines Community Playhouse - Classes and camps for children and adults. <https://www.dmplayhouse.com/education/classes-and-camps/>



"The Velveteen Rabbit" marks another Kate Goldman Children's Theatre show at The Des Moines Playhouse, a perfect diversion for families yearning for some live theatre. Graphic Credit – Des Moines Community Playhouse

OVERHEARD IN THE LOBBY

Check for updates with each company regarding future plans and how to support.

Ankeny Community Theatre – www.ankenycommunitytheatre.com

Carousel Theatre of Indianola – www.carouseltheatre.org

Class Act Productions – www.captheatre.org

Des Moines Community Playhouse/Kate Goldman Theatre – www.dmplayhouse.com

Des Moines Performing Arts – For rescheduled, canceled, postponed events and FAQ <https://desmoinesperformingarts.org/covid-19-update/>

Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre – www.dmyat.org

Iowa Shakespeare Experience – www.iowashakespeare.org

Iowa Stage Theatre Company – www.iowastage.org

Pyramid Theatre Company – www.pyramidtheatre.org

Tallgrass Theatre Company – www.tallgrasstheatre.org

Urbandale Community Theatre – www.urbandaletheatre.com ■

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



DES MOINES FORGOTTEN

Life before I-235

A little history on the MacVicar Freeway

BY KRISTIAN DAY



MacVicar Freeway overpass under construction, September 1960. Walter Van Horne Collection, State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines.



MacVicar Freeway under construction, September 1960. Walter Van Horne Collection, State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines.

Many most of us take for granted that we can get most anywhere in the metro area in less than 20 minutes. We are all used to waiting until the last minute to go somewhere because we can hop onto I-235 and hustle our way to our pre-determined destinations quickly. Even as our morning and after-work commuter traffic has matured, we are still not Chicago, Minneapolis or Kansas City. Maybe our commute goes from 20 minutes to 30 minutes. It is still nothing.

Before we get into all the nitty gritty for this month's column, I want to share a quote from Des Moines' long-defunct afternoon newspaper.

"The citizens of Des Moines reacted a bit slowly when news of the proposed freeway broke in December 1956. It was too much to digest in one sitting." — Des Moines Tribune Tuesday, May 13, 1958

All I can think of is a few old white guys in the slowed down southern Iowa twang that I adore so much, "Now you just slow down here. You want to do what? A freeway? Free for who?"

Can you imagine what life was like in Des Moines without I-235? No freeway, just a country road that slowly turned into a city. Every stoplight and stop sign preventing you from succeeding in your time-sensitive hopes and dreams. Imagine a school bus holding up 15 cars just a block away from your destination, and once that last little one boards the bus and it takes off, you get held up by the stoplight. What did you do to deserve this? Fortunately, that is not our reality today. So here is a little history on the I-235.

The Des Moines city council approved the freeway in 1957 with a 5-0 vote. Construction began in 1960 and took eight years to complete. In October of 1963, the city council named I-235 after the two former Des Moines mayors: John MacVicar Sr. and John MacVicar Jr. To be honest, I had never heard it called this until CITYVIEW publisher Shane Goodman mentioned it to me. Both former mayors (father and son) had held positions as street commissioners prior to becoming mayor. This was an early Des Moines dynasty that is not mentioned much these days. The whole construction finished eight years ahead of schedule. The freeway opened in sections beginning in December of 1961 with Cottage Grove east to Keo and ending with 63rd Street West to I-35 Junction at the end of October of 1968.

"He found the freeway's unhurried atmosphere and the general refusal there to bow slavishly to arbitrary driving rules quite charming, almost European in character." — Donald Kaul, Des Moines Register, Oct. 7, 1965 (In his column, Kaul described a Des Moines man's journey along the freeway.)

Anni Zika of Des Moines has these memories of the construction of the MacVicar Freeway: "I remember growing up on 35th Street. It was exciting having a freeway built just a couple blocks from our home. We were able to watch construction from our house. I talked to my brother Jim about it, and he said there were some headaches involved also. He had a best friend

and a girlfriend who lived on Crocker, and it was just a 5-minute walk to their houses. But once the freeway was being built, it turned into closer to a half-hour walk. Once it was built, it was awesome getting from the west side to the east side. When I was in high school, my girlfriends and I dated guys from other schools around Des Moines, so it made that a lot more convenient."

Folks who live on Polk Boulevard and other west side neighborhoods may not realize that the bridges that go over I-235 used to have homes there.

Jeanie Sheldon of Waukee remembers: "A lot of people with expensive houses in the west side neighborhoods lost their homes to the freeway. It was crazy once it opened since nobody knew how to drive on a freeway. People would get to the bottom of the entrance ramp, come to a dead stop, and wait for the traffic to clear before trying to enter. Fortunately, in the beginning, the traffic was nothing like it is today."

Some of us to this day may grumble over speed cameras and the occasional driver who creates a bottleneck between Keo and the Third and Sixth Street exits, but MacVicar Freeway has benefitted all of us procrastinators who just can't give ourselves a little extra time in the morning. ■

Kristian Day is a filmmaker, musician and writer based in Des Moines. He hosts the syndicated Iowa Basement Tapes radio program on 98.9FM KFMG.



PEOPLE & PETS

Mutt extraordinaire

Adoption of pregnant dog turned out to be a pleasant surprise for Schattschneiders.

BY JACKIE WILSON

Kristen and Cory Schattschneider attempted to be dogless after their first dog passed away from cancer. But before long, they both craved a canine companion.

After searching through animal rescue sites, Kristen came upon a beagle/basset hound mix on AHeinz57. After visiting the unique dog, they decided it needed a home. So, in August of 2019, they adopted Millie.

As a rescue dog requirement, Millie was scheduled with the veterinarian to get spayed, but the doctor refused to do the procedure. Why? It turned out that Millie was pregnant.

The vet asked if they still wanted the dog, and both wholeheartedly agreed they did — but they weren't sure about raising puppies. They took Millie to a foster dog mom, who agreed to keep Millie until she gave birth. They visited Millie and then eventually her nine puppies. Once the puppies were weaned, it was time for Millie to come home.

Millie originally arrived via the AHeinz57 pet transport from a dog-hoarding situation in Oklahoma. AHeinz57 brings various dogs to Iowa, saving them from being euthanized. Millie was found living under a pickup truck and had recently given birth.

When Millie was first brought into a foster home, she didn't like men. Kristen says, "It breaks my heart to think of what happened to her. She wasn't a big fan of Cory."

Yet, as she got used to trusting Cory, and as they wrestled and tugged with Millie's favorite stuffed toys, she began to trust him.

"I wore her down," Cory smiles. "She likes me now."

Millie is no longer afraid of people or new situations.

"It's so rewarding to see her become brave," says Kristen. "She used to cower at the vet. Now she just struts in."

The couple admits to spoiling Millie. As they visit a fast-food drive through, Millie is treated to a pup cup of ice cream, usually on a Saturday evening.

"Our routine is to get her white blanket to take on the drive," says Cory. "Once she sees the blanket, she somehow knows it is time to eat her pup cup and gets excited."

To find out Millie's breed, Cory administered



Kristen and Cory Schattschneider with their latest adoption, Millie. Photo by Jackie Wilson

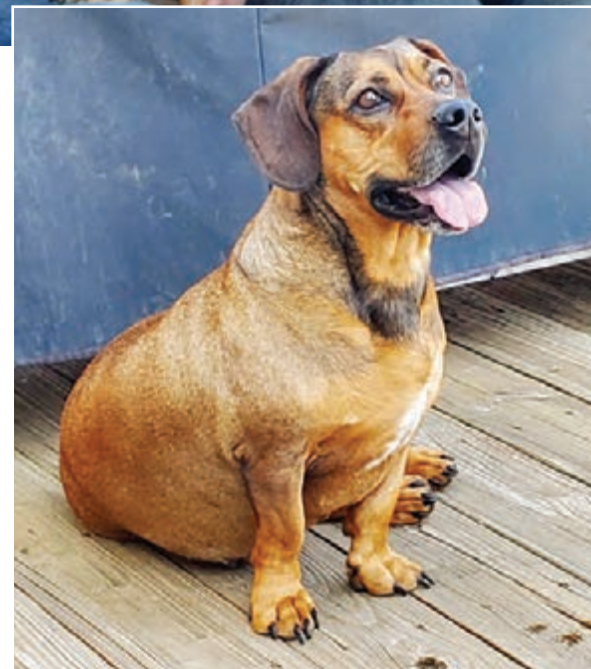
a DNA test. It turns out she has seven different breeds, including Boston terrier, Doberman pincher, Rottweiler, dachshund and more.

"She's a mutt extraordinaire," exclaims Kristen.

Kristen is confident she'll continue to adopt rescue dogs, but she understands that people buy purebreds so owners know the lineage.

"There are many dogs out there who need love," she says. "It's a good cause to adopt. Something happened in their first part of life. We hope their second part of life is better."

"It's our experience that dogs know they're given a second chance and love us even more," says Cory. "Even when she's on top of us at 8 a.m., barking and waking us up, we love her." ■



NEIGHBORS

Meet Dana Lain

Aquarium supervisor at Blank Park Zoo helps to combat Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease.

BY JEFF PITTS

“Big Momma” was a 330-year-old underwater giant coral mound. It thrived for centuries near Fort Lauderdale, and the record-setting giant was legendary for its longevity. But the mass of coral suddenly succumbed — in less than four months’ time — to a scary underwater plague known as Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD).

Coral is often mistaken for being a rock or a plant, but these saltwater organisms are living animals. SCTLD is also poorly understood, but the virulent disease is running rampant in the saltwater off Florida’s coast and debilitating the coral population. As such, the race is on to find a way to save this key component to the ocean’s ecosystem, and the Florida Department of Environmental Protection is working with dozens of partners from around the U.S. to investigate and solve the problem.

Blank Park Zoo has joined the Florida Reef Tract Rescue Project, and Dana Lain, the aquarium supervisor at Blank Park Zoo, is a big part of the effort.

“I love working with saltwater,” she says. “I’m learning a lot.”

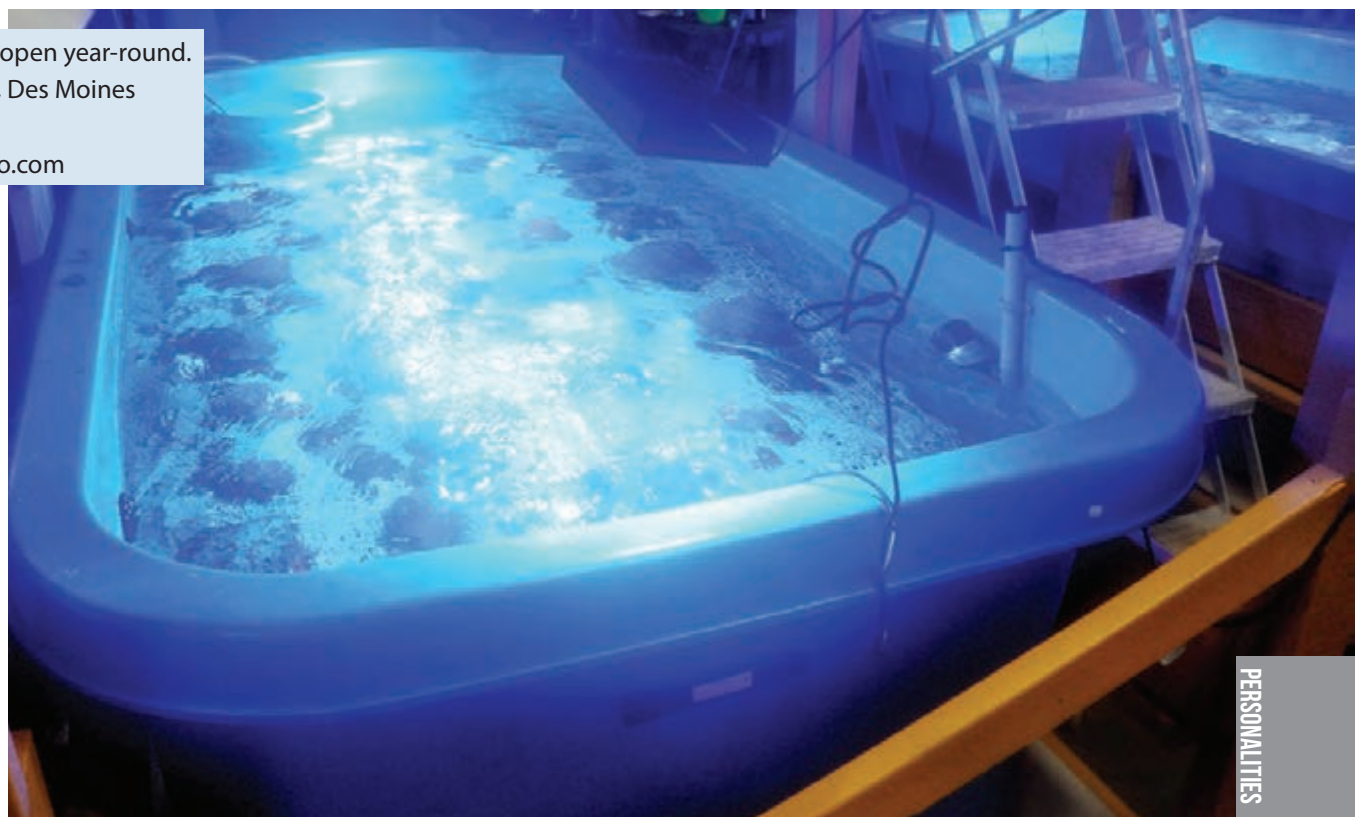
There is a lot involved in keeping an ocean ecosystem operating correctly. Fish must be paired correctly in order to avoid catastrophe, proper filtration is of the utmost importance, and pH balances have to be kept in line.

“The goal (of the Florida Reef Tract Rescue Project) is to pull as many healthy corals as possible for genetic banking,” says Lain. Participating facilities hold the rescued coral colonies harvested from the Florida Keys for restoration purposes. The longer-term goal is to replant the coral back in the reef.

The zoo has been planning the endeavor since last summer. It received its first corals in November.

SCTLD was first spotted in Florida in 2014, and the state’s underwater coral kingdom has been devastated

Blank Park Zoo is open year-round.
7401 S.W. Ninth St., Des Moines
515-285-4722
www.blankparkzoo.com



Dana Lain is the aquarium supervisor at Blank Park Zoo. The zookeeper helps care for corals that have been rescued from the Florida coast in order to protect them from Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease. The goal is to eventually restore these organisms to their natural habitat. Photo by Jeff Pitts

since then, losing an estimated 75 percent of its population in less than 10 years. Once infected, the disease first shows up as white bands or lesions on live corals, and the infected tissue sloughs off, leaving only the white skeleton exposed. But the worst part might be that it spreads quickly, sometimes killing off an entire coral colony, such as Big Momma, in a short time.

“Corals can be a lot of work,” Lain smiles, sharing that the easily stressed animals require special water conditions. “But it’s really important.”

Lain attended high school at Dowling Catholic before going on to graduate from Simpson College. She says that working with animals has been a lifelong dream, and she discovered her passion for zookeeping while serving as an intern in Washington, D.C. during her time in college.

“I like to watch fish being fish,” she says. “I love my job because I see them every day. I get to see them happy and healthy.” ■



“I like to watch fish being fish,” she says.

COLLECTIONS & HOBBIES



The Drake Municipal Observatory opened in 1921. Herb Schwartz has been part of the programming at the facility for more than 40 years. Photo by Jeff Pitts

Twinkle, twinkle

Iconic Des Moines observatory turns 100.

BY JEFF PITTS

Psst! Wanna know about a century-old local secret? Have you ever wondered about the copper-domed building with limestone walls that sits between fairways on Waveland Golf Course?

That's the Drake Municipal Observatory. Not only is it an architectural curiosity, but in order to stay protected from errant golf balls, the building is outfitted with bulletproof windows — making it, in all likelihood, the only observatory in the world with that distinction.

The local star-gazing hotspot offers central Iowa residents the means to peer deep into the infinite night skies. According to Herb Schwartz, who has been involved with the programming at the observatory for more than 40 years, the observatory is an unusual gem that began when Drake University struck a deal with the City of Des Moines.

The city furnished a quarter-acre of ground along with the bulk of the funds to construct the building. In exchange, Drake agreed to chip in the scientific instruments, telescopes and staff, while also maintaining the building's interior and hosting open-to-the public educational programs. The city agreed to maintain the building's exterior.

The facility was dedicated on Nov. 5, 1921, and Schwartz says this unique agreement between the city and the school has blossomed into a century-long relationship that still stands.

"This was a research-grade observatory," Schwartz

says. "But it's open to the public for general education, and we've been doing that for 100 years."

Schwartz often gives the lectures himself, and his programming has gained a sizable following. When something notable happens in the sky, people know where to go, according to Schwartz. In a normal non-COVID year, he estimates that 3,000-3,500 people come through. Drake students help direct the public through the night skies while educating them about the solar system.

"They do a tremendous job," says Schwartz of his student helpers.

Daniel Walter Morehouse — Drake's sixth president and a well-reputed astronomer in his own right — was the driving force behind the creation of this, the nation's first research-grade public observatory.

"Morehouse was immensely enthusiastic about astronomy," says Schwartz.

According to legend, Morehouse would cut the stadium lights at the halftimes of Drake football night games — a practice that'd be frowned on nowadays — and the eccentric professor would commandeer the theater department's spotlights and point out various constellations and intergalactic curiosities to adoring crowds.

Believe it or not, Morehouse loved looking at the sky so much that the professor and his wife, Myrtle, after death, had their remains cremated and interred in the

Drake Municipal Observatory

4898 Observatory Road, Des Moines, located inside Waveland Park. Weekly lectures are scheduled to begin April 9 in an online format. The spring program is titled "The Universe of Dr. Morehouse: Astronomical Thought at the Beginning of the 20th Century." Weekly links to virtual lectures accessible at: www.drake.edu/observatory/publicnights

The spring lecture series will celebrate a century of public service, and it is open to the general public. The lectures begin at 8 p.m.

• **April 9: The 20th Century Begins.** Astronomical truths when Dan Morehouse arrived in Des Moines from Excelsior, Minnesota.

• **April 16: The Big Eyes Improve.** 100 years of improvements on the astronomical light bucket.

• **April 23: Seeing Beyond The Visible.** There is a lot more in space than what your eyes see.

April 30: Physics Explains. The Impossible Understanding. Physics has pushed Astronomy higher than the stars.

May 7: Climbing Above The Goop. We live at the bottom of a turbulent ocean of air. To get a clear picture, we need to rise above it.

May 14: Looking For Neighbors. "It took Martian Engineers only two years to add to the extensive canal system." (N.Y. Times - 1911)

Drake Municipal Observatory, where they remain to this day.

Schwartz hopes public stargazing can return to the observatory this summer, albeit in a limited capacity. But if not, then he's pushing for next fall.

"This is going to be 100 years old in November," he says. "It'd be neat if we could get people involved to celebrate." ■

WALKS OF LIFE

COMPILED FROM IOWA LIVING MAGAZINES

Smart technology amplifies a home's IQ

Remember George Jetson, his boy Elroy and the rest of the family? The futuristic cartoon made in the 1960s was set in the year 2062, and the show left viewers with the impression that flying cars were likely in the not-too-distant future. Airborne automobiles aren't yet commonplace,

but other new-fangled gadgets have become increasingly popular in central Iowa homes. These smart devices help vacuum floors, preheat ovens, lock doors, control thermostats, open garage doors, operate security cameras and serve innumerable other functions. These can be

controlled by way of command centers such as Alexa or Google Assistant with a simple voice command or smartphone app. So even though you may need to wait several more decades before you need a pilot's license, other forms of Jetson-like technology are at the ready.



CYNTHIA VAN OCKENBURG

Continues upgrading her home

Cynthia Van Ockenburg says she “loves” her Alexa and calls it her personal home assistant.

“It’s basically an Amazon smart assistant connected to my Amazon account,” she explains.

Van Ockenburg’s Alexa is synced with her calendar so she can easily set reminders for herself. She also accesses Alexa frequently to check the weather, and it even notifies her when packages have arrived.

In addition to the aforementioned, Van Ockenburg’s gadgetry includes the Ring doorbell system, which she recommends, plus in-home cameras and a smart smoke detector.

“If one goes off, they’ll actually call me to see if I want them to dispatch the fire emergency personnel to see if there is a problem,” she says.

Source: Norwalk Living, January 2021; by Rachel Harrington

Read the full story here:



KEITH BORMANN

Hooked on home technology and safety

Smart-home technology installations at Keith Bormann’s home allow him to easily monitor his front door or to listen to music in any room of his house, but Bormann’s first smart home device — and his favorite — is the programmable Nest thermostat, which is accessible by phone.

“It keeps your house at the right temperature, no matter who is here. It learns from you,” he says.

After he installed the Nest, he became hooked on smart home tech items, adding a new gadget per year.

“We’ve added slowly, as it costs a lot,” he says.

Keith says he’ll probably add other devices as they come along, especially if they help his smart home stay safe.

Source: North Polk Living, January 2021; by Jackie Wilson

Read the full story here:



JOHN SEDERWALL

Dozens of devices powered by Alexa

As John Sederwall walks into his Iowa Hawkeye-themed basement to view the big game, he has multiple lights and TVs to turn on. But instead of switching on eight different buttons and knobs, he simply says, “Alexa, turn on the basement bar,” and it’s showtime.

If the doorbell rings during the peak of the action, Sederwall is alerted by phone, and he can access a video feed to speak with the visitor or remotely unlock the door so the person can enter. And once the person is inside, the door will lock automatically after four minutes.

At last count, Sederwall’s home had 12 smart devices and 24 smart switches connected to Amazon Alexa. The only drawback, according to Sederwall, is that Alexa’s hearing is too good.

“Sometimes it’s a downfall when you say a command too loud or long, and they all respond at once,” he laughs.

Source: North Polk Living, January 2021; by Jackie Wilson

Read the full story here:



ASHLEY GOERING

Technology makes life easier

With more than 20 smart devices running at one time, the latest in smart-home technology makes life easier at the home of Chris and Ashley Goering.

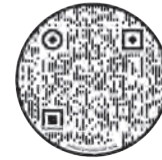
The Goerings are “connected” to their smart home even when they aren’t there. They can operate several devices in their home from their iPhones while at home or away, including the garage door opener, Ring doorbell, Ring cameras inside the house, Nest thermostat, lights and even their window coverings.

“I like having control of things in my home through my smart device,” says Chris. “Not only is it convenient and easy, but there are security reasons as well.”

To make sure these all function as designed, one needs a reliable Internet connection and Wi-Fi, and it’s important to have a good connection and faster speed.

Source: Grimes/Dallas Center Living, January 2021; by Ashley Rullestad ■

Read the full story here:



8 tips to launch a rewarding career in the construction industry

get the **JOB**

Helpful tips for your employment search

(BPT) — Do you enjoy working with your hands? Do you love solving complex problems? Do you enjoy working in the outdoors? Do you enjoy the satisfaction of seeing something you've built?

If you answer "yes" to any of these questions, you may want to consider a career in construction.

Many young people don't realize that there is more than one path to success. In other words, attending a four-year college isn't the only way to start a rewarding career.

There's another path. And believe it or not, you can actually get paid while you learn the skills you need to build a career that will last you a lifetime. An apprenticeship with a construction trade union allows young people who are at least 18 years old, and who have earned their high school diploma, to learn how to become an electrician, a pipefitter, a plumber, an ironworker and much more. In fact, according to the Construction Career Foundation, a nonprofit based in Minnesota that helps young people connect with registered construction apprenticeships, there are more than 30 careers in construction that you can pursue.

"A registered apprenticeship with a construction trade union takes from three to five years to complete," said Sarah Lechowich, senior director for the Construction Careers Foundation. "It involves working at a construction site, where you're trained by a journeyman, and classroom training."

With an apprenticeship, there's little if any costs, which means at the end of the apprenticeship, you'll have a skill that you can use for a lifetime — without

incurring tens of thousands of dollars in college debt.

To start your career in construction, follow these eight tips shared by the Construction Careers Foundation:

1. Pick a trade. Which trade best fits your personality and skill set? Visit ConstructionCareers.org, which offers details about more than 30 construction careers. The website offers descriptions about each trade, videos of real construction workers and details about pay and benefits.

2. Make sure you're qualified. To be accepted into a construction trades union apprenticeship, you need to be at least 18 years old, have a valid driver's license, a high school diploma or a GED equivalent, and for some apprenticeships, successfully pass an aptitude test administered by the trade union to which you're applying. By the way, construction isn't just for men — more and more women are starting construction careers every day.

3. Still in high school? If you're still in high school, load up on math and communications courses — today's construction workers need to know math and they need to know how to communicate clearly — because you work on a team in the real world. Take any courses that your high school offers in construction to start getting hands-on experience.

4. Talk to your parents. Many, if not most, parents urge their kids to go to college. If you have a feeling that college isn't right for you, talk to your parents and tell them you'd like to try an apprenticeship in construction. Point them to ConstructionCareers.org, which has a ton of information about why a registered construction trades apprenticeship is the best answer for you.

5. Talk to a construction worker. To better understand the rewards of a career in the construction trades, ask family and friends to connect you with construction workers so you can ask them questions about their careers. If you find it difficult to find a construction worker, check out these videos on the Construction Career Pathways channel on YouTube, which features short interviews with more than 20 construction workers.

6. Make the call. Some construction trade unions offer informational meetings for those who want to apply for an apprenticeship. Others will invite you in for an interview. After you've identified a construction trade that you'd like to pursue, contact the local construction trade union to get more information about their apprenticeship program.

7. Start the application process. Just like college, you need to apply for an apprenticeship. Some trades allow you to apply year-round; others have specific periods when you can apply. The Construction Trades app, available for download on Apple and Google Play stores, is a great source to learn about apprenticeship deadlines.

8. Get fit. Being an apprentice is hard work. It's not an office job where you sit in a cubicle all day long. It involves getting to the job site, often at times like 7 a.m., and it will involve lifting tools and materials, and being on your feet throughout the day. Now is the time to start getting in shape and working on your strength and stamina.

"With a registered construction trades apprenticeship," said Lechowich, "you'll learn skills that you can use for the rest of your life. You'll also be trained to build things to the highest standards, and you'll learn the value and importance of safety. All while getting paid to learn." ■



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