

OCTOBER 2021

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FALL

Arts

&

Entertainment

GUIDE

Central Iowa's blueprint to
fun diversions, interesting
distractions and enjoyable
recreation

Natasha Paremski plays
Rachmaninoff's Third Piano Concerto.
Photo credit: Des Moines Symphony

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John Ruan III is gone
but not forgotten.

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CITYVIEW is delivered throughout central Iowa to more than 600 locations every month. To request delivery of CITYVIEW to your business, or to inquire about our distribution services, call 515-953-4822, ext. 301. Annual mailed subscriptions are available by mail at a rate of 12 issues for \$29. CITYVIEW is a monthly magazine published by Big Green Umbrella Media Inc., an Iowa corporation. Contents 2021 Big Green Umbrella Media, Inc. All rights reserved. Nothing may be reprinted in whole or in part without permission of the publisher. First copy of CITYVIEW is free at the newsstand. Subsequent copies are \$5 each. Copies of past issues, as available, may be purchased for \$5 each (plus shipping if required) from the CITYVIEW offices. One copy per reader, please. It is unlawful to remove copies in bulk; violators will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Editorial Policies: Contact the publisher for permission to reprint articles, cartoons or any other portions of the paper. CITYVIEW is not responsible for unsolicited manuscripts. All letters received become the property of the publisher. We reserve the right to print letters in condensed form and to edit them for libel.



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Central Iowa's blueprint to fun diversions, interesting distractions and enjoyable recreation

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ASK CITYVIEW

By CITYVIEW staff

Kybos, ramps, BCycle, Women of Achievement, mixmasters

Ask CITYVIEW anything by emailing editor@dmcityview.com.

Q.

Q: I am new to Des Moines, so I have questions. Why do you call porta-a-potties “kybos”? Why do you call parking garages “ramps”? Why are the BCycle spots taped off at Lauridsen Amphitheater? Why is the Women of Achievement Bridge dedicated to someone named Scott? Is Scott a woman? What on Earth is a mixmaster, and where exactly will I find it? — *Mary Ann in Des Moines*

A.

Porta-a-potties are also known as “kybos”? Some say “Port ‘O’ Jonny.” Others say it’s a “portaloo,” “pee-a-torium,” a “crap-a-teria,” or even a “long-drop.” But in central Iowa, when nature calls, we go sprinting for the closest “kybo,” and we pray the whole way that when we find one of these movable, 21st-century plastic outhouses, we’ll also find a green slot that reads, “unoccupied.”

According to online reports, the term “kybo” probably originated when Kybo brand coffee cans were used to hold lye or other odor neutralizers within the portable toilets. After Kybo coffee became a thing of history, that’s when other rationales began percolating. Whatever you call it, just remember that whatever you do, don’t give into temptation and look down into that murky blue-water darkness. Once that image seers itself into your cerebral cortex, you won’t soon forget it.

A.

Parking garages utilize an incline, thus the term “ramps.” At least that seems likely. Ask CITYVIEW posed the query to Ryan Ellsworth, a local architect and a guide for the Iowa Architectural Foundation’s downtown historical walking tours.

“Unfortunately, I don’t have a concrete answer for you,” he wrote. “I do know that most parking garages prior to WWII utilized elevators rather than ramps. There were many in Des Moines and around the country. A couple of the most notable in Des Moines were a multi-story, elevator-driven parking garage that stood on the north end of the block that now houses Capital Square. Additionally, there was a subterranean elevator-driven garage at Fourth and Walnut, where the Plaza Condos now stand. With the ubiquitous use of the car after WWII, the use of ramps to access parking garages became the norm. I’m guessing that the fact that Iowans call these garages ramps is just a regional result of the distinction between these two forms of parking garages.”

A.

Why are the BCycle spots taped off at Lauridsen Amphitheater? Per Sam Carrell, of Des Moines Water Works Park Foundation:

“That cement pad and bike station were only recently installed, and it was taped off because we were waiting for the kiosk to be wired for power.”

Now that it’s complete, as of Sept. 10, it is functional and on the Des Moines BCycle grid.

A.

Why is the Women of Achievement Bridge dedicated to someone named Scott? Is Scott a woman? “There is a memorial plaque for Scott Cahill near the east entry of the bridge, but it’s not affiliated with the bridge,” says Amy Eaton, of Women Lead Change. Cahill passed away in May of 2013. “Scott was part of the board of the Riverfront Development Authority.”

A.

Mixmasters? Assuming you aren’t speaking of a disc jockey or a blender-like cooking apparatus, a mixmaster is an informal term, according to a spokesperson for the Iowa Department of Transportation, for a junction of major Interstate interchanges such as I-80, I-35 and I-235. Greater Des Moines has two such mixmasters, the East Mixmaster is just north of the metro, and the West Mixmaster is in West Des Moines. ■



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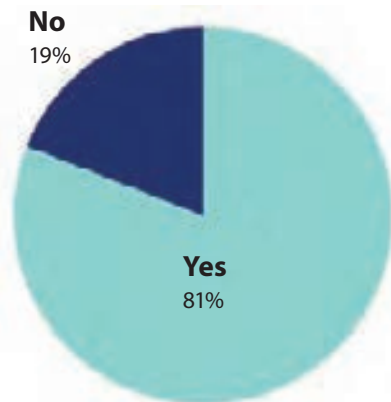
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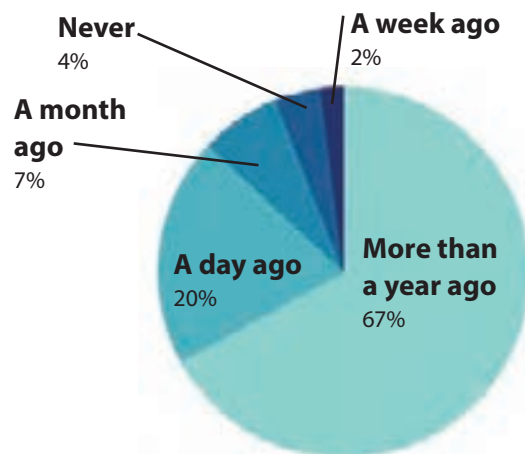
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Results from last month's polls at www.dmcityview.com

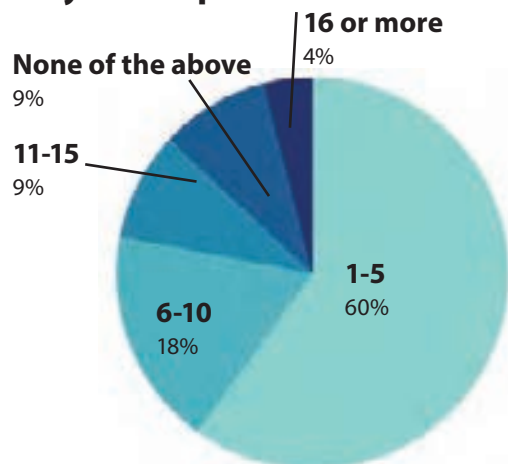
Do you know how to swim?



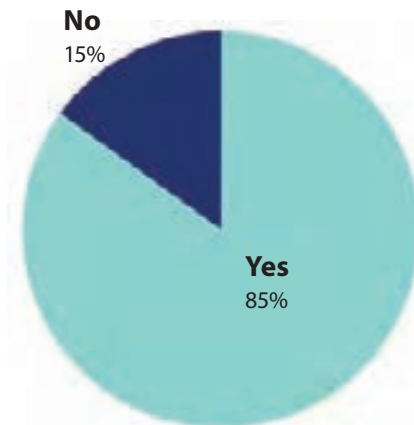
When was the last time you bathed in a bathtub?



How many postage stamps do you use per month?



Would you wear a seat belt in your vehicle if the law didn't require it?



RETWEETS (comments unedited)

[@impaulmccoy](#)

"Whatever we do, let's make sure it takes forever" – soccer players

[@Rohit_And_Run](#)

I swear people love me but my Uber score says differently.

[@ilovepie84](#)

Jason Momoa and I had a handsome contest and the loser had to become Aquaman.

[@treydayway](#)

I'm going to be the most petty poltergeist ever. I'll do things like unplug your phone charging overnight

[@Cpin42](#)

If the Unabomber was so smart, why did he pick such a suspicious name

[@paulbarbar_II](#)

I yelled at my wife "Your skirt is way too short" She replied, "That's because it's made for a woman. Now take it off & give it to me"

[@NotTodayEric](#)

them: talk is cheap
me: two talks please

[@doggiedogthedog](#)

Wakes up at 6:30. Quietly makes coffee and takes dog outside. Sits down with phone and vows not to waste entire day on Twitter. ... 5 minutes later, wife: supper's ready!!

[@_SingleBabyMama](#)

Once when I was on a cruise a lady took an entire pan of bacon to her table. The actual gigantic pan with ALL the bacon. I was so mad but I did have to give a little nod of respect.

facebook

cityview magazine
(comments unedited)

Cityview Magazine: What is the most-used phrase in your house?

Rachelle Hrubetz: A swear word.

Nichole McDowell: It's a toss up between: Scooty Booty & PLEASE GO TO BED.

Melissa Holton: "I didn't do that"

Beth Feilmeier: Gizmo, stop barking.

Sejla Hall: What's for dinner

Judy Philbrook: Where did I ...

Bill Thyberg: What???

Karen 'Bolie' English: Seriously or relax

Woody Steve Wasson: WTF

Monchichi Yoshi: I'm hungry

Mary Faircloth: "What???"

Michael H Hamilton: Naughty kitty!!!

Lisa Mae DeWaard: Here kitty kitty

Cityview Magazine: What is the WORST movie you've ever watched?

Aaron Sewell For West Des Moines:

Avatar. By James Cameron. Overhyped.

Patrick McQueen: Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter! Except for the part where he turned his axe into a shotgun!

Denise Adams: Napoleon Dynamite or Pumpkin

Michael H Hamilton: Cutthroat Island. My GOD...what an awful movie.

Kara Vaughn: Recently? Peter Rabbit 2. It was so terrible, my kid got bored part way through!

Susan Poffenberger: "The Green Knight", so so bad. Life is short, don't waste it here.

Tracey Brown: One of the Mission

Impossible movies - I think #2 — I walked out after about 25 mins.

Beth Feilmeier: Dead Seven. It's a Syfy Original produced by Nick Carter featuring a bunch of 90s boy band members, which is what drew me to it. I can never get that time back.

Jennifer Wood: Eyes Wide Shut

Penny Moneyhun: Halloween 5 year of the witch

Jolinda Fung Yamamoto: The Green Knight

David Muenchrath: The Legend of the Rollerblade 7. Zen filmmaking should not be a thing.

Chad Staudenmaier: In the theater... without question...Joe vs. The Volcano... ridiculously awful

Marta Elena Doughty: Dirty Dancing or Avatar

Brian Watts: Contact with Jodie Foster and Matthew McConaughey. Absolute snoozefest.

Casey Finley Plecas: Gumbi, you think oh fun like the old cartoons... but nah, it was the slowest no plot, over an hour of my life stolen.

Diana Flynn: Fearless Frank "starring" Jon Voight. Horrible film.

Ralf Salke: Hmmm lets see; the original Dune, st Elmos Fire, Sister of the Groom, Interstellar, Destination Wedding to name a few...

Aaron Winters: Robin Hood and the Army of Starving Orphans Who All Somehow Own Ponies, starring Russell Crowe.

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STRAY THOUGHTS

BY RANDY EVANS

American spirit is not what it once was

If we want to see true unity, we have to go back 20 years to find it.

When the anniversary of some tragedy rolls around, we are reminded of what was lost in those events.

We reflect on the lives that were taken and the upheaval those deaths brought to their loved ones, their friends and their communities. What might have been — that's often a topic during those reflections.

We saw this over the past month when the nation observed the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

But when you stop to think about the events of that horrible, horrible day. When you pause to really contemplate the tremendous loss of life in the span of a couple of hours. When you reflect on what occurred in the years since then, you realize that our nation has, regrettably, lost much more than just 2,977 lives.

The best way to understand the magnitude of those losses since 9/11 is to look at the contrasts between then and now.

On 9/11, in New York City and Washington, D.C., and in places like Choteau, Montana, and Omaha, Nebraska, the prevailing attitude was "How can I help?" People put aside what might have been in their own personal interests.

You didn't see tens of thousands of people making demands. You didn't have people threatening legal action if they were not allowed back into their offices or apartment buildings or airliners. You didn't have members of Congress and governors question our president's patriotism.

Instead, there was a sense of "we are all in this together," that we need to care for and care about one another. Countless times, people went to extraordinary lengths to provide kindness within the chaos, to put the greater good above self-interests.

Brian Clark and Stanley Praitnath are two such people. Clark and Praitnath worked on the 83rd and 81st floors in the south tower of the World Trade

Center. They first met a few minutes after a United Airlines jet plowed through their floors at nearly 600 mph, creating a massive fireball of jet fuel.

Somehow, the two survived the impact, although Praitnath was trapped under his desk. Clark, through a lucky guess, found the only stairway that was not cut off by the crash.

He descended two floors, then heard Praitnath's cries for help through the stairway's walls. Disregarding his own safety, Clark left the stairway to investigate. He located the voice and freed the injured stranger.

Together, they made their way to the ground 80 stories below, through smoke and heat and debris. They reached safety just four minutes before their tower collapsed.

"We'll be brothers for life," Praitnath told reporters. "I wouldn't be here if he hadn't stretched out his hand that day" — if Clark had not put the well-being of someone he did not know on equal footing with his own safety.

As Brian Clark and Stanley Praitnath were hurrying out of the World Trade Center, the federal government closed the skies over the United States and ordered all planes to land at the nearest airport. For Emilio Martinez, who was heading home to Denver from a business trip to Ohio, that put him in Omaha.

Martinez wanted to be with his family, but instead of simply renting a car, he rented the largest van available at Eppley Airfield. Then, holding a handwritten "Going to Denver" sign on a piece of cardboard, he found seven strangers, all as scared as he was, who wanted to get home to their families, too.

They all piled into the van, and Martinez drove them 500 miles to Denver, dropping each one at their homes. The grateful travelers offered to pay Martinez for the cost of the van or the gasoline. But he said no. Helping them reunite with their loved ones was more

important than money, he said.

Some things are just more important. Consider:

There's a little farming town in northwest Montana called Choteau. On 9/11, several years of drought had left the area's farmers and ranchers reeling financially. But a week after 9/11, the 1,700 people of Choteau held a rally to raise money to help the people of the largest city in America.

Do you see a common thread here — that of people thinking about the greater good and the needs of others? Do you see the unity of purpose that was evident 20 years ago that is absent these days?

In all, 2,977 people died in the terrorist attacks on 9/11 or from injuries they suffered then. To date, 659,800 people have died from COVID in the United States. That figure is 200 times larger than 9/11's death toll, and we are recording deaths at a pace equivalent to one 9/11 every two days.

In the aftermath of 9/11, Americans saw more intensive security measures at government buildings and in offices throughout the nation. Flying now requires screenings of our luggage and ourselves. We have to remove our shoes and cannot take beverages through security checkpoints. We are limited to small amounts of toothpaste, shampoo and other personal care products when we travel.

We tolerate these restrictions on our freedoms because we know they are helping to prevent another 9/11. But wearing a cloth mask and getting a vaccination is too great a sacrifice to make for the well-being of our family, our friends and strangers.

If we want to see true unity, we have to go back 20 years to find it.

How sad. ■

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CIVIC SKINNY

BY CITYVIEW STAFF

Alleging secret taping, X-rated language and chaos, Jim Nahas sues four Polk County supervisors and John Norris

Fired county personnel boss **Jim Nahas** has filed a blistering lawsuit against four of the five county supervisors — **Matt McCoy** was not named a defendant — and county administrator **John Norris**.

The 30-page suit, filed in Polk County District Court on Sept. 27, is aimed at “redress(ing) wrongs committed against him” relating to the firing.

It alleges libel, wrongful discharge, extortion and violation of the Iowa open-meetings and open-records law. It implies that Nahas, who was hired as county human-resources director in 2014, was being used as a pawn by four supervisors — Democrats **Tom Hockensmith** and **Angela Connolly** and Republicans **Bob Brownell** and **Steve Van Oort** — to force out the fifth, Democrat McCoy.

And it paints a picture of a dysfunctional board, of an office of secretly taped conversations, obscene shouting matches and regular violations of county policy.

It alleges that the board — and it excludes McCoy from this picture — “lacks cohesion, is run by fear, intimidation, and is a good example of substantial organizational dysfunction,” adding “back-biting, turf-protection, and dysfunction run rampant.”

The lawsuit singles out Hockensmith for particular criticism. Nahas, the suit says, for six years was “subject to consistent harassment, vulgarities, threats regarding his employment, and the like at the hands of various members of the board, and specifically Tom Hockensmith, all for simply doing his job.”

It also depicts the board office on the third floor of the county office building downtown as a place echoing of vile language.

Asked if he or the supervisors or the county had any comment on the lawsuit, Norris said: “No.”

The suit says that in an exit interview with Nahas and McCoy, an unnamed employee — “Employee C” — said she “regularly witnessed other Supervisors and the then County Administrator yelling in anger and frustration regularly using profanity, including the words ‘fuck,’ ‘fucking bitch,’ ‘mother-fucker,’ ‘fucking cunt,’ ‘asshole,’ ‘shit,’ ‘damn,’ ‘son-of-a-bitch,’ and ‘god-dammit.’”

Nahas was fired earlier this year after the board said he had given inconsistent answers in two secretly taped interviews by county investigators concerning

a discussion in a meeting with McCoy and county employee **Frank Marasco**, who had lost out to Norris in his bid to succeed **Mark Wandro** as county administrator. The meeting apparently veered off into a range of topics, some perhaps involving county employee **Sarah Boese**, who apparently heard some of the discussion.

According to the lawsuit, Boese then met with Hockensmith and Connolly, who then “plotted a course of action they felt would result in maximum political damage to McCoy and ultimately result in his removal from the board.”

The plan involved sending a lengthy termination letter to Nahas that had damaging statements about McCoy. The letter became public, but the ploy didn’t work. Nahas lost his job; McCoy kept his.

Nahas’s lawsuit accuses the four supervisors and Norris of libel, saying the termination letter maliciously contained false statements, was “intended to injure Nahas’s reputation, intended to expose Nahas to public contempt and ridicule, and to further damage his ability to obtain further employment.”

It also accuses the four of them and Norris of extortion, using the county’s complaint and interview process “to intimidate and coerce Nahas to implicate McCoy as having allegedly made a profane statement apparently about another supervisor.” It alleges that the defendants, through their agents, “repeatedly warned and threatened Nahas that all he had to do to protect his employment was to implicate McCoy as having made the alleged statements.” They also threatened him with public humiliation and embarrassment...as a means to getting him to change his story.”

The suit also alleges that the board illegally met in secret to fire Nahas and illegally released the letter of termination.

Nahas is seeking damages to cover loss of past income, loss of future income, severe emotional distress, severe future emotional distress, punitive damages and attorneys’ fees. He has asked for a jury trial. ...

The building that formerly housed the Des Moines Social Club, located at 900 Mulberry St. in Des Moines, has been shut down since September of 2019, but it will soon be sold. Terms of the deal were

approved at the Des Moines City Council’s Sept. 13 meeting. According to Council documents, the Social Club bought the building from the City of Des Moines in 2013 for \$600,000 and invested more than \$6.9 million into making renovations. The fundraising total was \$4.3 million. The \$2.6 million shortfall led to constant pressure on operating funds and, ultimately, at least in part, to its closing. The property is being acquired by Abbott Properties for \$3.1 million, and Abbott says it will invest an additional \$3.5 million into renovations. Abbott Properties is based in Kansas City and has a portfolio of properties valued at more than \$200 million. According to city documents, the courtyard at the real estate will be utilized as an outdoor gathering and performing space. The main building’s first floor will have commercial space, and the restaurant, Malo, will remain while a coffee shop will be added. The second floor is being designed for several uses that have not been identified. ...

Polk County will soon purchase Des Moines’ east-side recreational complex known as Sleepy Hollow Sports Park. The sale price is set at \$1.75 million for nearly 50 acres. Polk County had previously purchased approximately 27 acres of the park in February. The park’s current owners — **Rick and Mary Flatt** — will continue running all on-site operations through the end of 2022. Then, beginning in 2023, Polk County Conservation will take over the winter sports facility while the Flatts continue the camping operations and special events, including the Kosmic Kingdom music festival, Sleepy Hollow Renaissance Faires and the Sleepy Hollow Scream Park. In 2024, Polk County Conservation will run all the park’s operations with exception of the special events listed above. Sleepy Hollow is located at 4051 Dean Ave. ...

Much has been written about the sparkling new Hy-Vee store in Grimes. The 93,000-square-foot facility opened to rave reviews, but also in September, the grocery store chain announced that its downtown Des Moines location at Fourth Street and Court Avenue will close after being open less than five years, to the dismay of some downtown residents and to the joy of some downtown restaurant owners. It will be converted into a HealthMarket, according to a company spokesperson. ■

REMEMBRANCES

BY MICHAEL GARTNER

John Ruan (1943 – 2021)

John Ruan III was raised by a feisty, tough, bare-knuckle man who started with a dump truck in Beacon, Iowa, and ended up with an empire that stretched across the country. At the time of the elder Ruan's death, in 2010, the Ruan family owned Bankers Trust, the largest privately owned bank in the state, as well as a huge trucking company that bore his name and a skyscraper or two, among other things.

It must have been hard to be his namesake son.

The son inherited none of the father's brashness, none of his swagger, none of his public combativeness. Yet, when he took over from his father in 1998, he proved to be every bit the business leader his father was. Probably better. Where the father relied on his gut, the son relied on his head. Where the father chose cronies for some top jobs, the son chose proven executives. Where the father was a one-man show, the son was a team builder. And where the father was all business, all the time, the son developed a well-rounded life.

The son got rid of some of his father's pet projects — selling the Marriott Hotel for a tidy sum, among other things — and built the core businesses to ever-greater success. He became head of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce for a term, exerting great influence on that group for years, and he became involved in state and local groups that profited from his leadership and his advice.

For what the son did inherit from his father was a love of Iowa and of Des Moines and a fierce loyalty to his friends and employees. John Ruan III built on those, and — urged on by his wife, Janis — also built on his father's generosity, giving away millions of dollars, often quietly. Rarely attaching their names to projects in big, bold letters, John and Janis Ruan (and, increasingly, their two children) worked hard to make Des Moines a great place to live.

When Des Moines parks boss Ben Page needed something, the Ruans were often his first call. It is because of the Ruans that Fleur Drive is such a graceful entrance to Des Moines; Janis Ruan hired a famous landscape architect to design a roadway that was more than a roadway, that was lined with flowers and trees. That “put us on the map” for visitors coming to town, Page says. The ordinary was never enough. You can thank the Ruans, in large part, for the rose garden at Greenwood Park, the lilacs at Ewing Park, the downtown flowers — and a zillion other things.

And then there's the restored library, sitting like a stately manor house on well-manicured lawns on the banks of the Des Moines River. The building now is home to the World Food Prize, an award championed by John Ruan II and his pal, Nobel Prize winner Norman Borlaug. John Ruan III shepherded the effort — and in large part financed it — to restore the building to its one-time elegance and to ensure that the World Food Prize organization continued to play a huge role in the world and in Iowa.

John Ruan III was almost shy at times, never seeking credit for the many things he did and often going out of his way to avoid it. He was quick and funny, with a dry, wry wit. He enjoyed having dinner with his wife at the Embers on Ingersoll — not exactly a go-to spot for fashionable folks who want to be seen — rather than at high-end restaurants (where the food wasn't as good).

He liked to hunt, to play golf and to watch football games, especially Iowa State and Northwestern games. And if you happened to drop something off at the house on Foster Drive in the early evening, as likely or not you'd see him through a window, sitting in his easy chair absorbed in a book. It was usually a biography or a history book. He was well-read.

He wasn't particularly political. His father was not shy about knowing presidents, but if John Ruan III knew any, he didn't boast about it. He was a Republican — by birth and by inclination — but he was more in tune with Bob Ray than Donald Trump. Three years ago, he supported his friend Fred Hubbell in his effort to unseat Republican Governor Kim Reynolds. But he also wrote checks to Reynolds.

Eight months ago, John Ruan got sick. He spent the rest of his life in hospitals, dealing with a litany of diseases that, finally, took his life. He was 78 years old when he died on Saturday, Sept. 11. He leaves a grieving family, a sad community and a wonderful legacy.

His father would have been proud of him. ■








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DUFFY'S VIEW

BY BRIAN DUFFY



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POLITICAL MERCURY

BY DOUGLAS BURNS

Why Tom Miller is running for an 11th term

The nation's longest-serving state attorney general says his health and vitality are strong.

Tom Miller, the nation's longest-serving state attorney general, will seek an 11th four-year term in the office next fall, saying he is "energized, challenged and fulfilled" by such efforts as the pursuit of anti-trust cases against dominant tech companies — like Facebook — and seeing through monetary settlements tied to damage certain pharmaceutical companies have wrought with the peddling of opioids.

"This is an office that is never boring," Miller said.

Iowans first elected Miller, a Dubuque native, as attorney general in 1978. He's served in that role continuously since with the exception of a brief stint in private practice in the 1990s.

Over the last decade, Miller, 77, a Democrat, won two re-election bids by double digits — and did not even face a Republican challenger in 2018. Miller does expect Republican competition for the office in 2022, although no GOP candidates have formally announced.

"I think we're doing some of the best things in the office that we have ever done," Miller said in an interview. "I think we have some of the best staff that we have ever had. I'm energized, challenged and fulfilled by doing this. And we have unfinished business we want to work on."

Where Facebook is concerned, Miller, working with a bipartisan collection of other states' attorney generals, will probe whether the social-media giant compromised users' data or artificially inflated advertising costs on its platform.

Miller said he is also concerned with the algorithms social media companies use to keep people on their sites, spending time and seeing ads.

"They've got ways to try and keep people involved, including children," Miller said. "We are most concerned about them doing that with children."

During the next two decades, Iowa will receive \$175 million from a historic \$26 billion agreement that will help bring assistance to those struggling with opioid addiction.

The agreement includes Cardinal, McKesson, and AmerisourceBergen — the nation's three major pharmaceutical distributors — and Johnson & Johnson, which manufactured and marketed opioids. The agreement, Miller said, would resolve investigations and litigation over the companies' roles

in creating and fueling the opioid epidemic.

The money, in large part, will go toward drug treatment and prevention programs in Iowa.

"I'm conscious about making sure we spread that around the state," Miller said.

Miller said he plans to take consumer protection, already an area he

sees as a feature in the office, to the next level. He wants to develop a more sophisticated early-warning system to protect older Iowans from Social Security fraud, for example.

There's more on that front.

"How do we more effectively, if possible, deal with the intractable problems with telemarketing, for instance," Miller said.

Miller said his health and vitality are strong at his age — and that experience matters in the Attorney General's Office.

"In terms of being too old? I'm 77, but I am vigorous," Miller said. "I do my bike rides. I spend a lot of time at the office. I work hard. I think people have to make independent judgments on us as to whether we are still up for the job. I believe I am, but that is something people will evaluate, if they desire to." ■

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



Tom Miller





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COMING UP

SUBMIT ENTRIES AND PHOTOS TO EDITOR@DMCITYVIEW.COM

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

THINGS TO DO



COVERED BRIDGE FESTIVAL IN MADISON COUNTY

Oct. 9-10

At: Winterset, Madison County

This two-day festival includes a Sunday car show, a quilt show, crafts, foods, family-fun activities, entertainment, antiques and guided tours for all ages.

NOTE: The Roseman Bridge (pictured) is rumored to be haunted. You’ve been warned. For more information, visit www.madisoncounty.com/covered-bridge-festival-2. Photo by Mark Goebel



IMT DES MOINES MARATHON

Oct. 16-17

At: Racing through Des Moines

“The Finish Line is Just the Beginning” at the IMT Des Moines Marathon. 26.2 miles? You can do it! For more information, visit www.desmoinesmarathon.com.

FIGHTING THROUGH KINSHIP 5K

Sunday, Oct. 10

At: Kinship Brewing Company

Run a 5K while supporting Bras for the Cause, Can Do Cancer and Real Men Wear Pink — three local organizations waging war against breast cancer. This fun fitness event boasts a family atmosphere and is much more than a race. Cancer negatively touches nearly every American in one way or another. The race begins at 9 a.m. Kinship Brewing Company is located in Waukee at 255 N.W. Sunrise Drive. For more information, visit www.kinshipbeer.com.



‘WHITNEY CUMMINGS: TOUCH ME TOUR’

Oct. 15

At: Hoyt Sherman Place

“There’s something so great about smelling that Axe body spray again,” jokes Whitney Cummings, comedian, while explaining how she has been hugging fans more frequently and enthusiastically after finally returning to the stage after an unwelcome pandemic-induced layoff. Missing human interaction and relishing its odorous return is the inspiration of her “Touch Me Tour.” The show starts at 7 p.m. Hoyt Sherman Place is located in Des Moines at 1501 Woodland Ave. For more information, visit www.hoytsherman.org.

NITRO CIRCUS TOUR

Sunday, Oct. 17

At: Principal Park

Real-life action heroes brave the world’s largest jumps while pushing the envelope and doing incredible never-seen-before tricks, such as the legendary 45-foot Giganta ramp that launches BMX, skate and scooter athletes into the sky at 40 mph. Watch as Nitro’s daredevils attempt the craziest stunts imaginable on new contraptions you never imagined could fly. With no roof there are no limits. For more information, visit www.nitrocircus.com.



COMING UP

SUBMIT ENTRIES AND PHOTOS TO EDITOR@DMCITYVIEW.COM



IOWA WILD - PRO HOCKEY

Friday-Saturday, Oct. 22-23 vs. Rockford Icehogs, 7 p.m.; 6 p.m.

At: Wells Fargo Arena, 730 Third St., Des Moines

Just a step below hockey's highest level, the NHL, the Iowa Wild ice hockey team plays in the American Hockey League and supports the Minnesota Wild organization. For more information, visit www.iowawild.com.



DSM DRAG BRUNCH

Sunday, Oct. 24

At: Decades Event Center

What's a drag brunch? One part breakfast, one part lunch and the rest is drag. Combining great food with rollicking fun, it is all held in an inclusive space with some of the best performers from across the Midwest. DSM Drag Brunch, 11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Decades Event Center is located in West Des Moines at 1208 Grand Ave. For more information, visit www.dsmdragbrunch.com.



BOURBON AND RIBS

Oct. 28

At: Pella Opera House

Don't be afraid to get your hands dirty at this fun event featuring bourbon tasting, ribs and heavy hors d'oeuvres... Led by whiskey expert Amanda Korth, Bourbon and Ribs aims to raise funds for the Pella Opera House. Dig in! The Pella Opera House is located in Pella at 611 Franklin St. For more information, visit www.pellaoperahouse.org.



HAUNTED HOUSES

Varying dates until the end of October — check websites for details

At: Around the metro

Are you feeling creeped out? Does unexplained whispering give you the heeby jeebies? Don't be a chicken-fraidy cat. Jump into October, straighten your spine, quit your quivering and visit the following local fright shows — listed in no particular order. Whoo-hahahaha...

• **Slaughterhouse:** 500 Locust St. in downtown Des Moines

www.slaughterhousedm.com

• **Sleepy Hollow Haunted Scream Park:** 4051 Dean Ave. in Des Moines

www.sleepyhollowscarempark.com

• **Haunted Barn:** 3215 S.E. Corporate Woods Drive in Ankeny

www.ankenymhauntedbarn.com

• **ScareDSM:** 97 Indiana Ave. in Des Moines

www.scaredsm.com

• **Linn's Supermarket:** 3805 Sixth Ave. in Des Moines

www.linnshauntedhouse.com

• **Haunted Bone Cemetery:** 1901 27th St. in Des Moines

www.facebook.com/hauntedbonecemetery

TIME to get WILD!

Iowa Wild set to drop the puck on a new — and hopefully full — American Hockey League season.

By Darren Tromblay

There was absolutely nothing that could have prepared Iowa Wild Coach Tim Army for what transpired off the ice that, for all intents and purposes, melted his last two seasons.

That, of course, was COVID-19.

The virus first reared its ugly head in the spring of 2020, and, within weeks, the world was shut down. Swallowed up in the mix, unfortunately, was what had been the best season in Wild history.

The American Hockey League (AHL) Wild, a feeder club to its National Hockey League (NHL) parent team, the Minnesota Wild, had posted a 37-18-4-4 record in the 2019-20 campaign before things came to an abrupt halt.

The following season was truncated,

too. The AHL season, which usually begins in October, was shut down until February of the following year. A total of 34 games were played, with the Wild posting a 17-13-4-0 mark, and narrowly missing the league's revamped playoff system. One positive was the Wild closed out the year with a strong, 13-4-2 record in their final 19 games. But it still stung.

"I don't like to use the word 'frustrating,' as it's such a negative word," Army said of the previous two seasons. "We were fast, physical, and a deep team that was equipped to have success in the playoffs. So we're disappointed that neither team got the opportunity to pursue it. But it's the reality of it, and we'll build on what we've done in this coming season."

Wild fans have high expectations for Forward Matt Boldy, who played 18 games with the Wild last season and turned some heads in front offices in Minneapolis. If Boldy misses making the big-league club in Minnesota, he is expected to be a star for Iowa. Photo credit: Shane Abbitt/Iowa Wild

THEN AND NOW

Prior to Army's arrival, the Wild were in the midst of a five-year playoff drought. That changed in 2018-19 when Army was able to help steer the club to not only a post-season appearance, but a deep run into it as well. The Wild beat Milwaukee in a tight, five-game series before bowing out to Chicago in six games in the next round.

"That was a big step for us as a franchise," Army said. "And although these last two teams didn't get to play in the playoffs, we look at it as though we've made the playoffs three years in a row. It gives us a foundation and a springboard into the upcoming season."

Army and the rest of the Wild enter the 2021-22 campaign at Wells Fargo Arena with high hopes. And even higher expectations.

One of the key components this year could be the play of exciting forward Matt Boldy, who played 18 games with the Wild last season and turned some heads in front offices in Minneapolis. Such is life in the minor leagues, where rosters change daily, depending on what the parent club needs.

"We may have Matt with us, or he may make

the big Wild out of training camp," Army said. "He's looking really good right now."

Calen Addison, Marco Rossi, Brandon Duhaime, Connor Dewar and Kyle Rau are also players who have opportunities to play in the NHL but may also see ice time in Des Moines.

"They're really good hockey players," Army said. "And players that our fans will really enjoy watching."

A strong core of younger players, led by Damien Giroux, Adam Beckman, Mitchell Chaffee, Will Bitten, Mason Shaw and Joseph Cramarossa, who spent the last half of last year in the NHL, are prospects to watch as well.

"They've played some games already and are players who will continue to elevate, be very exciting for our fans to watch, and will be the future of the big Wild down the road," Army said.

Iowa's squad also has a number of players in the mix that add a veteran presence including Keaton Thompson and Turner Ottenbreit, who have been staples on the defensive side, as well as goalies Hunter Jones, Dereck Baribeau and Andrew Hammond. Minneapolis or not, the cupboard is far from bare.



The mascot of the Iowa Wild, Crash, celebrates his birthday on Jan. 15 vs. Chicago. Photo credit: Shane Abbitt/Iowa Wild

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OFF THE ICE

FEATURE STORY

Playing in what Army called “the best rink in the American Hockey League,” aka Wells Fargo Arena, has paid off in spades. And things got even better in the offseason.

“Getting new flooring installed in our gym may not seem like a lot, but it’s important, because the flooring that we’ve got has been there a long time,” Army said. “We’ve been approved by Minnesota to get some new flooring, which is really great for conditioning work in the gym. And we’re getting a new skate sharpener and heart monitors for all players, something we can use to track conditioning during practice.”

Off-season player development continues to be a bright spot for the organization, top to bottom.

“We were really proud last year that five of the starting 20 on the Minnesota roster had spent significant time in Des Moines playing for us,” Army said. “In addition to that, they (Wild) had a taxi squad, and we had a number of guys on it who had also spent a significant amount of time in Iowa.

“We’re trying to develop individuals, and the second step is that individual development sits inside a collective whole. If we do the first two

things right, our guys will be ready to contribute to the big Wild when the opportunity presents itself. And we’re trying to win hockey games, so that contribution can help not only the big Wild, but us, too.”

Winning does not take a back seat in Army’s or the parent company’s grand scheme. Never has.

“Winning is important,” Army said. “If you want to win at the National Hockey League level, you need to win at the minor league level. To win, you’re not going to learn that on the fly in the NHL. The league is too good. You’ve got to develop that in the AHL.”

Speed kills. Or in this case, wins. And Army knows it.

“We want to play faster, smarter, and we want to play tougher,” he says. “We want to continue to be a really good five-on-five team, because when you get late into the season, and the players are getting tired but you’re playing games to make the playoffs, there aren’t as many penalties called, so you have to have success five on five. And the way we get there is by playing connected and playing fast.”

CIRCLE THESE DATES

- **Dec. 4-5:** Winter Wonderland vs. Chicago
- **Dec. 31:** New Year’s Day Game with postgame fireworks vs. Colorado
- **Jan. 14:** Military Appreciation vs. Chicago
- **Jan. 15:** Crash’s Birthday vs. Chicago
- **Jan. 28:** Health and Wellness Night vs. San Diego
- **Jan. 29:** Local Heroes Night vs. San Diego
- **Feb. 4:** Special Olympics Night vs. Rockford
- **March 13:** Teacher’s Appreciation Night vs. Henderson
- **April 22:** Go Green Night vs. Texas
- **April 23:** Fan Appreciation vs. Texas

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MORE THAN JUST A GAME

Ben Gislason, manager of media relations for the Iowa Wild, is chomping at the bit to get going as well. After two seasons of having their hands tied behind their backs, the media relations department is eager to get back to doing what they do best: excite fans. And that starts with something simple.

“One of the big things we’re really excited about this season is just being able to put out a promo schedule,” he said. “We didn’t really get to have one last season, because last year it was about getting the players on the ice, getting as many fans in the building as we can safely get in with social distancing, masks, etc.”

Gislason said that, although the club will remain diligent in keeping the fans safe in these unknown times, things are — at least for now — pointing in the right direction.

“The good news is that, from a fan perspective, we’re going to be able to operate closer to normal than we did last season,” he said.

On Monday nights, fans can enjoy the \$1 hot dog special that lasts through the first period. On Tuesday night games, kids eat free, and Wednesday is “Winning Wednesday” night. Fridays feature \$2 beer until the end of the first period and \$3 Captain Morgan products throughout the entire



Be a part of something special as the Iowa Wild will once again have a loaded promotional schedule that features Pink In the Rink as well as other fun theme game nights. Photo credit: Shane Abbitt/Iowa Wild

FEATURE STORY

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game. On Saturdays, fans can get a jump on things before the puck drops via the two tallboy beers for \$10 special.

But the thing Gislason is most excited about is the return of theme nights.

“We implemented a few of the nightly specials last year, but it was pretty much just all hockey, all the time, which we hockey fanatics love, but we want this to be an experience, too,” he said. “We want this to be not only an opportunity to check out some of the stars of tomorrow of the National Hockey League, but we want to make sure people enjoy their time here. There’s theatricality. It’s more than just buying a ticket, sitting down and watching 60 minutes of hockey.”

For safety reasons, the club wasn’t able to give promotional objects to fans for most of last season, but Gislason said that will return this year as well, beginning with the opener Oct. 22 in which all fans in attendance will be given an Iowa Wild schedule cup. The following night, Hoptoberfest, fans will have an opportunity to sample some local beer in an Octoberfest-style setting, Gislason added. A live band may be added to the mix as well, he said, giving it a carnival-like atmosphere inside the building.

Additional giveaway items include a team schedule poster (Oct. 23 vs. Rockford), Iowa Wild team pennant (Nov. 13 vs. Milwaukee), dog bandana (Nov. 14 vs. Milwaukee), limited edition team hat (Dec. 18 vs.



Dogs love watching ice hockey at Wells Fargo Arena. Pucks n Paws returns to downtown Des Moines on Nov. 14 vs. Milwaukee and March 27 vs. Chicago. Photo credit: Shane Abbitt/Iowa Wild

Manitoba), Iowa Wild youth hockey jersey (Jan. 15 vs. Chicago), Iowa Wild themed puzzle (Jan. 28 vs. San Diego), bobblehead no. 1 (Jan. 29 vs. San Diego), pink LED foam sticks (Feb. 11 vs. Grand Rapids), bobblehead no. 2 (Feb. 25 vs. Rockford), Iowa Wild themed lunch box (March 13 vs. Henderson), dog leash

(March 27 vs. Chicago), a Go Green giveaway item (April 22 vs. Texas) and player trading cards (April 23 vs. Texas).

On Throwback Night on Nov. 13, players will be donning special retro jerseys, in honor of hockey’s history in Des Moines. The jerseys will be up for



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Coach Tim Army pushes for a squad that is fast, physical, and deep, because that's what it takes to succeed in the postseason. Photo credit: Shane Abbitt/Iowa Wild

auction following the game, and all in attendance will be receiving a team pennant.

"We'll be stepping into a time machine and sending everyone back to the 1960s," Gislason said. "It will be like the movie, 'Slap Shot.' We'll have a band that can come in and play music from that era, and we'll decorate the arena from that period. We just hope there won't be as much fighting as there was in 'Slap Shot.' It's going to be a great night."

For those who feel the need to bring a furry friend, Pucks n Paws (Nov. 14 vs. Milwaukee and March 27

vs. Chicago) will return as well. The event has been a fan — and canine — favorite in past years.

"The gates will be open to any and all dogs," he said. "We'll have specific seating for those who want to stay away from the dogs, and, for those who want to be covered in dogs, we'll make sure they get all the interaction they'd like. There will be some giveaway items as well, so you can dress your dog up in Wild gear that we'll be handing out at the gates."

On Pink In the Rink night (Feb. 11 vs. Grand Rapids), the team will be wearing specialty pink jerseys

for cancer awareness that will be auctioned off after the game.

"It's just a great charitable evening for everyone involved," Gislason said. "It's a wonderful evening and something that the hockey world has done all over North America to help raise money to help combat cancer. Everyone has been touched by cancer in some way, shape or form, and our players and organization always look forward to this one. It's important to us, especially since we didn't get to do it last year. It's just so important for all of us to give back."



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We have premiums available for donors, as our way of thanking you in a tangible manner for your support. A list of those items will be on the KFMG website and Facebook page by mid-October. Your reward will also include the continued survival of this radio station.

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Ron Sorenson, General Manager
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AND JUST ONE MORE THING

For the “Star Wars” fans out there, an extra-extra special night to have circled on the calendar is the March 25 home game against Rockford, in which Wild players will be wearing special “Star Wars” jerseys, Gislason said. There are some yet-to-be confirmed details in the works, but if things play out, this one could really be special.

“We’re going to have the music, some characters, and it’s going to be come-one-come-all for every age,” he said. “We all know how ‘Star Wars’ connects with not only some of the older people in our generations these days, but the youngest as well.”

The unique jerseys that will be worn during the game will be auctioned off after the game as well.

“It’s a chance for fans to help a great cause and to also get their hands on a limited, one-of-a-kind jersey,” Gislason said. “We may do an event like Pink In The Rink every year, but we always change up the jerseys.”

And on a pseudo-related note, Bobblehead (sort of rhymes with Boba Fett, right?) nights are back, too, this time on Jan. 29 and Feb. 25.

“We were very blessed to have 34 games last season, but we didn’t get to do things the way we wanted,” Gislason said. “It’s an experience to come to these games. We want people to have a connection with our players and also get to enjoy all these other things. We want our fans to have all of these things, and for it to be a raucous, carnival-like atmosphere each night. It’s a family-type environment, and we want everyone to feel like they’re part of something special.” ■



The Iowa Wild take on the Rockford Icehogs at Wells Fargo Arena in a two-game homestand, Friday-Saturday, Oct. 22-23. Photo credit: Shane Abbitt/Iowa

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CITYVIEW'S SENIOR ANSWER BOOK

Great ways to keep your mind sharp as you age

(StatePoint) September, World Alzheimer's Month, was an excellent reminder to keep your mind and body healthy through the years. Experts say that doing so can reduce your risk for cognitive decline. Try taking on these new hobbies to keep your mind sharp as you age:

- **Cooking:** Not only can the development of a new complicated skill such as cooking improve cognitive functions like problem-solving and concentration, but having the ability to create your own nutritious meals at home has the added benefit of being good for brain health. From TikTok tutorials to online classes taught by master chefs, today, there are more avenues for picking up culinary know-how than ever before.

- **Music:** Learning to play a musical instrument has countless benefits for brain health, helping improve memory, hand-eye coordination and more. It's also a mood booster, which is important, as depression is considered a risk factor for dementia. Check out instruments designed to build skills quickly. Whether you're a total novice or taking up the piano after a long hiatus, Casiotone Keyboards, for example, are portable, easy to use and connect to an app that features lessons and more.

- **Exercise:** The mind-body connection is strong. For ultimate brain health, stay physically active, and, if you can do so outdoors, all the better. Research suggests that connecting with nature is good for one's mental well-being, reducing stress, anxiety and depression. Support your journey with tools that track your activity and inspire you to delve further into adventures, whether that be hiking, fishing or rock climbing. The watches in the Pro Trek line feature Quad Sensor technology to provide you with temperature and barometric pressure so you can keep your eye on the weather conditions while out and about, as well as sunrise and sunset times, an app for anglers and much more.

- **Camaraderie:** Having an active social life can improve brain function. Unfortunately, if you aren't proactive about it, there are not always that many opportunities to make new friends in adulthood. Whether it's a sewing circle or a bowling league, consider joining a club or team for camaraderie and fun.

- **Fast fingers:** Did you know that you can use your calculator to keep your mind engaged when there's downtime or you're on-the-go? Calculator games can build math skills, improve memory and keep your mind nimble.

Just as it is important to maintain physical fitness as you age, it's also critical to exercise your mind. Stay mentally active by trying new hobbies, building new skills and seeking out new experiences. ■



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Give the gift of pre-planning

Pre-planning a funeral or celebration of life service is a wonderful gift to give your surviving family. Family members are grateful and relieved when they can follow a detailed plan left by a loved one. When you take inflation into account and add in time savings for family members who live a hectic modern life, possibly hours or states away, this option is becoming increasingly popular.

Have you thought about how you want to be remembered? Detail your wishes on paper so everyone understands how to celebrate and honor your life. It is said, there are more than 50 items to be decided after a death, which adds stress to a difficult time. People left to make decisions are emotional, sleep deprived, and many will have to travel. Think of the gift you leave if you provide your family with answers, not questions. The State of Iowa is a national leader in consumer protection when it comes to pre-funding your final wishes with a funeral or cremation provider. Take time to research and plan with a funeral professional. Let them show you the financial benefits, but just as important are the psychological benefits your thoughtfulness will give your surviving family.

So how do you proceed? It is easy. Make an appointment with a funeral professional. They will walk you through the steps. During this process you will discuss what services meet your needs and, as importantly, will meet the needs of your survivors. Remember, what happens after you are gone is what will set them on the path to healing. You need to make sure the plan gives them the ability to say goodbye in a manner that best helps them.

Another benefit of planning ahead is being able to budget. Pre-planning gives consumers the ability to take advantage of payment plans, something that is not available if you are paying after death has occurred. Your funeral professional can walk you through the options that are available, and you can make an informed decision.

Discussing and planning for your own mortality is the easiest thing in the world to procrastinate. Ironically, it is also the only thing you cannot avoid. There is not a downside to this process; it is a win for all involved. We encourage you to visit with your family and make time to visit with a funeral professional before the need arises. ■

Information provided by Blair A. Overton, Brookes Funeral Care, 7975 University Blvd., Clive, 515-277-8700.



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CITYVIEW's

Wedding GUIDE

Saying, "I do" means "I won't ever look back," and planning the perfect day means starting early, asking for help, and a whole lot of research. The following pages offer a few tips to enhance your matrimonial experience.

Put more you into your wedding day

(Family Features) A wedding day is filled with symbolic tradition, from varied religious customs to the never-ending circle reflected in the rings and the types of flowers accentuating the celebration. Even with all the traditional rituals to consider, nearly every bride and groom can find ways to give their special day some unique touches that reflect their personality and love.

Music sets the mood for every wedding, and it's an easy place to put your own spin on the celebration. Whether you forgo the traditional bridal march entirely or simply look for an arrangement that gives an updated twist to the classic version, let guests know this isn't your average wedding by setting the festivities against a soundtrack that lets your true character shine.

The wedding party is intended to be a collection of those nearest and dearest to the bride and groom, who help ensure the day goes off without a hitch and who lead fellow revelers in celebrating the start of the new couple's life together. That being said, there's no reason this group must be limited to women on her side and guys on his, or even that it's limited to humans — a beloved pooch can make for an adorable ring-bearer, after all.

Photography is an essential element of your big day,

but think beyond the images you'll capture throughout the wedding and reception. Photos lend a personal touch, no matter what your color scheme or theme. Integrate photos of the two of you at various stages of life, together as a couple and with loved ones (perhaps even some you're honoring in memoriam). You can display these at a table with the guest book, as part of the table centerpieces, or even on the gift table. Or take things digital and load all your images into a slide show set to music.

Make favors meaningful. Forgo more common items like bubbles and chocolate, and instead send a little of yourself home with your guests. Maybe it's a memento from a place with special meaning to you both, or a bottle opener shaped like a bicycle to represent the way you met. Just think about the moments and things that define you as a couple and do some searching online. You'll probably be surprised by how quickly the options pile up.

Serve up a menu that shows guests more about your life together. Your loved ones can order basic beef or chicken anywhere. Instead, give them a glimpse into you. Make your main course the same food you enjoyed on your first date or during another monumental



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

moment in your courtship. Or plan the entire menu around a region that you hold close to your heart.

Weddings are filled with traditions, but that doesn't mean you can't put your own touches on the day for a special event filled with memories that are uniquely your own. Find more advice for life's special moments at elivingtoday.com.

Source: eLivingToday.com ■

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Wedding planning 101

(Family Features) First comes the proposal then comes the wedding planning. There are dozens of decisions that need to be made before it's time to walk down the aisle, which can be overwhelming for brides and grooms.

To help make it less stressful, these tips from Macy's can help couples through the entire wedding-planning process, from on-trend apparel and accessories for the entire wedding party to all the essentials to create a perfect registry.

Dressing the ladies

When it comes to bridesmaid dresses, the mix-and-match approach is trending in popularity. Start by deciding on a color palette, such as lilac, champagne and petal pink. Then have each bridesmaid choose her favorite style within that range of hues. Bring it all together by choosing a uniform look for makeup, shoes and accessories.

There is no better time to thank the ladies than the morning of the big day. A few thoughtful gifts can go a long way, such as matching robes, tumblers to stay hydrated throughout the day and cosmetic cases to stow makeup essentials.

Dressing the gents

Similar to bridesmaid dresses, groomsmen attire can be dependent on the venue and overall event aesthetic. While a suit can fit the bill for a country club wedding, a city affair may call for the sleek finishes of a tux. Tuxedo accessories, such as cuff links or bow ties, make great groomsmen gifts and are classic pieces they can use time and time again.

Creating the perfect registry

When building a registry, it's never too early to start. People want to give gifts as soon as they know a couple is engaged. Start by taking inventory of what you already have, what you need and what you want to upgrade. It's also recommended to update the registry regularly so there are enough gifts to choose from, especially if there is an engagement party and bridal shower coming up. To get started, some popular registry items include stand mixers, craft beer glasses, Dutch ovens, bath towels and vacuums.



For extra guidance, couples can speak to advisors who can help with the full registry building process at Macy's stores.

For more wedding ideas and inspiration, and to find the right attire and gifts for your wedding planning, visit macys.com. ■

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How to make your

proposal perfect

You've picked the perfect ring. You've practiced the words you'll use when you propose. But you know she would be livid if you asked her on the big screen at a sporting event.

Making an engagement truly memorable will win you points for a lifetime with each retelling of your engagement story. Here are some great ways to make your engagement be one of a kind.

Take it personally.

You are proposing to the woman or man of your dreams — the one person you've chosen to spend the rest of your life with, the person who is the perfectly unique match to yourself. So make the proposal just as personalized and special as that person. Yes, you may have chosen the perfect ring, but presentation is equally important.

Choose something that will not only stun your betrothed, but also be something he or she can keep for years. Ditch the typical velvet box and go for a personalized,

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Then take it one step further, and engrave something meaningful to commemorate this day. Your names, the date you were engaged or a personal love saying (that maybe only the two of you understand) are ideal inscriptions.

Make it a party.

Yes, the holiday season is filled with parties, but a personal engagement party is something that you and your families will remember forever. Whether you choose a private, intimate locale to pop the question or a bustling public setting, convene family and friends during or afterward to celebrate together. Plan a special party to commemorate this momentous, life-changing occasion.

Don't forget, a great party doesn't necessarily mean great expense. Gathering at home with champagne, maybe a cheese plate and a homemade music playlist can make for one of the most memorable occasions of your life. Just be sure your future spouse is the center of attention, and you'll be set to make the event unforgettable.

Capture the moment.

Nearly all couples choose to hire photographers and videographers to capture the memories of their wedding day. But isn't the engagement just as momentous? As your heart begins to race when your knee bends toward the ground, the last thing on your mind will be your camera. But being able to actually look back at this moment will be something you'll treasure for years to come.

The holidays are busy for everyone, so if you plan on hiring a professional photographer, make sure to call at least a few weeks in advance. Luckily, unlike your wedding day, you'll probably only need the photographer for an hour or so. If you're already on a shoestring budget, see if a photography enthusiast friend will take photos for you. They may not end up in The Louvre, but with a decent camera, you'll be sure to have some great snapshots of the big moment.

When it's all said and done, you and your new fiance may not remember every tiny detail. But using these simple tips will ensure your engagement day is a truly unique, memorable experience for you both. ■

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4 questions to ask before you tie the knot

"I'm so lucky I'm marrying my best friend," is a phrase you often hear in wedding toasts. Now that you've found the person you want to spend the rest of your life with, make sure you protect each other by considering the bigger financial picture.

According to Wedding Paper Divas, 47% of engaged couples spend between one and nine hours per week planning their weddings, but it's unlikely that much of that time is spent planning for life after the big day.

"Getting married is the perfect time to take a fresh look at your entire financial picture, including your insurance needs," says Doug Smith, senior vice president of the Personal Lines division at Erie Insurance. "It's much better to plan before the wedding so there are no surprises later."

Here are five key insurance questions to discuss with your spouse-to-be before taking a walk down the aisle:

1. Where's my bling?

Chances are you spent a lot of time and money picking out rings you'll love and wear every day. But according to asecurelife.com, one in 36 homes in the United States will be broken into this year, so it's important to make sure you have the right insurance to cover your rings if they're lost or stolen.

Your strategy: Have your rings appraised to establish

their value. Keep your store receipts and take a picture of the rings. Having pictures and documentation helps speed up the claims process if you have to file a claim. Also, keep your rings in a safe deposit box when you're not wearing them.

2. Baby, can you drive my car?

Once you're married, your spouse generally will be covered on your auto insurance policy and vice versa. This could mean opportunities for savings.

Your strategy: Once you become a two-car home, you may be eligible for a multi-car discount. You should also consider bundling your car insurance with your homeowners and/or life insurance which can result in even more savings. Additionally, some insurance companies offer a lower rate for married couples, so talk to your insurance agent to find out if this applies to your policy.

3. Have you protected the things that make your house a home?

Are you planning to move into a new home after the honeymoon? Whether or not your living situation changes, make sure your home and belongings are protected.

Your strategy: Consider what new pieces will be added to your abode. If you purchase new furniture, art pieces or any other new belongings, it's a good idea to

make sure those items are covered in case of theft, fire or natural disaster.

You'll also want to make sure your home insurance covers 100% of the cost to rebuild your home if needed. "Do your research," says Smith. "Some insurance companies cap their coverage at a certain amount. That means you could find yourself substantially underinsured, even if you thought you were paying for so-called 'replacement cost' insurance."

4. What do you need to do before plunging into a remodeling project?

Even if you're not purchasing a new home, two people in a house means you need more space, so you may be adding on to your existing home. This can mean workers doing potentially dangerous jobs in the home.

Your strategy: When you hire a contractor, request a certificate of insurance to confirm his or her liability and workers' compensation coverages. Review the certificate and your homeowners policy.

While it's important to plan for rain on your wedding day and to make sure everyone has a place card, it's even more important to plan for what comes after the moment you say "I do." Making the proper insurance and financial arrangements will be a load off your mind if something should arise. ■

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AROUND TOWN

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Emily Fiscus and Larissa Goldat at Chummy



Alese Burris, Leah Burris, Kelly Rivera and Kim Estelle at Spaghetti Works



Tyler Bybee and Rayla Vilar at Revival House



Will Paulson, Erik Taylor and Maddison Hayes at Revival House



John Trickle and Ben Long at Chummy



Tiffany Gardner, Kelsey Gingrich, Carrie Fowler, Mona Garwood and Amanda Hoefler at The Copper Cup

CITYVIEW'S DOWNTOWN SUMMER STIR

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Diane Rasmussen, Gary Edgington and Michelle Bomnema at Chummy



Holly Hoffman, Pat Checketts and Barb Powers at Platform

Fleet and Cap

— a baseball parable

A nearly obsessive interest in the intermingled legacies of Marshalltown native Cap Anson and Ohio native Fleetwood Walker.

By Jim Duncan

The 19th century realized the highwater mark for the grand theory of “intermingled destinies.” The Civil War inspired the idea. Abraham Lincoln spoke about it often. From the trenches of Shiloh and Petersburg, foot soldiers wrote eloquently about it in last letters to loved ones.

Legendary Drake professor Frank Wilhoit convinced this writer that destinies were, at their best, shared with unlikely people. Wilhoit was a bigger-than-life North Carolinian who

captivated a classroom with his voice and intellect. He felt a personal responsibility for southern civil rights. He also spoke poignantly about the fate of boxer Jack Johnson and his legacy to the nation and particularly to the South.

Wilhoit inspired this Iowan with a nearly obsessive interest in the intermingled legacies of Marshalltown native Cap Anson and Ohio native Fleetwood Walker, two of the most

influential and controversial American athletes before Jack Johnson. Since the 1960s, I have been taking trips to libraries in places like Wilberforce, Steubenville, Oberlin, Cadiz, Mount Pleasant and Toledo in Ohio plus Syracuse and Ann Arbor to trace the historical and personal influences that Fleet and Cap had on each other. This is partly that story and partly a story about what their intermingled destinies did to America 150 years ago and ever since.

Marshalltown's pride and shame

Adrian Constantine "Cap" Anson begins his autobiography with a declaration that he was "the first white child in Marshall County, Iowa." Born in 1852, he would maintain a wary awareness of race his entire life. Cap's father, Henry, founded Marshalltown. He was a dentist, wagon master, realtor and promoter of the young town. He built the county's first lumber mill, personally sawing all the wood himself.

Cap would also write "I was as wild as a mustang and as tough as a pine knot and the scrapes I got into were too numerous to mention. The State University (Iowa) was too small to hold me and Notre Dame, then recognized to be the strictest of schools, was selected as being the proper place for 'breaking me into the harness' if said breaking in could be accomplished anywhere."

He also quoted a Mark Twain metaphor: "Baseball is...the very symbol, the outward expression of the drive and push and rush and struggle of the raging, tearing, booming of American life in the nineteenth century."

Today Marshalltown honors the Anson name with plaques, statues and the naming of streets, parks and schools. A few years ago, there was a protest demanding that Henry's statue be removed because of the racist beliefs of Cap.

Cap would become one of the most famous baseball players of the 19th century. He played for the Chicago Baseball team, also called the Whitestockings, for more than 20 years, as captain and manager for the last 17 years. He sported a dandy's handlebar mustache and was inducted into both the Baseball Hall of Fame and the Des Moines Register's Iowa Sports Hall of Fame.



Marshalltown native Cap Anson spent most of his 27-year pro baseball career playing for the Chicago franchise, then known as the White Stockings and later the "Colts," now known as the Cubs.

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CITYVIEW BEST 2021

Mercurial child of Ohio

Moses Fleetwood Walker was born in Mount Pleasant, Ohio, in 1857. He was the fifth of what would become six children of Moses and Caroline Walker. There are two stories about the parents' arrival in Ohio. One, probably inspired by their last name, is that they were escaped slaves. Mount Pleasant had been established by Quakers, and its newspaper was one of the first in Ohio to advocate for the abolition of slavery. Many Underground Railroad escapees found sanctuary in Mount Pleasant. Ironically, the black population there today is 0.4%.

The family also appears in an 1860 census in Wilberforce, nearly 200 miles west of Mount Pleasant. In that report, Moses, Sr. is listed as a doctor. Wilberforce, named for a British abolitionist, then had a black university that was the first choice of many slaveholders to educate slaves in preparation for transition to freedom. The Walkers took in slaves escaping the South and adopted two slave children.

Either way, the Walker children were educated well enough that all had a shot at college. Fleet took his and attended Oberlin, another Ohio college and town with a long reputation for tolerance and liberalness. His first year there, the school began playing baseball. Fleet took to the game, hitting a home run over the Cabinet Hall, far from the ballfield. He was an instant campus celebrity. He also met George Herbert Mead, Mary Church Terrell, Ida Gibbs and Henry Churchill King at Oberlin and would share a passion for Civil Rights with them the rest of his life.

His sophomore year, Oberlin played the University of Michigan, and Fleet, a barehanded catcher with a rifle arm, impressed the Michigan coach so much that he recruited Walker to transfer. Fleet studied law in Ann Arbor. He took his younger brother, Weldy, also a baseballer, and his girlfriend, Bella Taylor, with him. Bella was pregnant, and Ann Arbor was a rare place where unmarried parents were tolerated.

In 1881, between his last year at Oberlin and his first at Michigan, Fleet began playing pro ball for Cleveland's White Sewing Machine. An incident in Louisville began when some Louisville players objected to playing against a black man. Fleet was substituted. His sub, however, retired from the game in the second inning complaining his hands hurt too much from catching fast balls.

Anson demanded "get the n----- off the field."

The Toledo Blade wrote a scathing editorial, pretty much labeling all of Chicago "swollen" and "too delicate with pride and prejudice to tolerate what other teams found no fault with."

The crowd of 3,000, many of whom came to see Fleet, began chanting for him to play and ultimately prevailed. But only until two more Louisville players walked off. The crowd jeered their hometown players. Fleet continued to play both for Michigan and professionally for two more years, continuing to study law. Then in 1883, the owner of the Toledo Blue Stockings offered him \$2,000 to play for his team. That was too much money to turn down, so Fleet left Ann Arbor and New Castle, Pennsylvania, where he was also playing pro ball, to join Toledo.

In 1883, Toledo was to play Cap Anson's Chicago club in an exhibition. Anson, described by one writer as "a hard lined racist, even by the standards of his era," demanded that Toledo "get the n----- off the field." The Toledo Blade wrote a scathing editorial, pretty much labeling all of Chicago "swollen" and "too delicate

with pride and prejudice to tolerate what other teams found no fault with."

Fleet would become the first Black to play major league baseball the next season. Ironically, his first game was in Louisville. By 1886, Anson would succeed in leading a movement to get all Blacks removed from both the American Association and the National Association — the majors. Fleet would then play mostly in the minor leagues until 1889.

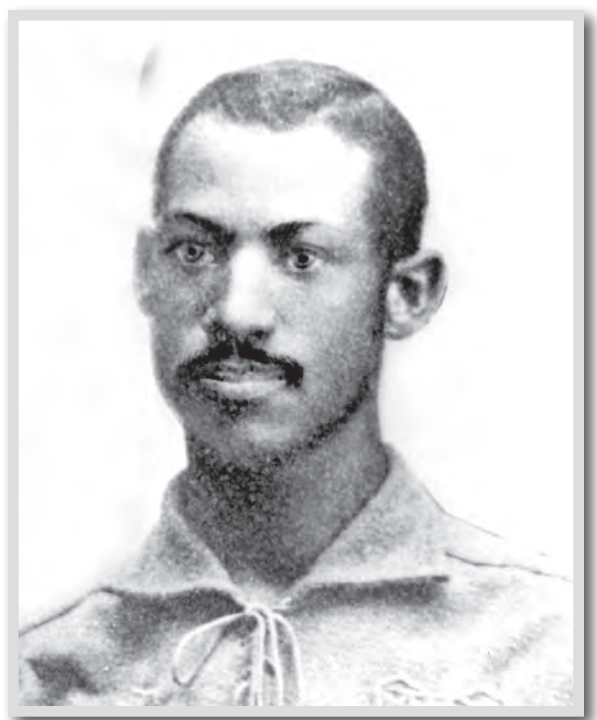
In 1887, Fleet's Newark team beat the New York Giants in an exhibition. The Giants' popular manager-player John Ward was so impressed he tried to hire Walker. Anson intervened to prevent that. By that time, Fleet had developed a reputation as a "sport," a popular word in the 19th century for a dandy who liked expensive clothes, gambling, women and alcohol.

Walker had saved enough money to buy a hotel, an opera house and a theater. But, after his baseball career ended, his disappointed life was out of control. The father of three was drinking too much. One night he was attacked by an Irish gang in Syracuse, and Fleet killed one of them in defense. His murder trial was a national, O.J.-Simpson-level sensation. The Irish gang of five insisted Fleet was unprovoked. Fleet was defended by his Michigan law professor. An all-white jury found him innocent after just three hours, and the courtroom crowd erupted in cheers. The judge broke his gavel pounding for order.

Fleet was then arrested for mail tampering but was again found innocent. He became interested in inventions and won several patents. One was for a new kind of bullet that, unlike Civil War ammunition, did not sometimes explode in the rifle rather than on the target. As his luck would have it, another invention a short time later made Fleet's obsolete.

He would move to Cadiz, Ohio, and buy another opera house. He also promoted vaudeville and a billiards room. Fleet became one of the first people in Ohio to show motion pictures. The years Fleet spent in Cadiz coincided with the years Clark Gable was living there, between ages 12 and 14. Two Gable movies have scenes with a lot in common with Fleet and his trials. In "Manhattan Melodrama," Gable's Blackie Galagher is a notorious sporting man who is found guilty in his murder trial. Gable's star-making role was as gangster Ace Wilfong in "A Free Soul." That also has a courtroom acquittal not unlike Fleet's.

Movie projectors were notorious for starting theater fires at the time. To show a film without interruptions, it was necessary to use two projectors. Fleet patented a projector with an audible warning when one reel was ending so a second could begin. That eliminated the need to open super-hot magazines to see when a reel was about to end. His invention was state of the art for years.



Moses Fleetwood Walker, catcher, is commonly credited as being the first black man to play Major League Baseball.

Context

Because Frank Wilhoit was involved with this story, context is needed to understand how 150-year-old events evolved. We asked Drake professor Susan Garneau to provide some, since she specializes in 19th century social history. What was going on between 1865, when the Civil War ended, and 1883, when things fell apart for Fleet, while Cap's hatred triumphed?

"The key year was 1876. Sam Tilden and Rutherford Hayes were in such a tight election for president (Tilden won the popular vote but Hayes won the electoral college) that the Compromise of 1877 was necessary. The Democrats agreed not to contest Hayes' election if Hayes would agree to withdraw all remaining military enforcement of Reconstruction in the South," Garneau said.

Southern states were livid about Reconstruction. What did they resent most? "Black legislators like Hiram Rebel were elected. He was a U.S. Senator from Mississippi. In Louisiana, where the most gains were made for blacks, one third of the state legislature was black. South Carolina was close to that. Southerners did not believe that the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments would have passed without federal military enforcement of Reconstruction and the stronger position of Northern Republicans, which made those amendments possible.

"The second big thing was the Freedman's Bureau, an 1868 vehicle to promote education of blacks and similarly the rise of the Colored Alliance, which like the Farmers' Alliance (later the Populist Movement), aimed for independence of black and poor white farmers from banks, merchants and planters. White tenant farmers and black sharecroppers needed seed and had to pay for it with liens on their property. They could never get ahead. Populism's goal was to break that cycle," Garneau explained.

What was the demise of that form of populism? "The Omaha Platform of 1892 called for a federal loans system so that farmers could get the money they needed. The platform also called for the elimination of private banks. The platform proposed a system of federal storage facilities for the farmers' crops. But it also meant that the People's Party (Populists) was going to give way to a two-party system. It's hard to be there and keep your ideals. Black farmers' needs became secondary to those of whites. By 1896, this entry into the two-party system was complete with the allying with the Democratic Party. But even with the Populist platforms, and later the New Deal programs aimed at helping farmers during the Great Depression, it did not help black sharecroppers as much as poor whites," she said.



Boxing legend Jack Johnson was the first Black American world heavyweight champion, holding the belt 1908-1915. Johnson was arrested and later convicted and imprisoned for violating the Mann Act — a federal law passed in 1910 outlawing the transportation of "any woman or girl for the purpose of prostitution or debauchery, or for any other immoral purpose." The charge is widely considered to have been racially motivated, and President Donald Trump granted Johnson a full pardon in 2018, more than 70 years after Johnson's death.

FEATURE STORY

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Bottom of the ninth

Toward the end of his life, Fleetwood became quite involved in African American civil rights. He wrote about Liberia and a mass return of Blacks to Africa decades before W.E.B. Du Bois and Marcus Garvey made the idea mainstream. He communicated with rich and powerful men, including Presidents McKinley and Roosevelt. He died in Cleveland in 1924 and was buried in an unmarked grave. In 1990, Oberlin's Heisman Club (named for the Oberlin coach whose name is on the famous trophy) member Scotty Cooper donated a 350-pound granite tombstone. In 2017, the Ohio Legislature declared an annual Moses Fleetwood Walker Day.

Of all men who played major league baseball for more than 20 years, Cap played a higher percentage of games than anyone except Pete Rose and Cal Ripken. He was every bit as famous for baiting umpires and opponents as for hitting home runs (he had hit more than anyone when he retired). His anti-integration fervor never abated, though he did play weekend park games with Rube Foster, who later founded the Negro League.



In 1990, Scotty Cooper, a member of Oberlin's Heisman Club — named for the Oberlin coach whose name is on the famous trophy — donated a 350-pound granite tombstone to mark the previously unmarked grave of Moses Fleetwood Walker. In 2017, the Ohio Legislature declared an annual Moses Fleetwood Walker Day.



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Susan Garneau, a professor at Drake University, specializes in nineteenth-century American social history and the history of crime and punishment. Photo by Jim Duncan

Always a loud mouth, Cap tried his hand at vaudeville. Ring Lardner wrote one show for him. Ironically, it debuted in Harlem. Cap was nowhere as good at billiards as he was at baseball. He lost everything he ever made playing the former game, and his house was foreclosed upon to pay his debts. Upon his death, the National League erected a large monument over his grave in Oakwood Cemetery in Chicago.

His death inspired eulogies and editorials all over the eastern U.S. In one, the Chicago Inter Ocean wrote, “Yesterday was a cold day for baseball. That grand old man Cap Adrianopolis Chicago Anson was umpired out by Father Time.”

Final box score

Even before Fleet and Cap passed, sports and racism were moving to new levels of intermingled hatred. Before the turn of the 20th century, America had only three national sports — baseball, boxing and horse racing. By the time Fleet was run out of baseball, Black jockeys, who had totally dominated horse racing, were chased from the track. An indomitable Black man from Galveston, Jack Johnson, had shamed white boxing champions into fighting him, and he destroyed all of them, till old age refereed him out on a 100-degree day in Cuba.

Johnson’s victories inspired the greatest race riots in American history, at least till the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. Blacks would celebrate Johnson wins, and whites would attack them. Close to 90% of all riot deaths were Blacks. Louis Armstrong wrote about running and hiding as a New Orleans paperboy when he heard that Johnson had won another fight. The federal government created the Mann Act expressly to chase Johnson, who traveled with several women, out of the country.

One hundred years later, steroids became a sports scandal and a cause for banishment and imprisonment. But not until 30 years after their first widespread abuses. They only became an issue when Barry Bonds, a Black man with Jack-Johnson-sized pride, finally used them to topple records by white, steroid-infused behemoths like Mark McGuire.

Barry, Jack and Fleet remain intermingled in a nation little changed, ever since. ■

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BUSINESS JOURNAL



HANDING OFF the baton

Successful business transitions require planning and preparation.

By Tammy Pearson

After years of hard work, those who saw their dream of building a successful business come true often begin to see a new dream on the horizon: retirement. To help fund that dream retirement, many business owners rely on cashing in on the blood, sweat and tears they have put into their enterprise by selling it. Of course, many also hope that their business is positioned to continue to succeed under a new owner.

Most businesses transition to new ownership in one of these ways: The owner sells to a co-owner, a key employee, a relative or an outside party; the owner's shares are sold back to the company; or the owner wills the business to an heir.

Regardless of the method of transition, maximizing the financial benefit to the owner — and keeping the business sailing smoothly as he or she moves into retirement — takes planning and preparation.

Unfortunately, most business owners tend to wing it. According to a survey by Sikich, a professional services firm, less than 30% of business owners reported having a written succession plan, even though 78% reported plans to use the sale of their business to fund their retirement. (www.sikich.com/insight/survey-reveals-surprising-trends-succession-planning/)

The survey, “which provides insights into the attitudes, beliefs and expectations of planners’ clients about the future of their company and the transition process,” indicated that 28% of owners struggle to find a buyer for their business, and just over half plan to sell to employees (23%) or a relative (31%).

Not usually this easy

Some transitions are almost seamless. Such was the case with Casual Rags Embroidery & Apparel in Indianola. The business was created in 1986 when Lois Van Wyk and her mother, Dorothy Ter Louw, joined forces. The business took off and moved to a new location in 1999.

In 2013, Van Wyk's daughter, Stacie Baker, started working at Casual Rags as another mother/daughter team.

“It was never a pressure thing,” says Baker about joining the business. Baker's expertise was in landscape architecture, and she was a stay-at-home mom. However, she was looking for “a little extra” to do, so she started working at the business. She admits her mom “was glad I did.”

The two enjoy a “really good relationship,” says Baker, so, when it came time for Van Wyk to retire — or at least cut back — they began the transition to Baker buying the business from her mother in January 2017.

“The transition was slow,” says Baker, who credits the ease of the process to “being open up front and honest.” Van Wyk has continued to come in to help, which has also contributed to the transition being a gradual one.

Although Baker has three children, she says, “I doubt any will want to take over. But, you never know.”

The importance of planning

Most transitions to new ownership or leadership are not as simple as it was at Casual Rags Embroidery & Apparel. Sometimes more than one key employee or relative is in consideration for taking over. Sometimes, no one in the business stands out as a candidate.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) in its training materials, “Selling a Small Business and Succession Planning for a Small Business,” explains, “Succession planning involves creating a plan for someone to either own or run your business after you retire, become disabled, or die. In simple terms, succession planning is the process of passing control of the business to others.” (https://www.sba.gov/sites/default/files/files/PARTICIPANT_GUIDE_SELLING_SUCCESSION_PLANNING.pdf)

“Succession planning, by nature, can be complex,” says Rena Striegel, president of Transition Point Business Advisors in West Des Moines, which specializes in helping “close-held” businesses, such as family-owned farms and businesses transition to new owners. “As with any activity that has an element of complexity, the more clarity that there is, the easier it will be to keep things moving forward. A comprehensive succession plan should account for not only the transition of ownership but also the transition of management,” explains Striegel.

The SBA concurs: “If you are passing the business to a family member, you may consider transferring ownership through your estate planning process. Often, however, new management comes from your pool of existing employees. If you have a larger business (such as an LLC or a corporation), succession planning involves preparing people for management and leadership roles in order to replace you or other managers when the time arises.”

The leadership at Charter Bank in Johnston successfully executed a succession plan for its executive management team over the summer of 2021. Chairman of the Board George H. Frampton, President and CEO Tim Heldt, and Marketing Director Deb Heldt all retired from their positions. The plan for their transition into retirement had been formulated years prior, during which time managers were being trained and prepared for new roles.

Instead of a wide search for an appropriate leadership team, Charter Bank had developed its leadership team for many years. Matt Morris, who was named CEO, had been with Charter Bank since the day he graduated from UNI 19 years ago. Greg Grote, who was named president, had been with the bank since he graduated from ISU 15 years prior, was named president. The final member of the senior management team is COO Sharm Sisler, who had been with the bank for 14 years.



Succession planning can take years, says Rena Striegel. The tax implications involving farm equipment alone require two to three years to work out, she says.

While not every business prepares managers for new leadership roles for more than a decade, such preparation does take time, advises the SBA. It often means additional training and possibly hiring. Before the transition is made, some aspects of one's business plan may need to be clarified or developed.

“Once you have successors identified, deliberately create a training plan to ensure that everyone involved has time to learn the skills, gather the information, and practice the leadership roles critical to the future success of the business,” advises the SBA. “Whether you are transferring a business to a family member or you are promoting employees into leadership roles, you need to plan ahead. A succession plan takes into consideration the development of future leaders’ skills and abilities. ... As the need arises, with good succession planning, employees or family members are ready for new leadership roles.”

Getting on the same page

Industry leaders suggest owners start their succession plan by developing a clear vision for the business so that everyone involved is on the same page.

“It is important that you and your team are on the same page regarding the vision for your operation,” Striegel says. “If you are not unified in what you are working to build or sustain, you may find that talking about the future is very difficult.”

Once the vision is clear, Striegel advises business owners establish clear roles and expectations.

"It is important to have clearly defined roles and agreement regarding what each team member is accountable for," she says. "Defining roles can also create clarity regarding opportunities for team members to advance, learn new skills or take on more leadership. During transition, this is an important component... When incoming leaders believe there is no path or plan for transition, they may become disenfranchised and begin building their future outside of the family operation."

Team members must understand what is expected of each as well as the processes of the business.

"If the task should be done the same way every time, documenting the process should go hand in hand with verbalizing it," she says. "By monitoring performance weekly as a team, trends can be identified quickly, and adjustments can be made to correct an issue or capitalize on an opportunity in real time."

If problems arise — or, if things are going well — staff members need to receive feedback.

"If your team is like most, feedback occurs only when something does not go as planned," says Striegel. "It is important when developing and implementing your succession plan to set aside time to tell your team members when they are doing things right as well as where you see they can improve. Catching them doing something right — and thanking them for it — builds trust and confidence....When positive feedback is absent, team members become uncertain, disconnected, and may even feel that their future in your operation is not secure."

Clear communication and formalizing roles, expectation and feedback are all standard business practices, but they are especially important during transitions.

"Taking the time to create clarity though business planning is an investment in the future of your operation," says Striegel. "The more clarity you achieve through consistent communication and leadership, the faster positive results will follow."

Getting started can be the hardest part

While many business owners may have a retirement date in mind, the unexpected may alter the time line. Illness, family changes, shifts in business climate and other factors may come into play, which is one reason a succession plan should be in place early. It can always be updated, but hurrying through the process can leave the business in a precarious situation.

Striegel specializes in a particularly complicated business to transition to new owners: the family farm. Because of the complex nature of farm assets and tax implications, planning the actual financial and business transactions can take two to three years, she says, adding that working out the "people issues" is even more time consuming and challenging — so much so that some owners put off dealing with them.

"Some decisions are too hard and are put aside," says Striegel. However, when the "runway" leading up to the retirement date becomes too short, it means making decisions in "pressure cooker" situations. "That's where the horror stories come from."

Striegel says she likes to have a minimum of a five-year succession plan — and "loves to have a 10-year window." If a business is likely to stay in the family for generations, then a succession plan now can reap benefits for future transitions, she says. "They can start to create the foundation for transitions for generations to come."

That foundation can include a set of rules that answer questions about who can be an owner. For example, are spouses eligible? It can create employment agreements, outline compensation, establish a code of conduct. All of those take time to work through and to document. However, doing so makes the next transition "not as painful."

It's all about "professionalization of the farm," says Striegel. Such a discussion is often helpful in other small businesses where family and/or friends

THE DIRT PROJECT

Transition Point Business Advisors offers The DIRT Project, which is "a comprehensive program on succession planning that outlines the complete process of transitioning your family farm, family business or operation to the next generation." DIRT is an acronym for **Dedicated Internal Resource for Training and Transition**. The program contains five courses and 32 video presentations by Rena Striegel, as well as a workbook and accompanying handouts to help clients through the process. ■

are working together and the business is seen as secondary to the relationships involved.

By emphasizing what's best for the business, the discussions can be less emotional, says Striegel, who emphasizes to clients, "What's good for the operation will be equally good for the family,"

Striegel encourages clients to take on "small bites over time. Put them into practice and see the benefits." This leads to discussions instead of arguments and starts building momentum. "They see the value of clarity, and it helps them move forward."

Start sooner than later

The transition to new management and/or owners will have a major impact on the business and all involved. Making that transition as smooth as possible allows the business to continue without much disruption and eases the stress on all involved. But it doesn't happen without planning and preparing — and tackling the details as well as the big picture.

Starting sooner, rather than later, is best "because starting sooner will give you more flexibility with your planning," the SBA advises.

That longer "runway" to the transition will allow the business — and the people involved — to take on the next leg of their journey with ease and confidence. ■

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COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS IN POLK COUNTY FROM JULY 30, 2021, THROUGH SEPT. 15, 2021.

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ADDRESS: 3920 DELAWARE AVE., DES MOINES
SALE DATE: JULY 30, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$846,640
SELLER: PENTA PARTNERS LLC
BUYER: JM WOLF RENTALS LLC
SQUARE FEET: 15,120
ACRES: 3.073

ADDRESS: 108 E. VISTA LAKE AVE., POLK CITY
SALE DATE: JULY 30, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$240,000
SELLER: DSM STORAGE LLC
BUYER: TMMC ENTERPRISES LLC
SQUARE FEET: 0
ACRES: 3.15

ADDRESS: 2600 URBANDALE AVE., DES MOINES
SALE DATE: JULY 30, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$5,250
SELLER: HEATER, CHRISTINA C.
BUYER: 8035 DEVELOPMENT LLC
SQUARE FEET: 0
ACRES: 2.38

ADDRESS: 2700 URBANDALE AVE., DES MOINES
SALE DATE: JULY 30, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$5,250
SELLER: HEATER, CHRISTINA C.
BUYER: 8035 DEVELOPMENT LLC
SQUARE FEET: 0
ACRES: 1.908

ADDRESS: 1704 N.E. GATEWAY COURT, DES MOINES
SALE DATE: JULY 30, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$1,300,000
SELLER: BELLVILLE PROPERTIES LLC
BUYER: IOWA BEVERAGE SYSTEMS INC.
SQUARE FEET: 16,278
ACRES: 9.58



ADDRESS: 4930 S.E. 14TH ST., DES MOINES
SALE DATE: JULY 30, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$3,487,500
SELLER: 1155 SHERMAN LLC
BUYER: CARFRAE INVESTMENTS, LLC
SQUARE FEET: 12,024
ACRES: 1.479

ADDRESS: 2600 URBANDALE AVE., DES MOINES
SALE DATE: JULY 30, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$37,500
SELLER: 8035 DEVELOPMENT LLC
BUYER: DALE & LISA ENGELKEN REVOCABLE TRUST
SQUARE FEET: 0
ACRES: 4.288

ADDRESS: 1101 S.E. 37TH ST., GRIMES
SALE DATE: AUG. 2, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$2,750,000
SELLER: ABSOLUTE GROUP INC.
BUYER: CENTRAL IOWA READY-MIX INC.
SQUARE FEET: 23,484
ACRES: 12.97

ADDRESS: 2905 COTTAGE GROVE AVE., DES MOINES
SALE DATE: AUG. 2, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$240,000
SELLER: EPC LLC
BUYER: JC AM GROUP LLC

SQUARE FEET: 3,856
ACRES: 0.229

ADDRESS: 1941 COURTLAND DRIVE, DES MOINES
SALE DATE: AUG. 2, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$494,550
SELLER: CITY VIEW CLUB LLC
BUYER: GREAT DAY INVESTMENTS LLC
SQUARE FEET: 6,048
ACRES: 0.439

ADDRESS: 400 S.E. SIXTH ST., DES MOINES
SALE DATE: AUG. 2, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$1,200,000
SELLER: 400 S.E. 6TH ST. LLC
BUYER: TBJ LLC
SQUARE FEET: 4,854
ACRES: 1.053

ADDRESS: 1013 S.E. 14TH ST., DES MOINES
SALE DATE: AUG. 3, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$190,000
SELLER: 1013 VENTURE LLC
BUYER: VILLASENOR, JOSE FELIX GUTIERREZ
SQUARE FEET: 9,196
ACRES: 0.538

ADDRESS: 8500 FRANKLIN AVE., CLIVE
SALE DATE: AUG. 4, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$600,000
SELLER: RSG CONSULTING INC.
BUYER: MAK INVESTMENTS INC.
SQUARE FEET: 6,300
ACRES: 0.795

ADDRESS: 1916 S.E. 15TH ST., DES MOINES
SALE DATE: AUG. 4, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$55,000

SELLER: CYRANO LC
BUYER: LOPEZ-HERNANDEZ, MARTIN
SQUARE FEET: 0
ACRES: 0.444

ADDRESS: 2260 S.W. 21ST ST., DES MOINES
SALE DATE: AUG. 5, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$425,000
SELLER: MADDOX LC
BUYER: ALLIED CONSTRUCTION SERVICES INC.
SQUARE FEET: 32,136
ACRES: 1.834

ADDRESS: 112 CENTER AVE. S., MITCHELLVILLE
SALE DATE: AUG. 6, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$100,000
SELLER: ANDERSON, JOHN W.
BUYER: MCCLAFLIN, MARK
SQUARE FEET: 6,354
ACRES: 0.482

ADDRESS: 1205 E. 33RD ST., DES MOINES
SALE DATE: AUG. 6, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$45,000
SELLER: GRAZIANO, MARK E.
BUYER: 3800-3804 INGERSOLL LLC
SQUARE FEET: 1,257
ACRES: 0.089

ADDRESS: 3407 FIFTH AVE., DES MOINES
SALE DATE: AUG. 6, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$187,500
SELLER: NORKHAM LLC
BUYER: JC AM GROUP LLC
SQUARE FEET: 3,904
ACRES: 0.272

ADDRESS: 3100 111TH ST., URBANDALE
SALE DATE: AUG. 6, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$1,287,500
SELLER: HATCH II, CARTER D.
BUYER: RUETER & ZENOR CO.
SQUARE FEET: 1,998
ACRES: 1

ADDRESS: 705 S.W. 37TH ST., GRIMES
SALE DATE: AUG. 11, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$250,000
SELLER: LONG DIRT INVESTMENTS LLC
BUYER: 37TH STREET MEGASTORAGE LLC
SQUARE FEET: 0
ACRES: 1.948

ADDRESS: 1339 44TH ST., DES MOINES
SALE DATE: AUG. 11, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$165,000
SELLER: HANRAHAN, JOHN J.
BUYER: Q ENTERPRISES LLC
SQUARE FEET: 2,022
ACRES: 0.151

ADDRESS: 7010 N.W. 86TH ST., JOHNSTON
SALE DATE: AUG. 12, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$595,000
SELLER: KRAUSE HOLDINGS INC.
BUYER: ILES, CHARLES W.
SQUARE FEET: 0
ACRES: 2.46



ADDRESS: 301 N.E. DELAWARE AVE., ANKENY
SALE DATE: AUG. 12, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$16,750,000
SELLER: ASHBROOKE IOWA LLC
BUYER: ASHBROOKE HC5 LLC
SQUARE FEET: 163,538
ACRES: 12.764

ADDRESS: 2617 BEVERLY DRIVE, URBANDALE
SALE DATE: AUG. 13, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$550,000
SELLER: HAVILAND RENTALS LC
BUYER: EAT CAKE, LLC
SQUARE FEET: 4,326
ACRES: 0.645

ADDRESS: 3108 104TH ST., URBANDALE
SALE DATE: AUG. 16, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$1,475,000
SELLER: MASHER LLC
BUYER: 3108 RYZER LLC
SQUARE FEET: 6,000
ACRES: 1.828

ADDRESS: 2905 DELAWARE AVE., DES MOINES
SALE DATE: AUG. 16, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$1,050,000
SELLER: BOYSEN PROPERTIES LLC
BUYER: METRO MANAGEMENT LLC
SQUARE FEET: 11,431
ACRES: 1.058

ADDRESS: 412 EIGHTH ST. S.W., ALTOONA
SALE DATE: AUG. 16, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$1,442,500
SELLER: SCOTT L. TEMPLE PROPERTY MANAGEMENT TRUST
BUYER: 8TH STREET ALTOONA PROPERTY, LLC
SQUARE FEET: 9,700
ACRES: 0.855



ADDRESS: 1040 HOAK DRIVE, WEST DES MOINES
SALE DATE: AUG. 17, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$890,000
SELLER: ROBIN'S NEST APARTMENTS LLC
BUYER: UNIVERSITY GROUP LLC
SQUARE FEET: 18,772
ACRES: 2.497

ADDRESS: 122 FIFTH ST., WEST DES MOINES
SALE DATE: AUG. 17, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$350,000
SELLER: SHEFFER ENTERPRISES, LLC
BUYER: TOMES, ANDREW
SQUARE FEET: 4,344
ACRES: 0.079

ADDRESS: 214 N.W. CHAPEL DRIVE, ANKENY
SALE DATE: AUG. 17, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$1,000,000
SELLER: LINDEN RESIDENCE II HOUSING COOP. ASSOC.
BUYER: ANKENY ACRES LLC
SQUARE FEET: 10,240
ACRES: 0.882

ADDRESS: 201 S.W. LINDEN ST., ANKENY
SALE DATE: AUG. 17, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$2,000,000
SELLER: LINDEN RESIDENCE I HOUSING COOP. ASSOC.
BUYER: ANKENY ACRES LLC
SQUARE FEET: 20,160
ACRES: 1.971

ADDRESS: 612 EUCLID AVE., DES MOINES
SALE DATE: AUG. 18, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$75,000
SELLER: 612 EUCLID AVE. LLC
BUYER: INVEST DSM, INC.
SQUARE FEET: 1,816
ACRES: 0.182

ADDRESS: 2905 HIGH ST., DES MOINES
SALE DATE: AUG. 18, 2021

SALE PRICE: \$300,000
SELLER: SIMPSONCAM LLC
BUYER: TOLAND PROPERTIES LLC
SQUARE FEET: 3,374
ACRES: 0.205

ADDRESS: 9340 PLUM DRIVE, URBANDALE
SALE DATE: AUG. 19, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$960,000
SELLER: LANDMARK OFFICE PARK LLC
BUYER: PREMIER TECH PRAIRIE INC.
SQUARE FEET: 0
ACRES: 4.844

ADDRESS: 2303 E. NINTH ST., DES MOINES
SALE DATE: AUG. 23, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$260,000
SELLER: TRAMMA PROPERTIES LLC
BUYER: WIGFIELD, NICHOLAS
SQUARE FEET: 2,480
ACRES: 0.127

ADDRESS: 1107 24TH ST., DES MOINES
SALE DATE: AUG. 23, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$60,000
SELLER: RHC-1 LLC
BUYER: MOHAMED, ABUBAKAR
SQUARE FEET: 2,192
ACRES: 0.072



ADDRESS: 1710 S.W. ORALABOR ROAD, ANKENY
SALE DATE: AUG. 24, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$19,225,000
SELLER: LHV ANKENY LLC
BUYER: HURD INDUSTRIAL SPE LLC
SQUARE FEET: 95,000
ACRES: 13.408

ADDRESS: 3120 COTTAGE GROVE AVE., DES MOINES
SALE DATE: AUG. 24, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$192,000
SELLER: DSM MF LLC
BUYER: RALLY CAP PROPERTIES, LLC
SQUARE FEET: 3,963
ACRES: 0.448

ADDRESS: 2701 HUBBELL AVE., DES MOINES
SALE DATE: AUG. 26, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$440,000
SELLER: BBT RENTALS LLC
BUYER: LEGACY 515, LLC
SQUARE FEET: 8,880
ACRES: 0.751

ADDRESS: 101 E. BRIDGE ROAD, POLK CITY
SALE DATE: AUG. 26, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$850,000
SELLER: KIMBERLEY DEVELOPMENT CORP
BUYER: HOME STATE BANK
SQUARE FEET: 0
ACRES: 2.225

ADDRESS: 2170 N.W. 82ND ST., CLIVE
SALE DATE: AUG. 26, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$1,616,000
SELLER: BONAN PROPERTIES LLC
BUYER: GLACIER PROPERTIES LC
SQUARE FEET: 22,392
ACRES: 2.058

ADDRESS: 974 73RD ST., UNIT 39, WINDSOR HEIGHTS
SALE DATE: AUG. 26, 2021
SALE PRICE: \$165,000
SELLER: FERREZY, JOSEPH S.
BUYER: MDCRJ LLC
SQUARE FEET: 2,500
ACRES: 0.215



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ADDRESS: 10200 N.W. 62ND AVE., JOHNSTON SALE DATE: AUG. 27, 2021 SALE PRICE: \$585,000 SELLER: JERRY'S HOMES INC. BUYER: GANNON, DANIEL SQUARE FEET: 0 ACRES: 1.471 ADDRESS: 12119 STRATFORD DRIVE, CLIVE SALE DATE: AUG. 27, 2021 SALE PRICE: \$3,000,000 SELLER: MEC OFFICE I LLC BUYER: ATI CAPITAL, LLC SQUARE FEET: 16,012 ACRES: 1.165 ADDRESS: 814 TAYLOR ST., DES MOINES SALE DATE: AUG. 27, 2021 SALE PRICE: \$657,000 SELLER: TAYLOR STREET CO-OP INC. BUYER: URBAN PROPERTY LC SQUARE FEET: 8,064 ACRES: 0.278 ADDRESS: 352 N.W. MAIN ST., ELKHART SALE DATE: AUG. 27, 2021 SALE PRICE: \$83,300 SELLER: FLINN, MICHAELLE S. BUYER: A&A PROPERTY VENTURES LLC SQUARE FEET: 2,400 ACRES: 0.08 ADDRESS: 2670 FLEUR DRIVE, DES MOINES SALE DATE: AUG. 30, 2021 SALE PRICE: \$333,400 SELLER: VILLAGE AT GRAYS LAKE LLC BUYER: REH PROPERTIES LLC SQUARE FEET: 9,408 ACRES: 1.174	ADDRESS: 3821 100TH ST., URBANDALE SALE DATE: AUG. 30, 2021 SALE PRICE: \$1,177,540 SELLER: TEMPLE HOLDINGS LP BUYER: G FAMILY LLC SQUARE FEET: 11,900 ACRES: 1.156 ADDRESS: 2223 DELAWARE AVE., DES MOINES SALE DATE: AUG. 30, 2021 SALE PRICE: \$33,000 SELLER: SWAICH ENTERPRISES LLC BUYER: DJR INVESTMENTS INC. SQUARE FEET: 0 ACRES: 0.273 ADDRESS: 3430 111TH ST., URBANDALE SALE DATE: AUG. 30, 2021 SALE PRICE: \$1,537,000 SELLER: HATCH, GREGORY V. BUYER: RUETER, TODD SQUARE FEET: 3,310 ACRES: 19.39 ADDRESS: 4600 VANDALIA ROAD, PLEASANT HILL SALE DATE: AUG. 31, 2021 SALE PRICE: \$750,000 SELLER: MORGAN OAKS LLC BUYER: 4600 VANDALIA LLC SQUARE FEET: 5,000 ACRES: 3.29 ADDRESS: 8509 ALICE AVE., CLIVE SALE DATE: AUG. 31, 2021 SALE PRICE: \$320,000 SELLER: WILLIAM BROWN IRA BUYER: 8509 ALICE LLC SQUARE FEET: 3,440 ACRES: 0.722 ADDRESS: 3101 COTTAGE GROVE AVE., DES MOINES SALE DATE: AUG. 31, 2021 SALE PRICE: \$650,000 SELLER: LAFRANCE, MARIA T. BUYER: IOWA NOTE & REAL	ESTATE SERVICES LLC SQUARE FEET: 6,048 ACRES: 0.395 ADDRESS: 462 W. WALNUT ST., ELKHART SALE DATE: SEPT. 1, 2021 SALE PRICE: \$80,000 SELLER: L&L PROPERTIES LC BUYER: ROYCE JOHNS REAL ESTATE LLC SQUARE FEET: 2,880 ACRES: 0.34 ADDRESS: 1520 N.W. 114TH ST., CLIVE SALE DATE: SEPT. 1, 2021 SALE PRICE: \$2,408,470 SELLER: US BANK NA BUYER: CM6 GROUND LLC SQUARE FEET: 57,960 ACRES: 4.575 ADDRESS: 1206 23RD ST., DES MOINES SALE DATE: SEPT. 2, 2021 SALE PRICE: \$4,800 SELLER: TAX PARTNERSHIP 7 LLC BUYER: BECKSTONE PARTNERS LLC SQUARE FEET: 0 ACRES: 0.091 ADDRESS: 1708 SIXTH AVE., DES MOINES SALE DATE: SEPT. 6, 2021 SALE PRICE: \$50,000 SELLER: JOSE'S FLOOR COVERING INC. BUYER: WEATHERS, BILLY SQUARE FEET: 0 ACRES: 0.147 ADDRESS: 2428 HUBBELL AVE., DES MOINES SALE DATE: SEPT. 7, 2021 SALE PRICE: \$6,000,000 SELLER: ABR PROPERTIES LLC BUYER: QUIKTRIP CORP. SQUARE FEET: 5,745 ACRES: 1.871	ADDRESS: 1610 S.W. WHITE BIRCH CIRCLE, ANKENY SALE DATE: SEPT. 8, 2021 SALE PRICE: \$582,000 SELLER: JORDAN CREEK EXECUTIVE CAR WASH LLC BUYER: DES MOINES MEETING ROOMS, INC. SQUARE FEET: 3,360 ACRES: 1.141 ADDRESS: 6550 N.E. 14TH ST., DES MOINES SALE DATE: SEPT. 8, 2021 SALE PRICE: \$1,405,000 SELLER: PERFCUT COMPANIES INC. BUYER: PERFCUT PARTNERS LLC SQUARE FEET: 15,720 ACRES: 2.678 ADDRESS: 2750 N.W. 36TH ST., ANKENY SALE DATE: SEPT. 8, 2021 SALE PRICE: \$5,745,000 SELLER: JM COMMERCIAL HOLDINGS LLC BUYER: TKG III ANKENY, LLC SQUARE FEET: 69,966 ACRES: 2.668 ADDRESS: 8134 DOUGLAS AVE., URBANDALE SALE DATE: SEPT. 9, 2021 SALE PRICE: \$750,000 SELLER: REALTY INCOME CORP. BUYER: BHO HOLDINGS LLC SQUARE FEET: 3,862 ACRES: 1.453 ADDRESS: 1450 N.W. 118TH ST., CLIVE SALE DATE: SEPT. 10, 2021 SALE PRICE: \$2,355,000 SELLER: 303 ENTERPRISES LLC BUYER: SUNRISE IOWA HOTELS LLC SQUARE FEET: 34,016 ACRES: 1.5	ADDRESS: 3301 111TH ST., URBANDALE SALE DATE: SEPT. 10, 2021 SALE PRICE: \$400,000 SELLER: KEYS PROPERTY HOLDINGS LLC BUYER: 3301 111TH ST. LLC SQUARE FEET: 0 ACRES: 2.901 ADDRESS: 1704 N.E. GATEWAY COURT, GRIMES SALE DATE: SEPT. 10, 2021 SALE PRICE: \$46,619,076 SELLER: DHIC-HERITAGE LLC BUYER: THE SUMMIT AT HERITAGE LLC SQUARE FEET: 330,704 ACRES: 15.859 ADDRESS: 3410 FOURTH ST., DES MOINES SALE DATE: SEPT. 14, 2021 SALE PRICE: \$75,000 SELLER: RODRIGUEZ, OMAR BUYER: NOOR, MOHAMED SQUARE FEET: 2,598 ACRES: 0.177 ADDRESS: 3805 69TH ST., URBANDALE SALE DATE: SEPT. 14, 2021 SALE PRICE: \$86,000 SELLER: OVERTON, JENNIFER BUYER: BARTKIW, DEAN SQUARE FEET: 1,315 ACRES: 0.087 ADDRESS: 1959 ARLINGTON AVE., DES MOINES SALE DATE: SEPT. 14, 2021 SALE PRICE: \$351,500 SELLER: BOBST DEVELOPMENT LLC BUYER: STANBROUGH RESIDENTIAL LLC SQUARE FEET: 4,364 ACRES: 0.459	 ADDRESS: 216 EUCLID AVE., DES MOINES SALE DATE: SEPT. 14, 2021 SALE PRICE: \$281,000 SELLER: WHITE, PENNY L. BUYER: FIFTY FIVE THIRTY THREE, LLC SQUARE FEET: 2,756 ACRES: 0.226  ADDRESS: 1975 N.W. 86TH ST., CLIVE SALE DATE: SEPT. 15, 2021 SALE PRICE: \$550,000 SELLER: BEEF-FEEDERS INC. BUYER: J. RENZ RESTAURANTS LLC SQUARE FEET: 3,928 ACRES: 0.985 ADDRESS: 1011 S.E. THIRD ST., UNIT 1, ANKENY SALE DATE: SEPT. 15, 2021 SALE PRICE: \$1,580,000 SELLER: JBN LLC BUYER: MAPLES APARTMENTS LLC SQUARE FEET: 0 ACRES: 0
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Borrower Name	City	County	Cong. District	\$ Amount	Jobs Created	Jobs Retained	Existing Jobs	New vs. Existing	Business Type
Cjs Ventures, Llc	Cedar Falls, IA	Black Hawk County	IA (01)	\$305,000	4	0	10	Existing	Professional, Scientific, And Technical Services
Vondy'S Vending, L.L.C.	Cedar Falls, IA	Black Hawk County	IA (01)	\$212,500	1	1	1	Existing	Retail Trade
Seasonal Management, Llc	Cedar Falls, IA	Black Hawk County	IA (01)	\$75,000	0	6	6	New	Real Estate And Rental And Leasing
H-K Line Property, L.L.C.	Waterloo, IA	Black Hawk County	IA (01)	\$1,413,000	1	3	3	New	Arts, Entertainment, And Recreation
H Tactical, L.L.C.	Waterloo, IA	Black Hawk County	IA (01)	\$1,107,000	1	3	3	Existing	Arts, Entertainment, And Recreation
Jinc, Llc	Boone, IA	Boone County	IA (04)	\$161,000	2	0	5	Existing	Construction
Mikey Johns Outdoor, L.L.C.	Lake City, IA	Calhoun County	IA (04)	\$350,000	2	4	4	Existing	Manufacturing
Happy Donkey Tacos & Tequila Bar, Llc	Mason City, IA	Cerro Gordo County	IA (04)	\$120,000	0	7	7	New	Accommodation And Food Services
Schoeneman Bros. Company	Spencer, IA	Clay County	IA (04)	\$1,808,000	3	0	55	Existing	Retail Trade
Mmg Properties Llc	De Witt, IA	Clinton County	IA (02)	\$758,000	1	1	8	Existing	Health Care And Social Assistance
Premier Ag Supply, Llc	Schleswig, IA	Crawford County	IA (04)	\$263,000	0	0	2	New	Wholesale Trade
3L Logistics Inc	Bloomfield, IA	Davis County	IA (02)	\$442,500	7	7	7	Existing	Transportation And Warehousing
Millerbros Properties, Llc	Spirit Lake, IA	Dickinson County	IA (04)	\$149,000	0	0	41	Existing	Accommodation And Food Services
Jjj Hurst Properties, Llc	Dubuque, IA	Dubuque County	IA (01)	\$772,000	6	28	28	Existing	Transportation And Warehousing
Barry'S Clubhouse Llc	Charles City, IA	Floyd County	IA (04)	\$90,000	4	0	0	New	Arts, Entertainment, And Recreation
Green Grass Ventures Llc	Nora Springs, IA	Floyd County	IA (01)	\$175,000	0	4	4	New	Administrative And Support And Waste Management And Remediation Services
Klatt Trucking Llc	Sheffield, IA	Franklin County	IA (04)	\$115,000	1	0	0	New	Transportation And Warehousing
Eawood Llc	Amana, IA	Iowa County	IA (01)	\$445,500	0	5	5	Existing	Manufacturing
Skye'S The Limit Inc	Oxford, IA	Johnson County	IA (02)	\$10,000	3	4	5	New	Educational Services
The Midnight Gem Llc	Cedar Rapids, IA	Linn County	IA (01)	\$2,098,000	12	0	6	New	Other Services (Except Public Administration)
Hunter Quality Contracting Llc	Lisbon, IA	Linn County	IA (01)	\$100,000	1	0	0	New	Construction
Hunter Quality Contracting Llc	Lisbon, IA	Linn County	IA (01)	\$20,000	1	0	0	New	Construction
Soenen Contracting Services, Inc	Earlham, IA	Madison County	IA (03)	\$40,000	1	0	1	Existing	Construction
Ens Coffee 2, Llc	Red Oak, IA	Montgomery County	IA (03)	\$724,300	5	1	1	New	Accommodation And Food Services
Sacred Grounds, Inc	Sheldon, IA	Obrien County	IA (04)	\$705,000	17	2	2	New	Accommodation And Food Services
J. Renz Restaurants, L.L.C.	Clive, IA	Polk County	IA (03)	\$224,000	7	0	19	Existing	Accommodation And Food Services
8509 Alice, Llc	Clive, IA	Polk County	IA (03)	\$132,000	0	0	0	Existing	Health Care And Social Assistance
Water Filtration Stations Llc	Urbandale, IA	Polk County	IA (03)	\$950,000	0	1	1	Existing	Utilities
Richardson Rev Inc	West Des Moines, IA	Polk County	IA (03)	\$120,000	10	0	1	New	Other Services (Except Public Administration)
Wayside Express Inc.	Council Bluffs, IA	Pottawattamie County	IA (03)	\$1,827,000	2	25	25	New	Transportation And Warehousing
Mid-American Glass, Inc.	Davenport, IA	Scott County	IA (02)	\$500,000	10	54	54	Existing	Manufacturing
Newton Holdings, Llc	Davenport, IA	Scott County	IA (02)	\$130,000	1	0	6	Existing	Professional, Scientific, And Technical Services
The Foxhole Armament, Llc	Harlan, IA	Shelby County	IA (04)	\$305,000	8	5	5	Existing	Retail Trade
The Foxhole Armament, Llc	Harlan, IA	Shelby County	IA (04)	\$305,000	8	5	5	Existing	Retail Trade
The Foxhole Armament, Llc	Harlan, IA	Shelby County	IA (04)	\$100,000	8	5	5	Existing	Retail Trade
Shiva 7, Llc	Ames, IA	Story County	IA (04)	\$1,216,000	5	0	15	Existing	Accommodation And Food Services
Durbin Enterprises, Llc	Ames, IA	Story County	IA (04)	\$258,000	5	0	3	Existing	Arts, Entertainment, And Recreation
M&M Pacha Llc	Huxley, IA	Story County	IA (03)	\$250,000	14	2	2	New	Accommodation And Food Services
Dose Holdings Llc	Story City, IA	Story County	IA (04)	\$1,985,000	13	0	13	Existing	Manufacturing
Busy Bee Garden Center	Indianola, IA	Warren County	IA (03)	\$355,000	0	16	16	Existing	Retail Trade
Sioux City Re, Llc	Sioux City, IA	Woodbury County	IA (04)	\$481,000	1	0	27	Existing	Accommodation And Food Services

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Charlotte Sucik spends the bulk of her practice helping clients form and manage their small business. By working with her clients as well as CPAs, financial planners and other members of the client's team, Charlotte is able to craft business documents that match tax and financial goals, as well as the goals of the business now and in the future.

Gail Barnett focuses her practice to helping clients apply for Social Security Disability and Medicaid benefits. Additionally, Gail can work with clients to obtain Guardianships and Conservatorships for loved ones who can no longer care for or protect themselves.

As partners of Abendroth Russell Barnett Law Firm, Gail and Charlotte treat each client and their needs with the dignity and respect we all deserve. If you have questions or want to set up an appointment to discuss your legal needs, please call us or visit us online!

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Charlotte Sucik, Partner

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Sheryl Beery

Financial Plus Credit Union

Susan Kiesner, VP of Operations
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Susan serves as VP of Operations, leading management and overall branch activities, staff, human resources and compliance. Susan is a long-time employee of Financial Plus Credit Union, with over 25 years at the company. Susan has held various positions during her tenure, from loan servicing specialist to loan officer to branch manager to her current role, which she's held since 2009.

Susan holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from AIB College of Business. She's a member of Central Iowa SHRM. Outside of work, Susan spends time with her husband and two sons. Her free time goes to helping her husband with their photo booth business.

Sheryl wears many hats as the Chief Financial Officer - including investment management, financial statements, asset liability management, reviewing and setting deposit rates, quarterly NCUA reporting, budget preparation and maintaining fixed assets of the credit union.

Sheryl holds a bachelor's in accounting from Upper Iowa University and a master's of accounting from Iowa State University, and has served on FPCU's executive board since 2014.

Outside of work, Sheryl spends quality time with her family and friends and cheers for the Cyclones - Go State!

“ Providing the opportunity for leadership roles for the next generation of leaders - women - is incredibly important to us. ”



Iowa Allergy Clinic

WDM: Allie B., Hali L., Mykayla D., Marisa D., Abigail S., Alyssa G., Sadie R., Emily S., Mirela I., Amira Islamagic
ANKENY: Katleyn S., Kyla Reyes., Sierra G., Meghan R., Claire G.

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Passionate, dedicated, and collaborative are only a few of many words that describe this largely women-lead team! Amira Islamagic, Director of Operations, has worked hard to create the inclusive and supportive environment that is Iowa Allergy.

In February of 2019, Amira alongside Dr. Nayima opened the first Iowa Allergy, Asthma

& Immunology Clinic in West Des Moines. A short year and a half later, a second location was opened in Ankeny to better serve more communities across the metro. Between both locations 93% of the healthcare professionals are women.

While the organization's number one priority is dedication to serving their patients, they believe

that keeping their growing team happy directly transcends into outstanding patient care.

As a rapidly growing company, Iowa Allergy understands the importance of engaging and empowering their team. They hold team building outings monthly, cater in coffee weekly, and invest in professional coaching to build leadership roles out of existing employees.



“Serving Christopher’s and the community has been nothing short of pure joy. Our founder, Chris, is proud of what we have built and that means the world to us.”

Christopher’s Fine Jewelry Christopher’s Rare Coins

Christine Osborne, General Manager

Jewelry: 160 Jordan Creek Parkway, Suite 100, West Des Moines, Iowa 50266
(515) 705-7465 • www.christophersjewelry.com
Rare Coins: 8671 North Park Ct., Johnston, IA 50131
515-251-4031 • www.christophersrarecoins.com

Christine Osborne has served Christopher’s Fine Jewelry and Christopher’s Rare coins for over 16 years. When owner Chris Seuntjens began his transition into retirement in 2013, Christine took on the role of general manager. In the years to come, Christine’s original team of 5 grew to 18 and it became clear that a larger space was needed to better serve customers. So, in 2019, Christopher’s Fine Jewelry moved to it’s current home in West Des Moines, and Christopher’s Rare Coins took roots in Johnston. Christine is proud of the diverse team she’s built, with 50% women and many holding leadership roles.

Christopher’s Fine Jewelry and Rare Coins has experienced tremendous growth under Christine’s leadership. She owes building a sustainable business to holding the organization’s core values close to the heart:

Operating with integrity, treating others with respect and courtesy, providing exceptional value, building long term repeatable relationships, and educating customers and staff

It is a joy for Christine to serve Christopher’s as well the organization’s community partners such as Best Buddies, Dress for Success, Girl Scouts of Greater Des Moines, A Heinz 57, and the Ronald McDonald House.



“Our purpose and passion is to empower patients with life changing dentistry.”

Lawson Family Dentistry

Dr. Jessica Lawson, Owner

4444 Northwest 128th St., Urbandale, IA 50323
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In addition to being a female business owner with 4 kids, Dr. Lawson and her team’s goal is to be the most specialized family dental practice in Central Iowa.

Dr. Lawson and her team promise to provide individual, customized specialty care for all patients who are willing to invest in themselves and value self-care.

Providing quality work that lasts by getting to the root cause of the problem is crucial. Having a team of dental and medical specialists ensures that she can give her patients the best care, which, above all, is most important to her.

Dr. Lawson invests time and talent in her team by championing the importance of having a well-rounded life by keeping healthy mentally, emotionally, and physically. Keeping herself and her team mentally fit by constantly stimulating their minds with continued education and learning has created a culture of empowerment for her female led staff.

Outside of being a successful business owner, Dr. Lawson feeds herself academically and professionally by teaching 4th year dental students at the University of Iowa College of Dentistry, spiritually by serving on parish councils and working with youth, and serving lunch at children’s schools.

AROUND TOWN

PHOTOS BY PAT CHECKETTS



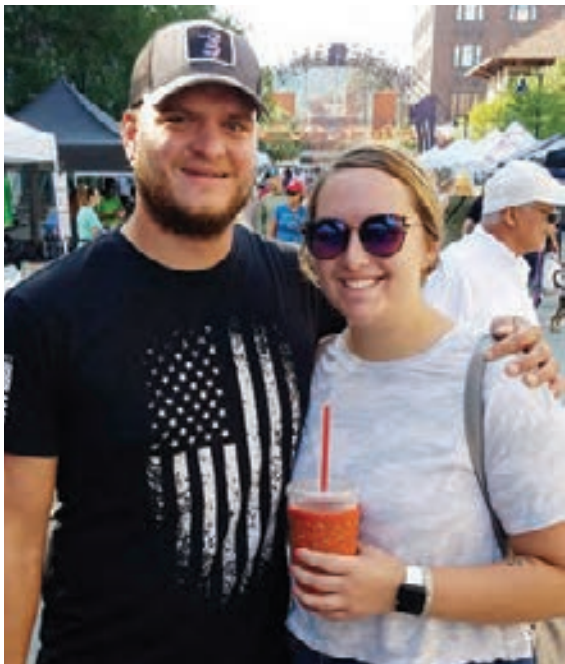
Charles Wilson and Samantha Kintzle



Samantha Jaeger and Jon Hurdelbrink



Austin Switzer and Leah Declerck



Dakota Vodochodsky and Sage Goddard



Holly and Jason Burgin



John Trickle and Ben Long at Chummy

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Aug. 21, 2021



Kaylee Boelter and Kim Johnson



Leila Rush and Sophie Evans — with Pepper and Lune



Michelle and Greg Madden

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Natasha Paremski plays
Rachmaninoff's Third Piano Concerto.
Photo credit: Des Moines Symphony

FEATURE STORY

FALL Arts & Entertainment GUIDE

Central Iowa's blueprint to
fun diversions, interesting
distractions and enjoyable
recreation

By Jeff Pitts

Cooler weather has settled into central Iowa. The sun might be setting a little sooner, but don't you dare sink into a wintery sadness. Instead, say "hello" to autumn crispness, colorful leaves and sweater season. More than likely, you'll soon have a hankering for pumpkin spice, apple crisp and either bundling up to attack hay-rack rides and other outdoor options or adventuring off to enjoy events at our city's top entertainment hotspots. CITYVIEW has you covered. The following list is not meant to be a comprehensive one, but these pages contain an extensive compilation of local offerings for having fun. Use it!

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Events and attractions are subject to sudden changes and/or cancellation. Before attending, be sure to check with each one individually to verify its current status, start times, offerings and other details, including what safety protocols are in place. We simply couldn't include them all, and they are ever changing.*

Art

Sculptures, paintings, abstract, post-modern

DES MOINES ART CENTER

4700 Grand Ave., Des Moines; www.desmoinesartcenter.org

Upcoming exhibitions:

Oct. 22 - March 20:

"Fantasy Figures: Surrealist Works on Paper" from the Art Center's Collection in the John Brady Print Gallery; Curator: Laura Burkhalter

Surrealism is one of the most popular and well-known 20th-century art movements. Its chaotic and mysterious imagery, inspired by dreams, fantasies and the subconscious, has influenced generations of artists. Dating mainly from the 1930s to the 1960s and featuring drawings, collages and various printmaking techniques, many of the works in this exhibition include takes on the human body. In the hands of these artists, faces expand and float, limbs twist and dance, and people turn into monsters, machines, animals and things in between.



Work from Des Moines Art Center Permanent Collections; purchased with funds from the Edmundson Art Foundation, Inc. and gift of Keith Shaver in honor of Mary and Roy Shaver. Photo credit: Rich Sanders

MAINFRAME STUDIOS

900 Keosauqua Way, Des Moines

www.mainframestudios.org

First Fridays of the month at Mainframe Studios are a free opportunity to see themed open studio events with tours of more than 130 artist studios while enjoying special exhibitions, food and live music.

ANKENY ART CENTER

1520 S.W. Ordinance Road, Ankeny

www.ankenyardcenter.com

Oct. 5 - Nov. 24: "Inner Freedom" fine art acrylic painting by Melynda Van Zee

Reception: Thursday, Oct. 7, 5-7 p.m.

Oct. 5 - Nov. 24: "Lapidary" fine art photography and ceramics by Brooke Szweda

Reception: Thursday, Oct. 7, 5-7 p.m.

GREATER DES MOINES BOTANICAL GARDEN

909 Robert D. Ray Drive, Des Moines

www.dmbotanicalgarden.com

This fall: The Founders Garden development is underway at Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden. This new dry meadow garden will feature a large botanical steel sculpture of a Combretaceae leaf entitled "Threshold," created by internationally recognized Basque artist Juanjo Novella, who lives in Spain. The Founders Garden is scheduled for completion this fall.

On-stage action

Can't-miss live performances

BALLET DES MOINES

121 S. 11th St., Suite 100,

West Des Moines

www.balletdesmoines.org

Oct. 29: "kiss. Together, with, and for Des Moines," Des Moines Civic Center

Dec. 10-13: "The Nutcracker," Hoyt Sherman Place

Dec. 17-18: "The Nutcracker," Staplin Performing Arts Center in Valley High School

DES MOINES SYMPHONY

Civic Center of Greater Des Moines, 221 Walnut St., Des Moines

www.dmsymphony.org

Saturday, Oct. 9:

"Revolution: The Music of The Beatles," Pops concert

Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 23-24:

"Masterworks 2 - Tchaikovsky's Fourth"

Saturday-Sunday, Nov. 20-21:

"Masterworks 3 - Beethoven's Violin Concerto"

Friday, Dec. 31: "New Year's Eve Pops: The Music of Elton John," Pops concert

Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 29-30:

"Masterworks 4 - Immortal Beloved"

Saturday-Sunday, March 19-20:

"Masterworks 5 - Beethoven & Shostakovich"

DES MOINES PERFORMING ARTS

Des Moines Civic Center/Cowles

Commons/Stoner Theater - 221 Walnut St. Temple Theater - 1011 Locust St.

www.desmoinesperformingarts.org

Oct. 8-17: DMYAT: "Disney Descendants," Des Moines Young Artists Theatre at the Stoner Theater

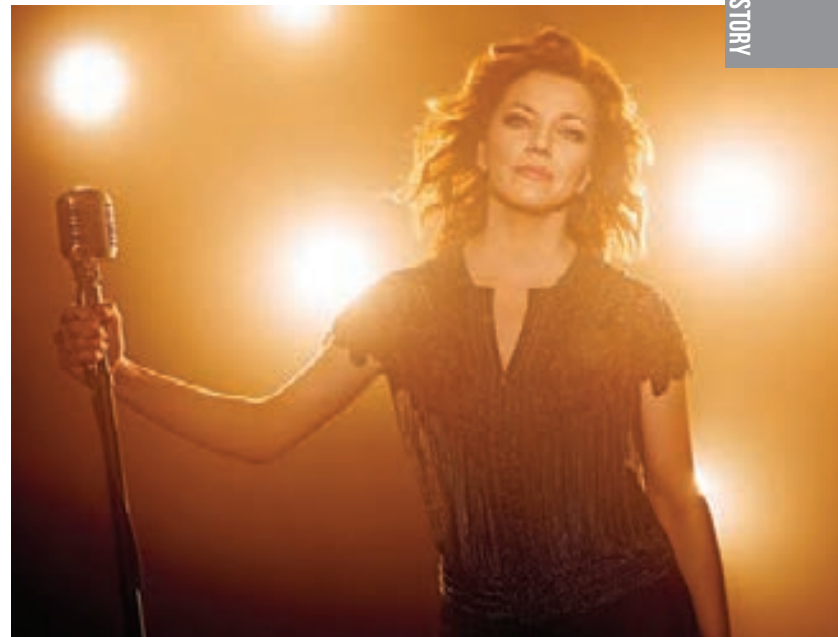
Oct. 12-17: "The Band's Visit," Willis Broadway Series at the Des Moines Civic Center

Oct. 22-23: "The Mirror" at the Stoner Theater

Nov. 12-21: "The Cake," Iowa Stage Theatre Company at the Stoner Theater

Dec. 4-5: "Shen Yun" at the Des Moines Civic Center

Dec. 15: "Home Free's Warmest Winter Tour" at the Des Moines Civic Center



Martina McBride brings the "Joy of Christmas Tour" to Stephens Auditorium, Sunday, Nov. 28 at 7 p.m. Photo submitted

Dec. 16-23: "It's a Wonderful Life: The Radio Play," Iowa Stage Theatre Company at the Stoner Theater

Jan. 21: "Terry Virts, NASA Astronaut, View From Above," National Geographic Live at Des Moines Civic Center

Jan. 25-30: "That Golden Girls Show! A Puppet Parody" at the Temple Theater

Feb. 1: "National Geographic Live: Wild Hope" with Ami Vitale, photographer and filmmaker, at the Des Moines Civic Center

Feb. 5: "Step Afrika!," Wellmark Family Series at the Des Moines Civic Center

Feb. 8-13: "Tootsie," Willis Broadway Series at the Des Moines Civic Center

Feb. 11-20: "Long Day's Journey Into Night," Iowa Stage Theatre Company at the Stoner Theater

March 10: "National Geographic Live: Spinosaurus - Lost Giant of the Cretaceous" with paleontologist Nizar Ibrahim at the Des Moines Civic Center

March 11-12: "RENT," Willis Broadway Series at the Des Moines Civic Center

March 15: "Disney Princess - The Concert" at the Des Moines Civic Center

March 22-27: "Hedestown," Willis Broadway Series at the Des Moines Civic Center

March 25 - April 3: "Sweat," Iowa Stage Theatre Company at the Stoner Theater

March 26: "Doodle POP," Wellmark Family Series at the Temple Theater

DES MOINES COMMUNITY PLAYHOUSE831 42nd St., Des Moines; www.dmplayhouse.com**Oct. 15-24:** "Escaping the Labyrinth"**Nov. 5-14:** "Junie B in Jingle Bells, Batman Smells!" - Children's Theatre**Dec. 3-19:** "The Sound of Music" - Family Holiday Classic**Jan. 7-22:** "Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! The Musical!" - Children's Theatre**Feb. 4-20:** Agatha Christie's "Murder on the Orient Express - Destination... MURDER"**March 4-20:** "Charlotte's Web" - Children's Theatre**HOYT SHERMAN PLACE - COMEDY/HUMOR**

1501 Woodland Ave., Des Moines

www.hoytsherman.org**Thursday, Oct. 7:** "One Night With Nikki Glaser"**Friday, Oct. 8:** "Charlie Berens"**Friday, Oct. 15:** "Whitney Cummings - Touch Me Tour"**Nov. 23:** "Mystery Science Theater 3000 LIVE: Time Bubble Tour"**Tuesday, Dec. 3:** "Trailer Park Boys"**Saturday, Dec. 4:** "David Sedaris"**Sunday, Jan. 30:** "Fortune Feimster: 2 Sweet 2 Salty"**THEATRE MIDWEST**Locations TBA; www.theatremidwest.org**Dec. 4-5:** "Dairy Queen"**Feb. 12-13:** "Burst"**CLASS ACT PRODUCTIONS**201 First Ave. S., Altoona; www.captheatre.org**Oct. 29 – Nov. 14:** "The Addams Family Young@Part"**ANKENY COMMUNITY THEATRE**

1932 S.W. Third St., Ankeny

www.ankenycommunitytheatre.com**Oct. 1-10:** "A Piece of My Heart"**Dec. 3-12:** "Geezers"**Feb. 4-13:** "Cry It Out"**IOWA STATE CENTER**Stephens Auditorium/Fisher Theater/Scheman Building; www.center.iastate.edu/events**Friday, Oct. 8:** "The Fab Four" at Stephens Auditorium, 8 p.m.**Friday, Oct. 15:** "Whose Live Anyway?" at Stephens Auditorium, 8 p.m.**Sunday, Oct. 17:** "Ballet Hispánico" at Stephens Auditorium, 7 p.m.**Thursday, Oct. 21:** "Ron White" at Stephens Auditorium, 8 p.m.**Saturday, Oct. 30:** "Straight No Chaser: Back in the High Life Tour 2021" at Stephens Auditorium, 8 p.m.**Thursday, Nov. 11:** "Street Scene" at Fisher Theatre, 10 a.m.**Sunday, Nov. 21:** "Susan Werner" at Stephens Auditorium, 7 p.m.**Sunday, Nov. 28:** "Martina McBride: Joy of Christmas Tour" at Stephens Auditorium, 7 p.m.**Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 11-12:** "The Nutcracker Ballet" at Stephens Auditorium, 1 p.m.**Monday, Dec. 20:** "A Magical Cirque Christmas" at Stephens Auditorium, 8 p.m.**Wednesday, Jan. 26:** "Roald Dahl's Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" at Stephens Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.**Saturday, Jan. 29:** "Drumline Live" at Stephens Auditorium, 7 p.m.**Friday, Feb. 4:** "Barjche - Orchesis - Dance Company" at Fisher Theatre, 10 a.m.**Monday, Feb. 7:** "Fiddler on the Roof" at Stephens Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.**Friday, Feb. 11:** "Dinosaur World Live" at Stephens Auditorium, 7 p.m.**Monday, Feb. 14:** "Schoolhouse Rock Live!" at Stephens Auditorium, 10 a.m.**Thursday, Feb. 17:** "South Pacific" at Stephens Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.**Friday, Feb. 18:** "Russian National Orchestra" at Stephens Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.**Tuesday, Feb. 22:** "Cirque Mechanics" at Stephens Auditorium, 7 p.m.**Wednesday, March 2:** "Pout Pout Fish" at Stephens Auditorium, 10 a.m.**Thursday, March 3:** "ISU Orchestra - Youth Matinee" at Stephens Auditorium, 10 a.m.**Tuesday, March 22:** "Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad" at Stephens Auditorium, 10 a.m.**Wednesday, March 23:** "Hasan Minhaj" at Stephens Auditorium, 7 p.m.**Thursday, March 24:** "Velocity" at Stephens Auditorium, 7 p.m.**Saturday, March 26:** "Alton Brown Live: Beyond The Eats" at Stephens Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.**Sunday, March 27:** "Hairspray" at Stephens Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.**ACTORS - AMES COMMUNITY THEATER**

120 Abraham Drive, Ames

www.actorsinc.org/shows**Nov. 11-21:** "Lucky Stiff"**Jan. 27 - Feb. 6:** "Agatha Christie's Murder on the Orient Express"**CAROUSEL THEATRE OF INDIANOLA**

117 E. Salem Ave., Indianola

www.carouseltheatre.org**Oct. 22-31:** "And Then There Were None"**March 18-27:** "Next to Normal"**SIMPSON COLLEGE**Blank Performing Arts Center, 513 D St., Indianola; www.simpson.edu**Oct. 22-24:** "The Enchanted Pig" music by Jonathan Dove; lyrics by Alasdair Middleton**Nov. 19-22:** "As You Like It" by William Shakespeare**Feb. 4-6:** "Fefu and Her Friends" by Maria Irene Fornes**March 4-6:** "Guys and Dolls" music and lyrics by Frank Loesser; book by Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows

Singer/songwriter David Nail will be at the Pella Opera House on Nov. 13 in a show sponsored by Pella Corporation. Photo submitted

PELLA OPERA HOUSE611 Franklin St., Pella; www.pellaoperahouse.org**Oct. 15:** "Nashville North." Songs and Stories with Nashville's Hit Writers, Paul Sikes, Wynn Varble, Chris Wallin and featuring Pella's own Jara Johnson.**Oct. 28:** "Bourbon and Ribs." Bourbon tasting, ribs and heavy hors d'oeuvres... The event will be led by whiskey expert Amanda Korth to raise funds for the Pella Opera House.**Nov. 13:** "David Nail." Acclaimed singer, songwriter and recording artist David Nail comes to Pella.

Opening Act: Jara Johnson, Iowa singer/songwriter.

Nov. 28: "Davis and Friends - Christmas at the Opera House." An annual holiday season favorite — Davis Folkerts on the Barton Theatre Organ along with vocalists and instrumentalists singing Yuletide classics.**Dec. 10:** "Jordan Smith, 'Tis the Season." In 2015, Smith became the "best-selling artist in the history of The Voice" and winner of Season 9.**TALLGRASS THEATRE COMPANY**2019 Grand Ave., West Des Moines; www.tallgrasstheatre.org

Tallgrass Theatre's new home is under construction at 2019 Grand Ave. in West Des Moines. Check for programming updates later this year.

FUNNY BONE COMEDY CLUB AND RESTAURANT560 South Prairie View Drive, Suite #100, West Des Moines; www.desmoines.funnybone.com

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Live music highlights

Some of the local sounds that people can't wait to see.

Every second Thursday: Midnight Dogs at Lefty's Live Music, 2307 University Ave., Des Moines; www.leftyslivemusic.com.

Thursday, Oct. 28: Elizabeth Moen - folk rock at The Maintenance Shop's fall concert series at Iowa State Memorial Union in Ames; www.sub.iastate.edu/mshop, 8 p.m. Moen is described as sultry and intoxicating. For fans of Lake Street Dive, Alabama Shakes, Sharon Van Etten, Stevie Nicks and Jonie Mitchell.

Oct. 31 - Nov. 1: Todd Snider - First Agnostic Tour of Hope & Wonder at Wooly's, 504 E. Locust St., Des Moines; www.woolysdm.com, 8 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 5: Nelly at Horizon Events Center, 2100 N.W. 100th St., Clive; www.horizoneventscenter.com/events-calendar. A diamond-selling, multi-platinum, Grammy award-winning rap superstar, entrepreneur, philanthropist and actor, Nelly has continually raised the bar.

Saturday, Nov. 20: Gladys Knight at Hoyt Sherman Place, 1501 Woodland Ave., Des Moines; www.hoytsherman.org. Gladys Knight & The Pips released their first album in 1960 when Knight was just 16. She's still rockin'.

Wednesday, Dec. 8: James Taylor & His All-Star Band with special guest Rock and Roll Hall of Famer Jackson Browne at Wells Fargo Arena, 730 Third St., Des Moines; iowaeventscenter.com.

Wednesday, Dec. 8: Arlo McKinley at XBK, 1159 24th St., Des Moines; www.xbklive.com. After he almost gave up on music altogether, McKinley's story is now one of hope and sincerity, and he's living proof that quality songs will eventually reach the right ears.

Thursday, Dec. 9: King & Country's "A Drummer Boy Christmas Tour" at Wells Fargo Arena, 730 Third St., Des Moines; iowaeventscenter.com.

Saturday, Feb. 12: "Eric Church's The Gather Again Tour" at Wells Fargo Arena, 730 Third St., Des Moines; iowaeventscenter.com.

Saturday, March 26: "Elton John's Farewell Yellow Brick Road" at Wells Fargo Arena, 730 Third St., Des Moines; iowaeventscenter.com.

Any time The Max Wellman Big Band plays at NOCE, 1326 Walnut St, Des Moines; www.nocedsdm.com.



"Eric Church's The Gather Again Tour" comes to Wells Fargo Arena, Saturday, Feb. 12. Photo submitted

40th Annual Santa's North Pole Village Craft Sale

Saturday, November 6th • 9am-4pm

Locations:
 Northview Middle School — 1302 N. Ankeny Blvd, Ankeny IA
 Parkview Middle School — 105 NW Pleasant St, Ankeny IA
 Prairie Ridge Middle School — 1010 NW Prairie Ridge Dr, Ankeny IA

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Fun events

Circle-your-calendar-worthy can't-miss attractions.

OCTOBER

Recurring weekly on Saturdays until the end of October — Downtown Farmers' Market, in the center of downtown Des Moines' Historic Court District; www.dsmpartnership.com. The market begins at 8 a.m. during October and runs until noon.

Oct. 1-10: Eat Week at restaurants in West Des Moines; wdmeatweek.com. An "un-fork-gettable" celebration of food featuring select West Des Moines eateries showcasing special menus and pricing.

Friday-Saturday, Oct. 8-9: Halloweenapalooza Film Festival at Hotel Ottumwa, 107 E. Second St., Ottumwa; www.halloweenapalooza.prescribedfilms.com. A horror-film showcase created by horror filmmakers and for horror fans. The festival aims to provide an educational and entertaining visual experience while celebrating this unique genre. Learn from fellow film buffs, celebrity guests or industry professionals or just come to enjoy the zombie walk, vendors and a midnight screening of "Rocky Horror Picture Show."

Saturday, Oct. 9: Indigenous Iowans Day at Living History Farms, 11121 Hickman Road, Urbandale; www.lhf.org.

Oct. 9-10: Covered Bridge Festival in Madison County in Winterset; www.madisoncounty.com/covered-bridge-festival-2.

Sunday, Oct. 10: Central Iowa Wind Ensemble performs "Spark" at the Franklin Junior High, 48th and Franklin in Des Moines, 3 p.m.

Oct. 14-17, 21-24: Night Eyes at Blank Park Zoo, 7401 S.W. Ninth St., Des Moines; www.blankparkzoo.com. Trick-or-treaters roam through enchanted lighting displays and a merry-not-scary treat safari.

Oct. 15-24: Family Halloween at Living History Farms, 11121 Hickman Road, Urbandale; www.lhf.org.

Oct. 15-16: Fall Bulb Market at Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, 909 Robert D. Ray Drive, Des Moines; www.dmbotanicalgarden.com.

Oct. 16-17: Great Iowa Pet Expo at the Horizon Events Center, 2100 N.W. 100th St., Clive; www.horizoneventscenter.com.

Oct. 16-17: IMT Des Moines Marathon, Des Moines; www.desmoinesmarathon.com.

Sunday, Oct. 17: Nitro Circus tour at Principal Park; www.nitrocircus.com. Real-life action heroes brave the world's largest jumps while pushing the envelope and doing incredible never-seen-before tricks, such as the

legendary 45-foot Giganta ramp that launches BMX, skate and scooter athletes into the sky at 40 mph. Watch as Nitro's daredevils attempt the craziest stunts imaginable on new contraptions you never imagined could fly. With no roof there are no limits.

Wednesday, Oct. 20: "Jeff Dunham Seriously!?" at Wells Fargo Arena, 730 Third St., Des Moines; iowaeventscenter.com

Sunday, Oct. 24: Valley Junction Pumpkin Walk, along Fifth Street in West Des Moines; www.valleyjunction.com. Trick-or-treating, hayrack rides and free pumpkins while supplies last. 2-5 p.m.

Sunday, Oct. 24: DSM Drag Brunch at the Decades Event Center, 1208 Grand Ave., West Des Moines; www.dsmdragbrunch.com. 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 29: Trick-or-Trees at Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, 909 Robert D. Ray Drive, Des Moines; www.dmbotanicalgarden.com. The BOOtanical Garden's Trick-or-Trees will feature interactive activities, entertainment, and opportunities to learn about trees and spooky botanicals. 6-9 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 30: Wrestling Revolver - Tales from the Ring 3 at the Horizon Events Center, 2100 N.W. 100th St., Clive; www.horizoneventscenter.com.

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UnityPoint's Festival of Trees & Lights returns in-person this year at Veterans Memorial Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center Ballroom, Nov. 24-28. Photo submitted

NOVEMBER

Saturday, Nov. 6: 40th Annual Santa's North Pole Village Craft Sale in Ankeny; www.ankenycraftcenter.com/event, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. One of the most popular craft shows in Iowa, featuring handcrafted items such as jewelry, clothing and holiday decor. At three locations: Northview Middle School, 1302 N. Ankeny Blvd., Ankeny; Parkview Middle School, 105 N.W. Pleasant St., Ankeny; Prairie Ridge Middle School, 1010 N.W. Prairie Ridge Drive, Ankeny

Sunday, Nov. 7: "Jim Gaffigan: The Fun Tour" at Wells Fargo Arena, 730 Third St., Des Moines; iowaeventcenter.com

Thursday, Nov. 11: Veteran's Day in Valley Junction, along Fifth Street in West Des Moines; www.valleyjunction.com. All day

Friday, Nov. 12: Science Center of Iowa's Fundraising Gala, 401 W. Martin Luther King Jr. Parkway, Des Moines; www.sciowa.org/bigblast.

Nov. 11-12: Iowa's Premier Beer, Wine and Food Expo at the Iowa Events Center, 730 Third St., Des Moines; www.iowaeventcenter.com

Nov. 13 - Feb. 13: "Louis Fratino - Tenderness Revealed," in Anna K. Meredith Gallery at the Des Moines Art Center, 4700 Grand Ave., Des Moines; www.desmoinesartcenter.org.

Thursday, Nov. 18: Mingle & Jingle in the Junction in Valley Junction, along Fifth Street in West Des Moines; www.valleyjunction.com. 5-9 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 19: Champagne & Chocolate at Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, 909 Robert D. Ray Drive, Des Moines; www.dmbotanicalgarden.com. 6-9 p.m.

Nov. 19-20: From the Barrel - Des Moines Whiskey Festival at The River Center, 340 S.W. Third St., Des Moines; www.dsmwhiskeyfest.com. More than 150 whiskey tastings, plus food, music, cigars, contests, speakers, charities and even more whiskey.

Nov. 24-28: UnityPoint's Festival of Trees & Lights, TBD; www.unitypoint.org/blankchildrens/festival-of-trees.aspx.

Sunday, Nov. 28: DSM Drag Brunch at the Decades Event Center, 1208 Grand Ave., West Des Moines; www.dsmdragbrunch.com. 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

DECEMBER

Dec. 2-5: Christkindlmarket Des Moines at Principal Park, 1 Line Drive, Des Moines; www.christkindlmarketdsm.com.

Thursdays, Dec. 2, 9, 16: Jingle in the Junction in Valley Junction, along Fifth Street in West Des Moines; www.valleyjunction.com. 5-9 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 10: Most Likeable People at Decades Event Center, 1208 Grand Ave., West Des Moines; www.dmcityview.com. 6-10 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 19: DSM Drag Brunch at the Decades Event Center, 1208 Grand Ave., West Des Moines; www.dsmdragbrunch.com. 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

TBD: East Village Promenade, east of the river in downtown Des Moines; www.eastvillagedesmoines.com.



Wells Fargo Arena in downtown Des Moines hosts the Iowa boys state wrestling championships, Feb. 16-19. Photo submitted

JANUARY

Jan. TBD: Fire & Ice in Valley Junction, along Fifth Street in West Des Moines; www.valleyjunction.com.

Saturday, Jan. 22: Fire & Ice at West Glen Town Center, 5465 Mills Civic Parkway, West Des Moines, 1-4 p.m.

FEBRUARY

Feb. TBD: DIY in the Junction in Valley Junction, along Fifth Street in West Des Moines; www.valleyjunction.com.

Tuesday, Feb. 1: CITYVIEW's Best Of Des Moines Celebration at Adventureland's Palace Theater in Altoona; www.dmcityview.com. 5-9 p.m.

Feb. 1-3: Iowa Ag Expo at Hy-Vee Hall, downtown Des Moines; www.iowaeventscenar.com/events.

Outdoors

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MacRae Park Pond, 1021 Davis Ave.

Witmer Park Pond, 1610 34th St.

Ankeny: Sunrise Park, 506 S.E.

Peterson Drive

INDIANOLA: Indianola Activity

Center, 2204 W. Second Ave.

GRIMES: Grimes Sports Complex,

South of South Prairie Elementary School

JOHNSTON: Johnston Commons, 6700

Merle Hay Road; **Crosshaven Park**, 7909

N.W. 95th St.

URBANDALE: Lions Park on Prairie

Avenue near 72nd and Aurora

WAUKEE: Waukee Ice Rink at Grant

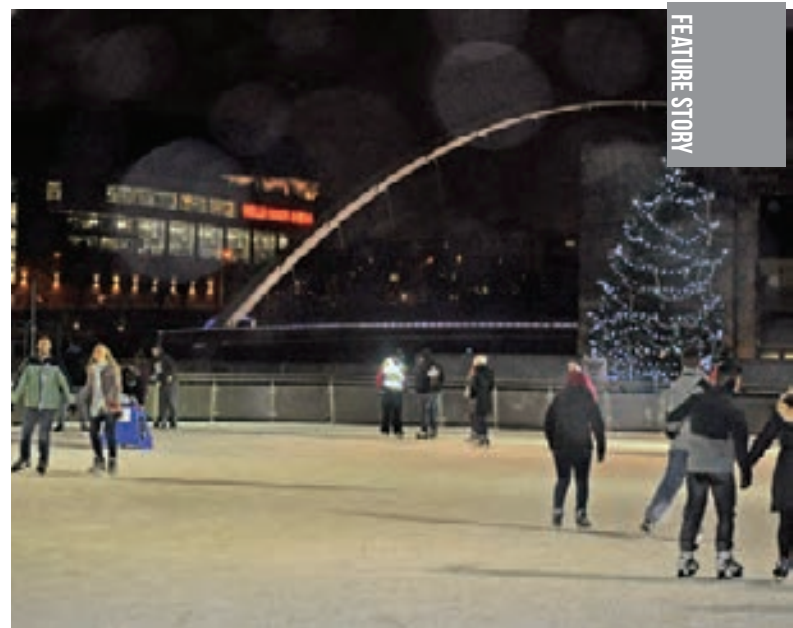
Park, 605 S.E. Driftwood Lane

WEST DES MOINES: Raccoon River

Park, 2500 Grand Ave.

Valley Skating Plaza Ice Rink, 4444 Fuller Road

Seven Oaks Ski Resort, 1086 222nd Drive, offers skiing, snowboarding, snow tubing and other winter activities. www.sevenoaksrec.com



Brenton Skating Plaza in downtown Des Moines offers outdoor ice skating in the heart of the city. Photo by Jeff Pitts

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2021-22

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HOME

AWAY

OPPONENTS

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Manitoba Moose (MB)

Milwaukee Admirals (MIL)

Rockford IceHogs (RFD)

San Diego Gulls (SD)

Texas Stars (TEX)

Tucson Roadrunners (TUC)

2021-22 PROMOTIONAL SCHEDULE

#HOCKEYLIVESHERE



HOME OPENER

SCHEDULE CUP GIVEAWAY

Friday, Oct. 22



HOPTOBERFEST

SCHEDULE POSTER GIVEAWAY | PRE GAME TAILGATE AT 3 PM

Saturday, Oct. 23



RETRO NIGHT

PENNANT GIVEAWAY | SPECIALTY JERSEY AUCTION

Saturday, Nov. 13



PUCKS N PAWS

DOG BANDANA GIVEAWAY

Sunday, Nov. 14



NEW YEAR'S DAY GAME

POSTGAME ON-ICE FIREWORKS SHOW

Friday, Dec. 31



CRASH'S BIRTHDAY

YOUTH JERSEY GIVEAWAY (12 & UNDER)

Saturday, Jan. 15



LOCAL HEROES NIGHT

BOBBLEHEAD GIVEAWAY

Saturday, Jan. 29



PINK IN THE RINK

LED FOAM BATON GIVEAWAY

Friday, Feb. 11



BOBBLEHEAD NIGHT

BOBBLEHEAD GIVEAWAY

Friday, Feb. 25



STAR WARS NIGHT

SPECIALTY JERSEY AUCTION

Friday, Mar. 25



PUCKS N PAWS

LEASH GIVEAWAY

Sunday, Mar. 27



FAN APPRECIATION

TRADING CARD GIVEAWAY

Saturday, Apr. 23

NIGHTLY SPECIALS

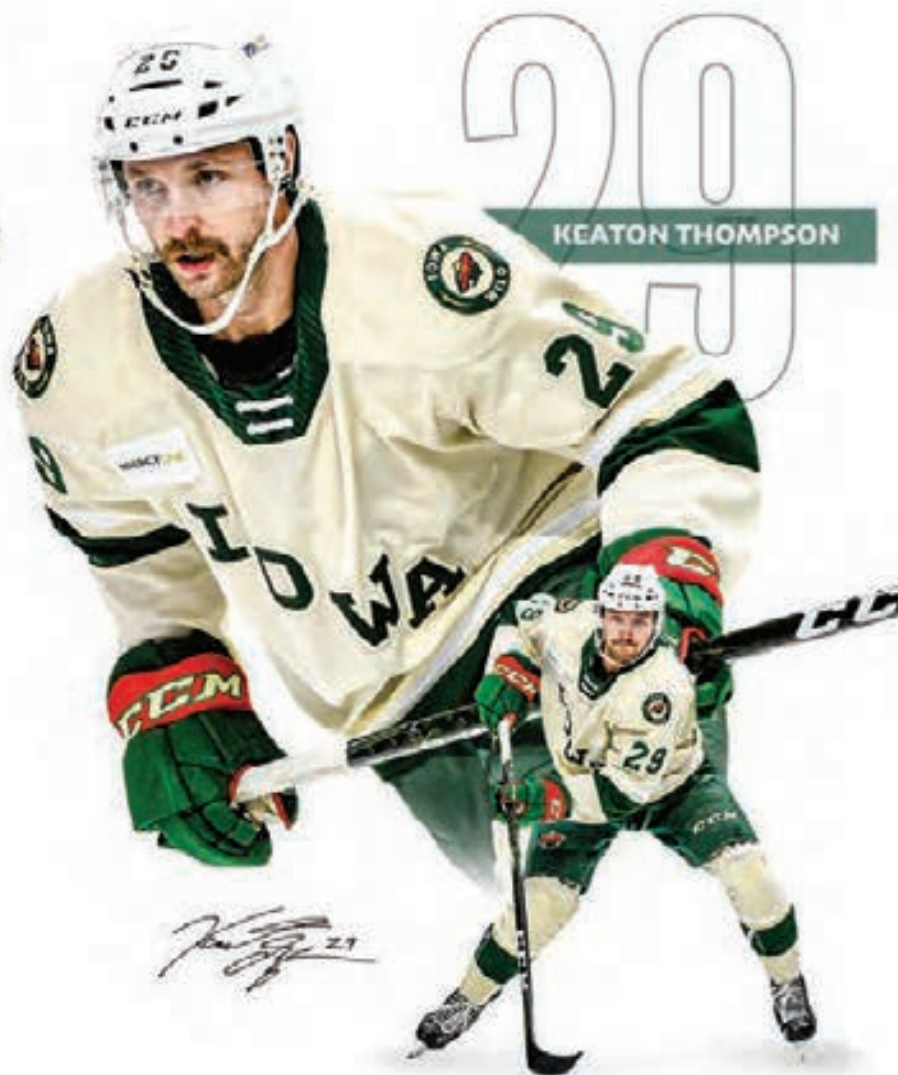
MONDAY - Dollar Dog Night

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SATURDAY - 2 FOR \$10 Tailboys



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Sports page

Central Iowa spectator sports

FEATURE STORY

PBR DES MOINES INVITATIONAL - RODEO

Wells Fargo Arena

Saturday, Oct. 16

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY - DIVISION I COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Jack Trice Stadium, 1800 S. Fourth St., Ames;
www.cyclones.com. Home schedule:

Saturday, Oct. 23 vs. Oklahoma State, TBD

Saturday, Nov. 6 vs. Texas, TBD

Friday, Nov. 26 vs. TCU, 3 or 3:30 p.m.

IOWA WILD - MINOR LEAGUE PRO HOCKEY

Wells Fargo Arena, 730 Third St., Des Moines;
www.iowawild.com. Home schedule:

Friday, Oct. 22 vs. Rockford Icehogs, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 23 vs. Rockford Icehogs, 6 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 5 vs. Grand Rapids Griffins, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 13 vs. Milwaukee Admirals, 6 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 14 vs. Milwaukee Admirals, 3 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 19 vs. Tucson Roadrunners, 7 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 21 vs. Tucson Roadrunners, 1 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 4 vs. Chicago Wolves, 6 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 5 vs. Chicago Wolves, 3 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 14 vs. Milwaukee Admirals, 7 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 17 vs. Manitoba Moose, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 18 vs. Manitoba Moose, 6 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 27 vs. Rockford Icehogs, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 29 vs. Colorado Eagles, 6 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 31 vs. Colorado Eagles, 2 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 14 vs. Chicago Wolves, 6 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 15 vs. Chicago Wolves, 6 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 17 vs. Milwaukee Admirals, 2 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 28 vs. San Diego Gulls, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 29 vs. San Diego Gulls, 6 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 4 vs. Rockford Icehogs, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 10 vs. Grand Rapids Griffins, 7 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 11 vs. Grand Rapids Griffins, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 22 vs. Texas Stars, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 24 vs. Texas Stars, 7 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 25 vs. Rockford Icehogs, 7 p.m.

Saturday, March 12 vs. Henderson Silver Knights, 6 p.m.

Sunday, March 13 vs. Henderson Silver Knights, 3 p.m.

Saturday, March 19 vs. Manitoba Moose, 6 p.m.

Monday, March 21 vs. Manitoba Moose, 7 p.m.

Friday, March 25 vs. Rockford Icehogs, 7 p.m.

Sunday, March 27 vs. Chicago Wolves, 3 p.m.

Wednesday, April 13 vs. Milwaukee Admirals, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, April 19 vs. Grand Rapids Griffins, 7 p.m.

Friday, April 22 vs. Texas Stars, 7 p.m.

Saturday, April 23 vs. Texas Stars, 6 p.m.

DES MOINES BUCCANEERS - JUNIOR A AMATEUR HOCKEY

Buccaneer Arena, 7201 Hickman Road, Urbandale; www.bucshockey.com. Home schedule:

Saturday, Oct. 9 vs. Waterloo Black Hawks, 6 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 29 vs. Sioux Falls Stampede, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 3 vs. Sioux Falls Stampede, 6 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 5 vs. Cedar Rapids RoughRiders, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 13 vs. Lincoln Stars, 6 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 26 vs. Dubuque Fighting Saints, 7 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 3 vs. Fargo Force, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 4 vs. Fargo Force, 6 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 17 vs. Omaha Lancers, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 29 vs. Cedar Rapids RoughRiders, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 7 vs. Tri-City Storm, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 8 vs. Omaha Lancers, 6 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 14 vs. Waterloo Black Hawks, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 15 vs. Lincoln Stars, 6 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 3 vs. Fargo Force, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 4 vs. Dubuque Fighting Saints, 7 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 11 vs. Sioux Falls Stampede, 7 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 18 vs. Lincoln Stars, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 19 vs. Lincoln Stars, 6 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 25 vs. Sioux City Musketeers, 7 p.m.

Friday, March 4 vs. Tri-City Storm, 7 p.m.

Saturday, March 5 vs. Waterloo Black Hawks, 6 p.m.

Saturday, March 19 vs. Sioux City Musketeers, 6 p.m.



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 Wells Fargo Arena, 730 Third St., Des Moines;
 www.iawolves.com. Home schedule:
Saturday, Nov. 6 vs. Sioux Falls Skyforce/Heat, 7 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 8 vs. Sioux Falls Skyforce/Heat, 7 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 15 vs. Grand Rapids Gold/Nuggets, 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 17 vs. Grand Rapids Gold/Nuggets, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Jan. 1 vs. Rio Grande Valley Vipers/Rockets, 7 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 3 vs. Rio Grande Valley Vipers/Rockets, 7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 13 vs. Memphis Hustle/Grizzlies
Sunday, Jan. 23 vs. Texas Legends/Mavericks, 4 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 25 vs. Texas Legends/Mavericks, 7 p.m.
Saturday, Feb. 5 vs. Agua Caliente Clippers/Clippers, 7 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 6 vs. Austin Spurs/Spurs, 4 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 8 vs. Austin Spurs/Spurs, 10:30 p.m.
Monday, Feb. 14 vs. Santa Cruz Warriors/Warriors, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Feb. 23 vs. Salt Lake City Stars/Jazz, 7 p.m.
Sunday, March 6 vs. Sioux Falls Skyforce/Heat, 3 p.m.
Wednesday, March 16 vs. South Bay Lakers/Lakers, 7 p.m.
Friday, March 18 vs. South Bay Lakers/Lakers, 7 p.m.
Tuesday, March 29 vs. Birmingham Squadron/Pelicans, 7 p.m.
Thursday, March 31 vs. Oklahoma City Blue/Thunder, 7 p.m.
Friday, April 1 vs. Oklahoma City Blue/Thunder, 7 p.m.

DRAKE UNIVERSITY MEN'S BASKETBALL - NCAA DIVISION I
 Knapp Center, 2601 Forest Ave., Des Moines;
 godrakebulldogs.com. Home schedule:
Sunday, Nov. 14 vs. South Dakota Coyotes
Saturday, Nov. 20 vs. Richmond, TBD
Sunday, Dec. 5 vs. St. Thomas, TBD
Thursday, Dec. 16 vs. Jackson State, TBD
Sunday, Dec. 19 vs. Chicago State, TBD
Tuesday, Dec. 28 vs. Mount Marty, TBD
**Conference home games had not yet been scheduled when CITYVIEW went to press.*

DRAKE UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S BASKETBALL - NCAA DIVISION I
 Knapp Center, 2601 Forest Ave., Des Moines;
 godrakebulldogs.com. Home schedule:
Wednesday, Nov. 10 vs. Creighton, 6 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 15 vs. South Dakota, 6 p.m.
Thursday, Nov. 18 vs. Iowa State, 6 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 3 vs. Longwood, 6 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 7 vs. Simpson, 11 a.m.
Sunday, Dec. 12 vs. Northern Illinois, 2 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 23 vs. Minnesota, 2 p.m.
**Conference home games had not yet been scheduled when CITYVIEW went to press.*

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY MEN'S BASKETBALL - NCAA DIVISION I
 Hilton Coliseum, located at 1705 Center Drive, Ames;
 www.cyclones.com. Home schedule:
Tuesday, Nov. 9 vs. Kennesaw State, TBD
Friday, Nov. 12 vs. Oregon State, TBD

Tuesday, Nov. 16 vs. Alabama State, TBD
Sunday, Nov. 21 vs. Grambling State, TBD
Wednesday, Dec. 1 vs. Arkansas - Pine Bluff, TBD
Thursday, Dec. 9 vs. Iowa, TBD
Sunday, Dec. 12 vs. Jackson State, TBD
Sunday, Dec. 19 vs. Southeastern Louisiana, TBD
Tuesday, Dec. 21 vs. Chicago State, TBD
Saturday, Jan. 29 vs. Missouri, TBD
**Conference home games had not yet been scheduled when CITYVIEW went to press.*

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S BASKETBALL - NCAA DIVISION I
 Hilton Coliseum, located at 1705 Center Drive, Ames;
 www.cyclones.com. Home schedule:
Tuesday, Nov. 9 vs. Omaha, TBD
Monday, Nov. 15 vs. South Dakota State, TBD
Sunday, Nov. 21 vs. Southern, TBD (Location: TBD)
Sunday, Dec. 5 vs. Longwood, TBD
Wednesday, Dec. 8 vs. Iowa, TBD
Sunday, Dec. 12 vs. UNI, TBD
Sunday, Dec. 19 vs. Prairie View A&M, TBD
**Conference home games had not yet been scheduled when CITYVIEW went to press.*

IOWA HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIPS
 Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines.
Feb. 16-19: State wrestling
Feb. 28 - March 5: Girls state basketball
March 7-11: Boys state basketball ■

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BELLY UP TO:

EAT & DRINK



Caffrey's Sports Pub in Waukee is located at 1320 Hickman Road. Photos by Jackie Wilson

Caffrey's Sports Pub

The food menu and drinks go beyond typical bar food.

BY JACKIE WILSON

Waukee is one of the fastest-growing cities in Iowa. Building houses and schools are essential ingredients to handle this explosive boom, but people also need a little refreshment and a local watering hole to call their own.

Look no further than Caffrey's Sports Pub, located at 1320 Hickman Road in Waukee.

Caffrey's was 1908 Draught House for the past seven years. Owner Collin Caffrey and his partner owned the place, and Caffrey split ways in July 2020, renaming it Caffrey's Sports Pub.

Walking inside on a warm, late summer evening, it was a perfect place to sip a cocktail on an outdoor patio. The bar accommodates both indoor and outdoor patrons. In the wintertime, the patio can be enclosed, as heat lamps keep things toasty.

The dark wood booths on the patio are cozy for conversations. A group of enthusiastic bicyclists were

throwing bags and downing mixed drinks and local beers. A family with two toddlers came in, giving their parents the night off from cooking. Groups from college age to baby boomers sat inside the dining area.

The black leather bar stools are roomy and comfortable. Sports memorabilia across the walls is a mixture of all the sporting events Caffrey enjoys. There's sports inside the bathrooms, too. The men's room is treated to Sports Illustrated swimsuit cover models, while the women ogle over various bulging-muscle athletic men, most with their shirts off.

The food menu and drinks go beyond typical bar food. The food is something your friend might serve at home to watch the game and munch on homemade appetizers. Try the buffalo chicken dip, served steaming hot, with flatbread and tortilla chips. The bacon-wrapped jalapeños are overstuffed with cream cheese, while the cowboy bites included sweet corn,



Playing bags is a popular pastime at Caffrey's. Photo by Jackie Wilson



The food at Caffrey's is something your friend might serve while watching a big game at home, but at Caffrey's, they do the cooking and you catch all the action. Photo by Jackie Wilson



The service at Caffrey's works to "kill them with kindness." Bartender Trang Tran is pictured here.. Photo by Jackie Wilson

jalapeños, cheese and bacon, deep fried and served with chipotle ranch.

Nachos, wings, sandwiches, burgers and pizza round out the menu. A popular weekend brunch from 10-2 serves tasty hangover fare. Pair it with a bloody mary to get the party started all over again.

Happy hour from 3-6 p.m. includes \$1 off all drinks. My favorite is the greyhound — vodka with fresh squeezed (not canned) grapefruit, a great way to get your Vitamin C.

Sports fans can view dozens of athletic events at all times of the day. After all, it is a sports pub.

Caffrey says most servers have remained on staff for several years, and the location is a solid one.

"We kill them with kindness," he explains. "The staff is very attentive. Often the bartender will have a beer waiting for the patron the minute they walk in. We're blessed to have quality food and great staff." ■

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LUNCH WITH...

Jeff Chelesvig at Royal Mile

Des Moines Performing Arts president and CEO shares thoughts about his personal background, travel, and COVID impacts to the industry.

BY JIM DUNCAN

Jeff Chelesvig is the president and CEO of Des Moines Performing Arts and last year celebrated his 25th anniversary at the Civic Center. He is Iowa's only Tony Awards' voter, president of the Independent Presenter's Network, served on the Broadway League Board of Governors, and received the Broadway League's Samuel J. L'Hommedieu Award in New York for Outstanding Achievement in Presenter Management in 2005. With the performing arts emerging from 19 months in COVID-19 withdrawal, we asked him to lunch recently.

He chose Royal Mile, an English style pub with photos of the Beefeaters, Sherlock Holmes, Guinness and Smithwick posters, English Premier League banners and an unusual collection of worldly beers, ales and booze choices.

"Royal Mile is a favorite with the traveling crews that come to the Civic Center. I like the décor," Chelesvig says.

"London is my favorite city in Europe to travel. Pre-COVID, I would go every year and often twice a year. I love the theater there and also the museums which are mostly free. I like to branch out from the West End and see what is going on in the neighborhoods."

I ask if he's been to the Savoy Theater, the house that became a world famous hotel built by Louis and Sullivan.

"Oh yes, the theater is iconic."

I say that I do the same thing with soccer stadiums. He asks my favorite team and looks surprised when I say Arsenal. They are a blue-collar team from north London. Most arts people in London prefer Chelsea, the reigning European champion from the West End, or Fulham another lesser West End team that plays in a stadium that is attached to the home of Anne Boleyn, the first of Henry VIII's wives that he had beheaded. He asks if I have seen Ted Lasso.

"It's a wonderful comedy about a woman getting her husband's beloved soccer team in a divorce. She wants to ruin the club, so she hires an American coach who thinks it is American football. It was made as a quick promo and was so funny it's now a full-fledged series," he explained.

So how is the Civic Center emerging from 19 months of canceled performances?

"We had our first ticketed show two weeks ago — the Des Moines Symphony's return. This week we

had Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, rescheduled from earlier. That is the original Frankie Valli not a Jersey Boys cast. Next we have 'The Band's Visit.' That was originally an Israeli film that won a Tony as best musical." It is also one of only four musicals ever to win the big six awards — musical, score, actor, book, actress and director. It tells a story about an Egyptian band getting lost in the Israeli desert. It's a really big score for the Civic Center.

The Symphony had a full season of Beethoven's greatest hits scheduled last year for the composer's 200th birthday. Were they able to keep that plan on his 201st birthday? After all, the 2020 Olympics were in 2021.

"Yes, they opened with his 5th symphony and have plans to perform the Ninth, plus a triple violin concerto, and the 3rd piano concerto. They did reschedule Carmen Burana, but I think the Beethoven program is going ahead."

What did Chelesvig do before he came to Des Moines 26 years ago?

"I grew up on a farm outside Eagle Grove and moved to Belmond where I graduated high school. I went to Gustavus Adolphus for two years and transferred to Iowa State to major in theater business. I worked there as a stage hand. I also sang in the choral group and would get invited to work backstage at the Civic Center when they needed extra help."

"After college I worked in Tampa and sang in the choral group there that worked with the symphony. We would perform three to four major choral works a year. We did Beethoven's Ninth, Verdi's Requiem and The Messiah."

Where besides London does Chelesvig like to travel?

"Obviously New York. I would go there almost every month before COVID. That is where I do the most business. I have been to all 42 Broadway theaters. Most friends are amazed by that. I like to take planned trips with outfitters. I have biked or hiked the Swiss Alps, Oregon, Washington state, and Arizona with such groups. I like France and Italy a lot."

Does the Civic Center put up the traveling crews?

"Not for Broadway series shows or for major concerts, but smaller productions we often do. We have a long-term relationship with the Savery Hotel, as it is so close to us. I am really excited to see the remodeled



Hotel Fort Des Moines. Lately we have been using more East Village hotels."

Do the visitors have other favorite restaurants besides Royal Mile?

"Yes, they love Zombie Burger and Fong's Pizza."

When a big show is playing Des Moines, does Chelesvig work all week long?

"No, my staff won't let me get involved with the production work. They worry I will mess it up. I am more about being present. I like to interact with the performers and stage hands. Most of my work is all pre-show, with contracts and such," he explained.

What else in the metro does he like to visit?

"I like to see what the high schools are doing. Every year we have a music camp for high school performers, and we bring in New York pros to work with the kids. We show them a before and after tape of their performances, and they are amazed how much they learn in a week. I am going tonight to see the 80th anniversary showing of 'Citizen Kane' at Jordan Creek. Most of the TV I watch is Turner Classic Movies. I love old movies."

Des Moines has come a long way in 26 years arts wise. What is still needed?

"I think that jazz is underserved here, also dance, especially compared to Des Moines Metro Opera, which has done a fantastic job."

What is exciting down the road?

"I am taking my first trip to New York since COVID, and I will see the premiere of 'Six,' that's a new show about the wives of Henry VIII. For the Civic Center, we have a return of 'My Fair Lady,' with the Lincoln Center production, Bernadette Peters, 'Hamilton,' 'Rent,' and '1776.' " ■

Aura casts a good vibe

When Jay Wang took over the lease on what had always been Trostel's Dish, he announced it would be his first non-Asian restaurant.

The word "authentic" irks me, mainly because it is usually misused. We live in a FedEx world today where the available ingredients of all cuisines are 24 hours away. Chefs learn everything these days. Some years the Iowa Culinary Institute has as many foreign students as home-grown ones. The era of air freight is designed for fusion cuisine more than any faithful adherence to styles of old fashioned national cooking. Even the Texas chain Arby's now advertises itself as a fusion place, with venerable actor Ving Rhames doing the narration.

Jay Wang and friends (he has recruited 20 some to Des Moines from the coasts) run several wasabi restaurants that amalgamate Chinese, Thai and American dishes with their Japanese base. They are marvelous restaurants. When Wang took over the lease on what had always been Trostel's Dish, he announced it would be his first non-Asian restaurant. There were grumblings about a Japanese-trained Chinese guy from New York taking on that challenge. Hey, George Formaro has a standout example of Italian, French, Mexican, delicatessen/diner restaurants, and a burger chain, too. Why should a good restaurateur limit himself?

The results at Aura are superb. Dish was as handsome as almost any restaurant in the metro, and its footprint, with a long bar surrounded by raised booths and floor tables, is unchanged. The Wasabis have a good reputation for upscale cocktails and happy hour bargains, and that is true at Aura. The old fashioned

AURA RESTAURANT AND LOUNGE

12851 University Ave., Clive, 225-6005

Monday - Thursday, 3-9 p.m., Friday - Saturday, 3-10 p.m.

has been making a revival the last decade, and Aura presents three styles — Longbranch with St. Germaine, a smoked version with hickory and cherry smoked Knob Creek, and a peach version with Woodford Reserve, Peachtree (a peach schnapps liqueur) and luxardo cherries — the world's original maraschinos. There is also an Elite martini made with Stoli Elite and dolin vermouth, which is neither sweet nor dry, and a Passion Fruit margarita.

The kitchen is equally picky about using the best ingredients. Those might change seasonally, which is what Iowa cuisine does at its best. A few months ago, I ordered a pickle bowl with six interesting, pickled vegetables and a scallop dish served with edamame and spring pea puree. More recently, the pickle bowl was off the menu, and the scallops were served with smoked caper cream, seared oranges and spinach. Both scallop dishes were fabulous.

Fried cauliflower was cooked with gochujang, which is chili paste made with sticky rice and fermented soy beans, plus sesame seeds and green onions. Frites, both truffled and not, were more typical of Des Moines' better restaurants. So were drunken mussels, shrimp cocktails, oysters on the shell, hummus and Brussels sprouts.

Crisp crusted lavashes were offered with mostly

The kitchen is equally picky about using the best ingredients. Those might change seasonally, which is what Iowa cuisine does at its best.



Diver scallops with caper cream, spinach and seared orange

white sauces, including a fig and chicken with garlic and honey. Large plates to share included: a carnitas board with pork, salsa verde, Cotija cheese, and tortillas; a full pound of roasted tri tip (most popular BBQ meat in northern California), wild mushrooms, bordelaise and roasted garlic; and a falafel board with hummus and vegetables, tzatziki and pita.

The most recent menu included six entrees: roast chicken with chimichurri and potatoes; filet mignon with grilled asparagus and blue cheese; bell flower shaped pasta campanella with roast chicken, dried tomatoes and white garlic cream; Chilean sea bass with couscous, asparagus, radish and a citrus beurre blanc; New York strips with Parmesan butter and wild mushrooms; and salmon picatta with smokey caper cream and broccolini.

Currently there are three salads — mixed beets, Cobb and Caesar — but no sweet desserts. Wine list runs \$30-68. ■

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

Old Dominion

Country band will perform at Principal Park for their Ballpark Tour concert on Oct. 8.

Since country band Old Dominion formed in 2007, they've found success with seven No. 1 songs on the country charts, such as "No Such Thing as a Broken Heart" and "Written in Sand." Since 2018, they've won a total of eight Academy of Country Music awards and Country Music Awards for group, song and video of the year.

Old Dominion will perform at Principal Park for their Ballpark Tour concert on Oct. 8. The band hopes to hit a homerun with the fans, as they've already knocked out eight music awards and earned seven Billboard chart toppers. Keyboardist, songwriter and guitarist Trevor Rosen recently spoke to CITYVIEW about their upcoming tour.

In addition to Rosen, Matthew Ramsey and Brad Tursi of the band also write songs for other country musicians, such as Keith Urban and Blake Shelton.

"Our songwriting is what fueled our success as a band," he says. "While we were writing songs, we were honing our craft. We get to live two dreams in one — we get to double dip."

He recalls when their first song, "Break Up" was a radio success.

"At the time, we said, what if we made it to the top 40? The top 30? It kept climbing. We said, 'Oh, my God, this could actually happen.' Our hard work and dreams came true. The door cracks open for you, and it's a special one."

Ironically, one of Rosen's first dreams began in Des Moines, but not with his music career.

In 1994, Rosen lived in Des Moines, playing ice



Old Dominion plays Principal Park for their Ballpark Tour concert on Oct. 8. Photo submitted

hockey with the Des Moines Buccaneers. When he played in 1995, they won the triple crown — three different championship games. To top it off, Rosen scored the game-winning Gold Cup goal.

"At the time, hockey was my No. 1 priority — my biggest dream," he says.

On off days, he'd play with a band at Java Joes' open mic nights or on a street corner in downtown

Des Moines. However, a move to Nashville fueled his singing career instead, where he met with like-minded musicians, forming Old Dominion.

"We're genuinely friends," Rosen says about the band's success. "We enjoy each other's company, and we laugh on the bus. It's a self-policing organization. Nobody has a big ego. If they get too big for their britches, they get shot down." ■

SOUND ADVICE

BY JACKIE WILSON

The local musical duo of **Tom Buckmiller** and **Brian Schwager** won the 2021 Iowa Blues Challenge on Sept. 19 at Lefty's Live Music in Des Moines. There were four acts entered in the event, which was hosted by the Central Iowa Blues Society. Buckmiller and Schwager will now compete in the International Blues Challenge held on the famed Beale Street in Memphis this upcoming Jan. 18-22.

Air Supply formed in 1975 and after signing with Arista Records in 1980, "Lost in Love" became the fastest-selling single in the world, leaping to the

top of the charts. The band's second single, "All Out of Love," climbed the charts even quicker. Air Supply is still crooning, and it looks like "even the nights are better" at Hoyt Sherman on Oct. 14.

If you yet haven't checked out the Tuesday night live music at Kinship Brewing Co., do yourself a favor and block off the evening of Oct. 19. The venue is gaining a good reputation for quality tunes, and **Joshua Sinclair** is a Des Moines artist working the stage hard and gaining traction. His style is appreciated by people who enjoy listening to

Keith Urban, Ryan Adams, Jake Owen, Dashboard Confessional, Ed Sheeran, Thompson Square and The Cadillac 3. Kinship Brewing is in Waukee at 255 N.W. Sunrise Drive. The music is scheduled for 5-8 p.m.

Don't forget the Val Air Ballroom when you're looking for live shows. **Theory of a Deadman** stops in for an Oct. 29 date in West Des Moines. The band will be with 10 Years and Eva Under Fire. Visit www.theoryofficial.com for more information. ■

FILM REVIEW

Emotional turmoil and bizarre encounters

'The Starling' delivers a powerful, emotional presentation of loss.

BY DAVID ROWLEY

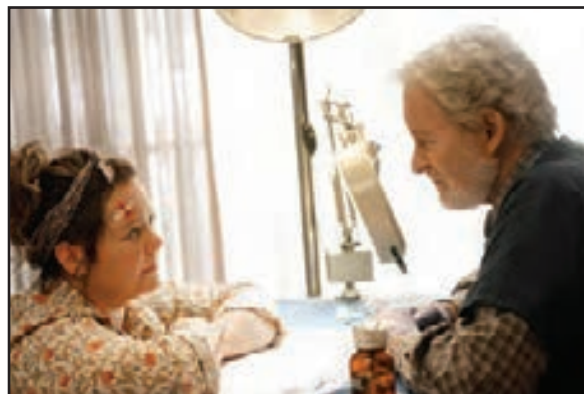
"The Starling" is a jumble of emotional turmoil and bizarre encounters. Ostensibly, the plot revolves around married couple Lilly (Melissa McCarthy) and Jack (Chris O'Dowd) in the aftermath of the death of their daughter, Katie. Jack now resides at a psychiatric facility, New Horizons, and Lilly struggles to hold down her grocery-store job and combats the titular, territorial starling, which leads her to therapist-turned-veterinarian Dr. Larry Fine (Kevin Kline).

The beginning delivers a powerful, emotional presentation of loss. The film doesn't explicitly state what happened but nails the smaller details: the impressions of the crib's feet in the carpet, the encompassing silence, the loneliness. Both parties seem to avoid their emotions, just trying to get through each day. Lilly's attempt puts her into a kind of daze, while Jack is in full escapism-mode at New Horizons. Lilly has avoided going into Katie's nursery, keeping the door shut, in fact. When she finally does open the door and go in, she immediately empties the room and drags (nearly) all the contents out to the curb. That desire to look anywhere else but at the missing thing feels surprisingly relatable, despite being a portrayal of such a specific experience of losing a child.

The full story takes shape as both Lilly and Jack reveal details in conversations with Dr. Fine and various mental-health professionals. They each spend part of the film in the dark about the feelings and outlook of the other person. Jack has retreated, leaving Lilly to pick up the pieces by herself in their lovely house that sits on a bucolic rural dirt road. It's only once they start admitting their own struggles to themselves and each other that they then start to see beyond their own pain and coping mechanisms. Everyone has something to learn here: Lilly, Jack, Dr. Fine and even the New Horizons staff.

The plot is fairly predictable, if peppered with unexpected and often unnecessary side trips. Lilly's battle with the starling, for example, often feels like a deterrent to the main plot. It connects Lilly with Dr. Fine, but otherwise provides a clunky metaphor for her internal journey. Perhaps the idea is that grief is forever there to knock you around and the trick to moving on is figuring out how to coexist. Either way, this device with the starling, along with a "Garden State"-wannabe soundtrack is forever threatening to undermine what McCarthy and O'Dowd are doing, which is occasionally deeply felt.

The cast is solid, and Kevin Kline is charming as ever, even in a smaller role. You root for the two leads simply by virtue of who is playing them. McCarthy's Lilly is just barely going through the motions at her job, while O'Dowd's Jack is drowning in his depression.



Loretta Devine shows up briefly as a fellow patient, but the decision to have the one Black person we see struggling with mental health portrayed as loud and unruly during group therapy scenes, in contrast to Jack's repressed white guy stoicism, feels problematic. The scenes at New Horizons are conspicuously underdeveloped, and this kind of racial stereotyping at the margins doesn't help.

Director Theodore Melfi, who won many admirers for his work on "Hidden Figures" and "St. Vincent," again tries to delicately balance the light and the dark, the soft and the hard, the humor with the sadness. But it falls woefully short, is painfully derivative and altogether misguided as the film moves from one overly metaphorical scene to the other without any patience or thoughtfulness, instead content with signposting what to emote at any one time. A story of such tragic and life-changing loss and the mental, physical and emotional strains from such an event should be handled delicately, but choosing to ram such things down our throats without any care isn't going to make for good fiction — and it doesn't.

Sensitivity to this subject matter may differ from viewer to viewer, but the ending falls short compared to the opening's emotional punch. The absence of money issues for a couple who clearly aren't swimming in it feels like another dodge. But then, so do most of the scenes at New Horizons, which don't really show the work of clawing back from such a desolate place. How do you help people who are so bereft they don't want to participate in their life anymore? Shouldn't that be part of the story?

Unfortunately, the film feels thin and calibrated to be neither light nor heavy, but some uncertain place in between. That leaves a blurred image for the audience to fill in the emotional blanks. ■

"The Starling"

PG-13 | 102 minutes
Director: Theodore Melfi
Stars: Melissa McCarthy, Chris O'Dowd, Kevin Kline

PREVIEWS

'South of Heaven'

NR | 120 minutes
Director: Aharon Keshales
Stars: Jason Sudeikis, Evangeline Lilly, Shea Whigham

"South of Heaven" features Jason Sudeikis as Jimmy, a man who receives early parole after an armed robbery. Upon his release, he vows to give his girlfriend, Annie, who is dying of cancer, the best last year of her life. But things are never that simple, and when he is given a "side job" from his parole officer, it sets off a series of events that leaves Jimmy in the crosshairs of a local crime boss. Now, he must stop at nothing to save Annie and fight for whatever time they have left. However, Sudeikis is thrown into the world of crime once more, which puts him at odds with his parole officer (Whigham) and a crime boss (Colter).



'Needle in a Timestack'

R | 111 minutes
Director/Writer: John Ridley
Stars: Freida Pinto, Orlando Bloom, Cynthia Erivo

If love is in the form of a circle, what lines would you cross to be with your soulmate? In this gripping, near-future love story directed by Oscar-winner John Ridley, Nick and Janine (Leslie Odom, Jr. and Cynthia Erivo) live in marital bliss until Janine's ex-husband (Orlando Bloom) warps time to try to tear them apart using Nick's college girlfriend (Freida Pinto). As Nick's memories and reality disappear, he must decide what he's willing to sacrifice in order to hold onto — or let go of — everything he loves. Can love endure in a future where time is fluid and all of life may be just an illusion?



'Halloween Kills'

R | 106 minutes
Director: David Gordon Green
Stars: Jamie Lee Curtis, Kyle Richards, Judy Greer

And the Halloween night when Michael Myers returned isn't over yet. Minutes after Laurie Strode (Curtis), her daughter Karen (Judy Greer) and granddaughter Allyson (Andi Matichak) left masked monster Michael Myers caged and burning in Laurie's basement, Laurie is rushed to the hospital with life-threatening injuries, believing she finally killed her lifelong tormentor. But when Michael manages to free himself from Laurie's trap, his ritual bloodbath resumes. As Laurie fights her pain and prepares to defend herself against him, she inspires all of Haddonfield to rise up against their unstoppable monster. The Strode women join a group of other survivors of Michael's first rampage who decide to take matters into their own hands, forming a vigilante mob that sets out to hunt Michael down, once and for all. ■



Time and memory influence the works of Chuck Hipsher

In paintings like “Fall of Eden,” he comments upon technology and its effect on humanity.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Chuck Hipsher grew up in Council Bluffs, later attending the University of Iowa and The School of Chicago’s Art Institute. He worked in New York, Chicago and Detroit, and lately he has shown his work in New York, Denmark and at Moberg Gallery where his new show opens Oct. 8. He lives in Bloomington, Illinois, now working in an advertising agency as a designer. He admits he has been greatly influenced by Willem de Kooning throughout his career, and during his years in NYC, he “mustered the courage to pay de Kooning a visit” at the artist’s Long Island studio. He was turned away, and de Kooning died the following year. He remains a major influence.

His “Kissing Kate” tells of a more successful celebrity encounter on a night in NYC, when Hipsher had the good fortune to meet the late Kate Spade, who was then just on the verge of selling her famous bags. The candy colors of her earlier iconic striped purses can be found in his painting — not perfect nor poised. Months after Spade’s suicide, Hipsher was finally able to paint about his brief encounters and to let out his feeling of connectedness to her, another Midwestern transplant in the Big Apple.

Hipsher is a down-to-earth painter. It’s easy to imagine his infatuations with de Kooning and Spade. He is usually photographed in overalls, his bald head stripping his persona down to essential details. In paintings like “Fall of Eden,” he comments upon technology and its effect on humanity. He notes that “tech was supposed to make our lives easier, yet not unlike the dogmatics of organized religion, it now somehow owns us and our every waking — and sleeping — moments. The Apple is a double entendre, of course referring to both Eden and our other god, Steve Jobs.” Apples are painted realistically, in order to grab the eye and make us reflect on the hold that toys of that name have on us,

Time and memory influence the works of Hipsher in a beautiful, excited and complete manner that biographer Michaela Mullin compared to the lyrics of Stevie Wonder “signed, sealed, delivered, I’m yours.” Hipsher works on large canvasses that reveal “ongoingness and undoing of shape and forming — its constant negotiation between creation and decreation.” Always working large, he layers his paintings into new colors and forms with his own three-dimensional tools, such as a handle-less paint roller. Mullin labels them as “portraits of hauntings, past and present, good and bad — portraits as homage and place — flashbacks that



“Rainbow” by Chuck Hipsher

make the future as bright as solar and lunar orbs and as tactile as velvet.”

Hipsher is interested in the gesture or movement involved in the act of creating his artworks. His mind and mood drive the process from start to finish — determining color, scale, composition and, ultimately, the finished state. He believes nothing is precious, that all is subject to change and depends on state of mind during the development. His abstract paintings indicate tension between motion and rest with a vibrancy of color and stroke.

Mullin sees an influence in Hipsher’s abstract paintings by Nebraska-raised photographer/experimenter Harold Edgerton.

“One might remember the milk drop or the bullet through the apple — scientific explorations of visibility, or of the capturing of rupturings — slowing speed for consumption at a point of impact.”

David Bowie is also an influence on Hipsher who first heard the singer in a children’s home at age 5 and said that it instantly changed him “like a color wheel gone beautifully crazy, form almost guitar-like handles and bodies in the center of the canvas.”

TOUT

These are the last two weeks to see “Claes Oldenburg: Giants, Miniatures and Desserts” at the Des Moines Art Center. It will play through Oct. 17. ■

IOWA ARTISTS



"Cheers Des Moines" is one of Schuh's more well-known murals. Photo submitted

Ben Schuh

Des Moines artist is painting the city.

BY JACKIE WILSON

Take a drive in central Iowa and look at the sides of large buildings. What used to be drab, gray concrete and brick has exploded with dozens of colorful art murals, courtesy of artist Ben Schuh.

Schuh is an artist who is known for "painting the city" and was named CITYVIEW's best local artist.

Schuh credits his becoming an artist to one of his Grand View University professors, Dennis Kaven. Schuh originally attended college to become an engineer, as he excelled at math, but his brother questioned why. He suggested graphic design and arts instead, but Schuh hadn't painted anything since sixth grade.

"If I hadn't met Dennis, I wouldn't have been an artist or even tried. He was the mastermind in teaching me. He was brilliant," recalls Schuh. "I owe my career to Dennis."

One of Schuh's first mural successes was at the Iowa State Fair. Folks in Beaverdale contacted him to bid on a project, incorporating the elements of Beaverdale's history.

Before he paints the side of a building, he sketches out a rendering of what the mural will look like. He takes clients' concepts, incorporating his ideas into the painting.

"As long as I don't compromise my ethics or copy work, I'll take their suggestions and do what I want," he says. "I like to challenge myself."

He's become adept at reaching tall structures by using several lifts.

"With Firetrucker Brewery, I had to lift over a fence to get to the wall. I have access to walls others can't get to," he explains.

He pays attention to the weather forecast. Most paints have at least an hour post dry time to be weather resistant. Occasionally he'll have an assistant — his wife, Morgan.

"She's not an artist, but she is skilled at paint by number," he says.

Being an artist is a competitive career, which is why he strives to look past comparisons to other artists.

"I wasn't jealous but started to question my work. A colleague suggested I put on blinders — to do your work and don't pay attention to those around you," he says.



Ben Schuh is the local artist known for "painting the city." His work includes the mural in Oak Park and others in the Des Moines area. Photo submitted

"Art is subjective. It's their option if someone says they don't like it."

Schuh began as an emerging artist at the Des Moines Arts Festival and has displayed his work for nine years. He feels art in Des Moines is attainable.

"People say you can't make a living as an artist in Des Moines. I laugh," he says.

Schuh's friends, Tony and Megan, owned six of his paintings, then their various family members eventually owned one, too.

By working outside, he encounters the public, which he embraces. When he painted the Exile Brewing building, a homeless shelter was close by.

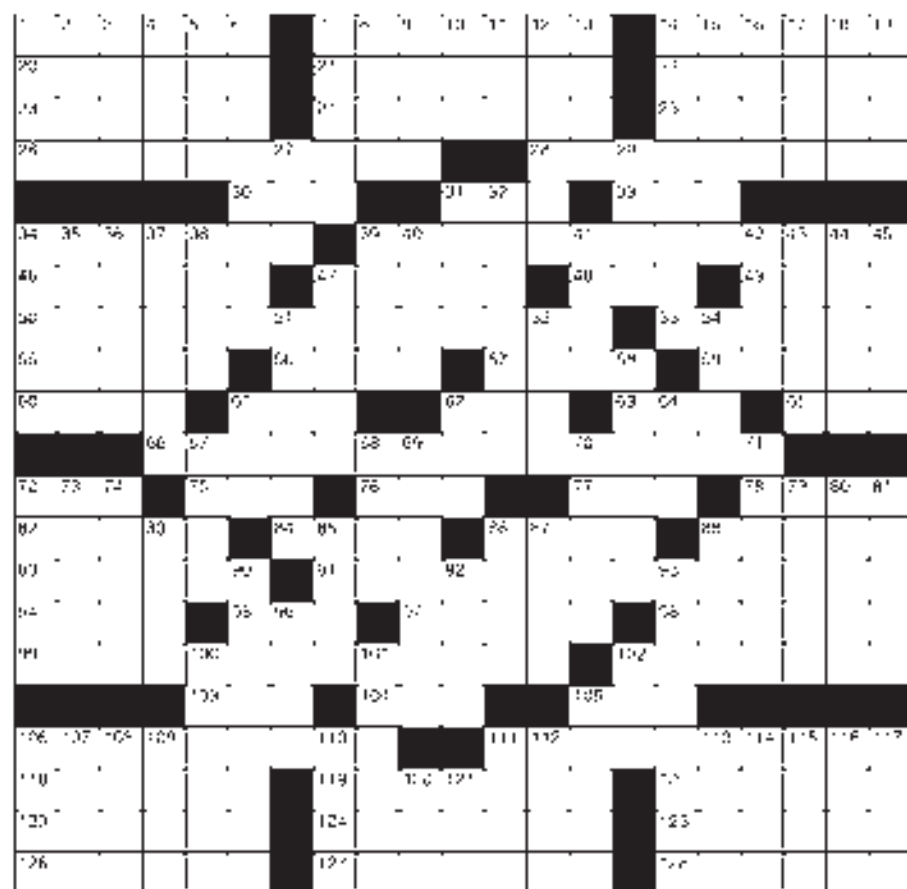
"I went out of my way to talk to people," he says. "Art is readily accessible to anyone. That's what I like about art. Anyone can engage and react to public art."

Find Ben Schuh's artwork at Mainframe Studios or on a building near you. ■

PUZZLES

Find answers at www.dmcityview.com/the-games

OPENING FROM PAUL



ACROSS

- 1 Prickly plant
- 7 Seaport in Argentina
- 14 Aim high
- 20 Musician using reeds
- 21 The Who's "The Kids Are --"
- 22 "Frozen" studio
- 23 Less pudgy
- 24 Bertie created by Wodehouse
- 25 Piddling
- 26 Like adults
- 28 "Oops, I'm at fault here"
- 30 -- Angeles
- 31 -- Paulo, Brazil
- 33 Hairy "Addams Family" cousin
- 34 Locker-room motivator
- 39 Is distressed over
- 46 Declare
- 47 Opposite of 60-Across, in France
- 48 Pantry insect
- 49 Java holders
- 50 Looked like
- 53 Ontario metropolis
- 55 Loses control
- 56 Baba au -- (alcoholic cake)
- 57 Sportscaster Albert
- 59 Declare
- 60 Direction of sunrise
- 61 Crack pitcher
- 62 Explosive stuff
- 63 Actor Holm
- 65 NYT staffers
- 66 "You think I didn't already know that?"
- 72 Put down, to a hip-hopper
- 75 Hoppy brew
- 76 Ltd., in the U.S.
- 77 U.S. spy gp.
- 78 Gelatin in petri dishes
- 82 Put into effect
- 84 By -- of (due to)
- 86 Sturdy -- oak
- 88 Geography class spinner
- 89 Like the sky's color
- 91 A long time from now
- 94 Sound off
- 95 Sendai sash
- 97 Former U.N. chief Kofi
- 98 Last Greek letters
- 99 Popular Christmas hymn
- 102 Paramount
- 103 Suffix for hexa-
- 104 Canonized Mlle.
- 105 Note below la
- 106 Title song lyric followed by the first words of seven answers in this puzzle
- 111 Group that had a #1 hit with 106-Across
- 118 Be a pilot
- 119 Gory film
- 122 Most parched
- 123 Small finger
- 124 Exit ramp
- 125 Restlessness
- 126 Precipitates pellets
- 127 Brings in from abroad
- 128 Human
- 8 Baseball's Matty or Felipe
- 9 Stage object
- 10 Fleur-de--
- 11 T-man, e.g.
- 12 Organized crime
- 13 "Give it --"
- 14 Owns, as an error
- 15 Noon nap
- 16 Exam for jrs.
- 17 Actress Swenson
- 18 Smell terrible
- 19 Bronte's Jane
- 27 Stir-fry pan
- 29 Outward appearance
- 31 Passable
- 32 Fall seasons
- 34 Out of style
- 35 Justice Kagan
- 36 Entreaties
- 37 Seduces
- 38 Gets older
- 39 Ballet skirt
- 40 Diane who hosted a longtime NPR show
- 41 Actor Bert
- 42 Ram into
- 43 Sound off
- 44 Not married
- 45 Pre-Soviet rulers
- 47 Actor Milo
- 51 Formed an upward curve
- 52 Airport part
- 54 Ditty
- 58 Brand of eye drops
- 61 Hole tool
- 62 Mom's forte, for short
- 64 Alicia of "Falcon Crest"
- 67 Stable feed
- 68 Fey of "Date Night"
- 69 Contest hopeful
- 70 Investor Carl
- 71 Journalist Cronkite
- 72 Messing of "Will & Grace"
- 73 Relative via marriage
- 74 Spa hot spot
- 79 Extort from
- 80 The "A" of James A. Garfield
- 81 Shortstop Pee Wee
- 83 Large town
- 85 "Correct me -- wrong"
- 86 Comic Meara
- 87 Asterisk
- 88 Forrest played by Tom Hanks
- 90 Toasted people, e.g.
- 92 Playwright William
- 93 Bungled
- 96 Nuptial ring
- 100 "OK already!"
- 101 Safe place
- 102 Weep
- 105 Feudal workers
- 106 Flaps one's gums
- 107 Demonic
- 108 Trig topic
- 109 Grab hold of
- 110 Italian wine town
- 111 Marvel hero
- 112 Lift to test the weight of
- 113 Obama cabineteer Duncan
- 114 Arena level
- 115 Meadows
- 116 Gas brand in Canada
- 117 Anna of "Nana"
- 120 Dada artist Jean
- 121 -- cone

DOWN

- 1 Pepsi, e.g.
- 2 Cain's sibling
- 3 Fuel that can get shoveled
- 4 Crystal-hitting sound
- 5 Exploiter
- 6 Sauntered
- 7 Grassy yards



"Today, you're in. It's go time for me."

SCRAMBLERS

Take a number from the word and use it to scramble the letters. Then rearrange the letters to form the right answer, which will reveal the grid.

OWNED

CHESS

DICE

THAT

RACED

WAS

DOWNER

TODAY'S WORD

SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes so each row, column and 3x3 square contains the numbers 1 through 9.

DIFFICULTY: ♦

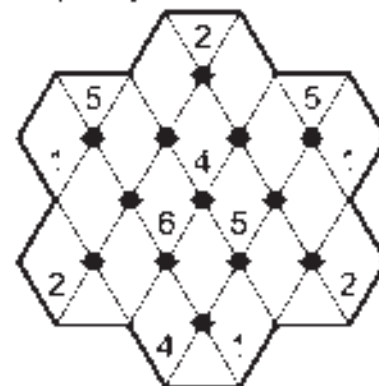
♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HARD BOY

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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

© 2010 Linda Thistle

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!

	-		x		25
÷		x		x	
	x		+		22
x		-		+	
	+		x		16
28		26		22	

1 2 2 3 4 5 7 8 9

© 2010 Linda Thistle

WHAT THE...

Think you're funny?

Send us your best caption...

Email to celeste@dmcityview.com — **BE SURE TO INCLUDE YOUR NAME**

Next month's photo:



This month's winner

"The wily tortoise was allowed to choose the race course for the rematch, but the hare proved up to the task this time."

Mark Alvord



Runners-up

"Missed a big wave by a 'hare.' Darn!"

Mary Wedewer

"You've heard of Peter Rabbit...meet Paddle Rabbit."

Scott Davis

"There goes Peter Cottontail... floating down the water trail..."

John Gray

"A rare pic of the Wells Blue Bunny enjoying a day off at Saylorville Lake this summer."

Jim McCool

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

Courtesy of Beaverdale Books

'A Spindle Splintered'

If you've been following along, you'll have likely caught on to my addiction to fairy tales, myths, timeless stories of all varieties. So it'll be no surprise to hear I've fallen head over heels for this gorgeous, deliciously subversive retelling of Sleeping Beauty.

Zinnia's life revolves around three things: she is sick, there's no cure, and death is her only future. She works hard to keep her distance from living, and her efforts result in an obsession with folklore — Sleeping Beauty in particular. As she gets closer to the foregone conclusion of her short life, she is given a chance to change her story and that of others just like her. Her unlikely adventure changes her views of fate, hope and happily ever after.

I'm officially an Alix Harrow fangirl, at this point. I just can't get enough of her wry humor and knife-sharp turns of phrase. There are so many sentences in these short 128 pages that wrecked me with helpless awe, it's a wonder I made it through the book at all. I can't wait for the sequel to break me all over again. ■ — *Review by Julie Goodrich*



By Alix Harrow
Oct. 5, 2021
\$17.99
128 pages
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'Nothing But Blackened Teeth'

Halloween starts earlier every year, but I just can't get in the mood until I read something that chills me far more than the autumn weather. Luckily, this gorgeously spooky novella found me at just the right time to tingle my spine.

A destination wedding in Japan has a few extra layers as a group of friends meets in a notorious mansion. The creepy story of a woman buried alive in the foundation is actually a feature for the bride-to-be, as she has a yen for magic, mystery and ghosts. The group gets a bit more than they bargained for, however, as they taunt both the ghosts and each other to horrifying ends.

Khaw's brilliant, sharp writing makes what could be a flat copy of "Hill House" into something so much stranger and starkly beautiful. This is a modern story for a clever audience that still feels timeless and real. It's unsettling but also funny and deeply creepy. It is highly recommended for anyone bored with the usual horror offerings. ■

— *Review by Julie Goodrich*



By Cassandra Khaw
Oct. 19, 2021
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JOE'S NEIGHBORHOOD

BY JOE WEEG

Bolinhas and thongs

My wife and I have major parts of our bodies that have never seen the light of day.

The endless white sand beaches of southern Portugal are baked in bright sun, sprinkled with salty air, and filled with thousands of people up and down the coastline. Families, teenagers, the very old and the very young.

And us.

We are so not beach people. Coming from Northern European stock, my wife and I have major parts of our bodies that have never seen the light of day. We don't quite bathe in our long underwear, but if the sun does hit a patch of my wife's skin, the choice of colors are red or bright red.

So we come to the beach with hats, sunglasses, long-sleeved sun shirts, umbrellas, SPF 1000 sunscreen, and large beach towels wrapped around our legs. Eye-catching.

Whereas everyone else comes to the Portugal beaches with, you guessed it, a thong.

Yup, a thin piece of cloth that seems, at most, an afterthought. And I mean "everyone." OK, not the men, but every adult woman, regardless of age and regardless of any preconceived notions of the "proper" size or shape, wears a thong.

I'm not really sure how to think about it. On the one hand, my traditional religious upbringing tells me to look politely away because they obviously left the house forgetting to put on their pants. On the other hand, my old-man sensibilities are that life is short, the body is beautiful, the less clothes the better — "let freedom ring."

And I get what's going on. The heat and the bright sun and the sand and the water all whisper in your ear that there should be no barrier between you and the elements. I remember my oldest boy when he was a child and first saw Lake Michigan. He ran ahead of us, down the sand dune, screaming with delight and shedding clothes all the way to the water, where he stood as naked as Adam and Eve in the Garden.

It just makes sense ... as I adjust my long underwear and peek out from under our umbrella at the people having fun.

My rumination ends, however, when I hear a sing-song shout over the beach crowd:

"BOLINHAS! BOLINHAS!
BOLINNNNNNNNNHAS!"

Given my carny relations, I recognize the bark of a vendor anywhere in the world.

"BOLINNNNNNNNNHAS!"

And in case you missed what was occurring with the sing-song shouts, the bolinhas man pumps the bulb on a horn straight from Harpo Marx.

"Honk, honk, hoooooonk."

My 2-year-old granddaughter and I are sold. We wave



to the man.

Two baskets are strapped over his shoulders. He gestures to donut custard delights on one side or donut Nutella delights on the other. Bolinhas!

We buy both kinds.



My granddaughter heartily bites into a creme-filled donut the size of her head. Custard gushes out and smears her face. Who cares about a mess when the ocean is steps away? Mine tastes of the sand on my face and the ocean salt in my mouth and deliciousness.

Ahhhhhhhhhhhh.

What is going on? Donuts on the beach?

Yup.

And like all wondrous thing, this donut has a twisting path. According to Etienne Roeder, writing

for Deutschlandfunk Kultur (and translated by Google Translate), it all began in the 1930s when Jews were fleeing the Nazis and finding some kind of refuge in Portugal. A Jewish woman began baking and selling a popular Berlin donut as a way to survive without a work permit. This fried, hole-less donut was filled with jam. When the filling switched to an egg-based yellow cream (creme pastelero) to accommodate the Portuguese passion for custard, it became a hit.

I worked at a bakery in Iowa City when I was young, where we sold this same donut as bismarcks (a variation on the original German donut called a berliner). When left alone in the bakery at 3 a.m., I would deep-fat fry the bismarck dough, pump the inside with twice the usual amount of custard, and sit on a box eating a bit of paradise.

Heaven.

So each day we drive from our home in the hills to the white-sand beaches. We park and trek across the wooden boardwalks above cactus, scurrying crabs and long grasses. At the sand, we slip out of our shoes and begin to look for a spot among the hundreds of beach umbrellas. And it is then, if we listen closely, we hear a cry softly floating on the wind.

"Bolinhas!"

"Do I hear somethin'?" My granddaughter excitedly shakes her grandma's and grandpa's hands.

"I think so," I say.

We strip off our towels, hats, sunglasses, sun shirts and race to get our first donut of the day.

At last.

Custard sticks to my face. My eyes are slightly glazed. And my belly is transforming into a bolinha.

Hmmm ... I wonder if we could race to the bolinhas man more quickly in a thong? ■

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.



CENTER STAGE

Romantic comedy by Des Moines Playhouse beckons the Greek gods

“Escaping the Labyrinth” makes its official stage debut.

BY JOHN BUSBEE

The road to presenting a world premiere has as many twists and turns as a global journey to the Temple of Apollo. The paths of the playwright, Thomas Hischak, and the presenting producer, Des Moines Community Playhouse, converge this month when “Escaping the Labyrinth” makes its official stage debut.

“Playwrighting starts with a germinal idea,” shares creator Thomas Hischak. “I was in Greece teaching and directing, visiting several (historic) sites when not working. I went to Delphi. There was something mystical about it. You could almost feel like the Greek gods are still up there...that’s where it (‘Escaping the Labyrinth’) started.”

This premiere seems to have the blessing of the gods in how the partnership converged in Des Moines. One playwright, one theater, one catalytic organization. Thomas Hischak is a prolific, respected playwright. The Playhouse is nationally praised, and one of America’s longest continually running community theaters. The American Association of Community Theatre’s NewPlayFest provides the framework. Winning scripts are produced by selected theaters in the AACT membership, giving the play nationwide promotion. The winning plays are published in an anthology by Dramatic Publishing Company. This biennial program, launched in 2014, does what few others do: provide playwrights viable opportunities to have their plays produced. This is the Playhouse’s inaugural time as a NewPlayFest presenter, and I hope it will not be the last as this exceptional community theater project continues.

Hischak, whose play “The Emperor of North America” was a 2016 NewPlayFest selection, is especially connected to this year’s winner.

“I’ve always loved mythology. So, I asked what if the gods were among us, and a human fell in love with one, and the complications that would create.

“Building a play around this premise that the gods are still around, that they are hidden and blend into the fabric of society, and they have for over 2,000 years” triggered a marvelously creative thread for “Escaping the Labyrinth.” “What would happen with this man, this scholar of Greek literature and art, and he discovered this. How would it change his life?”

“Escaping the Labyrinth” is a romantic comedy with fantasy infusions as its protagonist, Bud Schlieman, starts his time-jumping adventures during a Greek tour in 1951. A chance encounter with Hermes, who unintentionally reveals his divine identity, begins his



“Escaping the Labyrinth” makes its world premiere at the Des Moines Community Playhouse. Photo Credit: Des Moines Community Playhouse

quest to find others. When he meets and falls for a waitress, who is Artemis, she runs, he pursues, until the impassioned crusade comes full circle where it began.

“The play starts in Delphi and ends there 50 years later,” adds Hischak. “The Greek gods are probably still around today. People just don’t believe in them. They are immortal. This theme comes up in literature often.”

Thankfully for Des Moines audiences, this theme is delightfully and playfully woven into “Escaping the Labyrinth.”

Des Moines playwright also has work selected for NewPlayFest

Karen Schaeffer is a Des Moines-based playwright and actress. She premiered one of her plays at the Playhouse (“Girls’ Weekend”), and she has had her plays produced in the United States, Canada and Germany. She produced a winner for the recent round NewPlayFest

OVERHEARD IN THE LOBBY

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

- Ankeny Community Theatre – www.ankenycitycommunitytheatre.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

submissions, “Unpacking Mother.” It will be produced early in 2022 at the Market House Theatre in Paducah, Kentucky. Don’t be surprised if another of Schaeffer’s plays ends up on the Playhouse stage sometime in the future. ■

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



DES MOINES UNFORGOTTEN

The Shuler Mines

Waukee was once a “company town.”

BY KRISTIAN DAY

I have been spending time lately in Bentonville, Arkansas (seven days a month since July to be exact). Many scholars of useless information will tell you about Bentonville being the mecca of the retail universe. I'll save you the time of Googling and tell you it was the birthplace of Walmart.

Bentonville is a company town. There are no grocery stores other than Walgreens. A museum in the town square was the original Walton 5-10 where you can order \$2 ice cream cones in a variety of flavors, all inspired by Walmart. There is even a high-end social place called The Walton Club. “Stepford” immediately comes to mind. This, my dear friends, is a company town.

Iowa has had its share of company towns, too, some that prospered and others that relied too heavily on a large single employer that was “too big to fail.” Webster City, Forest City and Newton may come to mind. Maybe surprisingly, Waukee was also once a company town. The Shuler Mines once roared life into this small town. They were run by the The Shuler Mine Company based out of Des Moines. The company had mines in Lovilia, Iowa; Alpha, Illinois; and Steamboat Springs, Colorado. The Waukee mines opened in late 1920 and would grow to be the largest coal producer in Iowa with the deepest mine shaft — 387 feet into the earth.

The Shuler Mines were such a huge employer that they built camps for their employees that included strips of homes with a public school, a tavern and a general store. Bruno Andreini was a child when his father was working in the mines. Bruno is now 81 and one of the few “children of the mines” remaining.

“My dad worked in the mines from the very first day in 1921 until it finally closed in 1948,” Bruno said. “It was a very simple life. We were poor but also rich in a lot of ways.”

Bruno was not allowed to explore the mines with his father, as his mother thought it was too dangerous. Looking back, he wishes he would have. I found a publication on The Shuler Coal Mines from the Waukee Public Library that mentions, “The miner’s wife had their share of worrying about her husband’s health. She was concerned about her husband just returning home at night.” I guess the last thing the Andreini mother needed was worrying about her child coming home, too.

The camps had a nickname: “Stringtown.” At their peak, they functioned like a village of their own next to



The Shuler family. Image provided by Darlene Oliver from her self-published book “The Shuler Coal Mine.”



A Miner and his Young Son. Image provided by Darlene Oliver from her self-published book “The Shuler Coal Mine.”

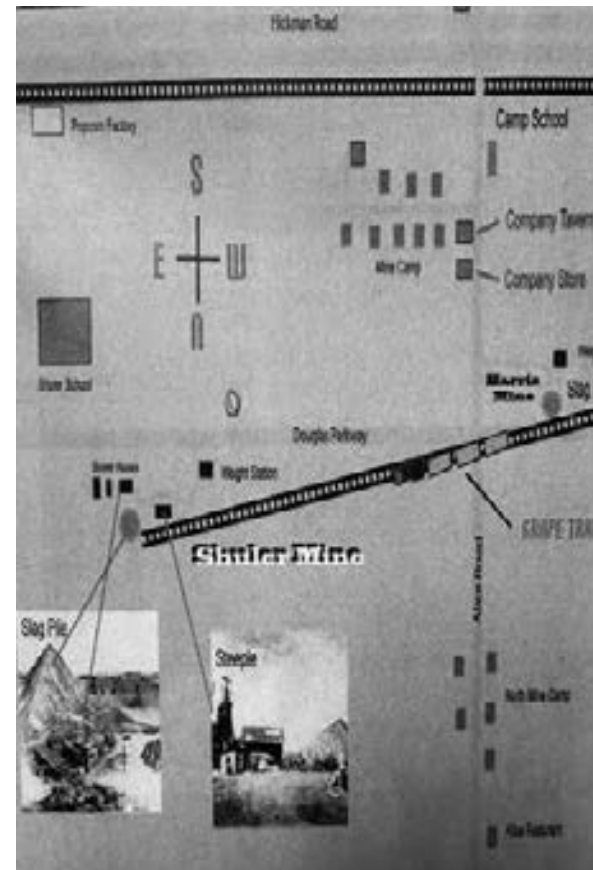
Waukee proper.

“We even had the Shuler Coal Baseball team with some pretty good players,” Bruno said. “We really socialized like a town.”

Bruno remembers having a hand-cranked magneto telephone and a line shared by 13 other families. If they weren’t careful, anyone from those families could pick up the phone and listen in on the conversation. None of the of homes in “Stringtown” had a working shower, but instead had tubs that were 3 feet in diameter. Many of the residents would walk a half-mile from their homes to the mines where there were facilities to take a real shower.

The Shuler Coal Mines didn’t end in an abrupt manner like some did. You may have seen the movie “Nomadland” or read the book of the same name. When the gypsum mine closed in Empire, Nevada, the town was abandoned and lost its zip code. All mines, by design, will eventually close.

“By the time the mines closed in 1949, many guys



Map of the Shuler Mining Camp. Image provided by Darlene Oliver from her self-published book “The Shuler Coal Mine.”

like my dad had made it to retirement age,” Bruno remembers. “The town really didn’t suffer much. Some people moved away to mine in other towns, but others were ready to be done. That’s good planning.”

The homes of Stringtown are now gone, and all that is left is a name on a sign called “Stringtown RD.”

The Waukee Public Library has a small museum dedicated to the Shuler Mines, and an elementary school carries the same name. Bruno and a few others of his age continue to share these firsthand stories.

There is a lot to be said about folks who faced hardships due to their career moves. Not everyone had choices in those days. Bruno says he was fortunate that he didn’t lose his own father to the mines like so many did.

“Life was really hard,” Bruno said, “and not that I always want to admit it, but it made us who we are today.” ■

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.



CARS IN THE CITY

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



The 2021 RAM 1500 Laramie Crew Cab is loaded with features.

Ram truck

This full-size pickup is Motortrend Truck of the Year three times in a row.

BY JACKIE WILSON

Vehicle consumers are fanatical about pickup trucks. The top three best-selling vehicles in 2021 in the U.S. are all full-size pickup trucks. I had to see what the hype was, so I drove the No. 2 best seller — a RAM pickup truck.

RAM, formerly known as a Dodge Ram, switched its name to RAM standalone to focus on their other Dodge vehicles. RAM was named Motortrend Truck of the Year three times in a row starting in 2019.

The 2021 RAM 1500 Laramie Crew Cab is a rugged, big and impressive 4x4. The first hurdle was tackling how to get in. Normally after opening the door, you simply slide into the seat. However, this was a climb for a short-legged gal, as there were no running boards underneath the driver's door. Putting one hand on the steering wheel and one on the seat, it was like skipping two stairs at a time. If I had a full cup of hot coffee in one hand, my purse in another, while wearing a skirt, it would provide free and messy entertainment for bystanders watching the show.

Once inside, these trucks accommodate large and tall folks easily. The salesperson showed me various

knobs on the infotainment panel and power roofs, and we pushed buttons like crazy. I remember when all you had to do was find the knob to turn up or down the temperature and crank the radio station.

RAM understands and admits that many new drivers have a fear of not knowing how to use all the features. They designed an app that brings up videos and tutorials on how to use all the features. It's fairly user friendly, and your passenger can look up how to use the multi-touch screen, which you can zoom, drag or scroll with your finger.

As I'm not too adept at backing up, I thought I'd back into a driveway using the Park Sense camera only. As I pushed the Rear Park assist button and put it in reverse, my screen was flashing "BRAKE" in yellow and stopped the truck. What was I running into? I looked back and saw nothing but concrete. A second attempt yielded another brake warning.

I jumped out and saw the lift gate was down. The backup camera must have detected it. Amidst all that button pushing, I must have lowered it accidentally.

If you're not used to a pickup truck, this one has



power, including a 11,269-pound towing capacity. Sitting so far up off the ground, I felt I could squash the tiny electric two-door cars. Yet I felt safe. If I went down a muddy ditch, I'm confident I could put it in four-wheel drive and climb out with ease.

Two built-in cooler/storage areas in the backseat floor provide ample room for cold beverages. A three-prong 115 volt outlet in the RamBox means you can plug in heavy power tools.

With all the safety features and power, the RAM is a solid ride, as long as you know which buttons to push. ■

NEIGHBORS



KNOCK, KNOCK... BOO!!!

"Warning! Zombie parking only. Violators will be eaten."

BY JEFF PITTS

Some kind of crazy crime scene grabs the attention of the October passersby in front of the brick home in Beaverdale. Hacked-off body parts are strewn alongside many other signs of spookiness. A casket is situated near a coffin, and both are arranged near a life-sized werewolf. This moon-howling beast serves to accentuate a different oversized monstrosity... a menacing horse ridden by a decapitated man. The horseman having lost his head probably explains why he parked his stead in this particular lawn, even though a plainly-posted sign states: "Warning! Zombie parking only. Violators will be eaten."

Maybe the skull sitting on the ground is his, maybe not, but either way, neither the head nor the horseman appear overly concerned about paying the rather excessive parking violation.

Many other creepy details also adorn the inside and the outside of Shannon Sole and Joe Moser's home. Now that October's autumn chill has set in, neighborhood pedestrians frequently crane their necks to ogle.

The whole exhibition started simply enough. In the beginning, Sole's Halloween decorating consisted of a small, makeshift graveyard with only a few tombstones.

"Then, in true type A fashion, it's grown every year," explains Sole. "Much to my husband's chagrin."

The spectacle may be driven by Sole's passion, but, truth be told, Moser contributes plenty. His handyman skills are instrumental, and Sole says that without his help, much of the construction would not be possible.

"He's the muscles," she laughs.

Sole is originally from Cedar Rapids, and her husband, Moser, was raised in Sioux City, but the couple considers Des Moines home. They are both attorneys and moved to their current residence in 2015.

Prior to living in central Iowa, Sole didn't know of the Beggars Night tradition. Now she enjoys laughing at the jokes and seeing kids in costumes while sharing a good scare with anyone who is willing. Together, this husband-and-wife duo teams up for that purpose, too. While the wife doles out candy to unsuspecting trick-or-treaters, the husband seizes the opportunity to sneak around to the backside of his distracted prey. Then, at precisely the right instant, he pops out unannounced to accomplish shrieks of terror. Moser has also been known to play dead in one of the coffins while dressed as a skeleton, and this technique serves to gain the requisite surprise-factor to elicit the biggest screams.

"Not to the kids that are too little," she assures.

Beaverdale is famous for collectively decorating for Christmas. Now, many of Sole's neighbors have followed her Halloween-decorating lead, and she hopes



The spooky scene in front of Shannon Sole's home gets the attention of trick-or-treaters, but the candy sometimes comes at the cost of a scream, courtesy of her husband, Joe Moser. Photos submitted

more will continue to join.

"There seems to be a lot of enthusiasm," she says.

Still, just like everything else in 2020, last year's Halloween activities were slowed by COVID-19 precautions, but Sole made the most of it.

"We ended up doing a candy shoot," she says, describing a giant PVC makeshift candy delivering mechanism that slides candy into the greedy hands of little ghosts, goblins and various other pretend creeps, while still allowing for social distancing. "We'll probably do that again."

Sole also plans to unveil a zombie wedding theme this year. She'll be adding a wedding arch along with a gruesome twosome looking for love in all the starving parking spaces.

"We get a lot of traffic on Beggars Night," she says. "It's a really fun night." ■

PEOPLE & PETS

Hekla the Icelandic horse

Owner Shae Cleveland says her horse is her best friend.

BY JACKIE WILSON

As Shae Cleveland leads Hekla from the stable to outside, she admits that her horse is probably bored. Hekla can be moody and is happiest while being ridden by her owner.

Cleveland obtained Hekla three years ago from a farm in Virginia. The horse is originally from Iceland and arrived microchipped, with a freeze-brand number emblazoned on her back. The name Hekla comes from an active volcano in Iceland.

Icelandic horses are not a common breed in the U.S. They are unique and differ from a typical American horse. They are shorter in stature, nearly pony size — about 14 hands, but Hekla is a bit taller than other Icelandics.

A second difference is their gait, or how they walk. “Most normal horses gallop,” Cleveland explains. “Hekla has a ‘tolt;’ it’s a combination of a walk and trot.”

Shae rode horses at youth camps and also became interested in horses, as her mom, Laurie Cleveland, had her own draft horse. Cleveland took riding lessons at Irish Run Farms, where she also boards her horse. She says horses are better than other pets.

“I’m not a fan of dogs,” she says. “You get to do things with a horse; you can ride them.”

Hekla is partial to Cleveland, and it often shows up in various ways at the stable.

“Hekla has other horse friends,” says Cleveland. “She’ll get ‘barn sour’ when she doesn’t want to leave her friends and acts up. If she ever dumped me, she’d come back here (to her stable).”

Most of the time, Hekla is smooth to ride and understands Cleveland’s personality.

“I’m vision impaired, and it doesn’t stop me from doing anything,” she says. “She is my best friend. Horses feel what you’re feeling, and they can sense when you’re depressed. She’s like a big dog, and she’ll come over to you and help make you feel better.”

Both Cleveland and her mother help at Irish Run Farms five nights a week, visiting and watering the horses, performing nightly checks, and, of course, looking in on Hekla.

Irish Run Farms is located right off the Waterworks Trail in Water Works Park. Many bikers and walkers



Shae Cleveland and her Icelandic horse named Hekla. Icelandic horses are not common in the U.S. and are generally shorter than most horses here, but Hekla is taller than other Icelandics.

stop to pet horses or take selfies. However, Cleveland cautions against getting too friendly with the horses. “You don’t know their temperament and shouldn’t feed them. They could be on a special diet,” she suggests.

Cleveland rides as much as she can when she’s not attending culinary school.

“I ride her to keep her weight down. If I don’t ride her, she’ll go bonkers,” she says. “She makes my day happy.” ■



COLLECTIONS & HOBBIES

Giant pumpkins

Two local gourd growers plan to smash the world record.

BY JEFF PITTS

Jaws dropped at this year's Iowa State Fair when Don Young and his son-in-law, Tommy Rhodes, arrived at the Big Pumpkin Contest. Their entry needed a forklift to hoist it onto the scale, and the monstrosity topped out at 915 pounds.

This green-thumbed duo won first place and banked a \$1,850 prize, but now it's on to bigger and better pumpkins.

Iowa's limited growing season isn't ideal for pumpkin growing, but that didn't stop Young from once setting the world's heaviest pumpkin record — he did so in 2009 and was featured on *The Tonight Show* with Conan O'Brien where a monster truck jumped a curb in order to land smack dab on top of it — and it hasn't stopped him from having two still-growing pumpkins that dwarf his own Fair-winning entry. He'll soon harvest these monsters, too.

"We brought the little ones to the Fair," he says. The bigger ones will be officially weighed soon, but he doesn't expect to reclaim his world record, at least not this year.

"The current world record is 2,624 pounds," Young rattles off the number without having to think. "We'd like to go 3,000."

"We're learning a lot this first year," he continues, pointing to a sprawling backyard setup. "Next year?" he shakes his head. "Watch out."

This isn't Young's first rodeo. He has won 12 Iowa State Fair Big Pumpkin championships, and for two decades or so, he has grown, bred and innovated a line of world-renowned pumpkin seeds known as "Atlantic Giants." These efforts have generated seeds that have gone on to produce championship pumpkins around the nation. But Young's pumpkin-growing operation kicked up significantly two years ago when Rhodes joined the operation. Since then, the duo has constructed a 70-plus-foot greenhouse that is exclusively dedicated to a handful of pumpkins per season. The monstrosity takes up most of Young's backyard, and it is equipped with a complex irrigation system that is attached to the gutters on the garage to funnel rainwater off the house and into rain barrels to be used at a later date.

"Rain water is the best," explains Rhodes. "This all gets real scientific."

Humidity is the enemy of pumpkins, yet they need moisture; the air temperature needs to be warm, yet it can't be too hot.



Don Young and his son-in-law Tommy Rhodes grow giant pumpkins in an impressive backyard setup that includes a 70-plus-foot greenhouse, a complex irrigation system and an elaborate climate-control setup involving more than a dozen fans attached to underground piping.

Since Iowa summers generally offer a lot of hot and humid days, Young and Rhodes have engineered a system of more than a dozen high-powered fans attached to 4- to 6-inch corrugated tubing that they buried 12 feet or more underground. The fans pull the underground air up through the tubing, circulating very dry air that is just about the perfect pumpkin-growing temperature.

"It's all a poor-man's system," says Young. "We did it all ourselves."

Young and Rhodes picked up most of the costly equipment for either pennies on the dollar or else they engineered makeshift alternatives for a fraction of what

it would cost others.

"It's never ending," Rhodes says, shaking his head and smiling while scanning the backyard scene. There are pallets upon pallets of peat moss and potting soil scattered about, as well as tubing and tent-like structures and water piping.

If you want to see this year's payoff, visit the 2500 block of East 24th Street in Des Moines, starting in mid October. Rhodes and Young will have the biggest of this year's giant pumpkins on display in Rhodes' front yard for Halloween. But any would-be hooligans ought not entertain dreams of an epic pumpkin smash.

"They wouldn't be able to (lift it)," says Rhodes. ■

WALKS OF LIFE

BY JEFF PITTS

Professional knock-knock jokes

Four local comics share jokes for Beggars' Night.

Des Moines is just about the only place on Earth that boasts a Beggars' Night, but that just means we do Beggars' Night better than just about any place on the planet. Since our local Halloween tradition famously includes knock-knock jokes, CITYVIEW rounded up four local stand-up comedians who kindly shared a favorite knock-knock joke that is sure to get a chuckle.



GREG ROMANS

Family man... Funny guy... Financial guru?

"Dog biscuits and Snickers," that's the offerings at Greg Romans' residence. Presumably, the biscuits are for the pups and the Snickers for the joke-telling kids who make him snicker.

Romans works as a web designer, a photographer, a stand-up comedian, a comedy show promoter and as an actor. He is also a husband "to an amazing wife" and a father of two. He does not work as a financial planner, but if he were on the Halloween-candy trail this year, he might pretend to be.

"Knock, knock."

"Who's there?"

"We Are."

"We Are Who?"

"We Are Not In A Recession!"



SHANE SCHARER

Asking for just a little patience?

Shane Scharer will be handing out candy bars to incoming jokesters this year.

"I always loved the houses that handed out full-size candy bars," he remembers.

As such, he'll return the favor by offering the big ones as well.

By day, Scharer works for the state, but in his free time, he works for laughs as a stand-up comedian. Scharer is also a father and is married to "a very patient wife."

Some say patience is a virtue, but judging by Scharer's recommended Halloween joke, he has precious little of it.

"Knock, knock."

"Who's there?"

"Ice cream soda."

"Ice cream soda who?"

"Ice scream soda people can hear me!"



MATTHEW TWOMEY

Open-mic comic who also works in a call center

As a stand-up comic, Matthew Twomey offers metro audiences the gift of laughter, but this upcoming Beggars' Night, he has a different sort of smile inducer.

"Mini-candy bars," he says. "Probably \$100,000 Bars."

Historically, the Twomey household hasn't had many Halloween visitors, but that's OK with Twomey.

"If not, I'll just have to eat them myself," he explains.

On the other hand, letting go of his stash would be worth it, as long as the payment went something like this:

"Knock, knock."

"Who's there?"

"The," says the kid while doing a British accent.

"The Who?"

"No way, mate, we're The Rolling Stones."



MORGAN HART

Sweet but snarky

If and when Morgan Hart finds some adult free time, you can bet she'll be looking for a stage. This local stand-up-comedy performer has been entertaining for a decade or so, and if you ask her friends, she has "the perfect balance of sweet and snarky."

Take, for example, the offerings for trick-or-treaters at Hart's home this Halloween weekend.

"Reese's Peanut Butter Cups, Twix, chocolate-dipped razor blades for the bad kids, just kidding. I would never waste a razor on a child."

But there is nothing sweet about Hart's favorite knock-knock wisecrack that can take hearers a minute or two to sink in.

"Knock, knock."

"Who's there?"

"Smell Mop."

"Smell Mop Who?" ■



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