

WINTERSET

JANUARY 2025

Living

MAGAZINE

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WELCOME

MY BABY blue Mustang

It was a 1980 Ford Mustang. Baby blue in color. Hatchback. Four-cylinder engine. The car was nothing special, but it was my first car — and it was all mine.

I, of course, pulled the factory stereo out of it and installed a Pioneer cassette deck and Jensen speakers. A guy has to have priorities, after all.

My life savings went into the purchase of that vehicle. Insurance. Gas. Oil changes. All on my dime. I was OK with that, as it was part of my greater independence — and I was the only one with the keys.

The Mustang got me through my college years, despite one unfortunate incident. I am by no means a gearhead, but I had a cracked fuel line, and it seemed easy enough to replace. In the process, some gas leaked out of the old line onto the engine. No big deal, I thought.

I drove the Mustang to a local car wash, and my mother rode along with me. I put some coins in the machine and motioned Mom to drive the car into the wash bay. (I should note that this was the first — and only — time my mother drove any vehicle of mine.) Mom turned the ignition, and I immediately saw flames peeking out of every possible opening in the hood and below the car. I yelled to her to pop the hood. She turned the lights on, applied the parking brake and started the wipers, but the hood remained closed. As I frantically ran to the car, the paint on the hood started bubbling. I opened the driver-side door, popped the hood and put out the fire with the car wash wand I still had in my hand. What was left was a melted mess.

Dad had a friend who was a local mechanic and rewired everything and got my Mustang running again. The mechanic said he did his best on my limited budget, but he wasn't making any promises on how well it would run. And he was right to say that. The best gas mileage I got after the repairs was 4 mpg.

When I graduated from college, I traded the Mustang in on a new vehicle. The dealer put it on the used car lot, and a potential buyer called me and asked about it. "Do not buy that car," I told him. "It caught on fire and only does about 4 mpg." He kept asking questions, so I repeated my comments. I think he still bought the car.

We all learned some lessons after the car fire incident, but my Dad's comments stuck with me the most. "If you ever have a car start on fire again, let it burn."

Thanks for reading. ■

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An Unforgettable *RIDE*

Residents share the joy of their first car



By Rachel Harrington

What kids, strapped into the backseats of their parents' cars, gazing through the gaps between the front seats and watching the road ahead, don't think how great it will be when they are in the driver's seat? And not just any driver's seat, but the seat of their very own car. The power of the machine in their control. The freedom to choose the destination. The total control over the stereo. It's no wonder people's memories of their first auto stay vivid, and the stories remain a thrill to be told.

When Dale Thompson was 18, he found a 1947 Ford Business Coupe at a local dealership and bought it for \$35. Although he only drove it for a couple of years before entering the Army, he says he won't part with it.

A jet-black Charger

When Bryan Keltner was 17 years old and a junior in high school, he had already been saving his money for a new car for two or three years by baling hay.

“I had been interested in several other cars,” Keltner shares. “I thought about a 1967 Mustang, but my mom said it was too fast. There was also a Dodge Charger that my dad said he’d buy and have me pay him back, but my parents decided that I needed to buy my own first car.”

In 1988, a family friend in Missouri shared with him that he had a car for \$1,500, so Keltner and his dad traveled to purchase it and bring it home.

“It was a 1973 jet black Dodge Charger, and it was such a pretty car when I bought it,” he says. “It was so shiny that a woman could use it as a mirror to put on her makeup.”

Keltner says he drove the Charger regularly until about 20 years ago.

“When I was in the U.S. Air Force, I drove the Charger to Louisiana where I was stationed,” he shares. “Later, I was stationed in South Dakota and hauled it up there since, by



Bryan Keltner baled hay to earn money for his first car, a 1973 jet black Dodge Charger that he still owns.

that time, I also had a pickup truck. I moved back to Iowa 20 years ago, and that’s when I finally had a garage that I could park it in. It hasn’t been on the road since. Until I had a garage to put it in, the weather was harsh on it.”

The Charger needs a few repairs, including new paint and a new vinyl top but is in great shape otherwise, Keltner says. It still runs well and only has about 76,000 miles on it, which he says isn’t too bad for the age of the car. He says the repairs may cost up to \$40,000.

“Nothing about fixing up an old car is cheap, but with the prices of new cars these

days, that may not be too bad,” he remarks.

Keltner has held on to the Charger for many reasons.

“I like the size of it,” he says. “I like big cars with big hoods and trunks. I like the style of them. I also like the way they sound. It has dual glass packs on it and sounds pretty mean.”

Keltner says he won’t take the Charger out to drive until it has been fixed up. However, he does pull it out of the garage once a year to wash all the dust off, to crank it up to warm up the oil and gasoline in it, and to refresh what needs to be refreshed. He says he occasionally has people stop by, interested in purchasing it

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from him.

“The older I get, the less I want to give it up,” Keltner shares. “I’ve held on to it this long. Once it is fixed up, it will be a summertime, drive-around vehicle. Maybe I’ll take it to a parade every now and then.”

Passion for racing

As a young man in the 1950s, Gerry Yaeger was accustomed to seeing drag racing in the streets. Guys would pull up at a drive-in restaurant and honk their horns with the promise of a \$20 prize to the winner. Gerry caught the drag racing “bug” and bought his first race car in 1957.

“It was a 1956 Ford Thunderbird,” he shares.

It was a convertible, peacock blue in color with a removable white hard-shell top. Big car companies like Ford and Chevy were into the racing business then, he says. People were often divided into camps over which vehicle was best. He chose the Thunderbird because his family’s first few cars were Fords, and he stayed with them. Besides, they were usually considered the underdog, he says.

Yaeger started racing his T-Bird across the Midwest in 1958, and, in 1960, he won his class at the NHRA National Championship at Detroit Dragway in Detroit.

“It was interesting because the Thunderbird raced in a class with Corvettes. Corvettes had an advantage because they had more horsepower and were 600 pounds lighter,” he shares. “I got a lot of attention because I kept on beating Corvettes with a heavier build and weaker engine. Chevys were more popular and commonplace and racing a Ford against them was kind of unusual.”

He says the Thunderbird was unique in that it had one seat.

“It wasn’t meant to be a sports car. This model was only made for three years from 1955-1957. It was meant to be a personal car. Ford recently did a YouTube story on them.”

To win races in a car that wasn’t meant for racing, Yaeger had to make some changes to improve his chances.

“I did a lot of things that were kind of scientific to the Thunderbird,” he recalls. “Most of the cars of that era came with 4-speed transmissions, but mine was only a 3-speed. I turned that into an advantage. When I crossed the finish line, I was traveling at maximum



Tri State Championship 1959

One of the highlights of Gerry Yaeger’s racing career was winning the Tri-State Championship in 1959.



Gerry Yaeger caught the drag racing “bug” and bought his first race car, a 1956 Ford Thunderbird, in 1957.

miles per hour. The engineering I did on it allowed it to overcome the size and weight disadvantages and gave it more horsepower.”

His car also had an overdrive transmission which allowed him to shift into a higher gear while traveling at highway speeds.

Some of his favorite memories include the NHRA Nationals, which are still held in Indianapolis, and the Tri-State Championship in Ohio that included racers from Ohio, Indiana and West Virginia.

“It was good fun and fellowship with the guys that would go with me and race their cars,” Yaeger remembers. “It formed a community.”

Yaeger won more than 150 trophies with his Thunderbird, and he kept it for about 10 years. His success on the raceway launched him into a successful career operating a machine shop to create souped-up engines for race cars.

A \$35 two-seater

Dale Thompson, 79, has been a lifelong Madison County resident. When he was 18, he found a car he was interested in at the Plymouth dealership in Winterset. It was a 1947 Ford Business Coupe. He learned they wanted to get rid of it and would sell it to him for \$35. He considered it a fantastic deal, so he bought it and says it ran just fine. Thompson says the Business Coupe is different than a standard Coupe in that it has a shorter trunk, larger cab and hood, and no back seat. It only seats two people.

“That makes it kind of rare,” he says.

In 1966, Thompson was drafted into the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War.

“I had to drive the car to California where I was stationed,” he recalls. “It took my wife and I two days and two nights of non-stop driving. I got stopped in three different states for going

too slow. I was driving 55 miles per hour, and back then the speed limit was 75 miles per hour. But the car wouldn't go any faster. The officers who pulled me over told me I needed to speed it up, but I couldn't. They learned where I was headed and let me off with a warning. We got to the next state, and it happened again."

On that trip, Thompson says the car almost killed them because it didn't have a ventilated heater.

"I got so tired while driving, so I stopped and got out," Dale shares. "I got sick, then learned it was because of the carbon monoxide that was filling up the car. We had to drive with the window cracked the rest of the way. I had been in California for two months when I received my orders and learned where I was headed with the Army. So, I drove the car back to Iowa."

While he was away, the car sat at the family farm under his dad's care. He had driven it for about two years.

When Thompson returned to Iowa in 1968, he and his wife lived in the country on



Dale Thompson has had offers to buy his first car, but he won't part with it.

an acreage. By that time, he had a couple of other vehicles, including a 1939 Chevy truck. The Business Coupe needed repairs, and his wife asked if he'd fix it up, but the truck came first. Several other cars came along, and, as sometimes happens, priorities changed. The Coupe remained a project to be done over the years until Thompson suffered a stroke that left him unable to do the repairs. When he researched today's cost of the repairs, he found

it would take about \$30,000 to get the work done since parts for it aren't manufactured anymore.

Thompson says people who see it in his yard often stop by to ask if he'd sell it, but he won't part with it.

"I loved that it was a Business Coupe and not a standard one," he states. "I still have it, and that means something. I always wanted to keep my first car." ■

WHERE WE LIVE

By Lindsey Giardino

PHELPS' small-town dream comes true

A place to feel at home and to "breathe"

Miranda Phelps and her family found their way to Winterset in August 2021, and it didn't take long for them to feel right at home.

Phelps and her husband, Jason, a dentist, had always known they wanted to settle somewhere west of the Mississippi River. In January 2021, the couple embarked on a "Tour de Iowa," visiting various towns to find a practice for her husband to partner with. They had previously lived in Centerville and then in Indiana, where they cared for Phelps' ailing parents. After her parents passed away, the couple felt it was time for a fresh start — somewhere less populated but still rich in community life.

When Phelps' husband met Dr. James Elliot in Winterset, it was clear they had found the right match. The moment they found Winterset, Phelps knew they had found the place they wanted to call home.

"The heavens parted, the angels sang, and this is where we ended up," she says with a smile.

One of the things that draws Phelps to Winterset is how walkable the town is. From their home, the family can easily walk uptown to enjoy the local farmers market, catch a movie, grab a frosty treat, or attend events.

Phelps describes feeling like Miss Piggy in the park on her bike — happy as a lark. She

notes that being able to open a window or door and feel like she can "breathe" has been one of the most meaningful aspects of living in Winterset.

The sense of community in Winterset is also something Phelps holds close. She recalls the town's response to a tornado that hit in March 2022.

"Seeing the community come together was so meaningful," she says.

It showed Phelps how the town truly takes care of its own.

Phelps and her husband, both graduates of small high schools, had never experienced the kind of community connection Winterset offers. They wanted something different for their daughter — an environment where she could thrive and feel supported. Phelps knows they made the right choice for her family.

"It's not about the amount of people, it's about the quality of people," she says.

Though Phelps and her family have lived in the same home since their move to Winterset, they do hope to eventually find a place with more land. For now, their current home is perfect, especially since their daughter can walk to high school in just a couple of minutes.

Phelps has also enjoyed being involved in the



The Phelps family found Winterset fit the bill when they were looking for small-town living and a dental practice for Jason to join.

Winterset community. She and her daughter have performed in productions at Iowa Stage, such as "The Odd Couple" and "Get Smart."

Additionally, Phelps works for Agriland in town, and her husband is a partial owner of Winterset Dental, a member of the Rotary Club, and active in the Lions Club.

With all of the connections they've made, Phelps and her family are beyond grateful to call Winterset home.

"We're so grateful and thankful to be here," she says. ■

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BEAUTY

By Annie Wiseman

HAPPY new you

A new year symbolizes a fresh start, a time to embrace change and set new intentions. One of the most exciting and tangible ways to step into the new year with confidence is by changing your hairstyle. A new hairstyle is more than just a superficial adjustment — it's a declaration of reinvention and a boost to self-esteem.



Hair is a huge part of self-expression, often reflecting personal growth, moods and aspirations. As the calendar resets, a new hairstyle can symbolize shedding the weight of the past year and grabbing hold of possibilities. Whether it's a bold cut, a vibrant color, or a sleek new style, this change can feel empowering, offering a visual reminder of the fresh chapter ahead.

Moreover, changing your hairstyle encourages creativity and courage. It pushes you out of your comfort zone and allows you to explore new facets of your personality. It can even act as a conversation starter, inspiring others to consider their own transformations.

The beginning of the year is a perfect time to embrace change in all its forms. A new hairstyle serves as a daily affirmation of your commitment to growth while setting the tone for a year filled with confidence, renewal and unapologetic self-expression. Contact your favorite hairstylist and get ready to embrace the new year with a new do. ■

Information provided by Annie Wiseman, owner of Salon 107 and a licensed cosmetologist with 25 years of experience. 107 John Wayne Drive, Winterset, 515-462-4247, salon107style@gmail.com.

HEALTH

By Dr. Amanda Queck

A FRESH start to the new year

As we head into another new year, many of us are setting new goals or looking at ways we can improve ourselves. More money is put into savings for the first few weeks then forgotten about. The gyms are crowded until early March. The pantry is stocked with fruits and veggies until the next grocery run — and then it all starts over again, followed by a mound of frustration from not losing weight or accomplishing those goals. What if, instead of setting a bunch of resolutions this year, we set intentions to form regular, consistent healthy habits — one day at a time? Instead of setting a resolution to lose 10 pounds, set an intention to eat more wholesome and fewer processed foods every day. Instead of setting a resolution to hit the gym every day of the year, set an intention to form better movement patterns throughout the day. Forming smaller, more achievable habits on a regular basis will help you become more likely to achieve your health goals for the long-term. We have 365 days ahead of us this coming year. Each day is a fresh opportunity to reset and build a healthier version of yourself — one day at a time. ■



Information provided by Dr. Amanda Queck, D.C. Flourish Chiropractic & Wellness, 108 W. Court Ave., Winterset, 515-384-0360, www.flourishchiro.life.

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REAL ESTATE

By Jennifer Stover

NEW year design trends

At the start of every year, I like to discuss predicted interior design trends. What's in, what's out, what's hot, what's not. Trends are fun, but they are just that, trends. And they will change in few years. I know you can't redo your house every few years, and you like what you like, not what is trendy. But it's still fun to do a deep dive into interior design trends.



- **Color** — The overarching theme is color is back and cool tones are out. This has been the general shift for a few year now. Color is not limited to the walls, it includes cabinetry, upholstery and flooring. Burgandy is the new green. The color is showing up on everything from walls, to rugs, to pillows. Charcoal, terracotta, peach and muted pinks are trendy. also.

- **Color drenching** — Color drenching refers to painting a whole room the same color from top to bottom — including ceilings, molding and trim. All white ceilings are out.

- **Warm wood tones** — Warm wood tones will dominate throughout the home in furniture, cabinetry and flooring. Warm wood finishes bring a comforting, grounded feeling to our homes.

- **Wellness spaces** — Dedicated wellness spaces are cropping up inside of homes. More people are making space not only for a home office, but quiet spaces for meditating or doing yoga. Keep it minimalist with neutral colors. ■

Information provided by Jennifer Stover, 515-480-3389, Madison County Realty, 65 W. Jefferson St., Winterset, jenniferstover@madisoncountyrealty.com. Licensed in Iowa.

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AUTOMOTIVE

By Dawn Lauer

GOOD car maintenance maximizes fuel economy

Poorly maintained vehicles are less efficient and use more fuel. With the price of most things rising, now is the time to be more mindful of ways to maximize your fuel economy. Here are some car care tips to help you get better fuel economy:



- Perform regular car maintenance at the intervals recommended by the vehicle manufacturer in the owner's manual or as indicated by the in-car maintenance reminder system.

- Check the tires for proper inflation at least once a month. Underinflated tires have increased rolling resistance that reduces fuel economy.

- Head to an auto repair shop for service as soon as possible if the "check engine" light comes on. This light indicates a fault that can decrease fuel economy.

- Try to avoid the use of rooftop luggage carriers. Items transported on top of the car significantly increase aerodynamic drag, which reduces fuel economy.

- Regularly track your car's fuel economy. A sudden drop in mileage may indicate a need for car service. ■

Information provided by Dawn Lauer, marketing specialist, Quality Car Care, 1012 N. 10th St., Winterset, 515-462-1035. Source: <https://www.aaa.com/autorepair/articles/how-to-maximize-fueleconomy>.



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SEWING Angels give to needs near and far

Using members' talents to benefit others

For more than 30 years, a group from Winterset Methodist Church has been sewing items that are then distributed locally, in the Des Moines metro, and globally. The group is known as the Sewing Angels.



“Our items primarily go to Midwest Mission,” Pam Zivley, a member of Sewing Angels, says. “They collect everything in Greenfield, and it goes to a center in Illinois, and from there it gets distributed all over the United States.”

The group also regularly contributes to an organization in the Des Moines area.

“Our other main beneficiary is Bidwell Riverside Distribution Center in southeast Des Moines. Bidwell started as a Midwest mission in 1893. They were giving out free clothing, and eventually they started giving out food, too. Now they are the largest food distribution site in the Golden Circle area” (30-mile radius around Des Moines), Zivley says.

One of the items that the Sewing Angels often make to donate to Bidwell Riverside is pillowcases, and there’s a specific reason for this.



Felicia Weeks and Candace Dole of Scot Clark Farm Bureau present the Citizen of the Month Certificate to members of the Sewing Angels: Sharon Gibson, front, and, in back, from left: Phyllis Kaldenberg, Pam Zivley, Connie Manny, Twyla Jackson, Ann Hoadley and Bev Bircher-Rhoads. Not pictured: Carol Darnall and Leah Krohn.

Zivley explains that recipients often can use the pillowcase to carry other donated food and care products home, then can put it to use as a pillowcase.

Another member of the Sewing Angels, Bev Bircher-Rhoads, explains some of the history of the group.

“Wanda Lohr, I believe, is the one who got it started. Our church members donate a lot of the materials that we use,” Bircher-Rhoads says. “In the past, we’ve done potholders, aprons and doll clothes. Some of the things have gone to the Dominican Republic and Haiti.”

Sewing Angels meets every Monday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Methodist Church in Winterset. Everyone is welcome to participate, regardless of church membership or faith. While many members enjoy the camaraderie of the Monday meetings, others may prefer to sew at home. Zivley says, on an average Monday, around eight to ten people generally show up.

“Every year, Midwest Mission has in-gathering, when churches take their contributions to their donation site, which, for us, is Greenfield Methodist Church,” Zivley says. “Last year, we took about 50 baby gowns and 50 one-handed school bags. Some years we have sewn and donated diapers and baby blankets. For Bidwell, we took 22 quilts and 28 pillowcases that we had just sewn plus all of the donations from our church gathering. For the tornado, they took between 20 and 25 other quilts over to Greenfield, specifically for tornado victims.”

Zivley explains that this type of community service is a pillar of the church.

“In the Methodist faith, service to others is a primary focus, and these service projects really are an outpouring of that,” she says. “We don’t intend to stop.” ■

Happy New Year!

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BEWARE of winter weather damage

Winter weather can be hard on your home. Here are some things to watch out for:

1. Frozen pipes. Extreme cold temperatures can cause your pipes to freeze. Be sure you're familiar with where your shutoff valves are in your home. And never set your thermostat too low.

2. Roof damage. There are several things that could damage your roof this winter. High winds can loosen shingles and send them flying. The weight of snow and ice could cause the roof to collapse. Lastly, ice dams can cause water to penetrate your home. Going on your roof can be dangerous anytime of the year. It's especially true during the winter months.

3. Concrete damage. It's important to keep your sidewalks and driveway clear of ice and snow to prevent slip and falls. Unfortunately, shoveling, picking away at ice, and using de-icing products can cause damage, such as chips and cracks.

4. Deck damage. Like your roof, the weight of snow and ice can cause damage to your deck. If snow begins to build up, it's a good idea to remove it. However, don't use a metal shovel or plastic shovel with a metal edge because they can damage the wood. If that's all you have, then remove the snow in layers and use a soft bristled push broom or leaf blower to remove the rest.

5. Cracked caulk. If you feel a draft in your home, check around your windows. Cold temperatures can cause the caulk to crack. The last several winters, I've had to apply additional caulk around a few of my windows. It's an easy fix that can keep your home warmer this winter.

6. Gaps in hardwood floor or other trim. Gaps in your wood doesn't necessarily mean damage occurred. It means that your home is extremely dry. Humidity levels in your home during the winter months should be between 30-50%

7. Broken tree limbs. High winds and the weight of ice and snow can damage your trees. Unfortunately, there's not much you can do to protect them. If the trees are too big, call a professional service to have them removed. If your home is damaged, make sure you report it to your insurance company right away. Depending on the damage, a restoration company may be needed.

8. Fire damage. Nearly half of all home heating fires occur in December, January and February. And if you have an old electrical system, space heaters may tax their capacity. ■



Information provided by Eric Johnson, IFG Insurance, 224 E. Highway 92, Suite B, Winterset, 515-462-4553.

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ifgtoday.com



Locally owned WINTERSET

Winterset Living magazine salutes locally owned businesses. When you patronize these establishments, you are greeted by neighbors and friends — people who live in the community and invest in their livelihood here. They support local causes, are involved in area activities, and are dedicated to the success of the the town they live in. And, more of the money you spend at locally owned businesses stays in the community. Thank you, local business owners, for helping to make the community a wonderful place to live.

Photo by Teddi Yeager



AL'S BODY AND CUSTOMS

Locally owned
WINTERSSET

OWNER: Al Leonard
ADDRESS: 815 E Green St, Winterset
PHONE: 515-493-1106
WEBSITE: alsbodyandcustoms.com



Al's Body & Customs: Restoring Vehicles with Care and Dedication

Al's Body & Customs, established in January 2022, has quickly become a trusted name in the auto body repair and restoration industry. Owned and operated by Al Leonard, a proud Winterset native, the shop focuses on delivering high-quality collision repair services with a personal touch. With a dedicated team of six employees, including four part-timers and two full-time staff (three of whom are family), Al's Body & Customs offers hands-on service that prioritizes customer satisfaction.

At Al's Body & Customs, the team takes pride in not only restoring vehicles to their pre-accident condition but also in building lasting relationships with their customers. They treat

each client as part of the family, ensuring that every repair is done with care and attention to detail. The hands-on approach sets them apart from larger shops, where customers may feel like just another number.

Owner Al Leonard, a lifelong resident of Winterset, understands the importance of community and the trust that customers place in local businesses. He is passionate about his work and strives to offer the best service possible to his neighbors and friends. Whether you're in need of collision repair or vehicle restoration, Al's Body & Customs is here to help you get back on the road, looking as good as new.

Stop by Al's Body & Customs today, and let the team take care of you and your vehicle.



FALKE CONSTRUCTION

Locally owned
WINTERSSET

OWNER: David Falke
ADDRESS: 1907 Ironwood Trail, Winterset
PHONE: (515) 689-3700!
WEBSITE: www.falkeconstruction.com



Falke Construction: A Legacy of Quality and Service in Winterset

For over 50 years, Falke Construction has been a trusted name in the building and construction industry. Founded by Ron Falke, the business was later taken over by David Falke over 25 years ago, when he changed the name and expanded services to meet growing community needs. A family-owned and operated company, David's deep connection to the business began early—he started working alongside his father, ultimately leading the company to new heights.

Originally focused on roofing and siding, Falke Construction has expanded its services to include additions, remodels, windows and doors, fencing, new home construction, and even commercial projects. In the past five years, the business has also grown to include storm recovery and FEMA projects, helping communities in both local and nationwide disaster recovery efforts.

What sets Falke Construction apart is their ability to tackle custom

and complex projects that many other contractors may shy away from. Whether it's a challenging remodel, unique addition, or specialized construction, they have the expertise and experience to take on advanced jobs that require skill and precision.

The business employs over 10 full-time workers and partners with more than 60 subcontractors to deliver high-quality work across a range of sectors. As a locally owned business with strong ties to the Winterset community, David and his family are deeply involved in both the town and local schools.

Looking ahead, Falke Construction plans to continue providing exceptional service. David and his team love helping customers bring their visions to life and are proud to build lasting relationships with those they serve.

"Thank you for choosing us for your projects," says David. "We appreciate each and every one of you!"



VILLAGE BOOTERY

Locally owned
WINTERSSET

OWNER: Danny Baessler
ADDRESS: 66 E Court Ave, Winterset
PHONE: (515) 462-3757
WEBSITE: facebook.com/VillageBootery



Village Bootery: A 54-Year Legacy of Service and Community

For over 54 years, Village Bootery has been a cherished local staple in Winterset, Iowa. Founded by Bob Walters in 1970, the business quickly became a trusted source for shoes, boots, and sporting goods. After 21 years of ownership, Bob sold the shop to Bud Hendricks in 1991, who owned it for a few years before passing it on to Terri Kuhns in July 1993. Terri ran the business for 31 years, establishing a strong community presence and cultivating lasting relationships with customers.

In 2024 Danny Baessler and his team took the reins of Village Bootery, and they are honored to continue the tradition of service that has made the store a Winterset favorite. With a dedicated staff of three employees—Dan Anderson, Becky Shaw, and Stephanie Gerleman—Village Bootery is committed to personalized service. Danny’s goal is to provide customers with a one-on-one experience to help find the perfect fit. Unlike larger

competitors, Village Bootery offers the advantage of tailored attention and the opportunity to try on multiple sizes to ensure the best fit.

Village Bootery offers a wide range of shoes, boots, and accessories, including items for athletes such as wrestling shoes, football cleats, basketball shoes, and specialty sports gear. They also sell custom Letterman jackets, and a variety of local apparel, including Winterset, Iowa, ISU, and UNI gear.

Looking ahead, Danny is excited to continue evolving the business, listening to the community’s needs, and keeping up with the latest trends. He is grateful to the community for their support and patience as he works to maintain the high standards that Terri set for the store.

“Thank you for trusting us with Village Bootery,” Danny says. “We are here to help in any way we can, and we look forward to continuing to serve you for years to come.”



HOMEFONT REAL ESTATE

Locally owned
WINTERSSET

OWNER: Sarah Cowman
ADDRESS: 57 E. Jefferson St, Winterset
PHONE: 515-468-0409
WEBSITE: www.homefront-realestate.com



Originally from Massena, IA our family moved to Winterset in 2015. I immediately feel in love with Madison County and feel grateful to be able to raise our family here. I’ve been working in Real Estate since 2008 and am a member of Des Moines Area Association of Realtors, the Iowa Association of Realtors and the National Association of Realtors. I specialize in residential, land and commercial buying and selling. I am the owner of Homefront Real Estate which was established in 2012.

Early on in my career, I recognized quickly that I gained great satisfaction in knowing I helped people with one of the biggest decisions of their lives. Whether it’s a couple buying their first home, a family purchasing a vacation home, or the empty nesters looking to downsize, I get the opportunity to help people through each stage in their lives and truly be a part of a community. I recognize and value the trust my clients place in me, and I strive every day to demonstrate the highest level of integrity and commitment to exceeding their expectations and to bring a little fun into every real estate transaction. I am committed to listening to my

client’s needs and utilizing my negotiating skills to ensure a successful transaction. I never get bored in my profession as change is a crucial part of it, especially in this fast paced market.

I take pride in giving back to my community and have served on the Madison County Chamber Board, Winterset Zoning Commission, Education Foundation Board, and St Joseph Church Finance Council. I volunteer for St Joseph Church, have assisted with the Veteran’s Ball for the American Legion Post 184 and coached Little League Baseball.

In 2020, 2021 and 2022 I was awarded Favorite Madison County Realtor chosen by the people of this community themselves. My real estate team is amazing and consists of Wendy Frost, Ian Sparks, Emily Dudzinski, Tyler Helm, and Kelly Lorenzen. All are very professional and caring Realtors! We invariably pitch in for each other, share a team spirit, and our primary focus is customer education and satisfaction. Let one of our team members assist you with your next property purchase or sale!



ROUSH COLLISION

OWNERS: Joe Roush

ADDRESS: 303 E. Madison St, Winterset

PHONE: 515-468-7820

WEBSITE: Visit us on Facebook

Roush's Collision & Restoration: A Legacy of Service and Quality

Since opening in January 2012, Roush Collision & Restoration has earned a reputation for quality collision repair and exceptional customer service. Joe Roush and his family have spent the past 13 years building a business rooted in the community, offering reliable and trusted services.

In 2023, the shop completed a significant expansion by constructing a new building on their existing location. This addition includes an indoor wash bay, which allows them to clean vehicles before delivery, along with more space to store parts and park vehicles securely overnight. The expanded facility also provides the team with room to store more cars during repairs, ensuring an efficient and organized operation.

This year, the shop introduced 24-hour towing and rental car services, providing customers with a unique, all-in-one solution. In the event of an accident, a customer can call the shop for immediate towing, receive a rental car delivered directly to them on the side of the road, and then have their damaged vehicle transported back to the shop for repair.

The shop specializes in collision repair, working with all major insurance companies to handle all makes and models of vehicles.

In addition to repairs, they offer Ranch Hand bumper sales and installations. With a team of seven skilled employees, the shop ensures every customer is treated with care and respect, delivering high-quality repairs every time.

As lifelong residents of Winterset, the owners have a personal connection to the community. They cherish the relationships they've built with customers over the years—many of whom are old friends, teachers, and family members. These deep ties to the community set this business apart, giving customers the trust and reassurance that they are working with people who genuinely care.

A common misconception the shop seeks to correct is the idea that multiple estimates are necessary. In Iowa, customers don't need to get several estimates. Simply drop off your car at your shop of choice, and the insurance company can handle the rest. The team also emphasizes that cheaper estimates are not always the best option. While price is a factor, it's more important to choose a shop that offers thorough, high-quality repairs.

Looking forward, the shop plans to continue growing and finding new ways to improve the services they offer. "Thank you for voting us Best Body Shop in Madison County two years in a row! We wouldn't be here without the support of our community, and we take pride in continuing to serve you with the best quality and service possible," says the owner. Whether you need collision repair, towing, or a rental car, this Winterset shop is ready to help, offering personalized service and expertise you won't find anywhere else.



Jason Kleemeier

Ben Applegate

Eric Johnson

INTEGRITY FINANCIAL GROUP

OWNERS: Jason Kleemeier, Ben Applegate and Eric Johnson

ADDRESS: 224 E. Hwy 92, Suite B, Winterset

PHONE: 515-462-4553

WEBSITE: www.integrityfinancialgroupllc.com

Integrity Financial Group is a full-service financial services firm that provides expert guidance in insurance, accounting and wealth management. Founded by Eric Johnson, Jason Kleemeier and Jaysson Gurwell in 2009, the company has grown substantially over the years and now serves clients from three locations, providing them with a broad range of financial services. In 2014, Ben Applegate joined the team, purchasing Gurwell's accounting business. The three men each own their respective business but the group functions as a single entity known as Integrity Financial Group.

Eric, the first to open his business in the Spring of 2009, owns IFG insurance, and has extensive experience in the insurance industry. His focus is on providing clients with tailored insurance solutions, including personal, commercial, farm, crop, life, long-term care and disability insurance coverage. His deep understanding of insurance products ensures that clients are properly protected, adding a crucial layer of financial security to their overall wealth management.

Jason, a seasoned financial advisor, began his career in September 1999. He is owner of One Wealth, joining Integrity Financial Group in September 2009. Jason specializes in investment management and financial planning, drawing on his experience to help clients build wealth and achieve their long-term financial goals. His approach is rooted in developing personalized investment strategies and providing thoughtful financial planning to ensure that clients are well-prepared for the future.

In 2014, Ben replaced the firm's original third partner. He began Applegate Tax & Accounting, and with that continued to provide crucial expertise in accounting and tax services for the firm. As a CPA, he had previous experience in tax, accounting, payroll, auditing and industry finance, which proved invaluable to Integrity Financial Group's growing client base.

Integrity Financial Group has undergone significant growth. The company moved its original office from Northstone Village (1217 N. Sixth Ave., Suite 4) to its current location at 224 E. Highway 92, Suite B, in the fall of 2014. In January 2019, Integrity Financial Group opened an additional office in Waukee, expanding its reach and allowing the firm to serve more clients across central Iowa. IFG Insurance added a third location in Gilbert, Arizona, in 2022.

Integrity Financial Group's strength lies in its ability to offer a comprehensive suite of services, including investment management, insurance planning, and accounting — all under one roof. This holistic approach allows clients to manage every aspect of their financial lives in one place, simplifying their planning and helping to ensure all their financial strategies align with their long-term goals.

Today, the firm employs 18 people in the Iowa locations, and one more employee in Arizona. With plans to expand its team over the next year and a half, Integrity Financial Group is well-positioned to continue growing and meeting the needs of its clients. Jason, Eric, and Ben are dedicated to helping clients achieve financial success by providing personalized service, a deep understanding of financial products, and a commitment to integrity and transparency.

Whether you're planning for retirement, need insurance solutions, or require accounting assistance, Integrity Financial Group offers a one-stop solution for all your financial needs.



MICHAEL'S COMPUTER REPAIR

OWNERS: Michael Eller

ADDRESS: 67 E. Jefferson St, Winterset

PHONE: 515-493-6647

WEBSITE: www.facebook.com/WintersetComputer

In April of 2021 I decided to quit my job as a systems engineer for a local service provider and open Michael's Computer Repair. The business took off and I haven't looked back! People and businesses have been great to work for. After my first year I moved to a better location on the north side of the Winterset square, where I expanded into selling business class laptops and desktops that were off corporate lease. These computers were faster than 80% of customer machines. This has greatly increased my customer base, as I support everything I sell. Since then, there hasn't been a time where I've had less than 20 customers waiting for my services. People are coming from Northern Missouri to Boone to see me. I guess the word is out! It still amazes me. I'm very grateful.

The funny thing is; working remotely from home during Covid-19 helped me to re-evaluate my life goals, of which there are mainly three:

First, as a single father, my primary goal is to raise my daughter and get her to college. Three years to go.

Second, I got the bug to renovate old homes and make town look better. I had several homes as rentals and have a fondness for incorporating reclaimed barn wood and limestone. I no longer rent homes. I just buy and fix them up.

Finally I realized there was a huge demand for computer support

for small businesses and locals in rural communities and towns. What a great opportunity to offer my unique skill set! Winterset had everything I needed to meet my goals and realize new ones.

In my professional IT career I always enjoyed being relied upon to troubleshoot and resolve large outages. I've always been the fix agent and hired gun for mission critical operations. I now believe it's my obligation to use my abilities to help local citizens and businesses.

I've had business owners ask how I've made a big splash in a small pond. The answer is simple. You have to know your customers and their needs. Treat people right. Go out of your way to give the best service you can provide to every customer. Always Hustle! I am one of the people. My customers know that. Working people are very aware of who digs in and goes to work. Respect in mutual.

As we usher in this new year of 2025 let's remember that we are still in the heart of America and Winterset's greatest quality is not tourism. It's the people. It's an awesome time to live in Winterset. I enjoy studying the dynamics of this amazing small town. I aim to continue to be an asset and positive resource for the Winterset community. I'm excited for our future!

Points of interest about me: I was born in Mount Ayr. My family moved from Lenox to Fort Worth, Texas when I was 10. I skipped high school, passed college entrance exams and received academic scholarships to TCU.

I'm a former President of the Iowa Head Start Association. I'm currently a member of the Winterset City Council.

IT Career: Corning Inc. Mediacom, Pioneer, Businessolver, Aureon

Operating Systems: Solaris UNIX, Redhat Linux, Suse Linux, Microsoft Windows, Apple MacOS, VMWare

FROM fostering to adoption

Kappelmans build relationships.

Foster parenting has been a kaleidoscope of emotions and experiences for Paige and Josh Kappelman.

Since becoming a licensed foster family in January of 2023, their days of family building have been one part challenging, but another part incredibly rewarding. Their adopted children, Javier, Jayden and Jaylynn, are reflections of their “calling,” as Paige deems it.

“Before we were married, we discussed adopting someday. We felt called to it as Christ followers,” she says. “When we struggled to conceive, becoming a foster family was an obvious and easy choice. We had a desire to make a positive impact in a child’s life.”

All it took was one look at the photo listings at adoptuskids.org where they saw a little boy who wrote that “all he wanted was to be part of a family someday.” Done deal. That was enough for the Kappelmans to drop any hesitation they had. They filled out an online contact form for Four Oaks Family Connections, which partners with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to recruit, license, train and provide ongoing support to foster, kinship and adoptive families throughout the state of Iowa.

The process had begun, but little did they know the challenges that awaited them.

“We prepared as much as we could, but having never been parents before meant it was like jumping in the deep end of parenthood,” Paige says. “We took four kiddos as our first placement, ages 16, 6, 3, and 8 months. They were deeply connected to their parents, and the separation brought them immense grief.”

The children experienced nightmares, ear infections, and cried for their mother. It was obvious to the Kappelmans that they were well loved and had been well taken care of.

“They were so sweet and so silly with us,” Paige says. “We made the most of our days together, taking them sledding, doing lots of crafts, playing with Play-Doh, and watching their comfort shows. During their stay with us, we maintained a great relationship with their parents and were overjoyed they were reunited a few months later. We are still in touch with them. We are so thankful they are home.”

The couple continued foster parenting, adopting Javier, Jayden and Jaylynn soon thereafter. The transition this time was



Paige and Josh Kappelman of Winterset and their adopted children, Javier, Jayden and Jaylynn. The Kappelmans have been a licensed foster family since January of 2023.

completely different.

“We did a month-long slow transition from their previous foster homes to our home,” Paige says. “They transitioned to our home with the knowledge that we would very likely be adopting them. They attached to us very quickly. We were able to do a few weekend-long overnights and had built a solid relationship with them before they officially began living with us. When they came to us, we had everything set up just for them. All of us were ready to become a family.”

And a new family they became. The adoption was a hugely impactful event for their family, Paige says. The couple bought each of the kids lockets with a picture of their family inside before heading to the courthouse. The

children were elated.

“The kids kept saying over and over ‘We’re a family!’” Paige says. “Javier’s whole kindergarten class came to watch the adoption and support him. Our families, friends and church family came, too, and filled up the courtroom. We felt so loved and supported. It was a beautiful day. It’s just been so good. God has been so good to us.”

Anyone wanting to learn more about foster care can attend one of the organization’s virtual orientations held each Sunday and Wednesday nights. Instructions to register for orientation and a step-by-step look at the licensing process can be found at <https://iowafosterandadoption.org/how-to-get-started/>. ■

MEET Kara Campfield

Return to Winterset is a dream come true.

This year marks Kara Campfield’s first year teaching kindergarten at Winterset Elementary, and, for her, it feels like coming home.

Originally from Osceola, Campfield spent part of her childhood in Winterset, making her return to the community as a teacher especially meaningful.

Campfield first became interested in child development during high school, where she spent time volunteering at a daycare and a local elementary school. Those experiences sparked a passion that would guide her future career.

After earning her associate’s degree in early childhood education from Southwestern Community College, Campfield continued her education at Simpson College, graduating with a degree in elementary education with an emphasis on reading and early childhood development.

Following graduation, Campfield and her boyfriend, Scott — who’s originally from Winterset — moved back to the area.

Becoming a teacher at Winterset Elementary has been a dream for Campfield.

“I have always heard great things about the school district and have enjoyed getting to see all the things that the school is part of within the community,” she says. “I have had friends who also started working for Winterset, and they all talk so highly of the district.”

Campfield knew she wanted to teach kindergarten, but she was open to other grade levels if it meant becoming part of the Winterset school community.

Now living her dream, Campfield enjoys the variety and excitement that each day in the kindergarten classroom brings.

“Every day, they are excited to learn something new, and I love being able to do that,” she says. “Watching them build upon milestones and achieve goals is something I strive to see. All of those ‘aha’ moments are my favorite when something just starts clicking and making sense.”

Of course, teaching comes with its challenges, but Campfield embraces the opportunity to adapt and find what works for her students.

“What works one day might not work the next,” she explains. “You have to constantly adjust based on the individual needs of each student. What works for one child doesn’t always work for another.”

Despite these challenges, Campfield has already created lasting memories for her students. She recalls one highlight this year: Kindergarten Thanksgiving Lunch. With full participation from parents, the class enjoyed a festive meal that included ham, mashed potatoes, cranberries, green bean casserole, stuffing, juice, and a variety of desserts.

“I heard over and over again from students that it was the best day ever,” Campfield says.

As the school year progresses, Campfield is eager to see how her students continue to grow and develop.

“I love being able to watch them grow from when I got them in August to the end of the year,” she says. “I am excited for all the new things kindergarten is doing this year. I have loved being able to get to know a new team, so I look forward to where the rest of the year goes.” ■



Kara Campfield, pictured with her boyfriend, Scott, enjoys the variety and excitement that each day in the kindergarten classroom brings.



Protect Your Loved Ones from RSV

RSV is a common respiratory virus, which peaks in the winter months.

RSV can be dangerous for infants and older adults. These age groups are more likely to be hospitalized from RSV.

Talk to your family’s healthcare providers about RSV prevention.



EVENTS IN THE AREA

To submit calendar items for consideration, send to tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com

Be sure to check for cancelations

Upcoming in Winterset Living magazine:

Grandparents who enjoy living near their grandchildren: Share why you enjoy living near your grandchildren and how you spend time together. Email tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com by Jan. 10 to be included in the February issue.



Women's Giving Circle Quarterly meetings

March 25, June 24, and Sept. 23, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Union State Bank's Community Room, 611 West Highway 92, Winterset

The Madison County Women's Giving Circle's quarterly meeting dates are set. Arrive at 5:30 p.m. if you wish to socialize before the meeting. Local charitable 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofits or other qualifying tax-exempt organizations that wish to present information about their projects for supporting women and children in Madison County should arrive by 6:15 p.m. to register to present. Each applicant is asked to provide a brief description of their project, their tax-exempt status, plus an email address and telephone number where they may be reached. Three organizations will be selected (by drawing) to present at the meeting and each will be allocated four minutes to present and four minutes to answer members' questions. One nonprofit will be selected by vote after the presentations to receive the quarter's donations. If more than three nonprofits wish to present, the rest will each have two minutes to talk about their project.

Iowa Diecast Toy Show

Jan. 4-5
Iowa State Fairgrounds, 3000 E. Grand Ave., Des Moines
www.agfarmtoys.com

Explore an extensive selection of toys of all sizes and memorabilia from reputable dealers. Discover rare and limited-edition pieces to add to your collection. Find that missing piece for your display that you have been searching for. Find a great piece that you didn't know you needed.



Covered Bridges Winery events

2207 1700th Trail, Winterset
coveredbridgeswinery.com

See website for tickets and any last minute changes.

- Jan. 11: Trivia Night
- Jan. 12: Sunday Music at the Winery, 2-4 p.m., no cover charge, Ryne Doughty
- Jan. 25: Comedy Night Chowdown Improv
- Feb. 2: Bingo
- Feb. 15: Valentine's Dinner, Matt Terronez Quartet. Tickets required
- Feb. 16: Sunday Music at the Winery, 2-4 p.m., no cover charge, Brian Congdon
- Feb. 22: Blues & BBQ, Central Iowa Blues Society Benefit Dinner
- Feb. 28: Bourbon Barrel Release Party
- March 1: Music at the Winery, Looking 4 Luke, 6:30-9:30 p.m., \$5 cover
- March 9: Sunday Music at the Winery, 2-4 p.m., no cover charge, Jesse and the Medicine Men
- March 23: Sunday Music at the Winery, 2-4 p.m., no cover charge, Jake Schrodt
- March 29: Comedy Night Chowdown Improv
- April 13: Sunday Music at the Winery, 2-4 p.m., no cover charge, Liv McNair
- April 19: Music at the Winery, Kracklin, 6:30-9:30 p.m., \$5 cover

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EVENTS IN THE AREA

Be sure to check for cancelations

Chamber annual meeting

Thursday, Jan. 30, 5-8 p.m.

Jackson Community Building, Madison County Fairgrounds

Join the Madison County Chamber of Commerce membership to celebrate the achievements of 2024 and look ahead to an exciting year in 2025. Tickets can be purchased at <https://madisoncounty.chambermaster.com/eventregistration/register/2110>. Advance tickets are \$40. Cost at the door is \$50. Social hour begins at 5 p.m., with dinner at 6 p.m. and the program beginning at 6:30 p.m. Awards will be presented for:

- **Business Improvement:** To a business that has grown and improved its customer services, products and/or services. Past recipients include Winterset Community School District, The Iowa Theater, Covered Bridges Winery, The Drift and Fall Crawl.
- **Business of the Year:** To a business that goes out of its way to deliver high-quality products, services and customer service. Past recipients include Petite Cafe.
- **Volunteer of the Year:** To a volunteer going above and beyond to make Madison County a better place to work, live, play and conduct business. Past recipients include Julie Feier, Dan Noack, Jen Frease, Jon Stetzel and Christ Nolte.
- **Citizen of the Year:** To an individual who has gone above and beyond to improve the lives of those in the county. Past recipients include Brenda Hollingsworth and Marianne Fons, the first responders of the 2022 March 5 tornado, and Jon and Megan Barrett.
- **Nonprofit of the Year:** To a nonprofit that has supported the community. Past recipients are C.R.I.S.P. and Winterset Rotary.
- **New Member Award:** To a chamber member (who has been a member for at least three months) who has flourished and made Madison County a better place. Beans & Beignets, Flourish Chiropractic and Spotlight Dance Legacy have received this award.
- **Customer Service Award:** To a business or person who makes you feel special. Catherine Stetzel, the Iowa Theater, and Nicole Kems have been past recipients of this award.
- **Jim and Pat Nelson Legacy Award:** To a business or a person who has created a lasting legacy in the Madison County Community. Dave and Judy Trask, Jim and Pat Nelson, and Linda Griffith-Smith have received this award.

Cinch World's Toughest Rodeo

Jan. 10-11

Wells Fargo Arena, 233 Center St., Des Moines

www.iowaeventscenter.com

Action-packed performance featuring some of the nation's most talented rodeo athletes, livestock and specialty entertainers.



Indoor Garage Sale Extravaganza

Jan. 11

Iowa Events Center, 730 Third St., Des Moines
www.iowaeventscenter.com

Need a mid-winter fix for your garage sale habit? This is the place to be. ■

Say, "Yes!" to Drinking Less

More than 2 drinks a day
is considered too much.

When you say "no thanks" to heavy drinking, you reduce your risk of alcohol-related health problems such as heart disease, liver disease, stroke, high blood pressure, and depression.

Ready to
cut back
on drinking?

Go to
YourLIFEIowa.org/alcohol
to get started.



TAX efficiency in retirement

Will you pay higher taxes in retirement? It's possible. But that will largely depend on how you generate income. Will it be from working? Will it be from retirement plans? And, if it does come from retirement plans, it's important to understand which types of plans will be financing your retirement.



Another factor to consider is the role Social Security will play in your retirement. When do you plan to start to take Social Security benefits? If you have a spouse, when do they plan on taking benefits? It's critical to answer key Social Security benefits questions so you have a better understanding of how it will affect your taxable income.

What's a pre-tax investment? Traditional IRAs and 401(k)s are examples of pre-tax investments that are designed to help you save for retirement.

You won't pay any taxes on the contributions you make to these accounts until you start to take distributions. Pre-tax investments are also called tax-deferred investments, as the money you accumulate in these accounts can benefit from tax-deferred growth.

For individuals covered by a retirement plan at work, the tax deduction for a traditional IRA in 2025 is phased out for incomes between \$126,000 and \$146,000 for married couples filing jointly, and between \$79,000 and \$89,000 for single filers.¹

Keep in mind that, once you reach age 73, you must begin taking required minimum distributions from a traditional IRA, 401(k), and other defined contribution plans in most circumstances. Withdrawals are taxed as ordinary income and, if taken before age 59½, may be subject to a 10% federal income tax penalty.

What's an after-tax investment? A Roth IRA is the most well-known. When you put money into a Roth IRA, the contribution is made with after-tax dollars. Like a traditional IRA, contributions to a Roth IRA are limited based on income. For 2025, contributions to a Roth IRA are phased out between \$236,000 and \$246,000 for married couples filing jointly and between \$150,000 and \$165,000 for single filers.

To qualify for the tax-free and penalty-free withdrawal of earnings, Roth IRA distributions must meet a five-year holding requirement and occur after age 59½. Tax-free and penalty-free withdrawals can also be taken under certain other circumstances, such as the owner's death. The original Roth IRA owner is not required to take minimum annual withdrawals.

Remember, this article is for informational purposes only and is not a replacement for real-life advice, so make sure to consult your tax, legal, or financial professionals before modifying your retirement strategy.

Are you striving for greater tax efficiency? In retirement, it is especially important — and worth a discussion. A few financial adjustments may help you manage your tax liabilities. ■

1. IRS.gov, 2025. 2. IRS.gov, 2025. The content is developed from sources believed to be providing accurate information. The information in this material is not intended as tax or legal advice. It may not be used for the purpose of avoiding any federal tax penalties. Please consult legal or tax professionals for specific information regarding your individual situation. This material was developed and produced by FMG Suite to provide information on a topic that may be of interest. FMG, LLC, is not affiliated with the named broker-dealer, state- or SEC-registered investment advisory firm. The opinions expressed and material provided are for general information, and should not be considered a solicitation for the purchase or sale of any security. Copyright FMG Suite.

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COZY, comforting recipes to take on the cold

(Family Features) If blustery conditions are giving you the blues, come inside from the cold for a winter warmup in the comfort of your own kitchen. Cold-weather favorites that are baked, roasted or slow cooked are usually equal parts easy, delicious and filling, making them perfect solutions for chilly, snowy days.

Add a bit of comfort to your weeknight menu with this Loaded Chicken Bake that's ready in about half an hour. A short list of ingredients and allowing your oven to do most of the work for you mean it's ideal for saving time (and money at the grocery store) while still satisfying winter appetites.

Serving as the hearty base is READ German Potato Salad, made with thinly sliced potatoes and bacon in a traditional sweet-piquant dressing. While it's delicious when served chilled, heated or at room temperature on its own, it can also be the star of the show in family meals.

Find more favorite wintertime recipes by visiting READSalads.com and AuntNellies.com. ■

Loaded chicken bake

Recipe courtesy of Hungry In LA

Prep time: 20 minutes

Cook time: 15 minutes

Servings: 8

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 2 cans (15 ounces each) READ German Potato Salad
- 4 cups shredded rotisserie chicken or other cooked chicken
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon finely ground black pepper
- 3/4 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- 1/4 cup crumbled, cooked bacon
- French fried onions (optional), plus additional for serving (optional), divided

DIRECTIONS

- Preheat oven to 375 F.
- Lightly coat 9-by-13-inch baking dish with nonstick cooking spray.
- Spread German potato salad evenly in dish. Top evenly with chicken.
- In small bowl, stir heavy cream, salt and pepper. Pour mixture over chicken.
- Sprinkle with cheese, bacon and onions, if desired.
- Bake 15 minutes, or until casserole is bubbly. Let stand 10 minutes.
- Top with additional onions, if desired.



Oven-roasted sweet potatoes and beets

Servings: 4

- 1 jar (16 ounces) Aunt Nellie's Whole Pickled Beets
- 2 large sweet potatoes (about 1 pound) peeled and cubed (1/2-3/4-inch cubes)
- 2-3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 red onion, sliced about 1/4-inch thick
- 2 fresh rosemary sprigs, plus additional for garnish

DIRECTIONS

- Preheat oven to 400 F. Drain beets. Discard liquid or save for another use.
- In large bowl, toss sweet potatoes, olive oil, salt, pepper and onion until coated.
- Place silicone mat on baking sheet or line with aluminum foil.
- Pour contents of bowl onto baking sheet in single layer. Remove rosemary from stems; sprinkle over vegetables. Bake 30 minutes until potatoes are almost tender.
- Add beets to baking sheet. Return to oven 10-15 minutes, or until potatoes are fork-tender and beginning to brown. Garnish with additional rosemary, if desired.



TOUR of Homes

The CRISP fundraiser
Tour of Homes was
held Dec. 14.



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Ellie Molln, April Johnston and Tiffany Molln



Lillian Eivins and Sue and Lily Brakhane



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