

Living

MAGAZINE

A wedding TO REMEMBER

Couple shares how they made their day special.

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WELCOME

AN OLD RV, a friendly farmer and a moose head

Jolene and I were married in Clive on Sept. 30, 1995. And, yes, this will be our 30-year anniversary.

Jolene's parents, Dean and Lois Porath, lived at Lake Panorama at the time, but we never even considered a lake wedding. I am not sure why. Maybe late September was pushing it for an outdoor wedding, but, more than likely, the decision had to do with our focus on being truly independent from our parents. Looking back, a lake wedding might have been the better option.

Our wedding ceremony was beautiful, and the church looked spectacular. From there, though, things got a little rocky. Rather than renting a limousine for the two of us, we thought it would be more fun to take the entire wedding party on a well-stocked cruise from the church to the reception hall. When a friend offered his RV for us to use, we thought we had the perfect plan. It was great fun — until the RV broke down on a rural road. We eventually found a friendly farmer who gave us a ride to the reception hall in his farm truck — complete in our wedding dress and tuxedo. He then gave the rest of the wedding party rides as well. Needless to say, the reception was delayed. Fortunately, or maybe unfortunately, the members of the wedding party were well-hydrated.

We had our wedding reception at the Jester Park Lodge, and not the new fancy one that is in the park today. We rented the old building with the giant moose head on the wall, which made for some entertaining photos. Not too many years later, that lodge burned to the ground, and that was probably a good thing.

Through it all, we sang, we danced, we toasted and we had one of the best nights of our lives. It certainly wasn't a storybook wedding, and after reading about the beautiful ceremony featured in this month's issue, it makes me wonder if we should have leaned on Dean and Lois to use their place instead. The scents of an approaching autumn. The sounds of nature. The love of my life. And a beautiful lake view.

Just no moose head or a broken-down RV. Aaaahhh, the memories. Happy 30th anniversary, Jolene! ■

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A wedding TO REMEMBER

**Couple shares how they
made their day special.**

By Sean Dengler

Few milestones are as momentous as a wedding. Family and friends often gather from near and far, the preparations may take months, and every detail is given thought. From the wedding attire to the decorations, music and venue, the couple makes countless decisions with one goal in mind: for theirs to be a wedding to remember. This month, one couple shares the scrupulous planning they did so their special day would be exactly as they envisioned. If a wedding is in your future, we hope you find inspiration from their story. Or, perhaps, their journey will spark memories of your own.

Katie and Jake Thoren were married at the Lutheran Church of Hope in West Des Moines. Photo by Brenda Shank



The bride wore a gown from Pure Bridal in Ames, and the men's attire was from Weddings by Design and The Tux Shop. Photo by Brenda Shank

For Katie and Jake Thoren, college was the place where their relationship began.

"We both went to Iowa State," Katie says. "Same major — industrial engineering — and we were in a lot of the same classes. We met in 2017, got engaged in February 2020 and then married in August 2021."

When Jake proposed to Katie in Breckenridge, Colorado, she was surprised.

"We took a ski trip with friends, and he had it all planned out," Katie says. "I had no idea that it was occurring. We were on our way to dinner and stopped to take pictures on a bridge. All our friends pulled out their phones. I thought that was a little weird since every single person pulled out their phone to take the one casual photo that I thought it was."

When it came to the wedding, Katie says she knew she wanted Brenda Shank to be the photographer. She liked the artistic choices Brenda makes with her photographs.

"I was looking for a photographer that did true color. I really wanted someone that didn't have the hues on them," she says.

Besides the true colors, Katie also liked Brenda's flexibility.

"I really liked that she covered the whole day. She wasn't going to limit a set period of time and then tack on additional charges for any additional hours."

This helped due to their wedding start time.

"Our wedding was at 2 o'clock, so I knew it was going to be a really long day," Katie says. "I needed someone that was going to help cover getting ready and then some of the dance, too. It adds up really fast when you have a wedding that starts at 2. Your day starts early, and then it still goes just as late as every other wedding. She was very accommodating of how long the day was."

This partnership has continued since their wedding.

"We've been able to stay connected still even after our wedding photos," Katie says. "She did family photos for us, too."

In addition to her photographer, Katie found her DJ online.

"BCP Weddings is who we went through, and that was just a random Google," Katie says. "They had fantastic reviews, and Nic Sandstrom was our main DJ. He did a really good job of not only being the DJ but also providing drinks if he noticed any of us needed drinks throughout the wedding. He went above and beyond the normal DJ responsibilities, so he was super great."

While they got married at the Lutheran Church of Hope in West Des Moines, they had their reception downtown.

"We used Hilton Des Moines Downtown as our venue," Katie says. "We toured a ton of venues. My husband is from Boone, and I'm

from the Sioux City, Iowa, area, so we had a lot of out-of-state and out-of-town guests. The hotel was nice for people to go straight up to the room. We didn't have to worry about cars and getting people back to the hotel at the end of the night. That was handy."

When it came to transportation, the couple used Luxxor Limousines.

Katie was also happy with whom she chose to do her makeup.

"Kelsi Ziemann is who I used for makeup," Katie says. "She has fantastic reviews as well, and she did a trial makeup for me. I loved it. She had a ton of great photos and people who had recommended her to me and friends as well."

"DSM Salon did our hair," Katie says. "I had to find someone that was willing to go to the hotel with us and then also be willing to have makeup be done by someone outside of them."

When it came to finding her wedding dress, it was in the city where she and Jake met.

"Pure Bridal is where I got my wedding dress, which is in Ames," Katie says. "I just happened to find the dress there, but we stopped at several different places prior to that in the Des Moines area and eventually made our way up to Ames."

The men went to Weddings by Design and The Tux Shop for their attire.

FEATURE

Crucial to the wedding was the couple's wedding coordinator.

"We had a day-of coordinator, and they're called Someone Borrowed," Katie says. "They were absolutely fantastic. They were just supposed to be day-of coordinators, but they helped review a ton of stuff prior to the day. They took my flowers from the church to the venue. They helped set up at the venue. They stayed at the end of the night and took all the flowers upstairs. They made sure that the gifts and cards that were at the table didn't just stay there all night long after people had arrived and were done arriving. They took them all up to our hotel room for me. They brought me my shoes back down. They just went above and beyond. They were very reasonably priced. I can't recommend them enough."

When it came to the flowers and decor, Katie went with Bella



The Des Moines skyline provides the backdrop for this scenic wedding photo. Photo by Brenda Shank



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The wedding reception was enjoyed at Hilton Des Moines Downtown. Photo by Brenda Shank

Flora.

“They did all of our flowers and décor, brought it to the church, brought it to Hilton, and set it up for us,” Katie says. “I really like extravagant things. The flowers were very large, and a lot of flowers, too.”

The venue provided the food for the reception.

“We were able to taste test a lot of the food. We picked three different entrées and several different appetizers. It was all through the Hilton, even the desserts were through the Hilton” — except the wedding cake.

“I did have a wedding cake, a three-tier cake, from Molly’s Cupcakes.”

The rehearsal dinner was held at the Windsor Heights Community Center.

“It’s just a bigger room area, and it was not that expensive,” Katie says, adding it helped they did not have to spend a minimum amount on a rehearsal dinner.

“Barn Town Brewing here in Waukee catered,” Katie adds. “We’re just big fans, so we used them as one of our favorite restaurants.”

Reflecting on her wedding day, Katie says it holds a special place in their heart.

“We had really fantastic weather, so we were able to take a lot of photos outside. We were able to go downtown with Brenda and then take some walking down through the downtown area. That was pretty neat to get some of those downtown photos where you have the city skyline in the background,” she says.

“It’s one of our favorite days to look back on,” Katie says. “It’s crazy how we randomly met at school and then being able to marry him. Now we have a little boy ourselves. It’s kind of like a full-circle moment, and this day is really special to us. We kept a lot of our photos, and we have our video. We try to watch it every once in a while, and now we’ll be able to show our son, too, someday.” ■



The groomsmen and groom celebrate the day. Photo by Brenda Shank

INHERITANCE tax phased out in Iowa

Are you worried about your family paying taxes when you die? There is some good news that can affect your estate planning.



Every estate is liable for a few different kinds of tax. Whether it is federal estate tax, income tax, inheritance tax, or capital gains tax, your heirs may be writing checks to the government. Iowa was one of six states that had inheritance tax. But Iowa has now phased out its inheritance tax law with a complete exemption effective Jan. 1, 2025.

In general, inheritance isn't taxed as income; you won't pay income tax on a bequest. But when you inherit money or property from someone, you potentially owe tax to the state of Iowa. Some beneficiaries have always been exempt: a spouse, children, stepchildren,

grandchildren, and parents all have a 100% exemption from inheritance tax.

Other beneficiaries previously had no exemption, like siblings, sons- or daughters-in-law, nieces and nephews, and friends. The tax rate could be as much as 15%. For this reason, some clients avoided leaving money to individuals because of the negative tax implications.

Legislation changed this in 2021 by phasing out the inheritance tax. For deaths occurring in 2021, the tax rate was reduced by 20%. The rate continued to be reduced by 20% each subsequent year until Jan. 1, 2025 when the exclusion became 100%.

Now, no inheritance tax will be owed for individuals dying after Jan. 1, 2025, regardless of the relationship of the beneficiary.

Inheritance tax is still in effect — at the reduced rates — for deaths prior to 2025. The phase-out was not retroactive.

This change to the law presents an estate-planning opportunity for many clients. Clients can include a sibling or beloved son-in-law or daughter-in-law in their will or trust without worrying that the state of Iowa will take some of the inheritance. Nieces and nephews are now viable beneficiaries, without the risk of having tax imposed.

Your legacy to your loved ones can now be more inclusive. Many clients are now looking at their options for revising and updating their estate planning documents. If you have a last will and testament or a revocable trust and would like to include new beneficiaries, make sure that you contact an attorney who specializes in estate planning and who understands the new tax laws. ■

Information provided by Ross Barnett, Abendroth Russell Barnett Law Firm, 2560 73rd St., Urbandale, 515-278-0623, www.ARPCLaw.com.

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DON'T PUT all your eggs in one basket: a financial perspective

The old saying, “Don’t put all your eggs in one basket,” is often used as advice in various contexts, including financial planning. However, after nearly two decades of hearing it from clients, prospects and even family members, I’ve realized that its meaning is often misinterpreted. Is this proverb always a wise approach? Or is there a deeper message we need to consider?



Let’s start with the origin of the phrase. It was first coined by Spanish novelist Miguel de Cervantes in 1605 in “Don Quixote.” His version was: “It is the part of a wise man to keep himself today for tomorrow, and not to venture all his eggs in one basket.” When I first read this book years ago, I didn’t think much about financial planning, but today, after nearly 20 years as a financial advisor, I see how this saying is frequently applied to investment strategies.

Many believe that “not putting all your eggs in one basket” means spreading your investments across multiple financial advisors or avoiding a single fund family like T. Rowe Price or American Funds. Others suggest diversifying even further by using multiple financial institutions to avoid potential fraud or mismanagement. While these concerns are valid, it’s important to consider what we’re actually trying to achieve by spreading out our resources.

Two months ago, my car needed repairs. I’ve trusted my mechanic for more than 15 years, and while he’s great at what he does, certain tasks required outsourcing to specialized shops. Despite this, I didn’t doubt his ability to manage the work and ensure its quality. I trusted him because of our long-standing relationship, and he coordinated with specialists while remaining my main point of contact. The same principle applies to financial planning.

A Financial Advisor and Fiduciary’s role is to act in the best interests of their clients, offering holistic strategies that sometimes involve collaboration with trusted specialists. It is not uncommon that they may work with “sub-contractors” for tasks like tax planning or estate management but remain the primary contact. Much like a contractor who coordinates multiple subcontractors to build a house, a financial advisor ensures all financial strategies align to meet their clients’ goals.

The key takeaway isn’t necessarily about avoiding putting all your eggs in one basket. It is about being strategic in your approach. Diversification in investments is important, but it’s equally crucial to have a trusted professional coordinating everything. One advisor can help you navigate complex financial decisions, and it often makes more sense than spreading your trust across many advisors.

So, when you hear “Don’t put all your eggs in one basket,” I encourage you to think about your true objective. If you’re talking about diversification, that’s one thing, but if you’re making your strategy overly complicated, it might be time to rethink your approach. Sometimes, a strong partnership with the right advisor is all you need.

If you’re unsure about your financial plan, this may be a good time to schedule a review meeting. ■

Information provided by Daniel Rundahl, Financial Advisor, Rundahl Financial Consultants, 8230 Hickman Road, Suite 300, Clive, 515-727-1701, drundahl@rundahlfinancial.com, www.rundahlfinancialconsultants.com.

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RECIPE

SAVORY pork chili fresh from the slow cooker

(Family Features) If you're hunting for a cool-weather warmup or just need a break from the kitchen, the slow cooker is a perfect tool to make dinner a breeze. This Barbecue Chili recipe from "Cookin' Savvy" offers a hearty meal that serves a crowd. Visit Culinary.net to find more family-friendly dinner inspiration and step-by-step recipe videos. ■


Barbecue chili

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"
Servings: 8-10

- 1 pork loin (2-3 pounds)
- 1 can (10 ounces) diced tomatoes and green chilies
- 2 cups barbecue sauce, divided
- 1 cup water
- 1 can (29 ounces) tomato sauce
- 2 cans (27 ounces each) chili beans
- 1 package chili seasoning
- 1 tablespoon barbecue seasoning
- 1 tablespoon onion powder
- 1 tablespoon garlic powder
- salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste
- sour cream, for serving
- shredded cheddar cheese, for serving
- corn chips, for serving

Directions


- Place pork loin in slow cooker. Cover with diced tomatoes and green chilies, 1 cup barbecue sauce and water; cook on low 4-6 hours.
- Cut up cooked meat and place in Dutch oven along with juices from slow cooker. Add remaining barbecue sauce, tomato sauce, chili beans, chili seasoning, barbecue seasoning, onion powder and garlic powder. Season with salt and pepper, to taste.
- Cook over medium heat 20 minutes, stirring occasionally.
- Serve with sour cream, shredded cheese and corn chips.
- Tip: Add can of beans if serving bigger crowd.




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WAUTERS finds joy in giving back

Variety of volunteer gigs keep him busy.



Joe Wauters has found that giving of his time and talents is a win-win scenario. Not only do the recipients of his volunteerism benefit, but he himself enjoys the time.

“I’m retired, and I wanted to keep busy. Five years ago, we moved from Marshalltown, where I had been heavily involved with the food pantry,” Wauters says. “So, when we moved here, I was looking for something to do and found out there’s a food pantry in Clive which is less than a mile from my house. So, I stuck my head in there and asked if they needed some help, and they latched on to me.”

Wauters generally volunteers at the pantry once each week, and sometimes his wife, Nancy, helps out, too.

“Normally, the way I help with the Clive pantry is, I have a pickup, so if they need anything hauled or put away, I do that,” Wauters says. “And I’m their so-called maintenance guy. I do light maintenance, like if they have a door that doesn’t work, or a toilet that doesn’t work right.”

Wauters averages about two or three hours weekly helping at the pantry, but he’s involved in volunteering elsewhere, as well.

“I also volunteer for the American Cancer Society; I’ll give patients rides to their chemo treatments,” Wauters says. “And I’m involved with Valley Disaster Relief (VDR), a group of guys that cuts down trees for people that can’t afford it. It’s a group of about 10 guys with massive equipment. They’ve got a boom truck, chainsaws and a chipper truck.”

Wauters noted that tree removal often costs well over \$1,000 per tree, so many families cannot afford that, which may result in standing dead trees creating a safety hazard.

Wauters drives cancer patients to appointments on an as-needed basis, so those hours fluctuate greatly. His time with VDR is generally just once every week or two, but he enjoys the outdoor work. Wauters said his three main volunteering gigs (food pantry, driving patients to appointments, and VDR tree removal) give him a variety of ways to be productive and social.

“Between those three things, I keep busy,” he says.

Wauters encourages anyone with spare time to look around for ways to help the community. There are volunteer opportunities to fit any time constraints and individual skill set.

“I’ve got my health, and I have the time, and I don’t mind driving, so why not?” Wauters says. “I try to do my Christian duty on Earth.” ■



Daniel Timmons, Edward Jones, presents the Neighbor Spotlight certificate to Joe Wauters, accompanied by his wife, Nancy.

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EVENTS IN THE AREA

Be sure to check for cancellations.

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

Coming up in Clive Living magazine:

Foreign Exchange Students: Have you hosted a foreign exchange student in the past or are hosting one this year? Tell us about sharing your home and culture with a student from abroad and what you learned from the experience. Email tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com by April 3 to be included in the April issue.

Pampered Pets: Do you enjoy pampering your pet(s)? We are looking to interview people whose cats, dogs and other animals live a life of luxury. If you are one of those spoiling their critters rotten and proud of it, reach out to be included in our May issue. We want to hear your story! Email tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com.

Little Builders

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Online registration: https://cityofclive.activityreg.com/ClientPage_t2.wcs

Does your little one love to build and create? Then come to the Harbach Public Library, 8505 Harbach Blvd., every Tuesday at 9 a.m. through the end of April. Various building toys and open playtime will be held in the Community Room. The program is for ages 0-6. Contact staff@cityofclive.com for more information.

Wednesdays After School

Harbach Community Center, 8505 Harbach Blvd., Clive

• **Afternoon Art, Wednesday, April 2, 5-5:45 p.m.** Afternoon Art is on the first Wednesday of the month; get creative each month with a different craft. No registration required for this program for ages 5-12. For more information, contact Emily at ellamas@cityofclive.com.

• **Build with LEGOS, Wednesday April 16, 5-5:45 p.m.** Ages 5-12 are invited to build with LEGOS. For more information, contact Emily at ellamas@cityofclive.com.



Adult Softball Leagues

Spring, summer and fall slow-pitch softball leagues are planned. Spring season begins the week of April 28, summer in mid-June and fall in mid-August. Men's leagues are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Coed is Wednesdays. For information, visit <https://clivesports.com/home>.



Fun, Sun and Splash Summer Camps

Includes field trips. Visit www.cityofclive.com/parkandrecreation/programs_and_events/fun,_sun_and_splash.php for information and registration.

EVENTS IN THE AREA

Be sure to check for cancellations.



Bingo for Seniors

Tuesday, April 8, 1-2 p.m.
Harbach Community Center,
8505 Harbach Blvd., Clive

Join an afternoon of fun. This is a low key, free monthly Bingo session. Who knows what little prizes and snacks will show up? Bring a friend and join in the excitement. For more information, contact Teri at tnelson@cityofclive.com or Patty at npapier@cityofclive.com.

Food Truck Fridays

May through June, 5:30-8 p.m.
Campbell Park, Clive

Satisfy your food cravings with the best of street eats and local live music — a can't-miss community event. Bring the family to Campbell Park in Clive for food, fun and free live music. Campbell Park is now a cashless facility. Payment methods for beverage purchases at Campbell Park concession stand are Visa, Mastercard, Discover, American Express, Apple Pay, Google Pay. Most food trucks still accept cash and cards. For details, visit www.cityofclive.com/parkandrecreation/programs_and_events/food_truck_fridays/index.php

- Friday, May 9: Damon Dotson
- Friday, May 16: Dueling Guitars with Brian Congdon and Brad Seidenfeld
- Friday, May 23: Velvet Trio (Suede Trio)
- Friday, May 30: Monkey 4
- Friday, June 6: Dick Danger Band
- Friday, June 13: Gladys Lite (Sons of Gladys Kravitz Trio)

Clive Community Services calls for donations

Donations are needed of winter gear, coats, hats, mittens, gloves, boots and snow pants; healthy cereal and white rice. To continue supporting the community during this unprecedented demand, organizers urgently need donations of food and personal items. Every contribution, big or small, makes a difference. Your support helps provide essential resources to those in need. Visit clivecommunityservices.com to learn more about how you can help.

Clive Aquatic Center Swim Lessons

Registration is open for the Levels 1-6 Learn to Swim program. Sessions are for two weeks, Monday through Thursday. Sessions are: June 9-19, June 23 - July 3, July 7-18 and July 21-31. For more information, visit www.cityofclive.com/parkandrecreation/aquatic_center/index.php. ■



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Source: cdc.gov 2/25

JOINT accounts: What you should know

While the ease of shared access makes a joint account an appealing option, consider whether it aligns with your financial situation first. To help, we've outlined what a joint account is, its benefits and considerations to keep in mind.

What is a joint account?

A joint account is a bank account shared by two or more individuals. This can include checking and savings accounts, as well as credit cards and mortgage loans. While holders are typically couples, business partners or family members, joint accounts can be held by anyone.

All parties involved on the joint account have equal ownership and access to make deposits and withdrawals.

What are the benefits of joint accounts?

Convenience is the major benefit of having a joint account with an individual you have shared expenses with or someone whose financial affairs you manage. Two common scenarios we see:

- Couples who live together. Couples have many shared expenses, such as rent or a mortgage, home or renter's insurance, groceries and utilities. Setting up a joint account can help seamlessly pay for these expenses together.



Cassandra Haller



Olga Dobbins Oliver

- Children managing their aging parents' finances. Children added to parents' accounts can write checks, as well as withdraw and deposit funds, without needing their parents' permission. This is helpful when parents are unable to manage their finances, ensuring important payments and deposits are handled. Additionally, when the parent passes, the child continues to have access to the funds. An alternative is to add children only as authorized signers, which gives them the authority to make withdrawals and payments until the parent has passed.

What to consider before opening a joint account

Before you open a joint account, know funds in the account are equally held by all holders. The funds are also subject to garnishment — the legal process of collecting money to pay off debt, loss in a lawsuit, a dissolution of a marriage, and other financial dues.

Another aspect to consider is, generally, you can't remove an individual from a joint account unless they are deceased. If you wish to have an individual account but others on your joint account are still alive, you typically must close the joint account, open a new individual account, and transfer the funds. A joint account may simplify the process of managing shared expenses with a loved one, but be mindful of all aspects before opening one. ■

Information provided by Cassandra Haller, VP, Mortgage Loan Originator, NMLS #681625, 11111 University Ave., Clive, Desk: 515-222-2001, Cell: 515-707-6461; and Olga Dobbins Oliver, NMLS ID#: 571175, Office: 515-222-2009, odobbins@bankerstrust.com, West Des Moines Branch, 620 S. 60th St., West Des Moines, IA 50266.

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EQUAL OPPORTUNITY LENDER

MEET Ashlee Sharp

School secretary part of the support system for students.

No matter what time of the school day, a school secretary is busy playing a pivotal role. From taking attendance to answering phone calls, ordering supplies to making daily announcements, the school secretary supports the entire building.

Since 2018, Ashlee Sharp has filled the role of school secretary for Eason Elementary School. Prior to working there, she worked in childcare roles and taught dance for 11 seasons.

"I've always loved children, and, in my adult life, I've always had a career working with them," she says. "I took the job of secretary at Eason because I wanted to do something that would allow me to grow personally and still get to work with kids."

Not a single day looks the same for Ashlee. Though she has daily duties to attend to, the fact that there is variety in each day is one of her favorite aspects of her job. Working in the hub of the school means she works and interacts with everyone: staff and administration, teachers, students and parents.

"For me, this was an easy role to slip into," she shares. "Before this job, I was managing a small business. Many of the daily duties are similar. There was a little bit of a learning curve with the school software, but it wasn't too difficult."

Ashlee says, when she became the school secretary at Eason, she knew right away that it was a special place.

"I started at Eason Elementary, and it felt like home," she shares. "I moved my family to the area so my children could go there."

She enjoys the atmosphere of the school, saying it feels like a big family. She also likes that she shares a building with her own kindergartener.

Recently, the school held its annual cereal dominoes event in the days leading up to National Cereal Day. Ashlee enjoyed seeing the students bring in unopened boxes of cereal for the event. When the big day arrived, they lined up all the boxes along the hallways so they could then watch them fall in a domino effect.

"The kids have so much fun with the event," she says. "After the boxes fall, we gather them and donate them to a local food pantry that operates within our school district. It's wonderful to think that some of it may benefit families of children in our school."

Another annual tradition that Ashlee enjoys is the "last day clap-out" for outgoing fifth graders.

"It's bittersweet to see kids leave who have been at Eason since kindergarten," she admits.

Ashlee takes comfort knowing that, when students are at school, they receive love and support in a safe space. She wants the community to know that she is on their side.

"I make it a priority to get to know every child and as many parents as I can," she says. "I make a point to let them know that I'm a part of their support system, and they can reach out to me with questions and concerns." ■



Ashlee Sharp enjoys working with children and appreciates the "family" atmosphere at Eason Elementary.

WHAT to know about 're-grief'

When children have someone significant in their life die, it can be difficult to know how to best support them. It's natural to want to "fix it," but this is one of those things we cannot fix.

Children will continue to grieve as their development and understanding of the world changes. When the death occurs, the child understands only as fully as their cognitive development allows. As they age, and their development changes, their understanding changes, too. They may have new questions or wonderings and may express their grief in new ways. This is called "re-grief" and can sometimes catch their adults off guard.

While our fundamental understanding of death may not change after adulthood, our understanding and experience of grief can change over time, too. Whenever a new life milestone occurs (i.e., we get married), we understand the world in a different way (as a newly married person). This can also have an impact on our grief. Remember, there is no time limit on grief.

How to help? 1. Listen, compassionately. "It makes sense you feel that way. Do you want to tell me more about it?" 2. Answer questions honestly — and repeatedly if asked — in consistent, developmentally appropriate ways. 3. Encourage creative and physical activities (that they enjoy) to get feelings out of their bodies. 4. Encourage sharing memories and, if you knew their person, share memories you have. They may learn something new about them, and what a gift that is. ■



Information provided by Buffy Peters, Director of Hamilton's Academy of Grief & Loss, 3601 Westown Parkway, West Des Moines, IA 50266, 515-697-3666.



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NEWS BRIEF

CITY OF CLIVE accepting applications for council seat

Clive is accepting applications to fill a City Council seat that will be open following Councilmember Srikant Mikkilineni's resignation on April 11. The council elected to fill the position by appointment at their March 13 meeting.

To apply, individuals must submit a cover letter and resume to the Clive City Clerk's Office for consideration. Submissions can be made via email to mgraham@cityofclive.com, by mail, or in person at Clive City Hall. The application deadline is April 23 at 5 p.m. The City Council will review submitted materials, conduct interviews, and consider an appointment at their meeting on May 1. Applicants must be eligible electors of the City of Clive, meaning they must be at least 18 years old and a resident of Clive. ■

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CHAMBER Celebration

The 2025 Clive Chamber Annual Celebration was held at the Hilton Garden Inn on Feb. 26



Graham Johnson receives the Clive Chamber Scholarship from Ahmed Ibrahim.



Jesse and Shelease Rittenhouse, Business of the Year 2024 — Walter Roofing



Lexi Gabrielson receives the Clive Chamber Scholarship from Ahmed Ibrahim.



Mayor John Edwards



Nikki Nigg, board president



Angie Stepsis, Greater Des Moines Partnership



Kris, Lexi and Mike Gabrielson



Nikki Nigg and Ahmed Ibrahim



Edye Beckerman and Matthew Jansen



Scott McRobbie and Theresa Cherels



Elaine and Clay Deppe

CHAMBER Celebration

The 2025 Clive Chamber Annual Celebration was held at the Hilton Garden Inn on Feb. 26



Eric Klein, John Edwards, Matt Adams and Matt McQuillen



Terry Snyder and Sierra McGinnis



Kevin and Karen McMann



Kristy Schmitt, Jessee and Shelease Rittenhouse



Laramie and Jason Krull



Julie Cirksena and Shelby Chavez



Amy Heston and Gareid Hassel



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