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Local cancer survivors
share their stories of
strength and resilience

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WELCOME

THE TRIALS and tribulations made them stronger

A few decades ago, my dad and I had a conversation about the tremendous health care costs that are associated with medical treatments for cancer patients. Being a naïve and overconfident young man, I expressed my concern over how we are all paying for these costs through higher insurance costs on our own plans.

My dad, who was not a wealthy man but was wise, told me he was glad to pay his share and that he was thankful he had not needed the treatments.

A few years later, Dad was diagnosed with bladder cancer. A few years after that, despite a valiant fight against it, the disease had spread throughout his body and took his life.

Unfortunately, my dad's story is not unique. Almost 10 million people die of cancer worldwide each year, including more than 600,000 Americans. But this is not a message about death. Rather, it is about beating cancer.

In the United States alone, more than 18 million people are cancer survivors, and this number is projected to grow to 26 million by 2040. Each year, many individuals live five or more years after their cancer diagnosis, contributing to the overall number of survivors.

You likely know some of these heroes. You may even be one.

In our cover story this month, we share the victorious stories from some of the folks who received the news we all hope we never have to hear. The adage says, "What doesn't kill you makes you stronger." The trials and tribulations these survivors faced certainly made them stronger, and they serve as role models for those of us who must face the same challenge — and even those of us who, hopefully, never have to.

Thanks for reading. ■



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SURVIVING

and thriving

Local cancer survivors share their stories of strength and resilience



By Rachel Harrington

As has been widely reported in recent months, Iowa continues to have the second highest age-adjusted rate of new cancers in the U.S. and is one of only two states — the other being Kentucky — with a rising rate, according to the Cancer in Iowa Report produced by the Iowa Cancer Registry (see full report at <https://shri.public-health.uiowa.edu/cancer-data/reports/iowa-cancer-reports>). An estimated 21,200 Iowans will be diagnosed with new, invasive cancers this year. Yet, with cancer screenings and improved treatment methods, more Iowans are joining the estimated 171,535 cancer survivors living in the state now.

Deb Erickson was by her husband, Erik's, side as he battled colon and bladder cancers.

A second round

Tiffany Spencer has survived two battles with breast cancer.

“My story starts in 2011,” she recalls. “My husband, Ben, and I had purchased some supplemental cancer-specific insurance. In 2012, we wanted to cut expenses, but before we cut the extra insurance, I decided I needed to get a lump in my breast checked out. It turns out that it was stage 1A breast cancer. My daughter was 7 at the time. I didn’t want to use the word ‘cancer’ around her, so she just knew that mom was sick, and the doctors were going to help her. We didn’t use the word ‘cancer’ until she was older.”

After her official diagnosis in March 2012, Spencer had a single mastectomy. The original plan was to undergo aggressive chemotherapy and radiation. However, after a post-op check, she was told her lymph nodes were clear and that she didn’t need the treatment. Instead, Spencer was put on a 5-year plan with Tamoxifen (a hormone therapy used to treat and prevent certain types of breast cancer), but, before she began the plan, she discovered she was pregnant with her son, so the process was delayed. Spencer waited for about three years before having reconstructive surgery, preferring to have surgery when her son was a little older.

“I just decided one day that it was time to get it done, so I did it,” she says.

Her reconstructive surgery involved using skin, fat and blood vessels transferred from the lower abdomen to rebuild the breast.

In 2012, her son was born. Almost 10 years to the date, Spencer received her second diagnosis of breast cancer in March 2023, and it was stage 2B. The cancer was detected by chance.

“Mammograms on reconstructed breasts aren’t a common practice, so I hadn’t done them,” Spencer remembers. “I was having other female issues, including a non-stop period. I ended up in the ER twice. I thought it was going to be uterine cancer. I had an abdominal CAT scan, and it caught the bottom portion of my left breast just enough that an ultrasound tech saw something wasn’t right. There had been only a 3% chance of that happening.”

Spencer underwent biopsies, ultrasounds and a lumpectomy. This time, she went through with radiation. Once the second cancer was removed and radiation administered, her other issues went away.

Spencer says her main struggles along the



Tiffany Spencer fought a second round of breast cancer when the cancer developed in her reconstructed breast, which is a rare occurrence.

“If I hadn’t pushed for myself two years ago, my story would be different.”

- Tiffany Spencer

way were asking for help and allowing others to do things for her.

“After my reconstruction, I wasn’t good at taking things easy and not ‘doing.’ My body wasn’t healing as fast. I had to learn to let others help me with everyday things like laundry,” she states.

However, Spencer says that maintaining a positive attitude helped her tremendously, as well as all the support she received from her family, friends and community. She encourages others to pay attention to their bodies and be their own advocates.

“If I hadn’t pushed for myself two years ago, my story would be different,” she says.

Throughout the years, Spencer has been on the committee for Madison County Bras for a Cause, an organization that helps women get the breast cancer screening and testing they need and may not have access to, and she considers that work incredibly important.

“If ladies don’t know where to go, there are resources out there that are more than willing to help,” she says.



Denny Jurgens knew the importance of screening for prostate cancer, but 10 years still passed between screenings.

An overdue test is positive

Denny Jurgens spent 33 years working as a manager in the clinical lab and radiology department at Madison County Memorial Hospital. He is familiar with the ins and outs of proper preventative care and health. However, at a regular visit to his family doctor, Jurgens realized he had overlooked something crucial.

“I get a regular checkup at my local doctor. Six years ago, he told me that I hadn’t had a prostate exam since I was 65. I was 75 at the time,” he shares. “I should have known better than to wait that long to get checked. I had my PSA (prostate specific antigen) checked, and it was 8.2. A normal range is 0.5 – 1.8. I had no symptoms, so I was surprised that my PSA was that high.”

Jurgens’ family doctor referred him to a urologist who said he would need a biopsy, and the sooner the better. He had eight biopsies done on each side of his prostate, and all 16 of them were positive for cancer. However, all of them were enclosed in the prostate, so Jurgens says he was grateful and fortunate that he could get it treated.

Three choices were presented to him: surgical removal, internal radiation (radioactive “seeds” are implanted) or external radiation, which his urologist recommended. He was referred to a radiation oncologist in West Des Moines.

“That doctor marked the area with a dye and marking pen,” he shares. “That was the target, specifically on that spot. I had 43 of those done over a period, which was a lot. The first 30 were kind of a breeze, and the last 13 were a little harder. I was concerned at first about how long the radiation would take. It was just long enough to sing ‘How Great Thou Art’ — about six minutes.”

During all 43 treatments, he followed the doctor’s orders to remain still and found comfort in singing.

After Jurgens completed the treatments, he returned to his urologist for a follow-up.

“My PSA numbers were down to .03 — almost undetectable,” he recalls. “I was tested every six months to a year after that until about two months ago, around the first part of April. I was then told I was cancer free and didn’t have to come back anymore. I liked the sound of that.”

Jurgens credits his faith and the love and care of his wife, Jane, who stood with him hand-in-hand throughout the process, as major

“I want to make men aware about getting their prostate tested at age 55 or older. The earlier problems are detected, the better chance you have.”

— Denny Jurgens

factors in helping him through the battle. Jurgens remained involved with his usual activities — such as attending church, golfing and mowing his lawn — through the entire six-year process. He had three good doctors and is grateful to them for their care. He has friends who are now walking the same cancer journey that he did.

“I want to make men aware about getting their prostate tested at age 55 or older,” Jurgens urges. “The earlier problems are detected, the better chance you have.”

Chemotherapy cut short

Erik Erikson had just started an average workday in the spring of 2020 when his co-worker, Kraig Daugherty, noticed Erik was sweating profusely and struggling, even though it was still early in the morning. Daugherty mentioned his concern to Erikson, but he shrugged it off, not thinking much of it. The Eriksons’ daughter graduated in May of 2020, and, that summer, he began falling ill. At first, he thought it was stomach flu.

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FEATURE

“Kraig initially sat me down and convinced me to do something about it and that something was wrong. I’m thankful he did.”

Deb, Erikson’s wife, shares that he first went to the hospital in Winterset, which sent him on to MercyOne Hospital in Des Moines. After a CAT scan and a mini-colonoscopy, doctors discovered a stage 3 tumor in Erikson’s colon. He was given the option of surgery to remove the tumor or undergoing chemotherapy.

“They were scared that, if the tumor got into the ‘highway’ — the lymph nodes — it would spread,” he shares. “So, they suggested starting with chemotherapy to shrink the tumor first. Each time, for the first 12-18 hours, I’d be good, but by the 24-hour mark, I felt like garbage. I had a strange sleeping pattern, a weird appetite, and would experience a metallic taste in my mouth due to the chemo. I also had neuropathy in my hands and feet.”

Erikson made it through nine of the 12 rounds of chemotherapy the doctors wanted to do before more trouble stepped into his life.

Erikson became sick again and had to be

taken by ambulance to MercyOne Hospital. His tumor had grown into his bladder and dumped toxins into his bloodstream via a fistula. One cancer had morphed into two cancers: colon and bladder.

“It was ironic because they put him on the floor with infectious diseases, including the COVID patients, especially since he had a weakened immune system,” Deb says. “Because of the epidemic, I had to just go home and wait. I couldn’t go see him until I got special permission to visit on a Sunday.”

Erikson’s chemotherapy treatments were halted, and surgery was scheduled for the beginning of January 2021. The surgery was successful, and Erikson had 6 inches of colon and a third of his bladder removed.

“My surgery was done robotically,” he says. “I was kind of a guinea pig.”

Now, almost five years later, Erikson is officially cancer-free.

Erikson is grateful to his entire team of doctors who made it possible to overcome two cancers at once.

“I had a great support system... Without these people, it would have been a lot more difficult for me.”

— Erik Erikson

“I had a great support system,” he says. “My wife stood with me the whole time. I had a chemo buddy, Jan Sonic, going through the same thing as I was. It was bittersweet and comforting to know someone was walking through the same thing I was, though, unfortunately, he didn’t make it. Pastor Jason Gurwell was a big help and encouraged me along the way. Lastly, I had a great team of doctors: Dr. Mayin Lin, my surgeon, and Dr. Christian Schultheis. Without these people, it would have been a lot more difficult for me.” ■

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MEET Reid Leichthy

Reflects on 14 years in Winterset schools

As a student at Simpson College in Indianola, Reid Leichthy wanted to dabble in education. But after changing majors multiple times, he found himself off pace to graduate on time, and student teaching would have further delayed his graduation. He ultimately dropped his education minor and graduated in 2007 with a biology degree.

His first job out of college was in the conservation field, working initially as a trails crew member in Montana and then as a seasonal field technician with the DNR.

“In both of those experiences, I had opportunities to educate and work with the public and found that those were the aspects of the job I was most excited about,” Leichthy says.

Following that interest, he enrolled at the University of Iowa, where he completed a master’s degree in science education and earned his initial teaching license. Leichthy originally intended to find a teaching job near his hometown in southeast Iowa, but after interviewing in late May of 2011 and receiving an offer from Winterset, he decided it would be a good fit to get started.

“I don’t think I ever thought I would be here 14 years later,” he says. “My interest in coming to Winterset was honestly the location near Des Moines, the size of town, and the fact that I would just have one class to prep for every day, although I would teach it six times per day.”

Leichthy spent his first 12 years in Winterset as a science teacher. Two years ago, he transitioned into a new role as the district’s technology integrationist.

His favorite part of the job is the variety. In the mornings, he facilitates a new cybersecurity course. He also supports classroom teachers and students in their use of devices and applications.

“Since I was formerly full time in the classroom, I have had my



Reid Leichthy started his teaching career in Winterset, and he and his wife, Jessie, are raising their family in the community.

share of tech problems and know how these issues can ruin a lesson,” Leichthy says. “My goal is to respond as quickly as possible to get teachers and students up and running. I also get many opportunities to capture content of the great things going on in our schools and create recap videos to showcase those experiences to the public.”

One of his favorite teaching memories comes from the class of 2017.

“They were my second group of eighth graders, and since I did not have a great first year, I was rethinking whether I wanted to teach or not,” Leichthy explains. “This class was outstanding and restored my belief that I should remain in education. In my homeroom that year, we were supposed to watch the ‘Channel 1’ news program each day, but they would always talk me into putting ‘Just Dance’ videos on the board or letting them sing karaoke. Such a fun group.”

Ultimately, what Leichthy appreciates most about Winterset schools is the support he has received when he wants to try new things in the classroom.

Outside of work, Leichthy enjoys biking, being outdoors and spending time with his wife, Jessie — who is from Winterset — and their three kids: Bridger, Rylin and Nyla. ■

Suggest a teacher
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Iowa Living MAGAZINES

REAL ESTATE

By Jennifer Stover

SPRUCE up curb appeal

Summer has arrived. And that means potential buyers will start house hunting by driving by your house. Make the best first impression by sprucing up your curb appeal.



1. Accentuate the front porch: Show off the front porch as a place to relax. Stage it with seating areas, such as Adirondack chairs, a porch swing or a bistro set. After all, potential homebuyers rank the front porch as one of the top home features they want in their next home, according to a 2024 survey from the National Association of Home Builders.

2. Add a window box: Bring color to your exterior by adding boxes along the bottom edge of the home's windows. It can enhance a home's colors and architecture. However, not every window needs a flower box. Reserve it just for the large picture window or the windows on a second story. To fill the flower boxes, consider seasonal floral arrangements.

3. Bring in texture: River rocks or crushed gravel are lower maintenance alternatives to mulch. Consider using plants with soft, flowing foliage and boulders nestled within a landscape as an accent.

4. Pay attention to the lighting: Add lighting along walkways to bring curb appeal, even when it's dark outside. Also, for both sides of a porch, consider on-trend boxed lanterns in a black or antique bronze. Or, try an oversized hanging pendant or chandelier above the front door to draw eyes in. ■

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

BEAT the summer heat

It is a good idea to test out your air conditioning to ensure it is functioning properly before we get too far into the hot, humid Iowa summer. Not much is worse than jumping into your 100-degree vehicle only to find out the AC system is not working like it should. It is one of those things that is easy to take for granted — until you don't have it. Here are common issues that can affect your AC.



• **A refrigerant leak** is one of the most common causes of a car's AC not working. It could be the result of rubber seals and hoses breaking down over time and allowing the refrigerant to escape.

• **A damaged or failing compressor** will not be able to properly regulate the refrigerant flow in the AC system, and, as a result, the AC will not function properly. When your air conditioning isn't cooling as much, it could be a sign of a failing condenser.

• **Electrical problems** such as failed switches, a blown fuse, or a problem with the control module can affect your AC. Fuses can short out and make the AC stop working, or a loose connection can create an electrical short.

Keep yourself cool all summer long. Have your air conditioning checked before summer gets underway or as soon as you notice a problem to save yourself a lot of grief, time and money. ■

Information provided by Dawn Lauer, marketing specialist, Quality Car Care, 1012 N. 10th St., Winterset, 515-462-1035.



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BEAUTY By Annie Wiseman

TAME the frizz

Hello summer — my absolute favorite time of year. I love the heat, but my hair hates all the humidity. While there are lots of ways to help fight the frizz, I'm dedicating this article to the Brazilian Blowout.

The first thing I'll say about this executive service is that it is life changing. If you struggle with frizzy hair or are the person who blows your hair out regularly, this is for you. The "why" it works is it simply adds a thick keratin layer to the outer most part of the hair strand. The "how" this works is in the labor-intensive process of deep cleansing the hair, meticulously applying the product throughout the hair, then blowing it dry. Next comes a repetitive flat iron process that passes through the hair ten times. Once all of that is complete, the hair gets rinsed, deep conditioned and finished with a blow dry. You can budget about three hours for this service.

The results are a protective barrier of keratin (a strengthening protein already present in the hair) that leaves the hair silky and smooth. The Brazilian Blowout can last up to four months. The Keratin barrier slowly breaks down with each shampooing, so it's a good idea to wash your hair less frequently.

I stand behind my statement that this is life changing. Consult with your stylist to see if this service is right for you. ■

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

HELPFUL tips for gardening

Mowing, mulching, planting, pruning — the longer days ahead bring in a favorite summertime hobby... gardening. As therapeutic, fun and rewarding as gardening may be, it often puts a lot of stress on your body. So, it is important to keep some tips in mind before you start your digging.

Use proper body mechanics. Always bend at the hips and knees, not your waist. Lift with your legs, and keep heavy loads close to your body to avoid extra strain. Avoid twisting your spine when lifting or reaching. Consider using a low stool rather than squatting or kneeling for long periods of time.

Take frequent breaks. Stand up, walk around and stretch every 20 minutes or so. This will prevent repetitive strain and give your spine a break.

Stretch before and ice after your garden session. Gardening may not be the most aggressive sport, but that does not mean it doesn't require stretching and cooling down. Focus on hamstrings, wrists and shoulder stretching. Ice sore areas afterward for 20 minutes. Your muscles will thank you later.

Keep regular chiropractor visits. Maintenance adjustments can correct minor misalignments before they become painful. Talk to your chiropractor about increasing the frequency of adjustments for a period of time to better support your spine and nervous system as you use your body more this season. ■

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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BRUXISM: the clenching and grinding of teeth

Do you clench your teeth? Or perhaps you grind your teeth, rubbing them front to back or side to side? Putting this kind of pressure on your teeth is called bruxism. Bruxism can not only cause problems with your teeth, it can also cause headaches or pain in your jaw joints or muscles.



lifestyle, diet and sleep behaviors. Some lifestyle choices or behaviors associated with bruxism include smoking, stress, anxiety and extended use of electronic devices. Certain dietary choices are more common among people with bruxism such as heavy alcohol use, drinking caffeinated beverages and diets high in sugar. There are some behaviors that seem to affect sleep quality and contribute to developing sleep bruxism, such as snoring, mouth breathing and sudden breaks in breathing during sleep.

What is bruxism?

Bruxism is not a disorder as much as it is a habit. It is the repeated clenching or grinding of your teeth. In many cases it occurs during sleep, but it can also occur when you are awake.

Bruxism not only occurs in adults, but also in children and teens.

What causes bruxism?

There are a number of factors that may contribute to developing bruxism, including

Signs of bruxism

Because bruxism puts tension on your teeth and jaws, there are several oral signs that might signal there is a problem. Talk to your dentist if you notice jaw pain or stiffness, wear on your teeth, headaches, teeth that are sensitive to hot or cold or indentations along the side of the tongue.

Tips to reduce bruxism

Ideas to help reduce the risk of developing

bruxism would include stop smoking; limit the amount of time spent with electronic devices; limit the amount of alcohol, caffeine and sugar in your diet; and establish a regular bedtime routine. To help reduce damage to your teeth, your dentist may make a mouthguard you can wear during sleep. Botox injections can also be used in certain situations to help relax the jaw muscles.

Conclusions

Bruxism causes pressure on your teeth and jaw muscles. It can affect adults or children and can occur during sleep or when awake. The way you manage stress or anxiety, choices you make about snoring or your diet, and behaviors that negatively affect the quality of your sleep can contribute to developing bruxism. Talk to your dentist about ways to limit your risk of developing bruxism. ■

Information provided by Dr. Jason Phelps, Winterset Dental, 225 Wambold Drive, Winterset, 515-462-5755, Instagram: dr._jason_phelps

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WHY YOUNG adults need their own auto insurance policy



Graduating college or moving out of your parents' home is a big milestone — and with independence comes new responsibilities, including making sure you are properly insured. One crucial but often overlooked step is getting your own auto insurance policy. Many young adults assume they are still covered under their parents' plan, but that's not always the case.

Most auto insurance policies provide coverage to household members. Once you're no longer living at home, you may no longer qualify as an "insured" under your parents' policy by definition. This change can result in losing critical protections, even if you're not driving.

For example, uninsured and underinsured motorist coverage often extends to household members who are injured as pedestrians or passengers — even when they aren't in a covered vehicle. If you're no longer a resident of your parents' home, this protection may no longer apply. Without your own policy, you could be left with large medical bills if you're hit by a driver with little or no insurance.

Another often-lost benefit is newly acquired vehicle coverage. If you were still considered a household member and purchased a new car, your parents' policy might have automatically provided temporary coverage. But once you're out on your own, that automatic coverage no longer applies. If you buy a car and haven't secured your own policy yet, you could be driving uninsured.

Auto insurance also provides protection when you're borrowing someone else's vehicle, renting a car, or even defending against liability claims. Without your own policy, these situations can become financially devastating.

Setting up your own auto policy ensures you retain full protection as an individual. It also starts building your own insurance history, which can help lower your premiums over time. Many insurance companies offer affordable options for young adults, and bundling with renter's insurance or taking advantage of good student discounts can reduce costs even more.

As you step into this new phase of life, don't leave insurance to chance. A little planning now can provide peace of mind and financial security when you need it most. ■

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

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WENCK helps where he sees a need

Supports variety of local causes

Tony Wenck's name is well known in Winterset because of his business, Tony Wenck's Factory Outlet Fireworks, which he opened in 2017, following the legalization of

fireworks in Iowa. What isn't as well known is that Wenck is a strong and long-term supporter of the community through charitable giving.

"We've always tried to give something back to the community through this business. We've given over \$5,000 to the fire department over the years; we've given over \$5,000 to CRISP (Community Resources in Service to People). And, there's an organization called Cradling New Life that we help, too."

The Cradling New Life mission is to address the needs of families enduring the struggles of pre-term labor, premature birth, or other ill little ones in Iowa hospitals' neonatal intensive care units by raising awareness and establishing a unified footprint to support their needs.

Wenck himself has experienced how, in the blink of an eye, a person can suddenly have a need for help. In March 2022, Winterset was hit by a deadly tornado that claimed seven lives. It leveled Wenck's home, but the family wasn't injured. Wenck's daughters are now 5 and 10, and he believes in supporting their community in any way he can, especially when formal processes run a bit too slowly to meet an immediate need.

"I'm from Winterset, and I've lived here for the most part of my life," Wenck says. "I try to be involved and support the community. I've bought defibrillators for the county and the city when their budgets didn't align."

Wenck explains the need he's focusing on supporting in 2025.

"This year, we've decided to support something called the Winterset Community Service Ministry. It's run through a local church here. It helps people who need help with groceries, or utility bills, or car tags or whatever," he says. "Some people don't realize it, but there's actually a rise in homelessness in the area."

Wenck also helps Winterset through his actions.

"There's a ditch area that the state and the city argue over, so I mow that and clean it up a couple of times per year," he says.

Wenck's busy season in Winterset is June 1 through July 8, when the store will be open and selling fireworks. The store is also open for two weeks during the Christmas and New Year season. Wenck also runs a business in Mexico during the winter.

Wenck says he isn't doing anything extraordinary through his giving back but rather that he is simply doing his part to make the Winterset area better. He encourages others to help in whatever way is most meaningful.

"You can choose to be positive and make things better," Wenck says. "Life will pay you back." ■



Felicia Weeks and Kristina Benshoof of Farm Bureau present the Citizen of the Month certificate to Tony Wenck.

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BOOK REVIEWS

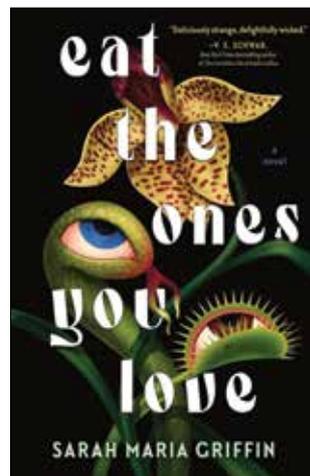
Courtesy of Beaverdale Books

'Eat the Ones You Love'

Creepy nostalgia with a literary flare and a killer orchid? Sounds like a good time to me. I like unexpected horror, especially the kind with a psychological undercurrent that makes the reader question their own mental habits and awareness in the same way a slasher film gets the watcher to check the closets before bed. I need more than monsters; I need pathos.

Shell is a sad 30-something who has found herself having to start over back in her hometown after a breakup and career implosion. Drawn to the sad remains of the local shopping mall, she stumbles across a floral shop in need of an assistant. Taken with both the bouquets and the enigmatic florist herself, Shell embarks on a new career that will change everything — just not how she imagines it will.

Sharply funny prose and a relatable sense of you-can't-go-home-again pervades this charming, gory, wistful tale that is both terrifying and beautiful in equal measure. The characters were familiar and charming, and despite the short length of the book, I was completely mesmerized by the end. Be sure to keep an eye on your houseplants as you read, just in case. ■ — *Review by Julie Goodrich*



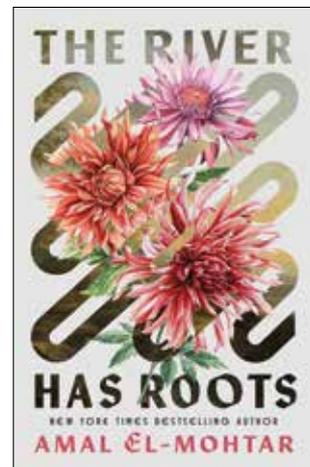
By Sarah Maria Griffin
4/22/25
288 pages
\$27.99
Tor Books

'The River Has Roots'

Name a better duo than fairy tales and poetry. Lofty and magical and dream-like, this brilliant little book absolutely whisked me away. I love a story that calls to the same part of me that a poem does, something that feels like it should be a myth even if it is a brand-new tale.

Ysabel and Esther Hawthorn have an important role to play in the town of Thistleford, a job their family has carried for generations. They tend to the trees that border the River Liss, a winding river that serves as a character in its own right. The sisters share a powerful bond that is threatened when a suitor comes to call.

The prose was captivating and the characters so rich I didn't want it to end. There is a time and a place for vast, sprawling epics, but for me, there is always room for a lyrical novella that asks more questions than it answers and leaves me feeling like I might have spent a few hours in the Fae myself. ■ — *Review by Julie Goodrich*



By Amal El-Mohtar
3/4/25
133 pages
\$24.99
Arcadia

FROM the Rockies to the rolling hills

Kaysen family found home in Madison County.



Tara and Brett Kaysen and their family moved from Colorado to Madison County, where they found a farm situated in the scenic countryside.

Tara Kaysen and her family moved to the area in the summer of 2018 after her husband, Brett, took a job in Des Moines. A friend who had recently relocated to Winterset passed along his real estate agent’s contact information, launching the Kaysens’ home search in Madison County.

At their previous home in Colorado, they had 10 acres of land. They were looking for a place with even more space, a great school district, and an easy commute for Brett into Des Moines.

They found just the place — with 20 scenic acres.

“Our property is beautiful,” Kaysen says. “We love the rolling hills of Madison County. We enjoy the sunrise, the sunsets and all the wildlife we get to see on a daily basis.”

Their rural property offers a handful of neighbors, but the family enjoys the peace and privacy that come with country living. Summer evenings are spent on the back deck, taking in the fireflies, listening to the frogs, and soaking up the beauty of nature.

Over the years, the Kaysens have enjoyed becoming more connected in Winterset.

“We met a lot of the community through being a vendor at the Madison County Farmers Market,” she says. “It has been a great way to connect with others around town since we live out of town.”

Today, Kaysen serves on the Madison County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Her family business, Kaysen Family Farms, joined the chamber in 2020.

“Being a board member has really helped me engage in the community,” she says. “We always appreciate the loyalty of our Madison County customers and always are available for people in our area to choose local pork and beef for their family.”

Kaysen vividly remembers how, when they first told family and friends they were moving to Iowa, people struggled to understand why they would leave the foothills of the Colorado Rockies.

“Once they come to visit and see the beautiful rolling hills and our hallmark setting of our town, they then understand why we are where we are,” Kaysen says. “The people in the community are also the absolute best.” ■



WINTERSET Public Library news

The Winterset Public Library offers a variety of services available to the public.

Adult services

- **Audio book collection:** We have a large variety of audio books on CD that may be checked out by card holders.

- **Genealogy collection/Iowa collection:** Your library is a great place to study your roots. We have an entire collection of materials dedicated to genealogical research. We also have a section dedicated to the history and culture of our great state.

- **Large print collection:** We keep large print editions of many of our books for those who have trouble reading standard print.

- **Delivery for the homebound:** If you are unable to leave your home, we can deliver materials to you. Please call The library for more information or to request homebound delivery.

- **Movies and compact discs:** If you want to kick back and watch a movie or listen to some music, your library is still the place to go. We loan movies on both DVD and VHS and music CDs.

- **Newspapers:** We stock current and back issues of the Des Moines Register, Winterset Madisionian and Wall Street Journal.

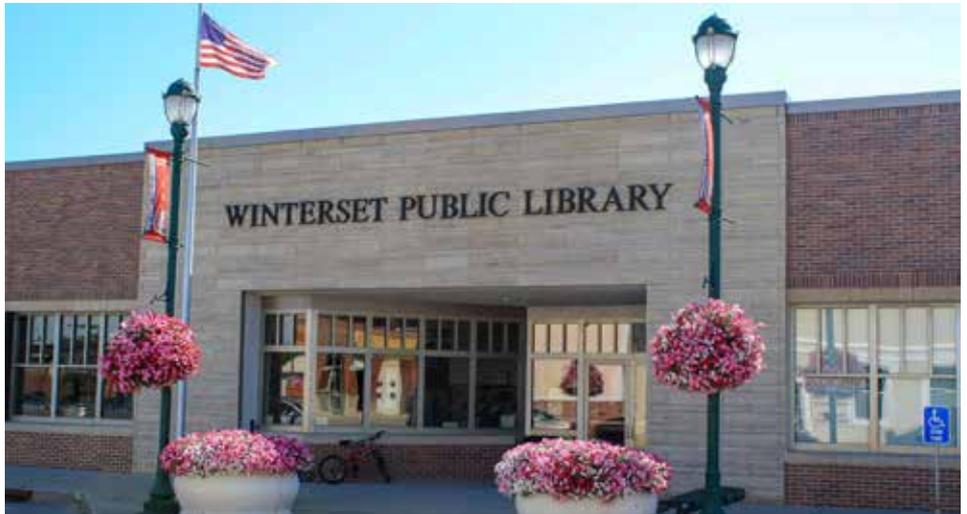
- **Public meeting room:** Our large public meeting room is available for use. Please inquire at The library if interested and visit the Meeting Room page online for more information.

Children's services

The Children's Department strives to serve the whole child, including recreational, informational and cultural book needs. Parents, teachers, organizations, church youth workers, authors and artists in the children's field may all find the children's collection to be useful and inspirational.

The Children's Department serves children from infancy through seventh grade. Children with learning disabilities and children who are advanced readers are also served here. Materials are selected by the children's librarian through regular examination of various professional reviewing publications.

The library has ongoing programs designed for children, as well as many special events. Parents are welcome to attend events with their children for fun and enjoyment that fosters a love of reading.



Exam proctoring

The library offers a proctoring service to help fulfill your educational needs. Proctoring is available during the hours The library is open to the public. There is no fee unless your academic institution requires a fee. To schedule your proctored exam, call The library at 515-462-1731 or email library@winterset.gov.

Fax service

You may send and receive faxes with staff assistance. Sending a fax costs \$1 per page. Receiving a fax costs \$.50 per page. The library's fax number is 515-462-4196. Ask at the service desk and staff will assist you.

Scanning service

The library's photocopier will also scan materials to save to a flash drive or to email. There is no charge for scanning. Scanning is self-service; ask staff if you need assistance with the equipment.

Notary public

The library offers free notary services to the public when the notary public is working. Call

Winterset Public Library

123 N. Second St., Winterset

515-462-1731

library@winterset.gov

www.wintersetlibrary.org

Hours:

Monday - Thursday: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Friday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sunday: Closed

ahead to see when they will be in, 515-462-1731, or email library@winterset.gov.

Wireless and computer access

The library has public computers with internet access. Wireless computer access is available for free; no password is needed to log in. We have 12 public access computers with internet access. With a library card, you may use computers for 60-minute sessions with time extensions possible based on computer availability.

If you do not have a library card, visit the service desk for assistance logging on as a guest. Guest sessions are limited to 60 minutes per day.

The library's internet access is not filtered. Parents are given the opportunity to allow or disallow access to the internet when they register their children younger than 14 for a library card. The library is not responsible for monitoring children's internet usage.

Printing is available from The library's computers or from your own device using wireless access. Black-and-white printing is 10 cents per page; color printing is \$1 per page. ■

CONSERVATION

MADISON County Conservation events

Angler's Retreat - ages 8-12

June 12, 9-11:30 a.m.

Fellowship Forest, 2508 Pammel Park Trail, Winterset

Get ready for an exciting one-day fishing camp designed for kids ages 8-12. They will learn essential fishing skills like casting, bait selection and knot tying while exploring a beautiful fishing location. The camp includes hands-on activities such as fishing challenges and nature walks that promote teamwork and camaraderie. Your child will have the opportunity to enhance their fishing skills, connect with nature and make lasting friendships. Sign up now for an unforgettable adventure. Cost is \$15. For registration link, visit www.mycountyparks.com/County/Madison/Events.



Shadows & Scents Overnight Camp

Separate camps for boys and girls - ages 8-13

June 17-18, 9 a.m. to 9 a.m.

1900 Pammel Park Road (park entrance), Winterset

Step into the excitement of the thrilling Shadows and Scents Survival Camp, where adventure awaits under the stars. This overnight camp will immerse you in the wonders of the Iowa wilderness. Discover the secrets of nocturnal animals like skunks and bobcats as you embark on a night hike, learning to identify their scents and tracks. Get hands-on experience smelling trapping lures and creating your own "fake frog eggs." As the sun sets, gather around the campfire for some delicious dutch oven cooking and play fun games that will bring out your inner explorer. With exciting adventures and new friendships waiting, don't miss the chance to experience a magical night in nature. Participants are expected to bring their own sleeping bag or pillow/blanket and two changes of clothing. Cost is \$55.

Boys will be camping in the OAK yurt cabin with male chaperones.

Girls will be camping in the HICKORY yurt cabin with female chaperones.

For registration, visit www.mycountyparks.com/County/Madison/Events.

Spiders, Snakes and Sasquatch - ages 8-12

June 24-25, 9 a.m. to noon

Pammel Park, 2508 Pammel Park Trail, Winterset

Delve into the mysteries of spiders, snakes and the legendary Sasquatch. As we step into the realm of folklore and ancient tales, students will examine the evidence — or lack thereof — surrounding this mysterious figure. Through critical thinking and creative games, they'll learn to differentiate between fact and fiction while enjoying the beautiful surroundings of Pammel Park. Uncover their secrets and unravel the science behind these feared creatures in the untamed wilderness. Cost \$25. For registration, visit www.mycountyparks.com/County/Madison/Events. ■

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ELEVATE your menu for a legendary backyard barbecue

(Family Features) Summer is here and it's time to hit the grill. Take at-home entertaining to the next level by upgrading everyone's favorite cheeseburger with ground pork.

Family and friends will love this elevated twist on a summer favorite that is oh-so-deliciously different than the traditional beef patty. These pork and bacon burgers are made with Heritage Duroc pork, known for its rich flavor and juiciness, and will be a hit at your next barbecue. The crispy bacon adds another level of texture and flavor, making these juicy burgers a gourmet treat that rivals any takeout burger. Celebrating 150 years as the premium all-natural meat choice for families, Coleman All Natural Meats offers a variety of products that are sourced from American family farmers who humanely raise livestock with no antibiotics and no added hormones.

Find more recipes to elevate your grilling experience at ColemanNatural.com. ■

Pork and bacon burgers

Prep time: 10 minutes

Cook time: 10 minutes

Servings: 6

- 2 pounds Coleman Ground Pork
- 1/4 pound ground pork chorizo
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 6 cheese slices (optional)
- 6 hamburger buns
- 6-8 strips Coleman Hickory Smoked Uncured Bacon, cooked
- tomato slices (optional)
- red onion slices (optional)
- lettuce (optional)
- ketchup (optional)
- mayonnaise (optional)

- Preheat grill to medium heat.
- In large mixing bowl, combine ground pork, chorizo, onion,

garlic, salt and pepper.

- Gently mix ingredients, being careful not to overwork meat.
- Divide meat into six burger patties.
- Cook burgers 3-4 minutes per side until internal temperature reaches 145 F or desired doneness.
- During last 2-3 minutes of cooking, place cheese slices on top of burgers to melt, if desired.
- Transfer burgers to platter. Assemble burgers with buns, bacon, tomato slices, red onion slices, lettuce, ketchup and mayonnaise, as desired.
- **Tip:** Burger patties may be frozen up to 1 month. Fully defrost before cooking.



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A DECISION not made is still a decision

Whether through inertia or trepidation, investors who put off important investment decisions might consider the admonition offered by motivational speaker Brian Tracy: “Almost any decision is better than no decision at all.”¹

This investment inaction is played out in many ways, often silently, invisibly and with potential consequence to an individual’s future financial security.



Let’s review some of the forms this takes.

Your 401(k) plan

The worst indecision may be the failure to enroll. Not only do nonparticipants sacrifice one of the best ways to save for their eventual retirement, but they also forfeit the money that any employer-matching contributions represent. Not participating holds the potential to be one of the most costly indecisions one can make.

The other way individuals let indecision get the best of them is by not selecting the investments for the contributions they make to the 401(k) plan. When a participant fails to make an investment selection, the plan may have provisions for automatically investing that money. And that investment selection may not be consistent with the individual’s time horizon, risk tolerance and goals.

Under the SECURE Act, in most circumstances, you must begin taking required minimum distributions from your 401(k) or other defined contribution plan in the year you turn 72. Withdrawals from your 401(k) or other defined contribution plans are taxed as ordinary income and, if taken before age 59, may be subject to a 10% federal income tax penalty.

Non-retirement plan investments

For homeowners, “stuff” just seems to accumulate over time. The same may be true for investors. Some buy investments based on articles they have read or based on the recommendations of a family member. Others may have investments held in a previous employer’s 401(k) plan.

Over time, we can end up with a collection of investments that may have no connection to our investment objectives. Because of the dynamics of the markets, an investment that may have made good sense at one time may no longer be advantageous today.

By not periodically reviewing what we own, which would allow us to cull inappropriate investments — or even determining if the portfolio reflects our current investment objectives — we are making a default decision to own investments that may be inappropriate.

Whatever your situation, your retirement investments require careful attention and may benefit from deliberate, thoughtful decision making. Your retired self will be grateful that you invested the time ... today. ■

1. Brainy Quote, 2021. 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 Suite 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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EVENTS IN THE AREA

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Upcoming in Winterset Living magazine:

Yards: Enjoying the green spaces around your home: Do you have a lush, green lawn with plenty of open spaces? Tell us how you keep your yard healthy and how your family makes the best of the space. Perhaps your yard provides space for barbecues, fun around the pool or hot tub, room for play equipment and lawn games. Email tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com with your experiences enjoying the cool feeling of grass beneath your feet.

RV Camping: Do you enjoy packing up the RV and heading out on the open road for vacation? Share with us why you think RVing is the way to go and the adventures you've discovered. Email tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com with your stories.

Touch-A-Truck

Saturday, June 7, 10 a.m. to noon
Winterset Public Library, 123 N. Second St., Winterset

Bring the kids to the Winterset Public Library for the annual Touch-A-Truck event. Kids can safely explore their favorite vehicles and heavy machinery, as well as meet the safe operators who protect, serve and build the Madison County community. This event is free and open to the public.



Wednesday Winterset Wellness Support

Second and fourth Wednesdays,
5:30 p.m.

Winterset Public Library,
23 N. Second St.

A healthy lifestyle is easier to achieve when you have support. This group meets every two weeks, which gives each person enough time to work on their goals in between meetings and discover what obstacles or achievements they encounter. Participants can share what has worked for them and find ways to get active and eat healthy together.



Messy Munchkins

Thursdays,
10:15 a.m. to noon
Winterset Public Library, 23 N. Second St.

Children ages 0-5, with an adult, are invited to explore, play and create. No registration required.

Pink Tractor Foundation Country Carnival

Saturday, June 14, 3:30 p.m.
16315 20th Ave., St. Charles

Enjoy carnival games, food trucks, a silent auction and a live auction. Proceeds benefit local families dealing with a cancer diagnosis. To donate or volunteer, contact pinktractorfoundation@gmail.com

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515-207-7400
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EVENTS IN THE AREA

Be sure to check for cancelations

Magnified! Vacation Bible School

Sunday, June 15, through Thursday, June 19, 6-8:30 p.m.
Redeemer Church, 200 N. 16th Ave., Winterset

Enjoy an unforgettable week at Magnified!™ VBS, where participants will dive into the details of God's amazing world and magnify His greatness together. Throughout the week, sing songs, make crafts, play games and discover how we were made to magnify God. Don't miss out on the fun, invite your friends and sign up today. Kids must be entering grades K-4 for the 2025-2026 school year. Register at <https://redeemerwinterset.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2837445>.

Women's Giving Circle Quarterly meetings

June 24 and Sept. 23, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Union State Bank Community Room,
611 W. Highway 92, Winterset

The next Madison County Women's Giving Circle's quarterly meeting is June 24. 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. Contact Kristie Hirschman, MadisonCOWomensGivingCircle@gmail.com, with any questions.

Events and Music at the Winery

Various dates
Covered Bridges Winery,
2207 170th Trail, Winterset
CoveredBridgesWinery.com



• **June 7, 6:30-9:30 p.m.:**

Boomerang, \$5 cover

- **June 8, 2-4 p.m.:** Bob Pace
- **June 22, 2-4 p.m.:** Devon Miller
- **June 28:** Flower Arranging, tickets required
- **July 10, Aug. 7, Sept. 4, Oct. 2, 7-9 p.m.:** Trivia Thursday



Zenith Chamber Music

Friday, June 6, 7 p.m.
Iowa Theater, 121 N. John Wayne Drive,
Winterset

The Zenith Chamber Music Festival will return this June for its 11th season. The Indianapolis Quartet will perform in Winterset. The concert is free.



HPV VACCINATION

Help Protect Against Cancer

Human papillomavirus (HPV) infections may be common. Fortunately, the HPV vaccine prevents the virus and the cancers it can cause.

WHO SHOULD GET VACCINATED?

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends the HPV vaccine for boys and girls, starting as early as age 9 and through age 26.

IOWA
Health and
Human Services



Ask your child's
healthcare provider
about the HPV vaccine.

Source: cdc.gov 4/25

EVENTS IN THE AREA

Be sure to check for cancelations

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



CITYVIEW'S SUMMER STIR

June 20

Court Avenue District, Des Moines
www.summerstirs.dmcityview.com

CITYVIEW's traveling cocktail party is back in downtown Des Moines. Sample many of summer's finest drinks at some of the area's best bars and restaurants. Try 10 different sample-size drinks for only \$25 with your online order (\$35 at the door).

The Music of John Williams

Various dates and locations

The Greater Des Moines Community Band announces the schedule for its 2025 summer concert series, The Music of John Williams. Summer Concert selections run the gamut from movie themes to music for major athletic events.

- **June 9, 7 p.m.** Edencrest at Kettlestone, 805 S.E. Tallgrass Lane, Waukee
- **June 16, 7 p.m.** Spurgeon Manor, 1204 Linden St., Dallas Center
- **June 23, 7 p.m.** Walnut Ridge, 1701 Campus Drive, Clive
- **June 30, 7 p.m.** Eden Acres and Spring Valley, 1300 28th St., Perry
- **July 7, 7 p.m.** First Baptist Church, 8250 N.W. 62nd St., Johnston
- **July 14, 7 p.m.** Holland Farms, 2800 Sunset Drive, Norwalk
- **July 21, 7 p.m.** Woodlands Creek, 12675 Woodlands Parkway, Clive
- **July 28, 7 p.m.** Copper Shores Village, 1500 Edgewater Drive, Pleasant Hill
- **Aug. 4, 6:30 p.m.** Rieman Music, 6501 Douglas, Urbandale
- **Aug. 9, 11 a.m.** Iowa State Fair, Knapp Stage
- **Aug. 17, 5 p.m.** Trinity United Presbyterian Church, 200 S. Howard St., Indianola
- **Aug. 18** TBA
- **Aug. 25** TBA



Food Truck Fridays

May through June, 5:30-8 p.m.
Campbell Park, 12385 Woodlands Parkway, 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.

- **June 6:** Dick Danger Band
- **June 13:** Gladys Lite (Sons of Gladys Kravitz Trio)

'Light Within Ourselves: Haitian Art in Iowa'

Through Sunday, Sept. 7
Des Moines Art Center, A.H. Blank Gallery, 4700 Grand Ave., Des Moines

This exhibition explores the vibrant diversity of Haitian artwork, featuring paintings, metalwork, sculpture and drapros (beaded and sequined banners). The exhibition is accompanied by a complimentary 16-page gallery guide, featuring colorful artworks, a history of the WCA's Haitian art collection, and a description of the themes and symbols often depicted in Haitian artwork. The gallery guide has been translated into Haitian Kreyòl, the first language of nearly 11 million people worldwide.

DMPA Free Outdoor Family Events

Various dates and parks

Des Moines Performing Arts announced the engagements headed to Des Moines as part of its 2025 Free Outdoor Family Events series. These free presentations are designed to engage new audiences and performing arts enthusiasts alike, while also removing the barrier of cost.

- **June 14-17:** Bindlestiff Family Circus, parks across the metro
- **July 21-22:** Dupont Brass, parks across the metro
- **June 11, July 9, Aug. 13:** Storytime Under the Green Umbrella, Cowles Commons
- **June 21, July 12, Aug. 23:** Dancing on Cowles Commons

For more information including times and park locations, visit www.desmoinesperformingarts.org/whats-on/series/free-outdoor-family-events.

Earlham concert series

Every Sunday until Aug. 10, except July 6, 6 p.m.
Earlham City Park, Earlham

The Levitt Amp Earlham Music Series starts with an opening act around 6 p.m. and a headliner around 7:15 p.m. Lots of kids activities and food trucks will be offered as well. The concerts are free.

- **June 8:** Gallivant, Kerry Koberg
- **June 15:** Denita, Ultra Violet Fever
- **June 22:** Hector Anchondo, Weary Ramblers
- **June 29:** Olivia Fox, Iowa Military Veterans Band
- **July 13:** Summer Dean, 10 Watt Robot
- **July 20:** Mae Simpson, Yubu
- **July 27:** Blame Not the Bard, Day's Live Music
- **Aug. 3:** Larry & Joe, Sun Centauri
- **Aug. 10:** Dessa and The 29:11 South African Choir, Nella Thomas ■

THE SCOTCHEROOS that became a family tradition

“My mom’s Scotcheroos are the best!”

The first time I heard one of my daughters say that, I was deeply honored — and I still feel that way every time I hear it. They often tell me about other versions they have tried and always end with, “They were good, but yours are the best!”

In our family, Scotcheroos are a must-have at gatherings, reunions, road trips and just about any occasion. These sweet treats deliver a perfect combo: smooth peanut butter flavor, a satisfying crunch, and a thick, rich layer of butterscotch-chocolate topping that keeps everyone coming back for seconds. I am happy to share the secrets behind their success, but I first must give credit where credit is due. My friend Tammy Even gifted me this recipe more than 30 years ago at my bridal shower. I still have the recipe book my friends gave me that day, and I use it often.

Now, the secrets:

1. Use Special K cereal – it gives the perfect texture and structure. I know many recipes use crispy rice cereal, but trust me on this one. It is truly the ingredient that makes the difference.

2. Don’t skimp on the topping – use one full bag each of semi-sweet chocolate chips and butterscotch chips.

3. Watch the syrup closely – this step can make or break the batch. Don’t overcook or undercook it. Bring it just to a boil (for maybe a minute). The sugar crystals need to melt completely, or the syrup will turn gritty. But overcook it, and your Scotcheroos will be too chewy.

Here’s a tip: Dip a spoon in the hot syrup, tap a little onto the counter, and taste it. If you can still feel sugar crystals, keep it on the stove a bit longer. The moment they are gone, pull it off the heat.

Give these a try and let me know what you think. Do you have recipe traditions you would like to share? Send them my way at jolene@iowalivingmagazines.com. Happy snacking! ■

Information provided by Jolene Goodman, vice president of Big Green Umbrella Media.



Scotcheroos

Ingredients

- 6 cups Special K cereal
- 1 cup white sugar
- 1 cup corn syrup
- 1.5 cups peanut butter
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 1 12-ounce package of semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 12-ounce package of butterscotch chips



Directions

- Let sugar and corn syrup come to a boil in saucepan on the stove. Do not let boil long, just until sugar is not crystalized. Remove from stove. Add peanut butter and vanilla. Stir. Add cereal. Press into a 9-inch by 13-inch pan. Let cool. Melt all chips in a microwave-safe bowl in the microwave. Spread over bars. Allow topping to set before cutting and serving. Enjoy!



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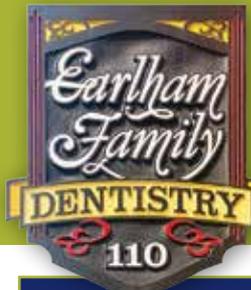
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OUT & ABOUT



Breanna Bruett with North River Art Farm at the farmers market on May 17.



Jack McKim at the farmers market on May 17.



Jennifer McGrath with Raccoon Forks Farms at the farmers market on May 17.



Jeff and Kobie Alcorn at the farmers market on May 17.



Robert Kitchen and Mark Modlich at the Kiwanis pancake breakfast May 17 at the Legion Hall.



Lori Brandt and Gary Donham at the Kiwanis pancake breakfast May 17 at the Legion Hall.



Gus Hendricks and Dick Anderson at the Kiwanis pancake breakfast May 17 at the Legion Hall.



Kathy and Sam Roush at the Summerset Realty open house on May 16.



Alivia Callahan and Chloe McKinney at the Summerset Realty open house on May 16.



Barney and Kathy Clark at the Summerset Realty open house on May 16.



Marissa Dombrowski at the Summerset Realty open house on May 16.



Rachel Eller and Kevin Reel at the Summerset Realty open house on May 16.



Nicole Kems serving at Angels Wings during the Wine Walk May 10.



A ribbon cutting was held at Winterset Dental on May 8.



Brenden Pugh serving at Quest Haven Books and Comics during the Wine Walk May 10.



McKenzie Grantham, Nicole Sweeney and Lisa Vogt at the Wine Walk on May 10.



Kevin Fifo serving at Covered Bridges Winery at the Wine Walk on May 10.



Amy and Anthony Durnan, owners of the Madison County Winery, at the Wine Walk on May 10.



Betsy Henry serving for The Cidery at the Wine Walk on May 10.



Cassie Rasmussen, Joie Hickenbottom and Emily Marshall at the Wine Walk on May 10.



Megan Sobotka, Ashley Ross, Marisa Dombrowski, April Roush and Rachel Eller at the Summerset Realty open house on May 16.



Megan Haynes with the Honey Lounge during the Wine Walk May 10.



Annie Wiseman, Salon 107, at the Wine Walk on May 10.

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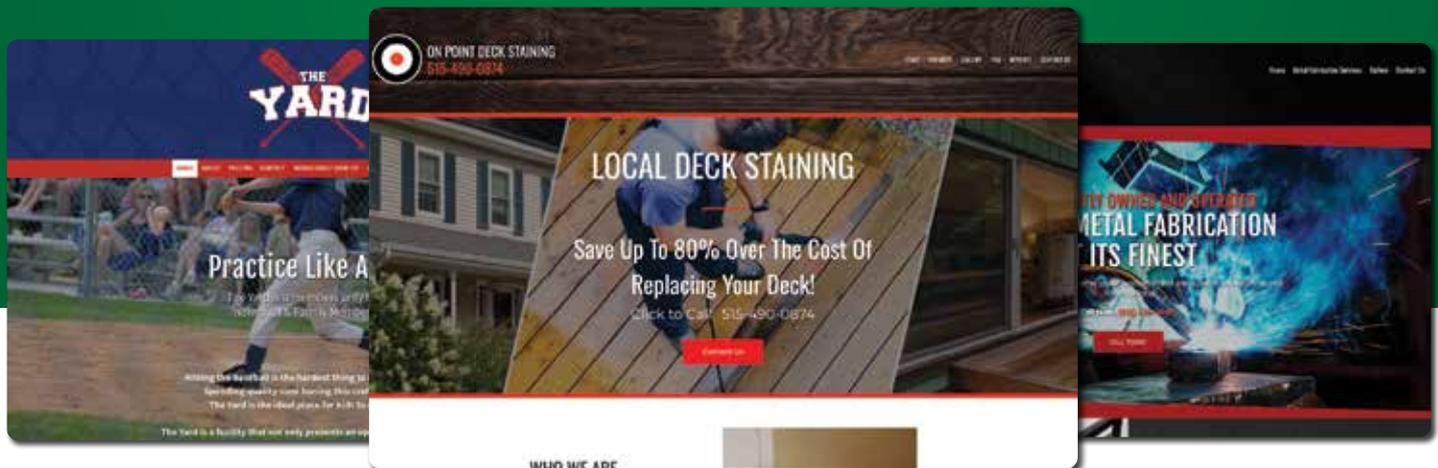
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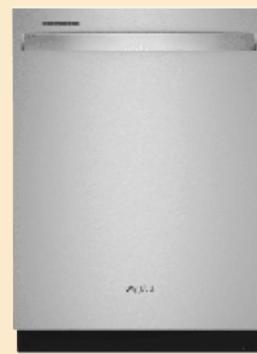
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