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JUNE 2025

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WELCOME

AIRING of grievances and feats of strength

“A Festivus for the rest of us.” If you watched the popular TV show “Seinfeld” in the late 1990s, you are smiling right now. If you didn’t watch the show, well, read on, as you can still smile.

Festivus was depicted on “Seinfeld” as a Dec. 23 holiday that includes a Festivus dinner, an aluminum Festivus pole, practices such as the “airing of grievances” and “feats of strength,” and the labeling of explainable events as “Festivus miracles.” It’s a Costanza tradition.

Every time I hear the word “festival,” I think of “Festivus.” And, this time of year in Iowa, festivals are aplenty. For several decades now, Jolene and I have been traveling to various communities in our great state to partake in their wonderful community festivals, including the one we write about in this month’s cover story.

Do these others sound familiar to you? Tulip Time in Pella. Mac and Cheese Festival in Dubuque. John Wayne Birthday Celebration in Winterset. Scandinavian Days in Story City. Bell Tower Festival in Jefferson. Good Egg Days in Stuart. Ice Cream Days in Le Mars. RibFest in Sioux City. Four Seasons Festival in Polk City. Truckers Jamboree in Walcott. Beef Days in Solon. National Balloon Classic in Indianola. Watermelon Days in Newell. Hobo Days in Britt. Pufferbilly Days in Boone. And, not to be left out, the Testicle Festival at Appleberry Orchard in Donnellson.

The list goes on. And on. If there is one thing we Iowans know how to do, it is how to throw a community festival.

Many of the festivals have similarities. Some focus on food. Others on drink. Many include music. But they all have at least one unique selling point that makes them truly stand out.

My dad would take me to festivals around our hometown when I was a kid, whether I wanted to go or not. He enjoyed connecting with people and reminiscing about days gone by — the same things I do today.

When it comes down to it, though, all of our community festivals are about wholesome fun — with or without the Festivus pole.

Have a great month, and thanks for reading. ■

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‘DISTINCT by FUN’

**Clive Festival features
many summertime
activities July 18-19**

By Sean Dengler

It is time for Clive residents to celebrate at the city's largest gathering, and it comes down to a simple idea.

"Clive Festival is our community's largest and best citywide, kind-of-free event," Jeff Lucas, recreation manager, says. "Most everything that is there is free except for obviously food and beverages, but it's free live music. It's just meant to get the community together. We're a big, long rectangle of Clive, and our goal is really to just bring everybody together for one community festival this summer."

The Clive Fire Department's giant Slip 'n Slide is a Clive Festival tradition.



For the festival's 49th year, expect a slight change to the festival's location.

"The city's Greenbelt Landing project is currently under construction," Lucas says. "That's adjacent to the Clive Aquatic Center area. That will include a new amphitheater, boardwalk, all-inclusive playground, a new special events building. That construction affects Clive Festival this year. We'll be just up the hill in the vacant city-owned lot, south of Clive Aquatic Center."

Despite the shift in location, expect a variety of attractions. Visit the website, www.clivefestival.com, for more information. The full schedule will be released on July 1. You can also follow the festival's Facebook event at www.facebook.com/share/16fExhgiai/. When July 18 arrives, the Clive Festival will be ready for all ages.

"We'll have inflatables for the kids," Lucas mentions. "We do the teaser fireworks show at 9:30 on Friday night, and then the Thunder Over Clive fireworks display at 9:30 p.m. on Saturday."

A couple of signature events are returning for another year while one is taking the year off.

"The Clive Running Festival is a huge event that benefits our trail system and our parks," Lucas says.

The Greenbelt Trail is used year-round by runners, walkers and bicyclists. Proceeds from the race are used for trail improvements, such as the drinking fountains funded by past races, and annual maintenance of the trail.

While the pancake breakfast is not happening this year due to the Greenbelt Landing construction, it will be back and better than ever next year. Lucas also notes the Giant Slip N Slide will still be held in addition to family bingo, a gaming truck, airbrush and tattoos. The Cardboard Boat Races at the Clive Aquatic Center are also returning this year.

"The Giant Slip N Slide put on by the Clive Firefighter Association and sponsored by Walter Roofing is a one-of-a-kind thing that's



The Clive Running Festival benefits Clive's trail system and parks.

unique to Clive," Lucas says. "I've never seen it anywhere else."

If people get hungry while at the festival, they do not need to worry.

"We'll have seven or eight food trucks each night," Lucas says. "So, there's plenty of options for different people. Everything from ice cream to shaved ice to pizza. Something for everybody is really our goal."

In addition to food, there will also be other opportunities for people.

"There will be merchandise and service vendors on site," Lucas says. "We usually have 15 to 20 of those booths set up. There's a lot of different options, a lot of different things, little trinkets people are selling as well for a pretty nominal fee."

Expect kids' activities like new face painters, balloon twisters and a new dinosaur show. There will also be live music each night with some of central Iowa's favorite bands.

On Friday, a 1970s and '80s cover band, Recoil, plays from 5:30-8 p.m., followed by another popular rock 'n roll cover band, Gimikk, from 8:30-11 p.m. On Saturday, Bad Friends leads off from 5-7:30 p.m., followed by Toaster, which covers rock music ranging from Kings of Leon to Gun 'N Roses, from 8-11 p.m.



A boat regatta featuring homemade boats is an annual highlight of Clive Festival.

This community event is not possible without support, Lucas says. The sponsorships from the business community are appreciated, and some are still available. The more sponsorship dollars, the better the festival can be for the community, with more activities offered. Volunteers are also appreciated.

"We do accept volunteers," Lucas says. "Usually we have 40-plus volunteers help us out from everything from beverage tent to manning the bounce houses."



Live music is a cornerstone of Clive Festival.



Clive Festival's fireworks display lights up the sky.

Volunteering is an effective way to get involved, Lucas says.

"We've had folks that have just moved to the community that are looking to meet people and be involved," Lucas says. "We've had people from the business community just want to wear their business' shirt for some

VTO (volunteer time off) type stuff. It's just a fun atmosphere. We try to make everything we do in parks and recreation fun. So, why not join us for the best community event in Clive?"

While Lucas plays an instrumental role in organizing this festival, he says it takes the

whole Clive Parks and Recreation department to carry it out. Putting on this festival feels like giving back to Lucas, and the premise of the Clive Festival is simple.

"One location, some live music, some activities for kids. That's the basis of the event," he says. ■

NEWS BRIEF

LAWN watering banned immediately

Pending an imminent risk of violating the nitrate standard, all commercial and residential lawn watering and use of automatic lawn watering systems are prohibited until further notice. This ban is effective immediately and affects all businesses and all residential customers served by Central Iowa Water Works. The ban includes Clive.

"We are pulling all levers at our treatment facilities and nitrate removal processes to prevent a violation," Tami Madsen, executive director of Central Iowa Water Works, said. "Now we need full cooperation from the public. This is no longer a voluntary request."

CIWW has made the decision to enact the first-ever lawn watering ban to ensure that treatment facilities can produce enough

water for lifeline essentials amid water supply challenges caused by high nitrate concentrations in raw source waters. Nitrate concentrations in the Raccoon and Des Moines rivers have climbed to near record levels.

Treated drinking water continues to meet all state and federal regulations for drinking and household uses.

Any residential or commercial customer observed by Central Iowa Water Works or a member agency watering their lawn will be notified of the violation. If lawn watering does not cease, water service could be disconnected.

More information will be coming from individual member agencies about enforcement and how to report violations.

The ban affects all CIWW member

agencies: City of Ankeny, City of Clive, Des Moines Water Works, City of Grimes, City of Johnston, City of Norwalk, City of Polk City, Urbandale Water Utility, Warren Rural Water District, City of Waukee, West Des Moines Water Works and Xenia Rural Water, as well as communities served by Des Moines Water Works: Alleman, Berwick, Bondurant, Cumming, Pleasant Hill, Runnells, Unincorporated Polk County and Windsor Heights.

Central Iowa Water Works has been removing nitrate using the nitrate removal facility for more than 55 days. All nitrate removal processes are operating at full capacity to produce clean, reliable water to 600,000 central Iowans. ■

SELLING a house on contract

Are you thinking about buying or selling a home on contract? A real estate installment contract is seller financing: the owner remains in title and the buyer pays monthly payments. The buyer is also on title, making a contract sale different than a rental agreement. A contract may offer some advantages, such as speed and ease, but it also has several pitfalls.

A poorly written contract or one found online could be extremely detrimental in the event of a breach. Contracts for the sale of a home should be written by a licensed and experienced attorney to avoid any legal problems.

There are also regulations to be aware of.



For example, a contract must be recorded. Additionally, the city of Des Moines has enacted an ordinance regarding contract sales. As of August 2017, both the buyer and seller must demonstrate that the house passed a housing code inspection, or both parties to the transaction could face fines.

A certified housing inspector must inspect the property and disclose any issues that are not up to code. If there are any problems with the home, those deficiencies must be repaired prior to the contract sale.

The ordinance also states that city officials have the right to re-inspect the home after the contract is executed. You must prove that your home is safe and up to code from day one through the length of the contract. Both the buyer and seller could be assessed fines and fees up until the point at which the repairs are made.

When selling a home on contract, a seller must be ready for a potential breach of the contract. Getting out of the contract and getting the buyers out of the home can be a difficult task. Forfeiting a contract is time consuming and is much harder than an eviction. Litigation can be expensive if even one small detail goes awry or in the event you have a poorly written contract.

If you are going to sell your home on contract, make sure you find buyers whom you trust.

To avoid any problems, contact an experienced attorney to discuss buying or selling a home on contract. Good legal advice and proper document drafting can minimize problems down the road. ■

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

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INVESTMENT

By Daniel Rundahl

ENJOY the season while staying on track



This time of year brings me to the outside and spending more time in my garden. Summer brings longer days, warmer weather and opportunities to enjoy the freedom that retirement offers. Whether it is traveling, spending time with family, or simply relaxing at home, the season invites us to embrace a slower pace and savor the moment. But, just like any season, summer also has its own financial considerations. As a financial advisor working with retirees, I've seen how planning ahead can make this season both enjoyable and financially secure.

Here are a few key financial tips to help retirees make the most of summer — without putting long-term goals at risk.

1. Adjust your spending plan for the season. Summer often brings a shift in spending. You may travel more, host family gatherings, or take on home improvement projects. These extra costs can add up quickly. Review your monthly budget and ensure that any added expenses still align with your overall retirement income strategy — whether it's from Social Security, pensions or retirement account withdrawals. Planning ahead helps you enjoy summer guilt-free and reduces the chance of overspending.

2. Travel smart and save. One of the great perks of retirement is the flexibility to travel during off-peak times. You can take advantage of midweek or last-minute deals and avoid the crowds. Don't forget to use any rewards points or senior discounts and be sure to budget for expenses like travel insurance, medical care abroad or currency exchange fees. Planning your trip around your financial comfort zone keeps vacations more enjoyable and stress-free.

3. Stay on top of required minimum distributions (RMDs). If you're 73 or older, you're required to take annual distributions from traditional IRAs or 401(k)s. Summer is a good time to check how much you've taken out so far and whether taxes are being withheld properly. Waiting until year-end to take your full RMD can increase the risk of missing the deadline and facing a penalty. Spreading it out over the year may be easier to manage and better for your tax planning.

4. Prioritize health and wellness. Summer heat and increased activity can impact your health and your finances. Make sure your Medicare coverage is current and understand what your plan includes if you're traveling. Schedule those checkups now and consider setting aside funds for unexpected health needs. Staying proactive about health is not just good for your body — it's good for your budget, too.

5. Review your financial plan. With the year halfway over, take time to revisit your retirement strategy. Are you on track with your goals? Do you need to rebalance your investments, update your estate plan or reassess your income needs? Summer can be a quieter time to organize your finances and hold important family conversations about legacy planning or end-of-life wishes.

Retirement is about enjoying the life you've worked hard to build. A bit of planning ensures summer is filled with joy, not financial stress. This would be a good time to reach out to a financial advisor to talk about summer plans and yearly goals. ■

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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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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Polk County Invests in Affordable Housing Initiatives & Homeless Shelter

Polk County Board of Supervisors distributing more than \$44 million on Affordable Housing initiatives & investing in critical infrastructure repairs at Central Iowa Shelter & Services' downtown Des Moines Homeless Shelter. Below are some initiatives Polk County has invested in using one-time federal funding.

Monarch Apartments (4845 Merle Hay Rd, Des Moines)



Anawim Housing converted a former hotel into permanent housing for those experiencing homelessness & offering wrap-around services

42 total housing units

Polk County's commitment: \$1 million

Goldfinch Lofts (3404 Ingersoll Ave, Des Moines)



Cutler Development's Goldfinch Lofts will be the first in the country that is carbon neutral certified and Iowa's first Passive House certified (for extremely high-efficient operational systems).

28 total housing units

Polk County's commitment: \$1 million

Central Iowa Shelter & Services' Downtown Des Moines Homeless Shelter (1420 Mulberry St, Des Moines)



Supporting critical repairs including HVAC, plumbing, electrical, kitchen repairs, and security upgrades

Polk County's commitment: \$817,333.93

"Access to affordable housing is one of the single most important issues facing this country," said Board Chair Matt McCoy. "Polk County is fortunate to have this one-time federal funds to invest in affordable housing initiatives and those experiencing homelessness, because wherever you're at in life, everyone deserves to have a roof over your head."

- Matt McCoy





Community Highlights

Anawim Supportive Hotel-to-Housing Initiative Launches in Des Moines

Polk County Supervisors Matt McCoy and Angela Connolly joined other community leaders to celebrate the grand opening of The Monarch Apartments, the latest achievement in supportive housing spearheaded by Anawim Housing. This innovative hotel-to-housing conversion aims to offer stable, long-term accommodation to 40 individuals who are currently experiencing homelessness. By leveraging funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Polk County has played a pivotal role in bringing this project to fruition. These efforts not only provide residents with much-needed housing but also offer a pathway toward enhanced independence and overall well-being.



Polk County and Ankeny Inaugurate Fourmile Creek Wetland Project

The Fourmile Creek Watershed Management Authority proudly dedicated the Creekview Stormwater Wetland, a landmark collaborative initiative between Polk County and the City of Ankeny. This ambitious project introduces a vast stormwater wetland meticulously crafted to manage urban runoff from approximately 423 acres of pre-regulation developments. Spanning 15 acres, the wetland incorporates key design features, including a precisely sized forebay, intricate micro-topography, and an innovative stream diversion structure. The dedication ceremony offered attendees a unique perspective with a hayrack ride tour, providing an up-close look at the transformational new wetland.



Open House Held for Center at Sixth Development

Polk County Board Chair Matt McCoy had the honor of speaking at the unveiling of the Center at Sixth Development, located along the vibrant 6th Ave. corridor in Des Moines. Proudly backed by Polk County's funding, this unique development aims to empower local minority entrepreneurs. The 9,000-square-foot space will blend innovation and community by offering live/work units alongside a dynamic mixed-use incubator tailored for local artists, chefs, and retailers. This groundbreaking project is poised to serve as a catalyst for revitalizing Des Moines' 6th Avenue corridor, fostering growth and opportunity in the area.



Polk County Gifts Adaptive Bikes to Ankeny Schools

Polk County Supervisor Mark Holm proudly awarded a Polk County Community Betterment Grant to Ankeny High School, marking a significant step towards inclusivity. The grant will fund the introduction of adaptive bikes, designed to empower students who are wheelchair-bound or have other special needs, enabling their active participation in school activities. This initiative underscores a commitment to ensuring accessibility and inclusivity for all students, fostering a more supportive and engaging educational environment.



Character Counts Expansion Supported by Community Funding

Polk County Supervisors are thrilled to back the expansion of the Character Counts initiative, made achievable through generous grants and support from local organizations such as Prairie Meadows and Polk County. This expansion aims to extend the program's influence, reaching more than 30% of classrooms statewide. The program offers early childhood kits centered around the six pillars of character, provided at no cost to classrooms. These kits include comprehensive lesson plans, family guides, music, and posters. Educators can benefit from on-site training at the Robert D. and Billie Ray Center at Drake University or participate in convenient webinars, ensuring impactful and widespread character education.



SNOBERGER and Riggs respond during disasters

As part of Iowa Task Force One, duo helps find human remains.

Tasha Snoberger and her dog, Riggs, provide a service that is largely unseen but vitally important. The two are part of a team volunteering for Iowa Task Force One.



“Iowa Task Force One is a state agency designed to be a search and rescue team. Within that team, there are different groups that help in different disasters and situations. I’m called a canine search specialist, and when there is a natural disaster or building collapse or whatever, our team can be deployed.”

Snoberger explains how she and Riggs became a part of the team.

“I got into search and rescue with my dog, because of the caliber of dog he is. I sought out a particular dog to start doing this with,” Snoberger says. “I’ve had Riggs since he was a puppy, and he just turned seven. He is an HRD dog, a Human Remains Detection dog, so we are deployed for any case where it’s expected the subject is deceased. We also have live-find teams.”

Although the work can be morbid, and the requirements to be involved in Iowa Task Force One are strenuous, Snoberger and Riggs are up to the challenge.



Daniel Timmons, Edward Jones, presents Tasha Snoberger and her dog, Riggs, with a Neighbor Spotlight certificate.

“I’ve been on the task force for two years now. We do a lot of training, in-state and out-of-state. We do a lot of mission-ready things to be sure we’re always ready for a disaster,” Snoberger says. “In the last couple of years, our team was deployed to a building collapse in Davenport and to the Greenfield tornado.”

Because the search often involves hazardous conditions, Riggs needs to have excellent physical traits.

“Dogs that do this need to have the agility and excellent footing to do the work. He is incredibly brave and sure-footed. He will do whatever I ask him,” Snoberger says. “But at the end of the day, he’s also incredibly friendly and loves people.”

Snoberger’s “day job” is with the Clive Police Department.

“My title for the city is administrative assistant. I’ve been there just over a year,” she says. “I work in the records department.”

The other members of the Clive Police Department have enjoyed getting to know Riggs, as Snoberger sometimes brings him to the station.

Snoberger recounts a particularly rewarding incident with Riggs on a search mission.

“We went to a missing person scene last fall, and it was hot, humid and sticky. We met a lot of different law enforcement and search personnel. As a dog person, you always think your dog is special, but it’s incredibly good to hear when others are amazed at the work ethic and what you and your dog can do,” she says. “Riggs put his game face on and found the guy we were looking for within ten minutes, in a 5-acre search area. The guys were just floored.” ■

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EVENTS IN THE AREA

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Coming up in the Clive 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.

Clothing drive

Clive Community Services, 2190 N.W. 82nd St., Suite A, Clive

Summer clothing in good condition can now be donated to Clive Community Services. Additionally, new underwear is needed. New, in-the-package underwear for all genders and sizes can be donated. You can also contribute financially toward the project. As always, donations of food and personal care items are gratefully accepted. Your support helps provide essential resources to those in need. Learn more about how you can help by visiting clivecommunityservices.com.

Donations can be dropped off: Monday, 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Wednesday, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to noon

The Food Pantry and Clothes Closet are open: Monday, 4-7 p.m., and Friday, 9 a.m. to noon.

The Medical Clinic hours are: Monday, patient registration 5-6:30 p.m.; patients seen 5-7:30 p.m.

Clive Aquatic Center events

1801 N.W. 114th St., Clive

The pool will be open its regular hours, 11:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. for open swim. All hours are weather permitting.

• **Mermaid, Princess, Superhero Pool Party**, Sunday, June 29, 6:30-8 p.m. Register at <https://cityofclive.activityreg.com/selectActivity?nLeaguesId=2658>.

• **Pancake Paddle**, Saturday, Aug. 2, 8-11 a.m. Register at <https://cityofclive.activityreg.com/selectActivity>.

Visit cityofclive.com/cac or email parksandrec@cityofclive.com for more information on pricing, programming and events.

Food Truck Fridays

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. For details, visit www.cityofclive.com/parkandrecreation/programs_and_events/food_truck_fridays/index.php. ■



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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

EDUCATION

By Rachel Harrington

FIGHTING chronic absenteeism with goats

Creating a sense of belonging to increase attendance.

At the end of the 2022-2023 school year, Crestview School of Inquiry was struggling with low student literacy scores and had a rate of 23% chronic absenteeism — one of the worst in the West Des Moines Community School District. Jon Mendoza, the new school principal beginning in the 2023-2024 school year, gathered with his staff to plan the following year's Back to School Bash that summer. The group decided that, before they could tackle the student achievement issue, they needed to tackle the attendance issue. They wanted students to go beyond basic attendance and to feel a sense of belonging at school. They landed on a goat theme, and the idea for the G.O.A.T. (Greatest of All Time) Attendance Initiative was formed.

"It seemed a coincidence that the city of Clive has an official herd of goats," shares Mendoza. "We were able to partner with Clive's official herd of Greenbelt Goats to provide additional resources and fun for students and families and to secure access to them."

Mendoza and the Crestview staff had G.O.A.T. T-shirts made with goat images on them as well as goat hats and trophies. The initiative was presented to the community at the Back to School Bash in 2023. Each week throughout the school year, an announcement at the beginning of the day celebrated the class with the highest attendance per grade level. Principal Mendoza would then arrive in that class and present it with the G.O.A.T. trophy for the week. The class teacher would also be given a goat hat to wear for the day. Mendoza would play music from a speaker around his neck, and the class would have a quick, 30-second dance party. The following week, two students from that class would get to deliver the traveling G.O.A.T. trophy and teacher's hat to the new winning class of the week. At the end of the year, the city brings its goats to the school, and the kids get a chance to see, pet and hang out with them in a party setting.

"All the kids really got into the spirit of the initiative," Mendoza happily shares. "The entire year seemed very competitive for both the students and the teachers, everyone encouraging each other to be at school."

The first year, chronic absenteeism reduced from 23% to 14%, and by the end of this year, it had shifted again to between 4-9%, depending on whether excused absences were counted or not.

Mendoza says his favorite part about the initiative is the camaraderie it has produced between the students and the staff, and how it has encouraged them to work together to meet goals.

"It became more about belonging than attendance," he shares. "Now that we have more students in the building, we are able to do more student-focused groups."

Over the summer, the Crestview staff will work to plan next year's Back to School Bash.

"We want to sustain what we've already built," Mendoza explains. "We are open to new ideas on how to improve our attendance initiative even more. If anyone wants to partner with us on any attendance initiative or has any thoughts on improvement, they can email me." ■



To celebrate the G.O.A.T. (Greatest of All Time) Attendance Initiative, students get to visit with the city of Clive's Greenbelt Goats.

10 SUMMER maintenance tips for your home

Summer is coming, which means it's time to prepare your home for the warm weather. Follow these 10 summer maintenance tips:

Clear gutters and downspouts: Gutters and downspouts can accumulate a lot of debris throughout the winter and spring. If debris is stuck in your gutters, it can cause problems like slow drainage, debris dams or water overflow. This could potentially damage your home and result in expensive repairs.

Inspect and wash windows: Wash the inside and outside of your windows to remove any buildup from cooking, fireplaces or dust that accumulated. While doing this, inspect your window screens to ensure there are no necessary repairs needed.

Clean dryer vent: To remove any built-up lint and support its efficiency, clean your



exterior dryer vent.

Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors: While this is typically stressed during winter months, testing your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to ensure they are working is important year-round.

Clean and change HVAC filters: Change and clean your HVAC filters, vents and ducts for optimal performance. Consider scheduling a professional HVAC inspection to ensure your system is ready for the summer heat.

Service and clean your air conditioner: Depending on your air conditioner, consider hosing it down to clean any accumulated dust or debris from the winter and spring months. Cleaning the unit itself and removing any weeds around the unit will help it run more efficiently.

Adjust ceiling fans: In the summer, adjust your ceiling fans to spin counterclockwise by flipping the fan's reverse switch. This will provide a downdraft, keeping the room cool.

Seal air leaks: When temps rise, prevent drafts that cause cool air loss and increase your AC bill. You can seal any leaks with weather stripping or caulk. Taking these precautions early will keep your house cool and your energy costs down.

Inspect roof: Prior to summer storms, assess your roof to ensure there are no cracked, curled or missing shingles. If so, contact a repairman to prevent any further damage.

Trim trees: Assess the trees around your house to ensure there are no broken branches, cracks or hollowed limbs. If you do see any, prune, cut or safely remove to prevent damage.

Summer weather can bring the heat. Follow these tips to help prevent high utility bills, avoid problems down the road, and ensure your home is summer-ready. ■

Information provided by Chris Beener, VP, Clive branch manager, CBeener@BankersTrust.com, 515-222-5888, 1111 University Ave., Clive.



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2) 2 direct deposits (ACH credits) or Express Deposits (aka mobile deposits) of at least \$200 each. A "deposit" for the purposes of this section does not include ATM deposits, deposits made in person, account-to-account transfers, or other deposits to your Bonus Account.

In addition, bonus eligibility will be verified 60 days after the Bonus Account's opening. Bonus will only be credited if the account is currently in an open status with a positive balance. Should you have met all eligibility requirements and are not subject to the limitations and exclusions contained herein, the bonus will be credited to the Bonus Account within 75 days of its opening. Limit one bonus per household. Offer not available to existing Bankers Trust checking customers or those that have had a checking account with Bankers Trust within six months of Bonus Account opening. Employees of Bankers Trust and/or its affiliates are not eligible for bonus. Offer available through August 30, 2025. Early closing fee of \$400 will be charged if your Bonus Account is closed within 12 months of opening. Annual Percentage Yield (APY) on BreakFree Checking Plus is 0.60% for balances less than \$5,000.00 and 0.55% for balances \$5,000.00 and over, effective June 3, 2025, and subject to change without notice. Rates may change after the account is opened without notice. Fees may reduce earnings.

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PLAN AHEAD

By Kathy Dunbar

THE GIFT of funeral preplanning

As you enjoy the beautiful Iowa summer and time with family and friends, think about giving them the gift of having your final arrangements planned. There are so many things that can be done, whether or not you choose to take advantage of your funeral home's prepayment options.



Determine how you want your life to be celebrated and get those wishes on file with your funeral home of choice.

Get your personal information recorded and on file with your funeral home of choice.

Write your own obituary. You have lived a full life, and there are things you may want mentioned that others may not remember when a funeral home's services will be needed. Get that information on file with your funeral home of choice.

As we like to say to the folks who we have the privilege to serve, we will take as much information as you will give us. Even if you have that special file in your own home where all your important information resides, get that information on file with the funeral home. The funeral home is the place where this information will be needed, and it helps make things so much easier for the family when the funeral home already has these important pieces of information at their fingertips.

I will say it again...planning ahead is a gift. ■

Information provided by Kathy Dunbar, Advanced Planning Counselor, Hamilton's on Westtown Parkway, 3601 Westtown Parkway, West Des Moines, 515-697-3681



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WELLNESS

By Annette Smith

NECK pain and headaches

Neck pain is more than just a daily annoyance — it can impact your entire well-being. Many people don't realize that neck stiffness or tension can contribute to headaches, jaw pain and even dizziness. That's because the muscles and joints in your neck are deeply connected to the nerves responsible for balance, posture and focus. When those areas become tight or irritated, the effects can show up in surprising ways — like persistent tension headaches, difficulty concentrating or a constant feeling of needing to stretch or crack your neck.



It's common to reach for over-the-counter pain relievers or muscle relaxers for quick relief. But while these options might dull the discomfort temporarily, they often don't address what's actually causing the pain. That's where physical therapy can make a lasting difference.

As such, your physical therapist should look at the bigger picture, focusing on identifying and treating the root cause of your neck pain. Gentle stretches, hands-on techniques and simple posture adjustments can reduce tension and improve mobility. Many patients find that, when their neck moves better, their headaches ease up, their sleep improves, and they feel more clear-headed throughout the day.

If you find yourself constantly rubbing your neck, stretching to find relief, or depending on medication to get through the day, it might be time to try something different. Relief is possible — and your physical therapist can help you get there. ■

Information provided by Annette Smith, Mountain Laurel Physical Therapy, 10888 Hickman Road, Suite 2B, Clive, Iowa, 50325, 515-520-8037, mountainlaurelpt.com.



A ribbon cutting was held for Cirksema Park, 3575 Westgate Parkway, on May 29.



Members of the Cirksema family at the ribbon cutting ceremony.



Clive Chamber of Commerce and Waukee Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting for Country Financial - Schwantes & Van Arsdale Agencies on May 22.



Former Clive Mayor Scott Cirksema thanks the crowd for the honor of having the Cirksema Park named after him and his family.



Clive Mayor John Edwards welcomes the crowd to the ribbon cutting for Cirksema Park.



Travis Gaule and Steve Rogers at the ribbon cutting for Country Financial - Schwantes & Van Arsdale Agencies on May 22.



Amanda Schwantes, Jessica Taylor-Fink and Todd VanArsdale at the ribbon cutting for Country Financial - Schwantes & Van Arsdale Agencies on May 22.



Terry and Mark Rowley at the ribbon cutting for Country Financial - Schwantes & Van Arsdale Agencies on May 22.



Kristy Schmidt and Nikki Nigg at the ribbon cutting for Country Financial - Schwantes & Van Arsdale Agencies on May 22.



Terry Snyder and Rob Grove at the ribbon cutting for Country Financial - Schwantes & Van Arsdale Agencies on May 22.



Zach, Selah and Brianna Vandr Ploeg at the ribbon cutting for Country Financial - Schwantes & Van Arsdale Agencies on May 22.



Ahmed Ibrahim, Dr. Harry Condoleon and Teresa Gehrls at the Clive Chamber ribbon cutting for SOMA Cosmetic Surgery & Aesthetics, 12107 Stratford Drive, Clive on May 12.



Kathleen Kelly-DiBlasi, Stephanie Zazas-Miller, Alex Critelli and Alexa Collins at the Clive Chamber ribbon cutting for SOMA Cosmetic Surgery & Aesthetics on May 12.



Eric Klein, Dr. Harry Condoleon and Susan Judkins at the Clive Chamber ribbon cutting for SOMA Cosmetic Surgery & Aesthetics on May 12.



Kayla Grenier and Bri Walker at the Clive Chamber ribbon cutting for SOMA Cosmetic Surgery & Aesthetics on May 12.



Ahmed Ibrahim, Jennifer Hyland and Teresa Gehrla at the Clive Chamber ribbon cutting for SOMA Cosmetic Surgery & Aesthetics on May 12.



Ademir Zalihic at the Clive Aquatic Center on June 11.



Noah Smuffin, Keegan Smith and Elijah Henningsen at the Clive Aquatic Center on June 11.



Brian and Parker Foster at the Clive Aquatic Center on June 11.



Karsten Furness and Matthew Johnston at the Clive Aquatic Center on June 11.



Peter and Bobby De Kock at the Clive Aquatic Center on June 11.



Neida Pinon, Kasi Ray and Jacob Vertiz at the Clive Aquatic Center on June 11.

The **ONLY** poll mailed to **EVERY** residential household. **VOTE NOW!**

VOTE TODAY!

Who will be voted favorite in the Northwest Metro?

Includes Grimes, Dallas Center, Johnston, Clive and Urbandale

We all have our favorite local people, places and things. And now it's time to share your choices and honor those who deserve the recognition.



Make your voice be heard and cast your votes in the 2025 Northwest Metro Residents' Choice Poll. This contest is being hosted by Iowa Living magazines, and the results will publish in our Grimes/Dallas Center, Johnston, Clive and Urbandale October editions. You can vote in one or every category, or anywhere in between.

HURRY! POLL CLOSES AUG. 29, 2025.

See rules and vote at www.iowalivingmagazines.com/residentpoll.
One vote per resident, please.

SCAN HERE TO
VOTE TODAY!



FOOD AND DRINK

- Restaurant
- Restaurant for Breakfast
- Restaurant for Lunch
- Restaurant for Dinner
- Restaurant for Dessert
- Place for Ice Cream
- Pizza Establishment
- Bar
- Coffee Shop
- Catering Company
- Server/Bartender

AUTOMOTIVE

- Auto Service
- Auto Body Shop
- Car Dealership
- Auto Parts Store

COMMUNITY

- Preschool/Daycare
- Nonprofit
- School (name of building)
- Park
- Community Festival or Event
- Church
- Pastor
- Chamber of Commerce

SHOPPING

- Grocery Store
- Boutique
- Retail Store
- Thrift Store
- Home Improvement Retail Store
- Liquor Store
- Nursery or Garden Center
- Place to Purchase a Gift for a Man
- Place to Purchase a Gift for a Woman

ENTERTAINMENT

- Dad/Child Date Spot
- Mom/Child Date Spot
- Place to Take Your Mom and Dad
- Place to Take Your Kids or Grandkids
- Place for Children's Birthday Parties
- Golf Course

HEALTH/BEAUTY

- Hair Salon
- Health Clinic
- Dental Office
- Orthodontist Office
- Mental Health Services
- Chiropractic Office
- Vision Care
- Health Club or Gym
- Pharmacy

HEALTH/BEAUTY

- Cosmetic Services
- Physical Therapy
- Dance Studio
- Gymnastics Studio
- Tumbling Studio

OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

- Financial Planner
- Law Firm
- Accounting Firm
- Veterinarian
- Dog Groomer
- Pet Care
- Lawn Care Business
- Landscaping Company
- Heating and Cooling Business
- Electrical Business
- Plumbing Company
- Senior Living Establishment
- Insurance Company
- Realtor
- Bank/Credit Union
- Photographer
- Place for Guests to Stay
- Home Building/Remodeling Contractor
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- Pest Control
- Tree Service

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