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AUGUST 2025

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MAGAZINE

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WELCOME

ADVENTURES in camping

"Sorry, folks. Park's closed. The moose out front should have told you."

Those lines from actor John Candy in the 1983 hit movie "National Lampoon's Vacation" were echoing in my brain as we pulled away from Mahoney State Park in Nebraska a few decades ago. Jolene and I drove about an hour to this campsite with our three young daughters, all packed in a minivan with a large tent, sleeping bags and more camping gear than any family could ever need. But, I didn't make reservations, and the campsite was full. It was after 7 p.m. on a Friday night, and, one way or another, we were going camping. I asked the friendly guard at the gate if he could recommended another campground. He suggested one just down the road, and we immediately trucked the minivan to it.

We were in luck, as this campground had a few open spots. We all smiled as we pulled up to our site, only to open the doors and hear the deafening roar of stock car engines coming from a nearby race track. It wasn't the peaceful evening around the campfire we envisioned, but we made the best of it and pitched our tent, filled our air mattresses and rolled out the sleeping bags.

Eventually, the races ended — just in time for the rain to start. We huddled together as the wind whipped our tent around and the rain seeped inside. In time, we fell asleep, only to be awakened by the cold rain that flowed over our now-deflated air mattresses and into our sleeping bags. So, at midnight, I hastily packed up the family and our soaking-wet belongings and took the drive back home.

That was the end of our tent-camping adventures. Not too much later, we bought a pop-up camper. Then, we sold that and upgraded to a travel trailer. Then, we sold that and purchased a different travel trailer. Then, we sold that and dished out for a class C motorhome, which we still have today — along with that same aforementioned tent. With all the kids out of the house today, neither one gets used much now, but we still have many wonderful memories of RV camping and one not-so-wonderful memory in a tent.

In this month's magazine, we share the stories of local residents who are enjoying life in their RVs and creating camping adventures. You can bet that they make campground reservations in advance.

Thanks for reading. ■

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CAMPING IN STYLE

Residents share the joy
of traveling with the
conveniences.

By Rachel Harrington

Sitting around a campfire, toasting s'mores, telling stories and visiting with friends and family after a day of enjoying nature and exploring the big outdoors. Ah, the joys of camping! And you don't have to hike into the woods, covered in bug spray, to pitch a tent to partake in the fun. Those who prefer to make the trip with a camper share why they like to have some of the conveniences of home — bed, bathroom, air conditioner and more — on the trip with them.

After retirement, Scott and Michele Donnelly traveled the country in their RV camper for two years before deciding they needed a home base.

Forming a network

Scott and Michele Donnelly are both retired from the United States Postal Service. When they retired after 33 years and 27 years, they decided they wanted to enjoy their golden years by traveling the country in their RV camper.

"Michele had the idea, initially," Scott remarks. "I never really wanted an RV."

"I wanted the adventure of driving around and meeting people," Michele adds.

So, the couple sold their townhome in Norwalk and spent the next two years RV camping.

"It was funny to think that all of our stuff, besides the bit in storage, was in one big trailer," Scott admits.

Later, they decided they wanted a home base, so their son-in-law built them a large and spacious barn that could house their motor home beside a small home in rural Winterset. When they are at home base, their RV motor home serves as extra sleeping quarters for guests and grandchildren.

Their first motorhome was a 1998 Winnebago RV. Now, they camp in a 38-foot 2014 Georgetown Forest River XL. It uses gasoline, not diesel, and it has a tow package for their car, three slide outs, an outdoor awning, and an outdoor TV.

"It's very comfy and cozy inside," Michele says.

Most years, the Donnellys hit the road in their motor home between November and January, though, the past few years, they have departed around January.

"When we leave largely depends on the weather all the way to our destination," Scott shares. "Though I've gotten used to it now, when we towed our car behind us, it was nerve-racking driving it through St. Louis."

The Donnellys most often frequent Gulf Shores, Alabama. When they initially traveled there, they were pleasantly surprised by what they found.

"I was still setting up the RV when people began coming over and introducing themselves," Scott recalls.

Michele says the friendliness and warmth of their temporary neighbors did not stop with introductions.

"They invited us to go out with them to dinner, so we did," she says. "Our kids couldn't believe we did that — that we went out with complete strangers."

However, the people they have met in their years of RV travels are what they enjoy most



Scott and Michele Donnelly gather with their family to enjoy time camping.

TYPES OF RVs

Class A motorhomes: Largest drivable RVs, often associated with luxury and comfort. Their large bus frames are built on a truck chassis, providing RV manufacturers with the flexibility to make heavier and more spacious RVs.

Class B motorhomes: Smallest drivable RVs on the market. Also called campervans, they are nimble enough to fit in standard parking spaces yet big enough to have small kitchens, a flexible living and sleeping area, and sometimes even toilets and showers.

Class C motorhomes: Built on a van chassis with the living space constructed around the cab. Usually, the signature cab-over bed serves as a secondary sleeping space. These small motorhomes transform into comfortable living spaces when parked at the campground — especially those that come with one or more slide outs.

Fifth wheels: The largest towable RVs. A fifth wheel connects a pin-box from the front of the trailer to a u-shaped coupling mounted in a truck bed. Amenities like multiple slide outs, an outdoor kitchen, extendable patio, reclining chairs, office space and a kitchen island help make fifth wheels some of the most comfortable and luxurious trailers.

Toy haulers: An RV type all their own because of their garages. Toy haulers have living areas and a multi-purpose utility

space designed to carry motorcycles, off-road utility vehicles, kayaks, dirt bikes, or other toys inside of the RV.

Travel trailers: The most popular RVs on the market because they are versatile and come in many different lengths and weights. Larger travel trailers may have slide outs and separate living and sleeping quarters and amenities like a bunkhouse or outdoor kitchen. To tow a travel trailer, you must have a tow vehicle with a sufficient tow rating and a hitch installed to connect the trailer.

Pop-up campers: Hybrid RV tents. When the pop-up camper is in camping mode, the tent section of the trailer extends to provide more headroom, sleeping space and zippable sides and windows. People often choose pop-up campers because they are lightweight and easy to tow.

Tiny travel trailers: Sometimes called micro trailers, these have small and flexible living spaces. Tiny travel trailers include teardrop, fiberglass, clamshell and some smaller pop-ups. They are lightweight, and smaller SUVs and trucks can tow them.

Truck campers: Sit in the bed of a pickup truck, and, because of weight, they almost always require a one-ton or a dually (dual rear-wheel) truck. They range from lightweight with pop-up roof to more luxurious models with slide outs.

Find additional information at www.rvezy.com/blog/rv-types.



Ron Shaffer has a 15-foot toy hauler so he can travel in comfort and bring his horse or side-by-side with him.

about their adventures.

“When you get our age, it’s good to have a network. Meeting people like this helps to do that,” Michele shares.

Scott says he likes meeting people and seeing all the places they visit.

“People at campgrounds always seem to be in a good mood,” he adds.

Locally, they have camped at Lake Rathbun, Saylorville Lake, Leon and the Winterset City Campground. They have also traveled to Alabama, Florida, Illinois, Mississippi and Missouri. Since they are often camping during spring break, their kids and grandchildren will often visit them. They go fishing near where they camp, whether it is deep sea fishing off the coast or at a local lake. When they are able, they participate in campground contests. They hope to visit Wisconsin and meet up with other RV camping friends later this year, and, someday, they hope to visit Niagara Falls and Crater Lake.

A trailer for man and horse

Ron Shaffer has worked with horses his entire life and has traveled with them frequently. His former in-laws would often take their horse to Montana, and he would accompany them with his horses. At the time, his sleeping quarters were in the back of a stock trailer. To his great relief, that was not a “forever situation.”

His first true living quarters trailer was 8 feet long. After using it for a couple of years, he upgraded to a 10-foot-long trailer. A couple of

years ago, he acquired his current 15-foot living quarters horse trailer. It has a slide out, a water tank, a built-in generator and a shower. It can also carry up to three horses.

“It has all the same amenities as a regular RV camper, and it is licensed the same way as well,” he explains.

“I’ve been camping for a total of about 40 years,” Shaffer says. “I’ve only been in a trailer this nice for the last eight years or so. I always take my horse, and one, if not both, of my dogs. I try to do at least one big trip a year, and then I try to go as often in the summer as I am able to.”

The past three years, he has traveled to the Bighorn Mountains in Buffalo, Wyoming; Hocking Hills, Ohio; and Bryce Canyon, Utah.

“It is hard to pick a favorite place that I’ve camped, but Bryce Canyon was a once-in-a-lifetime experience,” Shaffer shares.

Locally, Shaffer likes to frequent Stephens Forest in Lucas, which is about an hour’s drive from his home. He also enjoys Shimek State Forest near Farmington. Twice a year, he travels to Nebraska with his trailer: in the spring for cattle branding and in the fall for cattle weaning. Twice a year, he and some friends have a “Stag Ride” and camp together. He also has boondock camped in Wyoming quite a bit.

“I like to camp in places that have horse-riding trails,” Shaffer says. “You can go places on a horse that people in cars or on foot wouldn’t or couldn’t think of going.”

This past Fourth of July, Shaffer took his trailer to Table Rock Lake, Missouri, and he used

it as a toy hauler by taking his side-by-side with him.

“It was my first time to do that,” he says.

Shaffer has a goal to camp in all 50 states. So far, he has done so in 15. He hopes to travel and camp with his girlfriend. He plans to bring along his paint horse and his yearling to many of his future camping trips. He also will bring at least one of his dogs, leaving the other at home to guard his chickens from predators. On his bucket list of camping trips is the Land Between the Lakes in Kentucky.

Amanda Crouse

As a 1990s kid, Amanda Crouse grew up tent and RV camping with her family. They enjoyed spending time outdoors, and camping provided a great opportunity for them to do so together. She has fond memories of camping at Red Rock, Beads Lake State Park, Lake Cornelia and Little Wall Lake.

“As a teenager, my family took our motor home to Colorado. We also took an across-the-U.S. trip from Forest City, Iowa, to Prince Edward Island, Maine, and even drove it through New York City,” Crouse says.

As an adult, Crouse wants to keep the camping spirit alive in her own family. In 2023, she and her husband, Michael, purchased their first RV. It ended up being too big for their truck, so they recently downsized to an RV that she is able to hook up and pull on her own when Michael isn’t available due to work.

FEATURE

"It is pretty basic," she shares. "It has a kitchen and a shower. The big thing is AC — the main upgrade from tent camping."

Crouse often takes her children, ages 1 and 4, with her camping on weekends.

"I like to go in the spring and fall the most. RV camping is a nice way to be together and go on trips," she says. "There's nothing like it. My kids love it, and my son will even say he misses the camper when we're in between trips."

Crouse and her family recently moved from Red Oak. Before they moved, they would often camp at Viking Lake State Park. Locally, they have camped at Dolliver Memorial State Park off of Highway 20 and at Brushy Creek State Recreation Area.

"Most of the area at Brushy Creek is equine," Crouse explains. "I have a friend with horses, and I hope to be able to go camping with her sometime soon."

She and her family traveled to Ledges State Park near Boone this spring.

"Boone Ledges was really amazing," she shares. Most recently, Crouse took her children to camp at Adventureland in

Altoona.

She says she appreciates the freedom that RV camping offers.

"I love that it lets us go to places where we can do things we might not be able to if we were driving or flying and having to stay in hotels," she states. "It is more affordable and a different way to travel. You just have to be aware of how far your RV can travel. It is said that going down the highway can be equivalent to going through a hurricane. You have to make sure everything is strapped in tightly."

Her newer RV is smaller and able to plug in most anywhere, so she looks forward to many camping trips in the future.

"I've heard a lot of good things about Walnut Woods State Park in West Des Moines and about Summerset State Park off of Highway 65/69," she says. "I've also been wanting to take the camper and kids to Colorado. My siblings and I plan on a trip to either Pigeon Forge or Wisconsin Dells next year and probably taking the campers to save a little money." ■



Amanda and Michael Crouse chose an RV that Amanda can hook up by herself so she can take the kids camping when her husband has to work.

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MEET Trey Thompson

Fourth-generation educator finds purpose in the classroom and on the course.

Trey Thompson grew up in a family of teachers. He is the fourth generation to pursue a career in education, and his dad just retired from his teaching role this past May. He also has numerous aunts, grandparents and great-grandparents who have called themselves teachers, too.

"I have always enjoyed the school environment, and I feel as though I can make an impact in this career with multiple people," Thompson says. "This career gives me a purpose every morning when I wake up."

This fall will mark Thompson's fifth year in the Winterset Community School District and his seventh year teaching overall.

He was initially drawn to the district because of the opportunities he felt it would provide.

"I was looking for a school that would open doors to coaching for me, and Winterset had a high school math, junior high cross country, and assistant track opening with a retired position. It just worked out perfectly."

Today, Thompson continues serving as a high school math teacher, as well as head coach of the cross country team. He was named the 2024 Class 4A Cross Country At-Large Coach of the Year.

For Thompson, the best part of his role is getting to know the kids and building connections.

"I enjoy not just teaching them but learning about the kids and their interests and watching them progress through their last four years at Winterset," he says. "I especially enjoy coaching kids the most with this job and teaching them valuable life lessons of perseverance, teamwork and effort."

Many of Thompson's favorite career moments have come from coaching, especially taking student-athletes to state cross country and state track, he says.

"Watching them succeed with their best efforts at the highest level makes all of the early mornings and late nights worth it," he says.

Some standout memories include the boys cross country team qualifying for state during Thompson's first year of coaching in 2022 and finishing fifth, and the boys 4x800 relay breaking the school record by running 7:56 and finishing third at state.

Outside of work, Thompson enjoys spending time with family and friends and is currently preparing to welcome his first child with his wife, Natalie, in early January. ■



Trey Thompson enjoys being able to teach and coach.



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REAL ESTATE

By Nicole Knobloch

WHY AUGUST is a great time to list your home

If you're considering selling your home, August might be the perfect time to list. While many people focus on spring as the peak real estate season, late summer offers unique advantages — especially in Iowa's competitive housing market.

First, serious buyers are still actively searching. Many began looking earlier in the year and haven't found the right fit, so they're motivated to make a decision before school starts or colder weather sets in. These buyers are often pre-approved and ready to move quickly.

Second, curb appeal is at its peak. Iowa's landscapes are still lush and green, making homes more attractive in photos and in-person showings. A well-kept yard and sunny weather can help your home stand out.

Third, there's often less competition. Many homeowners list in spring and early summer, but, by August, inventory begins to drop. With fewer homes available, yours has a better chance of catching buyers' attention.

Lastly, closing before fall can be more convenient. The weather is still cooperative for inspections and moving, and buyers may want to finalize a purchase before the year's end for tax or school-related reasons.

In short, August offers a perfect balance of motivated buyers, strong curb appeal, and fewer competing listings — giving you a strategic edge. If your home is market-ready, this could be one of your best opportunities to sell quickly and with less stress before the busy fall season sets in. ■

Information provided by Nicole Knobloch, Madison County Realty, 65 W. Jefferson St., Winterset, niknobloch@outlook.com.



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AUTOMOTIVE

By Dawn Lauer

GETTING your car ready for college

Heading off to college with your car? A reliable vehicle can be a lifesaver for trips home, late-night grocery runs, or weekend adventures — but only if it is in good shape. Preparing your car before the semester starts can prevent breakdowns and costly repairs.

Start with the mechanical essentials. Check your engine oil. Low or dirty oil can lead to major engine damage. If you're close to your next oil change, get it done now. Also, inspect the coolant, which keeps your engine from overheating. Top it off if it is low, and ensure there are no leaks in the system.

Have your battery tested, especially if it is more than three years old. Make sure the terminals are clean and free of corrosion. Ask a mechanic to inspect belts and hoses for cracks or fraying. Replacing them early is far cheaper than fixing a breakdown on the road.

Do not forget the brakes. Squeaking, grinding or a soft pedal can all be signs they need servicing. Also, check the transmission fluid if your car is automatic. It should be clean and pinkish, not burnt or dark.


Next, inspect your tires for tread wear and proper pressure and confirm your spare tire and jack are in working order.

Finally, stock an emergency kit and keep your paperwork (license, insurance, registration) up to date. With a well-prepped vehicle, you will be ready to tackle campus life without worrying about car trouble. ■

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

THE TRUTH about Pinterest pictures

Many people, including us hair designers, have a Pinterest account containing their favorite hair pictures. I'm here to tell you what we see in these pictures. We see filters and exaggerations.

I personally prefer clients bring three different inspiration pictures. Most often, a person has a "theme" look they are after. Swoopy bangs, textured waves, a simple bob, or a messy bun are examples of what a "theme" might consist of. The use of three pictures is necessary in helping achieve a realistic outcome. There are many factors when deciding what your hair's potential can achieve. When using only one picture for inspiration, I find that an individual is mostly attracted to that person's overall style (think Jennifer Aniston or Meg Ryan), and that's just not something we're able to produce.

Here is my take on Pinterest hair color: Those super icy platinum blondes? It's mostly filters or lighting giving them that look. Some hair simply cannot get that light without compromising the hair's integrity. Let us guide you on the reality. That is what we are here for.

It is our job as your trusted stylists to educate you on your hair's true potential. Bring us photos. And then let us create the closest possible result. ■

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

HAVE your spine checked before school starts

It's back-to-school time, which means it's time to start shifting gears from leisurely days at the pool and family vacations back to early bedtimes and stable routines. Sometimes this can be just as challenging for parents as it is students. On top of that, there are the stressors involved with buying the right supplies and coordinating meals and snacks. Amid all the chaos, making sure to visit your chiropractor is probably the last thing on your mind. But here are three major reasons a visit to your chiropractor should be a top priority.

Your chiropractor's main focus is on your nervous system. A balanced nervous system means a better adaptability to stress, a healthier immune response, and an enhanced ability to focus and take on new challenges.

The start of school is the kickoff to many fall sports and activities. Chiropractic care has been shown to benefit in a faster recovery time, and continual care can help prevent injury.

Working on tablets and Chromebooks and spending time texting in between class periods has led us to a new epidemic that chiropractors have labeled "tech neck." Poor posture can lead to other health challenges that chiropractors help with on a regular basis.

So, if you have already planned your chiropractic adjustment, great. If you have not considered chiropractic care for your family, give it a try. ■

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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FEEDING a healthy smile

A number of foods and drinks can affect the risk of developing cavities, dental erosion and dry mouth.

• **Cavities: Foods and drinks to avoid:** There are several sugar-sweetened beverages, including

sodas, juice and sports drinks. Foods like frozen meals, flavored yogurts and sauces like ketchup and barbecue sauce also have added sugar. Gummy candies, many chewable medicines and vitamins, and bread-like foods including chips and pretzels, stick to the teeth and increase the risk of cavities. Infant formulas, baby foods, and fruit juice also can increase the risk of cavities.

The American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry recommends that infants younger than 1 year avoid juice completely. Older infants and children should not suck on bottles or sippy cups filled with juice for long periods, and they should not go to sleep with a juice-



filled bottle or sippy cup.

Foods and drinks to choose: Fruits and vegetables (fresh or frozen) with natural sugars are a good choice. Dairy products, like whole milk, cheese and plain yogurt (which you can sweeten with fresh fruit) also may be helpful. These types of healthy foods provide nutrients, like calcium and vitamin C, that your body can use to help strengthen teeth and gums.

Tips: Check food labels to see whether there are added sugars in your foods or drinks.

Guidelines recommend that foods and drinks have no more than 10% of your daily calories in added sugars.

• **Dental erosion.** Dental erosion is the gradual wearing away of the hard outside surface of the teeth caused by repeated or prolonged contact with acid. The acid in some foods and drinks can cause dental erosion.

Foods and drinks to avoid: Acidic foods and drinks, such as soft drinks, juice, and some sports drinks, and acidic snacks and candies can increase the risk of erosion.

Foods and drinks to choose: Milk and

yogurt may reduce acid in the mouth. Water is a good beverage choice. If you eat or drink products high in acids, rinsing your mouth with water also may be helpful.

• **Dry mouth.** Dry mouth can cause difficulties in tasting, chewing, swallowing, and speaking and can increase the risk of cavities. Certain foods and drinks can contribute to dry mouth.

Foods and drinks to avoid: Limit breadlike snacks, such as chips or pretzels, and acidic foods or beverages. Alcohol and caffeine-containing beverages can cause dry mouth.

Foods and drinks to choose: Drinking water and sucking on (not chewing) ice can moisten the mouth. Sugar-free gums and candies may increase the flow of saliva. Because dry mouth increases the risk of cavities, see the above section on cavities for foods and drinks that may reduce this risk. ■

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

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INSURANCE

By Eric Johnson

THE HIDDEN gaps in homeowners insurance you might not know about



Most homeowners assume their insurance policy will cover any disaster that strikes. Unfortunately, that is not always the case. Standard homeowners insurance offers strong protection for many common risks, but there are some surprising gaps that could leave you paying out of pocket if you are not prepared.

One of the biggest misconceptions is flood coverage. Flood damage from rising water — whether due to heavy rains, hurricanes, or melting snow — is not included in a typical policy. To be protected, homeowners need a separate flood insurance policy, often through the National Flood Insurance Program or private insurers. Even if you are not in a high-risk flood zone, flash flooding or severe weather can happen anywhere.

Earthquakes and ground movement are another exclusion. While these events might seem rare, many regions across the country experience minor quakes, and the damage can be costly. Separate earthquake coverage is available as an endorsement or standalone policy.

Homeowners should also be aware of coverage limits for valuable items. Jewelry, fine art and collectibles often have strict limits — sometimes as low as \$1,500 — under a standard policy. If you own high-value items, you may need to “schedule” them individually for proper coverage.

Wear and tear, neglect and routine maintenance issues are also not covered. For instance, if a roof leaks due to old age or lack of maintenance, the resulting damage might not be reimbursed. Insurance is designed for sudden, accidental losses — not gradual damage.

Finally, liability coverage can be another weak spot. Standard homeowners policies typically include liability protection, but the limits may not be enough in today’s world of costly lawsuits. A serious accident on your property could exceed your coverage, leaving your assets at risk.

The good news is that these gaps can often be filled with the right endorsements or additional policies. A quick review with your insurance agent can identify areas where your coverage falls short and help you make affordable adjustments.

Understanding what your policy does — and doesn’t — cover is the first step in protecting your home and financial security. ■

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

Make sure you’re properly covered.

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Stephanie David



Eric Johnson



Kenna Johnson



Angie Kinsey



Jennifer Marr



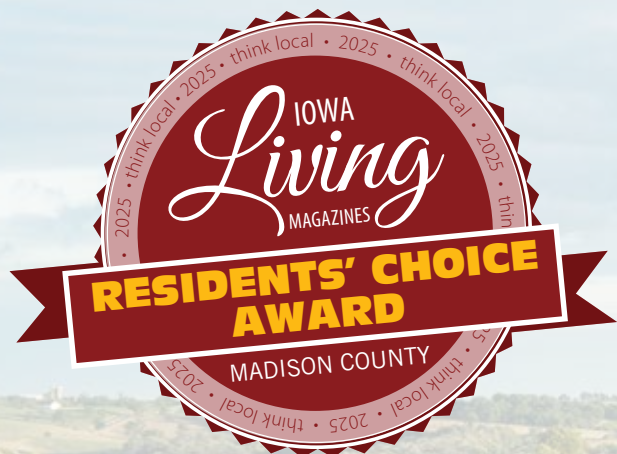
Chase VanWerden



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IT'S BACK!

Who will be voted favorite in Madison County?

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 Madison County Residents' Choice Poll. This contest is being hosted by Iowa Living magazines, and the results will publish in our Winterset November edition. You can vote in one or every category, or anywhere in between.

SCAN HERE TO
VOTE TODAY!



HURRY! POLL CLOSSES OCT. 3, 2025.

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

FOOD AND DRINK

- Restaurant
- Restaurant for Breakfast
- Restaurant for Lunch
- Restaurant for Dinner
- Restaurant for Dessert
- Place for Ice Cream
- Pizza Establishment
- Bar
- Brewery/Distillery/Winery
- Server/Bartender

AUTO BODY

- Auto Service
- Auto Body Shop

COMMUNITY

- Preschool/Daycare
- Park
- Community Festival or Event
- Church
- Pastor
- Place for a Field Trip
- Picnic Spot

SHOPPING

- Grocery Store
- Boutique
- Retail Store
- Florist
- Home Improvement Retail Store
- 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
- Summer Camp
- Camping Spot

HEALTH/BEAUTY

- Hair Salon
- Dental Office
- Chiropractor
- Health Club or Gym
- Doctor
- Pharmacy

OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

- Financial Planner
- Law Firm
- Lawn Care Business
- Nursery or Landscaping Company
- Heating and Cooling Business
- Electrician (business)
- Plumbing Company
- Senior Living Facility
- Insurance Agency
- Realtor
- Bank/Credit Union
- Photographer
- Place for Guests to Stay
- Painting Company
- Home Builder
- Home Improvement Contractor
- Accounting Firm



WINTERS

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MAGAZINES

VARSITY FOOTBALL

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
Aug 29	7:30PM	ADM	Winterset High School
Sep 5	7:00PM	Creston Community	Creston High School
Sep 12	7:00PM	Van Meter	Van Meter High School
Sep 19	7:30PM	Carlisle	Winterset High School
Sep 26	7:30PM	Nevada	Nevada
Oct 3	7:30PM	Knoxville	Winterset High School
Oct 10	7:30PM	Williamsburg	Winterset High School
Oct 17	7:00PM	Saydel	Saydel High School
Oct 24	7:30PM	Des Moines Christian	Winterset High School

JV FOOTBALL

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
Sep 1	6:00PM	ADM	A-D-M, Adel
Sep 8	6:00PM	Creston Community	Winterset High School
Sep 15	5:00PM	Clarinda	Clarinda High School
Sep 22	4:30PM	Carlisle	Carlisle High School
Sep 29	6:00PM	Nevada	Winterset High School
Oct 6	6:00PM	Carroll	Carroll High School
Oct 13	5:00PM	Williamsburg	Williamsburg High School

VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
Aug 26	5:00PM	Multiple Schools	Nevada High School
Aug 30	8:00AM	Bondurant-Farrar	Bondurant-Farrar High School
Sep 2	7:15PM	Carroll	Winterset High School
Sep 4	6:30PM	Van Meter	Van Meter High School
Sep 9	7:30PM	North Polk	North Polk High School
Sep 13	8:30AM	South Central Calhoun	South Central Calhoun High School
Sep 16	7:15PM	Ballard	Winterset High School
Sep 23	7:15PM	Gilbert	Gilbert High School
Sep 27	TBD	Nevada	Nevada High School
Sep 30	7:15PM	Bondurant-Farrar	Winterset High School
Oct 7	7:15PM	Carlisle	Carlisle High School
Oct 9	7:15PM	Boone	Winterset High School
Oct 16	7:15PM	ADM	ADM High School
Oct 18	9:00AM	Multiple Schools	Winterset



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SET

WINTERSKIES

FALL SCHEDULE 25-26

JV VOLLEYBALL

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
Aug 26**	5:00PM	Multiple Schools	Winterset High School
Sep 2	5:15PM	Carroll	Winterset High School
Sep 4	5:00PM	Van Meter	Van Meter High School
Sep 9	5:15PM	North Polk	North Polk
Sep 16**	5:30PM	Ballard	Winterset High School.
Sep 20**	9:00AM	Multiple Schools	Winterset High School.
Sep 23	5:15PM	Gilbert	Gilbert High School
Sep 27*	9:00AM	Multiple Schools	Wallace Elementary
Sep 30	5:15PM	Bondurant-Farrar	Winterset High School.
Oct 2*	5:00PM	Multiple Schools	Winterset High School
Oct 7	5:15PM	Carlisle	Carlisle High School
Oct 9	5:15PM	Boone	Winterset High School.
Oct 11	8:30AM	Waukee	Waukee High School
Oct 16	5:15PM	ADM	ADM High School
Oct 18**	8:30AM	Indianola	Indianola High School

* JV Black Team Only

** JV Gold Team Only

CROSS COUNTRY

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
Aug 30	8:00AM	Johnston	Johnston High School
Sep 4	4:00PM	Bondurant-Farrar	ISU Cross Country Course
Sep 9	5:10PM	Multiple Schools	Lakeview Country Club
Sep 11	5:00PM	Gilbert	ISU Cross Country Course
Sep 20	9:00AM	Central College	Central College
Sep 25	4:30PM	Indianola	Pickard Park-Indianola
Oct 2	5:00PM	Perry	Perry Golf & Country Club
Oct 9	4:30PM	Atlantic CSD	Nishna Hills Golf Club



Photos by BK Creations, Girls Cross Country photo by Shantelle Hope, Boys Cross Country photo by Liz Hensley

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FINDING home

Winterset checks all the boxes for Claypool.

Rebekah Claypool spent years working in runway production, traveling across the United States. She has seen some of the most beautiful places but says nothing has come as close to perfect for her as Winterset.

"It's where we chose to plant our roots and raise our son — and it truly feels like home in every way," Claypool says.

She and her son moved to town about five years ago. Having always lived in the country, Claypool was looking for something less secluded and a little closer to town.

"I really did my research on multiple areas, and it came down to Winterset and Grimes," she explains. "I thought, study can only do so much, so I had to visit."

She had been to Winterset before, tagging along with her parents for John Wayne's birthday celebration, but never for herself.

"When I came, it was an immediate knowing of, 'Yep, this is where I want my son to grow up,'" she says.

About two years later, Claypool married her husband, Taylor (who is originally from Florida), and he's fallen in love with the town, too.

"He tells everyone, 'I get to live in a Norman Rockwell painting every day,'" she says.

The family is currently renting a home on the outskirts of town, where cornfields stretch out on one side, but grocery shopping is just three minutes away. It is the best of both worlds for Claypool, who notes they're searching for a permanent home. Her son is also a fan of the location for a slightly different reason: the pool is just minutes away.

Claypool likes supporting local businesses and often organizes visits for friends and family to come shop, explore and experience everything Winterset has to offer.

"Not surprised ... they are always obsessed and want to come back," she says. "The Winterset community is sincerely something you can feel. It feels like you've been transported back in time to a world of crazy ideas, like strangers talking and caring about each other, the feeling of safety, great school systems, plus there's so much more to do here than meets the eye."

What other town, she wonders, has the safety, the schools and a beautifully maintained historic square, but also lavender fields, alpaca farms, auctions, a skate park, great shopping, wineries, the coolest movie theater, an incredible library, endless community events, great coffee, ice cream and snow cones?

"Winterset is an absolute gem. We're lifers," she says. ■



Rebekah Claypool did a lot of research before deciding to move to Winterset with her son, and she says it was the right decision.



WISE decisions with retirement in mind

Certain financial and lifestyle choices may lead you toward a better future.

Some retirees succeed at realizing the life they want; others don't. Fate aside, it isn't merely a matter of investment decisions that makes the difference. There are certain dos and don'ts — some less apparent than others — that tend to encourage retirement happiness and comfort.

Retire financially literate. Some retirees don't know how much they don't know. They end their careers with inadequate financial knowledge and, yet, feel they can prepare for retirement on their own. They mistake creating a retirement income strategy with the whole of preparing for retirement and gloss over longevity risk, risks to their estate, and potential health care expenses. The more you know, the more your retirement readiness improves.

A goal to retire debt free — or close to debt free? Even if your retirement savings are substantial, you may want to consider reviewing your overall debt situation.¹

Retire with purpose. There is a difference between retiring and quitting. Some people can't wait to quit their job at 62 or 65. If only they could escape and just relax and do nothing for a few years — wouldn't that be a nice reward? Relaxation can lead to inertia, however, and inertia can lead to restlessness, even depression. You want to retire to a dream, not away from a problem.

The bottom line? Retirees who know what they want to do — and go out and do it — are positively contributing to their mental health and possibly their physical health as well. If they do something that is not only vital to them, but important to others, their community can benefit as well.

Retire healthy. Smoking, drinking, overeating, a dearth of physical activity — all these can take a toll on your capacity to live life fully and enjoy retirement. It is never too late to change habits that may lead to poor health.

Retire where you feel at home. It could be where you live now; it could be a nearby place where the scenery and people are uplifting. If you find yourself lonely in retirement, then look for ways to connect with people who share your experiences, interests and passions — those who encourage you and welcome you. This social interaction is one of the great, intangible retirement benefits. ■

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EVENTS IN THE AREA

Be sure to check for cancelations

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

Upcoming in Winterset Living magazine:

Home Improvement: Our annual Home Improvement issue in which we share residents' stories about their remodeling projects is coming up. Please share your stories about the work you have done on your home and how it has changed your use of the space and enjoyment of your home. Email tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com with your stories.

Costume Creations: Halloween fun is quickly approaching! If you forgo the off-the-rack costumes for something more creative, we want to hear from you. Tell us about your costume creations and the fun you had making them. Email tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com with your stories.



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.

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.



Trivia Thursday at the Winery

Aug. 7, Sept. 4, Oct. 2, 7-9 p.m.

Covered Bridges Winery,
2207 170th Trail, Winterset

Enjoy trivia in the relaxing setting of Covered Bridges Winery.



Bike Rodeo

Wednesday, Aug. 6, 6-8 p.m.

Winterset High School parking lot, 624 Husky Drive

The Bike Rodeo is free for all families. Event includes basic bicycle inspections, bike safety education, skills courses, bike races, helmet fittings, games, prizes and more. Pre-register at <https://form.jotform.com/251834211689057>.



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is always impressed with the level of
care here. It is just a great atmosphere,
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— Shirley B.

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EVENTS IN THE AREA

Be sure to check for cancellations

Women's Giving Circle Quarterly meetings

Sept. 23, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Union State Bank Community Room, 611
West Highway 92, Winterset

The next Madison County Women's Giving Circle's quarterly meeting is Sept. 23. 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.

Square Dance Lessons

Sunday nights starting Sept.

14, 6:30 p.m.

Douglas Avenue Presbyterian
Church, 4601 Douglas Ave.,
Des Moines

Ankeny Square Dance Club is sponsoring square dance lessons. Cost is \$20 per person for the entire session accepted at the third lesson. Attend with or without a dance partner. You'll learn the calls, one at a time, taught by a caller (instructor) and volunteers. For more information, call Sandy Townsend, 515-294-2624, or visit www.ankenysquares.com.

Freshen Up the Covered Bridges

Saturday, Sept. 27, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Each year, the historic covered bridges receive a fresh coat of white paint just in time for the Covered Bridge Festival, and your help is needed. This is a fun and meaningful way to give back, get involved, and help keep the bridges beautiful for the festival. Grab your friends, wear old clothes, and come ready to make a difference. All supplies provided. Sign up online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0549A5AB2CA1FFCE9-57554677-covered/>.



Music in the Garden Series

Aug. 7, 6:30 p.m.

Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden, 909 Robert D. Ray Drive,
Des Moines

www.dmbotanicalgarden.com

Enjoy live music in the beautiful setting of the Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden. Diplomats of Solid Sound is the band. Doors open at 6 p.m.

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EVENTS IN THE AREA

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

Be sure to check for cancelations

DMPA Free Outdoor Family Events

Aug. 13 and Aug. 23
Cowles Commons

Des Moines Performing Arts' 2025 Free Outdoor Family Events series is designed to engage new audiences and performing arts enthusiasts alike, while also removing the barrier of cost. Aug. 13 features Storytime Under the Green Umbrella, Cowles Commons, and Aug. 23 is Dancing on Cowles Commons. For more information, visit www.desmoinesperformingarts.org/whats-on/series/free-outdoor-family-events.

Urbandale Summer Concert Series

Tuesday, Aug. 26, 6:30-8 p.m.
Charles Gabus Memorial Tree Park,
next to the Urbandale Public Library

Enjoy free, high-quality music in a family-friendly setting. Bring your lawn chair or blanket, and feel free to pack a cooler. River City Opry plays.

Earlham concert series

Sunday, Aug. 10, 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. Aug. 10 features Dessa and The 29:11 South African Choir and Nella Thomas.

Bondurant Car Show

Saturday, Aug. 23,
8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
315 Second St. N.W., Bondurant

Registration is 8-10 a.m. with judging from noon to 1 p.m. and awards at 2 p.m. Awards will be presented for: Best Car, Best Truck, Best Motorcycle, Best in Show. Proceeds go to help local veterans. For more information, call Scott at 515-402-6118 or James at 515-971-2455.

Wallace Centers of Iowa Summer Events

Wallace Farm, 2773 290th St., Orient
Wallace House, 756 16th St., Des Moines

• **Pizza on the Prairie:** Every Friday until Sept. 26, 5-9 p.m., Wallace Farm. Come to the prairie at the Wallace Farm on Friday nights during the summer for brick oven pizza packed with farm-fresh veggies and local meats. This family-friendly evening is packed with good food, live music, outdoor art, and picturesque sunsets. Reservations for pizza ordering times are required at <https://wallace.org/pizza-on-the-prairie/>.

• **Garden Party Luncheon:** Wednesday, Aug. 20, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Wallace House. Enjoy a beautifully curated lunch featuring farm-fresh produce and edible flowers. Take a stroll around the garden in your favorite garden-inspired attire. \$45/ticket. <https://wallace.org/event/garden-party-luncheon/>

• **Know Your Farmer Dinner:** Sunday, Aug. 24, 6-8 p.m., Wallace Farm. Meet Kevin Blair, garden programs manager, and learn about the garden programs while enjoying a three-course dinner using fresh ingredients from the farm. \$75/ticket. <https://wallace.org/event/know-your-farmer-dinner-kevin-blair/> ■



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MADISON County Fair

The Madison County Fair
was enjoyed July 18.



Leah Wolff, Connie Young, Alison Young and Lanie Petersen



Karry Goff and Nick Benshoof



Owen Allen and James Moss



Shane Marlow and Kimber Marlow and
bunny Sweetheart



Lylah Stamm, Emily Stamm and Jeremiah
Stamm



Lacy Waltz, Hannah Yetter and Anne Sneller



Grant Kading and Nathan Bentler



LaRee Allen and Marriah Allen



Haiden Johnson and Elena Lowry



Dan Young and Lindsey Young

OUT & ABOUT



Maggie Geoghegan and bunny Thumper at the Madison County Fair July 18.



Abby Geoghegan and bunny Hunk at the Madison County Fair July 18.



Calvin O'Brien at the Madison County Fair July 18.



Cade Lawrance, Jessica Lawrance and Erica Donielson at the Madison County Fair July 18.



Haiden and Sabrina Tuttle at the Madison County Fair July 18.



Clyde O'Brien and bunny Bugs at the Madison County Fair July 18.



Brandon Katzer at the Madison County Fair July 18.



Michelle Phillips, Gabby Johnston, Michaela Allsup and Ashley Ross at the chamber coffee July 18 at the Madison County Fairgrounds.



Lillian Burkett at the chamber coffee July 18 at the Madison County Fairgrounds.



Wayne Martens and Jeff Kiddoo at the chamber coffee July 18 at the Madison County Fairgrounds.



Bob Stephens and Joe Tremmel at the chamber coffee July 18 at the Madison County Fairgrounds.



Jewel Madsen and Sarah Pugh at the chamber coffee July 18 at the Madison County Fairgrounds.

MOM'S Chicken Salad

Lately, I've been hooked on chicken salad — making a fresh batch every week for quick, satisfying lunches and the occasional no-fuss dinner. It is incredibly convenient to have a flavorful, ready-to-eat meal waiting in the fridge. I love its versatility, too, as it is perfect to pile on toast, toss over greens, or simply enjoy by the spoonful.



This version (I can't really call it a recipe) is more of a method passed down from my mother. She never measured anything, but just added a bit of this and a scoop of that, adjusting as she tasted. I have kept that spirit but added a few of my own touches along the way. I sometimes swap out the mayo for Greek yogurt, skip the onions (some family members are not fans), and change up the nuts depending on what I have on hand. I also ditched the sugar in favor of honey or a splash of lemon juice for brightness. Personally, I leave out mustard — but if you love that tangy kick, try stirring in a tablespoon of Dijon for a bold, earthy note.

It's a flexible formula that can be adjusted to your tastes — and your family's. Enjoy! ■

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

Lois' Chicken Salad

Ingredients:

- 3 cups chicken, diced
- ½-1 cup celery, diced
- ¼-½ cup onion, minced (optional)
- ½-1 cup of red grapes, cut in half (or use mandarin oranges)
- ¼-¾ cup pecans, chopped (or use walnuts or almonds)
- 2 tablespoons honey (or a splash of lemon juice)
- 1-1¼ cup mayonnaise (or low-fat Greek yogurt), add more if needed
- ¼ teaspoon garlic powder
- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- ½ teaspoon salt

Directions

- Add first five ingredients to a medium-sized bowl. In a smaller bowl, combine the last 5 ingredients and add to the first bowl. Mix. Chill for one to two hours so flavors blend. Enjoy on bread, toast, bed of greens or on its own. Makes six to eight servings.



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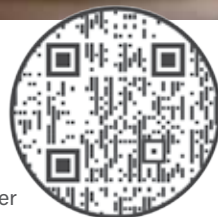
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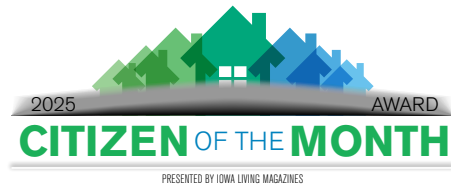
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HOLD Our Youth Tight turns tragedy to good

Infants honored through donations to many causes.



Everyone faces grief at times, but no grief is greater than the sudden loss of a child. Two local families who faced that tragedy, along with their friends and loved ones, have found a way to shape that loss into something that helps many other families.

After the sudden deaths of infants Hoyt McDonald in 2018 and Sullivan Hall in 2019, their parents, Drew McDonald and Kendra Wirth, and Katie and Lee Hall, along with many friends and loved ones, chose to shape their grief into an organization called Hold Our Youth Tight (HOYT).

Becky Parker, one of the board members of HOYT, shares how the organization began and what it has accomplished. The group formed shortly after Hoyt died suddenly.

"As their friends, we were kind of at a loss on what we could do to help," Parker says. "So, we started brainstorming."

Knowing that Hoyt's parents were fans of volleyball and hunting, the group came up with the idea of a unique triathlon fundraiser to include trap shooting, sand volleyball and cornhole competitions. Hoyt's parents agreed to the idea, and the first HOYT event was held in 2019.

"We ended up putting on a triathlon to raise funds for the family to help with funeral expenses and other costs," Parker says. "Nine teams participated, and we raised around \$8,000 that first year."

After that initial year, the event became an annual fundraiser to help other families and other community needs. When the Hall family experienced the sudden death of Sullivan, they joined the HOYT team, too.

Since then, the event has grown to around 20 teams, raising around \$40,000 per year. The HOYT organization currently has 17 members, all of whom are dedicated to channeling two tragic losses into positive impacts for the Winterset area. Parker offers appreciation to all the individuals, families and local



Supporters join in a fundraiser for Hold Our Youth Tight (HOYT).

organizations/businesses that have supported the efforts of HOYT.

"We've been able to give back to the community in a plethora of ways," Parker says.

When a playground in Winterset city park needed to be replaced, HOYT made a sizable donation to help purchase the new equipment. HOYT members also pitched in to help install the new equipment at what is now formally known as the Hoyt & Sullivan Memorial Playground.

Another HOYT initiative partnered with the elementary school to provide snacks for students in need.

"We created Hoyt's Hangry House and Sullivan's Snack Shack. We provided each elementary classroom with storage bins to house their snacks, and, every quarter, we replenish those snacks."

In hopes of preventing other families from experiencing infant loss, HOYT has also funded devices that monitor an infant's vital signs and provide an alert if an emergency is detected.

HOYT has provided many sponsorships for area youth activities and athletics. Parker shares that HOYT has also provided funds to local families that have lost a child.

"We've also had a few instances where a child has lost a parent, which is obviously also very devastating," Parker says. "So, we've made financial donations to those families, too."

Parents of Hoyt and Sullivan give their

input about the HOYT organization.

Drew McDonald gives his perspective on shaping grief into something positive. He thanks the family's friends who came up with the idea.

"All of them got together and created this. Then, after the first year, we started helping. And, unfortunately, the same thing happened to Katie and Lee," McDonald says. "Becky's the brains behind the whole deal. She's an amazing person."

The entire list of ways HOYT gives back is too long to mention here but can be seen on the website holdouryouthtight.com.

McDonald points out HOYT gives \$1,500 scholarships to graduating seniors from local high schools. So far, HOYT has given out a combined 16 such scholarships to students from Winterset, Earlham and Interstate 35 schools.

"This year, one of the cool things we did was, there was a kid that needed a special bed, and the family wasn't in a position to afford it, so we bought the bed for them," McDonald says. "That's the kind of stuff I like."

Sullivan's mother, Katie Hall, shares what HOYT has meant to her.

"I think, without them, we'd be in a much different spot, emotionally and mentally," Katie Hall says. "It's given us a positive out of something so traumatic. It's been a healing process for us. Sullivan and Hoyt continue to touch many lives." ■

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