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OCTOBER 2025

Living

MAGAZINE

Celebrating THE BRIDGES

Madison County Covered Bridge Festival is Oct. 11-12



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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. 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. ■

SHANE GOODMAN

President and Publisher
Big Green Umbrella Media
shane@dmcityview.com
515-953-4822, ext. 305



Tammy Pearson
Editor
515-953-4822 ext. 302
tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com

Kristine McDonald
Advertising Account Executive
515-975-3543
kristine@iowalivingmagazines.com



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Celebrating THE BRIDGES

Madison County Covered Bridge Festival is Oct. 11-12

By Rachel Harrington

Madison County Chamber of Commerce officials are pleased to share with the community all the excitement and events participants can expect at the 2025 Madison County Covered Bridge Festival. The festival will take place the second full weekend in October, Oct. 11-12. Hours on Saturday will be from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with the parade at 3 p.m. Admission is \$3 per person or two for \$5. Children

The Winterset Courthouse Square is the hub of activity for the Madison County Covered Bridge Festival.

younger than 11 may enter free of charge.

“One of the big things we are excited about is moving the stage back to the courthouse steps,” Sarah Pugh, Madison County Chamber of Commerce executive director, shares. “In the past, we’ve had two stages. One featured local performers sharing their talents, and the other stage featured paid performers providing entertainment for the community. We decided to push everything together for one big focus where entertainers won’t have to compete for sound.”

Saturday night winds up with a performance by The Other Brothers. Other stage headliners through the weekend include Casey Peasley, Emma Butterworth, Kara Christensen and Patricia Holly.

“We are excited to have them,” Pugh says.

Pugh also shares that festival hours have been extended on Saturday evening at the request of vendors and business owners.

Author’s daughter to participate

This year’s festival celebrates the 30th Anniversary of the novel, “The Bridges of Madison County,” by author Robert James Waller, coming out as a movie. It was also made into a musical. The daughter of Waller, Rachael Waller, will take the stage on Saturday, Oct. 11 at 11 a.m. and share information about her dad and his story. Pugh says that the process of securing Waller as a speaker has been in the works since Pugh came on board at the Chamber in February. By the spring, Waller had agreed to participate.

“They reached out to me and asked me if I’d come,” Waller shares. “I had to decide on whether to go on tour with my rockstar friends as a photographer or come to the Covered Bridge Festival. I decided to come to Iowa. My dad would find great humor in the fact that I chose to go.”

Waller is also looking forward to celebrating her birthday in Iowa that weekend.

“I’m bringing a friend with me who has never been to Iowa,” she says. “I told her to get ready to meet the nicest people she’s ever met.



Kids’ activities at the festival include the always-popular corn pit.

“October is such a beautiful time in Iowa, and where I live in the high desert, we don’t have fall color-changing trees. I’m excited to see everyone and eat all the food,” she adds.

Waller plans to speak about her dad, his passion for Madison County, and his inspiration for writing “The Bridges of

Madison County.” She says her dad said the story was a gift, and, as much as she can, she will share how he came by it with the community. She will also answer questions. A performer from New York will do excerpts from the musical with an ensemble of local musical talent.

Plenty to do

More than 150 vendors will be offering their wares and food at the Covered Bridge Festival this year.

“We have lots of new vendors this year,” Pugh says. “Because we removed the stage by Farmers and Merchants Bank, there is room for more vendors.”

Community favorites such as Iowa’s Finest Kettle Corn, which has been at Covered Bridge Festival for years, Caricatures Unleashed, as well as many others, will be returning to their usual places at the festival. Other returning vendors include the Cattlemen and Pork Producers.

The Winterset Rotary Club continues its tradition of offering bus tours of the covered bridges. Saturday, the tours will run from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and, on Sunday, from 10 a.m. to noon. Tour admission is \$20 per person. On the tour, you will visit the Roseman, Hogback and Cutler-Donahoe bridges and the North River Schoolhouse.

The Rotary Club is also hosting the Winterset Rotary Covered Bridge Race 5K Walk/Run Saturday, Oct. 11, with a 9 a.m. start at Winterset City Park. For more details and registration, visit www.GetMeRegistered.com/CoveredBridgeRace.

Festival visitors who want to learn more about Madison County may do so at the Madison County Historical Complex for the free-admission History on the Hill activities. Activities include horse and wagon rides, Civil War camp and skirmishes, Saturday evening s’mores



Fall décor and a variety of vendors will be found at the festival.

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and popcorn, and Towns Through Time and Team Spirit exhibits at the museum. Longtime residents who participated in local clubs, teams and bands may possibly see their own or other familiar faces in the exhibits.

Old-time demonstrations will dot the festival, and children's activities will abound.

"We've embellished the Kid Zone to incorporate Gram's Café," Pugh shares. "There is stuff for everyone there." The Kid Zone will include the corn box, corn hole (bags), Connect 4, and Janga for families to enjoy together.

On Sunday only, the large car show, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, will be held for car lovers of all ages just off the Winterset courthouse square beginning at 8 a.m. and wrapping up around 3 p.m. when awards are presented. The entry fee for the car show is \$20.

The parade at the end of the festival will begin at Winterset High School at 3 p.m. on Sunday. The parade route is altered slightly from previous years due to construction projects. For more details on the exact route, visit the Chamber of Commerce website. Festivalgoers are invited to bring chairs and blankets to watch and enjoy the parade.

Pugh encourages all festivalgoers to consider using the shuttle provided to avoid the struggle of finding parking on the street.

"One shuttle route will stop at the Remington Feed parking lot



Enjoy music at the stage at the courthouse.

on 10th Street. It is ADA compliant, and HIRTA will assist with that shuttle route," Pugh explains. "The other route will stop at the Winterset Fairgrounds and will carry festivalgoers by school bus."

For more information regarding the 2025 Madison County Covered Bridge Festival, visit www.exploremadisoncounty.com/covered_bridge_festival. ■



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MEET Karly Breeding

Teaches more than 20 years in her hometown

Karly Breeding initially pursued a teaching career for some obvious reasons — she enjoys helping others and learning from them.

She began teaching at Winterset Elementary School in August 2005, at a time when she and her husband were expecting their first child and knew they wanted to raise their family in Winterset.

“At that time, the elementary didn’t have many teaching openings,” Breeding, a Winterset native, recalls. “It was full of veteran teachers who made an impact on me as a student. I was so excited and had a full circle experience to get to work alongside some of my favorite former teachers.”

As she reflects, Breeding realizes that building strong relationships with people is what truly attracted her to her first role as a third-grade teacher at Winterset Elementary.

John Corkrean was not only her own fourth-grade teacher, but also one of the teachers who hired Breeding and mentored her during her early years of teaching.

“He taught me so many life lessons over the years,” Breeding says.

She also had the privilege of working for one of the most supportive principals she’s known in her 22 years of teaching: Mr. Gary Anker.

“Both John and Gary taught me early on in my career that relationships matter,” Breeding says. “Whether it was going to a funeral of a parent of a student in my class or a simple kind note home, it was always important to build relationships... I can only hope I have left an impact on as many students and coworkers as they have on me.”

Since starting her career, Breeding has taught third grade, first grade and served as an instructional coach. Currently, she teaches Title 1 Reading.

“I enjoy empowering students and helping them persevere through difficult challenges,” Breeding says. “Reading is hard work. Not only are we asking them to learn how to read, but we also ask them to read to learn, the ultimate goal of reading.”

But it’s work that’s more than worth it.

Some of Breeding’s favorite memories from her career include co-teaching third graders with her friend and colleague Lana McDonald.

“It was like a ray of sunshine when Mrs. McDonald would walk through the doorway and start parallel teaching 31 third graders with me,” Breeding says. “She was another example of showing me how important building strong relationships is at Winterset Elementary School. We sang songs to build fluency, created jingles to learn math facts, and used various other strategies to meet the needs of all our students while making learning fun for our students.”

Outside of work, Breeding — who married her Winterset High sweetheart, Ryan — spends time with her three children when she can (they are teens/college students now) and enjoys watching them participate in sports. She might just make some time for reading, too. ■



Karly Breeding credits former educators for mentoring her and setting positive examples.



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REAL ESTATE

By Jennifer Stover

FALL trending: rich colors

Home staging is an effective way to make a property irresistible to buyers, and the right colors can make all the difference. Rich, stylish interiors can create a sense of warmth, luxury and personality.

Dark, moody hues — like navy, emerald and charcoal — can add depth and sophistication, giving your listings a high-end look home shoppers crave. These tones can create a sense of comfort, making a home feel lived-in rather than cold and empty.

Using bold, yet balanced interior colors can help buyers form an emotional connection with the home — making sure they don't forget it.

The key is to strike the right balance without overwhelming the space. Color accents can highlight a home's best features.

How to use rich colors in a home:

- Make a statement with an accent wall: Use deep blues, emerald greens or warm browns to create a focal point in living rooms or bedrooms.
- Incorporate rich-toned furniture and decor: Velvet sofas, jewel-toned throw pillows and dark wood furniture can add elegance.
- Layer textures with deep hues: Mix materials — like leather, silk or wool — in moody shades to create depth and warmth.
- Balance bold colors with neutrals: Pair deep colors with soft creams, warm beiges, or crisp whites to make spaces feel open and airy.
- Use metallic accents for contrast: Gold, brass or matte black fixtures against rich colors create a polished, high-end look. ■

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



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AUTOMOTIVE

By Dawn Lauer

TIME for fall car care

October marks Fall Car Care Month, one of two months each year that the Car Care Council brings attention to the importance of car care and preventative maintenance. It's an excellent time to prepare your vehicle before the cold temperatures and hazardous winter weather arrive.

We suggest checking your brakes, battery, tires and heat in the fall before the temperatures drop to prepare.

• **Battery** — Have the battery tested by a trained technician. A fully charged battery in good condition is required to start an engine in cold weather.

• **Brakes** — If there is any indication of a brake problem, have the system inspected by a certified technician to ensure all components are in good working order.

• **Tires** — Replace any tire that has less than 3/32 inches of tread. Uneven tire wear can indicate alignment, wheel balance or suspension problems that must be addressed to prevent further tire damage.

• **Tire pressure** — Check tire inflation pressure on all four tires and the spare more frequently in fall and winter. As the average temperature drops, so will tire pressures — typically by one PSI for every 10 degrees Fahrenheit. Proper tire pressure levels can be found in the owner's manual.

• **Heating and cooling system** — Proper heating and cooling performance is critical for comfort and safety, such as defogging. ■

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

HAIR and chemotherapy

In light of breast cancer awareness month, I thought I'd talk about how hair is affected during and after chemotherapy. This is difficult for everyone involved... the cancer patient, the friends and the family. Knowledge is a powerful tool in helping us all cope during a most difficult time.

I usually advise people to get a short pixie cut instead of shaving their head. Total hair loss happens about two weeks after treatment. During chemo, hair can grow back in strange ways and that can be uncomfortable. One person told me she would remove the little tufts of growth by using a lint roller. Hats and scarves are the most comfortable options during the hair-loss phase.

Once treatment is finished, the hair grows back. This process is also difficult. Typically, it grows out curly. This doesn't last longer than a couple months. Around four months after regrowth begins, we can start to create a shape for the hair. This starts to become fun actually. You get to play with the fun pixie cuts we all secretly covet. You literally get a new hairstyle every six weeks.

It's so important to have a trusted stylist with you during this time. I personally have seen at least a dozen clients through this difficult journey. I was happy to make them beautiful when they needed it most, cry with them and then create amazing looks during their healthy remission. ■

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.



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HEALTH

By Dr. Amanda Queck

CONSIDER chiropractic care for your fall allergies

You might not think to visit a chiropractor for allergy relief, but chiropractic care is all about supporting the body's natural ability to heal and regulate itself — including the immune and respiratory systems. Here's how chiropractic can help support your body during allergy season:

1. Improves nervous system function
2. Supports the immune system
3. Enhances drainage and reduces inflammation.

Chiropractic adjustments can help improve sinus drainage and lymphatic flow, reducing pressure and inflammation in the head and neck.

4. Reduces stress. Chronic stress can weaken the immune system and worsen allergy symptoms. Regular chiropractic care may help reduce physical tension and stress in the body.

Chiropractic care isn't a cure for seasonal allergies, but it can be a powerful way to support your body naturally. By optimizing nervous system function, enhancing immune performance and reducing inflammation, chiropractic adjustments can help you feel more comfortable and resilient during allergy season. ■

Information provided by Dr. Amanda Queck, D.C. Flourish Chiropractic & Wellness, 108 W. Court Ave., Winterset, 515-384-0360, www.flourishchiro.life. Source: The Reality Check by Dr. Heidi Havoc, PhD



NICOTINE and your health

Nicotine can be found in tobacco products such as cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, electronic cigarettes and vape pens. You can easily get hooked on products that contain nicotine. Psychological and physical urges make it difficult to stop using these products. Nicotine causes temporary feelings of relaxation and well-being. When smoke or vapor containing nicotine enters the lungs, it is quickly absorbed by the blood and carried to the brain. This happens so quickly that nicotine levels peak within 10 seconds of inhalation. However, these effects do not last long, pushing you to want more.

As these effects wear off, a person may begin to have feelings of irritation and anxiety, causing them to consume more nicotine. As



this cycle continues, a person may begin to experience withdrawal symptoms. In addition, the body may adapt to nicotine, meaning more is needed to experience the same effects. Nicotine itself can have several damaging effects on your health. Nicotine can increase blood pressure and cause the narrowing of the arteries. In addition, products containing nicotine can affect your health. Tobacco products like cigarettes, cigars and chewing tobacco can cause cancer and heart disease. Smokeless tobacco can cause gum disease, caries and tooth loss.

Quitting nicotine products may be hard, but it can be done. Some withdrawal symptoms that may occur include irritability, cravings, depression, anxiety, problems thinking and attention deficits, and difficulty sleeping. There are several tools to help you quit. Researchers have found that people who combine behavioral efforts with medications are more successful.

Some things you can try include nicotine replacement therapy, which uses patches, gum, lozenges, inhalers or nasal sprays to provide nicotine in smaller doses; prescription medications; and behavioral therapies like mindfulness to get you through cravings. Develop a quitting plan and tell friends and family about your plan to quit.

There are also services you can phone or text and talk to someone about your experience and get some advice. People who smoke or vape can call 1-800-QUITNOW (1-800-784-8669) or text QUITNOW to 333888. For smokeless tobacco, text SPIT to 222888 or call 1-800-QUITNOW. ■

Information provided by Dr. Jason Phelps, Winterset Dental, 225 Wambold Drive, Winterset, 515-462-5755, Instagram: dr._jason_phelps. Source: Journal of the American Dental Association.

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HOME safety

Small steps that protect your family and your insurance

When it comes to protecting your home, insurance is there to help after a loss — but prevention is just as important. Taking a few safety steps can lower your risk of a fire, injury or costly damage.



Start with fire safety

Every home should have at least one fire extinguisher, and it's not enough to buy it and forget it. Extinguishers should be checked monthly to ensure the pressure gauge is in the green, the pin is intact, and there are no dents or leaks. Replace or service any extinguisher more than 12 years old. Just as important: Make sure every household member knows where the extinguisher is kept and how to use it. The simple "PASS" method — Pull, Aim, Squeeze, Sweep — can make all the difference in an emergency.

Test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors

Working smoke detectors cut the risk of dying in a house fire by half, yet many households neglect to test them. Batteries should be checked monthly and replaced at least once a year, even if they still seem to work. Detectors themselves should be replaced every 10 years. Carbon monoxide detectors, just as essential, should be tested regularly and placed on every level of the home, especially near sleeping areas.

Other safety steps that matter

- **Electrical safety:** Avoid overloading outlets or using frayed cords. Many house fires start with small electrical problems that could have been prevented.
- **Heating systems:** Have furnaces, fireplaces, and chimneys inspected annually. Clean filters and vents to reduce fire hazards and improve efficiency.
- **Escape plan:** Create and practice a family escape plan with at least two ways out of every room. Keep hallways and exits clear.
- **Water damage prevention:** Inspect hoses on washing machines and dishwashers, and consider water sensors in basements or near sump pumps. Water damage claims are among the most common for homeowners.

Peace of mind for you and your family

Insurance is designed to be there when the unexpected happens, but avoiding a loss is always the best outcome. Simple steps — like checking your smoke detectors, keeping extinguishers ready, and inspecting appliances — can prevent the kinds of accidents that disrupt lives and cause costly damage. More importantly, they give you confidence that your family and home are better protected. A few minutes of maintenance today can prevent the type of loss no one wants to face tomorrow. ■

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

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LIVING the good life

Frye finds community in Madison County.

For Jodi Frye, “Iowa nice” is alive and well in the Winterset area.

Deputies stop to chat with you. The farmers market brings everyone together to visit and enjoy the square. Shop owners smile and genuinely greet you when you walk in.

She notices it everywhere: waving to other drivers and having them wave back, people waiting patiently for tractors on the road, school staff greeting each child by name and knowing their families, and parents chatting while their kids play together at the park.

“It just really has a family-friendly atmosphere,” Frye says. “I’ve lived in other parts of Iowa, and Madison County shines on friendliness.”

Frye and her family moved to the area in June 2024 and have enjoyed every minute of it.

“Madison County is a gorgeous county to drive through, so that was an encouragement also to pick here,” she says.

Adding to Frye’s love for Madison County are the many opportunities for her kids to get involved. They attend Wednesday night kids’ activities and Vacation Bible School at The Bridges Church in Winterset and enjoy the public library’s summer program. Her daughter dances at Spotlight Legacy in Winterset, and, as soon as they’re old enough, the family plans to participate in Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, FFA and 4-H. They also make a point to attend festivals like the Covered Bridge Festival, Madison County Conservation events, and other community gatherings.

“We love finding any community activity we can go to and have a lot of fun at them,” Frye says.

It’s at these activities where she truly sees the community’s spirit.

“Madison County citizens really step up and present their A game when it comes to volunteering,” she explains. “My kids love seeing people that volunteered somewhere when we are out and about doing something else.”

The family has also had a few visits to Madison County Memorial Hospital’s emergency department, where Frye says the kids were well cared for.



Jodi Frye says she is grateful for the wonderful people who make living in the Winterset area so enjoyable for her family.

“My daughter had to be transferred to Blank via ambulance, and she had to go alone because I had to run my son back home,” Frye shares. “I felt bad she had to go alone, but she raved about the Madison County ambulance staff and how one of them let her watch a show

on their phone. It makes a mom feel better knowing she felt safe and taken care of.”

For Frye, there’s no place she’d rather be.

“I have lived in five other counties in Iowa, and Madison County takes the cake on a great place to live and amazing citizens,” she says. ■



MADISON COUNTY COVERED BRIDGE FE

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS — OCTOBER

Celebrating the 30th Anniversary

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2025

8:30 a.m. — Annual Covered Bridges of Madison County Antique Tractor Ride

Departs from Madison County Fairgrounds then visit five historic covered bridges and Clark Tower in City Park. \$25 entry fee. Contact: Curtis Severaid, 515-210-7806

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2025

6-11 a.m. — Winterset Firefighters Association Pancake Breakfast

Winterset Fire Station (corner of Court Avenue and 2nd Street); \$8/adults, free for children 3 and under)

8:30 a.m. — Annual Covered Bridges of Madison County Antique Tractor Ride

Departs from Madison County Fairgrounds then highlights hills and valleys on scenic country roads. \$25 entry fee. Contact: Curtis Severaid, 515-210-7806

8:30 a.m. — Annual Horseshoe Tournament

Madison County Fairgrounds. (8:30-9:30 a.m. registration and warm-up; 10 a.m. pitching.) \$10 entry fee. Sanctioned and unsanctioned members welcome. Contact Kris Jordan, 515-669-3085

9 a.m. — Covered Bridge Race 5K Walk/Run

Cutler-Donahoe Covered Bridge in Winterset City Park (8:45 a.m. Children's Event; 9 a.m. 5K.) Sponsored by the Winterset Rotary Club.

9 a.m. to 7 p.m. — Covered Bridge Festival

on the Madison County Courthouse Square in Winterset (arts and crafts vendors, food, live music and entertainment); \$3 admission fee (or 2 for \$5) at the gates; children 11 & under free.

Activities from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. include:

- Kids' Zone
- Live Entertainment (See Entertainment Schedule)
- Farmers Market (located along W. Court Ave)

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. — John Wayne Birthplace & Museum Tours

(205 S. John Wayne Drive; \$20/adults, \$19/seniors, \$17/veterans, \$10/children 8-12 years, Free/children 7 years and under

10 a.m. — Junior Spelling Bee

at the Methodist Church. Grades 4-6. Check-in at 9:30 a.m. Conducted by Chapter AG, P.E.O. Cash prizes.

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. — Covered Bridge School Bus Tours

2-hour guided tours by Winterset Rotary Club; \$20, \$15 for 15 years or younger. Purchase tickets at the Rotary ticket booth on the SW side of the festival grounds. (110 W. Washington St.)

11 a.m. to 5 p.m. — Passport to the Past

at the Madison County Historical Complex (915 S. 2nd Avenue). Activities include horse-drawn wagon rides around the complex, penny candy at the Field Mercantile, historical Bevington mansion tours, as well as museum tours.

11 a.m. — Remembering Robert

Rachael Waller shares stories about her father and his creation of "The Bridges of Madison County." At the Iowa Theater. Free with festival admission.



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Festival of The Bridges of Madison County

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2025

1 p.m. and 3 p.m. — Songs from The Bridges of Madison County Broadway musical
at the Iowa Theater. Free with festival admission.

4 p.m. — A Civil War Skirmish
takes place on the north lawn of the Madison County Historical Complex.

5-8:30 p.m. — The WHS Alumni All Class Reunion
will be held on during the Festival at the Jackson Building, Madison County Fairgrounds.

7 p.m. — Join the Madison County Historical Complex
for Civil War cannon firing, and free S'mores and popcorn. Lawn chairs from home are encouraged.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2025

6-11 a.m. — Winterset Firefighters Association Pancake Breakfast
Winterset Fire Station (corner of Court Ave and 2nd Street); \$8/adults, free for children 3 and under)

8 a.m. to noon — Registration for the Annual Madison County Car Show
110 W. Washington Street. Hosted by the Central Iowa Auto Club; judging begins at 1:30 pm and awards are presented at 3:00 pm.

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. — Covered Bridge Festival
on the Madison County Courthouse Square in Winterset (arts and crafts vendors, food, live music and entertainment); \$3 admission fee (or 2 for \$5) at the gates; children 12 & under free.

Activities from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. include:

- Kid Zone
- Live Entertainment (See Entertainment Schedule)
- Farmers Market (located along Court Ave at the SW corner of the square)

10 a.m. to 5 p.m. — John Wayne Birthplace & Museum Tours
(205 S. John Wayne Drive; \$20/adults, \$19/seniors, \$17/veterans, \$10/children 8-12 years, Free/children 7 years and under)

10 a.m. to noon — Covered Bridge School Bus Tours
2-hour guided tours by Winterset Rotary Club; \$20, \$15 for 15 years or younger. Purchase tickets at the Rotary ticket booth on the SW side of the festival grounds. (110 W. Washington Street)

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. — Passport to the Past
at the Madison County Historical Complex (915 S. 2nd Avenue). Activities include horse-drawn wagon rides around the complex, penny candy at the Field Mercantile, historical Bevington mansion tours, as well as museum tours.

Noon and 2 p.m. — Songs from The Bridges of Madison County Broadway musical
at the Iowa Theater. Free with festival admission.

3 p.m. — Covered Bridge Festival Parade
Lineup begins at 2 p.m. in the Winterset High School parking lot. The parade route starts at the high school where it heads north on 8th Avenue, then east on Court Street to 2nd Avenue for one block before turning south on 2nd. It then turns east onto Washington Street, makes a left onto 4th Street, then continues east on Court Street just past 10th Street.

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MADISON COUNTY COVERED BRIDGE FESTIVAL

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS — OCTOBER 11-12, 2025

STAGE SCHEDULE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11

Stage on south side of the Winterset Courthouse

9:15-9:30 a.m.	Flag raising ceremony and National Anthem
9:30-10 a.m.	Spotlight Dance Studio
10:15-11 a.m.	Bird Hunters
11:15 a.m. to noon	Scott Lemon
Noon to 12:45 p.m.	The Benge Family
1-1:45 p.m.	Belly Up Dance Troupe
2-2:45 p.m.	Abe Miller Band
3-3:45 p.m.	Patricia Holly
4-4:45 p.m.	Casey Peasley
5-7 p.m.	The Other Brothers

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

Stage on south side of the Winterset Courthouse

9:15-9:45 a.m.	WHS Express with SWCC Dance Team
9:45-10:15 a.m.	Tutor 3
10:30-11:15 a.m.	B. John Burns
11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.	Emma Butterworth
12:30-1:15 p.m.	Chris Powell
1:30-2:15 p.m.	Kara Christensen

MUSICAL LINEUP
OCTOBER 11-12, 2025

THE OTHER BROTHERS

CASEY PEASLEY, EMMA BUTTERWORTH, KARA CHRISTENSEN, PATRICIA HOLLY

www.exploremadisoncounty.com

Special **GUEST**

RACHAEL WALLER

Shares stories about her father, author Robert James Waller, and the creation of *The Bridges of Madison County*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11 11:00 AM, THE IOWA THEATER, WINTERSET, FREE WITH FESTIVAL ADMISSION

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REBALANCING your portfolio

Should investors make regular adjustments?

Everyone loves a winner. If an investment is successful, most people naturally want to stick with it. But is that the best approach?

It may sound counterintuitive, but it may be possible to have too much of a good thing. Over time, the performance of different investments can shift a portfolio's intent as well as its risk profile. It's a phenomenon sometimes referred to as "risk creep," and it happens when a portfolio's risk profile shifts over time.



Balancing. When deciding how to allocate investments, many begin by considering their time horizon, risk tolerance, and specific goals. Next, individual investments are selected that pursue the overall objective. If all the investments selected had the same return, that balance — that allocation — would remain steady for a time. But if the investments have varying returns, over time, the portfolio may bear little resemblance to its original allocation.¹

How rebalancing works. Rebalancing is the process of restoring a portfolio to its original risk profile. There are two ways to rebalance a portfolio.

The first is to use new money. When adding money to a portfolio, allocate these new funds to those assets or asset classes that have fallen.¹

The second way of rebalancing is to sell enough of the "winners" to buy more underperforming assets. Ironically, this type of rebalancing forces you to buy low and sell high.

As you consider the pros and cons of rebalancing, here are a couple of key concepts to consider. First, asset allocation is an investment principle designed to manage risk. It does not guarantee against investment losses. Second, the process of rebalancing may create a taxable event. And the information in this material is not intended as tax or legal advice. It may not be used for the purpose of avoiding any federal tax penalties. Please consult a professional with legal or tax expertise regarding your situation.

Periodically rebalancing your portfolio to match your desired risk tolerance is a sound practice regardless of the market conditions. One approach is to set a specific time each year to schedule an appointment to review your portfolio and determine if adjustments are appropriate. ■

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Lieutenant Mikke Ham, Assistant Chief Kyle Lauer, Jeff Johnston, Antonio Ramirez, Captain Chism Orr, Chief Jayson McDonald, Eric Schaller, Cody Johnson, Dale Leghorn, Marc Etcher, Douglas Lauer and Andrew Kephart.

Not pictured: Wade Banning, Chris Frank, Cory Rhoads, Loan Allen, Nick McDonald, Nick Tank and Charles VanBlaricum.

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Winterset Marching Band Performances

- Oct. 3: Homecoming Parade and Football Game
- Oct. 10: Home Football Game
- Oct. 11: Valleyfest at Valley Stadium, West Des Moines
- Oct. 12: Covered Bridge Parade
- Oct. 18: IHSMA State Marching Festival at Waukee High School
- Oct. 18: Waukee Marching Invitational at Waukee High School
- Oct. 24: Home Football Game, Senior Night

Wednesday Winterset Wellness Support

Second and fourth Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m.
Winterset Public Library, 23 N. Second St.

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

Messy Munchkins

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

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



Archives Across America: Unlocking Genealogy Resources

Saturday, Oct. 18, 9 a.m.
Iowa Genealogical Society Library, 628 E. Grand Ave., Des Moines

The Iowa Genealogical Society will host this one-day conference at the IGS Library and via Zoom. Featured speaker Tina Beaird will present on the Library of Congress, the National Personnel Records Center, the U.S. National Archives, and Midwest repositories. Registration is \$70 for members and \$90 for non-members. Details at www.iowagenealogy.org.

Self-Defense Class

Tuesday, Oct. 7, 6 p.m.
West Des Moines Elks Lodge 2060 N.W. 94th St., Clive

The West Des Moines Elks Lodge in Clive is hosting a self-defense class taught by Blackbelt Hall of Fame inductee Ray Boyer. This event is free and open to the public. This class will help you focus on what to look for in terms of your surroundings so you can get yourself out of a potentially threatening situation.

Madison County Covered Bridges Festival

Oct. 11-12

Winterset Square, Winterset
www.exploremadisoncounty.com

Discover Madison County's rich history and iconic covered bridges. Enjoy food and art vendors, a car show, a parade and more.



OCTOBER HALLOWEEN EVENTS

Scarecrow Festival

Through Nov. 2
Center Grove Orchard, 32835 610th Ave., Cambridge
www.centergroveorchard.com
A farm-wide celebration filled with colorful displays, playful scarecrows, and the warm spirit of the season.

Apple and Pumpkin Festival

Oct. 4-5, 11-12, 18-19, 25-26
Wills Family Orchard, 33130 Panther Creek Road, Adel
www.willsfamilyorchard.com
Wagon rides, corn maze, corn pool and, of course, apple and pumpkin picking. From 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays and noon to 6 p.m. on Sundays.

Spooky Sprint

Oct. 4
Big Creek State Park, 8550 N.W. 142nd Ave., Polk City
www.runsignup.com/Race/IA/PolkCity/SpookySprintDesMoines
A Halloween-themed event that is perfect for the whole family.

Family Halloween at Living History Farms

Oct. 17-19 and 24-26
11121 Hickman Road, Urbandale
www.lhf.org/event/halloween

Phantom Fall Festival

Every weekend in October through Oct. 26
3200 Adventureland Drive, Altoona
www.adventurelandresort.com/discover-adventureland-resort/Phantom-Fall-Fest
Adventureland hosts its fall festival with several haunted houses, ghosts, ghouls, goblins and more.

Leprechaun Bags Tournament

Saturday, Oct. 11, 11 a.m.
Sully's Irish Pub, 860 First St., West Des Moines

The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick of Central Iowa present the Leprechaun Bags Tournament. Registration begins at 11 a.m. Play starts at noon. \$30 per two-person team. Cash payouts for top three teams. Visit www.friendlysonsiowa.com for details. ■



RASMUS enjoys life at the end of the lane

Quiet days and good neighbors in Winterset

Bob Rasmus and his late wife, Laurie, moved to Winterset in July 2019 for a job opportunity with Agriland FS.

But, perhaps more importantly, “It is the home state of my wife, and she was happy to be making a return to Iowa,” Rasmus explains. “I myself had visited Winterset many times interacting with Agriland FS from their affiliated regional cooperative and always had the impression that the people and community were warm, welcoming and fun. Also, Madison County is just beautiful.”

When choosing their home, they found few available houses that were ready to move into. They ultimately chose their house because it sits at the end of a quiet street — at least for now.

“The town may keep growing beyond our front door,” Rasmus says.

Today, what Rasmus appreciates most about where he lives is the great neighbors and the work he and Laurie did to create a beautiful yard with many native plants and trees.

“People are outside a lot,” Rasmus says of the neighborhood. “Kids are playing ball, and adults are watching over them while grilling or just piddling in the yards. Also, we all occasionally have something in the driveway that maybe isn’t the most attractive, like fixing a lawn mower or something, and no one ever complains. We all know not to abuse such things.”

During the week, Rasmus finds Winterset quiet — “as if I were in Wyoming or something” — but on weekends, there’s a fun influx of people from the Des Moines metro area who come to see the Town Square, the John Wayne Museum and Birthplace, the park, Clark Tower, Pammel Park and the Bridges of Madison County.

“I bicycle on the gravel roads of Madison County frequently, and it is always fun to meet people visiting the Bridges,” he shares. “Sometimes they’re just from Waukee and sometimes from Washington, D.C. That movie sure put us on the map with its scenery and A-list actors.”

While Rasmus is happy with the area’s offerings, he does have one niche he would like to see filled.

“I’m seriously thinking we need an outfitter for cycling, kayaking and canoeing around here,” he says. “I need to get that started.”

And why? Because Rasmus isn’t going anywhere else anytime soon.

“Even though I’m a transplant here, even in this short time, we were really welcomed into the community and have built a wonderful gathering of friends that really care: neighbors, co-workers, church and people with similar interests,” he says. ■



Bob and Laurie Rasmus moved to Winterset in July 2019.

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CREAMY tomato soup is rich with sun-ripened flavor

There is something special about cooking with ingredients grown from your own backyard. Recently, I was watching our grandson at my daughter and son-in-law's house. He and I ventured outside to check on their garden and discovered a bumper crop of tomatoes.



Since the weather was cool, I decided that a batch of tomato soup for dinner would serve the harvest well. Our grandson, just 8 months old, is already a curious observer in the kitchen. He keeps me company from his high chair, happily armed with a dozen measuring cups to toss and a few snacks to keep him content. This creamy tomato soup, made with an abundance of fresh-picked tomatoes and a blend of herbs, is rich with sun-ripened flavor. Paired with a golden, melty grilled cheese on homemade sourdough, it was the perfect fall dinner — simple, cozy and made even sweeter by sharing it together with my grandson. ■

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

Creamy tomato soup

Total time: 45 minutes

Servings: 4

Ingredients:

- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 3-4 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 tablespoons olive or avocado oil
- 2 pounds fresh tomatoes (about 6 large), blanched, skins off and chopped
- 2 cups chicken broth (low sodium preferred)
- 1/3 cup Parmesan cheese, grated
- 1/2 -3/4 cup heavy (whipping) cream
- 2 tablespoons honey
- Salt and pepper, basil, oregano — more of everything than you think
- Pinch of rosemary
- Fresh basil or parsley (optional, for garnish)

Directions

- Heat oil over medium heat. Add onion and sauté for about 5 minutes until soft.
- Add garlic and cook all for 2 more minutes.
- Add tomatoes and cook for 10 minutes.



- Add chicken broth and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 20 minutes, uncovered. Stir occasionally.
- Blend until smooth by using an immersion blender and scooping the mixture into a traditional blender. Return soup to the pan.
- Add whipping cream and honey and stir. Season with salt, pepper, basil, oregano and other herbs of choice.
- Simmer for 5 more minutes.
- Serve immediately. Garnish with fresh basil or parsley. This pairs well with a grilled cheese sandwich on sourdough bread. Enjoy!

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PORCHFEST

Porchfest was held Aug. 24 along Court Avenue.



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Don and Kay Stanley



Ricky and Tori Tafoya



Keith and Kelly Boll



Scott Hurst, Dana Beebe and Katie and Mike Linde



Cindy and Tom Frank



Heather Terwilliger and Amie Lucas



Bridger and Reid Leichty



Josh Dieter and Jen



Mikaela Hunter and Francis Cunnane



Ricky, Asa and Tori Tafoya

OUT & ABOUT



Charlotte Johnston and Bailey Haroldson at the volleyball game on Sept. 2.



Sean and Daton Eads at the volleyball game on Sept. 2.



Betsy Breeding and Lori Lawrence at the volleyball game on Sept. 2.



Fiona Arthurs, Lilly and Sue Brakhane at the volleyball game on Sept. 2.



Savana Davenport and Lana McDonald at the volleyball game on Sept. 2.



Shae Olson and Keegan Mumma at the volleyball game on Sept. 2.



Jayden and Nicole Keuning at the volleyball game Sept. 16.



Aubree Porter and Daphne Logsdon at the volleyball game Sept. 16.



Riley and Misty Akers and Denali Coffman at the volleyball game Sept. 16.



Eli Holliday and Max Booton at the volleyball game Sept. 16.



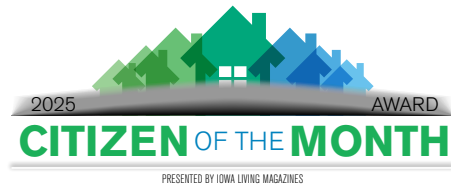
Carson Lawrence and Kinslee Kephart at the volleyball game Sept. 16.



Allen Hansen at the volleyball game Sept. 16.

RUN AS ONE for Taylor offers kindness and fun

Group raises funds for many community causes.



Most TV viewers are familiar with a successful and long-running show called “The Amazing Race.” In the show, teams compete to race through various mental and physical challenges, with a \$1 million prize for the winning team.

A group in Winterset, known as Run as One for Taylor, is using that format for their annual event in honor of Taylor Ham-Aleman, who died in 2014 following a car accident. Taylor was 21 years old, and she left behind an infant son, Carter, who is now 12.

Rhonda Lauer, longtime friend of the family, explains more about the history of the event.

“Taylor passed away in May 2014, and we had our first event that September. When we first started, it was a family-friendly 5K run/walk. But, over the years, the number of participants started dipping. So, eventually, we transitioned to ‘The Amazing Race’ format to generate more interest and still keep it family-friendly,” Lauer says. “This was our second year of the ‘Amazing Race’ format.”

Two central themes of the Run as One for Taylor group are: random acts of kindness and fun. Toward that end, the group provides assistance to many local programs and needs, while having a lot of fun as they keep Taylor’s memory alive.

Taylor’s parents are Mike and Stacy Ham. The family and some friends have participated in the Fight for Air Climb in Des Moines, which supports the American Lung Association. The team is now named Stairway to Heaven. Mike himself is a local firefighter, and the fire department has helped considerably with the annual Run as One for Taylor events.

This year’s event was recently held at Winterset City Park, and Lauer says it was a success, as expected. Sixteen teams of four competed.

But the fun is only half the story.

“In addition to the event, we also do an online auction, and that



Kristina Benshoof and Felicia Weeks of Scot Clark Farm Bureau present the Citizen of the Month certificate to Tamara Bane, Jayci Kuhns, Rhonda Lauer and Stacy Ham, who accept on behalf of Run as One for Taylor.

money also goes to our scholarships and other things we give to,” Lauer says. “Usually, we raise around \$13,000, mostly from the online auction and some people who just donate.”

The funds raised go to a variety of needs in the local community, including: \$1,000 scholarships to students; supporting the Family Readiness Group for National Guard units; covering the cost of school lunches for students in need; delivering care packages to individuals undergoing cancer treatment; purchasing holiday gifts for families through CRISP and Crisis Intervention programs; sponsoring a community Christmas movie night; providing Care Bears to Perry after the tragic school shooting; and funding car repairs for a family in need.

Lauer adds that a new way the group is giving back is very hands-on.

“We are getting a section of the highway for Adopt a Highway. We’re hoping that can be something that students might help with through Silver Cord or something like that,” Lauer says.

Lauer stresses that the group is always happy to welcome new volunteers.

“It usually takes about 30 to 40 volunteers to put the annual event on,” she says. “We just want people to know we’re here, and if anybody wants to join us by volunteering, that’s always welcome.” ■

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