

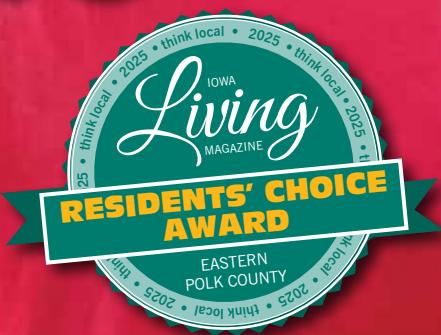
BONDURANT

JANUARY 2026



# RESIDENTS' CHOICE AWARDS

Eastern Polk County residents  
share their favorites



**Meet Abby Armstrong**  
EDUCATION

**Keep your reading resolutions going**  
LIBRARY

**Loaded Philly cheesesteak baked potato**  
RECIPE

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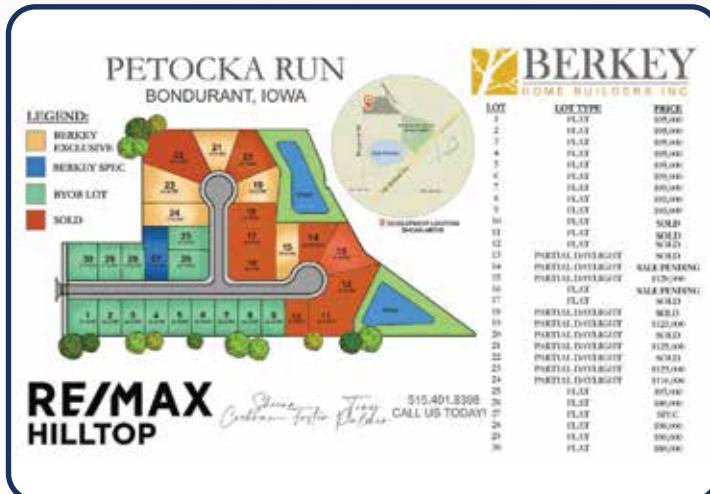
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# WELCOME

## A COMMERCE-creating machine

Residents' Choice. Those two simple words have a lot of meaning to those who are recognized and those who seek out the people, businesses, places and events that are honored.

Yes, we have once again compiled the results of our local Residents' Choice poll, the only one of its kind. It is truly unique in two significant ways.

First, our poll is mailed to every residential household in the pages of this magazine with a link to an open website. That makes the poll available to every single resident. No exclusions.

Second, our poll has open-ended questions, which means we don't load the ballots with pre-determined answers to try to sway it in a certain way. The results are what they are. You will likely agree with some of them, and you will disagree with others — kind of like political elections. But, in this poll, all who are recognized are winners, and the end result is a great positive for all involved.

Readers of this publication have proven to seek out the winners and spend their time, energy and money with them. The poll results have become a customized search engine of sorts, providing valuable information on the choices of local residents in a variety of categories that are important to them.

Those who have been chosen tell me how much of an impact this directly has on them, their businesses and their organizations. Being recognized for positive contributions is seemingly always great, but when it helps create commerce, it is even better — and this Residents' Choice poll is a commerce-creating machine.

I explain this next point each year, but it is worth noting again. Those recognized in this poll are the choices of our readers — local residents. Although we agree with many of you on your choices, we do not pick them, and we have no impact on the results. I wouldn't have it any other way.

Other organizations are continuing to try to implement polls like ours, but none have the reach and credibility that ours has. You can't blame others for trying to imitate what we do, but you can question how they implement their polls and how many people actually vote in them.

Meanwhile, I thank all of you who took the time to vote in this year's Residents' Choice poll. Your votes do make an incredible difference. And, if you didn't vote, well, there is always next year.

Thanks for reading. ■



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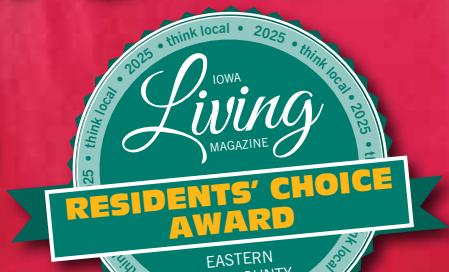
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Residents' Choice  
for Favorite Pizza  
Establishment.

# RESIDENTS' CHOICE AWARDS

# **Eastern Polk County residents share their favorites**



Each year, through our Residents' Choice poll, we ask those living in eastern Polk County to share their views about the area's businesses, places, events and more. After all, they are the ones who know. The businesses with excellent services and products, the ones that go the extra step for customers, develop a loyal following of customers who vote them as their "favorites" in our poll.

The Residents' Choice Poll recognizes these "favorites," giving them a well-deserved pat on the back. And, for those wanting to make it onto next year's list of winners, they have a year to make their best impressions

on their customers.

But, we don't stop with just the businesses in eastern Polk County. Residents have also recognized their favorite parks, events, schools, churches and more. When it comes to the amenities that add to the quality of life, eastern Polk County has much to appreciate and recognize.

With sometimes only a few votes making the difference between "favorite" and "runner up," we consider all to be "winners."

If you didn't vote this year, be sure to watch for the next poll to help recognize your favorites.

# Eastern Polk County residents share their favorites...

(Runners up in alphabetical order; \*indicates repeat winner.)

## Restaurant

### \* The Big Steer Restaurant and Lounge

**Runners up:** Guadalajara Mexican Restaurant; Fireside Grille

## Restaurant for breakfast

### \* Flip'N Jacks Pancake House & Eatery

**Runners up:** Perkins Restaurant and Bakery; Somewhere in the Middle Coffee Shop

## Restaurant for lunch

### \* Fireside Grille

**Runners up:** Somewhere in the Middle Coffee Shop; Sugar Shack Diner

## Restaurant for dinner

### \* The Big Steer Restaurant and Lounge

**Runners up:** Johnny's Italian Steakhouse; Texas Roadhouse

## Restaurant for dessert

### \* Over the Top

**Runners up:** The Big Steer Restaurant and Lounge; The creamery.bondurant

## Place for ice cream

### \* Over the Top

**Runners up:** The creamery.bondurant; Granny's Sweet Freeze Shoppe

## Pizza establishment

### Abbie's

**Runners up:** Casey's; Scornovacca's Altoona

## Bar

### Sam's Sports Bar and Grill

**Runners up:** Founders Irish Pub; Reclaimed Rails Brewing Company

## Coffee shop

### \* Best Day Coffee

**Runners up:** Somewhere in the Middle Coffee Shop; Starbucks

## Catering company

### \* Great Caterers of Iowa

**Runners up:** Fireside Grille; Hy-Vee

## Server/bartender

### \* Cole Heitman, The Big Steer Restaurant & Lounge

**Runners up:** Jolynn Schiermeister, Fireside Grille; Ted Blackwood, The Big Steer Restaurant & Lounge

## Auto service

### \* McManus Automotive

**Runners up:** Kanselaar Automotive; Woody's Auto Repair & Service



Jessica Baccam, Eric Wilkening and Amy Jackson at Prairie Vision Center.

## Auto body shop

### \* Ted's Body Shop

**Runners up:** Altoona Auto Body; Bondurant Auto Body

## Car dealership

### \* A3 Auto

**Runners up:** Deery Brothers Chevrolet, Inc.; Honda of Altoona

## Preschool/daycare

### The Bird's Nest

**Runners up:** Adventure Life Preschool; Altoona Campus Kids Klub

## Nonprofit

### \* Caring Hands

**Runners up:** Altoona Campus; Mary Bump Memorial Foundation

## School

### Morris Elementary

**Runners up:** Mitchellville Elementary; Southeast Polk High School

## Park

### Thomas Mitchell Park

**Runners up:** Bondurant City Park; Haines Park

## Community festival or event

### \* Bondurant Summerfest

**Runners up:** Altoona Chamber of Commerce Wine & Craft Beer Fest; Bondurant Battle of the Bands

## Church

### \* Lutheran Church of the Cross

**Runners up:** Ss. John & Paul Catholic Church; Trinity on Fifth

# FEATURE

## Pastor

### \* Nathan Anenson

**Runners up:** Mark McGahey; Trevor Pinegar

## Chamber of commerce

### \* Altoona Area Chamber of Commerce

**Runners up:** Bondurant Chamber of Commerce; Pleasant Hill Chamber of Commerce

## Library

### \* Altoona Public Library

**Runners up:** Bondurant Community Library; Pleasant Hill Public Library

## Camping spot

### \* Thomas Mitchell Park

**Runners up:** Griff's Valley View RV Park; Yellow Banks Park

## Grocery store

### \* Fareway Meat & Grocery

**Runners up:** Aldi; Hy-Vee

## Boutique

### \* Little House on Main

**Runners up:** Hidden Treasures Gifts; Patti Sue's Boutique

## Retail store

### Target

**Runners up:** Bass Pro Shops; Stems Flower Shop

## Thrift store

### \* Caring Hands

**Runners up:** DAV Thrift Store; Goodwill

## Home improvement retail store

### \* Menards

**Runners up:** Altoona Ace Hardware; Lowe's

## Nursery or garden center

### \* Lucille's Garden Center

**Runners up:** Goode Greenhouses; Menards

## Place to purchase a gift for a man

### Menards

**Runners up:** Bass Pro Shops; SkinFusion FX

## Place to purchase a gift for a woman

### \* SkinFusion FX

**Runners up:** Little House on Main; Target

## Consignment shop

### \* Caring Hands

**Runners up:** New 2U Treasures; Stuff Etc

## Dad/child date spot

### \* Cinemark Altoona and XD

**Runners up:** Altoona Aquatics Park; Over the Top

## Mom/child date spot

### \* Cinemark Altoona and XD

**Runners up:** Altoona Aquatics Park; Over the Top

## Place to take your mom and dad

### Prairie Meadows Casino, Racetrack & Hotel

**Runners up:** Enabling Garden; The Big Steer Restaurant and Lounge

## Place to take your kids or grandkids

### Enabling Garden

**Runners up:** Adventureland Resort; Altoona Aquatics Park

## Children's birthday party spot

### \* Altoona Campus

**Runners up:** Adventureland Resort; BrickHouse Fitness

## Golf course

### Toad Valley Golf Course

**Runners up:** Copper Creek Golf Club; Terrace Hills Golf Course

## Hair salon

### \* Signatures Salon & Day Spa

**Runners up:** Haven Hair Co.; J & Company Salon

## Physician's clinic

### The Iowa Clinic

**Runners up:** MercyOne Pleasant Hill Family Medicine; UnityPoint Clinic Family Medicine

## Dental office

### Altoona Smiles Family & Cosmetic Dentistry

**Runners up:** Altoona Dental; Kimball and Beecher Family Dentistry

## Mental health services

### \* Connected Life Counseling

**Runners up:** Healing Rock Counseling; The Connection Lab

## Chiropractic office

### \* Dawson Chiropractic

**Runners up:** Inside Out Chiropractic; Swain Chiropractic

## Vision care

### \* Prairie Vision Center of Bondurant

**Runners up:** Eye Care of Iowa Pleasant Hill; Whylie Eye Care Center

## Health club or gym

### \* Altoona Campus

**Runners up:** BrickHouse Fitness; Pilates at Mend

## Alternative health care

### \* Wholistic Health Center

**Runners up:** Be Well Pediatrics; Mend Integrative Wellness

## Pharmacy

### \* Hy-Vee

**Runners up:** Medicap; Walgreens

## CBD Store

### CBD American Shaman

**Runners up:** Central Iowa Vapors; Wholistic Health Center

## Physical therapy

### \* 21st Century Rehab

**Runners up:** Anchor Physical Therapy; Select Physical Therapy

## Dance studio

### \* Pat Barton Dance Studio

**Runners up:** Becky's Dance & Tumbling Studio; Kasey Leigh Dance Studio

## Gymnastics/tumbling studio

### Becky's Dance & Tumbling Studio

**Runners up:** Kasey Leigh Dance Studio; Pat Barton Dance Studio

## Audiologist/hearing center

### Miracle-Ear Hearing Aid Center

**Runner up:** HearingLife; MercyOne Pleasant Hill ENT Care

## Financial planner

### Luke Sibley, Edward Jones

**Runners up:** Adam Kline, Edward Jones; Ryan Gerardy, Thrivent

## Law firm

### Skinner Law Offices

**Runners up:** Smith Law Firm; Susan Ugulini

## Accounting firm

### Welgaard CPAs & Advisors

**Runners up:** ATS Tax and Financial Services; TrustPoint

## Veterinarian

### Bondurant Animal Clinic

**Runner up:** Altoona Veterinary Hospital

## Dog groomer

### Tangled Tails

**Runners up:** Barks & Wags; Pampered Pooch Bakery & Salon

## Lawn care business

### \* Major Tom's Lawn Care

**Runners up:** Hawkeye/VanGinkel Lawn & Snow; Kelly George Turf & Irrigation;

## Nursery or landscaping company

### Lucille's Garden Center

**Runners up:** Hawkeye/VanGinkel Lawn & Snow; Major Tom's Lawn Care

## Heating and cooling business

### Metro Heating and Cooling

**Runners up:** GEM Heating and Cooling; Wyckoff Heating and Cooling

## Electrical business

### Baker Electric

**Runner up:** Gumm Electric

## Plumbing company

### Advanced Problem

### Solutions

## Senior living establishment

### \* Prairie Vista Village

**Runners up:** Courtyard Estates; Edencrest at The Tuscany

## Insurance agency

### The Insurance Station

**Runners up:** Phillips Stafford Insurance Group; Tim Forbes, State Farm Insurance

## Realtor

### Sheena Cochran-Foster

**Runners up:** Jodie Hawley; Pennie Carroll

## Bank/credit union

### \* GreenState Credit Union

**Runners up:** Community Choice Credit Union; Community State Bank

## Photographer

### \* Photos by Ben

**Runners up:** Flaherty Photography – Altoona; Nahno-Kerchee Photography

## Place for guests to stay

### Hyatt Place Altoona

**Runners up:** Holiday Inn Express & Suites; Prairie Meadows Casino, Racetrack & Hotel

## Home builder/remodeling contractor

### Berkey Home Builders

**Runners up:** Eagle Homes; Parks Custom Homes

## Outdoor lawn equipment store

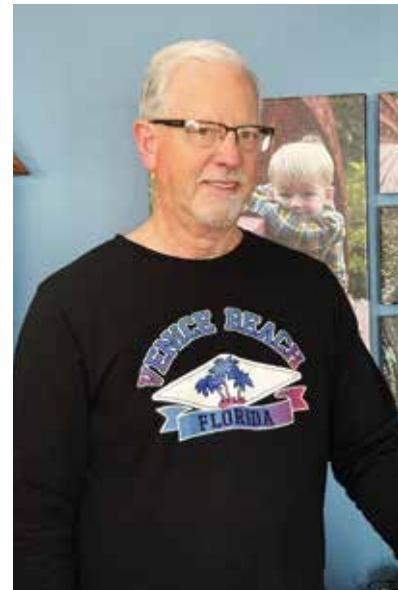
### Lowe's

**Runners up:** Altoona Ace Hardware; ITT Outdoor Products

## General contractor or remodeler

### \* Berkey Home Builders

**Runners up:** Lorey Construction; Terry's Quality Concrete ■



Ben Fuller, of Photos by Ben, is the Residents' Choice for Favorite Photographer.

# **FIRE & ICE**

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# WHERE I find inspiration — and a new comfort-food favorite

Today's home cooks have no shortage of inspiration. With a quick search online, we can access thousands of recipes from trusted test kitchens, community-driven platforms and individual food bloggers. While I appreciate that convenience, I still find myself reaching for cookbooks, browsing new releases at the bookstore and checking out titles from the library — a perfect way to "test drive" a recipe before committing to it.

Another favorite source of inspiration is Family Features, a free recipe site filled with reliable dishes and beautiful photography that never fails to spark my creativity in the kitchen. This month's recipe, loaded Philly cheesesteak baked potatoes, brings together two of my favorite comfort foods: steak and potatoes — both of which also happen to be Shane's favorites. It takes the familiar flavors of a classic Philly cheesesteak sandwich and transforms them into a warm, satisfying baked potato meal. It's hearty, comforting and perfect to enjoy for dinner, with plenty left over for lunches throughout the week. ■



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

## Loaded Philly cheesesteak baked potato

Recipe courtesy of Real California Milk

Prep time: 10 minutes

Cook time: 1 hour, 11 minutes

Servings: 4

### Ingredients

- 4 large russet potatoes, washed
- 1 cup Real California sour cream
- 1-2 tablespoons Real California whole milk
- 1/4 cup Real California unsalted butter, divided
- 1 small green bell pepper, thinly sliced
- 1/2 small yellow onion, thinly sliced
- kosher salt, to taste
- freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 1 pound fresh shaved sirloin steak
- 2 cups shredded Real California provolone cheese



### Directions

- Preheat oven to 425 degrees F and line baking sheet with aluminum foil.
- Prick potatoes all over with fork. Bake until potatoes are tender and fork inserted easily comes out, 45 minutes to 1 hour. Split tops of potatoes open with knife and fluff potato flesh with fork. Set aside.
- In small bowl, combine sour cream and milk, adding more milk as needed, until sour cream is pourable. Set aside.
- In large skillet or on griddle over medium-high heat, heat 1 tablespoon butter. Add peppers and onions; cook until tender, 3-4 minutes. Season with salt and pepper, to taste. Transfer to plate and set aside.
- Clean skillet then melt remaining butter. Add steak and cook until fully cooked and lightly browned, 3-4 minutes. Season with salt and pepper, to taste. Return vegetables to skillet and toss to combine.
- Evenly top each potato with 1 tablespoon butter, steak mixture and cheese. Transfer to oven and bake until cheese is melted, 2-3 minutes. Drizzle with sour cream and serve.

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## REAL ESTATE

By Austin Sullivan

# WHY SERIOUS buyers and sellers start in January

For many people, real estate feels like a spring sport. Warmer weather, greener lawns and more listings seem to signal the right time to act. But, in reality, the most serious buyers and sellers often start much earlier. January is when smart, intentional moves begin.



The biggest advantage of starting in January is clarity. Buyers and sellers who engage early are not reacting to the market. They are planning. Buyers have time to understand their budget, lending options and true needs before competition ramps up. Sellers can evaluate their home, discuss pricing strategies and make improvements without the pressure of a looming list date. That preparation almost always leads to better outcomes.

Competition is another major factor. January typically brings fewer active buyers and fewer listings. For buyers, that can mean more negotiating power, less pressure and the ability to move thoughtfully instead of emotionally. For sellers, it often means your home stands out more clearly. Serious buyers who are active this time of year are motivated, qualified and decisive. Those are the buyers sellers want.

January is also when life decisions tend to bloom. New jobs begin. Families reassess space needs. Relocation plans move from idea to action. These transitions do not wait for spring, and neither should your planning. Starting early allows buyers and sellers to align timing with real life instead of the traditional calendar.

Financials also play a role in the January buying. Buyers and sellers could be receiving that year-end bonus or a sizable tax return that now has them thinking if they should make the move.

Another overlooked benefit is smoother transactions. When deals are set in motion early in the year, there is more flexibility with timelines, inspections and negotiations. Lenders, inspectors and service providers are often less overloaded than they will be later in the year. That breathing room reduces stress and helps everyone make better decisions.

Finally, starting in January creates confidence. Whether you plan to buy, sell or simply gather information, taking early steps replaces uncertainty with direction. Even if your move does not happen until later in the year, the groundwork you lay now puts you in control.

Serious buyers and sellers do not wait for the market to tell them when to act. They prepare, plan and move with intention. January is not the off season. It is the foundation for a successful year in real estate. ■

Information provided by Austin Sullivan, Re/Max Concepts, 3880 Prairie Fire N.W., Altoona, 515-943-9797, austin@soldwithsullivan.com.



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# HAWTHORN Cottage House

Hawthorn Cottage is a thoughtfully designed two-bedroom, two-bath home with 1,560-square-feet of well-balanced living space. A large screened rear porch and an open kitchen-great room layout create the perfect blend of indoor and outdoor comfort, while the bedroom wing offers privacy from the main entertaining area. With classic lap siding, Southern charm, and flexible foundation options, this one-story cottage is perfect for anyone seeking a small home with inviting features and a smart floor plan. ■



**1,560 SQ FT, 2 BEDROOMS, 2 BATHS**

#### DIMENSIONS

**Floors:** 1

**Bedrooms:** 2

**Bathrooms:** 2.0

**Foundation(s):** Slab, Pier

#### SQUARE FEET

**Main Floor:** 1,560

**Total Conditioned:** 1,560

**Front Porch:** 177

**Rear Porch:** 401

#### DIMENSIONS

**Width:** 54'-9"

**Depth:** 46'-9"

**Height:** 26'-8"

#### LEVEL NAME CEILING HEIGHTS

**Main Floor** 10'-0"

#### CONSTRUCTION

**Wall Construction:** 2x6

**Exterior Finish:** Lap Siding, Board & Batten

**Roof Pitch:** 12:12

#### FEATURES

**Kitchen:** Island, Snack

**Primary Bedroom:** Tub, Double Sink, Shower, Porch, Walk-in Closet

**Additional:** Fireplace, Porch

**Garage:** None

# MEET Abby Armstrong

Educator finds her way back to her dream.

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**Living**  
IOWA  
MAGAZINES CITYVIEW



After some long-term substitute teaching with the district, Abby Armstrong now has her own kindergarten class.

When Abby Armstrong was a child, and adults asked what she wanted to be when she grew up, her answer was always the same: a kindergarten teacher.

Today, she's living that exact dream at Morris Elementary.

Getting there, however, followed an unexpected path. In fact, this is Armstrong's first year as a full-time classroom teacher. She graduated in 2004 with a degree in elementary education from Morningside College in Sioux City, but life had other plans.

The same month she graduated college, Armstrong was diagnosed with cancer. Needing a job as quickly as possible to secure health insurance, she accepted the first position she was offered — in the insurance industry. She remained with the company for many years, then later stepped away to raise her children, spending time as a stay-at-home mom off and on for several more years.

All of which makes her return to teaching especially meaningful.

In 2022, Armstrong decided it was time to pivot back to her roots. She dusted off her teaching license and began substitute teaching in the Bondurant-Farrar Community School District.

During that first year, Armstrong taught in every building and across all grade levels. Over the next two school years, she stepped into long-term substitute roles for teachers on maternity leave. Coincidentally, all four of those long-term positions were kindergarten classrooms at Morris Elementary.

"That was that," Armstrong says. "The kindergarten bug had gotten me again and pulled me back into teaching. When I learned that a kinder position was opening up for the 2025–26 school year, I knew it was a sign for me to shift gears and go for it."

It's hard for Armstrong to describe just how much Morris feels like home.

"While I was subbing and doing long-term assignments, Morris just became my favorite place to be," she says. "The kinder team specifically is so warm and helpful; I just felt like I belonged. And, of course, the children and their families in this building and community are wonderful. I wouldn't want to be anywhere else."

For Armstrong, some of the most rewarding moments come when she sees something click for her students: when a new concept finally makes sense or when a child steadily improves at a skill that once felt challenging.

"Little celebrations like that make all the hard work worth it," Armstrong says. "Not to mention that these little nuggets love coming to school; they come in each day and give the biggest hugs and brightest smiles. The relationships we build at school are so special to me." ■

# Bondurant News

## January 2026



**CHOWDER RIDE**

**FEB. 21, 2026**

*Bike Ride from Bondurant to Berwick!*

**BERWICK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH** **KWIK STAR** **RECLAIMED RAILS** **Bondurant** **FOUNDERS IRISH PUB**

### Winter Stormwater Management

#### What Can You Do?

- Remove ice, snow, and debris from storm drains.
- Use de-icing products sparingly.
- Pick up your pet's waste.
- Don't apply lawn fertilizer in freezing temperatures.
- Cover bare soil.



**PRESIDENT'S DAY HOLIDAY**  
CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED

**FEBRUARY 16, 2026**

### Special Edition: The Station

*We need your input!*



The Station, Bondurant's new community facility, is preparing to open next year, and we want your ideas on how we should use the space!

**Connect with Us**



The City of Bondurant offers a variety of ways to keep you connected—from social media pages and email newsletters to texts right to your phone! Follow along, subscribe, or check in when you can—we're here to keep you in the loop and connected to your community.

**Engage with Us**



You can find upcoming City Council meeting dates, agendas, and past meeting minutes by scanning the QR code. We're making it easier than ever to stay informed and engaged.

# KEEP those resolutions going

Did you make a few New Year's resolutions? Are you losing the momentum? Keep those reading resolutions going by visiting us at the Bondurant Community Library. Chances are we have exactly what you are looking for. If we do not, perhaps we can borrow it from another library for you. Can't decide? Join our Book Discussion for Adults on the second Tuesday of every month.

If your goals are centered on health and fitness, we also have you covered. Visit the library on Mondays and Thursdays at 8:30 a.m. for a low-impact workout suitable for everyone.

Unlock your inner creativity at Adult Craft Night on Thursday, Feb. 5, or the Valentine Card-Making workshop on Monday, Feb. 9. The craft from Adult Craft Night will be repeated at Adult Crafternoon on Feb. 28. Registration is required for all three but easy to do on the library's website.

Finally, get ready for that garden space you resolved to start by attending the Seed Starting Workshop on Tuesday, Feb. 24.

## Here is what is happening in February:

Fit for Life, Monday and Thursday at 8:30 a.m.

### Bondurant Community Library

104 Second St. N.E., P.O. Box 160

515-967-4790

[www.bondurant.lib.ia.us](http://www.bondurant.lib.ia.us)

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

Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.

- Story Time, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at 10:30 a.m.
- Baby Story Time, Thursday at 9:30 a.m.
- Feb. 2, After School BINGO at 2:30 p.m.
- Feb. 3, Reading Dragons and Friends (grades 3-5) at 6 p.m.
- Feb. 4, Pokémon Club at 4:15 p.m.
- Feb. 5, Adult Craft Night (registration required) at 6 p.m.
- Feb. 8, Teens Only Mini Golf at 3 p.m.
- Feb. 9, After School Activity at 2:30 p.m.
- Feb. 9, Valentine Card Making for Adults at 6 p.m.
- Feb. 10, Book Discussion for Adults at 6 p.m.
- Feb. 11, Curious and Creative Kid Club at 4:15 p.m.
- Feb. 12, Family Game Night BINGO at 6 p.m.
- Feb. 14, Messy Munchkins at 10:30 a.m.
- Feb. 16, LIBRARY CLOSED for Presidents Day
- Feb. 17, In the Middle Book Club (grades 6-8) at 6 p.m.
- Feb. 19, Anime Club (grades 6-12) at 4 p.m.
- Feb. 20, Coffee Social at 1 p.m.
- Feb. 21, Saturday Stories at 10:30 a.m.
- Feb. 21, Puzzle Competition at 1 p.m.
- Feb. 23, After School Movie at 2:30 p.m.
- Feb. 23, Teen Café (ages 12+) at 4:30 p.m.
- Feb. 24, Seed Starting Workshop at 6 p.m.
- Feb. 28, Adult Crafternoon at 2 p.m. ■

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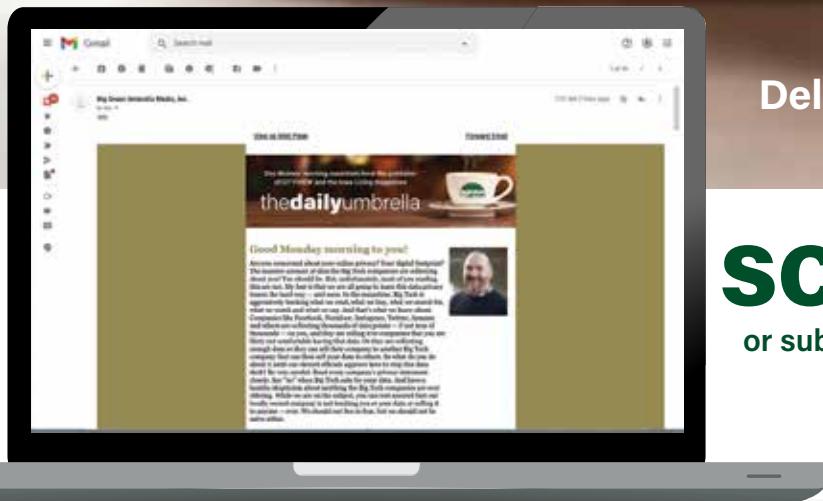


Contact Jim Jacobsen at [jim@dmcityview.com](mailto:jim@dmcityview.com) or  
515-953-4822 x304 for more information.

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of CITYVIEW and the Iowa Living magazines.

# EVENTS IN THE AREA

Be sure to check for cancellations.

**Note about calendar events:** This magazine is delivered the fourth Thursday of each month. Calendar items included are events happening after the delivery date and extend into the following month. If you receive and read your magazine upon delivery, you will not miss out on any calendar items.

## Coming up in Bondurant Living magazine:

**"I do!"** Stories about marriage proposals: Share the story of how your courtship culminated in a proposal to remember. Email [tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com](mailto:tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com) to share your story!

**Rescue animals:** Do you have a beloved rescue animal in your family? Share your story of how you came to find your pet — or it came to find you! Email [tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com](mailto:tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com).

## Live Music at Prairie Meadows

1 Prairie Meadows Drive, Altoona

- Friday, Jan. 23, 8-11 p.m., Simple Company
- Tuesday, Jan. 27, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Clarksville Station
- Friday, Jan. 30, 8-11 p.m., Orphan Annie & the Hot Mess
- Saturday, Jan. 31, 8-11 p.m., Jake McVey
- Tuesday, Feb. 3, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Kowboy Kid
- Thursday, Feb. 5, 7 p.m., Big Country Showdown
- Friday, Feb. 6, 8-11 p.m., The Weasels
- Saturday, Feb. 7, 8-11 p.m., Gut Feeling
- Tuesday, Feb. 10, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Craig Swalwell Band
- Thursday, Feb. 12, 7 p.m., Big Country Showdown
- Friday, Feb. 13, 8-11 p.m., Grind
- Saturday, Feb. 14, 7 p.m., Everly Brothers Experience
- Tuesday, Feb. 17, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tommy Browder & The Country River Band
- Thursday, Feb. 19, 7 p.m., Big Country Showdown
- Friday, Feb. 20, 8-11 p.m., Mark Doty & The Cause
- Saturday, Feb. 21, 8-11 p.m., Monkey, Monkey, Monkey
- Tuesday, Feb. 24, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Richie Lee & the Fabulous 50s
- Thursday, Feb. 26, 7 p.m., Big Country Showdown

To submit calendar items for consideration, send to [tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com](mailto:tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com)

## Bondurant Library Events

104 Second St. N.E., Bondurant

- Tuesday, Jan. 27, 6 p.m.: Super Searchers program
- Thursday, Jan. 29, 6 p.m.: Sourdough 101
- Thursday, Feb. 12, 6 p.m.: Family Night BINGO
- Saturday, Feb. 21, 1 p.m.: Puzzle Competition
- Tuesday, Feb. 24, 6 p.m.: Seed Starting Program

## Programs at Edencrest at The Tuscany

1600 Eighth St. S.E., Altoona

- **Home Instead, Thursday, Feb. 12, 1-2 p.m.** Join Home Instead for an informative, hour-long presentation about in-home care services. Topics include personalized support options, caregiver assistance and resources available to help seniors maintain independence and quality of life.

- **Telecommunications Access Iowa, Thursday, March 12, 1-2 p.m.** TAI officials will share details about their statewide program that helps individuals access specialized telecommunications equipment, including amplified phones, captioned phones and other adaptive devices that support easier communication.

- **EveryStep, Thursday, April 16, 1-2 p.m.** EveryStep and Dr. Mouser will present an informative, one-hour overview of their compassionate care and support services, including hospice, home care, grief support and community health programs designed to help individuals and families navigate life's transitions. Light snacks and refreshments will be provided.

For more information on programs, call Mallory Wentland, 515-850-6119.

## Winter Blues Fest 2026

Friday, Feb. 13, and Saturday, Feb. 14  
Downtown Des Moines Marriott,  
700 Grand Ave., Des Moines

Two nights, 20 acts, all under one roof and out of the cold. Lineup information and tickets available at <https://cibs.org/2025/10/2026-winter-blues-fest/>.



## Bondu Chowder Ride

Saturday, Feb. 21, 10:30 a.m.  
Reclaimed Rails Brewing Company,  
101 Main St. S.E., Bondurant

Shake off the winter blues with a free winter ride on the Chichaqua Valley Trail. This relaxed out-and-back ride takes you from Bondurant to Berwick, totaling about 10 miles. Start the morning with a 10:30 a.m. social hour at Reclaimed Rails Brewing Company, then hit the trail at 11 a.m. Warm up along the way at the Berwick Congregational Church, serving as our refreshment stop and turnaround. This is a ride-at-your-own-risk event. Participants are responsible for their own safety and should ride within their abilities, obey trail/road rules, and be prepared for weather conditions. Finish strong back in Bondurant with hot chili and soup at Reclaimed Rails and Founders Irish Pub. More information and sign up available with the QR code.



## A Celebration in Song

Saturday, Feb. 7, 7:30 p.m.  
St. Ambrose Cathedral,  
607 High St., Des Moines

Enjoy the fifth annual collegiate invitational concert, with the Iowa State Singers and the Wartburg College Choir. Buy tickets at <https://app.arts-people.com/?show=290262>.



## CITYVIEW's Fire and Ice

Saturday, Jan. 24, 1-4 p.m.  
Valley Junction

CITYVIEW brings back its legendary Valley Junction area pub crawl. Fire and Ice is a hockey-themed liquor sampling event that will be sure to warm up your winter blues. With your event ticket, you will receive 10 individual drink tickets to sample some of the best winter cocktails from establishments in the Valley Junction area. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$35 at the door.



# EVENTS IN THE AREA

Be sure to check for cancellations.

## STAGE AND THEATER

### Des Moines Performing Arts

Des Moines Civic Center, Cowles Commons, Stoner Theater, Temple Theatre, 221 Walnut St., Des Moines, [www.dmpa.org](http://www.dmpa.org)

- Feb. 3-8: "Kimberly Akimbo."
- Feb. 24 to March 1: "The Outsiders."
- March 20-22: Meredith Willson's "The Music Man."
- March 28: "The Wizard of Oz in Concert" with the Des Moines Symphony.

### Des Moines Community Playhouse

831 42nd St., Des Moines  
[www.dmplayhouse.com](http://www.dmplayhouse.com)

- Feb. 6 to March 1: "The Mousetrap"
- March 6-22: "The Lightning Thief"

### Actors, Inc. - Ames Community Theater

120 Abraham Drive, Ames, [www.actorsinc.org](http://www.actorsinc.org)  
• Jan. 29-31, Feb. 6-8: "Making God Laugh"

### Class Act Productions

201 First Ave. S., Altoona, [www.captheatre.org](http://www.captheatre.org)  
• Feb. 20-22, 27-28, March 1, 6-8: "Oliver! Jr."

### DMACC Ankeny Campus Theatre

2006 S. Ankeny Boulevard, Ankeny  
[www.dmacc.edu/theatre/ankeny/Pages/welcome.aspx](http://www.dmacc.edu/theatre/ankeny/Pages/welcome.aspx)  
• March 6-8, 26-29: "Macbeth"

### Iowa Stage Theatre Company

Stoner Theatre, 221 Walnut St., Des Moines  
[www.iowastage.org](http://www.iowastage.org)  
• March 13-22: "The Seagull"

### Tallgrass Theatre Company

2019 Grand Ave., Suite 100, West Des Moines  
[www.tallgrasstheatre.org](http://www.tallgrasstheatre.org)  
• Feb. 13 to March 1: "Disenchanted!"

### Des Moines Young Artists' Theatre

Munro Building, Des Moines University Campus, 3380 Grand Ave., Des Moines  
[www.dmyat.org](http://www.dmyat.org)

- Feb. 20 to March 1: "Winnie the Pooh"

### Ankeny Community Theatre

1932 S.W. Third St., Ankeny  
<https://ankenycommunitytheatre.com/>  
• Feb. 13-22: "Pride @ Prejudice," Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m.

## Made In The Midwest Returns to Highland Regional Musicals

Temple Theater, 1011 Locust St., Des Moines

Des Moines Performing Arts (DMPA) proudly announces the return of Made in the Midwest at the Temple Theater for an exciting new season. The upcoming season features five dynamic artists representing a diverse mix of genres, from classic country and folk to indie rock and blues. Each performance will also include an opener, giving audiences even more opportunities to discover rising stars from across the Midwest. The 2026 season includes:

- **The Cactus Blossoms:** Classic Country/Folk/Americana, Tuesday, Jan. 27. Opener: Angela Autumn
- **Weary Ramblers:** Folk/Americana/Bluegrass/Country, Thursday, Feb. 19. Opener: Brian Johannesen
- **Carver Jones:** Alternative/Indie Rock/Indie Pop, Saturday, Feb. 28. Opener: Dirty Blonde
- **Other Brothers:** Rock/Blues/Classic Rock, Saturday, March 7. Opener: Cedar County Cobras
- **The Lubben Brothers:** Traditional/Contemporary Folk, Saturday, April 25. Opener: Courtney Krause

For information and to purchase tickets, visit DMPA.org.

## Harlem Globetrotters, the 100th Year Tour

Thursday, Feb. 12, 7 p.m.  
Casey's Center, 223 Center St., Des Moines

The Harlem Globetrotters are coming to Des Moines with their most legendary tour ever. From gravity-defying dunks to game-changing tricks, experience the team that redefined basketball. This is history you can feel and a celebration of 100 years of over-the-top fun with all-new surprises like the Golden Basketball by Spalding. This is a fan celebration from the moment you arrive with epic new pre-game magic, unforgettable post-game interactions, and the most fan-fueled experience in sports. More information and tickets: [www.iowaeventscenter.com/events/detail/the-harlem-globetrotters-100-year-tour](http://www.iowaeventscenter.com/events/detail/the-harlem-globetrotters-100-year-tour).

## Splurge: West End

### Salvage's Annual Wine, Cheese and Chocolate event

Friday, Jan. 23 and Saturday, Jan. 24, 6-9 p.m.

West End Architectural Salvage, 22 Ninth St., Des Moines

What's better than a decadent night of wine, cheese and chocolate from local wineries, artisans and chocolatiers? Break up the winter monotony and SPLURGE with all your favorite people. Buy tickets on Eventbrite.

## Iowa AG Expo

Feb. 3-5

Iowa Events Center, 730 Third St., Des Moines

No need to travel far to see the latest farm equipment when the Iowa Ag Expo brings the biggest names and newest innovations to Des Moines each winter. Spanning 7.25 acres, the Iowa Ag Expo is the third-largest indoor ag show in the United States, hosting nearly 700 exhibitors across three buildings of the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines. These companies come from around the world to display the best ag has to offer, from big iron, precision ag and livestock production to autonomous equipment, electric vehicles, robotics, artificial intelligence solutions and more. To view the full Iowa Ag Expo program and list of exhibitors, visit <https://iowaagexpo.com/show-program/>. Buy tickets at [www.iowaeventscenter.com/events/detail/iowa-ag-expo-5](http://www.iowaeventscenter.com/events/detail/iowa-ag-expo-5)

## Winterfest Market

Saturday, Jan. 24, 8 a.m.

EMC Expo Center, Iowa Events Center, 730 Third St., Des Moines

Escape the post-holiday blues and treat yourself to something special at Winterfest Market — a cozy indoor shopping event featuring your favorite local makers, artisans and small businesses. Unique handmade goods and one-of-a-kind finds. Winter deals and new year treasures. More information: [www.iowaeventscenter.com/events/detail/winterfest-market](http://www.iowaeventscenter.com/events/detail/winterfest-market) ■



# A CHALLENGE to be your best spiritual self



As we venture into 2026, how can I challenge you to be the best version of your spiritual self? If you're a goal setter like me, then you've probably already jotted down your resolutions. But how do you measure a good year from a bad year?

In the bible, God tells us the stories of the kings of Israel and Judah. In his evaluation of each king, the criteria for a good king was based on whether he followed God or didn't. Not how many castles he built or lands he conquered, not even how well he treated his subjects, but rather his ability to honor God through his worship and actions.

What would make this year good for you? Would it be financial or material? Some of my happiest memories came from times when our family struggled.

What if, in 2026, you committed to being a part of something bigger than yourself and found purpose and value in your life? A relationship with Christ can satisfy that longing. Connecting with other believers can help you further your goals for service and sacrifice.

No one wishes they had worked more when they are on their death bed but, rather, values the relationships they built in this life and the confidence of the life to come based on faith.

I want for this year to be a year of peace, where my joy and relationships expand and my influence can help others see the love Jesus has for them. "God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him" (John 3:17).

2026 won't be easy for everyone. Jesus said, "In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). Although we aren't promised easy, we are encouraged to show compassion and share experiences. "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2).

So let's make 2026 the best year ever and take pride in the relationships we form — united and compassionate, attempting to help one another in peace with love. More importantly, work to develop a deeper relationship with God, who calls us to live peaceably with all. God loves you, and He wants to be close to you.

May the true living God bless you in 2026 as you work to grow spiritually and fulfill His will. ■

Information provided by Pastor Trevor Pinegar, Federated Church of Bondurant, 103 Second St. S.W., 515-967-2243.

# YOU'RE INVITED!

SUNDAYS  
10:00AM

JOIN US & BE FED ON THE WORD OF GOD!



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OF BONDURANT



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BONDURANT, IA 50035

WWW.BFEDCHURCH.ORG

# A PLACE TO CONNECT

HE WHO WAS SEATED ON THE THRONE SAID,  
"I AM MAKING EVERYTHING NEW!"

REVELATION 21:5

New beginnings are found here.  
Join us Sundays to find out more.

Connecting with God's Word through community, worship and learning.



FIRST FAMILY  
CHURCH BONDURANT

SUNDAY WORSHIP, 10 A.M.  
LEGION HALL  
315 2ND ST N.W. BONDURANT  
FFCBLIFE.COM  
515-587-5930

# News from the **BONDURANT-FARRAR** COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

January 2026

## Let's Chat, Bluejays!

**YOU'RE INVITED:** Connect with district leaders, ask questions, and talk through a variety of school topics.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10**  
**Morning: 8:30-9:15 AM**  
**Afternoon: 4:00-4:45 PM**

Sessions are held in person, with a virtual option for those who cannot attend on-site. Additional dates/times available upon request.

**Bondurant-Farrar District Office**  
**300 Garfield Street SW, Bondurant**  
Enter on east side of Intermediate School

To join virtually, please RSVP for link:  
[communications@bfschools.org](mailto:communications@bfschools.org)

With questions, please call our district office at 515-967-7819. We hope to chat with you soon!

### Now Accepting K-12 Open Enrollment Applications for Next School Year:

After 20 years of steady growth, student enrollment has slowed in recent years, especially in the lower grades. By allowing a limited number of open-enrolled students, the district can balance class sizes and ensure staffing and resources are used effectively across grade levels.

#### ► Key Dates & Deadlines

Families who live outside the district are encouraged to apply early. Applications for grades 1-12 are due March 2, 2026. September 1, 2026 is the deadline to apply for kindergarten.

#### ► For Application Assistance

We're here to help! Please contact our district registrar with any questions you have or for assistance in this process.

- Phone: 515-967-7819
- Email: [registrar@bfschools.org](mailto:registrar@bfschools.org)
- Visit: [www.bfschools.org/open-enroll](http://www.bfschools.org/open-enroll)



### Preschool Lottery Applications Open Through February 27:

The district is excited to welcome children ages 3 and 4 to preschool next school year! Our program focuses on helping students build social skills, adapt to classroom routines, and explore early learning through music, movement, pre-literacy, and math activities.

Space is limited. Applications are approved through a lottery system and due by February 27, 2026.

#### ► Apply for Preschool Today!

- By Appointment:
  - Call: 515-967-7819
  - Email: [registrar@bfschools.org](mailto:registrar@bfschools.org)
- Visit: [www.bfschools.org/preschool](http://www.bfschools.org/preschool)



### Join Our Bluejay Team!



We're seeking dedicated individuals to serve in a variety of roles for the current school year the year ahead. Join a supportive team and make a positive impact on the educational journey of Bluejay students.

#### Apply today to become a Bluejay!

If you are passionate about helping others & interested in joining our team, we want to hear from you!

#### ► Contact Us

- Visit: [www.bfschools.org/careers](http://www.bfschools.org/careers)
- Call: 515-967-7819
- Email: [hr@bfschools.org](mailto:hr@bfschools.org)



EOE/AA

### Contact Us:

Facebook: @BFDistrict

X: @BF\_District

YouTube: @Bondurant-FarrarCSD

Flickr: [www.flickr.com/photos/bfcisd/albums](http://www.flickr.com/photos/bfcisd/albums)

Bondurant-Farrar District Office

300 Garfield Street SW, Bondurant

Phone: 515-967-7819

Online: [www.bfschools.org/contactus](http://www.bfschools.org/contactus)

# Thrive in 2026!

LET US HELP YOUR FAMILY THRIVE IN THE NEW YEAR!

## Families Under Chiropractic Care Report:

- Increased immunity
- Better sleep patterns
- Less behavioral issues
- Improved emotional processing

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Dr. Kari Swain & Dr. Elizabeth Ellrich

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## HEALTH

By Dr. Kari Swain and Dr. Elizabeth Ellrich

# 4 WAYS to prioritize your health

A new year provides the opportunity to shift your priorities. Making your health a top priority will bring both immediate and long-term benefits to your physical, mental and emotional well-being. Bridging the gap between wanting to live a healthy lifestyle and actually living the lifestyle can be done with commitment and preparation.

**1. Have a plan.** Planning helps create a clear idea, a visualization, of how to reach your goals. Don't be afraid to ask for help.

**2. Become goal-oriented.** Set goals, write them down and place them in a highly visible spot. Stay committed to your goals.

**3. Take action.** Repetition breeds habits, and habits turn into character traits. Our value systems are the foundations upon which we build our future. It is one thing to say you want to be healthy, but to be healthy, you must act. Start by choosing one healthy habit and being consistent and persistent with that habit before adding another one.

**4. Tune up your engine.** It is impossible to function at your highest level when you are not supporting your body.

- Support your nervous system with regular chiropractic adjustments. A healthy nervous system is essential for optimal function and expression of health.

- Aim for adequate hydration and optimal nutrition.

- Consider a well-balanced, whole-foods-based purification/detoxification. This can help to eliminate toxins and improve immune and metabolic functions.

- Plan for daily movement, including walking and stretching.

- Prioritize sleep and manage stress levels. ■

Information provided by Dr. Kari Swain and Dr. Elizabeth Ellrich, Swain Chiropractic, 410 Center Place S.W., Altoona, 515-967-9300.

## New Year. New Smile.

### NO MORE DENTAL MYTHS.

WHEN IT COMES TO ORAL HEALTH, THERE'S NO SHORTAGE OF ADVICE—SOME HELPFUL, SOME MISLEADING. LET'S CLEAR UP A FEW COMMON DENTAL MYTHS AND SEPARATE FACT FROM FICTION SO YOU CAN MAKE THE BEST CHOICES FOR YOUR SMILE.



[SCHEDULE HERE](#)

**Kimball & Beecher**  
Family Dentistry

[kimballandbeecher.com](http://kimballandbeecher.com)

108 Main St NE, Bondurant, IA 50035 515-967-4002



## HEALTH

By Dr. Colton Maharry

# DENTAL myths debunked

### If your teeth don't hurt, they are healthy - Fiction.

Many dental problems, including cavities and gum disease, can develop without pain. Regular dental checkups help catch issues early — before they become painful or costly.

### Brushing harder cleans better - Fiction.

Brushing too hard can actually damage tooth enamel and irritate gums. A soft-bristled toothbrush and gentle pressure are far more effective — and safer — for daily brushing.



**Sugar is the only cause of cavities - Fiction.** While sugar plays a role, cavities are caused by bacteria and acid that break down enamel. Starchy foods, frequent snacking and poor oral hygiene can also contribute.

**Bleeding gums are normal - Fiction.** Healthy gums shouldn't bleed. Bleeding can be an early sign of gum disease and should be checked by a dental professional as soon as possible.

**Baby teeth don't matter because they fall out - Fiction.** Baby teeth help with chewing, speech and guiding permanent teeth into place. Untreated problems in baby teeth can affect long-term oral health.

**Whitening toothpaste can dramatically whiten teeth - Mostly Fiction.** Whitening toothpaste can remove surface stains. Professional whitening treatments are more effective for noticeable results.

### You only need to see the dentist when there's a problem - Fiction.

Preventive visits every six months help keep your teeth and gums healthy and often prevent major dental issues before they start. ■

Information provided by Dr. Colton Maharry, Kimball & Beecher Family Dentistry, 108 Main St. N.E., Bondurant, 515-967-4002.

## MICroneedling: art and science of skin renewal

In today's beauty landscape, where results and refinement go hand in hand, microneedling has emerged as a sophisticated approach to skin rejuvenation. Celebrated for its ability to work with the skin's natural biology, this treatment offers a way to restore luminosity, texture and resilience.

Microneedling uses precision-controlled, ultra-fine needles to create microscopic channels in the skin.

These controlled micro-injuries activate the body's innate healing response, signaling the production of collagen and elastin — two essential proteins responsible for skin's firmness, elasticity and youthful structure. As fresh collagen forms, the skin appears smoother, more even and visibly refreshed.

One of microneedling's most compelling benefits lies in its ability to address multiple concerns at once. Fine lines soften, acne scars appear refined, pores look less pronounced, and overall tone becomes more balanced. Over time, the skin develops a strengthened foundation, revealing a natural radiance that feels effortless rather than overcorrected.

As technology continues to advance, microneedling has evolved into a highly refined experience. Modern devices, including the latest SkinPen® technology, offer precise depth control and enhanced safety, allowing treatments to be tailored to individual skin needs while maintaining exceptional consistency and comfort. ■

Information provided by Nikki Morgan, DNP, ARNP, SkinFusion, 200 Second St. S.E., Altoona, 515-967-0587, [www.skinfusionfx.com](http://www.skinfusionfx.com), nikki.skinfusionfx@gmail.com



## New Year, New Skin Strategy

YOUR MOST CONFIDENT SKIN STARTS WITH A PLAN.

Meet with an esthetician for a Skin Strategy Session to review your routine, refine your treatments, and get expert guidance.

Book this month and enjoy a \$50 skincare credit toward SkinMedica or SkinCeuticals.

**SKINFUSION**  
INTEGRATED AESTHETICS

515-967-0587  
[skinfusionfx.com](http://skinfusionfx.com)

200 2nd St SE, Ste 1 Altoona Iowa 50009



## PLAN AHEAD

By Scott Eriksen

## PLAN ahead in 2026

Will 2026 be the year? It might be cleaning out the basement. Perhaps it is getting a will in place...or updated. Or maybe it is finally getting your funeral prearrangements addressed. We hear it all the time: "I am so glad to have this taken care of."



Planning your final arrangements begins with a simple conversation and can be a pleasant process. Planning ahead also allows you time to give thoughtful consideration to these important decisions. There are many options to think about when addressing your final arrangements, and there are even prepayment options available to those who wish to have their final financial obligations handled in advance.

An advanced planning consultant can walk you through these choices and options.

Start the year by crossing something off your "to-do" list. Reach out to your funeral home of choice and schedule a meeting to get your prearrangements in place.

You will be glad you did...and so will your family. ■

Information provided by Scott Eriksen, Director of Hamilton's Advanced Planning, Hamilton's Funeral Home, 605 Lyon St., Des Moines, 515-697-3670, [www.HamiltonsFuneralHome.com](http://www.HamiltonsFuneralHome.com).

## PLAN AHEAD FOR PEACE of MIND

One of our four Advanced Planning consultants will take you every step of the process to lessen the emotional stress when the need arises.



Scott Eriksen



Dave Cortner



Robert Christensen



Sarah Masteller

Contact Hamilton's to start your plan.

[www.HamiltonsFuneralHome.com](http://www.HamiltonsFuneralHome.com) 515-243-5221



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CITYVIEW

**CHOCOLATE**

**WALK**

 West Glen Town Center

**FRIDAY, FEB. 27 | 5-9 P.M.**

**West Glen Town Center**

5465 Mills Civic Parkway, West Des Moines

**Pre-Event Ticket Price \$25**

(\$35 at the door)

**RECEIVE 10 DRINK TICKETS**

**+ CHOCOLATE TREATS**



**CHOCOLATEWALK.DMCITYVIEW.COM**

CITYVIEW  West Glen Town Center

# MORE than a gala: A night that supports Bondurant

On March 6, the Bondurant Chamber of Commerce will host its Annual Chamber Dinner, the Grand Masquerade Awards Gala — and you might be wondering why this event matters to more than just chamber members.

The answer is simple: Support. Recognition. Celebration. Education. Guidance.

**Support:** When you show up for chamber-member businesses, you're showing up for Bondurant. These businesses are the lifeblood of our community — fueling growth, creating opportunity and shaping the future of our city. We wouldn't be on the precipice of such exciting progress without the businesses that have invested here, and we won't continue to thrive without welcoming new ones who see just how special Bondurant truly is. By attending, you're directly supporting the chamber and the businesses it serves — sponsorships, awards and recognition all help reinvest energy and resources back into our local economy.

**Recognition:** This evening is about appreciation. Our businesses pour time, energy and heart into serving Bondurant, and the Grand Masquerade is our opportunity to let the community speak up and recognize the impact they've made. These awards represent gratitude, pride and shared success.

**Celebration:** Who doesn't love a great celebration? Expect a fun, elegant evening filled with games, music, incredible food and — most importantly — amazing people. It's a night designed to enjoy, connect and celebrate everything that makes our community strong.

**Education:** We guarantee you'll discover at least one business, service or opportunity you didn't know existed right here in Bondurant. Come learn who is part of the chamber, what they offer and how their products or services could benefit you or your business.

**Guidance:** This is your chance to help shape what's next. Our 2026 theme is "Igniting Opportunity," focused on Fueling Growth and Building Connections. When we come together — sharing ideas, networking and planning for the future — we move Bondurant forward. Your voice and presence matter.

Whether you're a longtime supporter, a new business owner or a community member who simply loves Bondurant, this evening offers something for everyone. It's an opportunity to connect beyond business cards or social media posts — to build real relationships, spark meaningful conversations and leave inspired by the people who are investing their time, talent and passion into our city's future.

We've accomplished so much — and there's so much more ahead. Together, as a community, we'll get there.

Tickets are available at [BondurantChamber.com](http://BondurantChamber.com) and Bondurant Chamber social media platforms. ■

Information provided by Katie Hentges, Executive Director, Bondurant Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 146, Bondurant, IA, 50035, 515-329-0773, [www.bondurantchamber.com](http://www.bondurantchamber.com), [director@bondurantchamber.com](mailto:director@bondurantchamber.com).



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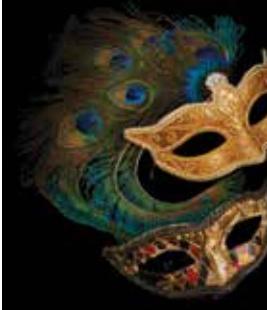
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Tickets: [bondurantchamber.com](http://bondurantchamber.com)

**B** BONDURANT  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## OUT & ABOUT



Bondurant Community Library was Eastern Polk County Residents' Choice runner up for Favorite Public Library. From left: Christina King, Katie Claman, Megan Schinke, Michell Klinker-Feld, Megan Sockness Teeple, Jennifer Adkisson and Carly Suhr.



Eastern Polk County Residents' Choice runner up for Favorite Auto Service is Woody's Auto Repair & Service. From left: Ray Yule, Rodney Mitchell, Ryan Schell and Ryan Garrett.



Eastern Polk County Residents' Choice runner up for Favorite Auto Body Shop was Bondurant Auto Body. From left: Blake Essex, Megan Vore, holding her dog Zoey Vore, and Tony Wilson.



Eastern Polk County Residents' Choice for Favorite Vision Care is Prairie Vision Center of Bondurant, Dr. Amanda Korth.



Eastern Polk County Residents' Choice runner up for Favorite Financial Planner is Adam Kline, Edward Jones, Bondurant.



Eastern Polk County Residents' Choice for Favorite Preschool/ Daycare is The Bird's Nest. From left: Dominic, Roslyn, Harper and Bentley.



Eastern Polk County Residents' Choice runner up for favorite Pizza Establishment is Casey's. From left: Teri Trunnel and Lena Burke of the northeast Bondurant Casey's.



Jeremy Hiatt and Nate Kannegieter at A3 Auto, Bondurant, Eastern Polk County Residents' Choice Favorite Car Dealership.



Eastern Polk County Residents' Choice runner up for Favorite Restaurant for Breakfast, Restaurant for Lunch and Coffee Shop is Somewhere In The Middle, Kurt Witte, owner.



Eastern Polk County Residents' Choice runner up for Children's Birthday Party Spot and Health Club or Gym is Brickhouse Fitness. From left: Kaylin Von Ahnen, Jamie Baas, Julie Sillanpaa, Matt Sillanpaa and Beth Grosc.



Eastern Polk County Residents' Choice for Favorite Veterinarian is the Bondurant Animal Clinic. From left: Dr. Stephanie Timm and Dr. Rene Conley.



Eastern Polk County Residents' Choice for Favorite School is Morris Elementary. From left: Kayla McConnell, Carrie Ratliff, Tressa Dare, Taylor Andrews, Hannah Figueroa and Dori Williamson.

## OUT & ABOUT



Ally Gosch and Kayson Gosch at the Bondurant Community Library After-School Activity: Perler Bead Creations on Jan. 5.



Elizabeth Stalzer and Bernie Becker at the Bondurant Community Library After-School Activity: Perler Bead Creations on Jan. 5.



Jalen Salazar and Nora Simmons at the Bondurant Community Library After-School Activity: Perler Bead Creations on Jan. 5.



Alessandra Salazar at the Bondurant Community Library After-School Activity: Perler Bead Creations on Jan. 5.



Adrianna Hill at the Bondurant Community Library After-School Activity: Perler Bead Creations on Jan. 5.



Denver Stalzer, Chloe Johnson, Alivia Cochrane and Millie Smith at the Bondurant Community Library After-School Activity: Perler Bead Creations on Jan. 5.



Clare Haselhoff and Drake Davis at the Bondurant Community Library After-School Activity: Perler Bead Creations on Jan. 5.



Christina Quick and Chloe Quick at the Bondurant Community Library After-School Activity: Perler Bead Creations on Jan. 5.



David Flieher at the Bondurant City Council Meeting on Jan. 5.



Tara Cox and Dennis Lyman at the Bondurant City Council Meeting on Jan. 5.



Marketa Oliver and Chad Driscoll at the Bondurant City Council Meeting on Jan. 5.

# CLASSIFIEDS

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