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JANUARY 2026

Living

MAGAZINE

Big game, **BIG PARTY**

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with a watch party to remember

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WELCOME

A SUPER Sunday

What will you be doing on Sunday, Feb. 8? If you are like 127.7 million other people, you will be watching the Super Bowl on TV. That's a lot of people, many of whom don't know the difference between a touchdown and a home run. And, they don't care. Why? Because the Super Bowl is about much more than football. In fact, for many, it has become an entire Sunday tradition.



Some viewers don't catch a single football play, as they are watching only to be entertained by the advertisements. In most any other TV viewing situation, those watching TV will turn channels, lower the volume or run to the bathroom or to the refrigerator during breaks. But not during the Super Bowl. This viewing audience tunes in to the ads, and companies ante up \$8 million or more for just 30 seconds of promotion to reach them.

Yes, the Super Bowl is one of the most-watched television events in the United States. The record was set last year with the aforementioned 127.7 million, but the highest-rated Super Bowl remains Super Bowl XVI in 1982 with a 49.1 household rating. That means 49.1% of TV-owning households were tuned into the Super Bowl during its broadcast. Viewership of the Super Bowl has remained stable over the years, even as ratings for other events have declined.

My parents were in the half who didn't tune in to the Super Bowl. Football simply wasn't their thing. When I was in college, I began watching the games more seriously. And, when I made my way into the working world as a young man, I got into the Super Bowl scene even more. The food. The festivities. The fun. Oh, and the football, too.

The Super Bowl parties were aplenty, and my friends and I did our best to attend many, making Mondays a challenge. The problem continues today. "Super Sick Monday" is a real thing, as an estimated 22.6 million U.S. employees are expected to miss work due to post-game fatigue, hangovers, and the cultural significance of the event. Some have even suggested that the Monday following the Super Bowl should become a national holiday, possibly even moving Election Day to that date to help encourage more people to get to the polls. It is an interesting idea, although I am not sure it would help with voter turnout, especially for those mourning after their team lost.

I am now more comfortable lounging in my living room and watching the game with family or a few friends. But don't let me drag you down. Check out this month's cover story to see how others are celebrating Super Bowl Sunday — and be sure to get to work on Monday. ■

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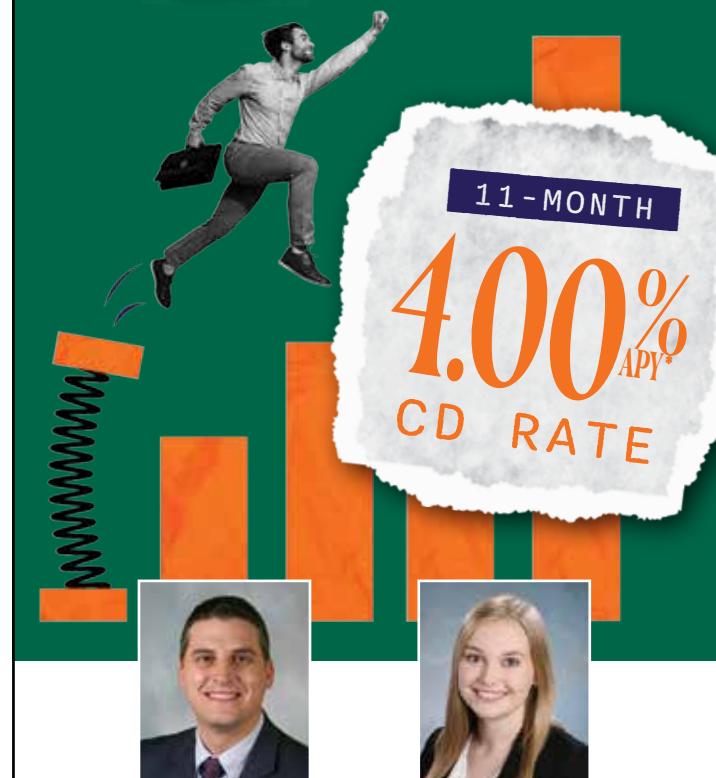
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Big game, **BIG PARTY**

Capping off the football season with a watch party to remember

By Jackie Wilson

It's time for the big game, and that's the perfect reason to gather with your fellow fans around the big screen to see which team finishes the year with a championship ring. And you won't be alone. Record-breaking viewership has been reported the last two years, with 127.7 million U.S. viewers last year, according to ESPN.



Miles Waage met Breece Hall and other NFL players during pre-game activities.

Super Bowl Kids Reporter

The majority of football fans are content to watch the Super Bowl game on television. Tickets are limited — and expensive — so it is rare to attend the Super Bowl game in person.

Yet Miles Waage, 14, of Waukee was one of those fortunate fans. He not only attended, but appeared on television, interviewing the biggest athletes of the game.

Super Bowl LVII in 2023 was a memorable event for the Waukee student. He and about 68,000 fans attended the game, watching the Kansas City Chiefs take on the Philadelphia Eagles.

Miles, who was 11 years old at the time, was awarded the Panini America Kids Super Bowl Reporter. He collected Panini football cards over the years. Panini holds a contest every year for the Kids Super Bowl Reporter. Kids from all over the nation enter the contest by entering a code from the trading cards and creating a video.

More than 130,000 kids entered the contest. Miles created a video explaining why he should be chosen, offering up questions he might ask the athletes. He was later notified he was a top

10 finalist.

Miles' mom, Danielle Waage, says the video was creative and showcased his enthusiasm for the Kansas City Chiefs.

"He was hilarious. He was just witty and funny and talked about what he would do if he got the chance to be the Super Bowl kids reporter. He mentioned Rihanna singing at the halftime show," she explains. "It was a very clever, funny and witty video."

Trent Dilfer, a former quarterback, Super Bowl champion and sports announcer, notified Miles that he won.

"We did a FaceTime, and I found out I won," Miles recalls.

Miles and his family were ecstatic. His dad, Nick, attended the game with Miles in Glendale, Arizona. They spent several days with the media and other athletes, participating in activities leading up to the game.

"I played basketball with Kirk Cousins and threw the football around with Garrett Wilson," he says.

A favorite activity was attending the NFL Mansion.

"I got to meet a lot of players from teams



Miles Waage was the Panini Kid Reporter for Super Bowl LVII and interviewed about 10 different NFL football players.

that weren't playing in the Super Bowl like Breece Hall, Davante Adams and Garrett Wilson."

Before the game, he wrote down questions he was going to ask as a reporter.

"I practiced the questions ahead of time," he explains. "I'm a huge Chiefs fan, so I had to look up some of the players I didn't know about."

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When it was time for him to interview his biggest sports icons, he was excited, but hesitant.

"I was nervous to meet all of the players," he recalls.

One of his favorite players he interviewed was Patrick Mahomes, quarterback for the Chiefs. He also interviewed about 10 players from both the Chiefs and the Eagles, including Travis Kelce and others.

He received merchandise and several signed cards for his football card collection. He and his dad had great seats at the game. His friends thought it was a cool experience.

"It was cool watching the game, knowing that I got to meet a lot of the players," he reflects.

When asked if he would ever do the whole experience again, Miles said no.

"It was the experience of a lifetime," he reflects. "I just get excited for the next kid reporter who will get to have a similar experience that they will remember forever."

50 years watching Super Bowl

For more than 50 years, Dave Kroeger has watched the Super Bowl game on television, and it is one of his favorite sporting events of the year.

He recalls watching the game when he was just 5 years old. It was 1974, and he was at his grandma and grandpa's house in Mt. Vernon.

"It was the Minnesota versus Miami game, and Miami won 24-7," he recalls. "The announcers on CBS were Ray Scott and Pat Summerall. Some say when Pat Summerall went to play by play, he was minimalist just like Ray Scott. They were two of the best."

When he was 8 years old, he began following the Chicago Bears and has been a fan since then. His favorite game is Super Bowl 20 when the Bears won it in 1986. They made it again in 2007, but lost to the Colts.

"I was a little disappointed when they didn't win Super Bowl 41," Kroeger admits.

Out of all the games, Super Bowl 40 stands out.

"I watched from the hospital because I had my appendix removed a few hours before kickoff. That is something I won't ever forget. Plus, one of my favorite bands — The Rolling Stones — played the halftime show."

In 2000, Iowans were rooting for Iowa native Kurt Warner a quarterback for the St. Louis Rams when they defeated the Tennessee Titans.

"Seeing Cedar Rapids native Kurt Warner

play was a memorable game," he recalls.

Since Kroeger has watched nearly every Super Bowl game, he has witnessed several changes over the decades.

"When I first started watching it, pregame shows were only 30 minutes long. Now, they are five hours. Games used to start around 2:30 or 3 p.m. Central Time. Now, they are all in prime time."

He has noticed the half-time entertainment shows are more elaborate.

"Halftime shows have changed — some good and some not so good," he reflects. "I think the NFL needs to cater to more rock and roll than rap, but that's just my opinion."

In addition to watching NFL games, he also follows the Iowa Hawkeyes football and basketball teams. Occasionally, before the NFL season starts, he watches Canadian Football on CBS Sports Net.

As of press time, Kroeger still has a chance to see his Bears play in the Super Bowl. If they don't make it, it's OK.

"It's the NFL Championship. I love football and will continue to watch it, no matter who is playing," he says.

Souper Bowl food donations

The Super Bowl is a big eating event. Crockpots full of appetizers, platters of sandwiches, gooey pizzas, salty snacks and endless halftime treats are all part of the big game day experience.

Yet, not everyone can afford to have a refrigerator full of food. The number of food insecure Iowans is on the rise, and many struggle to put basic food on the table.

One way to remedy that is through the Souper Bowl Sunday at Lutheran Church of Hope. The Souper Bowl is held on the same day as the Super Bowl at all of the church's locations, including Waukee and West Des Moines. The giving event began about 20 years ago.

Mike Horstmann, local missions coordinator at Lutheran Church of Hope, explains.

"We started, because, at the time, there was food insecurity. The Super Bowl has a hype and is known for food. Yet we realized there are people who are not eating."

They asked about 120 pantries for their list of top food needs. Then they asked the congregation to bring non-perishable items into the church on Super Bowl Sunday. The response has been overwhelming, year after year.

"Last year, we delivered one and a half semi-



Dave Kroeger has watched nearly every Super Bowl game for 50 years — even when he was hospitalized.

trucks full of food," he recalls.

He encourages people on Feb. 8 to bring non-perishable food, including food from different nationalities, as well as personal hygiene, toiletry items and more. Monetary donations are accepted online and in person at all of Hope's locations.

Horstmann says the Souper Bowl Sunday is Hope's biggest annual event, and the congregation is committed to helping the community.

"Hope knows it's the food — and not the game — that's important," he says.

For more information about giving or volunteering to sort food, visit www.lutheranchurchofhope.org.

Tips for a great watch party

(Family Features) Get ready to host this season's most memorable watch party with these tips:

- **Show your colors:** Get your house game ready and show your team spirit by decorating in the colors of the team you'll be cheering to victory. You don't need to go all out; just grab some simple decorations like streamers, balloons and disposable tablecloths to add some energy. If you'll have guests cheering on both sides, mix and match your decor and let guests pick their plate and cup color to root for their favorite team.

- **Take a seat:** When the game is underway, gathering everyone around the screen can get crowded. Make sure everyone is comfortable by offering additional seating. You can use stools, chairs from other rooms and even folding chairs

SUPER BOWL LX

Teams: TBD

When: Sunday, Feb. 8

Where: Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California, the home of the San Francisco 49ers

Ways to watch: NBC will broadcast the Super Bowl with Spanish-language coverage on Telemundo and streaming on Peacock

Halftime show: Bad Bunny

Super Bowl commercials: 30-second spots cost about \$8 million



Congregation members at Lutheran Church of Hope collect food for their Souper Bowl Food Drive on Super Bowl Sunday.

or camping chairs if you need to create more space. If you need to resort to floor space for seating, make it extra comfy with some pillows or blankets for padding.

• **Multiply the screen time:** Chances are high your guests will scatter throughout your home, spilling out of the living room into your kitchen and dining spaces. Set up extra screens to show the game in multiple rooms,

whether that's extra TVs, monitors or laptops. That way, even if someone steps away from the main screen, he or she won't miss any of the excitement.

• **Make snacks that score with the crowd:** Every party needs a menu, but you can keep it simple for a watch party. Guests typically want quick bites they can grab during timeouts and commercial breaks, so stick to finger foods and

apps guests can self-serve quickly. Wings are a party staple, and chips and dip are always a hit. Be sure to offer some indulgent options, as well as foods for those who have special dietary needs. You can also make your food game easier by asking everyone to bring a dish to share instead of taking it all on yourself.

Find more entertaining tips and advice at eLivingtoday.com. ■

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IMPACT Gala is Feb. 21

30 years supporting Waukee Schools



During the cold winter months, many Iowans are looking for ways to get out of the house. Why not spend the evening with the Waukee community for dinner, music and an auction? And, as a bonus, the money raised also benefits Waukee Schools.

The Waukee Community Schools Foundation (WCSF) will host its annual Impact Gala on Saturday, Feb. 21, at the Ron Pearson Center. Last year, approximately 400 guests attended the celebration.

The WCSF was established 30 years ago and provides funding, grants and professional development funds for both district staff and students.

Carina Woodward, executive director of WCSF, says they provide for two separate needs: the district and investment fund and the financial hardship fund.

The district and investment fund focuses on needs for any district employee, student or parent organization. The grants help support innovation and wellbeing — social-emotional in these categories. For example, they've helped with travel costs for band and choir competitions, scholarships, purchased a book vending machine for the library and given out "We Are Waukee" T-shirts for new students.

The financial hardship fund assists with various personal needs, such as winter coats for kids, personal hygiene kits and other hardship needs for any of the district's schools.

"Overall, we want to empower students for strong educational experience and to help them reach their potential. Without strong educators, students wouldn't be successful," Woodward explains.

Working in partnership with the school is vital to their mission.

"We have strong communication with the school districts," she says. "We've also built a strong network of community support with individual donors, families and area businesses and major sponsors, such as Shottenkirk Chevrolet."

To obtain funds, a Waukee district staff member identifies educator, student or family needs and presents those requests to the WCSF. After the staff member completes an application, Woodward reviews it and also reports to the board of 14 volunteers. To receive the funds, requests must demonstrate innovation, wellness or a sense of belonging.

At this year's event, various awards will be presented to volunteers, business and community partners, as well as a board member and an annual teaching excellence award.

Woodward says the work and the support of the WCSF matters to the community.

"It's a night of celebration for our strong community. We're planning for the next 30 years to continue supporting the work our schools are doing."

Ticket prices includes dinner, appetizers, champagne, auction and live entertainment by Howl at the Moon Dueling Pianos. Cost is \$150 each or \$55 for Waukee District staff, if purchased before Feb. 1. Tables may also be sponsored or purchased. More information may be found at waukeeschoolsfoundation.org. ■

ESTATE planning for dependents with special needs

Nearly 30% of families have a member with special needs. Many special needs children will be dependent on others their entire lives. It is crucial to have a plan in place that protects their long-term financial security.



Leaving an inheritance directly to a special needs dependent may put the individual at risk of losing eligibility for government benefits. The creation of a special needs trust can provide for dependents as long as they live, rather than leaving money directly to the dependent or another family member. The trust is an entity in which a family can set aside funds specifically for the care of the special needs dependent.

Trusts set up specifically for special

needs dependents can help ensure that their inheritance doesn't jeopardize eligibility for those payments. Special needs trusts limit how the money in them can be used and keeps the beneficiary eligible for Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medicaid.

Trusts created with the dependent's assets are designed for special needs dependents that come into money through inheritance or a lawsuit. They are designed to ensure that money doesn't jeopardize eligibility for government benefits. However, under the terms of these types of trusts, when the dependent dies, the state Medicaid agency receives any money left in the trust for any support the state provided to the dependent.

Trusts created with assets from parents or grandparents solve the problem of people who want to leave money for a special needs dependent but don't want that person to lose out on government benefits. The trust can be

established by a Will or created during the benefactor's lifetime. The trustee cannot give money directly to the dependent, but can pay for certain items and services not covered by monthly SSI income. Upon the death of the dependent, whatever assets are left in the trust can be distributed according to the creator's wishes as specified in the terms of the trust.

A sound, up-to-date estate plan is important for every adult, but it is absolutely essential for people who have dependents with special needs. All estate plans need to evolve over time to keep pace with changes in people's lives and financial situations. Update your plan periodically with an attorney who specializes in estate planning and special-needs clients. ■

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

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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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MEET Emily Halverson

Opportunities to dream big

A graduate of Iowa City High, Emily Halverson earned both her undergraduate and graduate degree at the University of Northern Iowa. She then taught eighth-grade science in Cedar Rapids for three years before moving to Waukee to be closer to her husband in 2015.

Now, Halverson has entered her 11th year in Waukee, where she currently teaches sixth-grade science at the South Middle School. She not only enjoys being a part of the Waukee community, but says she is lucky to work with her friends and cares for her school family.

"I love how I get opportunities to be creative and to dream big. Teachers are so supported here and I love the people I get to work with every day and the amazing students I get to learn with and from each day."

As a middle school educator, Halverson teaches science in a hands-on way. Some of her classroom's highlights include STEM challenges, making s'mores over a tea light candle to learn about chemical and physical changes, hatching chicks, and cooking popcorn three different ways to learn about heat transfer. Halverson also works to make science relevant by having her students participate in a "Science Around Us" slide show. Each day, students send her pictures taken outside of school that remind them of science concepts they are learning in class.

"Sixth graders are amazing, hilarious, curious, creative and kind," Halverson says. "I love seeing them try new things, think creatively and show kindness to others. There is never a dull moment or day at school."

Although it can be challenging for Halverson to adjust to balancing life as a teacher and a new mom, one of the biggest rewards she has experienced as an educator is when former students share their favorite memories from sixth grade. She also likes seeing her students shine outside of her classroom and be leaders in their lives. One of Halverson's favorite days is "Seniors Come Home" when seniors return to visit former teachers.

"I love working with my students and seeing them grow," she says. "I'm excited to continue to be there for them and support them throughout the year." ■



Emily Halverson's students learn science through hatching chicks.



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SHOWING up matters

Volunteering is a way of life for Murray.

Logan Murray is busy not only with his career and personal life, but also with the many volunteer roles he's taken on.

The list of his current activities is lengthy: he serves on the Waukee Parks and Recreation Board, the Board of Directors for the Children and Urban Family Movement (CFUM) in Des Moines, the Iowa Taxpayers Association, the Briar Cliff University Alumni Board, the Drake University Law School Recent Alumni Board, and the Board of Directors for the Spring Crest Stormwater Maintenance Association.

Murray is also the fundraising chair for the Annual Iowa Legislative Softball Game, has donated approximately 14 gallons of blood and platelets, is a production team member at Summitcreek Church, and has volunteered with WayPoint Resources and the American Red Cross.

Why spend so much time giving back? For Murray, volunteering is one of the most meaningful ways to express gratitude for the opportunities and support he's received.

"Time, talent or treasure: each is a way to invest in the people and places that shape our lives," Murray says. "Volunteering gives me a sense



Travis Gaule with Trust Bridge Wealth Advisors presents Logan Murray with the Neighbor Spotlight certificate.

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of peace and purpose. It's a space where you can simply show up, lend a hand and help others, free from the noise and expectations that can crowd other parts of life."

What Murray enjoys most is witnessing the ripple effect — the small acts of service that add up to real change when many people pitch in together.

He also recalls a moment from law school that helped shape his commitment to giving back. While donating blood, a nurse noticed his high platelet count and explained that platelet donations often go to children with cancer and burn victims.

"I didn't know much about platelets before that conversation, but after learning who they help, I immediately shifted from blood to platelet donations and have continued ever since," he shares. "It reminded me that sometimes the most impactful way to help is simply to ask, 'What's needed most?'"

Murray encourages anyone considering volunteering to take that step, noting that it connects people not only to their community, but also to themselves.

"It's an antidote to isolation and a source of joy," he says. "You discover new talents, meet people you might never otherwise cross paths with, and see your efforts make a tangible difference. You don't have to do something big to contribute — simply showing up consistently matters more than you might think." ■

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WHEN THE weather outside is frightful, cozy up with the library

Winter is the perfect season to cozy up with a good book, enjoy creative activities and explore all the resources the Waukee Public Library has to offer. With personalized reading recommendations, convenient ways to pick up library materials, engaging storytimes, and fun challenges to keep the whole family entertained, the library has something for everyone.

Book Bundles: Curated just for you

Our Book Bundles provide a personalized reading experience for children and adults alike. Share your interests, reading level or preferred genres, and our librarians will hand-select a bundle of books ready for checkout. Simply fill out a short form to place a bundle on hold and discover new favorites from the comfort of home.

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Reserve books, movies and other library materials from home and pick them up quickly at the library. Using the Waukee Public Library app, you can manage checkouts, place holds and track reading challenges. Once your items are ready, come to the south side of the building near the outdoor book drop, press "I am here" in the app, and library staff will bring your items out for a safe and speedy pickup.

Storytime Online and Digital Resources

Families with young children can enjoy Storytime Online, featuring songs, rhymes and stories for children ages 0 to 5 and their caregivers. These recordings are perfect for at-home learning, snowy days, or whenever it fits your schedule, making it easy to create an engaging storytime at home. The library also offers digital tools to support early literacy and learning, including Bookflix, which pairs classic video storybooks with nonfiction eBooks to build reading skills and comprehension, and Dial a Story, a screen-free way for children to listen to new stories each month by phone.

Your warm winter refuge: A warming center

The library is also a designated warming center. Come enjoy cozy seating, free Wi-Fi, and a welcoming space during regular library hours. Learn more about the library and sign up for a card at waukeepubliclibrary.org or contact staff at askme@waukee.org or 515-978-7944.

Programs and Events

Most events require advanced registration and can be viewed at waukee.librarycalendar.com/events or by scanning this QR code. ■

Waukee Public Library

950 S. Warrior Lane, Waukee
515-978-7944
www.waukeepubliclibrary.org
Monday - Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.;
Wednesday - Thursday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.;
Friday, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Saturday, 9
a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, closed

Upcoming closures

- Monday, Feb. 16

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City of Waukee Bulletin

JANUARY 2026

Find more information on City services, programs and events at Waukee.org

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-  [TheCityofWaukee](https://www.youtube.com/TheCityofWaukee)

Waukee.org



Waukee City Hall
230 W. Hickman Rd.
515-978-7900

Dates to Know

Regular City Council Meetings

February 2 & 17 at 5:30 p.m.
Waukee City Hall and Zoom
Agendas at Waukee.org/CityCouncil

Bingo

February 6 at 1 p.m.
\$1 entry and \$0.10 per card
Waukee Public Library

Early Out Bricks and Beads

February 11, 2:30 p.m.; Grades 1-5
Free; registration required
Waukee.LibraryCalendar.com



JOB OPENINGS



100+ Seasonal Jobs Open with the City of Waukee

If you're looking for a summer job, check out a wide range of roles at Waukee.org/Jobs. If you love being outside and seeing the results of your efforts, a laborer, grounds keeper or field crew opening could be a great fit. If you enjoy interacting with people and want to gain customer service experience, a concession, clubhouse or recreation program role could suit you. Roles range from 10 to 40+ hours weekly with wages ranging from \$11-21 per hour, depending on position. College students with internship hours to fill can try out a future career path with internships.

Parks & Recreation Department

- Parks Laborer
- Recreation Program Assistant I
- Recreation Program Assistant II
- Recreation Site Supervisor
- Triumph Park
 - Concession Attendant
 - Lead Concession Attendant
 - Triumph Park Site Supervisor
 - Field Crew
 - Field Crew Lead
- Sugar Creek Municipal Golf Course
 - Clubhouse Assistant
 - Clubhouse Lead
 - Golf Course Attendant
 - Golf Course Grounds Keeper
 - Golf Course Maintenance Laborer

Public Works Department

- Water/Wastewater Laborer
- Streets Laborer (Truck Driver, Mower, Laborer)
- Truck Driver

Internships

- Parks & Recreation
- Engineering
- Water/Wastewater



How to Report a Concern

You can easily report non-emergency concerns, like potholes, at Waukee.org/ReportaConcern. Mark the location on the map. Please include photos and details about the issue to help City staff address it quickly. You don't need to log in to submit a concern, but adding your contact info helps with follow-up questions. Do not use the form for emergencies or urgent issues. Instead, call 911 for emergencies requiring police, fire or medical services. To report non-emergency situations to the Police or Fire departments, call dispatch at 515-222-3321.



Sign up for Citizens Academy

Registration is open for the free Waukee Police Citizens Academy. Participants get a behind-the-scenes look at the patrol division, investigation team and activities from OWI arrests to building searches as well as tours of the 911 dispatch center and Dallas County Jail. Classes are held Thursdays from 6-9p.m., March 5-April 30. Apply at Waukee.org/CitizensAcademy.



2026 Pet Licenses & Dog Park Passes

It's time to get Waukee pets licensed for 2026. To renew or apply for a new pet license, go to PetData.com. Dog and cat licenses are required per City ordinance. 2026 day or annual passes for Trailside Dog Park passes are available at Waukee.MyBarkPass.com. Each pass comes with a code to unlock the gate.



City Council Stats

Your City Council works hard for Waukee as they address issues, conduct official business, review projects and approve budgets to guide City operations that affect so much of your daily life. In 2025, City Council had 40 council meetings. They approved 39 ordinances (including 12 rezoning requests), 520 resolutions, 15 public improvement project contracts, 63 agreements for services, 21 final plats, 33 site plans and 74 easements.

City Offices and Library Closed

February 16

No delay for trash pick-up

Jigsaw Showdown

February 17 at 5:30 p.m.

Free; registration required

Waukee.LibraryCalendar.com

Cookies and Culture ALL

February 22 at 2 p.m.

Free; registration opens February 1

Waukee.LibraryCalendar.com

City Council Changes

Kala Anderson and Lori Lyon joined Anna Pierce, Chris Crone and Rob Grove on Waukee City Council this month. Thank you to councilmembers Charlie Bottenberg and Ben Sinclair for their time, care and commitment to representing their fellow Waukee residents. They have been involved in critical projects and planning for Waukee's future, like design of the upcoming Civic Campus and expanding access to parks and greenspace, as well as lowering the property tax levy. Sign up for agenda notifications and find other council information at Waukee.org/CityCouncil.



Waukee City Council

Girls Rec Softball

Waukee Parks & Recreation has a popular recreational softball league for girls in kindergarten through 7th grade and an advanced league for girls in 3rd-8th grade. The recreational league focuses on fun, teamwork and learning, while the advanced league is for girls with 2+ years of experience who are ready for a bigger challenge. Teams will be formed in early March with practices beginning after spring break. Both seasons runs early April through mid-June with games Monday-Thursday nights at Triumph Park. Sign your player up at Waukee.org/Registration.



Finance Director Update

Finance Director Linda Burkhardt is retiring after 26 years of public service. Linda has played a key role in ensuring the City has strong and transparent financial management. Her leadership promoted a clear budgeting process, enabling the City to maintain successful annual audits and earn an Aa1 bond rating to secure lower rates when financing large projects, such as new road construction. Rachel Downing will fill the role of Finance Director. Rachel has been a vital member of the Finance Department for 18 years and brings her financial expertise and deep knowledge of City policies and practices to her new role.



FRESH year, fresh approach

Staying independent at home as you age

Michael, 69, has lived in his Clive home for more than four decades and intends to stay put for the long haul, but his daughter and son-in-law are uneasy. Michael is doing well today, yet, if he ever needs support, his family will not be nearby, as they live several states away.

Their worry makes sense. Aging at home with independence is a goal many of us share, but it is not guaranteed. Ongoing health conditions can make living alone risky, and around-the-clock help at home can come with a steep price tag.

That reality can trigger an important question for you or for someone close to you: If moving into a community for older adults is not the preferred path and future health changes are a concern, what options exist now?

One approach to explore is a Continuing Care at Home (CC@H) membership model. Often offered through an organization that serves older adults, a CC@H program helps people stay focused on their health and well-being while remaining at home, and it can support financial planning for potential services and care later.

If you are considering a CC@H program, ask for clear details about what is included. A strong program should do more than promote healthy



habits so you can remain independent longer; it also should provide a practical way to help cover future long-term care needs, should they arise.

Before enrolling, consider asking questions such as these:

- **Does the program provide personalized support, such as wellness coaching?** Research shows people are more likely to follow through with meaningful changes when they have encouragement from a trusted guide or advocate.

- **Are care options and costs addressed?** A well-designed program can help support care if it becomes necessary — whether that is in-home services or care in a senior living community later.

- **What is the track record of the organization behind the program, and how is it regarded in the senior living field?** Even with strong benefits on paper, you should feel confident in the provider's stability, experience, and results.

CC@H programs vary widely. If one seems like a fit, take the time to confirm it aligns with your needs today and the possibilities tomorrow, and that it delivers real peace of mind. ■

Aaron Wheeler is Vice President of Home and Community-Based Services for WesleyLife, which provides health and well-being services, including WellAhead — A WesleyLife Well-Being Experience, a CC@H offering. To learn more, visit wesleylife.org/wellahead.

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ELKS LODGE helps veterans and many others

Donations benefit Easterseals, food pantries and more.

Those who have never visited or heard about a local Elks Lodge may think it is simply a social club. But the Elks Lodge in Clive (West Des Moines Lodge No. 2752), like all Elks Lodges, does much for the community. Lodge Secretary Toby Charloe and Trustee and Chair of the Board of Directors Greg Weinschenk provide insight into what their lodge does.

The Elks is a fraternal order promoting the four cardinal virtues of charity, justice, brotherly love and fidelity," Weinschenk says.

Those virtues are easily seen in the actions of the local lodge.

Although the lodge building is in Clive (2060 N.W. 94th St.) the lodge serves a much larger area.

"There are 29 Elks lodges around Iowa," Weinschenk says. "Our building is in Clive, but Urbandale falls under our jurisdiction, and Johnston, West Des Moines, Waukee, Windsor Heights and Grimes. Lodge 2752 has been in existence since 1990, and we've been in our building in Clive for the past 12 years."

Weinschenk and Charloe note that, because the lodge encompasses many suburbs, membership has grown steadily and currently sits at 557. Anyone, male or female, is welcome to apply for membership. There is no membership requirement to be a military member or veteran.

"Our big focus is on veterans," Weinschenk says. "We collect deer hides during the hunting season. We send them to a place that tans them, and then part of the leather goes to a company that makes gloves for veterans that use wheelchairs. And then some of the leather goes to Marshalltown to the veterans home there for crafts and projects."

The lodge has many partnerships in the community.

"Another thing we've been doing for the past five or six years is working with the CRRC (Community Resource and Referral Center). They help homeless veterans find apartments, and we help supply them with beds, kitchen utensils and household items," Weinschenk says.

Besides veterans' issues, the lodge does much for others, as well.

"We're a big contributor to the food pantry and Crestview Elementary School, so the teachers don't have to go out and buy school supplies for kids that don't have them. And we sponsored an infrared drone that the fire department can use to see hotspots in a fire," Weinschenk says. "They also use that to help find a person who may be lost. We're very focused on our community."

Throughout the year, the lodge has fundraisers to help fund their giving. This year's golf tournament raised more than \$17,000. Charloe notes that, in the past year, the lodge gave \$6,000 in local scholarships, \$6,000 to special needs, \$43,000 in non-cash donations to veterans issues and \$6,000 in actual cash for veterans.

The lodge aims to be responsive to needs in the area. Charloe points to a few recent donations to help those struggling with hunger or other needs.

"We give to local food banks in Urbandale, Grimes and Clive," Charloe says. "And we just took a \$5,000 check out to Easterseals for their respite care and Camp Sunnyside." ■

OFFICER Frascht graduates from ILEA



Attorney General Brenna Bird and ILEA Director Brady Carney congratulate Officer Adam Frascht on his graduation from the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy.

Iowa Attorney General Brenna Bird congratulated Officer Adam Frascht on his graduation from the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy in a ceremony held at Rising Sun Church of Christ in Pleasant Hill on Friday, Dec. 19.

Officer Frascht was part of the 324th graduating class and completed the academy's rigorous 16-week training program that consisted of coursework in policing communications, criminal law, physical fitness, and emergency response. He also received training in patrol procedures, investigations, and tactical and administrative skills. Attorney General Bird welcomed the graduates on stage as they were presented with their diplomas by ILEA Director Brady Carney.

"I am proud of our Iowa Law Enforcement Academy graduates for answering the call to serve," said Attorney General Bird. "It is a challenging and demanding job, but it's essential for the safety of our communities. Our state is grateful to them and their families for their selfless sacrifice. As Attorney General, I look forward to working with them in the line of duty and my office will always be here to offer unwavering support."

Officer Frascht was awarded the Top Driver Award and will serve with the Waukee Police Department. ■

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INSURANCE

By Chase VanWerden

IS YOUR home protected from cybercrime?

Why home cyber coverage matters.



Most homeowners understand the importance of protecting their house from fire, storms and theft. But, today, one of the fastest-growing risks doesn't involve broken windows or storm damage — it happens online. Cybercrime is no longer just a business problem. It is increasingly a household risk, and many families are surprised to learn that traditional homeowners insurance offers little protection.

Home cyber coverage is designed to help individuals and families recover from common online threats such as identity theft, phishing scams, ransomware and financial fraud. As more of our lives move online — banking, shopping, medical records, smart home devices — the potential exposure continues to grow.

Consider a common scenario: a homeowner receives an email that appears to be from their bank or utility company. They click a link, enter their information and, unknowingly, give a criminal access to their accounts. Within hours, money is transferred out, accounts are locked and personal information is compromised. Resolving this can take months and cost thousands of dollars in legal fees, credit monitoring and lost funds.

Most standard homeowners policies do not cover cyber losses. Even when some limited coverage exists, it may not include professional help to restore your identity, recover stolen funds or repair damaged data. Home cyber coverage fills this gap by providing access to specialists who can respond immediately and guide you through recovery.

Typical home cyber policies may include:

- Coverage for stolen funds resulting from cyber fraud
- Identity restoration services and credit monitoring
- Legal expenses related to identity theft
- Data restoration for compromised devices
- Help with cyber extortion or ransomware incidents

Another overlooked exposure involves smart home technology. Wi-Fi-connected cameras, thermostats, door locks and voice assistants can all be vulnerable if hacked. Home cyber coverage may help address these risks, something traditional property insurance was never designed to handle.

The cost of home cyber coverage is often surprisingly affordable, especially compared to the financial and emotional toll of a cyber incident. For many households, it can be added as an endorsement to an existing homeowners policy.

As cybercriminals become more sophisticated, protecting your home means more than locking doors and windows. A conversation with your insurance professional about home cyber coverage could be an important step in safeguarding your family's financial security in a digital world. ■

Information provided by Chase VanWerden, IFG Insurance, 520 Walnut St., Waukee, 515-987-9598. Credit: Auto-Owners Blog

WHY EARLY detection matters

Good spreads awareness about prostate cancer screening



Mark Good encourages men to make prostate health a priority.

Mark Good, chairman of Team Blue Iowa, is on a mission.

At its core, the organization he leads focuses on getting men to talk about prostate health — and to take action early.

“By raising awareness and encouraging screening, we help save lives,” Good says. “This is personal for me because I’ve seen how hard prostate cancer can hit when it’s caught late. Too many men put screenings off — sometimes out of fear, sometimes just because life gets busy — and the consequences can be serious. I got involved because I want fewer families to experience that kind of loss.”

When prostate cancer is caught early and remains contained within the prostate, the five-year survival rate is more than 99%. Unfortunately, when the cancer has spread, that number drops to 33%. There are also significantly more treatment options available when the disease is detected early.

To spread awareness, Team Blue Iowa focuses on education and community.

“Through our run/walk and partnerships with local healthcare providers, we create opportunities for conversations that don’t always happen in a doctor’s office,” Good says. “What’s been most encouraging is hearing men say they scheduled their first screening because of Team Blue. That’s real impact. Even one early detection makes all the work worth it.”



Team Blue Iowa raises awareness of prostate cancer.



Team Blue Iowa organizes runs and events to raise awareness and to bring together those affected by prostate cancer.

Team Blue Iowa also hosts screening events at places like the Downtown Des Moines Farmers Market, along with a golf tournament and a recognition dinner each fall.

Some of the most meaningful moments for Good happen quietly, after events like these, when someone pulls him aside and says, “I’ve never done this, but I’m going to get checked.”

“We’ve also heard from survivors who caught it early and from families honoring loved ones they lost,” Good shares. “Those stories stay with you. They’re a constant reminder of why we show up year after year.”

There are many ways to support Team Blue Iowa: walk or run in their annual event, volunteer, golf at the Golfing Fore a Purpose tournament, sponsor an event or simply start a conversation with the men in your life.

Sometimes, support looks as simple as saying, “Hey, have you talked to your doctor about getting a PSA test?”

“Men’s health doesn’t get talked about enough, and prostate cancer is often treated like an uncomfortable subject,” Good says. “Team Blue Iowa is working to change that. The more open we are, the more lives we can save.” ■

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SENIOR

By Jay Heaton

SIMPLIFYING life as we age

Making the move from a larger space to a smaller space is a wonderful opportunity to simplify life and focus on what matters most. Downsizing may feel overwhelming at first, but living with less can bring greater freedom, comfort and peace of mind.



Minimalist living starts with being intentional about what you keep. When moving from a larger home to a smaller home, it helps to sort belongings into clear categories: items you use daily, items you truly love, and items that no longer serve your lifestyle. Letting go of excess furniture and unused possessions creates a more open and manageable living space. This helps reduce the time spent cleaning and maintaining your home.

Downsizing also allows you to design your space thoughtfully. Choose multifunctional furniture, such as smaller ottomans or compact dining sets that help maximize space without clutter. Keep your décor simple and meaningful by adding family photos, a favorite piece of artwork or a cherished keepsake to brighten your new space.

Living minimally goes beyond physical space. With fewer household responsibilities, many often find they have more time and energy for social activities, hobbies and wellness.

Ultimately, downsizing and minimal living can lead to a lighter, more fulfilling lifestyle: one that supports comfort, connection and ease as you embrace this next chapter of life. ■

Information provided by Jay Heaton, leasing counselor, Attivo Trail Waukee, 835 N.E. Boston Parkway, Waukee, www.attivotrail.com.

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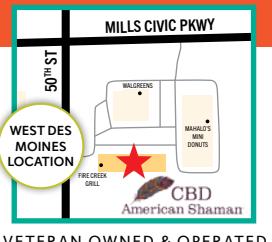
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WELLNESS

By Ashley Powell

THE QUIET move away from alcohol

Alcohol has long been the default way to unwind, celebrate or socialize. Lately, that default has been quietly changing. Today, more people are paying closer attention to how alcohol affects the body and are questioning whether it still fits into a healthy lifestyle.



Alcohol is, by definition, toxic to the body. It can disrupt sleep, increase inflammation, impact mood and place strain on the liver and nervous system. Even moderate drinking can leave people feeling depleted the next day. As wellness becomes a bigger priority, many are choosing to step away from something that works against the body rather than supporting it.

Hemp-derived products have become part of that shift. Hemp contains naturally occurring cannabinoids that interact with the body's endocannabinoid system, which plays a role in balance, stress response, sleep and overall regulation. Rather than taxing the body, hemp is often used as a wellness tool to help people relax, unwind and recover.

What surprises many first-time shoppers is the variety available. Local CBD stores commonly offer beverages such as sodas, seltzers, teas and flavored drinks. These options can vary in THC, CBD and other minor cannabinoid content, allowing people to choose products that align with their comfort level and wellness goals.

The move away from alcohol is not just about feeling better. It is about choosing something that is better for the body. ■

Information provided by Ashley Powell, CBD American Shaman, 800 S. 50th St., No. 106, West Des Moines, 515-380-5251, and 3418 Eighth St. S.W., No. 3, Altoona, 515-967-4036.

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.



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WELLNESS

By Viktor Vali and Amy Anderson-Vali

WRITE a new chapter with hormone replacement therapy

Foggy mornings, restless nights and a quiet feeling that something just isn't right — that's how it starts for many women and men as hormone levels begin to shift. You're not sick, but you're not you either. Energy fades. Motivation slips. Sleep turns elusive. The spark you once had feels more like a flicker.

What if you didn't have to accept that as "just aging"?

Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) is more than a treatment — it's a way back to yourself. For women, it can mean freedom from hot flashes, emotional swings and that constant feeling of being out of sync. For men, it can restore focus, drive and strength that seemed lost to time.

This isn't about vanity or chasing youth. It's about waking up and feeling good in your body again. Clearer mind. Steadier mood. Restful sleep. A body that responds, and a mind that feels alive.

Thousands of people have found new energy, better relationships and renewed purpose — simply by correcting the chemical imbalances that were dragging them down.

Ask yourself, what would life look like if you had your edge back?

Maybe it's not just a dream. Maybe it's time to write a new chapter, with hormone therapy as your turning point. ■



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Information provided by Viktor Vali and Amy Anderson-Vali, owners, 4 Ever Young, 1180 S.E. University Ave., Waukee, 515-304-2324, www.4everyoungantiaging.com

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INVESTMENT

By Daniel Rundahl

A SMART start to 2026



The start of a new year is one of the best times to reset, refresh and make intentional decisions about your money and finances. Rather than setting unrealistic "resolutions," the most successful financial strategies are built on clear goals, consistent habits and thoughtful planning.

Begin with reflection: Before you look ahead, look behind. Assess how 2025 finished. Examine your income, expenses, savings and investments. Identify where your money went, what worked well and what didn't. Were there unexpected expenses or missed saving opportunities? This provides valuable insight and helps you avoid repeating the same mistakes.

Set clear, purpose-driven goals: Financial goals should be specific and meaningful. Define concrete objectives such as building a six-month emergency fund, paying off a credit card balance, or increasing retirement contributions by a certain percentage. Clear goals give your money direction and make progress measurable. Keep your goals in front of you. For years, I have kept three goals of varying importance taped to the corner of our bathroom mirror.

Pay yourself first through automation: Automation is one of the most effective tools in saving and planning. Set up automatic transfers to savings and investment accounts as soon as you receive your paycheck. This approach removes emotion from saving decisions and builds consistency. Over time, small, automated contributions can lead to significant results.

Strengthen your emergency fund: An emergency fund is the foundation of financial security. Aim to save three to six months of essential living expenses in a liquid, low-risk account. This cushion protects you from job changes, medical expenses or unexpected repairs and helps prevent reliance on high-interest debt.

Review investments and manage risk: The new year is an ideal time to review your investment portfolio. Ensure your asset allocation still aligns with your goals, time horizon and risk tolerance. Life changes — like marriage, children or career shifts — often require adjustments. Rebalancing keeps your strategy aligned rather than reactive to market noise.

Create a thoughtful debt strategy: Not all debts are built equal. High-interest consumer debt, like credit cards, should be addressed aggressively, while lower-interest debt may be managed more strategically. List balances, interest rates and payoff targets to create a clear and realistic plan.

Plan for known expenses: Planning for upcoming costs such as vacations, education expenses, insurance renewals, or major purchases in advance reduces financial stress and helps you stay within budget.

Keep it simple and sustainable: The most effective financial plans are simple and repeatable. Focus on habits you can maintain throughout the year. Review your progress periodically, adjust as needed, and celebrate milestones along the way.

A strong financial start to the new year is built on intention and consistency. With steady effort and a clear plan, you can create a financial foundation that supports both your short-term needs and long-term goals. ■

Information provided by Daniel Rundahl, Financial Advisor, Rundahl Financial Consultants, 8230 Hickman Road, Suite 300, Clive, 515-727-1701, drundahl@rundahlfinancial.com, www.rundahlfinancialconsultants.com.

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EVENTS IN THE AREA

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

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.

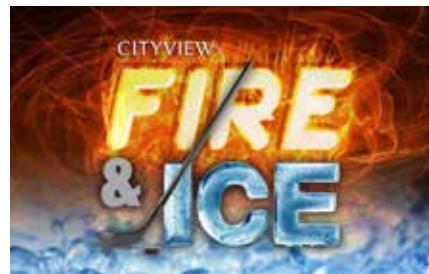
Coming up in the Waukee Living magazine:

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.

Cookies and Culture ALL

Sunday, Feb. 22, 2-3 p.m.
Waukee Public Library,
950 Warrior Lane, Waukee

Bring your friends and family to listen and learn about world cultures. A different cultural ambassador will present each month. Cookies will be served. This month learn about beauty across cultures with Chesna Closs. All ages welcome. Registration is requested for each person attending.



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. Follow the QR code for tickets.



Snacks & Facts: Urban Wildlife with Dallas County Conservation

Friday, Feb. 6, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Waukee Public Library,
950 Warrior Lane, Waukee

No time to attend an evening or weekend program? Try our Snacks & Facts series over lunch hour. Snacks provided. Dallas County Conservation offers advice and information about coexisting with our backyard animal neighbors. For adults ages 18 and older. Registration is not required.

Sensory Spaces

Saturday, Feb. 7, 3-4 p.m.
Waukee Public Library,
950 Warrior Lane, Waukee

During this hour, enjoy designated quiet browsing and inclusive programming for individuals with special sensory needs and their families or caregivers. There will be a dimmed calm room, natural lighting, computer availability and access to library materials. This month, supplies will be available for making marbled hearts with shaving cream. For all ages. Registration requested.



Iowa Bike Expo and Banquet

Saturday, Jan. 24, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Iowa Events Center, 730 Third St., Des Moines

The Iowa Bike Expo and Banquet serves as the annual celebration for the Iowa Bicycle Coalition, bringing together cyclists and trail lovers, advocates, vendors, donors, supporters and partner organizations to advance the Iowa Bicycle Coalition's mission to promote safe, accessible and enjoyable cycling for everyone in Iowa. Ayesha McGowan and Connor Fields are the dynamic dual keynote speakers for the event. The Iowa Bike Expo is free and open to the public, featuring 120-plus vendors. For information, visit www.iowabikeexpo.com.

Senior Tech Class: Introduction to Smartphones (iPhone)

Thursday, Feb. 12, 10-11:30 a.m.
Waukee Public Library, 950 Warrior Lane, Waukee

This class serves as a broad introduction to setting up and getting started on a new smartphone. Topics include: the anatomy of an iPhone, navigating the Home Screen, Contacts, Messages, Camera as well as how your phone uses data. For adults ages 18 and older. Registration is requested for each adult attending.



Botanical Blues is Back

Every Sunday now through March 29, brunch at 10 a.m., concerts at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

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

Botanical Blues has long been the go-to Sunday afternoon escape for warm vibes, local talent and a laid-back atmosphere. Each set lasts one hour, with a one-hour intermission in between. Concerts are held live in the conservatory, and guests are welcome to wander the indoor gardens during the show. This year's lineup blends favorite performers from the past two decades with exciting new voices. Follow the QR code for the full lineup.



Comedian Charlie Berens

Jan. 24
Des Moines Civic Center,
221 Walnut St., Des Moines

Charlie Berens brings his Midwest-style comedy to Des Moines, much to the delight of comedy fans in central Iowa. More information available at www.desmoinesperformingarts.org. ■

OUT & ABOUT

RIBBON Cutting

Waukee Area Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon cutting for 3 Furry Tails Pet Mart on Dec. 10.



Tim Gilbertsen and Lynn Harder



Ajit Thakur and Sabera Beg



Happy Gill and Rob Grove



Brian Ahlers and Michael Bartos



Aly Davis and Travis Gaule



Mya, Ella and Whiskey



Maddie Starman and Abbi Janes



Michele Spencer, Megan Watt and Jennifer Brown



Bryan Johnson and Jes Muller

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from Waukee businesses



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Stack Wellness Cafe: Hannah Coyle



Caribou Coffee: Jordan Meyers and Adrianna Campos



Nick Hageman-State Farm: Debbie Arias-George



SafeSplash SwimLabs: Kayla Straight



Smoothie King: Aaron Mason



Focus Eye Care: Dr. Lindsay Kleve, Cheyenne Edwards, Sherri Bradley and Katelyn Blanchard



Fox Ship: Tiffany Wilson-Lillard



Chikin Lickin: Freyja Ave-Lallement



4 Ever Young Anti Aging Solutions: Viktor Vali



Unleashed Pets: Kerri-Ann Harrison



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