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WELCOME

A PROPOSAL in letters

It was 32 years ago when I asked Jolene to marry me. We had been dating for a few years, and we both seemed ready to tie the knot. We were not ones to travel the world or take on outlandish activities, so a simple proposal seemed fitting, at least to me. What we did do was play a lot of board games, especially during the cold winter months. That gave me an idea.



One evening, I carefully placed the engagement ring I purchased for her in the bag of letters in a Scrabble game. I asked her if she wanted to play. She didn't react positively, but I eventually talked her into it. I nervously unfolded the board and set up the racks. Then I drew my letters. She did the same.

As the game proceeded, Jolene kept drawing her replacement letters, and I kept looking at her face, awaiting her reaction when she would pull out the ring.

More rounds of play. More letters drawn. We were getting down to the end, and she still had not found the ring. Was it not there? Did I lose it? Or did she know my plan and was messing with me the entire time?

With her last draw, she felt something different in the bag and remarked, "What is in here?" Then she turned the bag upside down and shook it, bouncing the ring off the table and onto the floor. I, of course, quickly picked it up, dropped to one knee, and asked her to marry me. Fortunately, she said yes. And, fortunately, the ring was still intact.

Considering what we do in our jobs today with publishing and printing and journalism and words, maybe using the Scrabble game was a good fit. I would like to tell you I had that connection planned out, but I didn't. We simply liked playing Scrabble. And we like being married.

In this month's cover story, we share the engagement stories of local residents, telling how they gained the courage to ask for their partner's hand in marriage.

Have a great month and thanks for reading. ■

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'I Do'

Residents share their marriage proposal stories.

By Rachel Harrington

Couples often celebrate the milestones of their relationships: the day they met, their wedding, anniversaries ... And the date of their engagement is often a highlight: an event often given much thought and planning. An occasion of romance, joy and anticipation of the journey ahead.

Nick Van Houten proposed to Nicole at Racoon River Park on a cold January evening.

An evening of unusual behavior

Love stories begin under a variety of circumstances. Nicole and Nick Van Houten began theirs on a blind date.

“We met on a blind date in October 2004 set up by a roommate of mine,” Nicole recalls. “She invited both of us to go to dinner with her and her boyfriend. We went to an Italian restaurant in downtown Des Moines near Court Avenue. We hit it off. Nick took my number after our date, and we talked for hours about life, values and family. I enjoyed the conversations we had.”

Nicole worked two jobs at the time, and Nick worked during the week, so their time together was often limited to the weekends, and they did their best to spend time together as often as possible.

After dating for three months, the couple moved in together.

“We seemed to know and trust each other,” Nicole says.

After some time had passed from their initial date, Nick developed a plan to ask Nicole to spend the rest of their lives together. He secretly visited her mom to ask permission for Nicole’s hand in marriage and showed her the ring he had bought. She blessed the engagement, and he continued to work on his proposal plan.

“It all began on a cold winter night, with overcooked hot dogs, a country love song, and a proposal we will never forget,” Nicole says. “He got off work first that day. When I got home later, he had cooked dinner, though he always said that he didn’t cook. He was making mac and cheese. He told me he also wanted to make hot dogs and seemed to be cooking them with the noodles. By the time the noodles were done, the hot dogs had exploded. He diced them and added them back into the mac and cheese. After dinner, he asked if I wanted to go for a drive and a walk at Raccoon River Park. In addition to the other things, that was a ‘red flag’ that something was up because it was January and cold.”

Nick brought his iPod to their car and tuned in to country music, though he often said he did not like country music. On their way to Raccoon River Park, continuing with his evening of unusual behavior, Nicole realized that he was playing a song by the Judds called “Mama, He’s Crazy.” Just the week before she had told her mom on a phone call that that was “their song,” though Nick had no idea she had



Nick and Nicole Van Houten met on a blind date.

said that.

“He pulled into the empty parking lot,” Nicole recalls. “I was peeking at him from the side of my eye, and I was so confused. The music ended, and he said we should get out and go for a walk. We didn’t go far — about 10 to 20 feet from the car — when he got down on one knee and told me how much he loved me and how much he loved spending time together. He asked me to marry him with a Jared’s bridal ring. In 2005, there were commercials everywhere for Jared’s, and it seemed so fancy and special to get a ring from there.”

One year later, they were married at a traditional wedding in Nevada, Iowa, with a reception in Ames.

Only a quarter in his pocket

Ray and Theresa Hay met thanks to a wedding.

As a 17-year-old in the summer of 1974, Ray was invited to travel from his home in Bedford, Ohio, to Arizona to be the best man in his uncle’s wedding. His uncle was marrying Theresa’s cousin, who had invited her family to come to the wedding from their home in Des Moines.

Unfortunately, their car broke down on the way there, so they missed the wedding by a day. However, the next week, 16-year-old Theresa was invited to attend a drive-in movie with her cousin and her new husband. Ray was still in town and had also been invited.

“After that night, Ray asked me out on a couple more dates with his uncle and new aunt



Theresa and Ray Hay met when they were in their teens, and Ray traveled across the country with only a quarter to his name to marry her.

tagging along as chaperones,” Theresa says. “We casually dated all summer. Occasionally, the two of us would walk to the park alone, but most often it was the four of us together.”

Later that summer, Ray’s parents told him that his grandpa was ill, and that, as their oldest son, they wanted him to come back to Ohio to help take care of him.

“He said he would keep in touch with me and that he would come back,” Theresa recalls.

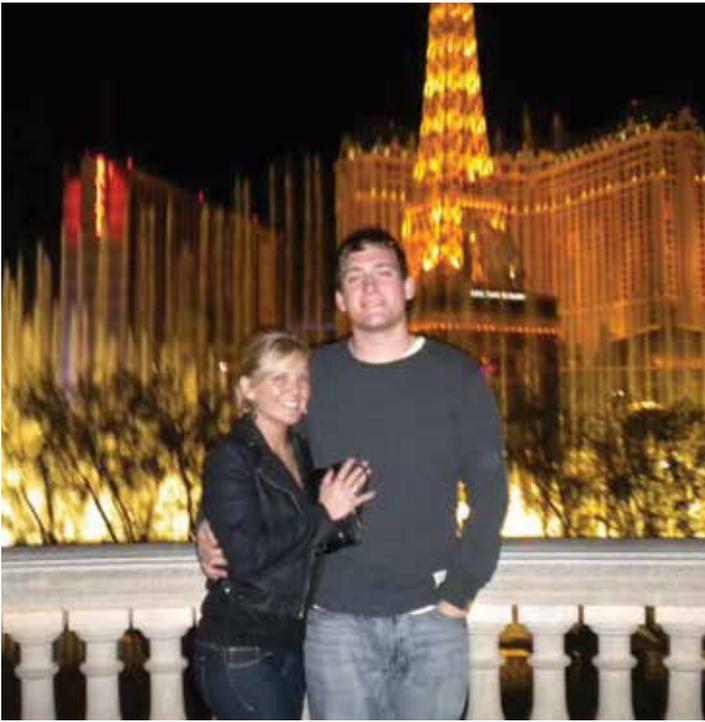
In the early fall of that same year, Ray returned to Arizona, though his journey there was not an easy one. He had discovered that his grandpa was not actually ill, and that his parents just wanted him away from Theresa.

“Ray took some of his mom’s lipstick and wrote on his parents’ mirror that he was going to Arizona to marry me,” Theresa shares. “With a quarter in his pocket, he started hitchhike. He rode with truckers a lot. One took him to a Catholic church that let him shower, fed him a meal, and let him rest. The next day he started hitchhiking again.”

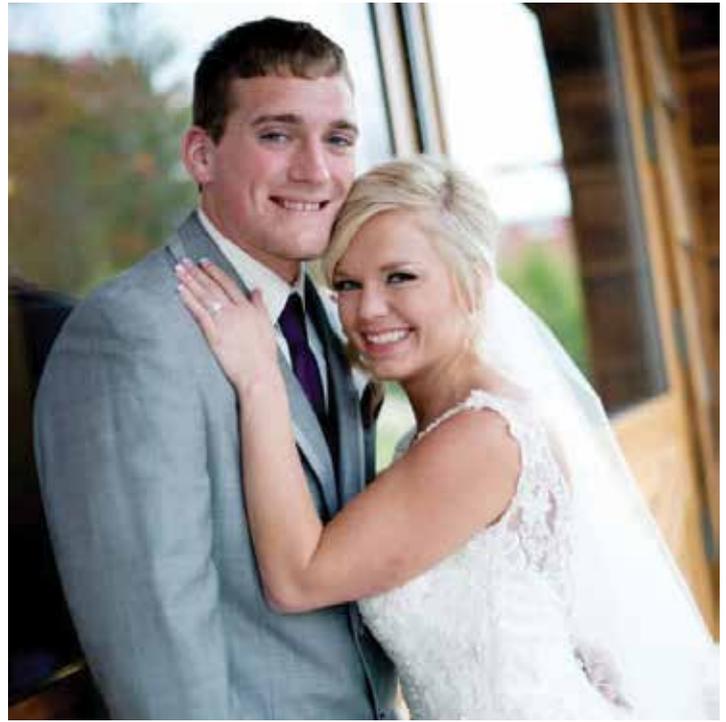
In the early morning, Ray arrived at Theresa’s house and began banging on the door.

“It startled all of us,” she remembers. “My parents answered the door and Ray told me that he wanted permission to marry me. I was standing right behind my parents. My dad said that I was only 16, and that he wouldn’t say yes yet, but that we could continue to date.”

On one of her parents’ regular visits to an open flea market, Ray accompanied them, still with only a quarter in his pocket.



Hannah and Nick Quinlan became engaged at the Bellagio Fountains in Las Vegas after a nine-hour delay in their flight there.



“He saw a \$5 ring, and he asked my dad for a loan so he could give it to me as a promise ring,” Theresa says. “I wore it until I turned 17. Two days after that, on Nov. 16, 1974, I became Ray’s wife, and my parents signed permission for me to marry. Ray’s parents didn’t attend because they didn’t approve, but his grandparents, aunt and uncle attended.”

The Hays welcomed their first son in 1975 and later welcomed two more sons and a daughter. They were happily married for 51 years before Ray passed away this past August.

“My favorite part was him standing in the doorway, me behind my parents, asking my parents’ permission right then and there,” she says. “The fact that he hitchhiked all that way with just a quarter in his pocket had to mean it was true love. That was my heartfelt moment.”

Curveballs

Little did Hannah and Nick Quinlan know their proposal story would be full of hiccups and curveballs when they met. She was in college at the University of Iowa, and he had just graduated high school.

“I met him through a friend,” Hannah recalls. “He went off to play soccer, and, after a year, he came back to be closer while I finished nursing school. Then we moved to Cedar Falls while he went to school at the University of Northern Iowa.”

The couple dated for about three years.

For Nick’s 21st birthday on Dec. 28, Hannah surprised him with a trip to Las Vegas the first week of January. She had no idea that the previous Easter, Nick had asked her dad for permission to marry her. She suspected no surprises from him on their trip even though, during the summer, she had invited him to tag along while car shopping, and he had casually asked if she wanted to go look at rings.

While packing for their trip, Hannah discovered a handheld gaming system among Nick’s things. She was irritated that he planned to take

video games on their trip, but she didn’t know that he was hiding a surprise for her inside of it. Thankfully, she did not peek inside to find an engagement ring that he now jokingly calls his blood diamond since he paid for it with earnings from donating plasma.

Their plane was delayed for about nine hours altogether. When finally on the plane and prepared for take off, the plane suddenly stopped, and firetrucks rushed to their location. Their plane’s engine had caught fire. Hannah noticed Nick knocking his head against the window, which she found odd since he was usually calm and collected, and she was the anxious one.

“I told him that it would be OK, and that we’d get there,” she remembers. Once they finally got in the air and arrived in Las Vegas, their whole first day was lost.

“It was super late, about 11:30 p.m. when we got out of the Vegas airport,” Hannah says. “We’d been traveling for 12 hours, and I felt like a mess. I just wanted to go to our hotel, but Nick was adamant that he wanted to go to the Bellagio fountains.”

He called a cab and instructed the driver to the fountains. When they arrived, Hannah aggravatedly looked at the fountains and said, “Well, here are your fountains.”

“When I turned around, he was on one knee, and I felt like a jerk. I don’t even know if he said anything, but I said ‘yes,’ and, at that moment, the fountains went up with their last show of the night.”

Looking back, Hannah says many things should have tipped her off that he had something planned. From acting out of character to keeping his hand in his pocket the whole time from the airport to the fountains (he was holding the ring), clues abounded.

“One might have thought with all the problems that happened that it was a sign that it wasn’t meant to be, but we were married nine months later and have been happily married for almost 13 years.” ■

SILO Commons project receives grant



The city of Bondurant has received a \$25,000 grant from the MidAmerican Energy Foundation to advance Silo Commons, a signature public space designed to strengthen the Grain District Revitalization effort through art, recreation and community gathering.

MidAmerican Energy Foundation's investment will help fund planning and infrastructure improvements for the site, which will feature a permanent stage for concerts and performances, open lawn space for events and gatherings, and the large Silo Mural Project celebrating Bondurant's community identity.

Silo Commons will serve as a year-round destination where residents and visitors can enjoy performances, public art and outdoor activities in the heart of the city. Its location near the Chichaqua Valley Trail and the downtown business district will provide easy access for pedestrians and cyclists while complementing ongoing downtown revitalization efforts.

The project is a central element of Bondurant's broader downtown plan, which emphasizes public amenities, pedestrian connectivity, and vibrant spaces that support local businesses and community pride. The city continues to work with local partners and regional organizations to bring Silo Commons from concept to completion.

The MidAmerican Energy Foundation supports initiatives that strengthen public spaces, celebrate local culture, protect the environment, expand educational opportunities, and promote safe communities. Its support of the city's Silo Commons reflects a shared commitment to building strong, sustainable communities.

For updates on Silo Commons and other city projects, visit www.cityofbondurant.com. ■

COMING SOON...

2026 ALTOONA AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS GUIDE

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MARCH 26

CHAMBER, SCHOOL, CITY NEWS & EVENTS

PAIR simplicity and flavor with seafood pasta

(Family Features) Some recipes come from a well-worn family card, and others are born on a busy weeknight when you need dinner to feel special without being complicated. Shrimp spaghetti falls squarely into that second category for me. It's the kind of meal that looks impressive on the plate but comes together quickly — perfect for those evenings when you want something comforting, a little indulgent, and absolutely reliable.



I love shrimp because it cooks fast and pairs beautifully with simple ingredients. Toss it with garlic, olive oil, a hint of heat, and a squeeze of lemon, and suddenly an ordinary box of spaghetti feels elevated. This is the dish I reach for when I want a break from heavy sauces but still crave big flavor. It's light enough for warmer months, yet cozy enough to enjoy year-round.

Simple, satisfying, and full of flavor. This shrimp spaghetti is proof that a good meal doesn't have to be complicated to feel special. Find more quick dinner solutions by visiting Culinary.net. ■

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

Shrimp Spaghetti

Recipe courtesy of "Cookin' Savvy"
Servings: 4-6

- 1 pound spaghetti noodles
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1/4 cup avocado oil
- 1 package (12 ounces) raw shrimp
- 2 tablespoons garlic powder, divided
- 1 teaspoon smoked paprika
- 1 cup chicken broth
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/4 cup heavy cream
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 1 cup frozen or fresh spinach
- bread, for serving



- Cook spaghetti noodles according to package instructions. In skillet over medium heat, add butter, avocado oil and shrimp. Mix in 1 tablespoon garlic powder and paprika. Remove shrimp after they begin to turn pink; set aside.
- Add chicken broth, Parmesan cheese, heavy cream, remaining garlic powder, onion powder and spinach to skillet; mix well. Add shrimp back to skillet to finish cooking. Mix in noodles and serve with bread.

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Exploring Staggered Start Times

The district is exploring staggered (offset) school start times to improve safety and reduce traffic congestion. This shift in start times would align with the opening of the new elementary in the fall of 2027.

➤ What are staggered start times?

Schools would begin and end the day at slightly different times, with approximately a 40-minute shift.

This is being proposed to:

- Improve safety
- Reduce traffic during arrival and dismissal
- Maintain transportation efficiency

➤ What could this look like?

No decisions have been made regarding which schools would start earlier or later. This example may evolve as planning continues.

- A PK-4 and 5-12 split
- Start times approximately 40 minutes apart
 - For example, 7:50AM and 8:30AM

➤ What's next in this process?

Our team is reviewing models from other districts to determine what would work best for us.

A recommendation will be shared as early as this spring, giving families time to prepare before fall 2027.

➤ How can I learn more?

- 515-967-7819
- www.bfschools.org/contactus

Watch our video for the full update! ➔



Let's Chat, Bluejays!

Please join us to connect on school-related topics:

March 9 from 4:00-4:45 PM
March 10 from 8:30-9:15 AM

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

With questions, please call us at 515-967-7819.

Considering Transitional Kindergarten

The district is gauging interest in a Transitional Kindergarten option to complement our existing Developmental Kindergarten program and support kindergarten readiness.

➤ How are the two programs different?

- Developmental Kindergarten (DK): Existing Program**
- Serves students who demonstrate a need for extra support academically or socially compared to peers
 - School-recommended based on assessment

Transitional Kindergarten (TK): Gauging Interest

- Serves students who are ready for kindergarten but could benefit from moving at adjusted pace
- Parent-choice option
- May be helpful for those young for their grade

➤ What do they have in common?

- Meet 5 full days per week and follow K-12 calendar
- Include specials, recess, and school meals
- Follow the Iowa Kindergarten Academic Standards
- Lead to traditional kindergarten the following year

➤ Interest Form and Next Steps:

Families of kindergarten-eligible 4-year-olds (turning 5 on or before September 15) are encouraged to complete the TK interest form by March 13, 2026.

- 515-967-7819
- www.bfschools.org/tk

Visit our website to complete our TK interest form by March 13, 2026! ➔



Contact Us:

Bondurant-Farrar District Office
300 Garfield Street SW, Bondurant
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REAL ESTATE By Austin Sullivan

GETTING your home ready to sell

If you are thinking about selling your home, preparation can make all the difference. The goal is simple. You want buyers to walk in and immediately picture themselves living there. Taking time to properly prepare your home before it hits the market can lead to stronger offers, fewer days on market, and a smoother transaction overall.



One of the first and most important steps is decluttering/depersonalizing. Less truly is more when it comes to selling. Remove excess furniture, clear off countertops, organize closets, and pack away personal items. Putting away family photos also is something to consider so buyers envision themselves there and not the current owner. Buyers want to see space, storage and potential. When rooms feel open and clean, the home instantly shows better.

Deep cleaning is just as important. This goes beyond a quick tidy up. Clean baseboards, wipe down walls, wash windows, scrub bathrooms and make sure floors shine. A clean home signals that it has been well cared for, and that builds confidence with buyers. If needed, hiring a professional cleaning service can be a worthwhile investment.

Finishing small projects you may have put off is another big step. Loose door handles, chipped paint, dripping faucets, or minor drywall repairs can leave a negative impression. Buyers often assume small visible issues mean there could be larger hidden problems. Taking care of these details ahead of time helps eliminate unnecessary concerns.

Lighting also plays a major role in how your home feels. Replace old lightbulbs with bright daylight-colored bulbs to create a fresh and inviting atmosphere. Open curtains and blinds to maximize natural light. Bright spaces feel larger, cleaner and more welcoming.

Do not forget about curb appeal. First impressions start before buyers ever step inside. Make sure landscaping is trimmed and tidy. Mow the lawn, edge walkways, plant seasonal flowers and consider adding fresh mulch. A clean and attractive exterior sets the tone for the entire showing.

Finally, consider a neutral touch throughout the home. Simple paint colors, minimal decor, and a light fresh scent can help appeal to the widest range of buyers. The more neutral and well maintained your home appears, the easier it is for buyers to connect with it.

Preparing your home properly takes effort, but it can significantly impact your results. A well-presented home stands out, attracts attention and, ultimately, helps you sell with confidence. ■

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

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THINK about heart health

February is a time to think about hearts. While Valentine hearts, flowers and chocolates are important (and delicious), this month is also a perfect time to focus on a different kind of heart: our own.

February is American Heart Month. This is the month the American Heart Association encourages you to learn about and prioritize your heart health. Heart disease and stroke are the leading causes of death in the United States. One out of every five people will develop heart failure, and most cases are preventable.

As you get older, your heart changes. Aging can cause changes in your blood vessels, and your heart may no longer beat as fast during physical activity. These changes can increase the risk of heart disease. The most common change in our hearts due to aging is an increase in the stiffness of the large arteries. This stiffness can result in high blood pressure. Signs of heart disease include pain, numbness/tingling in the shoulders, arms, back or jaw. It can also cause dizziness, confusion, tiredness and headaches.

The good news is that small, manageable changes can make a significant difference. Improving eating habits is a great place to start.



Choose items that are low in sodium and increase your intake of fruits and vegetables. Follow your doctor's orders and take your medication as prescribed. If you smoke, quit. Smoking damages the artery walls. Even if you have smoked for years, quitting now can lower your risk of heart disease.

Increasing physical activity is another important step. The Centers for Disease Control advises us to "move more and sit less." You should get at least 150 minutes of exercise per week. If that feels overwhelming, break it into smaller chunks throughout the day. Choose activities you enjoy so exercise feels fun rather than like a chore. Try walking, gardening, bowling or other hobbies that keep you moving.

One of the wonderful benefits of living in a senior community is having access to exercise classes that are tailored to work with those over the age of 55 or those with physical limitations. You also get the built-in support of friends living next door to help motivate you to participate.

Grab a friend and come up with a plan you can commit to, and don't forget to make it fun. Challenge one another and find ways to celebrate your successes. ■

Information provided by Stephanie Proper, executive director, Valley View Village, 2571 Guthrie Ave., Des Moines, 515-265-2571.

Talking With Loved Ones About Senior Living



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515-299-1731
 Dave.Zahn@CassiaLife.org



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We know conversations about senior living aren't always easy, but they're important. At Valley View Village, we're here to support you with advice to help make the process feel more comfortable:

1. Start Early
2. Come From Care
3. Focus on Living Well
4. Make It a Team Effort
5. Take Your Time
6. See It for Yourself
7. Remember the Feelings



MEET Jenna Hopp

Inspiring a love of learning

In high school, Jenna Hopp volunteered in a preschool classroom. It was there she was inspired to become a teacher herself.

“I was in awe as I watched this preschool teacher, Mrs. Nowak, bring learning to life for her students,” she recalls. “She read books to the class in different voices, sang silly songs and led students in hands-on activities that fostered their curiosity. I knew that I wanted to be a teacher just like Mrs. Nowak — a teacher that inspires a lifelong love of learning at such an early age.”

Hopp went on to earn her early childhood education degree from Iowa State University in spring 2021. Today, she’s a kindergarten teacher at Morris Elementary. This is her second year there after previously teaching preschool and special education.

“When I first stepped foot into Morris, I could feel the warmth and friendliness from everyone I met in the building,” Hopp says. “People at Morris always have a smile on their faces and passion for the work that they do. I felt at home right away.”

For her, the best part of teaching is watching learning come to life for students.

“When you enter our classroom, you will find students laughing, singing songs, participating in hands-on activities, dancing and moving, making mistakes (and remembering that mistakes help us grow) — all while learning deeply important skills like reading, writing and math,” she says. “I believe that learning should be fun and engaging, especially at a young age.”

Hopp recalls one recent moment when her class read a passage with 20 words. When they finished, they looked at one another with excitement.

“Students were so proud of themselves for being able to apply their letter sound knowledge to reading words,” she shares. “We all were high fiving each other and doing a happy dance in our room. I know students will remember that feeling of being proud, which I hope continues to drive them to continue to learn in the future.”

One of her favorite memories came during a water day, when students participated in different outdoor activities. They had the opportunity to squeeze water onto Hopp’s head with a sponge, and she loved watching them giggle as they “splashed Mrs. Hopp.” Afterward, they all played tag together as students chased Hopp with water-soaked sponges.

“I love being able to laugh and have fun with students, and the students know that I’m always up for a game of tag,” she shares.

It’s easy to see how much pride Hopp takes in her career — especially in her students.

“I hope that students leave my class at the end of the year feeling loved and empowered to learn and do anything they set their minds to,” she says. “I love hearing from families that I’ve worked with in the past and seeing all the incredible things my students are doing at such a young age.” ■



Jenna Hopp says learning should be fun and engaging, especially at a young age.

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February 2026

Understanding Your Water

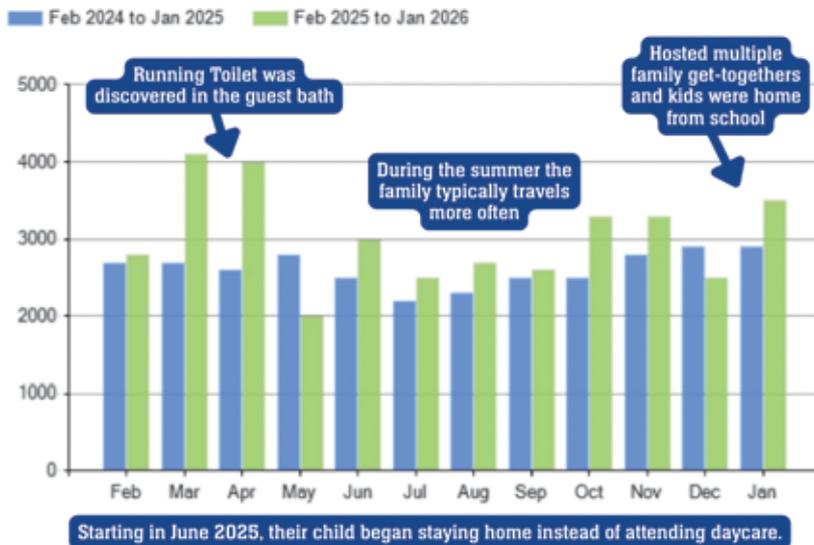
A quick, practical guide to your bill, your usage, and where it adds up



More Info

Your Bill + Utilities Portal

Below is an actual usage chart from a Bondurant resident's portal



Your utility bill shows how much water you used during a billing period, and your online portal helps you understand that number. Through the portal, residents can:

- See how this year's monthly water use compares to past years
- See past bills to better budget each month
- Compare usage over time to spot patterns

*Bills reflect a billing cycle, not a calendar month.

Unnoticed Water Usage

Some increases in water use come from routine activities people don't always associate with higher utility bills.

Examples include:

- Leaky hoses or outdoor spigots that drip continuously
- Pressure washing driveways, sidewalks, or patios
- Hot tub maintenance, draining, or refilling
- Extra house guests or visitors staying overnight
- Kids being home during school breaks
- Larger or heavier laundry loads during colder months
- Letting faucets drip to prevent pipes from freezing

Individually, these uses may not seem significant, but over a billing cycle they can add up and affect both water and sewer charges.

Spikes & Leaks

Toilets are one of the most common sources of hidden water loss. A silent leak happens when water slowly moves from the tank into the bowl without sound or visible signs. A leaking toilet can waste hundreds to thousands of gallons per month and increase your water and sewer charges.



Quick check:

Add food coloring to the toilet tank. Wait 10-15 minutes without flushing. If color appears in the bowl, water is leaking.



Another clue:

If your meter's low-flow indicator is moving when no water should be in use, a toilet leak is often the cause.

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.



BONDURANT-FARRAR

2026 SPRING SCHEDULE



FOR ALL BLUEJAYS SCHEDULES

Schedules are subject to change.
Scan for most up-to-date schedules.



VARSITY GIRLS TRACK

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
Mar 10	2:00PM	Multiple Schools	UNI-Dome
Mar 16	3:30PM	Multiple Schools	Mason City HS
Mar 21	4:15PM	Central Indoor	Central College
Mar 28	10:30AM	Trojan Girls Relays	Iowa City West HS
Mar 30	4:15PM	Bondurant COED Meet	Bondurant-Farrar
Apr 2	4:30PM	Multiple Schools	Ballard HS
Apr 6	4:30PM	Norwalk HS Coed Meet	Norwalk Stadium
Apr 9	4:00PM	Northwest Girls' Relays	Northwest HS
Apr 11	8:30AM	Jim Duncan Inv.	Drake Stadium
Apr 14	4:30PM	Multiple Schools	DCG HS
Apr 16	4:15PM	East Marshall Girls Invite	East Marshall
Apr 20	4:30PM	Bondurant-Farrar Invite	Bondurant-Farrar
Apr 23-25	8:00AM	Drake Relays	Drake Stadium
Apr 23	4:30PM	Multiple Schools	Roland-Story
Apr 27	4:30PM	Saydel Girls Track Inv.	Saydel HS
Apr 28	4:15PM	Multiple Schools	Grinnell HS
Apr 30	4:15PM	Carlisle Invite	Carlisle HS
May 4	4:30PM	North Polk Coed Invite	North Polk HS

VARSITY BOYS TRACK

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
Mar 9	2:00PM	Boys A.D. Dickinson Relays	UNI-Dome
Mar 12	TBA	IATC Indoor Meet	ISU
Mar 20	4:15PM	Central Indoor	Central College
Mar 24	4:30PM	Johnston Invitational	Johnston HS
Mar 28	10:30AM	Hollingsworth Relays	Iowa City West HS
Mar 30	4:15PM	Bondurant JV/V Coed Inv.	Bondurant-Farrar
Apr 3	4:30PM	Winterset Husky Invite	Winterset HS
Apr 6	4:30PM	Multiple Schools	Norwalk Stadium
Apr 7	4:30PM	Joel Grier Invitational	PCM HS HS
Apr 9	4:30PM	Multiple Schools	Marshalltown HS
Apr 11	8:30AM	Jim Duncan Invitational	Drake Stadium
Apr 13	4:30PM	Multiple Schools	Norwalk Stadium
Apr 16	4:30PM	Saydel Boys Track Inv.	Saydel HS
Apr 23-25	8:00AM	Drake Relays	Drake Stadium
Apr 27	4:30PM	DMC B/G Varsity Track Inv.	DM Christian
Apr 28	4:15PM	Carlisle Invite	Carlisle HS
Apr 30	4:30PM	B-F Boys Invite	Bondurant-Farrar
May 4	4:30PM	North Polk Coed Inv.	North Polk HS

VARSITY GIRLS GOLF

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
April 7	4:00PM	Girls Quad	Ballard G&CC
April 14	4:00PM	Multiple Schools	Shady Oaks GC
April 16	4:00PM	JV/V Girls Golf	TBA
April 20	1:00PM	B-F Girls Golf Inv.	Terrace Hills GC
April 21	2:00PM	Multiple Schools	Lincoln Valley Golf
April 27	4:00PM	Multiple Schools	Terrace Hills GC
May 1	1:00PM	PCM Girls Golf Invite	Gateway Recreation
May 18	4:00PM	Ballard Tri	TBA

VARSITY BOYS GOLF

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
April 6	4:00PM	Boone	Cedar Pointe GC
April 7	4:00PM	Ballard	Terrace Hills GC
April 13	2:00PM	Bondurant-Farrar Invite	Terrace Hills GC
April 14	4:00PM	Boys Golf Triangular	Perry Golf G&CC
April 16	4:00PM	Multiple Schools	Breda Golf Club
April 16	4:00PM	B-F JV/Varsity Boys Golf	TBA
April 20	2:00PM	Multiple Schools	Lincoln Valley Golf
April 27	9:00AM	PCM Invite	Gateway Recreation
May 1	12:00PM	Winterset Invite	Lakeview CC
May 4	4:00PM	ADM	River Valley GC



Photos provided by Mark Phillips

GO BLUEJAYS!

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health +
performance



sports performance



chiropractic



rehab

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RRAR

Bluejays

VARSITY GIRLS SOCCER

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
Apr 2	7:00PM	Pella	Pella
Apr 3	7:00PM	Norwalk	Bondurant-Farrar
Apr 6	7:00PM	Carroll	Bondurant-Farrar
Apr 10	7:00PM	Nevada	Nevada
Apr 13	7:00PM	Carlisle	Carlisle
Apr 18	TBA	ADM Varsity Tournament	ADM
Apr 21	7:00PM	Des Moines Christian	DM Christian
Apr 24	7:00PM	Boone	Bondurant-Farrar
Apr 27	7:00PM	Des Moines Lincoln	Bondurant-Farrar
Apr 28	7:00PM	Gilbert	Gilbert
May 1	7:30PM	Dallas Center-Grimes	DCG
May 4	ADM	7:00PM	ADM
May 8	7:00PM	Southeast Polk	Bondurant-Farrar
May 12	7:00PM	Winterset	Winterset
May 15	7:00PM	North Polk	Bondurant-Farrar
May 19	7:00PM	Ballard	Bondurant-Farrar

VARSITY BOYS SOCCER

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
Apr 2	7:00PM	Des Moines Lincoln	DM Lincoln
Apr 3	7:30PM	Norwalk	Norwalk Stadium
Apr 6	7:30PM	Carroll	Carroll
Apr 10	7:00PM	Nevada	Bondurant-Farrar
Apr 13	7:00PM	Carlisle	Bondurant-Farrar
Apr 14	7:00PM	Pella	Bondurant-Farrar
Apr 18	12:00PM	Indianola	Indianola Stadium
Apr 21	7:00PM	Des Moines Christian	Bondurant-Farrar
Apr 24	7:00PM	Boone	Goeppinger Field
Apr 28	7:00PM	Gilbert	Bondurant-Farrar
May 1	7:00PM	Knoxville	Bondurant-Farrar
May 4	7:00PM	ADM	Bondurant-Farrar
May 11	7:00PM	Central Iowa United	Bondurant-Farrar
May 12	7:00PM	Winterset	Bondurant-Farrar
May 15	7:00PM	North Polk	North Polk High



GO BLUE JAYS!



BONDURANT ANIMAL CLINIC

M-F: 8am-5pm
2nd & 4th Sat./mo.
8am-noon

210 2nd St. NE Ste B, Bondurant
515-967-1800 • www.bondurantanimalclinic.com

GO BLUE JAYS!

the **Bird's Nest**
Out of School Time Program

Felicia Collison/Jill Sullivan, owners & Lindsay Bailey, director

500 Grant St. S • 515-957-1386
www.thebondurantbirdsnest.com

SENIORS



Photos by *Ben*

Bondurant, IA
515-957-6772
www.photosbyben.net
Ben@photosbyben.net

SPORTS

FAMILIES

GO BLUEJAYS!

Let's Go, Blue Jays!



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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 Bondurant Living magazine:

Celebrating heritage: What have you learned about your family or community's heritage? How do you celebrate or honor your heritage? Let us know by emailing tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com.

Lionel Bart's "Oliver! Jr."

Weekends from Feb. 20 to March 8, Fridays 7 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays 2 p.m.
CAP Theatre, 201 First Ave. S., Altoona

The streets of Victorian England will come to life when CAP Theatre presents the musical "Oliver! JR.," based on the novel "Oliver Twist" by Charles Dickens and adapted from the full-length musical by Lionel Bart — who wrote the book, music and lyrics — this beloved production follows a trusting young orphan named Oliver Twist as he searches for a place where he truly belongs. Ticket prices range from \$12–\$18. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.captheatre.org.

Wine, Food, and Beer Showcase

Friday, March 6, 6-9 p.m.
Des Moines Marriott Downtown, 700 Grand Ave., Des Moines

Sample the night away. The Wine, Food & Beer Showcase is one of the oldest food and beverage events in the area and has become a yearly favorite for foodies, wine lovers and beer enthusiasts alike. Featuring 30-40 of the finest restaurants, caterers, wineries, breweries and distilleries in the area, the event is the Des Moines Metro Opera's signature fundraiser. All proceeds raised throughout the evening support Des Moines Metro Opera's award-winning education and community engagement programs. Learn more at <https://desmoinesmetroopera.org/showcase/>.

Live Music at Prairie Meadows

1 Prairie Meadows Drive, Altoona

- Feb. 27, 8-11 p.m. Jordan Beem and John Griffiths
- Feb. 28, 8-11 p.m. Matt Woods Band
- March 3, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Gaylin Sudik and Friends
- March 6, 8-11 p.m., Back To Vinyl
- March 7, 8-11 p.m., 80 Grit
- March 10, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Ken Frette and the Country Classics
- March 13, 8-11 p.m., Mike Walsh Band
- March 14, 8-11 p.m., The Savage Freds
- March 17, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Company's Comin'
- March 20, 8-11 p.m., Anthony Koester Band
- March 21, 8-11 p.m., Sierra Griggs
- March 24, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tom Hofer and the Iowa Playboys

Babysitting Basics

Friday, March 13, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Bondurant City Hall, 200 Second St. N.E., Bondurant

In this class, youth will learn the basic skills needed for babysitting. The class will cover basic first aid, home safety, diapering a baby, and other dos and don'ts of babysitting. Youth will also be learning to prepare their own lunch and snack. Register by scanning the QR code



Friendly Sons of St. Patrick Pre-Party and Parade

March 14 and March 17

The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick is back with its St. Patrick's Day celebrations. Join them on Saturday, March 14, from 2-6 p.m. at The Shop DSM, 901 Cherry St., Des Moines, for a Pre-Paddy Party,



featuring live music from Fat Tuesday, a live auction, food trucks and cash bar for an at-will donation. The parade is on Tuesday, March 17, and begins at noon. Participants will proceed from E. First Street, west on Grand Avenue to Eighth Street, with the parade officially ending at Eighth and Grand Avenue. The after party will be in the Des Moines Marriott Downtown Hotel. Visit www.friendlysonsiowa.com for more information.

Bondurant Library Events

104 2nd St. N.E., Bondurant

- March 9, Hands-Only CPR/AED Training, 6 p.m.
- March 12, Family Game Night, 5 p.m.
- March 26, Paint Night for Adults, 6 p.m.

Keep Bondu Beautiful Saturday, April 11, 9-11 a.m.

Step up to clean up. Keep Bondu Beautiful is taking place on April 11 from 9-11 a.m. Walk-ins are welcome, but we are encouraging organized groups to contact Katie prior to the event to register their group. Please make sure to dress for the weather and wear comfy shoes that can get dirty. Parks and rec listing: <https://secure.rec1.com/IA/bondurant-ia/catalog>. Email if you're bringing a group: kkclus@cityofbondurant.com.

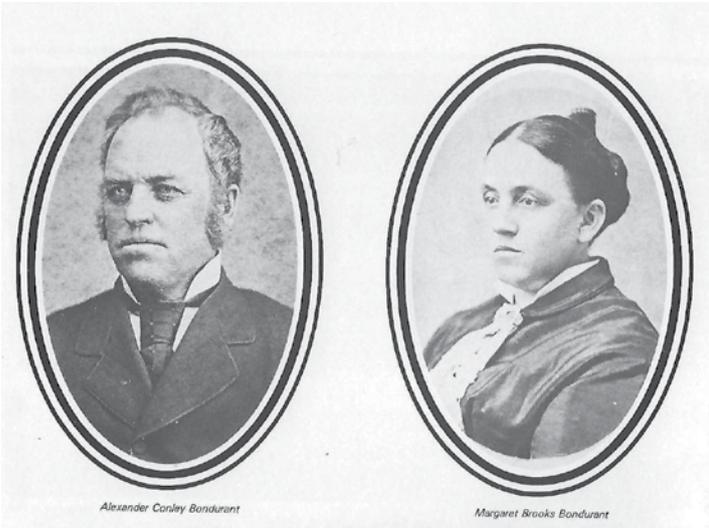


CITYVIEW's Chocolate Walk

Friday, Feb. 27, 5-9 p.m.
The Breakfast Club, 5525 Mills Civic Parkway, Suite 100, West Des Moines

Like chocolate? Like chocolate drinks? Then you'll love this event. CITYVIEW and West Glen Town Center again bring the Chocolate Walk to West Glen Town Center. For a ticket price of \$25 (\$35 at the door), attendees will receive 10 drink tickets that can be redeemed for sample cocktails at participating venues and will receive chocolate treat samples. Make it a date night or a night out with friends. Look for more details at chocolatewalk.dmcityview.com.

MEET the founders of Bondurant



Alexander Conley Bondurant

Margaret Brooks Bondurant

Alexander Bondurant and his lovely wife, Margaret Marilla Brooks. He met her at the Christian Church in Rising Sun, Iowa. Margaret was the minister's daughter. They married in 1861 when he was 33 years old and she was 17. The photo is most likely from the mid 1880s, and is one of very few we have found. Photo from Bondurant – A Centennial Celebration 1884-1984, page 16. Copyright 1984 by City of Bondurant, Iowa. Used by permission of Bondurant Historical Society.

Alexander Bondurant was born in Illinois and came to Iowa in 1855 to purchase land from the Federal Government when the Iowa Territory opened up. He bought 160 acres at \$1.25 per acre and with military warrants for another 160 acres, totaling 320. In 1857, he built his house, broke ground for planting, raised animals, and made connections with area important men. As he prospered, he helped others around him by loaning them money to start farms and businesses, and creating contacts. In 1883, the Chicago and Great Western Railroad Co. surveyed, purchased an easement through his land, installed the railroad, and built the depot. They named it "Bondurant." Alexander was 53 years old and



This photo, circa 1891, is of the children the Alexander and Margaret Bondurant had over 20 years. From left: Alexander Sr., Charles, Alexander Jr., Florence, Nellie, Emma, Fannie, Margaret. The picture on the table is of one of two deceased children, Martha or Frank. It was customary to include pictures of dead relatives to remember them. Photo from Bondurant – A Centennial Celebration 1884-1984, page 18. Copyright 1984 by City of Bondurant, Iowa. Used by permission of Bondurant Historical Society.

had been working his farm for 27 years. In 1884, Alexander officially registered the town plat. In 1888, he established the cemetery. In 1897, Bondurant was incorporated as a city. Alexander died in 1899 at 70 years old. Margaret died in 1919.

Contact: bonduranthistoricalsociety@gmail.com, www.bonduranthistoricalsociety.com, FB: [bonduranthistoricalsociety](https://www.facebook.com/bonduranthistoricalsociety). ■

Suggest
a teacher

for an Iowa Living
education column!

Send an email to
tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com

FEBRUARY'S Iowa Living Magazines Poll of the Month

Vote now at www.facebook.com/iowalivingmagazines or by scanning this QR code

What do you buy most often for Valentine's Day?

- Chocolates
- Flowers
- Just a card
- Other gifts
- Nothing



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SUNDAYS
10:00AM

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CONNECT

YET TO ALL WHO DID RECEIVE HIM, TO THOSE WHO BELIEVED IN HIS NAME, HE GAVE THE RIGHT TO BECOME CHILDREN OF GOD.

JOHN 1:12

What does a child of God inherit?
Join us Sundays to find out.

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



FIRST FAMILY
CHURCH BONDURANT

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

FAITH By Mark Spencer

DISCOVERING your true inheritance

Have you ever felt like life dealt you a raw deal, like you were scraping by while everyone else seemed to hit the jackpot? Consider the story of two brothers in Hungary who knew that feeling all too well, until an unexpected visit changed everything.



Zweli and George Peladi were homeless, living in a cave outside of Budapest. They survived by scavenging scraps from a waste dump. They knew their mother had come from a wealthy family, but she had abandoned her sons and later died.

Then, one day in 2009, everything changed. Researchers tracked down the brothers, letting them know that their grandmother, who lived in Germany, had died and left them a \$6.7 billion estate. In an instant, they jumped from the lowest rung of society to the highest. They went from being ignored to being the talk of the town.

That's a picture of what God does for every single one of us in Jesus Christ.

The Bible says we were dead in our trespasses and sins. We were spiritual orphans, rummaging through the garbage heaps of this world, cut off from hope and from God (Ephesians 2:12). We didn't know our Father. We had no claim on any inheritance. But then God went searching. He opened the ancient records — the eternal family tree that runs from Adam through Abraham all the way to a manger in Bethlehem and a cross outside Jerusalem. And there, written in blood instead of ink, He found us.

Because Jesus lived the perfect life we never could and died the death we deserved, God now looks at us and says, "These are My children. They belong to Me." Romans 8:17 calls us co-heirs with Christ. That means everything that belongs to Jesus now belongs to you—forgiveness that can never be taken away, peace that passes understanding, a future resurrection body, and a welcome into the Father's house that will never end.

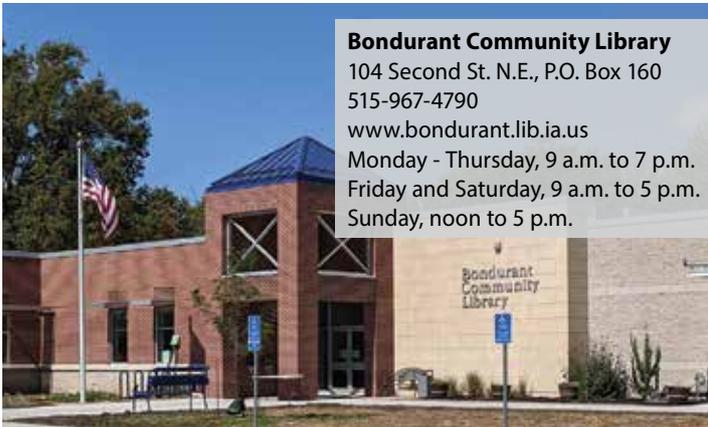
Zweli and George didn't earn their fortune. They didn't even know it existed until someone came looking for them. In the same way, your spiritual inheritance isn't something you work for; it's something you receive because Jesus already did the work.

So, if today you feel forgotten, broke or barely holding on, hear the good news: the search is over. The papers are signed. The inheritance is yours. All that's left is to step out of the dump, lift your eyes, and walk into the life your Father always intended for you.

You're not a nobody. In Christ, you're somebody — forever. ■

Information provided by Mark Spencer, lead pastor, First Family Church Bondurant, mspencer@ffcblife.com, 515-587-5930.

NEW space at the library



Bondurant Community Library
 104 Second St. N.E., P.O. Box 160
 515-967-4790
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.

The library has a new space to help meet the needs of patrons and the community. We have converted one of our family restrooms into a personal care space. Do not worry — we still have one family restroom for everyone's convenience. The personal care space can be used for lactation, clothing changes, sensory overload, mental health breaks, and managing medical needs. It will be available even after library hours for those who are using the meeting rooms. The personal care space is located outside the east entrance to the library just opposite the existing family restroom.

The library strives to be a place for everyone. We feel the addition of this personal care space will help meet the needs of many groups who use and visit the library. We hope you think so, too.

Here is what is happening in March:

- Fit for Life, Monday and Thursday at 8:30 a.m.
- Story Time, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at 10:30 a.m.
- Baby Story Time, Thursday at 9:30 a.m.
- March 2, After School BINGO at 2:30 p.m.
- March 3, Reading Dragons and Friends (grades 3-5) at 6 p.m.
- March 4, Pokémon Club at 4:15 p.m.
- March 5, Adult Craft Night (registration required) at 6 p.m.
- March 9, After School Open Play at 2:30 p.m.
- March 9, Hand-Only CPR/AED Training at 6 p.m.
- March 10, Book Discussion for Adults at 6 p.m.
- March 11, Curious and Creative Kid Club at 4:15 p.m.
- March 11, Foy School of Irish Dance performance at 6 p.m.
- March 12, Family Game Night with The Dealt Hand at 5 p.m.
- March 14, Messy Munchkins at 10:30 a.m.
- March 16, Spring Break Leprechaun Traps at 1 p.m.
- March 17, In the Middle Book Club (grades 6-8) at 6 p.m.
- March 18, Spring Break Movie Matinee at 1 p.m.
- March 19, Anime Club (grades 6-12) at 4 p.m.
- March 19, Welcome to Medicare at 6 p.m.
- March 21, Saturday Stories at 10:30 a.m.
- March 21, Adult Crafternoon at 2 p.m.
- March 23, After School Movie at 2:30 p.m.
- March 23, Teen Café (ages 12+) at 4:30 p.m.
- March 26, Paint Night for Adults at 6 p.m.
- March 28, Spring Bike Safety and Maintenance at 2 p.m.
- March 30, After School Activity at 2:30 p.m.
- March 31, Plants and Pollinators program at 6 p.m. ■

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chocolatewalk.dmcityview.com



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CITYVIEW

HEALTH

By Dr. Kari Swain and Dr. Elizabeth Ellrich

HEALTHY habits to love yourself well

During this season of love, take time to check in with yourself and incorporate these healthy habits to love yourself well.

Have your nervous system checked. Our lives are filled with physical, emotional and environmental stressors that wreak havoc on our nervous system function. A neurological chiropractic exam identifies areas of nervous system stress and assesses heart rate variability to measure the patient's ability to adapt to daily and eventful stressors. A chiropractor trained in these methods can work with patients to create individual care plans addressing their unique needs to get them feeling and functioning optimally.

Chiropractic adjustments reduce nervous system stress and increase the body and brain's ability to adapt to stress. Adjustments disrupt the sympathetic, fight or flight, dominance that stress gets us stuck in and restores the body to a parasympathetic, rest and restore, state.

Prioritize sleep. Your hormones, mood, digestion, energy levels and overall brain and body function are completely dependent on the rest and regeneration that happens during sleep.

Go for a walk. Movement and fresh air are good for the body and the mind.

Take a mental break. Pause running around checking things off your to do list and halt scrolling social media to take 10 minutes for yourself. Practice deep breathing or do a short meditation.

Supplement with high quality essential nutrients. You can't supplement your way out of a poor diet, but even with a nutritious diet there are nutrients we are not getting enough of. Talk to your holistic healthcare provider about what supplements are right for you and your health goals. ■

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

HEALTH

By Dr. Colton Maharry

HELP KIDS with healthy brushing

Children's Dental Health Month is the perfect time to focus on building brushing habits that last a lifetime. Good oral hygiene starts early, and, with the right approach, brushing can become a positive part of your child's daily routine.

Start early and stay consistent: Begin cleaning your baby's gums before the first tooth appears, and start brushing as soon as teeth come in. Brushing twice a day helps establish a strong routine.

Make brushing fun: Let them choose a favorite toothbrush, play a two-minute song, use a brushing timer, or turn it into a game. Fun creates positive associations with oral care.

Lead by example: Kids learn by watching. When parents brush and floss daily, children are more likely to follow. Try brushing together as a family.

Use the right tools: Choose a soft-bristled, age-appropriate toothbrush and a fluoride toothpaste recommended for your child's age.

Teach proper technique: Guide your child to brush gently in small circles, cleaning all tooth surfaces and along the gumline. Younger children will need help and supervision.

Encourage and support: Praise good brushing habits, use sticker charts, or small rewards. Positive reinforcement works better than pressure.

Don't skip dental visits: Regular checkups reinforce healthy habits and help children feel comfortable at the dentist. ■

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

LOVE YOURSELF! TAKE CARE OF YOUR HEALTH

Patients under chiropractic care report:

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- ♥ Higher energy levels
- ♥ Better mood
- ♥ More restful sleep
- ♥ Decreased body tension
- ♥ Calmer nervous system



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A Healthy Smile Starts Young

Children's Dental Health Month is a great reminder that strong brushing habits now lead to healthier smiles later. With patience, consistency, and a little creativity, parents can help children enjoy taking care of their teeth.



SCHEDULE HERE

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

WELLNESS

By Nikki Morgan

START your bridal skin prep early

Glowing wedding-day skin doesn't happen overnight. For summer brides, the key to a flawless, camera-ready complexion is consistency — not last-minute treatments. Starting early allows time to build collagen, improve texture and ensure your skin responds beautifully to each step in your plan.

One of the most effective foundational treatments is microneedling. By stimulating natural collagen production, microneedling improves overall tone, texture and firmness while softening the appearance of fine lines and pores. A series of three treatments spaced four weeks apart is typically recommended. Beginning several months before the big day allows the skin to regenerate gradually for natural, refined results.

For that coveted "glassy" glow, DiamondGlow is a popular choice. This treatment exfoliates the skin, deeply cleans pores with suction, and infuses targeted treatment serums for immediate radiance. Brides are encouraged to start DiamondGlow two to four months in advance to ensure their skin responds well. It can also be performed between microneedling sessions to maintain hydration and brightness throughout the preparation process.

Dermaplaning is another bridal favorite. This gentle exfoliation removes dead skin and peach fuzz, leaving the complexion smooth and luminous. It enhances product absorption and creates a flawless canvas for makeup. As with any treatment, trying it ahead of time ensures the best results.

Finally, clinical-grade skincare at home is the icing on the cake. Professional treatments build the glow — daily consistency helps maintain it all the way down the aisle. ■



Information provided by Nikki Morgan, DNP, ARNP, SkinFusion, 200 Second St. S.E., Altoona, 515-967-0587, www.skinfusionfx.com, nikki.skinfusionfx@gmail.com

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PLAN AHEAD

By Sarah Masteller

WHY would I prepay funeral expenses?

Preplanning one's final arrangements is something everyone should do. While it is not necessarily an easy topic to address, having arrangements in place can provide a great deal of peace of mind, both for the person making the arrangements and for those loved ones who will be left behind.

No one comes through the doors of the funeral home on the day that their loved one has died and regrets that the plans have already been made. In fact, it is quite the opposite. Families experience great relief knowing that plans are in place, decisions have been made and, perhaps, the expenses have already been handled.

While prepaying funeral expenses is never a requirement for someone to place their arrangements on file with a funeral home, it is an option available and one that you should know about. There are many benefits to prepaying funeral expenses. Most importantly, it allows a person the opportunity to purchase funeral arrangements at current prices, with the guarantee that those services and merchandise selections will be provided, at no additional expense to the family, at the time the funeral home's services are needed.

Keep in mind, funeral arrangements will never be less expensive than they are today. Whatever your funeral home of choice is, make sure you understand your options, and then make the decision that is right for you. ■

Information provided by Sarah Masteller, Advanced Planning Counselor, Hamilton's Southtown Funeral Home, 5400 S.W. Ninth St., Des Moines, 515-697-3679.



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HAWN feels right at home

Cozy cottage, cozy neighborhood

When Alex Hawn relocated from Cedar Rapids to Bondurant in September 2019, her oldest son was just starting second grade, her middle son was in preschool and her daughter was turning one. She wanted all of them to grow up in a fun, tight-knit community. One of her friends had recently moved to Bondurant and told Hawn how much she liked it. After doing a little research, Hawn made the move herself.

The following year, Hawn purchased her home.

“I was ready to be permanently settled down and started to look for a house,” she explains. “I wanted something affordable, yet for everyone to have their own bedroom and space. I found my current home and immediately loved it.”

Her favorite part about the house is its unique, original features. Built in the 1970s, it still has an original pocket door that separates the basement from the upstairs, a built-in bookshelf and in-the-wall bathroom shelves.

“I’m an antique enthusiast, so these little quirks are so comforting to me,” Hawn says.

So, too, is her neighborhood, Paine Heights, one of the earliest areas of town.

“I love that it still has trees, and it’s quiet,” Hawn says. “All of the neighbors are friendly, and some of them have been here for many years. I love the original aspect of this neighborhood.”

Bondurant has become a true home for Hawn and her family. They enjoy summer events such as the farmers market and Summerfest. Lake Petoka is one of Hawn’s favorite “relaxation” spots, and she enjoys walking around it. Her boys stay active with the Bondurant Wrestling Club and the soccer club.

“Everything about this town is perfect for my kids and I,” Hawn says. “Something special about this town is how helpful everyone is. It’s turned into a tight community, which is something I am grateful for.”

Ultimately, Hawn can’t imagine raising her children anywhere else.

“I feel safe when my kids are out and about, I love the size of the town, and I feel at home here,” she says. “I originally thought I would get a small starter home, then later purchase something bigger, but I can’t fathom giving up my cute little cottage. This is a great community with so much to offer.” ■



Alex Hawn enjoys living in one of the older parts of town with lots of trees and good neighbors.



WHAT MAKES Bondurant feel like home

What makes Bondurant special isn't just its growth — it is the feeling of connection that welcomes you the moment you arrive. Whether you have lived here for years or are new to the area, there is something uniquely reassuring about recognizing familiar faces, supporting local businesses and knowing you belong to a community that cares.



Community is built through everyday moments: a friendly conversation over coffee and biscuits and gravy at Somewhere in the Middle, the excitement of the grand opening of Dynamic Storage Spaces, family game night at the Bondurant Public Library, or a fun adult night out at Reclaimed. These experiences may seem small, but, together, they create the strong foundation of a thriving town.

Local businesses play an essential role in shaping that foundation. They are more than storefronts — they are gathering places, job creators and dedicated supporters of local initiatives. When you choose to go to Prairie Vision Center of Bondurant for your next eye exam or get your energy shake fix from Excel Nutrition, you are doing more than making a purchase; you are investing in the future of Bondurant. Those dollars help sustain opportunities, strengthen our local economy and contribute to the quality of life we all enjoy.

Yet community is about more than economics — it is about belonging. It is the staff at Founders who remembers your favorite order, Chris at Edward Jones who knows the next financial steps you need to take, or the staff at The Birds Nest that you trust with your children's care. These quiet acts of care transform a growing city into a place people are proud to call home.

The Bondurant Chamber of Commerce is honored to support the businesses and individuals who help bring this vision to life. While many recognize the Chamber for ribbon cuttings and events, our deeper purpose is fostering connections, encouraging collaboration and creating an environment where businesses and residents succeed together.

As Bondurant continues to grow, preserving our welcoming spirit becomes even more important. Growth brings new energy, opportunities and amenities — but maintaining our sense of connection requires intention from all of us.

There are simple ways every resident can help strengthen our community:

- Shop local when possible
- Attend community events
- Welcome new neighbors
- Recommend businesses you trust
- Celebrate milestones together

Looking ahead, there is much to be excited about. New businesses are opening, partnerships are forming, and community events continue to bring us together. Through it all, the Chamber remains committed to supporting progress while keeping the heart of Bondurant — its people — at the center.

Strong communities don't just happen — they are built by people who choose to show up, support one another, and believe in where they live. ■

Information provided by Katie Hentges, Executive Director, Bondurant Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 146, Bondurant, IA, 50035, 515-329-0773, www.bondurantchamber.com, director@bondurantchamber.com.

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OUT & ABOUT



Mitch and Allie Benson at the Bondurant Cribbage Tournament at Reclaimed Rails Brewing Co. Jan. 11.



Karen Barmow and Lynda Gibson at the Bondurant Cribbage Tournament at Reclaimed Rails Brewing Co. Jan. 11.



Paul Vanderholm and David Gibson at the Bondurant Cribbage Tournament at Reclaimed Rails Brewing Co. Jan. 11.



Chuck Wolfe, Tim Barwegen and Jason Jolley at the Bondurant Cribbage Tournament at Reclaimed Rails Brewing Co. Jan. 11.



Left, front to back: Ian Richards, Jeff Richards and Denise Opsal; Right, front to back: Madison Montgomery, Amy Montgomery and Tara Cox at the Bondurant Cribbage Tournament at Reclaimed Rails Brewing Co. Jan. 11.



Marketa Oliver and Thad Long at the Bondurant Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors meeting at Bondurant City Hall Jan. 13.



Alexis and Chad McFarland at the Bondurant Cribbage Tournament at Reclaimed Rails Brewing Co. Jan. 11.



Abby Olson and Sheena Cochran-Foster, Residents' Choice for Favorite Realtor.



Laura Lucina, Shelby Hagan and Katie Hentges at the Bondurant Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors meeting at Bondurant City Hall Jan. 13.



Chris Johnson, Crystal Sinclair and Tiffany Luig at the Bondurant Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors meeting at Bondurant City Hall Jan. 13.

BOWL Bash

The Eastern Polk County Rotary Bowl Bash was held at Great Escape on Feb. 6.



Norma Bettie, Chris Schonridge and Marie Pipes



Becca Squiers, Andrea Stanfel and Steve Pedersen



Larry Archibald and Anne Miller



Scott Discus and Ryan Gordon



Rob Sieh and Cory Ohoriko



Steve Mather and John Krois



David Harper and Ned Looney



David Mathews and Barron Geiger



Carol Seals and Evelyn Templeton



Steve Hall and Carl Sprague

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