

# Living

MAGAZINE

## A 'fur-ever'

# HOME

Residents share stories about the animals they rescued.

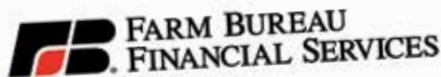


**Weiss uses retirement to give back**  
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**Meet Diann Williamson**  
EDUCATION



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WELCOME

# TO THE rescue

Some of you have spent a great deal of money on your cat or dog, and you have a wonderful pet. Some of you spent the same or more, and you have a lousy pet. I am convinced that getting a good pet is often the luck of the draw. Much like with children, genetics and upbringing are important, but they don't help explain how one from the same litter can be so drastically different from the next one.



Jolene and I have had six pets during our time together — two cats and four dogs. We reluctantly inherited the first cat, D.C., from Jolene's parents who went south for the winter. The other cat, Reggie, was adopted from the Animal Rescue League. Both were good cats, as far as cats go.

Our first dog, Roxy, was from a rescue league specific to the breed. It was delivered to us from Missouri, and the dog that showed up didn't look anything like the one on the website. But, that was OK, as we loved that little, chubby, tail-less dog anyway.

We adopted the next dog, Max, from a neighbor's friend who was moving out of the country. It was a purebred that he wrote a big check for. Our third and fourth dogs, Kobie and Layla, came from rescue leagues again.

These were all adult dogs when we got them, and all but one have since died. Jolene called them "short-term investments." Her words, not mine. The lone survivor is not fond of babies, so it was shipped off to Jolene's brother in Washington state for a simpler life once our grandson was born.

We didn't pay more than \$40 for any pet we had, including adoption fees. We may have paid more for the right pet, but we simply didn't see the need to do so, and we were happy to adopt rescue animals that needed a home. They certainly all had their quirks. In my experience, every pet does. For that matter, every human does, too.

Meanwhile, rescue animals have warmed the hearts of many pet-owners, and they continue to do so. We share a few of their stories in this issue in hopes that you may be inspired to open your home to a rescue pet as well.

Have a great month and thanks for reading. ■

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# A 'fur-ever' HOME

Residents share stories about the animals they rescued.

**By Ashley Rullestad**

Abandoned. Abused. Neglected. The world is full of animals — big and small — that don't know the comfort of a full belly, a warm place to sleep, and the love of a caring owner. Some people seek out these needy animals when looking to add a pet to their family. Others come across them unexpectedly and are moved to rescue them. Whatever the case, rescued pets often give their humans as much love as they receive.

Katie Belken with Tyrone.  
Photo by Todd Rullestad

## FEATURE

### A dog's life

Katie Belken is an animal person. She owns Teddy's Ruff Riders, a mobile dog grooming company in Grimes. She also teaches dog grooming at Des Moines Area Community College, as well as pet CPR and first aid.

"Working with dogs, you already see and know about all the heart-breaking rescues, so we just wanted to help," she says.

Belken started fostering animals a while back, and while she has mostly worked with the Animal Rescue League, she has also fostered through Paws N Claws from Newton as needed. Over Thanksgiving, the family fostered the cutest cocker spaniel pup.

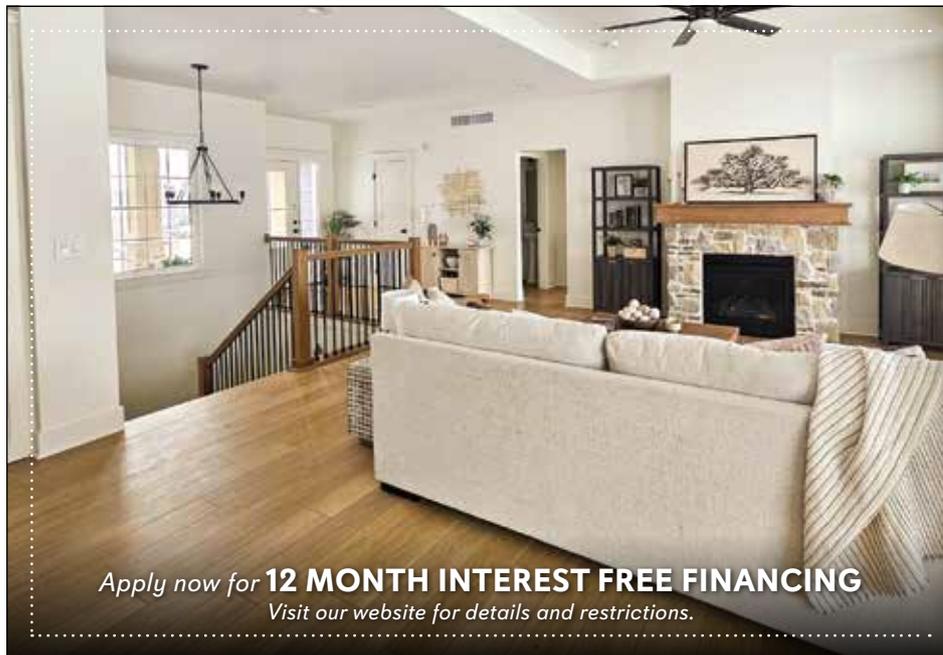
Their current foster is named PollyAnna. She's a 6-month-old pocket pitbull, and Belken met her when she took a class to do volunteer grooming at the ARL.

"She had just come in and was in such bad shape. She had suspected chemical burns on her face, was too skinny, had an obvious foot deformity from living in a kennel her entire short life, and I decided we had to take her. I'm a sucker, and my husband's an enabler."

Belken has decided, in addition to fostering, this summer she would like to do even more to help local rescues. This summer, she will have a booth at the



Luc Meeks and Nora Belken with Girly and Pollyanna (foster). Photo by Todd Rullestad



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## FEATURE

Grimes farmers market monthly to clip nails for the dogs in the community, and she is going to invite local rescues to come and bring adoptable dogs for people to meet (and hopefully take home). She will then donate a portion of what they make from the nail trims to the rescue.

“Two of our resident dogs are foster failures and both our cats are also adopted. We’ve had dogs have litters of puppies at our house. Our daughter, Nora, has grown up with this, and we always told her we can’t keep them all because sometimes we are just a safe place for them to learn how to be loved right.”

### A service rescue

Michelle Jordan rescued her dog, Wrangler, from the ARL when she was about 6 months old. A lab/mastiff mixed breed, Jordan knew she was special and could help people.

“Together, we went through

training and received her AKC Good Canine Certification, and then we went on, and she received her AKC CGC-C (community canine) and then received CGC-Urban. Now she serves as a therapy dog.”

Jordan is a teacher, and when she worked in Johnston, Wrangler went to school with her every day, along with her sister, Wrigley, the golden retriever. Last year, Jordan started teaching in the Waukee School District, and they currently do not allow therapy dogs in their school district, so now Wrangler helps out around the community when needed.

“We are hoping that we can eventually get Waukee school district to allow therapy dogs. It’s a work in progress. Right now, she is working with a group of girls that lost one of their soccer teammates on the UFA soccer club. Sometimes, a dog’s love is just what you need to get through a hard time.”



Wrangler, Michelle Jordan’s rescue dog, was adopted from the ARL.

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## A helping paw

In 2018, Matthew Strom decided he wanted a dog and was not interested in buying from a breeder.

“Years before, some friends had boxers, and I fell in love with the breed after spending a ton of time with them, so I applied and adopted/rescued my first dog, Jax. He was literally hours from being thrown out of the house when I was told about him, so, late one January night, I headed to Omaha and picked him up.”

In late 2019, Strom moved to Grimes and wanted to add another dog. He had watched Fergie sit in the rescue for close to a year and decided to give that senior girl, 11 at the time, a home to live out the rest of her life.

After that, he wanted to give back to the organization and decided, through fostering, he would be able to help more than just one dog. However, fostering can have a learning curve. His first couple of experiences weren't fully positive, only because he wasn't prepared for what fostering entailed. But, since then, numerous dogs have been in and out of the house, each one with their own personality and obstacles to overcome.

“While I've wanted to keep almost each and every one of them, it's rewarding seeing them go to a forever home. Long story short, I wanted to give back to the organization that gave so much to me, and now I just can't say no to giving them a stop on the way to their forever home.”

## Pure kitty love

Kristen McCaslin rescued her tuxedo cat, Stache, from AHeinz57 rescue when he was only a year old. The cat was found under a car in a library parking lot. Kristen has been an animal lover since she was a kid.

“I remember my first dog was a chow named Coco, and we shared ice cream when we were living in Alaska, so I'd have been 2 years old when we got him. Then it was dogs and cats, and I have never been afraid of anything since.”

The McCaslins moved to their house in 2020, and, after renting for so long with pet deposits, her husband said he was OK with adding a cat to the family if it was the right one. They both knew they wanted bigger cats, and, one November night, her husband sent a picture of Stache, and McCaslin called right away to ask about him.

“The foster mom happened to be there with him because she was going to be leaving on a



Matthew Strom, Fergie, Jax and Mark Groepper.



Stache the cat completes the McCaslin family.

vacation, so I jumped in the car and drove to meet him. He is a bigger tuxedo boy. Not fat, just tall and muscular and bigger, and that was that. He was meant for us.”

Though they rescued mainly for budgetary

reasons, there was more. They are sure Stache was just the right cat at the right time. They have since added another male cat, making 40 pounds total of pure kitty love and completing their household. ■

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## FINANCE

By Bryce Block

# TAXING Social Security benefits: clearing the confusion



When the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) was passed in 2025, there was some confusion in messaging from the Social Security Administration about taxation of benefits.<sup>1-2</sup> Here is an overview to help clarify any questions you have on taxing Social Security benefits.

What does OBBBA do and not do for seniors? OBBBA does not change the rules for taxing Social Security benefits. OBBBA does provide an additional \$6,000 deduction for taxpayers 65 and older (\$12,000 for a married couple) for tax years 2025–2028. However, this deduction has no direct relationship with your Social Security benefits. The deduction phases out at higher income levels: \$75,000–\$175,000 for single filers, \$150,000–\$250,000 for joint filers.

Taxation of Social Security benefits is based on income. That means the additional senior deduction should reduce the number of people who have to pay taxes on their Social Security benefits by reducing their taxable income.

According to the White House, 64% of Social Security beneficiaries did not pay taxes on their benefits before OBBBA, and the new senior deduction will increase that to 88%.<sup>3</sup>

How are Social Security benefits taxed? The tax liability for Social Security benefits is based on your combined income, defined by the IRS as your adjusted gross income plus tax-exempt interest plus one-half of your Social Security benefits.

If your combined income exceeds a base amount of \$25,000 for single filers or \$32,000 for joint filers, you may owe federal income taxes on up to 50% of your Social Security benefits. If your combined income exceeds a higher base amount of \$34,000 for single filers or \$44,000 for joint filers, you may owe federal income taxes on up to 85% of your benefits.

Considering these rules, the only taxpayers for whom taxation of benefits will be completely eliminated by the new law are those whose combined income drops below the \$25,000/\$32,000 base amount.

Whether or not your Social Security benefits are taxed, the new senior deduction should reduce your tax burden to some extent. Unfortunately, it comes with a long-term effect on the Social Security and Medicare programs, which are funded in part by taxes on Social Security benefits. One estimate suggests that the new deduction will move the expiration date of the trust funds that help fund Social Security and Medicare up from 2033 to 2032, unless Congress takes action to strengthen the programs. ■

For more information, please contact Bryce Block with City State Bank Trust & Investments at 515-986-2265. Not FDIC insured. Not deposits or other obligations of the bank and are not guaranteed by the bank. Are subject to investment risk, including possible loss of principal. City State Bank does not provide legal advice. Each taxpayer should seek independent advice from a tax and/or legal professional. These materials are based upon publicly available information that may change at any time without notice.

## Join Us at Assumption

**Stations of the Cross:** March 20 & 27 at 5pm followed with Mass

**Evening Prayer:** March 22 & 29 at 4:30pm

**Martial Arts:** Mondays & Thursdays (except 3rd Thursday of the month) at 6:30-8:30pm  
Call Mark Wheeler to register 515-577-3599

**Rosary:** Tuesday evenings at 7:30pm

**Mandatory Confirmation Retreat:** March 29 from 9am-5pm

**Palm Sunday:** March 28 & 29 during Mass

**Divine Mercy Novena:** April 5 at 7:30am

### HOLY WEEK BEGINS

**Holy Thursday:** April 2 at 7pm

**Adoration:** April 2 from 8pm-10pm

**Adoration:** April 3 from 6am-7pm

**Good Friday Service:** April 3 at 7pm

**Divine Mercy Novena:** begins Good Friday at 7:30am

**Adoration:** April 3 from 8pm-10pm

**Adoration:** April 4 from 6am-3pm

**Divine Mercy Novena:** April 4 at 7:30am

**Holy Saturday:** Easter Vigil at 7:45pm

**Easter Sunday:** Mass at 8am & 10am (NO 5pm Mass)

**Religious Education Classes** LAST class is April 8

**Assumption Book Club:** April 11 & May 9 at 9am

**Divine Mercy Novena:** April 12 at 8:30am

**1st Eucharist Practice:** April 12 at 10am

**Confirmation Practice:** April 12 at 7pm

**Confirmation with Bishop Joensen:** April 15 at 7pm with reception to follow

**"New" Grief Class:** starts April 17 on Friday nights for 6 weeks at 6:30pm

**1st Eucharist for 2nd graders:** April 19 at 1pm

**Adoration/Benediction:** April 21 & May 19 at 6pm

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**MASS TIMES:** Mon-Fri: 8am | Sat: 5pm | Sun: 9am & 5pm **LENT MASS:** Fridays at 5:30pm

**RECONCILIATION:** Saturdays at 4pm



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# MEET Diann Williamson

DCG principal announces retirement.

Diann Williamson, Heritage Elementary principal, has announced her retirement at the end of the school year. She reflects on her time at DCG after a busy and rewarding career in education.



Diann Williamson, Heritage Elementary principal, reflects on her career.

Williamson graduated from the University of Northern Iowa in 1991 with a degree in elementary education. She went on to earn two masters degrees from Viterbo University: reading specialist and administration degree. She spent her first five years teaching third and fourth grades in a suburb outside Houston, Texas, and moved back to Iowa in 1996. Williamson then spent time teaching in Waukee, Johnston and Des Moines public schools before coming to Dallas Center Grimes.

Since coming to DCG, Williamson has served as principal of Dallas Center Elementary from 2013-2017 and has served as the principal of Heritage Elementary since it opened in 2017.

“Opening Heritage Elementary has been one of the most challenging and rewarding endeavors of my career,” she says. “I have been fortunate to work with some of the greatest educators who make Heritage special.”

Williamson has liked being a part of the DCG family and working with its students, families, teachers and staff. One of her favorite things about the district is that DCG is just the right size. It has a small-town feeling with a metro flair.

During her time in the district, Williamson is most proud of scoring an exceptional rating on the Iowa School Performance Profiles in 2022, 2024 and 2025. She knows that does not happen without a dedicated and hard-working team. She has been impressed with the level of dedication, professionalism and excellence the team at DCG has demonstrated time and time again.

“DCG has been a great place to grow. I have always felt supported by my administrative team and the families I serve. I am looking forward to slowing down and taking time to enjoy the summer with family and friends. After that, I will be on the lookout for my next career — I’m just not sure what it is yet.” ■

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Be sure to check for cancellations.

**Note about calendar events:** This magazine is delivered the third 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.

## The Home Place groundbreaking

Thursday, March 26 at 4 p.m.  
1651 N.W. Second St., Grimes

The public is invited to the groundbreaking of The Home Place, a 40-unit inclusive condominium community in Grimes. This milestone represents years of vision, advocacy and community support.

## Upcoming in Grimes/Dallas Center 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](mailto:tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com).

## Firefighters Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, April 25, 7-11 a.m.

Public Safety Center,  
2001 S.W. Sixth St.,  
Grimes

Join the Johnston-Grimes Firefighters Foundation for a pancake breakfast at the new Public Safety Center on Saturday, April 25.



## Fishing in Grimes

Fishing is allowed in the public ponds in Grimes. The DNR frequently restocks the public ponds with largemouth bass, bluegills, and channel



catfish. Before you grab your pole and head out, make sure you brush up on these rules.

Anyone over the age of 16 needs a fishing license. These are available at [iowa.dnr.gov](http://iowa.dnr.gov). These ponds follow the statewide harvest regulations. That means you can keep up to three largemouth bass (must be 15 inches), 25 bluegills, and eight channel catfish. To find a public pond, including the type of fish stocked, visit [iowa.dnr.gov](http://iowa.dnr.gov).

## Grimes Public Library events

200 N.E. Beaverbrooke Blvd.

Registration is required only when noted. Register at [grimeslibrary.org/calendar](http://grimeslibrary.org/calendar) or by calling the library at 515-986-3551. The library will be closed from Wednesday, April 1 to Sunday, April 5.

### BIRTH TO PRE-K

- Baby Storytime: Tuesdays, 9-9:30 a.m.
- Baby and Toddler Open Play: Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. to noon
- Storytime: Wednesdays and Thursdays (except April 1 and 2) 10-10:30 a.m.
- Kids Play Sensory Art: Friday, April 10, 10-11 a.m.

### SCHOOL-AGE

- Tail Waggin Readers: Saturday, March 21, 9-11 a.m.
- Early Out: Wednesdays up until April 28, 1-3 p.m.

### TEENS

- Moments and Mindfulness: Sunday, March 22, 3:30-4 p.m.
- Early Out: Wednesdays up until April 28, 1-3 p.m.
- Hooks and Needles: Saturday, April 11, 10-11 a.m.
- Poetry Open Mic Night: Tuesday, April 14, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Registration required.
- Craft Saturday - Make and Take Pick-up: Wednesday, April 15 to Wednesday, April 22, all day. Come learn how to do a craft at the library, led by a staff member. All materials are provided, and each participant goes home with something they made, as well as a new

crafting skill. Open to everyone 16 and older. Registration required.

### ADULTS

- Moments and Mindfulness: Sunday, March 22, 3:30-4 p.m.
- Silent Book Club: Tuesday, March 24, 6:30-8 p.m. Registration required.
- Hooks and Needles: Thursday, March 26, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- Women & Money: Saturday, March 28, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Registration required.
- Poetry Night: Tuesday, March 21, 6-7 p.m.
- Adult Book Club: Tuesday, April 7, 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- Read and Reflect Book Club: Wednesday, April 8, 6-7 p.m.
- Genealogy 101 (Part three of three) Thursday, April 9, 6-7:30 p.m. Registration required.
- Hooks and Needles: Saturday, April 11, 10-11 a.m.
- Suffrage and World War I: Iowa Connections: Saturday, April 11, 3-4 p.m. Registration required.
- Adaptive Equipment for Aging: Monday, April 13, 6:30-8 p.m. Registration required.
- Poetry Open Mic Night: Tuesday, April 14, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Registration required.

- Craft Saturday - Make and Take Pick-up: Wednesday, April 15 to Wednesday, April 22, all day. Come learn how to do a craft at the library, led by a staff member. All materials are provided, and each participant goes home with something they made, as well as a new crafting skill. Open to everyone 16 and older. Registration required.

### ALL AGES

- Family Night: Edible Legos and Lego Play: Monday, March 23, 6-6:30 p.m.
- Family Night: Colorful Creations: Monday, March 30, 6-6:30 p.m.
- Family Night: Shrinky Dinks: Monday, April 6, 6-6:30 p.m.
- Craft & Play: Art in Motion: Saturday, April 11, 9 a.m. to noon
- Family Night: Edible Mosaics: Monday, April 13, 6-6:30 p.m.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

- Women and Money, March 28, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Gain confidence in your finances through education and personalized guidance, empowering you to make informed decisions and achieve your goals with clarity and purpose. Presented by Shalini Babu, a licensed financial planner with Prudential Advisors. Registration required.

Be sure to check for cancellations.

## Battery and Electronics Recycling

Did you know that it only takes one battery to spark a fire? Batteries are dangerous in your garbage or recycling. That's why the city has partnered with Metro Waste Authority to introduce a free and convenient battery drop-off in the Grimes community. These drop-offs accept alkaline batteries, button batteries, electronics with rechargeable batteries, other electronics, and cords. The drop-off box is at Grimes City Hall, 101 N.E. Harvey St., and is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



## Can Play Fore All Golf Outing

Friday, April 24, 3-7 p.m.

RecPlex 6500 Grand Ave., West Des Moines

Join Can Play and the 2026 West Des Moines Leadership Academy for a fun, small-format golf outing supporting accessible outdoor recreation and youth programming. Golfers will play through a creative course designed by community members and local businesses, built entirely from non-perishable food items to benefit Can Play's programming. All proceeds will benefit Can Play, whose mission is to bring adapted and no cost recreational programs to our communities by removing barriers to play. Register and donate online at <https://givebutter.com/WDMLA>.

## Grimes Lions Club Volunteer Event Wednesday, April 22

The Grimes Lions Club is organizing a litter pickup around the pond behind the strip mall off First Street (by Hacienda Mexican Restaurant). Those interested in helping are asked to meet at the GreenState Credit Union parking lot at 5:30 p.m., and then head as a group toward the path that surrounds the pond to clean up the accumulated litter. The Lions will provide garbage bags and plastic gloves, but feel free to bring your own "grabber" if you have one. Gather your family and let's work together to make our community a cleaner place. For more information or questions, contact Rich at [weiss.rich@gmail.com](mailto:weiss.rich@gmail.com) or 630-508-5033.

## WDM Elks Spring Style Show Fundraiser

Saturday, April 11, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

West Des Moines Elks Lodge No. 2752, 2060 N.W. 94th St., Clive

Tickets for the Spring Style Show are \$15 each or reserve a table for eight for \$140 or a table for four for \$70. Doors open at 10 a.m., with the style show starting at 11 a.m. and a salad luncheon to follow. Many vendors will be present, including Purple Poppy, Salon Classic and others. Funds raised will benefit Veterans Children's Christmas and other Elks charities and outreach.

## Des Moines Art Center Museum Highlights Tour

Saturdays, 1-2 p.m.

Des Moines Art Center, 4700 Grand Ave, Des Moines

Discover the vast variety of the Des Moines Art Center's permanent collections during the Museum Highlights Tour. This tour offers a unique journey through the galleries, featuring a selection of timeless paintings, sculptures and more. Join knowledgeable guides to uncover the stories, techniques and inspirations behind the art on view, and experience the highlights of the Art Center in a fresh and engaging way. This guided tour is perfect for art enthusiasts of all ages. Free to all, no registration required.



## Des Moines Community Orchestra Spring Concert

Sunday, May 10, 2 p.m.

Drake University Sheslow Auditorium, 2507 University Ave., Des Moines

Enjoy the Des Moines Community Orchestra in concert with guest conductor Kara Mather and featured soloist Dr. Kevin Allemagne on the clarinet.

## Tori's Angels 2026

Thursday, April 26, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Glen Oaks Country Club, 1401 Glen Oaks Drive, West Des Moines

Celebrate 15 years of hope, helping Iowa children with life threatening illnesses by funding vital medical and travel expenses that are not covered by insurance, allowing them to pursue life-saving treatments and cures. For more information contact Patty Reeve at 515-238-3829 or [patty@torisangels.org](mailto:patty@torisangels.org). [www.TorisAngels.org](http://www.TorisAngels.org)

## Capital City Card Convention

Friday, March 27 to Sunday, March 29

Iowa Events Center, 730 Third St., Des Moines

Iowa's largest sports card show features 240-plus tables of action. More information available at [www.iowaeventscenter.com](http://www.iowaeventscenter.com). ■

# TAKE THE POLL

WHICH OF THESE FIRST SIGNS OF SPRING IS YOUR FAVORITE?

1. Birds singing
2. Thunderstorms
3. Jacket weather
4. Green grass
5. Flowers blooming

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# NEW to Grimes

Johnson settles down.



Joshua Johnson says the move to Grimes has been a good one as there is much to appreciate about the community.

Joshua Johnson and his wife, Gabrielle, have only lived in Grimes for a few months, but, in that short time, the community has already made a strong impression.

After relocating from Houston, Texas, Johnson and his wife chose Grimes because it offered everything they were looking for: a manageable commute, a welcoming atmosphere and a strong sense of community.

While the move was new for him, it was a return home for his wife, who was born and raised in the area, and being closer to her family was an important part of their decision.

For Johnson, one of the first things that stood out about Grimes was how nice everyone is.

That sense of connection has helped make the transition from a large city to a smaller community feel natural.

Location has also been a major benefit. Johnson appreciates how easy it is to get where he needs to go, whether that is commuting to nearby communities or accessing local amenities. He especially values having convenient access to everyday spots, including the Grimes Public Library.

The balance of small-town feel with proximity to surrounding cities has reinforced his confidence that Grimes was the right choice.

Johnson says he is open to exploring opportunities to meet people and become more involved as he continues to settle in. Community engagement is already an important part of his life. He volunteers with two different churches and is a member of both the Urbandale Chamber of Commerce and the West Des Moines Chamber of Commerce.

Giving back is something Johnson values deeply. He believes in helping others, especially in situations where support can make a meaningful difference. In the past, that belief led him to volunteer in disaster relief efforts after Hurricane Harvey devastated much of Houston. He has also participated in a mission trip to Israel.

As he continues building his life in Grimes, he says he looks forward to finding more ways to connect and grow alongside the community he's proud to now call home. ■

# FIELD of the Year



The North Sports Complex was awarded the Iowa Sports Management Association Field of the Year. This is the highest award that a field or complex can receive each year from ISFMA. ■

# ZIGGI'S Coffee opens in Grimes

The Burkhart family opened its second Ziggì's Coffee location in Iowa on Feb. 24, bringing a new drive-thru-only destination to Grimes and expanding its growing presence in the state.

Located at 1201 N.E. Gateway Drive, the new store reflects the family's vision to build a multigenerational, family-run business rooted in community connection and long-term local investment. The Burkharths also operate a Ziggì's location in Ankeny.

The Grimes location will be led by managing partner, and daughter, Talia Burkhart, continuing the family's hands-on approach to ownership and day-to-day operations. A May 2025 graduate of Iowa State University, Talia has worked in nearly every aspect of the coffee business, from barista to leadership, including three years at a local coffee shop before joining the family full time.

"I am still early in my career, but I love coffee, and I love being around people," Talia Burkhart said. "Ziggì's wants to be the best part of your day, and that really stuck with me. We hope to be the best part of the Grimes community's day as people head to work, pick up their kids or take a moment to relax. For our family, it all comes down to great coffee and taking care of people," she added. "This is not mass production. This is a family-owned business where we take pride in every drink we serve."

The Burkharths plan to support local schools, youth activities and community organizations and intend to join the Grimes Chamber of Commerce as part of their long-term community involvement. ■

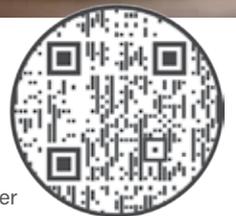
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# DCG MUSTANGS



# DALLAS C



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## V GIRLS SOCCER

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
Apr 7	7:30PM	Norwalk	Norwalk High School
Apr 9	7:30PM	Johnston	Dallas Center-Grimes
Apr 14	4:00PM	Pella Christian	Pella Sports Park
Apr 17	5:15PM	Omaha Mercy	Omaha Mercy
Apr 18	12:00PM	Omaha Skutt Catholic	Creighton University
Apr 21	7:00PM	Indianola	Indianola Stadium
Apr 23	7:00PM	Dowling Catholic	Dowling Catholic
Apr 28	7:00PM	Newton	Dallas Center-Grimes
May 1	7:30PM	Bondurant-Farrar	Dallas Center-Grimes
May 8	5:00PM	Independence	Hy-Vee Multiplex
May 9	11:00AM	Waverly-Shell Rock	Dallas Center-Grimes
May 12	5:30PM	Oskaloosa	Lacey Sports Complex
May 15	7:00PM	Gilbert	Gilbert High School
May 19	7:00PM	Pella	Dallas Center-Grimes
May 21	7:00PM	Ankeny	Ankeny High School
May 26	7:30PM	Valley	Valley Stadium

## V BOYS SOCCER

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
Mar 30	7:30PM	Johnston	Johnston High School
Apr 3	7:15PM	Ames	Ames High School
Apr 7	7:00PM	Norwalk	Dallas Center-Grimes
Apr 9	7:00PM	DM Christian	Des Moines Christian
Apr 10	6:00PM	Spencer	Dallas Center-Grimes
Apr 11	2:00PM	Denison-Schleswig	Dallas Center-Grimes
Apr 14	5:45PM	Pella Christian	CPella Sports Park
Apr 17	7:00PM	ADM	Dallas Center-Grimes
Apr 18	9:00AM	Wahawk Boys Invite	Cedar Valley Complex
Apr 21	7:00PM	Indianola	Dallas Center-Grimes
Apr 24	7:30PM	Southeast Polk	Southeast Polk
Apr 28	7:30PM	Newton	CH. A. Lynn Stadium
Apr 30	7:00PM	Pella	Pella High School
May 5	7:30PM	Urbandale	Urbandale
May 7	7:30PM	Waukee Northwest	Dallas Center-Grimes
May 12	7:00PM	Oskaloosa	Dallas Center-Grimes

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# DALLAS CENTER-GRIMES

## SPRING SPORTS SCHEDULES 2026

### V GIRLS TRACK

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
Mar 24	3:00PM	Multiple Schools	Simpson College
Mar 26	4:30PM	Multiple Schools	Johnston High School
Mar 31	4:00PM	Multiple Schools	Northwest High School
Apr 4	11:00AM	Multiple Schools	Dallas Center-Grimes
Apr 6	4:30PM	Multiple Schools	Norwalk Warrior
Apr 9	4:00PM	Multiple Schools	Northwest High School
Apr 11	8:30AM	Multiple Schools	Drake Stadium
Apr 14	4:30PM	Multiple Schools	Dallas Center-Grimes
Apr 16	4:00PM	Multiple Schools	Northview Middle School
Apr 28	4:30PM	Multiple Schools	ADM High School
Apr 30	4:30PM	Multiple Schools	Mason City High School

### V GIRLS GOLF

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
Apr 6	10:00AM	Multiple Schools	The Legacy Golf Club
Apr 8	9:00AM	Multiple Schools	Cndianola Country Club
Apr 9	2:00PM	Multiple Schools	Westwood Golf Course
Apr 13	12:00PM	Multiple Schools	Briarwood Club of Ankeny
Apr 14	10:00AM	Multiple Schools	Willow Creek Golf Course
Apr 16	9:00AM	Multiple Schools	Otter Creek Golf Course
Apr 20	10:00AM	Multiple Schools	Willow Creek Golf Course
Apr 27	10:00AM	Multiple Schools	Veenker Memorial Golf Course
Apr 30	10:00AM	Multiple Schools	Elmwood Country Club
May 7	9:00AM	Multiple Schools	Copper Creek Golf Club
May 14	4:00PM	Multiple Schools	Perry Golf & Country Club

### V BOYS TRACK

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
Mar 26	4:30PM	Multiple Schools	Timberline Stadium
Apr 2	4:15PM	Multiple Schools	Indianola Stadium
Apr 4	11:00AM	Multiple Schools	Dallas Center-Grimes
Apr 6	4:30PM	Multiple Schools	Norwalk Warrior
Apr 7	4:30PM	Multiple Schools	ADM High School Tiger Stadium
Apr 11	8:30AM	Multiple Schools	Drake Stadium
Apr 16	4:00PM	Multiple Schools	Northwest High School
Apr 17	4:00PM	Multiple Schools	North Polk High School
Apr 21	4:00PM	Multiple Schools	Northview Middle School
Apr 30	4:30PM	Multiple Schools	Bondurant-Farrar High School

### V BOYS TENNIS

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
Apr 2	4:00PM	Urbandale	Walker Johnston Tennis Courts
Apr 7	9:00AM	Pella	Caldwell Park
Apr 7	12:00PM	Boone	Caldwell Park
Apr 9	4:15PM	Pella Christian	Grimes Oak View
Apr 10	9:00AM	Multiple Schools	Boone - McHose Park
Apr 21	4:15PM	Norwalk	Grimes Oak View
Apr 23	4:15PM	Indianola	Indianola High School
Apr 24	10:00AM	Multiple Schools	Prairie Ridge Sports Complex
Apr 28	4:15PM	Oskaloosa	Grimes Oak View
Apr 30	4:15PM	Newton	Grimes Oak View
May 4	10:00AM	Multiple Schools	Grimes Oak View
May 8	12:00PM	Des Moines Hoover	Grimes Oak View
May 8	4:00PM	Des Moines Lincoln	Brody MS

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- **April 2** – Holy Thursday
- **April 3** – Good Friday
- **April 4** – Holy Saturday
- **April 5** – Easter Sunday

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**INVESTMENT** By Daniel Rundahl

**THE MADNESS** in March  
for 310,000 Americans

Each day, more than 10,000 Americans become eligible for Medicare — totaling more than 310,000 new beneficiaries every month. This milestone marks an important transition into retirement and a new phase of financial and healthcare decision-making. While this season of life can be exciting, it often arrives with complexity: unfamiliar coverage options, shifting income strategies, and an influx of marketing calls and mail. The choices can feel overwhelming, but, with preparation, they are manageable.



For many, retirement follows four decades of work, family responsibilities and diligent saving. It represents both freedom and uncertainty. Two of the most common concerns are the fear of running out of money and the uncertainty surrounding taxes in retirement. These are legitimate concerns, but they can be overcome.

**1. Pause and prepare:** Retirement is a life transition, not a financial emergency. Take time to assess your income sources, projected expenses, healthcare coverage and tax exposure. Medicare alone presents multiple pathways: original Medicare, Advantage plans, supplemental coverage and prescription drug plans — each with long-term implications. Thoughtful evaluation with balance to your emotional and logical brain can prevent costly adjustments later.

**2. Seek qualified guidance:** Professional insight matters. Just as you rely on a dentist for oral health or an attorney for legal counsel, retirement planning benefits from experienced specialists. Financial advisors, tax professionals and Medicare experts work within these systems daily. Their continuing education and field experience can help clarify options, identify risks and align strategies with your goals.

**3. Build flexible income strategies:** Many retirees aim to replicate a “salary-like” income from their savings. However, markets fluctuate. Those drawing income directly from volatile accounts faced added pressure with market losses. A diversified distribution plan — combining guaranteed income sources, conservative reserves and growth investments — can help reduce vulnerability during any downturn. In retirement, having a Plan A, B and C is not excessive; it is prudent. Like my father used to say, “Sometimes it is not on the right; it’s on your other right.”

**4. Learn, adapt and adjust:** Financial habits formed when working do not always translate seamlessly into retirement. Flexibility is essential. The familiar illustration of Charlie Brown repeatedly attempting to kick the football out of Lucy’s hands reminds us that routines without reflection can lead to further disappointment. Retirement planning requires adaptability, continuous learning, and the willingness to refine strategies when circumstances change.

I continue to value the “aha” moment: the moment when clarity replaces confusion and clients feel empowered about their future. Retirement is not a single decision; it is a coordinated strategy involving healthcare, income, taxation and legacy planning.

Education is the first step toward confidence. The questions to focus on are the Why and How questions — as much as the What and When. March’s madness for retirees should feel purposeful — not perplexing. ■

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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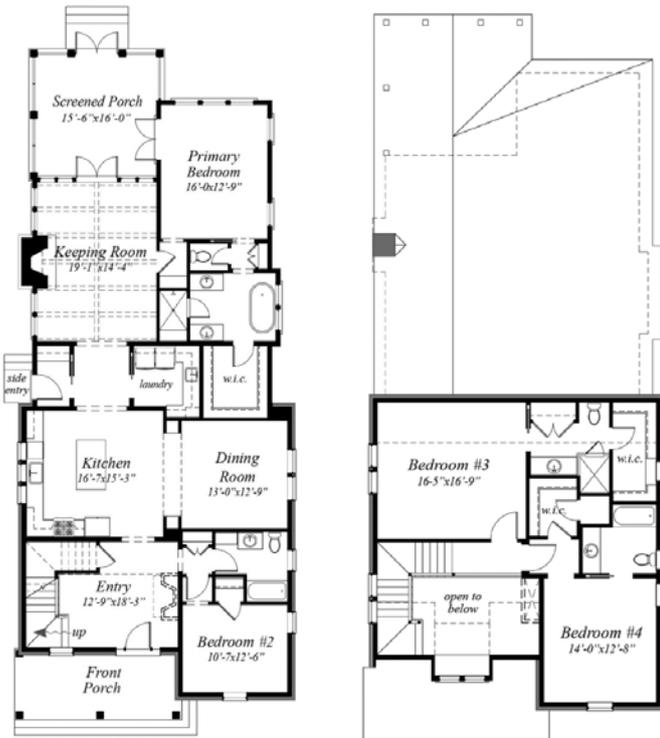
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## EDGEWOOD Court

Shed dormers, a gable roof, and jack arches above the windows create street-front beauty and interest.

Inside, the kitchen island is almost like a table and it can double as a workspace. Placing the sink and kitchen appliances on the perimeter makes the island an oasis of functional space. Step into this spacious living room with its a warm and welcoming beamed ceiling, generous fireplace, and shiplap walls that continue from the kitchen.

French doors open into the living room or out to the yard from this expansive screened porch. A vaulted ceiling with a louvered end gable makes this perfect for comfortable indoor-outdoor living. ■



### DETAILS

2,746 Sq Ft  
Floors: 2  
Bedrooms: 4  
Bathrooms: 4  
Foundation: Slab

### SQUARE FEET

Main Floor: 1,961  
Upper Floor: 785  
Total Conditioned: 2,746  
Front Porch: 164  
Rear Porch: 219

### DIMENSIONS

Width: 32'-6"  
Depth: 80'-3"  
Height: 28'-0"

### HOUSE LEVELS

Upper floor: Ceiling Heights 9'-0"  
Main floor: Ceiling Heights 9'-0"

### CONSTRUCTION

Wall Construction: 2x6  
Exterior Finish: Brick, Lap Siding  
Roof Pitch: 8:12

### FEATURES

Kitchen: Island, L-Shaped  
Primary Bedroom: Tub, Double Sink, Shower, Porch, Private Toilet, Walk-in Closet  
Additional: Fireplace, Porch, Screened Porch

# STOP the sniffles with Sick Day Soup

(Feature Impact) Coughs and sniffles don't have to derail you for long – not with a fresh, homemade stockpot full of Sick Day Chicken Noodle Soup. Loaded with rotisserie chicken, celery and carrots, it's sure to warm you from the inside-out as a warm, comforting meal. Plus, with eight servings, this dish can help solve dinnertime dilemmas throughout the week by storing leftovers in the refrigerator and reheating on the stove.

Warm up your winter meals with more comforting ideas available at [Culinary.net](http://Culinary.net). ■

## Sick Day Chicken Noodle Soup

Recipe adapted from Tastes Better from Scratch  
 Prep time: 20 minutes  
 Cook time: 20 minutes  
 Servings: 8

### INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 tablespoon butter
- 2 ribs celery, diced
- 3-4 large carrots, diced
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 10 cups chicken stock or broth
- 1/8 teaspoon dried rosemary
- 1/8 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1/8 teaspoon crushed red pepper flakes
- salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste
- chicken bouillon cubes (optional)
- 4 cups dry egg noodles
- 3 cups cooked rotisserie chicken

### DIRECTIONS

- In large stockpot over medium-high heat, saute butter, celery and carrots 3 minutes. Add garlic and cook 30 seconds.



Photo courtesy of Shutterstock

- Add chicken stock or broth and season with rosemary, thyme and crushed red pepper. Add salt and pepper, to taste. Taste and add chicken bouillon cubes, if desired, for flavor.
- Bring to boil. Add noodles and cook until al dente. Remove from heat once noodles are tender.
- Add chicken. Taste and adjust seasoning as desired.

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# FIVE requirements for an enforceable prenup

You said “Yes!” in February, and now you are immersed in picking caterers, choosing a venue, and saying “Yes!” to the once-in-a-lifetime dress. Then, it hits you. Oh no, what if “I do” eventually turns into “I don’t, anymore?” Have I just lost half my Catlin Clark basketball card collection and Beanie Baby inheritance to a divorce settlement?



In Iowa, once you say, “I do” your spouse automatically acquires a financial interest in your real estate; has a right to a certain share of the assets, when you die, even if you created a last will and testament that disinherits him/her; and he/she is entitled to some sort of split of assets if one of you says, “I don’t.” So, if you are bringing substantial assets into a marriage, you may want to consider a prenuptial agreement. This is a pre-marriage contract that limits the rights that one party has to demand assets of the other party in the event of death or dissolution.

The requirements are:

1. It must be in writing and signed by both parties before the wedding.
2. You must enter into it voluntarily.
3. You must make a fair and reasonable disclosure of your property and financial obligations in advance.
4. It cannot contain an unconscionable term. There is no definition of “unconscionable.” This is something that you need to prove exists in the contract, if only one of you is trying to revoke it.

Further, 5. Case law dictates that each of you must get legal advice from your own independent attorney, or it is quite vulnerable to challenge. If all the elements are met, then yes, it is enforceable.

After you are married, if you both agree, you can revoke the whole agreement. However, even if you both agree, you cannot change it. It is what it is.

It is not enforceable when you are applying for Medicaid. One of you is in a nursing home applying for benefits, and the other tells the state, “I don’t have to tell you what my assets are. I have a prenup.” Nope. The state does not recognize a prenuptial agreement in that case. This can be quite shocking for folks who have married later in life, only to realize that their retirement accounts are countable assets for purposes of restructuring assets to qualify for Medicaid. ■

Information provided by Cynthia P. Letsch, JD, CMP, Letsch Law Firm, 112 N.E. Ewing St., Suite D, Grimes, 515-986-2810, [www.LetschLawFirm.com](http://www.LetschLawFirm.com).

AI was not used in the creation of this article.

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# COMMUNITY champion

Weiss uses retirement to give back.

Rich Weiss and his wife, Ellie, moved to Grimes in 2017 from the western suburbs of Chicago.

What began as a visit to meet their first granddaughter, Adaline, quickly turned into something more permanent when the couple decided to purchase a home in Autumn Park.

“I recall our daughter, Erin, being a little concerned we might be ‘too close’ to her home, which is less than a quarter mile away,” Weiss recalls. “Now, she says, ‘I’m so glad we are so close.’”

For more than nine years, the Weisses have helped care for Adaline and her younger brother, Nash. Even with plenty of time devoted to family, Weiss has also made giving back to the community a priority.

Shortly after settling into Grimes, Weiss joined the local Lions Club.

“There are so many opportunities in Grimes to volunteer,” he says. “The Lions Club was a great place to start.”

One of Weiss’ favorite volunteer roles is the Lions KidSight vision screening program. Each fall, he contacts school or daycare nurses to schedule one or two days to photograph children’s eyes using a specialized camera provided by the University of Iowa Ophthalmology Department.



Tim Short of Edward Jones presents the Good Neighbor certificate to Rich Weiss.

The detailed images are reviewed to identify potential vision concerns, and families are encouraged to follow up with a local optometrist if needed.

“The idea is to catch any vision irregularities as early as possible,” Weiss explains. “Most young children that do need corrections had no idea their vision was not as sharp as it should be, they just came to accept their vision as is.”

In addition to KidSight, Weiss volunteers with several other Lions Club efforts, including the annual Governors Day breakfasts, the Holiday Flag program, Earth Day cleanups, and working concession stands for the DCG Booster Club. Many of these initiatives raise funds that support DCG scholarships, the Grimes Storehouse, the community splash pad, Lions Park renovations, and various local charities.

“I also love to help out with the Storehouse, picking up food donations from our local Kwik Star, Aldi and Hy-Vee Fast & Fresh locations,” Weiss says. “And volunteering at the Grimes Meals of the Heartland food drive, my family comes to understand how blessed we are.”

Through each of these efforts, Weiss says he’s grateful for the opportunity to support his neighbors and give back to the place he now calls home. For him, volunteering is about the satisfaction that comes from helping others in meaningful ways.

“My wife, Ellie, and I are blessed, and it’s these little things that make us feel proud to live here,” Weiss says.

The couple also enjoys volunteering at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, further strengthening their connection to the community.

“I am fortunate to be retired and healthy,” Weiss says. “This does present more time than usual to get involved. However, when someone does volunteer, even for a day, they always seem to come back.” ■

**Edward Jones** > [edwardjones.com](http://edwardjones.com) | Member SIPC

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Courtesy of Beaverdale Books

## 'Queen of Faces'

Books with layers are always going to draw me in. This delightfully dark and gritty fantasy explores identity, power, resilience and the madness of survival all packaged in a riveting, magical story.

Set in a politically charged world where appearance and perception can be as dangerous as any weapon, we follow Ana, a girl on the brink of some terrible choices. She is stuck in a dying body with no real way out. Desperate, she lies her way into an even more perilous situation where she must navigate court intrigue, shifting loyalties and threats from every side.

Ana's journey is as much internal as it is external, grappling with who she is and what authenticity means in a world where people shift bodies as easily as outfits. She has to maneuver through complex political dynamics, learn how to find allies, build relationships and survive the unsurvivable.

This is a gritty, morally gray story with perfect pacing. Lord's prose is accessible and vivid — sometimes so sharp I felt torn to shreds by the end. I can't wait for the next one. ■ — Review by Julie Goodrich



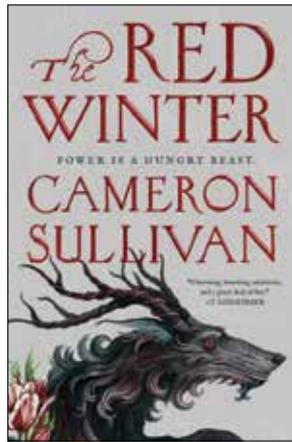
By Petra Lord  
2/3/26  
432 pages  
\$22.99  
Henry Holt & Co.

## 'The Red Winter'

Perhaps I am a bit jaded, but I wasn't sure I could take another werewolf story. I am delighted to say that I was very wrong in judging it so harshly. I know it is winter in Iowa, and we are all sick of it, but Sullivan plunges us into a frost-bitten landscape full of mysteries that is far more enchanting than any snow-bound story ought to be. This is a story within a story, within a story. It even has a fourth story in the footnotes, one of my very favorite tropes.

We open in the modern world with the immortal wizard Sebastian being reminded of an adventure from long ago. Ably abetted by his pet succubus, Livia, we learn of his sweet romance with a nobleman, their terrifying adventure in the French countryside, and how Joan of Arc really happened. Despite the gore and humorous asides peppered throughout, this really is an epic fantasy tale with enough romance to make all the BookTok people swoon.

Fast-paced, well-written and awash with magic, this book absolutely swept me away. If you are the audiobook type, I can't recommend the narrators highly enough. They were perfect. ■ — Review by Julie Goodrich



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## GRIMES Public Library news

Another youngster has finished 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten at Grimes Public Library. 1,000 Books before Kindergarten is a nationwide program hosted at Grimes Public Library to encourage families to read 1,000 books together before a child reaches kindergarten. It is a fun and free way to start your child on the path to success with prizes at every 100 books. Stop by the library to sign up.



**Name:** Harrison Lo  
**Parents:** Franky and Kelsey Lo  
**Age:** 2.5  
**Favorite book:** “Mighty Construction: Road Crew Coming Through”  
**Favorite animal:** Pete the Cat ■

## THE FIRST handshake

In a growing community like Grimes, milestones happen often, and they are very much worth celebrating.



Yes, Grimes Chamber & Economic Development (GCED) celebrates new businesses. But we also celebrate expansions, new parks, the library amphitheaters, major infrastructure improvements and transformational initiatives like the Hy-Vee Multiplex. When something good and noteworthy happens here, we proudly do our best to commemorate the achievement.

We have cut ribbons on restaurants and hotels, large industrial facilities and small niche retail shops, churches, roads, trails. We have even conducted events for some of the largest retailers in the world, including Walmart, Hy-Vee Grocery, Menard’s, etc. The size of the investment may vary, but the message is always the same: It matters to this community.

Behind nearly every one of those moments is a group of volunteers offering something simple but powerful ...the first handshake, often coupled with a friendly smile.

The GCED Ambassadors show up. They represent businesses of all types and sizes, and they give their time to welcome, encourage and connect. At ribbon cuttings and groundbreaking ceremonies, they stand beside business owners, developers, nonprofit leaders and community partners to say, “We’re glad you’re here.”

It may not seem significant — a simple handshake, a smile, a round of applause — but imagine the alternative. Imagine hosting an event to mark a major investment or accomplishment and no one attends. What would that communicate about your decision to locate or expand here? What would that say about your community?

Now imagine a group of engaged professionals showing up consistently. That moment sets a tone. It communicates belonging. It communicates that we care.

These events are celebratory. Often there’s food, sometimes drinks, and always conversation. They are an opportunity to pause and enjoy the forward momentum of a vibrant community.

Serving as an ambassador is a real time commitment, especially in a community experiencing steady growth. Yet, they show up anyway. Not just for ceremonies, but also for events like the annual Grimes on the Green Golf Outing, the Business Expo, Lunch & Learn events and other chamber gatherings throughout the year.

Some ambassadors have served for many years and, along the way, have become friends. They are also referral engines. Because they are engaged and informed, they know who is expanding, hiring, building or offering specific services. When someone asks, “Do you know anyone who can help?” they often have an answer.

Growth matters. But growth paired with connection is what builds a strong community.

The first handshake may seem small, but, in Grimes, it sends a lasting message of support. Thank you to our many wonderful, indispensable GCED Ambassadors. We look forward to seeing you at the next event. ■

Information provided by Brian Buethe, President | CEO, [www.GrimesIowa.com](http://www.GrimesIowa.com)

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Davis Brown, Grace Crow and Treyven Steilen



Brynn Senne and William Schall



Nikki Gerstenberger and Tobi Miller



Alex Webb, Addie Farrell and Luke Mosier



Allyah Dotson and Sloan Lucius



DCG Student Teacher Antonio Rodriguez



Katelyn Daugherty and Sahrah Feeley



Zoey Boots, Livy Edwards and Bailey Clark



Rocco Reitano and Rory Kadin



Holden Quandt

# DCG Pep Band

DCG Pep Band performed on Jan. 6 at Dallas Center-Grimes High School.



Caleb Hanson and Carter Neal



Ryan Wolf



Roscoe Miles and Kayla Atanga



Caleb Hanson and Carter Neal



Chloe Davis



Arianna Sims and Jocelyn Lucas



Gavin Eickelberg and Nathan Friesen



Zoey Boots and Livy Edwards



Raquel Gao



Grace Crow



Nathan Davis, Nate Maggard and Joe Cutwright

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