

Living

MAGAZINE

A 'fur-ever' HOME

Residents share stories about the animals they rescued.

Meet Sarah Tisdale

EDUCATION

Sick Day Chicken Noodle Soup

RECIPE

Elegance to ashes: the Bondurant home

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20	PARTIAL EASEMENT	SOLD
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23	PARTIAL EASEMENT	\$125,000
24	PARTIAL EASEMENT	\$125,000
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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 Rachel Harrington

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 or 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.

Danielle Guntly adopted
Coco as a puppy.

A Black Friday special

This past September, Danielle Guntly was deeply grieving the loss of her beloved rescue dog. Not long after, she began thinking about adopting another when she saw that the Animal Rescue League was holding a Black Friday adoption event with \$25 fees. She decided to check it out. The minute she saw Coco, she knew he was the one.

“We knew we wanted a small dog because I like to be able to pick up dogs if I want to,” Guntly says. “There were a lot of Maltese dogs listed online — at least six of them — but they were all adopted by the time we arrived. Coco was listed as a West Highland terrier. Coco was a stray that had been picked up in Des Moines around Halloween and was estimated to have a November birthday, when he would turn 1. We decided to meet him, and we fell in love.”

Coco went to a foster home for about two weeks, and Guntly picked him up there. She adopted him right after Thanksgiving.

Despite being labeled as a West Highland terrier, Coco has a curly tail not typical of that breed. Guntly decided to order a DNA test and learned Coco is actually 50% pug, 40% Maltese and 10% Havanese.

“The kit came with a DNA test swab that I rubbed on the inside of his cheek,” Guntly says. “It took about 30 seconds. Then I put it in a tube with the included solution. I mailed it with its prepaid packaging. They kept us updated the whole time, and I received a 40-page report because they also test for more than 200 genetic diseases.”

Guntly says she likes that she can log onto the Embark DNA website and see relatives of Coco that have also been tested.

“I found them all over the world,” she says.

She says she is impressed with how many places dogs from Coco’s family tree live.

Guntly says she had a bit of adjusting to do with Coco.

“My dog that passed away was 15 years old, and Coco is very much a puppy, so there is a big difference,” she says. “He loves giving kisses and has a fun personality. He is learning to be an inside dog, and he is a quick learner and treat-motivated. He will do just about anything for a treat. He learned on Day 1 which door to go to when he needs to go outside.”

Coco will soon begin training classes.

Guntly says she feels strongly about adopting rescue animals.

“My therapist offered me a dog from a



Coco has a lot of energy and has been a fun addition to the Guntly household.

breeder, but my partner and I felt we should get an animal that needs a good home,” she says. “My first dog took about three years to trust me, but once our bond was established, it was great.”

Guntly says she looks forward to creating a strong bond with Coco and giving him the best dog life possible.

Calming a bolter

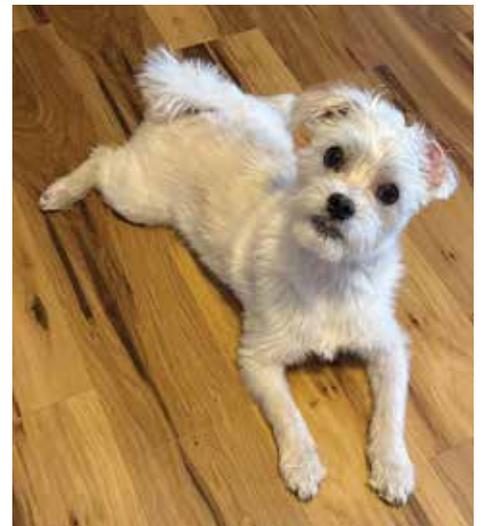
Hannah Bibiano is no stranger to rescuing animals.

“Rescue animals have been let down by other people and need a second chance,” she says. “They are grateful, and my goal is to make them ‘ungrateful’ in the sense that they demand what they deserve.”

Bibiano once rescued two young kittens that she bottle-fed. But she didn’t stop there. On Oct. 9, 2025, she adopted a black Lab mix named Pepper from the Poweshiek Animal Rescue League just south of Grinnell.

“Pepper had been rescued from a meth house,” she says.

Though the shelter operates on a shoestring budget, Bibiano says staff members took wonderful care of Pepper and run an excellent rescue organization. She and her family found Pepper through her online profile and photo.



The adoption process to bring Pepper home was simple and straightforward.

“We filled out an adoption application, and a background check was run,” Bibiano says. “Before they would let us bring her home, we had to sign a contract promising that she would be primarily an indoor dog and that we would bring her back to them if she wasn’t a good fit for our family. Then we paid the \$60 fee and took her home the same day.”

The transition for Pepper to the Bibiano household was not without its bumps in the road. Pepper would often bolt out the door.



Hannah Bibiano adopted a black Lab mix named Pepper that had been rescued. The dog and Hannah's son, Lucien, are buddies.

During the first week she was there, she ran out the door and was hit by a car. Bibiano even had to hobble after her to catch her while pregnant and on crutches.

"We had to work through that with her to help her realize that this was home, that she was safe and that this was where she would stay," Bibiano says. "She will still sometimes jump our gate if we don't secure her in the backyard. She has impressively springy legs."

Pepper also received about 12 weeks of training to help her adjust and learn leash manners.

Some of Bibiano's favorite things to do with Pepper are taking her for walks and watching her play with her son, Lucien.

"She is a quiet companion," she says. "I telework quite a bit, and Pepper will sit by my side while I work."

Bibiano enjoys watching Pepper develop a relationship with her son.

"She will look at me as if to say I'm not allowed to yell at Lucien if he gets into trouble," she says with a laugh. "She treats him like her child."

Not long ago, Pepper had not been eating well, so Bibiano took her to the veterinarian. They discovered she was protesting her kibble because she wanted Lucien's food.

Though Pepper was terrified of her own shadow and timid around men when she first came home, Bibiano says Pepper has grown in confidence and now seems comfortable. The family has since adopted another puppy, and Pepper has taken on the role of teaching her how to be a dog.



Kimberly Cretsinger and her children, Lucas Hagen and Katelynn Hagen, and their pets, Opal, Loki, Gus and Grizabella.

Family grows with three rescues

Gus, a domestic shorthair cat, came to the Hagen family from the Animal Rescue League during the COVID-19 shutdown. He was being fostered by one of Kim Cretsinger's co-workers, and when the family met him, they fell in love.

"The timing of the shutdown and his adoption was just right," Cretsinger says. "My kids had nothing better to do."

Gus had come into the ARL with an injury and had no movement in his leg.

"The ARL was never told exactly what caused the injury, but there was suspicion that he might have gotten stuck in a recliner as a tiny kitten," Cretsinger says. "He was only 6 weeks old when we adopted him — just a baby."

Gus had hip surgery, which they hoped would fix the issue, but it did not work. Two years ago, his back right leg was amputated.

Having only three legs has not kept Gus from being active and involved with his family. Cretsinger says Gus loves her son Lucas the most.

"He is super calm, relaxed and loving," Lucas says. "He keeps the people he trusts close. Since he cannot jump well with only three legs, he will paw at your leg to get picked up. Then he will 'make biscuits' on you for a while."

Cretsinger adds that Gus is a cautious cat.

"Little things scare him — like the ceiling fan or sudden noises," she says. "He hates leaving the house for any reason, probably because every time he has, something bad has happened, like being taken to the ARL, having hip surgery and having his leg amputated."

When Gus moves around the house, his movements are a lot like a mermaid.

"He kind of drags and scurries across the floor," Cretsinger says. "Though his other back leg works fine and is healthy, he just drags it along."

Gus likes fuzzy, warm blankets to cuddle in, and he will often find interesting spots to sleep around the house, such as a random bag or a small corner in the storage room.

"When Gus wants attention, you better give it to him because he will demand it," Cretsinger says.

When the family chose to adopt Gus, he was the first animal they had ever owned. They felt they could give him the home he needed.

Since then, they have adopted three more kittens. They originally planned to get only one more, but they found two together at the ARL in a "cuddle puddle" and felt they couldn't separate them. One was gray and calico-tiger colored, and the other was black and white.

"We decided we needed to get an orange one to round out all the colors," Lucas says. "We found an orange farm kitten that needed a home."

Gus enjoys his new feline family. Despite missing a leg, he can still scoot around faster than the other three cats.

Gus and his feline family are beloved members of the Hagen-Cretsinger household.

Rescue animals need homes and love, Cretsinger says. If you have the capacity to provide that, why not? Shelters are often overfilled, and finding good homes for animals in need can make all the difference. ■

CITY welcomes Vermeer Corporation

The city of Bondurant welcomes Vermeer Corporation’s announcement of its acquisition of approximately 186 acres within the Timmins Industrial Park, a Certified Site through the Iowa Economic Development Authority, and its intent to construct a 300,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art manufacturing facility. The project is expected to bring more than 300 jobs to the community and represents a significant investment in Bondurant’s growing industrial corridor.

Vermeer’s new facility will expand its Des Moines metro presence and serve as a center of excellence for advanced manufacturing, supporting industrial parts and equipment across its utility, tree care and landscape product lines. The investment reinforces Bondurant’s position as a premier location for industrial growth in the Midwest.

“This announcement reflects years of strategic planning, collaboration and investment in making Bondurant development-ready,” said Mayor Doug Elrod. “We are honored that an internationally respected, family-led company like Vermeer has chosen Bondurant for its continued growth. Their decision affirms the strength of our community, workforce,

infrastructure and long-term economic vision.”

Vermeer’s new facility will be located within the Timmins Industrial Park, a 187.74-acre Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) Certified Site designated as a General Industrial Park in January 2024. The certification, conducted in a collaborative partnership between landowners Don and Cheryl Timmins and the City of Bondurant, confirms the property meets rigorous third-party standards for industrial readiness, including zoning, utilities, transportation access, soil testing and environmental review among other due diligence items.

Bondurant became the first community in Iowa to achieve four certified sites through the IEDA Certified Sites Program, demonstrating the city’s proactive commitment to economic development.

“Certified site designation sends a powerful message to global companies — Bondurant is ready,” said City Administrator Marketa Oliver. “Because of the work completed in advance, companies like Vermeer can move forward with confidence.” ■

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Warm up your winter meals with more comforting ideas available at 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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FINISHING the school year strong

As the school year begins to wind down, many students and families start thinking about final grades, end-of-year tests, and preparing for the next grade level. The last few months of school can make a big difference in a student's confidence and academic success. Finishing the year strong not only improves report cards, but it also helps students build the skills they need for the future. One of the best ways to support students during this important time is through personalized tutoring.



From there, instructors create a customized learning plan designed specifically for that student.

Personalized tutoring allows students to focus on exactly what they need most. Whether a student is struggling with reading comprehension, math concepts, or study skills, experienced instructors provide targeted instruction that helps close learning gaps and strengthen foundational skills. This focused approach helps students gain a deeper understanding of the material they are learning in school.

Another key benefit of personalized tutoring is the confidence it builds. When students begin to understand concepts that once felt difficult, they start to believe in their own abilities. That confidence often carries over into the classroom, where students become more willing to participate, ask questions and tackle challenging assignments. As confidence grows, so does motivation.

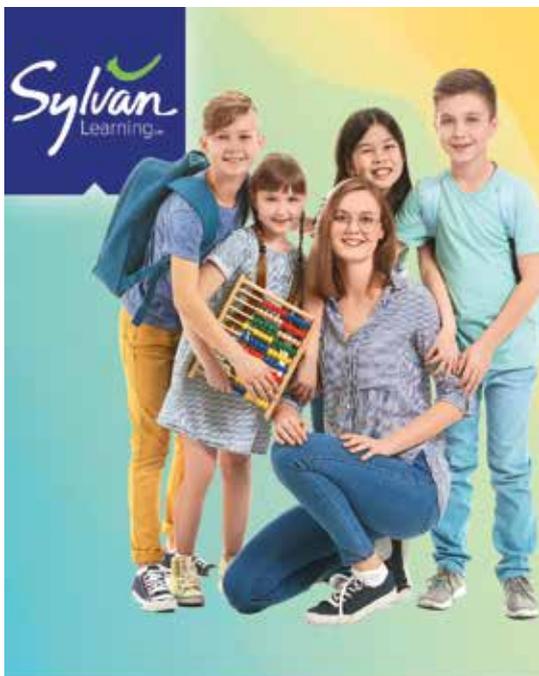
The end of the school year is also a great opportunity to prepare for what comes next. By

strengthening important skills now, students can enter the next grade level feeling prepared and ready to succeed. Rather than spending the summer trying to catch up, they can focus on maintaining and building upon the progress they have already made.

The goal is not just to improve grades, but to help students become confident, independent learners. With personalized tutoring, supportive instructors and proven teaching methods, students receive the guidance they need to finish the school year strong and start the next one even stronger.

For families looking to give their child an academic boost before the school year ends, personalized tutoring can make all the difference. The end goal is to partner with families to help students reach their full potential and achieve lasting success in school and beyond. ■

Information provided by Angela Jones, Owner and Center Director of Sylvan Learning of Altoona, 301 Center Place, Suite C-1, Altoona, 515-957-2923, Angela.Jones@sylvanlearning.com.



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REAL ESTATE

By Austin Sullivan

WHY DO buyers and sellers prefer spring?

Every year, as winter fades and the weather begins to warm up, the real estate market starts to pick up momentum. While homes are bought and sold throughout the year, spring consistently stands out as one of the most active seasons for both buyers and sellers. After working in the market and watching these trends year after year, it becomes clear why many people prefer to make their move during the spring months.



As the days get longer and the weather improves, more people are willing to get out and start touring homes. Winter can slow things down with cold temperatures and busy holiday schedules, but, once spring arrives, many buyers reenter the market with serious intentions. Families planning a move often begin their home search during this time so they can close and relocate over the summer before the next school year begins.

For sellers, this increase in activity can create a great opportunity. More buyers actively searching means more potential showings and often stronger competition for well-priced homes. When demand is high and multiple buyers are looking at the same properties, sellers may see faster offers and sometimes multiple offer situations depending on the price and location.

Spring also tends to highlight homes at their best. Lawns start to turn green, trees and landscaping begin to bloom, and homes benefit from more natural light throughout the day. These improvements can make a big difference in listing photos and showings. A bright home with strong curb appeal often leaves a stronger first impression for buyers.

Buyers benefit from the spring market because more homes typically become available. Many homeowners choose to wait until spring to list their property, which means inventory often increases compared to the slower winter months. With more homes on the market, buyers have a better chance of finding something that fits their needs, style and budget.

Another advantage is timing. Purchasing a home in the spring allows buyers to close and move during the summer, which tends to be a convenient time for families and individuals managing work or school schedules.

While every market is different, spring continues to create an ideal environment for both buyers and sellers. Sellers benefit from motivated buyers and strong demand, while buyers enjoy a wider selection of homes to choose from. When those factors come together, it naturally leads to one of the most active and exciting times of the year in real estate. ■

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

SLEEPING well impacts well-being

How would you like to get sick less often, maintain a healthy weight, reduce your stress level and lower your risk for serious health problems? All it takes is one thing: Get more sleep. Your health and the way you feel when you are awake depends significantly on what happens when you are sleeping.



According to the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, inadequate sleep can raise your risk for chronic health problems. Sleep affects your heart and circulatory system, metabolism, respiratory system and immune system. People who do not get enough sleep, either by going to bed too late, getting up too early, or waking up multiple times during the night, have an increased risk of coronary heart disease, high blood pressure, obesity and stroke. Sleep enables our bodies to repair themselves and be ready for the next day.

Unfortunately, getting sleep becomes harder as we age. Our bodies produce less melatonin (the sleep hormone) as we age, which results in us waking up multiple times during the night, waking up earlier in the morning, and having a harder time falling asleep at night. Losing sleep is an annoying problem to have. There are a few things we can do to help improve our sleep as we age.

Stick to a schedule. If we develop a more consistent sleep routine, by not only going to bed at the same time each night but following the same

nighttime routine, such as having a cup of warm decaffeinated tea before bed, it can help train our body and mind that it is time for us to sleep.

Avoid stimulating activities an hour before bed. Shut the TV off and get off your phone. Read a book or listen to quiet music.

Keep physical activity a part of your daily routine. Regular exercise, as well as spending time outdoors each day, can help promote sleep. Hopkins School of Medicine has found that “the effects of aerobic exercise on sleep appear to be similar to those of sleeping pills.”

Reduce bedroom distractions. Prohibit electronics in your bedroom and create a space that lets your mind slow down and your body relax. Temperature changes can interrupt your sleep, so add optional blanket layers so you can add or throw off covers as you sleep. Practicing progressive muscle relaxation once you are in bed has been shown to help with sleep disturbances. Progressive muscle relaxation involves tensing and then relaxing all of the muscle groups in your body.

Also, I love a good nap, but, if you are not sleeping well at night, naps are hurting you, not helping you. If you are going to nap, try taking them in the morning or early afternoon.

Sleep is vital to our overall health. Make sleeping well a part of your self-care routine. ■

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

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INSPIRING young learners

Tisdale enjoys teaching the first grade

Sarah Tisdale, a first grade teacher at Morris Elementary, has taught in Bondurant for a total of 14 years, including some time in second grade.

Prior to coming to the district, Tisdale was a Title I reading teacher for five years at the I-35 Community School District after earning her teaching degree from Central College in 2007.

What initially drew her to teaching is that it has always felt natural to her since she grew up in a family of educators. In fact, her great-grandmother, grandfather, father and mother have all worked in education.

“I’ve been surrounded by it my whole life,” Tisdale says. “Hearing about their experiences and seeing the difference they made in students’ lives inspired me to pursue teaching myself.”

Tisdale and her husband arrived in Bondurant after getting married and deciding to settle down in a town that had a small-town feeling, and Bondurant-Farrar had just that.

It’s proven to be a great district to teach in as well.

“I absolutely love being a first-grade teacher,” Tisdale says. “One of the most rewarding things I get to do is watch my students grow both academically and personally. First grade is such an important year where students start building strong academic skills, and it’s exciting to be a part of and observe this progress. I also love the students’ energy, curiosity and the relationships I get to build with them throughout the year.”

That’s what makes teaching all worth it for her: the relationships with her students and their families.

“Over the course of the year, I get to see how much the students grow and gain confidence, and it’s rewarding to share those moments with their families,” Tisdale says. “One of the most meaningful things is when those relationships continue even after they leave my classroom. When former students stop by to say hi or I hear about how they are doing in later grades, it reminds me how lasting those connections and relationships can be.”

For Tisdale, those lasting connections are one of the most rewarding parts of being an educator. ■



Sarah Tisdale says first grade is a time to build strong academic skills.



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

Our discovery center program offers a series of activities devoted to the physical, emotional and social development of children!

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



Preparing Students for Safety Drills

School safety is an ongoing process.

This spring, Bondurant-Farrar is expanding safety practices by introducing age-appropriate active threat preparedness drills that include students.

Just like fire and tornado drills, these practices help students and staff understand what to do in an emergency.

► Before the drill students will learn:

- Why we practice safety drills
- What the drill will look like
- What they should do during the drill

Drills will be calm, structured, and developmentally appropriate for each age level. Families will receive communication ahead of time, and surprise drills will not be conducted.

This work will help students feel informed, prepared, and supported.

Families with questions about safety practices are encouraged to contact their child's school office.



Kindergarten Registration For Next School Year Opens On March 30

Will your child turn five years old by September 15?

Beginning March 30, families can start the registration process for Kindergarten, Developmental Kindergarten, or Transitional Kindergarten at Bondurant-Farrar.

Complete the process online from home or schedule an in-person appointment with our district registrar!

► Helpful tips to get started:

- Don't have all the required paperwork? That's okay, begin the process and we'll help you along the way!
- Using a mobile phone to complete the process will make things difficult. Instead, we recommend using a laptop or desktop computer, if possible.
- We are here to help! For assistance, contact our district registrar:
 - By phone at 515-967-7819
 - By email at registrar@bfschools.org
 - Visit www.bfschools.org/enroll



Let's Chat, Bluejays!

JOIN DISTRICT LEADERS FOR OPEN CONVERSATIONS ABOUT OUR SCHOOLS.

These informal 45-minute sessions are an opportunity to ask questions, provide feedback, and learn more about district initiatives.

April 14 from 8:30-9:15 AM
April 15 from 4:00-4:15 PM

Additional dates/times available upon request.

Bondurant-Farrar District Office
300 Garfield Street SW, Bondurant

To join virtually, please RSVP for link:
communications@bfschools.org

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



Contact Us:

Bondurant-Farrar District Office
300 Garfield Street SW, Bondurant
Phone: 515-967-7819
Online: www.bfschools.org/contactus

Stay Connected:

Facebook: @BFDistrict
X: @BF_District
YouTube: @Bondurant-FarrarCSD
Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/bfcsd/albums

ELEGANCE to ashes

A rare and early view of the elegant Bondurant family home



Pictured is the home of the town's founder, Alexander Conley Bondurant, (1829-1899) and his wife, Margaret Brooks (1844-1919), and their eight children.

It began as a one-room house. After their marriage in 1861, large additions were made over time to provide for their large family.

Additional lumber and building materials were hauled in wagons by teams of oxen from Iowa Center, located in Marshall County.

As additions were made, the Victorian-styled house featured ornamental architectural details, stylish spindle work and latticework with three brick chimneys.

Surrounded by groves of ornamental trees, the wrap-around veranda of the Bondurant family home was visible to passersby driving past in their wagons and carriages.

On Jan. 8, 1917, the beautiful elegant Victorian home that had once been the home of A.C. Bondurant and Margaret Brooks Bondurant was tragically burned to the ground.

The stately Bondurant family home, which had stood since the 1800s at 604 S. Grant St., was left with only smoke, ashes and charred remains.

Despite all efforts to save the house, the fiery flames destroyed the house and most of the furnishings in less than an hour.

At the time of the fire, The Bondurant Family Homestead was occupied by the Phillips family.

It was a cold winter day, and Mr. Phillips was sawing wood when he noticed smoke billowing from the house. The flames were so intense that even the nearby trees were scarred by the flames. Sadly, the once stately



house was deemed a complete loss.

Shortly thereafter, in 1919, the property was purchased by the Morris family from the Bondurant Family Estate.

Using milled lumber from the grove of trees that grew thickly on the old Bondurant Homestead, Edgar J. Morris built a new home. The Morris house was built on the front section of the original foundation that remained after the 1917 fire. ■

Contact: bonduranthistoricalsociety@gmail.com

Website: Bonduranthistoricalsociety.com

Facebook: Bondurant Historical Society



Bondurant News

March 2026

On March 2, 2026, the Bondurant City Council approved ordinances updating the City's Nuisance Code, including Chapters 50 (Nuisances Generally) and 51 (Abandoned and Junk Motor Vehicles). As these updates begin to take effect, we want to provide residents with helpful information and resources.

METRO HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP OFF

new hours open later & every Saturday



Safe Battery Disposal

- BAG IT!
- CHECK IT!
- DROP IT!



Bondurant City Hall
Bondurant Library

HOW MANY STICKERS DO YOU NEED?



EXTRA GARBAGE BAG
1 \$1 sticker



MATTRESS
Twin/Double: 1 \$5 sticker
King/Queen: 2 \$5 stickers



APPLIANCES
7 \$5 stickers
*Don't forget to call and schedule your appliance for collection!



COUCH/LOVE SEAT
1 \$5 sticker



Large Item Pickup

Citywide Garage Sales

May 9, 2026

Spring Cleanup & Tire Disposal

MAY 16 2026

WHAT'S ACCEPTED:

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.

Be sure to check for cancelations.

Coming up in 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.

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

Step up to clean up. Keep Bondu Beautiful is taking place on April 11. Walk-ups are welcome, but organized groups are encouraged to contact Katie at kklus@cityofbondurant.com prior to the event to register their group. Dress for the weather and wear comfy shoes that can get dirty. For more information, see the parks and rec listing by scanning the QR code.



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.

Live Music at Prairie Meadows

1 Prairie Meadows Drive, Altoona

- March 27, 8-11 p.m. Adam Whitehead
- March 28, 8-11 p.m. Richie Lee & the Fabulous 50's
- March 31, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Jim Dandy and the Kountry Rebels
- April 3, 8 p.m. Beggar's Bargain
- April 4, 8 p.m. Lincoln Highway
- April 7, 11 a.m. Dale Menning & the Stardusters
- April 10, 7 p.m. REO Survivor
- April 11, 8 p.m. Aftershock
- April 14, 11 a.m. Sentimental Swing
- April 17, 8 p.m. The Detour Band
- April 18, 8 p.m. Jesse and the Medicine Men
- April 21, 11 a.m. Clarksville Station
- April 24, 8 p.m. Final Mix
- April 25, 8 p.m. Dick Danger Band
- April 28, 11 a.m. Kowboy Kix



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. www.TorisAngels.org

Bondurant Library Events

104 Second St. N.E., Bondurant

- March 28, Spring Bike Safety and Maintenance Workshop, 2 p.m.
- March 31, Plants and Pollinators program, 6 p.m.
- April 9, Family Game Night BINGO, 6 p.m.
- April 11, Rain Barrel Workshop, 1 p.m.
- April 16, How Iowa Met Baseball, 6 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>.

Capital City Card Convention

March 27-29
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/events/detail/capital-city-card-convention-8.

Be sure to check for cancelations.

Bill Owens: Work and Leisure

Through April 19

John Brady Print Gallery, Des Moines Art Center,
4700 Grand Ave., Des Moines

Bill Owens documented the suburbs in the 1970s, capturing the lives of prosperous, predominantly white Americans at a moment after the cultural shifts of the 1960s but before the dawn of the digital age of computers and video games in the 1980s. His photographs were compiled in the best-selling coffee table books “Leisure” (1972), “Our Kind of People” (1975), and “Working: I Do It For the Money” (1977). The images in this exhibition, taken from all three of these series and shot mainly in California and the Midwest, reveal Owens’ unique comedic eye as he seems to lightly poke fun at his subjects while clearly enjoying their company, finding both the genuine and the absurd in everyday life.

The Iowa Files: A History Series

Various dates, 3 p.m.

Online and in-person at the Community Room of the West Des Moines Public Library, 4000 Mills Civic Parkway

This joint West Des Moines Historical Society and West Des Moines Public Library program is free and open to the public, thanks to the generosity of West Des Moines Historical Society members, Bravo Greater Des Moines and the Friends Foundation of the West Des Moines Library. All programs are streamed on the WDMHS Facebook page and YouTube channel.

• **April 12: Colfax, the Spring City.** In the 1870s, underground mineral water, which was a cure-all health craze at the time, was discovered in Colfax. The water sparked health resort and bottling industries which made Colfax a world famous destination at the turn of the 20th Century. Kevin Williams, Cofax Historical Society’s board president, will share information and pictures about this little-known boom in Colfax.

• **May 17: Villisca; Living With a Mystery.** On the morning of June 10, 1912, Josiah and Sarah Moore, along with their four children and two young overnight guests, were found brutally murdered in their home. Dr. Edgar V. Epperly has written dozens of articles and blog entries and appeared on CourtTV and other radio and television programs. He will be joined by filmmakers Kelly and Tammy Rundle, whose 2004 documentary explores the crime’s aftermath in a small town.

Unmasking the Singer

Saturday, March 28

Val Air Ballroom, 301 Ashworth Road, West Des Moines

The Salvation Army’s Unmasking the Singer, sponsored by KDSM FOX 17 and Prairie Meadows, is already ramping up the excitement for 2026. The event will feature round-table seating for the main area — offering a more sociable atmosphere for the audience. Val Air also has a main stage as well as the old side stage, allowing for a set-up more similar to that of The Masked Singer on FOX. Tables of eight start at \$250 and up. Individual table seats are \$50 and general admission is \$35. Light snacks will be provided, and beverages will be available for purchase. For more information or to buy tickets, visit www.bit.ly/UMTS2026.

The Ingersoll Shows

3711 Ingersoll Ave., Des Moines

The Ingersoll announces some exciting additions to its spring performance lineup. Spanning world-class traditional music and beloved musical theater, these new shows promise unforgettable moments of live entertainment in the heart of the community.

• **“Church Basement Ladies”:** March 26–29, April 2–5 and April 9–12. Matinee performances will have dining at 11 a.m., and the show beginning at 1 p.m. Evening performances will have dining at 5:30 p.m., and the show beginning at 7:30 p.m.

• **The Classic Stones Live: Wednesday, April 15, and Thursday, April 16.** Widely recognized as the most premier Rolling Stones tribute in the world, this eight-piece band recreates the raw energy, swagger and sound of The Stones in their legendary prime. From iconic saxophone lines to unforgettable backing vocals, every detail is meticulously performed in original tunings. Dining begins at 5:30 p.m. with the show at 7:30 p.m. both nights.

• **Isn’t She Lovely, a Mother’s Day Music Show starring Patricia Holly:** May 8 and May 10, offering both an evening and matinee option for families celebrating together. On May 8, dining will be at 5:30 p.m. and show at 7:30 p.m. On May 10, Dining is at 11 a.m. and show is at 1 p.m.

• **Shaun Johnson Big Band Experience - ’90s Country:** June 6. Matinee performance features dining at 11 a.m. and show at 1 p.m. Evening performance starts with dining at 5:30 p.m. and show at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are available at www.theingersoll.com/events or at Ticketmaster.com/TheIngersoll.

Scam Prevention Seminar

Thursday, April 16, 10 a.m.

Ramsey Village Continuing Care,
1611 27th St., Des Moines

Every day someone becomes a victim of fraud. Don’t let it be you. Learn common scam tactics, prevention tips, and how to report scams. Presenter is The Iowa Department of Insurance and Financial Services. Refreshments and pastries will be served. RSVP to Kelly, 515-802-0822, or Kelly.Baughman@ramseyvillage.org. ■

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

IOWA
Living
MAGAZINES



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103 2nd Street SW, Bondurant, IA



Easter

@ B-FED CHURCH.

Sunday | April 5th | 10am

@bfed.church
Federated Church of Bondurant
info@bfedchurch.org
(515) 967-2243

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LUKE 6:48

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FAITH By Thomas Christensen

SINS of the hand or sins of the heart?

All of us want to be better people. We want to be morally upright, progressing more toward the image of Christ with each passing day. So, are the sins you struggle against outward or inward?



Recently, I studied out the passage of Luke 15, commonly known as the “Parable of the Prodigal Son.” I grew up hearing this story that Jesus told, but I always heard it prioritizing the son who ran away and partied away his inheritance and then came to his senses and crawled humbly back to his father, requesting to be let into the household as the lowest of the lowest slaves, and, yet, the father runs toward him and welcomes him with open arms, throwing a celebration for his son who was lost and has returned home.

It is a great story with a great lesson. It is true that God the Father welcomes us back home when we’ve wandered and squandered. But, I never paid much attention to the other son. He is sort of in the background of the story; he doesn’t have the sensational redemption arc of his younger brother.

When the younger brother returns home, the father is waiting and watching for him. But where is the older brother? He is faithfully plowing the fields. He never left. He never partied it up. He never threw extravagant parties for friends who dipped as soon as the money was gone.

One son thought that pleasure in the moment would bring him happiness.

One son thought that productivity in the daily would bring him honor.

But here is the thing with the older brother: He never left to go party it up, but his heart wasn’t reaching toward his father any more than his younger brother. He thought that his worth was in his output, that his value was in his productivity, but his heart was wandering away just as much as his brother.

But that brings us to the close of the story:

The father knew that pride in either of them would tear apart their hearts.

The character of the father in this story shows us the hope that is found in God’s good design. The father was waiting for his wayward son to return home, and, when he did, there was no mention of the party and the extravagance; there was simply joy at his return. But, when the older brother came up to the house with folded arms and a furrowed brow and refused to come into the celebration, the father came out to him. Did you catch that? The father moved toward both of them.

One son was lost in a far country.

One son was lost in the front yard.

The Father came looking for both.

Go read Luke 15:11-32 to study this passage out for yourself. ■

Information provided by Thomas Christensen, serving as Family & Children’s Ministry Director at Federated Church of Bondurant.

HUMANITIES Iowa Speaker Series starts in April



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 Bondurant Community Library Humanities Iowa Speaker Series offers educational programming on a range of topics. This year, the library will host three speakers, who will talk about Iowa baseball history, the historic Lincoln Highway in Iowa, and Iowans you should know. We hope to see you at one of these events, or better yet, all three.

• **The Humanities Iowa Speaker Series kicks off at 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 16, with “How Iowa Met Baseball: The Myths, The History, The Players.”** In this fascinating program, professor emeritus, historian and lifelong baseball card collector John Liepa explores the myths surrounding baseball’s origins, the game’s early history, and its spread to Iowa during the Civil War. Audiences will discover Iowa’s baseball pioneers and enjoy a look at Liepa’s extensive collection of memorabilia, highlighting the state’s 225 Major Leaguers and seven Hall of Famers. A must for baseball fans and Iowa history enthusiasts alike.

• **Next in the series, Darcy Maulsby will present “Adventures Along the Historic Lincoln Highway in Iowa” at 6 p.m. on Thursday, May 14.** In this program, Maulsby takes audiences on a journey along the historic Lincoln Highway, better known today as Highway 30. Developed more than a century ago, the Lincoln Highway transformed travel in Iowa and across America. In this engaging presentation, Maulsby shares stories of innovation, community spirit and the enduring sense of freedom tied to America’s first transcontinental highway — an adventure that might just inspire your next Iowa road trip.

• **The series wraps up with Jeff Stein’s “Iowans You Should Know” at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 10.** Stein — an award-winning broadcaster, historian, and author — shares fascinating stories of Iowans whose ideas, talents and determination left a lasting mark. From the invention of the Eskimo Pie and the electric razor to nationally acclaimed musicians, Oscar winners, and history-making leaders, Stein highlights the achievements of both famous and little-known Iowans. Based on his daily Iowa Almanac radio features, this presentation is tailored to connect with local audiences and celebrate Iowa’s unique contributions to culture and history.

These programs have been funded by Humanities Iowa and the State Historical Society, and they are free and open to the public.

APRIL EVENTS

- Library closed April 5 for Easter.
- Fit for Life — Mondays and Thursdays, 8:30 a.m.
- Story Time — Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:30 a.m.
- Baby Story Time — Thursdays, 9:30 a.m.

- April 1 — Pokémon Club, 4:15 p.m.
- April 2 — Adult Craft Night, 6 p.m. (registration required)
- April 6 — After-School Marble Run Fun, 2:30 p.m.
- April 6 — Adaptive Equipment Program, 6 p.m.
- April 7 — Reading Dragons and Friends (grades 3-5), 6 p.m.
- April 8 — Curious and Creative Kids Club, 4:15 p.m.
- April 9 — Family Game Night — BINGO, 6 p.m.
- April 11 — Messy Munchkins, 10:30 a.m.
- April 11 — Rain Barrel Workshop, 1 p.m. (registration required)
- April 13 — After-School Activity, 2:30 p.m.
- April 14 — Book Discussion for Adults, 6 p.m.
- April 16 — Anime Club (grades 6-12), 4 p.m.
- April 16 — “How Iowa Met Baseball: The Myths, the History, the Players,” 6 p.m.
- April 18-25 — Tree Seedling Giveaway
- April 18 — Saturday Stories, 10:30 a.m.
- April 18 — Adult Crafternoon, 2 p.m.
- April 20 — After-School BINGO, 2:30 p.m.
- April 21 — In the Middle Book Club (grades 6-8), 6 p.m.
- April 23 — Caregiving 101, 6 p.m.
- April 27 — After-School Movie, 2:30 p.m.
- April 27 — Teen Café, 4:30 p.m.
- April 28 — Local Author Visit with Kali White VanBaale ■



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VITAMIN C key to skincare



April marks National Vitamin C Day, offering the perfect opportunity to spotlight one of skincare’s most celebrated ingredients. While vitamin C is commonly associated with immune health, its benefits for the skin have made it a staple in many dermatologist-recommended routines.

Vitamin C is a powerful antioxidant, meaning it helps neutralize free radicals — unstable molecules created by environmental factors such as UV exposure, pollution and daily stressors. These free radicals can accelerate visible signs of aging, contributing to dullness, fine lines and uneven skin tone. By helping protect the skin from damage, vitamin C supports a healthier complexion.

One of vitamin C’s most notable benefits is its ability to support collagen production. Collagen is the protein responsible for maintaining the skin’s structure and firmness, but natural levels decline over time. Incorporating topical vitamin C can promote smoother skin.

Vitamin C is also widely known for its brightening effects. It can help reduce the appearance of dark spots and discoloration, leaving skin looking more radiant and even toned.

Formulation matters when it comes to effectiveness. Medical-grade skincare brands such as SkinCeuticals and SkinMedica have invested extensively in antioxidant research to create stable vitamin C formulations designed to penetrate the skin and deliver consistent results. ■

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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OPTIMIZING nervous system function

The sympathetic nervous system, fight or flight response, isn’t the enemy. It is critical for survival, responding to acute danger, reacting to challenges, and taking action in stressful or emergency situations. But when the sympathetic nervous system is activated for too long, beyond just the immediate response to a stressor, the body gets stuck in a protective overdrive.

When the body is stuck in a sympathetic state, it physically and emotionally becomes less flexible and more reactive. Healing, growth and development, learning and processing, and empathy become secondary to survival. The stress response never fully turns off. It might not appear like panic or anxiousness but can look like sensory sensitivities, digestive issues, emotional reactivity, disrupted sleep patterns, allergies, immune system weakness (frequent sickness), skin issues, developmental delays, struggling at school, difficulty focusing or transitioning, bedwetting or toe-walking.

Body signals are often misunderstood as singular issues or attributed to personality, when often they are the body sounding the alarm that the sympathetic nervous system is stuck in a protective pattern. Children (and adults) don’t need to be “fixed”; we need to recognize the pattern beneath the symptoms. The body isn’t misbehaving; it is protecting. Nervous system-focused chiropractors can partner with families to identify stress patterns and optimize nervous system function. Chiropractic adjustments remove interference in the nervous system and move the body from a sympathetic state to a parasympathetic state. Chiropractic adjustments prime the nervous system to appropriately adapt to stressors when they arise. Nervous system-focused chiropractors look at the child or adult as a whole, not just diagnoses or symptoms, and create a plan to restore healing and function. ■

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

SPRING cleaning: Don't forget your teeth

As winter fades and fresh energy fills the air, many of us start tackling closets, garages and cluttered spaces in the spirit of spring cleaning. But, while you're refreshing your home, don't forget one of the most important places to give attention to: your smile.

Spring is the perfect time to reset your oral health routine. Just like dust and grime build up in your home, plaque and tartar can build up on your teeth over time. Even with excellent brushing and flossing habits, professional cleanings are essential to remove stubborn buildup and keep your gums healthy.

Spring is also a great time to replace your toothbrush (we recommend every three to four months), check expiration dates on dental products, and recommit to daily flossing. Small habits make a big difference in preventing cavities, gum disease and costly dental work down the road.

If it has been more than six months since your last visit, consider a reminder to schedule your routine cleaning and exam. Regular checkups allow your team to catch small concerns early — before they become bigger problems. Prevention truly is the best investment in your smile.

A healthy smile doesn't just look great. It supports your overall health and confidence. So, as you open the windows and welcome the sunshine, take a moment to freshen up your oral health, too.

This spring, clear away the buildup and brighten your smile. Your healthiest, happiest smile starts with a simple appointment. ■

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



Spring Cleaning for Your Smile!

OUT WITH THE PLAQUE. IN WITH THE SPARKLE.

Schedule your spring cleaning today and let your smile shine all season long!

After months of winter routines, now is the perfect time to refresh your oral health. A professional cleaning removes buildup, brightens your smile, and keeps your gums healthy. Let us help you step into spring with confidence.



kimballandbeecher.com

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

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PLAN AHEAD

By Sarah Masteller

WITH SPRING and summer approaching...

Are you planning for that special trip? Will you be traveling to spend time with family? Perhaps you will be traveling outside of the country.

Have you ever thought about what would happen if something unfortunate happened during the time you were away and you needed the services of a funeral home?

We don't like to think about these things, but, the truth is, they can happen. And when they do, having a plan in place can make a world of difference.

Perhaps a travel plan is something for you to consider: a plan that would take care of everything and bring your loved one back home if such an unfortunate situation occurred.

You might be surprised how affordable these plans are, and they can provide a great deal of peace of mind for those traveling.

Visit with your funeral home of choice and ask if they offer a travel plan.

Better to have a plan in place and not need it than to wish you had done something to prepare. ■

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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FINDING home

Bondurant is the right spot for Bethards-Welch and family.

Jennifer Bethards-Welch and her wife, Christi, moved their family to Bondurant in the middle of the pandemic.

“We were looking for a place that truly felt like home, and Bondurant’s small-town vibe, great schools and proximity to our family made it an easy choice,” Bethards-Welch explains.

That was in September 2020. They ultimately chose their house based on one big factor: the location. The home sits close to the schools the couple’s boys attend, and downtown Bondurant is within walking distance.

As for the house itself, with two boys, having more than one bathroom is a huge win. They also enjoy their finished basement and fireplace, and the backyard is the perfect size for their dog, Kinnick.

“On top of that, the neighborhood itself is amazing,” Bethards-Welch says. “We’re lucky to live near several of my co-workers, incredible neighbors, and plenty of kids on our cul-de-sac. It’s been really special watching our boys grow up playing with them, going to school together, and building friendships that we know will last a lifetime.”

What Bethards-Welch especially appreciates is that the town brings a kind of big-city energy.

“We’re always out enjoying things like the Farmers Market, Summer Fest, the Sidewalk Chalk Festival, and so many other local events,” she says. “The best part is that everything is close so no long drives. Just great events, familiar faces, and that easy, welcoming feeling every time we’re out and about.”

Bethards-Welch stays active in the community by being involved with Special Olympics through the Bondurant-Farrar School District, something that has become a meaningful passion of hers.

For Bethards-Welch and her crew, the Bondurant community really does have so much to offer.

“Our boys love spending time at the new city park, we’ve taken advantage of tutoring at KaleidoHope, and there’s always something going on with events throughout the year,” Bethards-Welch says. “Because of that, our whole family has truly felt a sense of belonging here. Life just feels right for us in Bondurant.” ■



Jennifer Bethards-Welch and her wife, Christi, and their two boys enjoy their home in Bondurant and the many amenities of the community.



MYSTERY and celebration at Awards Dinner

The Bondurant Chamber of Commerce brought a little mystery and a lot of celebration to this year's 2025 Annual Awards Dinner, where guests gathered for an elegant evening under a masquerade theme. Community leaders, business owners and residents filled the room to celebrate the people and organizations helping drive Bondurant's growth and success. Between masks, laughter and a lively murder mystery game woven throughout the evening, the event was a memorable night of connection, recognition and community pride.



Guiding the evening was Master of Ceremonies Mark Rixner, who kept the program moving while guests worked together to uncover clues and solve the interactive murder mystery that unfolded throughout the night. Hagan Entertainment provided music and sound for the event, helping create a fun and energetic atmosphere that balanced the evening's celebration with a sense of intrigue and playfulness.

While the mystery kept guests engaged, the true highlight of the evening was recognizing the outstanding individuals and organizations whose work strengthens Bondurant's business community.

The 2025 Large Business of the Year award was presented to Reclaimed Rails Brewing Company, a business that has become a cornerstone of Bondurant's downtown experience. Known as a welcoming gathering place, Reclaimed Rails has created a space where community members can connect while also consistently supporting local events, organizations and initiatives.

The 2025 Small Business of the Year award went to Twist Sips, a vibrant local business that has quickly become a favorite in the community. Through creative offerings and strong community engagement, Twist Sips continues to build relationships with customers while actively supporting chamber events and local partnerships.

The 2025 Organization of the Year was awarded to the Bondurant Farmers Market, which has grown into one of the community's most beloved weekly events. The market supports local vendors, showcases locally produced goods, and creates a welcoming space where residents and visitors can gather, shop and connect.

The 2025 Chamber Connector of the Year award was presented to Tiffany Simmons of Twist Sips. Tiffany was recognized for her enthusiasm, involvement and dedication to strengthening the Bondurant business network by building relationships and helping connect fellow chamber members.

The Bondurant Business Person of the Year award honored Emily Zailac of Excel Nutrition for her leadership, commitment to excellence and continued investment in the local business community.

Finally, the 2025 President's Award was presented to Ben Fuller of Photos By Ben, recognizing his outstanding support of the chamber and his continued willingness to capture and celebrate the moments that bring the Bondurant community together.

The evening served as a reminder that the strength of Bondurant lies in the passion, collaboration and leadership of its local businesses and community members. The chamber congratulates all of the 2025 award winners and thanks everyone who helped make the night such a memorable celebration. ■

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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CHAMBER Awards Dinner

Bondurant Chamber Annual Awards Dinner was held March 6 at American Legion Post 396.



Amanda Korth of the Bondurant Chamber presented Tiffany Simmons with the Chamber Connector of the Year award. Photo courtesy of Photos by Ben



Chris Johnsen of the Bondurant Chamber presented its Business Person of the Year honor to Emily Zailac. Photo courtesy of Photos by Ben



Shelby Hagan of the Bondurant Chamber presented the Large Business of the Year award to Steve Wheeler, Sarah Wheeler, Cory Obrecht and JC Obrecht of Reclaimed Rails Brewing Company. Photo courtesy of Photos by Ben



Bondurant Chamber presented its Small Business of the Year award to Twist Sips. From left: Justin Simmons, Chris Johnsen and Tiffany Simmons. Photo courtesy of Photos by Ben



Shelby Hagen of the Bondurant Chamber presented its Presidents Award to Ben Fuller of Photos by Ben. Photo courtesy of Photos by Ben



Kelli and Mark Rixner



Michell Klinker-Feld and Megan Sockness Teepie



Doug Elrod, Tara Cox, Tiffany Luig and Bryan Plants



Josh Barber, Josh and Liz Bryant and Jeff Burrig

OUT & ABOUT



Melissa Krumm and Carrie Ratliff



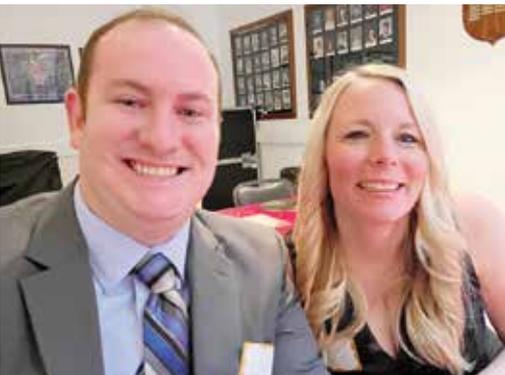
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Sara Grove, Tammy Jones Christensen and Haley Busick



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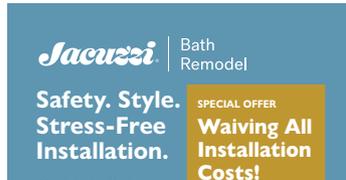
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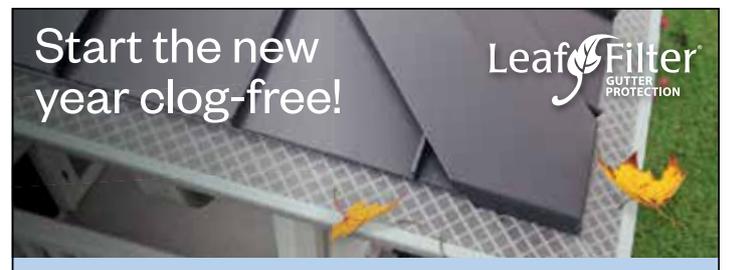
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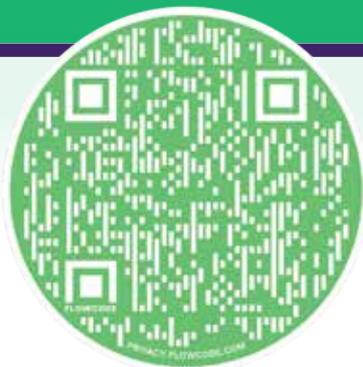
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