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Celebrating HERITAGE

Residents reflect on the traditions
that connect them to home



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WELCOME

CELEBRATING my heritage — a wee bit

“My people” celebrated March 17. If you are Irish, chances are you did, too. If you are not Irish, there is still a good chance you celebrated anyway. That seems to be how St. Patrick’s Day works.

I say “my people” in the most affectionate way possible, mostly because I am reasonably confident I am Irish. I am also told I am German. And French. And possibly a little Native American. But, thanks to my mother’s side of the family, Irish is the one that tends to show up the loudest.

Mom and her siblings fit the Irish profile quite well: short in stature, red-haired, light-skinned, Catholic and full of vinegar. And by “full of vinegar,” I mean they had opinions.

Family history backs up my Irish claim. My grandmother’s maiden name was Leonard. Her father, Patrick Leonard, was born near Carlow, Ireland, in 1866. And, if that isn’t enough proof, my grandson — appropriately named Callahan — arrived in 2025 with a head full of red hair. Genetics doesn’t get much clearer than that. Somewhere in Ireland, an ancestor is nodding proudly and probably ordering another potato.

Speaking of potatoes, let’s address a few stereotypes. Do the Irish really love potatoes that much? Is everyone named Mary? Are they obsessed with the weather? Do they enjoy a good fight but still manage to remain friendly afterward? And do they really say “wee” all the time?

I can’t answer all of those questions with scientific certainty, but I can say this: If someone offers me a baked potato, I’m not going to turn it down.

Personally, I enjoy poking a little fun at my Irish roots while also celebrating them. Truth be told, most of us are a mix of several backgrounds anyway. Somewhere in the family tree, there is probably an Irishman, a German, a Frenchman and someone arguing loudly about the weather.

At the end of the day, we probably have more in common than we realize. That’s worth celebrating. Still, there’s nothing wrong with taking a little pride in where you came from — at least a wee bit.

Have a great month and thanks for reading. ■

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Chris and La Rae
Randall in Rome.

Celebrating **HERITAGE**

Residents reflect on the traditions
that connect them to home



By Rachel Harrington

Family history is more than names on a chart — it is a collection of stories, struggles and traditions that shape who we are. For some, those stories are discovered through travel and exploration; for others, they are passed down through generations rooted in one place. For many, their heritage offers a deeper connection to both their past and their present.

Searching for their roots

Many people feel a desire to understand where their family began — how they came to be where they are today and who came before them. The stories within a family tree and the places those ancestors lived help shape who we become. Chris and La Rae Randall say they knew little about their heritage growing up, so they created a plan that led them on a journey to discover their roots.

In 2019, they took ancestry tests to learn more about their lineage and discovered roots in several locations across Europe.

“Chris started getting into the history aspect of our homelands through history podcasts, and this helped us understand our everyday behaviors and how we operate,” La Rae says. “I have a more chill, laid-back style akin to a Mediterranean lifestyle, and Chris is more ‘go get ‘em’ like his German ancestors. Chris’ German ancestry is a part of his upbringing much more, as his grandparents are German and even speak German, but I have almost no knowledge of my background due to family rifts and whatnot.”

They began planning a trip “across the pond” to visit their ancestral lands. When the COVID-19 pandemic brought travel to a halt, it didn’t stop their plans.

“We purchased a giant wall-sized map, and while everything was still in limbo, we spent the next five years dreaming and planning that trip,” she says. “In 2025, shortly after moving to our new home in Winterset, we were finally able to make our dream a reality.”

The Randalls first traveled to Great Britain, visiting London and Stonehenge, before heading north to Belfast, Northern Ireland and Dublin. From there, they traveled to Germany to explore Chris’ ancestry, then finished their trip in Italy, celebrating La Rae’s Mediterranean roots.

“The highlights of the trip were definitely Ireland and Italy,” La Rae says. “We loved completely immersing ourselves in our ancestral cultures. It’s fascinating to experience the land, the environment, the people and the food — to see how our own behaviors and habits are shaped by these cultures and help us understand more about ourselves.

“Northern Ireland and Ireland are just magical overall. The landscapes feel like a fairytale. We visited Giant’s Causeway, where the legend says a giant from Northern Ireland and a giant from Scotland built the causeway as a bridge to fight each other. One of our Uber drivers told us Chris looks like the legendary Irish giant Finn McCool.”

La Rae says visiting historical sites in Italy was “like stepping back in time.” Favorites were the Colosseum and Trevi Fountain in Rome.

“Italians work at a different pace because life is just so beautiful there,” La Rae says. “I found myself relaxing into that rhythm and have brought that back into my daily life.”

The couple encourages others to consider “tree travel” — exploring the places their ancestors once lived — to gain a deeper understanding of themselves.

“Because we did not have a lot of exposure as children, I feel like that helped us have an open heart and mind during our trip,” La Rae says.



Chris and La Rae Randall in Northern Ireland.



Chris and La Rae Randall in Heidelberg.



Chris and La Rae Randall at Stonehenge.

A journey that began generations ago

In America, heritage stories vary widely. Some families immigrated generations ago, while others are more recent arrivals. For Rick and Larry Breeding, their family history dates to the mid-1800s.

In 1860, their great-great-grandfather, Eli Cox, moved from the East to Indiana, then Ohio, and eventually Iowa.

“The Cox family came over from Scotland and Ireland,” Breeding says. “Eli Cox bought a farm at 30 years old just north of Winterset. People back east thought Iowa was a rough and wild place, but they came anyway. To discourage my great-great-grandfather from coming, they said you could put a feather pillow up against the outside wall, and it would stay there because the wind is so strong.”

Cox later returned to Cincinnati to purchase a sawmill. Due to poor weather, he shipped it down the Ohio River and back up the Mississippi River to Keokuk before transporting it to his farm.

“The lack of bridges made travel hard,” Breeding says. “That may have played a role in him using the sawmill to help construct several covered bridges. He and his sons — including Alfred Cox, my great-grandfather — helped build most of the bridges that have a peaked roof.”

One example is the Cutler-Donahoe Bridge, now located in Winterset City Park. Cox also helped build the Presbyterian Church that still stands in Winterset, portions of the Madison County Courthouse, and many barns in the area.

Family stories say Cox put up his farm as collateral to purchase materials for the church. When payment was delayed, he lost much of his land, though he later regained part of it.



Larry and Rick Breeding

The Breeding family also has a long history with the Winterset Fire Department. Their grandfather, Charley Breeding, served about 30 years, including 10 years as chief. Their father served 41 years, beginning in 1935, with a two-year break during World War II. Rick has served 13 years, and his son, Ryan, 25 years.

The family’s legacy extends into business as well. Their grandfather started Breeding’s Hardware store, which remained a family operation for generations.

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FEATURE

“My grandpa, dad and his brother worked at the hardware store from the time it opened in 1920,” Larry says. “My uncle retired in 1972, and that’s when I went in. Later, my younger brother took it over.”

Rick adds, “My grandpa Charles started it on the south side of the square, and I moved it to where the Ace Hardware was in 1998. Over the years, five generations worked there — my sons, Greg and Ryan, my daughter, Angie, my wife Debbie, and, eventually, all nine of my grandchildren.”

The store was sold in June 2025 after 105 years in business.

“It’s a tough decision to say goodbye and hand it over to people who will hopefully carry on the tradition,” he says.

The Breeding family’s legacy is rooted in service — from building bridges to running a business to protecting their community.

“I feel like we all liked the excitement of being part of that growing up, and that feeds into our desire to be part of it as adults,” Rick says. “It’s a way to serve the community and be involved in what’s going on.” ■



Rick Breeding’s kids, Ryan, Angie and Greg.

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BEAUTY

By Annie Wiseman

IT'S NO bother

In the service industry — especially in hair salons — there's a funny myth that clients are "bothering" us when they call with questions, reschedule an appointment, or ask about availability. I'm here to clear that up: You are never a bother. In fact, we love hearing from you.



Hair salons are built on connection and communication. Every phone call, text or online booking represents opportunity. It is how we fill our chairs, support our teams, and grow our businesses. When you reach out to ask about a service, pricing or product recommendations, you're not interrupting our day — you're fueling it. Those conversations are the heartbeat of what we do.

Behind the scenes, salons depend on steady communication to thrive. Bookings keep our schedules full, retail sales keep the lights on, and client questions help us tailor our services better. Quite simply, calls equal business — and business equals sustainability for our artists and staff.

So, the next time you hesitate to reach out because you don't want to "bother" your salon, don't. We're here for you. Your call isn't an interruption; it is an invitation to serve. And serving you is exactly why we're in this industry. ■

Information provided by Annie Wiseman, owner of Salon 107 and a licensed cosmetologist with 25 years of experience. 107 John Wayne Drive, Winterset, 515-462-4247, salon107style@gmail.com.

HEALTH

By Dr. Amanda Queck

CONSIDER chiropractic care for spring allergies

You might not think to visit a chiropractor for allergy relief, but chiropractic care is all about supporting the body's natural ability to heal and regulate itself — including the immune and respiratory systems.



Here's how chiropractic can help support your body during allergy season:

1. Improves nervous system function.
2. Supports the immune system.
3. Enhances drainage and reduces inflammation. Chiropractic adjustments can help improve sinus drainage and lymphatic flow, reducing pressure and inflammation in the head and neck.
4. Reduces stress: Chronic stress can weaken the immune system and worsen allergy symptoms. Regular chiropractic care may help reduce physical tension and stress in the body, creating a more balanced internal environment that is less reactive to allergens.

By optimizing nervous system function, enhancing immune performance and reducing inflammation, chiropractic adjustments can help you feel more resilient during allergy season. ■

Information provided by Dr. Amanda Queck, D.C. Flourish Chiropractic & Wellness, 108 W. Court Ave., Winterset, 515-384-0360, www.flourishchiro.life.

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ON THE MOVE? Wear a mouthguard

When people think of mouthguards, they think of football, ice hockey or soccer. But mouthguards are not only useful in contact sports. Chances are, if you are moving in a team or individual sport, whether competing, practicing or playing with friends, you can benefit from a mouthguard. Researchers have found that nearly three of four athletes experience injuries to the face or mouth. Injuries can occur inside or outside the mouth; teeth can be displaced, broken, or knocked out; and the jaws also can be injured.



Mouthguards can help prevent many of these injuries by providing cushioning from a blow and redistributing shock during forceful impacts. Mouthguards also may prevent soft-tissue injuries by separating the teeth from the lips, cheeks and tongue.

A mouthguard should completely cover all the teeth and stay in place during use. In most cases, they are only worn on the upper teeth, but, in some cases, the bottom teeth should be covered as well.

There are three types of mouthguards. Stock mouthguards can be bought in many drugstores and sporting goods supply stores. These are the most inexpensive option. They are a one-size-fits-all mouthguard. They are meant to be used right out of the box with

no fitting adjustments. Because their fit is not tailored to the wearer, the athlete typically must keep his or her mouth closed to hold the mouthguard in place. This can interfere with speaking and breathing.

Boil-and-bite mouthguards are also available in stores. These are slightly more expensive than stock mouthguards. They may offer a better fit than stock mouthguards because they are softened in boiling water, then fitted to the athlete's mouth by placing it over the upper teeth and biting down on it until it cools. Check the mouthguard after fitting it to ensure that it has not become too thin.

Custom-made mouthguards are made specifically for the athlete by a dentist. They are more expensive than those that are sold in stores, but, because they are tailored to each athlete individually, they offer a better fit.

Regardless of the mouthguard you choose, it should be worn during any athletic event, including playtime, practices and games. Athletes of all ages should wear a protective mouthguard, whether playing, practicing or competing. Talk to your dentist about getting the right fit to protect your mouth, teeth and jaws. ■

Information provided by Dr. Jason Phelps, Winterset Dental, 225 Wambold Drive, Winterset, 515-462-5755, Instagram: dr._jason_phelps. Source: Journal of the American Dental Association.

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INSURANCE

By Eric Johnson

CHOOSING the right life insurance



Life insurance is one of the most important — and often overlooked — tools in a family's financial plan. At its core, life insurance provides financial protection for the people you care about most. If something unexpected happens, a life insurance policy can help replace lost income, cover everyday living expenses, pay off debts like a mortgage, and even fund future needs such as college tuition.

Many people assume life insurance is only necessary for those with young children, but the reality is broader. Anyone who has financial responsibilities shared with others — whether that is a spouse, business partner or aging parents — should consider coverage. Even for individuals without dependents, life insurance can help cover final expenses and prevent loved ones from facing unexpected financial burdens.

There are several types of life insurance, each designed to meet different needs and budgets.

Term life insurance is often the simplest and most affordable option. It provides coverage for a specific period — commonly 10, 20 or 30 years. If the insured passes away during that term, the policy pays a benefit to beneficiaries. Because it is straightforward and cost-effective, term insurance is a popular choice for young families or those looking to cover temporary financial obligations like a mortgage or income replacement during working years.

Whole life insurance offers permanent coverage, meaning it lasts for your entire lifetime as long as premiums are paid. In addition to a guaranteed death benefit, whole life policies build cash value over time. This cash value grows at a steady rate and can be accessed if needed, making it both a protection tool and a long-term financial asset.

Universal life insurance is another type of permanent coverage, but with added flexibility. Policyholders can adjust their premiums and death benefits within certain limits, and the policy's cash value can grow based on interest rates or market performance, depending on the specific product. This flexibility can be appealing for those whose financial situation may change over time.

Choosing the right life insurance policy depends on your goals, budget and stage of life. A thoughtful approach to coverage today can provide peace of mind and financial security for your loved ones tomorrow. ■

Information provided by Eric Johnson, IFG Insurance, 224 E. Highway 92, Suite B, Winterset, 515-462-4553.



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The April 2017 Winterset Living magazine featured the story, “A county of collectors: Local residents discuss the importance of antique preservation.”

The cover photo featured Publicity Chair Shirley Allen, President Connie Bailey and Treasurer and Historian Linda Johnson of the Madison County Antique Association showing off commemorative plates by artist Blair Young. The plates were a successful fundraiser for the group. ■

TAKE OUR POLL

APRIL IS NATIONAL HOPE MONTH. Which do you hope for most?

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3. Better relationships
4. Someone to do all your chores
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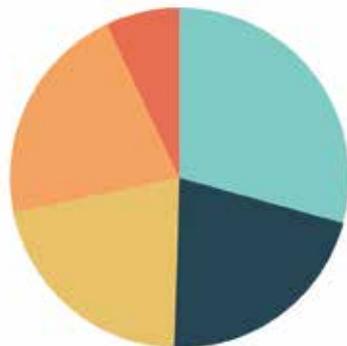
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REAL ESTATE

By Jennifer Stover

RADON and real estate

If you're in the process of buying or selling a home, understanding radon testing's significance can save you from potential health risks and financial liabilities.



Incorporating radon testing into the home inspection process has become increasingly common among homebuyers seeking to ensure the safety and quality of their prospective homes. Radon, a naturally occurring radioactive gas, can pose significant health risks when present at elevated levels indoors. Therefore, integrating radon testing into home inspections offers buyers valuable insights into potential radon hazards and empowers them to make informed decisions regarding their real estate investments.

Buyer's right to radon testing: As a prospective homebuyer, it is important to exercise your right to radon testing during the due diligence period of the home-buying process. Radon testing can be conducted using a short-term kit which measures radon levels over a specified period of time.

If elevated radon levels are detected, buyers may negotiate with sellers to address radon mitigation or request a reduction in the price.

Mitigation options: Sellers may opt to install radon mitigation systems. These systems typically involve sub-slab depressurization or ventilation to prevent radon from entering the home and to reduce concentrations. ■

Information provided by Jennifer Stover, 515-480-3389, Madison County Realty, 65 W. Jefferson St., Winterset, jenniferstover@madisoncountyrealty.com. Licensed in Iowa.

AUTOMOTIVE

By Dawn Lauer

OUT OF alignment

While spring brings some wonderful things like warmer temperatures and longer days, it also brings us potholes. Potholes are an unfortunate result of the harsh Iowa winters that take a toll on our roadways and, in turn, on our vehicles. As much as we try to avoid them, you may just accidentally hit a large pothole head on. Doing so may cause more than just a loud thud. It can actually throw off your car's wheel alignment.



Your car being out of alignment might not always be noticeable at first. There are no warning lights or indicators if your alignment is off. However, if you notice your vehicle pulling to the left or right, a vibration in your steering wheel, or that the steering wheel is off-center when driving straight, you should get it into your trusted automotive repair shop to have it checked out.

During an alignment, the technician will inspect three main things: camber — the inward or outward angle of the tire when viewed from the front of the vehicle; toe — the extent to which tires turn inward or outward when viewed from above; and caster — the angle of your steering axis when viewed from the side of your vehicle. Without proper alignment, your tires will wear unevenly, requiring you to replace them prematurely. Proper wheel alignment is important for your vehicle in many ways, but, most of all, it ensures optimal drivability and safety. ■

Information provided by Dawn Lauer, marketing specialist, Quality Car Care, 1012 N. 10th St., Winterset, 515-462-1035.

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WHEN TO update your estate strategy

Once an estate strategy is in place, it should only require periodic reviews to check that it still reflects your wishes. However, life events such as marriage, divorce, births, deaths, relocations, health changes, business sales and changes in tax law may prompt you to reconsider part of your overall strategy.



The world of estate strategies is changing, as covered in the Trust & Will 2025 Estate Planning Report. Did you know:

- While 83% of Americans acknowledge the importance of their estate, only 31% have established a will.¹
- Almost one in four Millennials and Gen Z'ers prefer trusted friends or professionals over family members, selecting them as executors and guardians.¹
- Financial anxiety, as 49% of Americans are more worried about their economic future than they were a year ago.¹
- Inflation, with 78% of Americans reporting that it has made pursuing their life goals more difficult.¹

These statistics underscore the need for everyone, regardless of their economic level, to maintain an estate strategy that reflects their current needs.

Here are some general guidelines, although everyone has unique financial circumstances.

You might want to update your strategy in case of:

- Marriage or divorce within your family or heirs
 - Births, adoptions and deaths
 - Any relocation, especially if you're contemplating a move to another state, as laws might have subtle differences

Here are some other reasons to update your estate strategy:

- You're experiencing a health change
- You are considering the sale of a business and want to update how the assets will be handled in your estate strategy
- Changes in federal tax law
- Changes in state tax law, including inheritance tax law
- You have decided to change your beneficiaries

If it's been a while, are you confident that your estate strategy proactively addresses potential challenges, seizes new opportunities, and optimizes the distribution of your assets according to your wishes? Many individuals will hold a family meeting to explain the estate's structure and their decisions regarding it.

Estates are complicated. Getting started with online tools can be a great first step. But you might want to work with an estate professional who can ask you tough questions. ■

1. Trust & Will 2025 Estate Planning Report, 2025. The content is developed from sources believed to be providing accurate information. The information in this material is not intended as tax or legal advice. It may not be used for the purpose of avoiding any federal tax penalties. Please consult legal or tax professionals for specific information regarding your individual situation. This material was developed and produced by FMG Suite to provide information on a topic that may be of interest. FMG Suite is not affiliated with the named broker-dealer, state- or SEC-registered investment advisory firm. The opinions expressed and material provided are for general information, and should not be considered a solicitation for the purchase or sale of any security. Copyright FMG Suite.

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TIPS FOR transforming a patio, balcony or deck into an outdoor oasis

You don't need much space to create a bit of paradise on your balcony, patio or deck. Fill the space with a collection of plants that provide texture, color and privacy. Then add comfortable seating, a fountain and lighting for additional ambiance and relaxation.

Start by evaluating the space you want to transform and how the surrounding views and noise will impact your enjoyment. Before enclosing the whole space, identify the views you need to screen and those you want to keep. Perhaps a view of your favorite flower garden, the park across the street or your neighbor's water feature extends your enjoyment beyond the limits of your garden oasis.

Use tall grasses, large tropical plants, vines trained on trellises and upright shrubs and trees to define the space. These can be grown in weather-proof containers if no in-ground planting space is available. Just make sure your balcony or deck can handle the weight of the planters once filled with soil and plants.

Select plants that provide multiple benefits. Look for plants that deliver several seasons of beauty with flowers, colorful foliage, seedheads and fall color. Include fragrant plants for aromatherapy and those that attract butterflies and hummingbirds to add motion and color.

Decide how you plan to use the space. Are you longing for a quiet area to relax and read, one to entertain or a space to accommodate all your outdoor activities? Select furnishings with the color, form, and style that will create your desired look and feel. Then select plants, containers and accessories that complement the furnishings for your outdoor oasis.

Add a stand-alone or wall-mounted fountain or container water garden to the space. The sound of moving water helps create a sense of peace and relaxation, calming the mind, reviving the spirit and masking noise pollution.

No need to worry about mosquitoes taking residency in your water feature. Moving water is less appealing and adding an organic product like Summit® Mosquito Dunks® to water features prevents mosquitoes from breeding there. Just toss this donut-shaped cake of *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (Bti) into the water. This naturally occurring bacteria only kills the mosquito larvae but doesn't harm people, pets, fish or wildlife.

Further reduce mosquito problems by lighting a few citronella candles and placing them near you and others enjoying the space. Use a fan to help keep you cool and the weak-flying mosquitoes away.

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GARDENING

Extend your enjoyment into the evening with some lighting. Be mindful of birds and night-flying insects by using shields to point light down to the ground instead of into the night sky. Select lights with lower lumens that aren't as bright but still provide sufficient light and ambiance for you. Avoid white and blue light and opt for amber and yellow greens that are less disruptive to the birds and night-flying pollinators.

Like any decorating or gardening project, be ready to make needed adjustments. While fine-tuning your design, be sure to take time to relax and enjoy your new space. ■

Melinda Myers has written more than 20 gardening books, including "The Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition" and "Small Space Gardening." She hosts The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" streaming courses and the nationally syndicated



Melinda's Garden Moment TV and radio program. Myers is a columnist and contributing editor for Birds & Blooms magazine and was commissioned by Summit for her expertise to write this article. Myers' website is www.MelindaMyers.com.



A patio transformed into an outdoor oasis and entertainment area.

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THE COMFORT of a savory lasagna

There are few things in life more comforting than a warm kitchen filled with the savory aroma of lasagna baking in the oven — any time of the year. It is the kind of smell that draws everyone in, pulling family members from each corner of the house to ask, “Is it ready yet?”

This hearty lasagna has become a true family favorite in our home. With rich layers of seasoned meat, creamy ricotta, tender pasta and plenty of melted cheese (I suggest adding more than what this recipe calls for), it is the ultimate comfort food. Lasagna is more than just dinner — it is a tradition. This dish has even been selected as our dinner for Christmas and Thanksgiving many years, as it truly is a treasured recipe — and the leftovers taste even better the next day. This recipe represents the simple joy in sharing something homemade and delicious with the people you love. I need to warn you, though, the sauce takes some time to cook, but it is well worth the wait. Enjoy! ■



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

Lasagna

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 pound ground hamburger
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley, divided
- 1 28-ounce can whole tomatoes, undrained and chopped
- 1 14.5-ounce can Italian-styled stewed tomatoes, undrained and chopped
- 1 six-ounce tomato paste
- 1 eight-ounce can tomato sauce
- 2 teaspoons dried oregano
- 1 teaspoon dried basil
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- Water to boil noodles
- 12 uncooked lasagna noodles
- 1 large egg white, beaten
- 2 cups cottage cheese
- 1/2 cup shredded parmesan cheese
- 1 15-ounce carton fat-free ricotta
- 2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese



DIRECTIONS:

- Brown hamburger and drain grease. Set aside. In the same pan, coat with cooking spray, sauté onion and garlic for 5 minutes. Add beef back in. Add 2 tablespoons parsley, chopped whole tomatoes and next six ingredients. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat, cover and simmer for 20 minutes. Uncover and simmer for 15 minutes. Set aside.
- Boil water and cook noodles for 12 minutes or until “al dente.” Drain and set aside.
- Preheat oven to 350 F. In another bowl, combine 2 tablespoons parsley, egg white, cottage cheese, parmesan cheese and ricotta cheese.
- Spray a 9-inch by 13-inch pan with cooking spray and spread 1 cup tomato/beef mixture on the bottom of the pan. Place 3 noodles on tomato/beef mixture, top with half of cottage cheese mix, then 2 cups of tomato/beef mixture, and 2/3 cup of mozzarella. Repeat. Place another layer of noodles on top, then spread with remaining tomato/beef mixture.
- Cover with aluminum foil and bake for 1 hour. Then, sprinkle with 2/3 cup of provolone and bake uncovered for another 10 minutes. Take out of oven and let rest for 10 minutes. ■

RIBBON Cutting

On March 6, a ribbon cutting was held at the Farm Bureau office of Tyan Rasmussen.



Photo by Vicki Minor

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FROM PATROL to pasture

After 12 years away, Anderson returns to continue a family farming tradition.

Allen Anderson was born and raised in Madison County but spent 12 years away while serving as an Iowa state trooper assigned to the District 3 State Patrol Office. During that time, he lived in Montgomery County.

When the opportunity arose to return to Madison County as a trooper in District 2 out of the Osceola post, Anderson and his family built their home on his family farm southwest of Pammel State Park, where they have lived for the past 20 years.

“Madison County has always been home to me, and it means a great deal to continue the legacy of the family farms started by both of my grandfathers and my dad,” Anderson says.

From the generational family farm, Anderson can see nearly 90% of the land from his house.

“Because of my deep connection to this land, it truly feels like home rather than just a place to live,” he says. “I have many memories of spending my childhood on this farm, working alongside my dad and grandfather. In the years ahead, I look forward to sharing those same experiences with my grandkids and teaching them the values of hard work and an appreciation for the outdoors.”

Living in the country also means having dependable neighbors, Anderson says, noting they are quick to lend a hand — whether fixing a fence, plowing a driveway during a night shift, helping during calving season or caring for pets when someone is out of town.

“They are always a phone call away and never hesitate to help,” he says.

Anderson adds, he appreciates Winterset’s small-town charm while remaining close to the Des Moines metro area.

“It’s a community where you feel safe letting your kids play outside in the evenings and where leaving your doors unlocked can still feel comfortable,” he says. “People are friendly, generous and always willing to help when someone is in need.”

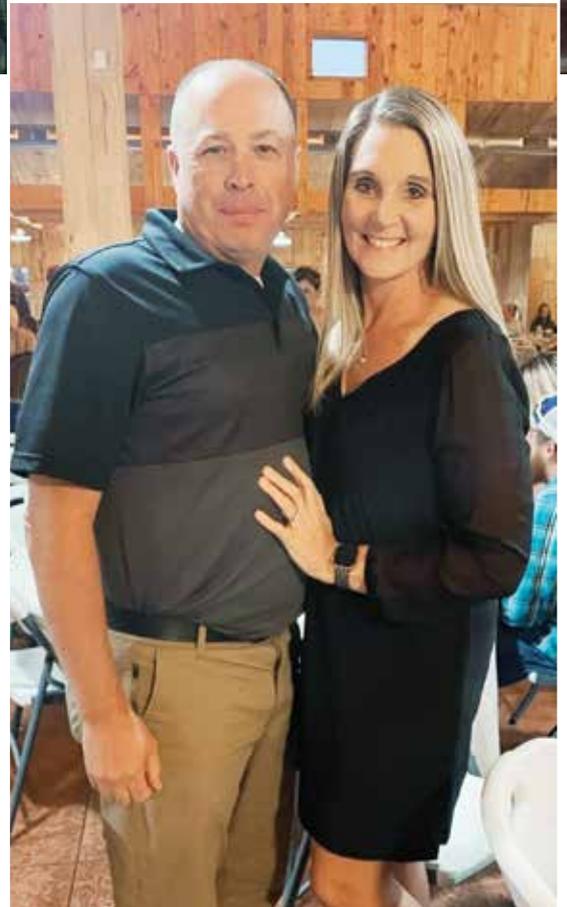
He points to the community’s response after a tornado as an example of that spirit.

Perhaps most meaningful, Anderson says, is that two of his children have chosen to stay in the area and raise their families, with one working as a teacher in the Winterset Community School District.

“Our family is passionate about this county and community and about the future it holds for all of us,” he says. ■



Allen and Christy Anderson with their grandkids.

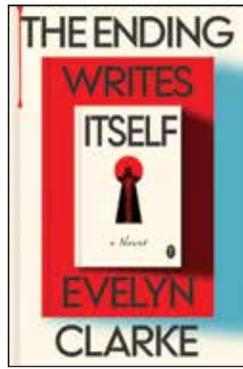


'The Ending Writes Itself'

As a lifelong reader and word collector, I love a bit of metafiction. A story about stories will always perk my ears. The skilled pair of authors writing under the name of Evelyn Clarke has given me that in spades. This one has a ton of buzz for a reason. Clever, emotional, perceptive, addictive — this is a storyteller's story if I ever read one.

The synopsis reads like a "Knives Out" movie. Six struggling authors are brought together to a private island to finish the final book of a famous, now dead, bestselling author. They have 72 hours to write their way into fame and fortune. Naturally, schemes arise and danger creeps. This is a locked room mystery with a devastatingly flawed set of characters and biting satire of the publishing industry — all at the same time.

Observations about writing, character arcs, endings and the ever-present human desire for closure make this a perfect mix of thoughtful and playful. Charming and satirical in equal measure, this is the kind of book you finish at 2 a.m. and immediately want to press into a friend's hands. Or write a gushing review of. ■ — Review by Julie Goodrich



By Evelyn Clarke
4/7/26
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\$30
Harper

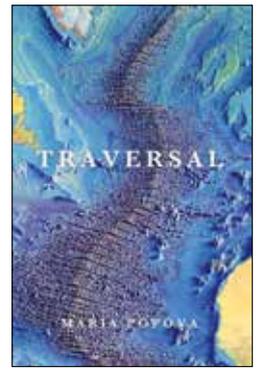
'Traversal'

Reading this book feels a bit like wandering into the world's most enchanting dinner party. Pull up a chair and suddenly you're listening to Mary Shelley discuss creation while Walt Whitman waxes poetic about the soul of the universe, and then Frederick Douglass is reminding us all that moral courage is a form of genius. One minute you're contemplating continental drift with Alfred Wegener; the next you're pondering the nature of consciousness, love and the color blue.

Popova writes with the curiosity of someone so in love with the world that she sees connections that feel so hidden, yet so obvious. She understands that science and poetry are all just different dialects of the same cosmic language.

Sometimes the writing feels so dense, but then a sentence lands like a small miracle, and you can't remember why you were struggling at all. This is one of the most powerful books I've ever read. It feels less like reading and more like uncovering a secret you forgot you knew. It's part intellectual history, part philosophical mixtape, and wholly satisfying for anyone who likes their nonfiction a little star-dusted and gloriously alive. ■

— Review by Julie Goodrich



By Maria Popova
2/17/26
608 pages
\$36
Farrar, Straus and Giroux

Madison County Winery

2026 EVENTS CALENDAR

MADISON COUNTY WINERY



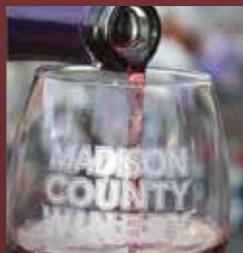
MAY

- 3 - Cinco De Mayo
- 9 - Winterset Wine Walk
- 10- Luke Fox
- 23 - Kickoff to Summer!
- Willie Mac and the Cousins

JUNE

- 6 - Dan Trilk
- 21 - Kara Christensen
- 28 - Wheels & Wine

**FRIDAY NIGHT SUNSET
HAPPY HOUR**



Stay up to date with us on Facebook!



JULY

- 4 - Madison County Line - FIREWORKS!
- 25 - Ava Lemon

SEPTEMBER

- 5 - Kick off to Fall!
- Heather Mac duo
- 27 - Fall Crawl Madison County Line

OCTOBER

- 10 - Angie Daniels

**WOOD FIRED PIZZAS
ON SATURDAYS**

EVENTS IN THE AREA

Be sure to check for cancelations

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

Upcoming in Winterset Living magazine:

Farmers market vendors: Do you enjoy selling your products at local farmers market. Tell us how you benefit from farmers markets and what tips you can share with others wanting to get involved. Email tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com.

Fishing: Share your stories about the enjoyment of fishing. Perhaps you fished with your father as a child, fished in an interesting place, participated in fishing competitions. If it is related to fishing, drop us a note! Email tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com.

Madison County Conservation Summer Camps

Registration is now open for the summer camps offered by Madison County Conservation. Register at www.mycountyparks.com/Event/Default. Be sure to select "Madison County."



Winterset Wine Walk Saturday, May 9, 1-6 p.m. Downtown Winterset

Tickets are now on sale for the Winterset Wine Walk. Grab your friends and get ready for an unforgettable afternoon in historic downtown Winterset. Stroll from shop to shop sampling delicious wines while enjoying the charm of local businesses. This event is a favorite every year and tickets are limited, so don't wait to grab yours. Get your tickets at <https://business.madisoncounty.com/events/details/winterset-wine-walk-2960?calendarMonth=2026-05-01>.

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.

Wednesday Winterset Wellness Support

Second and fourth Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m.
Winterset Public Library, 23 N. Second St.

A healthy lifestyle is easier to achieve when you have support. This group meets every two weeks, which gives each person enough time to work on their goals in between meetings and discover what obstacles or achievements they encounter. Participants can share what has worked for them and find ways to get active and eat healthy together.

Events at The Winery

Covered Bridges Winery, 2207 170th Trail, Winterset

See website for times and to purchase tickets:
Coveredbridgeswinery.com

- Blues & BBQ Central Iowa Blues Society Benefit Dinner: Saturday, April 11
- Ryne Doughty: Sunday, April 12, 2-4 p.m.
- Wine Club Dinner with Chef KP: Friday, April 17. Only available to Winery insiders.
- Craft Class with Mandy Walters: Sunday, April 19
- Moors & McCumber: Sunday, April 19, 2-4 p.m.
- Velvet Band: Saturday, April 25, 6:30-9:30 p.m.



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.



Fish Fry Fridays

Fridays, 5:30-7 p.m.
Saint Joseph Catholic Church,
1026 N. Eighth Ave., Winterset

Join us for Fish Fry Fridays. On the menu: golden fried and baked fish, baked potatoes and fries, beans and coleslaw, kids menu and homemade desserts. Free will donation.

Middle River Arts Festival

Saturday, May 2
Madison County Conservation
Center, 2508 Pammel Park
Trail, Winterset

The Middle River Arts Festival will take place at the Madison County Conservation Center in Pammel Park, hosted by the Winterset Art Center. This event is scheduled for one day, is free of charge, and open to the public



Madison County Chamber Golf Outing

Monday, June 22, 8 a.m.
breakfast, 9 a.m. start
Lakeview Country Club, 3724
Lakeview Lane, Winterset

Sponsorship opportunities are now available. For information, email exec@madisoncounty.com or call the chamber at 515-462-1185.

EVENTS IN THE AREA

Be sure to check for cancellations

Winterset Public Library programs

123 N. Second St.

www.wintersetlibrary.org

- Mah Jongg, every Saturday, 9:30 a.m. Learn to play this ancient, intriguing, and challenging tile game. All necessary items will be provided free; all you need is a desire to learn. Registration required.
- Story Time, Wednesdays 10-10:30 a.m. During this 30-minute program, children will discover books, songs, rhymes and movement activities while building language and literacy skills. Ages 3 and older.
- Let's Play Cribbage, Wednesdays, 2-4 p.m.
- Adult Game Day, Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. Many games to choose from or bring your own. Snacks are welcome. Free and no registration required.
- Messy Munchkins, Thursdays, 10:15 a.m. to noon. Children 0-5 with an adult. No registration required.
- Lego Club, ages 8-12, third Thursday of the month, 3:30-4:30 p.m.. Dates are April 16 and May 21. Legos provided. Do not bring your own. No registration required.
- Get Fit with Geri-Fit, Tuesdays and Fridays, no registration required. A strength-training class for older adults.
- Acoustic Jam, first Friday of the month, 1-4 p.m.
- Game On! Mondays, 3-5 p.m., ages 10 and older. No registration required. Behavior policies must be followed.
- Chess Club, Tuesdays, 5-7 p.m. All ages welcome. No experience necessary. Boards and sets available.
- Morning Tai Chi, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. Follow Dr. Paul Lam's DVDs with stretching followed by the 12 forms and cool down exercises. Sessions are 30-45 minutes.



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/WDMMLA>.

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.

Madison County Conservation Center events

2508 Pammel Park Road, Winterset

Join these exciting events at the new Madison County Conservation Center in Pammel Park. All events open to the public.

LIVE WILD 2026 SPEAKER SERIES

- Tuesday, April 14: Wildlife Rescue with Jenni Boonjakaukul
- Tuesday, May 5: Taxidermy with Remington Hutton
- Tuesday, June 2: Rattlesnakes with Paul Frese
- Tuesday, July 7: Barn Owls with Tanner Donovan and Jessie Lowry
- Tuesday, Aug. 4: Dog Training with Angela Tague
- Tuesday, Sept. 1: Lead-Free Hunt with Adam Janke
- Tuesday, Oct. 6: Madison County Hunt with Catherine Cummings
- Tuesday, Nov. 3: Basket Weaving with Amy Warnke
- Tuesday, Dec. 1: Northern Lights with Jess Lancial

First Tuesdays of the month, free will donation, Proceeds will be equally shared between Madison County Foundation for Environmental Education and an organization of the speaker's choice.

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EVENTS IN THE AREA

Be sure to check for cancellations

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

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.

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": 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. ■



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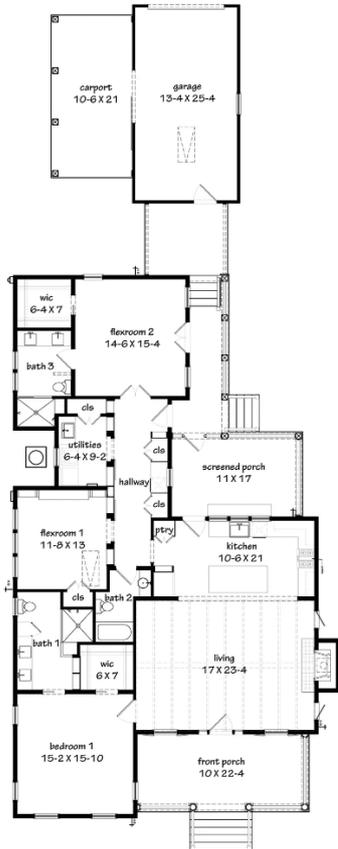
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ADAPTIVE cottage house plan

This house was designed as an adaptive home in conjunction with the Parkinson's Foundation. With three bedrooms and three baths across a single-level layout, the Adaptive Cottage offers accessible living features ideal for aging in place. A rear-entry garage connected by breezeway, spacious bedrooms, and open living spaces provides both comfort and flexibility for long-term living. The traditional Southern exterior is thoughtfully crafted to blend into existing neighborhoods while supporting independence and ease of use inside.

The traditional but comfortable nature of the architecture is designed to blend seamlessly into a traditional neighborhood or existing community. ■



SPECIFICATIONS

Floors: 1
 Bedrooms: 3
 Bathrooms: 3.0
 Foundation(s): Slab
SQUARE FEET
 Main Floor: 1,966
 Total Conditioned: 1,966

Rear Porch: 113
 Garage: 585

DIMENSIONS

Width: 42'-8"
 Depth: 71'-2"
 Height: 24'-4"

HOUSE LEVELS

Level Name Ceiling

Heights

Main Floor 10'-0"

CONSTRUCTION

Wall Construction: 2x6
 Exterior Finish: Lap Siding
 Roof Pitch: 10:12

FEATURES

Kitchen: Island, Pantry

Primary Bedroom: Double Sink, Shower, Walk-in Closet
 Additional: Fireplace, Porch, Screened Porch

GARAGE

Type	Size
Carport	1 - Stall
Attached	1 - Stall

FARMERS Market

An indoor farmers market was held on March 14 at The Warehouse On 2nd.



Joe and Melissa Taylor



Christine Baker and Cheryl Hansen



Skyler Knutson and Dr. Tiffany McKnight



Cleota and Art Tapken



Tacy and Elle Terhaar



Josh and Jen Dieter



Cassie and Brad Rodish



Drew Williamson and Sydney Sickels



Matthew Main



Dale Raasch



Tara Kaysen

OUT & ABOUT



Dorothy Frease and Patti Gall



Kathy Foutch and Jazlyn Rusher



Kailey Myers and Jeremy Smith



Ken and Brandy Schwieso



Shawna Sawyer



David and Jen Strege



Shaine Smith



Clarissa Snapper



Steve Mead



Brian and Peggy Keuning and Gwen Smith



Montana Bonneville, Regina Ritchie and Emma Ritchie

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