

# Living

MAGAZINE

# Celebrating HERITAGE

Residents reflect on the traditions that connect them to home

**DeBoers love their Critter NEIGHBORS**

**New family member brings joy to Rosenbergs**

**PETS**

**The comfort of a savory lasagna RECIPE**

**BIKE WORLD**  
TREK FEST  
**SALE**  
APRIL 10 - 19

DETAILS

PRSR1 STD  
ECRWSS EDDM  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
BIG GREEN  
UMBRELLA MEDIA  
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER  
BIG GREEN  
UMBRELLA MEDIA  
8101 Birchwood Ct. Ste. D  
Johnston, Iowa 50131



2026  
Digital  
*Wedding*  
Guide



**NEW! NEW! NEW!**

# CREATE THE PERFECT WEDDING

**NEW FOR 2026**, this Digital Wedding Guide is packed full of ideas, products and services offered by the area's finest local small businesses!

- This Wedding Guide sponsored by:**
- Barnes Place • Iris Aisle • Dave's Jewelry • The Meridian Event Center
  - Crown Point Community Center • A Ray of Love Photography • Aloft Hotel • Country Lane Lodge
  - Bellflower Florist & Gifts • Celebrations Couture • New Harp Productions • Top It Off Liquid Catering
  - Pop'n Sisters • Windsor Heights Community Event Center & Pavillion • Wedding Show Productions

**SEARCH FOR LOCAL PRODUCTS & SERVICES. SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW!**



[www.iowalivingmagazines.com/wedding-guide-2026](http://www.iowalivingmagazines.com/wedding-guide-2026)

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. ■

### SHANE GOODMAN

President and Publisher  
Big Green Umbrella Media  
shane@dmcityview.com  
515-953-4822, ext. 305



**Tammy Pearson**  
Editor  
515-953-4822 ext. 302  
tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com

**Angela Ossian**  
Advertising Account Executive  
515-953-4822 x307  
angela@iowalivingmagazines.com



IOWA  
*Living*  
MAGAZINES



Circulation and readership audited  
by Circulation Verification Council

**RAIN OR SHINE**

# YOUR MONEY GROWS HERE!



**4.0% APY\***  
FOR 12 MONTHS



**3.8% APY\***  
FOR 24 MONTHS



**Brian Vahle**  
VP Market Manager  
NMLS #1168523  
Ankeny



**Brien Scandridge**  
VP Market Manager  
NMLS #2146946  
Johnston

**CHARTER BANK**

*Chart Your Success With Us!*

<b>Johnston</b> 5526 NW 86th St. 515-331-2265	<b>Grimes</b> Corner of Gateway & 1st St. 515-986-2000	<b>Waukee</b> Downtown Triangle 515-987-1000	<b>Ankeny</b> 2905 SW Oralabor Rd. 515-446-2265
---	--	--	---

**www.CharterBanker.com**

Member FDIC

\*Annual Percentage Yield, \$10,000 minimum deposit to open up a Certificate of Deposit (CD), penalty for early withdrawal. Rate as of 4/10/26 and subject to change.

Coleen Hildreth Myers visits her great-grandparents' grave at Lincoln Township Cemetery just north of Ankeny with her grandson, Alex DeVries, and his daughter, Norah.



# *Celebrating* HERITAGE

Residents reflect on the traditions that connect them to home

**By Ashley Rullestad**

From lifelong residents to newcomers rediscovering their roots, Ankeny is a place where personal history and community growth are deeply intertwined. For some, family ties stretch back generations; for others, the connection is newly uncovered. Together, their stories paint a picture of a town shaped by heritage, memory and change.

**Generations have Ankeny roots**

JoAnn Kochheiser Adamson has lived in Ankeny all her life. In fact, her grandparents moved to town in 1926.

“They lived on a farm located where Dollar Tree now is, and they had five kids,” she says.

Adamson’s father was one of those children, and he stayed in town and bought a home for his family near the Neveln building, now the Ankeny Community School District offices. After having seven children, the family outgrew that first house and purchased another nearby.

Adamson was in the first kindergarten class at what is now Parkview Middle School. It was brand new when she started in 1952. She attended through sixth grade, then moved to what was called Old Central. The building has since been torn down, but it once stood where the Ankeny Historical Museum is now located. She later attended Neveln before high school students were moved back to Parkview her senior year, meaning she began and ended her school career in the same building.

“Ankeny had five railroad crossings then, so, if you didn’t plan well, you’d be stopped by a train on the way to school.”

JoAnn married her high school sweetheart, Terry Adamson, who was a year ahead of her.

“He graduated in 1964, and I graduated in 1965,” she says. “Ankeny’s population in 1950 was 1,229 people, according to the census. By 1965, it was more than 6,600. Look at it today. It’s amazing.”

Terry was drafted after graduation, so the couple moved up their wedding. After he received orders to report to Korea, they rented an apartment near Faith Baptist on College Avenue. JoAnn took a job at John Deere, where she worked for 35 years until retiring. The couple later moved southeast of Ankeny to Terry’s grandparents’ farm, a former stagecoach stop in the late 1800s, where they paid \$25 per month in rent.

JoAnn remembers many stories from Ankeny’s early days. After her aunt graduated from high school in 1938, she went to work at the Ankeny Café, located where Leaning Tower



JoAnn Kochheiser Adamson’s high school graduation picture from 1966.

is today. Her goal was to work at the ordnance plant making bullets during World War II. When she began working there, employees worked 12-hour shifts, seven days a week.

**Take the first step toward your financial future.**

Call Chase or Clayton today to schedule your consultation.

**WHAT WE DO:**

- Financial Planning
- Retirement Planning  
*IRA's, Roths, Business Plans*
- Asset Management  
*Stocks, Bonds, Mutual Funds, ETFs.*
- Education Planning
- Insurance Services  
*Life, Annuities, Long-Term Care*
- Tax Management and more!



**Clayton J. Netusil**  
*President, NFS  
Branch Manager/  
Financial Advisor, RJFS*  
712-790-2664



**Chase R. Netusil**  
*Vice President, NFS  
Financial Advisor, RJFS*  
712-790-7528



**Cody A. Netusil**  
*Branch Associate*  
712-790-9287

**NETUSIL FINANCIAL SERVICES** | **RAYMOND JAMES**

[www.raymondjames.com/netusil](http://www.raymondjames.com/netusil)

1360 SW Park Square Dr., Ste. 106 Offices 14 and 12, Ankeny, IA 50023

Securities offered through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC. Netusil Financial Services, Inc. is not a broker/dealer. Investment advisory services offered through Raymond James Financial Services Advisors, Inc.

**BONE-A-PATREAT ANKENY**

**PET SUPPLIES  
BAKERY  
GROOMING  
SELF WASH**



**SAVE \$5 OFF ANY \$20 PURCHASE**

**PROMO CODE: ANK5OFF20**  
Valid in-store at Bone-A-Patreat Ankeny only. Expires May 31, 2026.  
One coupon per customer.

**1630 S. ANKENY BLVD  
(515) 515-6130**

**BONEAPATREAT.COM**

“She only worked there a few years before the war ended, but she said there was a time they took a break and went to Des Moines for a couple of days and lived it up,” JoAnn says.

So, what has kept JoAnn and Terry in Ankeny? Initially, it was JoAnn’s job at John Deere. Now, it’s their son, Mike, and his family.

“Mike went to Iowa State, and, once he graduated, he decided to come back to Ankeny and raise his family. They have three kids. Two have graduated, and the third is now a junior at Ankeny High School. Once a Hawk, always a Hawk.”

**Childhood memories revisited**

Coleen Hildreth Myers moved to Ankeny 10 years ago because of her husband’s job.

“I told my husband I was back to my roots because I knew my grandparents on my father’s side had grown up on farms north of Ankeny, she says. “Once here, I found my great-grandparents’ graves. The Hildreths are buried in Lincoln Township Cemetery, just a few miles from where I live on N.W. 15th Street. My



Terry and JoAnn Adamson with their grandkids.

other grandparents, the Huttons, are buried in a cemetery northeast of Ankeny.”

Tracing her family further back, Myers discovered the Hildreth line dates back to England, beginning with Richard Hildreth, who was born in 1605 and admitted as a freeman to the Massachusetts Bay Colony in May 1643. She is part of the 10th generation documented in a book detailing 13 generations of the Hildreth family. Through that

record, she can trace her ancestors’ journey from Massachusetts to Virginia to Indiana and eventually to Polk County. Her great-grandparents, William and Samantha, returned to Polk County in March 1873 and farmed north of Ankeny.

Myers knows less about the Hutton family but has obituaries for her great-grandparents, who are buried at Brethren Cemetery northeast of town. The Huttons were part of

# SPRING SALE

## 2 DAYS ONLY!

### APRIL 24 & 25

**FREE ESTIMATES!**

**FREE DELIVERY**  
IN ANKENY  
with purchase  
over \$350

**10% OFF ALL MATERIALS**  
Rock, Mulch, Soil, Compost, Edging,  
Wall Stone & Pavers\*

**20% OFF LIVE GOODS**  
Trees, Plants & Perennials

**FREE BBQ LUNCH Saturday, 11:30-1PM** \*In Stock Only



# TNT

## LANDSCAPING

**ANKENY’S LOCALLY OWNED  
5 ACRE RETAIL NURSERY VOTED  
ANKENY AND METRO’S BEST!**

515-965-1206 | 1313 SW Ordnance Rd, Ankeny  
[www.tntlandscaping.com](http://www.tntlandscaping.com)



## GRILLS SMOKERS FIREPITS

**Plus accessories,  
spices, rubs, sauces  
and more!**

10% OFF BBQ

Grills, Smokers, Lump Charcoal,  
Wood, Accessories, Sauces & Rubs



BBQ

[www.hawgeyesbbq.com](http://www.hawgeyesbbq.com)  
 1313 SW Ordnance Rd, Ankeny

the Dunkards, a conservative religious sect that originated in Germany and settled in Germantown, Pennsylvania.

“When I took a genetics class at Iowa State, we studied the Dunkards, and I learned that many had intermarried so much that most had A-positive blood type,” she says. “That’s what I have, so that’s one thing I probably got from my grandmother.”

One of Myers’ aunts recalled staying with her Hutton grandparents as a child, describing her grandmother wearing a white head covering and apron while keeping a tidy home. When Myers’ grandparents married, her grandmother’s family nearly disowned her for marrying a Methodist, though they ultimately did not.

“I have one memory of coming to Ankeny in 1959 when my dad and his siblings had a picnic reunion with their Hutton cousins. I particularly remember someone named Street Hutton — probably because it was such an unusual name.”

Myers has always been fascinated by

genealogy. She regrets that she was only 4 when her grandmother, Mary (Hutton) Hildreth, died. She was in junior high when her grandfather, Emory Hildreth, died, leaving her with limited memories of them.

“My mom’s family is the opposite. I spent a lot of time with that grandmother and heard many stories about her life,” she says. “I try to share stories with my five adult grandchildren, who are all in their 30s. I don’t know if they appreciate it, but at least I’m trying.”

### A collection of family history

Joelle and Craig Logemann have traced their families back several generations, with some branches extending as far as great-great-great-great-grandparents. Along the way, they have uncovered surprising stories and collected artifacts, now displayed in a family history room in their home.

One story involves A.O. Miller, a third-great-grandfather who fought in the Civil War with John Wilder’s Lightning Brigade. During one march through the South, one of his men

stole silver from a plantation. Miller took the items from him, intending to return them to their rightful owner and discourage looting.

“Unfortunately, that never happened, and now it’s part of our Civil War collection. It’s said he always carried his Bible into battle, and we still have it. My dad documented all the battles he fought in, and we have that written in notebooks. A newspaper even did a story on my grandfather in 1974 featuring those items, and we have a copy of that as well.”

Craig’s historical items focus more on his family’s farming roots in Ledyard. He has documents showing land purchases and other transactions, along with a photo of his grandfather, an avid checkers player, posing with his checkerboard and a ribbon from the 1976 Iowa State Fair.

Though their heritage includes Czech and German roots, those traditions were not widely celebrated in recent generations. However, they do have a photo of Joelle’s grandmother, who immigrated from Bohemia — now part of the

Put a **SPRING** in your step  
WITH NEW FLOORS!

Carpet • Hardwood • Laminate • Tile  
Luxury vinyl • Waterproof • Vinyl  
Natural stone • Glass tile • Metal tile

**12 Month Interest Free Financing Available!**

Visit our website for details and restrictions.



**Come check out our *HUGE* showroom!**

**4925 NW JOHNSTON DRIVE, JOHNSTON**

**515-508-0024 ★ [www.theflooringguysdsm.com](http://www.theflooringguysdsm.com)**

*Family-owned, local business operating since 1999.*



Joelle and Craig Logemann display artifacts in their family history room.

Czech Republic — holding a doll. The doll is now dressed in a traditional Bohemian outfit made by Joelle’s great-grandmother. The couple hopes to travel to the Czech Republic and Germany in the coming years to better connect

with that heritage.

Their younger daughter, Jayde, shares their interest in family history. The family keeps an inventory of items so she knows their origins.

“As we collected things — often after loved



ones downsized or passed away — we decided to display them and enjoy the memories rather than keep them in boxes. I imagine someday Jayde will display at least some of them in her home.” ■

# Local. Trusted. *Available.*

**We’re proud to be part of this community.**

Many of us live and work here, and we care about the same local events and organizations you do. Whether you're growing a small business, buying a home or planning for the future, we're here to help.

We offer practical, local solutions to support your goals — ***right here where you live.***

**ANKENY**  
2010 N. Ankeny Blvd.  
Ankeny, IA 50023

AMES / ANKENY / CARROLL / COON RAPIDS / COUNCIL BLUFFS / FORT DODGE  
HOLSTEIN / JEWELL / NEVADA / POCAHONTAS / SIOUX CITY / WEBSTER CITY

Availa  Bank

Visit us at [availa.bank](https://www.availa.bank).

 Member   

# AT-HOME CARE helps people stay in their homes longer

For many people, home represents stability, comfort and a lifetime of memories. Surveys consistently show most older adults prefer to remain in their homes as they age rather than move to a new living environment.



Yet remaining at home can present challenges for individuals and their families. Caregiving responsibilities often fall to family members who must balance work, household duties and personal commitments. This can create stress, exhaustion and, sometimes, discord.

At-home care services are increasingly used to help address those challenges. By assisting with daily activities and companionship, these services can help individuals maintain independence while lightening the load for family caregivers.

**Supporting independence.** Families sometimes hesitate to seek outside help because they worry it may adversely impact a loved one's independence. In many cases, the opposite can be true. When individuals receive assistance

with everyday tasks, such as household chores, personal care, or transportation, they may be able to remain safely in their homes for a longer time. Professional caregivers can also provide support in a way that allows individuals to maintain privacy and autonomy while still receiving help when needed. Regular assistance also can add structure and predictability to daily life, helping both individuals and their families establish more manageable routines.

**Reducing the risk of injuries.** Health concerns such as mobility limitations, chronic pain, vision issues and osteoporosis can increase the risk of falls among aging adults. Falls remain one of the leading causes of injury and disability for older individuals. At-home care providers often help decrease that risk by assisting with activities that might otherwise be physically demanding, such as bathing, cleaning or navigating stairs. Some organizations also offer home safety assessments that identify potential hazards and recommend changes that can improve safety.

**Encouraging physical and social activity.** Remaining active both physically and socially

is an important factor in overall well-being. Individuals who rely heavily on family members for transportation or care may become isolated over time. At-home support can help address this by providing companionship and helping individuals stay engaged in everyday activities. Caregivers may assist with outings, walks, hobbies, or other routines that encourage movement and social interaction. Even small activities such as walking a dog or spending time outdoors can help individuals maintain a sense of normalcy and independence.

**Supporting family caregivers.** Providing care for a loved one can be emotionally meaningful but also physically and mentally demanding. Introducing professional support can help restore balance. With some caregiving responsibilities shared, family members may experience less stress and have more time for work, personal health and meaningful time with their loved one. ■

Stacey Miller is executive director of WesleyLife at Home, which offers a broad network of services, including medical and non-medical at-home care. Visit [wesleylife.org](http://wesleylife.org) or call 515-978-2777.

Where connection, comfort,  
and *care* converge.

From our unique Neighborhood 19 townhomes to nationally recognized memory care, Brio offers all levels of living on one campus — so residents can stay surrounded by the familiar faces and spaces that make them feel at home.

**Find modern living designed for every stage at Brio.**

Call (515) 599-3618 to schedule a visit.



(515) 599-3618 | [wesleylife.org/brio-of-johnston](http://wesleylife.org/brio-of-johnston)





**now OPEN!**  
**6355 NW 51st St., Johnston**  
 515-276-9554

**Gift Cards Available**  
[pineyridgegreenhouse.com](http://pineyridgegreenhouse.com)  
**Growing in Johnston since 1975**  
 Experienced Gardeners Here to Help

**PETS** By Ashley Rullestad

# NEW family member brings joy to Rosenbergs

After losing longtime pup, couple finds the perfect rescue to brighten their home.



Rita and Denny Rosenberg with Scarlett on her adoption day.

The first dog Rita Rosenberg and her husband, Denny, had together was a black-and-tan miniature pinscher named Choxie. They had her for more than 15 years before losing her to cancer in May 2022.

In early 2024, they began looking for another puppy. Rita saw a Facebook post showing three puppy siblings available for adoption from Rescue Rehab Rehome, which has a location in Grimes. She asked Denny if he wanted to go see them.

“Well, you know what happens when you do that, right?” Rita says. “We ended up adopting the female from the trio. Her original name was Byrdie, but we wanted a name that was more meaningful to us. We both love the color red, so our options were Rosie, Ruby and Scarlett.”

Scarlett joined the family in April 2024 and turned 2 this February. She is a mix of six breeds: chihuahua, poodle, rat terrier, miniature pinscher, pekingese, and dachshund. Her most noticeable feature is her big ears. A unique bonus: She is litter-trained, which is especially convenient in winter.

Why choose a rescue puppy?

“Why not,” Rita says. “There are so many great pets to adopt, and we had a great experience with the people at Rescue Rehab Rehome. They were very easy to work with. The adoption fees fit our budget and were much better than spending hundreds, sometimes thousands, through a breeder.”

Scarlett enjoys visits from the grandkids and playing with them. She also likes bike rides with Rita.

“She is very spoiled, makes us laugh every day, and we wouldn’t have it any other way. Adopting her was a great decision,” Rita says. ■

**K-12TH GRADE SUMMER CLASSES**

<b>Week One</b> June 9 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> <i>Passport to Art</i>	<b>Week Two</b> June 16 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup> <i>Jungle Adventure</i>
<b>Week Three</b> July 7 <sup>th</sup> - 10 <sup>th</sup> <i>Under the Sea</i>	<b>Week Four</b> July 14 <sup>th</sup> - 17 <sup>th</sup> <i>Artist Inspirations</i>

Spaces are Limited!! Reserve your spot today!

**ANKENY ART CENTER**

515.985.0940 | [www.ankenyartcenter.org](http://www.ankenyartcenter.org) | 1520 SW Ordance Rd. Ankeny, IA 50023

# DONOR-ADVISED funds: A smart way to give

You can find several ways to make charitable gifts — but, if you're looking for a method that can provide multiple tax benefits, along with an efficient platform for giving year after year, you might want to consider a donor-advised fund.

Once you open a donor-advised fund (DAF), you can contribute many types of assets, including cash, publicly traded stocks, bonds, CDs or non-cash items such as closely held business interests, art or collectibles. You can then decide how to invest the money, possibly following a strategy suggested by the DAF sponsor organization you've selected. The next step involves choosing which charities to support, how often to provide support (such as once a year) and how much to give each time. You're essentially free to direct the money to any charities you like, provided they're IRS-approved charitable organizations.

**Now, let's look at the possible tax advantages offered by a DAF:**

- **Immediate tax deduction** – A few years ago, changes in tax laws resulted in a vastly increased standard deduction, which, in turn, led to far fewer people itemizing on their tax returns and having less incentive, at least from a tax standpoint, to contribute to charities. But, if you don't typically give enough each year to itemize deductions, you could combine several years' worth of giving into one contribution to a DAF and take a larger deduction in that tax year. And you can claim that deduction, even though the DAF may distribute funds to charities over several years.

- **Tax-free growth of earnings** – Once you contribute an asset to a DAF, any earnings growth is not taxable to you, the DAF or the charitable groups that receive grants from the DAF.

- **Avoidance of capital gains taxes** – When you donate appreciated stocks or other investments — or, for that matter, virtually any appreciated asset — to a DAF, you can avoid paying the capital gains taxes that would otherwise be due if you were to simply sell the asset and then donate the proceeds to charitable organizations. Plus, by receiving the appreciated asset, rather than the proceeds from a sale, the charitable groups can gain more from your contribution. And, you can also take a tax deduction for your donation.

While these potential tax benefits can certainly make a DAF an attractive method of charitable giving, you should be aware of some potential tradeoffs. Once you contribute assets to a DAF, that gift is irrevocable, and you can't access the money for any reason other than charitable giving. Also, your investment options are limited to what is available in the DAF program you've chosen. And DAFs can incur administrative costs in addition to the fees charged on the underlying investments.

You may want to consult with your financial professional about other potential benefits and tradeoffs of DAFs and whether a DAF can help you with your charitable giving goals. Also, different DAF sponsors offer different features, so you will want to do some comparisons. And, because DAFs can have such significant implications for your tax situation, you should consult with your tax professional before taking action.

If a DAF is appropriate for your situation, though, consider it carefully — it might be a good way to support your charitable giving efforts for years to come. ■

Information provided by Justin Bjerke, CFP®, ChFC®, AAMS™, CRPC™, CRPS™, AFFP®, Financial Advisor, 2575 N. Ankeny Blvd., Suite 217, Ankeny, IA 50023, 515-965-7582. This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC. Edward Jones, its employees and financial advisors cannot provide tax or legal advice. You should consult your attorney or qualified tax advisor regarding your situation.



**Our clients' interests come first.**  
We can help you get there.



**Jakeb Bakken**  
CFP®, AAMS®, CIMA  
Financial Advisor  
917 E. 1st St.  
Schneider's Square, Ste D  
Ankeny, IA 50021  
515-964-0808



**Justin Bjerke**  
CFP®, ChFC®, AAMS™,  
CRPC™, CRPS™, AFFP®  
Financial Advisor  
2575 N. Ankeny Blvd. Ste 217  
Ankeny, IA 50023  
515-965-7582



**Luke A Boyd**  
CFP®, AAMS®  
Financial Advisor  
1200 SW State St. Ste B  
Ankeny IA 50023  
515-964-2089



**Curt Brooks**  
AAMS®  
Financial Advisor  
3720 N Ankeny Blvd. Ste 102  
Ankeny, IA 50023  
515-964-4949



**Ryleah Cross**  
CFP®  
Financial Advisor  
1255 N. Ankeny Blvd.  
Ste 102  
Ankeny, IA 50023  
515-964-4404



**Mark Ellison**  
AAMS®  
Financial Advisor  
2505 SW White Birch Dr. Ste I  
Ankeny, IA 50023  
515-965-2473



**Brian D. Herbel**  
CFP®, CLU®, AAMS®,  
CKA®  
Financial Advisor  
3606 NE Otterview Cir. Ste 101  
Ankeny, IA 50021  
515-964-1010



**Brandt R Hockman**  
CFP®, AAMS®, CRPC™,  
Financial Advisor  
1610 SW Main St. Ste 206  
Ankeny, IA 50023  
515-446-2193



**Stacey S. Koeppen**  
CFP®  
Financial Advisor  
1210 NW 18th St. Ste 120  
Ankeny, IA 50023  
515-965-7853



**Tam Le**  
Financial Advisor  
303 SW Walnut St.  
Ankeny, IA 50023  
515-964-2323



**Kent Patterson**  
RICP®, AAMS™  
Financial Advisor  
2005 S. Ankeny Blvd. Ste 500  
Ankeny, IA 50023  
515-965-6901



**Graciela Van Wyk**  
Financial Advisor  
1255 N. Ankeny Blvd.  
Ste. 102  
Ankeny, IA 50023  
515-964-4404  
*Hablo Español*



**Allison Ver Steegt**  
CFP®, ChFC®, CRPC™  
Financial Advisor  
215 NW 18th St. Ste 103  
Ankeny, IA 50023  
515-964-2122

www.edwardjones.com  
Member SIPC

# EVENTS IN THE AREA

To submit calendar items for consideration, send to [tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com](mailto:tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com).

Check for cancellations

## Note about calendar events:

This magazine is delivered the third Thursday of each month. Calendar items included are events happening after the delivery date and extend into the following month. If you receive and read your magazine upon delivery, you will not miss out on any calendar items.

## Ankeny Art Center Arts Festival

Saturday, May 16,  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Ankeny Art Center,  
1520 S.W. Ordinance Road

The festival will transform several streets of Ankeny's Historic Uptown into a vibrant celebration of creativity and artistic expression. More than 50 artist booths, live music, artist demonstrations, food trucks and entertainment for adults and children will keep attendees engaged all day.

## Rotary Clubs of Ankeny Roaring '20s Charity Event

Saturday, April 18, 5 p.m.  
FFA Enrichment Center, DMACC  
Campus, 2006 S. Ankeny Blvd.

This annual Rotary fundraiser includes a catered dinner, complimentary wine and beer, and a silent and live auction. Register at [bidpartner.net/rotary](http://bidpartner.net/rotary). For additional information on tickets and sponsorships, contact Todd Eipperle at [todd.eipperle@gmail.com](mailto:todd.eipperle@gmail.com).

## Ankeny Area Historical Society Open House

Sunday, May 3, 2-4 p.m.  
301 S.W. Third St.

Explore Ankeny's history at the Ankeny Area Historical Society farmhouse museum and barn. The dedication of the Lamberti Plaque and program on the USS Iowa by Jeff Lamberti will begin at 1 p.m. No admission fee, but donations are appreciated.

## Summer Classes and Workshops

Ankeny Art Center,  
1520 S.W. Ordinance Road

Adult summer classes are now scheduled at the Ankeny Art Center. **Classes for adult beginners include:**

- Mother's Day Acrylic Painting - May 10
- Gesture Drawing (with a live model)
- Linoleum Printmaking
- Monoprinting on Clay
- Mixed Media Collage
- Pet Portraits in Acrylic

**Adult intermediate/advanced classes include:**

- Composition for the Watercolorist
- Watercolor Birds
- Pottery Wheel

Register online at [www.ankenycartcenter.org](http://www.ankenycartcenter.org).

## 'Let Us Sing'

April 24, 7:30 p.m.  
Lutheran Church of Hope,  
520 N.W. 36th St., Ankeny

The Ankeny Community Chorus is presenting a special concert, "Let Us Sing," for its 25th Year Celebration.

Homeownership without the Hassle at  
**Vintage Hills Cooperative**  
at Prairie Trail



Refreshments  
Will Be Served.

**HOMES START AT \$120,000**

Discover Cooperative Living  
at our Open House!

At our Q&A Panel Discussion, you will learn how it works and why it's a smart choice. And you will get answers to any questions you may have, straight from the people who live here.



Unable to attend? Schedule a tour that works best for you by calling us. 515.729.2040 • 1370 SW Magazine Rd, Ankeny • [vintageprairietrail.com](http://vintageprairietrail.com)



Join us for our  
**OPEN HOUSE!**

**Thursday, April 23 • 1-4pm**  
Panel Discussion: Starts at 1:30 pm  
with tours to follow.

Scan here to learn more about  
the advantages of cooperative  
living, floor plans, and more!



Check for cancellations

## Parkinson's Disease Awareness Fair

Wednesday, April 22

On With Life's outpatient facility, 717 S.W. Ankeny Road

In an effort to promote local resources during Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month, On With Life is hosting a free Parkinson's Awareness Fair for persons living with Parkinson's, caregivers and community supporters. Whether individuals are newly diagnosed, exploring resources or looking to stay active and connected, this event will offer practical tools and meaningful support. Attendees will rotate through interactive learning stations focused on brain health, movement and exercise, communication strategies and adaptive equipment. There will also be a Q and A with On With Life's nurse practitioner. While On With Life has a variety of Parkinson's programming that attendees will be able to experience, there will also be the opportunity to visit with local vendors, such as the Parkinson's Foundation and Dinner Dispatch, in between the educational sessions. Registration for this event is free but required. Learn more and sign up at [www.onwithlife.org/PD\\_Fair](http://www.onwithlife.org/PD_Fair).

## Spring Fling Pet Nutrition Fair

Saturday, April 18, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Bone-A-Patreat, 1630 S. Ankeny Blvd.

A day of spring fun, pet-friendly activities, and expert advice is coming to Bone-A-Patreat's new Ankeny location. This free community event will take place in the outdoor parking lot and will feature visiting pet nutrition experts from across the country, activities for pets and people, vendor booths and exclusive one-day deals. This year's theme is: "Get the SCOOP on Pet Nutrition." In addition to learning about pet nutrition, guests can enjoy several activities throughout the day. Visitors can receive free pet caricatures, create a mess-free masterpiece at the Paw-casso pet art station, and enter to win raffle prizes including gift baskets from participating brands and a custom pet cake from Bone-A-Patreat's new in-house bakery. Guests are encouraged to stop inside the store to explore spring-themed bakery treats, talk with Bone-A-Patreat's knowledgeable pet food experts, and learn more about grooming and self-wash services. Pets are welcome both inside the store and outside. For safety, all pets must remain on a leash or safely contained. For more information, visit [boneapatreat.com](http://boneapatreat.com).

## Summer Art Camps

Ankeny Art Center,  
1520 S.W. Ordnan Road

Summer art camps for kids will be offered June 9-12, June 16-19, July 7-10 and July 14-17. Camps will run Tuesday-Friday for one week. Each week will have

different projects so campers can sign up for multiple sessions. Themes are incorporated into all classes except for Pottery Wheel. Financial assistance is available. Email Education Director Claire Hays at [claire@ankenycartcenter.com](mailto:claire@ankenycartcenter.com) for information as well as to make donations to the camp fund. Ankeny Art Center members get 20% off at registration. For more information and registration, visit [www.ankenycartcenter.org](http://www.ankenycartcenter.org).



## The Sparkle Run

May 3, 2 p.m.

Ankeny DMACC  
Campus

In October 2013, the Ankeny community was saddened by the loss of Erin Moomey, 11. A fifth grader at Crocker Elementary, Erin died of complications from her battle with leukemia. Two of Erin's elementary school teachers who were avid runners put together a 5K walk/run in Erin's memory. The first run was held in 2014, and this year's 13th annual run is set for May 3. Packet pick-up and family activities will be held on race day at 2 p.m., with the 5K walk/run and one mile fun run for kids. The cost is \$30 per person for ages 19 and older and \$20 per person for those 18 and younger and includes a T-shirt, which can be picked up the day of the event. This year's proceeds will benefit the therapy dog program at Blank Children's Hospital and American Cancer Society's PAWS program, which serves the University of Iowa's Stead Family Children's Hospital. To register or make a donation, visit [sparklerun.org](http://sparklerun.org) or check out The Sparkle Run on Facebook.



The Sparkle Run is held each year in remembrance of Ankeny student Erin Moomey. Photo by Doug Rants

## Des Moines Art Center Museum Highlights Tour

Saturdays, 1-2 p.m.

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.

## 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. ■

# CLOSER by the day

DeBoers love their Critter.

Critter had been getting closer by the day.

It was Mother's Day weekend 10 years ago, and Steve and Lori DeBoer were working with their flower pots getting ready for spring planting. On the driveway, just a few feet away, was a furry and curious stray cat that had been popping in and out of their yard every now and then for a few weeks, just lying there, soaking in the sun.

It brought back memories for Lori.

"I immediately thought of the black cat that our neighbors had when we lived in Waterloo," she says. "It was a barn cat they called 'Critter' because he kept the critters away from their yard."

A short while later, while the couple was relaxing in their lawn chairs during a short break, something happened. The sunning cat decided it was time to let its guard down a bit and move — onto Lori's lap. Without invitation. It was a shock, to say the least.

"I was not much of an animal lover. Even though I did grow up with cats and dogs, I never took much interest in them," she says. "So, I panicked, thinking that this cat was going to bite me. I looked at my husband and asked what to do."

His reply?

"Pet him," Steve replied.

Her hands shaking, she did just that. And a bond was formed. The couple had been working on the "relationship" for awhile already, setting out food and keeping the garage door cracked to give it shelter during the cold winter nights.

The two parties became more accustomed to each other with time until they were ready to make this relationship a permanent one. The first step was a name. That was easy: "Critter." Then came the trip to the veterinarian to get him checked out. But wait. Surprise.

"The vet informed us that Critter was a her, not a him," Lori says. "He asked if we wanted to change her name, and we said no. She was Critter."

After a thorough exam, Critter was officially theirs.

"We took her home and decided to see what would happen if she was let in the house," Lori says. "She instantly started checking things out and went downstairs as if to be looking for a litter box."

After putting a litter box in the basement, the DeBoers decided to see how Critter would do if she was kept in the house overnight. She passed that test, too.

"We went upstairs to bed, and there she was, smack dab in the middle of the bed making herself right at home," Lori laughs.

Ten years later, Critter remains the queen of the house. She still likes to go outside, but not as much as she used to. As happens with her human counterparts, years take a toll. She is getting older and moving a little slower these days, Lori says. The veterinarian guessed Critter's age to be somewhere in the 14-15 years range, having come to the DeBoers when she was 5.

But that doesn't matter.

She's still here.

Getting closer by the day. ■



Lori DeBoer and her pet, Critter.

ANKENY ART CENTER

# ARTS

2026

## FESTIVAL

PRESENTED BY

**Saturday, May 16th | 10am - 4pm**  
In Uptown Ankeny, along 3rd St. and Walnut St.

### 50+ Artists

PAINTING, CERAMICS, METAL SCULPTURE,  
GLASS, WOOD, CUSTOM JEWELRY AND MORE.

### Live Music

### Food Trucks

### Activities for Adults and Kids

LIVE PAINTING, CERAMICS DEMONSTRATION,  
UPTOWN TRAIN, KID'S CRAFT, AND MORE!

Kory & Amber Gustafson

# CELEBRATE National Library Week

What brings you joy? Whether it is cozying up with a new story, learning a new skill, gathering with community or something else, you can find your joy at the Ankeny Kirkendall Public Library.

Whatever brings you joy, the library has something for everyone. Whether you are preparing for a career change, launching a business, raising a family or embracing retirement, Ankeny Kirkendall Public Library is here to support your journey. Libraries serve as hubs for learning, creativity and connection, helping people of all ages explore new ideas and opportunities.

National Library Week, April 19-25, is a time to celebrate the many ways libraries bring people together, spark imagination and support lifelong learning. From books and digital resources to technology assistance and creative programming, libraries are essential to thriving communities.

At Ankeny Kirkendall Public Library, we invite everyone to join the celebration. Whether you are a long-time patron, a new neighbor, or haven't visited in a while, now is the perfect time to explore all the library has to offer. We look forward to seeing you.

First celebrated in 1958, National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association and libraries of all types across the country each April. ■

**NOW RESERVING!**  
New senior apartments  
at Mill Pond coming  
in 2026



All faiths welcome. Equal housing opportunity. © 2026 Presbyterian Homes and Services

- Experience a dynamic, community-centered lifestyle designed for connection and convenience.
- Supported by the long-trusted care of Presbyterian Homes & Services.
- Offers independence today and a full continuum of services for tomorrow.



Schedule your personal visit today.

Scan the QR code or visit [PresHomes.org/explore-mill-pond](https://PresHomes.org/explore-mill-pond)



Independent living | Assisted living | Memory care  
Transitional care | Long term care



Ankeny, IA | 515-964-2273

PICTURE PERFECT, NOW

WAIT UNTIL <<  
YOU TASTE IT

GET 8  
FREE  
BURGERS  
A \$22 value!



**Butcher's Classic Pack** **SAVE 57%**

- 4 Butcher's Cut Filet Mignons (5 oz.)
- 4 Air-Chilled Boneless Chicken Breasts (5 oz.)
- 4 PureGround® Filet Mignon Burgers (6 oz.)
- 4 Gourmet Jumbo Franks (3 oz.)
- 4 Individual Scalloped Potatoes (3.8 oz.)
- 4 Caramel Apple Tartlets (4 oz.)
- 1 Omaha Steaks Seasoning (3 oz.)
- 8 FREE Omaha Steaks Burgers (4 oz.)**

Scan Now To Order



78237XDS separately \$300.00 **\$129.99**  
**SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY PRICE**

**ORDER NOW!** [OmahaSteaks.com/ClassicPack7199](https://OmahaSteaks.com/ClassicPack7199) | 1.833.897.4133  
Ask for your FREE burgers with offer 78237XDS

Savings shown over aggregated single item base price. 8 free 4 oz. burgers will be sent to each shipping address that includes 78237. Limit 2. Standard S&H added per address. While supplies last. Items may be substituted due to inventory limitations. Some products may not be available for sale in your area. Sales are subject to OmahaSteaks.com/terms-of-use. Expires 12/31/25. 24M7165 | Omaha Steaks, LLC

# 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. ■

# MAKE A LITTLE GO A LONG WAY

STAY ON THE ROAD  
WITH SPECIALIZED  
MAINTENANCE AND  
INSPECTIONS

4 YEAR/40,000  
MILE WARRANTY

SCAN ME

## SHADE TREE AUTO

**GRIMES**

1750 SE 11th St  
515-986-5241

**URBANDALE**

3831 70th St  
515-512-1095

**ANKENY**

1329 SW Ordinance Rd  
515-964-9492

[www.ShadeTreeAuto.biz](http://www.ShadeTreeAuto.biz)

# THE IMPORTANCE of routine care

Last winter, our 12-year-old basset mix, Glory, became ill — suddenly and without warning — with a severe case of liver disease. Because she had just had wellness bloodwork and a dental cleaning three months prior, we were able to quickly narrow down the likely causes to infection or toxin and treat accordingly. She rallied quickly and was back to her normal self within a few days.



Wellness care is one of the most overlooked aspects of veterinary medicine. Skipping a routine visit can feel harmless, especially when life gets busy, budgets get tight, or your pet is acting completely normal.

If that sounds familiar, you're not alone. The tricky part? Our pets are very good at hiding early signs of illness. Most of the time, the problems we see aren't truly sudden, they have just been subtle. By the time something is

obvious, it has often been developing for weeks or even months.

While this wasn't the case with Glory, her recent bloodwork gave us a normal baseline, which allowed us to quickly determine that this was not a chronic issue and treat accordingly.

Routine visits help us establish what "normal" looks like for your pet and give us a chance to catch subtle changes you might not notice at home. Small shifts in weight, early dental disease, changes in mobility, or mild lab abnormalities can all be early indicators of bigger issues down the road.

When we catch these things early, they are often simple to manage. When we don't, they tend to become more involved, requiring more treatment, more time, and often more cost.

We see this every day. Dental disease that starts as mild tartar can progress to painful infections and extractions. Parasites picked up during the warmer months can lead to chronic or even life-threatening illness if left unchecked. Chronic conditions like kidney

disease or thyroid imbalances often begin with subtle changes that are much easier to manage when caught early.

Wellness care is more than updating vaccines or a yearly visit (or two for senior pets): It is about staying ahead of problems through routine exams, bloodwork and parasite prevention. It also gives us a chance to talk through nutrition, behavior, mobility and all those "I've been meaning to ask about this..." questions.

Investing in routine preventative care is one of the simplest ways to protect your pet's quality of life. We can catch problems earlier, reduce stress down the road, and help them stay healthier for longer.

It may not always feel urgent in the moment, but, over time, it makes all the difference. ■

Information provided by Dr. Amanda Gigler, Ankeny Animal & Avian Clinic, 742 S. Ankeny Blvd., Ankeny, 515-964-7387, amandagigler@ankenyanimal.com.

**GENTLER VETERINARY CARE,  
RIGHT HERE AT HOME.**

**FOR OVER 50 YEARS**

Dogs • Cats • Birds • Small Mammals

**ANKENY'S ONLY FEAR  
FREE® CLINIC CARING FOR  
ANIMALS, BIRDS & EXOTICS.**



Ankeny's  
Favorite for  
15 years!



**PAYMENT OPTIONS  
AVAILABLE**

Book A Wellness Visit Today.

**GET TO KNOW YOUR  
LOCAL VET**

**Dr. Amanda Gigler,  
co-owner**

**What is the most rewarding part of your job?** The most rewarding part of my job is building meaningful relationships with clients and helping them care for their pets in ways that fit their lives. I love growing alongside families and supporting them through every stage of their pet's life.

**What is a patient species that still surprises you?** Birds! They have such varied personalities and are so very smart. They are always amazing to me with their resilience and their ability to heal, sometimes despite the odds.

**How long have you been a veterinarian?** I've been at Ankeny Animal and Avian Clinic since 2009, after graduating from Iowa State University. In 2017, my partner Katie and I purchased the clinic and have continued its legacy of personalized care while focusing on improving the lives of our patients, clients, and team.

**YOUR PARTNER IN PET CARE FOR OVER 50 YEARS**



**ANKENY ANIMAL  
AND AVIAN CLINIC**  
— A WOMAN-OWNED BUSINESS —

742 S ANKENY BLVD, ANKENY

www.ankenyvets.com (515) 964-7387



**ATTIVO  
TRAIL.**  
ANKENY, IOWA

## SPRING INTO ACTIVE LIVING!



Now is the perfect time to come home to active adult living! You'll love our variety of spacious 1 & 2 bedroom floor plans with no buy-in fee!

See for yourself at one of our upcoming open houses:

📅 April 17<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>  
🕒 1:00p.m.-4:00p.m.

SELECT 1-BEDS  
STARTING AT  
\$1,695/month



### CONTACT US TODAY!

515-916-5911 | [ankeny@attivotrail.com](mailto:ankeny@attivotrail.com)  
1010 SW Magazine Rd., Ankeny, IA 50023

## LOOKING BACK



The April 2011 Ankeny Living magazine featured the story, "A parent's choice: Making the decision to work or stay at home." The cover photo featured Jessica Boehringer and son, Beckett, 1, and daughter, Bella, 4. Also featured were Judi Pries and daughters, Marissa, 4, and Kelsey, 5, and Janel Hartwigsen and sons Noah, 1, and Adam, 3. ■

## Is your retirement puzzle complete?



Having just one way to save – and one source of income – may not be enough to fulfill your vision for what retirement looks like. We can help fill the gaps with options that provide opportunities for low-risk growth and steady, reliable retirement income you won't outlive.

Let's find the perfect fit for you.



**Ryan Nurnberg**  
300 SE Delaware, Ankeny, IA  
515.964.5354  
[ryannurnberg.com](http://ryannurnberg.com)



Registered Representative/Securities & services offered through FBL Marketing Services, LLC,\* 5400 University Ave., West Des Moines, IA 50266, 877/860-2904, Member SIPC. Farm Bureau Property & Casualty Insurance Company,\*\* Western Agricultural Insurance Company,\*\* Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company\*\*/West Des Moines, IA. \*Affiliates. \*\*Company providers of Farm Bureau Financial Services. PR-RET-A (10-25)

## TAKE OUR POLL

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

1. A surprise windfall of cash
2. Better health
3. Better relationships
4. Someone to do all your chores
5. A vacation

[www.iowalivingmagazines.com](http://www.iowalivingmagazines.com)

SCAN THE QR  
CODE TO VOTE!



### RESULTS FROM MARCH POLL:

Which of these first signs of spring is your favorite?



**Birds singing**..... 29%  
**Thunderstorms** ..... 29%  
**Green grass**..... 18%  
**Flowers blooming**..... 18%  
**Jacket weather** ..... 6%

IOWA  
*Living*  
MAGAZINES

# ORDER of operations

I think the last formal math class I took was in high school. Over the last few months, I've been reminded of a simple math principle that has been guiding my expression(s) of faith.

(My apologies to the dedicated math teachers in our community for any mistakes I am about to make. I enjoyed math... I also enjoy basketball. It doesn't mean I'm good at either of them.)



In math, an "order of operations" is a set of rules that help us to know in what order different parts of a math problem should be solved. My favorite math problems were the more complicated ones. When the problem included a few sets of variables inside parentheses, some exponents, or combined all of that into complex fractions that were being multiplied, it was important to solve particular segments of the problem first to ensure the correct answer. No longer was it as simple as solving from left to right or solving the parts that looked easy first.

(There is a high probability I've lost 75% of readers by this point in the article or that I've butchered math. My apologies! For those who remain...)

My faith matters to me. I try to apply what God teaches me through the Bible and the presence of God's Spirit in order to make good decisions, find purpose, experience joy and... to "solve" problems.

I don't think you have to be a mathematician or a pastor to find yourself worried about the problems in our world today. I also think it is easy to say to ourselves, "Isn't it obvious how this problem should be fixed? All we have to do is... add from left to right or quickly take care of the parts that make the most sense to me first."

I think that God has been asking me to review my "order of operations." When trying to solve any problem, where should I start? What part of the problem should I address first? Let me share with you how far I am in my process.

1. Is what I'm doing or thinking an act of loving God? 2. Is what I'm doing a way to love people? 3. Is what I'm doing harmful to myself or others? 4. Is what I'm doing helping someone know that God loves them too? 5. Is my "solution" expressed in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness or self control?

Friends, that is as far as I've gotten. I have been asking God for help to solve all kinds of problems I see in the world around me. Time and time again, God leads me back to the mirror to remember the order of operations. If I might be so bold, and in humility, I share this once more...

Love God. Love people. Do no harm. Share God's love. Allow God to help you "bear good fruit." Doing those things well will "solve" more problems than we can imagine. God loves you. I do too. Sorry to the math teachers. :) ■

Information provided by John Wagner, campus pastor, Christian Life Center, Ankeny First United Methodist Church, john.wagner@ankenyfirst.org.



Ankeny First United Methodist Church

celebrating

**150**  
years

Est. 1876

we invite you to

**COME WITH US**

as we learn  
about following

**JESUS** together!

worship with us  
**ONLINE**



[www.ankenyfirst.org](http://www.ankenyfirst.org)

# WHAT IS a cervical radiculopathy?

“Pinched” nerves in the neck cause pain.

Some people have neck pain that may radiate into the shoulder, arm or hand that can sometimes be misdiagnosed as carpal tunnel syndrome or cubital tunnel syndrome. This type of pain is often caused by an injury near the root of a spinal nerve. The medical term for a “pinched” nerve in the neck is a cervical radiculopathy.

### Cause

As spinal discs age, they lose height and begin to bulge. They also lose water content and become stiffer. As the discs lose height, the vertebrae begin to move closer together and degenerate. The body recognizes the thinning of the disc as a possible weak area and responds by splinting the joint with more bone, often called “spurs,” around the disc to strengthen it. The bone spurs that grow also contribute to the stiffening of the spine. Bone spurs may narrow the tiny holes where the nerves exit the spine and pinch the nerve root.

The disc changes that occur with age are often referred to as degenerative disc disease. It is important to keep in mind that all of these changes are often “normal” and that they occur in nearly everyone. In fact, if MRI scans were performed on people greater than 50 years of age, nearly half of the scans would show degenerative discs and pinched nerves that do not cause painful symptoms. It is not completely understood why some patients have symptoms and others do not.

### Symptoms

Cervical radiculopathy is pain that travels down the arm in the area of the involved nerve. This pain is usually described as sharp. There may also be a “pins and needles” sensation or even complete numbness. In addition, there may be a feeling of weakness with certain activities.

Symptoms can be worsened with certain movements, like extending the neck backwards or turning the head from side to side. These symptoms are often made better by placing the hand on top of the head to relieve the nerve tension.

### Treatment

It is important to note that the vast majority of patients with cervical radiculopathy get better with chiropractic care and never require surgery. Some patients will have the pain go away quickly, over days to weeks, while others will have it take longer. It is also not uncommon for cervical radiculopathy to come back at some point, but, again, this problem usually gets better with conservative treatments.

If you or someone you know is suffering from back or neck pain and have not found the relief you are looking for, please consider chiropractic. They may be able to help. ■

Information provided by Christopher M. Renze, D.C., D.I.B.C.N., of Renze Chiropractic Clinic, P.C. For more information, visit [www.renzechiro.com](http://www.renzechiro.com) or call the office at 965-3844.



## CARE FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY!

- 🍃 Neck & Back Pain
- 🍃 Sprain / Strain Injuries
- 🍃 Headaches / Migraines
- 🍃 Sports & Auto Injuries
- 🍃 Food Sensitivity Testing FOODSAFE<sup>ALERT</sup> Allergy Test
- 🍃 ChiroThin Weight Loss Program

## IS BACK OR NECK PAIN IMPACTING YOUR LIFE?

- 🍃 Degenerative & Herniated Discs
- 🍃 Radiculopathy
- 🍃 Sciatica
- 🍃 Bulging Discs
- 🍃 Facet Joint Syndrome



## PALMER ADJUSTING TECHNIQUES

- 🍃 Traditional Manipulation
- 🍃 Thompson Drop Technique
- 🍃 Activator Method
- 🍃 Cox Flexion Distraction
- 🍃 SpineMed Decompression Therapy



Renze  
chiropractic clinic, p.c.



**New Patients  
Always Welcomed!**

**Christopher M. Renze DC, DIBCN**  
Palmer Graduate  
Board-Certified Chiropractic Neurologist  
Serving Ankeny for 24 years

[WWW.RENZECHIRO.COM](http://WWW.RENZECHIRO.COM)

925 E. 1st Street, Suite L, Ankeny 🍃 515-965-3844

Most Insurances Accepted. Pay as you go. No long-term contracts or treatment plans.



**SPARTAN ARMS  
AND AMMO**  
ANKENY, IOWA

[WWW.SPARTANARMSIOWA.COM](http://WWW.SPARTANARMSIOWA.COM)

Chris Renze, Owner/FFL

**BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

Text: 515-350-5268

Private & Confidential Firearms Sales

## DERMAL filler that looks natural

People are often hesitant about dermal filler because the most visible examples in the media tend to be celebrities or influencers with obvious, overfilled results. When filler is done poorly, placed incorrectly, or overused over time, it can create an unnatural appearance that makes people fearful of all filler treatments. The truth is that good filler should not look obvious at all.



Dermal filler is actually one of the best non-surgical tools available for restoring lost volume, enhancing facial balance, softening lines, and creating subtle improvements in a relatively short amount of time. It can enhance the lips, cheeks, chin, jawline, temples, under eyes, and many other areas of the face with little downtime and immediate results. For many people, filler offers a way to look more refreshed, youthful and balanced without surgery.

The key to beautiful filler is choosing the right provider. Filler should always be performed by a highly trained medical professional with the proper credentials, advanced anatomy knowledge, and extensive experience. The face contains many important blood vessels and structures, making injector skill incredibly important for both safety and cosmetic outcomes.

Natural-looking filler comes down to proper placement, conservative amounts, and understanding the anatomy of the face. Filler placed in the correct plane of the face and in the right quantity can restore support, create balance, and enhance features without looking fake or overdone. ■

Provided by Dr. Stephanie Koos, RenuYou MedSpa, 1705 N. Ankeny Blvd., Suite B, Ankeny, [www.renuyouaestheticsandbotox.com](http://www.renuyouaestheticsandbotox.com), 515-330-8900.

## PLAN AHEAD

By Robert Christensen

## WHY SHOULD I write my obituary?

We all look at them. They help honor the memory of the person who died, and they serve as a notice of the death itself. Writing an obituary is essentially writing a life narrative. You have lived a lot of life, and there is no better way to get a zoomed-out view of yourself and your life than to write your own obituary. It is a life review.



It is an opportunity to identify details that make you proud, and you may even uncover areas of your life that you realize are unfinished. This can offer you an opportunity to reroute paths that may have led you astray from those accomplishments.

Some questions that can help you as you get started with this activity include:

- Are there specific things I want my family and friends to remember about me?
- What are the most important roles I have played in life?
- Is there any advice or guidance I want to pass along to others?
- What are my most important accomplishments, and what am I most proud of?

Advanced funeral planning is ultimately about making things easier for those you love. Writing your own obituary is a simple, but meaningful way to help accomplish this. ■

Information provided by Robert Christensen, Advanced Planning Counselor, Hamilton's Funeral Home, 515-697-3671

## GLOW ALL YEAR WITH A RENUYOU MEMBERSHIP



### WHAT DO YOU GET?

- Special Pricing on Popular Treatments
- Month Services Credits
- Exclusive Member-Only Promotions
- Priority Booking
- Ongoing Support For Your Beauty & Wellness Goals

Starting at **\$109** /MONTH



**RenuYou**  
MEDSPA & WELLNESS CENTER

Invest in yourself and make self-care part of your routine.



**START SAVING WHILE YOU GLOW**

[www.renuyouaestheticsandbotox.com](http://www.renuyouaestheticsandbotox.com)



1705 N. Ankeny Blvd. Ste B, Ankeny, IA | 515-330-8900  
214 Main Street Ames, IA | 515-337-1254

## PLAN AHEAD FOR

# PEACE of MIND

One of our four Advanced Planning consultants will take you every step of the process to lessen the emotional stress when the need arises.



Scott Eriksen



Dave Cortner



Robert Christensen



Sarah Masteller

**Contact Hamilton's to start your plan.**

[www.HamiltonsFuneralHome.com](http://www.HamiltonsFuneralHome.com) 515-243-5221



**HAMILTON'S**  
FUNERAL & AFTER LIFE SERVICES

6 Area Locations • Funerals • Cremation • Advanced Planning Academy of Grief & Loss • Pet Services • Memorial Gift Shop

# THE VALUE of a special needs trust

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



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

Trusts set up specifically for special needs dependents can help ensure that their inheritance doesn't jeopardize eligibility for those payments. Special needs trusts limit how the money in them can be used and keeps the beneficiary eligible for SSI and Medicaid.

Trusts created with the dependent's assets are designed for special needs dependents that come into money through inheritance or a lawsuit. They are designed to ensure that money doesn't jeopardize eligibility for government benefits. However, under the

terms of these types of trusts, when the dependent dies, the state Medicaid agency receives any money left in the trust for any support the state provided to the dependent.

Trusts created with assets from parents or grandparents solve the problem of people who want to leave money for a special needs dependent but don't want that person to lose out on government benefits. The trust can be established by a Will or created during the benefactor's lifetime. The trustee cannot give money directly to the dependent but can pay for certain items and services not covered by monthly SSI income. Upon the death of the dependent, whatever assets are left in the trust can be distributed according to the creator's wishes as specified in the terms of the trust.

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

Information provided by Gail Barnett, Abendroth Russell Barnett Law Firm, 2560 73rd St., Urbandale, 515-278-0623, [www.ARPCLaw.com](http://www.ARPCLaw.com).

**YOU  
HELP  
THEM.**

LET US HELP YOU.

SUPERIOR SERVICE.  
LEGAL SOLUTIONS.

FOR 39 YEARS



**EXPERIENCED ATTORNEYS**

SINCE 1987

Wills, Trusts, & Estate Planning ■ Residential Real Estate  
Probate & Estate Administration ■ Social Security Disability  
Business Formation & Planning ■ Medicaid & Asset Protection



**ABENDROTH RUSSELL  
BARNETT LAW FIRM**

ESTABLISHED IN 1987

ATTORNEYS WHO SPECIALIZE IN YOU

2560 73rd St., Urbandale ■ 515.278.0623 ■ [www.ARPCLaw.com](http://www.ARPCLaw.com)

# THE VALUE of banking in a branch

While the advantages of online banking are undeniable, the value of banking in person at a branch is often overlooked. There are certain aspects of in-branch banking, such as personalized guidance, access to full products and services and real-time solutions, that make a trip to your bank worth your time.



### Personalized guidance

It is helpful to have someone you can trust to guide you through important financial decisions, no matter how small or complex they are. One of the best parts of in-person banking is the ability to discuss your financial needs directly with an expert. When your banker has a better understanding of where you are and where you want to be, it is easier for them to offer expert advice and financial solutions

tailored specifically to your unique situation.

Personal connection, combined with face-to-face communication, can make all the difference, and they can play a key role in reaching your financial goals. They are an important part of your banking experience that online services are unable to replicate.

### Access to full products and services

When you visit your bank in person, you gain access to its full suite of products and services, not just what's included online. There could be a better opportunity for you to receive special offers by simply visiting the branch. You may even learn about a product or service you didn't know was available before your visit.

There are also certain banking tasks that are best to do in person at a branch. Depositing large amounts of money is one of them. Additionally, most banks offer safe deposit boxes, which are an in-branch service meant to serve as a private and secure place for you to store your most valuable items. Many

branches also provide notary services, making it convenient to handle legal documents while you're there.

### Real-time solutions

Another important advantage of in-person banking is the ability to receive real-time solutions when urgent issues arise. If you notice anything suspicious on your account, a banker can review the activity and identify a plan of action for you all in one visit. Urgent matters don't have to be as stressful when you have an expert to address and fix problems on the spot.

Finding the balance between using in-person and digital banking services will help you make the most of your financial experience. The next time you need financial advice or just want to meet your banker, consider stopping by your local bank for support. ■

Information provided by Tracy Gibson, VP, Ankeny Branch Manager, 515-965-2497, tgibson@bankerstrust.com, 1925 N. Ankeny Blvd., Ankeny, IA 50023.

## \$400

**for the next item on your 2026 bucket list.**

*Receive your bonus when you open a primary checking account by June 30, 2026\**

\*To be eligible for the bonus you must open a Primary Checking Account, either a BreakFree Checking Plus or Direct Checking Plus account ("Bonus Account") in person at a branch with a minimum opening deposit of \$25. To qualify for the bonus, customers must complete the requirements below through the Bonus Account within 60 days from the date of its opening. Bonus will only be credited if the account is currently in an open status with a positive balance.

25 debit transactions. A "debit transaction" for the purpose of this section means a debit to your Bonus Account that originated from an ACH, Bankers Trust bill payment, drafting checks, or use of your debit card as a method of payment or purchase. Qualifying debit card transactions must post and settle during the 60 days from account opening. A "debit transaction" does not include debits to your Bonus Account that originated from ATM withdrawals or other debits to your Bonus Account; and,

2 direct (ACH) and/or Mobile deposits of at least \$200 each must post and settle during the 60 days from account opening. A "deposit" for the purposes of this section does not include ATM deposit, deposits made in person, account-to-account transfers, or other deposits to your Bonus Account.

Eligibility will be verified 60 days after the Bonus Account's opening. Bonus will only be credited if the account is currently in an open status with a positive balance. Should you have met all eligibility requirements and are not subject to the limitations and exclusions contained herein, the bonus will be credited to the Bonus Account within 75 days of its opening. Limit one bonus per household. Offer not available to existing Bankers Trust checking customers or those that have had a checking account with Bankers Trust within six months of Bonus Account opening. Employees of Bankers Trust and/or its affiliates are not eligible for bonus. Offer available for a limited time. Open a primary checking account by June 30, 2026. Early closing fee of \$400 will be charged if your Bonus Account is closed within 12 months of opening. Annual Percentage Yield (APY) on Break Free Checking Plus is 0.60% for balances less than \$5,000.00 and 0.55% for balances \$5,000.00 and over, effective March 27, 2026, and subject to change without notice. Fees may reduce earnings. Rate may change after the account is opened.

**Scan the QR code to learn more.**

**Bankers Trust**  
Member FDIC

# BENEFITS of membership

Dear reader,

My name is Amanda Briggs, chief financial and administrative officer with the Greater Des Moines Partnership. I have been in my role at The Partnership for nearly three years and have more than 18 years of financial experience with most of those years being in the nonprofit sector.



In 2025, The Partnership introduced a shared services model for affiliate regional chambers of commerce, of which we now support financials for Ankeny Chamber of Commerce. This model delivers financial management and oversight, payroll and strategic guidance, while also creating efficiencies that return capacity and, in some cases funding, back to Chambers, enabling them to further advance their missions. We recognize that strong financial management is essential to any business' long-term success, and chambers are no different.

Along with the shared services, The Partnership offers a range of educational programs and initiatives designed to support our affiliate chambers, regional chamber members and investors. These educational opportunities provide curriculum on key topics such as business planning, legal and compliance matters, strategic planning and financial management, all aimed at helping businesses grow and be successful.

Chambers play a vital role in strengthening and advancing a local community by serving as a connector and advocate for growth. They bring together businesses, local governments and community organizations to collaborate on initiatives that support economic development, placemaking, workforce growth and overall community vitality. Beyond economic impact, Chambers enhance quality of life through events, programs and community initiatives that foster a strong sense of place where companies and communities can thrive together.

Chamber events, programs and community initiatives require sponsorships to be successful. A sponsorship offers a business a cost-effective marketing opportunity while increasing its visibility within the local community. By sponsoring chamber events, programs or community initiatives, businesses can gain exposure in the community and position their business as an engaged community partner, strengthening their reputation and reinforcing their commitment to local growth and success.

A chamber's mission is powered by its members, and they are the driving force behind its work and among its greatest beneficiaries. At its core, strong membership fuels a strong chamber, and, in turn, a stronger, more vibrant community.

If your business is not yet involved with your local chamber, I encourage you to take the next step. Membership is more than paying dues, it is about showing up, building connections and actively engaging. Those who invest their time and energy see the greatest return, gaining valuable relationships, visibility and opportunities that help their businesses and their communities thrive. ■

Information provided by Amanda Briggs, Chief Financial and Administrative Officer with the Greater Des Moines Partnership, 700 Locust St., Suite 100, Des Moines, IA 50309, [www.dsmpartnership.com](http://www.dsmpartnership.com).



**Sign Up to Receive our Communications**



**ANKENY**  
area chamber of commerce

1360 SW Park Square Dr, Suite 106  
(515) 964-0685 | [www.ankeny.org](http://www.ankeny.org)



**View Our Calendar for All Events & Details**

**Sponsorships through the Ankeny Area Chamber of Commerce are some of the most cost-effective marketing opportunities available!**

Email questions to [janderson@ankeny.org](mailto:janderson@ankeny.org)

**Promote Your Business & Support Your Community!**



Set Your Alarm to Brew Connections This Spring

**APRIL 28TH**  
7:30-9:00AM

**Independence Village** SENIOR LIVING

1275 SW STATE STREET

Enter The Drawing For A \$50 GIFT CARD

**TOUR ANKENY**

**WEDNESDAY MAY 6, 2026**

8:15 - 11:30 AM  
KREG TOOL TOUR

Register Today!

CHAMBER MEMBER TICKET - \$10.00  
NON MEMBER TICKET - \$12.50

**YOU'RE INVITED!**

HOSTED BY



**Community Choice**

JOIN US FOR BUSINESS afterwards

**MAY 14TH, 2026**

4:00 - 5:30 PM

ANKENY UNBANKING CENTER

2710 S Ankeny Blvd, Ankeny

**SAVE THE DATE**

ANKENY CHAMBER **Jingle in July**

**SUMMER FEST**

Presented by 

**July 10-12, 2026**

@ The District at Praire Trail

Platinum Sponsors



**POLK COUNTY**  
Board of Supervisors



**city of Ankeny**

**Grand Parade Registration Now Open!**

Learn more @ [www.ankeny.org](http://www.ankeny.org)

**INVESTOR MEMBERS**







**PREMIER MEMBERS**

















# LATTES & Leads

The Ankeny Area Chamber of Commerce monthly Lattes & Leads was held on March 24, sponsored by Warners' Stellan Appliance.



Mazen Arawi and Jon Bianchi



Garrison Goodlett and Brandon Converse



Tommy Angotti, Bryon Moore and Tyler Reynolds



Nick Mitchell, Scott Iler and Mary Draayer



Josh Craighead and Todd Wehr



Joe Bethel, Matt May and Brett Haun



Shevaughn Moore, Crystal Harrison and Kim Keller



Alexa Middleton and Tony PeterSmith



Jaden Adams, Amanda Kruse and Kayla Deighan with Noah



Thomas Adams and Matthew Pillman



Christy Baldwin, Katie Neighbour, Luke Reese and Tyler Reynolds

# OUT & ABOUT



My Perfect Home Care Services, 301 N. Ankeny Blvd., Suite 130, held a ribbon cutting with the Ankeny Area Chamber of Commerce on March 16.



Michele Hurley and Rochelle Carver at the Ankeny Area Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting March 16 for My Perfect Home Care Services.



Lindsey Paulsen, Adam Lenze and Nick Wagner at the Ankeny Area Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting March 16 for My Perfect Home Care Services.



Ray Hanysh and Shanie Dasrath at the Ankeny Area Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting March 16 for My Perfect Home Care Services.



Andy Robinson and Robert Seaberg at the Ankeny Area Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting March 16 for My Perfect Home Care Services.



Sarah Warth, Lucinda Williams and Daette Lambert at the Ankeny Area Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting March 30 for Lymphatic Care & Wellness.



Lymphatic Care & Wellness held a ribbon cutting on March 30 with the Ankeny Area Chamber of Commerce.



Dana Schmidt, Shanie Dasrath and Mustafa Avdic at the Ankeny Area Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting March 30 for Lymphatic Care & Wellness.



Tim Ure and Michele Hurley at the Ankeny Area Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting March 30 for Lymphatic Care & Wellness.



Janae Schomers and Jo Pietig at the Ankeny Area Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting March 30 for Lymphatic Care & Wellness.



Great people providing  
*excellent care* ...  
right where you want to be.



Age well at home, knowing we'll be there for you whenever you need us. We're your comprehensive care partner, delivering support in your home:

**Home Health**

Skilled nursing, therapy, and recovery care after an illness or hospital stay

**In-Home Services**

Help with daily tasks including bathing, meal preparation, and memory support

**Palliative Care**

Relief-focused care for people living with serious or chronic illness

**Hospice Care**

Clinical expertise with respect, compassion, and a focus on meaningful connection



Caring, Professional, Home-Based Services  
from a Single Provider

Call to learn more or to schedule  
a consultation: (515) 978-2777



**BEST LOCAL BRUNCH/BREAKFAST  
FIVE YEARS IN A ROW!**



# EARLY BIRD

**Not your everyday brunch, every day.**

**Mention This Ad & Receive 15% OFF!**

1520 S. Ankeny Blvd., Ankeny • 515-304-5076



**Discover our other locations, too!**

**Des Moines**  
401 E Court Avenue  
515.236-2233

**West Des Moines**  
9250 University Avenue  
515.528.2212



*This is a Good Idea!*

Open Every Day 6:30 AM - 2:30 PM • [earlybirdbrunch.com](http://earlybirdbrunch.com)

*Franchising opportunities available! [franchise.earlybirdbrunch.com](http://franchise.earlybirdbrunch.com)*