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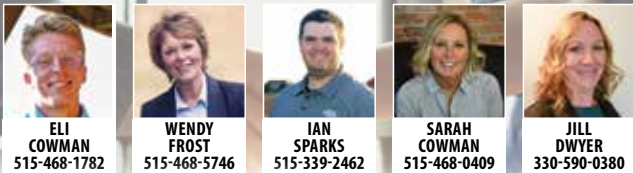
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WELCOME

A FRESH take on farmers markets

For years, I dismissed farmers markets as little more than roadside produce stands — tables of fruits and vegetables, nothing more. I didn't cook. I didn't grocery shop. I didn't care.

Then, a few years ago, I wandered into a local farmers market — and my view changed. There was honey, still sweet from the hive. Bread, warm and crusty. Homemade jelly. Even wine. But the real surprise wasn't what was for sale. It was the atmosphere.

Farmers markets aren't just about food. They are about people. Music drifts through the aisles. Vendors chat with regulars. Shoppers linger instead of rushing. It is part market, part gathering — and entirely its own experience.

At its heart, a farmers market is a place where producers sell directly to consumers. But "farmer" is a broad label, and that is the point. Alongside fresh produce, you will find plants, baked goods, prepared foods and more.

Some markets are small and unassuming. Others take over entire city blocks. They are not permanent. They don't last all year. And that's exactly why they matter. Much like the Shamrock Shake I seem to seek out each spring, their short season makes them something to look forward to.

Farmers markets have been around for centuries, long before modern grocery stores reshaped how we shop. But, in recent decades, demand for fresh, local food has brought them back.

And for the grammar-minded: It is "farmers market," not farmer's or farmers'. The Associated Press keeps it clean — no possessive — so we do, too.

In this month's cover story, we take you inside your local farmers market and introduce you to the people who make them worth the trip. ■



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Fresh FINDS

Local vendors bring flavor, passion and community to farmers markets

By Rachel Harrington

Longer days and warmer nights can only mean one thing — farmers market season is back. With fresh-picked produce, handcrafted goods and sweet treats, the market is a weekly gathering place for both vendors and visitors.

Kelli and Clint Eshelman offer a variety of products from their farm, Cedar Shake Farm, and Kelli manages the farmers market.

Cultivating community

Clint and Kelli Eshelman started Cedar Shake Farm around 2018. As it grew, they decided to try the Madison County Farmers Market, noting the \$100 participation fee made it an easy entry point. They offered visitors a variety of vegetables, fruits and flowers.

“I feel like we’ve grown everything,” Clint Eshelman says.

Both Eshelmans work outside the farmers market. Clint works in IT for American Equity in Des Moines, and Kelli is a florist at Colors Floral and Home Decorating in Greenfield. During market season, Kelli spends evenings at the end of the week preparing additional flowers and arrangements for weekend sales. Clint credits his green thumb to helping his mother in her football field-sized garden while growing up. Kelli grew up near Postville. During her freshman year, her family moved to a small acreage north of Greenfield, where she also learned to tend plants and flowers.

In 2025, the market’s organizer, Donna, stepped down due to health issues.

“We took it over since we were there all the time anyway,” Eshelman says. “Now, in addition to running our booth, we coordinate vendors, schedule live music by local artists and work with Carol Liechty to plan kids activities.”

The Eshelmans grow all of their vegetables from seed. While some flowers begin as plugs, most are also started from seed. They source seeds primarily from Johnny’s Selected Seeds in Massachusetts and Baker Creek Heirloom Seeds in Mansfield, Missouri.

“In past years, we had thousands of tulips in the spring, but they haven’t done as well recently,” Eshelman says. “We planted fewer this year, which helped since hailstorms damaged many of them. However, we’ve planted lots of dahlias, zinnias and other flowers for the market.”

Cedar Shake Farm also grows microgreens, including broccoli and spicy salad mixes, which they sell at the farmers market, local restaurants and Tiger Lily’s coffee shop in St. Charles.

Working at the market means more than selling products.

“When I moved to Winterset in 2016, I didn’t know many people,” Eshelman says. “Through the farmers market, I’ve made hundreds of friends. I appreciate the community aspect.”

As market managers, the Eshelmans also focus on giving back.

“Because government funding for WIC was



The Eshelmans say the farmers market is a social event as well as an opportunity to buy and sell products.

reduced, we started a program called F.A.R.M. (Food and Resources in Madison County),” Eshelman says. “We created \$5 FARM Bucks vouchers and distributed about \$50 each week to families in need. In total, we gave about \$500 last year.”

Eshelman hopes to expand the program through grants.

“Right now, the farmers market is an unincorporated nonprofit,” he says. “The plan is to become a 501(c)(3), which would allow us to apply for more grants and better serve the community.”

From homestead to handmade

Vendors at local farmers markets offer a wide range of goods. Travis and Holli Frees bring both farm products and handcrafted items to their Madison County Farmers Market booth. For the past six years, they have raised animals and grown crops at Mystic Pines Acres while also creating metalwork through Travis’ business, Frost Wolf Designs.

Travis began working with metal after serving nine years in the U.S. Army.

“He needed something to keep him out of trouble,” Holli jokes. “It turned into more than a hobby and is now a successful business.”

“I work with a variety of metals to create art,” Travis says. “I make items like slate coasters, jewelry and engraved charger plates. I prefer custom orders because they’re more fun.”

His favorite pieces to create are slate coasters



Travis and Holli Frees contribute their unique talents to their Frost Wolf Designs and Mystic Pine Acres booth at the farmers market.

MADISON COUNTY FARMERS MARKET

Enjoy fresh, locally grown produce, handmade goods and a vibrant community experience. Every week, the market brings together farmers, artisans and small businesses to offer high-quality products straight from the source.

WHEN: Every Saturday, May 9 through Oct. 3, 8 a.m. to noon

WHERE: Madison County Courthouse Lawn, 112 S. John Wayne Drive, Winterset

and charger plates.

Holli raises chickens, goats, pigs and horses. She collects several gallons of milk daily and uses it to make goat’s milk soap, body butters and caramel. Her soaps range from unscented to eucalyptus mint.

“I like eucalyptus mint because it helps clear my sinuses,” she says. “Many customers prefer unscented soaps because they’re allergy-friendly, and goat’s milk soap is great for the skin.”

“Sometimes when she’s making soap, it smells like breakfast,” Travis adds.

The soap-making process takes about six weeks, requiring advance preparation for the market season.

FEATURE

“We also bring produce later in the season once the garden starts producing,” Holli says.

She is also considering offering canned goods such as salsa and pickles this year.

Their booth typically includes a small, enclosed area with animals.

“We like to bring George, our pig, and several goats,” Holli says. “It’s like a small petting zoo for the community.”

Customers ordering custom pieces can provide ideas or photos, which Travis uses to create designs through his programming process.

When not tending their booth, the Frees enjoy connecting with others.

“I love to wander and mingle,” Travis says. “Sometimes I barter with other vendors for materials.”

“The farmers market is a great way to meet people, network and gain inspiration,” Holli adds. “Feedback on our products is always valuable, and it gets us out of the house.”

They attend the market regularly, weather and schedules permitting.

Handmade, homegrown and heartfelt

For many vendors, the farmers market is a family endeavor. LaRee Allen, her daughter, Marriah, and her mother, Lorraine Gibbens, have sold their goods together at their booth, Farmhouse Feathers, at the Madison County Farmers Market for several years.

“I started knitting about five or six years ago and ended up with more items than I could use,” LaRee says. “My mom began making wooden



LaRee Allen, her daughter, Marriah, and her mother, Lorraine Gibbens, have sold their goods together at their booth, Farmhouse Feathers, at the farmers market for several years.

signs and jewelry, and my daughter started creating tote bags from animal feed bags. The farmers market was the easiest and most affordable way to sell our items.”

While they primarily offer handmade goods, they occasionally sell eggs as well.

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FEATURE

They have tried selling at other markets, including Earlham and Indianola, but found Winterset to be the best fit.

Their offerings include jewelry, crocheted coasters and dishcloths, wreaths and tote bags. They prepare items year-round and expanded to a larger booth this season due to increased inventory.

LaRee's favorite items are crocheted dishcloths and coasters made from Lion Brand 24/7 cotton yarn. "It holds up well, doesn't separate and comes in many colors," she says.

Marriah enjoys bringing her handmade tote bags, while Lorraine focuses on wreaths and wooden door signs.

Beyond sales, the experience is about connection.

"I love meeting people, relaxing and



Handmade jewelry, totes and other items are sold at Farmhouse Feathers.

enjoying the weather," LaRee says.

Marriah often brings her bantam rooster, which visitors can pet and walk around with.

"Last year, we also brought a couple of chickens," LaRee says. "They stayed under the canopy and roosted most of the time."

The group is looking forward to the 2026 season, which begins May 9 and runs through the weekend before the Covered Bridge Festival. The market will be held on the courthouse lawn, primarily on the north and east sides, with some vendors in the southeast corner. ■



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BEAUTY

By Annie Wiseman

IS YOUR hair thirsty?

As we come out of winter, we're all experiencing dry hair and skin. There are many remedies to hydrate the hair, but which one do we choose? Let's talk about the different kinds of conditioners and what they do. I put conditioners into three categories: leave in, detangler and deep.



We'll start with the leave-in conditioners. These are light weight products that add extra moisture that all types of hair can benefit from. They help with detangling, add shine and help fight frizz.

Next up is the detangler. This product is used to help close down the cuticle, making it easier to brush out the hair. It also replenishes the hair strands with moisture and oils that are gently stripped away from the shampoo process. Conditioner is underused by men, who could benefit greatly as protection for the scalp.

Finally is the deep, a spa treatment for hair. Deep conditioners have the ability to penetrate into the cortex layer of the hair shaft to start repairing the hair from the inside. These are essential to our hair to withstand the abuse from coloring and regular styling.

Our goal is to make your hair healthy and shiny, so ask your stylist what is best for you. ■

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

MOVEMENT is medicine

In today's world, it is easy to fall into a sedentary routine. Between long work hours, screen time and daily stress, many people spend more time sitting than moving. But your body wasn't designed for stillness; it was designed for movement.



At its core, chiropractic care embraces a simple but powerful idea: Movement is medicine. Every system in your body depends on movement to function properly. When you move:

- Joints stay lubricated and mobile
- Muscles remain strong and flexible
- Blood circulation improves
- The nervous system communicates more efficiently

Without regular movement, stiffness, discomfort and dysfunction can begin to take hold. Chiropractic adjustments help restore proper motion to the spine, allowing your body to move more freely and function at its best. Simple habits can make a big difference:

- Stretching in the morning
- Taking short walking breaks throughout the day
- Practicing mobility exercises
- Staying active with activities you enjoy

These small actions help prevent injury, reduce pain, and improve overall well-being. Your body was made to heal, adapt, recover, thrive. But it needs one essential ingredient: movement. ■

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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ORAL health during cancer treatment

You may have a number of questions when facing cancer treatments. Do not forget to speak with your dentist. Some cancer treatments, especially those for head and neck cancer, can affect your oral health. Oral health problems associated with cancer treatments include oral sores, infections, dry mouth, tooth decay and gum problems.



Because oral problems can develop or worsen during cancer treatment, it is important to start with a healthy mouth. The National Cancer Institute recommends patients see a dentist one month before beginning cancer treatment. This gives the dentist time to treat any problems before cancer treatment begins. Your dentist will look for mouth sores, infections, tooth decay, damaged fillings, gum disease and poorly fitting dentures.

Keep your dentist informed about any changes in your oral health and the medications or treatments you may receive. Dry mouth, for example, is a common problem during some cancer treatments.

Here are some things you can try to moisten your mouth:

- Sip water or sugar-free drinks that do not contain caffeine.
- Suck on (do not chew) ice chips.

- Use sugar-free chewing gum or sugar-free candy to stimulate saliva production.

- Avoid salty or spicy foods.
- Limit alcoholic beverages.
- Use a humidifier at night.

The risk of developing tooth decay increases during many cancer treatments. Your dentist may recommend a fluoride rinse to help reduce this risk. Proper care for your teeth and gums at home during cancer treatment may reduce your risk of developing tooth decay and other oral health problems. Daily care should include toothbrushing twice per day for two minutes each time, using a soft-bristled toothbrush, making gentle circles along the gumline, and cleaning between your teeth once per day using dental floss or water flosser.

In conclusion, check with your dentist before starting cancer treatment to make sure your mouth is healthy. Once treatments have begun, check in with your dentist to keep your mouth healthy and help you remain comfortable. ■

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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PROTECT what matters

Why a home inventory is essential — and how to create one

Keeping track of everything you own might not sound exciting, but creating a personal property inventory is one of the smartest steps you can take to protect your finances and reduce stress in the event of a loss.



Imagine trying to recall every item in your home after a fire, theft or storm. Most people underestimate how much they own and how quickly those items add up in value. Without a clear record, insurance claims can become more difficult, slower and sometimes result in less reimbursement than expected. A home inventory helps ensure you are properly covered and makes the claims process much smoother.

Getting started is easier than you might think. Begin by going room to room and documenting your belongings. You can use a notebook, spreadsheet or one of the many home inventory apps available. For each item, include a brief description, estimated value, purchase date, and, if possible, receipts. Don't forget smaller items — things like kitchen tools, clothing and décor can collectively represent significant value.

Photos and videos are especially helpful. Use your smartphone to take pictures of each room, including closets, drawers and storage areas. Narrating a video walkthrough of your home can also provide useful context. Open cabinets, zoom in on electronics or high-value items, and capture serial numbers when available. This visual record can serve as powerful proof of ownership if you ever need to file a claim.

Be sure to pay special attention to high-value items such as jewelry, firearms, collectibles or artwork. These items may require additional coverage, so it's important to document them thoroughly and discuss them with your insurance agent.

Once your inventory is complete, store it somewhere safe. Keep a digital copy in the cloud or email it to yourself so it is accessible even if your home is damaged. It is also a good idea to update your inventory once a year or after major purchases.

Taking the time to create a home inventory now can save you hours of frustration later — and potentially thousands of dollars. It provides peace of mind knowing you are prepared, properly insured and ready to recover more quickly if the unexpected happens. ■

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



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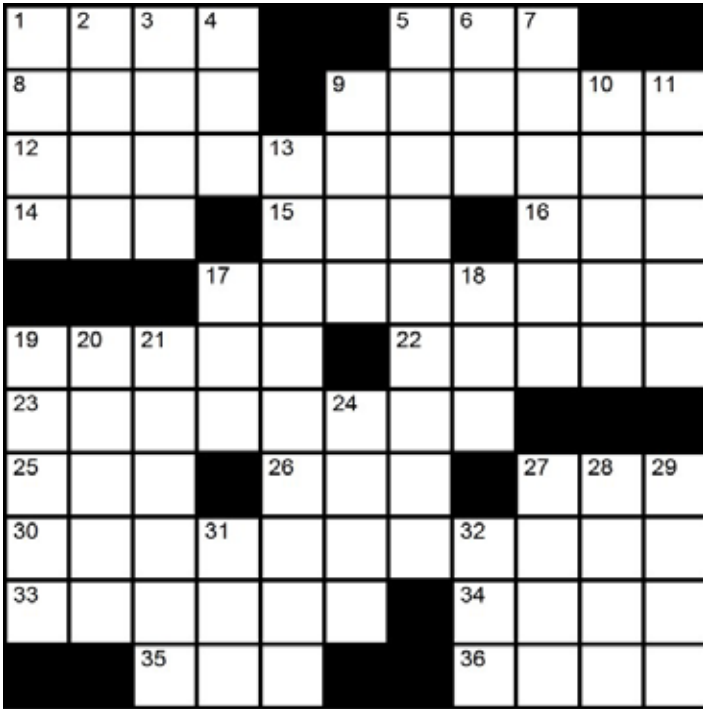

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- 9 Circles and such
- 12 Stand-in
- 14 Lock opener
- 15 Ask for a loan
- 16 Fuss
- 17 Interrupted
- 19 Diplomat's department
- 22 Tend the roast
- 23 Quixote's opponent
- 25 Well, --- monkey's uncle!
- 26 Air-pressure measure
- 27 Meet
- 30 They get elected
- 33 Wears slowly
- 34 Hess or Breckinridge
- 35 Deity
- 36 Noble

Down

- 1 Wait in ambush
- 2 Now it makes sense!
- 3 Catch sight of
- 4 Online address
- 5 An event might be open to it
- 6 "--- the Walrus" (Beatles tune)
- 7 Talks
- 9 Mark left by a healed wound
- 10 Initiate the break-up
- 11 Rock
- 13 Went for
- 17 Usual amt.
- 18 Record-holder --- Ripken
- 19 Hit
- 20 Indonesian island
- 21 Not digital
- 24 Horn-wearing goddess
- 27 Jack's "Chinatown" co-star
- 28 Concerning, in legal memos
- 29 Former Russian ruler
- 31 Words to wed
- 32 Mischievous child

ANSWERS ON PAGE 22

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REAL ESTATE

By Jennifer Stover

FURNISHED vs. unfurnished

Selling a home furnished vs. vacant isn't just a styling choice; it can change your buyer pool, days on market, and even your final price. Here's how they stack up in practical terms. Next month we'll discuss selling unfurnished.



Selling furnished pros

1. Strong first impression: Furniture helps buyers emotionally connect. A well-staged (or naturally furnished) home feels more "move-in ready."

2. Defines the space: Rooms with tricky layouts or smaller square footage often show better when furnished; buyers can see how things fit.

3. Lifestyle selling: Furnished homes can tell a story (especially helpful in character homes or unique properties), which can drive stronger offers.

4. Potential convenience upsell: Some buyers — especially relocating professionals or investors — like the option to buy furnishings.

5. Hides minor imperfections: A strategically placed couch can hide a minor scratch that won't be the focus of the showing.

Selling furnished cons

1. Can distract or date the home.

2. Makes spaces feel smaller.

3. Not always aligned with buyer taste.

4. Moving logistics: You'll need to coordinate removing items if they're not included — or negotiate what stays. ■

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

DON'T overlook your cabin air filter

When it comes to vehicle maintenance, the cabin air filter doesn't get much attention — but it should. Tucked behind the glove box or under the hood, this small filter plays a big role in keeping the air inside your car clean and breathable.

The cabin air filter traps dust, pollen, mold spores and other airborne debris before it enters your car's ventilation system. If you have allergies or drive in areas with a lot of pollution or construction, a clean filter can make a noticeable difference in air quality. It's basically your car's first line of defense against breathing in the stuff you would rather not.

Over time, though, the filter gets clogged. When that happens, airflow through your vents is reduced, which can put extra strain on your heating and air conditioning systems. You might notice weaker airflow, a musty smell, or windows that fog up more easily. These are signs it is time for a replacement.

Most manufacturers recommend changing the cabin air filter every 15,000 to 30,000 miles, but it can vary depending on where and how you drive. If you're often on dirt roads or in heavy traffic, you might need to change it more often.

It's an easy, inexpensive service that is often overlooked but has a real impact on your comfort and your car's HVAC health. A fresh filter doesn't just help your car breathe easier — it helps you breathe easier, too. ■



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



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FOUR STEPS to valuing an estate

Determining the value of an estate is a fundamental first step in estate management and a critical requirement for settling a decedent's estate.¹



How to assess the value of an estate:

Select the date of calculation.

Because values move up and down, you need to set a specific date for a valuation. For a living person, you are free to pick any date. If you're assessing the value of a decedent's estate, you may choose either the date of death or the date six months after their death (the "alternate valuation date"). If you use the alternate valuation date, any asset sold or distributed during the first six months following the death must be valued as of the date of sale or distribution.²

Determine the assets comprising the estate.

This asset list should include everything an individual owns or has ownership interests in.

Gather all financial statements as of the date of calculation.

If an account is owned individually, the entire value should be calculated in the estate. If owned jointly with a spouse who has rights of survivorship, then 50% of the value should be included.

Remember to: deduct any outstanding mortgage balance and include life insurance when the policy owner is the deceased individual or the beneficiary is the decedent's estate.³

Calculate deductions.

Subtract any debts from the total value of assets. For the decedent, this may also include any regular bills that may be due (e.g., utilities, medical expenses, etc.), charitable gifts and state tax obligations.

Assessing the precise value of an estate can be complicated, especially when settling an estate. Consult a professional with estate expertise regarding your individual situation. ■

1. 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. 2. Investopedia.com, April 19, 2025. The article assumes the deceased has a valid will and has named an executor who is responsible for carrying out the directions of the will. If a person dies intestate, it means that a valid will has not been executed. Without a valid will, a person's property will be distributed to the heirs as defined by the state law. 3. Several factors will affect the cost and availability of life insurance, including age, health, and the type and amount of insurance purchased. Life insurance policies have expenses, including mortality and other charges. If a policy is surrendered prematurely, the policyholder also may pay surrender charges and have income tax implications. You should consider determining whether you are insurable before implementing a strategy involving life insurance. Any guarantees associated with a policy are dependent on the ability of the issuing insurance company to continue making claim payments. 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, LLC, 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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WINTERS

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V SOFTBALL

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
May 19	7:00PM	Des Moines Christian	Lions Softball Complex
May 26	7:00PM	Valley	Valley High School
May 27	7:00PM	Carroll	Winterset High School
May 28	7:00PM	Waukee Northwest	Winterset High School
May 30	8:00AM	Multiple Schools	Winterset High School
June 2	7:00PM	Urbandale	Winterset High School
June 4	7:15PM	Dallas Center-Grimes	Winterset High School
June 6	9:00AM	Indianola	George Davis Softball Park
June 6	1:00PM	Cedar Rapids Jefferson	George Davis Softball Park
June 8	5:00PM	Gilbert DH	Winterset High School
June 9	7:30PM	Clarke Community	Clarke Community Softball Field
June 10	7:15PM	ADM	Winterset High School
June 11	7:00PM	Carroll	Carroll Softball Stadium
June 12	10:00AM	John Stephens Classic	Creston High School
June 13	8:00AM	John Stephens Classic	Creston High School
June 15	5:00PM	Carlisle DH	Carlisle High School
June 17	7:15PM	Boone	Winterset High School
June 19	9:00AM	Fort Dodge Inv.	Harlan Rogers Sports Complex
June 20	9:00AM	Fort Dodge Inv.	Harlan Rogers Sports Complex
June 22	5:00PM	Bondurant-Farrar DH	Winterset High School
June 24	7:00PM	Ballard	Winterset High School
June 25	7:15PM	ADM	ADM High School
June 26	7:00PM	Waukee	Winterset High School
June 29	5:00PM	North Polk DH	North Polk High School
July 3	11:00AM	Coach Schlafke Classic	Burnett Complex
July 6	7:30PM	Boone	Gary Creasman Field

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SUMMER SCHEDULE 2026


V BASEBALL

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
May 18	7:00PM	Chariton	Chariton Middle School
May 19	5:00PM	Creston DH	Winterset High School
May 27	7:00PM	Carroll	Winterset High School
May 28	5:00PM	Des Moines North	Winterset High School
May 29	7:00PM	Van Meter	Van Meter School
June 1	7:00PM	Mount Ayr	Winterset High School
June 3	7:00PM	Ballard	Nite Hawk Baseball Diamond
June 4	7:00PM	Knoxville	Winterset High School
June 5	5:30PM	Des Moines Lincoln	Kurtz Opportunity Center
June 8	5:00PM	Gilbert DH	Winterset High School
June 9	7:30PM	Greene County	Greene County Middle School
June 10	7:00PM	ADM	Winterset High School
June 11	7:00PM	Carroll	Merchants Park CHS
June 15	5:00PM	Carlisle DH	Carlisle High School
June 17	4:00PM	Boone	Field of Dreams
June 18	7:00PM	Norwalk	Norwalk Middle School
June 22	5:00PM	Bondurant-Farrar DH	Winterset High School
June 24	7:00PM	Ballard	Winterset High School
June 25	7:00PM	ADM	ADM High School
June 29	5:00PM	North Polk DH	North Polk High School
June 30	7:30PM	Martensdale-St. Marys	Martensdale-St. Marys
July 2	7:30PM	Saydel	Saydel High School
July 3	7:00PM	Newton	H.A. Lynn
July 6	7:00PM	Boone	Boone Memorial Park
July 7	7:00PM	Clarke Community	Clarke



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SAUSAGE and cheese breakfast bake is easy, filling and practical

Mornings get busy, which is why I love having a breakfast recipe I can rely on. This one checks every box for me. It is incredibly easy to make — just mix, pour and bake — with simple ingredients I usually already have in the fridge. No complicated steps. No mess. No standing over the stove while trying to get ready for the day. I love the idea of cooking once and enjoying for days.

What I appreciate most is how protein-packed this recipe is. Between the eggs, sausage and cheeses, it is the kind of breakfast that actually keeps you full and focused all morning. I am not reaching for a snack an hour later, which makes a big difference on busy days.

It is also perfectly sized for real life. The recipe makes enough for two people to enjoy breakfast for a couple of days, which means less cooking and more convenience. Or, double the batch and freeze some for future quick meals. I can warm up a slice and have a hot, satisfying meal in minutes. Easy, filling and practical — exactly how breakfast should be. ■



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

Savory sausage and cheese breakfast bake



INGREDIENTS:

- 8 large eggs
- 1/4 cup water
- 2/3 cup cottage cheese
- 1/2 cup shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1/2 package of Jimmy Dean breakfast sausage cooked, crumbled
- 1 teaspoon Nature’s Seasoning

DIRECTIONS:

- Preheat oven to 350 F. Lightly grease a small baking dish (8-inch by 8-inch works well).
- Blend eggs, water and cottage cheese for 10-15 seconds in a blender.
- Combine with mozzarella and sausage and pour into the prepared baking dish. Spread evenly.
- Bake for 30-35 minutes or until the center is set and the top is lightly golden. Rest for 5 minutes, then slice and serve.
- Vary this recipe by adding sauteed onions, peppers or mushrooms. Pictured is the original recipe plus a version with peppers and mushrooms. ■

LOOKING BACK



The May 2017 Winterset Living magazine featured the story, "Joy rides: Learn why Winterset residents enjoy taking a spin on two wheels." The cover photo featured Kristin Winjum, who was active in the Madison County Cycle Club. Also interviewed were Richard Mills, Steve Neal and Cindy Howell. ■

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WENCK keeps family fireworks tradition alive

Community open house features fireworks, food and family activities.

On June 6, the sky will be filled with color and the air with laughter as fireworks light up the horizon. Tony Wenck is continuing a long-standing tradition started by his father of bringing the community together for fireworks, food and fellowship.

“When my dad was alive, he’d do a fireworks show on July 4 at his farm,” Wenck says. “He would invite the whole town out, and there would be hundreds, if not thousands, of people there. When he passed away in 2017, I tried to continue the tradition at my motocross track.”

Wenck has since sold the track, but, in 2017, he bought a local building that once housed a motorcycle shop his parents owned.

“I ran into the couple my parents rented the building from and mentioned that I’d love to own it someday,” he says. “They agreed to sell it to me, and I’ve operated a fireworks business there ever since fireworks were made legal.”

Because of the busy Fourth of July season, Wenck has adjusted the timing of his annual community fireworks show to balance business demands with keeping the tradition alive. The event is now held as an open house earlier in the summer.

“This is our third year doing it on the first Saturday in June,” Wenck says. “On the business side, we do a demonstration beginning at dusk where we shoot off one of our featured fireworks at a time and explain



Tony Wenck continues his family tradition of a free fireworks show and family fun on June 6.

what each one is, including our signature line. Then we culminate the show with a grand finale set to music.”

The open house is an all-day event. Wenck says the city of Winterset has allowed the event to take place on the lawn of his business. The community is invited to attend the free fireworks show and enjoy family-friendly activities.

“We will have food trucks, a fireworks sale, alcohol for adults, bounce houses and face painting for kids, all set up throughout the day,” Wenck says. “Fireworks will begin at dusk.”

For Wenck, fireworks represent more than a display in the sky.

“Fireworks can mean a lot to people,” he says. “For me, they remind me of my dad and the times I shared with him buying and shooting them off. I recognize they are an important part of people’s summers. They can be romantic, a memorial to someone who has passed away or an opportunity to make memories with kids. I love hearing stories from the community involving fireworks, and I’m trying to help create those memories for others.”

The event is free to attend. Wenck asks attendees not to park along the highway and to use designated viewing areas at the store.

“Besides not blocking the highway, some of the fireworks are directional, meaning they have a fan kick, and that can’t be seen as well from the side.” ■



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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:

Fishing: Share your fishing stories. 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.

Play sets, play houses and tree houses: Share the stories of your memorable play sets, play houses and tree houses. Perhaps your family has play structures that entertain your kids for hours. Or maybe you have memories of the play house you enjoyed as a child. Big or small, if it creates happy times, let us know. Email tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com.

Madison County Conservation Summer Camps

Registration is open for Madison County Conservation Summer Camps, including some new camps this year. Register at www.mycountyparks.com. Be sure to select "Madison County."

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.

Madison County Conservation Center events

Madison County Conservation Center, 2508 Pammel Park Road, Winterset

The public is invited to these exciting events at the new Madison County Conservation Center in Pammel Park. 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.

Live Wild 2026 Speaker Series:

- **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



CITYVIEW Midday Mixer

Saturday, May 30, 1-4 p.m. The District at Prairie Trail, S.W. District Drive, Ankeny

Enjoy summer cocktails to kick off the season. Check in is at El Presidente. Cost is \$25 for advance tickets, \$35 at the door. For tickets, scan the QR code.



Photo by Teddi Yeager

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. Check for availability by scanning the QR code.



Mother's Day Breakfast Buffet and Bake Sale

Sunday, May 10, 8 a.m. to noon West Des Moines Elks Lodge, 2060 N.W. 94th St., Clive

Enjoy a delicious Mother's Day breakfast which includes: biscuits and gravy, French toast, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage patties, cheesy potatoes, all-you-can-eat pancakes (including blueberry and chocolate chip), orange juice, milk and coffee. Cost is \$11 and \$5 for children younger than 10. Enjoy a bloody mary or mimosa for \$3.50. Proceeds support the Elks Hoop Shoot Program, other youth activities and veteran activities.

Celebrate Spring in the Park

Water Works Park, 2201 George Flag Parkway, Des Moines

• **Styx with special guest Cheap Trick:** Thursday, May 21, 6 p.m. Experience a legendary night of arena-rock anthems, powerhouse vocals and nonstop hits from Styx with special guest Cheap Trick, two Rock and Roll Hall of Fame era icons. From "Come Sail Away" and "Renegade," to "I Want You to Want Me" and "Surrender," this is classic rock at full throttle as the Willis Summer Series heats up. Tickets available at www.ticketmaster.com/event/06006383E039973A.

• **Live performances:** Monday, June 15, 6 p.m. The Kerry and Linda Killinger Foundation Community Series features live performances on the Killinger Family Stage throughout the summer. The Des Moines Performing Arts takes the stage in June, featuring a national touring act in the park. Stay tuned for the performance announcement. Learn more at www.waterworkspark.org/events-in-the-park/community-series.

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 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.

Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden Spring Programs

Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden,
909 Robert D. Ray Drive, Des Moines

- **Summer Camp Registration**: Give your child a summer of discovery, creativity and outdoor adventure. These nature-based camps combine science, art, exploration and play in a safe, inspiring environment led by experienced educators. Perfect for students entering grades 1-5. Register at <https://dmbotanicalgarden.com>.
- **Flora Mother's Day Buffet Brunch**: Sunday, May 10, Seatings at 9 a.m., 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Enjoy a delicious buffet brunch in a beautiful garden setting. Reservations required: flora@dmbotanicalgarden.com or at 515-323-6288.

Des Moines Downtown Farmers Market

Saturday, May 2 to Oct. 31, 7 a.m. to noon,
8 a.m. to noon in October

Historic Court District, Downtown Des Moines

The 2026 season will feature 305 vendors, including 43 new participants, with 75 produce and agriculture vendors highlighting the region's strong farming community. Vendors represent 74 cities across 42 Iowa counties, spanning 12 city blocks from Water Street to Fifth Street. For more information visit www.dsmpartnership.com/desmoinesfarmersmarket.



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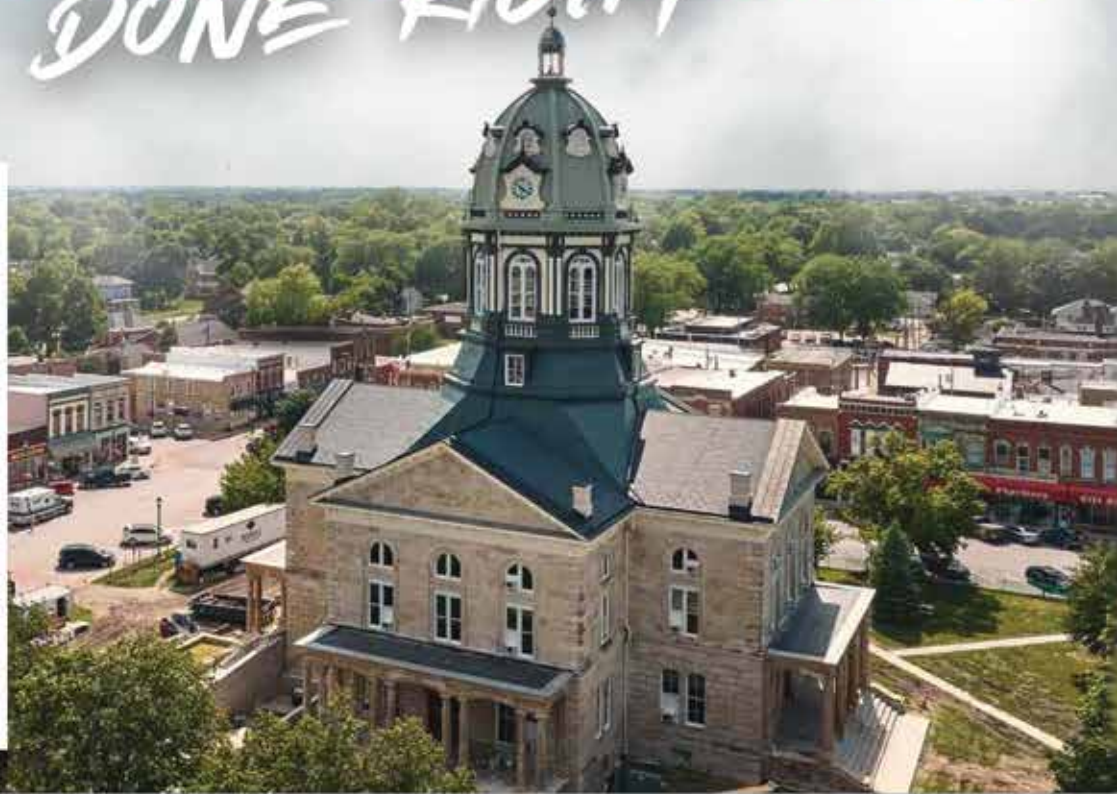
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FASHION Show

A Fashion Show was held at The Warehouse on 2nd, hosted by Winterset Retail District, on April 18



Monique Elgersma, Corrie Huizinga and Alyssa Elgersma



Annette Noland, Britnee Noland and Kylee Tindle



Nicole and Linda Darling



Sherita Snyder and Nicole Kems



Becky Conrad and Megan Barrett



Tempe and Jeneva Taylor



Barb and Briana Tetzlaff and Diane Uding



Sheryl Sirdoreous



McKinley Kaysen



Janelle Goemaat



Millie Taylor



Bekah Claypool

OUT & ABOUT



Stephanie Gerleman, Cindy Knobloch and Leeann Hendricks at Ladies Night at Winterset Cidery April 21.



Kay and Don Scroggin, Hammer & A Fork Catering at Ladies Night at Winterset Cidery April 21.



Melba Geib and Autumn Davis at Ladies Night at Winterset Cidery April 21.



A ribbon cutting was held at Earlham Medical Clinic on April 17. Photo courtesy of Vicki Minor, Madisonian



On March 6, a ribbon cutting was held at the Farm Bureau office of Ryan Rasmussen. Photo courtesy of Vicki Minor, Madisonian



A ribbon cutting was held for 5 Sons on April 3. Photo courtesy of Vicki Minor, Madisonian



2026
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MAY IS MAYTAG MONTH

BIGGEST SALE OF THE YEAR*

SALE PRICES GOOD MAY 1-31, 2026



\$2,199

\$999 EACH

\$899 EACH

MAYTAG®

\$899 EACH



MFI2570FEZ

25 Cu. Ft. French Door Refrigerator PowerCold® Feature, Fingerprint Resistant, LED Lighting



FREEZERS

MZF34X20DW

**REFRIGERATOR
OR FREEZER,
YOUR
CHOICE!**

MZC5216LW



MHW5630HW

4.5 cu. ft. Front Load Washer with Extra Power & 12-hour FreshSpin option



MED5630HW

7.3 cu. ft. Electric Dryer with Extra Power & Quick Dry Cycle

*Must purchase pair



MVW7230HC

Smart Top Load Washer with Extra Power Button - 5.2 cu. ft.



MED7230HC

Smart Top Load Electric Dryer with Extra Power Button - 7.4 cu. ft.

*Must purchase pair

CLOSE-OUT

\$1,099 EACH

\$699

\$1,099

\$2,099

\$1,199

\$1,199

- 5 YEAR PEACE OF MIND
- 5 YEARS PARTS + LABOR



MVWP586GW

3.5 CU FT. Power Wash Cycle. Commercial Grade Residential Washer.



MEDP586KW

7.4 CU FT. Commercial Grade Residential Dryer. Wrinkle Control.

*Must purchase pair



MDB4949SKZ

Dual Power Filtration. PowerBlast® cycle. Heated Dry. Touch controls. Fingerprint resistant stainless steel.

CLOSE-OUT



MRT711SMFZ

33-Inch Wide Top Freezer Refrigerator With Evenair™ Cooling Tower- 21 Cu. Ft.



MRFF4236RZ

25 cu ft, Interior water dispenser, Ice maker



CLOSE-OUT

MES8800PZ

Air Fry/True Convection, Slide-in range, Aqua lift Self Cleaning



MFGS6030RZ

5 cu. Ft. Oven, Power Burner, Air Fry/Convection. *Additional fee to convert to LP

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