

BONDURANT

MAY 2026

Living

MAGAZINE

Summer

OF CELEBRATIONS

Organizations plan events for family fun

Meet Kelli Daly

EDUCATION

Summerfest! Decades of tradition

HISTORY

Sausage and cheese breakfast bake

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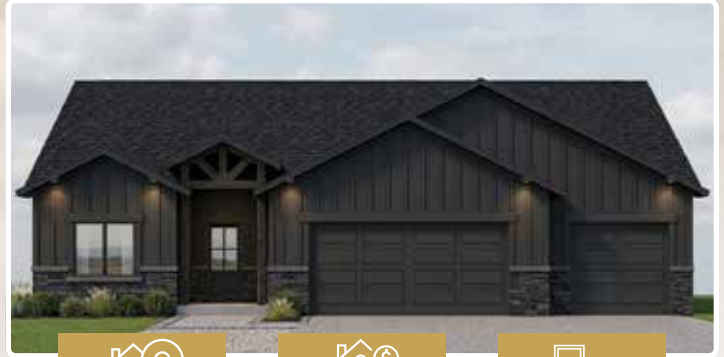
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WELCOME

FUNNEL cakes, chaos and community

There is nothing quite like a community festival to remind us that humanity is chaotic, charming and deeply committed to eating fried food outdoors.

On paper, festivals sound wholesome — live music, local vendors, smiling families. In reality, they are a delightful mash-up of sunburns, long lines and someone's uncle absolutely destroying a karaoke rendition of a 1980s power ballad. And yet, we keep coming back.

Maybe it is because community festivals turn ordinary places into something slightly magical. Suddenly they are packed with food trucks, handmade jewelry and a suspiciously competitive pie-eating contest.

The real entertainment, though, is the people. Festivals are one of the few places where strangers will strike up a conversation with others for no reason at all.

And then there is the food — arguably the main event. Community festivals operate under a simple rule that, if it can be fried, it will be fried. Oreos? Fried. Pickles? Fried. Possibly things that were never meant to be fried? Absolutely fried.

Somehow, though, it is not just about the food. It is about the stories behind it. Every booth has someone proudly explaining their recipe, their craft, or why their salsa is "award-winning." It's a cultural exchange with napkins.

Music adds another layer. Local bands take the stage and give it everything they have got. And there is something refreshing about a performance where the lead singer might also be your dentist.

Of course, no festival is complete without at least one mildly chaotic moment. Maybe it is a sudden rain shower that sends everyone scrambling under tents. Maybe it is a child covered head to toe in cotton candy. Maybe it is you, realizing you have been walking around for an hour with powdered sugar on your face.

In the end, community festivals are messy, loud and a little ridiculous, but that's exactly why they matter. They pull people out of their routines and into shared space, where the goal isn't productivity or efficiency, but simply being there.

You may leave feeling slightly tired, possibly sticky and definitely overfed. But you also leave with a feeling that, for a few hours, you were part of something fun, spontaneous and genuinely human. ■



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Summer

OF CELEBRATIONS

Organizations plan events for family fun

By Rachel Harrington

The Bondurant Men's Club announced that Summerfest 2026 will take place in Bondurant on Monday and Tuesday, June 8-9. From carnival rides to fan-favorite foods, a wide variety of entertainment will be available for all to enjoy.

Summerfest, the Bondurant Men's Club annual community celebration, will feature the carnival, parade and more.



Summerfest has grown over the years and now attracts thousands to Bondurant.

Many community favorites will return, along with new additions to enhance the event.

“When we started Summerfest 52 years ago, we had about three or four carnival rides, and there were only about 500 to 600 people in town,” Al Ihde, a Bondurant Men’s Club member, says. “If the turnout is anything like last year, we’ll have around 6,500 to 7,000 in attendance. We expect the same, if not more, and we are looking forward to a big crowd.”

Summerfest will kick off with a parade beginning at Bondurant-Farrar High School and traveling down Grant Street to Morris Elementary School. Each year, the parade continues to grow with new groups and participants.

“Community members and businesses appreciate the opportunity to let people know their services exist in the area, and we are happy to help via the parade,” Ihde says. “There is no official sign-up. As long as you show up at the high school by 5:30 p.m. Monday, we will get you into the lineup. There will also be several designated drop-off locations for participants.”

More than 1,000 people are expected to line the streets, with plenty of candy tossed to spectators.

Following the parade, a pie-eating contest sponsored by Home Slice Handmade Pies will take place around 7 p.m. in front of the RE/MAX building. Multiple divisions will be available for participants. Entertainment will continue with performances by Kasey Leigh Dance Studio, a local clogging group and Laura Ernst Kinetic Entertainment, which will feature trick hula hooping, juggling, fire juggling and

interactive performances, including walking inside a large ball.

Bruce Cordes, also a Bondurant Men’s Club member, says Monday night will include a princess-themed event.

“A group from Des Moines sends several women dressed as princesses for a party from 7-9 p.m.,” Cordes says. “We never know which princesses will arrive, but everyone enjoys having them, and they say they have a wonderful time each year.”

Other characters and mascots, including Superman, Fareway Frank and possibly the Bondurant Blue Jay, will appear both nights. Photos by Ben will offer donation-based photo opportunities.

Tuesday night entertainment will begin with a performance by Fiberglass, a local high school band, from 6:30-7:15 p.m., followed by regional headliner Jordan Beem from 8-10 p.m. A taekwondo demonstration and a kids pedal tractor pull will both begin at 7 p.m.

“Every year, more and more kids sign up for the tractor pull,” Ihde says.

Additional free activities include face and body painting and balloon animals by Oscar the Balloon Artist. The evening will conclude with a fireworks show at dusk, around 10 p.m.

Food options will be plentiful.

“Around the carnival, you’ll find corndogs and funnel cakes,” Ihde says. “Elsewhere, the Lions Club will offer pulled pork, and Abby’s Pizza and Subway will have food available. New this year is Buffalo Wild Wings To Go, along with four or five food trucks.”

He added that expanding food options helps

reduce wait times.

One of the highlights of Summerfest is the carnival. Wristbands, introduced last year as an alternative to individual ride tickets, will return.

“We hope to have between 12 and 15 rides,” Ihde says.

Planning for Summerfest begins months in advance.

“We start planning around February,” Cordes says. “Requests come in quickly.”

Ihde adds that 18 to 20 vendor applications have already been accepted, with space for about 30. Booths and informational tables will be spread throughout the grounds, many offering free items.

Both men emphasized that the event depends on strong community support, including the city, the Bondurant Police Department, local EMS and business sponsors.

“Leading up to the event, we try to recognize each sponsor individually on our Facebook page,” Ihde says.

As in past years, the Men’s Club will host a raffle and silent auction. Last year’s auction featured 25 to 28 items, while the raffle included 60 to 75 prizes. Tickets are already on sale and will be available until about 8 p.m. Tuesday.

“One thing we’ve always prided ourselves on is that 100% of the proceeds go back into the community,” Cordes says. “Last year, funds went to the library, youth sports clubs, fine arts boosters and the after-prom party.”

Ihde adds that, because the organization is not affiliated with a national or state group, it

has no dues, allowing more funds to support local causes.

The downtown Bondurant location will remain the same, although some layout changes are expected due to renovations of the former fire station into a new community building, The Station.

“We expect it to be finished before Summerfest, and the raffle and silent auction will likely be held there,” Cordes says.

Parking will be available near the event, with overflow at the middle school and Morris Elementary. Organizers say downtown remains the best location due to accessibility.

“Many people can walk there,” Ihde says. “Holding it Monday and Tuesday evenings also works well, with minimal conflicts aside from local Little League.”

Ihde says Summerfest is a community-wide effort.

“It’s a great way to bring people together,” he says.

Cordes agrees.

“To me, it’s like one big block party where friends and neighbors can gather,” he says.

Organizers are already looking ahead to future growth and expansion. For more information, including a schedule of events and parade route maps, visit the Bondurant Men’s Club Facebook page.

America 250 celebration

Summerfest will also help kick off Bondurant’s participation in the nationwide America 250 celebration, marking the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The city and the Bondurant Historical Society are partnering as official sponsors.

“There will be smaller events throughout the summer, starting with Summerfest,” Deb Harwood says. “We’re coordinating with the Men’s Club so we don’t overlap events.”

Planned activities include parade participation by local organizations such as the Daughters of the American Revolution, Scouting America and Girl Scouts.

From June through August, a citywide scavenger hunt will take place. Annual events organized by Bondurant Communications and Events Coordinator Katie Klus — including a 5K bike ride — will continue with a patriotic theme. A whist (a card game) tournament will also be added, and an ice cream social with a live band, sponsored by the Bondurant Historical Society, will wrap up the celebration in early August.

“We encourage the community to dress in red, white and blue



for events and the parade,” Harwood says. “People can even dress as historical figures such as Abraham Lincoln.”

The Bondurant Community Library will also participate, coordinating events to avoid scheduling conflicts and maximize community involvement.

For more information about the America 250 celebration, visit the Bondurant America 250 Facebook page. ■



Bondurant

May 2026

News

YOUTH FISHING DERBY

Lake Petocka
Bondurant

**FRIDAY
JUNE 5TH, 2026**

BONDURANT IS CELEBRATING
AMERICA'S 250TH BIRTHDAY

New flags will soon line 2nd Street and Grant Street as the City of Bondurant partners with American Legion Post 396 to honor Memorial Day. This new display will replace the flags that once adorned the power poles along the roadway, upholding a longstanding patriotic tradition in the community ahead of the holiday weekend.

AMERICA 250 BONDURANT

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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. ■

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HOW ACT prep programs help students succeed

Preparing for the ACT can be challenging for many high school students. With academic responsibilities, extracurricular activities and college planning all happening at once, students often benefit from additional academic support. ACT prep programs offered by tutoring centers provide structured guidance, personalized instruction and proven strategies that help students improve their performance and feel more confident on test day.



One of the greatest benefits of a tutoring center is personalized learning. Every student has different academic strengths and areas that need improvement. Most tutoring centers begin with an assessment to determine a student's current skill level in subjects such as math, English, reading and science. Based on those results, instructors create a customized study plan designed to focus on the student's individual needs. This targeted approach allows students to spend more time improving weaker

areas while continuing to strengthen their existing skills.

Experienced instructors are another important part of successful ACT preparation. Tutors are trained to explain difficult concepts clearly and help students understand the format of the exam. In addition to reviewing academic material, they teach valuable test-taking strategies that can improve performance. Techniques such as pacing, eliminating incorrect answers and recognizing common question patterns help students work more efficiently during the exam.

Practice testing also plays a major role in ACT prep programs. Many students struggle with test anxiety or feel pressured by the timed nature of the ACT. Tutoring centers often provide practice exams that closely mirror the real test experience. These sessions help students become familiar with timing, instructions and question types while giving them an opportunity to monitor their progress over time. Repeated practice can help reduce stress and increase confidence before the official exam.

Flexibility is another advantage of

tutoring center programs. Many centers are able to schedule around other activities and commitments. Parents also benefit from regular progress updates that provide insight into their child's improvement and overall readiness for the ACT.

Beyond raising test scores, ACT prep programs help students build important academic habits that extend into college and future careers. Skills such as organization, critical thinking, time management and disciplined study routines can support long-term success. For many students, ACT preparation is not only about achieving a competitive score but also about developing confidence in their academic abilities.

Overall, tutoring center ACT prep programs provide students with personalized support, expert instruction and practical strategies that help them feel prepared and capable when approaching one of the most important exams of their high school years. ■

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



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REAL ESTATE **By Austin Sullivan**

HOW LONG does it take to sell a house?

One of the biggest questions homeowners ask before listing their home is, "How long will it take to sell?" The truth is that every market is different, but in today's real estate market, homes are still selling relatively quickly when they are priced correctly and presented well.



The average time a home stays on the market depends on several factors including location, price point, condition and buyer demand. In many areas, move-in ready homes in desirable neighborhoods can receive strong interest within the first few days of being listed. Some homes may even receive multiple offers quickly. On the other hand, homes that are overpriced, need significant updates, or are in less competitive locations may take longer to attract buyers.

Pricing is one of the most important factors when determining how fast a home will sell. Many sellers believe they should price high to leave room for negotiation, but today's buyers are educated and constantly watching the market. If a home is priced too aggressively, buyers may skip over it entirely, causing it to sit longer and eventually require price reductions. Homes that are priced appropriately from the beginning often generate more attention and stronger offers.

Presentation also plays a major role in today's market. Professional photos, clean spaces, updated staging and strong marketing can significantly impact buyer interest. Buyers often form their first opinion online before they ever schedule a showing. A well-maintained home with quality photos and a strong listing description can help a property stand out immediately.

Interest rates and inventory levels also affect how long homes take to sell. When inventory is low, buyers have fewer options and homes tend to move faster. When more homes hit the market, buyers become more selective, and sellers may need to be more competitive on pricing and condition.

The good news for sellers is that demand still exists for homes that are well prepared and marketed correctly. While not every home sells overnight, working with an experienced real estate agent who understands pricing strategy, marketing and negotiation can help position a home to sell as quickly and smoothly as possible.

Ultimately, the timeline for selling a home depends on preparation, pricing and market conditions. Sellers who take the time to properly prepare their home and price it strategically often see the best results. ■

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

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THE FUTURE of senior care is personalized care

As we look to the future, the senior living landscape is undergoing an exciting transformation. These communities, once primarily designed as peaceful retreats for active retirees, are now evolving into vibrant hubs of innovation, health and connection. The future of senior care in these communities is focused on empowering residents to live independently and maintain social connections, all while having access to the healthcare they need.



The 55+ community model is moving away from the traditional “retirement village” stereotype and embracing a new vision where aging is seen as an opportunity for growth and self-fulfillment. As the Baby Boomer generation continues to age, the demand for housing options that cater to both independence and care is driving this exciting change.

The future of senior care in 55+ communities is also shifting toward personalized care. Gone are the days of one-size-fits-all solutions. As people live longer, their care needs and preferences can vary greatly. The senior population is diverse, with different levels of independence, health challenges and lifestyle preferences. To meet these varied needs, 55+ communities are offering flexible care models that cater to the individual.

From specialized wellness programs to chronic disease management and mental health support, personalized care plans are designed to address not only physical health but also mental, emotional and social well-being. For example, fitness programs are tailored to seniors’ abilities

and health conditions, ensuring that every resident can participate at their own level. Additionally, memory care and cognitive support are becoming increasingly important as more communities focus on providing services for those with dementia or Alzheimer’s disease.

This shift toward personalized care means that seniors are not treated as a homogeneous group but as individuals with unique needs, preferences and goals. It is a model that encourages aging with purpose and allows seniors to maintain as much independence as possible while receiving the support they require.

One of the most significant factors affecting senior health is social isolation, which can lead to depression, cognitive decline and other negative health outcomes. As such, senior communities are placing a strong emphasis on fostering social connection.

Rather than being isolated, seniors in these communities have more opportunities to engage with their peers, form new friendships, and build supportive networks. Community events, ranging from fitness classes and art workshops to volunteer opportunities and intergenerational programs, are designed to keep seniors active and socially engaged.

The future of senior care in 55+ communities is not just about aging, it is about thriving. It is about fostering independence, embracing technology, nurturing social connections and providing personalized care that enhances the quality of life. ■

Information provided by Dave Zahn, Sales Director, Valley View Village, 2571 Guthrie Ave., Des Moines, 515-265-2571.

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EDUCATION

By Lindsey Giardino

MEET Kelli Daly

Kindergarten teacher inspires growth, connection.

Like many educators, Kelli Daly says she was born for the job. She has wanted to be a teacher for as long as she can remember.

"Growing up, I really looked up to my own teachers and always wanted to be like them," she says. "I spent a lot of time playing 'school' with my dolls and stuffed animals, and I just naturally loved working with young kids."

As she grew older, she babysat and worked in child care centers during high school and college, which only confirmed that teaching was the right path for her.

After graduating from high school, Daly began her college career at the University of Iowa. She later transferred to Iowa State University to be closer to home, where she completed her bachelor's degree in 2008. She went on to earn her master's degree from the University of Northern Iowa in 2017.

Daly began teaching in Bondurant in 2010. She taught pre-K at Anderson Elementary for five years before moving to Morris Elementary to teach kindergarten in 2015.

"I was ready for a bit of a change, but I knew I wanted to stay with the younger kids," she says. "I love teaching kindergarten."

Daly's favorite part of teaching is seeing the major growth students make from the beginning of the year to the end, both socially and academically.

"Watching them learn to read is especially rewarding and probably my favorite milestone," she says. "I also truly enjoy spending my days with them. They are kind, caring and bring so much joy to the classroom. We have a lot of fun together, and I genuinely love our little classroom family."

The relationships she has built with students over the years are also among her favorite aspects of teaching.

"I love running into my former students or having them stop by to visit and share what they've been up to since leaving my classroom," she says. "Those connections mean so much and make it all incredibly special."

Daly says she is thankful to do what she loves every day and to spend her time with her students. She also feels fortunate to have her "Morris family" and to work with colleagues she considers the best.

Outside of work, Daly lives in Bondurant with her significant other, Brock, and their busy household. They also have two puppies, Hank and Teddy.

"I have lived in Bondurant since 2012, and I love teaching in the same community where I live and where my kids attend school," Daly says. ■



Kelli Daly says her favorite part of teaching is seeing the major growth students make from the beginning of the year to the end.

NEWS FROM THE BONDURANT-FARRAR COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

May 2026

Celebrating Our School Board

May is School Board Appreciation Month, and we're honoring our board members for their dedication to our students, staff, and families. Their leadership helps ensure every student has the tools needed to succeed in a safe, supportive learning environment. Thank you for making a difference in our schools!

Thank you to our school board members!



Pictured (L to R): Laurel Swanson, Patrick Meyer (president), Kayla Vandehaar, Stacia Sanny (vice president), Jill Padgett

Community Night at the Ballpark: FREE Admission on 6/24

Join us for an evening of Bluejay baseball and softball as we celebrate our new fields and thank our community for its continued support of our students and activities.

Wednesday, June 24
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1000 Grant Street N, Bondurant

Admission will be FREE for all attendees!



Join Us: Bus Driver Test Drive Event on 6/20

Have you ever wondered what it's like to drive a school bus? Come drive with us!

We're hiring bus drivers for the next school year and inviting community members to explore a career in transportation during our Bus Driver Test Drive Event!

Saturday, June 20 from 8-10AM
Bondurant-Farrar Junior High
1201 Grant Street N, Bondurant



This hiring event is designed for anyone interested in joining our transportation department and experiencing what it's like to get behind the wheel of a school bus.

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Contact Us With Questions:

- Email: hr@bfschools.org
- Phone: 515-967-7819

Contact Us:

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

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Flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/bfcsd/albums



BONDURANT-FARRAR

2026 SUMMER SCHEDULE

VARSITY SOFTBALL

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
May 27	7:00PM	Gilbert	Gilbert High School Softball Field
May 30	9:00AM	Multiple Schools	Williamsburg Recreation Center
June 1	5:00PM	Carlisle	Bondurant-Farrar High School
June 1	7:00PM	Carlisle	Bondurant-Farrar High School
June 3	7:00PM	North Polk	Bondurant-Farrar High School
June 4	7:00PM	Knoxville	Knoxville High School
June 8	5:00PM	ADM	Bondurant-Farrar High School
June 8	7:00PM	ADM	Bondurant-Farrar High School
June 10	6:00PM	Carroll	Carroll Softball Stadium
June 11	7:15PM	Boone	Bondurant-Farrar High School
June 12	10:00AM	John Stephens Classic	Creston High School
June 13	8:00AM	John Stephens Classic	Creston High School
June 15	7:00PM	Norwalk	Bondurant-Farrar High School
June 17	7:00PM	Carroll	Bondurant-Farrar High School
June 18	7:15PM	Pella	Pella Community Middle School
June 19	12:45PM	Pleasant Valley	Waukee High School
June 19	1:00PM	Jack North Tournament	Northwest High School
June 19	4:45PM	Southeast Polk	Northwest High School
June 22	5:00PM	Winterset	Winterset High School Softball Field
June 22	7:00PM	Winterset	Winterset High School Softball Field
June 24	7:00PM	Gilbert	Bondurant-Farrar High School
June 25	7:00PM	North Polk	North Polk High School
June 26	5:30PM	PCM	Hennessy Diamonds
June 27	12:30PM	Glidden-Ralston	Hennessy Diamonds
June 27	2:30PM	Saydel	Hennessy Diamonds
June 29	5:00PM	Ballard	Ballard High School
June 29	7:00PM	Ballard	Ballard High School
June 30	7:00PM	Grand View Christian	Hoover High School
July 1	7:30PM	Boone	Gary Creasman Field
July 2	7:00PM	Des Moines Christian	Bondurant-Farrar High School
July 7	7:00PM	Des Moines Roosevelt	Bondurant-Farrar High School

VARSITY BASEBALL

DATE	TIME	OPPONENT	LOCATION
May 27	7:00PM	Gilbert	Gilbert High School Baseball Field
May 29	5:00PM	Ankeny	Bondurant-Farrar Intermediate School
May 29	7:00PM	Ankeny	Bondurant-Farrar Intermediate School
June 1	5:00PM	Carlisle	Bondurant-Farrar High School
June 1	7:00PM	Carlisle	Bondurant-Farrar High School
June 3	7:00PM	North Polk	Bondurant-Farrar High School
June 5	3:30PM	Des Moines East	DM East Williams Stadium Baseball Field
June 5	5:30PM	Des Moines East	DM East Williams Stadium Baseball Field
June 8	5:00PM	ADM	Bondurant-Farrar High School
June 8	7:00PM	ADM	Bondurant-Farrar High School
June 10	7:00PM	Carroll	Merchants Park CHS JV/V Baseball
June 11	7:00PM	Boone	Bondurant-Farrar High School
June 15	5:00PM	Norwalk	Norwalk Middle School
June 15	7:00PM	Norwalk	Norwalk Middle School
June 17	7:00PM	Carroll	Bondurant-Farrar Intermediate School
June 19	5:00PM	Ankeny Christian	Bondurant-Farrar High School
June 19	7:00PM	Ankeny Christian	Bondurant-Farrar High School
June 22	5:00PM	Winterset	Winterset High School Baseball Field
June 22	7:00PM	Winterset	Winterset High School Baseball Field
June 24	7:00PM	Gilbert	Bondurant-Farrar High School
June 25	7:00PM	North Polk	North Polk High School
June 26	10:00AM	Johnston	Johnston Middle School
June 26	12:15PM	Pleasantville	Johnston Middle School
June 29	5:00PM	Ballard	Nite Hawk Baseball Diamond
June 29	7:00PM	Ballard	Nite Hawk Baseball Diamond
July 1	7:00PM	Boone	Boone Memorial Park
July 6	7:00PM	Knoxville	Knoxville High School
July 8	7:00PM	Pella	Bondurant-Farrar High School

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Schedules are subject to change. Scan for most up-to-date schedules.



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8am-noon

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515-967-1800 • www.bondurantanimalclinic.com

Be sure to check for cancelations.

Coming up in Bondurant 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.

Pilates Workshops

June 13 and Aug. 15, noon to 1 p.m.
The Station, 100 Main St. N.E.,
Bondurant

Enjoy beginner's pilates June 13, noon to 1 p.m. then join in Deep Core and Breath Aug. 15, noon to 1 p.m. Come check out The Station, Bondurant's new Parks and Recreation Facility.

Live Music at Prairie Meadows

1 Prairie Meadows Drive, Altoona

- May 29, 10 p.m. to midnight, Anthony Koester Band
- May 30, 10 p.m. to midnight, Zachary Freedom
- June 2, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tom Hofer and the Iowa Playboys
- June 5, 10 p.m. to midnight, Recoil
- June 6, 10 p.m. to midnight, The Savage Freds
- June 9, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Gaylin Sudik and Friends
- June 12, 10 p.m. to midnight, Monkey4
- June 13, 10 p.m. to midnight, 80 Grit
- June 16, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Richie Lee and the Fabulous '50s
- June 19, 10 p.m. to midnight, Encore Legends
- June 20, 10 p.m. to midnight, Mike Walsh Band
- June 23, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Ken Frette and the Country Classics
- June 25, 7 p.m., Paperback Writer - The Beatles Experience
- June 26, 10 p.m. to midnight, Lola Blu
- June 27, 10 p.m. to midnight, Beggar's Bargain
- June 30, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Chantilly Lace

Bondurant Library Events

104 2nd St. N.E., Bondurant

- June 11, Family Game and Pizza Night, 5 p.m.
- June 20, Plant Swap, 2 p.m.
- June 30, DAR American Revolution program, 6 p.m.
- July 18, Flower Arranging Workshop, 3 p.m.
- Aug. 22, Puzzle Competition, 1 p.m.
- Sept. 10, Iowans You Should Know, 6 p.m.

Music in the Park

Sundays, May 31, June 28, July 26 and Aug. 30

Haines Park, 613 Third Ave. S.E.,
Altoona

The city and CAP Theatre present an evening of musical talents and popcorn at Haines Park in Altoona. Events start at 6 p.m. and feature: May 31 - West Connection; June 28 - Altoona Flute; July 26 - Band SPAM; Aug. 30 - Haywire.



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 more information, or to buy tickets, scan the QR code.



Hoover on the Road Exhibit

Through May 31
Living History Farms, 11121 Hickman
Road, Urbandale

Designed to introduce audiences across Iowa to the life and legacy of President Herbert Hoover, the exhibit highlights Hoover's remarkable journey from his humble beginnings in Iowa to the presidency, along with his lasting humanitarian impact around the world.



Bondurant American Legion Community Breakfast

Third Saturday of every month,
7-9:30 a.m.

Bondurant American Legion, 315
2nd St. N.W., Bondurant

Eggs of your choice, biscuits and gravy, sausage patties, hash browns, pancakes, toast, coffee, milk, orange juice. \$6 per person.

Bondurant Parks and Rec Summer Camps

The Station, 100 Main St. N.E.,
Bondurant

Summer is right around the corner, and Bondurant Parks and Recreation is ready with camps your kids will love, all hosted at the city's brand new Parks and Recreation facility, The Station.

From Coding and Video Games to Woodworking 101, Chess Camp and even Mad Scientist Training Academy, there is something for every interest and curiosity. It is the perfect way to keep young minds active, creative, and having fun all summer long. Sign up at: www.tinyurl.com/BonduParksRec.

Before registering, families will need to set up an account in the new Parks and Recreation reservation system: <https://secure.recl.com/IA/bondurant-ia/catalog>.

Be sure to enter the parent or guardian information first, as this becomes the primary account holder. Your email will serve as your username, and adding an emergency contact is required to complete setup. Once your account is ready, signing up for camps is quick and easy.

Having trouble getting signed up? Try clearing your browser cookies and logging back in. If you still need assistance, give Katie a call at 515-630-6982 and she will be happy to help. ■

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LUKE 8:8

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FAITH By Trevor Pinegar

GRATITUDE for compassionate influence



Once a year, a legendary experience happened for the students at my elementary school. On the last day of school, our bus driver would allow students to bring stacks of paper on her bus for an end of the year paper-ball fight. She would park next to an industrial recycling bin and offer students who didn’t want to participate the chance to exit the bus preceeding five minutes of childhood mayhem.

Loosely officiated, the children unleashed paper madness on her bus, making memories for a lifetime.

What was so great about this silly tradition is that it was an act of love in return for a year of obedience on the bus. Our driver loved us and made our experience special and memorable. Her actions were thoughtful and something we looked forward to. She connected with us and attempted to end the year in a way we desired and appreciated.

During my life, I’ve had so many teachers, coaches and staff who filled my days with joy. But, until reaching my current stage of life with the crazy schedule and the constant distractions, I didn’t really appreciate how much fun my childhood was. In the last days before cell phones, tablets and online gaming, I was raised in a world where people made a conscious effort to create fun opportunities and invest in the joy of others.

At the end of each school year, I struggle to think of how to truly appreciate the people who work with our kids — to acknowledge those who work for Bondurant’s largest employer (BF Schools) for their exceptional effort and the love they show our kids. Which is nothing short of biblical.

Jesus said, “As you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me” (Matthew 25:40). Here he is saying that how we treat anyone is how we treat everyone and especially how we treat him. The writer of Hebrews said, “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.” And, in both Matthew and Mark, rewards are mentioned for those who show compassion to followers of Christ.

Thank you for creating a fun educational environment that keeps parents and kids coming back. You never know which student will be impacted. Your compassionate influence leaves a legacy far beyond the buses, the classrooms and the facilities — to the heart. ■

Information provided by Pastor Trevor Pinegar, Federated Church of Bondurant, 103 Second St. S.W., 515-967-2243.

FEDERATED CHURCH
GATHER & BE FED

VBS 2026:

June 28TH - July 1ST
6-8PM
Federated Church
103 2nd St SW, Bondurant, IA
Pre-K through 6TH Grade

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questions? reach out:
bfedvbs@gmail.com // (515) 967-2243

for more info, visit bfedchurch.org/vbs

PREPARING for summer

“Plant a Seed, Read” is the theme for our 2026 Summer Reading Program. The Bondurant Community Library staff has been busy sowing the seeds needed to help patrons of all ages bloom — and read for fun — this summer. From our diverse selection of books and movies to our Library of Things, programs and clubs, there is something for everyone.

Bondurant Community Library
 104 Second St. N.E., P.O. Box 160
 515-967-4790
www.bondurant.lib.ia.us
 Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Sunday, noon to 5 p.m.

Registration is open at bondurantreads.readsquared.com. We are excited about this year’s program and the grand prize lineup for all ages. Participants who track their reading on ReadSquared can use their daily reading points to “purchase” raffle tickets for the grand prize items they want.

Thank you to our donors. Without your generosity, this program would not be possible.

We hope you will take advantage of the free library programming offered during this eight-week program, which begins June 8. All events take place at the library unless otherwise noted.

RECURRING PROGRAMS:

- Fit for Life: Mondays and Thursdays at 8:30 a.m.
- Storytime: Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 10:30 a.m.
- Baby’s Story and Play Time: Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.

JUNE EVENTS

- Visit our website calendar for details and registration links, if applicable.
- June 2, 6 p.m. — Grades 3-5 Book Club: Spray tie-dye tote bags
- June 3, 4:15 p.m. — Pokémon Club: Bingo
- June 4, 6 p.m. — Adult Craft Night. Registration required.
- June 8, 10:30 a.m. — Stomp Rockets
- June 9, 6 p.m. — Book Discussion for Adults
- June 10, 4:15 p.m. — Curious and Creative Kids: Food Fight
- June 11, 10:30 a.m. — Farm Art Project with ASAP
- June 11, 5-8 p.m. — Family Game and Pizza Night
- June 14, 3 p.m. — Teens in the Kitchen (grades 6-12)
- June 15, 10:30 a.m. — Spock’s Reptiles
- June 16, 6 p.m. — Grades 6-8 Book Club: Spray tie-dye tote bags
- June 18, 10:30 a.m. — Red, White and Blue Community Art Project
- June 18-Aug. 31 — America’s 250th Celebration Display in the Art Hall
- June 18, 4 p.m. — Anime Club (grades 6-12): Boba Slime
- June 20, 10:30 a.m. — Storytime with Elvis the Pony
- June 20, 2 p.m. — Plant Swap for Adults
- June 22, 10:30 a.m. — Skippy the Drum Machine
- June 23, 6 p.m. — Streaming 101 for Adults
- June 24, 6-8 p.m. — Collaborative Stick Art at the Farmers Market
- June 25, 10:30 a.m. — PBS Open Play
- June 25, 6 p.m. — Adult Paint Night. Registration required.
- June 29, 10:30 a.m. — PBS Open Play
- June 30, 6 p.m. — American Revolution History for Adults ■



The May 2016 **Bondurant Living** magazine featured the story, “Time for fun: City gears up for Celebrate Bondurant and Summerfest.” New events planned for the 2016 Summerfest included a Little Princess Party and a climbing wall. The Bondurant Lions Club planned to serve pork loin and chicken, and favorite activities like the parade and carnival were set to return. ■

TAKE OUR POLL

HOW HAVE YOU RESPONDED TO INCREASE IN THE PRICE OF GAS?

1. Driven less
2. Cut back on “extras”
3. Fallen behind on essentials
4. Nothing, the prices haven’t affected me.

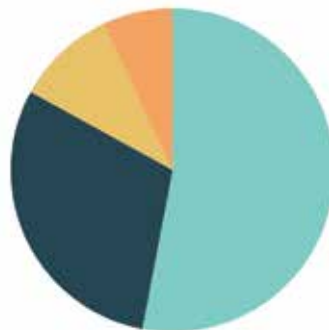
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RESULTS FROM APRIL POLL: April is National Hope Month.

Which do you hope for most?



Better health..... 53%
A surprise windfall of cash..... 30%
A vacation 10%
Someone to do all your chores... 7%
Better relationships..... 0%



HEALTH

By Dr. Kari Swain and Dr. Elizabeth Ellrich

NERVOUS system dysfunction in children

Summer break gives families the opportunity to focus on their health without the pressures of school stress and schedules. Summer is a popular time for health and wellness check-ups and appointments and the ideal time to schedule a comprehensive chiropractic exam to evaluate children's nervous systems and spinal health.

Many parents assume chiropractic care is only necessary when their child complains of pain, but chiropractic care is much more than that. Neurologically focused chiropractors address nervous system dysfunction as well as structural issues. Children encounter physical, environmental and emotional stressors just as adults do. Leaving this stress unaddressed can create lasting effects on health and development. Nervous system dysfunction can manifest as digestive, immune system, behavioral, attention, emotional and sleep issues or be present with no apparent symptoms at all. Board-certified pediatric chiropractors are specially trained to identify nervous system dysfunction and provide gentle, age-appropriate adjustments.

Summer break provides the perfect environment for your child's body to adapt and heal. Without daily classroom stresses and busy schedules, the nervous system can respond more effectively to chiropractic care. Chiropractic adjustments facilitate healing and nervous system regulation. Start the school year stronger, healthier and more adaptable by creating a strong foundation this summer. Proper spinal alignment and nervous system function sets children up for success through improved attention span, better focus, decreased behavioral issues, enhanced emotional processing, strengthened immune system function, better sleep quality, support for optimal growth and development, and postural correction to counteract screen time effects. Healthy families incorporate chiropractic care as part of their comprehensive healthcare team. ■

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

WELLNESS

By Nikki Morgan

THE BEAUTY of smarter makeup choices

Today's consumers are becoming more mindful about what they put on their skin — and for good reason. Makeup is something many of us wear daily, yet not all products are created with skin health in mind. Choosing skincare-focused makeup can make a significant difference in both the appearance and condition of your skin over time.

Traditional cosmetics often contain ingredients that may clog pores, trigger irritation or contribute to dryness and inflammation. For individuals with acne-prone, sensitive or aging skin, these formulas can create a cycle of covering up skin concerns while simultaneously worsening them.

That's why I encourage clients to seek out makeup that supports skin health rather than works against it. Clean, mineral-based formulas are often gentler on the skin and can provide breathable coverage while allowing the skin to function naturally. High-quality skincare makeup products may also include nourishing ingredients such as antioxidants, botanical extracts and physical SPF protection to help defend against environmental stressors.

One brand that has consistently stood out in the professional skincare world is Jane Iredale. Known for combining makeup with skin-friendly ingredients, these products are designed to enhance natural beauty while supporting overall skin wellness. Many clients appreciate the lightweight feel, buildable coverage and reduced irritation compared to traditional cosmetics. ■

Information provided by Nikki Morgan, DNP, ARNP, SkinFusion, 200 Second St. S.E., Altoona, 515-967-0587, www.skinfusionfx.com, nikki.skinfusionfx@gmail.com.

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SAME-DAY crowns possible

When you hear the words “dental crown,” you might imagine multiple appointments, temporary crowns and weeks of waiting. But thanks to modern dental technology, getting a crown is now faster, easier and more comfortable than ever — and, in dental practices with the right equipment, many crowns can be completed in just one visit.



A dental crown is a custom-made restoration that covers and protects a damaged or weakened tooth. Crowns are commonly recommended for teeth with large fillings, cracks, severe wear, or after a root canal. They restore both the strength and appearance of your smile while helping prevent further damage.

One of the biggest questions patients ask is, “What should I expect?” The process is simpler than most people think. During your appointment, your dentist will gently prepare the tooth and take a digital scan — no messy impression trays needed. Using advanced in-office technology, your custom crown is designed and crafted right in the office while you relax.

Because we can create crowns in-office, there is often no need for temporary crowns or a second appointment. In many cases, patients leave the very same day with a fully restored smile.

Same-day crowns are designed to look natural, fit comfortably and function just like your real tooth. Most importantly, they allow patients to get back to their busy lives faster with fewer interruptions.

Modern dentistry has made restoring your smile more convenient than ever. ■

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

PLAN AHEAD

By Scott Eriksen

ADVANCE planning offers peace of mind

Planning ahead is one of the kindest gifts you can give the people you love. Many families tell us that the greatest benefit of advance planning is the sense of calm it brings during an otherwise overwhelming time. When important decisions have already been made, your family is free to focus on what truly matters: being together, supporting one another and honoring a life well-lived without added stress or uncertainty.



There can also be meaningful financial benefits to planning and paying in advance. Designed to give families confidence and clarity about future expenses, you can have your selected services and merchandise guaranteed — protecting your family from the impact of rising costs over time.

Whether you are just beginning to think about your wishes or you are ready to put a full plan in place, starting the conversation can be simple and should be completely pressure-free. Advanced planning counselors are here to listen, answer questions, and help you explore your options at your own pace. They will meet you where you are and make sure your preferences are thoughtfully recorded.

Every family deserves compassionate care and affordable options, regardless of budget or preferences. Advance planning is simply about creating peace of mind — for yourself and for those who mean the most to you. ■

Information provided by Scott Eriksen, Director of Hamilton’s Advanced Planning, Hamilton’s Funeral Home, 605 Lyon St., Des Moines, 515-697-3670, www.HamiltonsFuneralHome.com.

you did it!

TO ALL OF THE 2026 GRADUATES -

congrats!

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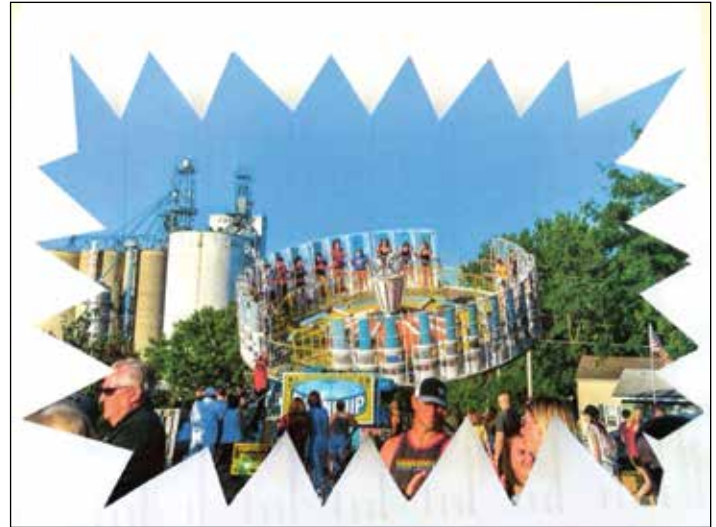
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SUMMERFEST! Decades of tradition

The rides! The raffles! The prizes! The fireworks! The fun! The food! The friendship!

It all started in the late 1960s with the chartering of the Bondurant JCs and Auxiliary (wives) chapter. In 1975, they proposed a summer fair to not only celebrate the founding of our country, but to also raise money for improving sites around the city for recreational events and the associated equipment and buildings needed to provide opportunities and improve the lives of City residents. Along the way, the JCs decided they wanted to donate their proceeds to local people and businesses. So, in 1983, they discontinued being a chapter of the JCs and formed the independent Bondurant Men's Club and Civic Club (wives).

At the beginning, hiring a carnival was too expensive for July 4th. A compromise was negotiated that it would come into the city between gigs at neighboring cities. During the first decade, the Men's Club offered grilled fare, popcorn and cotton candy. Rides included a small Ferris wheel, boat rides in water canals, and a merry-go-round. Over the years, some midway games have been updated, and some were eliminated, such as the dunk tank. The raffle and fireworks have been longtime favorites, and the location has always been in and around Main Street. After 51 years, Summerfest still performs the same function today. Each year, the raffle donations, rides, food choices, performers and attendance have grown, as have the resulting profits to help people and organizations. See the advertisement of all events in this publication.



One of the many carnival rides. Personal photo taken by a Men's Club member, no date. Used by permission from the Men's Club.



2024 parade. Personal photo taken by a Men's Club member. Used by permission from the Men's Club.

This year, Summerfest and the parade will have the additional honor of being the kick-off event of Bondurant's America250 celebration, the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Sponsored by the city and the Bondurant Historical Society, the celebration will have events all summer. Show your patriotism by dressing in red, white and blue attire and decorating your wagon, whether you march in the parade or not. More information can be found at the City Hall lobby, BHS' table at the farmers market, the library, and on the Bondurant America250 Facebook page. ■

Written by Deborah Harwood, president, Bondurant Historical Society, bonduranthistoricalsociety@gmail.com, www.bonduranthistoricalsociety.com. Facebook: bonduranthistoricalsociety. Programs presented March, May, July, September and November.

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CELEBRATING summer in Bondurant



As summer arrives in Bondurant, there's a noticeable shift in energy throughout our community. Parks become gathering places, patios fill with conversation, kids ride bikes through neighborhoods late into the evening, and community events bring neighbors together in ways that make small-town living special. At the Bondurant Chamber of Commerce, we believe summer is one of the best times to celebrate everything that makes our community thrive.

One of the greatest strengths of Bondurant is the way local businesses, organizations and residents come together to support one another. Summer offers countless opportunities to do just that. Whether you are grabbing dinner from a local restaurant, shopping at a small business, attending a community event, or sponsoring a youth activity, every effort helps strengthen our local economy and build connections that last far beyond the season.

This summer is shaping up to be an exciting one for our community. From outdoor concerts and family-friendly activities to farmers markets, bike nights and community gatherings, there will be plenty of opportunities to get involved and enjoy everything Bondurant has to offer. These events are more than entertainment; they create meaningful moments that bring people together and help showcase the spirit of our growing community.

The chamber also encourages residents to take time this summer to explore businesses they may not have visited before. Bondurant continues to grow, and with that growth comes new restaurants, shops, service providers and entrepreneurs investing in our community. Supporting local businesses doesn't just keep dollars local — it helps create jobs, strengthens community partnerships and ensures Bondurant remains a vibrant place to live, work and raise a family.

Summer is also a reminder of the importance of community engagement. Attending local events, volunteering, supporting nonprofit organizations, or simply introducing yourself to a new neighbor all contribute to making Bondurant a welcoming and connected community. Small actions often have the biggest impact.

As we head into the summer months, we invite everyone to stay connected with the chamber and take advantage of the many opportunities happening throughout the season. Our community calendar continues to grow with events for families, professionals and residents of all ages, and we encourage everyone to participate, explore and celebrate all that makes Bondurant special.

On behalf of the Bondurant Chamber of Commerce, thank you for continuing to support local businesses, community events and one another. We look forward to seeing you around town this summer and making this season one to remember. ■

Information provided by Katie Hentges, Executive Director, Bondurant Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 146, Bondurant, IA, 50035, 515-329-0773, www.bondurantchamber.com, director@bondurantchamber.com.

BONDURANT
BIKE NIGHT
SUMMER SERIES 2026

Downtown Bondurant
6:00 – 9:00 PM

Friday May 29 **Kick Off to Summer**
Live Music: School of Rock Ankeny

Friday June 26 **Classic Cars & Bikes**
Live Music: Richie Lee & the Fabulous 50's

Friday July 31 **Celebrate Bondurant**
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Bondurant Chamber of Commerce
bondurantchamber.com

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OUT & ABOUT



Shelby Hagan and Katie Hentges at the ribbon cutting for Dynamic Storage April 23.



Tony Rauterberg and Rick Kroeger at the ribbon cutting for Dynamic Storage April 23.



Marketa Oliver and Jené Jess at the ribbon cutting for Dynamic Storage April 23.



Tom Gustafson, Kyle Lee, Zaid Gustafson and Janine Gustafson at the ribbon cutting for Dynamic Storage April 23.



Addisyn Beyerink, Adryan Beyerink, Zaelyn Beyerink, Zozzlyn Beyerink, Myron Beyerink and Jill Beyerink on an outing May 15 with the Bondurant Area Homeschool Group.



Ella Teed, Tatum Behle, Georgia Steeples and Charley Smith around town on May 8.



Kyleigh Meyeres and Aanna Summers and kids on an outing May 15 with the Bondurant Area Homeschool Group.



Kyleigh Meyeres and Aanna Summers at the kick off of the Bondurant Farmers Market May 6.



Megan Schincke and Megan Sockness Teeple May 15 with the Bondurant Library Friends at the library.



Christy Anderson and Nash Anderson on an outing May 15 with the Bondurant Area Homeschool Group.

OUT & ABOUT

FARMERS

Market

The kick off of the Bondurant Farmers Market was May 6.



Patrick McIlhon, Alex Kerr, Randy Toney and Sheriff Kevin Schneider



Carrie Voorhees and Larry Voorhees



Elizabeth Nold and Chad Nold



Brent Rath and Becky Rath



Odessa Vos and Jason Vos



Sara Puckett and Elissa Turner



The Shivers family, Karley, Carol, Sue, Oakleigh and Emily



Mitchell Brodsack and Tony Rauterberg



Sheriff Kevin Schneider and Tami Swartwood



Shelbey Pruden and Amy Ferguson

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SUMMER FEST

JUNE 8 & 9

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