

ANKENY

JUNE 2026

Living

MAGAZINE

'JINGLE in July'

Ankeny Chamber SummerFest 2026
turns up the heat July 10-12.

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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.

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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'JINGLE in July'

Ankeny Chamber SummerFest 2026
turns up the heat July 10-12.

By Ashley Rullestad

Ankeny Area Chamber of Commerce officials are excited to turn up the heat — and the holiday cheer — as Ankeny Chamber SummerFest transforms into a winter wonderland in July. That's right: The 2026 theme is "Jingle in July." Expect twinkling lights, snowmen, gingerbread friends, candy canes and festive fun around every corner. Come celebrate the joy, magic and togetherness of the holiday season — with sunshine and summer vibes.

Ankeny Chamber SummerFest
returns to The District July 10-12.



Ankeny Chamber SummerFest, presented by Karl Chevrolet and platinum sponsors the city of Ankeny and Polk County Board of Supervisors, brings three days of live music, carnival rides, great food and family fun. Every year, hundreds of committee members, staff and volunteers work to bring the festival to life. Ankeny Chamber officials are thrilled to bring this festival to the surrounding Ankeny

community July 10-12 in The District at Prairie Trail.

Enjoy a night of carnival rides and games, as the carnival will once again be open Thursday, July 9, from 4-9 p.m., with a special wristband price of \$30. This gives families an opportunity to enjoy the carnival a day early. The rest of the Ankeny Chamber SummerFest grounds will open Friday.

Details at The District

The Ankeny Chamber will showcase Ankeny Area Chamber businesses as sponsors, vendors and generous contributors to this ever-growing community. Attendees will enjoy 12 bands on stage, including local artists such as The Sons of Gladys Kravitz, Birdchild, kids from School of Rock Ankeny and crowd favorite Not Quite Brothers.

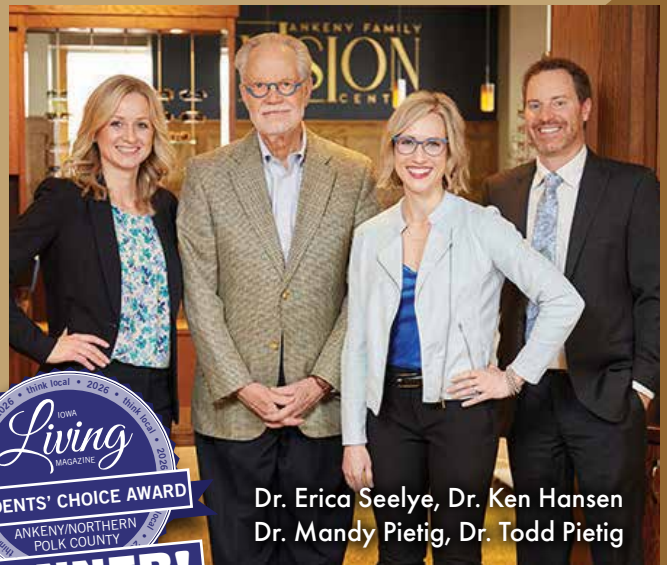
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FEATURE

“Ankeny Chamber SummerFest is a celebration of everything that makes our community special,” Diane Weber, director of events and communications at the Ankeny Area Chamber of Commerce, says. “This festival creates opportunities for families, businesses and community members to come together and celebrate the energy and growth of Ankeny.”

Limited parking is available in The District at Prairie Trail during Ankeny Chamber SummerFest hours. To accommodate attendees, parking is available at the DMACC Ankeny Campus, 2006 S. Ankeny Blvd., with a free shuttle running to the festival entrance.

Shuttle times:

- Friday, July 10: 3:30 p.m. to midnight
- Saturday, July 11: 10:30 a.m. to midnight
- Sunday, July 12: 12:30-11 p.m.

Organizers are providing a safe environment for everyone. Bags and IDs will be checked upon entry. To purchase beer tickets or redeem a ticket for a beer, you must have a 21-and-older wristband. Ankeny Chamber SummerFest is also a pet-free, smoke-free and weapons-free event.

Once inside, attendees can enjoy eats from



The carnival is a highlight of the Ankeny Chamber SummerFest.

more than 20 food vendors. Everyone will be able to find something they enjoy, from ice cream to pizza and tacos to barbecue. Soda, water and Powerade will also be available for purchase. Outside food and beverages are not permitted.

FRIDAY, JULY 10

Carnival, bands and family fun

Ankeny Chamber SummerFest officially kicks off Friday at 4 p.m. with the carnival open until 11 p.m. Carnival wristbands are available

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FEATURE

for \$30 for unlimited rides from 5-11 p.m. All carnival wristbands and tickets must be purchased onsite from the carnival ticket booth.

Friday also features live music, with Orphan Annie and the Hot Mess kicking off at 4 p.m., The Schmidt Brothers at 6:30 p.m., and Not Quite Brothers closing out the night at 9 p.m.

In addition to the fun at The District at Prairie Trail, visit Uptown Ankeny for Friday Family Fun Night, featuring crafts, princesses and superheroes, face painting, inflatables, games and more starting at 4 p.m. at the Ankeny Market and Pavilion, hosted by the Ankeny Young Professionals.

Kids can participate in the Kiddie Parade, where they are encouraged to dress up and decorate bikes or wagons with the “Jingle in July” theme. Registration is at 5:30 p.m., and the parade starts at 6:30 p.m. The route begins at the Ankeny Market and Pavilion and finishes near Ankeny First United Methodist Church.

After the parade, stick around for more family fun in Uptown Ankeny until Family Fun Night winds down at 8 p.m.



A grand parade and a kiddie parade are featured at the Ankeny Chamber SummerFest.

SATURDAY, JULY 11

Grand parade, music and more

Then it's time for everyone's favorite — the grand parade. This year's parade starts at Southview Middle School on Southwest Cherry Street, travels north to cross First Street and continues on N.W. Ash Drive. The route proceeds north on N.W. Ash Drive and turns into the tennis court driveway just south of N.W. Wagner Boulevard.

For those participating, decorated floats with the “Jingle in July” theme are highly encouraged. Register your entry at

ankenysummerfest.com.

Then head to The District at Prairie Trail for the new lip sync contest at 11:15 a.m. This high-energy event invites individuals and groups to perform popular songs by miming lyrics while bringing performances to life. It's not about singing; it's about creativity, choreography, costumes and stage presence to wow the crowd and judges. Register online at ankenysummerfest.com.

Also check out the entertainment garden, vendors and carnival, which open at 11 a.m., with \$30 carnival wristband specials from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 5-11 p.m.

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Live music will again entertain the crowds at Ankeny Chamber SummerFest.

Free live music includes School of Rock at 1 p.m., BS and the Liars at 2:30 p.m., Bad Friends at 5 p.m., Rebel Queens at 7 p.m., and headliner Birdchild at 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 12
Fireworks top off events

On Sunday, the entertainment garden, carnival and vendors open at 1 p.m. Enjoy Sons of

Gladys Kravitz at 1 p.m., The Sheet at 3 p.m., Dirty Champagne at 5 p.m., and Rival 5 at 7 p.m.

Ankeny Chamber SummerFest winds down with an always-amazing fireworks show at 9:30 p.m. Tune in to 92.5 KJJY for music to accompany the show.

Without its sponsors, community partners, Chamber investor and premier members, committee members and staff, there would be

no Ankeny Chamber SummerFest. It takes hundreds of volunteers to run the festival, from ticket sales to bar service, cleanup and wristband distribution. If you are interested in volunteering, visit ankenysummerfest.com to sign up.

For the latest information on all Ankeny Chamber SummerFest has to offer, visit @AnkenyChamberSummerFest on Facebook and ankenysummerfest.com. ■

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RHUBARB season just got crispy

As a kid, you could find me following my mother around the yard while she planted, weeded and tended to her flowers and plants. Our backyard wasn't overflowing with produce — just a small strawberry patch lined with rhubarb. Back then, I wasn't a fan. Rhubarb was a little too bold for my taste. But, over time, especially when paired with apples and a bit of sugar, it won me over. Now, I look forward to it every year.



Rhubarb is also one of the easiest and most rewarding plants to grow. Give it a sunny spot — ideally on the south side of your house or garage — and it will thrive with very little fuss.

This crisp is inspired by my mother's classic apple crisp. Sort of. Like my mother, I don't really measure ingredients for these kinds of treats, which has made sharing the recipe a bit tricky over the years. Sometimes I add nuts or oatmeal. Sometimes I mix in apples. But one thing never changes: a generous, crispy crumble topping. If it's not crisp, we're not doing it right.

So, for the sake of sharing (and finally having something more useful to say than "just eyeball it"), I actually paid attention while making it this time. What you will find here is my best attempt at a real recipe. That said... I probably added a little extra of something along the way. I encourage you to do the same. That's where the magic happens. ■

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

Jolene's Rhubarb Crisp

INGREDIENTS:

- 5 cups of rhubarb
- 1 cup flour
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/3 cup oatmeal
- 1/3 cup chopped pecans
- 1/2 cup butter, room temperature (if it gets too dry, add a little more butter)



DIRECTIONS:

- Chop rhubarb in half inch pieces and place into an 8x8-inch dish. In a separate bowl, mix dry ingredients, then add butter. Cut butter into the dry ingredients until crumbly. Spread crumble mixture over rhubarb. Bake uncovered at 350 F for 45 minutes. Serve warm with vanilla ice cream. ■

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Ankeny Chamber SummerFest is brought to you by The Ankeny Area Chamber of Commerce
www.ankeny.org



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

3 Days of FREE Live Music
Grand Parade - Carnival - Food - Fireworks

Friday July 10

- 4:00 PM Ankeny Chamber SummerFest Grounds Open
- 4:00 PM AYP Friday Family Fun Night In Uptown Ankeny
- 4:00 PM Orphan Annie & The Hot Mess
- 6:30 PM The Schmidt Brothers
- 9:00 PM **Headliner - Not Quite Brothers**
- 11:00 PM Ankeny Chamber SummerFest Closed

AYP Friday Family Fun Night @ The AMP In Uptown 4-8 PM

- 4:00 PM AYP Family Fun Night Activities Begin
- 5:30 PM Registration for Kiddie Parade
- 6:30 - 7:00 PM Kiddie Parade in Uptown Ankeny
- 7:00 - 8:00 PM AYP Family Fun Night Activities Resume

Saturday July 11

- 9:00 AM Grand Parade Begins
- 11:15 AM Lip Sync Contest
- 1:00 PM School Of Rock
- 2:30 PM BS and The Liars
- 5:00 PM Bad Friends
- 7:00 PM Rebel Queens
- 9:00 PM **Headliner - Birdchild**
- 11:00 PM Ankeny Chamber SummerFest Closed



Sunday July 12

- 1:00 PM The Sons of Gladys Kravitz
- 3:00 PM The Sheet
- 5:00 PM Dirty Champagne
- 7:00 PM **Headliner - Rival 5**
- 9:30 PM Fireworks Begin
- 10:00 PM Ankeny Chamber SummerFest Closed



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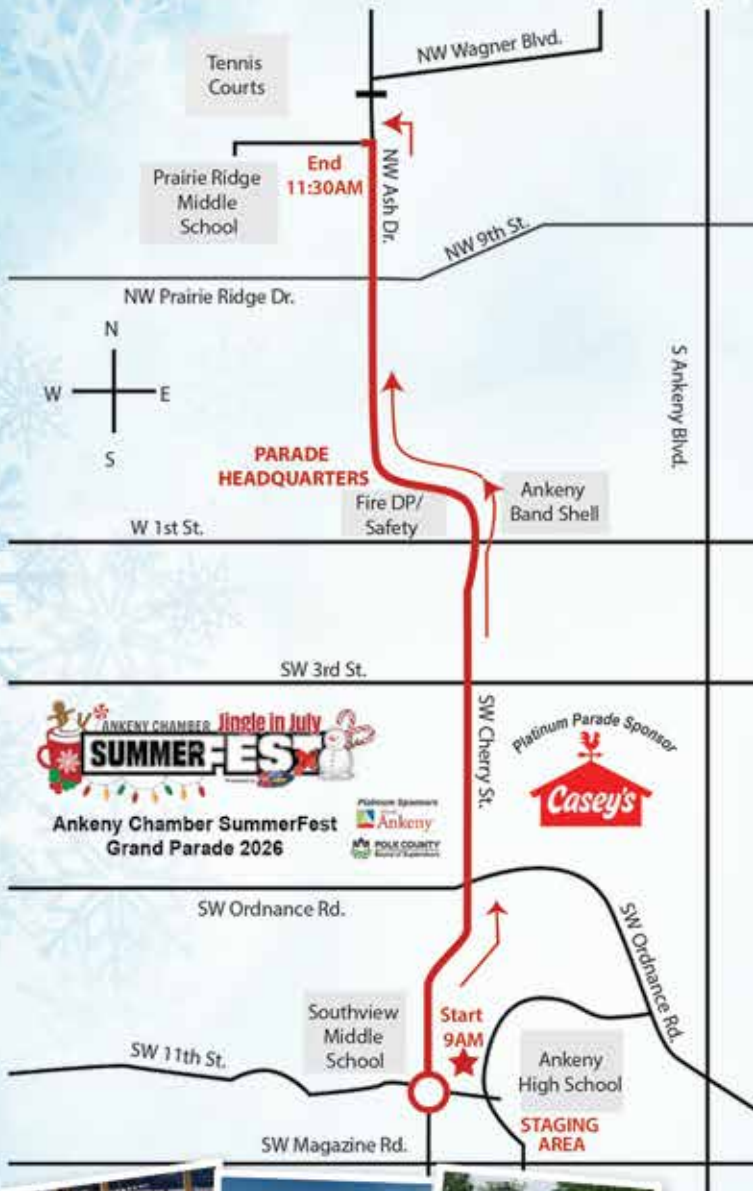


PREMIER MEMBERS



2026 Grand Parade!

Begins Saturday July 11 at 9:00 AM



Carnival Hours

Thursday, July 9th	4PM – 9PM
Friday, July 10th	4PM – 11PM
Saturday, July 11th	11AM – 11PM
Sunday, July 12th	1PM – 10PM

Learn More @ AnkenySummerFest.com

WRISTBANDS 21+

Bag, ID, & Wristbands Check At Entrance

Ankeny Chamber SummerFest Food/Beverage Vendors

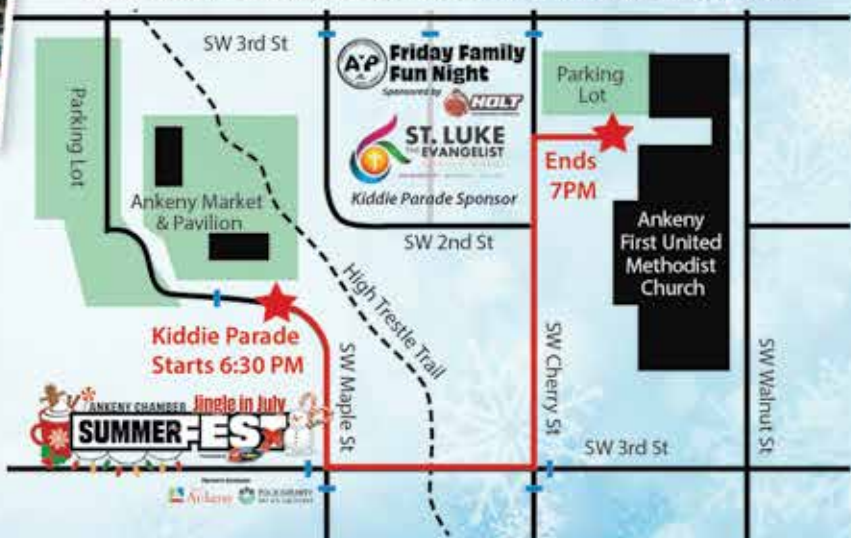
1. Beverly Ann's of Saylorville
2. Big Açai Ankeny
3. Cottonwood Canyon
4. Dave's Mini Donuts
5. G.G.'s Chicken & Waffles
6. Hardenbrook Concessions
7. Jethro's BBQ n' LakeHouse
8. Kona Ice of Central Iowa
9. Let's Go Cookie Dough!
10. Los Primos Grill
11. Loudi's Kitchen
12. Nopal Mexican Food
13. Papa Johns of Iowa
14. Sugar & Spin Cotton Candy
15. Sugarcane Fusion
16. Sweet Swirls Rolled Ice Cream
17. Syd's Sweet 'N Sips
18. Thai Street Food by Weena
19. The Outside Scoop
20. Watcha Smokin? BBQ
21. WiseGuys Wood Fired Pizza
22. Yanni's Grill

Ankeny Chamber SummerFest Information Vendors

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2. Gideons International Ankeny
3. GoServ Global
4. New York Life - Kimberly Keller
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6. School of Rock Ankeny
7. T-Fiber
8. The Wellness Way Ankeny
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10. Vero Health Center
11. Waxing the City



Friday July 10 at 6:30 PM Kiddie Parade in Uptown Ankeny



EVENTS IN THE AREA

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

Check for cancellations

Upcoming in Ankeny Living magazine:

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.

Hobby photographers: Do you enjoy the hobby of photography? Perhaps you take wildlife photos or capture scenic landscapes. Maybe you enter your photos in the county or state fair. Maybe you have taken a photography class. Tell us why you enjoy the hobby and share some of your favorite shots. Email tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com.

Youth Summer Art Camps

Ankeny Art Center, 1520 S.W. Ordinance Road

Summer art camps for kids will be offered July 7-10 and July 14-17. Camps will run Tuesday through Friday for one week. Each week will have different projects so campers can sign up for multiple sessions. Themes are incorporated into all classes except for Pottery Wheel. Financial assistance is available. Email Education Director Claire Hays at claire@ankenyartcenter.com for information as well as to make donations to the camp fund. Ankeny Art Center members get 20% off at registration. For more information and registration, visit www.ankenyartcenter.org.

Granny Basketball National Tournament

July 17-19

Prairie Trail Sports Complex, 2250 S.W. Vintage Parkway, Ankeny

The Iowa Gold Stars and the Ankeny Honey Bees will be hosting the 2026 National Granny Basketball Tournament. The national tournament will attract approximately 30 teams to compete in six-on-six women's basketball, similar to the Iowa girls high school rules in 1920, including the 1920 uniform. For more information, visit www.grannybasketball.com.

Adult Art Classes and Workshops

1520 S.W. Ordinance Road

Adult summer classes are now scheduled at the Ankeny Art Center. Classes for adult beginners include: Gesture Drawing (with a live model), Linoleum Printmaking, Monoprinting on Clay, Mixed Media Collage and Pet Portraits in Acrylic. Adult intermediate/advanced classes include: Composition for the Watercolorist, Watercolor Birds and Pottery Wheel. Register online at www.ankenyartcenter.org.

DNA For Family History Research

Saturday, June 27, 1 p.m.

Ankeny Kirkendall Public Library, 1250 S.W. District Drive

This class will explore how DNA can be used for genealogy research. It will cover some basic science behind DNA, the types of tests available and what each test reveals about ancestry and family connections. The program will provide an overview of major testing companies and discuss the advantages of each platform, such as large databases and specialized analysis tools. You will learn how DNA results can help break through genealogical brick walls, confirm family relationships and trace ethnic origins, making it a valuable resource for anyone interested in building a more complete family tree. The science won't be scary, and the results can be exciting. Presented by the Ankeny Genealogical Chapter.

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Biking for Babies Central Iowa Ride

June 27

Starting at St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church, 1102 N.W. Weigel Drive, Ankeny

The annual Biking for Babies Central Iowa Ride is being held in Ankeny. Leaving from St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Church and riding on the High Trestle Trail, riders will enjoy biking a distance comfortable for their level. This is a family-friendly ride that raises money and awareness for pregnancy resource centers in the area. Registration and information can be found online at <https://share.google/Bu90IOCRSvsKIH2Nc>.



Free Neighbor to Neighbor Dinner

Sunday, June 28

St. Anne's Episcopal Church, 2110 W. First St., Ankeny

Free Sunday dinner will be served at St. Anne's Neighbor to Neighbor meal. The meal on June 28 will be walking tacos in a bowl along with side dishes, salads and desserts. Then play seven hands of bingo with small prizes for the winners of six hands and a gift certificate for \$15 for the final black-out game. All are welcome. No one is expected to be a member of the church, and meals are free. Donations are accepted but not required or expected. Take out meals are available for yourself or your family. Direct questions or comments to Mary Oliver at 515-964-1227. ■

WHAT IS a private banker?

Private bankers provide a “concierge-style” banking experience for clients who meet certain income or net worth qualifications. They offer a wholistic view of a client’s financial picture and deliver personalized guidance to address



current needs and protect future wealth. This can include everything from education savings to estate planning.

While they are not experts in all areas, private bankers act as the central point of contact between other financial professionals, such as CPAs, lawyers and wealth advisors. This helps save the client time and ensures their overall financial plan runs smoothly.

- **Private banking services.** Private banking clients typically receive exclusive access to a variety of banking benefits, as well as customized products and services. Some of those can include:

- **Customized credit solutions.** These

solutions may include personal and securities-based lines of credit, as well as financing for real estate such as primary homes, secondary properties or construction projects. These lending options are typically structured to align with broader wealth strategies, offering liquidity while allowing clients to keep long-term investments intact.

- **Deposit solutions.** Private banking deposit offerings focus on accessibility and financial organization. Clients typically have a range of accounts, including checking and savings, CDs, along with options designed for specific goals such as health savings or retirement. Together, these accounts help support cash management, savings growth and tax-advantaged planning as part of an overall financial strategy.

- **Complimentary services.** In addition to banking products, private banking often includes a suite of services that simplify day-to-day financial tasks and enhance security. These can range from transaction support to administrative services like notary and signature guarantees. Ongoing account reviews and fraud

monitoring are also common, helping clients stay informed and protected while maintaining efficient access to their finances.

- **How to choose a private banker.** When dealing with financial decisions, it is important to choose someone who is experienced and committed to knowing you and helping you achieve your financial goals. They should be dependable, knowledgeable and someone who will go the extra mile for you. This can mean taking a call at 8 p.m. to assist with a lost debit card on vacation or recommending the best pet daycare to a client who is new to the area — showing that your private banker is there for you.

To learn more about private banking services, talk to one of your bank’s private bankers or contact me. ■

This article is for informational purposes only and is not intended as legal, tax or investment advice. You should consult with qualified professional advisors regarding your own situation. Information provided by Rebecca Moomey, VP, Senior Private Banker, Bankers Trust, 1925 N. Ankeny Blvd., Ankeny.

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HVAC By Alex Messamer

BENEFITS of a maintenance program

Your HVAC system works hard year-round to keep your home comfortable. An HVAC maintenance program helps ensure your heating and cooling equipment operates efficiently, reliably and safely.

One of the biggest benefits of routine maintenance is lower energy costs. When your system is clean and properly adjusted, it doesn't have to work as hard to heat or cool your home. This can lead to noticeable savings on your utility bills.

Regular maintenance also helps prevent costly repairs. During scheduled inspections, technicians can identify small issues before they turn into major breakdowns.

Another advantage is extending the life of your equipment. HVAC systems are a significant investment, and routine service helps reduce wear and tear on critical components. Well-maintained systems often last several years longer than neglected ones.

Comfort is another important benefit. Maintenance helps improve airflow, temperature consistency, and overall system performance.

Many maintenance programs also include additional perks such as priority scheduling, discounted repairs and seasonal tune-ups. These benefits can provide extra value and peace of mind.

Finally, regular maintenance reduces the risk of unexpected breakdowns during extreme weather when you need your system most.

An HVAC maintenance program is a simple, affordable way to protect your investment, lower operating costs, and ensure reliable comfort. ■

Information provided by Alex Messamer, owner, Trade Allies Heating & Cooling, www.tradeallieshc.com, 515-669-4481.



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SENIOR By Kim Lawrence

CREATING connections and memories

Making meaningful social connections is important at every stage of life, especially as we grow older. Transitioning into a new setting can feel like a major change in life, but it can also become an exciting opportunity to build new friendships and enjoy new experiences.

Many older adults already have lifelong friendships and close family relationships that remain very important. However, meeting new people later in life can bring a renewed sense of purpose, companionship and enjoyment to everyday routines. There are often many opportunities to connect with others through shared meals, activities, hobbies, games, exercise classes or simple daily conversations.

Building friendships in a new environment may take time, but even small interactions can lead to meaningful relationships. Connecting with people who are experiencing similar stages of life can provide comfort, understanding and emotional support. These social interactions can also help reduce feelings of loneliness and encourage a more positive outlook overall.

Creating new friendships does not replace the relationships someone already has; it simply adds to the support system and sense of community around them. Some of life's most rewarding friendships are formed later in life, proving that new connections and meaningful experiences can happen at any age.

No matter where life takes you, there is always an opportunity to meet wonderful new people and create lasting memories along the way. ■

Information provided by Kim Lawrence, Leasing Counselor, Attivo Trail Ankeny, 1010 S.W. Magazine Road, Ankeny, www.attivotrail.com.



TIME TO consider a business retirement plan?

As a business owner, you think about the future. How can I boost sales next year? What trends should I watch? What is the industry forecast? There is one element of the future you might be overlooking: your retirement plan.

Consider these advantages of establishing one for your business:

- **Build resources for your retirement.** You might sell your business one day, but can you count on that to fund your retirement? By investing in a retirement plan for many years, you can help accumulate necessary resources to enjoy life as a retiree.
- **Help attract and retain employees.** You will want to employ all the advantages you can to attract and keep good employees — and a retirement plan can help.
- **Gain tax benefits.** Your contributions to a retirement plan — on behalf of yourself and your employees — can be tax deductible. Plus, you can get tax credits for starting a new plan.

Here are some retirement plans to consider.

- **Owner-only 401(k)** — This is available to self-employed individuals and business owners with no full-time employees other than themselves or a spouse. You may be able to choose a Roth account for making after-tax contributions that can grow tax free. In 2026, the combined employee and employer contribution limit is \$72,000, or \$80,000 for those 50 or older.
- **Personal defined benefit plan** — You can establish a pension plan, also known as a defined benefit plan, for yourself if you are self-employed or own your own business. For 2026, the annual defined pension benefit for a business owner cannot exceed the lesser of \$290,000 or 100% of their average compensation for the previous three highest consecutive calendar years.

- **SEP IRA** — If you have just a few employees or are self-employed with no employees, you may consider an SEP IRA. In 2026, your contribution limit is 25% of your salary or \$72,000, whichever is less. The percentage of your salary you contribute to your SEP IRA is the same percentage of your eligible employees' salaries you must contribute to their SEP IRAs.

- **SIMPLE IRA** — A SIMPLE IRA is easy to set up and maintain. While it may be advantageous for your employees, it is less generous to you, in terms of allowable contributions, than an owner-only 401(k) or a SEP IRA. In 2026, you could contribute up to \$17,000 to a SIMPLE IRA, or \$21,000 if you are 50 or older. You must put in 2% of your employees' salaries, regardless of whether they contribute, or match their contributions dollar for dollar, up to 3% of their salaries.

You can offer a Roth version of an SEP or SIMPLE IRA. Contributions are not deductible, but earnings and withdrawals are tax free, provided you (and your employees) are at least 59½ and have had your account at least five years.

Choosing the right retirement plan helps build long-term security for you and your team. By working with a qualified financial professional to create a strategy, you can support your business goals and help everyone prepare for a confident future. ■

Information provided by Graciela Van Wyk, Financial Advisor, 1255 N. Ankeny Blvd., Suite 102, Ankeny, IA 50023, 515-964-4404. This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor. Edward Jones, Member SIPC.



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YOUTH orchestra provides new opportunities

Ankeny String Music Initiative helps musicians thrive.



Ankeny String Music Initiative launched the Ankeny Youth Orchestra to provide opportunities for students who want to play with other young string musicians in the area.

A new organization in town, the Ankeny String Music Initiative, has launched the Ankeny Youth Orchestra to provide opportunities for students who want to play with other young string musicians in the area. Organizers Audrey McKenna, Allison Philson and Emily Head started the group in the summer of 2025, and it is wrapping up its first year.

“Since the Ankeny public schools do not have a string orchestra program, we were looking to fill this need for young string players and help foster more access and opportunities for young people wanting to play violin, viola, cello and string bass in Ankeny,” Philson says.

An essential part of learning an instrument is having opportunities to perform and listen to other musicians. Collaboration and competition encourage growth and inspire string students to practice and develop their skills. Additionally, making music with others is a lot of fun.

“It’s a place where string students can feel they belong and make friends with others who share similar interests. We believe the social aspect of playing in groups, ensembles and orchestras is essential to the growth and enjoyment of student string players.”

The Ankeny Youth Orchestra started with 11 students and currently has 18 students, ages 7-16, who performed their spring concert in April at the Ankeny Kirkendall Public Library. The conductor of the Ankeny Youth Orchestra is Philson, a licensed music teacher and local professional violinist.

Young string players looking to join the Ankeny Youth Orchestra can find registration information at www.ankenystringinitiative.org. Students must have completed at least six months of private lessons on their instrument and be entering grades 3-12.

The organization maintains a listing of local string teachers and can share their contact information, making it easier for families to find string educators. It also provides a listing of performance opportunities for string students.

Organizers share their vision for the program: “We believe that music creates a powerful sense of belonging, strengthens resilience in the face of adversity, and unites individuals across backgrounds and generations. We aim to establish a robust foundation for string education that fosters creativity, cultivates connections and uplifts the human spirit.” ■

SUMMER fun at the library

The Summer Library Program is in full swing, but you can still sign up at ankenyiowa.gov/read. We look forward to seeing you at a library event soon.

Ankeny Kirkendall Public Library
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www.ankenyiowa.gov/library
 Monday - Thursday: 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
 Friday and Saturday: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Sunday: 1-5 p.m.

Kids

• **Violin Story Time**, June 23 from 10-10:30 a.m., Ankeny Market Pavilion (715 W. First St.): Join us for a special story time featuring accompaniment by professional violinist Allison Philson.

• **Sing and Shake**, June 24 from 10 to 10:30 a.m., Ankeny Market Pavilion (715 W. First St.): We're taking Sing and Shake outside for the summer. Join us for singing, dancing and bubbles.



Young adults and adults (ages 16 and older)

• **YA Dystopian Series Kahoot Trivia**, June 23 from 6-7:30 p.m., Meeting Room A: Join us for an exciting trivia night where you can win fun prizes, spend time with fellow fans and test your knowledge of iconic dystopian book series such as "The Maze Runner" by James Dashner, "The Selection" by Kiera Cass, "Cinder" by Marissa Meyer, "Matched" by Ally Condie, "Divergent" by Veronica Roth, "The Hunger Games" by Suzanne Collins and more. You may participate as part of a team or as an individual. This event is for ages 16 and older. Registration is recommended.

• **Intro to DNA Genealogy**, June 27 from 1-2 p.m., Meeting Room A: This class will explore how DNA can be used for genealogy research. This program is sponsored by the Ankeny Genealogical Chapter.

SummerFest and library services

Ankeny SummerFest will return to The District this July. The library will remain open during regular hours; however, library services will be impacted from Sunday, July 5, through Monday, July 13.

The library's 24/7 outdoor book drop will be inaccessible beginning July 5. The parking lot will have limited access, with limited parking available near the east drive entrance. Curbside service will be available by calling 515-965-6460, option 3, for the circulation desk. No items will be due between July 5 and July 13.

Regular access to the library and the 24/7 outdoor book drop will return Monday, July 13. We appreciate your patience and understanding. This community event is not sponsored by the library. Questions may be directed to the Ankeny Chamber of Commerce. ■

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IN-HOME services

Living where you want to, with a little help

A few years ago, Jeanne Klock fell.

She had always had trouble with her knees, and she worried that a serious fall could force her to leave the home she loved. Like many older adults, Jeanne wanted to stay where she felt most comfortable, surrounded by her own belongings, routines and memories.

So, when she stumbled, her first thought was frightening: "Now I'll have to leave my home."

Jeanne's family knew how much staying home mattered to her, so they began looking for support that could help her remain independent without requiring a move. That search led them to in-home services, also known as non-medical assistance.

Today, Jeanne is living independently at 89 in her home near Des Moines. In-home services aides help keep her safe, assist with daily activities and provide companionship. "I like that they don't tell me what to do," Jeanne said.



"They make suggestions, but they are very kind. They would do anything for me."

That balance matters. In-home support is not about taking over. It is about helping people continue living on their own terms, with the right level of assistance.

An in-home services aide may help someone get ready in the morning, prepare meals, provide light housekeeping or go along to appointments. Some days may include errands, shopping or social outings. Other days may be quieter, with conversation, a good meal and help around the home.

"I help her get ready in the mornings, and some days we are pretty active, going here and there," said Wendy, one of Jeanne's aides. "I go with her to doctors' appointments, we go shopping — really anyplace she needs or wants to go. Some days, we take it slower."

In-home services are different from medical home health care. In most cases, they are not covered by insurance and are paid for by the client or family. Services vary by provider, but they often include help with cooking, light

housekeeping, laundry, errands, appointments, personal care, pet care, medication reminders and companionship.

When choosing an in-home services provider, families should ask how support is delivered, not just what tasks are offered. A good provider will take time to understand a person's routines, preferences, safety needs and goals before recommending a plan. Ask how aides are trained, supervised and matched with clients; whether schedules can change as needs change; and how the provider communicates with family members.

For Jeanne, the arrangement has helped her keep what matters most: Her home, her choices and her sense of independence.

"My things are here, and I'm comfortable here," she said. "I just need a little help. I think it should be up to a person where they choose to live." ■

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

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THINGS your pet wants you to know about grooming

Seven years ago, we brought home an adorable Persian kitten named Ludo. Suddenly, I found myself navigating something I'd never experienced before as a pet owner: routine grooming.



Like many pet owners, I quickly learned that grooming is much more than keeping pets looking cute; it is an important part of their health and comfort. But it is not always obvious when to start, which pets need professional grooming, or what we should be doing between appointments. Here are a few things I learned along the way.

- **Start early.** Introducing puppies and kittens to grooming as early as 8 to 12 weeks can help them become more comfortable with the sights, sounds and handling involved. Early positive experiences often make future grooming visits far less stressful for both pets and owners.

- **Different coats need different care.** One of the biggest surprises for many pet owners is

just how different grooming needs can be from breed to breed. While all pets benefit from regular brushing, bathing and nail trims, some coats require more maintenance to stay healthy and comfortable.

- **Long-haired and curly-coated pets,** like Persians, doodle breeds and Shih Tzus, can develop painful mats surprisingly quickly, especially behind the ears, under the collar, around the legs and underneath the body. In severe cases, the coat can become so tightly tangled against the skin that it must be shaved off in one piece, which can be uncomfortable and stressful for pets.

- **Double-coated breeds** like huskies, golden retrievers and Pomeranians have different needs. Their thick coats help naturally regulate body temperature, so routine brushing is better for their coat than shaving.

- **Grooming goes beyond appearance.** Routine grooming helps maintain healthy skin and coats, prevent painful matting, reduce shedding and hairballs and keep nails and paws healthy. Groomers may also notice skin problems, ear infections, parasites or lumps

earlier during the grooming process.

- **Reducing stress matters.** Many pets become anxious during grooming because of unfamiliar sounds, restraint or handling of sensitive areas. Fear free techniques like treats, breaks, gentle handling and allowing pets more freedom of movement can make a tremendous difference. Some pets may even benefit from anti-anxiety medications.

- **Brushing between appointments is still essential.** Professional grooming works best when combined with regular home care. Even a few minutes of brushing several times a week can help prevent mats, extend the life of the groom and keep your pet more comfortable. Don't hesitate to ask your groomer which brushes or combs are best for your pet's coat type.

When pet owners, groomers and veterinary teams work together, grooming becomes a much more positive experience for everyone. ■

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

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How long have you been a veterinarian?

I graduated from the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine in 1997 and have been practicing ever since.

Something about you not everyone knows?

I've played the flute for over 40 years and enjoy performing with community groups and ensembles.

What do you love most about the bond between pets and their people?

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I just got a new pet. What should I do next?

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FAITH By Pastor John Wagner

WHAT WE need

As our church prepared for vacation bible school, I remembered one of my favorite Bible stories. Perhaps, when you were a child at VBS, you heard about the miracle of Jesus feeding more than 5,000 people with only five loaves of bread and two fish. It is only a few verses after this story where Jesus shares the fullness of what He has to offer. (Feel free to read the full account in John 6:25-40.)



Jesus tells the people that they are looking for Him because He has fed them. He tries to explain that He is offering them something more valuable than just bread. The people ask for more miracles and signs. Jesus tells them that the real “bread” they are asking for comes from His Father in heaven. Then people cry out something like this:

“Give us this bread all the time!”

This is a good time to pause and reflect. This is not a rhetorical question. What is it that you need? Our answers may be things like rest, a new job, money for bills, good health, relationship mending, or simply food and shelter. If we dig even deeper, we might offer answers like meaning, purpose, belonging, vitality or feeling loved. Do we believe these are things that God knows, cares about, or is willing to offer us?

The people in the Bible story who are talking with Jesus reply to Him with something like, “If you have what we need, well then give it to us so that we can be filled.”

Jesus says to them, “I am the bread of life. The one who comes to me will never go hungry... Everyone whom the Father gives me will come to me, and the one who comes to me I will never send away... Now this is the will of the one who sent me — that I should not lose one person of every one He has given me, but raise them all up at the last day” (John 6:35-39).

I’m a pastor. I confess I’ve looked almost everywhere for meaning, purpose, fulfillment, contentment, peace . . . and, yes, sometimes those things are wrapped up in money, food, health or things for which I’m not even sure how to ask. I’ve learned and now believe deeply that God has what we actually need. If we are hurt, tired, lonely, lost or just plain hungry, Jesus says to us that HE is what we need. Re-read the previous paragraph. Jesus says that whoever comes to Him will not be hungry, will never be sent away, and will never be truly lost.

Jesus meets us and reminds us, today, that, if we go to God, God will not leave us hungry. God will not send us away. God will not lose any who call upon God’s name. I think this promise is true about “bread” and our desire to be known, loved and saved from ourselves and from a world that leaves us in a deficit rather than content and complete.

We all need God’s love. God promises love to you. Ask and receive. It’s what we need. ■

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

FLEXION-DISTRACTION: Relief for low back pain

Traction, in a variety of forms, has been used for centuries to relieve radiculopathy, sciatica and pain. One form of traction, originally called McManis Technique by the osteopathic profession, was later renamed and implemented by the chiropractic profession as Flexion-Distraction.

Research studies have proven that Flexion-Distraction of the lumbar spine decreases intradiscal pressure to -192 mmHg and can widen the spinal canal area where the nerves exit by up to 28%. Decreased intradiscal pressure is thought to improve tissue flow gradients, alter nociception (pain transmission) and allow retraction (recovery/repair) of prolapsed/herniated disc material. Widening the lateral canal (intervertebral foramen) where the nerves exit can alleviate nerve compression and irritation.

Flexion-Distraction is a hands-on technique that uses a specific type of hydraulic table. This technique allows the chiropractor to feel changes in muscle tension and vertebral movement. It takes many years of training to develop a feel for how much pressure to apply. Too little pressure and the tissue will not stretch enough to reabsorb the disc and open the spinal canal. Too much pressure and the patient could be sore.

Flexion-Distraction has been effective in treating disc bulge, disc herniation, degenerative disc disease, facet joint syndrome, sciatica, grade I and II spondylolisthesis, and some mild to moderate cases of central and lateral canal stenosis. For patients with an acute disc herniation, traditional manipulation might be much too aggressive at first, so Flexion-Distraction is oftentimes one of the only techniques that the patient may be able to tolerate.

I have been using Flexion-Distraction technique for the past 20 years. It is a skill I learned as a student intern at Palmer College of Chiropractic. I have found Flexion-Distraction technique to be invaluable in treating my patients suffering from pain. Using this conservative technique by itself or along with other therapies, I have found that my patients recover much faster than those who receive traditional chiropractic adjustments. We follow the 50% rule with our treatments. We want to see at least a 50% reduction in pain by the 12th treatment to justify continuing care with this technique. Fortunately, we often see 50% reduction of pain within the first six treatments.

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

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



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WELLNESS

By Dr. Stephanie Koos

ACNE is not just a teenage problem

June is Acne Awareness Month, making it the perfect time to shed light on a common misconception: Acne is not just a teenage problem. While acne often begins during adolescence due to hormonal changes associated with puberty, many adults, especially women, continue to struggle with breakouts well into their 30s, 40s, and even 50s.



Teenage acne typically appears in the T-zone (forehead, nose and chin) and is often driven by increased oil production. Adult acne, particularly in women, tends to be hormonal in nature and commonly appears along the jawline, chin and neck. Hormonal fluctuations associated with perimenopause, menopause, stress and certain medications can all contribute to persistent or late-onset acne.

The good news is that effective treatments are available. A customized skincare regimen using medical-grade products can help control oil production, reduce inflammation and prevent future breakouts. Monthly professional treatments such as facials and chemical peels can improve skin health by deeply cleansing pores, reducing congestion and promoting healthy cell turnover.

For those left with reminders of past breakouts, acne scars can also be treated. Microneedling stimulates collagen production to improve the appearance of shallow scars and uneven texture. More advanced treatments, such as ablative laser resurfacing, can improve deeper acne scarring.

Whether you're a teenager experiencing your first breakout or an adult dealing with hormonal acne, remember that acne is a medical condition — not a reflection of hygiene or self-care. With the right treatment plan, clearer, healthier skin is achievable at any age. ■

Provided by Dr. Stephanie Koos, RenuYou MedSpa, 1705 N. Ankeny Blvd., Suite B, Ankeny, www.renuyouaestheticsandbotox.com, 515-330-8900.

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PLAN AHEAD

By Buffy Peters

GRIEF and judgement

Do any of these sound familiar? “I shouldn't feel...” “I can't be angry...” “This is going to sound strange...” “I feel so weak...”

Do you know what I hear when I hear these statements made by people who are grieving?

Self-judgement. Perhaps reading the title, you thought I was referring to the judgement of others on those grieving. Certainly, that is something most grievors face at some point, but I want to talk about self-judgement. We don't have control of others' judgements, but, with awareness and intention, we do have power over our own.

Self-judgement makes our grief more difficult because we are self-imposing restrictions on the naturally occurring responses for the loss we have endured. Some of these responses may not feel natural and normal, but they are. It is important to remember that feelings aren't necessarily facts but can give us information about what our hearts need tending to. It can take time for our heads and our hearts to come to a place of agreement. And, sometimes, they never do, and that is OK.

Validating our own losses is a powerful tool in our coping-with-grief toolbox. When you have a judgmental thought, take a deep breath and tune into the feeling. Allow the feeling to exist as it is instead of dismissing it with a “I shouldn't feel this way.” See what it has to tell you instead. You can learn a lot when you listen to what feelings are trying to teach you. ■



Information provided by Buffy Peters, Director of Hamilton's Academy of Grief & Loss, 3601 Westown Parkway, West Des Moines, IA 50266, 515-697-3666, www.HamiltonsFuneralHome.com/academy-of-grief-and-loss.

WHAT IS the role of an executor?

The executor is the person named in a last will and testament who bears the responsibility of finalizing a deceased person's estate. If you have been nominated as an executor, there are certain critical things you need to do.



who may think they are entitled to money, creditors and more. Brace yourself for potential conflict. You have to manage the emotions and expectations of heirs. Some may resent your authority. Some may question why you were named as executor. Some may just be desperate for money and not understand that the process takes time.

File the paperwork

Merely being named as the executor in a last will and testament isn't enough. You have to file the will with the probate court and obtain a court order and letters of appointment (letters testamentary) to be vested with the authority to act on behalf of the estate. Make sure you go through the proper legal channels to guarantee you have the power to carry out your role.

Know your role

The executor's job is to carry out the decedent's wishes outlined in the will. There is a reason the will writer named you. Your job is to ensure the estate is distributed correctly and that the decedent's affairs are wrapped up. You want to do it efficiently and correctly, but you also want to honor the decedent's wishes.

Get organized

You should take immediate steps to safeguard property. Secure the residence and take valuables to a safe place. Get all of the information you can on assets: bank records, investment information, life insurance policies, etc. Because being an executor is such an involved job, you should keep records of all of your work. Make a spreadsheet of assets and liabilities, keep meticulous records, and make a checklist of action items.

Hire an attorney

The process of probate is not one that can be navigated alone. You need to have legal representation and advice to ensure you follow the law. There are statutes regarding notification of heirs, timelines for disposing of property and tax matters to handle. You don't have to do this job alone. Partner with an experienced probate attorney to help you. ■

Get ready to rumble

You will need to communicate with many people: heirs, beneficiaries, family members

Information provided by Ross Barnett, Abendroth Russell Barnett Law Firm, 2560 73rd St., Urbandale, 515-278-0623, www.ARPCLaw.com.

WHERE TO BEGIN?

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'JINGLE in July'



As chair of the 2026 Ankeny Chamber SummerFest, it is my privilege to help lead one of our community's most cherished traditions. SummerFest is more than a festival. It is a celebration of the people, businesses, organizations and volunteers who make Ankeny such a special place to live, work and raise a family.

For me, this role carries special meaning. As a lifelong Ankeny resident, I have experienced SummerFest from nearly every perspective: as a child attending with friends, as a young adult creating lasting memories, as a local business owner supporting the community, and now as a parent sharing the experience with my own children. Those experiences have given me a deep appreciation for the role SummerFest plays in bringing our community together year after year.

Today, my wife, Laura, and I are proud to raise our family and operate our businesses here in Ankeny. As co-owner of Gebauer Enterprises and Gimmie's Mobile Golf, I have the opportunity to work alongside local businesses, organizations and community leaders who are invested in making our city stronger every day. Through both my professional and personal experiences, I have witnessed firsthand the incredible spirit that continues to drive Ankeny's growth and success.

SummerFest embodies everything that makes Ankeny special. It brings together residents, visitors, volunteers, sponsors, community organizations and local businesses for a celebration that reflects the very best of our community.

While SummerFest has evolved over the years, including a move to a new location, the heart of the event has never changed. The traditions, connections and sense of community that generations of families have come to cherish remain as strong as ever. In many ways, the new location has created opportunities for the event to continue growing while preserving the experiences and memories that make SummerFest such an important part of Ankeny's identity.

The event would not be possible without the dedication of countless volunteers and the generous support of our sponsors and community partners. Their commitment helps ensure that SummerFest continues to thrive while remaining true to the values that have made it a beloved community tradition for decades.

As chair, my goal is simple: honor the legacy of Ankeny Chamber SummerFest while helping create new memories for future generations. On behalf of the Ankeny Area Chamber of Commerce and the entire SummerFest Committee, thank you for your continued support. We look forward to welcoming you to another unforgettable SummerFest and celebrating the community we are proud to call home. ■

Information provided by Cody Gebauer, 2026 Ankeny Chamber SummerFest Chair and Ankeny Chamber Board Member.



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1360 SW Park Square Dr, Suite 106
(515) 964-0685 | www.ankeny.org



View Our Calendar for All Events & Details

Cattes & Leads

23 June | **7:30 - 9:00 AM**
ANANI SALON AND SPA
2505 S.W. White Birch Dr., Ste. G

Join Us for Coffee & Connections While Enjoying Complimentary Samples Of Spa Services!

There Will Be A Drawing For A \$50 GIFT CARD!



ANANI SALON AND SPA





AYP: AFTER HOURS
Thursday, July 9th
5:00 - 7:00 PM
1510 S Ankeny Blvd
Suite 107/108



July 10-12, 2026

ANKENY CHAMBER Jingle in July

SUMMER-FEST

Presented by 

Platinum Sponsors:  

The District At Prairie Trail - Ankeny, IA
www.ankenysummerfest.com

Save the Date!

Multicultural Business Summit

Tuesday, September 15, 2026 @ 8AM-1PM
Held at the Courtyard Marriott Ankeny
2405 SE Creekview Dr, Ankeny

INVESTOR MEMBERS







PREMIER MEMBERS


















RESIDENTS' Choice

Businesses receive their Ankeny/Northern Polk County Residents' Choice certificates.



Aaliza Myers, Nick Worley, Mayra Worley and Brandon Richardson of Nick's Painting Plus



Andrew Bales, Shelby Smith, Tiara Musel, Tammy Gray, Mark Gray, Brooke Fry, Alexandria Greim and Hannan Huls of Mark Gray Law



Paige Snaadt of Lux Salon Studio



Dave Eisentrager at Fareway-North



Mallory Halverson of Suites of Ankeny



Mindy Green of Carmen's Flowers



Dave Wisecup and Cody Short at Fareway-South



Lindsey Monthei, Russ Sampson and Katrina Lemke of Earl May Garden and Nursery



Jenn Stoermer and Shelley Starr at Shear Style Salon



Aaron Scibona at Uptown Dairy



Erika Sedgwick at Cabaret Sports Bar & Grille



Dr. Stephanie Kooos at RenuYou Aesthetics & MedSpa



Kody Salzkorn at Cabaret Sports Bar & Grille

OUT & ABOUT



Martha Cordova, Hazel Ayala and Erika Zarate, Central Iowa Orthodontics, at the Residents' Choice Celebration of Winners event held May 20 at District 36 Wine Bar & Grille.



Beth Snyder and Teresa Nefzger, Tweedle Dee's, at the Residents' Choice Celebration of Winners event held May 20 at District 36 Wine Bar & Grille.



Shaleah and Alex Messamer, Trade Allies Heating and Cooling, at the Residents' Choice Celebration of Winners event held May 20 at District 36 Wine Bar & Grille.



Sam Mitchel, Ankeny Kirkendall Public Library, at the Residents' Choice Celebration of Winners event held May 20 at District 36 Wine Bar & Grille.



Kevin Boyler, Boyler Chiropractic, at the Residents' Choice Celebration of Winners event held May 20 at District 36 Wine Bar & Grille.



Front: Ben Bentil, Madison Schuessler, Will Boettcher. Back: Bob Naylor, Dawson Murray, Heath Naylor, Seth Naylor, Ross Naylor, Brandon Polito and Jonny Bentil at the Residents' Choice Celebration of Winners event held May 20 at District 36 Wine Bar & Grille.



GreenState Credit Union, 2610 S.W. White Birch Drive, Ankeny, held a ribbon cutting on May 6 with the Ankeny Area Chamber of Commerce.



Premier Credit Union, 1430 Tradition Drive S.W., Ankeny, held a ribbon cutting ceremony on May 8 with the Ankeny Area Chamber of Commerce.



Realtor Kate Florer, with Legacy Realty of Iowa, 2425 N. Ankeny Blvd., Ankeny, held a ribbon cutting on May 11 with the Ankeny Area Chamber of Commerce.



Gary Zuck, Tami Zuck, Russ Hanson, Lori Walljasper and Don Zuck at the Ankeny Arts Festival in Uptown Ankeny on May 16.



2026
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Guide



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