

# BONDURANT *Living Weekly*

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## PREPARATION UNDERWAY FOR PROPOSED DOG PARK

Bondurant has been awarded the Rural Innovation Grant for the City’s proposed dog park — the final piece that was needed to make this project happen. The Bondurant Dog Park Committee has been working to raise funds that provided the match for the grant. The 2013 Park, Trail, and Greenway Master Plan identifies the need for a community dog park, as no such park amenity currently exists in Bondurant.

In 2019, community members joined forces to form a Dog Park Committee to fundraise for a dog park. First, the volunteer group collaborated with the local school district to involve the students in designing a Bondurant Dog Park Committee logo to begin awareness. Then began fundraising by placing donations boxes at local businesses, hosting social media campaigns



seeking Venmo/GoFundMe donations, selling window clings, participating in different events throughout the community, and soliciting companies and organizations for support.

As 2022 starts, keep an eye out for new Bondurant Dog Park Committee fundraising efforts and be sure to celebrate their success.

The City will partner with the Bondurant-Farrar Community School District through its industrial shop class and art class to engage high school youth in designing and constructing the proposed dog park amenities. Amenities include but are not limited to tire jumps, flexible pole weaves, adjustable bar jumps, ramps, decorative fire hydrants and garbage cans.

The dog park will be located at Lake Petocka Park near the south shelter in Bondurant. The park will be placed adjacent to the regional Chichaqua Valley Trail, making it easy for nearby residents to walk their dogs to the park.

Once all dog park improvement components have been completed, the Bondurant Dog Park Committee will help to organize a ribbon-cutting event in or before June 2023. ■

### BONDURANT WEATHER FORECAST

**WEDNESDAY HIGH 31 | LOW 15**  
Partly sunny 

**THURSDAY HIGH 23 | LOW 9**  
Cold with 2”-4” of snow 

**FRIDAY HIGH 27 | LOW 3**  
Partly sunny, breezy and cold 

**SATURDAY HIGH 27 | LOW 22**  
Mostly sunny and cold 

**SUNDAY HIGH 48 | LOW 34**  
Mostly sunny and mild 

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FROM THE PUBLISHER

# LET'S FORGET ABOUT THIS CALL

Jim Croce asked for help from a telephone operator to place a call in his 1972 hit song "Operator (That's Not the Way It Feels)." And in 1972, using a telephone operator for assistance was common. But what about today? When was the last time you spoke with an operator? Even the term operator seems antiquated now. Sounds more like a surgeon.

Do you remember when 1-800 numbers became mainstream? They launched in 1967, according to ringcentral.com, with a goal to cut down on labor-intensive collect calls that often required live operators. By the 1980s, every company seemingly had a 1-800 number, and my childhood buddies and I enjoyed dialing as many of them as we possibly could. We spent countless hours searching for and calling the 1-800 numbers on household products and telling the company representatives that we were doing a science fair project and were wondering if they would

send us some free samples. We then provided our friend Dave's name and address. His parents' mailbox overflowed with samples and promotional materials every day, leaving his mother to wonder what in the world was going on. I can't remember my own zip code today, but I can tell you Dave's exact and complete home mailing address.

The practical jokes intensified. Most every TV infomercial back then had a heavily promoted 1-800 number to call and order products and have them shipped COD (cash on delivery). No pre-payment or credit cards were required, and there was no ability (that we knew of then) to track where the orders came from. So, the orders to Dave's home started. Ginsu knives. Armourcote pots and pans. The Pocket Fisherman. Chia Pet. Mr. Microphone. But wait, there's more. The Egg Scrambler. Time Life books. The Abdominizer. The Thighmaster. And a wide



assortment of feminine hygiene products, gold coin collections and K-tel Records. We thought it was funny. Dave's mother didn't.

I realize now that ordering these types of products under another person's name is illegal, immoral and some other things that start with an "i." I am also not sure if a statute of limitations applies, so let me be clear: I was appalled that my friends Ian, Tommy and Mark would engage in such activity.

With that in mind, I close this column with the words of Jim Croce: "Oh, operator, let's forget about this call. There's no one there I really wanted to talk to. Thank you for your time. Oh, you've been so much more than kind. You can keep the dime."

Have a great week, and thanks for reading.

## Shane Goodman

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# MAYOR RECOGNIZED AS 2021 SMALL TOWN AMERICA CIVIC VOLUNTEER

Mayor Curt Sullivan was chosen as a Top 100 national winner of the 2021 Small Town America Civic Volunteer Award. He was selected from nearly 700 nominations in 49 states. Mayor Sullivan's service to the Bondurant community is an inspiration to all.

Mayor Sullivan began his service to Bondurant on the Planning and Zoning Commission and later served on the City Council and then as Mayor. He successfully guided Bondurant through exponential growth without losing its personality and hometown feel. (The City doubled in size between 2000 and 2010 census and again between 2010 and 2020.) He also guided the City through three disasters (a flood and tornado in 2018 and a derecho in 2020), relying on his background in emergency management planning. The City's response to each of these disasters and the actions taken to plan for and prevent future disasters has been celebrated throughout the community and professional circles.

Mayor Sullivan is thoughtful in facilitating council meetings,

ensuring everyone has a chance to speak on various topics. He is also strategic in collaborating with staff on long-term planning efforts, including two comprehensive plans, a corridor master plan, a regional commercial master plan (winning an American Planning Association Award), and a City Park master plan.

Mayor Sullivan represents Bondurant on numerous regional boards. The Mayor has been active in overseeing the City's economic development efforts that have generated a 330% increase in the City's commercial and industrial valuation over the past four years. Bondurant's work has been effective in attracting two projects from Amazon and multiple other regional and national companies. The Mayor is an excellent spokesperson for the City and welcomed the Governor recently, who was in Bondurant to celebrate the City's accomplishment of a Certified Site. (Certified Site



is a program through the State where the property can become development-ready certified.)

Under the Mayor's leadership, the City of Bondurant has grown significantly, both in valuation and population. Through these efforts, Bondurant has lowered the levy rate by more than \$2.47 over the past three years. For the average property owner, this means that the homeowner is paying \$123.20 less in property taxes than three years ago, even though the home value has increased more than 17%. As a result, Bondurant has gone from having one of the highest levy rates in the region to having a rate of \$1.12344, which is lower than the average metropolitan rate.

The City of Bondurant has also been highly successful in securing outside funding to leverage large capital projects. During the past four years of the Mayor's term, Bondurant has secured more than \$14 million in outside funding, using large grants to assist with the \$51.7 million capital investment the City made during the same timeframe. ■

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## MAUNDY THURSDAY MEAL

Bondurant Christian Church, 304 Grant St. South, is hosting a Maundy Thursday meal of soup and sandwiches with a special church service to follow on April 14. The meal will start at 6 p.m., and the service will start at 6:45 p.m. For information, call 515-967-2328. ■

## MEMBER SOUGHT FOR LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Library Board of Trustees is seeking a member. The new board member will need to be a male and live within the city limits of Bondurant. Interested parties should contact the Library Director at [jills@bondurant.lib.ia.us](mailto:jills@bondurant.lib.ia.us). Members must be older than 18. All appointments to the Board are for six years. There is no compensation to serve on the board. An application is available on the City website, [www.cityofbondurant.com](http://www.cityofbondurant.com). Also provide a professional resume and cover letter. ■

## 4-H BABYSITTING BASICS CLASS OFFERED

All students in fifth grade and above are invited to attend the 4-H babysitting course to be held Friday, March 11, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Babysitting is an important job and can sometimes be scary. Come learn the skills to do a good job. Register online at <https://tinyurl.com/y42cwu4j>. ■

## FUNDRAISING TO BEAT CHILDHOOD CANCER

A St. Baldrick's fundraiser is being held to raise funds to help put an end to childhood cancer on Saturday, April 9, 5 p.m., at Bondurant Auto Body, 1002 Second St., Bondurant. Whether you decide to shave your head, volunteer to raise money another way, or make a donation, you are invited to help give kids with cancer the long, healthy lives they deserve. ■

## SPRING BREAK FAMILY ESCAPE ROOM

The Bondurant Community Library, 104 Second St. N.E., is holding a Family Escape Room during spring break, Friday, March 11, to Friday, March 18. Click on the sign up genius link to sign up for a spot in the Spring Break Family Escape Room. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904044AA8AF29A3FF2-springbreak> ■

## PRESCRIPTION DRUG DROP SITE

Bondurant City Hall offers a drug drop site during business hours. Items that are accepted are prescription medications in the form of a pill, ointment, cream, powder, inhaler, nebulizer solution, liquid medication, prescription vitamins and supplements, as well as pet medications. Liquid items must be sealed in a zippered bag before placing them into the dropbox. Absolutely no syringes, infectious waste, thermometers, aerosol cans, hydrogen peroxide or rubbing alcohol. ■

## POT O' GOLD SCAVENGER HUNT

Stop in the Bondurant Community Library, 104 Second St. N.E., on St. Patrick's Day, Thursday, March 17, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., and see if you can follow the clues to find the pot of gold in a scavenger hunt. Don't forget to wear your green. ■

## SIGN UP FOR EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS AND TEXT ALERTS

The City of Bondurant offers text alerts. Subscribe to either email notifications or text alerts (or both) at <https://www.cityofbondurant.com/home/pages/sign-email-notifications-text-alerts>. ■

# POLK COUNTY CONSERVATION EVENTS

## STORY TELLEBRATION

### Jester Park Nature Center

Join storyteller Carmen Epstein for a free, fun, interactive tale tailored toward children ages 2 to 6 that explores the wonders of the outdoors. During each program, participants enjoy interactive stories and an activity. Registration required two days before event. Register online at <https://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/conservation/>.

Topics are:

- Wednesday, March 9, 10 a.m. Spring has Sprung
- Wednesday, April 13, 10 a.m. Rain is Raining All Around



## HOMESCHOOL - NATURE LESSONS

### Jester Park Nature Center

Join the learning for free at the Jester Park Nature Center. This program series will be delivered in a flexible format that is specially designed for homeschool students in grades K-5. These programs will immerse children and parents in the natural world and drive them to learn, discover and appreciate our environment. Registration required two days before event. Register online at <https://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/conservation/>. Topics are:

- March 25 - 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Water Explorations
- April 1 - 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Protecting our Waters
- April 8 - 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Artistic Naturalists



## KNEE-HIGH NATURALISTS

### Jester Park

Are you ready to get outside and explore? Come and hear a story followed by some outdoor fun. As naturalists, participants will hike, investigate, and navigate through the trails and grounds of Jester Park as they learn what makes the outdoors such an amazing place. Come dressed to be outside. Registration required the day before this free event recommended for ages 3-6. Register online at <https://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/conservation/>. Topics are:

- March 16, 10 a.m. - Seasons
- April 20, 10 a.m. - Birds



## CRITTER CLUB

### Jester Park Nature Center

Come visit Jester Park Nature Center's resident turtles, snakes and salamanders to learn about these misunderstood animals. You may even get to touch a turtle or snake. This is an open house program, so come anytime between 1-2:30 p.m. No registration required for this free event, offered March 16. ■



## EVENTS IN THE AREA

EMAIL YOUR EVENT INFORMATION TO  
TAMMY@IOWALIVINGMAGAZINES.COM

## DES MOINES PERFORMING ARTS

Des Moines Civic Center/Cowles Commons/Stoner  
Theater – 221 Walnut St.

Temple Theater – 1011 Locust St.

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

- **March 4-13:** “Anon(ymous)” at the Stoner Theater.

- **March 11-12:** “Rent”

at the Des Moines Civic  
Center - Willis Broadway  
Series.

- **Saturday, March 12:**

“Baby Boomer Comedy Show” at the Temple Theater.

- **Tuesday, March 15:** “Disney Princess - The

Concert” at the Des Moines Civic Center.

- **Friday-Saturday, March 18-19:** Comedy

XPeriment at the Stoner Theater.

- **March 22-27:** “Hadestown” at the Des Moines Civic

Center - Willis Broadway Series.

- **Saturday, March 26:** “Doodle POP” at the Temple

Theater - Wellmark Family Series.

- **Tuesday, March 29:** “Madagascar The Musical

Live!” at the Des Moines Civic Center.

## COMEDY

- **Thursday, March 10:** Mick Foley

at Funny Bone, 560 S. Prairie View  
Drive, Suite 100, Des Moines; [www.  
desmoines.funnybone.com](http://www.desmoines.funnybone.com).

## MANDALAS &amp; HENNA ART CLASS

Sunday, March 13, 12:30-3:30 p.m.

Principal Studio 5, Des Moines Art Center, 5700  
Grand Ave.

Explore traditional mandala and henna patterns while learning about the history of art in India. From medieval times to the present day, students will be exposed to examples of traditional mandala and henna patterns, rangoli, lettering and paintings. Tuition is \$30 (\$24 for members), and the material fee is \$25. To register, visit <https://my.desmoinesartcenter.org/12466/12468>.

## ST. PATRICK’S DAY PARADE

Thursday, March 17, noon

Downtown Des Moines

The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick are staging their annual parade in downtown Des Moines, beginning at noon, starting at 15th Street and Grand Avenue, heading east to Eighth Street. New this year is a Block Party at 13th and Grand, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Your \$5 admission gets you access to watch the parade, food trucks, live music, a beer tent and more. More information is available at [www.friendlysonsiowa.com](http://www.friendlysonsiowa.com).

## AN EVENING OF CELTIC MUSIC

March 12, 7 p.m.

Windsor Presbyterian Church, 6301 University Ave.,  
Windsor Heights

Crossroads of Iowa presents “ClearJoy Music: An Evening of Celtic Music.” Admission is free. A freewill offering will be accepted to support Crossroads of Iowa programs. ClearJoy is a musical collaboration of two sisters specializing in Celtic and Scottish music. Crossroads is a not-for-profit organization offering programs for women, including those in jail or prison, with a focus on mental wellness using a holistic approach.

## JURASSIC QUEST

Friday and Saturday, March 11-12, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.;

Sunday, March 13, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Iowa Events Center, 730 Third St., Des Moines

Tickets are available online at <https://www.jurassicquest.com/events/des-moines-ia> and cost \$22 for kids and adults and \$19 for seniors. Ticket for unlimited rides for kids is \$36, which includes entry. General admission includes live shows, arts and crafts activities, dinosaur and marine exhibits. Tickets for individual and premium activities will be available on-site (from \$6). Off peak hours are weekdays (all day) and weekends after 3 p.m. Free entry for children younger than 2. ■

RECIPE

# STEP INTO SPRING WITH A SWEET, FRESH MEAL



*(Family Features)* As the weather turns the corner and temperatures rise, opportunities for dining outdoors and soaking up the sunshine abound. Patio meals often mean fresh flavors, making spring a perfect time for heading outside with your favorite seasonal dishes.

The freshness of Texas 1015 Sweet Onions is an ideal starting point for recipes that heighten the enjoyment of al fresco dining. As the first spring sweet onion of the season, they're harvested and packed fresh, meaning they're never stored. Plus, with no burning sensation when you cut them, you can skip the tears for more enjoyable meal prep.

It's a versatile veggie that can be grilled, roasted, eaten fresh or caramelized for delightful recipes like this Flatbread with Caramelized Onions, Bacon and Arugula. Find more recipes to celebrate spring at [tx1015.com](http://tx1015.com). ■

## FLATBREAD WITH CARAMELIZED ONIONS, BACON AND ARUGULA

*Recipe courtesy of South Texas Onions*

**Servings:** 2-3

1 tablespoon butter  
1/2 tablespoon olive oil  
1 large sweet onion, sliced  
1/2 teaspoon balsamic vinegar  
1 naan flatbread (rectangular shape)  
1 cup cheddar cheese, shredded  
1 cup fontina cheese, shredded  
4 slices bacon  
arugula  
olive oil (optional)  
lemon juice (optional)

**To make caramelized onions:** In pan over medium-high heat, heat butter and olive oil. Add onions and let sit about five minutes. Once onions start sweating, turn heat to low and cover pan. Cook onions to deep golden brown, stirring every 10-15 minutes. With 10 minutes left, stir in balsamic vinegar.

**To make flatbread:** Preheat oven to 425 F.

On flatbread, layer cheese, bacon and caramelized onions. Bake 13-15 minutes, or until cheese is bubbly and edges are golden brown.

Toss arugula with olive oil and lemon juice, if desired, before placing on flatbread.

# FILM REVIEWS By Michael C. Woody

## 'MOONFALL'

This is a dreadful film, starring Halle Berry and Patrick Wilson, about an issue with our moon and how, or if, it can be fixed. I found myself wishing that it couldn't so I could leave the theater sooner. This one will end up as one of the worst movies of 2022.

**Grade: D**



"Moonfall"

## 'HOME TEAM'

Kevin James plays real-life NFL head coach Sean Payton who was suspended by the NFL. He ended up home and helping to coach his son's football team. Crazy hijinks follow. It is stupid and silly but still has a certain harmless charm.

**Grade: B-**



"Home Team"

## 'BLACKLIGHT'

The annual shoot 'em up, beat 'em up from Liam Neeson, this time about a former FBI agent trying to track down bad guys inside the agency. If you like these types of movies, this one is slightly above average.

**Grade: B**



"Blacklight"

## 'DEATH ON THE NILE'

I'm on record for not being a fan of the type of mysteries where anyone and everyone could be guilty. I find them to be manipulative. Like the 1978 version, this has an all-star cast led by Kenneth Branagh (who also directs), Annette Bening, Armie Hammer and Gal Godot. If you are a fan of Agatha Christie, you will like it.

**Grade: B ■**



"Death on the Nile"

*Michael C. Woody has been reviewing movies on radio and television since 1986 and can be heard talking movies every Wednesday afternoon at 2:30 p.m. on KXn0 106.3 with Keith Murphy and Andy Fales. You can also follow him on Twitter at MrMovieDSM.*



# CLASSIFIED ADS

**LOOKING TO BUY:** Vinyl Records. Will pay cash for your 60s, 70s and 80s rock as well as jazz and blues. Please call Brian at 515-326-5033.

**FOR SALE:** Three wheel double baby/toddler Stroller. \$35. Call or text for photos. 515-238-3198.

**FOR SALE:** 2005 Saturn Relay FWD. Gold with Gold leather interior. Fully loaded/Quad seating/Multi Disk CD player/DVD. 213,000 miles. Asking \$750. Call 515-238-3198. Located 5 miles from Grimes.

**BABY BED FOR SALE:** Has changing table on one end, 5 drawers for storage. Well Built. Needs a home to put it to use. Call 515-238-3198.

**BUNK BEDS FOR SALE:** Twin bottom/single top. Really nice. \$200 takes them away to a usable home. Text or call 515-238-3198 and I can return photos for viewing.

**WANTED:** Broken appliances & A.C.'s, 10 years old & under, repair hopefuls. Call 515-238-3343.

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Contact Aaron Burns at [aaron@iowalivingmagazines.com](mailto:aaron@iowalivingmagazines.com)

## JOKE OF THE WEEK



*I found a wooden shoe in my toilet today.*

*It was clogged!!!*