

WAUKEE *Living Weekly*

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HOLMES MURPHY COLLECTS FOR UKRAINE

Holmes Murphy, a Waukees-based company, has a particular personal tie to Ukraine and is showing its support for those who need it most on the other side of the world. The company held a special event to collect essentials and cash donations for Ukraine, particularly for Cherkasy, a city roughly the size of Des Moines along the shores of the Dnieper River in the central part of the country. Cherkasy is near the native home of Nataliya Boychenko Stone, a client executive – team lead in the Employee Benefits division of Holmes Murphy.

“This is what we do at Holmes Murphy. We care for our clients, and we care for each other,” said Stephani Manning, senior vice president of Innovative Captive Strategies, a Holmes Murphy subsidiary company. “We have all



Lewis Vander Waal and Joe Langel

seen the devastation taking place in Ukraine, and it is deeply upsetting. When we see this happening to the home of someone we are close to and work with on a daily basis, it adds a whole other level.”

Manning, the leader of Holmes Murphy’s Women Optimizing Women (WOW) group, facilitated the event after collaborating with

UKRAINE, CONTINUED ON BACK

WAUKEE WEATHER FORECAST

FRIDAY HIGH 40 | LOW 27
Morning flurries, cloudy



SATURDAY HIGH 52 | LOW 32
Mostly sunny and warmer



SUNDAY HIGH 59 | LOW 42
Breezy in the morning



MONDAY HIGH 60 | LOW 41
Afternoon showers



TUESDAY HIGH 62 | LOW 52
Showers and thunderstorms



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FROM THE PUBLISHER

CEMENTED IN MY BRAIN

As a teenager, I worked after school at a concrete statuary in my hometown of Algona. My boss was Dennis Meyer, who now owns and operates a statuary here in central Iowa called Created in Johnston and is a close friend.

On my way to work one day, while running late, I passed a school bus that was slowing down. The school bus driver finished his route and then stopped by the statuary to talk with Dennis' father and business partner, Amos, who, as I learned later, had also driven a school bus at one point in his life. The conversation we soon had was not pleasant, but it was a life-changer for me. Amos made it clear, in no uncertain terms, that I would no longer be employed there if he ever heard of me passing a school bus again. I tried to awkwardly explain that the bus had not stopped yet, but that didn't matter. The conversation was stern and short.

After Amos left, Dennis softened the blow a bit, but he

was also firm in his delivery. He told me he didn't expect me to ever be late and that I should plan my time better. But if I am running late, he said, don't ever pass a school bus that is slowing down or stopped. Ever.

I don't know who that school bus driver was, but I appreciate how he handled the situation. He could have reported me to the police. He could have called my parents. He could have personally chewed me out. But he knew that the wrath of the Meyers would be penalty enough. And it was.

I grew up in town, so I didn't ride the school bus. As a result, I didn't understand the issues and hazards bus drivers had to deal with then or today. Now, as a father of three daughters who all rode the bus, I know what kind of an impact a driver can have on an anxious and apprehensive youngster. My adult children still



speak fondly of their bus drivers.

I shared this memory with Dennis in recent years, and he offered his trademark ear-to-ear smile and said, "I hope you learned something." I did. Ever since that day as a teenager, when I see a school bus, I slow down way sooner than I need to, and I stop and patiently wait, offering a friendly wave and a smile to the driver and the kids.

Driving a school bus is not easy work, and drivers are getting more and more difficult to find. The last thing they need are impatient drivers of any age zipping by them. The Meyers — the concrete statuary owners — made that clear. It is cemented in my brain now.

Have a great week, and thanks for reading.

Shane Goodman

President and
Publisher

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



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A publication of Big Green Umbrella Media, Inc.
8101 Birchwood Court, Suite, D, Johnston, IA 50131
www.iowalivingmagazines.com



News contact

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



Advertising contact

Martha Munro
515-321-5246
martha@iowalivingmagazines.com

WAUKEE AREA CHRISTIAN SERVICES BEGINS OFFERING CLOTHING

For the past 16 years, Waukee Area Christian Services (WACS) has been meeting food, medical and other needs in Dallas County. Thanks to a recent merger, this week the organization has begun meeting children's clothing needs, too.

When the leadership of Dallas County Closet decided to retire after several years of operation, WACS agreed to merge the closet into its operation at 1155 S.E. Boone Drive in Waukee. The merger was effective on April 1.

"We've been working with WACS for years, sharing resources and referring clients," explained Ruth Heithoff, former president of the Dallas County Closet. "To combine the ability to shop for food and clothing under one roof makes sense for everyone."

WACS Executive Director Melissa Stimple said, "We're grateful to provide this additional service." She explained that the clothing closet offered by WACS will give their clients direct and discreet access to needed clothing free of charge.

Initially, the clothing closet will offer children and tween sizes 4-16 only as those are the sizes that have historically been in highest demand. Stimple said it has been shown that students wearing suitable clothing are able to focus on their schoolwork without feeling self-conscious about their lack of clean or well-fitting clothes.

Other food pantry wrap-around services offered by WACS include basic hygiene products, medical care, emergency financial assistance, the Dwelling Place stable housing program, case management, client assistance with outside services and seasonal bonus programs. WACS also shares facilities with the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program.

On April 29, the community will come together to celebrate the merging of the two nonprofit organizations during WACS' 2022 Creating Connections Gala fundraiser. Founders and key leaders of the Dallas Clothing Closet will be honored and recognition given to board members, donors and volunteers who made the organization a large success.

For more information, contact Melissa Stimple at 515-987-5523 or melissa@waukeechristianservices.org. ■

SPORTS SCHEDULES

WAUKEE:

Friday, April 8

9 a.m. **Tennis:** Girls Varsity
Invitational @ Johnston

Saturday, April 9

8 a.m. **Track:** Boys Varsity @
Elwood Olsen Stadium

9 a.m. **Tennis:** Boys Varsity
Invitational @ Johnston

11 a.m. **Track:** Girls Varsity
Invitational @ Valley

Monday, April 11

4:30 p.m. **Track:** Boys Varsity
Invitational @ Valley

4:30 p.m. **Track:** Boys Varsity
Invitational @ Fort Dodge

WAUKEE NORTHWEST:

Friday, April 8

4 p.m. **Tennis:** Boys JV/Varsity vs.
Des Moines Roosevelt

4:45 p.m. **Soccer:** Boys JV2 vs. Des
Moines Roosevelt

6 p.m. **Soccer:** Boys JV1 vs. Des
Moines Roosevelt

7:30 p.m. **Soccer:** Boys Varsity vs. Des
Moines Roosevelt

Saturday, April 9

9:30 a.m. **Soccer:** Girls JV1 vs. Iowa
City West

11 a.m. **Soccer:** Girls Varsity vs.
Iowa City West

11 a.m. **Track:** Girls JV/Varsity
Invitational @ Valley

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FREE ESTIMATES

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ANNUAL FLEA MARKET AND GARAGE SALE

The Waukee Christian Church, 29043 T Ave. (the corner on Hickman Road), will hold its annual Flea Market/Garage Sale Saturday, June 4, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. More than 30 vendors and crafters and a food truck will be on hand. Local Waukee author Judy Constant Tyler will be doing a book signing with her latest book, "Judy's Letters to Fritz and Carl," at the event. ■

CURBSIDE YARD WASTE COLLECTION HAS BEGUN

Weekly curbside yard waste collection has begun and will continue to occur every Monday through November. However, it will take place on the Tuesdays of Memorial Day week and Labor Day week.

Yard waste is vegetation including materials such as grass clippings, leaves, brush and garden waste. Here are some tips to ensure your yard waste gets picked up:

- Yard waste must be put into biodegradable bags or reusable containers with a 40-pound maximum weight.
- Sticks, brush and branches must be cut into 4-foot lengths and bundled (with string or twine) with a 40-pound maximum weight per bundle.
- Do not use your garbage or recycling containers for yard waste.
- Place approved items at the curb for collection prior to 7 a.m. each Monday.

For any garbage, recycling or yard waste questions, call ASI at 515-964-5229. ■

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR FIRST MIRACLE LEAGUE SEASON

Waukee's Triumph Park and its Greater Iowa Credit Union Miracle League Field will open in June. All kids ages 5-19 with special needs — whether physical, emotional, social or cognitive — wanting to play baseball/softball on a non-competitive, coed team are eligible to play in this league. This year's adjusted league dates are June 4-25. Games will be played on Saturdays. Registration for the 2022 Miracle League at Triumph Park season is open at www.waukee.org/registration under "Register for Activities" and then "Youth Sports."

Miracle League teams play on a custom-designed, rubberized turf field which accommodates wheelchairs and other assistive devices while helping to prevent injuries. Each player will be partnered with a volunteer "buddy." Volunteer buddies and coaches are needed. Visit www.waukee.org/miracleleague to submit a volunteer application. Email Nathan Williams at nwilliams@waukee.org with any questions. ■

WAUKEE PALOOZA

Waukee Palooza will be held Saturday, June 11, from 5-10 p.m. The Rotary Club of Waukee is hosting this fourth annual music festival in partnership with Kinship Brewing Co. in Waukee. The event is free to attend thanks to sponsors. The event features live music, beer and food. It will be kid and pet friendly. There will be a silent auction with items donated by sponsors and Rotarians and 50/50 raffles to raise funds for the good works of the Rotary Club of Waukee.

Big Time Grain Company will again be headlining this event in the evening. Big Time Grain Company is one of the fastest rising country bands in the Midwest. This band was the only act to perform at the Royal's baseball team World Series Celebration Rally for nearly 1 million people at Union Station. Recently, their hit "Hard to Want" was featured on a nationwide NFL broadcast of a Chiefs/Raiders game. Big Time Grain Company has opened for Big and Rich, Luke Combs, Dan & Shay, Gary Allan, Travis Tritt and many others ■

FISH WAUKEE

The Waukee Rotary Club's second annual Fish Waukee will be held Saturday, June 4, from 9-11 a.m. It will be held in conjunction with the City of Waukee's Grand Opening of Triumph Park. The event is free to attend and 100% of the funds raised go back into the event or roll into next year's event. A registration link will be provided in the near future on the City of Waukee activity website, select "Fish Waukee." The event is free, and bait will be provided. Participants should bring their own equipment. A limited supply may be available. Adult supervision is required at all times.

Triumph Park is in Waukee north of Hickman Road and east of N. 10 Street adjacent to Waukee Northwest High School. In 2021, 80 children attended, and programming slots filled several weeks ahead of event. More than 200 across all age ranges participated. A much larger turn out is expected this year with the changing of the structure and the event taking place in conjunction with the opening of Triumph Park. The \$20 million, 66-acre park will feature a sports complex with 12 softball/baseball fields, practice areas, concessions, parking, an 11-acre pond, green spaces and trails. At the center of Triumph Park, a 15,000-square-foot EPIC Inclusive Playground will be built with mobility device access at various levels, rubberized surfacing, sensory features, STEM panels, shade structures, and accessible parking and restrooms included. It will be situated near the Greater Iowa Credit Union Miracle League Field and an ADA-compliant fishing pier.

Numbers based on 2017 figures from the U.S. Census Bureau indicate there are 3,500 residents in Dallas County in need of accessible recreation amenities. The 11-acre pond and ADA-compliant fishing pier will give those who typically do not have the ability to fish in a safe environment access to that experience. ■

FUNERAL NOTICE

Funeral notices can be emailed to tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com and run for free.

DONNA JOHNSON

Donna R. Johnson, 75, died on March 28, 2022, in Des Moines. She spent her childhood in Des Moines and graduated from East High School in 1964. Donna worked as a dental assistant for a number of years where she was introduced to her husband, Jeff Johnson. They were married on Dec. 30, 1967. After Jeff graduated from veterinary school, he served in the U.S. Air Force, first stationed at Laughlin Air Force Base in Del Rio, Texas. After being promoted to captain, Jeff and Donna transferred to Aviano Air Force Base in Italy. Upon returning to Des Moines, they established All City Mobile Pet Clinic, a full-service mobile practice from 1977-84. In 1980, they purchased City South Animal Hospital on Army Post Road in Des Moines where Donna spent 32 years as the bookkeeper and office manager, mostly in charge of Jeff. Over the years, Donna filled the part of secret Santa, providing presents to numerous needy families.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 47 years, Dr. Jeffry Johnson. She is survived by daughters Stacy Taiber (Dan) and Shanna Overholser (Matt); and other relatives.

Visitation will be held April 11 from 4-7 p.m. at the Caldwell Parrish Funeral Home, 8201 Hickman Road, Urbandale. A funeral mass will be held April 12 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 7075 Ashworth Road, West Des Moines, followed by a luncheon at St. Francis Parish Hall. Private family entombment will be at Iowa Veterans Cemetery near Van Meter. ■



MASTER GARDENERS PLANT SALE

The Dallas County Master Gardeners are hosting their annual plant sale on Saturday, April 30, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Dallas County Fairgrounds. Mark your calendars, tell your friends, and get your truck beds ready to fill up with flowers. All proceeds will benefit the Dallas County Master Gardeners' demonstration garden. The sale will include perennials, annuals, vegetables, house plants, succulents, horticulture books, pre-potted arranged plants, plant containers, denim garden aprons and garden art. ■

EVENTS IN THE AREA

EMAIL YOUR EVENT INFORMATION TO
TAMMY@IOWALIVINGMAGAZINES.COM**POETRY & PHOTOGRAPHY
PRESENTATION****Saturday, April 9, 5 p.m.****Beaverdale Books, 2629 Beaver Ave., Des Moines**

In celebration of Poetry Month, Beaverdale Books will feature a special event with Dr. Paul Brooke. Brooke is a professor of English at Grand View University in Des Moines, where he teaches a variety of writing, literature and photography courses. He has won numerous awards for his poetry. His presentation will be moderated by fellow poet Kyle McCord.

**DINNER DETECTIVE
MURDER MYSTERY****Saturday, April 16, 6 p.m.****Embassy Suites Downtown, 101 E. Locust St., Des Moines**

The award-winning comedic murder mystery dinner show is coming to Des Moines. Unlike other murder mystery shows with elaborate costumes and dialogue, the Dinner Detective's interactive shows are set in the present day. Performers blend into the audience, and you won't know who is in the show until it's time to solve the murder. Look for clues, be interrogated by detectives and compete for prizes awarded to the Top Sleuth. Guests are not required to participate in the show but are encouraged to do so. The evening includes a four-course plated meal, coffee and tea, cash bar and prizes. Guests must be at least 15 years old to attend. Get tickets at www.eventbrite.com.

**'OF GRAVITY AND LIGHT'****Friday, April 22 at 7 p.m.****Des Moines Civic Center, 221 Walnut St., Des Moines**

Join Ballet Des Moines for the world premiere of composer Beau Kenyon's contemporary ballet, "Of Gravity and Light." Be entranced through eight innovative movements combining sound, imagery and movement exploring the wonder of space. As Ballet Des Moines' year-long resident and director of education and outreach, Kenyon interprets the science of space through music and dance, inviting the disciplines of science and art to converge. "Of Gravity and Light" will feature choreography by Ballet Des Moines Artistic Director Tom Mattingly, video installation by artist Yu-Wen Wu and live music directed by conductor Tim McMillin. Tickets available at www.dmpa.org.

**DES MOINES BUCCANEERS
HOME SCHEDULE****Buccaneer Arena, Urbandale**

- Saturday, April 9 vs. Fargo Force, 6 p.m.
- Saturday, April 16 vs. Sioux City Musketeers, 6 p.m.
- Friday, April 22 vs. Waterloo Black Hawks, 7 p.m.

For more information, visit www.bucshockey.com. ■

RECIPE

EASTER DIP GOODNESS



(Culinary.net) Easter is about coming together with loved ones, enjoying beautiful spring weather and eating your family's favorite foods. The kids will be playing, adults will be chatting and all will be patiently waiting for the table to be set.

If you're visiting and making memories with family and friends you haven't seen in a while, there are few things better than diving into a marvelous Easter spread.

While eyeing the table, you notice all the colors popping off the dishes. Fruits and veggies make the feast come to life, but a warm Easter dip paired with rolls for dipping is a perfect way to start the festivities.

These Easter Bunny Rolls with Spinach Dip are as eye-catching as they are delicious. Not only will the kids love its shape, but the layers of taste will wow your Easter crowd.

This dish is made for a crowd, served warm and full of cheesy goodness. You can watch as your family dips into the spinach and one-by-one, before you know it, the rolls will have disappeared and the dip will be devoured. ■

EASTER BUNNY ROLLS WITH SPINACH DIP

Serves: 24

16 ounces frozen spinach, thawed
 8 ounces cream cheese
 2 cloves garlic, minced
 1/2 cup mayonnaise
 1/2 teaspoon salt
 1/2 teaspoon onion powder
 1/4 teaspoon chili powder
 1/4 teaspoon pepper
 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
 1 cup shredded Parmesan cheese
 1 1/2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese, divided
 2 crescent roll tubes (8 ounces each)

Directions:

Heat oven to 375 F.

In skillet, over medium heat, cook spinach, cream cheese and garlic 3-4 minutes until cream cheese is melted. Stir in mayonnaise, salt, onion powder, chili powder, pepper and Italian seasoning. Stir in Parmesan cheese and 1/2 cup mozzarella cheese. Cook until cheese is melted. Keep skillet on burner over low heat.

Remove dough from tubes. Leaving dough intact, roll and stretch into 18-inch ropes. Cut each rope into 12 pieces for 24 total.

On baking sheet with parchment paper, form bunny head by placing one piece of dough in middle then surrounding it with six more pieces. Use 13 pieces to form round body. Use remaining pieces to form ears on top of head.

Scoop hot spinach dip into center. Spoon small portions on each ear. Sprinkle ears and belly with remaining mozzarella cheese.

Bake 18 minutes, or until crescent dough is golden brown and thoroughly cooked. ■



Shannon McClain

UKRAINE, FROM FRONT

Boychenko Stone to identify the community’s most immediate needs at this time.

Holmes Murphy’s WOW group, which focuses on the unique potential of women at Holmes Murphy and within the insurance industry, asked employees to bring donated supplies to Holmes Murphy’s headquarters in Waukee and hosted a special opportunity for employees to package and assemble items to send to Ukraine.

Boychenko Stone, also an adjunct professor at Drake University, moved to Iowa for the first time when she was 14 years old as an exchange student and then officially in 2001 to attend Drake University. While she has always been an active member of the Des Moines business community, she has recently become an increasingly



prominent figure for sharing resources on how Iowans can help with the unrest.

“It’s truly a beautiful country with beautiful people,” Boychenko Stone says. “It is, of course, heartbreaking to see these events unfold, but there is truly so much we can do to support the Ukrainian people. I’m proud to be a part of the business community in Des Moines and a company that’s embraced many of these opportunities.” ■

CLASSIFIED ADS

JOIN OUR TEAM! Weekend Kennel Assistant for Handsome Hounds Boarding and Grooming in Adel. We would love for you to join our team. To learn more and apply visit our website at <https://adelgrooming-boarding.com/were-hiring>.

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.

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