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JUNE 2024

Living

MAGAZINE

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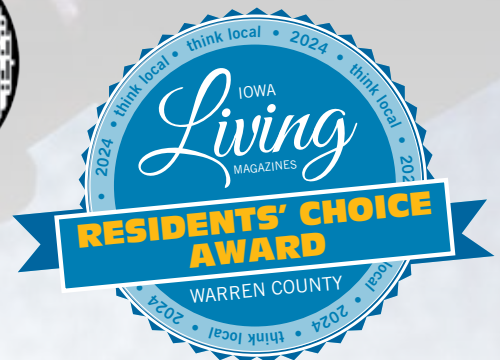
We focus on providing our clients with superior client service. Often when an individual contacts our office, they are going through a rough time in their life, whether it be a criminal charge, divorce, personal injury or bankruptcy. We take the time to thoroughly review the facts and discuss the process of the case with each individual client. We help provide peace of mind to clients by assisting them with the preparation of an estate plan to make their wishes known to their loved ones. We also help clients through exciting times in their lives, such as the adoption of a child, purchase of house or creating a new business. No matter what we are doing, we strive to provide our clients with the service they deserve.

We live and work in a great town and are passionate about giving back to our community. Every year, for the past 13 years, we have hosted a hat & glove drive to provide warmth to the students of the Warren County schools. We sponsor and attend many events, including the Indianola Chamber Golf Tournament, and the Unravel Iowa Gala and 5k. Attorney Randy Jackson dedicates some of his time to coaching a mock trial team, which made it to State Mock Trial Competition this school year.

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“We pride ourselves on making a difference in the lives of our clients and the community.”

WELCOME

FOUR reasons to participate in community theatre

Have you thought about getting involved in community theatre? If you want to participate, organizers will surely find a place for you. But what's in it for you personally? How about...

1. You can develop your creative talents.

Community theatre provides a supportive environment for people to explore their creative abilities. Whether you enjoy acting, singing, dancing or working behind the scenes, community theatre has opportunities for you to develop your skills and grow as an artist.



2. You can build confidence and self-esteem. Performing in front of an audience can be nerve-wracking, but it can also be empowering. Participating in community theatre can help build confidence and self-esteem while learning to overcome fears and take risks. Through rehearsals, performances and feedback from peers and mentors, performers gain a sense of pride and accomplishment that carries over into all areas of their lives.

3. You can develop important life skills at any age. Community theatre is more than just a hobby; it is also an opportunity to develop life skills. From time management and teamwork to problem-solving and communication, the skills that performers learn through theatre can help them succeed in many aspects of life. In addition, community theatre provides a sense of belonging that is often difficult to find elsewhere. Performers build lasting friendships with their peers and develop connections with mentors and volunteers who share their passion for the arts.

4. You can make a difference in your community. The arts have the power to bring people together and make a positive impact in the community. By participating in productions, people have the opportunity to inspire, entertain and educate audiences of all ages. Community theatre programs strive to make the arts accessible to all people in the community, regardless of background or financial resources.

Are you inspired enough now to want to get involved? You can start by reading this month's cover story. Then take the leap and reach out to organizers and say, "How can I get started?" You will be glad you did.

Thanks for reading. ■

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Deb Hade had a blast in her comedic role as President LaFollette in Carousel's 2019 production of "Delusions of Power."

Curtain call

Residents share their experiences on stage

By Becky Kolosik

For many people, public speaking is their worst fear. They recall suffering from butterflies in the stomach or worse before stepping out on the stage for their elementary school programs and the terror of having to speak in front of their peers in high school speech class. For them, the thought of performing before the public in a stage production sounds as appealing as being tarred and feathered. Others actually seek the spotlight, volunteer to memorize lines and create play props, eagerly awaiting the day the curtains are drawn back and the show begins. Some of these people share their reasons why center stage is the place they want to be.



Alex Lindsley brought the character of Orpheus to life in Carousel's production of "Eurydice," a retelling of the classic Orpheus and Eurydice Greek tragedy.



Kensi Malaney sang and danced on stage as part of the cast of Carousel's 2023 production of Disney's "The Little Mermaid."

All the world's a stage

Alex Lindsley loves to perform.

"I love to bring a character to life, but what I love most is the joy of being on stage with a cast of other talented and wonderful people," he says.

Lindsley has been actively involved with Indianola's Carousel Theatre since 2010 and is currently the board president. But his theatre journey started at a much younger age. As an eighth-grader at Indianola Middle School, Lindsley recalls his history teacher, Mrs. Turnball, pulling him aside one day after class.

"She was impressed with how well I could read aloud in class," he says. "Then she encouraged me to try out for a part in the upcoming middle school production of 'Snow White in the '70s.'"

Lindsley admits he didn't really know what to think, but after some internal debate, he decided to give it a go and was cast as Nixon, the grumpy dwarf. After that show, he was hooked.

Shortly after his middle school stage debut, he auditioned for Carousel's 2010 production of "The Giver." Because it was only his second time performing in a full-length show, the then 15-year-old was grateful they trusted him to take the lead role, Jonas. Aside from one season, he's been involved in at least one Carousel production every year.

Lindsley has worn many hats. From actor, pit ensemble member and crew member to designer, board member and board president... he's done it all. He recently added the title of director to the list.

"For the last four years, I've worked on every

single Carousel production in some capacity," he explains. "Prior to that, I was in at least one production a year, but, in total, I've been a part of 26 productions, including our current show, 'Urinetown.'"

For Lindsley, that's what is so great about community theatre.

"There's a willingness to share knowledge and an encouragement for people to try new things," he says. "I've been an actor; an instrumentalist and stagehand; a costume, hair and makeup designer; a director; and so much more."

The board of directors is the closest thing to employees Carousel has. However, everyone is a volunteer. The board makes decisions to help better the organization and the people who take part in the productions, as well as find ways to continue the mission of bringing quality theatre to the community.

All of that, he says, comes with a few challenges — specifically the fact that Carousel lacks a permanent venue space.

"While we are lucky to have a few partners in the area who allow us to use their spaces for performances, they are never guaranteed," Lindsley explains. "We have had to cancel full productions due to a lack of venue."

Carousel is working with members of the community to find a home to settle in, but it's a search that requires a lot of help — especially from those who wish to see the mission continue.

Despite those challenges, Lindsley is grateful for the opportunities Carousel has brought to his life. Some special performances for him would be "The Giver," because it was his first

Carousel production and a lead role; "High School Musical," because it was his first lead in a musical; and, finally, "The Hunchback of Notre Dame," his first directing debut.

"The experiences and relationships I made in these productions are some that I hold very close to my heart," he says. "I have people who came into my life and helped me with so many things because I was able to be a part of these shows."

Growing up on stage

Jennifer Pfeifer-Malaney says her daughter, Kensi Malaney, is a creative child. So much so that she typically picks out her Halloween costume in early spring and often chooses obscure characters like Ghost Busters (before they rebooted the movies), Vanellope von Schweetz from "Wreck It Ralph" or Artemis in "Ready Player One."

"I'm always thankful she decides early, so we have plenty of time to find all the pieces we need to create it," Jenn says. "In 2023, she also worked on a cosplay costume for her 4-H project, which was Sailor Moon."

Twelve-year-old Kensi enjoys "playing characters," so it's no surprise she also likes being on stage. Perhaps she gets a little bit of the theatre bug from her mom, who also happened to be a theatre kid growing up and went on to earn a theatre degree at Simpson.

Kensi got her first taste of acting during Carousel Theatre's 2022 summer kids' camp where they presented "Johnny Appleseed."

"She was part of the British fife and drum group," Jenn recalls. "She rushed home ready to look up what a fife and drum group did and

immediately began practicing a British accent."

When Carousel announced auditions for "The Little Mermaid" in 2023, Kensi mostly prepared for the audition herself, other than getting a little help from her mom with song selection.

"My mom helped me narrow down what I was going to sing, but, when it was my turn, I went in and auditioned by myself," Kensi says.

Jenn was happy to let Kensi shine on her own. It often amazes her that Kensi has such a natural ability to know that, while in character, she should always be doing or reacting... not just standing there on stage.

Kensi was cast as coral and a frog in "The Little Mermaid." She enjoyed all aspects of the production — especially the celebration parties after the show wrapped. The entire cast spent a lot of time at rehearsal learning lines, singing songs and dancing.

Because Kensi has dyslexia and dysnomia (difficulty remembering the right word), she struggled a little with memorizing lines and choreography. It also took her a little extra time to adjust when the director would re-block a scene or move her to the other side of the stage.

"I sing a lot, so the songs were pretty easy," she says. "Dancing and memorizing lines was the hardest part for me, but I kept on practicing, and my tutor helped me."

As she heads into middle school next fall, Kensi hopes to continue pursuing more theatre opportunities. For other kids who aspire to be on stage, Kensi says, "Believe in yourself, practice, do your best, and don't give up."

A tale of two Hades

Joel and Deb Hade not only share their lives but also their love of theatre.

Joel says there are personal benefits to being involved in community theatre, including learning new skills and working within a group to achieve a goal as well as the fun of playing "make believe" and entertaining people.

"Theatre allows people to explore their creative and artistic side," he says. "For those folks not athletically inclined, it provides another group activity that gives a sense of belonging."

Joel and Deb both found their way to theatre arts at different times in their lives. For Joel, it started when he was in high school plays and competitions. He took a break from theatre during college and his professional schooling but found his way back after moving his family to Indianola in the early 1990s.

It was after that 1990 move that Deb's theatre interest was sparked, too. They had lived in Urbandale where their young daughter, Allison, was involved in the children's programs at the Des Moines Playhouse. Allison was not happy about moving to a new place, so when Deb found out Carousel was performing "The Wizard of Oz" and looking to cast children, she took Allison to the auditions.

"I figured I might as well try for a role, too, since I'd have to take her to rehearsals," Deb says.

"We were both cast in the show — Allison as a part of the Lullaby League and me as the Good Witch. Our son, Chris, had just finished kindergarten and was also cast as a Lollipop Kid."

Joel's first role with Carousel came a little later in 1994 when he was cast as Daddy Warbucks in "Annie." Having never done musical theatre, he says he was terrified.

"Thanks to a great director, Michele Larche, and my musically talented wife, Deb, I pulled it off and have been hooked ever since," he says, laughing. "Deb and both of the kids had roles as well."

Over the years, the couple has served on Carousel's board of directors. Both have led as board president at various times, and Joel has also served as treasurer.

"We've worked in all aspects of the shows from set building, lighting and equipment to assistant director and director," Deb says. "When you are involved in community theatre, it's expected to help in every phase of production."

They have spent countless hours memorizing lines and rehearsing. The behind-the-scenes work can easily add another 20-30 hours.

"Not everyone commits this much time to a show, but I'm a firm believer that the harder you work on even the smallest details, the better the show turns out," Joel says.

The Hades appreciate that Carousel Theatre is for anyone, any age. While there are not a lot of shows that cast kids, the organization has hosted summer camps to give kids some theatre experience.

Both agree that Carousel is an integral part of the community, and the organization works the best it can with not only venue constraints but also a modest budget. Staging a high-quality show can cost thousands of dollars, and ticket sales don't always recoup the cost. For that reason, donors and grants are needed and appreciated.



Joel Hade, at right, performed as Sir Lawrence Wargrave in Carousel's 2021 production of Agatha Christie's "And Then There Were None."

Help keep community theatre alive

Like many performing arts organizations, Carousel Theatre relies on donations to keep the theatre running and providing quality performances. Ticket sales alone do not cover costs, so they need the investment of sponsors who value what Carousel Theatre offers the community. Consider becoming a sponsor and help Carousel continue to bring quality theatre to the community. Visit carousetheatre.org to donate.

Carousel Theatre Presents "Urinetown" by Mark Hollman and Greg Kotis

July 19-28

Indianola High School Auditorium
Visit carousetheatre.org for details.

Joel and Deb played so many roles over the years that they say there are too many memorable ones to list. They say social media has helped in finding more high-quality performers, but getting good directors and technical people for lights, sound and set design is always a huge need.

"These people are the unsung heroes in staging a show, but it takes a lot of work and skill," Joel says. "Board members step in to help in these capacities a lot, but we'd love to find more people to step into these roles."

The Hades encourage anyone who is interested in theatre — whether acting or working behind the scenes — to consider checking out a future show or finding more information at carousetheatre.org. ■

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8 MISTAKES that can upend your retirement

Pursuing your retirement dreams is challenging enough without making some common, and very avoidable, mistakes. Here are eight big mistakes to steer clear of, if possible.

1. No strategy: Yes, the biggest mistake is having no strategy at all. Without a strategy, you may have no goals, leaving you no way of knowing how you'll get there — and if you've even arrived. Creating a strategy may increase your potential for success, both before and after retirement.

2. Frequent trading: Chasing "hot" investments often leads to despair. Create an asset allocation strategy that is properly diversified to reflect your objectives, risk tolerance and time horizon; then make adjustments based on changes in your personal situation, not due to market ups and downs.¹

3. Not maximizing tax-deferred savings: Workers have tax-advantaged ways to save for retirement. Not participating in your employer's 401(k) may be a mistake, especially when you're passing up free money in the form of employer-



matching contributions.²

4. Prioritizing college funding over retirement: Your kids' college education is important, but you may not want to sacrifice your retirement for it. Remember, you can get loans and grants for college, but you can't for your retirement.

5. Overlooking healthcare costs: Extended care may be an expense that can undermine your financial strategy for retirement if you don't prepare for it.

6. Not adjusting your investment approach well before retirement: The last thing your retirement portfolio can afford is a sharp fall in stock prices and a sustained bear market at the moment you're ready to stop working. Consider adjusting your asset allocation in advance of tapping your savings so you're not selling stocks when prices are depressed.³

7. Retiring with too much debt: If too much debt is bad when you're making money, it can be deadly when you're living in retirement. Consider managing or reducing your debt level before you retire.

8. It's not only about money: Above all, a rewarding retirement requires good health,

so maintain a healthy diet, exercise regularly, stay socially involved, and remain intellectually active. ■

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TIME to fill out gardens and containers

Welcome summer! Our gardens are beginning to take shape and fill with color. There is still plenty of time to put in a few more additions and even add some color and texture to the patio, deck, or even the garden with containers.

Be sure to water in any new additions to the gardens; just be careful not to plant in too wet soil. You should not “mud in” plants; it only causes problems in the future. Remember, planting in really dry soil also needs some care. Make sure to break up the soil and don’t put large dry clumps back into the planting hole. Break the clumps into as small pieces as possible. Then water once done. This will help to force air pockets out and the soil to settle firmly around the roots.

As spring bulbs begin to fade, remember to leave the leaves until they dry up naturally. Sometimes we want to trim these back as soon as we don’t see our tulips and daffodils any longer, but the underground bulbs need to be replenished so they can bloom again next year. Once they are dried up, you can remove the leaves since they are no longer nourishing the bulb. Don’t forget to mark where they are, so, as you are planting through the next months (especially if you like fall planting), you don’t dig them up by accident.

Some plants, like perennial hibiscus and crape myrtle, need the soil to be very warm to begin to emerge. They are often the last flowers/plants to emerge in late May to early June. Don’t count them out too early or you may be removing one of your star garden plants for mid-summer through fall color.

You can also begin putting in your elephant ear bulbs now. They also need the ground temps warmer than other plants to grow. As you see them beginning to grow, water them. They will grow larger with more water, so try not to put them near plantings that don’t like a lot of water (drought tolerant plants).

Get your containers finished and placed. Remember you can use cannas, elephant ears, caladiums, hibiscus and bananas to give a tropical look. Add in some annuals like coleus, zinnias, petunias or verbena to give a splash of color and texture. Don’t forget about perennials in containers. Use small and miniature hostas in a container with a fern and place in the shade of your patio or even in your shade garden. Consider one of the new small hydrangeas or crape myrtle shrubs. These can be taken into the unheated garage for the winter and brought back out next spring. How about a Japanese maple or conifer? These are stunning additions to entry areas or to a Japanese-style garden. There are a number of conifers and Japanese maples that can be kept in containers for several years. Check with your nursery for what they may recommend.

Remember, as you are at the nursery, ask if there are any special watering needs or other questions about mulching and caring for your new additions. Have fun picking out those new perennials, trees, shrubs, annuals and cool containers to brighten up your garden for the summer. ■



Information provided by Barry Laws, co-owner, Quilted Gardens Nursery and Landscaping, 19635 130th Ave., Indianola, 515-720-3089, www.quiltedgardens.com.



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LEGAL By Ken Winjum

ABOUT the hearsay rule

In our daily lives, we naturally recognize that information directly from the source is more reliable than what has been obtained second hand. Consistent with this, the “hearsay rule” has a long history in the common law as it pertains to evidence.



Although the term “hearsay” may be used in casual conversation, it actually has a very specific definition in the law. Iowa Rule of Evidence 5.801 provides that “hearsay” means a statement that:

1. The declarant does not make while testifying at the current trial or hearing; and
2. A party offers into evidence to prove the truth of the matter asserted in the statement.

Under Iowa Rule of Evidence 5.802, hearsay is not admissible as evidence (unless the Constitution, a statute or Supreme Court rule provide otherwise).

If only it were so simple. As it turns out, there are at least two types of such statements (mostly used in cross examination) which are defined as not being hearsay and numerous exceptions to the rule.

Iowa Rule of Evidence 5.803 contains 24 numbered exceptions to the hearsay rule which apply regardless of whether the declarant is available as a witness. Rule 5.804 contains five additional exceptions if the declarant is unavailable as a witness. Finally, Rule 5.807 contains a “residual exception” which allows hearsay where it is supported by sufficient guarantees of trustworthiness (after considering the totality of the circumstances), and it is more probative on the point for which it is offered than any other evidence the proponent can obtain through reasonable efforts.

Given the complexity of the rule and its exceptions, law school evidence courses devote much attention and time to this subject. A few of the common law exceptions which are adopted by the Iowa Rules of Evidence include:

1. Present sense impression (statement made at time of perceiving something).
2. Excited utterance (relating to startling event while under stress of event).
3. Then-existing mental, emotional, or physical conditions.
4. Statement made for medical diagnosis or treatment.
5. Former testimony.
6. Statement under belief of imminent death (also known as “dying declaration”).

Each of these (and the numerous other exceptions) have specific definitions and requirements for them to apply. The Iowa Supreme Court has observed that, in determining whether hearsay is admissible, it looks at the true purpose using an objective finding based on the facts and circumstances developed by the record. *See Hawkins v. Grinnell Regional, 929 N.W.2d 261 (Iowa 2019).*

The “Hearsay Rule” exists to make sure that evidence presented at trial is reliable. Toward that end, as a general rule, the testimony should be made in court so that the witness is subject to cross examination. Of course, many exceptions apply. ■

Information provided by Ken Winjum, The Winjum Law Firm, P.L.C., 1220 Sunset Drive., Suite 103, Norwalk, 515-981-5220, www.winjumlaw.com.

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EXPECTING an inheritance? Here is what you should consider

Inheriting assets can be a blessing at an emotionally challenging point in your life. Here are key considerations to navigate this process:

1. Understanding the assets: First, identify and understand the nature of the inherited assets. They might include cash, real estate, stocks, bonds, retirement accounts and personal property. Each asset type has different implications for management and taxes.

2. Tax implications: Inherited assets often come with tax considerations. For example, in the U.S., inherited property generally receives a "step-up" in basis, meaning the property's value is adjusted to its market value at the decedent's date of death, potentially reducing capital gains tax if sold. However, some retirement accounts like IRAs or 401(k)s are subject to income tax upon distribution. It is important to consult your financial or tax advisor to understand these implications and optimize tax strategies.

3. Probate process: Assets not held in a trust may need to go through probate, a legal process for settling an estate. Probate can be time-consuming and expensive, so understanding whether the assets are subject to this process is important. Trusts are often used as an estate planning tool. Trusts are used to bypass probate, providing quicker access to assets.

4. Debt and liabilities: Inheriting debt is less common, but it's important to determine if the estate has outstanding debts. Creditors



are typically paid from the estate's assets before distribution to heirs, potentially reducing the inheritance.

5. Investment decisions: Inherited investments require careful consideration. Your advisor can help evaluate whether to keep, sell, or reinvest based on your financial goals and market conditions. Your inherited assets can work in tandem with your overall investment strategy to help meet your goals.

6. Emotional considerations: Inheriting personal property or real estate with sentimental value can be emotionally challenging. Balancing the emotional attachment with practical decisions is key. Sometimes, holding on to an asset may not be financially feasible or practical.

7. Legal and financial advice: A team of estate attorneys and financial planners can provide guidance tailored to your situation and assist you in navigating the legal complexities, tax planning, and financial management to make the most of the inheritance.

Inheriting assets involves a multifaceted approach, combining emotional and practical considerations. Properly managing inherited assets can secure your financial future and honor the legacy of the benefactor. ■

For more information, please contact Charlie Ochanpaugh with City State Bank Trust & Investments at 515-981-1400. Not FDIC insured. Not deposits or other obligations of the bank and are not guaranteed by the bank. Are subject to investment risk, including possible loss of principal. City State Bank does not provide tax or legal advice. Each taxpayer should seek independent advice from a tax professional. These materials are based upon publicly available information that may change at any time without notice.

Welcome!

RYAN WILLIAMS

Please join us in welcoming Ryan Williams to City State Bank!



MEMBER FDIC

Ryan has lived in Indianola for 4 years. His wife Nealey is originally from Indianola and owns CrossFit Undone, which she purchased in 2021, solidifying their roots here. Ryan has been in banking for over a decade, with most of that time spent in the mortgage industry.

We are excited to have Ryan as a Mortgage Lender here at City State Bank. If you are thinking about building or purchasing a new home, please contact him at rwilliams@citystatebank.com.



Ryan Williams

INDIANOLA

515-961-7000

515-803-7782

NMLS #1471728

rwilliams@citystatebank.com

www.citystatebank.com

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Check for cancellations

Early bird concert tickets

The Indianola Concert Association has an early bird special of \$5 off an adult ticket through July 1 for its 2024-2025 season. That would mean a \$45 adult season ticket for the four local concerts plus reciprocity with Newton and Centerville. You can attend their 11 concerts for free by presenting your Indianola ticket. After July 1, the cost is \$50 for the series. For tickets, contact Karen Langstraat at 515-961-6914 or klang5@msn.com. Tickets are also available at True Value. Other ticket prices are \$15 student, \$115 family (one household). After July 1, cost is \$120 family.

Concerts will be:

- Jared Freiburg and The Vagabonds, Saturday, Sept. 28, 7 p.m.
- Letters From Home, Monday, Nov. 11, 7 p.m.
- Jeremy Stolle, Thursday, March 20, 2025, 7 p.m.
- Alliance Brass, Thursday, May 1, 2025, 7 p.m.



Indianola Car Show, Tractor Show and Swap Meet

Aug. 24, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Warren County Fairgrounds,
Highway 92, Indianola

The Two-Lane Cruisers of Iowa is hosting this event. To enter or for more information, call Curtis or Cliff, 515-577-2279 or 515-419-3824.

Sisterhood Night with Leanna Crawford

June 28, 7-9 p.m.
Indianola First Assembly of God Church, 1700 W. Second Ave.

Enjoy a special Sisterhood Night with singer-songwriter Leanna Crawford. Experience Leanna's heartfelt music and her message of finding fulfillment in Christ, even in moments of doubt. Enjoy a pre-party with food trucks and surprises before the concert. Tickets are \$12 and available at <https://indianola1st.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2268599>.



Iowa Master Conservationist Program

Thursdays, Aug. 22-Oct. 3, 6:30-8 p.m.

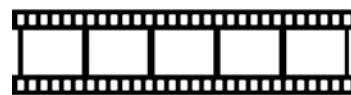
Iowa State University Extension and Outreach will offer the Iowa Master Conservationist Program at the Warren County Extension Office and various Warren County locations, providing participants with hands-on interaction with the diversity of the state's natural resources. The program teaches about Iowa's natural ecosystems and the diversity of conservation challenges and opportunities that exist in the region. Graduates of the course learn to make informed choices for leading and educating others to improve conservation in Iowa.

The program consists of approximately 12 hours of online curriculum and seven face-to-face meetings. Registration for the course is \$75 and is due at the time of registration. To register, contact the ISU Extension and Outreach Warren County office at 515-961-6237 or bcecot@iastate.edu. The deadline to register is Friday, Aug. 2, with a maximum of 15 participants.

Rolling for Freedom 5K Fun Run/Walk

Saturday, June 15, 9 a.m.
Banner Lakes at Summerset State Park

The Warren County Leadership Institute Class of 2024 will be hosting this event to raise funds to purchase an all-terrain motorized wheelchair for Warren County Conservation. This wheelchair will empower people of all abilities to explore nature freely without limitations. Learn more and register at www.wcedc.com/rolling-for-freedom-5k.



Night at the Drive-In Movies

Friday, June 14, early show 7 p.m., late show 9 p.m.
Pickard Park, 2205 E. Second Ave., Indianola

Pile into the car and bring the family for two free movies you can watch from the comfort of your car or in your lawn chairs. A food truck will be available all evening. Sponsored by City State Bank, Overton Funeral Home, Haus Roofing & Construction and Indianola Independent Advocate. Hosted by Indianola Parks & Recreation.

Gardens Galore in 2024

Saturday, June 22, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
rain or shine

Tour Indianola-area gardens and visit with Master Gardeners who will be present at each. Tickets are \$10 with proceeds to benefit horticultural programs in Warren County. Tickets are available the day of the event at the ISU Extension and Outreach office, 200 W. Second Ave., Indianola.

Recurring Library Events

- **Storytimes, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, 10:30 a.m.** Join Janis and Kelsey for stories, songs and shakers with free-play time after.
- **Club Mondays, for school-aged kids, 3:30-4:30 p.m.** First Mondays: LEGO Club for students who have finished kindergarten through fifth grade. Second Mondays: Pokemon Club for students who have finished third through fifth grade. Third Mondays: Book Adventures Club for students who have finished third through fifth grades. Fourth Mondays: Minecraft Club for students who have finished kindergarten through fifth grade.
- **Teen Hangout, Wednesdays, 2:30-4:30 p.m.** Play board games and video games, do crafts, watch movies, eat and hang out. For students who have finished grades 6-12 only.
- **Bingo, first Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m.** Play to win prizes, BYOB, beer and wine. For adults 18 and older only. ■

EARL Barker — the memories of a pioneer

At the museum research library, we have several biographies and autobiographies. One of these was written by Earl Barker. The Barkers were an early Warren County pioneer family. A delightful, popular park south of A&W in Indianola was named after this family. Earl Barker's autobiography contains many interesting accounts of childhood experiences.

Until he was about 2 years old, like other boys, he wore dresses. When dressed in "big boy" pants for the first time, he was mad and ran out on the porch before discovering there were pockets in the pants, which improved his attitude. He probably doesn't remember his first pair of pants, but imagine him being the victim of frequent teasing over the years about his first reaction to wearing pants.

Another memory from Earl's elementary school years was from the school playground. His brother John depended on him for protection from the older boys, some of whom delighted in knocking down any little fellows who got in their way. One time, two of the older boys "got a long limb off a tree and with one of them on each end started across the playground, knocking all down that did not get out of the way." It sounds like bullying is nothing new.

Earl's father was engaged in a variety of business adventures during his lifetime. One of the more unusual ventures involved the Emery Harris Store fire in Des Moines. His dad bought the whole stock of dry goods, which were now wet goods after the fire, and hauled them to Indianola. He proceeded to scatter hundreds of bolts of wet and scorched fabric over three acres of land (where the cemetery is now located) to dry and be sold.

Earl fondly recalled "the ice harvest every winter, with dozens of teams hauling on bob-sleds to fill the big ice house of Will & Jess Demory's Hotel, our creamery factory, and A.W. Barker's meat market for summer refrigeration." He also tells how Jack Moore, who was totally blind, and his wife went fishing so much. "He could always tell by feel when it was the right time to pull the fish out, as he used no bobber cork."

Horses were a big part of Earl's life. He wrote about his faithful old team of gray mares, Pet and Topsey, born in 1920. They "helped put in every crop until 1948 when Topsey was sold. Pet was the most intelligent and kindest disposition of any horse I ever owned and lived there until she died in 1950 at the age of 30 years. No matter what kind of work she was doing, be it planting corn, loading saw logs or whatever, she always knew exactly how to do it."

In 1931, Earl was offered a job surveying for the Army Corp of Engineers on the Red Rock Dam project. He had been recommended for the job because of his record of two years' work in Marion County as chief on survey for the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey. Within a week, he had organized a five-man party, gathered them at the courthouse community room where they all successfully took a qualifying examination. This job lasted two years and consisted mostly of setting lines and control points for mapping purposes.

These are only a few of the captivating memories in Earl Barker's autobiography. If you are interested in reading more, visit the Warren County Historical Library on any Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., or Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon. ■



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"It's been through the addition of MAPLE that we have been able to get the kids to talk."

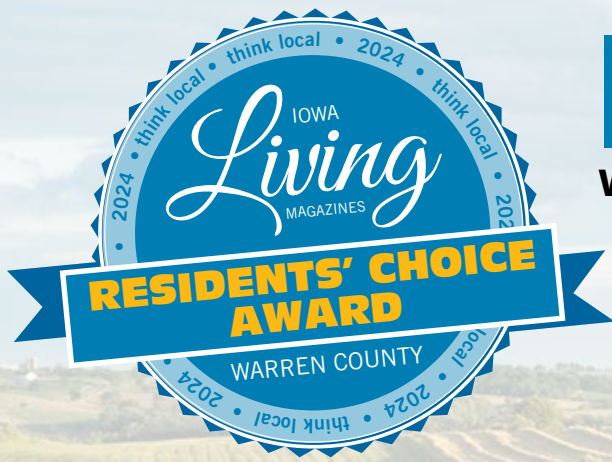


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IT'S BACK!

Who will be voted favorite in Warren County?

We all have our favorite local people, places and things. And now it's time to share your choices and honor those who deserve the recognition.

Make your voice be heard and cast your votes in the 2024 Warren County Residents' Choice Poll. This contest is being hosted by Iowa Living magazines, and the results will publish in our Indianola and Norwalk August editions. You can vote in one or every category, or anywhere in between.

HURRY! POLL CLOSES JULY 8, 2024.

See rules and vote at www.iowalivingmagazines.com/residentspoll. One vote per resident, please.

SCAN HERE TO
VOTE TODAY!



FOOD AND DRINK

- Restaurant
- Restaurant for Breakfast
- Restaurant for Lunch
- Restaurant for Dinner
- Restaurant for Dessert
- Place for Ice Cream
- Pizza Establishment
- Bar
- Coffee Shop
- Brewery/Distillery/Winery
- Bakery
- Catering Company
- Server/Bartender (First and last name)

AUTO BODY

- Auto Service
- Auto Body Shop
- Car Dealership
- Auto Parts Store

COMMUNITY

- Preschool/Daycare
- School (name of building)
- Park
- Community Festival or Event
- Church
- Pastor
- Chamber of Commerce

SHOPPING

- Grocery Store
- Boutique
- Retail Store
- Florist
- Home Improvement Retail Store
- Appliance Store
- Liquor Store
- Nursery or Garden Center
- Place to Purchase a Gift for a Man
- Place to Purchase a Gift for a Woman

ENTERTAINMENT

- Dad/Child Date Spot
- Mom/Child Date Spot
- Place to Take Your Mom and Dad
- Place to Take Your Kids or Grandkids
- Place for Children's Birthday Parties
- Event Venue
- Golf Course

HEALTH/BEAUTY

- Hair Salon
- Health Clinic
- Dental Office
- Orthodontist Office
- Mental Health Services
- Chiropractic Office
- Vision Care
- Health Club or Gym

- Pharmacy
- Hearing Center
- Cosmetic Services
- Physical Therapy
- Dance Studio
- Gymnastics Studio
- Tumbling Studio

OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

- Financial Planner
- Law Firm
- Accounting Firm
- Veterinarian
- Dog Groomer
- Pet Care
- Lawn Care Business
- Landscaping Company
- Heating and Cooling Business
- Electrician
- Plumber
- Senior Living Facility
- Insurance Company
- Realtor
- Bank/Credit Union
- Photographer
- Place for Guests to Stay
- Pest Control
- Tree Service
- Home Building/Remodeling Contractor
- Exterior Contractor (siding, roofing, windows, doors)



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LFoster1@wesleylife.org to book your personal visit.



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- Feedback cancellation that eliminates

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- Speech enhancement technologies that amplify the human voice, making it clearer and easier for you to understand.
- Tinnitus management to help mask that constant ringing or buzzing in your ears, offering you much-needed relief.

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Information provided by Dr. Kelly Cook, Audiologist, Iowa Hearing Center, 1228 Sunset Drive, Suite B, Norwalk, 515-416-5990, www.iowahearingcenter.com.

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SUMMER is the season of the fire element

In Chinese Medicine, summer is the season associated with the fire element. The organs associated with this element are the heart, small intestine, pericardium and “triple heater.”



We typically think of the heart as an organ that pumps in our chest, circulating our blood, and all that is related to the heart's functions. Most importantly, without the heart, there would be no life.

The heart in Chinese Medicine is considered the emperor of all of the organs. It is the regulator of rhythms of the body, circulation, sweating and warmth. It houses the shen (or spirit) of the person, and it regulates the five emotions. The health of the heart is reflected in your face. In Chinese Medicine,

the heart and mind energies are connected. We know in Western psychology that our mind can affect our heart by increasing the heart rate, our breathing, even causing insomnia, anxiety or panic attacks. Often, when treating cases of insomnia, the energy of the heart is where the imbalance is. When the heart energy is balanced, the heart is strong and healthy, the mind is calm, and you sleep soundly.

We also know the heart is an organ of feeling. For example: “My heart is not in it” or “I have a broken heart.” It is very common for patients to have symptoms of depression (lack of joy) after a heart attack, stroke or bypass surgery.

Surrounding the heart is the pericardium. It is a physical structure that surrounds and protects the physical heart from infections and holds the heart in place in your chest. In Chinese Medicine, we refer to the pericardium as the “heart protector.” The heart protector's

job is to be a guard to who and what we allow in or out of the heart energy. It is important for setting boundaries, as in the ability to say “No” or “Yes, you may come into my life.” When our pericardium energy is balanced, we know we are loved, when we are safe, and when we are not. We make sure to surround ourselves with those healthy situations where we are safe, loved and boundaries are appreciated.

Ways to nourish our heart and pericardium energies is through connection to fellow humans, to animals, to nature. Find a way to experience joy every day.

Next month we will discuss the small intestine and “triple heater.” ■

Information provided by Dr. Renee Dalrymple, LAc, SEED Meditation Instructor, Soaring Crane Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine, 14849 130th Ave., Indianola, 515-808-1548, call or text.

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During your HydraFacial treatment, the advanced vortex suction technology deeply cleanses, exfoliates and hydrates the skin, preparing it to absorb the potent ingredients found in medical-grade skincare products. Immediately following the treatment, it's recommended to use a regimen of high-quality skincare products tailored to your skin type and concerns. These products, which contain higher concentrations of active ingredients, work synergistically with the HydraFacial to enhance its effects.

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Information provided by Chelsea Taggart, L.E., Vivid Life Spa, 1016 Main St., Norwalk. Call 515-850-7848. Living-vivid.com/life-spa.



MEET Mitchell Klocke

Making every student feel like a scientist.

When Mitchell Klocke graduated from high school, he didn't foresee a career in the classroom.

"I was headed to Drake to pursue medicine, majoring in biochemistry and molecular biology," he says. "But my passion for science, people, and making connections led me in a different direction after talking with a friend in the school of education."

After that conversation, Klocke was granted permission to "trial enroll" in an education course. The following semester, he added a second major and began pursuing a career in teaching. In 2018, he graduated with degrees in biology and secondary education then continued his studies to earn a master's degree in STEM education in 2022.

Klocke wanted to live and teach in a community where he could be actively involved and engaged. He says Indianola was a great fit, and he just finished his sixth year of teaching at the middle school.

"Living in the community, I'm able to attend sporting events/concerts, eat in restaurants and shop for groceries, which are all opportunities to see current or former students and say hello," he says.

In the classroom, Klocke is passionate about creating authentic experiences. He wants his students to feel like they are learning and doing science like a scientist would, whether through investigations, discussions or reporting their learning. Klocke empowers students to ask questions, design investigations and figure out the natural world.

"I have a passion for science and for teaching," he says. "I strive to bring a positive attitude and genuine excitement for the content we are learning and do my best to present students with puzzling phenomena that naturally elicit questions and curiosity to drive learning."

Klocke also became interested in research while attending Drake, thanks in part to his advisor, Dr. Jerrid Kruse. He began analyzing data for trends and transcribing teacher interviews and classroom lessons through a grant with the university. Recently, a paper he worked on in 2022 was published in the May/June issue of "Science Scope," NSTA's peer-reviewed practitioner journal for middle level and junior high school science teachers.

Klocke once thought his only "claim-to-fame" would be from his high school baseball years when he led the state in the number of hit-by-pitches in a single season (22) and career (55) (that record has since been broken). However, the published research honor means more to him, and he hopes it inspires other science teachers who read it.

When he's not teaching, Klocke is an assistant high school softball coach. He enjoys spending time with his wife, Emma, and their puppy, Francine, as well as playing cards and board games, exploring the local food scene, attending concerts and relaxing on their patio. ■



Mitchell Klocke has a passion for science and for teaching. He strives to make his classroom a place where students can engage, learn and even have some fun.

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CHECK your ego

Ego and its twin brother, Pride, can be tricky things.

On the one hand, Ego drives us to do extraordinary things. Ego makes us want to be better than everyone else on the spelling test, so we study harder. Ego pushes toward lofty accomplishments, so we strive to be the best in sports or music. Ego can be a good thing.

On the other hand, ego can lead us to some terrible things as well. Most of us have probably heard the words of Proverbs 16:18 and may remember them in the King James English: "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall." I remember this in its simpler form: Pride goeth before the fall.

C.S. Lewis has this to say about pride in his book, "Mere Christianity": "It was through Pride that the devil became the devil. Pride leads to every other vice; it is the complete anti-God state of mind."

Is it any wonder, then, that Jesus adopted a life of humility? To me, Paul says it best in Philippians 2:8 — "And being found in human form, (Jesus) humbled himself by becoming obedient unto death, even death on a cross."

Paul urges us to have this mind among ourselves. Humility starts by checking one's ego. ■

Article provided by Pastor Tom Vanderbilt, Mount Calvary Church, Indianola.



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INSURANCE

By Mike Richey

UNDERSTAND how your policy covers cosmetic damage

It is important to understand whether your property insurance policy covers **cosmetic damage**. Specifically, an insurance policy will sometimes contain language regarding coverage of **cosmetic** damage caused by **wind and hail to metal** components of your house. This could include any of the following, if they are made of metal: roof, siding, gutters, downspouts, windows, doors (including garage doors), soffit, fascia and eaves.

Your insurance policy will tell you exactly how it defines cosmetic damage, but in general, **cosmetic** damage means damage that alters the appearance, but does not affect the function. For example, small dents caused by hail can often be considered cosmetic.

More and more, insurance companies are **excluding cosmetic** damage to metal components caused by wind or hail. But even if your policy excludes it, in many cases, **this coverage can be added to your policy as an optional add-on**. To find out if your policy excludes cosmetic wind and hail damage, and if it can be added as an optional add-on, talk to your insurance agent. ■

Information provided by Mike Richey Agency Inc., American Family Insurance, 204 E. Detroit Ave., Indianola, 515-961-8889, mrichey@amfam.com.



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'THE CITY BEAUTIFUL'... then and now

Historic homes offer a glimpse into the past.



"The City Beautiful" was published in 1915 as a fundraiser for the Simpson College Glee Club and included images of historic, notable homes, like the ones pictured, as well as churches, business advertisements and more.

For many people, owning a historic home is a dream come true. They are not just ordinary houses. They have stood for decades or even centuries. They have interesting stories about previous owners or the architectural details of that era.

Richard Clarke has a love for the character and space of older homes. He and his family moved into their Princess Anne-style home on North Buxton in 1985, and, from day one, Clarke began researching the history of the home. He became even more interested a few years later after reading an article by Bob Kling in the Indianola newspaper.

Kling wrote about his own house on West Ashland and credited some of the information to a 1915 publication, "The City Beautiful," that was printed as a fundraiser for the 1915-1916 Simpson College Glee Club.

Clarke found out it featured photos of the glee club, Simpson College campus circa 1913, churches in the community, as well as 36 notable homes. There was also a listing of businesses to patronize, a short historical sketch/writing about the city and advertisements.

"I was working as an adjunct professor at the time, so I went to the Simpson library in hopes of finding it," explains Clarke. "I wanted to see if our house was in it."

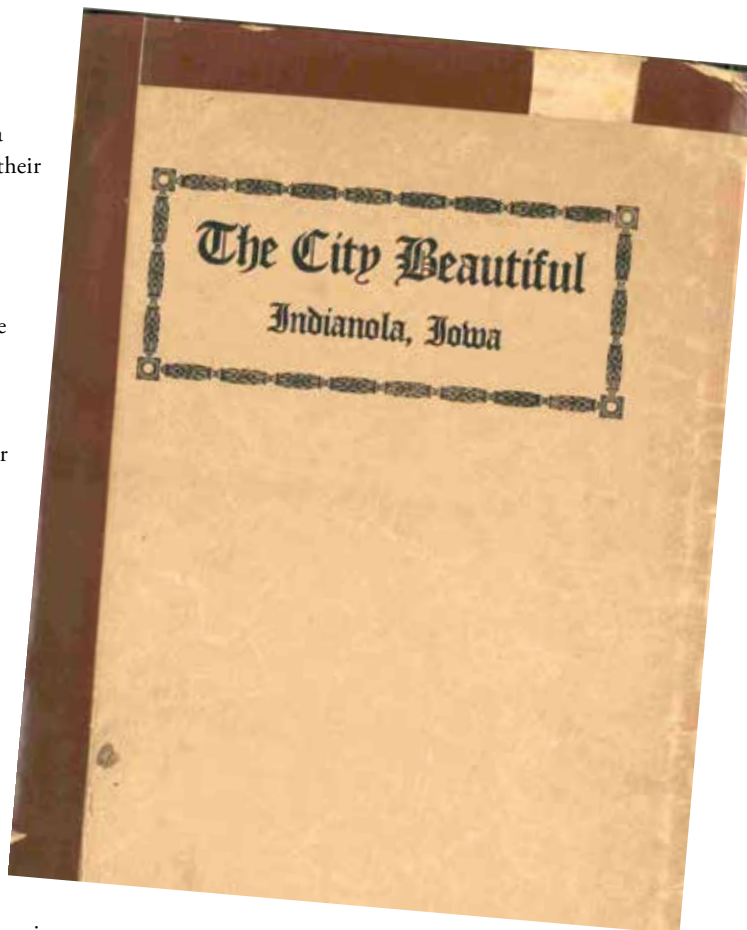
There is only one printed document of the "The City Beautiful," so Clarke obtained a photocopy and confirmed that their house was included.

He researched if there was a direct correlation between the homes and businesses, but ultimately determined they were simply listed by who lived in them at the time. He's matched many to current addresses and has discovered that six no longer exist.

Clarke wanted to do a "then and now" or even replicate the publication and bring it up to date.

"I'd love to help other people find out more about their neighborhoods and homes," he says. "Starting with the ones in the book, my goal is to try and connect with the current homeowners in hopes they might want to share their stories."

In July, Indianola Living magazine will take a look "then and now" at the Clarke home and how they have preserved the history and architecture similar to the photo from 1915 — and how they've made it "home" for more than 40 years. ■



Is your home included?

If you live in a historic home in Indianola and are curious if it's one of the 36 featured in "The City Beautiful," email Richard Clarke at richedricc@gmail.com to find out.

RECIPE

SCRUMPTIOUS ways to simplify springtime meals

(Family Features) From everyday weeknight dinners to picnics in the park, warmer weather and longer days mean families want to spend more time together and less time in the kitchen. This spring, look for kitchen hacks that can make fresh and healthy weeknight seasonal recipes a cinch.

Skipping complicated prep work is the first step toward simplifying springtime meals. Rather than recipes that call for a lot of prep or cooking time, consider easy dishes that require only a handful of steps and use everyday ingredients you may already have in your pantry, fridge or freezer.

For example, these shrimp, broccoli and potato skewers with lemon and thyme can let you put a little spring in your weeknight dinners. Grilled skewers keep the whole family happy and come together in less than 30 minutes, making them perfect for quick and healthy meals without the hassle. The versatility of potatoes means you can grill them, and this version calls for a 5-minute microwave steam first to cut down on grill time.

To find more ways to savor springtime meals outdoors with your family, visit littlepotatoes.com. ■

Shrimp, broccoli and potato skewers

Prep time: 5 minutes

Cook time: 20 minutes

Servings: 4

- 1 pound bagged Little Potatoes
- 1 bunch broccoli
- 12 large shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 1 1/2 lemons, juice only
- 3 tablespoons fresh thyme, chopped
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- salt, to taste
- pepper, to taste

DIRECTIONS

- In large, microwave-safe bowl, microwave potatoes on high 5 minutes.
- Chop broccoli into large pieces.
- Add broccoli and shrimp to bowl once potatoes are steamed.
- Add lemon juice, thyme and olive oil; evenly coat potatoes, shrimp and broccoli. Season with salt and pepper, to taste.
- Build skewers and grill 10-15 minutes on medium-high heat, until shrimp is cooked through.



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HARVEST Academy moving with a purpose

Program offers vocational training and more to change lives.



Harvest Academy is building a new facility to accommodate more than 80 students and allow the moving company to grow.

When you hire Harvest Academy Movers, you're not only making a difference in your life, but also in the lives of Harvest Academy participants. The 501(c)3 nonprofit helps men who have hit rock bottom change their lives free of charge. The 24-month program offers vocational training, peer mentorship/leadership, education and transitional services.

Harvest Academy was established in June 2020 with the moving company starting seven months later.

"We chose moving because it has year-round opportunity for work, and it also teaches our students a wide variety of life skills and employable traits," says Program Director Taylor Smith.

Initially, they completed small jobs across the Des Moines area a couple times a week, renting a U-Haul. Today, Harvest Academy Movers owns three custom-wrapped 26-foot box trucks and accept residential and commercial jobs across the state. They can handle items weighing 900 pound and more, such as gun safes, grand pianos, pool tables and

everything in between.

Students have the opportunity to join the moving crew when they show a readiness to work at the standard of the moving company and have the physical capabilities. Moving crew members learn how to take direction, be reliable and responsible for people's belongings, develop a strong work ethic and be self-reliant.

Crews are led by a "crew point," who serves as point of contact for the job. In this role, students learn leadership skills, customer service, supervision/management skills, as well as the ability to take responsibility for their job and crew members.

Smith says that Harvest Academy Movers funds 100% of all operational costs of the program.

"The program is free to our students because they 'pay it back' by learning to provide for the community through participation in our vocational school," he adds.

William, a Harvest Academy student, was in and out of jail and often homeless before finding out about the program. After his final



arrest, his choices were to serve a sentence in prison for two years and not learn anything or try something different and potentially change his life.

"The moving company allows us to come together as a team and accomplish a common goal," he says. "It has also given me a great work ethic which I didn't have before coming here and allows me to help other people, as moving can be challenging and stressful."

Harvest Academy Movers has more than 400 5-star Google reviews — the most of any moving company in Iowa. For more information about the program or to donate, visit harvestacademyiowa.com. ■

GRANTS awarded to 23 local nonprofits

The Warren County Philanthropic Partnership was tasked with allocating \$110,842.23 this year among an array of 55 applicants that requested a combined \$426,290.86 to fund their visionary projects. The Partnership announced 23 projects were selected from all over Warren County to receive funding.

Norwalk Park and Recreation received the 2024 High Impact Grant of \$25,000 for the Norwalk Central Park project. This \$5 million park will feature an amphitheater for cultural events and performances, a bike park featuring a pump track, and an ice and roller rink for winter and summer sports of all ages and abilities. A unique component of the park that is funded by this grant will be the NorWalk of Fame. This attraction will feature first-in-Iowa hologram technology highlighting famous individuals who have a direct connection to the area.

Community Grant award recipients that received \$1,000 to \$5,000 to help with their impactful projects are:

- Indianola Fire Department
- HEAL House of Iowa
- Short Years Partnership
- Indianola Firefighter's Association
- City of Milo
- Indianola Public Library
- Women of Norwalk
- City Of Carlisle
- Norwalk Area Ministerial Association
- Kiya Koda Humane Society
- City of Hartford — Fire Department



Representatives of the Warren County Philanthropic Partnership presented the 2024 High Impact Grant of \$25,000 to Norwalk Mayor Tom Phillips for the Norwalk Central Park project.

- Iowa College Access Network
- Middle River Friends Church — CCA Food Pantry
- Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Inc.
- Indianola Community Youth Foundation
- Jesse J Sanctuary Foundation
- Simpson College
- Indianola Police Department
- City of Norwalk — Fire Department
- Carlisle Area Historical Society
- Milo Hometown Pride ■

WC LEADERSHIP Institute holds graduation

The 2024 Warren County Leadership Institute wrapped up in April with a graduation dinner at The Village. Sixteen class members strong, the participants experienced topics ranging from finding your strengths, project management, people building skills, personal

finance, LEAN Manufacturing practices, educational system, government systems, economic development, change leadership and more.

Members of the WCLI Class of 2024 are: Deb Allison - Nationwide; Denny Caraveo - City of Carlisle; Miranda Chadwick - City of Indianola; Ruthie Duey - Peoples Bank; Mark Estes - Greater Iowa Credit Union; Kate Haverland - Hotel Pommier; Holly Lancaster - AssuredPartners; Ben Lewiston - City of Norwalk Police Department; Alysha Martin

Rolling for Freedom 5K Fun Run/Walk

Saturday, June 15, 9 a.m.
Banner Lakes at Summerset State Park

The goal of Rolling for Freedom is to raise funds to purchase an all-terrain motorized wheelchair for Warren County Conservation. This wheelchair will empower people of all abilities to explore nature freely without limitations.

Learn more and register at www.wcedc.com/rolling-for-freedom-5k.



- Peoples Bank; Molly Slocum - Indianola Pizza Ranch; Chuck Smith - Capital City Fruit; Sean Stacy - Peoples Bank; Barb VanGorder - Capital City Fruit; Vicki Vivone - Warren County Auditor; Ray Walker - City of Carlisle; Josh Wolett - Warren County.

The WCLI Class of 2024 is still hard at work preparing for their class project, the Rolling For Freedom 5k on June 15 to raise money for the purchase an electric all terrain wheelchair for the Annette Nature Center. ■

OUT & ABOUT



A ribbon cutting was held at Champion Xpress Car Wash on May 8.



A ribbon cutting was held at The Concession Stand, a new business on the Indianola Square, on May 10.



Meredith and Lacey Eubank and Kate and Makenna Sparks at the Farmers Market on the town square on May 25.



Misty and Josh Parker at the Farmers Market on the town square on May 25.



Joel Chandler, Maya Cenicerros and Shelly Chandler at the Farmers Market on the town square on May 25.



Marsha Franklin and Amy Davison at the Farmers Market on the town square on May 25.



Hannah Hernandez at the Farmers Market on the town square on May 25.

NEWS BRIEF

LEAD DSM announces YLI graduates

Lead DSM announces the graduation of the Youth Leadership Initiative (YLI) Class of 2024, which includes 33 student leaders from 18 central Iowa high schools, including Gage Boersma, Indianola High School.

The Youth Leadership Initiative provides high school students with leadership experiences and community connections that enhance confidence and encourage involvement in all levels of community life.

Students met once per month from September 2023 through April 2024 to explore topics on leadership, while learning about regional opportunities and issues. "We challenge YLI students to use their enhanced leadership skills to find new ways to impact the community, putting into practice our vision of a thriving community for all," said Kelly Royal, program manager for YLI. ■

FARMERS Market

Farmers Market on the town square on May 25.



Riley Gingirch



Maddi Romin and Beverly Keefew



Sydney Schulz, Natalia Hargin and Jacey Hutson



Ella Sperry, Emma Cox and Hannah Benson



Andrea, Elise and Phoebe Gregory



Olivia and Heidi Blanchard



Ron Gold



Trent Butler and Mitch Anderson



Rebecca Pace and Michael Ullestad



Ashley and Kirstin Valencic

HOW LONG the road?

Our roads are measured in years, not miles. We set out in life not knowing how long we'll be traveling. There's a brief phrase in the opening chapters of Genesis describing a man named Enoch. "Enoch walked with God; then he was not there because God took him." — Genesis 5:24. Though Enoch was spared the experience of death, it's how he lived that is instructive for us.



He walked with God. We can dream up all kinds of images of what that might physically look like, and in doing so completely miss the point, I believe. To better grasp this, I'll turn to another passage that is fairly well known, "We walk by faith, not by sight" — 2 Corinthians 5:7. Enoch's life, Enoch's journey, was one of belief.

As a young person, I remember hearing the commonly repeated saying that faith is walking to the edge of all the light you have and then taking one more step. There was even a poster to graphically show this. But nah, I don't agree. Maybe I'm being a bit picky here, but faith involves something more concrete than what we hope is waiting there in the darkness. It's an assurance of what we've been

promised in the light.

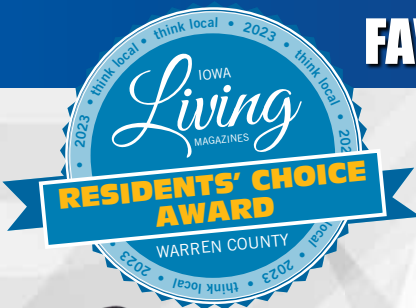
Back to Enoch. Though he's someone with just a passing mention in the opening chapters, he's held up as an example of faith for us later in the "hall of faith" found in Hebrews 11 (which is always inspiring reading when doubts and hardships arise). There we're told, "Now without faith it is impossible to please God, since the one who draws near to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him." Note how God-pleasing faith is so much more than some mental agreement on my part that God exists. It's so much more than that.

These days, it seems I have a front row seat to several folks walking very difficult paths, not knowing how long the journey will be. One in particular comes to mind as I think about this kind of faith. The many struggles being faced do not diminish this person's faith. Faith isn't simply a piece of luggage that can be set aside when the load needs to be lightened while going uphill. That's because of whom the faith is in, the Lord, the constant companion on this walk. ■

Information provided by Kevin Mayer, New Heights Church, 200 E. First Ave., Indianola, 515-442-5111.

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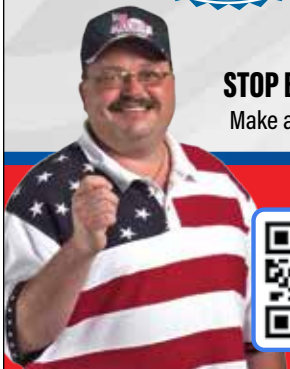
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