

WINTERSET

JANUARY 2022

# Living

MAGAZINE

## Pets OF A different KIND

What City ordinances and owners say about unusual pets

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EDUCATION

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WELCOME

## THAT'S NOT a rat

I don't like spiders and snakes. That's what Jim Stafford sang in his 1974 hit single, and I am with him on this one. But not everyone agrees. In fact, a surprisingly large number of people choose to have these and other unusual pets.

Throughout my life, we had the typical array of household pets: dogs, cats, fish and a handful of hamsters. Although rodents can be popular as pets, my childhood choice came about by accident.

My family was at a local park when we saw a small animal scampering across the parking lot. "Look at that rat!" my brother yelled. "Wait, that's not a rat," he added. "That's a hamster."

We slowly walked up to the rodent and discovered that it was, in fact, a hamster. What it was doing on the loose in a city park was anyone's guess. We assumed it escaped from a home and was doing its best to avoid becoming a hawk's lunch. So we did what most anyone would do and threw it in the river.

That's a joke. We took it home and made a makeshift home for it from a cardboard box, which, of course, it ate through in a matter of a few hours. We then constructed a metal box from scrap material in the garage, which this hamster was not going to gnaw through. We even built a hinged opening at the top so we could reach in and get it in and out. What we didn't envision was that this opening would eventually become an escape hatch for the little hamster — and escape it did.

Our family spent hours looking for this newfound pet, leaving food out as an attraction in hopes that it would appear. It didn't appear, but we did find it — floating in the water in the sump pump. That's certainly not a pleasant ending to this story, but we did learn a few lessons in the process, which helped immensely with the three hamsters that my daughters had years later. For the most part, we did become responsible hamster owners, except for the dog eating one of them.

On second thought, maybe spiders or snakes would have been a better choice.

Thanks for reading. ■



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Read more of Shane Goodman's columns each weekday morning by subscribing to The Daily Umbrella email newsletter for free at [www.thedailyumbrella.com](http://www.thedailyumbrella.com).



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## FEATURE

# Pets OF A different KIND

What City ordinances and owners say about unusual pets

Breckin Alexander, an 11-year-old Winterset student, has been the proud owner of an axolotl named Luna since this past April. While he can't hold his pet, he does enjoy interacting with it and caring for it.

By Rachel Harrington

Pet owners often say they can't imagine life without their beloved pet. Dogs, cats, bunnies and other furry friends provide companionship, entertainment and even affection to those willing to give them the time, attention and care they deserve and need to thrive. While the typical pet owner prefers to cuddle with the run-of-a-mill canine or feline, some opt for a more unusual choice. While others may find their pets less than adorable — and perhaps even a tad repulsive — these pet owners are just as attached to their critters of choice as cat and dog owners are to theirs.





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## Family prepared for months for an axolotl

Breckin Alexander, an 11-year-old Winterset student, has been the proud owner of an axolotl named Luna since this past April — for about eight months. Axolotls, which are a kind of aquatic salamander, are usually found in one of three colors: white albino, yellow albino and brown. They typically grow to about a foot long and originally came from a lake in Mexico City called Lake Xochimilco. Axolotls have an average life span of about 15-20 years.

“I was watching ‘Gravity Falls,’ and it had a backwards message that, when turned around, spelled ‘axolotl,’” explains Breckin. “A year later, I wondered what it was and looked it up. I thought they were really cute. They have three ‘horns’ on the sides of their heads that are actually their gills.”

Breckin’s mother, Kendra, says she started searching for axolotls because of Breckin’s interest in them.

“I did some searching on Facebook and found a breeder in West Des Moines,” she says. “He has been super helpful in answering all of our questions. We made Breckin prepare for six months before we got his axolotl because they can be very finicky about water temperature, the size of their tank... basically anything. They aren’t supposed to have rough things around them because they can get scratched easily.”

“I had to look up lots of stuff about axolotls such as if they are legal in the State of Iowa,” says Breckin. “I found out that they are legal

## City prohibits “dangerous animals”

The City Code for Winterset prohibits owning certain animals deemed “dangerous.” The list of animals not allowed includes: wolves and coyotes; badgers, wolverines, weasels, mink and other mustelids (except ferrets); bears; all apes including chimpanzees, baboons and macaques; monkeys, except the squirrel monkey; elephants; wild boar; black widow spiders and scorpions; snakes which are naturally venomous and poisonous; all cats, except domestic cats, including, but not limited to, lions, cougars, tigers, jaguars, leopards, lynx, bobcats; raccoons, opossums, and skunks; alligators and crocodiles. ■



Breckin Alexander’s axolotl peers from its tank.

in Iowa, but that they aren’t legal in places like New York and Indiana, and, in New Mexico, they are illegal to import.”

Breckin says he can’t really touch Luna, but sometimes he’ll take a capped Sharpie and “draw” on the side of her tank to play with her.

“We’re always looking for signs of sickness,” shares Kendra. “You can tell a lot by watching their ‘horns’ to determine how they’re doing, such as, if the ‘horns’ are curling forward or getting pale.”

Breckin adds, “I feed Luna blood worms that get their name from their red color. She eats one time per day. I have to dangle the worms in front of her face, but I have to be careful that she doesn’t get my fingers. It doesn’t hurt if she does, though, because her teeth are too weak.”

Luna lives in a tank in Breckin’s room. Axolotls prefer darker, cooler spaces, so the lights are almost always off in his room.

“We shut the heater vent in Breckin’s room so that it isn’t causing too much heat,” comments Kendra. “The tank is by a window, but Breckin makes sure to keep it closed.”

One of Breckin’s favorite facts about axolotls is that they can regrow basically any part of their body. He also likes that, when they yawn, their mouths look wide.

“They always look like they’re smiling,” says Kendra. “It makes them look really cute.”

Besides Luna, Breckin collects all things axolotl, including stuffed animals and a shirt that reads “I axolotl questions.”

## Sugar glider lessons

Megan Conner has been interested in sugar gliders since she was a teenager. She would visit the Iowa Pet Expo with her dad and visit the sugar glider exhibit at the expo each year.

“I always wanted one, but I knew they were expensive and were a big-time commitment,” she says.

Sugar gliders are nocturnal marsupials the size of a hamster that are native to Australia and New Guinea, mostly in rainforest areas. In the wild, sugar gliders live an average of five to seven years, but in captivity they can live on average 12 to 15 years.

“Some people mistake sugar gliders for rodents, but they aren’t,” explains Megan. “They require an exotic veterinarian. There is no Iowa state or city ordinance concerning sugar gliders, and there is no permit required. They are legal in the state of Iowa to own,” shares Megan. “I did discover that they aren’t legal in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Hawaii.”

One day a couple of years ago, Megan looked at the Iowa Rescue League’s website and saw a male sugar glider available on a first-come, first-served basis.

“I took half a day from work to go pick him up,” she says. “At first, I got a hamster cage for him, not realizing that it was too small. I now have cages that are 5-foot tall, so my sugar gliders have room to glide.”

“I named my first sugar glider Kona,”



## FEATURE

continues Megan. “I got another one that I named Rocky. I rescued him from a Cedar Rapids couple. Rocky lost his mate last year. I had been wanting to find Kona a companion because sugar gliders are colony creatures. I was told that, if I made the drive to get him, I could have him for free, so that’s what I did. Rocky and Kona lived beside each other in cages.”

Rocky recently fell ill and was euthanized.

Megan says that sugar gliders are fun, but not beginner pets.

“They don’t require shots, but most new owners take them for annual vet checks. They eat a staple diet that includes fresh or frozen fruits, veggies, applesauce, orange juice concentrate, and some types of proteins and rolled oats,” she comments. “They are omnivores. They love eucalyptus, too, and are sap suckers. They can pull bark off a tree and suck sap out.”

Megan takes her sugar gliders almost anywhere in little pouches.

“I try to take them out when I go out,” she says. “Sometimes I take them to Walmart with me. People who see them either think they’re cute or ugly. I don’t boast about the fact that I’m carrying them around. I generally keep them in a special hoodie with a zipper pouch sewn into it that I got on Etsy. It just looks like a normal sweatshirt.”

A fun fact she shares is that sugar gliders bark at each other to communicate.

“It doesn’t sound like a dog, but more of a high-pitched singular bark,” she remarks. “They’ll wait a couple seconds, then do another. They make lots of other sounds, but I think the bark is the funniest.”



Megan Conner has learned a lot about caring for sugar gliders and knows that they need a large cage and plenty of time out of it.

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Jewelry has always been something I have been intrigued by since I was young. I was always interested in fashion, and jewels. My mother was an art major and had pieces of jewelry laying around that she had made in college. So, the sparkle of gems and the concept of body adornment was a natural fit for me as a profession.

I wouldn’t say all my pieces of jewelry are wearable in the traditional sense. Many of my pieces are only meant to be worn for special occasions, yet others I design, knowing they will be worn everyday and need to stand up to the lifestyle of the owner. The jewelry our grandmothers wore is not what would typically wear well with today’s generations.

To design a piece of jewelry for a customer, I have such heartfelt satisfaction, knowing that that ring, pendant, earrings, or bracelet, will be something they are proud to wear. Regardless of if they have brought in an old family gem or piece of jewelry to redesign or if I provide the perfect diamond or colored gemstone, or pick an item out of the display cases, I love to create a piece of wearable art that will be enjoyed for years to come.

A photograph of two rings. The ring on the left is a wide band with a large pearl and a diamond. The ring on the right is a wide band with a diamond and a pearl. Below the rings is the logo for B. Shannon Designs, which consists of a stylized 'bs' in a square frame, followed by the text 'b.shannon designs'. Below the logo is the phone number '515-462-6749', the website 'www.bshannondesigns.com', the address '51 east jefferson street winterset, iowa 50273', and the hours 'open tuesday-friday 10am-5pm, saturday 10am-4pm and by appointment'.

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## FEATURE

### A cuddly bearded dragon

Zachary Fleming has a fascination with pets. His mother, Teresa, says he has had many kinds of pets over the years, including a turtle, ferrets, an Indian ringneck parakeet, a large ball python, several rats and a tarantula. For the last four years, he has had a bearded dragon.

“Zach is 26 years old and autistic, but he is very verbal and knowledgeable,” says Teresa. “He can give you lots of information on all his pets. He has loved to keep caged animals. He has done volunteer work with the zoo in the past. He loves exotic animals, and his pets have always been very therapeutic for him. He also has dogs and cats.”

Zachary heard that bearded dragons were good natured, so he chose that as the next pet he wanted. Zachary’s bearded dragon, Fernando, was gifted to him for Christmas.

Fernando eats crickets and mealworms. He will also occasionally eat some fresh veggies, and he lives in a 40-gallon tank.

“He has wood chips, water, and food dishes in his tank, but he doesn’t require many toys,” says Teresa. “Bearded dragons do require a lot of attention, though. Zach holds Fernando a lot. His tank has heat lamps on it because they need a warm climate.”

Because of their love of warmth, they also enjoy being held by their owners.

“They cuddle up to you and are very friendly,” she shares. “They are cuddly probably because of the body heat.”

Bearded dragons are often found in the wild in Australia.

“They usually live about eight years,” says Zachary, “and they usually grow to about 1.5 feet long. I’m not sure exactly how long they can get. When I got Fernando, he was about 6 inches long.”



Zachary Fleming enjoys his bearded dragon, which likes warmth and welcomes being held.

Teresa says that they can take Fernando out of the house if they want to, but because of his need for warmth, they only do so on very warm days.

“He has a leash to go on outdoor walks,” says Teresa. “You can walk them just like a dog, which is not something you can do with all animals. They really are very smart creatures.”

Teresa says one of her favorite things to do is watch Fernando eat crickets.

“He sticks his tongue out and catches the

crickets right up,” she remarks.

Zachary says, “A fun fact about bearded dragons is that they can go six weeks without eating.”

Another of his favorite things about Fernando is that he is cuddly. Teresa says bearded dragons are a low-maintenance pet.

“Fernando’s cage doesn’t really need to be cleaned out but once a month. Zachary says that he would possibly like to have another bearded dragon one day.” ■



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## HOW TO keep pipes from freezing and how to fix them

**Q: What can homeowners do to prevent pipes from freezing?**

**A:** Two things: leave your faucets dripping and open interior room and cabinet doors.

Turns out the old adage “leave your faucet dripping” when severe cold weather hits has some truth to it. When pipes freeze and break, it’s usually not from the pressure of the ice. In most cases, it’s the ice expanding inside the pipe and blocking the remaining water. Then, water pressure may build to the point of the pipe splitting. If you give even a little bit of that water a place to go, you may be able to reduce your chances of your pipes freezing and bursting.

Second, leave the doors to interior rooms and cabinets open (vanities, sinks, etc.). This promotes warm airflow to areas of your home that would normally be much colder. Even rooms that don’t have pipes can help warm air circulation.



**Q: Do frozen pipes always burst?**

**A:** Not always, but there is the potential of bursting.

If you’re able to turn off the water supply quickly, you may be able to avoid a split pipe. However, be cautious about turning your water back on. There may be other frozen sections of your plumbing that you can’t see.

If you decide to turn your water back on and there are other frozen areas, you may find yourself with far more damage than you started with.

**Q: How can homeowners fix a frozen pipe?**

**A:** The best advice we can safely give is to immediately turn off the water supply to your house and contact a professional.

Now, before you roll your eyes, let us explain.

Yes, you’ve probably heard about people thawing pipes themselves, but there’s actually a big risk in that. You may have found one or two areas that froze, but there may be others. When you thaw just the spots you can see and turn your water back on, you may very well be rushing water to other frozen or even burst pipes you didn’t know about. This can lead to water flowing into your house from several breaks in your plumbing system. Which is what we call a recipe for disaster.

**Q: Does my homeowners insurance cover damage from frozen pipes?**

**A:** It does. Your policy covers damage to the pipe(s) caused by freezing, and it may cover water damage that results from water escaping from the damaged pipe. Keep in mind that your policy may require your pipes be drained and/or heat maintained in your home for coverage to apply. (Note: There are specific policy provisions that affect this coverage for vacant homes and homes under construction.) ■

Information provided by Eric Johnson, Johnson Insurance, 224 E. Highway 92, Suite B, Winterset, 515-462-4553. Information from Auto-Owners Blog post, “Home (and Safe) for the Holidays” - Auto-Owners Insurance.

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## REAL ESTATE

By Jennifer Stover

# NEW YEAR resolutions for your home

As we roll into a New Year, you don't want your house to fall behind. Use these tips to revamp your home in the new year.



• **Add character:** Find a spot in your home to put up your family photos or an art gallery. This helps personalize a space in your home. These pictures or artwork make your home all about your family.

• **Make use of areas you never use:** Give that room that has no use some function. Turn it into a playroom, craft room, an office, or whatever will suit your lifestyle. Turn this room into something you can use to spend quality time with family and friends.

• **Make your home more welcoming:** Create spaces in your home that make people want to spend time together. Start by making your living room comfier, because your living room is the most important piece to a welcoming home.

• **Improve your kitchen:** The kitchen is the center of your home; therefore, you want it to be welcoming. To have a highly functional kitchen, you want it to be clean and organized.

• **Get your space clean and organized:** Start by decluttering your home. Get rid of everything you don't need. You could even re-organize the rooms in your house, giving your home a new and fresh feel. ■

Information provided by Jennifer Stover, Madison County Realty, 65 W. Jefferson, Winterset. Licensed in Iowa. 515-480-3389, jenniferstover@madisoncountyrealty.com.



If you need real estate assistance in the coming year, please call me! Together, we will make great things happen, whether you are buying or selling!




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## AUTOMOTIVE

By Dawn Lauer

# TOP 5 reasons your check engine light is on

From minor to serious issues, here are a few reasons your check engine light might be on.

1. **Loose gas cap.** Check to make sure it's properly secured and that there are no cracks in it.

2. **Failing oxygen sensor.** If you're experiencing a decline in fuel economy and your check engine light appears, have your oxygen sensor checked.

3. **Failing catalytic converter.** When your catalytic converter is failing, it could be caused by issues related to other systems that work interdependently with it that have not been addressed.

4. **Failing mass air flow sensor.** Always have your mass air flow sensor checked when the check engine light comes on. Since many of the parts of the engine work together, when one part fails, others tend to follow suit.

5. **Damaged spark plugs or wires.** It's important to keep in mind that these are some of the most common reasons for the check engine light to come on; however, there can be other issues that cause the check engine light to illuminate. Also, a flashing check engine light indicates a major internal failure and requires immediate attention. Regardless, you should not ignore the check engine light. Always check it as soon as possible to ensure the integrity of your vehicle. ■



Information provided by Dawn Lauer, Marketing Specialist, Quality Car Care, 1012 N. 10th St., Winterset, 515-462-1035. Source: [www.topdriver.com/education-blog/top-5-reasons-your-check-engine-light-is-on/](http://www.topdriver.com/education-blog/top-5-reasons-your-check-engine-light-is-on/)



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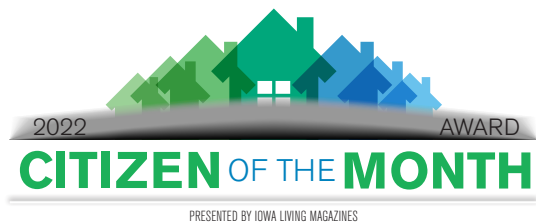
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## PITCHING in

Frease shows appreciation by giving back.



Born and raised in Winterset, Jennifer Frease returned to her hometown after completing a degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management and Hospitality Business from DMACC in Ankeny. Today, she works for Mad Co. Media Group, where she has been an account and sales representative and ad designer for more than 15 years. She says that a great perk of her current position is that it allows her to be involved with the happenings in Winterset as well as work closely with many local merchants, businesses, and finance professionals.

"I love the size of Winterset, the hometown feel and sense of pride that comes with living here. I also love that there are so many people in this community that want to see it thrive," she says.

For Frease, being a good citizen means being willing to offer her help, whether that be with planning or helping make sure Winterset is a great place not only to live but work and play. She says Winterset has been good to her, providing her with the privilege to learn a lot, meet great people, and take on new challenges she wouldn't have had living somewhere else. She says it is important to be involved in some of the great things that happen in Winterset and, by doing so, make it possible for them to continue.

"To be involved means learning how things work in our community and educating myself on important community happenings," Frease says. "I feel it is my duty to teach my boys how important it is to be a good steward to the community in which we live."

Frease has spent several years involved with the Madison County Covered Bridge Festival, including this past year as the vendor chair. She has also volunteered with her children's school and extracurricular activities and, in the summer months, can be found at the local ball fields as a member of the Winterset Little League Board.

In addition, she volunteers with the Madison County Chapter of Bras For The Cause, an organization that helps provide breast cancer screenings. A few years ago, Frease also took a leadership class in Winterset that led to her and a group of others starting their own nonprofit, the Winterset Disc Golf Group.

"I enjoy volunteering in our community for several reasons. I love meeting new people and networking. I enjoy some of the challenges volunteering brings and being able to work through those. I also find happiness seeing others enjoying themselves," Frease says. ■

**Do you know a citizen who deserves recognition?**  
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## CONGRATULATIONS!



Jennifer Frease, right, volunteered for the Covered Bridge Festival for years, last year as chair of the vendor committee. She receives her Citizen of the Month certificate from Brittany Hilsabeck of Scot Clark's Farm Bureau.

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## WEARING a crown

A crown, sometimes called a cap, is a tooth-shaped restoration that fits over an existing tooth or an artificial tooth root, called an implant. It can be used in several situations:

- To cover a misshaped, damaged, or discolored tooth

- To provide a hard outer shield to a tooth that is weakened because of a large filling or dental treatment, like a root canal

- When attached to a dental implant or abutment to fill a space left by a missing tooth

**Choosing the right material:** A crown can be made to look like the tooth it is replacing. Often, a crown is made with a tooth-colored material that matches your teeth. Tooth-colored crowns can be made out of ceramic, porcelain or composite resin. In some cases, a metal crown will be placed. Metal crowns can be



made with gold or a silver-colored metal like stainless steel or nickel. You and your dentist can talk about the type of material that will be best for your crown. Some factors considered include:

- The location of the crown and how much of it will show when you smile

- The function of the crown, for example, whether it will be in the back where there is a lot of pressure during chewing

- The color and appearance of the surrounding teeth

- The cost

You may also talk about insurance coverage with your dentist. Some of these materials are more expensive than others.

**Placing a crown:** Some crowns, like those made of stainless steel, come already made. They are tooth shaped and can be placed in one appointment. Others, like those made of composite resin, require two or more appointments to complete treatment. When the crown is being placed over a natural tooth, your

dentist will need to prepare the tooth that is serving as the base. Once the tooth is prepared for the crown, your dentist will make an impression. Some dental offices have computers that can make the crown in one appointment without an impression.

**Conclusion:** Crowns or caps are restorations that look like teeth and are made to fit over a specially prepared tooth or a dental implant. Crowns can be used to repair teeth that are misshapen, damaged, or weakened because of large fillings or root canal treatment. They also can be mounted on an artificial tooth root, called an implant. Crowns can be made of tooth-colored materials or metal. Factors like appearance, strength, and cost might influence which material you and your dentist select for your crown. In some cases, it will take more than one appointment to make and place your crown. ■

Information provided by Dr. James Elliott, Winterset Dental, 301 Wambold Drive, Winterset, IA 50273, 515-462-5755, [www.wintersetdentalia.com](http://www.wintersetdentalia.com). Source- JADA: American Dental Association.



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## NEW YEAR, new affirmations

With the new year come resolutions — quickly followed by guilt for breaking the resolution. Guilt and negative self-talk can go together in a vicious cycle. Maybe the best New Year's resolution is not to make one, but if you are going to, make two instead. The second being not to allow feelings of guilt or negative self-talk sneak into your mind. If it does get in your brain, then challenge those thoughts and feelings.



To challenge negative thoughts and guilty feelings, think back into your life and ask, "Have I experienced guilt or negative thoughts before about a similar experience?" For instance, when former resolutions were broken, did guilt or negative talk help or come true? Chances are the answer is no, so challenge the negative guilty thoughts with the fact they are unhelpful. Think of yourself as a prosecutor collecting all the facts and arguments against the negative guilty thought to prosecute it.

Another way to challenge negative guilty thoughts is listening to or reading affirmations. Affirmations are often the opposite of negative thoughts. Create affirmations using the opposite. Such as, "I can't do it" becomes "I might be able to do it because I have not tried." Look for affirmation apps and books. Write favorites on sticky notes to put around the house where you will see them. ■

Information provided by Janet Rieckhoff, LMHC of SS Therapy and Consulting, Ltd., 4725 Merle Hay Road, Suite 205, Des Moines, IA 50322, 515-528-8135, [www.sstherapyandconsulting.com](http://www.sstherapyandconsulting.com), [rieckhoff@sstherapyandconsulting.com](mailto:rieckhoff@sstherapyandconsulting.com).

## DETOXIFICATION to start the year right

It is not a surprise that we live in a world that has a toxic overload. Chemical use is everywhere. Our bodies contact chemicals in the products we use, the food we eat, the water we drink, and even the carpet in our house. It is nearly impossible to get away from all chemicals in our environment. Even trace amounts of toxins can build up and cause a toxic overload to our body and decrease the efficiency of the different functions, especially our digestion and endocrine systems.



As we enter the new year, it is a time many are focusing on their bodies. Exercise programs, new diets, breaking an old habit are common New Year's resolutions. This year, think about trying a body detoxifying product. There are seven-day, 10-day and 21-day programs that focus on your gut and liver health. The liver's primary function is to filter the blood. It removes toxins by eliminating them through our digestive system. It can be comparable to your filter in your vacuum or the oil filter on your car. We can change our oil filter and clean our vacuum filter, likewise we can detoxify our body to make it function better.

When it comes to cleaning your body through a detoxification program, ask your chiropractor first. ■

Information provided by Dr. Stuart Hoven, Chiropractic 1st, 105 E. Madison, Winterset, 515-462-4644.

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# BUILDING community spirit through home renovation

Eller targets neighborhood to flip homes.

Michael Eller worked in the corporate world as a systems engineer until this past year. He decided he didn't want to go back to working in that setting if his company decided to cease having him work from home. Instead, he opened a computer repair shop in Winterset and has begun to flip houses.

"There is another neighborhood in Winterset that has recently been revitalized, and I got inspired by the other houses," he explains.

He has restored a home he previously owned as a rental house.

"It's in a 'rougher' area of housing, and, at the end of the rental period was very torn up," he shares. "I decided that I didn't want to keep renting it out just to have to do major work on it every time a rental agreement ended, so I took it upon myself to fix it up so I could sell it."

The house is one of the original houses on that side of town. It was built in 1890 and has a limestone foundation. It has 150-year-old white oak cabinets in it.

"I remodeled everything in it," he says. "The house was trashed. When I was in my 20s, I worked with my dad doing fire and flood restoration, so I knew how to do it. I started with stripping the house. Then I added three coats of oil-based Kilz to everything. I had a new roof put on the house. Then I did texture, flooring and painting. Next came the cabinets and doors."

Eller put a custom deck on the house using 1900 barn wood that had been weathered gray.

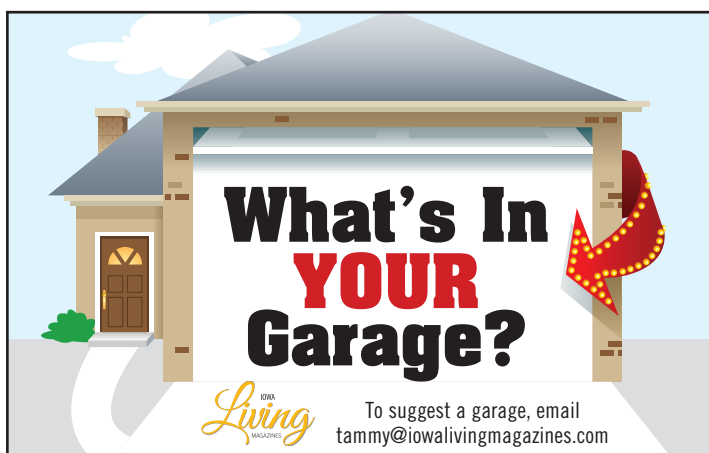
"I sanded the wood down by hand to the raw wood," he says. "It turned out really nice."

He also put in a new HVAC system.

"I also did lots of work on the landscaping and curb appeal," he comments. "I added my own flair on the cabinets in the house. I created a breakfast nook where they are, and I changed them to have varying colors of wood. The colors make it pop. It's like old meets new and is very rustic."



Michael Eller has targeted one neighborhood in his house-flipping endeavors. He says he has seen another neighborhood revitalized and hopes to do the same where his houses are located.



Everything in the house has been updated with a modern look, but Eller has made sure to keep the character.

"The whole process took longer than I thought. I was shooting for three months, but it took six months because I wanted to make sure I did everything the right way. I had some other people help me with some of the work, but I did all the fine tuning and painting myself. My goal is to turn that area of town around. I have five more houses that I own in that area where I plan to do the same thing."

Eller states that, in a backhanded way, COVID has the town of Winterset buzzing and people are investing here at home.

"My hope is to make a positive impact on the way people view the neighborhoods here and invest in the real estate market here that is still hot even into the winter." ■



Locally owned  
WINTERSET

# RAINBOW RESTORATION



## RAINBOW INTERNATIONAL

**OWNER:** Pat and Heather Riley

**ADDRESS:** 1621 John Wayne Drive, Winterset

**PHONE:** 515-462-4350

**WEBSITE:** [www.RainbowofSCI.com](http://www.RainbowofSCI.com)

Rainbow International Restoration offers disaster recovery services, simplified. We serve communities in South Central Iowa by restoring commercial and residential properties that have experienced damage due to water, fire, smoke, or mold. We also offer expert carpet and air duct cleaning services, board-up and tarp-over services after fires or storms, plus cleaning and storage for fire- or water-damaged contents.

Our company's president, Pat Riley, started the business in 2009 as a one-man operation from his basement. Noting that fire, water, and smoke damage events can be devastating, Pat wanted to ensure that rural residents in South Central Iowa receive the same focus and attention from a restoration company as do residents of larger metro communities.

Our restoration company is full-service: We take care of your property from the inspection and estimating stages clear through to completion of a final walk-through following rebuilding from a fire or water loss. We care about your story and respect that the damaged possessions in your home represent your lives and livelihoods.

After 11 years in business (and outgrowing two other facilities), we are now in a new location at 1621 N. John Wayne Drive. This

new building has enough parking, office space, and warehouse capacity for the equipment, trucks, tools, and resources a business like ours requires. We employ 20 people from throughout South Central Iowa who serve as technicians, project managers, office staff, and salespeople.

Our company has won many awards, including the 2014 "Customer Service of the Year" award from the Madison County Chamber of Commerce, and Pat received the 2019 "Businessperson of the Year" Award, also from the Madison County Chamber. Within the 300+ Rainbow International franchise system, we were recognized in 2019 as the "Franchise of the Year" — an accolade previously received by locations in large metropolitan areas such as Kansas City, Chicago, San Antonio, and Saskatoon. "Top Gun" is the award status given to the top 20% of sales leaders within the franchise, and we have consistently achieved this status since 2016.

Giving back to the community is a large part of our company culture. This year, employees participated in a food drive for MATURA called "Karts for Kids" and gathered board games and puzzles for Christmas to donate to needy families through C.R.I.S.P. Our team enjoys building dazzling floats for the Festival of Lights and Covered Bridge Festival parades, and we welcome opportunities to volunteer for community projects.

We hope you never need our services, but we are here for you when you do!





## WARM UP winter with comforting classics

*(Family Features)* Whipping up family favorites all winter long is a perfect activity to keep loved ones warm in the kitchen while avoiding the bitter chill outdoors. Delicious, heartwarming snacks offer a simple and savory way to bring everyone in from the cold while enjoying comforting flavors together.

Lean on beloved ingredients like go-to RAGÚ sauces when it's time to come together for quick bites. The possibilities are nearly endless with delicious recipes using classics like the RAGÚ Old World Style Traditional or RAGÚ Simply Traditional options.

Hearty flavors can take away the chill of winter in recipes like Baked Tomato Goat Cheese Dip. Easy to make and fun to create, this simple snack is perfect for a cold afternoon spent together in the kitchen or watching a family-movie marathon.

Find more recipes perfect for warming up this winter at [Ragu.com](http://Ragu.com). ■

### Baked tomato goat cheese dip

Recipe courtesy of Marzia Aziz of "Little Spice Jar"

Prep time: 10 minutes

Cook time: 20 minutes

Servings: 4-6

#### Ingredients

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 2 cups RAGÚ Simply Traditional Sauce
- 3 cloves garlic, divided
- 1/4 cup fresh basil, chopped, divided
- 1/8-1/4 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 1 log (10-12 1/2 ounces) goat cheese, softened at room temperature
- 2 teaspoons olive oil, plus additional for brushing, divided
- 1/4 teaspoon fresh thyme
- kosher salt, divided
- pepper
- 1 large baguette, sliced on bias
- blistered tomatoes, for serving (optional)

#### Directions

- Position one rack in upper third of oven and one in lower third. Preheat oven to 375 F. Spray small, round baking dish with nonstick cooking spray; set aside.
- Add sauce to small bowl. Grate in two garlic cloves then add 1/8 cup basil and red pepper flakes. Stir to combine then pour sauce into baking dish.
- Smash goat cheese log into ball. Place ball between two sheets plastic wrap. Using hands, flatten cheese into thick, round disc about 1 inch smaller in diameter than baking dish. Remove goat cheese from plastic wrap and place in center of sauce. Drizzle cheese with 2 teaspoons olive oil. Sprinkle with fresh thyme, kosher salt and pepper. Bake on lower rack, uncovered, 20-25 minutes, or until sauce is bubbly and cheese is warmed through.
- Place baguette slices on baking sheet. Drizzle or brush with olive oil and



sprinkle with kosher salt. Bake crostini on upper rack 10-12 minutes, flipping halfway through. When bread is done, remove from oven, cut last garlic clove in half and rub cut side on bread.

- Top dip with remaining basil and blistered tomatoes, if desired, and serve with crostini.
- **Note:** To make blistered tomatoes: Heat skillet over medium-high heat until almost smoking. Add 1 pint cherry tomatoes to dry skillet and let sit 1 minute. Lower heat to low, toss tomatoes with 2 teaspoons olive oil and cook 2-3 minutes, or until tomatoes are about to burst. Remove from heat; sprinkle with pinch of salt and pepper.



## HOMEFRONT REAL ESTATE

Locally owned  
WINTERSSET

**OWNER:** Sarah Cowman  
**ADDRESS:** 57 E. Jefferson St, Winterset  
**PHONE:** 515-468-0409  
**WEBSITE:** [www.homefront-realestate.com](http://www.homefront-realestate.com)



Originally from Massena, IA our family moved to Winterset in 2015. I immediately feel in love with Madison County and feel grateful to be able to raise our family here. I've been working in Real Estate since 2008 and am a member of Des Moines Area Association of Realtors, the Iowa Association of Realtors and the National Association of Realtors. I specialize in residential, land and commercial buying and selling. I am the owner of Homefront Real Estate which was established in 2012.

Early on in my career, I recognized quickly that I gained great satisfaction in knowing I helped people with one of the biggest decisions of their lives. Whether it's a couple buying their first home, a family purchasing a vacation home, or the empty nesters looking to downsize, I get the opportunity to help people through each stage in their lives and truly be a part of a community. I recognize and value the trust my clients place in me, and I strive every day to demonstrate the highest level of integrity and commitment to exceeding their expectations and to bring a little fun into every real estate transaction. I am committed to listening to my

client's needs and utilizing my negotiating skills to ensure a successful transaction. I never get bored in my profession as change is a crucial part of it, especially in this fast paced market.

I take pride in giving back to my community and serve on the Madison County Chamber Board, Winterset Zoning Commission, Education Foundation Board, and St Joseph Church Finance Council. I volunteer for St Joseph Church, assist with the Veteran's Ball for the American Legion Post 184 and Coach Little League Baseball.

In 2020 and 2021 I was awarded Favorite Madison County Realtor chosen by the people of this community themselves. Our real estate team is amazing and consists of Warren Booton, Betsy Breeding, Emily Dudzinski, Wendy Frost, Brandon Herr, Jake Johnston, Jen Reed and Ian Sparks. All are very professional and caring Realtors! We invariably pitch in for each other, share a team spirit, and our primary focus is customer education and satisfaction. Let one of our team members assist you with your next property purchase or sale!

## Polenta bites

- 1 tube (18 ounces) polenta
- 1 1/2 teaspoons olive oil
- 1 jar (24 ounces) RAGÚ Chunky Tomato, Garlic and Onion Sauce
- 1 package (8 ounces) shredded mozzarella
- 2 sprigs, rosemary, destemmed and chopped
- 3 basil leaves, chopped
- 1 block (8 ounces) hard Parmesan cheese

### Directions

- Cut polenta into slices. In skillet, heat olive oil over medium-high heat; fry polenta slices 10-12 minutes on each side until crispy and golden brown.
- In saucepan over medium heat, warm sauce.
- Place polenta slices on tray and sprinkle with mozzarella. Place 1/2 teaspoon warm sauce on each slice then sprinkle with chopped rosemary and basil. Grate hard Parmesan onto each slice for topping.



## WHY WE ADVERTISE IN

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I have written an article in the Winterset Living Magazine for several years. I love having the opportunity to educate my community on the benefits of Chiropractic and natural health care. I know people read my article because they comment to me about the topics I discuss. I enjoy working with the sales rep who makes it a smooth process of submitting my article and changing my ad each month. I am thankful to have this platform to reach the community I care about.

**Dr. Stuart Hoven**



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## EVENTS IN THE AREA

Be sure to check for cancellations

To submit calendar items for consideration, send to [tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com](mailto:tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com)



### Iowa Watercolor Society Traveling Show

The Winterset Art Center  
Through January

See this traveling show free of charge. The Art Center is open Wednesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Iowa Watercolor Society is a statewide organization that was founded in 1977 by a group of watercolor artists. Each year, IWS sponsors an annual meeting with a juried exhibition for its members. Award winners are recognized and the Traveling Show is defined. The mission of the IWS is to support and encourage advancement of watercolor media and to foster the appreciation and interest of both the artist and the public.



### Winterset Education Foundation Trivia Night

Saturday, Feb. 12  
Jackson Building

Enjoy this fundraising trivia night. Cost is \$150 per table for teams up to eight members. Contact Jennifer Jackson for more information or to sign up, 515-462-7777 or [Jjackson@madisonhealth.com](mailto:Jjackson@madisonhealth.com).

### Gymnastics: Chow's Winter Classic

Jan. 13-16

Hy-Vee Hall in downtown Des Moines

The balance beam, vault, floor, uneven bars... Witness the excellence of 1,500 gymnasts from around the country this month, as Chow's Gymnastics hosts the 19th Annual Chow's Winter Classic. The event features gymnasts competing in USAG Levels 3-10 and Xcel.



This year, the Winter Classic will also showcase a dual meet between the Iowa State Cyclones and the Temple Owls. For more information, visit [www.ChowsGymMeets.com](http://www.ChowsGymMeets.com).

### Iowa Quilt Museum exhibit

Through Jan. 23

68 E. Court Ave., Winterset

Iowa Quilt Museum welcomes quilters, quilt lovers, history buffs and appreciators of American art and culture. Showing is "Here Comes the Sun," an exhibit honoring the sun with a study of the color orange in both historic and contemporary quilts. For more information, visit [www.iowaquiltmuseum.org](http://www.iowaquiltmuseum.org).



### Samantha Fish concert

Wednesday, Jan. 19

Wooly's, in downtown Des Moines'  
Historic East Village

This live performance features Samantha Fish's explosive brand of blues/rock-and-roll. For more information, visit [www.woolysdm.com](http://www.woolysdm.com).



### Tedeschi Trucks Band concert

Wednesday, Jan. 19

Civic Center, downtown  
Des Moines, 221 Walnut St.

This 12-member collective continues to push musical boundaries. From uplifting soulful anthems to bittersweet ballads and driving rock and roll, Tedeschi Trucks Band delivers an impactful sound and message with its genre-defying repertoire. For more information, visit [DMPA.org](http://DMPA.org).



### Fire & Ice Winter Pub Crawl

Saturday, Jan. 22, 1-4 p.m.

Valley Junction

CITYVIEW'S winter event returns. Tickets, ordered in advance, are \$20. Cost is \$30 at the door. Ticket covers 10 sample winter specialty drinks at participating establishments in Valley Junction. Tickets are available online at [fire-and-ice.dmcityview.com](http://fire-and-ice.dmcityview.com).

## EVENTS IN THE AREA

Be sure to check for cancellations

To submit calendar items for consideration, send to [tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com](mailto:tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com)



### Winter Jam - All Together Now Tour

Saturday, Jan. 22

Wells Fargo Arena, 233 Center St., Des Moines

Winter Jam, Christian music's biggest multi-artist tour, returns this year, and the 2022 lineup is loaded featuring Skillet, Tauren Wells, KB, Colton Dixon, I Am They, NewSong and pre-jam artists Abby Robertson and Bayside Worship along with speaker Shane Pratt. General admission is a \$10 donation at the door starting at 4 p.m. The pre-show is at 5 p.m., and the show starts at 6 p.m. For more information, visit [www.jamtour.com](http://www.jamtour.com).

### That Golden Girls Show! A Puppet Parody

Jan. 25-30

The Temple Theater, 1011 Locust St., Des Moines

Sophia and her get-rich-quick schemes, Rose and some epic tales from St. Olaf, Blanche and an insatiable hunt for you know what, and Dorothy's daily struggle to figure out life. This new show uses puppets to parody the TV classic, "Golden Girls." For more information, visit [www.desmoinesperformingarts.org](http://www.desmoinesperformingarts.org).

### Immortal Beloved by the Des Moines Symphony

Saturday, Jan. 29, 7:30 p.m. and

Sunday, Jan. 30, 2:30 p.m.

Des Moines Civic Center, 221 Walnut St., Des Moines

"Ever thine. Ever mine. Ever ours," wrote Beethoven in a July 1812 letter to his "immortal beloved," a woman whose identity has remained one of the great mysteries of classical music. Now the Des Moines Symphony's Masterworks 4 features the concert "Immortal Beloved" with Natasha Paremiski playing Rachmaninoff's grand Third Piano Concerto. For more information, visit [www.dmsymphony.org](http://www.dmsymphony.org).



### Transcending Trauma seminar

Friday, Jan. 28, check-in starts at 9 a.m.

Program 9:15 a.m. to 4:20 p.m.

Grand View University, The Student Center

Crossroads of Iowa is offering its ninth annual community seminar for "the helping professionals and survivors of trauma." Tuition, which must be prepaid, is \$100 or \$85 if postmarked by Jan. 21. Register online at [www.crossroadsofiowa.org](http://www.crossroadsofiowa.org) or mail checks to 2815 199th St., Suite 111, Urbandale, IA 50322. Walk-ins welcome if space available with payment of cash only. Topics include Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing; Rounding, Grieving, Growing Steps of Recovery from Trauma; An Extensive History Validated by Research; and Healing Trauma Through Yoga.



### Iowa Wild Hockey home games

Various January dates

Wells Fargo Arena, 730 Third St., Des Moines

Enjoy hockey at the American Hockey League level, with players that regularly go on to play for the Minnesota Wild. For more information, visit [www.iowawild.com](http://www.iowawild.com). Home games are:

- Friday, Jan. 14 vs. Chicago Wolves, 6 p.m.
- Saturday, Jan. 15 vs. Chicago Wolves, 6 p.m.
- Monday, Jan. 17 vs. Milwaukee Admirals, 2 p.m.
- Friday, Jan. 28 vs. San Diego Gulls, 7 p.m.
- Saturday, Jan. 29 vs. San Diego Gulls, 6 p.m.

### Iowa Wolves home games

Various January dates

Wells Fargo Arena, 730 Third St., Des Moines

The Iowa Wolves basketball team is affiliated with the Minnesota Timberwolves of the NBA and plays in the NBA Gatorade League, which is the NBA's official minor league. Home games are set for:

- Thursday, Jan. 13 vs. Memphis Hustle/Grizzlies
- Sunday, Jan. 23 vs. Texas Legends/Mavericks, 4 p.m.



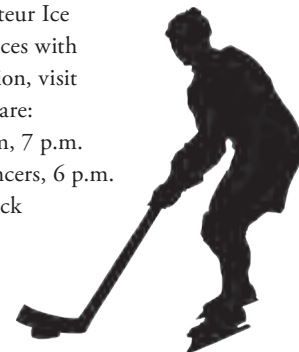
### Des Moines Buccaneers home games

Various January dates

Buccaneer Arena in Urbandale, 7201 Hickman Road

The Buccaneers, a Junior A Amateur Ice Hockey team, entertains local audiences with fast-paced action. For more information, visit [www.bucshockey.com](http://www.bucshockey.com). Home games are:

- Friday, Jan. 7 vs. Tri-City Storm, 7 p.m.
- Saturday, Jan. 8 vs. Omaha Lancers, 6 p.m.
- Friday, Jan. 14 vs. Waterloo Black Hawks, 7 p.m.
- Saturday, Jan. 15 vs. Lincoln Stars, 6 p.m.





## STAYING out of debt in 2022

If you met your personal financial goal of paying off unsecured debt in 2021, then the last thing you want to do is go back into debt this next year. Spending less than you earn can be challenging for even the best budget-savvy consumers.

Here are some general tips:

- Find additional income. A temporary part time job can help to fund extra savings so that emergencies don't end up on a credit card. If your employer allows, work over-time. Review tax withholding allowances. Find a flexible side hustle.
- Track your expenses. If you are over spending, take a look at your bank statements for a month and find the leak.
- Continue to make savings a priority even if it is a small amount.
- Check your subscriptions. Do you have multiple streaming options, an unused gym membership, or magazines that you can cut back on?
- Grocery prices are rising. Take advantage of meal planning around ads or shopping discount grocers. Stick to the list. When eating out, take advantage of discount nights, happy hours, or sharing meals.
- Brown Bag it. Lunches and coffees on the go can be a budget buster. Save by making it at home.

Congratulations on making financial wellness a priority in your life. Cheers to a debt-free New Year. ■

Information provided by Tom Coates, Consumer Credit of Des Moines, 6129 S.W. 63rd St., Des Moines, IA 50321, 515-287-6428.



## MEET Drake Van Roekel

Impacting students through music

After graduating from North Polk High School in 2013, Drake Van Roekel attended Iowa State University, where he graduated in 2017. He was the director of bands in the West Marshall Community School District before joining the Winterset community. He says he came to Winterset because it is known as a community with an outstanding band program that receives great community support.

"Music made a huge impact in my life as a student. I learned hard work and discipline through consistent practice and rehearsal and saw the impact that my high school band director made on myself and the students around me. I knew that I wanted to be able to influence young people, so it seemed like a perfect fit," he says.

Van Roekel says that a great part of teaching at the Winterset Community School District is the tremendous community support. He enjoys that the district has set up the band program so that each band director is able to work with all grade levels, which gives students more opportunities to learn from a variety of styles and get more instrument-specific help.

"Winterset is one of the most well-rounded band programs in the state, which opens many doors for our students," says Van Roekel.

In addition, band students have multiple opportunities to participate in activities beyond the classroom. This includes the Marching Huskies, which performs at all home football games, local parades, and five competitions each fall. The band also performs four concerts each year and at many home basketball games as the pep band. On top of this, students also have the option to audition for Honor Bands, participate in jazz band, and participate in the musical pit band.

"I love being a band director because I believe we 'teach kids how to be good people through music.' Music is a worthwhile endeavor that provides many opportunities and benefits to our students throughout their lives. I truly enjoy getting to spend every day with our students through the highs and the lows and be that positive adult in their life," says Van Roekel.

When not teaching, Van Roekel enjoys spending time with his family, hiking, cycling, listening to live music, and reading. He has also been on the Iowa Jazz Championships Board of Directors since 2019 and is the co-chair of the SCIBA Honor Band. He says that these positions not only enable him to support student success in Winterset but also across the state of Iowa. ■



Drake Van Roekel was inspired by his band teacher to be a music educator.

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## FACTORS related to cognitive issue

Are you noticing that your memory is not quite what it used to be? Forgetting your daughter's birthday, your dentist appointment or even possibly your evening medications? Many seniors worry about the early signs of Alzheimer's without realizing that some cognitive issues can mean more general health problems such as dehydration or even thyroid issues.

A thyroid that is low functioning can be experienced as general fatigue or slowed cognition. Overconsumption of alcohol or not getting enough daily fluids affects the brain. It's important to get to the root cause of what may be affecting your ability to remember or think clearly. Medicare allows for a screening which should be included in your yearly checkup.

Certain medications can cause memory issues, and your primary care physician may want to do a medication review to make sure.

You will want to mention all medications including over the counter and even natural remedies.

Lack of quality sleep directly impacts the brain and its functions. If you are waking up multiple times a night, having a difficult time falling asleep and notice a decrease in your cognition, this should be mentioned to your doctor. Simple adjustments may make a difference without the addition of another medication. Cutting down on caffeine, getting daily exercise, making sure you have a safe and comfortable sleep environment can all directly impact sleep health.

If you have been feeling low with a lack of motivation and not able to participate in the things that used to bring you joy, depression may be setting in. Depression can physically alter the brain, which has a direct impact on attention, memory, and processing.

Protect your brain and your memory

by including physical activity and social connections in your daily routine. Look to your diet and how you can increase foods such as berries, fish and dark, leafy greens which have shown to support brain health. There are supplements on the market such as Zinc, Vitamin B, Vitamin E and Magnesium which boost brain health as well. Make sure to speak to your doctor before starting any new dietary regimen. Another way to keep the mind sharp is word puzzles and even watching Jeopardy. Reading improves memory and slows cognitive decline. How about an outing to the local library? Trying something new such as different foods, social activities, yoga or even going to a different coffee shop or restaurant engages the brain. ■

Information provided by Lisa Peterson, Senior Director of Marketing Iowa Region, 515-207-0191, lpeterson@azriahealth.com.

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## FINANCE By Jason Kleemeier

# IS INFLATION peaking?

One lesser-known indicator is called the Baltic Dry Index.

You see it in prices at the grocery store and the gas station. You feel it in your monthly budget. So why don't the financial markets seem too concerned about inflation?

Remember, financial markets are considered "discounting mechanisms," meaning they are looking six- to nine-months into the future. And by June 2022, the financial markets expect that inflation will be lower than today.<sup>1</sup>

One lesser-known indicator helping support that forecast is called the Baltic Dry Index. It measures the cost of transporting raw materials, such as coal and steel. The index has been trending lower for several weeks, which, in the past, has suggested that prices may be more manageable in the months ahead.<sup>2</sup>

No indicator is fool-proof. That's why the Baltic Dry Index is just one of the many indicators that our professionals follow when watching inflation. They also keep a close eye on the Fed, which is responsible for controlling inflation.<sup>3</sup>

With the economy improving, the Federal Reserve has indicated it will be tapering bond purchases this month. That may help with inflation. The Fed also has prepared the markets for higher interest rates in 2022. That, too, may help.<sup>4</sup>

For now, it's important to understand that inflation can influence interest rates, which often play a role in how a portfolio is constructed. We're keenly focused on what's next for inflation to determine if any portfolio changes are appropriate in the future. ■

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Citations: 1. Investopedia.com, 2021. 2. CNBC.com, November 10, 2021. 3. ClevelandFed.org, 2021. 4. CNBC.com, November 3, 2021.





# COLLINS collects vehicles of all kinds

From toy trucks and cars to the Jeeps his family drives

Kent Collins is surrounded by collector items of all kinds. At his farm homestead, which has been in his family for several generations, he has horse bits collected by his father. Some are display ready, and others are in buckets waiting to be restored. He also has lots of tack his father collected and many kinds of vehicles ranging from matchbox-sized cars to the Jeeps he prefers to drive.



In either 1975 or 1976, Kent's grandfather gave him a 164-scale semi-truck to play with.

"I used it as a toy," he shares. "It is Hot-Wheels sized, and it was either new or fairly new. I would use it to play with my friends. Over the years, I nearly destroyed it. It was missing its doors and some of the wheels. It wasn't until I went to DMACC that I learned it was a collectible. I knew my professor restored toys, so I took it to him so he could look at it. He got excited and said that it was a Winross. Those were made for promos for companies like the one my grandfather worked for out of Storm Lake. Professor Denny helped me clean it up, put doors and wheels back on it, and made it shelf ready. No one, not even my own daughter, has touched it since I put it on the shelf."

Kent has other collector's toy trucks besides the Winross.

"I collect toy trucks," he says. "When I see something cool that I think would look neat in my collection, I go ahead and buy it. I'm trying to get my hand on an Anderson Erickson Dairy truck. I haven't found one, but I'm not giving up yet. The one from my grandfather, however, is the most special and probably worth the most."

Jeeps are another collecting passion of Kent's.

"When I was 13-14 years old, I saw a CJ7 Jeep and knew that I just had to have one someday," he remembers. "It was just a basic, run-of-the-mill Jeep with nothing plush about it. It wasn't until I was in my 40s that I was able to own one. I saw an ad on Craigslist for a 1983 CJ7 Jeep, and a buddy of mine went with me to check it out. It was a good price, and I had the money, so I went to get it the day after I saw the ad. It was like it was meant to be."

Kent says, once you own a Jeep, it seems to multiply.

"I don't know how they do," he jokes.

The love of Jeeps has "infected" his whole family. He's had several Jeeps, including his wife's Jeep Liberty and a Jeep Cherokee until someone turned in front of him. At one point, he had their three Jeeps, his nephew's two Jeep Cherokees, and a friend's Jeep Comanche all at his place. His daughter also hopes to have a Jeep.

"I never thought I'd find the one I wanted, but I decided to wait to buy a Jeep until I did," he says. He's thankful for the meant-to-be moment of finding one. ■



Kent Collins collects many items, from farm equipment to toy cars to Jeeps.





## OUT & ABOUT



Alex Putney and Kylee Tindle of Spoons Full of Sugar on Shop Small Saturday Nov. 27 in Winterset.



Dea, Liz and Maggie Hensley on Shop Small Saturday Nov. 27 in Winterset.



Alyssa Tadlock and Amy Sawyers of Heartland Fiber on Shop Small Saturday Nov. 27 in Winterset.



Eric Johnson, Jennifer Porter, Angie Kinsey, Taylor Benshoof, Ben Applegate and Kenna Johnson on the Integrity Financial float at the Festival of Lights Nov. 26 on the Square.



Jodi Larson and Ann Neimanis of ReHome on Shop Small Saturday Nov. 27 in Winterset.



Melody Reels at Quits of Valor on Shop Small Saturday Nov. 27 in Winterset.



Cheryl Berry and Alyssa Tadlock at the Festival of Lights Nov. 26 on the Square.



Ross, Blakley, Emily, Campbell and Quade Rethmeier at the Festival of Lights Nov. 26 on the Square.



Emma and Paige Henry and Steve Wiggins at the Festival of Lights Nov. 26 on the Square.



Drake and Chad Nordstrom at the Festival of Lights Nov. 26 on the Square.



Brian Gray, Heather Renfrew and Shane Cunningham at the Festival of Lights Nov. 26 on the Square.



Micah, Tamra and Calum Yeager at the Festival of Lights Nov. 26 on the Square.



## OUT & ABOUT



A ribbon cutting was held for the Scenic Byway Dec. 1 at the Madison County Historical Museum.



Allissa Johnson, Nina Lorimor-Easley and Angie Kinsey at the Chamber Coffee hosted by Every Step Hospice on Nov. 19 at Union State Bank.



Terri Kuhns, Jodi Lake and Erin Harmon at the Chamber Coffee hosted by Every Step Hospice on Nov. 19 at Union State Bank.



Tom Leners and Marianne Fons at the Chamber Coffee hosted by Every Step Hospice on Nov. 19 at Union State Bank.



Brittany Hilsabeck, Kristina Benshoof and Sarah Nigg at the Chamber Coffee hosted by Every Step Hospice on Nov. 19 at Union State Bank.



Sheri Coughenower, Melody Reels and Cheri Grauer at the Chamber Coffee hosted by Every Step Hospice on Nov. 19 at Union State Bank.



Maria Forgy and Drew Barden at the Chamber Coffee hosted by Every Step Hospice on Nov. 19 at Union State Bank.



Julie Fritz, Whitney Messerschmitt and Tami Garrison at the Chamber Coffee hosted by Every Step Hospice on Nov. 19 at Union State Bank.



Kim Shaw and Dana Sherrill at the Holiday Farm Shop Nov. 20 at PepperHarrow Farms.



Heidi Dorrell, Lisa Kneedler and Shanda Stovie at the Holiday Farm Shop Nov. 20 at PepperHarrow Farms.



Jo Gustafson and Jess Gibbons at the Holiday Farm Shop Nov. 20 at PepperHarrow Farms.



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