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WELCOME

FUNNEL cakes, chaos and community

There is nothing quite like a community festival to remind us that humanity is chaotic, charming and deeply committed to eating fried food outdoors.

On paper, festivals sound wholesome — live music, local vendors, smiling families. In reality, they are a delightful mash-up of sunburns, long lines and someone's uncle absolutely destroying a karaoke rendition of a 1980s power ballad. And yet, we keep coming back.

Maybe it is because community festivals turn ordinary places into something slightly magical. Suddenly they are packed with food trucks, handmade jewelry and a suspiciously competitive pie-eating contest.

The real entertainment, though, is the people. Festivals are one of the few places where strangers will strike up a conversation with others for no reason at all.

And then there is the food — arguably the main event. Community festivals operate under a simple rule that, if it can be fried, it will be fried. Oreos? Fried. Pickles? Fried. Possibly things that were never meant to be fried? Absolutely fried.

Music adds another layer. Local bands take the stage and give it everything they have got. And there is something refreshing about a performance where the lead singer might also be your dentist.

Of course, no festival is complete without at least one mildly chaotic moment. Maybe it is a sudden rain shower that sends everyone scrambling under tents. Maybe it is a child covered head to toe in cotton candy. Maybe it is you, realizing you have been walking around for an hour with powdered sugar on your face.

In the end, community festivals are messy, loud and a little ridiculous, but that's exactly why they matter. They pull people out of their routines and into shared space, where the goal isn't productivity or efficiency, but simply being there.

You may leave feeling slightly tired, possibly sticky and definitely overfed. But you also leave with a feeling that, for a few hours, you were part of something fun, spontaneous and genuinely human. ■

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CLIVE *Festival*

The 50th year of this community event features new Greenbelt Landing

By Sean Dengler

Clive's largest annual community gathering returns July 17-18, as the Clive Festival celebrates milestones and unveils the city's new Greenbelt Landing.

"The most obvious one for us is it's the 50th anniversary of Clive Festival, so we're celebrating that," Jeff Lucas, recreation manager for the city of Clive, says.



Fireworks will light up the sky about Clive during this year's festival.

For Clive residents and those from surrounding communities, the festival is a significant annual event.

"This is Clive's one large community gathering per year," Lucas says. "It's a chance for this rectangle of a community to come in as one and experience and meet other people. Obviously, we have volunteers as well. If you're looking to meet new people, that's a great way to do so."

Those interested in volunteering or sponsoring the Clive Festival can visit the city of Clive website at www.cityofclive.com/parkandrecreation/programs_and_events/clive_festival.php.

More information, including updates on activities, can also be found on the website or the festival's Facebook event page. The full schedule is expected to be announced July 1.

Family-friendly activities will include inflatables and the Clive Running Festival, which offers a 5K, 1-mile run and kids mini trot races ranging from 50 to 400 meters. The races begin at Greenbelt Landing. Proceeds support trail improvements, including drinking fountains and annual maintenance. Registration is available at <https://raceroster.com/events/2026/116463/clive-running-festival-2026>.

Kids for Art will take place in the Clive City Hall Council Chambers at 4 p.m. July 17. Each night, from 5-9:30 p.m., the Kids Fun Zone will feature bounce houses, a rock wall, balloon twisting, caricatures, face painting, Iowa Wild and the Greenbelt Goats. Touch a Truck and the Community Art Project will return from 10 a.m. to noon July 18. A game of chance will be offered at Creekside Pavilion from 3-5 p.m. July 18.

The Cardboard Boat Regatta will again take place at the Clive Aquatic Center.

"We've done that a few years now. We've had almost 100 people at



The Cardboard Boat Regatta will again take place at the Clive Aquatic Center.

that event, which doesn't seem like a lot until you get them there. There's been about 25 boats and 100 people watching, so it's almost kind of become a little party in and of itself," Lucas says.

The Giant Slip 'N Slide is expected to return, depending on the status of the Central Iowa Water Works voluntary water ban. A variety of food and merchandise vendors will be available both nights. The Clive Lions Club Pancake Breakfast will be held from 7-10 a.m. July 18 at the new Greenbelt Landing.

Live music will also be featured throughout the festival. On Friday, Plastic Apartment will perform from 5-7:30 p.m., followed by Standing Hampton from 8-11 p.m. On Saturday, BS and the Liars will perform



Family-friendly activities will include the Clive Running Festival, which offers a 5K, 1-mile run and kids mini trot races ranging from 50 to 400 meters.

from 5-7:30 p.m., followed by Decoy from 8-11 p.m.

Fireworks are scheduled for 9:30 p.m. both nights.

The event relies heavily on community sponsorships.

“This event would not be possible without the sponsors,” Lucas says.

“The more sponsors Clive Festival receives means more opportunities for community members.”

For Lucas, now in his fifth year coordinating the festival, the event holds special meaning.

“If you’re in parks and recreation, you better be pretty passionate about putting these things on and seeing the community come together and seeing people enjoy themselves and step away from their work life and any personal troubles and just come celebrate,” he says. “We’re just after July 4, so everybody will be celebrating the 250th. A couple of weeks after that, come down to Clive and check us out.”

New Greenbelt Landing unveiled

This year’s festival will also mark the grand opening of a new community space.

“The 50th anniversary will coincide with the grand opening of the all-new Greenbelt Landing space that we’re opening,” Lucas says. “It’s a wonderful space for the community with brand-new all-inclusive playground, the stage and events lawn, the boardwalk, and the other stream bank restoration components. One of the neater aspects of it is the boardwalk. It overlooks Walnut Creek, so it is a really scenic opportunity for the community to not only come to the festival and celebrate all the things we have but see how the nature kind of coincides with all that is pretty cool for Clive.”

A ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place at 4 p.m. July 17.

“I love the location,” Lucas says. “It’s really centralized in Clive. It reaches the west and east. It’s a hub of activity. Campbell Park has been that hub of activity for sports leagues and the trail access, and this will certainly serve as that plus more with a very large playground and the stage. We will move Food Truck Fridays here next year. This will become



Live music is a highlight of the Clive Festival.

Clive’s signature civic space.”

As a result, the festival will move back down the hill between Walnut Creek and the Clive Aquatic Center.

“We’ve had it there for many years. The construction has pushed us to a different location. We’ve been able to adjust nicely for the last few years to accommodate construction,” Lucas says. “But we’re really pumped up. We’ll have more of a permanent stage with all permanent electricity and not running off generators everywhere.”

With its blend of long-standing traditions and exciting new additions, this year’s Clive Festival offers something for everyone — from family-friendly activities and live entertainment to the unveiling of a new community centerpiece. As the festival marks its 50th year, it not only celebrates the past but also looks ahead, inviting residents and visitors alike to gather, connect and experience all that makes Clive a vibrant and growing community. ■

WHAT YOUR knees need to stay strong as you age

Our knees do a lot for us every day. They help us walk, climb stairs, get off the floor, garden, play with grandkids, exercise and stay independent. So, when knee pain starts, it can affect almost every part of daily life.



One of the biggest misunderstandings about knee pain is that painful knees are simply “worn out.” While age-related changes can occur, knee pain is often influenced by much more than the knee joint itself. The strength of your thighs, hips, calves, and even your balance can significantly affect how much stress is placed on the knees.

That is one reason exercise is so important. Strong leg muscles help support and unload the knee joint during everyday activities. Walking, sit-to-stands, step-ups and strengthening exercises for the hips and thighs can improve function and reduce discomfort. Maintaining flexibility, particularly in the calves and front of the thighs, can also help.

Avoiding movement completely often backfires. Less activity can lead to increased stiffness, weakness and pain. Most knees respond better to regular, appropriate movement than prolonged rest.

If your knee is frequently swelling, giving way, locking or limiting your activities, it may be time to seek professional guidance. ■

Information provided by Annette Smith, Mountain Laurel Physical Therapy, 974 73rd St., Suite 33, West Des Moines, IA 50265, 515-520-8037, www.mountainlaurelpt.com.

GRIEF and judgement

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



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

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

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

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

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



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INVESTMENT

By Daniel Rundahl

PREPARING to meet a financial advisor



Many people hesitate to seek certain professionals for guidance: lawyers, doctors, dentists and, often, a financial advisor. If you think about it, a wide range of emotions can surface when we seek assistance in areas where we do not consider ourselves experts. Questions about money can feel personal, emotional and sometimes intimidating. Let's look at what a first meeting with a financial advisor should entail and how preparation can make the experience more productive and comfortable.

Your first meeting with a financial advisor is less about numbers and more about clarity. It is an opportunity to establish goals, identify concerns and begin building a financial strategy that reflects your life today — and where you want to go tomorrow. The more prepared you are, the more meaningful the conversation will be.

As a financial advisor, I often tell clients they do not need to arrive with perfectly organized spreadsheets or an advanced understanding of investing. What matters most is bringing the right information and being open about your priorities, concerns and long-term objectives.

Start with a snapshot of your income and expenses. Recent pay stubs, tax returns and a rough monthly budget can help your advisor understand your cash flow and spending habits. Knowing what comes in — and what goes out — creates the foundation for financial recommendations like saving strategies, debt management and retirement planning.

Next, gather information about your assets. This includes bank accounts, retirement plans, investment accounts, pensions and insurance policies. If you have a 401(k), IRA, brokerage account or savings account, bring the most recent statements. These documents allow your advisor to assess how your money is currently allocated and whether your investments align with your long-term goals and risk tolerance.

It is equally important to bring details about your liabilities. Mortgage balances, student loans, credit card debt, auto loans, and other financial obligations all play a role in shaping your financial plan. Many hesitate to discuss debt, but transparency is essential. A good advisor is not there to judge your financial past. They are there to help assist in your financial future.

Think carefully about your goals before the meeting. Are you hoping to retire early? Save for a child's education? Purchase a home? Reduce taxes? Build a legacy? Financial planning is not just about growing money; it is about aligning money with purpose.

Bring a list of questions. Ask how the advisor is compensated, what services are included, how often meetings occur, and what type of clients they typically serve. Trust, communication and transparency matter just as much as credentials.

Preparation does not need to be perfect. Even incomplete information can help begin the conversation. The goal of the first meeting is simple: to gain a clearer understanding of where you are financially today and begin building a roadmap for where you want to go tomorrow. ■

Information provided by Daniel Rundahl, Financial Advisor, Rundahl Financial Consultants, 8230 Hickman Road, Suite 300, Clive, 515-727-1701, drundahl@rundahlfinancial.com, www.rundahlfinancialconsultants.com.

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SPRINGER Brothers give back to Clive

Join trail clean-up efforts to support their neighborhood

Brothers Tyler and Andrew Springer have long lived and worked in and near Clive, so it is no surprise their real estate agency, Springer Brothers Real Estate, has adopted a section of the recreational trail in Clive.



“This is our third year with the section of the trail in the Clive Greenbelt,” Andrew Springer says of their involvement with the clean-up program. “My family actually lives in Clive, so we use that trail quite a bit. We walk down to the trailhead, and we take pride living in the area. We love the city, so we want to do our part.”

Since adopting the trail section, Springer has clearly seen the efforts make a difference.

“The very first time we cleaned, it was my wife and kids, my dad and my brother,” Springer says. “We found some crazy stuff. We found basketballs, used diapers, bikes, some helmets. We filled my pickup up with trash. Probably four bags. Since then, it hasn’t been like that. I think we’ve done a pretty good job.”

However, Springer quickly adds that he realizes others help out, too.

“Luckily, there’s a good stretch of that section that backs onto other businesses, so I think they also help keep it clean,” he says.

The Springers’ agency is part of a larger company that also believes in being a contributing member of the local community.

“We’re part of a group called the Sphere Real Estate Group and ReMax Precision,” Springer says. “Our office is actually in Clive, as well. We’ve had three times that we’ve scheduled a cleanup.”

Springer shares that the city’s minimum expectation is that the adopting family or organization clean its trail section at least four times per year. He adds that, in reality, his family picks up trash along the trail much more frequently.

“I use the trail regularly, so when I’m out there, I’ll pick stuff up. My wife and kids help, too,” Springer says. “My family walks the trail, and my daughter and I ride our bikes along it quite a bit.”

For the Springer family, trail adoption is part of a larger lesson for their children.

“I like to show my kids that being a member of society requires us to do our part. We can’t always rely on other people to pick up our mess. I never want to be perceived as someone that just takes and takes. I want to be a giver. There’s great reward in life by being a giver, so that’s what I strive to do,” Springer says. “Obviously, you get your name on a sign, but I think that’s the least rewarding part of it. The most rewarding thing is that you get to be a part of making your community better.”

The city of Clive website includes a list of trail sections currently adopted, as well as those in need of adoption. Springer encourages other organizations and families to consider the idea.

“If you’re looking for an opportunity to give back, this is a rewarding and easy one to do. It was a mile initially, but now it’s about a half mile. The city has tried to make it easier for people who want to help to take smaller sections,” Springer says. “You walk down and then walk back; it’s pretty easy.”

Springer adds that the brothers’ agency has also adopted a section of roadway for similar purposes.

“We’ve actually adopted another section of road, on EP True, that we

clean” he says.

Springer notes that, while giving to distant causes is commendable, there are always plenty of needs closer to home.

“My brother and I grew up in West Des Moines, so we’re from the area. So, for 30-plus years, we’ve used that trail. It’s really important to us as members of the community that we do our part to keep it clean,” he says.

“There’s a saying that, if you want to change the world, start in your community.” ■



Daniel Timmons of Edward Jones presents the Neighbor Spotlight certificate to Andrew Springer, who accepts on behalf of Springer Brothers Real Estate.

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RECIPE

By Jolene Goodman

RHUBARB season just got crispy

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



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

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

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

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

Jolene's Rhubarb Crisp

INGREDIENTS:

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



DIRECTIONS:

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

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



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

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

Private banking services

Private banking clients typically receive exclusive access to a variety of banking benefits, as well as customized products and services.

Some of those can include:

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

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

- **Complimentary services:** In addition to banking products, private banking often includes a suite of services that simplify day-to-day financial tasks and enhance security.

These can range from transaction support to administrative services like notary and signature guarantees. Ongoing account reviews and fraud monitoring are also common, helping clients stay informed and protected while maintaining efficient access to their finances.

How to choose a private banker

When dealing with financial decisions, it is important to choose someone who is experienced and committed to knowing you and helping you achieve your financial goals.

They should be dependable, knowledgeable and someone who will go the extra mile for you. This can mean taking a call at 8 p.m. to assist with a lost debit card on vacation or recommending the best pet daycare to a client who is new to the area — showing that your private banker is there for you.

To learn more about private banking services, talk to a private banker. ■

Information provided by Katie Hart, VP, Private Banking Officer, 515-245-2886, Bankers Trust, 1111 University Ave., Clive, IA 50325.



Katie Hart
VP, Private Banking Officer

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Play sets, play houses and tree houses: Share the stories of your memorable play sets, play houses and tree houses. Perhaps your family has play structures that entertain your kids for hours. Or maybe you have memories of the play house you enjoyed as a child. Big or small, if it creates happy times, let us know. Email tammy@iowalivingmagazines.com.

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

Clive Public Library events

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Register for events at <https://cityofclive.activityreg.com/selectActivity>.

YOUTH

- Saturday Stories: Saturday, June 27, 9:30-10 a.m.
- Cold-Blooded Redhead: Saturday, June 27, 3-3:45 p.m.
- Learn to Beat Box with “Skippy”: Monday, June 29, 10-10:45 p.m.

ADULTS

- Let’s Play Mah Jongg: Mondays, 10 a.m. to noon, and Thursdays, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

ALL AGES

- Pride 2026 Celebration: Friday, June 26, 2-3 p.m. Celebrate Pride with the Clive Libraries in the Harbach Center community room. This is a drop-in event for all ages. Enjoy rainbow-themed snacks and crafts and create a Pride button. Let’s get together and celebrate LGBTQIA+ people and their allies. For more information, contact Dee at dshalondeur@cityofclive.com.

Drug Drop Box

The Prescription and Over-the-Counter Drug Drop Box is available 24/7 for anyone to use. It is located just inside the main entryway of the Clive Public Safety Center, 8800 Hickman Road. No liquids, needles, inhalers, ointments, lotions, aerosols, bloody or infectious waste allowed. Questions? Contact Clive Police Administration at 515-278-1312.

Clive Card Sharks

Third Wednesday each month, 1 p.m.
Clive City Hall, 1900 N.W. 114th St., Clive

Join fellow card enthusiasts at Clive Card Sharks for an afternoon of friendly competition. This is a free, drop-in group event for adults 19 and older looking to socialize and play card games. Registration is not required, and the program takes place in the Greenbelt Room at Clive City Hall. Contact Teri at tnelson@cityofclive.com for more information.

Des Moines Downtown Farmers Market

Saturdays through Oct. 31, 7 a.m. to noon, 8 a.m. to noon in October
Historic Court District, Downtown Des Moines

The 2026 season will feature 305 vendors, including 43 new participants, with 75 produce and agriculture vendors highlighting the region’s strong farming community. Vendors represent 74 cities across 42 Iowa counties, spanning 12 city blocks from Water Street to Fifth Street. For more information visit www.dsmpartnership.com/desmoinesfarmersmarket.



National Balloon Classic

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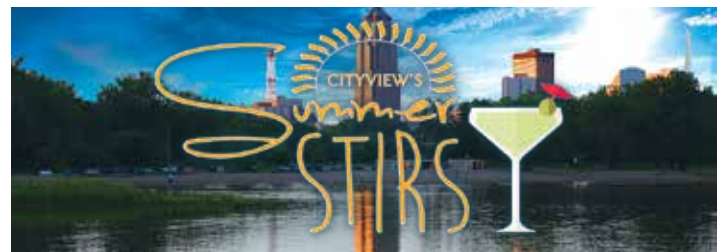
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CITYVIEW’s traveling cocktail parties return in 2026. For \$25 advance ticket, sample 10 summer cocktails at downtown bars and restaurants. Cost is \$35 at the door. For information and tickets, visit <https://summerstirs.dmcityview.com>. ■



MEET Joe Rich

Making a difference by investing in people

After growing up watching his parents pour into the lives of students as high school educators in Davenport, Joe Rich knew early on that he wanted to be an educator himself. He just had to decide which direction he wanted to go. He attended the University of Iowa, where he earned his bachelor's degree in music education, and later attended Drake University, where he earned his master's degree in counseling.



Joe Rich, who began his career as a band director, now is a school counselor.

Rich began his career in Mount Pleasant as an assistant band director. After a year of teaching in a smaller town, he decided he would prefer a larger city, so he took a job in Des Moines as a band director. He spent half of his time at the high school teaching band, and, depending on the year, the other half he taught either elementary band (when he started) or middle school band (the last two years). After five years of teaching band in Des Moines, a counseling position opened at Merrill Middle School in Des Moines. Five years after that, he took a position at Indian Hills Junior High in the West Des Moines Community Schools District. He just completed his 16th year at Indian Hills and his 27th year as an educator.

For Rich, there is no average day in his role at the school, and that is part of the reason he enjoys his job.

"My job is responsive to students, staff and parents, but there are some consistent things I do each year and each day," he says. "At the start of the year, I help with welcoming students and families to the school. I also help with some administrative things, problem solving, academic testing and career planning."

Rich says the most important aspect of his work, however, is working directly with students and their day-to-day needs.

The challenge in his job is encountering "unfixable" problems.

"In this job, I'm working with people, and people are complex and complicated," he says. "It is challenging when I run into something that I can't effectively solve or fix. Everyone wants the same positive outcome. It's just figuring out how to get there."

On the flip side, Rich likes seeing success and growth in his students and their families. Students grow a lot from seventh to eighth grade, and he reflects on how big of a difference he and his colleagues see in them from year to year.

"Even though the process is repetitive with new students each year, it is still exciting to see the growth happen with new people," he says. "Every positive memory I have from my joy involves connection with a student, staff member or parent and the social successes we see. Grades and classes are important, but the positive social interactions with people are the best parts."

Rich says, when educators start college, they often begin with a subject matter in mind that they want to teach, but, especially when it comes to teaching middle school, they learn quickly that is not all they will do.

"We learn that we are teaching human beings how to be decent human beings with good soft skills and productivity," he explains. "We learn that our first priority is the people, and the subject matter is second."

Rich plans to remain in a counseling role until he retires, and he hopes to do so at Indian Hills Junior High. ■

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THE IMPORTANCE of an estate plan

Nobody wants to think about how their loved ones will cope when they die, but it is important to plan effectively to ensure a smooth transition of your wealth. An estate plan is the legal documents that outline who you want to be in charge of settling your affairs and where you want your assets to pass. It can include a will, powers of attorney, trusts and more.



One of the most important documents is a last will and testament. A will nominates an executor who will be responsible for wrapping up your estate: paying final bills, selling assets, and distributing your wealth to your beneficiaries.

Naming beneficiaries is one of the essential parts of a will. You might want to

leave everything equally to your children. Perhaps one of your siblings is estranged from you. Maybe a child with special needs cannot receive money directly. You may want to make a special bequest to a charity. A will contains instructions for making these final distributions.

Without a will, however, state law decides who receives your assets. That can lead to a long, stressful court process. The law does not take personal preference or family dynamics into consideration when the intestate statute is applied. Instead, there are broad categories of people who receive your money.

In one case our firm handled, the decedent's wife predeceased him, and they didn't have any children. In fact, he didn't have any immediate relatives at all because both he and his wife were only children. We identified 26 different remote relatives, many of whom were second cousins once- or twice-removed.

Although we may be inadvertently responsible for a huge family reunion, this amateur genealogy could have been avoided by simply drafting a will.

Life events, like getting married, changing careers, or having your children leave home often mean it is time to review your plan. More serious events — the death of a loved one, inheriting a sum of money or receiving a concerning medical diagnosis — are also good reasons to review and update.

Estate planning is easy to ignore, because it involves thinking about death and visiting a lawyer. Procrastinating is easy. Turn to a reputable attorney who practices in estate planning to help you craft the best plan for you. ■

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

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THE THREAT of identity theft

Identity theft continues to be one of the most persistent and costly threats facing individuals and families today. We've witnessed firsthand the disruption it can cause — financially, emotionally and even reputationally.



These experiences reinforce the importance of taking proactive steps to help protect personal information before issues arise.

To begin, it is essential to recognize the warning signs. Identity theft often reveals itself through subtle but important indicators. Unexpected bills or unfamiliar charges may appear, even when accounts seem secure. Credit reports may contain inaccuracies or accounts that were never opened by the individual. In some cases, individuals may receive notices of loan or credit denials for applications they never submitted. Recognizing these early signals can make a meaningful difference in limiting

potential damage.

The scope of the problem is significant. In 2024 alone, identity fraud accounted for an estimated \$47 billion in losses, reflecting a continued upward trend. While the average direct financial loss per victim is approximately \$497, the broader impact often extends far beyond that figure. Victims may spend months — or even years — resolving disputes, repairing credit and restoring their financial standing. The stress and uncertainty that accompany these situations can be just as damaging as the financial loss itself.

Taking preventive action is one of the most effective ways to reduce risk. Identity theft protection services can play a valuable role by monitoring personal data across multiple platforms and alerting users to suspicious activity. These services can provide early detection, allowing individuals to act quickly and minimize potential harm.

In addition to these services, several practical steps can strengthen personal security.

Installing reliable security software across all devices can help guard against malware and unauthorized access. Keeping applications and operating systems updated ensures that known vulnerabilities are addressed promptly. Enabling multi-factor authentication adds an extra layer of protection, making it more difficult for unauthorized users to gain access. Regularly backing up data — either to a secure cloud service or an external hard drive — can also help mitigate the impact of a breach.

While identity theft remains a serious and evolving threat, individuals are not without defenses. By staying informed, maintaining awareness of potential warning signs and implementing thoughtful security measures, it is possible to reduce exposure and protect what matters most. ■

This material is for educational purposes and not intended as specific tax, legal or investment advice. Information provided by Travis Gaule, founding partner/financial advisor, Trust Bridge Wealth Advisors, 4090 Westtown Parkway, Suite 108, West Des Moines, IA 50266, 515-207-4346.

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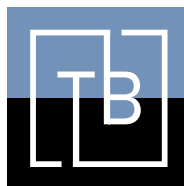
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LIONS Club serves community

New camera to help catch eyesight problems in students.

For the Clive Lions Club, vision has long been a part of their mission.

“The focus with Lions is about how do we serve others, serve in the community?” Brad Brown, president, says. “It always had a lot to do with eyesight.”

For years, the Lions have collected eyeglasses and sent them to their recycling center to then be used abroad, and they also participate in a cornea relay to Iowa City. Another crucial part is using a camera to help identify children with eyesight issues.

“We get requests from families, preschools and kindergarten,” Brown says. “We take our camera in, have the kids look at it. It will help give some information, and we send that then to the University of Iowa.”

This relationship between the University of Iowa Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences and the Lions in the state of Iowa has been wonderful, Brown says. For more than 14 years, the Clive Lions had been using the same camera.

“Once we take the picture of the

child, approximately two to four weeks afterwards, the parents receive a referral letter and contact details for eye care professionals in their area that they can visit,” Zane Vokes, a Lions Club member, says.

If no problems are detected, parents receive the picture of their child’s eyes with a note saying no problems were found.

Identifying vision issues is vital.

“A kid doesn't know they can't see,” Brown says, adding that screenings are done with kids are 4 years old to catch issues before school.

Getting a new camera offers better image alignment, wireless image transmission, improved image capture, an improved battery, and better ease of handling. It allows the Lions to test for far- and near-sightedness, astigmatism, anisometropia (unequal refractive power), strabismus (misaligned eyes) and media opacities (e.g., cataracts) in children.

Including the trade-in value of the old camera, the Clive Lions are looking at a price tag of \$8,495 for a new camera.

Those looking to donate to help with



Zane Vokes, a Lions Club member, shows the camera used to screen children for eyesight concerns.

children vision screenings can write a tax-deductible check to Friends of the Clive Lions, and mailed to: Clive Lions, c/o Clive City Hall, 1900 N.W. 114th St., Clive, IA 50325. One can also Venmo to “Friends of the Clive Lions” and put Camera in the memo line. ■

NEW! NEW! NEW!

2026 Digital
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FOOD Truck Friday

Food Truck Friday was held at Campbell Park on May 29.



Alexis Johnson and Richard Brown



Amber Ramirez and Amanda Martin



Maurine and Steve Leshem



Cassi Beau, DeBondt Beau and Harper Bennett



Tom and Kayla Anderson



Todd and Christie Morris



Julie Gooding and Judi Hieb



Mike and Barb Glantz



Corrie and Gayle Feldotto



Glenda Tibben and Carol Ruby



Barb Roese and Dennis Taylor

AM Connections

Clive Chamber AM Connections was held June 16 at Board and Brush Creative Studio.



Travis Gaule and Rob Grove



Jim Hobson and Melissa Stimple



Owners Sarah and Ron Schultz and store manager Katie Krapfl



Shane Larsen and Keith Piscitello



Gwen Pieters and Edye Beckerman



Rachael Muhs and Todd Kruse



Renee Nash and Ahmed Ibrahim



Tony Klein and Chris Koll



Gared Hassel and Marc Arzani



Kristy Schmidt and Hope Boyd

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VOTE TODAY!

Who will be voted favorite in the Northwest Metro?

Includes Grimes, Dallas Center, Johnston, Clive and Urbandale

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 2026 Northwest Metro Residents' Choice Poll. This contest is being hosted by Iowa Living magazines, and the results will publish in our Johnston, Grimes/Dallas Center, Clive and Urbandale October editions. You can vote in one or every category, or anywhere in between.

HURRY! POLL CLOSSES AUG. 28, 2026.

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
- Catering Company
- Server/Bartender

AUTOMOTIVE

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

COMMUNITY

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

SHOPPING

- Grocery Store
- Boutique
- Retail Store
- Thrift Store
- Home Improvement Retail 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
- Golf Course

HEALTH/BEAUTY

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

HEALTH/BEAUTY

- 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
- Electrical Business
- Plumbing Company
- Senior Living Establishment
- Insurance Company
- Realtor
- Bank/Credit Union
- Photographer
- Place for Guests to Stay
- Home Building/Remodeling Contractor
- Exterior Contractor (siding, roofing, windows, doors)
- Pest Control
- Tree Service

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