

365ink

MAGAZINE



WORKING TOWARD A greater dubuque.



Dining at
CREMER'S MEATS

PICTURE YOURSELF
IN THE TRI-STATES

THE TRI-STATES' FREE ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

PHOTOS COURTESY
GREATER DUBUQUE
DEVELOPMENT CORP

FIVE FLAGS CENTER

THE TRI-STATE AREA'S ENTERTAINMENT DESTINATION



DRUMLINE
Live

JANUARY 3

THE ORIGINAL
• HARLEM •
GLOBETROTTERS



2024
WORLD TOUR

JANUARY 9



ANIMANIACS
IN CONCERT

FEBRUARY 1

NEW SHOW!
THE PORK TORNADOES
YOUR GIRLFRIENDS FAVORITE BAND



FEBRUARY 3
FIVE FLAGS CENTER
8PM

FEATURING
THE DEAL BREAKERS

PRESENTED BY:
Q CASINO

DINOSAUR
WORLD
LIVE



★★★★★
'GREAT FUN'
WHAT'S GOOD TO DO

FEBRUARY 12

BATTLE
for the
BLUFF



FEB. 16-17

FIVE
FLAGS
CENTER

NEW
CONCERT!



LEE GREENWOOD
USA '84

40th Anniversary of God Bless The USA (1984-2024)

FEBRUARY 22

NEW CONCERT!

LEO
KOTTKE



FIVE FLAGS
THEATER

MARCH 11

NEW
CONCERT!



DYLAN
SCOTT

SPECIAL GUESTS TO BE ANNOUNCED
MARCH 15, 2024

DOORS AT 7PM | ALL AGES
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103.3 WJOL

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BUY TICKETS ONLINE AT FIVEFLAGSCENTER.COM



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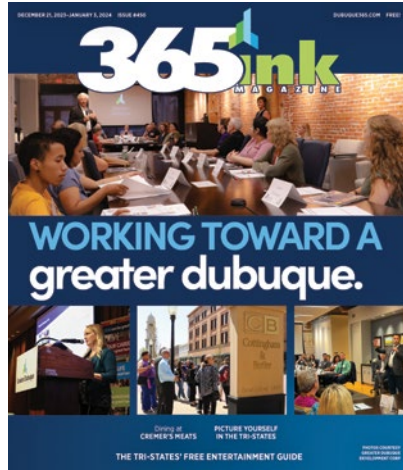
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COVER

14 Working Toward a Greater Dubuque
Greater Dubuque Development Corporation helps reach economic development goals by enhancing the quality of life for you and me in their latest five-year strategic campaign, "YOU can be great here"

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WHERE'S MIKE?



We've hidden Mike somewhere in this issue of 365ink. Can you find him?

365ink Magazine

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All bacon served semi-crispy.

MISSISSIPPI MOON BAR

UPCOMING ENTERTAINMENT



NOT QUITE BROTHERS

ROCK
DECEMBER 22

NO COVER CHARGE



DRINK 182

THE BEST OF THE 90'S
DECEMBER 23

NO COVER CHARGE



RHINO

PLAYING MODERN,
80'S CLASSIC ROCK, AND MORE
DECEMBER 29

NO COVER CHARGE



TIME MACHINE

ONE NIGHT, THREE TRIBUTE BANDS!
DECEMBER 30



NEW YEAR'S EVE
DUELING PIANOS
DECEMBER 31

Visit DiamondJoDubuque.com for our complete concert lineup. Join our online community and stay in the know!

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Must be 21 or older. If you or someone you know needs gambling treatment, call 1-800-BETS OFF. ©2023 Boyd Gaming Corporation*

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When my dad was dying 16 years ago, he asked me to take over his Toys for Tots program. I don't know if you are aware of this, but when your dying Marine Corps father asks you for a favor, you say YES!

Along with all of the work he passed my way came his beloved big red toy truck, a 2004 Chevy Silverado. That truck has continued to serve the program every year since, and its presence is a bit of dad's presence in everything we do.

Over the years, it's had a number of parts replaced to keep her on the road and, even now, the truck looks pretty damn good when my buddy Paul shines her up. A month ago, the truck died right in the middle of University Avenue. I had it towed in, and it was determined it needed a fuel pump. But the tech also said the frame was so rusty underneath that he was not comfortable putting it on a lift. He did fix it by cutting a hole in the truck bed to get at it instead and told me, "Don't drive this on the highway anymore. In fact, you should just not drive it anymore."

But I knew I had to get through one more toy season with the old girl. Well, two days later, it died again from the same symptoms. This time, it was tracked to some electrical contacts that became disconnected due to... yep... rust. He resealed the leads, and it worked again... for a week. This week, I went out to drive it, and it was deader than ever. Not just not turning over, but nothing at all. Doornail.

Okay, I see the writing on the wall. Time for a new truck. I'm sure my dad would have traded up by now. But it's still hard to think of seeing it go.

Even harder, apparently, is finding a used, standard-cab pickup with an 8-foot bed. They're like unicorns. It seems like all trucks now are extended cabs with a 4- or 6.5-foot bed. But I want a REAL truck. You, know, one that was meant to do actual WORK! And to find a red one would be a nice kicker, but even harder. All I can find is basic white

former fleet vehicles. But then my wife found the perfect red one for me that was online one night. I went to the dealer at 8 a.m. the next day and... it had sold the night before... and had a line in front of me wanting it. I was so disappointed. This is going to be tough.

And then on the way to Dubuque from Minneapolis, my mother-in-law, Arlene, spotted not one but two of them, BOTH RED, in two different tiny little independent used car lots in the tiny little town of Camden, MN, just across the border. I managed to find them both listed online, one with 240,000 miles and one with 46,000 miles and both the same age. So yeah, I called on the much nicer 2014 Ford F150 right away, and the very down-to-Earth guy on the other end of the line was very kind to let me have it for Toys for Tots for \$3,500 less than he was asking.

So Paul and I drove up the next morning to get it, and it really was a unicorn. It spent the first 10 years of its life as a municipal vehicle for Camden, MN (pop. 313), stored indoors, and meticulously cared for. So, now I have a nearly pristine new (but old) toy truck to keep the toys moving, uninterrupted, and reliably for the rest of the 2023 season.

Unfortunately, Toys for Tots is not allowed to own a truck or other such property. So, if I needed a new toy truck, I'd have to buy it myself. I don't really need a pickup for my regular life. So this is not really an expense I was wanting to swallow, but I can't do this toy gig without one, so here we are. And in the end, not only did my in-laws find the truck for me on their way to visit, but when they left to go home, Bill and Arlene gave me a VERY kind gift to take some of the sting out of the investment in running the charity. And then my wife tells me that some very amazing friends of mine have also kicked in, very generously, to help pay for the new sleigh. You know who you are, and I'm very grateful. Wow.

But there's still a different sting, as I sold the old truck this week to someone who's going to get it back in fighting shape. And if you think that wasn't hard to do, well, let the picture above say a thousand words. I miss you and love you, Dad. Thanks for the wheels to get me this far. ■

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

from our team to yours.



Ready to make a fresh start in the new year?

Visit AccessDubuqueJobs.com and browse over 1,200 job opportunities, PLUS employer profiles and training resources.

AccessDubuqueJobs.com is made possible through a partnership between TH Media and Greater Dubuque Development Corporation.



TH MEDIA
Connecting our Community





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February 1, 2024

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 innovationlab.us/dbqbizcomp

Hotel Julien Dubuque 12 Days of Christmas

THROUGH DECEMBER 31
HOTEL JULIEN DUBUQUE (200 MAIN ST)
Celebrate the holiday season at Hotel Julien Dubuque during the 12 Days of Christmas. This holiday series features events for all ages designed to spread seasonal cheer throughout the Dubuque community.

Experience a Rockin' New Year's Eve with the rockabilly band Dirty Fishnet Stockings at the Riverboat Lounge. Book your stay at Hotel Julien Dubuque to experience the very best food, drinks, accommodations, party favors, and entertainment in the area.



DIRTY FISHNET STOCKINGS BRINGS ROCKABILLY TO HOTEL JULIEN DUBUQUE ON NEW YEAR'S EVE

Additional events include a blood drive on Dec. 21, and enjoy a Christmas eve dinner and Christmas day brunch at Caroline's Restaurant.

For more information, call Hotel Julien Dubuque at **563-556-4200** or visit HotelJulienDubuque.com. ■

Special Olympics Iowa Winter Games

JANUARY 8-9
SUNDOWN MOUNTAIN RESORT, CAMP ALBRECHT ACRES, AND IMON ARENA
Dubuque plays host to more than 200 athletes and Unified partners and 100 volunteers for the two-day Special Olympics Iowa Winter Games on Jan. 8-9.

Cold weather, snow, ice, mountains... nothing can stop the Winter Games athletes from speeding down the



slope, running through the snowshoe course or skating around the rink.

For the full list of competitions and more information, visit soiowa.org. ■

TICKETS MAKE GREAT STOCKING STUFFERS!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31
8PM GRAND OPERA HOUSE

Sinatra AND FRIENDS  **NEW YEAR'S EVE 2023**

SPEND NEW YEAR'S EVE WITH BRYAN ANTHONY'S SINATRA AND FRIENDS!

FEATURING
Hunter Fuerste's American Vintage Orchestra
and the music of
Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr., Nat King Cole, Bobby Darin and Old Blue Eyes, himself

Floor Seating \$45
Balcony Seating \$39
Tickets at TheGrandOperaHouse.com or Grand Opera House box office

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DUBUQUE ARTS COUNCIL

dubuqueartscouncil.com



Harlem Globetrotters

TUESDAY, JANUARY 9 @ 7 PM
FIVE FLAGS ARENA (405 MAIN ST)
Get ready for a slam-dunk extravaganza as the world-famous Harlem Globetrotters make their triumphant return to Five Flags Center on Tuesday, Jan. 9 at 7 p.m. This is

your chance to witness the record-breaking stars of basketball live as they bring an unforgettable blend of dribbling, spinning, and dunking to the court, taking on their fierce rivals, the Washington Generals.

Tickets are \$37-\$92 and can be purchased at Ticketmaster.com and Five Flags Center box office. For more information, call **563-589-4254** or visit FiveFlagsCenter.com. ■

THU 12/21



Winter Holiday Celebration

5-8 PM @ MULTICULTURAL FAMILY CENTER

The MFC Teen Team invites ALL teens in grades 6-12 to enjoy delicious food along with celebrating a few different holidays in our community. There will be a few games along with some really cool prizes! Grades 6-12. RSVP. Free. 1157 Central Ave. **563-582-3681. mfcdbq.org.**

Milk and Cookies with Santa

6-7 PM @ PEOSTA COMMUNITY CENTRE BANQUET ROOM (PEOSTA, IA)

Share your list, get your picture taken, and enjoy milk and cookies with Santa. Free with a non-perishable food item. 7896 Burds Rd, Peosta, IA. **563-556-8755. cityofpeosta.org.**

Wild Church: Winter Solstice

6:30-8 PM @ SINSINAWA MOUND CENTER (SINSINAWA, WI)

Fire and song, ritual and community, prayer and quiet: this inclusive, outdoor gathering is centered on honoring this day of equal light and dark. In a time of planetary upheaval, it is crucial to recover our elemental sense of connection and kinship with Creator and Creation. We are inspired by Celtic tradition and the Wild Church movement. This event will be held outdoors at Cavanaugh Park. Led by Eric Anglada, Sinsinawa's Ecological Programming Coordinator. Freewill offering. 585 County Rd Z, Sinsinawa, WI. **608-748-4411. sinsinawa.org/moundcenter.**



Evening of Classics

7 PM @ VOICES STUDIOS

The critically acclaimed Tallgrass/Juliani Ensemble will perform classic masterworks from Bach, Mozart, Haydn, Albeniz, and Nabors. The superb artistry of these international musicians has gained them broad recognition, including performing in many of the world's most celebrated concert halls. Classical painter Tim Rees will begin the evening with a gallery talk describing his approach to making oil paintings through the implementation of traditional techniques. Mr. Rees' paintings, which reflect both a renaissance and modern ethos, will be adorning the walls of the Voices gallery through Jan. 28. Doors open at 6 p.m. Limited seating. Heavy hors d'oeuvres and cash bar. \$40. 1585 Central Ave. **563-590-2533. voicesstudios.org.**

Santa Christmas Parade

7 PM @ PEOSTA, IA

Join Santa, Mrs. Claus, and friends as they make their way through town for a Christmas holiday parade! Special thanks for the Centralia/Peosta Fire Department and the Peosta Police Department for spreading holiday cheer throughout Peosta. **563-556-8755. cityofpeosta.org.**

WED 12/27



Wagon Train Showdown

4 PM @ DUBUQUE ESPORTS LEAGUE

Compete against rival wagon trains to see who can make

it to Oregon first. Dubuque Esports League hosts a fundraising event to support their mission to provide opportunities for tweens, teens, and young adults to use esports as a platform to enhance skills needed to thrive in work and life. RSVP. 3220 Dodge St, Ste 09. **563-241-5690. dbqesports.org.**

Star Viewing

6 PM @ NEW WINE PARK (NEW VIENNA, IA)

Join the JKPL and Dubuque County Conservation and learn about objects within our night sky. Be ready to identify planets, stars, and constellations in our night sky with your very own eyes as well as using the provided telescopes. The program takes place outside, so be sure to bundle up. RSVP required. 15971 New Wine Park Ln, New Vienna, IA. **563-875-8912. dyersville.lib.ia.us/events.**

FRI 12/29



Punch Out Your Stress with Empowerment

NOON, 12:30, AND 1 PM @ CARNEGIE-STOUT PUBLIC LIBRARY THIRD FLOOR AUDITORIUM

Say goodbye to 2023 by punching away your stress so that it doesn't follow you into 2024! Join instructor Eryka Cook of Empowerment for a 25-minute hands-on class that will show you how to use physical movement to reduce your stress. Eryka will guide participants through a variety of de-stress techniques that you can continue using into 2024. Participants of all ability levels are welcome to join in this fun and judgement-free event. Ages 18+. RSVP required. Free. 360 W 11th St. **563-589-4225. carnegiestout.org.**

A large graphic with a red background and various holiday-themed icons like snowflakes, stars, and ornaments. The text reads: HAPPY Holidays WISHING YOU A JOYOUS HOLIDAY SEASON WITH PEACE & CHEER IN THE NEW YEAR! DuTrac Community Credit Union



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LIVE AT HERITAGE CENTER
PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

Band Together Charity Concert feat. Cade Thompson

FRIDAY, JANUARY 12 @ 7:30 PM
UNIVERSITY OF DUBUQUE HERITAGE
CENTER JOHN AND ALICE BUTLER
HALL (2255 BENNETT ST)

The Band Together Charity Concert featuring Cade Thompson, presented by the Boundless Trailer, will be held on Friday, Jan. 12 at 7:30 p.m. at University of Dubuque Heritage Center.

Red Street Records artist Cade Thompson is an energetic and soulful

contemporary Christian music artist with a sound that appeals to believers and mainstream pop audiences alike. His effortless style promotes his personal musical influences, which draw heavily from the church. Thompson has made waves across the Christian music community with the release of his debut single, "Provider," and, in August 2020, he earned his first Top 20 Billboard charting single with "Every Step of the Way."

The Boundless Trailer is based out of East Dubuque, IL, but is unique in the aspect that it is a completely mobile organization. In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Boundless Trailer's founder, Paige Johnston, converted a 1974 Yellowstone Camper into a mobile resource center stocked to the brim with basic life necessities from clothing to hygiene products to assist individuals affected by poverty or natural disasters. All of the services are provided at no cost to the recipients.

Funds raised through the concert's ticket sales will go toward supporting the mission and vision of the Boundless Trailer.

Tickets are \$20-\$40 and can be purchased at the Heritage Center Farber Box Office; by phone at **563-585-SHOW**; or online at www.DBQ.edu/heritagecenter. ■



Winter Arts
SNOW SCULPTING
FESTIVAL 2024
Dubuque * Iowa

Feb. 8-11, 2024 | Washington Park

Call for sculpting teams now open!
All experience levels welcome.
Details at www.cityofdubuque.org/winterarts


REGISTER TODAY!

THE CITY OF DUBUQUE
Museum on the Mississippi

DUBUQUE MUSEUM OF ART



20TH ANNUAL

Ice Fest

JANUARY 13 AND 14 @ 10 AM-4 PM
NATIONAL MISSISSIPPI RIVER
MUSEUM & AQUARIUM (350 E 3RD ST)

The National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium is hosting the 20th annual Ice Fest Celebration on Saturday, Jan. 13 and Sunday, Jan. 14 at 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Both days feature indoor and outdoor activities for guests to enjoy, as well as exploration of the River Museum's exhibits and animals.

A weekend full of activities is scheduled for guests of all ages. Visitors will have the opportunity to try snowshoeing, sledding, observe ice harvesting, watch blacksmith demonstrations, and learn from the Dubuque Fire Department

as they conduct an open water rescue. Outdoor activities also include a figure skating performance and ice fishing. Indoor crafts and cardboard caves will be set up for kids to enjoy. Hot chocolate and s'mores kits are available for purchase. Gluten-free s'mores options will be available as well. For guests 21 years and older, warm adult beverages will be for sale along with wine tastings hosted by Stone Cliff Winery on Saturday and Tabor Home on Sunday. On Sunday, Jan. 14, the shark touch tank will be available for visitors to enjoy.

All activities are included with general daily and member admission. Food and drinks are available at additional cost. Admission tickets to the River Museum can be used for the next consecutive day, ensuring visitors experience all events happening throughout the weekend.

Guests are reminded to dress for indoor and outdoor activities, and youth are encouraged to wear snow gear due to the number of snow-related outdoor activities.

For the full schedule and more information, contact the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium at **563-557-9545** or visit RiverMuseum.org. ■

SAT 12/30



Dubuque Y Early Learning Center Opening

1 PM @ DUBUQUE Y EARLY
LEARNING CENTER

The facility's anticipated opening date is Jan. 8. This new facility will offer child care for children six weeks through preschool during the school year and will have spaces for children ages 5 through 12 years old in the summer. Just a few features of this new space include world class child care from highly trained and qualified YMCA child care staff, creative curriculum in a hands-on learning environment, an indoor play area for inclement weather, and Nature Explorer Certified outdoor playground area. The Dubuque Y Early Learning Center is the result of a unique set of public/private collaborations. Its mission is to work with employers to expand the availability of childcare for the region's workforce. 7900 Chavenelle Rd. **563-556-0443**. dubuquey.org.

MON 1/1



First Day Hike

NOON-2 PM @ EB LYONS
INTERPRETIVE CENTER

Start by meeting at the EB Lyons Interpretive Center and break up into smaller groups. The hike will be on uneven terrain and last for roughly 20-40 minutes. Afterward, hikers are invited back in the EB Lyons Interpretive Center to warm up, converse, and enjoy refreshments provided by the Friends of the Mines of Spain. Dress for the weather. Bring

trekking poles/hiking sticks as needed. Free. 8991 Bellevue Hts. **563-556-0620**. [facebook.com/minesofspain](https://www.facebook.com/minesofspain).

THU 1/4



Shalom 35th Anniversary Celebration

5:30-7:30 PM @ SHALOM
SPIRITUALITY CENTER

Celebrate Shalom Spirituality Center's 35th anniversary with a program featuring guest of honor Archbishop Thomas Zinkula. Jesus says, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you." The Hebrew word "Shalom," which means peace, is found in scripture. Its meaning reflects the Shalom mission: to connect oneself more deeply with God through reconciliation and prayer, with others, through connection and communion, with creation, through harmony with all of God's creatures, and within oneself, through meditation and contemplation. Shalom Spirituality Center continues to provide a peaceful, sacred environment calling all of God's people to the fullness of life through retreats, programs, facility rentals for gatherings, and more. RSVP. 1001 Davis St. **563-582-3592**. shalomretreats.org.

SUN 1/7

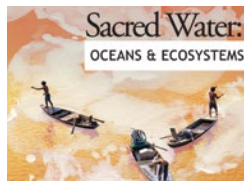


Thrifty Affair

10 AM-2 PM @ DUBUQUE
COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

Jodi & KT Invite You to find a "good deal" at the Thrifty Affair garage sale. \$1. 14569 Old Highway Rd. **facebook.com/JodiandKT**.

MON 1/8



JustFaith Series: Sacred Water

5:30-7:30 PM @ ONLINE

Eric Anglada, Sinsinawa's Ecological Programming Coordinator, will be leading the eight-week series. Through reading, discussion, video, community-building, and prayerful contemplation, the group will delve into topics of watershed discipleship, natural disasters and the climate crisis, clean water access, pollution, plastics, water health, and environmental racism. Participants will be equipped to restore the health of our rivers, lakes, oceans, and waterways through advocacy, grassroots organizing, and daily decision-making. Before the first session, please acquire a copy of Nancy Castaldo's, *When the World Runs Dry: Earth's Water in Crisis*. RSVP by Jan. 5. \$75. **608-748-4411**. sinsinawa.org/moundcenter.

THU 1/11

Reduce the Caffeine

11 AM-12:30 PM @ SHALOM
SPIRITUALITY CENTER

Come to Shalom to learn a little about caffeine and how it acts in your body, why it might be a good idea to reduce or eliminate it, and then try a variety of low-caffeine/no-caffeine beverages that may be new to you. This program will take about an hour, and then a freshly made lunch will be served at noon. Facilitator Jim Earles is the Program Coordinator at Shalom and is passionate about natural health and wellness. He has spent decades trying various natural foods, and he loves to share that knowledge with others. RSVP by Jan. 10. \$15. 101 Davis St. **563-582-3592**. shalomretreats.org.

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YOUR Holiday DESTINATION SINCE 1973
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FACES&VOICES CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS

Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration

MONDAY, JANUARY 15 @ 7 AM
GRAND RIVER CENTER (500 BELL ST)

Join faces&voices for this annual celebration of the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Monday, Jan. 15 at the Grand River Center. Breakfast is served at 7 a.m. and is followed by a celebration at 7:30 a.m.

Keynote speaker Dr. Ruth Haley Barton presents "Leading with Strength of Soul."

Barton is the founder of the Transforming Center, a ministry dedicated to strengthening the souls of pastors and Christian leaders and the congregations and organizations they serve. A seasoned spiritual director (Shalem Institute), Ruth holds a doctor of divinity from Northern Seminary along with her studies at the Loyola University Chicago Institute for Pastoral Studies. She is a sought-after speaker and preacher, having served on the pastoral staffs of several churches and also teaching frequently at the graduate level.

Ruth's books include *Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership*, *Life Together in Christ*, *Sacred Rhythms*, *Pursuing God's Will Together*, *Invitation to Retreat*, and *Invitation to Solitude and Silence*. She shares perspectives on transforming leadership through her *Beyond Words* blog and her *Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership* podcast.

RSVP by Monday, Jan. 8. Tickets are \$25 for adults, \$10 for ages 12 and younger, and \$250 for a 10-person table. All registrations after Jan. 8 are \$300 per table or \$30 per individual (adult and youth). Payment by cash or check may also be made at the door the morning of the event.

To register and for more information, visit dbqschools.org/facesandvoices. ■

THU 1/11

Farm Succession and Planning

5-8 PM @ O SO GOOD WINERY (DYERSVILLE, IA)
Guest speaker, Steve Bohr, has more than 30 years of experience with farm estates and financial services. He will be presenting "The Perfect Storm in Farm Transition." Recently showcased on Iowa Farmer Today, Steve has a vast background in financial strategies. He is the founder of Farm Financial Strategies Inc. (FFS) in Cedar Rapids, Iowa—a program providing plans to "preserve the family farm." Participants can enjoy wine from O So Good Winery while learning about farm transition and planning for future generations. There will also be a small, casual trivia game throughout the evening with prizes. Hosted by the Jones & Delaware Counties Women, Land and Legacy chapter (WLL). WLL is a locally led, statewide program that provides networking and educational events for women in communities. RSVP. Free. 2093 20th Ave SE, Dyersville, IA. delawarejoneswll@gmail.com.



Movie Screening: Barbie

6 PM @ CARNEGIE-STOUT PUBLIC LIBRARY AIGLER AUDITORIUM
Directed by Greta Gerwig and starring Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling, *Barbie* (2023) is a live-action fantasy comedy which follows fashion dolls Barbie and Ken on a journey of self-discovery. The 1 hour 54 minute film is rated PG-13 for "suggestive references and brief language." Closed captioning or subtitles will be turned on. Free. 360 W 11th St. **563-589-4225**. carnegiestout.org.

FRI 1/12



27th Annual Dubuque Citizen's Police Academy Deadline

5 PM @ DUBUQUE POLICE DEPARTMENT
The 10 sessions are held on Thursdays from Feb. 1-April 4, from 6-9:30 p.m. The purpose of the program is to build a better understanding between residents and police through education. The CPA does not certify participants as law enforcement officers. All sessions are taught by law enforcement professionals from the Dubuque Police Department or other members of the local criminal justice system. Participants will learn about topics including arrest procedures, search and seizure, use of force, police procedures, drug enforcement, and officer safety. 770 Iowa St. **563-587-3807**. cityofdubuque.org/CPA.

SAT 1/13



Triple D Winter Endurance Race

9 AM @ 7 HILLS BREWING CO AND HERITAGE TRAIL DURANGO TRAILHEAD (DURANGO, IA)
The first thing you need to know about the race—it is a bit of a circus... but that is by design. As you traverse the scenic route by bike or by foot, you'll receive little support. Whether you're juggling water bottles as you skate down Heritage Trail, or balancing a tight-rope as you cross a thin bridge on the bike route, there is something for outdoor enthusiasts of all ability levels. Biking races include 17-, 35-, and 70-mile races. Running races include

5k, half and full marathons, and a 50k ultra marathon. Prizes awarded for top male and female in each race. \$40-\$80. **563-663-8430**. tripletrace.com.

The Stained Glass Windows of the Shalom Chapel

10-11 AM @ SHALOM SPIRITUALITY CENTER CHAPEL
Come for a spiritual experience as you soak in the glorious colors of the stained-glass windows. Learn their stories through scripture and history. Hosted by Janice Hoffman, OSF. RSVP by Jan. 12. Freewill offering. 101 Davis St. **563-582-3592**. shalomretreats.org.



Becoming an Outdoor Woman: Winter Series

10 AM-12:30 PM @ SWISS VALLEY NATURE CENTER (PEOSTA, IA)
The focus of the series will be on our connection with nature through guided yoga meditation, guided hike, reflection, and ending with lunch and conversation with new friends. With this thoughtful day, be ready to meet new women and create new connections. No prior experience is needed. Instructors will lead you through all parts of the day. Please dress appropriately for the weather. RSVP required. \$5. 13606 Swiss Valley Rd, Peosta, IA. facebook.com/dubuquecountyconservation.



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975 Galena Sq., Galena IL 815-777-9066	634 S. Marquette Rd. Prairie DuChien, WI, 608-326-1988	www.losaztecasiwi.com facebook.com/losaztecasrestaurants

Ongoing & Recurring Events

DAILY



Reflections in the Park

5-10 PM @ LOUIS MURPHY PARK THROUGH JAN 1

Hillcrest Family Services' annual lights festival celebrates their 28th anniversary. Visitors will see many new displays and have the option to participate in the featured "Memory Lane," an opportunity to remember your loved ones in a special way. Discounted tickets available at all DB&T banking centers. \$12 per vehicle. 1700 S Grandview Ave. hillcrest-fs.org.

TUESDAY

Early Explorers

10 AM @ NATIONAL MISSISSIPPI RIVER MUSEUM & AQUARIUM 1ST TUE

Discover the ABCs through hands-on and active activities including a craft and a game. Ages 2-5 with parent/caregiver. RSVP suggested. \$10 Non-members; \$8 members; adult free. 350 E 3rd St. 563-557-9545 x222. RiverMuseum.org.

WEDNESDAY

Dubuque Area Humanists Social Hour

6 PM @ BACKPOCKET DUBUQUE 1ST WED

Enjoy a craft beer and join the Dubuque Area Humanists for lively, informed discussions centered around values, philosophy, and life experiences. Free. 333 E. 10th St. facebook.com/dubuqueareahumanists.

She Unites

6:30-7:30 PM @ 7 HILLS EVENT CENTER 3RD WED

An inclusive women's group working to connect women across the region through education, philanthropy, mutual support, and more. Free. 1098 Jackson St. SheUnitesIowa.com.

Toastmasters Speakeasy Club

6:30-7:45 PM @ DUBUQUE COUNTY LIBRARY ASBURY BRANCH (ASBURY, IA) & ONLINE 2ND, 4TH, AND 5TH WED
Develop your public speaking and leadership skills. This safe and fun environment will help you become a more skilled and confident speaker. Each meeting will have a few prepared speeches, time to practice your ability to think on your feet with short improvised speeches, and feedback to guide growth. Meetings on a 5th Wednesday will be held online. Free. 5290 Grand Meadow Dr, Asbury, IA. facebook.com/ToastmastersSpeakeasyClub.

FRIDAY

First Fridays

VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN DUBUQUE 1ST FRI

First Fridays is Downtown Dubuque's monthly visual art series, hosted by galleries, museums, and venues, celebrating Dubuque's great visual arts scene. Free.

SATURDAY



Dubuque Winter Farmers Market

9 AM-NOON @ KENNEDY MALL WEST CONCOURSE THROUGH APRIL
No event on 12/30. Regional vendors offer homemade and

baked goods, meat, cheese, eggs, seasonal produce, and more. Bring your own reusable shopping bags and drop off clean egg cartons, glass jars, and plastic clam shells. The all-volunteer driven market focuses on supporting our regional food system, eating from our food shed year-round, and providing annual funding to farmers through a grant program. 555 JFK Rd. wintermarketdbq.com.



Platteville Winter Farmer's Market

9 AM-NOON @ ROUNDTREE GALLERY (PLATTEVILLE, WI) 1ST & 3RD SAT THROUGH APRIL
Find homegrown and hand-made products from fresh produce and prepared food to stained glass and bath bombs. 120 W Main St, Platteville, WI. 608-218-4374. PlattevilleFarmersMarketWI.com.



Lollipops & Music for Our Preschoolers

10-10:30 AM @ CARNEGIE-STOUT PUBLIC LIBRARY 2ND SAT THROUGH APRIL
Northeast Iowa School of Music is pleased to present Lollipops and Music for Our Preschoolers (L&MOP) preschool concert series. L&MOP is a monthly concert series that introduces children and their families to a variety of musical styles and instruments. Audience members should come prepared to sing, play instruments, and dance a bit with their family. Children leave with a greater appreciation of music and a lollipop. All ages. Free. 360 W 11th St. 563-690-0151. nisom.com.

Dubuque Fighting Saints Hockey

VS WATERLOO BLACK HAWKS: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30 @ 7:05 PM

VS MUSKEGON LUMBERJACKS: JANUARY 5 AND 6 @ 7:05 PM

IMON ARENA (1800 ADMIRAL SHEEHY DR)

The Dubuque Fighting Saints season is underway, and they're leading the USHL Eastern Conference with 39 points. Watch them score their way to the top of the league at ImOn Arena.

The last game of the year will see the Waterloo Black Hawks take on the Saints for another Dupaco Cowbell Cup Match-up.

Then, the Muskegon Lumberjacks head to Our House on Jan. 5 and 6 for Stick it to Cancer Weekend. The Fighting Saints will be wearing special purple and white themed, cancer-awareness jerseys to help Stick it to Cancer in the Tri-State area.

Make this the year you wave your Dubuque Fighting Saints fan flag at



every home game! Single game tickets range from \$13 to \$25 with season tickets and flex plans also available. For tickets and more information, visit DubuqueFightingSaints.com.

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Sinatra and Friends

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31 @ 8 PM
GRAND OPERA HOUSE (135 W 8TH ST)
Spend New Year's Eve with Bryan Anthony's Sinatra and Friends at The

Grand Opera House. This performance is presented by the Dubuque Arts Council.

The show features Hunter Fueste's American Vintage Orchestra and the music of Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr., Nat King Cole, Bobby Darin, and Old Blue Eyes, himself.

Bryan Anthony keeps the legacy of the Great Gentlemen of Song, especially Sinatra, alive and well in his immensely satisfying and sweetly nostalgic performances. A veteran vocalist of ensembles like the Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey, and Nelson Riddle Orchestra, Bryan provides stunning homages to the swing era for contemporary audiences.

Close out 2023 with The Grand Opera House and Bryan Anthony's Sinatra and Friends. Tickets are \$39-\$45 and can be purchased in person at the box office, by calling **563-588-1305**, or at **TheGrandOperaHouse.com**. ■

Ohnward
FINE ARTS CENTER
www.ohnwardfineartscenter.com

1215 E. Platt St., Maquoketa, IA
Box Office Hours: M-F, 9AM - 1PM
Tickets: 563.652.9815
Tickets also available online...

NEW YEAR'S EVE SHOW!

The Beatelles

Sunday, December 31, 7 PM

A fresh and fun twist to a timeless catalog that spans from "Love Me Do" to "Let It Be". Set to a backdrop of stunning multimedia, choreography, costume changes and trivia with four powerhouse female vocalists!



World Famous Female-Driven Beatles Tribute Show!
TIX: \$30 (adv) / \$35 (door)

Pork Loin Sandwich, Chips and a Beverage served before the show from 5PM!



Amy Friedl Stoner • Go Your Own Way The Music of Fleetwood Mac Saturday, January 27, 7 PM

Amy Friedl Stoner returns to the stage with a new show chronicling the hits and heartbreak of rock superstars Fleetwood Mac, who sold over 100 million albums and chart numerous #1 hits, culminating in their induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.
Tix: \$25 (adv) / \$28 (door)



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First Fridays

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5

- 9 AM-5 PM @ CARNEGIE-STOUT PUBLIC LIBRARY (360 W 11TH ST)
- 10 AM-7 PM @ ELEVATED IMAGES (129 MAIN ST)
- NOON-7 PM @ WIDDERSHINS GALLERY (2204 CENTRAL AVE)
- 4:30-7:30 PM @ OUTSIDE THE LINES ART GALLERY (1101 MAIN ST)
- 5:30-9:30 PM @ VOICES STUDIOS (1585 CENTRAL AVE)
- 7-11 PM @ SMOKESTACK (62 E 7TH ST)

First Fridays is Downtown Dubuque's monthly art series, celebrating Dubuque's great visual arts scene. Visit all of the locations and celebrate our creative community. All stops are free.

Carnegie-Stout Public Library hosts a group show for Arts @ your library. Support local artists while shopping for a unique gift.

Elevated Images is Dubuque's newest photo gallery and gift shop which offers a wide range of wall décor and gift items. From puzzles, playing cards, keychains, and more, they've got your stocking covered.

Widdershins Gallery at Bear Dancer Studios showcases artwork by local, regional, and national artists including Mark Dierker, John Potter, Debra Sullivan, Sara Mess, and Dan Alderman. Enjoy the comfy vintage furniture while listening to classic rock tunes. Refreshments will also be available.

Outside the Lines Art Gallery features gallery manager and artist Abby Schrup who will be demonstrating her seed bead jewelry techniques. Light refreshments will be offered. Abby will return for Sequel Saturday the next morning. This is a relaxed, family-friendly opportunity to visit with the artists of our community and learn a little about how they make their art.

Voices Studios hosts *Eternal Elegance and Landscapes of Eastern Iowa*, an exhibit that seamlessly marries classical painting styles with a contemporary edge. This unique showcase features the works of Timothy Rees and Evan Ventris, whose masterpieces embody a perfect blend of traditional techniques with a touch of modern sophistication. Their collective creations are set to illuminate Voices Studios in an exclusive set of works that embody beauty, landscapes and the human spirit, demonstrating a profound and harmonious merger of past and present artistic expressions. Additionally, the Studio Gallery will feature an eclectic array of works by graffiti writer-turned studio artist Mario ZORE Gonzalez.

Dubuque Area Arts Collective (DAAC) celebrates 14 regional and local artists from the Scenic Art Loop. The Driftless Region's exclusive year-round art guide invites travelers on a self-guided art tour along the backroads and byways through the prehistoric landscapes of the Driftless Region and Mississippi River. More than 60 artists and artisan businesses are dispersed in over 1,700 square miles in the Tri-State region. The collection of works spotlight various mediums of art including paintings, illustrations, photographic works, mixed media, metal and clay sculptures. ■



Ultimate Rock Hits

JANUARY 12 AND 13 @ 8 PM
DIAMOND JO CASINO
MISSISSIPPI MOON BAR (301 BELL ST)
 The Dubuque Symphony Orchestra joins with local rock bands and guest conductor Dr. Rob Stull (DSYE Youth Orchestra Conductor and Director of bands/Assistant Professor of Music at Clarke University) to present an amazing symphonic rock experience on

Jan. 12 and 13 at 8 p.m. at the Diamond Jo Casino's Mississippi Moon Bar.

Featuring chart-topping hits from the 1970s to the present, past performances have included covers of legendary songs from groups like Aerosmith, Van Halen, The Rolling Stones, and Led Zeppelin. You won't want to miss this unique collaboration that has never failed to bring the house down!

Tickets are \$25-\$45. For tickets and more information, call the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra at **563-557-1677** or visit dubuquesymphony.org. ■



2024 Winter Arts Snow Sculpting Festival Deadline

MONDAY, JANUARY 15 @ 5 PM
 The 2024 Winter Arts Snow Sculpting Festival will take place Feb. 8-11, with community festivities on Sunday, Feb. 11 from noon to 4 p.m. Applications open Dec. 8 and are due by Monday, Jan. 15 at 5 p.m.

Every year, Dubuque celebrates the Winter Arts Snow Sculpting Festival in its downtown Washington Park. This

free, family-friendly event is produced by the Dubuque Museum of Art in partnership with the City of Dubuque's Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs. Typically the 2nd full weekend in February, teams of professional, amateur, and collegiate artists sculpt Thursday through noon on Sunday transform 288 cubic feet of snow into masterful works of art.

A winning team is chosen and offered the opportunity to represent the state of Iowa at the U.S. National Snow Sculpting Competition in Lake Geneva, WI the following year. A People's Choice selection is also chosen through online and in-person voting from noon to 4 p.m. following the call for "tools down" on the Sunday of the festival weekend.

For 2024, teams are encouraged, but not required, to design snow sculptures inspired by LOVE. Educational programming and entertainment scheduled in association with Winter Arts community activities are in conjunction with the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra's Spring Classic Concert Series *Star-Crossed Lovers*, featuring unique retelling of *Romeo and Juliet* and *West Side Story*'s love story of Maria and Tony.

For full registration information, rules, and more, visit cityofdubuque.org/winterarts. ■

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
 BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

**MONDAY,
 JANUARY 15**
Grand River Center
 500 Bell Street, Dubuque, Iowa
Breakfast 7:00 a.m.
Celebration 7:30 a.m.

Leading with Strength of Soul



KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
Dr. Ruth Haley Barton

Read her complete bio at
www.dbqschools.org/facesandvoices

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\$250/table for 10

\$25/adults

\$10/youth 12 and under

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WORKING TOWARD A greater dubuque.

Story by Bryce Parks
Photos by Greater Dubuque Development

As one year ends and another begins, it is always a time to reflect and look ahead. And just as we do that in our personal lives, it's also time to do so as a community. There were plenty of struggles in 2023, and obstacles ahead, but through adversity, we continue to progress.

In addition to the City of Dubuque government having to keep an eye on what's happening in our community and planning for what's next, there are also organizations whose job it is to assist in that process, from the Dubuque Area Chamber of Commerce to County government and many groups in between, with a variety of acronyms to simplify their names. One of the most vital of those organizations working constantly to improve our city for both business and residents is the Greater Dubuque Development Corporation. Surely you know or have heard the name, but if you're not knee-deep in the world of economic development or involved in the management of some of Dubuque's largest employers, it's not likely a group you interact with regularly. But, whether you realize it or not, the work they do interacts with your life far more than you might realize.

Yes, they were created to serve the economic development goals of local business, but looking at their latest five-year

strategic campaign, titled "YOU can be great here," you will quickly see that reaching those economic development goals has everything to do with enhancing the quality of life for you and me. From higher median incomes and more jobs to promoting commercial and residential construction and alleviating poverty, the simple fact is that a healthy community for residents equals a healthy community for business and vice-versa. A rising tide lifts all boats.

With recent headlines about needing to grow our population and at the same time facing housing limitations, I have certainly seen people taking to social media with opinions o' plenty on the issue. But these armchair quarterbacks aren't living and breathing these issues day and night the way that city officials and organizations like Greater Dubuque are. So I wanted to take some time to find out together just what the Greater Dubuque Development Corporation does, why they do it and why you and I should care. I recently sat down with Rick Dickinson, president and CEO of the organization, to get the story. And to our benefit, it's quite a story.

"Give me your two-minute elevator speech if we're sitting somewhere going to say what does Greater Dubuque Development do in the greater Dubuque region," I asked. "What is that? What's your spin on what Greater Dubuque Development is?"

Says Dickinson, "Greater Dubuque Development began in 1984, when Dubuque was in one of the worst economic downturns in its time, with historically the highest unemployment in the United States, and we were witnessing an exodus of population from the community because of lack of opportunity."

"Greater Dubuque stands on the shoulders of giants in the community," he continues, "who said we need to do something differently. There were businesses' positions on issues and there was the public sector, and there was distrust between both and a lack of cooperation and collaboration, which probably led to in many ways the economic downturn itself. The thought was that we needed to have a big tent organization in the community where everyone had a voice and no one had control. That began Greater Dubuque Development."

For the first 10-plus years of its existence, the organization was driven by one goal, to recruit new business to the Greater Dubuque region including smaller communities in the Tri-State area. It was more of a reactive process than it was a proactive process. Rick came on board in 1995, and the board wanted the organization to be more engaged in working with the existing business community to better understand what their product needed to be through the eyes of the employers.

So Greater Dubuque Development morphed from being just an organization that was here to "chase smokestacks," as Rick put it, to an organization that was here to work holistically on both hard and soft infrastructure to create a stronger regional economy in Dubuque.

Greater Dubuque began by developing a very robust business retention and expansion program called *InfoAction*, whereby their staff literally sits down with over 250 businesses every year to ask the same, confidential questions of each, enter that information into a contact manager software that allows Greater Dubuque to understand what's going on at that company and to also identify trends across the private sector. What are the challenges they face? What are the opportunities they see? And then on a macro level, Greater Dubuque can merge that data and understand what things that we need to be looking at as a community as a whole.

"One of the things that came up early on was that there was no place to expand in Dubuque," explains Dickinson. "That became an appeal then to the City of Dubuque to become involved in acquisition and development of industrial property because there was no industrial property available in our community. That resulted in the Dubuque Industrial Center West, the Dubuque Industrial Center South, and



HR PROFESSIONALS COHORT

the Dubuque Technology Park. Since then, additional property has been purchased at Crossroads Industrial Center and West of Seippel Road to provide access to existing industries to expand in our community, and to allow us to recruit new industry to the community. All you have to do is drive west on Chavenelle Road and you can see what the result of that is.”

Continues Dickinson, “We knew early on based on our InfoAction interviews that workforce was a challenge in the late ‘90s and was going to continue to be a challenge in the Midwest, Iowa in particular, and in Dubuque because we had an aging baby boomer population, and we had to backfill that. We developed what we call our Workforce Solutions programs. These programs are about retaining the talent we have, recruiting new talent to the community, and creating talent through the power of education and partnership. With the tremendous asset of the community of higher education institutions we have in the region—Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC), Southwest Tech, Clarke, Loras, University of Dubuque, University of Wisconsin-Platteville, Emmaus, and Wartburg—we began doing whatever we could to work with them to change lives through education and the reward and dignity of work.”

Then, breaking from the constraints of many economic development groups,

Greater Dubuque Development started looking at strategic initiatives related to the soft infrastructure that makes any community a community of choice. Hard infrastructure is streets, bridges, water and sewer, and utilities. Soft infrastructure are the things that impact our lives on a daily, more personal level, including housing, child care, entertainment, recreational opportunities, public schools, police and fire protection, and safe communities. Sometimes it’s the simplest of things.

“There was a weakness in housing identified through the Dubuque Housing Needs Assessment we commissioned, across the board whether it was market rate rental, subsidized rental, or single family units being built. We worked with the public sector,” says Dickinson, “and the developers to adjust the rules to expedite and maximize new opportunities, expand incentives leveraging new and existing resources, and right now, there are nearly 2,000 units in some stages of development that will be constructed over the next three to five years.”

He continues, “We did not have universal broadband available in our community. So we worked with the public sector and the private sector to develop incentives, remove barriers, and address regulatory problems. Now, instead of two providers of broadband, we have 10, and ImOn Communications is doing a 100%

build out in the market to be completed by end of 2024 giving all businesses and homes the option of fiber connectivity.”

“With renewable energy, the community identifies itself as a model for sustainable communities,” Dickinson continues. “We have the largest solar array in Iowa, at least as of today, with 25-acre arrays in two locations on Highway 61 and out on the west side of our own energy. This is the only community in Iowa that collects its methane from its water resource recovery center, our sewer plant, and the landfill and converts that methane to biogas to reduce greenhouse gas pollution. This also generates revenue by converting that pollutant to renewable energy as biogas into the Black Hills Energy system.

“Most recently, we identified child care as a major obstacle for parents to both continue to stay in the workplace through out their child’s younger years. Child care is an especially significant barrier as it relates to single parent head of households having an opportunity to move their family out of poverty through, again, the reward of work. Our efforts try to remove the barrier of child care availability first of all, that address the quality of that child care secondarily, and affordability beyond that. We’re working with nonprofits, the state, and local government to create action on expanding child care, especially as it relates to infant care.

There is a two-year waiting list to have an infant in child care, and that’s untenable.”

So that’s a long story about where we’re at today.

The good news is that Dubuque had less impact from the economic downturn of the pandemic than most communities and recovered more quickly than many.

“I think that’s testimony to a lot of things,” explains Dickinson, “but it’s the public/private commitment to work collaboratively to find our way through a problem. Since we didn’t have as big a dip, it doesn’t look like we had as great a recovery. But the fact is that we recovered sooner and to a greater degree than most communities in the Midwest.”

From a low of 56,000 people working in the MSA (metropolitan statistical area) when we hit bottom in May of 2020, in the first months of the pandemic, to approximately 61,000 people working today, we have more people working in Dubuque County than actually live in the city of Dubuque.

“And we have a very high labor participation rate at over 70,” says Dickinson. “Which means most of our folks are working. But my generation, the baby boomer generation, are retiring in droves.”

Some people may think, well, we don’t need new people in our town. We just need all these people that are on welfare

to get jobs. Not the case. Did you know that as of October 2023, there are only 246 out of 99,000 people in Dubuque County that receive unemployment benefits? That's not a typo. People are working. We just need more of them.

Also impacting the lag in population growth is that family size has gone from an average of four kids per household to 1.6 today. That repopulation drop can not sufficiently backfill the retirements happening now, an issue hitting the Midwest particularly hard. Pair that with the fact that Dubuque and Iowa in general does not have a large in-migration of population, whether residents from other places in the United States or immigrants. As a result, population growth and thus community growth is a constant struggle.

"In order to pull the 3,000 more people into our workforce between now and the end of 2027 that we need, we have three strategies," explains Dickinson. "Being a community choice, doing a better job of retaining local talent which includes the talent that's being created at our institutions of higher learning, and outside recruiting. For retention, it's about really connecting to the students, getting them off campus, welcoming them as part of the community from the day they set foot on campus, improving their experience at that institution, and having the community embrace them while they're in school to increase the likelihood they'll find an opportunity in our market."

"Then on the recruiting side, Greater Dubuque thinks the low hanging fruit is to focus on expatriates of the region. Instead of thinking that we can recruit somebody from San Diego, let's focus on people that have a connection to Dubuque. Maybe they have family here. Or they went to college here and the winds of opportunity took them someplace else, but now things like safe neighborhoods, good schools, good jobs, and affordable homes have become more important to them. Greater Dubuque Development wants to make sure those people know what's available here in the way of employment, and that we make this a community choice so they're not sacrificing to come here, but instead improving their life by doing so."

"That's the goal of 'YOU can be great here,' to communicate that message to those people and be real about what has the greatest potential for delivering on the goal. So that's a daunting goal of increasing the workforce in Dubuque County to 64,000 which is dependent upon achieving population growth to 105,000 county wide. Right now, we're hovering around 100,000 people. That is a big, hairy, audacious challenge because most counties in the state of Iowa are actually losing population as

we speak. Dubuque County has outperformed many of our metros and most rural counties, but it's still a challenge."

Of the five goals of "YOU can be great here," the one that Greater Dubuque is blowing out of the water is "a billion dollars in commercial and residential development." They're over \$350 million into that goal just a year and a half into their five-year campaign. Greater Dubuque is trying to make sure that at least half of that is in the housing market, both in rental and family units. Dickinson is not at all worried about achieving that goal.

Likewise, the increase of the median household wages in the market to \$76,000 is making big gains. It had already hit over \$73,000 from \$64,000 18 months ago, with three years left to the target date. Inflation has had an impact on the quick jump in wages but even so, \$73,000 is still not terribly competitive with other regions of the country. With wages stagnant, Greater Dubuque is also in the business of connecting job seekers with the vast opportunities that exist in our market and helping create a sense of belonging and connections for newcomers.

"We also have a unique partnership with the TH Media on [AccessDubuqueJobs.com](https://www.accessdubuquejobs.com), a jobs board dedicated to available careers in our market," says Dickinson. "We've also developed a suite of services for newcomers. This includes our Distinctively Dubuque class that we offer four times a year. We contract NICC to facilitate this free, five Wednesday evenings course for newcomers. We treat them to dinner, connect them with resources, share with them the history of Dubuque and what makes the Greater Dubuque region unique. One night focuses on recreational opportunities, another night on nonprofits to jump start their community involvement. Other nights explore our vibrant arts and culture scene, explore equity and the economy, or connect them one-on-one with elected officials and community leaders. Our community tour program, used heavily by our Workforce Investors, greets potential out-of-town hires with a warm handshake and a 90-drive to check out whatever they want to see and introduce them to some of the region's hidden gems. Both of these things are truly unique for any community, especially one our size, and we get rave reviews on both programs."

And, finally, you don't see a lot of business-assistance organizations taking on poverty as a core goal in their strategic plan.

"The reduction of the poverty rate by 5% is to acknowledge that in whatever we do, we have to make sure that everyone benefits from a growing regional economy," says Dickinson.



Greater Dubuque 2027 "You Can Be Great Here" Campaign Goals

GOAL #1: A WORKFORCE OF 64,000

By promoting career opportunities and upgrading our resources, we will grow our regional workforce to over 64,000 jobs in the next five years.

GOAL #2: \$1 BILLION IN RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION

To foster the community's anticipated growth, we'll encourage and facilitate \$1 billion of new residential and commercial construction.

GOAL #3: POPULATION GROWTH TO 105,000

Meaningful careers and vibrant communities will make 2027 the year our population reaches 105,000.

GOAL #4: MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME OF \$76,000

With the increase in high-quality, high-paying careers, the median household income will reach \$76,000.

GOAL #5: REDUCE POVERTY RATE

Changing lives through upskilling and the reward of work. Reduce the number of households below the Dubuque County Supplemental Poverty Measurement by 5%.

Greater Dubuque aims to achieve this by empowering people with education and upskilling by removing the financial barriers to accessing those learning opportunities. Opportunity Dubuque is a program where Greater Dubuque partners with NICC, providing over \$300,000 a year in tuition for potential workers in a variety of certificates of training from CNAs working at hospitals and care facilities to CNC training for workers in a metal fabrication plant. These are not two-year degrees, but certificates of training to get them enough skilled training to be considered for employment in a career path better than the one they have now.

Says Dickinson, “We also partner with NICC on the shared cost of career coaches whose job it is to get into the community, to meet people where they live, to be boots on the ground, and to empower people with information about these programs that otherwise wouldn’t have. As a region, we’re also rich in empathy, but we’re weak in contact. We’re trying to find ways to remedy that and create more personal connection, especially with low- and moderate-income households so we can find out what’s going on in their world and let them know what’s available on a macro level that they can be taking advantage of. It’s also important that we remove then the financial barriers of tuition, child care, and transportation. Most recently, the City of Dubuque expanded transportation routes to better fit commuter schedules and also made public transit free for all college students to encourage them to get off campus, out into the community, and expand their access to recreation and employment opportunities.”

“These things don’t happen by accident,” he says. “They are part of a design to be successful in achieving these five goals. I think despite a challenging year, a great deal has been accomplished both in all of our initiatives.”

But with each step forward, there are setbacks. Dickinson anticipates an initial increase in poverty numbers as the loss of ARPA dollars—that \$300 a month to most households per child that’s now gone and not coming back.

Let’s dive deeper into one example of soft infrastructure success that’s bearing fruit right now in the area of child care.

The City of Dyersville, a Greater Dubuque partner, received a \$1.8 million grant from the State of Iowa for child care expansion as did Dubuque Initiatives, a nonprofit here in Dubuque that Rick serves on the board of, which received a \$2.15 million grant, and Cottingham & Butler received a \$3 million grant earlier this year to expand child care slots on our market. In total, Dubuque County received over \$7 million of these state funds, more than a quarter of the \$25 million that was available in the entire state. That’s not luck. That happened because “We’re on it!” as Rick put it.

The first facility, the one being developed by Dubuque Initiatives, will open with 128 slots and all tricked-out to be able to handle infant care which is a huge, specialized need within the child care umbrella. This world-class facility will open on Monday, Jan. 8, in the former Medline building on Chavenelle Rd., in the heart of one of Dubuque’s large employer industrial parks. The facility will also offer wraparound care and preschool thanks to a collaboration with Dubuque Community Schools, with the child care programming managed and offered by the Dubuque Community Y. The other facilities in Dyersville, and with Cottingham & Butler, will offer similar options, working to meet the gaps in today’s current child care landscape that limit growth in population and workforce.

Probably more importantly, Greater Dubuque Development just received an award of \$560,000 to help grow the



MANDI DOLSON, DIRECTOR OF WORKFORCE RECRUITMENT & RETENTION, HANDS OUT TICKETS AT MOVIE NIGHT

number of child care professionals in Dubuque County. The award from the state is a two-to-one match for a local raise of \$280,000, secured thanks to the work of Dave Lyons, who works for Dubuque Initiatives out of Greater Dubuque’s office on a contracted basis. The Greater Dubuque Development Board ensured Dubuque County was eligible for the \$560,000 by guaranteeing the \$280,000 local match, with the expectation that Rick and his staff would eventually raise the match from the private sector. It’s all a pretty big deal, and we can expect announcements in early 2024 of significant contributions by employers who have pledged to be Business Champions of Child Care.

“Thanks to this grant, we’ve established the Dubuque County Child Care Solutions Fund,” says Dickinson. “This fund makes financial resources available to every licensed child care center in Dubuque County that accepts state

pay to increase the entry level wages for child care workers. This is critical as one of the biggest challenges in child care is that every facility has more capacity than they’re utilizing because they can’t recruit people to work in child care.”

“It used to be that retail and hospitality was our lowest paid industry. Today it’s child care workers, sadly. At the same time, child care is extremely expensive for parents. This doesn’t mean anyone is making a fortune doing it. Child care is simply just expensive to provide. The younger the child, the higher the employee-to-child ratio. For infants, you have to have one employee for every three or four children, and one employee for every six three-year-olds. In response, the Dubuque County Child Care Solutions Fund will help all child care centers expand capacity by helping them recruit and retain more staff.”

Providing all of these services does not come for free, so in addition to doing



NIC HOCKENBERRY, DIRECTOR OF WORKFORCE PROGRAMMING, SPEAKS AT THE WORKFORCE BREAKFAST

the work, Greater Dubuque Development has to develop funding streams to pay for everything. These days they do this in five-year cycles with ever-evolving strategic goals and measurable outcomes.

City and county government, and often the state and the federal government, are partners for Greater Dubuque Development. Higher education is a major partner as are nonprofits like the Fountain of Youth and IowaWorks. The “client” is the local employer. Greater Dubuque’s job is to work with partners to increase the potential for success for the employer clients. Over half of their budget comes from the private sector. The rest comes from DRA, the city, the county, and surrounding communities. This provides Greater Dubuque Development with a budget of about 2.5 million annually to create impact and facilitate growth that ripples throughout the region.

“I believe we have the best economic development team in the country, pound

for pound,” says Dickinson. “We’re not the largest organization, but I think we’re the deepest organization as far as talent and staff. We’re doing things that other communities are going to be doing, but we also have unique approaches. We’re able to dive into projects that don’t necessarily fall into traditional ‘economic development’ because of how we’re funded and the talents of the team we have doing the work.”

For example, they recently undertook creating and conducting the NEXT GEN Perceptions Survey. Greater Dubuque has had more than 2,000 responses with over 70% of respondents age 40 and under, the target demographic for the survey effort. The survey mainly asks, “What are you looking for in a community to want to live and work there, and do you feel our community is or isn’t meeting your expectations and needs?”

“I was surprised by how meat-and-potatoes the responses tended to be, despite

the younger demographic. They’re looking for affordable home ownership and quality healthcare. They are thinking about access to affordable child care. They want quality schools and safe communities.”

“The responses so far also show the next generation is very passionate about quality-of-life amenities. They value beautiful topography and outdoor recreation, areas they feel we excel at, but they also place significant importance on restaurant and shopping options, amenities we get lower marks on and thus need to address. And who would think an economic development group would be concerned with creating a pet-friendly community? But that’s what people want, so we have to think about our role in promoting that.”

We need to realize that all this takes money and time. You can’t just divine this stuff to happen.

“2023 was a year of discontent for some folks,” says Dickinson, “and a challenging year for our organization because we saw grievances from the last 30 years being put front and center in the public sphere in April and May. There was a letter-writing effort that put old and new grievances on a plate for the community to judge our success on, instead of considering the full table of accomplishments. In some ways, it was witch hunting, and in others, it was anti-city government. It caused consternation within the community that continues to be an issue today.

“I would say that in 2023, we released the ‘Kraken of discontent’, the sort of thing that tears communities apart. Cedar Rapids has been torn apart, and the city all but cut funds to the economic development organization there. The same debate was happening in Freeport, IL and in Fond du Lac, WI. In many communities, they just start chewing on and fighting amongst themselves, not achieving anything. This

is partly what happened in Dubuque in the 1980s. We can’t let that happen again.”

“The focus here has to be proactive to understand, using data to inform, and doing research to better understand what the challenges are. Then, to recognize best practices around the country and apply them here in tandem with on-the-ground expertise as best we can.”

The staff at Greater Dubuque Development works for a board of 46 individuals who are leaders in the region, the chief executive officers of that which they represent, representing businesses large and small. It also includes elected officials, organized labor, and higher education, creating a unique cross-section of the community to direct and govern the organization.

“If any economic development group is just sitting in their office waiting for the phone to ring with a new company looking to be in their community, they’re soon to die. While economic development is still bricks and mortar, infrastructure, and incentives, it is also community development. It’s about helping everyone succeed. It’s sharing the positive news and success stories that demonstrate how your business can be great in the greater Dubuque region or why your company should expand in Dubuque. Or, if your Dubuque company is struggling, how can we fix it swiftly and collaboratively?”

“We are the men and women behind the curtain. We’re the fixers. We delegate credit and accept the blame. Economic development in Dubuque County has evolved from chasing smokestacks in the ‘80s to being community, development in the 21st century,” notes Dickinson. “In 1983, our founders, Nick Schrup and Bruce Meriweather, said ‘We’ve got to fix this.’ And I hope they’re proud of how far we’ve come.” ■

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TRI-STATE LIVE MUSIC

THU 12/21

Jingle Jam
5 PM @ Gehlen Barn Beer in the Barn Brewery (St. Donatus, IA)

Country Christmas:
Angela Meyer, Tessa
6 PM @ Fox Den Motel

Elizabeth Mary
6 PM @ The Corner Taproom (Cascade, IA)

Evening of Classics:
Tallgrass/Juliani Ensemble
7 PM @ Voices Studios

The Guthries
7 PM @ Grape Escape (Galena, IL)

FRI 12/22

Shannon Woulfe
4 PM @ Sundown MTN Tips Up

Daniel Eric
5 PM @ Darkbird Taphouse (Peosta, IA)

Holiday Sing Along
w/ Jubeck Family Band
6 PM @ Jubeck New World Brewing

Joseph John Valenti
6 PM @ Stone Cliff Winery

Trivia w/ Trivial Dudes
6 PM @ O So Good Winery (Dyersville, IA)

Jimmy Welty Band
6 PM @ Timber Lanes (Maquoketa, IA)

Rock Steady
7 PM @ Days Inn
Spirits Bar & Grill

Cal Coohy
7 PM @ First Reserve

Dean's Birthday: Sun Green
7 PM @ Smokestack

Ugly Christmas Sweater Karaoke
Party w/ Becky McMahon
7 PM @ Trackside Bar and Grill (Peosta, IA)

Christmas Vacation Trivia
w/ Bob's Trivia Night
7 PM @ River Ridge Brewing (Bellevue, IA)

Not Quite Brothers
8 PM @ Diamond Jo Casino
Mississippi Moon Bar

Kristina Marie Castañeda & Shawn Healy
8 PM @ Grape Escape (Galena, IL)

DICKMAS: Dick Hubert, Pure Service, Marzipan Mailbox, and More
9 PM @ The Lift

SAT 12/23

Big Night Out
2 PM @ Burkey's Bar

Danny Parker Project @ 2 PM
Mojo Busted @ 8 PM
Grape Escape (Galena, IL)

Joie Wails
3 PM @ Sundown MTN Tips Up

Emma Smith @ 5 PM
Bob and Gus @ 6 PM
Darkbird Taphouse (Peosta, IA)

Dan McGuire
5 PM @ Galena Cellars
Downtown (Galena, IL)

Ralph Kluseman
6 PM @ Q Casino Upper Casino

Steve & Randy
6 PM @ Stone Cliff Winery

Tiger Kings
7 PM @ Days Inn
Spirits Bar & Grill

Ballyheigue
7 PM @ The Lift

Brushfire Bandits
7 PM @ Southend Tap

Ozzy & Bon JoeB
7 PM @ Gehlen Barn Beer in the Barn Brewery (St. Donatus, IA)

Smokehouse
7 PM @ Twisted Vines (Potosi, WI)

Chris Stevens
8 PM @ Flatted Fifth
Blues & BBQ (Bellevue, IA)

Cirque du Buque: Creepsmas
10 PM @ Smokestack

SUN 12/24

Michael Breitbach
11 AM @ Sundown MTN Tips Up

TUE 12/26

Carolers
5 PM @ Frank O'Dowd's Irish Pub (Galena, IL)

WED 12/27

Carolers
5 PM @ Frank O'Dowd's Irish Pub (Galena, IL)

Jay Jubeck & Friends
6 PM @ Jubeck New World Brewing

Party With Marty
7 PM @ First Reserve

THU 12/28

Carolers @ 5 PM
The Gutheries @ 7 PM
Frank O'Dowd's Irish Pub (Galena, IL)

Joie Wails
6 PM @ The Corner Taproom (Cascade, IA)

Kampfire Kings
7 PM @ Grape Escape (Galena, IL)

FRI 12/29

Casey Klein
4 PM @ Sundown MTN Tips Up

John Gay
6 PM @ Stone Cliff Winery

Steve Davis
6 PM @ Champagne on Main (Galena, IL)

Karaoke w/ Becky McMahon
7 PM @ Days Inn
Spirits Bar & Grill

Shannon Woulfe
7 PM @ First Reserve

Jimmy Welty Band
7 PM @ Offside Sports Complex

The Gutheries
7 PM @ Frank O'Dowd's Irish Pub (Galena, IL)

Laura McDonald
7 PM @ Wyndham Galena Birch Lounge (Galena, IL)

2024

OTHERSIDE NEW YEAR'S EVE!

NOON C \$1000

7:20 PM G \$500

Prime Rib and Broasted Chicken Dinner 4-7:30 PM

LIVE MUSIC! 4 PM - 8 PM

Champagne New Year's Eve Toast @ 6PM!

Debbie Legrand DART TOURNAMENT!
Sign-up: 6-7PM
Start: 7:30PM
\$500 Added to the Pot!

New Years Showcase
8 PM @ Comedy Bar

Rhino
8 PM @ Diamond Jo Casino
Mississippi Moon Bar

Joseph John Valenti
8 PM @ Hotel Julien Dubuque
Riverboat Lounge

Jordan Danielsen
8 PM @ Grape Escape
(Galena, IL)

SAT 12/30
Secrets
2 PM @ Burkey's Bar

Danny Parker Project
2 PM @ Grape Escape
(Galena, IL)

Tony & Shannon
3 PM @ Sundown MTN Tips Up

The Mixed Emotions Band
5 PM @ Knicker's Saloon

Noah James Hittner
5 PM @ Galena Cellars
Downtown (Galena, IL)

Elizabeth Mary
6 PM @ Q Casino Upper Casino

Daniel Eric
6 PM @ Stone Cliff Winery

Joseph John Valenti
6 PM @ Darkbird Taphouse
(Peosta, IA)

Karaoke
6 PM @ Gehlen Barn Beer in the
Barn Brewery (St. Donatus, IA)

Massey Road
7 PM @ Days Inn
Spirits Bar & Grill

Trivia: Christmas
w/ GQ Entertainment
7 PM @ Southend Tap

New Years Showcase
8 PM @ Comedy Bar

Karaoke w/ Becky McMahon
8 PM @ Denny's Lux Club

Time Machine
8 PM @ Diamond Jo Casino
Mississippi Moon Bar

Tessa
8 PM @ Hotel Julien Dubuque
Riverboat Lounge

Big Mojo
8 PM @ Alfred's Bar at
Leisure Lake (Bernard, IA)

The Jimmys
8 PM @ Flatted Fifth
Blues & BBQ (Bellevue, IA)

SUN 12/31
Mark Zalaznik
1 PM @ Sundown MTN Tips Up

Secrets
2 PM @ Burkey's Bar

The Lads of Dubuque, Dubuque
Fire Pipes and Drum, David Zollo
2 PM @ Gary Dolphin's Iron Bar

Tony Walker
3 PM @ Midtown Marina
(East DBQ, IL)

The Other Two @ 3 PM
DJ Amy @ 6 PM
Darkbird Taphouse (Peosta, IA)

Luxembourg New Year's Eve:
Jacquie Miller Duo
3 PM @ Gehlen Barn Beer in the
Barn Brewery (St. Donatus, IA)

Big Night Out
4 PM @ The Other Side
(East DBQ, IL)

DR Duo
5 PM @ Stone Cliff Winery

Andrew Huber @ 5 PM
The Amadans @ 9:30 PM
Frank O'Dowd's Irish Pub
(Galena, IL)

Brion Bowman
5 PM @ Galena Cellars
Downtown (Galena, IL)

Ron Tegeler
5 PM @ Flatted Fifth
Blues & BBQ (Bellevue, IA)

Kristina Marie Castañeda &
Shawn Healy
7 PM @ Champagne on Main
(Galena, IL)

Angela Meyer
7 PM @ Galena Brewing Co
(Galena, IL)

Forest Schoenrock & Brody
Tupy, Jef Spradley Trio
7 PM @ Grape Escape (Galena, IL)

The Beatelles
7 PM @ Ohnward Fine Arts
Center (Maquoketa, IA)

New Years Showcase
8 PM @ Comedy Bar

New Year's Eve Dueling Pianos
8 PM @ Diamond Jo Casino
Mississippi Moon Bar

Sinatra and Friends
8 PM @ Grand Opera House

Rockabilly New Years Eve
Show: Dirty Fishnet Stockings
8 PM @ Hotel Julien Dubuque
Riverboat Lounge

TJ the DJ
8 PM @ Q Casino

Joie Wails
8 PM @ Wicked Dame

The Lonely Goats
8 PM @ Goldmoor Inn
(Galena, IL)

Three Quarter Buzz
9 PM @ Days Inn
Spirits Bar & Grill

DJ SaladSpinner
9 PM @ Smokestack

River Moonshine
9 PM @ Lock 12 (Bellevue, IA)

2 Grand Acoustic
9:30 PM @ Bill's Tap (Farley, IA)

Travis Hosette as Frank Sinatra
9:30 PM @ DeSoto House Hotel
(Galena, IL)

The Mixed Emotions Band
9:30 PM @ The Big House
(Petersburg, IA)

MON 1/1
Broken Rubber Band
1 PM @ Sundown MTN Tips Up

WED 1/3
Ace Jones
7 PM @ First Reserve

DRUMLine Live
7 PM @ Five Flags Arena

FRI 1/5
Fabulous Fridays Artists Series:
St. Luke's Artists
Noon @ St. Luke's UMC

Terry McCauley
4 PM @ Sundown MTN Tips Up

Rock Steady
7 PM @ Days Inn
Spirits Bar & Grill

Pennyroyal
7 PM @ First Reserve

First Fridays: Addison Aronson,
James Riley
7 PM @ Smokestack

Kevin Presbrey
8 PM @ Frank O'Dowd's
Irish Pub (Galena, IL)

Tu'Mera, Exodia,
If I Could Just Get Some Sleep
10 PM @ The Lift

LIVE Music IN THE UPPER CASINO



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

RALPH KLUSEMAN

6PM-9PM



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

ELIZABETH MARY

6PM-9PM



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Dolph's Irish New Year's Eve!
December 31 • Starting at 2 PM!
Countdown to Irish New Year's Eve @ 6 PM
(Midnight in Ireland!)

A Family-Friendly Event Featuring:

- The Lads Irish Band
- Dubuque Fire Pipes and Drum
- Irish Dancers
- FOOD! ... Corned Beef, Irish Potatoes, Shrimp, Irish Cheese & Soda Bread!
- Great Drink Specials
- Champagne Toast at 6 PM

PLUS... David Zollo @ 8 PM for the Iowa New Year's Eve!
FREE SHOW!
Watch the ball drop in Times Square on the big screen in the courtyard!

Advance Tix Just \$20 @ Dolph's or use the QR code!

Refresh Fresh Juice Bar

United Way A fundraiser for United Way

SAT 1/6

Massey Road
3 PM @ Sundown MTN Tips Up

Rock Steady
6 PM @ Knicker's Saloon

Big Night Out
6 PM @ The Other Side
(East DBQ, IL)

BJ McAndrew
6 PM @ Darkbird Taphouse
(Peosta, IA)

The Mixed Emotions Band
7 PM @ Days Inn
Spirits Bar & Grill

Meghan Davis
7 PM @ Galena Brewing Co
(Galena, IL)

Dueling Pianos
8 PM @ Diamond Jo Casino
Mississippi Moon Bar

Kevin Presbrey
8 PM @ Frank O'Dowd's
Irish Pub (Galena, IL)

SUN 1/7

Barefoot & Sunshine
1 PM @ Sundown MTN Tips Up

Jake Stack
1 PM @ O So Good Winery
(Dyersville, IA)

WED 1/10

Marques Morel
7 PM @ First Reserve

THU 1/11

Matt Keen, Emma Butterworth
7 PM @ Fox Den Motel

FRI 1/12

Fabulous Fridays Artists Series:
Ralph Kluseman
Noon @ St. Luke's UMC

Jef Spradley
4 PM @ Sundown MTN Tips Up

Dodge St Duo
7 PM @ First Reserve

Rock Steady
7 PM @ The Hilltop at
Menominee (Menominee, IL)

Band Together Concert:
Cade Thompson
7:30 PM @ UD Heritage Center

Kevin Bozeman
8 PM @ Comedy Bar

Dubuque Symphony Orchestra:
Ultimate Rock Hits
8 PM @ Diamond Jo Casino
Mississippi Moon Bar

Andreas Tranzo
8 PM @ Frank O'Dowd's
Irish Pub (Galena, IL)

SAT 1/13

Trivia: The Big Lebowski
w/ GQ Entertainment
1 PM @ Southend Tap

Tony Walker
3 PM @ Sundown MTN Tips Up

Secrets
7 PM @ Days Inn
Spirits Bar & Grill

Daniel Eric
7 PM @ Wicked Dame

Karaoke w/ Becky McMahon
7 PM @ R Place (East DBQ, IL)

Jimmy Welty Band
7 PM @ Twisted Vines
(Potosi, WI)

Kevin Bozeman
8 PM @ Comedy Bar

Dubuque Symphony Orchestra:
Ultimate Rock Hits
8 PM @ Diamond Jo Casino
Mississippi Moon Bar

Andreas Tranzo
8 PM @ Frank O'Dowd's
Irish Pub (Galena, IL)

The Mixed Emotions Band
8:30 PM @ The Big House
(Petersburg, IA)

SUN 1/14

Lexi Healy
1 PM @ Sundown MTN Tips Up

Secrets
3 PM @ Hawg Dogs (Savanna, IL)

Andreas Tranzo
6 PM @ Frank O'Dowd's
Irish Pub (Galena, IL)

WED 1/17

Gabe Schillman
7 PM @ First Reserve

THU 1/18

Tapestry
5 PM @ Darkbird Taphouse
(Peosta, IA)

Soren Staff, The Spine Stealers
7 PM @ Fox Den Motel

FRI 1/19

Fabulous Fridays Artists Series:
Laura Southworth &
Leslie Appleby
Noon @ St. Luke's UMC

Jeff Theisen
4 PM @ Sundown MTN Tips Up

Mark Zalaznik
6 PM @ Darkbird Taphouse
(Peosta, IA)

Chad Olson Jr
7 PM @ First Reserve

Josh Adam Meyers
8 PM @ Comedy Bar

Heligoats, Chris Porterfield
8 PM @ Fox Den Motel

Ian Gould
8 PM @ Frank O'Dowd's
Irish Pub (Galena, IL)

SAT 1/20

Three Quarter Buzz
2 PM @ Burkey's Bar

Jimmy Welty Band
3 PM @ Sundown MTN Tips Up

Knapp Creek
6 PM @ O So Good Winery
(Dyersville, IA)

Rock Steady
7 PM @ Southend Tap

Josh Adam Meyers
8 PM @ Comedy Bar

Karaoke w/ Becky McMahon
8 PM @ Denny's Lux Club

Ian Gould
8 PM @ Frank O'Dowd's
Irish Pub (Galena, IL)

Clockwork: Thysbe, Emple,
Sam Link, Earl Dernhardt
9 PM @ Fox Den Motel

Marbin
9 PM @ The Lift

SUN 1/21

Ozzy & Bon Joe B
1 PM @ Sundown MTN Tips Up

Jimmy Welty Band
1 PM @ O So Good Winery
(Dyersville, IA)

WED 1/24

Theresa Rosetta
7 PM @ First Reserve



BUT WAIT... THERE'S MORE!
VIEW OUR FULL
NIGHTLIFE LIST
DUBUQUE365.COM/MUSIC

MISSISSIPPI MOON BARSM

Upcoming Entertainment



New Year's Eve Dueling Pianos

DECEMBER 31 @ 8 PM

Dueling Pianos ends the year on a high note by playing groovy tunes to help you sing the night away. This phenomenal performance is a lively and entertaining way to ring in the New Year in style.



Not Quite Brothers

DECEMBER 22 @ 8 PM

Central Iowa's fastest growing cover band formed in 2018. They quickly became known for their huge sound, eclectic setlist, and ability to enhance any party. These five fellas are as tight as brothers... but not quite.



Rhino

DECEMBER 29 @ 8 PM

A high energy Twin Cities band playing an array of modern, alternative, 80's, and classic rock, with twists of country and other surprises.

Additional Entertainment

TIME MACHINE

DECEMBER 30 @ 8 PM

DUELING PIANOS

JANUARY 6 @ 8 PM

**DUBUQUE SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA: ULTIMATE ROCK HITS**

JANUARY 12 & 13 @ 8 PM

BOBCAT GOLDTHWAIT

FEBRUARY 2 @ 8 PM

FOOL HOUSE

FEBRUARY 3 @ 8 PM

THE DAVE MATTHEWS

TRIBUTE BAND

MARCH 2 @ 8 PM

DIAMOND JO 
C A S I N O

Diamond Jo Casino's Mississippi Moon Bar is located at 301 Bell St. in the Port of Dubuque. All shows are 21+. For tickets and more information about the upcoming entertainment, call Diamond Jo Casino at 563-690-4800 or visit MoonBarRocks.com.



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Public Health
IOWA HHS



Ongoing & Recurring Nightlife

SUNDAY

Open Mic w/ Scott Rische
1 PM @ Grape Escape
(Galena, IL)

Gladdy Ressler, Jamie Jones,
Special Guests
1 PM @ Council Hill Station
(Council Hill, IL)

Bingo
4 PM @ Gary Dolphin's
Iron Bar

Open Mic & Sketch Group
w/ Addison Aronson
4 PM @ Smokestack
1st Sun

MONDAY

Trivia w/ Fun N Games Co
6:30 PM @ Round Two
(Peosta, IA)
4th Mon

Trivia w/ Fun N Games Co
6:30 PM @ Textile Brewing Co
(Dyersville, IA)
1st & 3rd Mon

Taproom Trivia
w/ Fun N Games Co
6:30 PM @ The Corner
Taproom (Cascade, IA)
2nd Mon

TUESDAY

Tarot Tuesday @ 4 PM
Tuesday Night Record Club
w/ DJ Nick Riedman and
DJ Chris Wilson @ 7 PM
Fox Den Motel

Trivia w/ Triviawithbrett
7 PM @ Hotel Julien Dubuque
Riverboat Lounge

Leo-oke: Live Piano Karaoke
7 PM @ Wicked Dame

Trivia w/ Fun N Games Co
7:30 PM @ Backpacket DBQ

WEDNESDAY

Trivia w/ Triviawithbrett
6 PM @ Hy-Vee Locust

Trivia For Dorks
7 PM @ Dimensional
Brewing Co

WORDS Open Mic w/ Broz
7 PM @ Esther's Lounge
1st Wed, no event on 1/3

Free Den Wednesdays
7 PM @ Fox Den Motel

Open Mic
7 PM @ Gary Dolphin's Iron Bar

Trivia w/ Fun N Games Co
7 PM @ Lina's Lounge

The Mixologist DJ AA
7 PM @ The Other Side
(East DBQ, IL)

Karaoke w/ Becky McMahon
8:30 PM @ Denny's Lux Club

THURSDAY

Blues Jam @ 6 PM
Thirsty Thursday
Open Mic @ 8 PM
Smokestack

Trivia w/ Triviawithbrett
6:30 PM @ Hy-Vee Dodge

Fingerstyle & Classical Guitar
Open Stage w/ Calvin Coohy
7 PM @ First Reserve

Dolph's Vinyl Night
w/ Jeff Danna
7 PM @ Gary Dolphin's Iron Bar

Music Bingo w/ Think & Drink
8 PM @ Barrel House

Tomato Throw Show
8 PM @ Comedy Bar

Trivia w/ Fun N Games Co
8 PM @ Steve's Pizza
(Platteville, WI)
When UW-P is in session

Karaoke
9 PM @ Southend Tap

FRIDAY

Fabulous Fridays Artists Series
Noon @ St. Luke's United
Methodist Church
Jan 5-Mar 22

Dolph's Vinyl Night
w/ Jeff Danna
7 PM @ Gary Dolphin's Iron Bar
3rd Fri

Karaoke & Live Music
w/ Johnny C
7 PM @ Swiss Inn
(East DBQ, IL)
2nd Fri

Trivia Night
7 PM @ Maquoketa Brewing
(Maquoketa, IA)
1st Fri

Karaoke w/ Becky McMahon
7:30 PM @ Offside Sports
Complex
2nd Fri

Open Mic Karaoke
8:30 PM @ The Big House
(Petersburg, IA)

Karaoke w/ Dante Steele
Entertainment
9 PM @ Baraboo's on Main

Karaoke
9 PM @ Southend Tap

SATURDAY

L&MOP
10 AM @ Carnegie-Stout
Public Library
2nd Sat

Gladdy Ressler, Jamie Jones,
Special Guests
1 PM @ Council Hill Station
(Council Hill, IL)

Karaoke w/ Dante Steele
Entertainment
9 PM @ Baraboo's on Main

Latin Night w/ DJ Papi
9 PM @ Barrel House
Last Sat

Karaoke & Live Music
w/ Johnny C
9 PM @ Swiss Inn
(East DBQ, IL)
Last Sat

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Regional Nightlife & Festivals

DAVENPORT, IA

Jesse McCartney
Jan 25 @ Rhythm City Casino

Sawyer Brown
Feb 24 @ Rhythm City Casino

Drew Lynch
Mar 8 @ Rhythm City Casino

Jo Dee Messina
Mar 15 @ Rhythm City Casino

MOLINE, IL

Bryan Adams
Feb 23 @ Vibrant Arena

Foreigner
Mar 3 @ Vibrant Arena

Avenged Sevenfold
Mar 18 @ Vibrant Arena

EAST MOLINE, IL

Sevendust
Dec 30 @ The Rust Belt

Russell Dickerson
Feb 24 @ The Rust Belt

Dropkick Murphys
Feb 25 @ The Rust Belt

CEDAR RAPIDS, IA

Home Free
Dec 21 @ Paramount Theatre

Blue October
Mar 6 @ Paramount Theatre

Red Hot Chili Peppers
Mar 19 @ Paramount Theatre

IOWA CITY, IA

Martin Sexton
Jan 18 @ The Englert Theatre

Paula Poundstone
Jan 20 @ The Englert Theatre

Foy Vance, Bonnie Bishop
Jan 26 @ The Englert Theatre

Demetri Martin
Jan 28 @ The Englert Theatre

Mariachi Herencia de México
Feb 2 @ The Englert Theatre

John Waite
Feb 9 @ The Englert Theatre

Ben Bailey
Feb 23 @ The Englert Theatre

Letterkenny Presents:
A Night of Stand Up
Feb 24 @ The Englert Theatre

Postmodern Jukebox
Feb 25 @ The Englert Theatre

The Blind Boys of Alabama
Feb 29 @ The Englert Theatre

Tab Benoit, JD Simo
Mar 9 @ The Englert Theatre

Gaelic Storm, The High Kings
Mar 13 @ The Englert Theatre

CORALVILLE, IA

NLE Choppa, Luh Tyler
Jan 27 @ Xstream Arena

RIVERSIDE, IA

Clay Walker
Feb 9 @ Riverside Casino

MADISON, WI

Sean Patton
Dec 31 @ Comedy on State

Sam Morril
Jan 4-6 @ Comedy on State

Joe Pera
Jan 25 @ Comedy on State

James Kennedy
Jan 26 @ Liquid

Randy Rainbow for President
Jan 28 @ The Orpheum

Ms. Pat
Feb 3 @ Barrymore Theatre

Nickel Creek
Feb 7 @ Overture Center

Nate Bargatze
Feb 8 @ Alliant Energy Center

Ashley Gavin
Feb 8-10 @ Comedy on State

Roy Wood Jr
Feb 10 @ The Orpheum

Jonathan Van Ness
Feb 16 @ The Orpheum

Subtronics, Hedex, Jon Casey,
Distinct Motive, Skellytn
Feb 18 @ The Sylvee

Sheng Wang
Feb 22-24 @ Comedy on State

Three Dog Night
Feb 22 @ The Orpheum

Bruce McCulloch
Feb 24 @ The Majestic

Fortune Feimster
Feb 25 @ Overture Center

Journey
Feb 26 @ Kohl Center

Silversun Pickups
Feb 26 @ The Majestic

Static-X, Sevendust, Dope,
Lines of Loyalty
Feb 26 @ The Sylvee

Postmodern Jukebox
Feb 28 @ The Orpheum

Delfeayo Marsalis & The
Uptown Jazz Orchestra
Feb 28 @ Overture Center

Gaelic Storm
Mar 1 @ Barrymore Theatre

Intocable
Mar 1 @ Overture Center

Flogging Molly, Amigo the
Devil, Gen and the Degenerates
Mar 2 @ The Sylvee

Waterparks, Loveless
Mar 6 @ The Sylvee

Francis Ellis & Lil Sasquatch
Mar 7-9 @ Comedy on State

Eliades Ochoa
Mar 7 @ Overture Center

Matt Matthews
Mar 8 @ Overture Center

Ronny Chieng
Mar 9 @ The Orpheum

Beartooth, The Plot in You,
Invent Animate, Sleep Theory
Mar 9 @ The Sylvee

Ministry & Gary Numan,
Front Line Assembly
Mar 10 @ The Sylvee

Ilana Glazer
Mar 14 @ The Orpheum

Ralph Barbosa
Mar 21-23 @ Comedy on State

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MUSICALS	CONCERTS
MAMMA MIA! 3.23.24 & 3.24.24 MADISON, WI	LUKE COMBS 4.13.24 MILWAUKEE, WI
HARRY POTTER & THE HALF-BLOOD PRINCE IN CONCERT 4.6.24 MADISON, WI	GEORGE STRAIT 5.25.24 AMES, IA
	KENNY CHESNEY 6.22.24 MILWAUKEE, WI
	LAINY WILSON 7.18.24 MONTICELLO, IA



The Beatelles

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31 @ 7 PM
OHNWARD FINE ARTS CENTER
(1215 E PLATT ST, MAQUOKETA, IA)
 Celebrate New Year's Eve with The Beatelles at Ohnward Fine Arts Center in Maquoketa, IA at 7 p.m.

The Beatelles feature four powerhouse female vocalists performing the songs of John, Paul, George and Ringo with harmonious perfection. These ladies have shaken

up the tribute world, offering a fresh and fun twist to a timeless catalog that spans from "Love Me Do" to "Let It Be." Set to a backdrop of stunning multimedia, there is also choreography, costume changes, witty banter, and trivia. This is a must see show for any fan of The Beatles!

Tickets are \$30 in advance or \$35 at the door. Tickets can be purchased at the Ohnward Fine Arts Center box office, by calling **563-652-9815**, or at **OhnwardFineArtsCenter.com**. ■



DRUMLine Live

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3 @ 7 PM
FIVE FLAGS ARENA (405 MAIN ST)
 DRUMLine Live is gearing up for the new year with a brand new show for the entire family. Get in on the action at the Five Flags Arena on Wednesday, Jan. 3 at 7 p.m.

The show stopping attraction created by the musical team behind the hit movies *Drumline* and *Drumline: A New Beat*, embodies the soulful, high-stepping style of the Historically Black College and University (HBCU) marching band

experience. With its riveting rhythms, bold beats, and ear grabbing energy, DRUMLine Live is a high-octane musical rollercoaster ride that is guaranteed to touch every emotion in your body. Incorporating original compositions and soul-infused interpretations of top 40 hits, group performances range from colorful, choreographed routines to heavy doses of drum riffs and cadences.

Tickets are \$20-\$48 and can be purchased at **Ticketmaster.com** and Five Flags Center box office. For more information, call **563-589-4254** or visit **FiveFlagsCenter.com**. ■



LIVE MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT FEATURES

FRI 12/22



Brushfire Bandits Duo

5 PM @ DARKBIRD TAPHOUSE
(7305 THUNDER VALLEY DR, PEOSTA, IA)
COVER: FREE

Get ready for a musical journey spanning rock, country, and pop from the '70s to today. Bring your wildest requests, and hit the dance floor for a night of diverse tunes and unforgettable moments. Don't miss out on the fun! **DarkbirdTaphouse.com**.

DICKMAS: Dick Hubert, Pure Service, Marzipan Mailbox, and More

9 PM @ THE LIFT (180 MAIN ST, LOWER LEVEL)
COVER: FREE

Dick Hubert is a three-piece rock n roll group consisting of D.j. Martin, Zach Hedley, and Jason Michael. Pure Service is an indie/surf rock outfit from Dubuque consisting of Randall Guerdet and brothers Ethan M Schrodt and Hampton Schrodt. Local rockers Marzipan Mailbox are a confectionery jam-band that takes listeners on a sonic journey of original music that spans genres and space. **facebook.com/TheLiftDubuque**.

SAT 12/23



Ralph Kluseman

6 PM @ Q CASINO UPPER CASINO
(1855 GREYHOUND PARK RD)
COVER: FREE

Ralph Kluseman is an entertainer who performs the music of the Beatles,

America, Neil Young, CSN&Y, John Denver, Neil Diamond, Paul Simon, Garth Brooks, John Lennon, Paul McCartney, and many more. He's bringing his guitar and iconic smile to Q Casino's Upper Casino while the lower area is under construction. **QCasinoAndHotel.com**.



Ballyheigue Family Christmas

7 PM @ THE LIFT (180 MAIN ST, LOWER LEVEL)
COVER: FREE

Local Irish band Ballyheigue hosts their annual Family Christmas Concert. There will be traditional Irish music as well as special music for the holiday and sing-a-longs for the family. Christmas treats will be provided by the band. **facebook.com/BallyheigueBand**.

SAT 12/30



The Jimmys

8 PM @ FLATTED FIFTH BLUES & BBQ
(300 POTTER DR, BELLEVUE, IA)
TICKETS: \$5-\$60

Celebrate the retirement of the owners of 365ink Impact Award winning Flatted Fifth Blues & BBQ. The Jimmys are an award-winning festival favorite that has brought people together from coast to coast, Canada, Europe, and the Caribbean for over 15 years. The Jimmys feature band leader Jimmy Voegeli—phenomenal Hammond B-3 keyboardist, singer and songwriter; an experienced killer rhythm section steeped in blues with Perry Weber on guitar, Chris Sandoval on drums, and John Wartenweiler on bass. The icing

on the cake is the best horn section in the Midwest—featuring Pete Ross on tenor sax and Joe Goltz on trombone. Come early and enjoy Flatted Fifth's Southern specialties. **PottersMill.net**.

SUN 12/31



Mark Zalaznik

1 PM @ SUNDOWN MOUNTAIN TIPS UP (16991 ASBURY RD)

Mark performs a collection of country and rock favorites across the Tri-States. He's even had the opportunity to open for national touring acts like Travis Tritt, Kip Moore, and others. A standard set might include anything from George Strait and Bob Seger to Tyler Childers and Zach Bryan. No matter where or what he is performing, Mark said singing takes him back to his family farm near Epworth, IA. **SundownMTN.com**.



Tony Walker

3 PM @ MIDTOWN MARINA (285 5TH ST, EAST DUBUQUE, IL)

Tony Walker is an acoustic entertainer from Dubuque who performs as a "One Man Band." He puts his special twist on many covers from the 1970's to the present. His music crosses several musical genres and styles for a wide variety of music for all tastes. **MidtownMarina.com**.



The Other Two

3 PM @ DARKBIRD TAPHOUSE

(7305 THUNDER VALLEY DR, PEOSTA, IA) Scott Coleman and Kent Kraus from Hard Salami bring an acoustic mix of classic rock, country, folk, and mashups of your favorite songs. Whether you

are tapping your foot along, dancing, or joining them on the mic to sing one of your favorites, their focus is on fun! **DarkbirdTaphouse.com**.



Luxembourg New Year's Eve: Jacquie Miller Duo

3 PM @ GEHLEN BARN BEER IN THE BARN BREWERY (101 MAIN ST, ST. DONATUS, IA)

The acoustic singer-songwriter duo from Dubuque features Jacquie on guitar and vocals and Riley on percussion. The husband-wife duo cover a variety of favorites from the '70s to the present. They have a little for everyone: folk, rock, pop, jazz, and originals. **GehlenHouseAndBarn.com**.



Big Night Out

4 PM @ THE OTHER SIDE (68 SINSINAWA AVE, EAST DUBUQUE, IL)

Big Night Out is a classic country, classic rock, and country rock trio with over 100 years experience between them. Featuring Kelly Erickson (bass and vocals), Guy Green (drums and vocals), and Paul Gilligan (guitar and vocals). **facebook.com/OSinEast**.



DJ SaladSpinner

9 PM @ SMOKESTACK (62 E 7TH ST)

Dance all night with DJ SaladSpinner, all-vinyl, all-fabulous, featuring your favorite new wave, pop, rock, and hip-hop tunes. **SmokestackDBQ.com**.

PUZZLE ANSWERS

PUZZLES ON PAGE 36
GENERAL BOB IS AT
THE DUBUQUE MINING COMPANY

1	4	8	3	7	5	6	2	9
2	6	9	1	8	4	5	3	7
3	7	5	2	9	6	1	8	4
8	9	7	6	2	1	4	5	3
6	5	2	4	3	9	7	1	8
4	1	3	7	5	8	9	6	2
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 TSO SPORTINGASMALL
 CURATOR SNEAD OCTANTS
 OTIS HEH BSA ATSEA
 TATTOOFAGREEKLETTER
 SHEENA SWEAR TO VEE
 MTN TMI AHI AIM
 MARYHADALITTLELAMBDA
 MACHO SCHIRRA REPEALS
 SINEW ALATEEN TYPESET
 GLEAN LTB ZAG ZESTERS

The Lift
 180 MAIN ST, DBQ @THELIFTDUBUQUE
 (UNDER VINNY VANNUCHI'S)

FRI 12/22 • 9 PM • FREE
DICKMAS

SAT 12/23 • 7 PM • FREE
BALLYHEIGUE

SUN 12/31 • 9 PM • FREE
**NYE PARTY
 IRISH TOAST AT 6 PM**

FRI 1/5 • 10 PM • FREE
**TU'MERA, EXODIA, IF I COULD
 JUST GET SOME SLEEP**

SAT 1/20 • 9 PM • FREE
MARBIN

FRI 1/26 • 10 PM • FREE
GOAT ROPER

SAT 1/27 • 10 PM • FREE
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 FRI & SAT (5-7 PM) • \$2 OFF TAP BEERS
 SUN • \$2 OFF JAMESON + GUINNESS

DARKBIRD

BUCKETS OF BUSCH LIGHT 3-6pm
 PITCHERS OF PEOSTA PREMIUM 6-9pm

NEW YEAR'S

EVE

PJ Party

SUNDAY
DECEMBER 31

LIVE MUSIC: THE OTHER TWO 3-6PM
Featuring: DJ AMY
 TO START THE DANCE FLOOR AT 6PM
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TURKEY AND DRESSING SANDWICH



HEAT AND EAT MEATS



HOMEMADE SAUSAGES



BBQ BEEF SANDWICH

Cremer's Meats

By Danny Fairchild

Jeff Cremer is one of the hardest-working people I've ever met. And I know Bryce Parks, so that should tell you something.

My acquaintance with Jeff is fairly trifling. I first met him while I was working for Area Residential Care. He'd already had a relationship with ARC because he would let the people we served come in and work, stocking and facing shelves. I asked him to be a food vendor for many fundraising events, and he rose to the occasion every time. When I got my Kitchenaid meat grinder attachment, I asked if he could point me in the direction of sausage casings so I could make my own bratwurst. He just gave me some casings. Whatever

he had left in his little tub. He told me how to handle them and wished me well. It was kind of like Mean Gene Green tossing me his jersey. By the way, if you're interested in sausage casings, you can usually find them in the hunting section of just about any farm and fleet store. Anyway, that's about the limit of my acquaintance with Jeff. But every time I bump into him, or he notices me in the store (and he usually does), he does a double take and says hi. I don't think he knows how he knows me, but he knows me. He knows it's important to know his customers, and I'm here to demonstrate that he does.

I've never witnessed Jeff when he wasn't hard at work. He's always doing something to keep his little-grocer-who-could going and to uphold his family's legacy. Do something for me right now: Go look at Cremer's Meats Facebook page. Look at the cover photo. Cute, isn't it? Nice familial feel, eh? See the guy in the background on the phone? That's not an employee. That's Jeff. Working.

I like to think that Jeff WAS posed for the photo, but then the phone rang. And they knew he could be a while, so they just went ahead with the picture.

The purpose of this column is to talk about the ready-made sandwiches and how delicious and versatile they are, but first, I want to give props to Cremer's Meats. Here are my credentials: As a young man, I worked at my hometown IBP plant sorting the sides of beef after the USDA inspectors graded them. I wouldn't say I could be a USDA inspector or anything, but I have kind of a feel for the quality of meat. I've seen everything from Prime beef destined for the carving station to "beef" destined for the cannery. Shortly after that, I worked behind the meat counter at a Fareway where I furthered my meat education. I'm not calling myself an expert by any means, but I've got a feel for meat. If you're not effing around when it comes to meat... when the meat matters... Dubuque is lucky enough to have Cremer's. The place has been open forever and has the

contacts and relationships to get some of the best meat you can buy. No lie.

As much as I have a "feel" for meat, do you want to know who knows more about meat than I do? Jeff and literally anyone who works for him. THOSE are the experts. You want to know what cut to buy? With a few questions, you'll have it all wrapped up and ready to go, and it'll be better quality than you can get just about anywhere. ANYWHERE. They know their stuff, and they take pride in giving you what you want with a high level of quality. Oh, you're looking for a ham? Don't get them started on hams. Bet you didn't know how much there is to know about ham.

Basically, if you value hard work and expertise, you should reward Cremer's with your business.

But let's talk about those tasty little sandwiches, shall we? When you go in, just keep walking towards the back. Right before you get to the back meat counter, look to your right. Here you'll find delectable little culinary canvases in the

form of bunned deliciousness like turkey and dressing sandwiches, BBQ pork or beef, sloppy joe, Italian beef and cheddar, burgers, and a whole lot more.

I ain't originally from around these parts. When I moved here, my reaction to learning of turkey and dressing sandwiches was typical of any other transplant: "What, like a bread-on-bread sandwich?" I stand by that question, but I've since learned the answer, "Yes! A bread-on-bread sandwich! You got a problem with that?!" You've probably had Cremer's turkey and dressing. It's pretty much the gold standard. And the good news? You don't have to have them only during the holiday leftover season! Or at your nephew's Eagle Scout ceremony. You can turkey-and-dressing it up every single day for just \$1.99 a pop! And then you get to play with it! I did. I heated up a skillet, removed the crown of the bun, and put even more of a Maillard reaction on the turkey and dressing by searing it face down. It was like a bubble and squeak sammich. That extra browning was nom. But honestly, you can pop any of these sandwiches into the microwave for about 30 seconds, and you'll have yourself a steamy good sandwich.

The beauty of these sandwiches is that they're good all by themselves or as a starting point to make it your own. Yeah, turkey and dressing is delicious, but have you tried frying it? That's an extreme case of playing around. Usually, it's about adding condiments. Again, you don't NEED to use condiments for ANY of these sandwiches if you happen to be eating these on a car trip or ill-supplied break room. But there's almost nothing you can do to these sandwiches that won't make them even better according to your tastes. It's like they're magic sandwiches that only take in what makes them better.

Let me give you the best example of this. The BBQ beef. Most places would throw a chuck roast in the crockpot, add barbecue sauce, and call it BBQ beef. And that's fine. But Cremer's isn't going to consider it barbecued beef unless the beef has actually been barbecued. So, they smoke their own beef and pork. As for sauce... there's little more than a hint of sauce and/or rub in the BBQ beef. So if you ARE craving that barbecue sauce taste, it's there. But the charm is in the smoke. But here's the thing: If you have a favorite barbecue sauce, feel absolutely free to use it here. The already saucy taste is already there, but it's also a flavor that bows to any other sauce you want to put on it. I used my family's sauce recipe. It's better for pork or chicken, but damned if it didn't make the beef magical.

All these sandwiches are delicious just the way they are. But if you want to throw some cheese or some ketchup

and mustard and pickles on them, you should have no fear of doing so.

Another good example: The Italian beef and cheddar. The Italian beef on this sandwich was so moist, it almost tasted like the sandwich was served wet-style. But it's not. The bun is still handleable. The foxy layer of cheddar helps keep things tight, too. I'm here to tell you... so delicious. If I had any giardiniera on hand, I'd have been in heaven. Don't even need an au jus or similar, and I'm not kidding. But I got daffy and put some hamburger dills on it, and damn was it good.

It's not surprising. The Cremer family has had generations to develop their recipes and to know what their customers want. I tell you, friends, buy your sandwiches for the week. Freeze them or keep them refrigerated. You'll have a better tasting sandwich for cheaper than any fast food joint.

You can trust it. Jeff works too damn hard to put out crappy food. ■



Cremer's Meats

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COLOR-BY-NUMBER YOUTH WINTER READING CHALLENGE

JANUARY 2-31

Visit the Children's Help Desk to pick up your color-by-number sheet to get started on this month-long reading challenge for children and teens. Participants will earn a free book and a kid's coupon from program sponsor Red Robin to keep the good vibes going. All color-by-number sheets must be turned in by Wednesday, Jan. 31, in order to receive a prize.

ADULT WINTER READING CHALLENGE

JANUARY 2-31

For ages 18+. This challenge can be completed through the Beanstack app (dubuque.beanstack.org) or with a physical bingo card available at the first-floor Recommendations Desk. Start the challenge by reading *Where We Come From*, a picture book for all ages available to read on Hoopla. Earn squares on your virtual or physical bingo cards by logging your reading minutes from books that explore themes of family, history, or identity. Completing one regular bingo will give you an entry into a prize drawing at the end of the challenge. Limit of one entry per person. Physical bingo cards must be submitted to the Recommendations Desk by Feb. 2. Virtual bingo cards will be automatically submitted through the Beanstack app.

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The Book of Form and Emptiness

By John McAndrew

Tastes vary. My favorite books are ones that show familiar things from novel perspectives, that ask how sure I am about how I see things. The world portrayed needs to be recognizable—up must be up, and good must be good—but where's the interest if it only confirms all of my assumptions, in order?

Ruth Ozeki's wise, inventive, and moving novel may be *The Book of Form and Emptiness (TBoFaE)*, but it is also a big book of questions. I loved it.

Ozeki is the author of *My Year of Meats*, the delightful and informative story of a Japanese TV show called *My American Wife*, sponsored by the US meat industry. She is also the author of *A Tale for the Time Being*, a finalist for the Booker Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award. She teaches creative writing at Smith College. Michael Pollan said of her novel *All Over Creation*, that it was "a smart, compelling novel about a world we don't realize we live in," which is a good description of *TBoFaE* as well.

Kenji is a jazz clarinetist. He and his wife, Annabelle, have a young son, Benny. They are poor but happy, mostly. Kenji loves his family but sometimes stays out too late partying. After one such night, he is lost to his family. Not long thereafter, Benny begins hearing voices; inanimate objects seem to be communicating in a way he can understand. This becomes cause for concern for his mother and teachers.

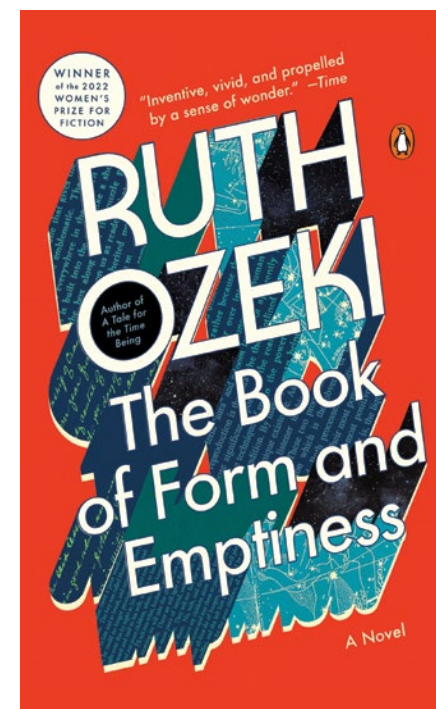
Annabelle does her best to keep things together as a single mom, but she struggles with work, with her own baggage, and seems to be friendless. But she loves Benny and worries about how best to raise him.

How do we deal with being "different?" Do we hide it, flaunt it, dare people to deal with us in all our complexity? And how do we relate to those whom we perceive as "different," especially when the difference makes them unpredictable, makes it hard to grok them, makes them hard to relate to, maybe a little scary, and when the consensus seems to be that they are

not just different in an interesting way, but weird? Maybe even dangerous.

Ozeki is gifted at portraying these relationships and especially the psychology and inner life of a person who hears voices and how individuals and our society relate to them. Often, we seem to feel that they need more management. We label them—schizophrenic, neurodivergent—so as to give everyone a clue about what to expect and how to act around them without, you know, setting them off. But Ozeki also recognizes that people who are different are only somewhat different. In many ways, their inner lives are EXACTLY like most others: an adolescent boy who hears voices still gets jealous when he sees his first crush with another guy. One of the fundamental things we have in common is, we all have stories to live and tell.

What is normal, here and now? Because the definition of normal changes, sometimes drastically. Being left-handed used to be considered abnormal. Normal is a moving target. People who merely wear unconventional clothes are sometimes treated as if they are deeply abnormal. Even if we could agree what normal is, we wouldn't be able to agree on how to treat normal or abnormal people. Some completely, universally normal behavior is sometimes treated as being *shockingly* abnormal—and no, I won't give you examples, lest you think my examples are weird!



But this isn't just about *being* different. It's about perceiving how we perceive the world and acknowledging that our perceptions and interpretations are often wildly off course as guides to the world and to people.

Great books show us what's right in front of us, that which we don't see. They draw our attention to the background noise which we no longer hear. And they remind us, sometimes, of how often we've been wrong about big and little things and help us not to be afraid of acknowledging that, from time to time, we all prove to be blind, deaf, or dumb. *TBoFaE* isn't just about the lived experience of someone who hears voices. It seems, to this reader, to be showing us that we ALL are figuring out how to decipher what our senses tell us about the world. And one subplot seems to gently suggest that the clutter—both actual things and data—we've accumulated over the years is not serving us.

This is not a book, or author, that scolds. Remember those old fashioned maps with a big label over *terra incognita* that says, "Here be dragons?" Ozeki would place the label over the territory we think we know best.

If you're weird, odd, quirky, a little off, or frankly abnormal, this is the book for people like us. Whee!

As the year comes to a close, I'd like to thank Bryce and Kristina for the opportunity to review books for the readers of *365ink*; it's a great pleasure. And I'd like to thank you, readers, for your time and feedback. Let's do it again in 2024. Take care of each other. ■

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* Dr. Ted Murray is AACD accredited.



SPICY HONEY-GARLIC PORK MEATBALLS



LEFTOVER MEATBALL SLIDERS



Helpful Holiday Solutions

Cook Once, Eat Twice Meal Ideas

By Hy-Vee Nutritionist Megan Dalsing

The holidays are busy enough without having to meal plan every night! While cook once, eat twice meal solutions might sound unachievable between the hustle and bustle of holiday events, shopping, work, kids' activities, and picky eaters in your house, I am here to tell you it's doable. Let's start by un-complicating the matter and breaking down a few reasons to consider why you should incorporate cook once, eat twice meal solutions into your meal plan during the holiday season and year-round.

Cook once, eat twice doesn't mean just eating leftovers all week—consider it an opportunity to reinvent leftovers in a way the whole family will enjoy! First of all, it's time-saving—the holiday season is jam-packed with gatherings, family events, shopping, work, and your typical everyday hustle and bustle. Creating meals with leftovers that can be repurposed helps you save valuable time in the long run. (HELLO to not running to the store every day or spending hours prepping dinner each night!) In turn, it allows you more time to spend with friends, family, or simply enjoying the holiday season. Consider purchasing some ready-made or quick meal solutions such as rotisserie chicken, instant rice, or frozen vegetables to help you save time and have key ingredients at the ready when the inevitable question “What's for dinner?” is asked. Plan ahead and purchase ingredients that can be used in multiple recipes throughout the week. Keep reading for a few simple suggestions and a delicious cook once, eat twice recipe!

Second, it helps you reduce food waste and use up those often forgotten leftovers. Ever get to the end of the

week and realize when clearing out the fridge you completely forgot about certain ingredients you purchased and intended to use or leftovers that got pushed to the back? It's time to cut back on food waste by utilizing leftovers and ensuring you use all ingredients purchased before they expire. This will help you save money and is better for the environment! Start by taking inventory before you head to the store to see what you have on hand. Determine which primary ingredients you can batch cook or purchase pre-prepared to save time and avoid making a new meal each night. When you come home, decide how to tackle the meal prep. Once your meal is finished, pack up leftovers in a way that makes them easier to grab and go—for instance, packaging up enough leftovers to take for lunch or freezing what you know you will not eat the remainder of the week.

Last, it's cost-effective! Cook once, eat twice helps you save money by avoiding multiple trips to the store, reducing food waste and eliminating the need to make a quick run to the drive-thru for dinner. Saving money during the holidays is key!

Ready to get started? Cook once, eat twice meal solutions don't have to be complicated—let's get back to basics. Start by selecting your protein, pairing it with a vegetable, and rounding out the meal with a grain or starch. For example, rotisserie chicken is a time-saving protein option that can easily be served with a side of steamed vegetables and rice to balance out the meal. To save additional time, opt for grabbing a steamable bag of frozen vegetables and a package of instant brown rice. For your leftovers, take the rotisserie chicken and turn it into chicken salad and pack whole-grain crackers and fruit for an easy lunch solution. Does your family prefer options where they can customize their meal? This is perfect for cook once, eat twice meal solutions—for example, burrito bowls! Opt for a bed of brown rice and top with your family's favorite lean protein. Then have your favorite veggies pre-cut and ready for serving, include healthy fats from avocado slices or guacamole, pack in extra flavor with salsa and a dollop of plain Greek yogurt to help balance any heat! For leftovers, simply swap your bed of rice for several large handfuls of leafy greens and top with all your leftover pre-cut veggie toppings. Use salsa as your salad dressing or try Bolthouse Farms Salsa Ranch or Cilantro Avocado dressing. ■

THIS INFORMATION IS NOT INTENDED AS MEDICAL ADVICE. PLEASE CONSULT A MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL FOR INDIVIDUAL ADVICE. SCAN THIS QR CODE TO FIND YOUR HY-VEE DIETITIAN.



Spicy Honey-Garlic Pork Meatballs

MAKES 4 SERVINGS

All You Need:

- | | | |
|------------|---|---|
| Meatballs: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 lb lean ground pork (or can sub ground turkey or lean ground beef) • ¼ cup Hy-Vee whole-wheat bread crumbs • ¼ cup sliced green onions, plus additional for garnish • 1 Hy-Vee large egg, beaten • 1 tbsp refrigerated ginger paste | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ¼ tsp Hy-Vee salt • ¼ tsp Hy-Vee black pepper • 4 cups brown rice, cooked, hot (for serving) • ½ cup assorted vegetables, stir-fried (for serving) |
| Sauce: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ½ cup Hy-Vee honey • 2 tbsp chili-garlic sauce | |

All You Do:

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Line a large rimmed baking pan with foil; lightly spray with nonstick cooking spray and set aside.
2. Gently combine ground pork, bread crumbs, green onions, egg, ginger paste, salt and pepper. Shape meatballs with 1¼-inch cookie scoop or moistened hands.
3. Place meatballs on prepared baking sheet about 1 inch apart. Bake 4 to 8 minutes or until internal temperature reaches 165 degrees. Drain on paper towels.
4. For sauce combine honey and chili-garlic sauce in a microwave-safe bowl; microwave on high for 1 to 1½ minutes or until hot, stirring halfway through. Toss with meatballs. Serve over hot cooked rice with stir-fried vegetables. Garnish with sliced green onions, if desired.

Dietitian Tip:

To cook meatballs in a skillet, spray a large nonstick skillet with Hy-Vee nonstick cooking spray. Working in batches, cook meatballs in skillet over medium heat for 4 to 8 minutes, turning often (until reaches internal temperature of 165 degrees). Drain on paper towels.

Take these delicious meatballs and turn them into the perfect quick sliders for dinner tomorrow with the “Leftover Meatball Sliders” recipe at hy-vee.com/recipes-ideas.

Source: hy-vee.com

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MOVIE NEWS

Coming Soon

AQUAMAN AND THE LOST KINGDOM (PG-13)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

After failing to defeat Aquaman the first time, Black Manta wields the power of the mythic Black Trident to unleash an ancient and malevolent force. Hoping to end his reign of terror, Aquaman forges an unlikely alliance with his brother, Orm. Setting aside their differences, they join forces to protect their kingdom and save the world from destruction.



ANYONE BUT YOU (R)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22

After an amazing first date, Bea and Ben's fiery attraction turns ice cold—until they find themselves unexpectedly reunited at a destination wedding in Australia. So they do what any two mature adults would do: pretend to be a couple.



THE BOYS IN THE BOAT (PG-13)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

This nonfiction movie describes the University of Washington crew team that represented the United States in the men's eight at the 1936 Summer Olympic games in Berlin, including the coaches, boatbuilder George Pocock, and the working class student athletes involved, especially rower Joe Rantz, who was effectively abandoned by his family and left to fend for himself at a young age.



THE COLOR PURPLE (PG-13)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

A decades-spanning tale of love and resilience and of one woman's journey to independence. Celie faces many hardships in her life but ultimately finds strength and hope in the unbreakable bonds of sisterhood.



FERRARI (R)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

Set in the summer of 1957, with Enzo Ferrari's auto empire in crisis, the ex-racer turned entrepreneur pushes himself and his drivers to the edge as they launch into the Mille Miglia, a treacherous 1,000-mile race across Italy.



Movie Buzz

Some new details about Quentin Tarantino's abandoned *Star Trek* movie have come



out, courtesy of writer Mark L. Smith. Says Smith, "I can't say anything about the story. He would kill me. But I think his vision was just to go hard. It was a hard R. It was going to be some *Pulp Fiction* violence." Smith also adds that he feels that the movie—which was rumored to be a follow-up to the classic episode *A Piece of the Action*—would have changed *Star Trek* in the way *Thor: Ragnarok* changed the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

Adam Driver has revealed how drastically Kylo Ren's story arc changed throughout



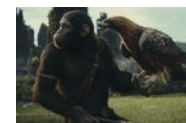
production of the *Star Wars* sequel trilogy. He says, "The idea was that the journey was the opposite journey of Vader, where Vader starts the most confident and the most committed to the dark side. And then by the last movie, he's the most vulnerable and weak." Instead, they wanted to take the opposite direction, where by the end of the three movies, Kylo would be the most committed to the dark side. Obviously, that didn't happen. Womp womp.

77-year-old Sylvester Stallone continues his victory lap of his iconic roles.



Cliffhanger 2 begins shooting in summer 2024. In the movie, Gabe is now living in the Dolomites, where he runs an exclusive mountain lodge. When Gabe and a high-profile client are taken hostage during an adventurous weekend trip, his daughter has to use all her climbing skills to outwit the kidnapers, triggering a battle of life and death. We're not making one word of this up.

The upcoming *Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes* is more than just a fourth entry in the series, it's also the start of a new trilogy. The story begins 300 years after the end of *War for the Planet of the Apes*. With Caesar's legend largely lost to time, villainous Proximus Caesar appears to establish tyranny.





Big Freaking Goals in 2024

By Matt Booth

Are you ready to ditch the same old New Year's resolutions like "I'll finally start using that gym membership" or "I'll stop doom scrolling"? It's time to talk about BFGs—Big Freaking Goals. And no, we're not talking about that friendly giant from your favorite childhood book.

Picture this: It's 2024, and you're not just aiming to lose a few pounds or finally clean that mysterious sticky spot in the fridge. We're talking about goals so big, they'd make a superhero sweat. Think getting that degree you've been putting off since the invention of the internet, quitting smoking (yes, even those sneaky social ones), doubling your income (so you can buy twice as many lattes), losing 75 pounds (that's like a whole fifth grader!), or finally getting out of debt (farewell, credit card statements!).

A BFG isn't just a goal; it's a life-changer. It's the kind of goal that gets you so excited, you might need to sit down for a minute. Or maybe that's the nausea. It's big, it's outrageous, and it might just be the best thing you ever do for yourself.

Now, let's face it, these goals come with their fair share of doubt and uncertainty. They're the kind of uncomfortable that makes skinny jeans after Christmas dinner feel like sweatpants. But that's the beauty of it. When you decide on your BFG, you're not just committing to a goal; you're signing up for an adventure.

Smaller goals are great. They're like the side dishes to your main course.

Let's be real, setting your goals just a little higher each year is like adding one extra sprinkle to your ice cream sundae. Sure, it's a bit more exciting, but it's not exactly a game-changer. But a BFG? That's the whole ice cream truck.

If you're sitting there thinking, "But setting a BFG is unrealistic!" Well, bingo! You've got the point. BFGs are about stretching your imagination, about seeing what life could be like on the other side of "what if?" And hey, if you aim to double your income and only increase it by 50%, or aim to lose 100 pounds and lose 60, you're still miles ahead of where you started. This isn't about being perfect; it's about being boldly imperfect.

And sure, setting a BFG and falling short might sound like a bummer. But what if it isn't? What if it's the push you need to break out of your comfort zone and grow stronger, both mentally and physically?

So, as we usher in 2024, let's toss aside those tiny, comfortable goals. It's time to dream big, chase bigger, and maybe—just maybe—change the world (or at least your world). Remember, it's not just about the goal; it's about who you become in the process of chasing that Big Freaking Goal.

Now, who's ready to be a little unrealistic this year? ■

"Procrastination is the thief of dreams. Act now, make your moments count, and transform potential into progress." —Matt Booth

MATT BOOTH

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT MATT'S SPEAKING OR COACHING, CONTACT MATT TODAY. CALL **563-590-9693** OR EMAIL **MATT@MATTBOTH.COM**.



"THANK YOU FOR AN 'UNBELIEVABLE' CONFERENCE EXPERIENCE WHERE I LEARNED THAT I CAN CHANGE AND CHANGE THE WORLD AROUND ME! (AND THAT'S A GOAL) THANK YOU." —TIM EBERLY, SAFETY OFFICER AT IOWA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS



What Are We Doing Here?

Dubuque Main Street is gearing up for a Live Music Crawl on Saturday, Jan. 27, 2024. This day-long event is expected to draw in both local and out-of-town attendees. With 10 local venues already signed up, including Fox Den Motel and First Reserve, there promises to be something for everyone.

As we've seen over the past year, live events provide more than just entertainment. The Concerts and Live Entertainment Industry is a significant economic engine in the United States, according to Oxford Economics. In 2019, the industry's total nationwide economic impact was \$132.6 billion, supported 913,000 total jobs with associated labor income of approximately \$42.2 billion. When an out-of-town attendee spends \$100 on a concert ticket, the local economy benefits from an additional \$334.92 in spending, resulting in a total spending impact of \$434.92.

But that's not all. Research indicates that regularly attending live music events also provides social encounters, lowers stress hormones, contributes to positive mental feelings, and can even increase life expectancy by up to nine years. Live music is, by nature, a shared experience that brings people together and allows them to connect with others on a deeper level. This contagious sense of euphoric connectedness is called "collective effervescence," and it's something that's hard to find anywhere else.

So, if you find yourself looking for relief from the winter blues this January, why not join in on the Live Music Crawl? With some of the top music venues in downtown Dubuque—Fox Den Motel, Five Flags Center, The Dungeon, The Lift, Diamond Jo Casino, and Smokestack—in addition to four more venues, you'll be sure to find something that fills that need for connection. For more information, visit **DubuqueMainStreet.org**. We hope to see you there! ■

DANIELLE JACOBS

DANIELLE JACOBS IS THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AT DUBUQUE MAIN STREET. TO LEARN HOW TO PROMOTE YOUR DOWNTOWN BUSINESS AND ORGANIZATION, CONTACT DANIELLE AT **DJACOBS@DUBUQUEMAINSTREET.ORG**.



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Can you spot 10 differences in this photo of the Marine Corps League guys posing with Santa at the Toys for Tots Kids Christmas Party at the Five Flags Center? Photo by Bob Felderman.



Spot the Difference Answers



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TUE 12/26



Winter Break Day Camps

9 AM-4 PM @ NATIONAL MISSISSIPPI RIVER MUSEUM & AQUARIUM 12/26-12/29. Each day of winter break offers different themed sessions with fun, educational programs. Morning sessions start at 9 a.m. followed by lunch at noon and afternoon session at 1 p.m. Bring a sack lunch. Scholarships available. Grades K-5. \$50 Members; \$60 non-members. 350 E 3rd St. rivermuseum.org.



Teen Advisory Group Hangout

4-5 PM @ CARNEGIE-STOUT PUBLIC LIBRARY Games, crafts, and more. Explore a craft or activity while providing feedback on making the library

a welcoming place for teens. Ages 13-18. 360 W 11th St. **563-589-4225**. carnegioustout.org.

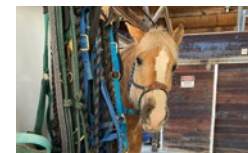
WED 12/27



The Gingerbread Chronicles

11 AM AND 2 PM @ HAZEL GREEN OPERA HOUSE (HAZEL GREEN, WI) What do you get when you mix up Hansel and Gretel with the Gingerbread Man? Find out in the Fever River Puppeteers' new Christmas-time marionette show, *The Gingerbread Chronicles*. This production features a 150-foot "crankie" or moving scenery panorama, which helps the gingerbread man move through forest and fields, the Village of Papparkakor, the banks of an icy river and finally to the witch's gingerbread cottage. There is an oven in this story, but Witch Hazel Green, a frequent performer on stage at the Hazel Green Opera

House, prefers to use her magic cauldron to concoct a special treat for the villagers. She finds a way to use locally sourced ingredients and gets some help from a milkmaid and a metal sculptor. This original tale, just under an hour in length. Doors open a half hour before each performance. \$5. 2130 Main St, Hazel Green, WI. **608-732-7129**. hazelgreenoperahouse.blogspot.com.



Winter Kids Camp

1-4 PM @ SHENANDOAH RIDING CENTER (GALENA, IL) 12/27 & 12/28. During the two-day camp, kids will enjoy games, activities, and a whole lot of hands-on horse time. Children will learn to groom, halter, lead, and tie up horses. Each day they will also be given a group riding lesson. Snacks are provided, please bring a water bottle. Ages 5-12. \$175. 200 N Brodrecht Rd, Galena, IL. **815-777-9550**. shenandoahridingcenter.com.

FRI 12/29



Forest School: Winter Animal Tracks

10-11:30 AM @ JOHN DEERE MARSH Find out who has been leaving their footprints in the snow. This winter, join the Dubuque County Conservation naturalists as they explore John Deere Marsh looking for animal tracks. Snow conditions helpful but not necessary. 18882 Riverside Rd. facebook.com/dubuquecountyconservation.

SUN 1/14

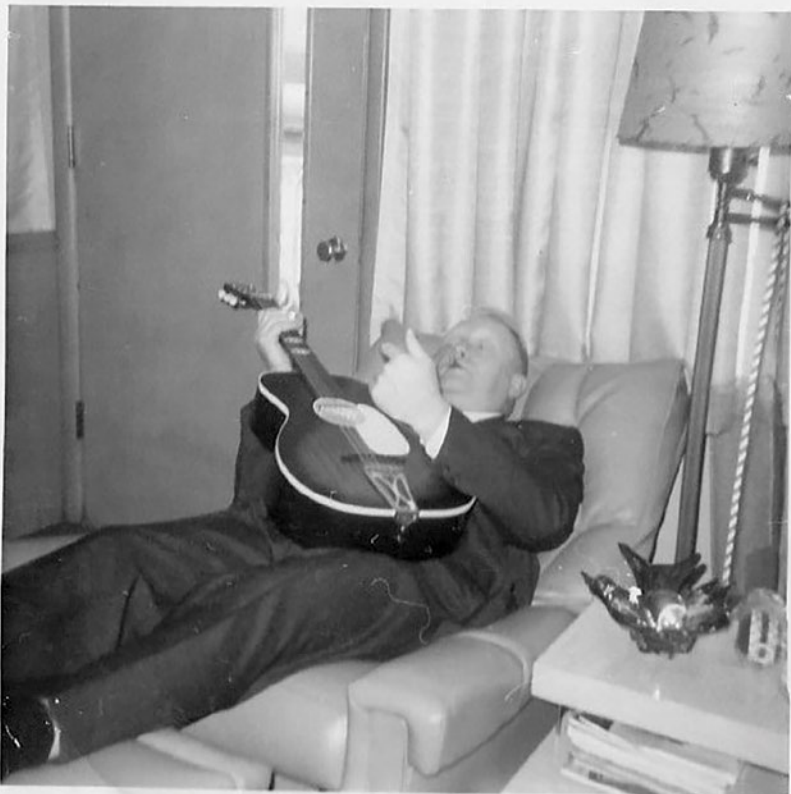
Almost Famous Dance: Winter Recital

10 AM AND 4 PM @ FIVE FLAGS THEATER Almost Famous presents their Dyersville show at 10 a.m. followed by the Monticello show at 4 p.m. \$18-\$28. 405 Main St. **563-589-4254**. fiveflagscenter.com.

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UNCLE ALBIE, SINGING IN DAD'S RECLINER, C. 1967

There Were Always Uncles

By Pam Kress-Dunn

Early in Dylan Thomas's beautiful memoir, *A Child's Christmas in Wales*, someone asks, "Were there Uncles, like in our house?" He answers, "There are always Uncles at Christmas. The same Uncles."

My own uncles, all gone, remain a bright part of my memories. The same uncles, although one was replaced after Aunt Dorothy's husband Mahlon died. We children focused on the gaggles of cousins, but the uncles made any gathering more jolly.

I had six, growing up. Mom had an older and much younger brother, as did Dad. His sister married, adding one more uncle, just as Mom's sister did. Blood brother or in-law, they were uncles all.

Dacil was four years older than Mom, and towering tall. I knew him as a Texan, where he relocated to join the Air Force, then settling in South

Houston with his wife, Arvin. His voice was a slow and smiling drawl, and he treasured his nieces and nephews, though he and his wife were childless.

Clayton was Mom's much younger brother, so much younger that her mother was too embarrassed to announce her fourth and last pregnancy early on. Her teenage daughters found out from a neighbor. They loved being big sisters, coddling Clayton and turning him into a sweet man. We were shocked when Aunt Joanie divorced him, and equally floored when someone told Mom that Clayton was a terror at work. I've had colleagues who are stern on the job and marshmallows at home. But really—our Clayton?

My dad's older brother, John, was a dapper man who took over the family business, Kress Tent and Awning. It was quite the place, featured in a 1921 newspaper article for inventing the first voting booth, sewn of heavy-duty canvas. Their father, John J. Kress, had been placed in an orphanage in Dubuque after his mother died, and he seemed hell bent on being a grand success. John W. followed in his footsteps, the kind of man, as Dad put it, who "turned everything into gold." His hobby of making Tiffany glass lampshades, for instance, yielded him a small fortune.

Dad's younger brother, Robert, was 10 years his junior. Their mother died soon after, so Bob came to regard John J's third wife (he'd lost his first one, too) as Mom.

Bob was a deeply religious man who knew how to have fun, whether at their music-filled home or up at the lake in Minnesota, where we joined his family every July.

My other uncles came courtesy of Mom's sister Ethel, who married Albert M. Ohlsen, and Dad's sister Dorothy, who married Mahlon and then, when he passed, Ralph. They moved to Dayton, OH, where Mahlon worked some job—I was always fuzzy on the details of my uncles' employment—and the two of them opened Doc and Dot's Doll Hospital, where he resuscitated broken dolls and she sewed them glamorous outfits. I still have all of the dresses and coats she stitched for my Barbies.

When I think of Christmas, whether at my house or someone else's, I think of Uncles. They provided the undertone of bass and tenor voices—Bob boasting about the walleye he caught last summer, or John showing off the round, all-white jigsaw puzzle he'd completed the other day. The laughter of the holiday was always undergirded by their voices, laughter from the day's events or a fine story about a car caught in a snowdrift from 1955. The brandy and chocolate that uncle had stowed in the glove box saved the day.

We would gather at our house, with Albie and Clayton at their places around the table, and I would gape at the size of their portions. No wonder Mom made such a big turkey! Then we would gather again, days after Christmas, at my Grandma Kress's house, where she'd lived with her two daughters after Grandpa died when I was only three. Those ladies all seemed ancient to me but full of good cheer and amazing kitchen skills. Uncle Bob and Uncle John would be there, sitting with the rest of us around the longest table I've ever seen. Whichever house we went to, the

air was arctic on the doorstep and warm, humid, and scented with baking inside.

The uncles were the ones who stretched out the goodbyes, as the children smothered in coats and mittens, telling one more story at the door as the snow fell.

My uncles suffered, all of them—Clayton from his divorce, Bob from the loss of his daughter to diabetes, Dad from his big sister Bernice's death in the 1918 flu epidemic, and all of them from ill health of one kind or another. Yet I knew them as the epitome of cheerfulness. Christmas was Uncle Albie, sitting in the recliner after the meal enjoying his smoky cigar, or Uncle Clayton regaling us with the story of sliding out of bed when his new wife bought satin sheets.

There were quieter moments too, one especially, a Christmas Eve gathered near the bar in someone's festive basement. My sister, a troubled girl easily provoked to rages, was talking too much as people turned away. Then—this is a story my mother told me—Uncle Mahlon turned to her. "Is that so?" he murmured, smiling. He engaged with her until she was out of words, giving her the best Christmas present of all—his full, enraptured attention.

Uncles are the best. I miss every one of them. Be glad if you have them, especially if they are as kind, funny, and attentive as mine. Merry Christmas, Uncle Mahlon, Uncle Albie, Uncle John, Uncle Bob, Uncle Dacil, Uncle Clayton, Uncle Ralph. God rest ye, Merry Gentlemen. ■

PAM KRESS-DUNN

PAM BELIEVES THAT IF SHE DOESN'T WRITE ABOUT IT, IT DIDN'T HAPPEN. YOU CAN READ ALL 300+ OF HER PAST COLUMNS, PLUS OTHER RANDOM POSTS, ON HER BLOG AT SIEGEOFWORDS.COM.





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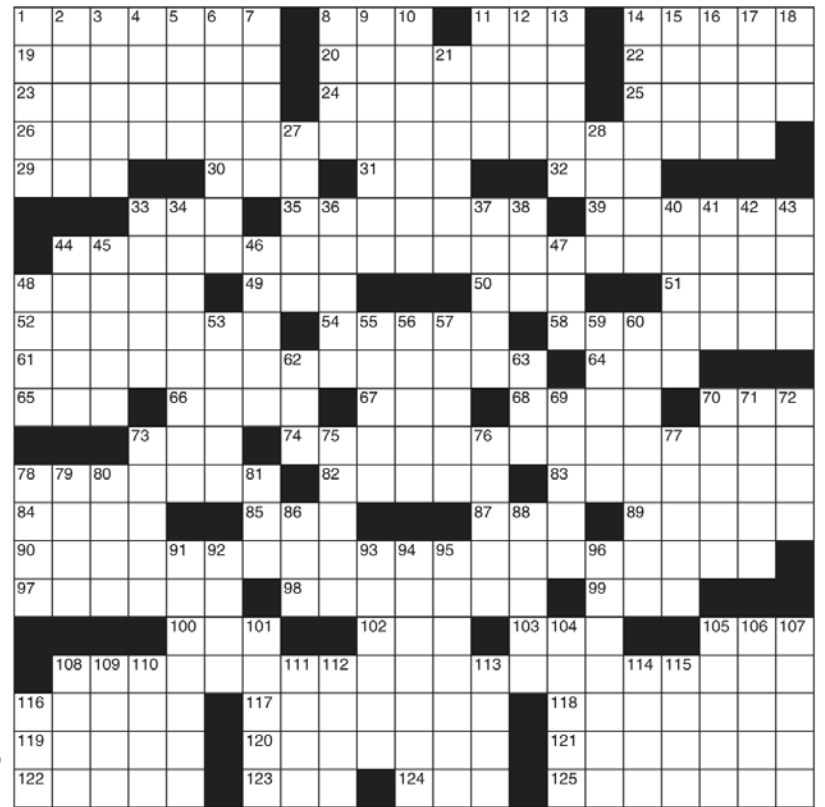
PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE 27

PREMIER Crossword

By Frank A. Longo

THINK INK ACROSS

- 1 Direct applause toward
- 8 Finder's cry
- 11 April follower
- 14 Mimic a bird
- 19 Singer Patti
- 20 Take by force
- 22 Capital on the Red River
- 23 Art studio
- 24 Phases
- 25 "Tiny Dancer" singer John
- 26 Start of a riddle
- 29 Booming jet of old, in brief
- 30 Inseparable
- 31 Spike of corn
- 32 Olive bugged by Bluto
- 33 Prefix with light or night
- 35 Part of AOL
- 39 Thing with rungs
- 44 Riddle, part 2
- 48 Zac of 2017's "Baywatch"
- 49 German linking word
- 50 Org. for teachers
- 51 "Sure, we should do it!"
- 52 Desperate, as a situation
- 54 Syrian president
- 58 Auto racer's warm-up circuit
- 61 Riddle, part 3
- 64 In-vogue thing
- 65 Brand of fuel additives
- 66 Forearm bone
- 67 Crew tool
- 68 "You folks," in the South
- 70 West of "Diamond Lil"
- 73 "General" of Chinese cuisine
- 74 Riddle, part 4
- 78 Museum overseer
- 82 Golfer Sam
- 83 Eighth parts of circles
- 84 Redding of soul
- 85 Sly laugh sound
- 87 Gp. with merit badges
- 89 On a cruise
- 90 End of the riddle
- 97 "Strut" singer Easton
- 98 Affirm strongly
- 99 Flying geese formation
- 100 High peak: Abbr.
- 102 "No more details!" in texts
- 103 Sushi tuna
- 105 Archer's skill
- 108 Riddle's answer
- 116 Really virile
- 117 Apollo 7 astronaut Wally
- 118 Annuls, as a law
- 119 Resilient strength
- 120 Certain support group for adolescents



- 121 Lay out for printing
 - 122 Gather bit by bit
 - 123 Ad- — (improvise)
 - 124 Zig's reverse
 - 125 Rind-shaving tools
- DOWN**
- 1 Feline nails
 - 2 Trellis strips
 - 3 Skip — (flutter, as the heart)
 - 4 Bombard
 - 5 French policeman, informally
 - 6 Butterlike product of beef fat
 - 7 Air again
 - 8 Many a prep sch.
 - 9 Star of the past
 - 10 Shows up
 - 11 Part of 102-Across
 - 12 Johnson of old comedy
 - 13 Simple kind of question
 - 14 Place with beakers, in brief
 - 15 Disease-free
 - 16 Engrossed by
 - 17 Building top
 - 18 Wrestling win
 - 21 Game of falling shapes
 - 27 Find out
 - 28 "The Clan of the Cave Bear" heroine
 - 33 Rosebush sticker
 - 34 Hurricane hazard
 - 36 Win gold, say
 - 37 Rice of Bush's Cabinet, informally
 - 38 Prop- or hex- ender
 - 40 Meted
 - 41 Mano-a-mano fight
 - 42 "At Last" singer James
 - 43 Filing tool
 - 44 In progress
 - 45 Common baby ailment
 - 46 Scheduled to arrive
 - 47 Interval
 - 48 Ice cream brand
 - 53 Inuit dwelling
 - 55 Feel faint from ecstasy
 - 56 Divide up
 - 57 Vital blood line
 - 59 Insurer with a duck icon
 - 60 Sch. with a Fresno branch
 - 62 Univ. dorm supervisors
 - 63 Thesaurus word: Abbr.
 - 69 Score — (earn some points)
 - 70 Minister's residence
 - 71 Modify
 - 72 Anna's sister in "Frozen"
 - 73 Eat a bit of
 - 75 "Poppycock!"
 - 76 "Sounds likely to me"
 - 77 Unglossy photo finish
 - 78 Simple beds
 - 79 Neighbor of Colorado
 - 80 Initiation, e.g.
 - 81 Pi-sigma link
 - 86 Very bad grades
 - 88 Scandinavian "Salut!"
 - 91 1986 #1 hit for 19-Across and Michael McDonald
 - 92 Revel
 - 93 Revel at a really hoppin' party
 - 94 "Carlos" star Edgar
 - 95 Neighbor of Ethiopia
 - 96 Sinister gaze
 - 101 Like some congestion
 - 104 Rival of Avis
 - 105 Demean
 - 106 Lazybones
 - 107 Ship spars
 - 108 Postmarked pieces
 - 109 Zapzyt target
 - 110 Perlman of "Cheers"
 - 111 Roman 651
 - 112 "Moby-Dick" captain
 - 113 Zingy flavor
 - 114 Smartphone games, often
 - 115 Smart paths
 - 116 Soup flavor enhancer, for short

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Conceptis Sudoku

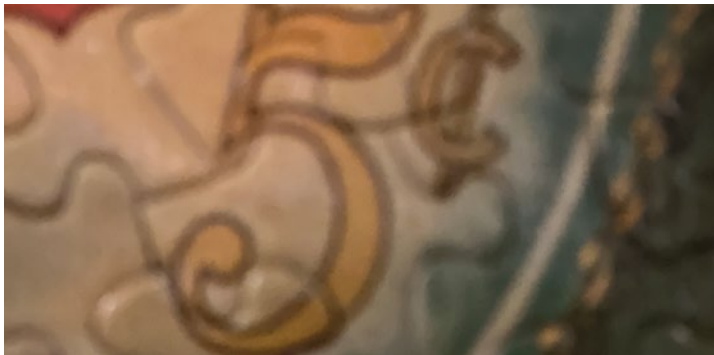
By Dave Green

1	4			5			9
				4			7
		5	2			1	
8	9					4	
			3				
		3				6	2
		6		2	3		
9			5				
5			8			9	1

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WHERE'S GENERAL BOB?

General Bob is out and about. Do you know where he's at?



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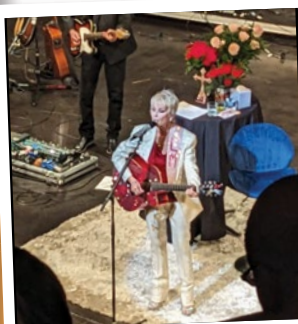
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Picture Yourself
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The Million Dollar Quartet brought their Christmas-themed tribute to the musical legends of Sun Records (Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, and Johnny Cash) to Five Flags Arena.



Country Music star Lorrie Morgan brought her Enchanted Christmas show to a huge crowd at Five Flags Theater on December 15th. Photo by Carlie Schmitz.



The Dubuque Symphony Orchestra always puts on a truly magical concert every year to ring in the holiday season and this year was no exception. Bravo!



The Princesses from Disney's Frozen were on hand at the Toys For Tots Kids' Christmas Party at Five Flags to take adorable pictures with the little ones.



Santa got an amazing new throne this year thanks to Paul & Sandy Meyer, just in time for the Kids Christmas Party that drew in excess of 3000 over three hours of fun!



Sadly, hundreds of area kids fell to the dark side during their visit to the Toys For Tots Kids' Christmas Party at Five Flags. Or maybe not. But they got some great pix with the big guy!



Nooooooo! Krampus descended on a festive Galena Luminaria and Living Windows celebration, looking for misbehaving children to scare! Looks like he found some when he ran into Julie, Jimmy and Amanda!



Music lovers took in the marvelous Snowbiz show of holiday favorites presented by the Mistletoes at the Hotel Julien Dubuque Ballroom.



The historic former Knights of Columbus Hall in downtown Dubuque came down last week to make way for a new childcare center to serve employees of Cottingham & Butler as well as other downtown workers.



The most wonderful crew of holiday revelers filled Fried Green Tomatoes in Galena and in doing so, collected hundreds of toys and over \$6000 for Toys For Tots in the Tri-States!



Miles Nielsen & the Rusted Hearts bring their stellar set of original tunes to the friendly basement trappings of Fox Den Motel in downtown Dubuque. Photo by Mary Virtue Hocking.

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Angela's

Awesome Advice

DEAR ANGELA,

My new coworker is a disagreeable grouch! Whatever the discussion, he has to find something negative or something that he can disagree with the group on. We made the mistake of inviting him for drinks after work, and after complaining about the bar we chose, he then proceeded to embarrass us by telling the bartender how much better the beer is at a different brewery in town. It was mortifying and also very annoying! I don't want to be exclusionary, but this guy has gotten on my last nerve. What can I do? —Annoyed on Acorn Lane

DEAR ANNOYED,

Who hired this guy? Never mind, I know. It was the HR lady who is sitting in her office laughing maniacally while petting her hairless cat that she is allowed to bring into the office for some reason. Look, your best bet is to devise a strategy to out-disagree the man. I encourage you to go undercover as an even MORE disagreeable person and see how far down the rabbit hole this guy's opinions will go. If he says that the muffins in the break room are dry, go a step further and argue that no one should bring muffins in at all anymore because muffins are the worst choice for baked goods. When he starts grumbling about his coffee, take it from him, pour it out, and agree that it's better to have nothing than suffer through bad coffee. Eventually you will find his limit, which will not solve the problem, but will feel very satisfying in the moment.

DEAR ANGELA,

I've been to several holiday parties this year, and I'm dreading the ones that remain. I get there and then realize I have no idea what to talk about! I need a list of topics I can bring up that will help make some smooth small talk, any suggestions? —Blanking on Baldwin

DEAR BLANKING,

Sure! I do love the old standards, they are classics for a reason. Tossing out a well timed, "Think we're going to get snow for Christmas?" is always a winner. Bonus points if you can get the group to discuss previous Christmases in which it was or was not snowing. This should last you a good 15 minutes. Once you've run out of precipitation to discuss... well, actually, I guess I can't think of anything else to talk about really? Oh no, I've suddenly forgotten everything I've ever learned about how to have a normal conversation with people! The curse of the party conversation strikes again! You're on your own pal. I guess I'm gonna be getting really into meteorology with folks at my office work party tonight!

DEAR ANGELA,

I've got this mole on my back, and it looks kinda funny. Do you think it's anything to worry about? —Help on Hermosa Circle

DEAR HELP,

I think you may have confused me with Dr. Angela Awecough, who provides awesome medical advice for *Pensacola 180*, which is a publication in Florida. Sometimes their mail is accidentally routed to us. It's an understandable mistake. However, unless the mole looks like a man slipping on a banana peel, I'm not qualified to determine if it's funny or not.

ANGELA VENTRIS

ANGELA HAS THE PUNCHLINES AND FASHION SENSE TO PLAY THE QUIRKY BEST FRIEND IN THE MADE-FOR-TV MOVIE OF YOUR LIFE. SHARE ALL YOUR PROBLEMS WITH HER AT ADVICE@DUBUQUE365.COM.

**BECAUSE SPACE SAYS SO...
COMPLETELY NOT FAKE
Horoscopes**
By Danny Fairchild, Friend to the Cosmos

ARIES
(APR 19–MAY 13)
Sure, the drama in your life is completely of your own making, but that just means it was made right here in the good ol' U.S. of A.

TAURUS
(MAY 14–JUNE 19)
Bad decisions are also the result of panic. In your case, when I say “bad decisions” I mean REALLY bad decisions. And when I say “case” I mean the judge has never seen a more clear-cut case.

GEMINI
(JUNE 20–JULY 20)
Let your ambitions carry you into the new year! After all, there is still one legion that lives and dies under your banner. And the crown still rests upon your enemy's brow.

CANCER
(JULY 21–AUG 9)
The worst type of enemy is one who revels in your failures while feeling nothing whatsoever for your successes. So while absolutely no one likes you as a miserable POS, at least it's tactically sound.

LEO
(AUG 10–SEP 15)
Next time you're forced to watch a motivational speaker or similar, be a hero by preemptively shouting “Good morning!” as loud as you can the first time.

VIRGO
(SEP 16–OCT 30)
You could have a date with cancer. Oh. Wait. Sorry. I meant you could have a date with A Cancer. There we go. That makes more sense in terms of astrology.

LIBRA
(OCT 31–NOV 22)
While it might seem like everybody is mad at you, fret not. Everybody is just super busy this time of year. Although... I guess the fact that nobody included you in their holiday plans is kind of telltale. Wow, maybe everybody IS mad at you. Yikes, what did you even do?!

SCORPIO
(NOV 23–NOV 29)
Look. Between all the holiday magic and the spirit of the holiday, there's more than enough old magic to draw upon to make your OWN future. What do you need astrology for?

OPHIUCHUS
(NOV 30–DEC 17)
I hope that this year, you asked Santa for the will to keep going. Don't get me wrong, you will be fine as long as you do the work. But how awesome would it be to re-gift something like the will to live? That's gotta be worthy of the Nice List no matter what else you do next year.

SAGITTARIUS
(DEC 18–JAN 8)
Vesta in retrograde has you feeling more than a bit stubborn. So... why should I even tell you your horoscope? It's not like you'll even listen to me.

CAPRICORN
(JAN 9–FEB 15)
With retrograde Mercury just a-backin' it up, get ready for awkward situations and words you wish you could unsay. But hey... 'Tis the season, am I right?

AQUARIUS
(FEB 16–MAR 11)
According to your sign, Christmas is just a stolen holiday that consumerism has convinced us is a more important Christian holiday than Easter. Yup. Apparently the cosmos is your loser ex-boyfriend. Or a freshman philosophy student.

PISCES
(MAR 12–APR 18)
As the year closes, it's going to be difficult to exercise self-discipline. Fortunately, it's also a good time to develop a relationship with someone who absolutely excels at discipline. If you're into that kind of thing.

DANNY FAIRCHILD
DANNY FAIRCHILD IS THE ONLY THING STANDING BETWEEN US AND THE CELESTIAL BODIES THAT WOULD DESTROY US ALL. KIND OF LIKE THE MOVIE *ARMAGEDDON*. YOU CAN THANK HIM BY EMAILING HIM AT DANNY@DUBUQUE365.COM.



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