

MAY 9-MAY 22, 2024 ISSUE #460

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365ink

MAGAZINE



BUILDING

\$83+ MILLION RENOVATION & EXPANSION

ADVENTURE



CASINO + RESORT

BACK WATERS STAGE
2024 Lineup

DUBUQUE FORWARD

2024 SUMMER FESTIVALS & SPECIAL EVENTS POSTER

Dining at ROSES & BERRIES CAFE

THE TRI-STATES' FREE ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

Newcomer Services | Community Tours | Relocation Guide
AccessDubuqueJobs.com | Distinctively Dubuque | Rental Resource Guide
Workforce Solutions | Business Services | Strategic Initiatives



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Celebrating 40 years of regional progress and partnerships, 1984-2024.

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 Q Casino Phase 1 of the \$83-plus million renovation and expansion opens this month with more to come soon

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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



NO COVER CHARGE

SHOW ME YOUR HITS
 MILLENNIAL-MADE COVER BAND
MAY 10



NO COVER CHARGE

MEATPLOW
 MODERN ROCK
MAY 11



NO COVER CHARGE

UNICORN
 MODERN + CLASSIC HITS
MAY 17



THE SPAZMATICS
 THE ULTIMATE 80'S TRIBUTE
MAY 18

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

@MISSMOONBAR

Must be 21 or older. If you or someone you know needs gambling treatment, call 1-800-BETS OFF. ©2024 Boyd Gaming Corporation*



WINNING IS JUST THE BEGINNING.
 Port of Dubuque | DiamondJoDubuque.com

Well, let's start with the elephant in the issue: What the heck happened with the Festivals Poster in the last issue? Answer? I have no freakin' idea. You'll have to ask our printer. When we sent the issue to them to print, it was in the right place, but then, you know, someone borrows your weed wacker and never gives it back and you know they have it but they say it wasn't them and you swear you'll never lend it out again when you get a new one but then your really super nice other neighbor asks again and you can't say no and before you know it... half of the festival poster shows up on pages 14 and 35 instead of the centerfold, and we look like a bunch of idiots. And I may be an idiot, but this one's not on me.

So, we decided that since so many people love pulling out the poster and putting it up on the fridge, we'd just run the whole darn thing again. And since we have this re-do, we could update a few things, like Mac and Cheese Fest making an abrupt move to September from May, a few little typos, and a couple of events

already being behind us so no need to keep them on there and all that jazz.

So, if you're wondering why you're seeing double this issue, that's why. And by the grace of the printing gods, let this week's issue have the poster all on the same sheet and in the middle of the paper this time.

I still don't know what the excuse is for the error, but this seems like one of those things where someone pushing the "print" button says, "Hey guys, we sure this is right?"

And while we're at it, I'll cross my fingers that the rest of the pages are in the right order too. Because man... I wrote a LOT of copy for this issue. About 10,000 words. My brain got a little mushy there a bit last week. But there was so much to write about, I didn't want to leave anything out.

And then at the same time, I was working through taking over the lease on my Toys for Tots warehouse through the end of the year from the amazing Hodge Company who, for 16 years, has given me a free home to do my charity

work. They are a huge part of why Toys for Tots has been so successful in Dubuque in the last couple of decades.

The place we are in now wasn't even technically theirs. They were leasing from another owner to store some of their overflow and were so very kind to let me come along. Well, now they won't need that overflow anymore, and I can't blame them for a second for not having any room in their other full, successful warehouses. And they were stunningly generous to help me find a way to stay in this space for the next eight months.

I also knew this was coming and worked with the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque to create a special Charitable Warehouse Fund to prepare for this rainy day. Then we sold a TON of blinky drinks at Five Flags concerts to raise the money to put in that fund. So because of all of that, we know we'll be okay through December. What happens to us in January is another headache for another day, but we'll get through one more Christmas without being a homeless charity.

The headache part of this whole thing is trying to sign this lease. We're not a traditional business, and all of these clauses in the lease don't really apply to us, so it's been a big nightmare to get it worked out. I'm sure it's a headache for the landlord's agent as well.

They want us to insure our toys, but we don't do that. We're not allowed

to. Nor do we own serious equipment. And instead of workers' compensation insurance, we sign hold-harmless agreements. It's just the rule from the National Toys for Tots Foundation, and it doesn't jive with the wording on the lease. So, it's just migraine-inducing.

It's like, "Look, I have this pile of money for you to put my toys here for a while. Can I do that?" Apparently, no.

I'm not mad at anyone. The landlord's agent has been super patient and helpful with me. I'm no broker or lawyer, so all of the lease legalese is just about as clear as mud. So, I keep trying to find creative ways to keep everyone happy in order to achieve all of our goals and cover all of the associated butts. It's just so frustrating to feel like I worked a minor miracle to get this space funded for eight more months, and it's not good enough.

I just want my own building. I can share it with Resources Unite and other charities like me who need storage space. Can we make this happen, Dubuque? I have some money. I'll find more. Can someone with the land or an old building step up and say, "I'm willing to see if what I have can solve your long-term needs." I promise we're not looking for a handout. Just a road map to eventually having a nonprofit warehouse in Dubuque that helps everyone. I'll bet this isn't impossible. It can't be harder than getting the festival poster printed in the actual middle of the paper, can it? ■

Wednesday
May 15

GREAT GIVE DAY

Give where you live!

Give online to support 200 local nonprofits.

Plus...

Join us in person for a celebration of nonprofits!
4:30 - 6:30 p.m. | Washington Park, Dubuque
Food trucks, music, and more!

Great Give Day is an initiative of **Community Foundation OF GREATER DUBUQUE**

Thank you to our sponsors!

Avantax Wealth Management, DUBUQUE BANK AND TRUST, FCT, KLAUER Quality Since 1870, MASON INVESTMENT ADVISORY SERVICES, INC., MidWestOne Bank, OHNWARD SANCHEZ, INC., THEISEN'S HOME • FARM • AUTO, usbank, THE VOGT GROUP, TH MEDIA, RADIO

GreatGiveDay.org

FIVE FLAGS CENTER

THE TRI-STATE AREA'S ENTERTAINMENT DESTINATION

FIVE FLAGS THEATER PRESENTS
MORIAH THE MEDIUM



MAY 11 • 7 PM
LOVE SURVIVES DEATH

MORE INFO



FIVE FLAGS

MACHINE KILLER
NORTH AMERICAN TOUR



STATIC SEVENDUST
dope LINES OF LOYALTY

MAY 17 DUBUQUE, IA **FIVE FLAGS CENTER**



MAY 25TH, 2024
NPC MIGHTY MUSCLE
ON THE **MISSISSIPPI**

FIVE FLAGS THEATER
PRESENTS
GLENN MILLER ORCHESTRA



IN THE MOOD?
JUNE 5
7 PM

MOVIE PREMIERE
ARE YOU DEAD YET?



FIVE FLAGS THEATER
JUNE 14 | 6 PM

*This movie is intended for mature audiences (17+). It contains bloody violence and terror, strong language, nudity and sexual content. Parental discretion is strongly advised.

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

BEATLES VS STONES



A MUSICAL SHOWDOWN

FIVE FLAGS THEATER SATURDAY, JUNE 22ND

JUNE 29
THE CLEVERLYS
NEW CONCERT!



FIVE FLAGS THEATER

8 PM

Celebrating 45 years Dubuque Five Flags Center

GET A LITTLE LOST
NEW CONCERT!



GIRL NAMED TOM **AUG 24**

8/18 DUBUQUE, IA
FIVE FLAGS CENTER

COME ON DOWN...



the PRICE is Right LIVE

YOU COULD BE NEXT!
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 | 7 PM
NEW EVENT!

FIVE FLAGS CENTER - 405 MAIN STREET, DUBUQUE
BUY TICKETS ONLINE AT FIVEFLAGSCENTER.COM



FRI 5/10



Puttzin' Around Downtown 19th Hole Party

5 PM @ HOTEL JULIEN DUBUQUE RIVERBOAT LOUNGE
Puttzin' Around Downtown is an exciting themed mini-golf excursion in downtown Dubuque. Local businesses sponsor creative holes, and everyone has a great time. Registration is closed for the excursion, but the 19th hole party is open to all with food, games, and prizes. **563-588-4400. DubuqueMainStreet.com.**

SAT 5/11

Dubuque Audubon Annual Spring Species Count

6 AM @ JULIEN DUBUQUE MONUMENT, MINES OF SPAIN, AND SWISS VALLEY PARK
Arrive as early as 6 a.m. for birding around the Julien Dubuque Monument, but be sure to arrive in the monument parking lot by 8 a.m. if you want to continue to other locations. Then, head to the trails at Mines of Spain. At 5 p.m., gather at Swiss Valley Park for a potluck picnic at the Sycamore Pavilion. Brats and hotdogs will be provided, and the birding results will be tabulated. No birding experience required. Audubon guides will be on hand to help you identify species. Binoculars are recommended. RSVP by May 10. Free. **audubondubuque.org.**

Annual Dubuque Bike Rodeo

9 AM-NOON @ DUBUQUE FIRE SAFETY TRAINING FACILITY
There will be helmet giveaways, a bike raffle, bike safety checks, and more. Hosted by the Finley Hospital Emergency Department. 14928 Public Safety Way.



She Unites Pickleball Tournament

9 AM-2 PM @ VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK
Battle it out in an epic women-only tournament to raise funds for She Unites. Two divisions are available: competitive and recreational. There will be a three game minimum in each division which will lead to bracket play. Registered singles will be paired up. All equipment,

instruction, snacks, and beverages will be provided. No experience is required! Just come with a positive mindset, water, and be ready to learn a new sport. 2790 Miracle League Dr. \$40/single, \$70/double. **sheunitesiowa.com.**

SUN 5/12

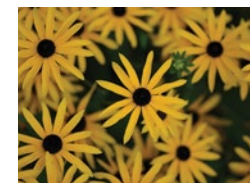


Discussion: The Comedy of Errors

2-4 PM @ CARNEGIE-STOUT PUBLIC LIBRARY
Shakespeare's shortest play is also his most farcical comedy with multiple mistaken identities. Two sets of identical twins, the masters both named Antipholus and the servants both named Dromio are separated at birth. One set grows up in Syracuse and comes to Ephesus to

find the other, and every possible combination of master and servant happens resulting in gleeful chaos. 360 W 11th St. **563-588-6347. shakespeare. carnegiestout.org.**

TUE 5/14



Spring Wildflower Hike

6-7:30 PM @ NEW WINE PARK (NEW VIENNA, IA)
Learn about the flowers that are currently blooming and interesting ways you can use these plants, as well as their wildlife value. The 2-mile trail will have uneven terrain and steep inclines. Please be prepared for this by wearing appropriate footwear and clothing. All ages are welcome but children under

the age of 16 need an adult companion. RSVP requested by May 13. 15971 New Wine Park Lane, New Vienna, IA. **dyersville.lib.ia.us/events.**

WED 5/15

Cyclone Tailgate Tour

NOON-1 PM @ GRAND RIVER CENTER
The tour features ISU head coaches and staff along with Cy and the spirit squads interacting with fans, signing autographs, and handing out athletics swag. These family-friendly events will include giveaways, food and beverage available for purchase, and allow fans the opportunity to connect with fellow Cyclone fans in celebration of Iowa State Athletics. All children in attendance will also receive a gift courtesy of the Cyclone Club. All ages. Free. 500 Bell St. **CycloneClub.org.**

SUMMER LIBRARY PROGRAMS @ DUBUQUE ARBORETUM

Join us at the Dubuque Arboretum twice a month for an outdoor library program! Bring your lawn chairs or blankets and get ready for a fun, educational, family friendly show. No rain dates.

FRIDAY MORNINGS @ 10 A.M.

KADESH FLOW & DINO O'DELL
JUNE 14

This acclaimed duo uses family friendly music & storytelling to celebrate the cultural diversity of planet Earth in this fun, silly performance.

MAGICIAN RICK EUGENE
JUNE 28

All ages are invited to attend this funny & family-friendly magic show with this popular magician from the Quad Cities who specializes in comedy magic and family entertainment.

MUSICIAN JIM GILL
JULY 12

Get ready to dance, clap, & sing along during this visit from award-winning musician and author, Jim Gill. This music play is an invitation to children & adults to sing & play together!

JUGGLING JEFF
JULY 26

Join us for an interactive comedy show with high energy, improvisation, danger, suspense, ridiculousness, audience participation, & MORE!

THESE PROGRAMS ARE LOCATED AT AND IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE DUBUQUE ARBORETUM & BOTANICAL GARDENS.



SAT JUNE 1
WARRANT
 LET THE GOOD TIMES ROCK TOUR
 WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
 LITA FORD AND FIREHOUSE



FRI JUNE 28
BILLY CURRINGTON
 WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
 CHAYCE BECKHAM AND
 MACKENZIE CARPENTER



SAT JUNE 29
LIL JON
 WITH SPECIAL GUEST
 MIKE JONES



I PREVAIL
 WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
HOLLYWOOD UNDEAD
 Fit for a King

FRI JULY 12
I PREVAIL
 WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
 HOLLYWOOD UNDEAD
 AND FIT FOR A KING



BEARTOOTH
 SUMMER 2024
 WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
 CURRENTS
 BOUNDARIES NEVERTEL

THURS JULY 18
BEARTOOTH
 SUMMER 2024 TOUR
 WITH SPECIAL GUESTS CURRENTS,
 BOUNDARIES, AND NEVERTEL



FRI AUG 2
UPCHURCH
 TUNE-IN TOUR '24
 T2, BRODNAX AND JJ



FRI AUG 9
**JASON ISBELL
 AND THE 400 UNIT**
 WITH SPECIAL GUEST
 SHEMEKIA COPELAND



FRI AUG 10
**ICE NINE KILLS AND
 IN THIS MOMENT**
 KISS OF DEATH TOUR PART 2
 WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
 AVATAR AND TX2



THURS AUG 29
RILEY GREEN



BACKWATERSSTAGE.COM

PRESENTED BY
 MidWestOne Bank

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 KWIK STOP

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW



ONSTAGE THIS SUMMER



SCHOOL ROCK
JUNE 14 - 23, 2024



The Addams Family
A NEW MUSICAL COMEDY
July 12 - 21, 2024



Annie
AUGUST 7 - 11, 2024

Rising Star THEATRE COMPANY

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT AT



Friday, May 17 @ 6:30pm

FREE ADMISSION

Doors Open @ 5:45pm

THEGRANDOPERAHOUSE.COM

Box Office: Mon-Fri, Noon-4pm • 563-588-1305 • 135 W 8th St, DBQ, IA

Scholarships available



Summer Break Day Camps

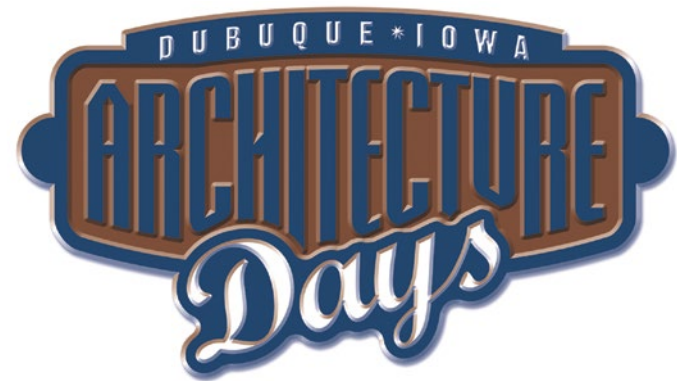
GRADES K-8

Campers will be invited to join our expert educators in an exploration of history, science, and wildlife. Summer has never been so fun!

Camp runs 9 A.M. - 4 P.M.



rivermuseum.org/summer-camps



Architecture Days

**NOW THROUGH MAY 11
DOWNTOWN DUBUQUE**

Dubuque Main Street celebrates Architecture Days from May 6 to 11. Architecture Days, now in its 19th year, was inspired by National Architecture Week as well as Preservation Month. The mission of Architecture Days is to increase awareness of architecture as an art form and to explore the rich architectural landscape of Dubuque. The vast diversity of architectural styles found in downtown's historic, treasured structures adds to this rich intermingling of artistry and architectural design.

Architecture Days offers the public the opportunity to learn more about architecture and Dubuque's historic fabric, while celebrating our sense of place and the city's growth through commitment to architectural re-use and community. This year's schedule features tours and events that are open to the public at no cost. However, reservations are recommended and appreciated. Please note, due to the age of these properties, most are not accessible except by staircases. All activities are free. To register and for more information, call Dubuque Main Street at **563-588-4400** or visit **DubuqueMainStreet.com**. Contact the Carnegie-Stout Public Library at **563-589-4225** for information and registration of their activities.

What's Happening on White Street

THURSDAY, MAY 9 @ NOON
HAIRBERDASHERY SALON AND SPA (951 WHITE ST)

This 1890s property was purchased in 2006 and transformed into a modern salon. At 902 White St., the property has been home to several residents and business venture. Now it's two renovated residential units.

Lower Main Street Historical & Architectural Walking Tour

SATURDAY, MAY 11 @ 10-11:30 AM
FLAT IRON PARK (43 MAIN ST)

See how this previously industrial area of Lower Main Street has become a center for residences, recreation, and education. Guided by Bill Doyle (Heritage Works) and Jason Neises (Dubuque County Historic Preservation Commission).

Free Activities at Carnegie-Stout Public Library

360 W 11TH ST

Guests of all ages are invited to find Arches, Beams, and Cornices... learn the ABCs of architecture as you find photos of Dubuque landmarks hidden around the Children's Department. Plus, "Bee an Architect" is an activity and coloring book that follows the journey of the titular "Bee" through a variety of interactive puzzles and illustrations. ■

10TH ANNUAL

Cascade Wingfest

SATURDAY, MAY 11 @ 3-7 PM
RIVERVIEW PARK

(101 PIERCE ST, CASCADE, IA)

Get your wing on with the Cascade Area Chamber of Commerce on Saturday, May 11 when the 10th Annual Cascade Wingfest brings a feast of wings to Riverview Park in Cascade, IA from 3 to 7 p.m.

Enjoy wing samples (\$10 for 8 wings), live music by Mark Zalaznik, cold beer plus Delaney's Ice Cream



Shoppe, Hangry Hobo Food Truck, and Bob & Lou's coffee camper. Bring your own lawn chair. No carry ins.

Wingfest is free to attend.

For more information, visit **CascadeChamber.org**. ■

SAT 5/18



2nd Annual Mark Dalsing Memorial Run

8-11 AM @ HERITAGE POND

Join the Dalsing family for the 2nd annual memorial run in honor of their husband, father, son, brother, uncle, friend, inspiration. Former Police Chief Mark Dalsing joined in local 5ks aimed at bettering the lives of those who call Dubuque home. In his memory, the Dalsing family has created the Live Like Mark Campaign, and this run is one of the ways they try to keep that goal alive. Enjoy food truck, raffles, and good memories to make and look back on. Partnered with St. Mark Youth Enrichment. \$35. [LiveLikeMark.org](#).



The Law & Your Community

10 AM-1 PM @ MULTICULTURAL FAMILY CENTER

Join Dubuque Police Officers Wilkens Dieujuste, Billy Dieujuste, and Brianna Mazette, along with other members of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, for this hands-on interactive training program. The program includes information about citizenship, law literacy, and law enforcement engagement with a focus on teaching youth about proper and safe ways to interact with police, their rights during traffic stops or police contact, and how to handle police misconduct during and after the time misconduct takes place. A parent or guardian is recommended

to attend. Lunch included. Ages 12-18. RSVP required. Free. 1157 Central Ave. **563-582-3681. [mfcdqbq.org](#).**

SUN 5/19

Tortellini & Agnolotti Cooking Class

11 AM-1:30 PM @ GOLDMOOR INN (GALENA, IL)

You and your friends will learn how to make pasta dough and how to shape tortellini and agnolotti. Participants will be able to take pasta dough home to make pasta with family and friends and also take home pasta made in class to enjoy with friends and family. Includes 1 glass of wine/champagne, 1 charcuterie board (per 3 people), main course of morel agnolotti, and a mini strawberry trifle dessert. \$90. 9001 W Sand Hill Rd, Galena, IL. **815-777-3925. [goldmoor.com](#).**

Cooking 101: Pantry Basics

3-5 PM @ CONVIVIVUM URBAN FARMSTEAD

Imagine coming home from work and opening your cupboard and fridge and having everything on hand to whip up a healthy, nutritious dinner. Learn what it takes to stock an effective pantry as well as run through some easy pantry-based meal ideas. Also learn some effective ideas for eliminating food waste and making the most of your freezer. Join Convivium Co-Founder Leslie Shalabi for this exciting new class, which is part of their "Cooking 101" series. It is for the person who has very limited cooking knowledge and wants to become more confident in the kitchen. This series will be a combination of classroom learning, demonstration, and some limited hands-on experience. \$25-\$37.50. 2811 Jackson St. **563-557-2900. [convivium-dbq.com](#).**



Talent Nights: Jamie Aaron Kelley

7 PM @ STONE CLIFF WINERY

The award-winning showman takes the stage with a dynamic range of music including blues, country, rock and roll, jazz, and even Elvis. Get ready to be blown away. Includes a free drink. \$40. 600 Star Brewery Dr. **563-583-6100 x203. [stonecliffwinery.com](#).**

TUE 5/21

Museum X: Curator Quiz Show

6-8 PM @ NATIONAL MISSISSIPPI RIVER MUSEUM & AQUARIUM

Explore the fascinating intersection of history and living collections at this interactive event! Join curators from

both realms for discussions, a game-show style quiz, and earn bonus points if you can "Stump the Curator." Free members, \$10 non-members. 350 E 3rd ST. **563-557-9545. [rivermuseum.org](#).**



Tree of Life Memorial Service

7:30 PM @ WASHINGTON PARK
Remember loved ones, hear a message of hope and healing, enjoy beautiful music, and witness the lighting of the tree. Honor those who are held in our hearts. Donate in advance to add a light as a symbol of love and remembrance and provides support for Hospice of Dubuque's mission of compassionate care. Bring a lawn chair due to limited seating. Free. 700 Locust St. **563-582-1220. [hospiceofdubuque.org](#).**



Membership Pays

GreenState is consistently ranked in the **Top 1% Nationally for returning profits with better rates & lower fees.**

That means one of the Top financial institutions in the country, is here in Dubuque.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTION	RANK <small>(9,343 U.S. Institutions)</small>
GreenState	22
US Bank	5,389
Chase	5,834
Wells Fargo	7,756

*Data provided by Callahan and Associates 12/31/23

3405 Stoneman Road near Kennedy Mall

563-235-2370



GreenState
CREDIT UNION
[GreenState.org](#)



2023-2024 FLY-BY-NIGHT PRODUCTIONS presents

A BOLD, DRAMATIC ADVENTURE

TERRA NOVA

BY TED TALLY



May 31 & June 1, 2 & 7, 8, 2024
Bijou Room | Five Flags Center

OUR 41ST SEASON
www.flybynightdubuque.com |  




ART-WALK
MIDDLETON

MAY 18, 2024

10 AM - 5 PM • TERRACE AVE.
DOWNTOWN MIDDLETON, WI

Free, one-day art festival with music, food, and kids' activities. Presented by the Middleton Public Arts Committee.
www.CityofMiddleton.us/PublicArt

Join us for the after party
Bubbles 'n Beats
at Stone Horse Green!

5:30 to 7PM

A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR LOCAL SPONSORS:

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS: AlphaGraphics Middleton • Atterbury, Kammer & Haag Downtown Middleton Bus. Assoc. • Goddard School • JSD Professional Services
Kea Sports Center • Lerdahl • Meg McCombs Design • Tailored Engineering
KIDS' CORNER SPONSORS: Compass Properties • Goddard School



Great Give Day Celebration

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15 @ 4:30-6:30 PM
WASHINGTON PARK (700 LOCUST ST)
On Wednesday, May 15, community members are invited to visit [GreatGiveDay.org](https://www.GreatGiveDay.org) and support their favorite participating nonprofits with online donations of \$10 or more. Also, join the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque in Washington Park at 4:30-6:30 p.m. to meet various

nonprofits participating in Great Give Day, food trucks, and a live radio broadcast.

Great Give Day is a 24-hour, online giving event organized by the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque to grow philanthropy in their seven-county region, including Allamakee, Clayton, Clinton, Delaware, Dubuque, Jackson and Jones Counties. All Great Give Day donations are tax deductible. Gifts of \$50 or more to nonprofits that are directing donations to their endowment funds are also eligible for the generous Endow Iowa 25% State Tax credit.

The leaderboard at [GreatGiveDay.org](https://www.GreatGiveDay.org) will reflect all donations in real time so donors can track the total amount raised as well as the progress of their favorite organizations. Throughout the day, nonprofits will compete for hourly and grand prizes funded by local sponsors.

For more information, visit [GreatGiveDay.org](https://www.GreatGiveDay.org) or call the Community Foundation at 563-588-2700. ■

Clark Cup Final: Dubuque Fighting Saints VS Fargo Force

GAME 3: FRIDAY, MAY 17 @ 7:05 PM
GAME 4: SATURDAY, MAY 18 @ 7:05 PM (IF NECESSARY)
IMON ARENA (1800 ADMIRAL SHEEHY DR)
The Dubuque Fighting Saints clinched their fourth Tier-I Conference Title with a 4-0 win against Muskegon and advanced to the Clark Cup Finals with a 3-0 series win. The junior hockey team has won the Clark Cup five times and is the five-time defending Cowbell Cup Champions.



Cheer them on at the ImOn Arena as the head into the Clark Cup Final.

The Saints head to Fargo, the first seed in the Western Conference, for their first two bouts before the Force heads to Our House on Friday, May 17 at 7:05 p.m. If necessary, game 4 will also take place in Dubuque on Saturday, May 18 at 7:05 p.m.

Purchase your tickets for game 3 at [DubuqueFightingSaints.com](https://www.DubuqueFightingSaints.com). ■

FRIENDS OF THE CARNEGIE-STOUT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Spring Book Sale

MEMBERS PRE-SALE:
WEDNESDAY, MAY 22 @ NOON-6:30 PM
PUBLIC SALE:
THURSDAY, MAY 23 @ NOON-6:30 PM
FRIDAY, MAY 24 @ NOON-4:30 PM
CARNEGIE-STOUT PUBLIC LIBRARY AUDITORIUM (360 W 11TH ST)
The Friends of the Carnegie-Stout Public Library host their annual book sale starting with a members-only pre-sale on Wednesday, May 22 from noon to 6:30 p.m. The sale opens to the public on May 23 at noon-6:30 p.m. and May 24 at noon-4:30 p.m.



The sale features numerous items with great prices including newer fiction, history and biography, games, media and a large selection of children's books, specialty items, and collectables.

All proceeds will directly benefit the Library. Memberships are available at the door. For more information, contact the Library at 563-589-4313 or visit [carnegiestout.org](https://www.carnegiestout.org). ■

THU 5/23

**Foraging Hike**10:30 AM-12:30 PM @
HOOF IT (GALENA, IL)

Forage alongside the goats as you wander the forest and learn about the wild edibles and non-edibles. From mushrooms to medicinal plants to building a salad and topping it with berries and nuts. Explore the wonders of the forest on this 2-hour journey. No picking/eating allowed. This is an informative experience. Photos and collaboration are encouraged. All ages. \$48. 616 S Devil's Ladder Rd, Galena, IL. **563-663-6944**. hoofit-galena.com.

Wanderwood Gardens Educational Session

6-7:30 PM @ DUBUQUE

ARBORETUM &
BOTANICAL GARDENS

Enjoy a conversation with Jared McGovern, Director of the Wanderwood Gardens: a forest of make-believe and discovery. 3800 Arboretum Dr. **563-556-2100**. DubuqueArboretum.net.

SUN 5/26

**27th Annual BobFest**

11 AM-6 PM @ SPRING

GREEN GENERAL STORE
(SPRING GREEN, WI)

Start your summer with an all day outdoor music festival celebrating the music of Bob Dylan with 16 groups of local musicians. Serving up Lake Louie Brewing beer, The Cider Farm hard cider, and The Frozen Local ice cream. All ages. Free. 137 S Albany St, Spring Green, WI. **608-588-7070**. SpringGreenGeneralStore.com.

MON 5/27

East Dubuque Memorial Day Parade9:30 AM @ DOWNTOWN
EAST DUBUQUE, IL

Join East Dubuque veterans groups to honor our past veterans this Memorial Day. Parade lineup begins at 9 a.m. on Wall Street. Military services follow at East Dubuque Cemetery.

Dubuque Memorial Day Parade

NOON @ SCHMITT ISLAND

Remember of all the men and women who have served our great nation. The parade starts at noon followed by a short memorial service at Veterans Memorial Plaza. Bring your lawn chairs for both events. Purchase food from Happy Hibachi, Polidos, and Hangry Hobo. There will be donation jars at each truck to collect donations for the American Legion Post 6 and Dubuque Marine Corp League funeral details. **563-589-7840**. facebook.com/DBQVeteransAffairs.

TUE 5/28

Teen Advisory Group: Teen Hangout

5:15 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 x2228**. CarnegieStout.org.

THU 5/30

Galena Center for the Arts 3rd Annual Golf Outing1 PM @ EAGLE RIDGE
RESORT AND SPA NORTH
COURSE (GALENA, IL)

The tournament includes an 18-hole round of golf for a 4-person team, followed by a light dinner. Games include Flag Prizes, Beat the Pro, and \$10,000 Putt

Contest. Proceeds benefit the Galena Center for the Arts. \$400/foursome, \$100/individual, \$25/dinner only. 400 Eagle Ridge Dr, Galena, IL. galenacenterforthearts.com.

**Italian Tomato Galette Cooking Class**

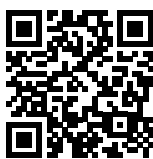
6-7 PM @ STEEPLE SQUARE

Learn how to make a rustic pie with Italian flavors from instructor Lynn Kaufman. A galette is a rustic pie that is formed without the use of a tin. Incorporate lots of Italian flavors to make a delicious dish to take home. This is the perfect night out for a date night or a girl's or guy's night out. \$45. 101 E 15th St. **844-642-2338 x1399**. NICC.edu/solutions.

FRI 5/31

Italian Happy Hour/ Knife Skills6-7:30 PM @ GALENA ARC
(GALENA, IL)

Friday Happy Hour learning to make delicious Italian appetizers while perfecting your knife skills. Appetizers include bruschetta, stuffed mushrooms and focaccia bread. Bring along your favorite beverage and have fun creating these treats. Some items will require baking at home before eating. Each person will need to bring a baking/cookie sheet pan with edges and a 9x9 inch baking pan. \$45. 11084 W US HWY 20, Galena, IL. GalenaARC.org.



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HEARTACHE TONIGHT
The Music of The Eagles

Saturday,
May 18, 7 PM

From the powerful guitar duel in "Hotel California" to the shimmering harmonies of "Peaceful Easy Feeling," Heartache Tonight delivers a true Eagles concert experience, with meticulous attention to every detail.

Heartache Tonight brings together music from all eras and incarnations of this huge rock powerhouse that produced hits over our decades.

Tickets: \$35(advance) / \$38(door)

All vocal harmonies and guitar parts are faithful to the originals and performed live by tremendously talented musicians with perfection and passion.

From the soaring a cappella harmonies of "Seven Bridges Road," and the snarling guitars of "Life In The Fast Lane," to the anthemic country rock of "Take It Easy," and the beautifully evocative "Heart Or The Matter," close your eyes and you'll swear you're hearing the real thing.

Children's
Spring Party
Sunday, May 19 11 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Dubuque Arboretum & Botanical Gardens
3800 Arboretum Drive

\$2 admission per person (all ages) payable at the gate

Costumed Characters
Temporary Tattoos
Games & Prizes

Free Activity
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Enter our coloring contest and win a NEW Arboretum Coloring Book

Ongoing & Recurring Events

SUNDAY

Galena Territory Farmers Market

8 AM-NOON @ GALENA TERRITORY OWNERS' CLUB PARKING LOT (GALENA, IL)
MAY 26-OCT 13
2000 Territory Dr, Galena, IL. **815-777-2000**.
TheGalenaTerritory.com.

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

Cuba City Community Market

4-7 PM @ VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PARK (CUBA CITY, WI)
3RD WED THROUGH SEPT
100 S Washington St, Cuba City, WI. **608-744-2152**.
facebook.com/CubaCityMarket.

Dubuque Harley Davidson Bike Nights

6-9 PM @ MCGRATH DUBUQUE HARLEY-DAVIDSON
LAST WED THROUGH AUG
Bikes night aren't just for bikes anymore! Classic cars, Jeeps, off-road vehicles, or anything with wheels is welcome. \$1,000s in prizes each night. Live music, drinks, and food available. 145 N Crescent Ridge. **Dubuque Harley-Davidson.com**.

She Unites

6:30-7:30 PM
@ THE INNOVATION LAB
3RD WED
An inclusive women's group working to connect women across the region through education, philanthropy, mutual support, and more. Free. 210 Jones St.
SheUnitesIowa.com/events.

THURSDAY

Dyersville Farmers Market

3-5 PM @ COMMERCIAL CLUB PARK (DYERSVILLE, IA)
MAY 23-OCT 3
225 11th St SE, Dyersville, IA.
dyersville.org/events.

Gary's Graffiti Nights

5-9:30 PM @ KENNEDY MALL
MAY 16-SEPT 12
Celebrating their 42nd year, cars 1979 and older gather for a 1950s-1960s car show based on American Graffiti with music and door prizes. 555 JFK Rd. **563-588-1406**.
facebook.com/GarysGraffitiNights.

Millwork Night Market

5-8 PM @ 7TH-9TH AND JACKSON ST
2ND THU THROUGH OCT
MillworkNightMarket.com.

East Dubuque Cruisin' Thursdays

5-9 PM @ SINSINAWA AVE, EAST DUBUQUE, IL
THROUGH SEPT
Open to all years of classic, muscle, and unique cars, trucks, and motorcycles. Great food, closed street, open containers, and live music. facebook.com/eastdubuquecarshow.

FRIDAY

Food Festival Fridays

11 AM-2 PM
@ WASHINGTON PARK
1ST FRI THROUGH SEPT
Join area food vendors for a lunchtime food fest. *365ink Magazine* brings the perfect side dish to your chicken sandwich, pizza, or coffee: local, live music! Hosted by Dubuque Main Street. Free. 700 Locust St.
dubuquemainstreet.com.

SATURDAY

Dubuque Farmers' Market

7 AM-NOON @ AROUND 12TH AND IOWA ST
THROUGH SEPT @ 7 AM
OCT @ 8 AM
563-588-4400.
DubuqueFarmersMarket.org.

Galena Farmers Market

7 AM-NOON @ GALENA CITY HALL PARKING LOT (GALENA, IL)
MAY 18-OCT
101 Green St, Galena, IL. **563-542-0996**.
facebook.com/galenafarmersmarket.

Dyersville Downtown Market

8 AM-NOON @ 3RD AVE SW AND 3RD ST, DYERSVILLE, IA
LAST SAT: JUNE-SEPT
DyersvilleDowntownMarket.com.

Platteville Summer Farmer's Market

8 AM-NOON @ PLATTEVILLE CITY PARK (PLATTEVILLE, WI)
THROUGH OCT
75 N Bonson St, Platteville, WI. **608-218-4374**.
PlattevilleFarmersMarketWI.com.

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Events at Five Flags Center

The Five Flags Center is located at 405 Main St. in Downtown Dubuque. Fees may apply to ticket purchases. Tickets are available at [Ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com) or at the Five Flags Center Box Office. For more information, call 563-589-4254 or visit [FiveFlagsCenter.com](https://www.FiveFlagsCenter.com).

Golden Girls: The Laughs Continue

THURSDAY, MAY 9 @ 7:30 PM
FIVE FLAGS THEATER

Thank you for being a...fan! Following sold out performances and rave reviews across the country in 2023, The Golden Girls are back and better than ever with a brand new stage show that's more exciting than a trip to the Rusty Anchor. See it live at the Five Flags Theater on Thursday, May 9 at 7:30 p.m.

Golden Girls: The Laughs Continue is a professional stage show unlike any other Golden Girls tribute that you might have experienced. The play is written by Robert Leleux, author of *The Memoirs of a Beautiful Boy* and *The Living*



End and directed by Eric Swanson, co-founder and executive director of The Detroit Actors' Theatre Company. Ages 18+. Tickets are \$50-\$75. ■

Moriah the Medium

SATURDAY, MAY 11 @ 7 PM
FIVE FLAGS THEATER

Join Moriah the Medium for an evening you'll never forget at the Five Flags Theater on Saturday, May 11 at 7 p.m.

Experience live readings with the audience, communicating with your loved ones who have passed, and learn how you can communicate with them too. Moriah the Medium is a former combat Veteran of Desert Storm, published author, and has appeared on A&E and the Biography Channel's *Paranormal Cops*.

Attendance does not guarantee a personal message or connection. Any readings that are conducted during the show are intended to provide insights,



guidance, and comfort, but they should not be considered a substitute for professional advice, medical treatment, or therapeutic interventions. Moriah the Medium is committed to providing a respectful and consoling experience for all participants.

Tickets start at \$39. ■



MACHINE KILLER TOUR FEATURING

Static-X, Sevendust, and DOPE

FRIDAY, MAY 17 @ 7 PM
FIVE FLAGS ARENA

Metal legends Static-X and Sevendust bring their Machine Killer Tour to the Five Flags Arena on Friday, May 17 at 7 p.m. The Machine Killer Tour is a reunion that is over two decades in the making and goes all the way back to 1999. Static-X, Sevendust, and DOPE were each exploding onto the scene and partnered up

to create one of the most memorable tours of that year. Now the metal holy trinity will continue touring together.

Static-X rose to fame with their 1999 platinum selling debut album *Wisconsin Death Trip* and went on to release five more albums over the course of the next decade. The band has sold more than 3-million albums in the US alone and has had multiple chart-topping radio singles. On Nov. 1, 2014, founding member Wayne Static unexpectedly passed away. The now reformed lineup continue to make headlines with their sold-out touring and new music while keeping their signature Evil Disco sound alive.

Sevendust never follow a linear path. Instead, they continue to bulldoze a lane of their own with a proven one-two punch of rumbling grooves, unpredictable riffing, and stirringly soulful vocals unlike anything else in hard rock. It's why they've been around since 1994, tallied global sales of seven million, logged three gold-selling albums, delivered three Top 15 debuts on the Billboard 200, and garnered a Grammy Award nomination in the category of "Best Metal Performance."

Tickets are \$35-\$65. ■

NPC Mighty Muscle on the Mississippi

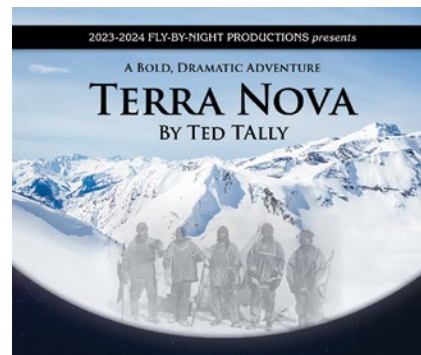
SATURDAY, MAY 25 @ 5 PM
FIVE FLAGS THEATER

The NPC Mighty Muscle on the Mississippi brings its bodybuilding

competition to the Five Flags Theater on Saturday, May 25 at 5 p.m.

The event will feature several categories and divisions including bikini, classic physique, figure, fitness, men's bodybuilding, men's physique, national physique committee, wellness, women's bodybuilding, and women's physique. The event is organized by UPA Events and Bill Carpenter.

Tickets start at \$43-\$53. ■



Terra Nova

MAY 31 AND JUNE 1, 7, AND 8 @ 7:30 PM
JUNE 2 @ 2 PM

FIVE FLAGS BIJOU ROOM

Fly-By-Night Productions sets the stage for *Terra Nova* at the Five Flags Center Bijou Room on May 31 and June 1, 7, and 8 at 7:30 p.m. and June 2 at 2 p.m.

In the winter of 1911-1912, five Englishmen and five Norwegians raced each other to the bottom of the earth. Only the five Norwegians returned. This is the story of the Englishmen. *Terra Nova* is based on Capt. Robert Falcon Scott's 1911-1912 expedition to be first to discover the South Pole. Blending devised scenes and historical fact drawn from Scott's journals and letters, the play's action merges scenes of the explorer and his men at various stages of their ordeal, with flashbacks of Scott's young wife and fateful glimpses of his Norwegian rival, Roald Amundsen, whose party beat Scott to the South Pole. A journey of heroism and honor, in spite of its failure, this play will keep you in suspense to the end.

Tickets are \$20. For more information call Fly-By-Night Productions at **563-599-9486** or visit [FlyByNightDubuque.com](https://www.FlyByNightDubuque.com). ■

Building Adventure

Q Casino Phase 1 Opens

By Bryce Parks

About this time in 2022, the new president and CEO of Q Casino and the DRA, Alex Dixon, shared his vision with us about what “could be” on Schmitt Island in downtown Dubuque. A year later, he more fully laid out a five-phase plan to make that vision a reality. And finally, today, the first part of that vision is coming true. And that’s not a “pretty soon” kind of promise. By the time the next issue of *365ink* comes out, the spectacularly renovated gaming floor, entertainment showroom, Q Sportsbook and Q Sports Bar/restaurant will open for business, and newly established Q Casino + Resort at 1855 Greyhound Park Rd. can’t wait for you to see it. Heck, I saw it myself, and I can’t wait for you to see it either.

On April 23, during a groundbreaking ceremony for one of the next phases of development, The Key Hotel and rooftop restaurant, there was a flood of new updates on all of the excitement and development happening on the island. Aside from unveiling that stunning new Key Hotel and its timeline, Dixon and other dignitaries laid out what’s next on the docket. It will contain the soon-to-be family entertainment center named Island Social that was previously the left or upper portion of the casino which includes the already completed Island Social Kitchen + Bar. The timeline also includes a permanent amphitheater, outdoor trailhead on the island, a new overpass to connect the city to the island and the Wisconsin Bridge to avoid increased train traffic, and an opening date for the remodeled casino. While promised by this summer, prepare to see what all the excitement is about on May 24. And wouldn’t you know it, that Memorial Day weekend also just happens to be the first big weekend of shows at Dubuque’s biggest summer concert venue, Back Waters Stage presented by MidWestOne Bank.

It’s a lot to take in. Not just the new casino and all of its amenities, but all of the expansion projects in the works like The Key Hotel, the upcoming concert series, and what it all means to you and me. So, let’s dive in, chronologically, and discover what’s new and what is soon to be. To do that, we sat down with the trio that is leading the charge on change: Q



THE NEW ENTRANCE AT Q CASINO + RESORT

Casino CEO Alex Dixon, Chief Commercial Officer Stacy Kansky, and Chief Operating and Financial Officer Brian Rakestraw.

Alex Dixon smiled as he said, “I like to talk seasons,” when explaining the advance timeline on the casino’s reopening.

“So, all along, we’ve said summer 2024,” he says. “And so we’ll let the readers or you decide whether May 24 is summer or not. But for us, we couldn’t be opening at a better time to have a great lineup that weekend at the Back Waters Stage. It’s such a staple for us to be having that. We can all take in the Kickoff to Summer and other concerts, discover the new Q Casino, go back and forth and enjoy it all.”

And while it works out well in their favor to have everything aligned like this, when dealing with renovation and expansion, it’s equally important to Dixon to allow themselves and their staff time to acclimate in order to perform at a high level. And to that end, he reports, “We’re right on schedule as it relates to the casino and couldn’t be more excited about it!”

The enthusiastic energy is evident among the staff who have been envisioning this day for a few years now. It’s one thing to build a casino, it’s another thing to rebuild a casino while you stay open during the entire process.

“When you introduce a significant amount of change,” Dixon continues, “many people in general don’t necessarily like it while it’s happening. But I think they’ll like the end product. When they see the new casino and resort and where we’ve gone, people will be excited about the end destination. But the process, as you can imagine, even just over the last couple of weeks, is constant change.

“And so we’re deeply grateful and appreciative to our loyal customers and the Dubuque community who’ve continued to come throughout this construction period and will continue to do so and really over the next couple of weeks in early May as we’re going to have to move our current casino to our newly remodeled casino, but we promised where we’re headed not only just as our property but as an island it is worth the temporary disruption because it’s going to enable us to give a better product to our core customers as well as start to attract new people. Competition is growing around us, and we have to put our best foot forward to reinvest in our customers.”

The vibe of the new casino floor hits you the moment you turn into the space. Instead of slots, you are greeted by a stunning new centerpiece bar. It’s not just a bar, it’s an art installation.

Says Dixon, “We’re excited that Island Social Kitchen + Bar, which will be the new restaurant venue, also opens to all ages, starting on Memorial Day weekend. It’s great to be able to see all our team members, especially our table games dealers, who are able to be part of this new vibe just off of that area,” which is separate from the centerpiece bar mentioned above.

For those who know the space, that is where the Farmhouse Kitchen used to be. Aside from the actual Q Sportsbook betting windows, that whole dining and bar area will be open to all ages, which is a game changer.

“That’s gonna bring a whole different type of energy to our property,” adds Dixon, “to be able to have a venue where literally the entire family could come down. That space, I think, is gonna

wow people in terms of the look, the feel, the vibe. Come Memorial Day weekend, we’ll have a brand new restaurant that we’ll introduce to Dubuque!”

“It’s very modern, very elegant,” adds Brian Rakestraw. “All the new table games look very sharp. We’re adding 50-plus new slot products.” Brian believes they’ve got the sexiest-looking craps tables he’s ever seen. “And the new centerpiece bar is an elevated element which will have video poker machines in it and a raised non-smoking seated lounge area right in front of it. In front of that lounge area, we have a 195-inch video wall for big games and more.”

Details matter, and that’s why all the bathrooms are elegantly redone, Guest Services have been similarly redone and improved, and not just for guests, but equally as importantly, to improve the team members’ experience and assist in doing their jobs better, more efficiently, and more enjoyably. These are things that you’ll never see but will make serving you better.

“I’ll give you a prime example,” says Rakestraw. “All our beer coolers used to be outside. We have three beer coolers inside, strategically located, so that our team can get the product they need to the bars much easier and quicker than they have before.” That all adds up. “We have an employee window where a guest can take care of their needs off the casino floor. We have a new VIP host office right on the casino floor, so guests would have direct access.”

And the critical component of live music returns after a hiatus as the Q Showroom also reopens.

The Q Showroom is just exceeding all expectations, according to Brian: “We’ve taken all the booths out, and relocated the

sound booth inside the room. On one side, where booths were, we created an elevated seating area which would be highboy chairs with tables. The bar is now a highlight of the room, the actual bar top is backlit, so it kind of glows, and the tiled backbar looks like the bars of a digital equalizer.”

Sound-wise, the room features all new equipment. Subwoofers and speakers which were once on the floor now rim the curved ceiling proscenium, out of the way and sounding great. “One of the things I’m excited about,” adds Brian, “is that we did a really good job of insulating the room. So if you’re experiencing the casino floor, we are kind of keeping that noise barricaded, where the sound hopefully won’t bleed out as much. And we also did all new attractive panels in the showroom to make that actual ambiance noise inside the showroom 10 times better than before.”

The Showroom is gorgeous on the outside, too, with massive, backlit, opaque window-looking panels that give it a real feeling of a highlight venue within a highlight venue.

It’s all a million little pieces, some you’ll notice and some you won’t, that come together to equal more than the sum of their party.

Chief Commercial Officer Stacy Kansky elaborates, “It was a core group of us that,

as we went through the development plans, very thoughtfully talked about and planned out everything to make sure that the flow, the energy, the vibe was being created from the moment you enter the rotunda and make that right turn into the casino. The repositioned bar lounge positioned right as you enter the casino sets the energy right off the floor immediately and the tone for what you’re about to walk into. Everything from materials to the finishes, color palettes, was thoughtfully selected and very intentional to make an impact.”

They even added an automatic coat check. Now a guest can swipe their card (literally any card in their wallet that has a mag stripe on the back of it), hang their coat on the automated system, and then when they leave, they swipe the same card get their coat back. They don’t have to worry about anybody walking off with it or anything of that nature.

So, yes, your Jersey Mike’s points card can also be your coat check card at Q Casino + Resort. Technology, baby!

They also partnered with Lime Rock Springs and Pepsi to offer beverage stations with multiple selections and variations so that you can get all your favorite beverages free there on the gaming floor.

And it’s important to note significant upgrades to the HVAC system to be able to

improve the air quality within the building. In addition to the massive air transfer columns by the main bar that double as impressive artistic design features, we saw these new HVAC systems on our tour, and they are hidden ventilation built into the design of the bases of slot machine “islands.” Airflow is constant and significant with multiple forms of filtration including ultraviolet light and charcoal filtration. There’s even an air wall separating the gaming floor from the main entrance rotunda. As noted earlier, a stylish raised lounge area next to the main bar on the gaming floor will be smoke free, so even with its open location in the center of the entire gaming space, the ventilation will keep it at an elevated level of fresh and clean from the already incredibly ventilated gaming floor.

We were also impressed by the design of the slot islands, allowing people to play next to each other without feeling like they’re right next to each other, an idea that became important in the wake of COVID-19.

Moving into the Island Social Kitchen + Bar area, a completely new space features another great bar design and a room filled with enough TVs to carry all the big games and even a moving scoreboard ticker. But it’s still got a very cozy vibe to it, even as we saw it full of construction equipment

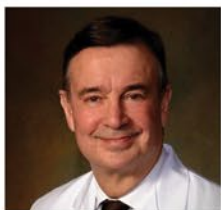
and with the cool flooring covered for protection. Through the “mess” we could easily grasp the concept. This is going to be a sweet space to dine in and catch a game. There’s also a great overflow area off the main bar that could serve as both seating for big games but you could also host parties and other gatherings in a dedicated space all your own.

And like the rest of the casino, the food and drinks at the new dining venue will be elevated too, thanks to Miles Breed, director of food and beverage at Q Casino + Resort. In addition to tried-and-tested favorites from the Q Sports Bar era, there will be elevated menu items, which include new main entrees. So look for higher-end American fare like elevated salads, steaks, salmon, and other dishes you wouldn’t expect from a sports bar atmosphere.

They are also creating crafted cocktail menus so you can get special drinks at the casino bar that’ll be different from specially designed drinks for the Island Social Kitchen. It’s all above and beyond.

“We literally went down to the studs in the building,” shares Alex Dixon, “and that extends outside, as well, so there’s going to be some very noticeable upgrades on the exterior of the building. We’ve just finished repainting the main porte-cochère, we’ve re-stripped the entire

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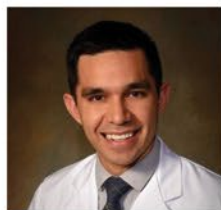
F. Hunter Fuerste, MD



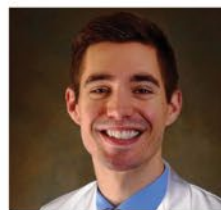
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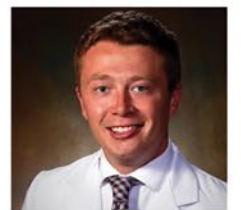
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THE NEW CENTERPIECE BAR

parking lot, and our new marquee sign will be coming late in May or in early June.”

What is essentially a new casino deserves a new brand.

“That’s exactly it,” confirms Dixon. “With the overall transition to Q Casino + Resort, you’re going to continue to see the new logo as we phase out the older branding. We’re proud of all our previous brands, but as many companies do, you have an evolution, and so we’re excited about that. And I think it’s also important that even our team members are all getting brand new uniforms, so we’re taking care of them.”

And when you come to see it all over Memorial Day weekend, note that in addition to the great music outside, the Q Showroom stage will be rocking all weekend, too.

Friday night outdoors brings the popular Kickoff to Summer featuring The LoveMonkeys with Jabberbox and For Those About to Yacht. And then Saturday night and Sunday are both free shows. Saturday brings a great country tribute band called Buckle, and then Sunday brings ’80s rock in The Hype.

What’s Next?

After the new casino floor and Island Social Kitchen + Bar opens, they will immediately close the upper temporary casino, old Q Sports Bar, and Q Sportsbook to begin the big transition to the rest of the Island Social family-friendly entertainment destination. As Alex Dixon likes to give project completion dates in terms of seasons, look for this to be open by winter of this year.

Let’s get a layout of the space. If you go up the stairs to the left when entering Q Casino + Resort and enter the former gaming floor, to your right at about 3 o’clock on a clock face, you’ll find the new Island Social Kitchen + Bar already done and open. As you move counterclockwise to noon, you will find six new duckpin bowling lanes.

“These are a boutique, bespoke, kind of curated environment,” describes Dixon. “Lots of brick, great painting

detail, great, it’s a highly-curated, just kind of venue experience.”

You then continue left to 10 o’clock and find a newly remodeled 7,600-square-foot event space called Reflections. Currently the temporary casino space and not so long ago, the grandstands for the greyhound racetrack, even though it was remodeled to host the temporary casino, it’s getting completely redone again to become this permanent event venue, great for meetings, weddings, galas, celebrations, and more. It will be able to host hundreds of guests.

And then in the center of the clock where the Q Sportsbook and Q Sports Bar as well as the slots are, that whole area will turn into a high-end, family-friendly arcade. Think Big Duck Hunter and the like. An interactive and diverse collection of challenging and fun experiences for all ages to enjoy. Where the Q Sportsbook is today will be six lanes of digital axe throwing (you heard that right!) And there will be two main party rooms that can host, say, a birthday party of 15 to 25 people in a seated environment with their own dedicated area of the arcade floor for their celebration.

“Today, the current retail shop,” just at the top right of the stairs coming into the former upper casino, “will convert to what we’re calling The Social Post,” continues Alex. “And that will be a mixture of a redemption area for the prizes from the arcade, as well as a retail shop that will highlight the resort, as well as a lot of local offerings. And we’ll continue to add to that to make sure we have great Dubuque, IA, and Driftless region gifts and products.”

Stacy Kansky emphasizes the massive importance of having half of the facility suddenly accessible to the entire family and what that means to the entire Island. “It’s something that will allow us to position ourselves as having something for everyone,” she says. “Many things for everyone! Right now, it is a very limited experience for the under-21 set. Families do come here. We have a lot of youth



THE NEW GAMING FLOOR

teams, whether it's hockey or baseball, and they stay at the Hilton, and their form of entertainment is running out in the halls or sitting in the lobby with a deck of cards."

That's about to change, big time!

"With the addition of Island Social, it creates a complete experience for whether you want the thrill of playing in the arcade or for adults on the casino floor," Kansky elaborates. "Whether you want a great culinary experience or something that's more family-driven, kids can enjoy arcade games while parents relax in a great bar with the game on the TV. We'll just have a little bit of something for everyone. And then with the new Key Hotel and Hilton Garden Inn, great accommodations, so when people are traveling, they now have a place to stay and experience the benefit of a resort full of amenities."

We can see that access to these amenities also elevates the value and popularity of amenities on the other side of the island such as the beautiful Veterans Memorial Plaza, ImOn Arena, skate park, baseball fields, Catfish Charlie's, and the Miller Riverview Park campground.

During the Dubuque Fighting Saints season, you can have a meal with the entire family at the resort then walk or drive over to catch a game, as there's plenty of parking on the casino side during that season. And it extends people's stay to really make a night of it.

"And that's just what this is all about," explains Alex Dixon. "And so the investments we're making help to grow the market and development across the entire island."

The Key Hotel with Rooftop Restaurant, Bar and Event Space

Next up on the list of dream projects that are coming true is The Key Hotel complete with rooftop restaurant, bar, and event space, unveiled last month during an impressive groundbreaking event on the

site where the new seven-story, 90 room boutique Hilton Tapestry-branded resort will sit. It will be nestled in between the casino's administrative office wing and the Hilton Garden Inn. Scheduled to be open fall of 2025, the stunning centerpiece hotel plays on the notion of Dubuque as the "Key City." Like everything else in this process, it's an elevated product that the Q Casino + Resort crew and partners identify as being desperately needed in our market.

"Once we make these investments into the resort, as more people come to the Field of Dreams, from Galena or southwest Wisconsin, we want to have a product that people not only could be proud of but truly desire," says Dixon. "And I think everyone in our community would agree that with the beautiful bluffs along the Mississippi, we need more rooftop spaces. And, in fact, there are no rooftop restaurants within Dubuque. And so, clearly you can't build a hotel without it. Our mantra all along has been, 'We deserve nice things!' And so we've partnered with great architects and teamed with Conlon Construction from Dubuque. So much of the talent and the materials are being sourced here locally within the region. It's going to add a level of not only sophistication, but it will change the skyline of Dubuque. Imagine driving from Wisconsin over that bridge, you'll eventually see a beautiful amphitheater over to your right and then be met by this a beautiful hotel and resort."

One of the things we're so excited about," adds Stacy Kansky, "is partnering with Hilton's Tapestry Collection brand to tell that local story which will resonate not only here locally but within the region, highlighting rock and stonework, wood grain and colors, bringing in those elements of the prairie around us. The earth tones that just really create and complement the region are going to be naturally appealing. The complement of that rooftop restaurant, details of which we'll reveal at a later time, is going to be



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very different than people are expecting and I think is really going to be a hit. And I know that space will be not only serve as a restaurant and bar, but it'll have an additional banquet space up there too. So if you want a smaller wedding or a nice business dinner, what a great place to have it looking out at the most magnificent views with a great culinary experience and a great place to gather. "

The views will get you there at a minimum once, probably more, Alex Dixon is sure. "But the food is what's going to keep people coming back, and we have the benefit of the next year and a half continuing to test Miles Breed's creations. Island Social Kitchen + Bar will show you the evolution we're taking, but this rooftop restaurant is going to speak to Dubuquers; it will speak to the region. On the island, there's a little bit of an unexpected adventure that you will be pleasantly surprised by."

No wonder there was a palpable level of excitement at the groundbreaking, drawing 150-plus movers and shakers from the region, as well as Las Vegas and Minneapolis. The Key Hotel will be a jewel in the \$83 million-plus renovation and expansion of the property that began in September 2023.

It takes many people across a variety of disciplines to bring this vision to life, and while attending the groundbreaking, we got a sense of just how many diverse partners and how many moving parts are involved in a complex multi-phase project like this. From funding partners and contractors to heavy involvement from the city, support of nonprofits, and the building blocks of state and federal grants, to make these steps possible. One phase opens at a time, but they are all progressing simultaneously, just on varied timelines.

The Amphitheater

After the hotel, the amphitheater is the next big thing, thanks to the City of Dubuque. They have agreed to issue bonds in order to be able to pay for and lead the development. The Dubuque Racing Association and Q Casino + Resort will repay those bonds, so there's no impact to the city and taxpayers based upon that. The planning team is actively in design mode to build a phenomenal concert venue. And true to brand, it will be a decidedly elevated experience from what the Back Waters Stage is today, which is already pretty great.

"We were able to welcome thousands of people, close to 7,000 last year, for Jelly Roll," shares Brian Rakestraw, "but now it's time to step up and have a beautiful permanent venue that overlooks the Mississippi. I can't tell you the level of thought that has gone into the placement of the stage. How do we limit the amount of the sound impact to communities both in Illinois and Iowa with position and earthen berms? Where can we improve parking? How can we get people in and out safely and have some great architectural as well as artistic elements within there? So, we're well underway with all of our design. This is a project that is led by the city, and so they will be continuing to drive the bus. Once the design is complete, local contractors will then be able to bid on it, and we anticipate that by spring of 2025, we will be under construction."

You can already start to see some of the work on the old race track that has taken place. Q Casino + Resort partnered with the city to be able to take some of the dredge materials taken from the Mississippi River to keep channels clear, to fill in the center of the actual track, saving the city several hundreds



DUCKPIN BOWLING AT ISLAND SOCIAL

of thousands of dollars in fill at a later date. That actual track area is going to become a green space, and they have several ideas and partnerships for a different development there.

If you look at exactly where the dog kennel compound is, that's where the amphitheater is going to be. The stage will be set back far behind where it is now, near where the entrance is to Miller Riverview Park. As you're watching the show, you're not seeing the casino, but you will have a possible glimpse of the river on the side. They will take a little bit of the parking lot that currently hosts the concerts, but then the rest of that parking right now becomes new VIP parking.

This new permanent music venue will make hosting concerts and festivals cheaper and easier, and they will be hosted with a far higher level of quality of service and experience both for the public and the crew running the events. Brian is particularly pumped for the new space. "The new venue is going to be great," he says. "We meet on a bi-weekly basis to plan. We're learning from past years what's successful and not so successful, and we're giving input to the architects and designers that are helping build this new amphitheater, trying to improve our guest experience as we go."

And it's not just their guests who are going to love it. Imagine how much work team members are not going to have to do now because amenities are permanently in place. All the stuff you have to move in and move out is just... well, there. No putting up beer sheds and fencing. "You know we don't have to worry about the stage because it's there permanently, so we're super excited about that possibility," adds Rakestraw.

Stacy Kansky is confident that people are going to love the atmosphere but that it will also be a game-changer, attracting an additional caliber of artists in the future. "I think the amphitheater is going

to provide that experience," she says. "Outdoor shows are rain or shine. They only cancel a show for wind or lightning."

Brian sums it up: "Ten years of outdoor concert experience gives us an advantage for making sure that we're building it not only to have a great experience for guests, but also making sure that we're setting our team up for success. The hard construction should be done by the end of 2025, and we will open to the public in line with the Back Waters Stage season in summer of 2026."

Growing the Island and Access

"Let's shift to the rest of the island for a bit," suggests Dixon. "We are the tip of the spear. The casino is the golden goose, but we are part of this entire area, and you've got to make reinvestments within it for success. And so we're very fortunate the city has allowed us to do that. We're very fortunate that the nonprofit community understands that making the sacrifice of splitting the profits three ways allows us to make investments in the broader island that hopefully benefit everyone."

Alex is working from a philosophy that a smaller cut of a bigger pot still benefits everyone in the end. Rising tides float all boats.

"That's exactly it," he says. "And so we're deeply appreciative of the continued support of the nonprofit community who's done that. We are going to be hosting a number of them at these new and renovated venues to help them raise more money, to help them grow capacity."

Coming off of the 16th Street bridge, you will soon be able to walk and bike all the way from the bridge along the outside of the marina, and along the lake by the Schmitt Island Veterans Memorial Plaza thanks to the trailhead project that Alex says was spearheaded by Congresswoman Ashley Henson. And then there will be improvements to sidewalks so that people who are parking over in the McAleece Ball Field Park will have a quality walkway

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access to ImOn Arena that needs spill-over parking to accommodate fans. The trailhead will jut out from that walkway overlooking the waterway. You may see these new pedestrian amenities when you take in the Memorial Day Parade, which moved to Schmitt Island last year and returns there again this season.

Granted, there will be growing pains.

“There is literally construction going on on every corner of the island,” acknowledges Dixon. “And so I know it can be sometimes disconcerting. But when

you look at an example like the Veterans Memorial and you see that finished product, just imagine, five, 10, 15 years from now, this entire island should be both environmentally protected but should also have a level of fit and finish that inspires people to spend time here. And so it’s going to take time, but literally, we’re at it each and every day. We are advocating for and partnering with folks to improve the lighting, the sidewalks, the visibility, and the landscaping so that places look and feel and are safe. The way to accelerate is

if more people come because the infrastructure will follow the feet of our local community, and success begets success. So, we need people to come down to the shows, we need people to come check out the newly renovated casino, we need people to come see a great event at the ImOn Arena, go to the marina, go walk the trails, and do all there is to do here.”

Trains, More Trains and Automobiles

Finally, as we all know, railways split downtown Dubuque and can make access from downtown to the Wisconsin Bridge, Kerper Blvd., and Schmitt Island impossible. Only two at-grade level crossings exist (the 3rd Street overpass to Port of Dubuque and Fongler Street bridge), leaving a significant gap in between. There desperately needs to be another in the middle as train traffic is scheduled to double over the course of the next year and a half, and the amount of times people will get stuck at a train track is going to increase.

About two years ago, the city approached the DRA to help partner to provide matching funds to pursue a Department of Transportation RAISE grant to improve infrastructure nationwide, a highly competitive process. The DRA, through the Schmitt Island fund,

contributed \$750,000 to showcase that the community badly needed this level of infrastructure. Dubuque was subsequently very fortunate to win the design phase of the grant. You would think and hope that the federal government wouldn’t award a design phase without awarding an actual building phase, so... fingers crossed. On the west side of the tracks at 14th Street, there would be an overpass that would take you over the track. You would then continue around the Bee Branch, bringing you to 16th Street (formerly the Dubuque Packing Company site) with an improved roundabout on the east side of the train tracks. That overpass could also potentially spur development at that pack site that has been dormant for some time. There would be improvements all along Elm Street and along 16th Street. You’d have complete streets with bike lanes, and there would also be improvements to the bridge to Schmitt Island. Plus, a new roundabout at the entrance to Q Casino + Resort as well as Admiral Sheehey Drive on the south side of Schmitt Island. More construction woes, yes. But on the back end, just really imagine the improvement all around.

And as Paul Harvey would say, “Now you know... the rest of the story...” for now. We’ll pick it up again this winter. Until then, we’ll see you there. ■



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Q Casino + Resort's Back Waters Stage Returns

By Bryce Parks



PHOTO: BOB FELDERMAN

It's almost here! Another season of Q Casino + Resort's Back Waters Stage presented by MidWestOne Bank at 1855 Greyhound Park Rd., the biggest annual concert series in the Tri-States starts rocking in just a couple of short weeks. And with the opening of the outdoor live music season perfectly coinciding with the reopening of the long-awaited Q Casino gaming floor, Q Showroom, and the first piece of the all-new Island

Social Kitchen + Bar, it's a perfect storm of summer fun coming to Q Casino + Resort at Schmitt Island all at the same time.

The man behind the concert series has long been Brian Rakestraw, chief operating and financial officer for Q Casino + Resort, who is himself a massive live music lover who enjoys traveling for his favorite performers and to take in what other venues are doing.

As the Q crew always works to keep dialing in this concert series to provide the best possible experience for fans, he is also constantly competing with other Midwest venues to book the best shows to appeal to the most people. And as we've seen recently with the surprise booking last season of Jelly Roll, he's winning some of those booking battles, and we all win for his efforts.

"One of our main goals over the last few years is to try to be as diverse as we can, bringing in different genres of music. And while last year may have been country heavy, this year we were a little bit more focused on adding rock shows. It seems within the region, with all the county fairs and competition around us, they tend to focus on country, so we're filling in around that. And still, we do have two great country shows with Billy Currington and Riley Greene. I would also throw Upchurch in there, with more of a dirt-road country feel."

And celebrated singer-songwriter Jason Isabel and the 400 Unit with their six Grammys in the Americana genre is not too far removed from that country vibe.

When we sat down to talk just a few days ago, and they had eight shows already announced with two more to come. Since then, one more has become public just as we go to print: rockers Beartooth featuring vocalist and multi-instrumentalist Caleb Shomo. That leaves just one to go. And if you remember last year when they dropped Jelly Roll on us like a sweet surprise late in the game to the delight of 7,000 fans, well... something similar is coming your way again for the summer of 2024. Due to contractual reasons, they can't announce that show just yet, but they might have secretly spilled the beans to me, and for lovers of a certain musical genre, you're gonna lose

your minds. I think it's safe to say it will be the biggest concert of this season.

The full rundown of shows are on the next couple of pages, but let's go through them quickly. You'll note that many of the shows bookend weekends with one big show Friday and one Saturday, maximizing the value and all the work it takes to set up the stage and amenities for a show. Why not do two back-to-back?

After the Kickoff to Summer free all-ages opening on Memorial Day weekend, '80s rockers Warrant open ticketed concert schedule with their Good Times Rock Tour, bringing the also great Lita Ford and Firehouse with them on Saturday, June 1.

The weekend of June 28 and 29 brings the country music of mega hitmaker Billy Currington with Chayce Beckham and Mackenzie Carpenter on Friday, June 28, and then we take a 180 to rap and hip-hop with Lil Jon and special guest Mike Jones on Saturday, June 29.

Metal masters I Prevail with Hollywood Undead and Fit for a King hit the island on Friday, July 12, and the next Thursday, July 18 welcomes the melodic metal of Beartooth. Then, we skip to Friday, Aug. 2 for Upchurch's Tune-In Tour '24 with special guests t2., Brodnax, and JJ Lawhorn.

We return with back-to-back concerts when Jason Isbell and the 400 Unit with special guest Shemekia Copeland bring Americana and blues to Back Waters Stage on Friday, Aug. 9, then flip to more metal when Ice Nine Kills and In This Moment's Kiss Of Death Part 2 tour quite literally rocks the joint with Avatar and TX2 on Saturday, Aug. 10.

And Riley Green wraps up the series on Thursday, Aug. 29 with more great up-and-coming country.

You can find all the details for shows and tickets online at **BackWatersStage.com**. Ticketing is



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handled by Ticketmaster, so ticket prices will have fees associated. Sorry, this is the reality we live in. You know the drill.

While Brian and his team eagerly await the 2026 opening of the sure-to-be amazing permanent outdoor Iowa Amphitheater coming to Schmitt Island, we first have two years of shows ahead at the existing venue. And while a permanent venue will not just bring an elevated fan experience and a much easier job for the people setting it up, the nearly decade of building, improving, and dialing-in the Back Waters Stage experience that we know now already assures an excellent night under the stars next to the Mississippi.

“We’re really focused this year on ways we can improve our team’s experience and free up more time. There’s a lot of work that goes into getting that set up, and this year, we’re doing so right in the middle of development projects on property. And I think we’ve come up with some really good ideas to help make their job easier.”

For now, the concert grounds remain temporary, but they’ve done a great job of making it feel not temporary. It’s comfortable and accessible. Even in the general admission area, you can bring in your own comfortable lawn chair (just take it out of the sleeve first). Sit where you’re comfortable sitting for sightlines and volume.

“Absolutely. You can be right in the front of the mix of it or you can sit back. I think people just enjoy the atmosphere and look forward to the nice weather and being outside with great music and a cold drink. I think the vibe itself is natural... but it’ll be a game changer once we open that permanent amphitheater, even attracting a new host of artists once they see what they’re coming to.”

Following fan feedback, they pushed start times on concerts back a bit starting last year to make sure the sun has set and the lights and venue vibe is at full effect when the headliners hit the stage. They thought because of this, people may have eaten before they came and cut back on food trucks. But mid-season brought back great local and regional food trucks, and they will be present for all of this year’s concerts to keep your belly as happy as your feet throughout the show. And in addition to all your favorite cold beers and sodas, they will have a special cocktail out there this summer developed in partnership with Pepsi and Bubbl’r. So, you’ll have to try one of those out.

Partnerships are key in so many ways for the success of the Back Waters Stage starting at the top with MidWestOne Bank who has been on board for the whole run of the series. But it’s a host of great support that allows the event to grow and thrive. “You know that you’re doing something right when community organizations

are reaching out to us and say, ‘How can we be a sponsor of this event?’”

“All our partners have been really supportive, and I can’t say enough about their involvement. And that goes for our seasonal staff, too. I think this speaks volumes of the series that our event staff and bartenders, many of them part time, wanted to come back and work the shows again. Some [businesses] struggle with staffing, but that’s one of the areas that we have no issue hiring people because they just love to come to these events.”

Partnerships also include local promoters and nonprofits who have made the Back Waters Stage their home base including the Kickoff to Summer, Summer’s Last Blast, and Dubuque Oktoberfest.

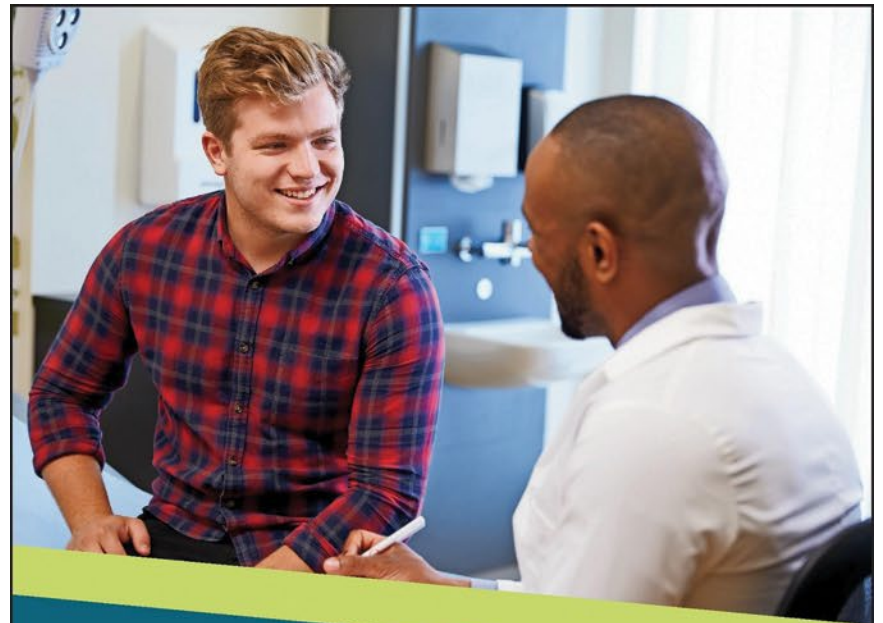
If, for some strange reason, this might be your first time to a concert at Back Waters Stage, here’s some good stuff to know. First off, you just learned above that you can bring in your own chair if it’s not in a bag or sleeve. You can also bring in the kinds of stuff you’d need from your purse, but it’ll have to be in a clear plastic bag.

For big shows, parking can always be interesting. Brian noted that for Jelly Roll, people got very... creative with their parking. He looked out his office window and there was a 4x4 truck parked on the grass pointing uphill, looking into his window. But the fact is, the island is not that huge. While many hundreds of cars can fit in their parking lot, the parking lots on the other side of Schmitt Island, just a few minutes’ walk away, can be much easier for egress and often have plenty of open spaces as people get crazy trying to park right next to the casino. Be the smart one and park over there and walk under the bridge on the new and improved pedestrian walkways and thank me later.

One traffic thing to note is that the Iowa DOT will be closing the Kerper Boulevard exit ramps at Kerper and 9th Street in June and will remain that way for three months. You will likely have to get onto Kerper at 5th Street or come from the north end (Fengler Street bridge) to get to the bridge, so plan accordingly. Q Casino + Resort will partner with the city to make sure the proper signage and updates will go out to all ticket holders. And in the end, the bridge will be much nicer when it’s all done.

And remember, when you come to a show, you are just steps away from the newly reimagined casino floor, Island Social Kitchen + Bar, and Q Showroom where after-parties are sure to keep rolling after every concert. And music lovers, you ARE going to want to see that showroom!

View the full lineup, purchase tickets, and find more information about the summer concert series at BackWatersStage.com. ■



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Events at Back Waters Stage

Q Casino + Resort's Back Waters Stage presented by MidwestOne Bank returns with a slate of star-studded entertainment for all ages. Located at 1855 Greyhound Park Rd. on Schmitt Island in Dubuque, all of the shows are rain or shine. Tickets can be purchased at BackWatersStage.com.



Warrant: Let the Good Times Rock Tour

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS LITA FORD AND FIREHOUSE
SATURDAY, JUNE 1 @ 7 PM
BACK WATERS STAGE

It's a night of being dipped in hair metal magic! Warrant celebrates the

30 year anniversary of their debut album *Dirty Rotten Filthy Stinking Rich*. These rockers can't wait to play not only all the hits fans know and love like "Cherry Pie," "Heaven," "Down Boys," "Uncle Tom's Cabin," and new tunes like "Louder Harder Faster."

Lita Ford's career began in 1975 as a founding member and guitarist of the groundbreaking all-female group the Run-aways and their hits like "Cherry Bomb" before making her solo mark with "Kiss Me Deadly" and "Close My Eyes Forever."

Firehouse has been rockin' for over a decade off Gold, Platinum, and Multi-Platinum records and mega hits like "Love of a Lifetime," "Don't Treat Me Bad," and more. *American Idol* alum Nate Peck fills in for the recently lost C.J. Snare.

Tickets are \$59.99 for GA and \$69.99 for Turpin Tailgate Zone. ■



Billy Currington

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS CHAYCE BECKHAM AND MACKENZIE CARPENTER
FRIDAY, JUNE 28 @ 7 PM
BACK WATERS STAGE

The talented Georgia native Billy Currington has spent more than a decade in the spotlight proving he's truly a man for all seasons with 20 Top 40 hits

and 11 No. 1 songs. He possesses one of the smoothest and most distinct voices in any genre of music on hits like "Do I Make You Wanna," "It Don't Hurt Like It Used To," "Good Directions," "Hey Girl," and "People Are Crazy."

Athens, GA, singer-songwriter Mackenzie Carpenter's soulful country tone in her first cut, "Villain," landed her at No. 1 on the iTunes Country chart. Her star is taking off!

And Chayce Beckham is one of the most buzzed about newcomers in country music today, having won over millions of hearts while competing on Season 19 of *American Idol*. From the first audition, superstar Katy Perry highlighted how Chayce's gravelly vocals sound like "the heart of America."

Tickets are \$49.50 for GA and \$69.50 for Turpin Tailgate Zone. ■



Lil Jon

WITH SPECIAL GUEST MIKE JONES

SATURDAY, JUNE 29 @ 8 PM
BACK WATERS STAGE

"Yeah!" "What?" "OK!" Hailing from Atlanta, Lil Jon reshaped the hip-hop landscape and co-founded Lil Jon & The East Side Boyz in 1997. Known for hits "Get Low," Usher's "Yeah!," and a collab

with DJ Snake, "Turn Down for What." Lil Jon won BMI's Songwriter of the Year award and scored eight Billboard Awards, a Grammy, a Radio Music Award, a BET award, two MTV Video Music Awards, and an American Music Award.

Mike Jones rose to prominence in the 2000s with his memorable catchphrase "Mike Jones, who?" and songs that repeated his name and cell phone number until neither could be forgotten. His breakout single "Still Tippin'" (featuring Slim Thug and Paul Wall) in 2004 catapulted him to national fame, followed by the success of "Back Then." A collab with T-Pain for "I'm N Luv (Wit a Stripper)" earned him a Top 10 hit on the Billboard Hot 100.

Tickets are \$59.99 for GA and \$69.99 for Turpin Tailgate Zone. ■



I Prevail

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS HOLLYWOOD UNDEAD AND FIT FOR A KING

FRIDAY, JULY 12 @ 6:30 PM
BACK WATERS STAGE

Post-hardcore punks I Prevail grabbed fans' attention with their incendiary cover of Taylor Swift's "Blank Space" in 2014. The band sets itself apart from

the pack with a unique mix of raw punk energy, catchy hooks, and electronic textures, and in concert, it all gets turned up to 11 with mosh pit-inspiring standouts like "Crossroads," "Love, Lust, and Liars," and "The Enemy."

Following the chart-topping 2013 release of *Notes from the Underground*, the masked members of raucous rap rock band Hollywood Undead bring an adrenaline-filled live shows. And like the best metalcore bands, opener Fit for a King offer an uncompromising, high-energy live show full of chugging riffs, clean and unclean vocals, and thudding drums.

Tickets are \$59.99 for GA, \$79.99 for Turpin Tailgate Zone, \$134.99 for Undead Army VIP Merch Package, and \$234.99 for HU4L VIP Meet and Greet. ■



Beartooth

THURSDAY, JULY 18 @ 6:30 PM
BACK WATERS STAGE

The fearlessly determined and creative Ohio-based powerhouse Beartooth perfected a sound sought by a generation of bands, equal parts solitary musical confession and celebratory exorcism. It's an outright refusal to suffer in silence, weaponizing radio-ready bombast to

deliver raw emotion mixed with noise-rock chaos. They combine hard rock and hardcore in a way that's smart, lean, melodic, and irresistible, without apology.

After more than 900 million streams from songs like "The Past is Dead," "Fed Up," and "In Between," in addition to the band's fourth album, *Be/low*, topping charts and finding its way into Best Rock/Metal Albums of the Year in 2021, *Rolling Stone* introduced Beartooth as one of 10 New Artists You Need To Know.

Their latest single "Riptide" is a furiously courageous song of self-empowerment serving as a victory lap to memorialize a struggle with mental health and self-acceptance, which has defined so much of Beartooth since its inception. Beartooth offers no cure, but the recovery comes in the process; the journey is the destination. So enjoy the ride.

Tickets start at \$44.99. ■



MidWestOne
Bank

2024 FESTIVALS & SPECIAL EVENTS

East Dubuque's Cruisin' Thursdays
Thu: May 2–Sept 26 @ Sinsinawa Ave, East Dubuque, IL

Dubuque Farmers' Market
Sat: May 4–Oct 26 @ Around 12th & Iowa St

Millwork Night Market
2nd Thu: May 9–Oct 10 @ 7th–9th & Jackson St

10th Annual Cascade Wingfest
May 11 @ Riverview Park (Cascade, IA)

Gary's Graffiti Nights
Thu: May 16–Sept 12 @ Kennedy Mall

Static-X, Sevendust, and Dope
May 17 @ Five Flags Arena

Arboretum Children's Spring Party
May 19 @ Dubuque Arboretum

Kickoff to Summer
May 24 @ Q Casino Back Waters Stage

Fusion of Sound Tour
May 24 @ Sandy Hook Tavern (Hazel Green, WI)

Memorial Day Concert
May 27 @ Sandy Hook Tavern (Hazel Green, WI)

Bike Nights
Last Wed: May 29–Aug 28
@ McGrath Dubuque Harley-Davidson

Live @ the Plaza
Every Other Thu: May 30–Aug 22
@ Green Street Plaza (Galena, IL)

Warrant, Lita Ford, and Firehouse
June 1 @ Q Casino Back Waters Stage

Dubuque Pride Festival
June 1 @ 11th & Central Ave

32nd Annual Music in the Gardens
Sun: June 2–Aug 25 @ Dubuque Arboretum

Taste of Summer Series
June 6, July 4, Aug 1
@ National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium

Food Festival Fridays
1st Fri: June 7–Sept 6 @ Washington Park

Ski Bellevue Water Ski Shows
Every Other Sat: June 8–Aug 17
@ South of Lock 12 (Bellevue, IA)

Galena Pride Picnic
June 8 @ Grant Park (Galena, IL)

Juneteenth
June 14–16
@ Multicultural Family Center & Jackson Park

Music on Main St
June 14, July 12, Aug 16 @ Town Clock Plaza

Downtown Summer Nights
June 14, July 12 @ Downtown Dyersville, IA

Cascade Rockin' on the River
June 14, July 6, Aug 2
@ Riverview Amphitheater (Cascade, IA)

36th Annual Jackson County Pro Rodeo
June 20–22 @ Bellevue Horsemen's Club (Bellevue, IA)

Great Galena Balloon Race
June 21–23 @ Eagle Ridge Resort & Spa (Galena, IL)

ShenaniGans Veterans Freedom Center Ride & Benefit
June 22 @ Eichman's Bar

Corkless in Galena Wine Festival
June 22 @ Depot Park (Galena, IL)

Billy Currington, Chayce Beckham, and Mackenzie Carpenter
June 28 @ Q Casino Back Waters Stage

Lil Jon and Mike Jones
June 29 @ Q Casino Back Waters Stage

East Dubuque Fireworks
June 29 @ Downtown East Dubuque, IL

Dubuque Jaycees/Radio Dubuque Fireworks & Airshow
July 3 @ A.Y. McDonald Park

Audrey Hammer 4th of July Ice Cream Social
July 4 @ Mathias Ham House

Galena Independence Parade and Fireworks
July 4 @ Downtown Galena, IL

Shenandoah Freedom Reins Pro Rodeo & Fireworks
July 5–6 @ Shenandoah Riding Center (Galena, IL)

Bellevue Heritage Days
July 5–6 @ Downtown Bellevue, IA

Field of Dreams Ghost Player Games
Every Other Sun: July 6–Aug 17
@ Field of Dreams Movie Site (Dyersville, IA)

Mud Lake Bluegrass Sundays
July 7, July 21, Aug 4 @ Mud Lake Park

Delaware County Fair
July 8–14
@ Delaware County Fairgrounds (Manchester, IA)

Colts Music on the March
July 11 @ Dubuque Senior High School Dalzell Field

Shullsburg Music in the Park
Thu: July 11–Aug 8 @ Badger Park (Shullsburg, WI)

I Prevail and Hollywood Undead
July 12 @ Q Casino Back Waters Stage

Asbury Music in the Park
July 13 @ Asbury Park (Asbury, IA)

Great Jones County Fair
July 17–21 @ Great Jones County Fair (Monticello, IA)

Beartooth
July 18 @ Q Casino Back Waters Stage

Galena Brew Fest
July 20 @ Chestnut Mountain Resort (Galena, IL)

Dubuque County Fair
July 23–28 @ Dubuque County Fairgrounds

Upchurch, t2., Brodnax, and JJ Lawhorn
Aug 2 @ Q Casino Back Waters Stage

Epworth Town & Country Days
Aug 2–4 @ Epworth, IA

Key City Beer & Seltzer Festival
Aug 3 @ Town Clock Plaza

Sundaes in the Gardens
Aug 4 @ Dubuque Arboretum

Iowa State Fair
Aug 8–18 @ Iowa State Fairgrounds (Des Moines, IA)

Jason Isbell and the 400 Unit and Shemekia Copeland
Aug 9 @ Q Casino Back Waters Stage

Ice Nine Kills, In This Moment, Avatar, and TX2
Aug 10 @ Q Casino Back Waters Stage

DBQfest
Aug 10–11 @ Washington Park

East Dubuque Wingfest
Aug 10 @ Sinsinawa Ave, East Dubuque, IL

Grant County Fair
Aug 14–18 @ Grant County Fair (Lancaster, WI)

Spirit of Woodstock Days
Aug 16–18 @ Council Hill Station (Council Hill, IL)

Cascade Hometown Days
Aug 16–18 @ Downtown Cascade, IA

Summer's Last Blast
Aug 23–24 @ Q Casino Back Waters Stage

19th Annual Irish Hooley
Aug 24 @ Alliant Energy Amphitheater

16th Annual Potosi Brewfest
Aug 24 @ Holiday Gardens (Potosi, WI)

Riley Green
Aug 29 @ Q Casino Back Waters Stage

Six-Oh-Ate Food Truck Festival
Aug 31 @ Water St, Shullsburg, WI

10th Annual Blueberry Jam Music Festival
Sept 2 @ Sandy Hook Tavern (Hazel Green, WI)

36th Annual Dubuque Dragon Boat Festival
Sept 6–8 @ Miller Riverview Park

77th Annual Platteville Dairy Days
Sept 6–8 @ Legion Park (Platteville, WI)

The Price is Right Live
Sept 14 @ Five Flags Arena

Bloktoberfest
Sept 14 @ Millwork District

Dubuque's Oktoberfest
Sept 14 @ Q Casino Back Waters Stage

Fishtival
Sept 14 @ Downtown Bellevue, IA

32nd Annual Gutterberg Germanfest
Sept 20–21 @ 600 S River Park Dr, Guttenberg, IA

10th Annual West Dubuque Wingfest
Sept 21 @ Farley City Park (Farley, IA)

Mac & Cheese Fest
Sept 26 @ Grand River Center

Dubuque Latinx Fiesta
Sept 28 @ Smokestack

Killer Queen: A Tribute to Queen
Oct 4 @ Five Flags Arena

Galena Oktoberfest
Oct 5 @ Depot Park (Galena, IL)

27th Annual Shullsburg Cheesefest
Oct 5 @ Water St, Shullsburg, WI



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TRAVEL
Dubuque

PHOTO: BOB FELDERMAN

Upchurch: Tune-In Tour '24

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS T2., BRODNAX, AND JJ LAWHORN
FRIDAY, AUGUST 2 @ 8 PM
BACK WATERS STAGE

The more serious alter ego of comic hick-hop performer Upchurch the Redneck, Ryan Upchurch established a sideline career as a singer, performing songs significantly warmer and more personable than his purposefully rowdy rap material. After Upchurch started posting the videos online, word about his work began to spread, and as he developed a fan base for his "hick-hop" music, he released



an EP, *Cheatham County*, in May 2015. The EP rose to No. 29 on the country albums chart, and Upchurch the Redneck's recording career was on its way.

Upchurch is joined by special guests special guests t2., Brodnax, and JJ Lawhorn.

Tickets are \$64.99 for GA and \$84.99 for Turpin Tailgate Zone. ■



Jason Isbell and the 400 Unit

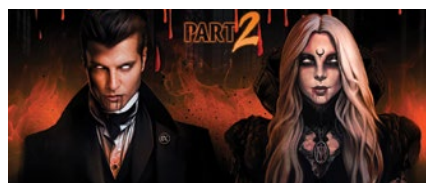
WITH SPECIAL GUEST SHEMEKIA COPELAND
FRIDAY, AUGUST 9 @ 8 PM
BACK WATERS STAGE

A Jason Isbell record always lands like a decoder ring in the ears and hearts of his audience, a soundtrack to his world and magically to theirs, too. *Weather Vanes*

carries the same revelatory power. This is a storyteller at the peak of his craft, observing his fellow wanderers, looking inside and trying to understand, reducing a universe to four minutes. Also know for his tenure in Drive By Truckers, Isbell has won six Grammy Awards. You may know his acting chops from *Deadwood: The Movie* and *Killers of the Flower Moon*, but it's amazing songs like "24 Frames," "Elephant," "If We Were Vampires," and "Cover Me Up" from three No. 1 albums that will bring the house down.

Five-time Grammy nominee Shemekia Copeland opens. This musical force also won 15 Blues Music Awards from 47 nominations including seven Contemporary Blues Female Artist of the Year at the Blues Music Awards, most recently in 2020 and 2021. She's legit, folks!

Tickets are \$59.99 for GA and \$79.99 for Turpin Tailgate Zone. ■



Ice Nine Kills & In This Moment: Kiss Of Death Part 2

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS AVATAR AND TX2
SATURDAY, AUGUST 10 @ 6:15 PM
BACK WATERS STAGE

Ice Nine Kills makes music both timeless and timely, mixing metal, hardcore, and

punk, with accessible power on fan favorites like "Hell in the Hallways," "Merry Axe-Mas," and "The Nature of the Beast." New hard-rock-and-horror anthems like "Hip to be Scared" and "Assault & Batteries" demonstrate lead vocalist Spencer Charnas's fascination with fright, pop culture obsession, and his expertise with inescapably wicked melodic hooks and clever twists of phrase as heard in the Top 10 Mainstream Rock single "A Grave Mistake" and Top 20 hit "Savages."

In This Moment, a touring juggernaut who've slayed stages worldwide at Ozzfest, Warped Tour, Download, Knotfest, and Rocklahoma, put out *Mother* in 2020, earning "The In-Between" the band's first Grammy nod. Special guests Avatar and TX2 open.

Tickets are \$64.99 for GA and \$84.99 for Turpin Tailgate Zone. ■

Riley Green: Live in Concert

WITH SPECIAL GUEST TBA
THURSDAY, AUGUST 29 @ 8 PM
BACK WATERS STAGE

Riley Green has been compelling country music fans to raise a drink, shed a tear, and, above all, celebrate where they are from, since first releasing his self-titled EP in 2018. His songs like the No. 1 Platinum hit "There Was This Girl" the 2X-Platinum-certified heart-tugger "I Wish Grandpas Never Died" which he performed live at the 55th ACM Awards; and his chart-topping collab with Thomas Rhett, "Half of Me" have made Riley synonymous with what country music does best: making listeners feel something with his no-gimmick, relatable writing and



classic feel. Fresh off tours with Morgan Wallen and Luke Combs, Green has made a much-deserved turn to headliner status.

Tickets are \$74.99 for GA and \$94.99 for Turpin Tailgate Zone. ■



SITE PHOTO

Dubuque Forward Breaks Ground on a Pocket Park with Plans for a Community Driven Future

Story by S. Eliot Steuer
Images by Dubuque Forwards



ALI FULLER, DUBUQUE FORWARD DIRECTOR

“We have a really cool downtown, we’ve got great history, and great buildings. There has been great momentum over the past decades revitalizing areas like the Millwork District and Lower Main

Street, but there has also been a feeling that we could accelerate. So we asked how we, as community members, could get more engaged, and our initiative is the result of that,” said Dubuque Forward Director Ali Fuller. Since holding its first gathering in April of 2022, what was initially a concept asking how citizens might collaborate more effectively to advance growth and development in the community, Dubuque Forward has evolved into a multi-team initiative aimed at community growth through public engagement. “We call ourselves a creative resource,” elaborated Fuller. “Collaborating and creating structures so that people who have great ideas can figure out ways to move them into realities.”

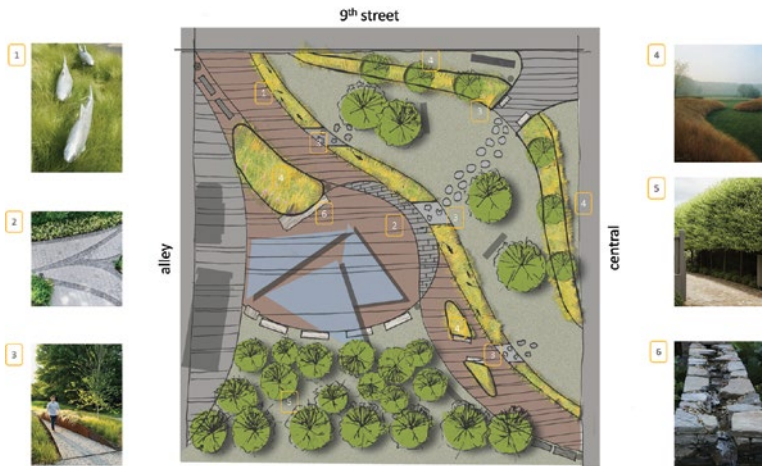
“Two and a half years ago, some of us decided to get serious after discussing it for a long time, and this led to the concept of Dubuque Forward; the name was quite intentional.” Created as they went, Fuller was bought in as a strategic consultant. “I was asked to come and help facilitate this process, create some structure, and organization around it. So that’s how I got involved.” Initially focusing on a small portion of the downtown area, they started taking action, and their first major project to grow out of this, a pocket park, is slated to begin construction this month.

Dubuque Forward along with the Mississippi Driftless Regional Foundation and Molo Companies are collaborating to help

transform a vacant former gas station that laid empty for years at 897 Central Ave., into a green space amongst an otherwise urban landscape. “Our Recreational Areas & Natural Spaces Team began thinking about the need for more parks and green areas downtown. Research shows a vibrant downtown is critical to growth, and you must start somewhere, so we picked a core area as our starting point, and now we’re making things happen,” said Fuller.

Initially, Dubuque Forward had a “comprehensive plan, and a sustainability plan, and an arts plan, and a million plans, but they didn’t all speak to each other, so we bought in a consultant from Chicago to help synthesize what was in those plans, determine what the big themes were, and that lead us to our five passion teams.” Comprised of Arts, Housing, Mobility, Entrepreneurial Cultivation, and Recreational Areas & Natural Spaces, the passion teams regularly meet to brainstorm ideas and begin advancing projects. It’s a grassroots model aided by local business leaders who help the teams make connections. All teams are comprised of a volunteer lead with core members who are all heavily involved, and all monthly meetings are open to the public.

The pocket park is the most physical of these projects to date. According to the Dubuque Forward website, the Mississippi River-inspired park, designed by Mike Stickley of Stickley Morton Architects, a local firm based in Dubuque that specializes in adaptive re-use and historic restoration projects including the Dupaco Voices Building and Steeple Square, will focus on “creating an environment highlighting some of the region’s natural materials and forms, with multiple features including a shading structure, seating area, and art from local artists celebrating [Dubuque’s] fire and police departments.” The plan includes environmentally responsible no-mow native grasses, a micro forest, and unique school of fish sculptures installed



POCKET PARK CONCEPT PLAN

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in berms of native grasses to give the appearance that they are swimming.

In terms of being a project requiring resources to build, the pocket park will need financing. As an almost exclusively volunteer driven initiative, with Fuller being the only paid employee, the Dubuque Forward Foundation is a place for people to donate philanthropically for potential projects, including the park. So far, said Fuller, “Mark Molo, of the Molo Companies, generously donated the land, while we have a bunch of volunteers helping to create the design, and then to actually pay for the park itself, it’s a combination of different businesses donating in-kind.” In collaboration with the Molo Companies, they’ve begun transforming the vacated corner lot at 9th Street and Central Avenue into the new park. Many community partners have already contributed, helping make the idea into a reality-in-the-works.

McDermott Excavating donated their services to the demolition and excavation of the building, while elements like the concrete are also being donated, with the park’s trees being acquired through a grant from the city. According to Fuller, these contributions will help cut the cost of the project “almost in half,” with the remaining half coming in through fundraising from individuals and businesses. “We already have a lot of monetary donations

committed from people in the community. And while it’s still being worked out, we are also collaborating with the City of Dubuque to provide services like trash cans, trash removal, and water fountains, and would then enter into an agreement with them for limited maintenance. But ultimately, it will remain a privately owned park.”

Currently on schedule to be completed later this year, the pocket park has been a true community effort. “It was born out of community members saying that the most important thing to them right now was to have recreation spaces and more green space downtown, and people have stepped in to fill the gap by donating funds and making this happen,” said Fuller, emphasizing how vital and impressive the contributions of individuals and businesses have been in seeing this project come into being, while also stressing that the Dubuque Forward model of acting as a community catalyst exists so that the citizens of Dubuque can find the empowerment to change their city for themselves.

In addition to the work advanced by the Recreational Areas & Natural Spaces Team, the Dubuque Forward Mobility Team has been working closely with city staff on a bike lane pilot program, collecting feedback on what the route should be and defining what the community would

like to accomplish. The city narrowed the route down to four options after placing a preference board in Bicycle World where bike enthusiasts weighed in. The consensus is that by using 9th and 10th Streets, the pilot project will be operational this year, with one of the lanes located alongside the new park. They are also working on building connections between various bike paths to achieve connectivity across neighborhoods, safe routes to schools for kids, and planning a network of bike lanes stretching from the Intermodal Transportation Center in the Millwork District to the downtown corridor.

This year also sees the initiative working on collaborative efforts with other organizations, helping to propel those groups’ projects forward. This includes supporting the City’s PARKing Day in September, which premiered in 2023, where residents and businesses have an opportunity to transform designated city parking spaces into temporary miniature parks. The Arts Passion Team has focused on reinvigorating First Fridays, the open art gallery night held the first Friday of each month at locations across the city. Having recently applied for an Iowa Arts Creative Catalyst Grant, they hope to develop strategies to expand the audience for the events. The Housing Passion Team has been working on a housing study for young professionals, identifying the needs

of both young professionals and college students to help develop a strategy for building more housing for that demographic. They’ve developed a survey as a starting point for assessing need, and to learn what it will take to attract and retain young people in Dubuque, and the Entrepreneurial Passion Team recently secured a grant from the county, administered through the Innovation Lab, to host a series of meetups supporting local entrepreneurs designed to bolster and expand the local entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Having now engaged hundreds of people to better define the collaborative effort at the heart of their mission, Dubuque Forward has made significant progress in a short time. With plans to execute a variety of community-led projects intended to enhance the vibrancy of downtown Dubuque, the organization has found a niche that many didn’t know needed to be filled, but by providing the space and guidance, they are redefining what successful public engagement can accomplish. “Everything we do is a community effort,” said Fuller, and with the new park, the city and its citizens are proving that all it takes is community vision to make ideas come to fruition.

To learn more or sign up to get Passion Team communications and meeting invites, visit DubuqueForward.com. ■



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Budweiser LIVE MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT

THU 5/9

Jimmy Welty Band
5 PM @ Jimmy's Pub
(East DBQ, IL)

Cruisin' Thursdays:
Three Quarter Buzz
5 PM @ Sinsinawa Ave,
East DBQ, IL

Peosta Elementary Donation
Tip Night: Todd Ellis
5:30 PM @ Darkbird Taphouse
(Peosta, IA)

Ozzy & Bon JoeB
6 PM @ Lina's Lounge

Justin Goodchild
6 PM @ Textile Brewing Co
(Dyersville, IA)

Megan Davis
7 PM @ Frank O'Dowd's
Irish Pub (Galena, IL)

Steve McIntyre
7:30 PM @ Grape Escape
(Galena, IL)

FRI 5/10

Steve & Randy
6 PM @ Spirits Bar & Grill

John Moran
6 PM @ Stone Cliff Winery

Pet Volcano, MiniMonster
6 PM @ Council Hill Station
(Council Hill, IL)

Pennyroyal
7 PM @ First Reserve

Joseph John Valenti
7 PM @ Millennium Bar &
Marina (East DBQ, IL)

Trivia
7 PM @ Beer in the Barn
Brewery (St. Donatus, IA)

JJ Schmitz
7 PM @ Off Shore Resort
(Bellevue, IA)

Bored Teachers
7:30 PM @ Five Flags Theater

Show Me Your Hits
8 PM @ Mississippi Moon Bar

Scott Cornwell
8 PM @ Riverboat Lounge

Lonesome Road
8 PM @ The Yardarm

James Herr
8 PM @ Frank O'Dowd's
Irish Pub (Galena, IL)

Ghost Light Improv
8:30 PM @ Smokestack

Pat Jones Acoustic Assassin
8:30 PM @ Grape Escape
(Galena, IL)

Ozzy & Bon JoeB
9 PM @ Dockside

ARP of the Covenant
9 PM @ The Lift

SAT 5/11

Dubuque Farmers' Market:
Cameron McCallister,
Jaquie Miller
7 AM @ Around 12th and Iowa St

Dubuque Farmers' Market:
Andy Wilberding
9:30 AM @ Jubeck New
World Brewing

Zac Graham
1 PM @ PJ's Pub (Kieler, WI)

Big Night Out
2 PM @ Burkey's Bar

Jef Spradley
2 PM @ Grape Escape
(Galena, IL)

Adam Beck
2 PM @ Off Shore Resort
(Bellevue, IA)

Casey Klein
3 PM @ Millennium Bar &
Marina (East DBQ, IL)

Spring Nationals NVRA
Vibrator Races
3 PM @ Sandy Hook Tavern
(Hazel Green, WI)

10th Annual Cascade Wingfest:
Mark Zalaznik
3 PM @ Riverview Park
(Cascade, IA)

RRB Wort Rally:
River Moonshine Band
4 PM @ River Ridge Brewing
(Bellevue, IA)

Daniel Stratman
5 PM @ Galena Cellars
Downtown (Galena, IL)

Kristina Marie Castañeda
5:30 PM @ Champagne
on Main (Galena, IL)

Jef Spradley
6 PM @ Stone Cliff Winery

Triple Threat
6 PM @ O So Good Winery
(Dyersville, IA)

Moriah The Medium
7 PM @ Five Flags Theater

Mississippi Duo
7 PM @ Gary Dolphin's Iron Bar

Rock Steady
7 PM @ Knicker's Saloon

Tony Walker
7 PM @ Spirits Bar & Grill

Brushfire Bandits Duo
7 PM @ Beer in the Barn
Brewery (St. Donatus, IA)

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

Carson Hall
7 PM @ Galena Brewing Co
(Galena, IL)

Meatplow
8 PM @ Mississippi Moon Bar

RatchetJaw
8 PM @ The Yardarm

Joie, Darin, and Amber
8 PM @ Red N Deb's
(Platteville, WI)

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

Boogie Monster
8:30 PM @ Grape Escape
(Galena, IL)

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

Flash in a Pan
9 PM @ The Lift

SUN 5/12

Brushfire Bandits Duo
1 PM @ The Yardarm

Scott Waterhouse
2 PM @ Darkbird Taphouse
(Peosta, IA)

Lexi Healey
2 PM @ Off Shore Resort
(Bellevue, IA)

Sunday Afternoon Jam:
Massey Road
3 PM @ Northside Bar

Three Quarter Buzz
3 PM @ Stone Cliff Winery

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

WED 5/15
Stone Wolfe Duo
7 PM @ First Reserve

THU 5/16

Midnight Gas and Elektrik
5 PM @ Darkbird Taphouse
(Peosta, IA)

Cruisin' Thursdays:
Laura McDonald
5 PM @ Sinsinawa Ave,
East DBQ, IL

Theresa Rosetta
6 PM @ Lina's Lounge

Jeff Theisen
6 PM @ Textile Brewing Co
(Dyersville, IA)

Jukebox Bingo
6:30 PM @ Off Shore
Restaurant (Bellevue, IA)

Steve McIntyre
7 PM @ Frank O'Dowd's
Irish Pub (Galena, IL)

Songwriters Showcase:
Scott Cornwell & Roy Schroedl
7 PM @ Galena CFA (Galena, IL)

Corey Jenny
7:30 PM @ Grape Escape
(Galena, IL)

FRI 5/17

Joseph John Valenti
5:30 PM @ Darkbird Taphouse
(Peosta, IA)

Three Quarter Buzz
6 PM @ Spirits Bar & Grill

Jordan Danielsen
6 PM @ Stone Cliff Winery

Daniel Eric
6 PM @ Millennium Bar &
Marina (East DBQ, IL)

Barefoot & Sunshine
7 PM @ First Reserve

Static-X, SevenDust
7 PM @ Five Flags Theater

Rock Steady
7 PM @ Next Phase

Karaoke w/ Becky McMahon
7 PM @ Locals Bar (Epworth, IA)

Chuck Murphy
7 PM @ Off Shore Resort
(Bellevue, IA)

Unicorn
8 PM @ Mississippi Moon Bar

Superfly Samurai
8 PM @ The Yardarm

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

Garrett Hillary
8:30 PM @ Grape Escape
(Galena, IL)

Clare Doyle, Emmy Woods
9 PM @ The Lift

SAT 5/18

Dubuque Farmers' Market:
Ace Jones, D'Allan Rice
7 AM @ Around 12th and Iowa St

Dubuque Farmers' Market:
Pennyroyal
9:30 AM @ Jubeck New
World Brewing

Rianna Marie
10 AM @ Convivium
Urban Farmstead

Funk Junkies
Noon @ Darkbird Taphouse
(Peosta, IA)

Geroge Christainson
1 PM @ PJ's Pub (Kieler, WI)

Willie and The Buzzhounds
2 PM @ Massey Station

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

Dan Whitson
2 PM @ Off Shore Resort
(Bellevue, IA)

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Centrally Rooted Spring Recital
3 PM @ Dubuque Arboretum

Laura McDonald & Robbie Bahr
3:30 PM @ Millennium Bar
& Marina (East DBQ, IL)

Black Velvet
5 PM @ Galena Cellars
Downtown (Galena, IL)

Joseph John Valenti
6 PM @ Stone Cliff Winery

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

Tiger Kings
7 PM @ Gary Dolphin's Iron Bar

Steve Kalmes
7 PM @ Spirits Bar & Grill

Karaoke w/ Becky McMahon
7 PM @ Frenress Lake Bar
& Grill (East DBQ, IL)

Tony Walker
7 PM @ Galena Brewing Co
(Galena, IL)

Six Shots Til Midnight
7 PM @ Sandy Hook Tavern
(Hazel Green, WI)

Heartache Tonight
7 PM @ Ohnward Fine Arts
Center (Maquoketa, IA)

Marty Stuart & His Fabulous
Superlatives
8 PM @ Heritage Center

The Spazmatics
8 PM @ Mississippi Moon Bar

JabberBox
8 PM @ The Yardarm

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

Pieta Brown, Chastity Brown,
Jody McGill
8 PM @ Codfish Hollow
Barnstormers (Maquoketa, IA)

Jordan Danielsen
8:30 PM @ Grape Escape
(Galena, IL)

Motel Breakfast,
Marzipan Mailbox
9 PM @ The Lift

Cirque du Buque: Milfs & Dilfs
10 PM @ Smokestack

SUN 5/19
Lexi Healey
1 PM @ Dockside

Jef Spradley
1 PM @ The Yardarm

Tangle Creek
1 PM @ O So Good Winery
(Dyersville, IA)

The Mixed Emotions Band
2 PM @ Offside Sports Complex

Massey Road
2 PM @ Spirits Bar & Grill

Rianna Marie
2 PM @ Beer in the Barn
Brewery (St. Donatus, IA)

Hangin' Around Band
2 PM @ Textile Brewing Co
(Dyersville, IA)

Angela Meyer
2 PM @ Off Shore Resort
(Bellevue, IA)

Sunday Afternoon Jam:
Li Li & the Dirty Bastards
3 PM @ Northside Bar

Elizabeth Mary
3 PM @ Stone Cliff Winery

Jimmy Welty Band
3 PM @ Round Two (Peosta, IA)

Talent Nights: Jamie Aaron Kelley
7 PM @ Stone Cliff Winery

Joie Wails
7:30 PM @ Grape Escape
(Galena, IL)

TUE 5/21

Johnnie Walker
6 PM @ Houlihans

WED 5/22

Jimmy Welty Band
6 PM @ The Annex
(Platteville, WI)

Chris Ross
6:30 PM @ Grape Escape
(Galena, IL)

Bryce Janey
7 PM @ First Reserve

THU 5/23

Cruisin' Thursdays:
Mississippi Band
5 PM @ Sinsinawa Ave,
East DBQ, IL

Joseph John Valenti
6 PM @ Lina's Lounge

Eric Weimerskirch
6 PM @ The Yardarm

Megan Davis
7 PM @ Frank O'Dowd's
Irish Pub (Galena, IL)

Shekinah King
7:30 PM @ Grape Escape
(Galena, IL)

FRI 5/24

Sam Day
5 PM @ Park Farm Winery
(Bankston, IA)

BJ McAndrew
5:30 PM @ Darkbird Taphouse
(Peosta, IA)

Steve Davis
5:30 PM @ Champagne
on Main (Galena, IL)

Kickoff 2 Summer:
The LoveMonkeys, For Those
About to Yacht, JabberBox
6 PM @ Back Waters Stage

Secrets
6 PM @ Spirits Bar & Grill

Melissa Schultz
6 PM @ Stone Cliff Winery

Rehab, Scotty Austin,
Seventh Day Slumber,
Magdalene Rose, Endpass
6 PM @ Sandy Hook Tavern
(Hazel Green, WI)

Cal Cooley
7 PM @ First Reserve

Mark "Sparney" Holmes
7 PM @ Gary Dolphin's Iron Bar

Mark Zalaznik
7 PM @ Millennium Bar &
Marina (East DBQ, IL)

Steve Kalmes
7 PM @ Twisted Vines
(Potosi, WI)

Ralph Hepola
7 PM @ Galena CFA (Galena, IL)

JJ Schmitz
7 PM @ Off Shore (Bellevue, IA)

Joie Wails
7 PM @ Obie's Bar
(Maquoketa, IA)

Adam Splinter
8 PM @ Dockside



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May
2 • Nutsy Turtle and Lori
9 • Three quarter buzz
16 • Laura McDonald
23 • Mississippi Band
30 • Jimmy Welty Band

June
6 • Resistors
13 • Renegade
20 • Johnnie Walker
27 • Willie & The Buzz Hounds

July
4 • Riley and Kevin Beck
with Kerry Erickson
11 • Secrets
18 • Rock Steady
25 • The Mighty Mudcats

August
1 • Tony Walker
8 • Max Kowalske
15 • Walking Molly
22 • The Sunshine Band
29 • Big Night Out

September
5 • 2 Carl's Band
12 • Jimmy Welty Band
19 • Stone Wolf Trio
26 • Nutsy Turtle & Lori Gravel

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5/10 Lonesome Road
5/11 RatchetJaw
5/12 Brushfire Bandits
5/17 Superfly Samaurai
5/18 Jabberbox
5/19 Jef Spradley
5/23 Eric Weimerskirch
5/24 Power Take Off
5/25 Wicked Liz & The Bellyswirts
5/26 Mini Monster Duo / Past Curfew

OFFSHORE LIVE MUSIC
FRI: 7-10 PM • SAT-SUN: 2-6 PM

5/10 JJ Schmitz
5/11 Adam Beck
5/12 Lexi Healey
5/17 Chuck Murphy
5/18 Dan Whitson
5/19 Tessa Fink
5/24 JJ Schmitz
5/25 Scott Kirkhart
5/25 Nashville Boys 8-12
5/26 Jordan Danielsen

Wicked Liz & the Bellyswirts

OTHERSIDE LUNCH SPECIALS

MAY

9. Salisbury Steak
10. Tater Tot Casserole
13. Drunken Mac Fries
14. Fish Tacos & Street Corn or Deep Fried Tacos
15. Otherside Chicken
16. Monte Cristo
17. Corned Beef / Reubens
20. Chicken of the Gods / Goulash
21. Hot Beef or Hot Turkey
22. Otherside Chicken
23. Smash Burger Tacos
24. Liver & Onions / Big Mac Sloppy Joes

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SUNDAY

Disco Brunch w/ DJ SaladSpinner
9 AM @ Convivium Urban Farmstead
2nd Sun, No event on 5/12

Chris Ross
11 AM @ Breitbach Country Dining & Skip Breitbach Feeds (Balltown, IA)
Through 5/26

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)

Sunday Afternoon Jam
3 PM @ Northside Bar

Bingo
4 PM @ Gary Dolphin's Iron Bar

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

MONDAY

Trivia w/ Bob's Trivia
6:30 PM @ Round Two (Peosta, IA)
4th Mon

Taproom Trivia w/ Bob's Trivia
6:30 PM @ The Corner Taproom (Cascade, IA)
2nd Mon

Trivia w/ Bob's Trivia
6:30 PM @ Textile Brewing Co (Dyersville, IA)
1st & 3rd Mon

TUESDAY

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

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

Trivia w/ Bob's Trivia
7:30 PM @ Backpacket DBQ

Comedy Nights Open Mic
8 PM @ Southend Tap

WEDNESDAY

Trivia w/ Triviawithbrett
6 PM @ Hy-Vee Locust

Open Mic w/ Pennyroyal
6 PM @ Jubeck New World Brewing
Through 6/26

Trivia For Dorks
7 PM @ Dimensional Brewing Co

WORDS Open Mic w/ Broz
7 PM @ Esther's Lounge
1st Wed

Open Mic
7 PM @ Gary Dolphin's Iron Bar

Trivia w/ Bob's Trivia
7 PM @ Lina's Lounge

Jazz Night Open Mic w/ DZ Combo
7 PM @ Smokestack
1st Wed

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

THURSDAY

Millwork Night Market
5 PM @ 7th-9th & Jackson St
2nd Thu through 10/10

East Dubuque Cruisin' Thursdays
5 PM @ Sinsinawa Ave, East DBQ, IL
Through 9/26

Blues Jam w/ The Mighty Mudcats @ 6 PM
Thirsty Thursday
Open Mic @ 8:30 PM
Smokestack

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

Rock Star Bingo
7 PM @ 7 Hills Brewing Co

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

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

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

Karaoke
9 PM @ Southend Tap

FRIDAY

Food Festival Fridays
11:30 AM @ Washington Park
1st Fri through 9/6

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

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

SATURDAY

Dubuque Farmers' Market
7 AM @ 11th-13th and Iowa St
Through 10/26

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

Latin Night w/ DJ Papi
9 PM @ Smokestack
Last Sat

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

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

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MISSISSIPPI MOON BARSM

Upcoming Entertainment



The Spazmatics

MAY 18 @ 8 PM

All the awesome sounds, styles, and way cool dance steps from the 1980's decade we'd love to forget. Complete with skinny ties, Brill Creamed hair, and horn-rimmed glasses, The Spazmatics recapture all the best of the worst. Outstanding musicianship combined with creative flair and style makes for an evening of pure energy and entertainment. So tonight we're gonna party like it's 1999; only it's not!



Show Me Your Hits

MAY 10 @ 8 PM

From Blink 182, Van Halen, Motley Crue, Shania Twain, to Bruno Mars, and much more. The band gives the crowd that dose of nostalgia from songs of their past while keeping it fresh and relevant by playing modern-day classics.



Unicorn

MAY 17 @ 8 PM

Unicorn plays a huge variety of modern bangers, classic hits, and deep tracks. Pop, dance, rock, funk, crossover country, and more. At a Unicorn show, expect the unexpected.

Additional Entertainment

MEATPLOW

MAY 11 @ 8 PM

KING EXPLOSION: THREE DECADES OF THE KING

JUNE 21 @ 7 PM

JUNE 22 @ 4 & 7 PM

7 SUMMERS: A MORGAN WALLEN TRIBUTE

JULY 5 @ 8 PM

WRĒKING CRÛE: THE MÖTLEY CRÛE EXPERIENCE

JULY 27 @ 8 PM

RED NOT CHILI PEPPERS: RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS TRIBUTE

AUGUST 2 @ 8 PM

DIAMOND JO
CASINO



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 DiamondJoDubuque.com.



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MILWAUKEE, WI

LAINIE WILSON
7.18.24
MONTICELLO, IA





Heartache Tonight

SATURDAY, MAY 18 @ 7 PM
OHWARD FINE ARTS CENTER
(1215 E PLATT ST, MAQUOKETA, IA)
From the powerful guitar duel in "Hotel California" to the shimmering harmonies of "Peaceful Easy Feeling," Heartache Tonight brings a true Eagles concert experience to the Ohnward Fine Arts Center in Maquoketa, IA on Saturday, May 18 at 7 p.m.

Heartache Tonight performs music from all eras and incarnations of this huge rock powerhouse that produced hits over our decades. There are no pre-recorded backing tracks in the Heartache Tonight show; all vocal harmonies and guitar parts

are faithful to the originals and performed live. Just hit song after hit song from one of the greatest rock bands of all time, performed by tremendously talented musicians with perfection and passion.

A Heartache Tonight concert is filled with moments designed to thrill classic rock fans: the soaring a cappella harmonies of "Seven Bridges Road," the snarling guitars of "Life In The Fast Lane," the anthemic country rock of "Take It Easy," and the beautifully evocative "Heart Or The Matter." Close your eyes, and you'll swear you're hearing the real thing.

Tickets are \$35 in advance or \$38 at the door and can be purchased at the Ohnward Fine Arts Center box office, by calling **563-652-9815**, or at **OhnwardFineArtsCenter.com**. ■



LIVE AT HERITAGE CENTER
PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

An Evening with Marty Stuart & His Fabulous Superlatives

SATURDAY, MAY 18 @ 8 PM
UNIVERSITY OF DUBUQUE HERITAGE CENTER JOHN AND ALICE BUTLER HALL (2255 BENNETT ST)

An Evening with Marty Stuart & His Fabulous Superlatives brings a country music icon to the University of Dubuque Heritage Center on Saturday, May 18 at 8 p.m.

A country music hall of famer, five-time Grammy award winner, and

American Music Awards Lifetime Achievement honoree, Marty Stuart knows a thing or two about standing the test of time. Born and raised in Philadelphia, MS, he landed his first big gig in Lester Flatts' band at 13 years old, and, by 21, he was working on the road and in the studio with Johnny Cash.

Though Stuart built his early reputation backing up country and bluegrass royalty, it wasn't long before Nashville recognized him as a star in his own right. Over the course of Stuart's 40-plus years as a country and bluegrass solo artist, he has released more than 20 major label albums and scored Platinum sales, hit singles, and just about every honor the industry could bestow along the way.

Known for his traditional style and eclectic combination of rockabilly, honky-tonk, and traditional country music, Stuart is considered one of the genre's most historically minded "new" traditionalists. *Rolling Stone* called him "one of the world's foremost country experts and archivists."

Altitude, Stuart's new album released in 2023, was recorded in Nashville with his longtime band, the Fabulous Superlatives.

Tickets are \$29-\$59 and can be purchased at the Heritage Center Farber Box Office, by phone at **563-585-SHOW**, or online at **DBQ.edu/heritagecenter**. ■

Kickoff to Summer

FRIDAY, MAY 27 @ 6 PM-MIDNIGHT
Q CASINO BACK WATERS STAGE
(1855 GREYHOUND PARK RD)

The Verlo Mattress Kickoff to Summer returns to Q Casino Back Waters Stage this year. Join the party on Friday, May 24 from 6 p.m. to midnight. Always on the Friday of Memorial Day weekend, this year's party lineup includes a roster of great talent: The LoveMonkeys, For Those About to Yacht, JabberBox

Hailing from Milwaukee, WI, The LoveMonkeys' high-energy, jam-packed performances are filled with pop hits, reggae rhythms, and one-of-a-kind medleys.

For Those About to Yacht, the Quad Cities' most entertaining yacht rock band, is here to make America smooth again with the greatest soft hits of the '70s and '80s.

They are supported by JabberBox. Known for their high-energy performance, they won the Best Band award in BestFest 2013. JabberBox plays



all your favorite alternative hits from Theory of a Deadman, Nickelback, Buckcherry, Blink 182, and many more.

Cold beer, soda, and great food will be available for purchase.

Kickoff to Summer is a free, all ages event supporting the Sertoma Club, FFA, Children's Zoo, and Camp Albrecht Acres. For more information, visit MusicAndMoreDBQ.com. ■



Planet Booty

THURSDAY, MAY 30 @ 9 PM
THE LIFT (180 MAIN ST, LOWER LEVEL)

Planet Booty is bringing the funk, love, and probably a towel or two to mop up all that sweat to The Lift on Thursday, May 30, at 9 p.m. And guess what? It's totally free!

Hailing from Oakland, CA, Planet Booty is on a mission to spread body positivity, self-love, and enough groove to shake the cosmos and move your soul. They describe their sound as "a divine mixtape of pop, R&B, '90s house, '70s funk, and classic hip-hop that might have been made by your strangely attractive high school gym coach."

Led by the indefatigable frontman Dylan Charles Germick (who's not afraid to out-sweat anyone in the room), alongside Josh Cantero, Rob Gwin, and Blake Ritterman, Planet Booty is here to make you move, laugh, and

embrace your beautiful, bootylicious self. Their electrifying performances and unwavering commitment to creating a safe, inclusive space turn every venue into a love-fueled dance party.

Fresh off the heels of their latest single and video, "SXFNK," Planet Booty is gearing up to unleash their infectious blend of electronic beats and live instrumentation upon The Lift stage.

We're big fans of Planet Booty, and we haven't seen them at The Lift since 2019. Let Thursday night be the gateway to a soul-nourishing experience with Planet Booty that you won't soon forget."

So, grab your friends, leave your inhibitions at the door, and come join Planet Booty for a night of feel-good vibes, irresistible grooves, and more than a few reminders to love yourself fiercely, no matter what.

This is a free show at The Lift in downtown Dubuque. For more information, visit facebook.com/theliftdubuque. ■

PUZZLE ANSWERS

PUZZLES ON PAGE 44
GENERAL BOB IS BY THE COPPER KETTLE.
THE DEMO OF TWO HOUSES WILL SERVE
AS THE KETTLE'S NEW PARKING LOT.

5	9	4	8	2	6	7	3	1
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ARP OF THE COVENANT

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FRI 5/24 • 9 PM • FREE
HEY, KING

THU 5/30 • 9 PM • FREE
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FRI 5/31 • 9 PM • FREE
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WED • \$4 CALL LIQUOR
THU • \$3 DOMESTIC BOTTLES
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A CASE FULL OF PASTRIES AND DESSERTS



SYRIAN FATA

Roses & Berries Cafe

By Danny Fairchild

Folks, Roses & Berries Cafe is for everybody, and it's beautiful. Let me type that again with the correct emphasis: Folks, Roses & Berries Cafe is for everybody AND it's beautiful. The distinction is important because sometimes such beauty comes across as fancy, which isn't inviting. It isn't casual. It isn't a cool hang. Put that crap right out of your head. That ain't Roses & Berries. Sure, if you WANT your experience to be fancy, you can think of it like that, but the hospitality is there. The seating is comfy and casual. It's a place to sit and read *Pride and Prejudice* for the 5 billionth time while you sip your tea and nibble your croissant. Gah! The nerve of that Mr. Wickham! But it's also a place where you can find some comfy seats with all your friends over some awesome shareables. But it's also the place where you have a date over coffee which... I kind of thought only happened in the movies. But it's also the kind of place where you can post up and put out the vibe. But it's also the kind

of place where you're just here for the food and want to be mostly left alone. But it's also the place where if you're seated near the entrance, people WILL ask you about the awesome things you're eating, as happened to us. I like to think I'm all these people. Except for the *Pride and Prejudice* thing. I've only read it 4 billion times.

I'm sorry. I know that all sounds contradictory and confusing. Here, let me describe the vibe in a way that would have destroyed my word count if I had said it to begin with: It's kind of flirty. And if you're not feeling flirty, they have some of the most comfortable, best lit dark corners you've ever seen. You'd have to try really hard, but I bet you could even brood there.

That's the vibe. Let's talk about the food.

Ugh. Gosh. Now I have to find a way to succinctly describe the type of cuisine Roses & Berries serves. Umm... Mediterranean cuisine with some of the best parts of French cuisine thrown in because everybody loves pastries, most people love crepes, and if you have the talent to do those things well, you shouldn't hide your light under a bushel. That's a 39-word description right there. Down from my first draft of 74. Look, this place is delightfully complex. My job is not easy right now. Leave me alone.

I'll just shut up and talk about the dishes we tried. Then you'll see. Then you'll see what a treasure we have here.

First off, yes, you bet your ass we tried a crepe. It's been several years since

Dubuque has had crepes on this level, and I've missed them. If you've missed them too, then you should try Rose & Berries because you're going to be so, so happy. If you haven't missed crepes, you should STILL try them because you don't know what you've been missing.

We got ourselves the chicken and mushroom crepe.

Now looky here: Roses & Berries has both sweet AND savory crepes. I, of course, KNOW that savory crepes are a thing, but I don't think I've EVER allowed myself a savory crepe until this visit. My sweet tooth doesn't allow such nonsense. And I probably would have gotten a sweet crepe this time, but Bryce ordered it. Folks, don't be like me. Don't let your sweet tooth stand in the way of savory happiness. Such a lovely béchamel, yo. Béchamel is one of the five mother sauces of French cuisine. That's important to note, but doesn't help you taste it. It's essentially milk gravy. And if you thought a milk gravy tasted yum-yum on some biscuits and gravy, wait until you taste it with something light yet eggy like a crepe. Yes, please. More, please. And then the beautifully shredded chicken and the mushrooms. I'm on record as having a hobbit-like affinity for mushrooms. I've eaten them on pretty much everything else. It's about time I had them on a crepe. You can watch the crepes being made, which is cool. Just don't be weird about it like we were.

In addition to the crepes, we got a few more familiar Mediterranean things

like a shawarma wrap and a falafel bowl. But then we asked our server, Shahab, to order us some surprises. He rubbed his hands together like a mad genius and then ordered us some Syrian Fata and a Full Mezze Platter... like a mad genius.

I hate to downplay the shawarma wrap and the falafel bowl by fell-swooping them so I can get to the mad genius stuff and pastries. I love falafel more than most things, and shawarma has had a place in my heart since the earlier days of the MCU. I'm fell-swooping these items because they're some of the more familiar things on the menu. We've had several places that served shawarma and falafel. I am grateful that we have another one and absolutely thrilled that it's served at this level. So good! It scratches that itch like a Q-Tip in an ear canal. Which they say you shouldn't do, but it feels too good for me to ever stop.

Oh! Huge honorable mention to the french fries served with the wrap! They're not thin, they're not crinkle-cut. They look like your average who-cares fry. But a lot of food was taken home unfinished that day. We ate every last fry. It was like how the French would make a french fry if they weren't busy making crepes and pastries all the damn time. Right? I'm not THAT well versed in French cuisine, so try them and you tell me.

Syrian fata. Yes, Syria is on the Mediterranean and therefore qualifies as Mediterranean cuisine. I know because my American ass had to look it up, too.

So, here's how Roses & Berries describes Syrian fata on their menu: ground beef, red sauce, eggplant, yogurt sauce, and crispy pita bread. Yeah, I know. I probably wouldn't have ordered it based on that description, either. But at the same time, I can't abide purple prose in menus of all places, so that's on me. But here's the thing: This dish is incredible, and I want you to try it, and so here I am again searching for a worthy description.

Oh! Okay! You know what it's like? Syrian fata (sometimes spelled "fatteh" unless I'm as ignorant as I suspect I am) is like? It's like a Mediterranean Frito pie. You folks know about Frito pie? It's a Southern thing. Louisiana, specifically. No? Okay. Well... a Frito pie is like a walking taco... in casserole form. So, Syrian fata is like a Mediterranean walking taco in casserole form. But here's the thing: Frito pie is delicious. If it weren't, Louisianans wouldn't bother. Now take that and instead of making it Tex-Mex, make it Mediterranean. How Mediterranean? Well replace Fritos with crispy pita. Yeah. THAT Mediterranean. And then, of course, the flavor profiles are more Mediterranean than Tex-Mex. So yeah, it's Mediterranean Frito pie. A pita pie. A pito pie? I give up.

And we close with the full mezze platter. Look, if you want some ohhhh and ahhhh to go with your mmmmm, the mezze platter is... an event all by itself. A mezze platter is like a Mediterranean appetizer platter. It's to be shared, and Roses & Berries' version is beautiful with these stunning paisley-shaped dishes that all fit together for an awesome display of flavor and color.

First on the list, Shahab mad-scienced us with some za'atar feta dip. Za'atar is a Middle Eastern spice blend with sesame seeds in it. The feta allows you to taste the subtleties of za'atar without any one ingredient begging for attention.

Next was hummus because it's Mediterranean cuisine, you're going to eat SOME hummus even by accident.

Then baba ghanoush, which is just as fun to eat as it is to say. Baba ghanoush, if you don't know, is like hummus made with eggplant instead of chickpeas. I'm positive that's an oversimplification, but love has been founded on worse.

Lastly, other than some olives that make an olive lover like myself just wanna sing, was the muhammara. Oh, gosh. I'm not even going to try to describe muhammara in terms you might better culturally understand. Muhammara is a dip typically made from roasted red peppers, bread crumbs, pomegranate molasses(?!), and walnuts. So as you might guess, muhammara has pretty much ALL the flavors: Savory, sweet, spicy, tangy... and probably bitter, too. It's Mediterranean cuisine; they probably snuck an olive in there somewhere.

And look, if all this sounds like not your thing, at least... at LEAST go for the pastries. Dubuque now has easy access to the delights of a renowned pastry chef in Jonathan Nègre.

I was so blown away by the food and the decor and the atmosphere that I didn't even THINK of checking out the potties. So, I've let you down and can't offer any bathroom report. However, this is a brand-new building that cares about cleanliness. I imagine you could probably eat in the bathrooms. But don't.

So yeah! Add my voice to the many who are singing the praises of Roses & Berries and are excited for what they offer.

Have you tried it yet? Let me know what you think! ■



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Shortcut Steak Fajitas

SERVES 4

All You Need:

- 2 pounds Hy-Vee Choice Reserve beef fajita mix
- 8 (6-inch) Hy-Vee street taco flour tortillas
- ½ cup Full Circle Market organic pineapple salsa
- ½ cup Finely shredded red cabbage
- 1 ripe avocado, peeled, seeded and sliced
- ¼ cup crumbled Cojita cheese
- Cilantro, for serving
- Lime wedges, for serving

All You Do:

1. Heat a large nonstick skillet over high heat. Add beef fajita mix; cook for 5 to 7 minutes or until mixture reaches 165 degrees and vegetables are crisp-tender, stirring occasionally.
2. Spoon about 1/3 cup of the fajita mixture into each tortilla; top with salsa, red cabbage, avocado slices and cheese.

Recipe adapted from: hy-vee.com



Analyzing Anemia

What you need to know

By Hy-Vee Nutritionist Megan Dalsing

Have you ever wondered if you're getting the nutrients your body needs to stay healthy? Knowing if you are missing the mark or balancing essential nutrients can be challenging with so many nutrients. Many forms of anemia range from nutrient deficiencies such as iron, B12, and folate to sickle-cell anemia, hemolytic, and anemias associated with chronic medical conditions. Iron deficiency anemia is the most prevalent nutrient deficiency globally; some people are at greater risk than others. But how do you know if you are at risk for iron deficiency anemia? Your Hy-Vee registered dietitian is here to help with simple tips. Read on to learn how you can determine your risk for anemia.

Iron is an essential nutrient, meaning we must obtain it through food. Iron performs several vital bodily functions, including synthesizing hemoglobin—a key component of red blood cells that helps carry oxygen to your tissues. Hemoglobin is made of protein, copper, and iron. Measuring hemoglobin reflects the body's level of functional iron, making it a sensitive indicator for detecting iron deficiency anemia. Absent any other medical condition, normal hemoglobin levels for adult females is 12–16 g/dL and is 14–18 g/dL for adult males. Anything lower is defined as anemia, which could be due to iron deficiency, other nutritional deficiencies, or other medical conditions. The RDA (Recommended Daily Allowance) for iron intake varies based on the individual; from 8 mg per day for men

and postmenopausal women to 11–15 mg per day for teenage boys and girls, respectively, to 18 mg per day for premenopausal women. Iron deficiency anemia symptoms may occur when we don't obtain enough iron in the diet, including fatigue and weakness, pale skin or conjunctiva, thin spoon-shaped nails or decreased resistance to cold temperatures. Individuals at most significant risk for iron deficiency anemia include premenopausal women, young children, or people with a vegan diet, malabsorptive diseases, pregnancy, blood loss, or chemotherapy.

Meat is a significant source of iron that is most readily absorbed by the body—this is called heme iron. There are many plant-based or non-heme sources of iron, including iron-fortified grains, pasta made from garbanzo beans or lentils, pumpkin seeds, potato with skin, spinach, and prunes. These non-heme sources of iron require strategic planning to promote optimal absorption. Dairy foods, coffee, and tea should be consumed separately from iron-rich foods or supplements as these will inhibit plant-based iron absorption. Uptake of non-heme iron is enhanced by foods rich in vitamin C, including oranges, broccoli, dark leafy greens, kiwi, bell peppers, tomatoes, and strawberries.

Register for a free Hy-Vee Healthy You Anemia Screening, thanks to our generous sponsor Sanguina. During your appointment, a Hy-Vee dietitian will perform a simple finger stick to collect a blood sample to test your hemoglobin, determine your risk for anemia and provide same-day results. Contact your local Hy-Vee registered dietitian for more information or schedule your appointment today by registering here.

For a simple, iron- and vitamin-C-rich meal, try this Shortcut Steak Fajitas recipe. Mix up taco night using Hy-Vee Shortcuts to cut down on prep time and get dinner on the table in a flash! ■

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.



Your Universal Language

By Matt Booth

Smiling is more than just a simple facial expression—it's the universal language that bridges gaps and creates connections across all boundaries of age, culture, ethnicity, financial status, faith, and nationality. When you smile, you communicate genuineness and openness, making it one of the most powerful tools you possess. In fact, next to breathing, smiling is arguably the most crucial action you can perform.

A smile is the currency of positivity. It can open doors for you, from securing a job during an interview to clinching a sale, attracting excellent service, or even winning over a heart. Its simplicity belies its effectiveness, offering a fast track to being perceived as likable, friendly, warm, and approachable. A smile not only puts others at ease but also engenders positive perceptions, both professionally and personally.

Indeed, smiles come in a myriad variety, reflecting our unique personalities and situations—from bashful to bold, goofy to gentle, or those conveying love, gratitude, or agreement. Each smile serves as a non-verbal communicator, a distant hug, handshake, or high-five, radiating warmth and drawing others in. It's an essential element of your charisma, enhancing your attractiveness to those around you.



While some may naturally flash a brilliant smile, others might need to cultivate theirs. To boost your "smile currency," start by becoming more aware of your smiling habits. Observe those you admire; notice whether their smiles are warm and encompassing, involving their whole face, not just their lips. Reflect on your own smile: Does it project the image you want? Does it feel genuine and build connections?

Remember, smiling involves muscles, and like any muscle, they can be strengthened through exercise. Practice in front of a mirror or by looking at photos. If your smile doesn't yet reflect who you want to be, work on it—engage your lips, your eyes, and your heart.

Ultimately, the more you smile, the more naturally it comes, just like breathing. Embracing frequent smiling can transform your life, infusing it with positivity and connection. So remember the sequence: breathe first, then smile. Because in the world of effective communication, a genuine smile is pure magic. ■



MATT BOOTH

MATT WORKS WITH AUDIENCES TO CHECK YOUR ATTITUDE, FIGURE \$#!T OUT, AND FRICKIN' TAKE ACTION. TO LEARN MORE ABOUT MATT'S SPEAKING OR COACHING, SUBSCRIBE TO HIS YOUTUBE CHANNEL @MATTBOOTHSPKAKER OR EMAIL MATT@MATTBOOTH.COM.



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Coming Soon

KINGDOM OF THE PLANET OF THE APES (PG-13)

FRIDAY, MAY 10

Many years after the reign of Caesar and upon the rise of a new warlord, a young ape goes on a journey that will lead him to question everything he's been taught about the past and make choices that will define a future for apes and humans alike.



BACK TO BLACK (R)

FRIDAY, MAY 17

The life and music of Amy Winehouse, through the journey of adolescence to adulthood and the creation of one of the best-selling albums of our time, told through Winehouse's eyes and inspired by her deeply personal lyrics.



IF (PG)

FRIDAY, MAY 17

A young girl named Bea, who has been going through a troubling experience in her life, unexpectedly gains the ability to see people's imaginary friends, IFs, who have been abandoned by the kids they helped. Bea then discovers that her neighbor, Cal, has the same ability. Together they join forces to reunite the IFs with their former kids.



FURIOSA: A MAD MAX SAGA (R)

FRIDAY, MAY 24

Set decades before the events of *Mad Max: Fury Road*, as the world falls apart, young Furiosa is snatched from the Green Place of Many Mothers and into the hands of a Biker Horde led by the Warlord Dementus. While two tyrants battle for dominance over the Citadel, Furiosa survives many trials as she plots a way back home through the Wasteland.



THE GARFIELD MOVIE (PG)

FRIDAY, MAY 24

After Garfield's unexpected reunion with his long-lost father, ragged alley cat Vic, he and his canine friend Odie are forced from their perfectly pampered lives to join Vic on a risky heist.



Movie Buzz

A new live-action take on *Masters of the Universe*, which has been long in development at Netflix, has now found a new home at Amazon. Travis Knight, known for the *Bumblebee* movie as well as *Kubo and the Two Strings*, is set to direct the He-Man movie, written by his *Kubo* collaborator Chris Butler. No casting has been announced as of yet, but expect that soon, as Amazon has already set a theatrical release of June 5, 2026.



While it took a while to get made—the original *Tron* was released in 1982 and the sequel *Tron: Legacy* came out in 2010—Jeff Bridges has confirmed that he is returning as Kevin Flynn for the third installment in the series, *Tron: Ares*. The new movie features Jared Leto as Ares, a computer program who has escaped into our world. Sadly, no Daft Punk soundtrack this time, as they broke up several years ago. *Tron: Legacy* is set for release next year.



Longtime Thor star Chris Hemsworth has expressed regret about 2022's *Thor: Love and Thunder*, which was criticized for a weak story and a too-heavy reliance upon improvisation. Says Hemsworth, "I think we just had too much fun." Despite previously saying that he was winding down with action-heavy roles, Hemsworth also says that he "thinks he owes the audience" another go-round as the god of thunder. Stay tuned...



Tom Cruise and writer/director Christopher McQuarrie, who have been collaborators for years, are reportedly circling a remake of the 1977 Clint Eastwood *The Gauntlet*, which featured Eastwood as an alcoholic cop assigned to escort a prostitute across state lines for her to testify in a mob trial. Scarlett Johansson is reportedly being considered as the lead opposite Cruise.



Jellyfish Age Backwards

By John McAndrew

Science and biology are where kids who want never to lose the sense of jaw-dropping wonder should point themselves. That seems to be who Nicklas Brendborg is, and his bestseller on aging, *Jellyfish Age Backwards*, now in paperback, is full of moments of awe, wonder, and mystery.

Aging is one of those eternal quandaries that we find in history and mythology all over the world. Brendborg begins with a reference to the Ponce de Leon's Fountain of Youth:

"Alright, serious historians will probably tell you that the Fountain of Youth story is mostly a myth. Fortunately, I'm not a serious historian, so I'm allowed to start my book with a bit of a tall tale."

This is your first clue that Brendborg isn't writing a Seriously Dry Scientific Treatise stuffed with incomprehensible jargon. The terms and concepts are here—"hormesis" is an important one—but he seems more interested in explaining and sharing than impressing or befuddling.

He starts with the philosophical—why do we, along with everything else, age, anyway?—and then follows the current research down every rabbit hole that looks intriguing. His bibliography is full of academic papers with titles like "Low serum insulin in traditional Pacific islanders" and "Learning one's genetic risk changes physiology independent of actual genetic risk." This is a bestseller because the author excels at translating the academic into mostly everyday language.

If what you are looking for in a book on aging is cutting to the chase, the do's and don'ts, there is some of that here; Brendborg knows that those reading a book on aging may be seeing it as a personal problem to be solved and looking for solutions. But he's more interested, it seems, in the wonder of the quest:

- How and why DO jellyfish age backwards or revert to adolescent form?
- Why do some human populations in so-called "Blue Zones" live longer and healthier lives?
- Why do octopuses die shortly after their eggs hatch—unless their optic glands are removed, in which case they live longer?
- Why does arsenic kill worms in a lab—unless administered in low doses, in which case, the worms live longer and also develop resistance to other maladies?
- Why do people who take antioxidant supplements die earlier?
- Why do larger animals tend to live longer than smaller ones but smaller individuals within a species tend to live longer?
- Why do some of our cells and tissues age faster than others?

Everyone knows stress kills. But everyone also knows stress makes you stronger... if it's the right stress, for the right duration, for your particular condition. "Hormesis" is the word for "what doesn't kill us make us stronger." Get whooping cough, for example, and you will have

improved immunity to it, assuming you survive. (Getting the vaccination is easier and safer. Trust me on this.) Trees are often damaged or killed by wind—but wind also makes them resilient.

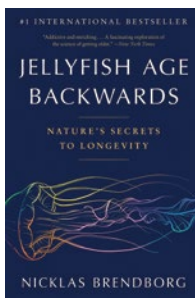
One of Brendborg's frequent refrains is, "It's more complicated." Boy, howdy. Just consider what we already know (or think we do): Each individual is an entire constellation of living beings when you consider the biome in our guts, on our skin, and even those with whom we relate as other individuals. (Good relationships are good for longevity.) Also, different people respond favorably or not to the same thing: Some of us love milk, and some are lactose intolerant; women respond to medicines differently than men do; some of us are prone to certain diseases, like sickle cell anemia or Laron Syndrome.

One reason why Brendborg is reluctant to give anti-aging advice is because he knows how many wrong turns research has taken, resulting in everyone believing what wasn't true. Ulcers are not caused by stress, after all. Even the medical community refused to believe that for decades after it was demonstrated that ulcers are bacterial in origin. The medical establishment even pushed back when told that it might be a bad idea to go straight from work on cadavers to helping women deliver babies.

Beware of people with something to sell you, whose whole pitch is that scientists have been wrong before. It's true, we know more now than we did before. But if scientific or medical experts are sometimes wrong, it doesn't follow that non-experts are right. Trust the ones with a sense of wonder, humility, and openness, not the ones with something to sell. In this context, you will LOVE the stories about "Cargo Cults." The scientific community is skeptical by design: Even the theory of relativity is still constantly challenged to uncover more or better info by discovering missing details.

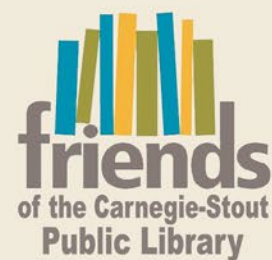
Meanwhile... eat garlic, wheatgerm, soy beans, and sunflower seeds. Indulge in saunas and winter swimming, preferably together. Exercise after eating. Exercise as much as you tell people you do (we tend to exaggerate). Calorie control and fasting seem to be beneficial. Live at a high elevation. "Good" gut bacteria love dietary fiber. Get your vaccinations, including the first cancer vaccine, for HPV. Give blood. Be skeptical of claims that sound too good to be true. Avoid highly processed foods. And have good friends and relationships of all kind. Mostly, stay curious: It's an insanely marvelous world, with tons of surprises.

Live long and prosper, friends. But what Marcus Aurelius said is still true: You will die. But you knew that. Cheers! ■



JOHN MCANDREW

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Spot the Difference

Can you spot 10 differences in this photo of filmmakers at the Julien Dubuque International Film Festival by photographer Ron Tigges of DigitalDubuque.com?



Spot the Difference Answers



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Upcoming Family Events

SAT 5/11

Fever River Puppeteers Presents River Critters

11 AM AND 2 PM @ HAZEL GREEN OPERA HOUSE (HAZEL GREEN, WI)
5/11 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., 5/12 at 2 p.m. When Buddy goes fishing with his grandpa on the Mississippi River for the first time, he has no idea what will happen when he loses his shoe in the water. River Critters is a hand, rod, and shadow puppet show. \$5. 2130 Main St, Hazel Green, WI. **608-732-7129. hazelgreenoperahouse.blogspot.com.**

SUN 5/12



Afternoon Tea: 100 Years of Fashion

1-3 PM @ MATHIAS HAM HISTORIC SITE
Explore the world of fashion while enjoying a traditional afternoon tea. Enjoy an

assortment of finger sandwiches, treats, and a variety of teas or lemonade. Members: \$20 adults, \$10 youth; Non-members: \$25 adults, \$15 youth. 2241 Lincoln Ave. **563-557-9545 x212. rivermuseum.org.**

FRI 5/17



Family Movie Night at The Grand: Wonka

6:30 PM @ GRAND OPERA HOUSE
The Grand Opera House hosts its first Family Movie Night at The Grand with a screening of the 2023 film *Wonka*. Based on a story by Paul King, *Wonka* tells the origin story of Willy Wonka, a character in the 1964 novel *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* by Roald Dahl, depicting his early days as a chocolatier. Doors open at 5:45 p.m. Free. 135 W 8th St. **563-588-1305. thegrandoperahouse.com.**

Seussical Auditions

BELL TOWER THEATER
5/17-5/18. This delightful musical takes audiences into the whimsical world of Dr. Seuss and brings many of his beloved characters to life. Featuring cast and crew of kids ages 7 to 16. Show dates are July 18-27. 2728 Asbury Rd. **563-588-3377. BellTowerTheater.net.**

SUN 5/19



Children's Spring Party

11 AM-2 PM @ DUBUQUE ARBORETUM
An annual tradition of a fun, engaging, and informative family-oriented event. Enjoy costumed characters; a DJ playing fun, family-friendly tunes; temporary tattoos; games and prizes; free activity; emergency vehicles; and so much more. Food, drinks, and ice cream available for purchase. All ages. \$2. 3800 Arboretum Dr. **563-556-2100. DubuqueArboretum.net.**

American Girl Days

1-3 PM @ CENTRALLY ROOTED
Join Jacqueline Hunter, founder of Oh Happy Play, in a special "Learn and Play" event based on the *American Girl* book series and doll brand. Learn about important people, places, and events in American history. Participants will be creating their own storybook for their doll. Ages 8-12. RSVP required. Free. 2230 Central Ave. **centrallyrooted.com.**

TUE 5/21

Pride of Cassville "Ferry" Princess and Prince Cruise

5:30-7 PM @ CASSVILLE FERRY LANDING (CASSVILLE, WI)
Hark, noble "Ferry" princesses and princes, come aboard the Pride of Cassville for a complimentary evening cruise in honor of National Travel and Tourism Week. Prepare for an evening of whimsy and wonder, where fairy tales come to life. Prizes for costumes in various categories. Free. 100 Prime St, Cassville, WI. **608-725-2383. explorecassville.com.**

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NO, NOT THAT KIND OF CELLAR

Down Cellar

By Pam Kress-Dunn

"I'm going down cellar!" Mom would shout as she headed down the basement stairs. Only she called it that. She grew up in a simple house with a dirt-floored cellar. When she and Dad had a ranch house built on Cedar Street in Davenport, even though the lower level was unfinished—cinder block walls, concrete floors—it must have seemed like Barbie's dreamhouse.

The lower level of the house I live in now needs attention. I don't even know what to call it, although I fear it's leaning toward "man cave." It's where we watch TV, on mismatched furniture arranged around a fireplace, treadmill, stationary bike, deep freeze, gigantic speakers, two card tables, and more, much more. Everything is brown—brown curtains, brown paint, brown woodwork. Brown shag carpet that came with the house.

The chair is ancient. It comes from my University Avenue home where I raised two kids who watched too much TV. They sat on the hide-a-bed sofa, and the TV itself was a chic console. I grew up watching my parents' console black-and-white TV/record player. It would be amazing today, but alas, it conked out. Post-divorce, I fell for an even larger one, sans record player. We thought it was the height of cool since it could swivel and easily held our VHS player on top. I spent hours turning that thing to every channel we wanted. This was before streaming, back in the olden days.

That house had a basement no one wanted to lounge in. The floors were rough cement, the walls stacked limestone, and it flooded with every rainstorm. Once, I swear, there were whitecapped waves. The washer and dryer lived there, along with a toilet surrounded by a plastic curtain, an item used only in dire emergencies before we had a half-bath installed under the first-floor stairs. The cats spent their nights in that dungeon and never complained. After all, there were plenty of bugs to stalk, plus an occasional chipmunk.

The first house my new husband and I inhabited had a basement listed as "finished." It had painted walls, a carpeted floor, a bathroom with a shower, and no bugs to speak of. Leo, our magnificent tiger-striped cat, was perfectly content to spend his nights down there. But the high windows and uninspired décor reminded us that this was a basement—a good place to hide during tornado warnings, but pathetically plain.

When we bought our present house out in suburbia, I was astonished to realize I was living in a split level. Split levels were the height of luxury when I was growing up, and oh, how I envied my friends who had one. Sure, they were less secure during a derecho, being only partly underground and having real windows. One friend had an actual pool table, off-limits to kids but endlessly alluring. She was my rich friend, obviously.

They had a separate room for exercise equipment, but we do not, and the prospect of building another room under the sunroom is pretty dim. If only we didn't need a treadmill, but that's how Bob exercises. If only we didn't need a stationary bike, but I can't walk a treadmill. If only we had one more room that we could call the workout room. But that's not happening, so I spend my cycling time

looking for remedies on Amazon. Lighter curtains. Patterned slipcovers. Fancier fan. TV on the wall. When Bob offered to move the bookcase into his office, I was weak with relief. Bookcases are great, but this one is crammed with 3-ring binders holding the hundreds, perhaps thousands, of beautiful songs he has written in his long musical career. Too. Many. Binders.

We're also putting the huge speakers into the garage, given that we never use them. They are currently taking up space on the fireplace hearth, along with Fuzzy Four Foot, a stuffed creature once beloved by Bob's children. I'm hoping he can hand it off at this summer's family reunion. I may have a Gonk, but it was handmade by my mother and sits quietly in the guest room. Our guests have yet to complain.

The basement in my childhood home was a utilitarian space my folks never "finished." One room held Mom's sewing things, another the laundry. Dad built a huge mahogany bar on one end, too big to remove when I sold the house long ago. (I can't help wondering, does the woman who bought the house use it?) He crafted a pull-down clothesline for days when Mom couldn't hang the wash outside. I held all my slumber parties down there, and no one objected. There was plenty of room for the go-go cage

Dad built for my 13th birthday, and boy, did we have fun serving Pepsi at the bar.

My daughter is full of ideas for transforming our space, from whitewashing the fireplace brick to replacing the carpet with stylish tiles. I'm all ears, even if our budget isn't overly capacious. How on earth would we get everything out to replace the carpet? An episode of *Bewitched* comes to mind—the time Samantha wiggled her nose and all the furniture rose far enough off the floor to vacuum with ease.

Once this place is done, what to call it? No longer "Basement," but "Family Room"? "Home Theater"? "Parlor"? What would the *Queer Eye* designer, Bobby Berk, name it? Oh, what a joy it would be to turn it all over to him. I adore that show and can't wait to watch it while lounging in my newly beautified space. All we need is an inspired idea board, a ton of energy, endless time, and, oh yeah, a lot of money. Stay tuned. ■

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 PAGE

PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE 35

PREMIER Crossword

By Frank A. Longo

- APT OMISSION**
ACROSS
- 1 Easy to carry
 - 9 CFO's deg., perhaps
 - 12 Hacks off
 - 16 U.S. soldiers
 - 19 Priest, at a baptism
 - 20 Alley- —
 - 21 Pendant gem
 - 22 Period
 - 23 Medical operation led by a wizard?
 - 26 Phone no.
 - 27 Crusty treat
 - 28 Harbinger
 - 29 Make sharp
 - 30 Toon skunk Le Pew
 - 31 Bow shooter's attention?
 - 36 Manhole lid, e.g.?
 - 38 — avis
 - 39 Sad, to Sartre
 - 41 City in western New York
 - 42 Muscat native who regularly attends Mass?
 - 47 Kia crossover SUV model
 - 49 "— of the North" (1922 documentary)
 - 50 Derivation of a word: Abbr.
 - 51 Tax IDs
 - 52 London or Leeds native
 - 53 Onetime Texaco rival
 - 55 Mined stuff
 - 57 Turks and — Islands
 - 62 Olive of "Popeye"
 - 63 Grill residue
 - 64 Like a cream-colored skeleton?
 - 67 Make flush
 - 69 Enclosed bill of fare?
 - 72 Showed on TV again
 - 73 Actor Silver portraying a guy escaping a burning building?
 - 75 With 55-Down, "My treat"
 - 77 And the like: Abbr.
 - 78 Face-off participant
 - 79 Elev.
 - 80 Kismet
 - 82 152, to Cato
 - 83 Remainder
 - 85 500-sheet paper unit
 - 87 Comic Kevin
 - 89 Roster in a mob film
 - 93 Preparing to install a steam outlet?
 - 95 One-off, as a committee
 - 96 Vouch for
 - 99 Writer Seton
 - 100 Winter storm conditions?
 - 102 Sort who doesn't think before speaking?
 - 108 Speak wildly
 - 109 Litigant
 - 110 Polite request starter
 - 111 Pro-gun gp.

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Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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

©Conceptis Puzzles 06010072541

WHERE'S GENERAL BOB?

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



- 112 Soft & —
- 113 Feature of this puzzle (hint: string together the letters omitted from the starts of 10 long answers)
- 119 Lofty verse
- 120 Notion, in Nantes
- 121 Banquet dispenser
- 122 Irredeemable
- 123 Boise-to-Fresno dir.
- 124 Scottish loch
- 125 Mil. draft org.
- 126 Stays with, as an agenda
- 17 "Let me say it again ..."
- 18 Southern Italian city
- 24 Very tall bird
- 25 Letters after pis
- 30 Flag holder
- 32 "... unless I'm wrong"
- 33 City in Texas
- 34 "Star Trek: The Next Generation" actor Jonathan
- 35 Cereal grass
- 36 Singer Ocasek
- 37 Swift pirate ships
- 40 Border
- 42 In a plane, e.g.
- 43 Gymnast Retton
- 44 Dyemaking compound
- 45 "— So Shy"
- 46 Ear: Prefix
- 48 Like many '90s albums
- 51 Actor Penn
- 54 — Tzu (dog)
- 55 See 75-Across
- 56 Dark bread
- 58 "— done it!"
- 59 "Thelma" novelist Marie
- 60 Big speech
- 61 Matching up, as files
- 63 Vampire Lestat creator
- 64 "So —" ("Very well")
- 65 NHL's Bobby
- 66 When la lune shines
- 68 Actor Gerard
- 70 Orderly
- 71 Rams' org.
- 74 "— chic!"
- 76 Rent payer
- 80 Suet, e.g.
- 81 Roadie's load
- 82 Suez, e.g.
- 84 Positions
- 85 Hi- — picture
- 86 Steps onto a subway, say
- 88 "River" New Age artist
- 89 Coiffures
- 90 Drivers' licenses, e.g.
- 91 TV show created by Barbara Walters
- 92 Rob of "The Stand"
- 93 Edition: Abbr.
- 94 — -di-dah
- 97 Dissertations
- 98 Actress Garr
- 101 Digression
- 103 Author Rand
- 104 Relief sounds
- 105 Patella sites
- 106 Artist Max
- 107 "Midnight Cowboy" role
- 110 Bus, bosses
- 113 60 secs.
- 114 Letters after mus
- 115 Decay
- 116 Prefix with dermis
- 117 Nov. follower
- 118 Type

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Matthew F

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Retro model and past *365ink* cover story writer Mimi Elizabeth got hitched to her man Travis at Vintage Torque Fest at the Dubuque County Fairgrounds on May 4! Congrats kids! Photo by Scott Canon Behnke.



Bestselling Iowa author Heather Gudenkauf was on hand to help celebrate the opening of the new Barnes & Noble bookstore in Asbury Plaza.



Art For Us's "Mic for Us R&B & Poetry Night" event at The Dungeon in Dubuque to celebrate National Poetry Month. Photo by Briana Thompson.



Local filmmaker Tim Connery added Monks on Bluff the cities in America with a Free Blockbuster Project "Take a movie / Leave a movie" box. Like a little free library but with DVD, Blu-Ray and VHS. Check it out!



Seats were full, movies were great, and smiles were plentiful over the course of the Julien Dubuque International Film Festival's recent run. Independent filmmakers from across the US and the globe descended on Dubuque to celebrate their craft. Photo by Ron Tigges at DigitalDubuque.com.



Roots-folk musician Willaim Elliott Whitmore plays to a huge crowd at Codfish Hollow Barn in Maquoketa, IA, bringing tunes often inspired by his life on his family farm in the hills of southeastern Iowa. Photo by Greg Dietzenbach.



A dystopian look at the rubble of the former south side of the Dubuque Brewing and Malting building on Dubuque's north end. Photo by Kat Thomas.



A giant happy birthday to our dear friend Stella Tigges who is surrounded here by an army of family on her 90th birthday. Our only question is who won the euchre tournament that surely followed this photo?



Just good, clean fun at the Dubuque Rescue Mission as Word of Life Church provided the facility enough laundry detergent to last a whole year!



Beekeepers in training hone their craft at H.R. Cook's Honey Home/Country View Honey in Dubuque. Next up, learning to run the lawnmower!



Iowa native *Superman Returns* actor Brandon Routh received the Julien Dubuque International Film Festival's Creative Visionary Award at this year's festival. Photo by Jean-Michel Choquet.

Submit your photo by using

#my365ink

on Social Media!





Angela's
Awesome Advice

DEAR ANGELA,

My friends play this game where we pick a decade, any decade that we wish we could live in instead of this one. We are curious, what would you pick? —Taylor on Swift Street

DEAR TAYLOR,

I have zero interest in traveling back in time. I wear glasses, and I REALLY need them. So, pre-industrial revolution would not be good to me. Beyond just ensuring I can see while I'm there, I can't think of any previous decade that was super great for women or minorities. Look, traveling back in time only seems to work out well for white guys in puffy vests who are inexplicably friends with mad scientists. But if absolutely

pressed, I'd have to choose about 300 million years ago during the Carboniferous Period of the late Paleozoic Era—lots of cool swamp forests, no major predators, and giant 3-foot-long centipedes which would creep me out but also be very fun to see.

DEAR ANGELA,

I'm currently caught in the crosshairs of a very public debate, and I don't know what to do. One day, I'm just waking up from a super long nap, minding my own business and scouting out the best places for berry foraging this summer, when BOOM, my phone starts blowing up with messages from my friends and family asking me if I'm okay, and then the media starts calling! Apparently while I was asleep, it came out that women would rather find themselves alone in the woods with ME rather than a man. And like, what do I even say to that? It's flattering to be wanted, but at the same time, I guess I was going for aloof and mysterious. I've been actively trying to avoid the press. But now it seems like everyone is trying to sink their claws into me. I don't think I like all this attention, but I certainly welcome women who would want to join me in the woods. How can I balance my need

for privacy with this new interest by women to find safe spaces in nature? —The Only Black Bear in Dubuque County

DEAR BLACK BEAR,

I'd suggest a second hibernation, but just ignoring a problem never really works, does it? Although, if you hibernate and all the men stay out of the woods too, then I would be free to roam. My only fear would be accidentally squatting to pee over a patch of poison ivy. Okay, now that I'm actually thinking about it, EVERYONE should stay out of the woods this summer. I want them all to myself. Thanks!

DEAR ANGELA,

I'm not great at giving gifts, and my mom is always "mum" about what she wants. Mother's Day is coming up, and I'm totally at a loss as to what I should get her. Flowers seem over done, but apparently due to inflation, a card just isn't enough anymore. Do you have any ideas? —Out of Ideas on Ideal Lane

DEAR OUT,

You are right, one of those tacky oversized musical cards from the gas station

isn't going to cut it anymore. You've got to up your game. But look, Mother's Day gifts are not creative, it's always the same: flowers, breakfast in bed, a terrible drawing made by the kids that she has to keep magnetized to the fridge for months even though what is supposed to be the family dog actually looks like a surprisingly realistic turd. Since you're a lover of puns, how about this: Did you know that May 12 is also National Limerick Day? Celebrate all that your mom has done for you with a personalized poem that has a convenient AABBA rhyming scheme! Here is one to get you started. There once was a mom from Dubuque/Who assumed last year's bad gift was a fluke/Although her kids she does love/When push comes to shove/If she gets one more stupid card she'll... leave you out of the will.

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.

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Make prevention and testing part of your journey.
Getting tested for HIV is the only way to know your status. And knowing your HIV status helps you choose options to stay healthy!



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Internal and external condoms can prevent HIV and other STIs when used properly, and using an appropriate lubricant is also helpful! You can also choose sexual activities with a lower likelihood of passing on an infection.



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STOP HIV IOWA

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



ARIES
(APR 19–MAY 13)

As on the ones-and-twos, as in life: Always start with a banger. People came to dance.



TAURUS
(MAY 14–JUNE 19)

Don't nuke the messenger, but the cosmos thinks that "I want to paint your face on the side of a nuclear bomb, baby" would be a really good pick-up line. Look, the cosmos doesn't even experience time, so you can't expect it to be timely, alright? You have to admit that there's a brief window in this country's history where that line could have worked.



GEMINI
(JUNE 20–JULY 20)

The word "quixotic," meaning "exceedingly idealistic" comes from the exceedingly idealistic character of Don Quixote. But even though we pronounce Quixote "key-HO-tay," we DON'T typically pronounce "quixotic" as "key-HO-tic." It's "kwiks-AH-tic." The X gets pronounced. I know. And believe me, the cosmos is just as pissed as you are right now.



CANCER
(JULY 21–AUG 9)

Next time someone objectifies your body, do the exact opposite and personify parts of your body. Someone looking at your breasts? Make them talk! Give them Muppet voices. "Near!... Far!" "Nope nope nope nope nope!"



LEO
(AUG 10–SEP 15)

While you should really appreciate yourself more, it will only serve as a reminder that, in terms of value, nobody appreciates. The human body only depreciates in value. And that leads down some very dark alleys of thought where you'll find absolutely nowhere that's fun.



VIRGO
(SEP 16–OCT 30)

Networking could really open some doors for you. Of course, that IS typically how security doors work. It's actually when the network goes down that the whole park goes to hell.



LIBRA
(OCT 31–NOV 22)

Take this opportunity to reinvent yourself. Just make sure you apply for a trademark on the new you, not just a patent. It won't STOP the streets being flooded with cheap knock-offs of you, but it will offer legal recourse as well as other rights. And don't just put the new you in an envelope and mail you to yourself so there's a postal date stamp on it. That doesn't fully protect you.



SCORPIO
(NOV 23–NOV 29)

The cosmos says you should follow your goats. I'm pretty sure that's a typo and the cosmos meant you should follow your GOALS. And if your goal is to get some goats, then you can't ask for a better sign from the cosmos that you should get some goats. And follow them.



OPIHUCHUS
(NOV 30–DEC 17)

The cosmos is blaring at you in all caps: READ *THE ROOM!* Pretty vague, I know, since there's LOTS of books by that title. The library can probably be more helpful. They're certainly more helpful than astrology.



SAGITTARIUS
(DEC 18–JAN 8)

Your career is about to blast off! Seriously, I don't know how the hell you managed to get your name at the top of NASA's flight schedule, but I'm super jealous. Bring me back some Mars dirt!



CAPRICORN
(JAN 9–FEB 15)

They say that man is the most dangerous game to hunt. So yes, OF COURSE women are going to choose crossing paths with a bear in the woods over crossing paths with a man. Any smart person would! You KNOW why the bear is in the woods. You have no idea why the man is in the woods. And let's not miss the point: Women have valid concerns, what with men's long and ongoing history of predation against them, but mostly the cosmos just wants to point out how stupid your bears-are-more-dangerous argument is.



AQUARIUS
(FEB 16–MAR 11)

You and a stranger will have a REAL heart-to-heart. Don't worry. If they don't survive the transplant, there's a chance your heart can still go to another recipient.



PISCES
(MAR 12–APR 18)

Don't be afraid to tell people how you feel. But please refrain from using words like "horny." I'm not saying it's wrong to feel that way. I'm just saying there's better ways to communicate that feeling, up to and including NOT communicating that feeling. I know that's confusing, and I'm sorry. If it's easier for you, just keep being afraid to tell people how you feel. It seems to be working for you.

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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