

DECEMBER 19, 2024 - JANUARY 1, 2025 ISSUE #476

DUBUQUE365.COM FREE!

365ink

MAGAZINE

365ink
WAS
HERE!

Winter Fun

Indoor Activities
for the Whole Family

NEW YEAR'S EVE IN THE TRI-STATES / DINING AT SUNTEA

THE TRI-STATES' FREE ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

from our team to yours.

As we celebrate the 40th anniversary of Greater Dubuque Development Corporation this holiday season, we reflect on the valued partnerships that make our work possible. We wish you and yours a blessed holiday and a new year filled with peace and prosperity.

YOU can be great here.

Greater Dubuque Development Corporation

Schmid Innovation Center • 900 Jackson St., Suite 109 • Dubuque, IA
563-557-9049 • gddc@greaterdubuque.org
greaterdubuque.org • youcanbegreathere.com



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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



TYLER RICHTON & THE HIGH BANK BOYS
 COUNTRY
 DECEMBER 20



NO COVER CHARGE

RHINO
 PLAYING MODERN, 80'S, CLASSIC ROCK, AND MORE!
 DECEMBER 21



RODNEY CARRINGTON
 COMEDIAN, ACTOR & SINGER
 DECEMBER 27



NEW YEAR'S EVE
DUELING PIANOS
 DECEMBER 31



TRIVIA GAME SHOW
 A LIVE TRIVIA GAME SHOW WITH PRIZES
 JANUARY 25

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*

DIAMOND JO
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WINNING IS JUST THE BEGINNING.

Port of Dubuque | DiamondJoDubuque.com



Earn **3X** points when you use your Platinum Rewards credit card.

Whether you're shopping for friends, family or your business, you'll receive triple points on your purchases during November and December.

Don't have a Platinum Rewards card? Apply online at DuTrac.org.

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Qualified transactions must be posted by December 31, 2024 to be eligible for triple rewards. Refer to DuTrac's terms and conditions at DuTrac.org if you have any questions about your Rewards program. Your standard APR for Mastercard Platinum and Business Mastercard Platinum is variable and will vary with the market based on the 13-week U.S. Government Treasury Bill. Foreign transaction fee of 1% of transaction amount will apply. Does not apply to cash advances or balance transfers. Earn 3 points for every \$1 you spend. There are no caps or limits on the number of points Mastercard Platinum and Business Mastercard Platinum card members may earn. Redemption of reward points starts at 2,500 points for a \$25 statement credit.



It's Sunday night, Dec. 15. I got home a couple of hours ago from the Toys for Tots Kids' Christmas Party at Five Flags. My feet were killing me, and I could definitely feel my heartbeat in my knees. But what a great event, the last big responsibility of my season, even though some places I provide with toys are yet to complete their distribution events. After this event, I get to stop stressing about making it to the end. But at this moment, I was just dreaming of a hot shower, a couple Tylenol (I'd love some ibuprofen, but, you know, one kidney left means no NSAIDs for me), and a reclining sofa with a hot meal and some football. And when I finally hit that sofa, my wonderful wife showed up with a big blanket she had put into the dryer for me to get it all toasty warm. Bliss!

Normally this is the part of the toy season when I get to downshift and coast to the end of the year. But alas, we now have to fully move out of our current warehouse of the last few years to our new home at Kennedy Mall before the end of the year. So back to the warehouse we go tomorrow to get everything palletted up and prepped for moving. Due to some very generous donations from Hasbro, we kind of have a lot to move. Plus all of our supplies, sorting gaylords, empty pallets, late collected toys, equipment, and more. It's probably a three-semi move, but we can't move with a semi, so it's likely more like 6 to 10 trips with a 12-pallet box truck. But we can do this. I'll need to if I plan to spend a few days in Minnetonka, MN next week to visit my in-laws and my very brand new niece, June, born earlier this week.

And because I'm really smart, we're also moving our *365ink* office this week. But at least that's just down the hall to a bigger suite at the Schmid Innovation Center at the Carado Building in the Millwork District. Still, a dolly and some sweat equity will be involved. So when I say, "I gave at the office" this year, I ain't kidding. Oh, and

I have to finish this new issue of *365ink* by Tuesday night as well. Piece o' cake!

But I'm not done! Some genius decided to buy a couple of new appliances at home this week and some new cupboards for the pantry/laundry room. The appliances arrived on a truck from Cedar Rapids in the middle of an ice storm on Saturday. Figure that one out? And the cupboards came on Friday, with more than "some assembly required." So I guess I get to come home each night and work on that. First, we have to take down the old cabinets.

I did get the new subfloor put in where the new dishwasher is going. When we took out the old one, we learned that the lovely new bamboo flooring the previous owners put in our kitchen with under floor heating was installed in front of the old washer, making the floor three-quarters of an inch higher than the washer, which is also under a granite countertop. So you can just imagine how much fun it was pulling that thing out of the hole without ruining the flooring or the granite. It took a few hours with the help of my in-laws who were visiting that weekend.

Did you know there's such a thing as an ADA-compliant dishwasher? It just so happens to be about an inch and a half shorter than a traditional washer, which means with the new subfloor in the washer spot to make it level with the new floor, it can still slide right in there. Thanks Aaron Rainey for the free piece of plywood to fill in the floor and to Jayde Griffin who will skillfully install the new washer for us on Tuesday... fingers crossed.

Still, I HATE hanging cabinets, so I have that to look forward to. But when it's done, I can put in my new upright freezer. I'm sick and tired of spelunking down into the chest freezer to see what's at the bottom or to look for what I know was on top that has somehow magically worked its way to the bottom. Here's hoping having a deep freeze with shelves means I can find stuff, have a pizza shelf, and never be surprised again by the fact that there was a whole duck down there.

And then, I swear I'm resting for a good week, and if you need something from me before Jan. 6 (don't read anything into that date), tough nuggets! I'll be in bed, or in Minnesota. Probably in bed in Minnesota.

Oh, ah hey. Merry Christmas to you and yours. I hope you enjoy your relaxing time with family as much as I am. And I hope that the hundreds... actually more than a thousand families that we've been able to help through Toys for Tots, have a relaxing joy-filled holiday as well. We all deserve it! ■

Q

CASINO + RESORT

Celebrating

New Year's Eve

2024

PARTY FAVORS, PHOTOBOOTH,
BALLOON DROP IN THE Q SHOWROOM,
CHAMPAGNE TOAST AT MIDNIGHT!



THE HYPE!
NEW YEAR'S EVE
THE ULTIMATE 80S GLAM
ROCK EXPERIENCE
9PM



SCAN FOR TICKETS

Q

SHOWROOM

Standing room only. Must be 21. Visit us at: qcasinoandresort.com

SURF + TURF

4oz Beef Tenderloin Filet with Shrimp Skewer,
Herb Buttered Potatoes, Grilled Asparagus,
Grilled Focaccia Bread, Crème Brulee

4pm-12am



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KITCHEN + BAR



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The United States has the safest, most effective vaccine supply.

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Over time, protection from childhood vaccines can wear off leaving adults at risk for diseases.



Talk to your healthcare provider about vaccines today.




Dubuque County Business Competition Deadline

MONDAY, JANUARY 6

For the second consecutive year, ambitious entrepreneurs will have an avenue to help launch their business or help it grow. The Dubuque County Business Competition, organized by The Innovation Lab and powered by Dupaco Credit Union, is set to bring together startups, existing businesses, funders, and mentors under one roof, providing a unique opportunity for them to kickstart or scale their ventures.

Entrepreneurs will be selected from applications to participate in the competition taking place on Feb. 6, 2025. Each participating entrepreneur will receive \$250 in seed funding, and an additional \$20,000 in funding will be awarded to

help fuel business growth. In addition, each participant will have the invaluable opportunity to gain insights from industry experts who will help them refine their strategies and fine-tune their pitches, giving their business ideas the best possible chance of success in the competition.

The competition will start with a Funding Fair on February 6 at 5 p.m. where the finalists will each have a booth to display their business information and concepts. Attendees will listen to pitches from each business and vote for their favorite concept. A panel of expert judges will also listen to and score pitches.

The businesses that garner the top five judges' scores will be selected to pitch at the live pitch event. The business that generates the most crowd votes also earns a spot in the live pitch event.

Six finalists will take the stage at 6:30 p.m. to deliver their compelling 5-minute pitches to the crowd. Their pitches will be evaluated by a panel of expert judges with the top three businesses receiving seed funding of \$10,000 for first place, \$5,000 for second place, and \$2,750 for third place.

For more information about the entry criteria, the judging process, and how to sign up for a chance to win funding for your business, visit innovationlab.us/dbqbizcomp to fill out an application by Jan. 6. ■

THU 12/19

Milk and Cookies with Santa and Christmas Parade

6 PM @ PEOSTA COMMUNITY CENTRE AND CITY OF PEOSTA, IA
Share your list and take a photo with Santa, and enjoy milk and cookies. Around 7 p.m., Santa, Mrs. Claus, and friends make their way through town during the parade thanks to the Centralia/Peosta Fire Department and the Peosta Police Department. 7896 Burds Rd, Peosta, IA. **563-556-8755**. cityofpeosta.org.

invasive species on a remnant, hilltop prairie, Join other volunteers as we restore the prairie by cutting with handsaws and loppers. Gloves and cutting materials will be provided, please wear appropriate clothing for the weather and footwear for uneven terrain. RSVP. 2375 Roosevelt St. **563-556-6745**. dubuquecountyiowa.gov/conservation.



Citizen's Police Academy Applications

The 2025 session takes place on Thursday evenings at 6-9:30 p.m. from Jan. 30-April 3 with an optional 11th session on April 10. The Dubuque Police Department will be hosting the 28th

session of the Citizen's Police Academy (CPA). This 10-week program offers community members the opportunity to attend presentations and classes taught by Dubuque Police officers, law enforcement professionals, and other members of the criminal justice system. Some topics include: arrest procedures, search and seizure, use of force, k-9 unit, specialty units, drug enforcement, school resource officers, and more. As part of the academy, participants will also conduct a 4-hour ride-along with a Dubuque police officer, then report their observations to the class. Applications will be accepted beginning Dec. 20. Applicants must be 18 years of age, have no felony convictions, and have no significant arrest history. CityOfDubuque.org/Citizens-Police-Academy.

FRI 12/20

Prairie Restoration Day

9-11 AM OR NOON-2 PM @ SUNNYCREST MANOR
Grab the gloves and get ready to help remove

Holiday Beverage Savings at **FAMILY BEER & LIQUOR**

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Kendall-Jackson Chardonnay
750ml
\$11.99



Jack Daniels
Black, Fire, Honey, & Apple
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Sweet Berry or Sweet Watermelon
750ml
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\$29.99



Ole Smoky or Bird Dog Flavored Whiskeys
750ml
\$17.99



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750ml
\$4.99*
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Bacardi Rum
All Varieties
1.75L
\$19.99



Christian Bros. Holiday Nog & Evan Williams Egg Nog
750ml
\$7.99 While supplies last!



Duckhorn Napa Valley Cabernet Sauvignon
750ml
\$64.99



Captain Morgan Spiced Rum
1.75L
\$21.99*
*\$27.99 before \$36 mail-in rebate on 6 bottles



Grey Goose Vodka
750ml
\$24.99



Martini & Rossi Asti
750ml
\$8.99



Crown Royal
Regular, Peach, Apple, & Vanilla
1.75L
\$49.99*
*\$55.99 before \$36 mail-in rebate on 6 bottles



Fireball
1.75L
\$18.49*
*\$21.99 before \$7 mail-in rebate on 2 bottles

Specials valid through December 31, 2024

No Deposit Cans & Bottles!

We Match All Advertised East Dubuque Prices!

- Over 1,200 Varieties of Beer
- Over 3,000 Varieties of Wine
- Over 2,600 Varieties of Liquor

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—Josh Althaus, Owner



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YOU HAVE US.

MEDICAL ASSOCIATES
100 years | EST. 1924

Every baby's journey starts with care you can trust. From delivery with our skilled Obstetricians to ongoing support from our dedicated Pediatricians, we're here to provide expert, compassionate care tailored to your child as they grow.



Deliveries at MercyOne Birth Center



Continuity of newborn's care with our Pediatricians

You have us for every moment, every milestone, and every need.

“ PATIENT TESTIMONIAL

Overall, the transition from being a patient myself to having my children receive care has been seamless. The doctors, nurses, and receptionists in both departments have always been incredibly kind and helpful, answering any questions and assisting with appointments.

★★★★★ (5 out of 5 star review)

OB/GYN & INFERTILITY DEPARTMENT | 563.584.4435

Joseph Berger, MD | Tara Holste, DO | Lisa Kramer, MD
Bryony McCollaugh, DO | Erika O'Donnell, MD | Jodi Kilburg, ARNP

PEDIATRICS DEPARTMENT | WEST 563.584.4440 | EAST 563.584.3440

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West Campus: 1500 Associates Drive, Dubuque, IA
East Campus: 1000 Langworthy Street, Dubuque, IA

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Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration

**DR. JOHN STEWART PRESENTS
“LIVING AS A CALLED PERSON:
MLK AND YOU AND ME”**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 20 @ 7 AM
Q CASINO + RESORT
REFLECTIONS EVENT SPACES
(1855 GREYHOUND PARK RD)**

On Monday, Jan. 20, 2025, the Dubuque community is invited to come together to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the 33rd Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration. The event will take place at the all-new Reflections Event Spaces at Q Casino + Resort at 7 a.m. This annual breakfast is hosted by faces&voices and supported by the City of Dubuque, Dubuque Community Schools, the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque, and Q Casino + Resort.

This year's theme, “Living As A Called Person: MLK and You and Me,” will be delivered by Dr. John Stewart, author of *Dismantling Racism One On One*. Dr. Stewart, a retired university administrator and communications professor from

the University of Dubuque, will explore the ways in which each of us is called to combat racism in our community. Drawing inspiration from Dr. King's example, Dr. Stewart will discuss how individuals—guided by their own spiritual or religious beliefs—can engage in transforming interpersonal relationships and work to dismantle systemic racism.

In addition to a delicious breakfast and an inspiring message, this celebration provides an opportunity to support the Dubuque community as a whole. Consider sponsoring a friend or neighbor to attend with you and share in the collective effort to build a more inclusive, compassionate community. As Coretta Scott King said, “The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members, a heart of grace, and a soul generated by love.”

faces&voices is a group of local people who believe that seeing the faces and hearing the voices of each citizen will unite us. Make Dubuque a strong and vibrant community that is inclusive, integrated, and welcoming, thereby attracting and retaining businesses and people of all backgrounds.

Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$20 for ages 4–10, and free for children 3 and younger and are available for purchase at dbqsch.org/MLK. For more information, contact Mary Ann Conzett at rnickconz@aol.com. Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate Dr. King's legacy and show your support for a better future for Dubuque. ■

SAT 12/21



Singalong Nativity

11 AM AND 2 PM @ HAZEL GREEN OPERA HOUSE

(HAZEL GREEN, WI)

12/21, 12/30 at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.; 12/22 at 2 p.m. Angels will do a flyover from the balcony, wisemen will bring gifts and shepherds will bow down to the Christ Child in the Fever River Puppeteers' Christmas marionette show. Singing is optional, but audiences usually can't resist joining in on some of their favorite carols as they watch the familiar story unfold. The family-friendly

show is about 45 minutes in length. Afterwards, the puppeteers will answer questions and bring out some of the puppets for photo ops. \$5. 2130 Main St, Hazel Green, WI. **608-732-7129**. hazलगreenoperahouse.blogspot.com.

Snowflakes & Sweets Stroll

NOON–4 PM @ DOWNTOWN GALENA, IL
Find sweet treats sprinkled along Main Street in charming Galena, IL. Your punch card is good for 10 sweet treats: cookies, candies, drinks, and even some boozy options. Check in to pick up your punch card at Galena Cellars, 111 N Main St, Galena, IL, at 11 a.m.–1 p.m. Hosted by the Galena Downtown Business Association. RSVP required.

\$40. **815-281-0673**. facebook.com/GalenaDowntown.

SUN 12/22



O So Good Winery Breakfast with Santa

8 AM–NOON @ O SO GOOD WINERY (DYERSVILLE, IA)
Enjoy a breakfast buffet with Santa, and he'll have a little something for each child. Adults can enjoy the mimosa and bloody mary bar. RSVP requested. 2093 20th Ave SE, Dyersville, IA. **563-599-1262**. osogoodwinery.com.

FIVE FLAGS CENTER

THE TRI-STATE AREA'S ENTERTAINMENT DESTINATION



RUDOLPH
THE RED-NOSED REINDEER
THE MUSICAL

The Original Television Classic Comes To Life!

"Bring your kids...and start a new kind of holiday tradition"
- Chicago Daily Herald

Five Flags Center
December 20 | 7PM



WINTER BOUNCE

Five Flags Center
December 28 & 29



Five Flags Center
Pickleball

Indoor Pickleball
Courts Open Now!
Register Online!




Wags At The Flags

FIVE FLAGS CENTER

ACM GLOBAL

Wednesdays 4-8 PM - Jan 8, 15, 22, 29



THE ORIGINAL
HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS

2025 WORLD TOUR

JANUARY 11

Presented by
Janney McCoy



WILDHORSE PRODUCTIONS LLC
PRESENTS
BATTLE BLUFF
Rodeo

THURN

FEBRUARY 14-15, 2025 7 PM
DATES OPEN: 5:30 PM FRI
5:00 PM SAT

FRIDAY & SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 14-15

Sandbar Rodeo
Productions Inc.



DRUMLINE
Live

FEBRUARY 19



DUBUQUE ON ICE
BREWFEEST

FEBRUARY 22



SEE LIFE AND HARD STOOD
IN ASSOCIATION WITH LIONSGATE PRESENTS
THE NORTH AMERICAN TOUR

FIVE FLAGS CENTER
March 27, 7pm

LIONSGATE



ARENA FOOTBALL

IOWA
POWER

AUGUST 2025

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



FIVE FLAGS CENTER

ACM GLOBAL



12 Days of Christmas at Hotel Julien Dubuque

NOW THROUGH DECEMBER 31

HOTEL JULIEN DUBUQUE (200 MAIN ST)

Get ready to celebrate the holiday season at Hotel Julien Dubuque. This December, you're invited to join the exciting 12 Days of Christmas events, filled with joy, community spirit, and festive cheer.

Celebrate A Teal Christmas with Potosa Spa and support Ovarian Cancer Awareness. For every "teal" service booked in December, \$10 will be donated to Wreaths for a CURE. Guests will also receive a gift bag.

The Holiday Blood Drive on Thursday, Dec. 19 at noon–4:30 p.m. is

your opportunity to give the greatest gift someone receives this year. redcrossblood.org/give.

Enjoy a special Christmas cocktail prepared by Tony Pfohl and Chad Chandlee in the Riverboat Lounge on Friday, Dec. 20 at 5–8 p.m. A portion of each cocktail will be given to the local nonprofit Hills & Dales.

The Old Fashioned Christmas Dinner on Tuesday, Dec. 24 at 5–8 p.m. and Christmas Day breakfast on Wednesday, Dec. 25 at 9 a.m.–noon in Caroline's Restaurant close out the Christmas celebrations. RSVP recommended.

Get ready for an epic New Year's Eve celebration with Ozzy & Bon JoeB at 6 p.m., followed by dynamic DJ saxophonist Nostalgia Rush.

For reservations or more information, call Hotel Julien Dubuque at **563-588-5563** or visit HotelJulienDubuque.com. ■

Los Aztecas
Mexican Restaurant
Over 100 Original Family Recipes

20% OFF GIFT CERTIFICATES (\$10 OR MORE) NOV 29 - DEC 31!

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Via EatStreet

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FOUR GREAT TRI-STATE LOCATIONS...

2700 Dodge St, DBQ 563-584-0212	2345 NW Arterial, DBQ 563-583-5026	11 AM - 10 PM, Mon - Thur 11 AM - 11 PM, Fri - Sat 11 AM - 9 PM, Sundays
975 Galena Sq., Galena IL 815-777-9066	634 S. Marquette Rd. Prairie DuChien, WI, 608-326-1988	www.losaztecasiwi.com facebook.com/losaztecasrestaurants

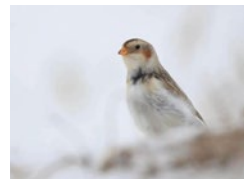
FRI 12/27

Live Animals

10 AM @ JAMES KENNEDY PUBLIC LIBRARY (DYERSVILLE, IA)

Get a close-up encounter with some of Dubuque County Conservation's educational animals. Learn about their adaptations, hold them, and watch them interact with the environment around them. All ages, under 7 need a mature teen or adult companion. 320 1st Ave E, Dyersville, IA. **563-556-6745**. dubuquecountyiowa.gov/conservation.

SAT 12/28



Dubuque Audubon Annual Christmas Bird Count

8 AM @ EB LYONS

INTERPRETIVE CENTER

The annual Audubon Christmas Bird count is the longest running organized citizen science project in the United States. Join Dubuque Audubon field trip leaders as we split into groups to identify and count birds within a 10 mile radius of Center Grove Methodist Church, Dubuque, IA. Sectors include Swiss Valley, Mines of Spain, City of Dubuque, Western Dubuque, Deere Dike/north of Dubuque, Dubuque Airport, and western Grant County. You may also sign up to participate by feeder-watching from home. All skill levels are welcome. As the group moves between locations, you can carpool with leaders or drive separately, depending on space and preference. Compilation will be at 5 p.m. inside EB Lyons. All data will be submitted to the National Audubon Society and used to track trends in bird diversity. Free. 8991 Bellevue Heights Rd. audubondubuque.org.

WED 1/1



First Day Hike

NOON @ EB LYONS

INTERPRETIVE CENTER

Start by meeting at the EB Lyons Interpretive Center and break up into necessary groups to have smaller hiking groups. The hike will be on uneven terrain and last for roughly 20–40 minutes. Afterward, hikers are invited back to the interpretive center to warm up, converse, and enjoy refreshments provided by the Friends of the Mines of Spain. Dress for the weather with boots, gloves, hats, and layers. Bring trekking poles/hiking sticks as needed for your personal safety while hiking. Well behaved, leashed pets are allowed to join. Free. 8991 Bellevue Heights. **563-556-0620**. MinesOfSpain.com.

THU 1/2

Stress Release with Eryka Cook

9:30, 10:15, AND 11 AM @ CARNEGIE-STOUT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Self-defense and martial arts instructor Eryka Cook hosts three free 25-minute stress-relief sessions for adults. Learn how to use physical movement to reduce stress, find calm, and feel empowered. All ability levels are welcome. Cook has more than 20 years of self-defense teaching experience and is a black belt in karate. RSVP required. 360 W 11th St. **563-589-4225 x2224**. carnegioustout.org/events.

FRI 1/3

Monopoly Mania

10–11:30 AM @ CARNEGIE-STOUT PUBLIC LIBRARY
Head to the library and make a new friend while playing Monopoly and learning some tricks and strategies

to the game. Everyone leaves with a new Monopoly board game. Ages 8–12. RSVP required. 360 W 11th St. **563-589-4225 x2228**. carnegioustout.org/events.

SUN 1/5

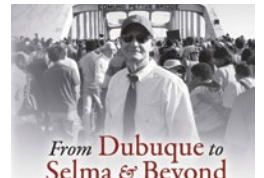


Thrifty Affair

10 AM–2 PM @ DUBUQUE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

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

TUE 1/7



"From Dubuque to Selma & Beyond" Author Event

5:30–7 PM @ CARNEGIE-STOUT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Join author Dave Markward as he shares his journey of personal transformation: going from an exclusively white upbringing in Dubuque to a life enriched by diversity. In his latest memoir, *From Dubuque to Selma and Beyond: My Journey to Understand Racism in America*, Markward delves into the complex world of racism and shares his unwavering belief in humanity and the power of education to effect change. Dave Markward has dedicated his professional life to public education and is a graduate of Dubuque Senior High School and Augustana College (Illinois). He holds two advanced degrees from Western Illinois University and a doctorate from Illinois State University. Free. 360 W 11th St. **563-589-4225 x2224**. carnegioustout.org/events.

THU 1/9

Free Movie:
"Anatomy of a Fall"

6-9 PM @ CARNEGIE-STOUT PUBLIC LIBRARY
Written and directed by Justine Triet, *Anatomy of a Fall* (2023) is an Oscar-winning courtroom drama starring Sandra Hüller as a writer who is put on trial for her husband's suspicious demise. The dialogue is in French and English, and English subtitles will be turned on. This 2 hour 31 minute movie is rated R for some language, sexual references and violent images. Seating is first come, first served. Free. 360 W 11th St. **563-589-4225**. carnegiestout.org/events.

**Julien Dubuque International Film Festival Movie Trivia Night**

6:30-9 PM @ HAPPY'S PLACE
Teams of 4-8 are invited to a movie trivia night with prizes, fun games, 50/50 raffle, and heads/tails. JDIFF can add you in a team. \$25/person. 2323 Rockdale Rd. JulienFilmFest.com.

Dubuque Audubon Society: Improving the River Environment

6:45-8 PM @ EB LYONS INTERPRETIVE CENTER
Jeremiah Haas, fisheries biologist at Quad Cities Clean Energy Center, will speak about their Mississippi River monitoring, hatchery operation, and outreach. The Quad Cities Clean Energy Center in Cordova, IL, has been in operation since 1973 and has been conducting environmental work since 1971. Social time at 6:45, program at 7 p.m. 8991 Bellevue Heights Rd. AudubonDubuque.org.

FRI 1/10

Ayurveda with the Clock with Emily Manternach

6-7 PM @ ONLINE
Ayurveda is known as the science of life, from the Sanskrit words Ayur meaning "life" and Veda meaning "science." It is not just about balancing the amount of tasks, but also doing those tasks at the proper times. Various times throughout the day have different energetic qualities. Discuss when it is best to do each daily activity based on that energy. This will help in finding balance for overall well-being. Emily has been teaching yoga for seven years and Ayurveda for three years. She has practiced both systems for 17 years, ever since becoming hooked on them by her very first experience. She loves supporting her clients fully in living their best lifestyle, through classes, workshops, and coaching. RSVP by 1/3. \$20. **563-582-3592**. shalomretreats.org.

SAT 1/11

**Becoming an Outdoor Woman**

9 AM-NOON @ SWISS VALLEY NATURE CENTER (PEOSTA, IA)
A welcome introduction, three sessions, and lunchtime are offered. Sessions include knot tying, wood stick carving and winter ecology hike. Bring your own lunch. No prior experience necessary. Dress appropriately for the weather. RSVP required. 13606 Swiss Valley Rd, Peosta, IA. **563-556-6745**. dubuquecountyiowa.gov/conservation.

SUN 1/12

**Mystery of Finley's Landing**

NOON @ EB LYONS INTERPRETIVE CENTER
Historian Gerda Preston-Hartman will share this captivating history, full of surprising twists and deep connections to the past, offering an exciting glimpse into the legacy of Finley's Landing. Finley's Landing is one of the most picturesque spots along Mississippi River Pool 11 in Dubuque County. With breathtaking views along the nature trails that ascend the rugged bluffs, this gem has amazing history. 8991 Bellevue Heights. **563-556-0620**. MinesOfSpain.com.

**Hat Burning**

1-4 PM @ GALENA ARC (GALENA, IL)
Try your hand at burning a design into a felt hat of choice (Western, fedora, or flat-brimmed) and embellishing it with a hat band, feathers, and some accessories. There are some templates and patterns or you could try freehand with the help of Marie McDonough. Includes instruction, tools needed, hat, hat band, and accessories. \$75. 11084 W US HWY 20, Galena, IL. galenaarc.org.



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Applications due by January 6.



Reflections in the Park

NOW THROUGH JANUARY 5 @ 5-10 PM

LOUIS MURPHY PARK (1700 S GRANDVIEW AVE)

The 30th anniversary of Hillcrest Family Services' Reflections in the Park, presented by Fidelity Bank and Trust, is lighting up the holiday season in Dubuque. Now through Jan. 5, 2025, Louis Murphy Park will once again be transformed into a spectacular Christmas winter wonderland, featuring a stunning array of intricate and animated light displays. Highlights include the popular Tunnel of Lights, the Faley family-sponsored 30-foot Digital Christmas Tree, Memory Lane, and many new and recurring favorites, all enhanced with LED lighting.

"This event is about more than holiday lights—it's about hope," said Hillcrest Family Services CEO Mike Fidgeon. "People visiting the park help provide crucial behavioral health services to over 7,000 individuals in our community who rely on Hillcrest Family Services."

Tickets are \$12 per vehicle at the gate. Discounted \$10 tickets are available at Tri-State area Fidelity Bank and Trust locations and Hillcrest Family Services. For more information, call Hillcrest Family Services at **563-583-7357**. ■

Ongoing & Recurring Events

TUESDAY

Early Explorers

10 AM @ NATIONAL MISSISSIPPI RIVER MUSEUM & AQUARIUM
1ST TUE & 1ST SAT THROUGH 5/6

Discover the ABCs of the world around us through hands-on and active activities including a craft and game. Ages 2-5 with parent/caregiver. RSVP suggested. Free. 350 E 3rd St. **563-557-9545**.

RiverMuseum.org/early-explorers.

WEDNESDAY

She Unites

6:30-7:30 PM
@ THE INNOVATION LAB
3RD WED

Come together for an evening of socialization and education. Featuring rotating speakers

talking about anything and everything pertaining to women in a chill environment. Free. 210 Jones St. SheUnitesIowa.com/events.

FRIDAY

First Fridays

VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN DUBUQUE
1ST FRI

First Friday is a free downtown monthly community arts event with open galleries, artists' studios, and live entertainment, fostering community and celebrating arts in Dubuque. Free. FirstFridaysDubuque.org.

SATURDAY

Lollipops & Music for Our Preschoolers

10-10:30 AM @ CARNEGIE-STOUT PUBLIC LIBRARY
2ND SAT THROUGH 4/12

Northeast Iowa School of Music introduces children and their families to a variety of musical styles and instruments. Come prepared to sing, play instruments,

and dance. Children leave with a greater appreciation of music and a lollipop. All ages. Free. 360 W 11th St. **563-690-0151**. nisom.com.

Early Explorers

10 AM @ NATIONAL MISSISSIPPI RIVER MUSEUM & AQUARIUM
1ST TUE & 1ST SAT THROUGH 5/6

FARMERS' MARKETS

Galena Winter Farmer's Market

SAT: 8 AM-NOON
@ GALENA EAGLES CLUB (GALENA, IL)
2ND SAT THROUGH 3/8 & 4/5
237 S Main St, Galena, IL. **563-542-0996**. facebook.com/galenafarmersmarket.

Dubuque Winter Farmers Market

SAT: 9 AM-NOON @ KENNEDY MALL
THROUGH 4/26
NO EVENT 12/28
555 JFK Rd.
wintermarketdbq.com.

Platteville Winter Farmer's Market

SAT: 9 AM-NOON @ ROUNDTREE GALLERY (PLATTEVILLE, WI)
1ST & 3RD SAT THROUGH 4/19
120 W Main 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).



Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20 @ 7 PM
FIVE FLAGS ARENA

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer: The Musical celebrates its 10th year on tour, bringing the beloved holiday classic to life at the Five Flags Arena on Friday, Dec. 20 at 7 p.m.

This enchanting stage production invites families to experience the magic of the longest-running and highest-rated holiday TV special. Follow Rudolph, Hermey the Elf, Yukon Cornelius, and Bumble the Abominable Snow Monster as they help Santa save Christmas in a heartwarming story filled with iconic songs, dazzling costumes, and nostalgic set designs.

Tickets are \$23-\$48. ■



Winter Bounce

DECEMBER 28 AND 29
@ 8 AM-1 PM AND 3-8 PM
FIVE FLAGS ARENA

In partnership with Tough Entertainment, known for delivering top-tier inflatable

experiences, Winter Bounce will transform Five Flags Arena into a massive playground on Dec. 28 and 29. Two sessions are available each day: 8 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-8 p.m.

Featuring nearly 30 inflatables including bounce houses, obstacle courses, and interactive games. In addition to the inflatables, attendees can enjoy laser tag and mini golf, making this event a complete entertainment experience.

Perfect for kids and young-at-heart adults, this event promises hours of high-energy fun. Don't miss out on this chance to shake off the winter chill and enjoy the ultimate indoor playground.

Tickets are \$11 for ages under 18. Laser tag and mini golf are \$5 for all ages. ■

Jeff's Pickleball Clinic

MONDAY, JANUARY 6
BEGINNER @ 9-11 AM
INTERMEDIATE @ 11 AM-1 PM
FIVE FLAGS ARENA

Jeffrey Van Der Eems leads a comprehensive pickleball clinic, perfect for players of all skill levels, on Monday, Jan. 6 at the Five Flags Arena.

The beginner session at 9-11 a.m., ideal for those new to pickleball, covers the fundamental rules, court positioning, basic strokes (forehands, backhands, volleys, dinks, and serves), proper grip techniques, footwork drills, and strategies to confidently participate in a game.



Geared toward players with a solid foundation, the intermediate session at 11 a.m.-1 p.m. focuses on advanced techniques, strategies, and tactics like refined volleys, dinking, partner movement, and quicker shot execution to elevate your gameplay.

Tickets are \$50. Visit [fiveflags.pickleplanner.com](https://www.fiveflags.pickleplanner.com). ■

Wags at the Flags

WEDNESDAYS:
JANUARY 8, 15, 22, AND 29; FEBRUARY 5;
MARCH 5, 12, AND 26 @ 4-8 PM
FIVE FLAGS ARENA

Wags at the Flags is an indoor dog park held at the Five Flags Arena on select Wednesday from 4 to 8 p.m. Bring your pup for some fun at the Flags on Jan. 8, 15, 22, and 29; Feb. 5; and March 5, 12, and 26.

The park features separate areas for small and large dogs, along with



the Barka Lounge for owners to enjoy food, drinks, and adult refreshments. Each week will have themed events and local vendors. Proceeds benefit the Dubuque Regional Humane Society and Whispurring Hope.

Entry is \$5/dog; humans are free. ■



Harlem Globetrotters

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11 @ 2 PM
FIVE FLAGS ARENA

Get ready for high-flying basketball action with the world-famous Harlem Globetrotters. They are back in action at the Five Flags Arena on Saturday, Jan. 11 at 2 p.m. Join them for an afternoon of family-friendly basketball fun and antics in downtown Dubuque.

Watch as the Harlem Globetrotters take on their rivals, the Washington Generals, in an epic showdown filled with jaw-dropping dunks, trick shots, and fan interactions.

Don't miss out on pre-game experiences like the Magic Pass and stick around for post-game fun. Be part of the excitement as the Globetrotters gear up for their 2026 centennial celebration.

Tickets are \$33-\$83. Add-ons for Magic Pass are \$30 and Celebrity Court Pass are \$100. ■



Seasonal Allergies

DECEMBER 19-20 @ 7:30 PM

DECEMBER 21-22 @ 2 PM

BELL TOWER THEATER
(2728 ASBURY RD)

The Bell Tower Theater features the local premiere of *Seasonal Allergies*, a funny, heartwarming comedy about friends, family, and holiday stresses on Dec. 19-22.

What are the holidays without a little chaos? Julia's life is turned upside down when her soon-to-be-divorced brother shows up unexpectedly and stays from Thanksgiving through New Year's.

Tickets are \$24. Thursdays are Girls Night Out; all audience members get a free glass of wine. For more information and to purchase tickets, call 563-588-3377 or visit BellTowerTheater.net.



DUBUQUE CITY YOUTH
BALLET PRESENTS

The Nutcracker

DECEMBER 20-21 @ 7:30 PM

DECEMBER 21-22 @ 2 PM

GRAND OPERA HOUSE (135 W 8TH ST)

An annual Christmas tradition inspired by Dubuque, *The Nutcracker* returns to the Grand Opera House stage. Presented by the Dubuque City Youth Ballet (DCYB), performances are on Dec. 20-21 at 7:30 p.m. and Dec. 21-22 at 2 p.m.

Whirling snowflakes and waltzing flowers frame this beloved holiday classic. Clara and her enchanted nutcracker battle the dreadful Mouse King in a nightmare that becomes a beautiful dream.

Performed annually for over 20 years, the DCYB production will be a highlight of your family's holiday celebration.

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$17 for children under 18. Tickets can be purchased in person at the box office, by calling 563-588-1305, or at TheGrandOperaHouse.com.

First Fridays

DUBUQUE'S ART GALLERY TOUR
January 3rd Events



FRIDAY, JANUARY 3

NOON-7 PM @ STONED ART STUDIO & GALLERY (1800 CENTRAL AVE)

NOON-8 PM @ WIDDERSHINS ARTISAN GALLERY (2204 CENTRAL AVE)

4:30-7:30 PM @ OUTSIDE THE LINES ART GALLERY (1101 MAIN ST)

6-9 PM @ ANDONIA GIANNAKOUIROS STUDIO (219 W 9TH ST)

7-11 PM @ SMOKESTACK (62 E 7TH ST)

First Friday is a free downtown monthly community arts event with open galleries, artists' studios, and live entertainment, fostering community and celebrating arts in Dubuque. All stops are free.

Stoned Art Studio & Gallery showcases the art and Galena-Driftless Region photography of Henry Matthiesen III. Refreshments and jazz music round off the evening. StonedArtStudio.com.

Widdershins Artisan Gallery features artworks by local, regional, and national artists including Mark Dierker, John Potter, Debra Sullivan, Tad Banker, Sara Mess, Dan Aldeman, Peggy Jo Brekke, K.A. Kriesel, Katherine Funke, Heather Houzenga, Jay Pauley, Autumn Rose, Bill Potter, Deb Lutz, Robin Griswold-Ott, Moon Yokum, Vicki Copeland, Tim Wear, the late Shirley Dale, Karen Franklin, and Ben Curtis. Enjoy the comfy vintage furniture while listening to classic rock tunes. Refreshments will also be available. WiddershinsGallery.com.

Outside the Lines Art Gallery features Elizabeth Boggess who will be working on her ceramic houses. ShopOTLAG.com.

Andonia Giannakouros is a Dubuque-based figurative painter and printmaker. She will also be open on Saturday, Jan. 4, at 9 a.m.-noon. Enjoy champagne, cookies, and Vasilopita, a Greek cake for New Years with the ring in it (same idea as a king cake). The converted studio space in the Fisher Building features work by Giannakouros. Giannaka.com.

The Dubuque Area Arts Collective and Olliewood Action Sports have teamed up to create the skate deck art show, showcasing the power of community and the freedom to express through both skateboarding and art. Skateboarding, like art, is all about expression. It's a way to tap into creativity, embrace individuality, and push boundaries. This exhibit showcases how more than 100 local artists of all ages and skill levels have used skateboards as a canvas to channel that energy into original works of art. DubuqueArts.com.



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



JESSE ARON

Award Winning Tributes To
ELVIS PRESLEY
ROY ORBISON

TUESDAY DEC. 31 7 PM **NEW YEAR'S EVE!**

Award Winning World Champion Tribute Artist Jesse Aron will take you on a magical tribute through time with some of the most legendary voices in Rock & Roll History.. Enjoy music from Elvis, Ricky Nelson, Sam Cooke, Dion & The Belmonets, Bobby Darin, Roy Orbison & More. Relive the magic and the music of the founding fathers of Rock & Roll... Hear music from Elvis, Roy Orbison, Sam Cooke, Dion and the Belmonets, Conway Twitty, Frank Sinatra and much more! TIX: \$35 Adv. / \$38 Door



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Galena LitFest

JANUARY 8–25

GRAND OPERA HOUSE (135 W 8TH ST)

Since 2015, the Galena Public Library has been offering a variety of presentations, readings, workshops, and conversations with best selling authors throughout January, creating a month-long celebration of reading and writing in all its forms.

This year, five exciting events are scheduled for January and, back by popular demand, a brunch in Grant Park in May with support from the Friends of the Galena Public Library and in partnership with the Galena Center for the Arts, Miss Kitty's Grape Escape, and Hawk Valley Retreat & Cottages.

"I'm so excited to launch this year's festival," said Larissa Distler, Galena Public Library adult services librarian and LitFest organizer. "It's been an incredible experience to put it together each year, bring readers and writers together, provide resources for local authors, and partner with wonderful organizations and businesses in Galena."

Virtual events are presented via Zoom, so you can join from anywhere with an internet connection. Attendees will have the opportunity to interact with the instructor and ask questions directly.

For registration, tickets, and additional details, visit GalenaLibrary.org, call the Galena Public Library at **815-777-0200**, or stop by the front desk at the library. ■

Poets in Dialogue

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8 @ 6 PM

MISS KITTY'S GRAPE ESCAPE (GALENA, IL)

Poet Laureate of Rockford, Jenna Goldsmith, and Poet Laureate of Galena, Theodore Williams, discuss their poetical journeys, making an impact with the written word, and read from their work. 242 N Main St, Galena, IL.

Midwest Bedrock: The Search for Nature's Soul in America's Heartland

SATURDAY, JANUARY 11 @ 2 PM

GALENA CENTER FOR THE ARTS (GALENA, IL)

Dr. Kevin Koch, Professor Emeritus of Loras College, presents a beautiful journey which blends photography of natural spaces across the Midwest with lyrically informative writing. 971 Gear St, Galena, IL.

Writing a Mystery Can Be a Mystery! Writers' Workshop

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14 @ 5:30 PM

ONLINE

Mystery author Mary Ann Noe dives into the central question of any mystery "whodunit?" by examining the choices a

writer makes and what to do when the characters themselves throw a monkey wrench into a well-planned outline.

Lessons Learned Writing History

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16 @ 5:30 PM

ONLINE

While sharing his journey of writing and publishing Civil War history, Thomas B. Mack, Ph.D will discuss lessons learned in finding sources, ensuring the work is accurate, and completing a nonfiction historical manuscript.

A Night in Tita Rosie's Kitchen with Mia P. Manansala

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25 @ 6 PM

HAWK VALLEY RETREAT (GALENA, IL)

Join best selling mystery author Mia P. Manansala for a curated dinner featuring Filipino recipes from the Tita Rosie Kitchen Mysteries book series to learn about her journey as an author and the cultural importance of food in the Filipino diaspora. The conversation will be facilitated by Galena local, Charissa McAuliff. \$65. 2752 W Cording Rd, Galena, IL.

Color & Contour of Music Competition

DEADLINE: JANUARY 25

The Dubuque Symphony Orchestra is partnering with the Dubuque Museum of Art for this season's Color & Contour of Music competition.

Artists are invited to explore the subject of "Darkness Into Light" inspired by Beethoven's 5th Symphony. Create an original piece of art; listen and interpret the music in your own way!

Submissions must be 2-dimensional only on paper, canvas, or other similar flat surface. Photography and computer-generated art also accepted. One winner and three honorable mentions will be selected for each of the four categories. Entries are due by January 25, 2025.

Winning art will receive a Family Membership to the Dubuque Museum of Art, tickets to DSO's Feb. 15 or 16 concert, and their art will be displayed on the cover of that weekend's concert program book!

For full details and more information, visit DubuqueSymphony.org. ■

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Winter Arts 2025 Snow Sculpting Festival

DEADLINE: FRIDAY, JANUARY 31

The City of Dubuque, in partnership with the Dubuque Museum of Art, announces a call for entries for the Winter Arts 2025 Snow Sculpting Festival, to be held Feb. 6-9, 2025, in Washington Park in downtown Dubuque.

The festival is serving as the closing event for DuMA's landmark exhibition, *Dubuque by Design: Celebrating 150 Creative Years*. That exhibition inspires this year's theme: Creative Community.

Professional, amateur, and collegiate teams from across Iowa and the Greater Dubuque region are invited to apply to participate. A cash prize of \$1,000 will be awarded to the first prize sculpting team. Entries must be received by 5 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 31, 2025.

Everyone is invited to the Winter Arts community activities and people's choice voting on Sunday, Feb. 9 at noon-4 p.m.

For full entry and event details, visit cityofdubuque.org/winterarts. ■



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Winter Fun

Indoor Activities for the Whole Family

By Nicole Welsh

With the hours of daylight getting shorter and temperatures plummeting below freezing, otherwise active lowan families may find it difficult to keep themselves as busy as they are in the warmer months of the year. Options like warm weather sports, walks and hiking, picnics and cookouts, fun on the Mississippi River, and community events such as the downtown farmers' market and live outdoor music disappear leaving locals wondering what they can do to get out of the house, especially with the whole family in tow. Though cold month alternatives, like the wintery weather itself, may seem daunting, there is good news for area residents: we've gathered information on 20 Dubuque businesses that offer ongoing indoor activities to keep families of all shapes and sizes busy and out of the house until longer days and higher temperatures circle back to us again.



Phoenix Theatres

📍 KENNEDY MALL, 555 JOHN F KENNEDY RD
UNIT 105, DUBUQUE, IA

☎ 563-556-0077

🌐 PHOENIXMOVIES.NET/THEATRES/
KENNEDY-MALL/004

A classic choice, and favorite pastime for movie lovers, is an afternoon, or entire day, at the movies. Years of shifts in movie theater locations and ownership have fortunately left Dubuque with two great options for watching a movie on the big screen any day of the week. A more modern take on a movie theater, Phoenix Theatres at Kennedy Mall provides moviegoers with the classic movie experience with the seating they always desired. Outfitted with oversized red leather recliner seats, the theater provides the option to warm bottoms from the cold winter weather outside and snuggle up with friends, family, and dates with their loveseat-style accommodations with moveable armrests. This setup, combined with the blankets they have available for purchase, gives families the option to get out of the house and see the biggest movies currently out with the feel of a cozy movie day at home. Larger seats also mean fewer seats per theater room, giving the viewer a more intimate experience than a classic setup. They also pride themselves on their wall-to-wall screens, complemented perfectly with their Ovation experience audio, offering guests the latest technology to enhance the experience.



AMC Classic Theaters

📍 2835 NW ARTERIAL, DUBUQUE, IA

☎ 563-582-7801

🌐 AMCTHEATRES.COM/MOVIE-THEATRES/
DUBUQUE

Another great choice for enjoying movies in Dubuque, AMC Classic Dubuque rings true to its name—classic. Their comfortable, traditional style movie theater seating offers moviegoers a wider variety of seating options per screening, minimizing the need to buy tickets in advance to avoid sellouts, though the planners of the family are still able to purchase advance tickets if they wish. The theater also has a larger arrangement of rooms to show movies in, garnering a greater selection of movies currently available to choose from. Their concessions are also a great fit for hungry families who best enjoy a film with a snack or two in their hand, with options ranging from tried-and-true popcorn and boxes of candy to hot food such as chicken strips, hot dogs, mozzarella sticks, and pretzels that will warm patrons up as they fill their bellies. And just in case anyone needs an extra dash of fun after their movie, they also provide a little arcade at the front of the building for kids and parents to play a game or two on their way out the door.

Carnegie-Stout Public Library

📍 360 W 11TH ST, DUBUQUE, IA

☎ 563-589-4225

🌐 CARNEGUESTOUT.ORG

Another classic choice for families looking to enjoy a great story is the Carnegie-Stout Public Library, where each member can dive into a choice of their own. Dubuque residents can apply for a free library card that not

only grants them access to the entire contents of their physical selection of reading materials, but their digital collection as well. Adult residents can apply for their library card online, while children under the age of 15 can apply in person under the supervision of a parent or guardian. Digital library access grants users the ability to explore audiobooks, which families can enjoy together, as well as music and movies to stream. This historic Dubuque staple also provides a “library of things” which includes collections of other items to check out ranging from bakeware to puzzles to fitness kits, offering the opportunity for families to try out firsthand skills of new interest together. Head over to the Maker Space to create keychains, 3D-printed toys, vinyl stickers, and more.

Dubuque County Library District

📍 FIVE LOCATIONS IN ASBURY, FARLEY, EPWORTH, HOLY CROSS, AND PEOSTA, IA

🌐 DUBCOLIB.ORG

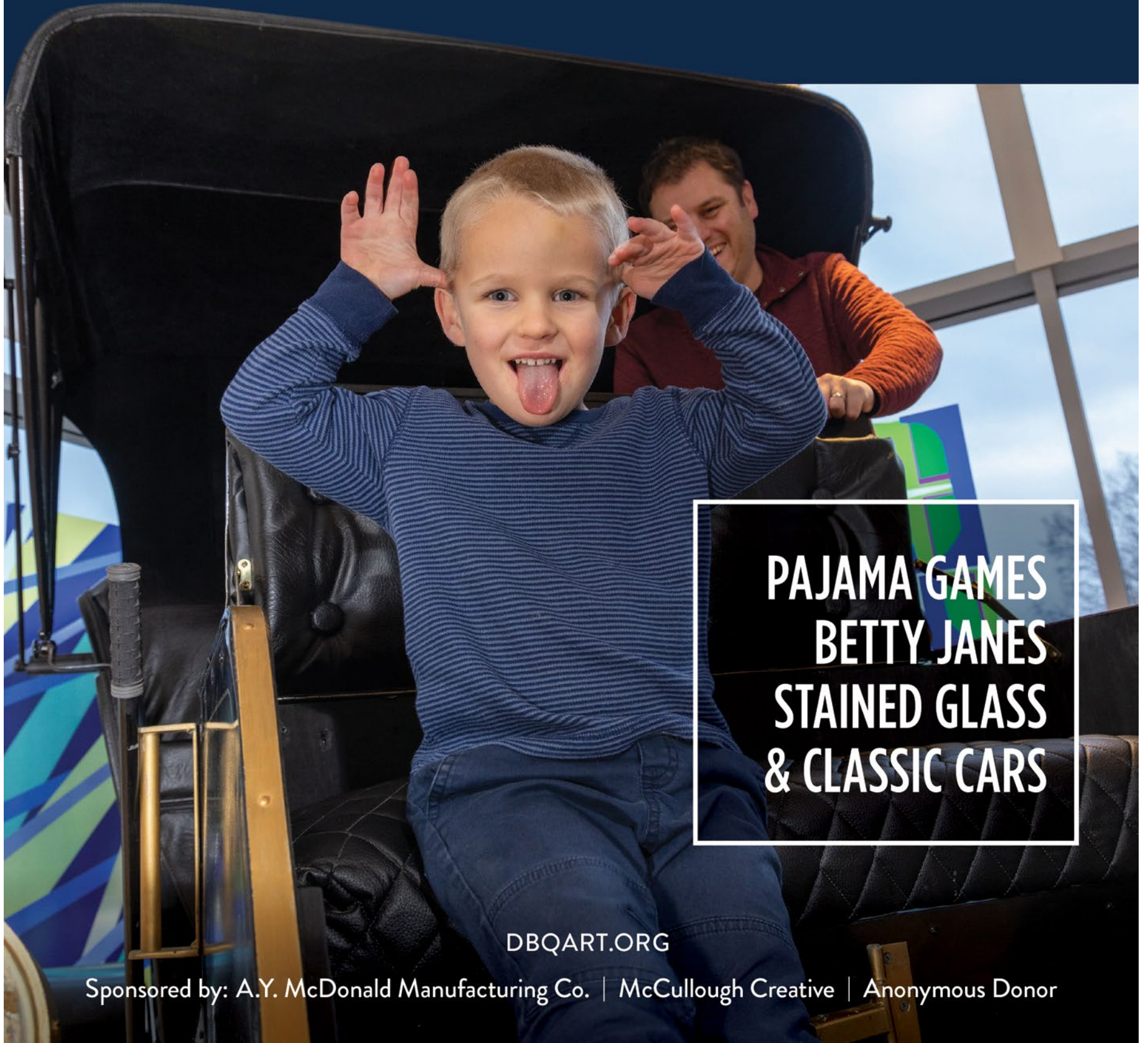
The Dubuque County Library offers much the same kind of opportunities for residents of Dubuque County outside of the Dubuque city limits including consistent monthly programming events for kids and adults. We often feature those monthly events in *365ink*, and you can find them in at least one issue per month. You can visit any of the five convenient Dubuque County Library locations:

- Asbury: 5290 Grand Meadow Dr.
- Farley Municipal Building: 206 1st St N
- Epworth: 110 Bierman Road SE
- Holy Cross: 895 Main St
- Peosta (at NICC): 8342 NICC Dr.

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Comic World & Games

📍 3220 DODGE ST, DUBUQUE, IA

☎ 563-845-0170

🌐 COMICWORLDANDGAMES.COM

For families with an interest in comics and games, Comic World offers the opportunity to dive into another world in a more interactive way. Besides being a retailer of comics, games, and collectibles, this Dubuque business also hosts an impressive number of activities to bring fans and families alike together. On Tuesday nights, they host Board Game Night from 6 to 9 p.m. wherein participants bring in a game of choice, from which the entire group will choose a game to play together. On Wednesday nights at the same time, partakers gather to work on miniature paintings or modeling projects—though you still may see others gathering at the event for another night of gameplay. Friday nights find themselves dedicated to playing Magic: The Gathering, and Sunday afternoons from 1 until 5 p.m., are reserved for playing Flesh and Blood, a game consistently growing in popularity locally.

Centrally Rooted Exploration Lab

📍 2230 CENTRAL AVE, DUBUQUE, IA

☎ 563-500-7641

🌐 CENTRALLYROOTED.COM

Another interactive option for families to dive into exists at Centrally Rooted. This nonprofit organization located in downtown Dubuque seeks to support positive brain health development through educational exploration. Beyond offering music lessons and music therapy, which are geared more towards individual students rather than families, they also offer exploration labs that can be experienced with the family. These labs are available for both art and music and provide participants with art supplies, sheet music, and certain instruments to experiment with in their learning. Reservations aren't required to make use of these exploration labs but might be a good idea for larger groups or to ensure desired access at a particular time.

National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium

📍 350 E 3RD ST, DUBUQUE, IA

☎ 563-557-9545

🌐 RIVERMUSEUM.ORG

The National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium offers both an educational and interactive experience. The museum, notable for its conservational and educational efforts, is the perfect place for families to learn all about the natural world, or more accurately ecosystem, around them. Exhibits include but are not limited to Aviaries, Bayou, and Flooded Forest, and educational movies about the Mississippi are shown hourly and bi-hourly in the venue's theater facilities. MakerSpace is an interactive area stationed within the museum for visitors, especially children, to provide hands-on learning through building. The National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium is home to a number of live creatures, placed throughout exhibits and in special locations such as the Raptor Roost; in addition to seeing these animals in their exhibits, tours and special encounters enable families to dive a little deeper into learning about select museum residents.

Dubuque Museum of Art

📍 701 LOCUST ST, DUBUQUE, IA

☎ 563-557-1851

🌐 DBQART.ORG

The Dubuque Museum of Art is another excellent museum located right in the heart of our downtown area, purveying locals with access to art, ideas, and inspiration. The organization was first established in 1874, under a different name, and possess a permanent collection of more than 2,200 works including those of Grant Wood, Edward S. Curtis, and Arthur Geisert. Current exhibitions, which will remain available through Feb. 9, 2025, include *Dubuque by Design*, which highlights the past, present, and future of designs impactful to the Dubuque community; *I Have Told You 50 Times: Collages by Hieyler Pimpton*, a collection of stories told through paper collages; and Digital Art and Design from the University of Dubuque, an aptly named exhibit focused on showcasing the works of UD student artwork. Upcoming exhibitions, which will open on Feb. 22, 2025, include *Stretched Thin: Visual Musings on Tension* and *Odyssey: The Voyage of Gerit Grimm*.

Captured on Canvas

9 KENNEDY MALL, 555 JOHN F KENNEDY RD UNIT 440, DUBUQUE, IA
 563-663-9070

DBQARTSTUDIO.COM

For creative families looking to make their own artistic masterpieces, Captured on Canvas offers the tools and facilities to do just that. Conveniently located in Kennedy Mall, this locally owned small business offers so much more than their name implies. Visitors can paint not only on canvas—with paint by number options available—but on ceramics as well. Ceramic painting options range from planters and flower pots to picture frames, dishes, and ornaments, to name only a few. Splatter booths are available for those who prefer flinging paint to detailed work and are a great option for releasing energy as a family. Other creative options include candle making, mosaics, string art, sign making, felting, and wreath making. Reservations aren't required for smaller groups but should be considered by families wishing to use splatter booths at any certain time.

Maker's Club

9 950 MAIN ST, DUBUQUE, IA
 563-581-4763

MAKERS-CLUBS.COM

Another great place for families to explore their artistic sides is Maker's Club. Previously named the "Best Art School in Dubuque," this creative resource whose foundation was built on formal training first opened its doors to Dubuquers in 2023, offering assistance on a wide range of creative projects. In addition to the pottery projects Maker's Club is known for, which yield in creations that can be picked up the following day after being fired in the kiln, the organization can also provide other types of kits for families to explore new and favorite mediums. Some of these kits include mosaic, wood, and leather, as well as on demand classes in topics like wheel throwing, resin art, and Cricut machines. Maker's Club also hosts paint nights at Backpocket Dubuque where patrons can enjoy a guided craft project while indulging in the venue's menu of food and beverages.

Creative Adventure Lab

9 210 JONES ST SUITE 100, DUBUQUE, IA
 563-513-0046

CREATIVEADVENTURELAB.ORG

Creative Adventure Lab provides families with opportunities for creative, educational, and physical adventures. The concept of this business is simple: learn through hands-on exploration and play. A \$10 admission for children, paired with a free admission for parents, grants participants access to labs. Their LEGO lab gives players the opportunity to design their own creations using blocks, which can then be used for activities such as racing or to create 2D works of art to display in their LEGO gallery; their Portzen Construction Lab offers the opportunity to build with other materials to allow kids to dabble in a little bit of architectural design. Other innovative labs include their Magnetism Lab, Premier Bank Boulderling Wall, and Telegraph Herald Light Lab. STEM challenges are available to expand young minds in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, and they even have a Toddler Lab for the littlest minds to learn from. What's more—Creative Adventure Lab offers free admission on Sundays making this option both budget and brain friendly.

The Fun Station

9 KENNEDY MALL, 555 JOHN F KENNEDY RD UNIT 400, DUBUQUE, IA
 563-554-6583

GOFUNSTATION.COM/DUBUQUE

For families looking to burn some calories while having fun, The Fun Station offers the perfect solution. With multiple energy-burning activities to choose from, the whole family is sure to leave with a smile on their face and sweat on their brow. The Fun Station is best known as a jump park, with a court of trampolines for, you guessed it, jumping! Players can test their individual skills of fitness and coordination on the warrior course or get a boost playing slam dunk basketball as a group. The indoor park has foam pits that enable kids and parents to experiment with wall climbing or have jousting battles with one another. Their zip line rail, launch slide, and trapeze swings are perfect for anyone who likes to get their feet off the ground, and their interactive Play Maze is a fun, safe option for kids of all ages.

Captured on Canvas

Ceramic Painting!
 ANY TIME DURING STORE HOURS!
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DBQArtStudio.com

Like & Follow Us on Facebook
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555 John F. Kennedy Rd, Ste 440, Dubuque, Iowa 52002 - 563.663.9070

PIZZA RANCH FUN ZONE ARCADE

EXPIRES: 3/31/2025 **PIZZA RANCH** CODE: FUN35

\$50 FUNZONE CARD FOR \$35

Valid at Dubuque location only. Some restrictions may apply. Not valid in combination with any other discounts or offerings. Price is subject to change without notice.

Pizza Ranch ALL DAY BUFFET

DUBUQUE • 2020 RADFORD RD. • 563-556-4488



Ice Skating at ImOn Arena

📍 1800 ADMIRAL SHEEHY DR, DUBUQUE, IA

☎ 563-583-4949

🌐 [IMONARENA.COM/#SKATING](https://www.imonarena.com/#skating)

Another great way for families to work up a sweat while having fun together is ice skating; in fact, ice skating can burn more than a few hundred calories per hour depending upon how vigorously a person skates. Fortunately for those who love to get on the ice while staying warm, the ImOn Area, once known as the Mystique Community Ice Center and Dubuque Ice Area, provides locals with the opportunity not only to watch hockey games indoors, but have a go at getting on the ice themselves too. Seasonal ice skating lessons are available to individuals, and the arena also sets aside time for freestyle figure skating at the low cost of only \$10 per skater. Better suited for families, ImOn Arena also offers opens public skating on various dates throughout their winter calendar. Open public skating is only \$9 per adult and \$5 per child under 12, with skate rentals costing \$3 per pair.

Dubuque Fighting Saints Hockey

📍 IMON ARENA, 1800 ADMIRAL

SHEEHY DR, DUBUQUE, IA

🌐 [DUBUQUEFIGHTINGSAINTS.COM](https://www.dubuquefightingsaints.com)

Dubuque Fighting Saints Hockey is always a high-energy night out for families to have a great time together while watching some exciting USHL hockey competition. The Saints regularly play home games on Friday or Saturday nights at 7:05 p.m. at ImOn Arena on Schmitt Island in downtown Dubuque. There are 11 home games between now and the end of February. Visit their website for upcoming game dates and tickets.

Grand Harbor Waterpark

📍 GRAND HARBOR WATERPARK,

350 BELL ST, DUBUQUE, IA

☎ 563-690-4000

🌐 [GRANDHARBORRESORT.COM/WATERPARK](https://www.grandharborresort.com/waterpark)

A splash of summer anytime of the year, Grand Harbor Waterpark provides visitors with another way to get some indoor exercise in the winter months. Though some days are reserved for hotel guests only, the waterpark usually makes its facilities available to the public three or four days a week with the purchase of a pass. Grand Harbor has a little bit of something for everyone with two hot tubs and a lazy river for those family members seeking to relax,

waterslides and a tube ride for those on the more adventurous side, and activity areas, waterspouts, and a shallow pool area for the little ones. Their food stand, The Bait Shack, provides swimmers with food and beverages to fuel everyone up before getting back into the water again, enabling families to maximize the use of their passes.

Pizza Ranch FunZone

📍 2020 RADFORD RD, DUBUQUE, IA

☎ 563-556-4488

🌐 [PIZZARANCHFUNZONE.COM](https://www.pizzaranchfunzone.com)

Another high-energy option for entertainment is the FunZone Arcade at Pizza Ranch. This west-end venue for all ages packs a powerful punch in combining the two keys to keeping the whole family happy in one great location: food and fun. Their iconic buffet pairs perfectly with their FunZone Arcade, allowing families to enjoy a full meal together before hitting the arcade to play games including classic arcade style games, as suggested by the name, claw machines, and even virtual reality. While some games can be played solo, many are multi-player, ideal for a day of family bonding, and with prizes like stuffed animals and other fun toys, kids and parents can team up to win something to take home beyond the priceless memories they'll make. The FunZone Arcade offers half-priced play on Mondays, giving parents the chance to get even more for their money, and on top of everything else, the venue sometimes offers additional contests, events, and promotions to celebrate holidays and other special events. Check out their ad on page 19 for a special FunZone discount!

Island Social

📍 Q CASINO+ RESORT, 1855 GREYHOUND

PARK RD, DUBUQUE, IA

☎ 563-582-5999

🌐 [ISLANDSOCIAL.COM](https://www.islandsocial.com)

A part of Q Casino + Resort, Island Social is another great place for families to indulge in a plethora of games alongside a kitchen and bar to fill the family's stomachs and quench parents' thirst while having fun together. With more than 75 games to choose from, there is so much to do, you'll have to come back more than once to give everything a try. Classic arcade game enthusiasts will be happy to find options such as air hockey and ring toss, while those looking for games created more recently will enjoy discovering Spongebob Pirates and

Marvel and DC themed games. Besides arcade games, Island Social also boasts duckpin bowling, a fun challenge with shorter lanes and smaller bowling balls, as well as digital axe throwing, which combines traditional axe throwing with a video game experience—though it should be noted that digital axe throwing is limited to ages 14 and older.

Backpocket Dubuque

9 NOVELTY IRON WORKS, 333

E 10TH ST, DUBUQUE, IA

☎ 563-582-1611

🌐 BACKPOCKETDUBUQUE.COM

Backpocket Dubuque also offers a unique variety of ways to dive into arcade gaming fun. In addition to nine pinball machine games ranging in theme from Deadpool to Harley Davidson, the all-ages before 9 p.m. venue also offers classic favorites including skee ball, air hockey, and foosball. Classic arcade games include, but are not limited to, Pacman, Mario Kart, Tetris, Mortal Kombat, and Street Fighter, while more modern options include those such as Guitar Hero. Backpocket also has duckpin bowling lanes and offers a league for those who want to master the skill, as well as a winter puzzle league to put a different set of skills to the test. And while their variety of arcade games are all coin-operated, the business offers free play on their billiards tables, shuffleboard, and outdoor foosball, making them an arcade option that can go a little easier on the wallet when money is tighter after the holidays.

Always a great option for families, traditional bowling is a classic source of fun for the whole family. Though Dubuque has fewer lanes than in years past, the bowling alleys remaining promise to offer its guests just as much fun as ever.

Cherry Lanes

9 DIAMOND JO CASINO, 301

BELL ST, DUBUQUE, IA

☎ 563-690-4823

🌐 DIAMONDJODUBUQUE.COM/

THINGS-TO-DO/CHERRY-LANES-BOWLING

One of these great bowling locations is situated within the Diamond Jo Casino in the Port of Dubuque. Cherry Lanes is outfitted with 30 lanes for bowlers to choose from and a retro aesthetic as slick as their well-oiled lanes. They offer open bowling every day, and going along with their retro-themed

décor, they also do cosmic bowling on the weekends giving older patrons a sense of nostalgia and the opportunity for younger ones to experience a bit of our former days of glory. Their placement within the casino also makes the alley food and beverage adjacent, and family members with short attention spans can wander off into their mini arcade or casino floor if they need a quick break from splitting pins. And, for those who take their game more seriously, they even have a pro shop on site where bowlers can purchase their own shoes, balls, and other equipment.

Fischer Lanes & Lounge

9 880 LOCUST ST, DUBUQUE, IA

☎ 563-588-2695

🌐 FISCHERLANESBOWLING.COM

And last, but certainly not least, Fischer Lanes & Lounge, a fifth-floor bowling alley located in downtown Dubuque, offers bowlers a more private bowling experience. Serving the area for more than 80 years, this establishment has stood the test of time while many other competitors have come and gone. Despite their older age, the lanes and lounge space have been renovated over time and boast flat screen TVs and comfortable seating in their casual atmosphere. They offer open bowling almost daily—excluding Sundays—and are available for families to book out the entire venue for their group events. Birthday party pricing rings in at \$10 per child with their package which includes two games, shoe rentals, and pizza and soda for each. For families looking to enjoy a regular afternoon or evening of bowling, Fischer Lanes & Lounge offers a Friday Family Fun Pack for \$25 that includes eight games of bowling, four shoe rentals, and two pitchers of soda to split.

With so many options for things to do in Dubuque this winter without venturing too far out into the temporary lowland tundra, it's hard to find a reason to stay cooped up in the house until the weather is warm again. Throw on your hats and coats, warm up the car, and don't let the cold stop you from making as many memories with the family as possible at any one of these great locations. Save those days in for the worst of the weather, and no matter what the forecast says, drive safely! ■



Escape the COLD!

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The Fun Station Dubuque

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Phone 563-554-6583 • www.gofunstation.com

Budweiser LIVE MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT

THU 12/19

Gypsy
5 PM @ Dimensional Brewing Co

Tallgrass Ensemble: Music from the Movies
5:30 PM @ Voices Studios

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

Shekinah King
7:30 PM @ Miss Kitty's Grape Escape (Galena, IL)

FRI 12/20

John Gay
Noon @ Dimensional Brewing Co

Joie Wails
4 PM @ Sundown Mountain Resort

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

Three Quarter Buzz
6 PM @ Southend Tap

Steve & Randy
6 PM @ Stone Cliff Winery

Boys of Lloyd
6 PM @ Darkbird Taphouse (Peosta, IA)

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

BarGo
6:30 PM @ O So Good Winery (Dyersville, IA)

The Resistors
7 PM @ Spirits Bar & Grill

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

MiniMonster
8 PM @ First Reserve

Tyler Richton and The High Bank Boys
8 PM @ Mississippi Moon Bar

Sushi Roll
8 PM @ Q Showroom

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

Jordan Danielsen
8:30 PM @ Miss Kitty's Grape Escape (Galena, IL)

Swampland Jewels
9 PM @ The Lift

Ugly Sweater Disco Party w/ Immersa & Echoras
9 PM @ Smokestack

SAT 12/21

Pennyroyal
10 AM @ Convivium Urban Farmstead

Logan Bollant
1 PM @ PJ's Pub (Kieler, WI)

Joie Wails
1:30 PM @ The Palace Saloon (Dyersville, IA)

Danny Parker Project
2 PM @ Miss Kitty's Grape Escape (Galena, IL)

The Alumatics
5 PM @ Galena Cellars Downtown (Galena, IL)

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

Secrets
6 PM @ Stone Cliff Winery

Rock Steady
7 PM @ Southend Tap

Darin & Amber
7 PM @ Spirits Bar & Grill

River Moonshine
7 PM @ Off Shore Resort (Bellevue, IA)

Cal Coohy
8 PM @ First Reserve

Rhino
8 PM @ Mississippi Moon Bar

Hillbilly Rockstarz
8 PM @ Q Showroom

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

Holiday Sizzle w/ DJ FINN
8:30 PM @ Miss Kitty's Grape Escape (Galena, IL)

Dickmas
9 PM @ The Lift

Cirque du Buque
10 PM @ Smokestack

SUN 12/22

Laura McDonald & Jeff Weydert
1 PM @ Sundown Mountain

Jordan Danielsen
3 PM @ Stone Cliff Winery

Sam Day
3 PM @ Textile Brewing Co (Dyersville, IA)

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

Holiday Drag Bingo
6 PM @ Miss Kitty's Grape Escape (Galena, IL)

TUE 12/24

CnT Karaoke
8 PM @ Miss Kitty's Grape Escape (Galena, IL)

THU 12/26

Sea Shanty Singalong
7 PM @ The Lift

Marques Morel
7 PM @ Frank O'Dowd's Irish Pub (Galena, IL)

Corey Jenny
7:30 PM @ Miss Kitty's Grape Escape (Galena, IL)

FRI 12/27

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

Joseph John Valenti
6 PM @ Stone Cliff Winery

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

Joie Wails
6 PM @ Woodbine Bend (Stockton, IL)

Rodney Carrington
7 & 9:30 PM @ Mississippi Moon Bar

Trivia
7 PM @ O So Good Winery (Dyersville, IA)

Barefoot & Sunshine
8 PM @ First Reserve

Elizabeth Mary Band
8 PM @ Q Showroom

Tiger Kings
8 PM @ Southend Tap

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

Kristen Rose
8:30 PM @ Miss Kitty's Grape Escape (Galena, IL)

SAT 12/28

Abby Spencer
1 PM @ PJ's Pub (Kieler, WI)

Danny Parker Project
2 PM @ Miss Kitty's Grape Escape (Galena, IL)

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

Joie Wails
6 PM @ Stone Cliff Winery

Brushfire Bandits Duo
7 PM @ Southend Tap

The Mixed Emotions Band
7 PM @ Spirits Bar & Grill

Alexis Healey, Austin Lee Scott
8 PM @ The Lift

Live Band Karaoke
8 PM @ Mississippi Moon Bar

Buckle
8 PM @ Q Showroom

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

Big Mojo
8 PM @ The Mine Shaft (Mineral Point, WI)

Three on a Tree
8:30 PM @ Miss Kitty's Grape Escape (Galena, IL)

SUN 12/29
The Mighty MudCats
1 PM @ O So Good Winery (Dyersville, IA)

Massey Road
2 PM @ Knicker's Saloon

Brushfire Bandits Duo
3 PM @ Stone Cliff Winery

Sea Shanties & Pub Songs:
Andreas Tranzo
6 PM @ Frank O'Dowd's Irish Pub (Galena, IL)

Lone Canary
7 PM @ Miss Kitty's Grape Escape (Galena, IL)

MON 12/30
Celtic Rovers
7 PM @ Frank O'Dowd's Irish Pub (Galena, IL)

TUE 12/31
Jimmy Welty Band
2 PM @ Burkey's Bar

Irish New Year's Party: The Bog Bodies & Andreas Tranzo
2 PM @ Gary Dolphin's Bar

Irish New Year:
The Lads @ 3 PM
Ballyheigue @ 7 PM
The Lift

New Year's Eve Party: RJ Fisher
3 PM @ Midtown Marina (East DBQ, IL)

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

OTHERSIDE LUNCH SPECIALS

DECEMBER

19 Lasagna
20 Chicken of the Gods or Horseshoe
23 Soups and Sandwiches
24 CLOSED FOR X-MAS!
25 No lunch today
26 Patty Mely
27 Goulash
30 Soups and Sandwiches
31 No Lunch Special Today

JANUARY

1 O.S. Chicken
2 Sandy's Porkchops
3 Mary's Adult Grilled Cheese

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2024 2025

THE OTHERSIDE

IRISH & AMERICAN

NEW YEARS EVE

Rick Tittle Band

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 4-8 PM

Irish New Year's @ 6 PM!

PRIME RIB & BR TED CHICKEN DINNER

New Year's Neijoerschdag:
Brushfire Bandits Duo
3 PM @ Beer in the Barn
Brewery (St. Donatus, IA)

Irish & American New Years
Eve: Rick Tittle Band
4 PM @ The OtherSide
(East DBQ, IL)

Rebel Wells
4 PM @ Galena Cellars
Downtown (Galena, IL)

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

New Year's Eve Party:
Nostalgia Rush, Ozzy & Bon JoeB
6 PM @ Riverboat Lounge

Garrett Hillary
7 PM @ Champagne on Main
(Galena, IL)

New Year's Eve Party:
Shekinah King & Tony Walker
7 PM @ Miss Kitty's Grape
Escape (Galena, IL)

An Evening with Roy and Friends
7 PM @ Ohnward Fine Arts
Center (Maquoketa, IA)

DJ & Trivia w/ Bob's Trivia
7:30 PM @ Backpocket DBQ

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

New Year's Party:
DJ Pepper Lewis
8 PM @ Gary Dolphin's Bar

Celebrating Sinatra &
The Great American Songbook
8 PM @ Grand Opera House

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

The HYPE
8 PM @ Q Showroom

Off Shore Dueling Pianos
8 PM @ Off Shore Event Center
(Bellevue, IA)

New Year's Eve Party:
The Ditch Lilies, The Funk Junkies
8 PM @ Cascade American
Legion Hall (Cascade, IA)

Big Night Out
8 PM @ Eagle's Club
(Monticello, IA)

New Year's Eve:
Joie Wails & Friends
9 PM @ Spirits Bar & Grill

Travis Hosette
9:30 PM @ DeSoto House Hotel

WED 1/1
Casey Klein
1 PM @ First Reserve

THU 1/2
Corey Jenny
7 PM @ Miss Kitty's Grape
Escape (Galena, IL)

FRI 1/3
Rock Steady
7 PM @ Spirits Bar & Grill

The Now
8 PM @ Q Showroom

The Guthries
8 PM @ Miss Kitty's Grape
Escape (Galena, IL)

SAT 1/4
Kampfire Kings
2 PM @ Miss Kitty's Grape
Escape (Galena, IL)

Mississippi Band
3 PM @ Southend Tap

John Gay
7 PM @ Spirits Bar & Grill

Furious George
8 PM @ Q Showroom

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

Jordan Danielsen
8 PM @ Miss Kitty's Grape Escape

SUN 1/5
Elizabeth Mary
1 PM @ O So Good Winery
(Dyersville, IA)

FRI 1/10
Kristina Marie Castañeda
7 PM @ Riverboat Lounge

Danny Parker Project
7 PM @ Spirits Bar & Grill

Music Bingo
7 PM @ O So Good Winery
(Dyersville, IA)

Back Booth Alley
8 PM @ Mississippi Moon Bar

Boogie Monster
8 PM @ Q Showroom

Katie Sullivan
8 PM @ Frank O'Dowd's
Irish Cottage (Galena, IL)

Steve McIntyre
8 PM @ Miss Kitty's Grape
Escape (Galena, IL)

Ruin Dweller, Liquified
Decomposition, If I Could Just
Get Some Sleep
9 PM @ The Lift

SAT 1/11
L&MOP: JazzQ
10 AM @ Carnegie-Stout
Public Library

Ryan Bizarri
1 PM @ PJ's Pub (Kieler, WI)

Kampfire Kings
2 PM @ Miss Kitty's Grape
Escape (Galena, IL)

Mississippi Band
6 PM @ Smokestack

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

Brushfire Bandits
7 PM @ Spirits Bar & Grill

Wasted on Wallen
8 PM @ Q Showroom

Katie Sullivan
8 PM @ Frank O'Dowd's
Irish Cottage (Galena, IL)

Tony Walker
8 PM @ Miss Kitty's Grape
Escape (Galena, IL)

SUN 1/12
Darrell, Jacque & Connie
1 PM @ O So Good Winery
(Dyersville, IA)

Jimmy Welty Band
4 PM @ Sundown Mountain

THU 1/16
RJ Fisher
7 PM @ Miss Kitty's Grape
Escape (Galena, IL)

FRI 1/17
Shannon Woulfe
5:30 PM @ Darkbird Taphouse
(Peosta, IA)

Jeff Theisen
7 PM @ Spirits Bar & Grill

Chicago Farmer, Marques Morel
8 PM @ The Lift

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



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Irish New Year 2025

Irish New Year's Party · Free Admission!

Tuesday, December 31, 2-6:30 PM

(6 PM in Dubuque is Midnight in Ireland!)

The Bog Bodies & Andreas Transø
playing traditional Irish music

Free Irish Buffet by Refresh Catering!

IOWA New Year's Eve Party!

dj pepper lewis
playing old school and new dance music
8 pm - 1am

Gary Dolphin's Iron Bar · 333 E. 10th, Millwork District

Ongoing & Recurring Nightlife

SUNDAY

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

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

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

MONDAY

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

Comedy Under Monk's Open Mic
8 PM @ Monk's Kaffee Pub

TUESDAY

Trivia w/ Think & Drink
7 PM @ Dog House Lounge
2nd & 4th Tue

Trivia w/ Triviawithbrett
7 PM @ Riverboat Lounge
No event on 12/31

Analog Listening Room
7 PM @ Smokestack

Trivia w/ Think & Drink
7 PM @ Southend Tap
1st, 3rd, & 5th Tue

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

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

WEDNESDAY

Trivia w/ Triviawithbrett
6 PM @ Hy-Vee Locust

Blues Jam w/ The Mighty MudCats
6 PM @ Smokestack
2nd-5th Wed

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

Trivia For Dorks
7 PM @ Dimensional Brewing Co

Speedquizzing Trivia w/ GQ Entertainment
7 PM @ Lina's Lounge

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

The Mixologist DJ AA
7 PM @ Southend Tap

Karaoke w/ Excel Entertainment
7 PM @ Spirits Bar & Grill
2nd & 4th Wed

Karaoke w/ Becky McMahon
7:30 PM @ Denny's Lux Club

THURSDAY

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

Karaoke w/ Dante Steele Entertainment
7 PM @ Riverboat Lounge

Music Bingo
7 PM @ Southend Tap
Through 12/26

XTREME Bar Bingo
7 PM @ Galena Eagles Club (Galena, IL)
Through 12/26

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

Silly Goose Thursdays
Comedy Open Mic
8 PM @ The Goose
1st & 3rd Thu

Open Mic w/ Chad Olson Jr.
8 PM @ Smokestack

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

Karaoke
9 PM @ Southend Tap

FRIDAY

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

Karaoke w/ Denise
7 PM @ Northside Bar

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

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

SATURDAY

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

Karaoke
7 PM @ Galena Eagles Club (Galena, IL)
Through 12/28

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

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



Rodney Carrington

DECEMBER 27 @ 7 & 9:30 PM

Rodney Carrington is a multi-talented comedian, actor, singer and writer playing sold-out shows around the world as one of the top 10 highest-grossing touring comedians for the past two decades. The platinum-recording artist has recorded 11 albums with major labels and his own. Over the years, he's starred in his own TV sitcom, *Rodney*; co-wrote and co-starred with Toby Keith in *Beer for My Horses*; and starred in his own Netflix special, *Here Comes The Truth*.



Tyler Richton and The High Bank Boys

DECEMBER 20 @ 8 PM

Tyler Richton and The High Bank Boys bring a neo-traditional sound with high energy and real music. With more than 50 years of experience combined, they draw influence from artists like Merle Haggard, Charlie Daniels, and Hank Williams Jr.



New Year's Eve Dueling Pianos

DECEMBER 31 @ 8 PM

Dueling Pianos ends the year on a high note by playing groovy tunes to help the crowd swing the night away. This performance includes party favors, a midnight champagne toast, and more as a lively and entertaining way to ring in the New Year in style.

Additional Entertainment

RHINO

DECEMBER 21 @ 8 PM

LIVE BAND KARAOKE

DECEMBER 28 @ 8 PM

BACK BOOTH ALLEY

JANUARY 10 @ 8 PM

DUBUQUE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ULTIMATE ROCK HITS

JANUARY 17 & 18 @ 8 PM

JUNK FM

JANUARY 24 @ 8 PM

THE WORLD'S MOST RIDICULOUS TRIVIA GAME SHOW

JANUARY 25 @ 8 PM

KASHMIR: THE LED ZEPPELIN TRIBUTE SHOW

JANUARY 31 @ 8 PM

VICE BOX

FEBRUARY 8 @ 8 PM

DUELING PIANOS

FEBRUARY 14 @ 8 PM

DIAMOND JO 
C A S I N O

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



LIVE MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT FEATURES

THU 12/19



Tallgrass Ensemble

5:30 PM @ VOICES STUDIOS
(1585 CENTRAL AVE)

TICKETS: \$40

The critically acclaimed Tallgrass/Juliani Ensemble will perform an array of captivating scores. The superb artistry of these international musicians has gained them broad recognition, including performing in many of the world's most celebrated concert halls. The program includes music from *Knives Out*, *Cinema Paradiso*, *Mishima: A Life in Four Chapters*, *Platoon*, *The Royal Tenenbaums*, *The Civil War*, *The Silence of the Lambs*, *Schindler's List*, and *Pulp Fiction*. Cocktail hour at 5:30 p.m., gallery talk with Tim Olson at 6:30 p.m., Tallgrass concert at 7:30 p.m., and post-concert social time to mingle with the musicians at 8:30 p.m. There will be a cash bar and heavy appetizers provided. Seating is limited. VoicesStudios.org.

FRI 12/20



Sushi Roll

8 PM @ Q SHOWROOM
(1855 GREYHOUND PARK RD)

COVER: FREE

Sushi Roll Band brings an explosive, high energy, interactive dance party to every show they put on, that will have everyone involved and even some people on stage. QCasinoAndResort.com.

SAT 12/21



Holiday Drag Bingo

6 PM @ MISS KITTY'S GRAPE ESCAPE
(242 N MAIN ST, GALENA, IL)

TICKETS: \$25

Celebrate the holiday season with a fabulous drag show and five exciting rounds of bingo. With a chance to win a \$100 grand prize and a variety of other prizes donated by local businesses, you won't want to miss this event. Ticket purchase guarantees a seat for the after-show and includes a bingo dauber, a goody bag, and the opportunity to support the Riverview Center through the sale of additional game cards. **779-214-0003**. GrapeEscapeGalena.com.

SAT 12/28



Alexis Healey, Austin Lee Scott

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

Local singer-songwriter Alexis Healey plays originals and covers on her acoustic guitar. You can find her performing at venues in the Tri-State area. Austin Lee Scott is an energetic, vocal powerhouse based in Galena, IL. Scott's music ranges from original heartfelt compositions, to upbeat traditional folk and country tunes, with a twist. Scott is known for his lively on-stage presence, drawing in audiences with his passionate delivery and engaging stage presence. facebook.com/TheLiftDubuque.

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New Year's Eve in the Tri-States

We've rounded up a selection of the finest New Year's Eve celebrations in the area. Whether you're celebrating early or toasting at midnight, ring in the new year with old friends and new memories.



Irish New Year: The Lads & Ballyheigue

NOON @ THE LIFT

The Lift continues the tradition of celebrating Irish New Year starting at noon (Midnight in Ireland is 6 p.m. here). The Lads take the stage at 3 p.m. and are later followed by Ballyheigue at 7 p.m. Started in 1998, The Lads of Dubuque is a collection of local talent that enjoys celebrating their Irish and American roots. Featuring vocals, piano, guitar, whistles and the fiddle, The Lads of Dubuque play favorite Irish pub melodies, ballads, and rebels songs. Ballyheigue is a six-piece Irish band specializing in traditional instrumental and vocal Irish songs. Comprised of family members Jim, Alison, and Emily Ott, with Carl Droessler, Rob McCullough, and Seth Enz. Free. 180 Main St, Lower Level. [facebook.com/TheLiftDubuque](https://www.facebook.com/TheLiftDubuque).



Irish & Iowa New Year's Eve Party: The Bog Bodies & Andreas Transø and DJ Pepper Lewis

2 & 8 PM @ GARY DOLPHIN'S IRON BAR

The Bog Bodies & Andreas Transø bring the Irish festivities at 2–6:30 p.m. along with a free Irish buffet by Refresh Catering. DJ Pepper Lewis brings the Iowa variety at 8 p.m.–1 a.m. The Bog Bodies & Andreas Transø play traditional Irish music while DJ Pepper Lewis plays old-school and new dance music. Free. 333 E 10th St. [563-231-1659. GaryDolphins.com](https://www.garydolphins.com).



The Other Two

3 PM @ DARKBIRD TAPHOUSE (PEOSTA, IA)

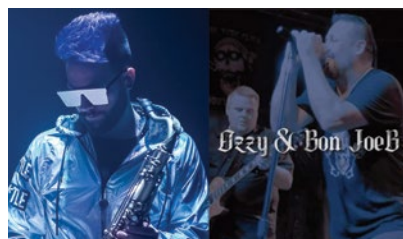
Scott Coleman and Kent Kraus from Hard Salami bring an acoustic mix of classic rock, country, folk, and mashups of your favorite songs. Free. 7305 Thunder Valley Dr, Peosta, IA. [563-590-7081. DarkbirdTaphouse.com](https://www.facebook.com/DarkbirdTaphouse.com).



Irish & American New Years Eve: Rick Tittle Band

4 PM @ THE OTHERSIDE (EAST DUBUQUE, IL)

The Party is ON at The Other Side in East Dubuque this New Year's Eve from 4 to 8 p.m. Live music is on the O'Menu with Dubuque's own country music legends the Rick Tittle Band performing. And you know there's going to be great food. I mean, it's The Other Side after all. So expect a stellar prime rib and broasted chicken dinner with all the fixings. Naps at 8:10 p.m. 168 Sinsinawa Ave, East Dubuque, IL. [815-747-9049. facebook.com/OSINEAST](https://www.facebook.com/OSINEAST).



Nostalgia Rush and Ozzy & Bon JoeB

6 PM @ HOTEL JULIEN DUBUQUE

Get ready for an epic New Year's Eve celebration. Dynamic DJ saxophonist Nostalgia Rush will take you on a musical journey. Dance the night away to a sensational mix of Top 40 hits across the decades, from timeless classics to

today's chart-toppers. But first, Ozzy & Bon JoeB will be playing your favorite rock and country hits. Celebrate, dance, and make memories to kick off 2025 with a bang. \$10. 200 Main St. [563-588-5563. HotelJulienDubuque.com](https://www.hoteljulien.com).



An Evening with Roy and Friends

7 PM @ OHNWARD FINE ARTS CENTER (MAQUOKETA, IA)

World champion tribute artist Jesse Aron will take you on a magical tribute through time with some of the most legendary voices in rock 'n' roll history. Enjoy music from Elvis, Ricky Nelson, Sam Cooke, Dion & The Belmonts, Bobby Darin, Roy Orbison, and more. Relive the magic and the music of the founding fathers of rock 'n' roll. \$35 ADV/\$38 door. 1215 E Platt St, Maquoketa, IA.

[563-652-9815. OhnwardFineArtsCenter.com](https://www.ohnwardfineartscenter.com).

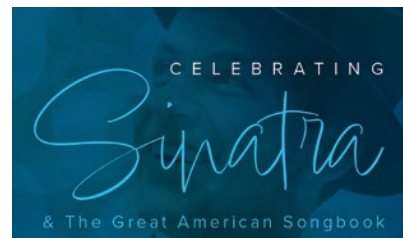


New Year's Eve Dueling Pianos

8 PM @ DIAMOND JO CASINO

MISSISSIPPI MOON BAR

Dueling Pianos ends the year on a high note by playing groovy tunes to help the crowd swing the night away. This phenomenal performance includes party favors, a midnight champagne toast, and more as a lively and entertaining way to ring in the New Year in style. \$10–\$30. 301 Bell St. [563-690-4800. DiamondJoDubuque.com](https://www.diamondjo.com).



Celebrating Sinatra & The Great American Songbook

8 PM @ GRAND OPERA HOUSE (135 W 8TH ST)

Spend New Year's Eve with Bryan Anthony's Sinatra and Friends. Featuring Hunter Fuerste's American Vintage Orchestra and the music of Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr., Nat King Cole, Bobby Darin, and Old Blue Eyes himself. Bryan Anthony keeps the legacy of the Great Gentlemen of Song, especially Sinatra, alive and well in

his immensely satisfying and sweetly nostalgic performances. A veteran vocalist of ensembles like the Glenn Miller, Tommy Dorsey, and Nelson Riddle Orchestras, Bryan provides stunning homages to the Swing Era for contemporary audiences. Balcony: \$40; Floor: \$50. 135 W 8th St. [563-588-1305. TheGrandOperaHouse.com](https://www.grandoperahouse.com).



The HYPE

8 PM @ Q SHOWROOM

Are you ready to rock it like the '80s? Four rebellious rock stars, who three of them you know from Arch Allies, bring to you: The HYPE. All the rock music you know and love, brought to you by rockers themselves. Playing everything from Def Leppard to Bon Jovi to Aerosmith and more. It's nothing but big hair, tight pants, and a passion to rock! Out of the pure love of music, this band was formed to give you all the nostalgic feels that the '80s had to offer. Whether you're a head banger, an air guitarist, or just there to watch, The HYPE has got what you need. So grab your spandex, leg warmers, and high waisted jeans because you won't want to miss a thing with The HYPE. Over two hours of electrifying, high-energy, '80s glamtastic, bombastic rock. Performing the biggest hits from Motley Crue, Def Leppard, Poison, Bon Jovi, Van Halen, and Aerosmith. \$5. 1855 Greyhound Park Rd. [563-582-3647. QCasinoAndResort.com](https://www.qcasinolandresort.com).



Off Shore Dueling Pianos

8 PM (VIP @ 6 PM) @ OFF SHORE

EVENT CENTER (BELLEVUE, IA)

VIP tickets include early access starting at 6 p.m., reserved seating, and a special dinner before the show prepared by Off Shore's executive chef. Dinner will be a buffet styled meal feature a house garden salad, herb roasted semi-boneless chicken breast served with a raspberry BBQ sauce, red snapper fillets with a lemon caper butter, mahi mahi topped with a hollandaise sauce, chef carved prime rib station, signature red skin garlic smashed potatoes, wild rice, haricots verts, amaretto glazed carrots, and assorted dinner rolls along with a cheesecake sundae bar for dessert. General admission entry will begin at 8 p.m. GA: \$25; VIP: \$65. 4115 N Riverview St, Bellevue, IA. [563-872-5000. OffShoreResort.net](https://www.offshoresort.com).

Picture Yourself
in the Tri-States

**KWIK
STOP**

fueled by...



A little rain couldn't stop the holiday spirit and the annual Living Windows lined the Main St. in downtown Galena again this year. Photo by Amy Moline.



If I Could Just Get Some Sleep yep that's a band name, performs at the Smokestack during a Toys For Tots Fundraiser where a guy that looks just like this drummer also raised over \$300 for the charity through his Pal's Pizza passion project!



Dubuque Fighting Saints players leave the ice long enough to help wrap gifts for area families through the Magical Kwik Stop Christmas! Nice shot, guys!



The huge Toys For Tots FREE Kids' Christmas Party, hosted by Dubuque Police and Fire and sponsored by Theisen's, The Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque and Paramount Ambulance filled Five Flags Arena once again to the delight of hundreds of kids who came! This is the balloon animal making crew!



The Wahlerl Catholic Dance Team brought home 1st place in Class V Jazz and Class II Contemporary at STATE for the 4th year in a row, Class IX Pom for the very first time and the Class VI Solo Championship for Carsyn Gehl!



The Merry Millwork Market returned to the Schmid Innovation Center Courtyard and streets of Dubuque's Millwork District with a Downtown Boutique, Winter fashion show, Santa and more, in support of non-profits of the Dubuque Millwork Collective.



Three generations of the Cook family made their way to the National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium to visit Scuba Santa. Yep, Scuba Santa is real kids!



The Dubuque Fighting Saints score early against the Blackhawks to trigger the rainstorm of stuffed animals onto the ice at the annual Teddy Bear Toss supporting Toys For Tots and the Magical Kwik Stop Christmas!



First Presbyterian Church of Dubuque stages one of the, surely many, Nativity plays gracing local church services across the tri-states at this time of the year. Photo by Sue Davis.



The Dubuque Jaycees know how to bring the "festive" during their Holiday Social and Party Bus Bash. See, you need to be a Jaycee, kids!



Santa himself joins the Dubuque Marine Corps League Veterans along the big stone wall along Dodge St. in front of Theisen's to wave people into the Toys For Tots Stuff The Truck event taking place all day on that Saturday!

Submit your photo by using

#my365ink

Blizzard of the Month

Peppermint Hot Cocoa

BLIZZARD TREAT

DQ

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DQ Delivers



Sun Tea

By Danny Fairchild

What if I told you that some of the best fried chicken in the Tri-States doesn't come from a Colonel, a sailor man, or a supper club? What if I told you it doesn't come from a place typically known for fried chicken at all? What if I told you it came from a boba tea shop?

Actually, you'd probably believe it. I mean... you tell me. Do you believe it? Probably. Because if there's one thing we can all agree on as humans, it's that fried chicken is friggin' delicious. I mean, look at us. If there's a culture that doesn't have a comfort food recipe for fried chicken, it's probably because that culture doesn't have a lot of chicken. But that doesn't mean their poultry is paltry.

If they don't have chicken, they probably have an analog of chicken to fry up good.

And so, it should be no surprise that Korea (specifically South Korea, for reasons I'm not qualified to discuss) has a pretty rich fried chicken tradition.

That's where the boba tea comes into play. And that's where Sun Tea Boba Tea Shop comes into play.

Korean boba or bubble tea generally means milk tea with chewy tapioca pearls, but you can pick from a variety of toppings such as popping boba (think balls of juice that "pop" when you bite them), flavored jellies, and red bean. Not everybody likes boba tea. I'll cop to being one of those people. Texture thing. But if there's someone who doesn't like fried chicken, I haven't met them. Even vegans and vegetarians, even though they don't eat meat, would likely agree that the taste of fried chicken is delicious. They just choose not to partake.

Before WE partake, let's talk about the vibe of Sun Tea Boba Tea Shop. It's very cheerful but not cloyingly sweet. It's a cool hang with a positive feel. A feel that includes a mystery. Sun Tea sets out sticky notes with markers to make a little note or piece of art and stick it to the wall. Our own Kristina Nesteby has far more experience with boba tea shops than I do, and she swears that she's seen boba tea shops throughout the country that do this same thing. Like, it's a part of boba tea culture. But I can't find anything online that talks about it. I asked someone who works at Sun Tea about it, and as far as they knew, it was just something they do to engage the community. Maybe Kristina's lying? I don't know. In any case, one of the cool things you get to do at Sun Tea is draw your muscle-memory drawing of Bulbasaur and stick it to the wall. Or a note asserting your only half-kidding

belief that birds aren't real. Or that boobs are good. It's a living meme wall. Enjoy.

The bathroom? It's labeled All-Gender, I'm happy to say. If that pisses you off because you suck, then take comfort in the fact that it's just a single-occupancy bathroom. Whatever you're afraid of won't happen. So take comfort. Take comfort in that and then die. In any case, the bathroom is clad in all white and therefore easy to tell that it's clean. I didn't have to go, so I didn't put it to a full test, but I'd definitely go boom-boom there.

Ok, food.

What sets Korean fried chicken apart from the fried chicken we're familiar with here in the United States? It kinda depends. Usually, KFC (not the Colonel kind) has a lighter coating and is double fried for double crunch. And here in the states, you're probably getting a once-fried thicker batter. Both delicious. Both acceptable. When it comes to fried chicken though, most cultures



2



4



3

1. SUNTEA OFFERS A VARIETY OF HOT FOOD SUCH AS KOREAN FRIED CHICKEN, KOREAN CORN DOGS, AND BUBBLE WAFFLES IN ADDITION TO MILK TEAS, FRUIT TEAS, NON-ALCOHOLIC MOJITOS, AND MORE 2. FIND SUN TEA IN EAGLE EYE PLAZA BETWEEN CULVER'S AND CLEAN GETAWAY EXPRESS CAR WASH NEAR THE ASBURY PLAZA HY-VEE 3. GET CREATIVE AND ADD A STICKY NOTE TO THE WALL 4. SMALL, STANDARD-HEIGHT TABLES AND SEATING PLUS BOARD GAMES ARE AVAILABLE FOR DINE-IN CUSTOMERS

eventually figure out the same thing. Seasonings traditionally available might vary by culture, but most eventually land on bread-
ing or battering cuts of chicken and then frying them to crisp, greasy-gold perfection.

So what would be a good comparison for Sun Tea Boba Tea Shop's fried chicken? Breeding-wise, I would say it's most similar to a certain extra-crispy restaurant. But texture is where the similarities stop. If there's one thing more universal than fried chicken, it's sauces. I mean, duh. Nobody is unique for saying, "Hey, I bet it tastes good when I slather this on that." That's at least 65% of all culinary history. But while you might expect a tangy barbecue or a mild sauce with the fried chicken, you forget that you're messing with Korean fried chicken. You can get just their basic-but-not-in-a-basic-way Original Korean Fried Chicken and be perfectly satisfied that it's a suitable chicken dinner. You can turn things up a little by ordering the Salt & Pepper Fried Chicken, which is just what it sounds like. From there you can quickly get into some Korean flavor profiles like Sweet & Spicy. Or Hot & Spicy. Or Garlic Honey. And it's so friggin' good. Amazing, really. Again, some of the best in the Tri-States. Again, from a boba tea shop.

There's yet another surprise about this fried chicken served up delicious and hot out of a (checking my notes again to make sure it's not a mistake...) boba tea shop. We ordered the boneless fried chicken. Boneless made sense for us at the time, but there's bone-in, too. So I expected our boneless chicken to be something similar to a chicken tender off the Sysco truck. Whatever. It's a classic for a reason. But no. It

wasn't a chicken tender. It wasn't white meat at all. It was a boneless chicken thigh! Now... my world has changed for the better since my dark-meat-loving butt discovered that boneless chicken thighs were commonly available. I haven't seen that love reflected on restaurant menus. Until now. It's what chicken tenders would be if the tenders came from the bottom half of the chicken.

Detour to tell you about the bubble waffles served at Sun Tea. I hadn't heard of these before. But you can waffle me anywhere, and I'll be happy. Had to try it. What is it for those of you as ignorant as I was? You know how your typical waffles have like a... well, a waffle pattern? Bubble waffles are what would happen if the pattern fluffed out instead of dented in. It's essentially a reverse waffle. And cuz we got the brown sugar bubble waffle, we found tapioca pearls in it, but in a waffle, it's just like blueberries. No texture issue for me at all. I have to tell you, it's fun to eat. You kind of pull the bubbled portions apart like monkey bread and eat it piece-by-piece. Dust some powdered sugar on it, and I'd be ready to walk around the county fair.

I took that detour to tell you this: If you combine the Korean fried chicken with the bubble waffle... you have yourself Korean chicken and waffles. And you can't tell me that doesn't sound good. Because I know for a fact, it does. As of this writing, Sun Tea doesn't have chicken and waffles on their menu. But Sun Tea is one of the best places around to get chicken and waffles. I said what I said.

We also tried Sun Tea's Korean fried chicken in sandwich form.

Everybody has their opinion on the best chicken sandwich around. You'll likely find me in Sun Tea's corner.

I haven't said a word about Sun Tea's Korean corn dogs. Oh! Do I have your attention? Picture corn dogs that don't just have a cornmeal breading on them. Picture them also breaded in Flaming Hot Cheetos. Or French fries. Or even sweet potato fries. And try to picture that it might not be an all-beef frank that Sun Tea uses, but a friggin' stick of mozzarella cheese. Like a string cheese. Now imagine that this "corn dog" has both all-beef frank AND cheese. I know it's not difficult to imagine. You've probably dreamed of it. I've had the same dreams. I'm here to tell you that our dreams have come true. The corndogs are a meal in itself, so don't expect much room for other things.

What other things? How about I talk about the crab rangoons? Look, it's an Asian-inspired restaurant in the Midwest. They're practically required by law to serve crab rangoons. They are definitely worth the order. The wonton wrapper looks like it's going to be thick, hard, and pokey on your soft palate, but the crispiness gives way easily. Delicious. A little on the sweet side, but not as sweet as other crab rangoons 'round here.

In fact, Sun Tea's fried food game in general is strong, even with the butterfly shrimp. Light and crisp. Not rubbery at all. Bursting on your tongue. I tell you, if they have any Lenten specials coming up, they could finally make the Tri-States forget all about the loss of Long John Silvers so long ago.

Good vibes and good food at Sun Tea. Go there, give it a try, and put a fun sticky note on the wall. ■

Sun Tea

📍 4840 ASBURY RD, DUBUQUE, IA
☎ 563-207-6788
🌐 DUBUQUESUNTEA.COM
🕒 DAILY: 11 AM-8 PM

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Sweet Potato and Beet Chips

MAKES 8 SERVINGS

All You Need:

- ¼ cup Hy-Vee Select olive oil
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon chopped fresh rosemary
- 1 teaspoon lemon zest
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- ½ teaspoon Hy-Vee black pepper
- 2 medium sweet potatoes, 6 to 8 oz each
- 2 medium beets, 6 oz each

All You Do:

1. Position oven racks on the center and top tier in the oven. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line 2 large baking sheets with parchment paper; set aside.
2. In a small bowl, combine olive oil, garlic, rosemary, lemon zest, kosher salt and pepper; set aside.
3. Peel sweet potatoes and beets; cut into ¼-inch slices using a mandolin or sharp knife. Arrange slices in one layer on prepared baking sheets. Brush the tops of the slices with the olive oil mixture.
4. Bake for 30 minutes, rotating baking sheets after 15 minutes. Turn slices over and brush with the remaining olive oil mixture.
5. Bake for 15 to 30 minutes more or until golden and crisp, rotating baking sheets and turning slices over as needed.
6. Cool chips on a wire rack. Store in an airtight container for up to 3 days.

Recipe Source: hy-vee.com

Gluten-Free Original Chex Party Mix

MAKES 22 SERVINGS

All You Need:

- 4 cups Corn Chex cereal
- 4 cups Rice Chex cereal
- 2 cups Cheerios cereal
- 2 cups bite-size gluten free pretzel sticks or twists
- 6 tablespoons vegan dairy-free buttery vegetable oil spread
- 2 tablespoons gluten free Worcestershire sauce
- 1 ½ teaspoons gluten free seasoned salt
- ¾ teaspoon garlic powder
- ½ teaspoon onion powder

Optional add-ins (for holiday colors):

- ¼ cup dry roasted edamame
- ¼ cup dried cranberries or cherries

All You Do:

1. Heat oven to 250°F.
2. Mix cereals and pretzels until well blended in a large bowl. In a small microwave-safe bowl, microwave vegetable oil spread uncovered on High for 30 to 40 seconds or until melted. Stir in seasonings. Pour over cereal mixture; stir until evenly coated. Transfer to an ungreased roasting pan.
3. Bake 1 hour, stirring every 15 minutes. Spread on paper towels to cool for about 15 minutes. Stir in optional add-ins. Store in an airtight container at room temperature.

Recipe Source: hy-vee.com

Festive Holiday Snack Bar Foods

Free of Allergens and Full of Flavor

By Hy-Vee Nutritionist Megan Dalsing

It's the hustle and bustle season with New Year's resolutions around the corner—a perfect time to include nutrient-rich snacks for festive get-togethers. Explore new foods that offer good nutrition and great taste. Root vegetables, for example, score high on the nutrition scale, and beets are a favorite with their rich holiday-red color and natural sweet flavor profile. Consider making your menu plans inclusive by offering allergen-friendly choices that everyone can enjoy. Let's take a closer look at beets and how to build an allergen-friendly festive snack bar:

Nutrition Spotlight on Beets

This root vegetable is gifted with a powerful nutrition profile: good sources of vitamins A, and C and several B vitamins and minerals. Beets also contain potassium, which assists in regulating blood pressure. Manganese is another mineral found in beets that works with the body's metabolism and supports bone health.

Red Colored Superfood

Dark red produce items such as plums, blackberries, dark cherries, red cabbage, and beets, which are particularly rich in nutrients that reduce the risk of certain types of cancer. Beets' red color comes from betalains, powerful antioxidants that diminish "free radicals" and reduce oxidative stress in the body. Beets also boast anti-inflammatory properties that help with chronic disease management.

Additionally, the fiber in beets promotes digestive health and a feeling of fullness. The satisfying sweet flavor and low-calorie level (35 calories per half cup) make beets an excellent choice for weight management. Enjoy beets thinly sliced and raw in salads, steamed, roasted, air-fried or baked into chips.

Healthy Holiday Snack Board—with Allergies in Mind

Holiday gatherings mean plenty of cookies and snack foods. Why not add flair with a holiday-themed snack board—starring beets? Additionally, by building an allergy-friendly array of goodies, everyone can feel at ease at your event. Food allergens impact millions of people annually, with the most common allergens being peanuts, tree nuts, milk, eggs, and wheat (gluten). Below is a wish list for an easy, allergen-friendly, sweet, savory, festive board. Remember to display choices on an attractive tray or board and include holiday garnishes such as fresh rosemary, cranberries, and ribbons.

- **Sweet Potato and Beet Chips** (recipe below). Kids will cheer for these easy-to-make chips. Use a mandoline or handheld slicer to quickly produce very thin, even slices of sweet potatoes and beets. Use a sharp, heavy knife if you don't have a slicer.
- **Gluten-Free Original Chex Party Mix** (recipe below). This holiday party mix version is made without nuts, dairy, or gluten—a perfect fit for those with Celiac disease or gluten intolerance! Spruce it up with crunchy green dried roasted edamame and dried red cranberries or cherries.
- **Cookies Please!** Enable everyone to discover the joy of delectable cookies without compromise! Sweet Loren's refrigerated cookie dough is pre-portioned, plant-based and free of the top 14 allergens, including gluten, dairy, peanuts, and tree nuts. Bake the perfect cookie in minutes or enjoy raw!
- **Festive Beverages.** Get adventurous and impress your guests (or simply yourself) by serving a tantalizing drink with beet juice. The Eat Your Beets Cocktail at Hy-Vee.com is not only a healthful twist but a fun conversation starter! For a non-alcoholic option, substitute a sugar-free lemon-lime soft drink for the alcohol.

Interested in nutrition guidance for the New Year?

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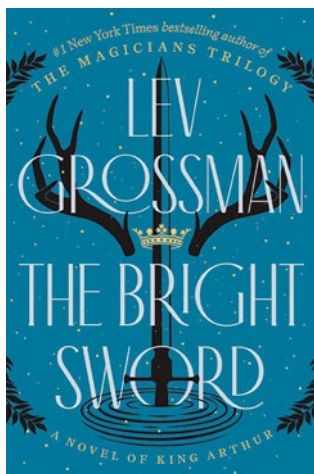
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The Bright Sword

By John McAndrew

Sometimes, you need a long story in which to lose yourself and forget the mess of the world. Lev Grossman's new best seller, *The Bright Sword*, perfectly fits the bill. As readers of his *Magicians* trilogy well know, Grossman has the pacing and focus necessary to bring a long, interesting trip to a satisfying conclusion. Former Dubuque George R.R. Martin gave *The Bright Sword* a rave endorsement.

Collum, a young, ambitious lad of uncertain parentage, travels to Camelot to fulfill his dream of being found worthy to join the knights of the Round Table. For all his virtues, he has one flaw: bad timing. Camelot is adrift, its most glorious knights scattered. Not much remains but the table itself. Collum imagined fitting into a certain storyline with certain players—Lancelot, Guinevere, Merlin, Morgan le Fay, and Arthur. He wanted to continue the story's glorious arc, not to improvise. Who is he, to help create Camelot's next chapter?

Grossman's story is symphonic, rich in overall effect, melding strong individual components into major themes. As the tale unfolds, he sometimes inserts backstories of the new major players. These tales within the tale show their characters, histories, and relationships with the world in which they are steeped. It is a new world

that they must navigate. This isn't the world they expected. It's just... life. Regular life. But with witches, gods, grails, enemies and friendships—all the stuff of magic.

Principalities and powers beyond their control challenge our heroes to reveal or change themselves. There are political rivalries between kings and their heirs. The influences of long-gone empires continue to be felt. As in every Arthurian tale, the spiritual and magical worlds make promises and demand loyalties and sacrifices. This remains a world hosting the war between the Christian and old gods. Who is guiding events, to what end?

In short, this remains Camelot: a tale rich with secrets, quests, heroes' journeys, death, and glory. There are blessings and curses here—and it's not always clear which is which. Individuals seek or assert their identities, as a kingdom seeks its own.

Was Camelot ever what it seemed? Was it really flawless and shiny? Was it a good faith effort by flawed people trying to serve high ideals? What does its next chapter hold, after le morte d'Arthur? With apologies to Langston Hughes—Let Camelot be Camelot again (it never was Camelot to me)?

Treat yourself or a friend to this quest. Stay a while. Have some mead. You can linger here, with good companions seeking the means to make the world as magic and good as its promise. This is a different Round Table, Camelot, and Arthur. In an afterword, Grossman provides a justification for taking liberties with the story. It has always been so: Camelot changes as we need it to. It may ask us to reciprocate.

"It's like Bedivere said, we're in a new world now. We must divine its nature. And we must show it that our own nature has not changed."

Now where is Sir Kay? I need a horse, and armor! By all the gods and gremlins, I have stuff to do! ■

JOHN MCANDREW

JOHN MCANDREW IS A LIFELONG BIBLIOPHILE WHO LOVES DISCUSSING BOOKS AND IDEAS, WHETHER YOU AGREE WITH HIM OR NOT. SEND YOUR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTED TITLES TO REVIEW TO BOOKS@DUBUQUE365.COM.






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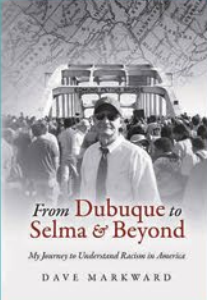
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WITH DAVE MARKWARD
TUESDAY, JAN. 7, FROM 5:30 TO 7 P.M.

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Join author Dave Markward as he shares his journey of personal transformation; going from an exclusively white upbringing in Dubuque to a life enriched by diversity. In his latest memoir, “From Dubuque to Selma and Beyond: My Journey to Understand Racism in America,” Markward delves into the complex world of racism and shares his unwavering belief in humanity and the power of education to effect change.

Dave Markward has dedicated his professional life to public education and is a graduate of Dubuque Senior High School and Augustana College (Illinois). He holds two advanced degrees from Western Illinois University and a doctorate from Illinois State University. Copies of “From Dubuque to Selma & Beyond” will be available for purchase at the event.



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Phoenix MOVIE NEWS THEATRES

Coming Soon

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 3 (PG)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20
Sonic returns to the big screen this holiday season in his most thrilling adventure yet. Sonic, Knuckles, and Tails reunite against a powerful new adversary, Shadow, a mysterious villain with powers unlike anything they have faced before.



MUFASA: THE LION KING (PG)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20
Rafiki is enlisted to relay the legend of Mufasa to young lion cub Kiara, daughter of Simba and Nala, with Timon and Pumbaa lending their signature schtick. Told in flashbacks, the story introduces Mufasa as an orphaned cub, lost and alone until he meets a sympathetic lion named Taka—the heir to a royal bloodline. The chance meeting sets in motion an expansive journey of an extraordinary group of misfits searching for their destiny—their bonds will be tested as they work together to evade a threatening and deadly foe.



HOMESTEAD (PG-13)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20
A nuclear bomb is detonated in Los Angeles, and the nation devolves into unprecedented chaos. Ex-Green Beret Jeff Eriksson and his family escape to The Homestead, an eccentric prepper's fortress nestled in the mountains. As violent threats and apocalyptic conditions creep toward their borders, the residents of The Homestead are left to wonder: How long can a group of people resist both the dangers of human nature and the bloodshed at their doorstep?



NOSFERATU (R)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25
Robert Eggers' gothic tale of obsession between a haunted young woman and the terrifying vampire infatuated with her, causing



untold horror in its wake. It is a remake of the 1922 German film with the same title, which was itself in turn inspired by Bram Stoker's 1897 novel *Dracula*. The film features an ensemble cast including Bill Skarsgård, Nicholas Hoult, Lily-Rose Depp, Aaron Taylor-Johnson, and more.

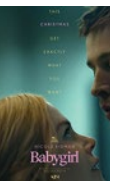
A COMPLETE UNKNOWN (R)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25
New York, 1961. Against the backdrop of a vibrant music scene and tumultuous cultural upheaval, an enigmatic 19-year-old from Minnesota arrives with his guitar and revolutionary talent, destined to change the course of American music. He forges intimate relationships with music icons of Greenwich Village on his meteoric rise, culminating in a groundbreaking and controversial performance that reverberates worldwide. Timothée Chalamet stars and sings as Bob Dylan in James Mangold's electric true story behind the rise of one of the most iconic singer-songwriters in history.



BABYGIRL (R)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25
A high-powered CEO puts her career and family on the line when she begins a torrid affair with her much younger intern. Nicole Kidman and Harris Dickinson memorably smolder together in *Babygirl*, with writer-director Halina Reijn's clinical gaze keeping this sexually frank thriller more provocative than prurient.



THE FIRE INSIDE (PG-13)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25
The Fire Inside is the inspirational true story of Claressa Shields, arguably the greatest female boxer of all time. Claressa, a high school junior from Flint, MI, aided by her tough-love coach, Jason Crutchfield, pushes past all limitations to become the first American woman to win an Olympic gold medal in boxing. But even at the pinnacle of success, Claressa has to reckon with the fact that not all dreams are created equal, and the real fight has only just begun.



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Be Like Frosty

By Matt Booth



Let's talk about Frosty the Snowman—the jolliest, liveliest frozen dude around. My nephew Brooks is so obsessed with him, he wears a Frosty hat everywhere. Pro-Parenting tip: You haven't truly lived until you've watched Frosty 16 times in a week. Every time I hear Frosty shout, "I'm all livin'!" I can't help but wonder—are we really 'all livin'? Or are we just existing, like a snowman without his magic hat?

Frosty's story is simple: one minute, he's just a stack of snow with a corn cob pipe. The next, poof! Magic hat. Suddenly, he's laughing, dancing, and spreading holiday cheer without hesitation. He knows his time is short, so he makes every frosty moment count.

What about you? You're already way ahead of Frosty—you've got a heartbeat and fewer carrot-related hygiene issues. But do you wake up every day thinking, "I'm all livin'!"? Or are you stuck waiting for "perfect timing" or "someday"?

Here's the truth: perfect timing doesn't exist. If you're waiting for your moment, you'll end up with nothing but a birth certificate and a death certificate, with a lot of wasted time in between. Meanwhile, Frosty lives more fully in a few cold days than most of us do in a lifetime.

Even though Frosty knows he's destined to melt, he doesn't waste a second. He's out there laughing and dancing, grateful just to be alive. So what's your excuse? Bad days? Bad months? We all have them. But waiting for the "right time" to start living is like Frosty holding out for a better hat—it's not coming. Your moment is *now*.

"All livin'" doesn't mean a big, flashy lifestyle. It could mean chasing a dream, taking that trip, or simply being kinder to others. It's about appreciating the time you have and making it count. Frosty doesn't wait—he just does it. Why? Because he knows time is short, and so is ours.

Frosty knows he'll melt when the temperature rises, but that doesn't stop him. And while we may not face literal melting (unless you count mid-August in Dubuque), our time is limited too. So why not live like Frosty?

This holiday season, ask yourself: Are you "all livin'"? Or are you still waiting for your magic moment? Let Frosty's words sink in: stop waiting, stop wasting time, and start livin'. Because before you know it, the temperature will rise, and we'll all melt away.

So, what about you? Are you "all livin'"? And if not, why not? Be like Brooks and put on a magic hat before it's too late. ■

MATT BOOTH

MATT WORKS WITH COMPANIES AND ASSOCIATIONS WHO WANT TO CHECK ATTITUDES, FIGURE IT OUT, AND TAKE ACTION. TO INQUIRE ABOUT MATT'S BUY LOCAL PROGRAM AND LEARN MORE ABOUT MATT'S SPEAKING OR COACHING, SUBSCRIBE TO HIS YOUTUBE CHANNEL @MATTBOOTHSPAKER OR EMAIL MATT@MATTBOOTH.COM.



WAITING FOR THE PATH TO CHANGE—START CHANGING YOURSELF." —MATT BOOTH

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PUZZLE PAGE

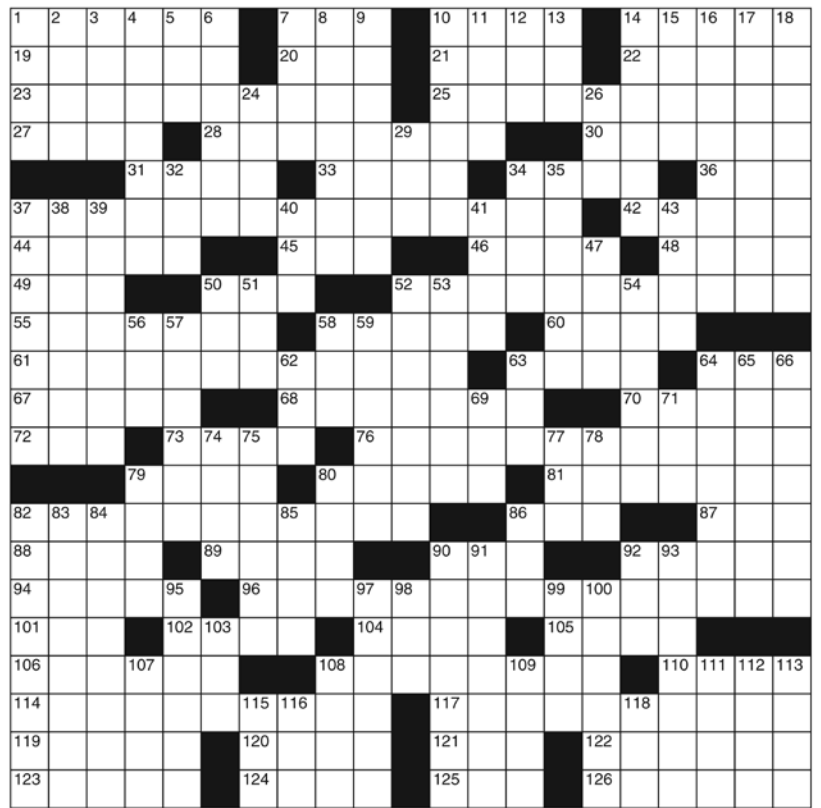
PUZZLE ANSWERS ON PAGE 28

PREMIER Crossword

By Frank A. Longo

GOING GREEN

- ACROSS
- 1 Goes fast
 - 7 PC key by Ctrl
 - 10 Entreaty
 - 14 Bluefins, e.g.
 - 19 Pop star Grande
 - 20 "Doesn't thrill me"
 - 21 Stack messily
 - 22 Indigenous Alaskan
 - 23 Existence fraught with injuries?
 - 25 Direction in a play script?
 - 27 Slight in build
 - 28 They're used with brooms
 - 30 "Goodness!"
 - 31 See 45-Across
 - 33 Grease-filled
 - 34 Big cat noise
 - 36 — Paese (cheese type)
 - 37 Equipment propped up against a wall?
 - 42 Dead-tired
 - 44 Iron — (rust)
 - 45 With 31-Across, "Come on in!"
 - 46 Certain mature tadpole
 - 48 Oscar winner Jared
 - 49 ER skill
 - 50 Forty winks
 - 52 Steed riding a heavy motorcycle?
 - 55 Certain youth support group
 - 58 Decided on
 - 60 Get larger
 - 61 Get evicted?
 - 63 Soccer success
 - 64 Prefix with day or night
 - 67 "Farewell!"
 - 68 Autocratic, as old Russia
 - 70 Motored
 - 72 Narc's agcy.
 - 73 — dixit (unproven assertion)
 - 76 Singer Diana inspects?
 - 79 One-pot meal
 - 80 Virtue
 - 81 Prefix with magnetic
 - 82 Sea that contains lots of ale?
 - 86 Lingerie top
 - 87 Mass. hours
 - 88 Magical glow
 - 89 Ski trail asset
 - 90 File a civil action against
 - 92 Myopic cartoon "Mr."
 - 94 Old-style office scribe
 - 96 Made surgeries simpler to perform?
 - 101 Cobra variety
 - 102 Engendered
 - 104 Some toothpastes
 - 105 Comic actor Sandler
 - 106 Fla. city, informally
 - 108 1914-18 world conflict
 - 110 Road deicer
 - 114 Official who judges the quality of coiffures?



- 117 Like renewable energy ... or nine long answers in this puzzle?
- 119 Often-dunked cookies
- 120 Discharge
- 121 Time period
- 122 Infant formula brand
- 123 Concise
- 124 Tap-activated programs
- 125 Racecar fuel additive
- 126 Relating to ankle bones
- 26 Nutrition stat
- 29 Lofty peak
- 32 Cobbler kin
- 34 Fishing spool
- 35 SUNY city on Lake Ontario
- 37 Plug for a neighborhood store, maybe
- 38 Blow up
- 39 Malaysian low-cost carrier
- 40 Drink slowly
- 41 Apropos of
- 43 Tilling tool
- 47 Supermodel Banks
- 50 Opposite of old, in Germany
- 51 Actress Ortiz
- 52 Dreadful things
- 53 St. Francis of —
- 54 Candy heart message about a hug
- 56 Golf ball prop
- 57 Fairness and impartiality
- 58 Dollar divs.
- 59 One listening to something
- 62 Numbered hwy.
- 63 Bygone telecom co.
- 64 — Bay (Jamaican resort port)
- 65 11-time NBA All-Star Allen
- 66 Antique Chryslers
- 69 Former jet to the U.K.
- 71 Singer Ocasek
- 74 Chapel seats
- 75 River in a Stephen Foster tune
- 77 Kid of the 1960s or '70s
- 78 Styled like
- 79 Time period
- 80 Kittens' cries
- 82 Might be able to do it
- 83 Defeat in a "don't-blink" contest
- 84 More likely to wear polo shirts, maybe
- 85 Certain mature tadpole
- 86 Apiary insect
- 90 Comforts
- 91 Nouveau riche
- 92 NYC bus org.
- 93 Aspires to
- 95 Like some angles
- 97 Marsh birds
- 98 Kiki, Ruby or Sandra
- 99 Broccoli — (salad green)
- 100 Skillful
- 103 Dreamy sleep, in brief
- 107 God of love
- 108 Clutch
- 109 Bandage
- 111 Vaccination spots
- 112 Sci-fi princess
- 113 Tattle
- 115 Soup legume
- 116 Naughty kid
- 118 Hush-hush U.S. org.

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Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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

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WHERE'S GENERAL BOB?

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



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JULY 1964

HE WAS WONDERFUL

My Tribe

By Pam Kress-Dunn

My cousin Bob died on Nov. 11, only fitting for a Navy veteran. He was my last cousin on my Dad's side, and boy, was it a loss.

I wasn't the only girl cousin to have a crush on Bob. He could have been the big brother I always wanted—someone to keep the creepy guys away, take me fishing, teach me to drive. But his family lived on the other side of town, and we mostly saw them on holidays.

I wrote about Bob and his sister Sue just last month, in my column begging for someone to teach me to swim. (Still waiting!) Bob was the one zipping around the lake on water skis and swimming across the lake, one memorable day. His sister Sue followed in a boat, just in case, but we knew he'd be just fine.

Bob joined the Navy after high school, serving almost four years as an electrician's mate aboard the USS Coral Sea and the USS Hunterdon County in the waters off Hong Kong, Australia, Hawaii, Guam, the Philippines, Midway, and Vietnam. Whenever he came home on leave, his parents flew a flag they'd made declaring "BOB IS HOME" in big letters, so neighbors and friends knew they could visit.

In 1970, he married his best friend, Sarah, who was also his sister's best friend. She was already a part of the family, coming to Lake Ada many years. Bob taught their two girls everything he would have

if they'd been boys—fishing, hunting, and taking care of nature. My dad was an outdoorsman, too. I wonder if Bob's family grew up eating not only venison but squirrels, rabbit, and pheasants, like we did? We all feasted on fish at the lake.

I hadn't seen my cousin for decades. A career telephone man, he moved to Mason City long ago. But we wrote emails, especially when I began constructing our family tree on Ancestry. When I grew frustrated with the dearth of information about our Grandpa Kress—who had been placed in an orphanage right here in Dubuque after his mother died—Bob sent me everything he had, including the funeral registry. What a gift that was.

Sarah's Christmas letters held news of their kids, their grandkids, and Bob's failing health. It was hard to imagine this hale and hearty—not to mention handsome—man growing debilitated first by diabetes, which had killed his sister, then by Parkinson's and cancer. Fate can be so arbitrary, and so unkind.

At the funeral, we learned that Bob had been the lifeblood of his church, serving as a deacon and elder and, most importantly, at the head of the Building and Grounds team. A eulogist recalled how Bob changed the bulbs in the dizzyingly high chandeliers. Not afraid of heights in the least, he would lay a board over the pews, place a ladder over the board, and climb on up. Putting up the lights on the family's tall pine tree was just as easy.

My family tree used to have five cousins on Dad's side. Four died of diseases, and one was murdered by

her husband who also killed himself. One—Bob's sister Sue—died too young of her lifelong diabetes, but not until she disobeyed her doctor's orders and had a daughter, Amy. I follow Amy and her sons on Facebook, but it was a comfort to hug her at the church.

I feel like the last person standing, but of course I'm not. Nearly everyone on this branch has children—15, counting my own. Amy is the only one I know, but it's good to remember all the others out there. I know I could walk up to any of them, should fate bring us together one day, introduce myself, and receive a joyful smile and probably, a hug.

That's what happened at the visitation. I had already sent a message to Sarah, letting her know that my Bob and I would be there, and she responded, "Awesome!" As the line shortened and she spotted me, it was glorious to hug her, and to be hugged back. A hug is an amazing thing, you know? Holding a person you care for and being held in return. After we talked for a moment, she turned to a group of people nearby and said, "Hey guys! This is um, this is Bob's—oh, this is Pam Kress!"

My heart was full. I knew why I had come. I was with my tribe, and they knew who I was by just my name, even if we'd never met. Her daughters hugged

me and pointed out their own kids with pride, and I felt deeply welcomed.

Finally, I turned to Amy for a hug and saw an older man eyeing me quizzically. This was Harry, her father, who had married Bob's sister Sue so long ago. She had died when Amy was just a child, and a year after Sue's death, Harry went missing. He was in what psychologists call a fugue state, lost in his thoughts and unaware of his identity. Two weeks later, he turned up in Texas, okay and just starting to remember who he was. He is fine now, remarried, and as funny as ever. I reminded him of how he sang at his wedding to Sue, and he groaned and said my Aunt Louise has made him do it. But it was lovely.

I wore my heart locket to the funeral, a gift when I was young. Long ago, I had placed tiny photos of my mom and dad, Iona and Harold Kress. I wanted them to be there, too. They were there in spirit, with our family. Family is everything. ■

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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Angela's
Awesome Advice

DEAR ANGELA,

My work Christmas party was yesterday, complete with a compulsory potluck and a “gift” from the CEO—a coffee mug that says “my boss is better than your boss” and has the company logo. Considering how awful he really is, I feel sorry for anyone for whom this is an accurate statement. I wore my Christmas finery and during the festivities my supervisor, Susanna, grabs the microphone and announces the ugly sweater contest. As folks were walking up to be included, Susanna turned to me and loudly announced that I should go up too because “we’re pretty sure you’ll win”. I made some lame joke about not enough competition

and said I needed to go get my cat from the vet then made a hasty exit. The thing is, I didn’t think my sweater was ugly, and was hurt to find out that others thought it was so hideous that it would win! I’m embarrassed that I left and don’t know what to do.
—Ugly Surprise on Unga Street

DEAR UGLY,

This whole ugly sweater contest has gotten out of hand, and this letter is proof. There was a time when they were just that—sweaters! Now you can’t have one applique of a kitten in a Santa hat batting at a bell hanging from the bottom of a Christmas tree that jingles loudly every time you step without someone coming up and laughing and telling you that they love how you “wear ugly things ironically” when, in fact, you just love kittens. I have zero experience with this because I am very fashionable. People often stop to ask if they can take a photo of me for fashion blogs, but we’re not talking about me, are we? No, we are talking about your foray into the world of hideous knitwear. Honestly, I think your best bet is to go to the Dr. and ask for a minimally invasive surgery—whatever they can

get you in for before the holiday. Then you can take a leave of absence at work until well into January, by which time everyone will be on to the “New Year New Year Healthful Challenge” that HR has set up in a thinly veiled attempt to help lower insurance costs.

DEAR ANGELA,

I’m feeling a bit cold, is it normally this cold right now? Because for some reason it feels extra cold.
—Brrrrrr on Brunswick

DEAR BRRRRRR,

Yeah, it’s cold.

DEAR ANGELA,

I’m worried about these mystery drones flying around in the sky, just how worried should I be?
—Sighted on 6th Street

DEAR SIGHTED,

Honestly, the drone thing is small potatoes. Yes, it’s probably some extraterrestrial beings checking things out to see how easy it will be to take over the planet and mine it for resources. But if that’s the case, we have plenty of years before their mother ship would arrive, if

they even find anything left worth mining. The real thing to be worried about is how Lisa Frank artwork actually has hidden messages encouraging people to eat cottage cheese in jello. Because why else would someone willingly eat those two foods together? They just put out a new Lisa Frank documentary, and the sale of cottage cheese has gone up 13% in 2024—coincidence? I think not. And while we’re on it, have you ever noticed the colors of the bathroom at your grocery store? Apparently there is a specific white that they paint the walls of these toilets, and it was paid for by “Big Chip” because people who use the restroom at grocery stores are 37 times more likely to purchase chips. Some people say that it was a collab between Pantone and Doritos, but you didn’t hear that from me.

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.



World AIDS Day is December 1
You help us keep moving forward
when you **talk, test, treat.**



talk

Talk with your partner **before** having sex.
Talk about **when** you were last tested and suggest getting tested together.
Talk to your healthcare provider about your sex life. Ask them about HIV and STI testing: including what tests you need and how often.

test

Get tested! It’s the only way to **know for sure** if you have an HIV or another STI.
Many STIs **don’t cause any symptoms**, so you could have one and **not know**.
If you’re not comfortable asking your regular provider for an HIV or STI test, find a clinic that provides confidential testing that is free or low cost.

treat

All STIs, including HIV, are treatable. If you test positive for an STI, work with your healthcare provider to get the right treatment.
If you test positive for HIV, your provider or testing location will help connect you to treatment & resources!
Ask about partner services to get your partner tested and treated. Avoid having sex until you and your sex partner both complete treatment.

| STOP HIV IOWA

BECAUSE SPACE SAYS SO... COMPLETELY NOT FAKE Horoscopes

By Danny Fairchild, Friend to the Cosmos

ARIES
(APR 19–MAY 13)
Some people’s aunts go all out for their nibblings. Yours, however, take the title literally and can lift up to 50 times their body weight while working tirelessly for the good of the colony.

TAURUS
(MAY 14–JUNE 19)
Your biopic about Frank Lloyd Wright will be widely criticized for not being as build.

GEMINI
(JUNE 20–JULY 20)
While being the seller of an original publication of Poe’s “The Cask of Amontillado” might solve some of your financial problems, you’re still the seller. And considering the setting of that story, it’s okay to be scared.

CANCER
(JULY 21–AUG 9)
While Ted Lasso teaches us to “Be a goldfish,” never forget that Paul Simon taught us we don’t need to be koi, Roy.

LEO
(AUG 10–SEP 15)
While modes of communication will not be as easy as you think after accidentally time-traveling to the 1980s, sometimes you just have to face the fax.

VIRGO
(SEP 16–OCT 30)
Have fun on New Year’s Eve, but save some energy to celebrate New Year After. Compared to an eave, a rafter is a far more structural piece if you REALLY want to raise the roof.

LIBRA
(OCT 31–NOV 22)
While you’ll be surprised it comes with glass clippings, you can’t deny that you ordered your pie à la mowed.

SCORPIO
(NOV 23–NOV 29)
Whether Santa brings you rustic furniture or a beautiful metamorphic rock depends on whether you’ve been knotty or gneiss.

OPHIUCHUS
(NOV 30–DEC 17)
Just remember: What some call a roll in the Wisconsin hay, others call taking in the dairy air.

SAGITTARIUS
(DEC 18–JAN 8)
Your grand heist will fall apart while trying to get out of Minneapolis because you’ll try too hard not to leave Prince. RIP.

CAPRICORN
(JAN 9–FEB 15)
Be warned: While, yes, “chop” is right there in the name, chopping it up too much is just suey-cide.

AQUARIUS
(FEB 16–MAR 11)
In hindsight, you should have known two people named “Russell” and “Jocelyn” couldn’t possibly be still and keep quiet, but at least Jocelyn didn’t steal your cattle.

PISCES
(MAR 12–APR 18)
I hate to say it, but your holiday season will be filled with more woes than Keanu Reeves and Joey Lawrence combined.

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