

THE DUBUQUE AREA LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE, APRIL 2026

FREE

# JULIEN'S JOURNAL

**IT'S SHOWTIME FOR  
THE JULIEN DUBUQUE  
INTERNATIONAL FILM  
FESTIVAL!**

**THE DUBUQUE CHORALE - LIFE,  
LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF  
HARMONY**

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# JULIEN'S JOURNAL

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*This photo of a Bobolink Bird was submitted by Gary Fagan of Fagan Photography. Visit [Garyfaganphoto.smugmug.com](http://Garyfaganphoto.smugmug.com) or email [faganphoto@aol.com](mailto:faganphoto@aol.com). Comments and photos for possible use in a future issue can be sent to [Robin@JuliensJournal.com](mailto:Robin@JuliensJournal.com).*

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## PUBLISHER'S NOTE

It was mid-February when I wrote this, and recent daytime high temperatures had reached into the 50s. Weather like this doesn't happen very often in Dubuque and when it does it will probably be a long time before it happens again. For some reason, the great February weather reminded me of the April Blizzard of 1973, which caught the state completely off guard. Recent temperatures had been in the 60s prior to the blizzard which, depending on where you lived, dumped 20 inches or more of snow across the state. Winds that reached 65 mph created 15-foot snow drifts which paralyzed the state for days. I was in 5th grade at the time and I remember going outside with my brother and sister the next morning. We walked onto the roof of our house via a snow drift that had blown over the top of our home. If you have a photo(s) of this blizzard feel free to email it to Robin@JuliensJournal.com along with a brief explanation of where it was taken. Do not mail photos to us, as they will not be returned.

### Inside this issue

Liverpool Legends will perform at Five Flags Center on April 17, but the group did not begin as a tribute band. It began with a moment of loss and a connection to Beatles history. Read the story on page 14.

Iowa is the most altered landscape in the entire world. It is more endangered than the Great Barrier Reef or the tropical rainforest. Learn how the Mowing to Monarchs program is helping change that on page 15.

Stairways have played a unique role in the development of Dubuque, Iowa's first and oldest city. Learn the fascinating history of Dubuque's many stairways on page 17.

It's April and that means it's almost time for the 15th annual Julien Dubuque International Film Festival. Read our preview on page 19.

A first-of-its-kind summit in Dubuque brought together more than 50 organizations working on environmental issues to form new partnerships and build capacity for impact. Learn more on page 23.

During your working years, the focus is growth. Contribute. Invest. Stay disciplined. Let time do its work. Retirement introduces a different phase. Read about it on page 25.

The Goerdts family has embarked on a venture to bring the best craft beer and BBQ to the Tristate area. Read our review on page 28.

The Frosted Glass reviews a rare Red IPA that will allow you to compete with any pretentious craft beer snob. Read about them on page 30.

TeamWine reviews two wines that help bridge the seasonal changes from winter to spring. Read about them on page 31.



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Upcoming Events Should be Emailed to Juli@JuliensJournal.com.

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# April Events

*Events are subject to change. Please visit listing sites for the most up-to-date information. Submissions may also be edited and printed at the discretion of the publisher.*

## Wild West Wednesdays

Wednesday, April 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

7-11 PM @ Dubuque County Fairgrounds

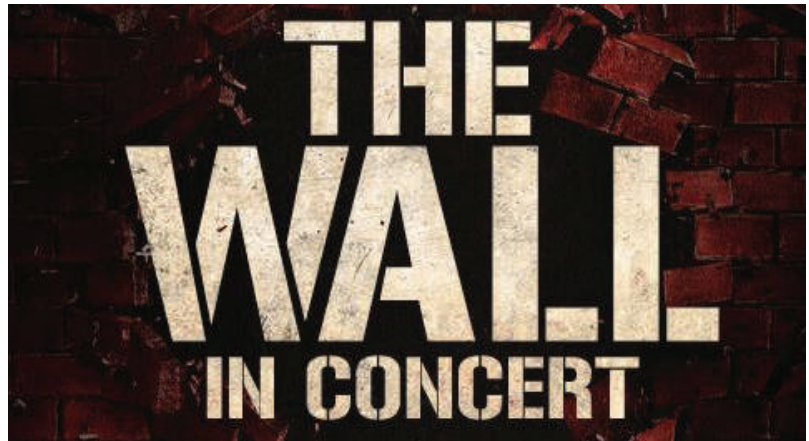
Come for country dance music and fun. All ages. Visit [DBQFair.com](http://DBQFair.com).

## School's Out Day Camp

Friday and Monday, April 3 & 6

9 AM-4 PM @ National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium

Camps are held on weekdays when the Dubuque Community School District is not in session. These full-day camps are for students in K-5th grade. Visit [River-Museum.org](http://River-Museum.org).



## The Wall—In Concert

Saturday, April 4

5:30 PM @ Five Flags Theater

Celebrate the 40th anniversary of Pink Floyd's legendary *The Wall* tour with a live homage to the greatest rock opera of all time including musicians from the original Pink Floyd and Roger Waters tours. In addition to the music from the cult album "The Wall", other Pink Floyd songs will be played at the homage concert like "Wish you were here", "When the Tigers broke free". Visit [FiveFlagsCenter.com](http://FiveFlagsCenter.com).

An advertisement for hotel wedding room discounts. It features two background images: on the left, a wedding reception space with tables and chairs, and on the right, a modern hotel lobby with armchairs. The text is centered on a white background.

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A circular portrait of Diana Schulz, a woman with blonde hair, smiling.

**DIANA SCHULZ**  
DIRECTOR OF HOSPITALITY SALES

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PHONE: 563-585-3000

**First Fridays**

Friday, April 3

@ Various Locations in Dubuque

First Fridays is a free downtown monthly community arts event with open galleries, artists' studios, and live entertainment. Visit [FirstFridaysDubuque.org](http://FirstFridaysDubuque.org).

**Community Easter Egg Hunt**

Saturday, April 4

10 AM @ Allison Henderson Park

The Authentic Connection welcomes hundreds of Dubuque kids for a morning of family fun as thousands of Easter eggs fill the field at the park. Visit [Facebook.com/TheAuthenticConnectionDBQ](https://Facebook.com/TheAuthenticConnectionDBQ).

**Early Explorers: "Y" is for Yellow-Tail Snapper**

Saturday and Tuesday, April 4 & 7

10-11 AM @ National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium

Programs include a variety of hands-on activities, including a craft and a game. Ages 2-5 with a parent/caregiver. Visit [RiverMuseum.org](http://RiverMuseum.org).

**Dark Side of the Moon**

Saturday, April 4

8:30 PM @ Five Flags Theater

*Dark Side of the Moon* tour comes to life for its 50th anniversary with original touring Pink Floyd members Graham Broad, Mark Lennon, Chester Kamen plus Harry Waters (Roger Waters' son), as well as tribute group Berlin Pink Floyd & Echoes. Visit [FiveFlagsCenter.com](http://FiveFlagsCenter.com).



**The Magical Music of Harry Potter**

Sunday, April 5

1 PM @ Five Flags Theater

Relive the wonder of Hogwarts through the power of music, brought to life by the acclaimed Magical Film Orchestra & Choir. This is an independent event and is not affiliated with or endorsed by the studios, production companies, or respective trademark owners. Visit [FiveFlagsCenter.com](http://FiveFlagsCenter.com).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



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



**THE HIGHWAYMEN LIVE**  
 SATURDAY, APRIL 18 @ 7PM

Perhaps the greatest country music super group in history, the Highwaymen traveled the world performing country music to millions of fans. Your audience will watch in amazement as each song, one hit after another is sung just as if they were seeing the original band perform. This music tribute show is full of upbeat, honky-tonk hits like Ring of Fire, Dukes of Hazard, and On the Road Again. **Relive The Magic... Of The Greatest Country Music Super Group Of All Time. Willie, Waylon & Cash... The Highwaymen Live**

TICKETS - ALL TICKETS \$40 - AT DOOR ALL TICKETS \$45

**The Music of Lord of the Rings**

Sunday, April 5

4:30 PM @ Five Flags Theater

The musical world of hobbits and elves from *The Lord of The Rings*, *The Hobbit*, and *The Rings of Power* will be performed in concert by a film orchestra, choir, and star soloists. This is an independent event and is not affiliated with or endorsed by the studios, production companies, or respective trademark owners. Visit [FiveFlags-Center.com](http://FiveFlags-Center.com).

**The Music of Hans Zimmer & Others**

Sunday, April 5

8 PM @ Five Flags Theater

Experience the best film music from *Top Gun*, *Dune*, *James Bond*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *The Lion King*, *Gladiator*, *The Dark Knight*, *Inception*, *Interstellar*, and more. Visit [FiveFlagsCenter.com](http://FiveFlagsCenter.com).

**Open Studio**

Mondays, April 6 through May 18

1-4 PM @ Bluff Strokes Art Center

Drop-in only, open studio with no instruction. Bring your own materials. Adults must accompany children who need guidance. Visit [BluffStrokes.org/Programming](http://BluffStrokes.org/Programming).

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**Teen Art Club**

Tuesdays, April 7 through May 19  
3:15-5:15 PM @ Bluff Strokes Art Center  
Teens are welcome to hang out, make art, and make friends. Students can sketch quietly on their own with others, draw or paint, collaborate, and/or plan special projects together. No instruction provided, but staff offer guidance. Visit [BluffStrokes.org/Programming](http://BluffStrokes.org/Programming).

**Stonehill Trivia Night**

Thursday, April 9, 5-8:30 PM  
@ Steeple Square, 101 E 15th St.  
Attend a fun night of trivia and support Stonehill's Employee Scholarship Fund. Teams of up to 8 players are welcome. There will be a cash bar, food, and raffle. Registration required. Visit [StoneHill-DBQ.com/Trivia](http://StoneHill-DBQ.com/Trivia).

**Dubuque Audubon Monthly Program**

Thursday, April 9, 7-8 PM @ EB Lyons Interpretive Center, Mines of Spain  
Bob Walton will share tips and tricks on identifying warblers. The program will include photographs of the 36 species of warblers that frequent our area. Visit [AudubonDubuque.org](http://AudubonDubuque.org).



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June 20



**Collin Raye**  
September 5

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**Pam Tillis**  
October 17



Get Tickets at [FiveFlagsCenter.com](http://FiveFlagsCenter.com)

### Harnessing Color & Design

Friday through Sunday, April 10-12  
Friday 6-8 PM; Saturday and Sunday, 9 AM-4 PM @ Bluff Strokes Art Center

The ability to understand an image through these concepts can be learned and practiced. In this studio workshop, students of all levels are invited to learn accessible ways of recognizing and employing principles of composition while practicing functional relationships of color theory. Ages 16+. Visit [BluffStrokes.org/Programming](http://BluffStrokes.org/Programming).

### Spring Clean-Up

Saturday, April 11 & 18  
9-11:30 AM @ Dubuque Arboretum & Botanical Gardens

Volunteers will meet at the Visitor Center to help refresh and prepare the gardens for spring. Free lunch provided. Visit [DubuqueArboretum.net](http://DubuqueArboretum.net).

### Henry Cho Comedy

Saturday, April 11  
8 PM @ Five Flags Theater

Cho's clean comedy is so versatile that he can headline Vegas and then tour with Michael W. Smith. Visit [FiveFlagsCenter.com](http://FiveFlagsCenter.com).

### Promoting Pollinators and Birds

Sunday, April 12  
12 PM @ EB Lyons Interpretive Center  
Bill Meyer covers concepts and practices homeowners can implement to help pollinators and birds thrive in their yard. Visit [DubuqueCountyIowa.gov/Conservation](http://DubuqueCountyIowa.gov/Conservation).

### She Unites

Wednesday, April 15  
6:30-7:30 PM @ The Innovation Lab, 210 Jones St.

Come together for an evening of socialization and education. She Unites features rotating speakers talking about anything and everything pertaining to women in a chill environment. Visit [SheUnitesIowa.com/Events](http://SheUnitesIowa.com/Events).

### Clint Black

Wednesday, April 15  
7 PM @ Five Flags Arena

A true triple threat singer/guitarist/songwriter, Black has sold more than 20 million records, written and recorded 22 #1 singles, and has been awarded nearly two-dozen gold and platinum awards, a Grammy, and numerous CMA, ACM, and American Music Awards. Visit [FiveFlagsCenter.com](http://FiveFlagsCenter.com).

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**Figure Drawing Open Studio**

Thursday, April 16

6-8 PM @ Bluff Strokes Art Center

Experienced figure models, a great space, and a wonderful community. Nude models. No instruction provided. Ages 18+. Visit [BluffStrokes.org/Calendar](http://BluffStrokes.org/Calendar).

**Liverpool Legends**

Friday, April 17

7:30 PM @ Five Flags Theater

The Grammy-nominated tribute to The Beatles is set to deliver an immersive journey through the greatest discography in music history. This performance captures the uncanny mannerisms and spirit of the Fab Four in their prime. Visit [FiveFlagsCenter.com](http://FiveFlagsCenter.com).

**The Highwaymen Live**

Saturday, April 18

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

Relive the magic of one of the greatest country music super groups of all time: Willie, Waylon & Cash...The Highwaymen. Visit [OhnwardFineArtsCenter.com](http://OhnwardFineArtsCenter.com)



**Julien Dubuque International Film Festival**

April 18-25 @ Various Locations in Dubuque & Galena

The Julien Dubuque International Film Festival (JDIFF) is an 8-day film festival showcasing the best in independent film throughout downtown Dubuque, Phoenix Theatres, and Galena, IL. Filmmakers come from all over the world to show their films and be available for Q&A after the viewing. There are also evening events, panels, workshops, and more. Visit [Julien-FilmFest.com](http://Julien-FilmFest.com).

**DSO's Beethoven's 9th Symphony**

Saturday and Sunday, April 18-19

Saturday, 7:30 PM; Sunday, 2 PM @ University of Dubuque Heritage Center

The Dubuque Symphony Orchestra (DSO) will perform Beethoven's Symphony No. 9. This iconic work unites the orchestra, Dubuque Chorale, local college choirs, and a lineup of soloists. Visit [DBQ.edu/HeritageCenter](http://DBQ.edu/HeritageCenter).

**Party for the Planet**

Saturday, April 25

10 AM-3 PM @ National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium

Join the River Museum and its conservation partners to celebrate this incredible Earth. Enjoy vendor booths across campus featuring hands-on activities and information about local and regional conservation efforts. Visit [RiverMuseum.org](http://RiverMuseum.org).

**The Big Tree Hunter**

Sunday, April 26

12 PM @ EB Lyons Interpretive Center

Mark Rouw is a "big tree hunter" who has documented and measured Iowa's largest trees since the 1970s. He will educate on what a "champion" tree is and why trees are important. Visit [DubuqueCountyIowa.gov/Conservation](http://DubuqueCountyIowa.gov/Conservation).

**Bookmarks**

Thursday, April 30

6-8 PM @ Dubuque Arboretum & Botanical Gardens

Workshop. Design your own one-of-a-kind bookmarks. Visit [DubuqueArboretum.net](http://DubuqueArboretum.net).

**LIVERPOOL LEGENDS**

THE COMPLETE **BEATLES** EXPERIENCE!

GRAMMY NOMINATED

**FRI., APR. 17**  
**7:30 PM**

**FIVE FLAGS THEATER**

405 MAIN STREET, DUBUQUE, IA 52001

Tickets available at the box office or at [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com)

SCAN FOR TICKETS



# Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Harmony

## PREMIER EVENT SPONSORED BY THE DUBUQUE CHORALE

In 1900, a choir of 500 schoolchildren at the segregated Stanton School in Jacksonville, Florida, delivered the first public performance of “Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing” as part of a celebration for Abraham Lincoln’s birthday. School principal and civil rights leader James Weldon Johnson wrote the lyrics, which were then set to music composed by his brother John Rosamond Johnson. As the song grew in popularity, it became an anthem for Black Americans and was frequently used as a rallying cry during the civil rights movements of the 1950s and ‘60s. The lyrics acknowledge that although the march toward liberty is long and hard, unified communities can build a better future.

The message of this piece is a fitting opening to *Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Harmony*, the Dubuque Chorale’s final concert of the 2025-26 season. The performances,

which will take place on Saturday, May 2nd, and Sunday, May 3rd, will feature the Chorale’s chamber choir Cadenza and the Dubuque Chorale Children’s Choirs.



Top Photo: The Dubuque Chorale’s chamber choir Cadenza.  
Above: The DCCC Legati Singers

While the title of this concert is inspired by the text of the United States Declaration of Independence, the ideals it represents are universal. By replacing “happiness” with “harmony,” the Chorale wishes to emphasize the importance of connection and community alongside individual liberty, as both are necessary for living a good life. Dubuque Chorale Artistic Director Dr. Amanda Huntleigh explains that the pieces selected for this concert each speak to a different component of the themes of life, liberty, and harmony, “...though all three sections ultimately address freedom to pursue one’s unique yet interconnected life.”

The theme of interconnectedness has been present in each of the Chorale’s concerts this season. *Ode to the Arts* focused both on the connection among the arts and our human connection through art, while *SongFest* celebrated the local choral community itself. The message of making joyful music as a connected global community will resound during our collaboration with the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra for Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony in April.



*Dr. Amanda Huntleigh is Artistic Director of the Dubuque Chorale*

*“Closing the season with our final call of connection that highlights the pursuit of harmony is a fitting musical end to this season of interconnectedness, says Huntleigh”*

The word harmony is most commonly associated with ideas of peace and sweet music, evoking images of happy people singing together. In a musical context, harmony can be both consonant and dissonant, meaning that combinations of notes can sound pleasant and stable or notes can clash and cause tension in the music. Both types of harmony play a role in creating music, and dissonance makes the eventual resolution all the more satisfying to the ear. Similarly, there may be tension and discomfort when people come together, but such discomfort is often necessary when working to create a better world. Several pieces exemplify this idea of working together to ensure the liberty of others. The song “Step by Step,”

performed by the adult Chorale, emphasizes the power of perseverance and that individuals are strongest when they unite for a common cause. The text from this piece is taken from the preamble to the constitution of the American Miners Union, written in 1870, set to a traditional Irish melody.

The Dubuque Chorale Children’s Choirs (DCCC) will perform a trio of freedom songs from the South African anti-apartheid struggle. Karmella Sellers, program director for the DCCC says that a key part of the pursuit of harmony in music and in life is resilience. “We have to keep going, keep practicing, keep failing, so that in the end we succeed,” says Sellers.



*DCCC Program Director Karmella Sellers conducts the Children’s Choirs*

*“Music can be both a form of resistance and a tool of support in resilience,” said Sellers.*

The finale piece, an arrangement of Michael Jackson’s “Heal the World,” makes a heartfelt plea for compassion and encourages everyone to do their part in making a better world. We hope this concert inspires connection in the community. After all, it takes more than one voice to create harmony.



*Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Harmony*

*Saturday, May 2, 7pm*

*Sunday, May 3, 2pm*

*Bread of Life Presbyterian Church, Hilltop Campus*

*2155 University Ave, Dubuque, IA 52001*

*Thanks to all our sponsors and in-kind donors!*

*Premier Bank, Gronen, Iowa Arts Council, City of Dubuque, DRA, National Endowment for the Arts, Henry Family Foundation, Schoen Family Charitable Trust, The Wahlert Foundation, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Bread of Life Presbyterian Church, Grand View Methodist Church, Church of the Nativity, First Congregational Church UCC, Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the Greater Dubuque Development Corporation.*

*Article contributed by Sarah Slaughter*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS



All events/activities are subject to change. Visit the online calendar at [CarnegieStout.org/Events](http://CarnegieStout.org/Events) for the most up-to-date information.

### April Fool's Day Idea Session

Wednesday, April 1 @ 4 PM

Kids will explore silly, kid-safe prank ideas and create a few playful tricks of their own. Ages 8-12. Registration required.

### Virtual Author Talks

Thursday, April 2 @ 1 PM

Explore history of U.S. female astronauts with Valerie Neal, emerita curator from the Smithsonian & National Air and Space Museum. Ages 16+.

### Jewelry Making

Thursday, April 2 @ 4 PM

Learn to make wire earring hoops and ear wires using a Wig Jig jewelry tool. Ages 12-17. Registration required.

### Paint & Bloom

Friday, April 3 @ 1:30-3 PM

Celebrate spring with a relaxing cherry blossom paint session. Ages 10-18. Registration required.

### Art @ Your Library Opening Reception

Friday, April 3 @ 5:30-7:30 PM

This is a First Fridays program occurring bi-monthly and featuring local and regional artists.

### Music @ Your Library

Friday, April 3 @ 6 PM

This is a First Fridays concert series that features local and regional musicians. Doors open at 5:30 PM.

### Toddler Time

Mondays, April 6 through May 4 @ 9:30 AM & 10:30 AM

Programs feature short stories, songs, and movement activities. Ages 18-35 mos. Adult participation required.

### Dementia Simulation Experience

Tuesday, April 7 @ 9:30 AM

Learn more about dementia, how it affects the brain, and what you can do to help the people in your life living with dementia. Ages 18+. Registration required.

### Baby Rhyme Time

Tuesdays, April 7 through May 5 @ 10:30 AM

Hear stories, rhymes, and songs during this interactive program. Ages birth-18 mos. Adult participation required.

### Ukulele Time!

Tuesday, April 7 & 21 @ 6 PM

Adult ukulele lessons. Registration required.

### Preschool Storytime

Wednesdays, April 8 through May 6 @ 10:30 AM

Stories, sing-alongs, and movement activities. Ages 3-6. Adult participation required.

### Pokémon Club

Wednesday, April 8 @ 5:30 PM

Meet other Pokémon trainers. Ages 6-12. Registration required.

### Zine Studio

Thursday, April 9 @ 4 PM

Learn how to fold and fill a single sheet of paper into a mini zine. Ages 10-18. Registration required.

### Movie Night

Thursday, April 9 @ 6 PM

Seating is first come, first served. Ages 16+.

### Family Yoga

Friday, April 10 @ 3:45 PM

The Well Yoga Dubuque is coming to teach yoga, breathing, and other important information for kids for self-care. Ages 6-15 and their families. Registration required.

### Lollipops & Music

Saturday, April 11 @ 10 AM

This concert series is offered for preschool children and their families. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

### Reading with Rover

Saturday, April 11 @ 10:30 AM

Read or listen to a story with some furry friends. Do not bring a pet; kid-friendly dogs are provided. Ages 6-9.

### Watermelon Weaving

Monday, April 13 @ 4 PM

Create a lovely watermelon weaving. Ages 6-10. Registration required.

### Introduction to Self Defense

Tuesday, April 14 @ 9:30 AM

The poster features the Carnegie-Stout Public Library logo at the top. Below it, the text 'INSPIRE YOUR SHELF 2026' is written in large, bold, colorful letters. Underneath, it says 'Yearlong Reading Challenge'. At the bottom, there is a blue box with white text that reads 'CALLING ALL READERS! We want you to join INSPIRE YOUR SHELF, the NEW yearlong adult reading challenge at Carnegie-Stout Public Library! Track your reading, take on seasonal challenges, win prizes, and meet your fellow Dubuque readers at special events. Visit the Recommendations or Reference Desk to sign up or learn more at [carnegiestout.org/inspire-your-shelf](http://carnegiestout.org/inspire-your-shelf).

Adults of all ability levels are invited to join in on this participant-lead introduction to self-defense. Ages 18+. Registration required.

**Fluffy Page Keepers**  
**Tuesday, April 14 @ 4 PM**

Create bookmarks using yarn pom poms. Ages 6-12 and families. Registration required.

**Virtual Author Talks**  
**Tuesday, April 14 @ 6 PM**

Writing action-packed and suspenseful spycraft with Brad Taylor. Ages 16+.

**Make a Rainstick**  
**Wednesday, April 15 @ 4 PM**

Come to the library and create a musical rainstick. Ages 8-12. Registration required.

**Minecraft Mania**  
**Wednesday, April 15 @ 5:30 PM**  
 Ages 7-14. Registration required.

**LEGO® Challenge**  
**Saturday, April 18 @ 10 AM**  
 New challenges await each month. Ages 5-12.

**Family Book Bingo**  
**Saturday, April 18 @ 2 PM**  
 Hardcover and paperback books for prizes. Ages 4-12.

**Reclaiming Our Spiritual Authority**  
**Sunday, April 19 @ 2 PM**  
 Sister Karen Lueck will discuss her new book, *The Green Thread*. Ages 16+.

**Mini Clay Trinkets**  
**Tuesday, April 21 @ 5:30 PM**  
 Make cool art and eat snacks. Ages 10+. Registration required.

**Virtual Author Talks**  
**Wednesday, April 22 @ 1 PM**  
 Lush Lyricism and Intimate Confessions with Miranda Cowley Heller. Ages 16+.

**Blackout Poetry Murals**  
**Wednesday, April 22 @ 4 PM**

Create a simple blackout poetry mural. Ages 8-12. Registration required.

**Reel Reads Cinema**  
**Saturday, April 25 @ 2 PM**  
*Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. Ages 6-12. Registration required.

**Sun SHINE Squad**  
**Tuesday, April 28 @ 4 PM**  
 Work on volunteer projects while providing feedback on making the library a

welcoming place for teens. Ages 12-18. Registration required.

**Virtual Author Talks**  
**Thursday, April 30 @ 6 PM**  
 Join best-selling author Jason Reynolds to discuss his latest work, *Coach*. Ages 16+.



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# How the Liverpool Legends Were Born



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

*Liverpool Legends will perform at Five Flags Center on April 17, but the group did not begin as a tribute band chasing nostalgia. It began with a moment of loss, a chance meeting, and a connection to Beatles history that few artists experience firsthand.*

In the weeks following the passing of George Harrison, Marty Scott was performing at a Beatles festival in Chicago, portraying George on stage. It was an emotional time for Beatles fans everywhere.

That weekend, Marty met Louise Harrison, George's sister. It was the beginning of a friendship that would change the course of Marty's life and ultimately lead to the creation of Liverpool Legends.

## LOUISE HARRISON'S QUIET ROLE IN BEATLES HISTORY

Eleven years older than George, Louise was already living in the United States in the early 1960s, long before Beatlemania swept the country. Settled in the Midwest, she believed deeply in her brother's band

and began promoting their music. She brought Beatles records to local radio stations, spoke directly with DJs, encouraged airplay, and spread the word at a time when few Americans had even heard the name The Beatles.

She was not a publicist or marketer by profession, but her efforts helped introduce the band's music to America months before their historic breakthrough. Her dedication to preserving the integrity of the music would later shape her involvement with Liverpool Legends.

## A MEETING THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING

When Louise watched Marty perform George's music in Chicago, she recognized something rare. It was not imitation for

effect, but a sincere attempt to honor the spirit of the songs and the person behind them.

Just one week after meeting Louise, Marty received a call where she invited him to join her for a meeting with Paul McCartney. Only days after first connecting with George's sister, Marty found himself sitting with Louise and Paul, talking about music and life. It was a moment that felt impossible, yet unmistakably real.

For Marty, it was confirmation that something meaningful was taking shape.

## THE BIRTH OF LIVERPOOL LEGENDS

With Louise's encouragement, Marty began shaping a new concept: a Beatles show rooted in authenticity, musicianship, and historical respect. Rather than focusing on a single era, the production would tell the full Beatles story from beginning to end.

Louise became personally involved, offering guidance, sharing stories, and ultimately endorsing the project. Her support was never transactional. It was personal, based on trust and belief in the mission.

Liverpool Legends grew into an internationally recognized production, performing in major venues around the world and earning a Grammy nomination for the album *Fab Fan Memories*. Yet at its core, the show remains grounded in the same values that brought it together in the first place: respect for the music and the people behind it. ❖

## EVENT DETAILS

*Five Flags Theater*  
 405 Main Street | Dubuque, IA 52001  
 Doors: 6:30pm / Showtime: 7:30pm  
 Visit [fiveflagscenter.com/events](http://fiveflagscenter.com/events) for ticket information

# MOWING TO MONARCHS: TRANSFORMING LAWNS INTO POCKET PRAIRIES



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

by Beth Triplett

*Iowa is the most altered landscape in the entire world. It is more endangered than the Great Barrier Reef or the tropical rainforest. Of Iowa's 35 million acres, 30 million once were prairie. Now, only 350,000 acres of it remain.*

A small step to change that is being made through the Mowing to Monarchs program in Dubuque County. Instead of grass lawns that must be mowed and do not contribute to the environment, people are planting pocket prairies of native plants that help with water infiltration, soil rebuilding, and provide fertile landing areas for Monarch butterflies and a variety of additional species. A pocket prairie is a 10' x 10' area planted with native habitat,

and there are over 500 homeowners in the county who are currently participating in the project.

"It started off in just these little patches of habitat, these little pocket prairies, but what you can see now throughout Dubuque County is they're creating little corridors, little veins of habitat, little pathways where sensitive pollinators can utilize on their migrational journey to others places," said Kaylan Moeller, Outreach Coordinator for Dubuque County

Conservation and the force behind the program.

The corridor has seen the return of the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee, officially listed as endangered in Iowa, as well as serving as a home for other bees, butterflies, caterpillars, dragonflies, and tree frogs.

The program provides homeowners with the initial selection of native plants to convert sections of maintained turf grass over to pollinator-friendly habitats and coaching to ensure that the garden is successful.

"It is a three-year commitment," said Moeller. "We made it that way because the prairies are sleeping on the first year, creeping on their second year, and leaping on their third. Because of the long-building

## FEATURE

root systems, we have to commit to the three-year process, and we stick with them through those years.”

Homeowners are paired with a Master Gardener through the Dubuque County Extension Service and taught how to prepare the land in the first year, how to plant, and then how to maintain the prairie. The Master Gardeners also conduct research to ensure that the plants are right for the application and help track outcomes of the program.

“In the first year of the program, the one-on-one coaching service is helpful because some of these folks have never planted a plant before,” said Ray Kruse, horticulturalist for the Dubuque County Extension Service. “What is nice about the Mowing to Monarchs program is that it is getting a completely different demographic than what we typically get in the Master Gardener program. They aren’t plant experts, but they want to make a difference.”

Those with pocket prairies receive ongoing education and coaching through newsletters and events, helping the gardeners form a community. The group swaps seeds, hears from public speakers, and has other opportunities to volunteer and help schools, churches, or businesses become involved in the program.

“You can ask your mom, you can ask your grandma how to grow a hosta, but you can’t ask your mom or grandma how to grow a pale coneflower,” said Moeller. “So, we keep that coaching live so we can keep engaging in that community.”

Erica Haugen is one of the homeowners who has participated in the Mowing to Monarchs program since it began during

COVID in 2020. She started with a prairie in her front yard, added one in her back yard, and received permission to plant her neighbor’s whole front yard.

“The best part is the biodiversity that comes with these plants,” Haugen said.

“And then the community around them. I loved having my coach come to my house and share his knowledge, and then he would introduce me to more people, and now we regularly go to each other’s houses, and look at each other’s gardens, and learn.”

“You form these connections around this common interest that bridges so many different things,” Haugen continued.

“And it has been awesome to see how our city and county embraced it, especially the city. We had to change ordinances to get these plants, and it has been really cool to see how you can help shape policy to make things better.”

“I don’t have a downside for it,” said Haugen. “My kids were never in the yard before, and now they’re in it constantly, looking at stuff. We created little pathways and little spots to sit, so they wander through and go sit in their little spots and take their friends down there.”

Amy Scherrman is another homeowner who converted from a mower to a prairie pocket gardener, and since moving, she is planting a larger prairie meadow in her new acreage.

“I was part of the initial group to do the program. Before that, I hate to say it, I loved mowing the lawn and having the stripes and bright green grass and zero weeds. I liked everything pristine and perfect-looking in our yard,” said Scher-

rman. “I just happened to see this program pop up and thought it was something manageable that could add some color to the corner of our property. Again, at the beginning, I was just thinking of the aesthetics. But just as almost all participants end up saying, once you get your foot in the door, you just slowly start to see all the benefits of planting native.”

Results show that 100% of program respondents plan to keep their pocket prairie, and 90% of them expanded their planted area since starting the program.

The benefits abound. Not only is prairie maintenance less than mowing grass, but the root systems help with water management as their deep root systems help prevent topsoil runoff, rebuild soil, and support water the infiltration. In addition, being in nature provides mental health benefits.

“It’s hard to connect to the landscape unless you get your hands in the dirt, unless you can see what the plants are, identify the plants, understand the bugs that are here, and see where you fit in,” said Moeller. “It gives you a sense of place and where you fit into the environment.”

The program has been shared with other communities and received state-wide and international awards for its innovation and success.

“We had the perfect combination of resources in our community that have come together to make it really successful,” said Kruse. “Others are working with their Master Gardeners and County Conservation Boards to copy this program. That’s exactly what we want people to do.”

Those wishing to participate can watch for application materials in late spring (if funding is approved by the Dubuque County Supervisors) or join the waitlist now. Sustainable Dubuque grants may also assist with planting in the City of Dubuque. More information may be found on the Dubuque County or Iowa State Extension websites. ❖

[Dubuquecountyiaowa.gov/553/Mowing-to-Monarchs](http://Dubuquecountyiaowa.gov/553/Mowing-to-Monarchs)

[Extension.iastate.edu/dubuque/mowing-monarchs](http://Extension.iastate.edu/dubuque/mowing-monarchs)

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# THE STAIRWAYS OF DUBUQUE

by *Connie Cherba*

Stairways have played a unique role in the development of Dubuque, Iowa's first and oldest city. In 1833, the city's newly arrived citizens settled on the flat land along the Mississippi River at the foot of seven hills that form the city's majestic bluffs.

By the later part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Dubuque's population had grown and spread up into the Hill District on top of the bluffs and beyond. Many grand mansions as well as more humble dwellings were built on top of the bluffs. Those homeowners wanted to not only take advantage of the majestic views of the city and river below but also wanted to distance themselves from the noise and pollution of the city. While the wealthy owned horses and carriages or used the city's two elevator systems, the less affluent relied on a comprehensive system of stairways to walk back and forth from the high bluffs to their jobs, churches, and schools in the lower part of the city.

Early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Dubuque boasted 25 separate public stairways. Most of the steps were constructed between 1900 and 1916. The Madison Street steps (originally called the Seminary Hill Steps) located at the north end of Main Street were considered most sophisticated and elaborate of the public steps. In 1918, the original steep

wooden steps that led from the downtown district up to Madison Park were replaced by a concrete stairway. The new, modern staircase was built and installed at a cost of \$2,100 and at an unfortunate 100% overrun cost. The stairs were admired as much for their architectural features as for their practical value. At night, lights brightened each of the many landings of the eight flights of steps which also included a spiral staircase.

Some repairs were made to the Madison Street stairs in 1942, but by 1945, the stairs had been so neglected that they had become dangerous. The deterioration continued and advanced so much that by 1956 the unsafe steps were closed and allowed to collapse under their own weight. In June of 1975 the Dubuque City Council instructed staff to include repairs of the steps in the next year's street construction program. Today, only a short stairway leads up to a residence once served by the more elaborate Madison Street steps.

Another popular set of stairs took Dubuquers up the bluff to Eagle Point Park, located at the north end of the city. Eagle Point Park, 146 acres situated on rock outcroppings overlooking the Mississippi River, was dedicated in 1909. To make the park accessible, the city acquired half an acre of land from Eagle Point Lime

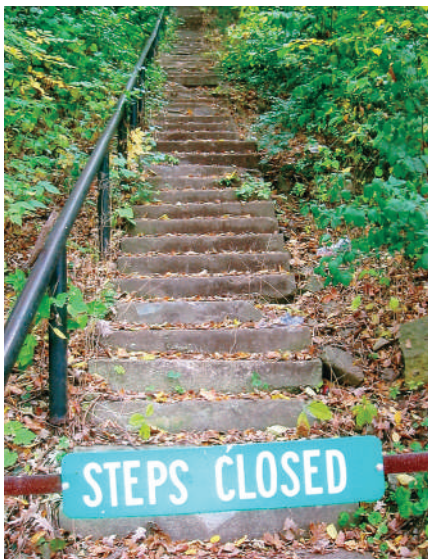
Works to build a set of stairs. The Riverside Stairway was constructed along the bluff to connect Rhomberg Avenue with the new park. The stairway was completed in 1911. According to a 1915 postcard written by an enthusiastic visitor to Eagle Point Park, the steps were one of three ways of gaining entrance to the park. The wealthy rode in carriages or autos or paid to ride the streetcar, but those who walked had to climb the steps. The stairs were demolished during the widening of Rhomberg Avenue in the 1930s.

In time, electric streetcars, buses, and the popularity of personal automobiles made the use of many of the city's stairways obsolete, and many fell into disrepair. In 1997, Dubuque's Community Development Advisory Commission conducted a city step survey to find out which of the 15 identified stairways should be removed, repaired, or restored to historic standards.

Several of Dubuque's historic stairways have been rebuilt. Some have been taken out of use and posted with bright green "closed" signs. A few have been removed entirely, and the land they once occupied has slowly disappeared, covered with a layer of soil and grass. The Dorgan Street steps have been allowed to decay and are visible only in the winter when vegetation has died out. A staircase that once ran from Napier Street to Kaufmann Avenue has been entirely removed, leaving a slight depression in the hillside to indicate where the steps once stood.

Of the rebuilt steps two have been restored to historic standards. The Park Stairway at 15<sup>th</sup> Street connects Bluff Street to Montrose Terrace. Originally built in the early 1900s, the long stairway was set in a park-like landscape and led to a fashionable row of expensive homes overlooking the city. The restored steps include six switchback flights and landings. Historically accurate streetlights, limestone walls, and flower beds provide the finishing touches.

The West 11<sup>th</sup> Street steps are another set of stairs which can be historically traced back to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Originally, the stairway stretched from Bluff Street to the mansions



*West Locust to Catherine St. Steps (Closed). Photo contributed by Connie Cherba.*



*Park Stairway at 15th St. in early 1900s vintage postcard. Contributed photo.*

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on Highland Place and paralleled the route of the 11<sup>th</sup> Street Elevator which was placed in operation in 1887. Never as successful as Dubuque’s landmark 4<sup>th</sup> Street Elevator, the 11<sup>th</sup> Street cable car system was torn down in 1929. The city has maintained and restored the 11<sup>th</sup> Street steps which run through the old elevator’s arch that was built in a limestone retaining wall.

Dubuque’s stairways continue to be important to the city’s citizens. In June of 2010, the Dubuque City Council approved the reconstruction of a deteriorating set of steps that link Loras Boulevard with Montrose Terrace. Councilperson David Resnick said, “I think it’s essential that we keep this a walkable neighborhood and repair the steps.”

Today, the remaining stairways stand as witnesses to yesterday’s citizens who walked between their homes on the bluffs and the city below. However, the steps are not just monuments of the past. Dubuquers and visitors continue to use them every day. ❖

*Comments on this article can be sent to comments@juliensjournal.com.*

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Juliens Journal

# J▶IFF JULIEN DUBUQUE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

## IT'S SHOWTIME FOR THE JULIEN DUBUQUE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL!

Get ready for an exciting week, Dubuque! It's April and that means it's almost time for the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Julien Dubuque International Film Festival (JDIFF). Look for producers, directors, writers, actors, and film enthusiasts to arrive in Dubuque the week of April 18 -25.





## Susan's Picks

*"I think all the films and filmmakers that make it into the festival are very special. I love them all," said Susan Gorrell, JDIFF Executive Director. "Here are just some of my picks."*

### Heartworm

*"We don't get a lot of sci-fi, so it's nice when we do," said Susan. "It's my favorite genre along with comedy. So I like the film Heartworm."*

*In this sci-drama spanning Reality, Virtual Reality, and Memory, Avena, a bereaved mother, battles to rescue her grief-stricken husband from NeuraLife, the virtual technology dominating their world. As she unravels her family's tragic past, she confronts her own isolation and discovers the true power of what it means to be human.*



Since its very beginning, JDIFF has welcomed filmmakers from around the world and has adhered to its mission of "enriching the community and bridging cultures through the education and promotion of arts through independent film". Attendees can expect to see films from all over the world as JDIFF continues to grow.

In 2026, JDIFF made Adrian Tofei's List Top 30 Genre Programs in General

Film Festivals for 2026 and in the Top 50 International Film Festivals for 2026. Tofei is a Romanian filmmaker and actor who has researched festivals for more than 10 years. JDIFF will welcome the Creative Artists Agency (CAA) to the festival," said Susan Gorrell, Executive Director of JDIFF. "Also, a French cinematographer will do a workshop on camera, and we will again be partnering with FIPRESCI (International Federa-

tion of Film Critics) who will award the FIPRESCI best feature film. And I hope to have a special effects technician come in and talk about that."

Susan Gorrell is celebrating her 12<sup>th</sup> year as the Executive Director of JDIFF, a position she grew into after she came to the festival in 2012 with her own film *A Million Spoke*. "There's been an increase in the number and quality of films and the number of attendees. The

Photos below contributed by Ron Tigges /Digital Dubuque



## Dozier

"This film is in Italian and English. I like subtitles. Even though it has subtitles in both English and Italian, it's still made in the U.S. and it's very well done," said Susan. "It's from a filmmaker in Oskaloosa, Iowa."

Dozier is based on the Italian Red Brigades' kidnapping of American General James L. Dozier. In the winter of 1981, U.S. Army Maj. Gen. James Dozier disappeared into a second-story apartment in Padua, Italy. For 42 days, the Red Brigades – the



Marxist-Leninist terrorist group that had haunted Italy for more than a decade – chained the Arcadia-born soldier hand and foot to a metal cot and held him inside a sound-insulated tent pitched in a bedroom.

## The Driftless

"I don't really like scary, and this is horror," said Susan. "But Tim Connery does a really good job bringing stories together – I like that."

Deep river valleys, tall limestone bluffs sawing through the sky... thousands of years ago, this unique portion of the Midwest escaped the crushing effects of the giant Ice Age glaciers. But with its scenic beauty, this

preserved primal landscape also conceals unimaginable terrors: Mississippi River cults, accursed liquor, time-altering artifacts, and blood-thirsty vengeance from beyond the grave – four terrifying tales of the macabre Midwest.



enthusiasm of the community has grown over the years," said Susan. "There will be more evening events and more music. Last year we started on a Sunday. This year we are starting on Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup> with an opening night film and an after party. First few days will once again include Galena at the DeSoto House Hotel, Country Inn & Suites Galena and the Galena Center for the Arts.

JDIFF received more than 1,300 submis-

sions including documentaries, features, and shorts for the 2026 festival. Screeners from all over the U.S. reviewed and scored the films. "Then I went over all the scores and comments and tried to be really creative in the programming, so we have a variety of genre," said Susan. "This year, I took about 150."

JDIFF Box office has been moved to Five Flags theater, in the promenade. Tickets can be purchased beginning

Friday, April 17. Tickets can also be purchased online at [julienfilmfest.com](http://julienfilmfest.com) after April 1. New this year is the \$1,000 Gold VIP pass that is an all-access pass with benefits such as early film ticket reservation, priority access at screening, Festival Lounge Access with buffet, premier seating at awards night show, and more. The \$350 All-access pass allows the buyer to attend everything free at the Festival all week – but no access



# Runde Free Day is Thursday, April 23

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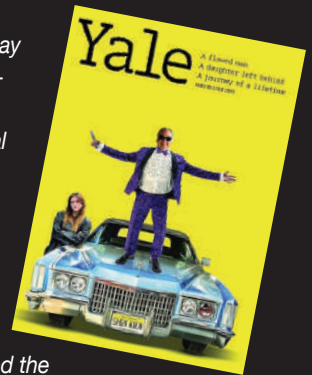
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### Susan's Picks continued

#### Yale

"I'm excited that Jay Silverman, a director that's been at the Festival several times and always does a world premier with us, has submitted Yale," said Susan. "The production of



Yale is fantastic and the acting is great. The story is very heartfelt, about family. It just has a great feeling, and Jay does great production." This true story is about a man named Yale who was married to eight women at the same time. All is good until his troubled daughter confronts her dead-beat father, who abandoned her as a child, in a last-ditch effort to find a donor kidney for her dying son.

into filmmaker lounge. The \$50 day pass (Sunday 4/19-Saturday 4/25) allows film goers to attend everything free on the day of the purchased pass. An awards night ticket (including after-party) is \$30 while the opening night film and after-party is \$25. A regular film ticket runs \$13. Runde Auto Group is once again sponsoring the Runde Free Day on Thursday 4/23. Students watch for free on Sunday 4/19. Check out the JDIFF web page for more information. ❖

*The 2026 Festival Guide booklet with day-by-day film scheduling, film descriptions, a map, and venues, ticket information, and more is your key to selecting films. It is expected to be available by April 10.*

*For more information visit [www.Julien-FilmFest.com](http://www.Julien-FilmFest.com).*

*Comments on this article can be sent to [comments@julienjournal.com](mailto:comments@julienjournal.com).*



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

# Rivers to Bridges Environmental Summit Stressed Collaboration & Partnerships

*A first-of-its-kind summit in Dubuque brought together more than 50 organizations working on environmental issues to form new partnerships and build capacity for impact.*

**K**aytlan Moeller is so passionate about environmental conservation that she has built a career around it. As outreach coordinator for Dubuque County Conservation, she builds awareness about issues impacting the environment and services that the organization offers to address those issues, such as the Mowing to Monarchs program.

“Dubuque County Conservation is one of those hidden gems. Not a lot of people know about us,” she says. “I want to make connections with other organizations and find more points of collaboration to build a stronger bridge between what we offer and the needs in the community.”

That’s why she attended the Community

Foundation of Greater Dubuque’s February 19 summit, Rivers to Ridges: Building Climate Resilience in Northeast Iowa. This first-of-its-kind event, hosted in partnership with the Iowa Environmental Council, brought together more than 50 individuals from organizations working in areas like conservation, education and public policy and representing all seven counties in the Foundation’s region: Dubuque, Allamakee, Clayton, Delaware, Jones, Jackson and Clinton.

It was an opportunity for community leaders from the region who are passionate about sustainability, conservation and environmental issues to learn about one another’s work and strengthen relationships.

“Imagine a network where we share resources about, support each other’s advocacy work, and deliver a common agenda,” Nancy Van Milligen, the Community Foundation’s president and CEO, told the audience. The goal, she said, is to build a network that can leverage collective ingenuity and secure more funding to help tackle Northeast Iowa’s most pressing

issues, including soil and water quality, energy efficiency, and preservation of natural ecosystems. Doing so can improve public health, strengthen the local economy, and save individual households money.

While discussions touched on specific issues, such as correlation between cancer rates and the environment, energy efficiency and regenerative agriculture, the theme connecting all these topics was “partnerships.”

“Collaboration is where the magic is going to happen,” said Jason Neises, the Foundation’s community development officer.

The event’s facilitator, Dave Lyons, a strategic initiatives consultant who works with the Community Foundation and Greater Dubuque Development Corp., gave an example of how organizations working on education and advocacy around water quality will need to build relationships with a particular key audience to drive



policy and implement new practices to make improvements.

“Iowa has the least amount of public lands of almost all states,” Lyons said. “If we are talking about changing anything, it has to involve the private sector, like landowners and farmers.”

If “collaboration” drove the conversations, the question of “funding” was consistently an underlying concern for most attendees.

The Midwest – especially Great Plains states – receives less funding from national organizations than any other U.S. region. When it comes to environmental issues

specifically, Iowa receives just 0.2% of national funding.

Capacity and connections are two major reasons. Unlike states such as Nebraska, home to the Buffett Foundation, or Arkansas, home to the Walton Family Foundation, Iowa lacks a major family foundation with national reach, leaving local and regional foundations to compete for national funding on their own.

“Collaboration: It’s the only way we are going to be able to capture some of the larger grants out there,” Van Milligen said.

As a network, the organizations represented at Rivers to Ridges can pool their resources and partner with the Community Foundation, which has a long history of securing national funding that it can grant to local groups.

“Rather than individual organizations applying for funding, the Foundation can work with all of you to put together a comprehensive and cohesive proposal to take to potential funders,” Lyons told the audience.

As the Rivers to Ridges event ended, participants agreed that future gatherings will be key to building the network and capacity necessary to make an impact. The Community Foundation plans to host regular convenings, while participating organizations will form working groups around the top environmental issues.

“This is about building relationships first,” Van Milligen said. “Results will follow.” ❖

To get involved in this work, contact the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque at 563-588-2700 or [office@dbgfoundation.org](mailto:office@dbgfoundation.org).

This article is made possible by a partnership between Julien’s Journal and the Community Foundation of Greater Dubuque.

Comments on this article can be sent to [comments@julienjournal.com](mailto:comments@julienjournal.com).

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# The Cost of Waiting in Retirement Planning



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

by Keith Leverentz

Recently, a couple sat across from me who had done everything right. They had worked for decades. Saved consistently. Avoided unnecessary debt. Built strong retirement accounts. On paper, they were in good shape. But as retirement approached, one question kept surfacing: “How do we turn this into income we can actually live on?”

That is where many responsible families find themselves. They have accumulated well. What they have not yet designed is distribution. And that is often where waiting becomes costly.

## RETIREMENT CHANGES THE RULES

During your working years, the focus is growth. Contribute. Invest. Stay disciplined. Let time do its work. Retirement introduces a different phase. The question is no longer just how much you have. It is how your savings will generate income, how that income will be taxed, and how long it will last. Income sequencing matters. Tax structure matters. Social Security timing matters.

## HEALTHCARE PLANNING MATTERS.

The strategies that built your wealth are

not automatically the same strategies that will protect it.

Waiting to coordinate these pieces until income begins can limit flexibility. Once certain decisions are made, they are harder to adjust later.

## THE HIDDEN COST OF DELAY

Waiting rarely feels dramatic. There is no crisis. Accounts continue to grow. Markets move. Life stays busy. But in retirement planning, delay can quietly narrow your options. A withdrawal pattern formed without considering long-term tax impact. Social Security decisions made without understanding how other income affects taxation. Large balances in pre-tax accounts that create future Required Minimum Distribution pressure. None of these are mistakes. They are simply uncoordinated

decisions. Over time, small inefficiencies can compound into higher taxes, reduced income flexibility, or unnecessary stress.

## INCOME DESIGN CREATES PEACE

Many families have what we often call “an investment guy.” That relationship can be valuable. But retirement planning requires more than portfolio management. It requires income design.

Income design looks at how all five areas of retirement work together: investments, income strategy, taxes, healthcare considerations, and legacy goals. When those pieces are coordinated, retirement becomes less about market headlines and more about structure.

After serving area families for more than 20 years, I have found that true peace comes not from chasing higher returns. It comes from clarity. From knowing how their income will flow. From understanding how taxes will be managed. From seeing a plan built to sustain them for decades.

The best time to design that structure may have been years ago. The next best time is now.

If you have never stepped back to see how all the pieces of your retirement plan truly work together, this is an ideal time to do so. Retirement planning should give you peace. Thoughtful planning is what makes it that way. ♦

*Keith Leverentz, NISSA®, is the founder of The Life Group, guiding clients since 2003 with personalized financial planning, investment counsel, and retirement strategies. Learn more by visiting [TheLifeGroupllc.com](http://TheLifeGroupllc.com).*

*Comments on this article can be sent to [comments@juliensjournal.com](mailto:comments@juliensjournal.com).*





**SHALOM SPIRITUALITY CENTER**  
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*All events are subject to change. Visit the website for the most up-to-date information.*

**Silent Book Club**  
**Sunday, April 12 @ 2-3:30 PM**

Participants gather to share the same space while reading in silence, without the traditional book club's pressure of having to finish a book on time. RSVP.

**Lunch & Renew: Chair Yoga**  
**Wednesday, April 15 @ 11:30 AM-12:30**

**PM**  
Registration required.

**Peaceful Dialogue in the Midst of War**  
**Wednesday, April 15 @ 6-8 PM (via Zoom)**  
With Kathleen Warren, OSF. Registration required.

**Meditation & Music**  
**Monday, April 20 @ 6:30-7:30 PM**  
Wear comfortable clothing. Feel free to bring a pillow or blanket. Registration required.

**Book Discussion**  
**Thursday, April 23 @ 6-7:30 PM (via Zoom)**  
The Seed Keeper by Diane Wilson. RSVP.

**Healing Relationships through Non-Violent Communication**

**Thursday, April 30 @ 6:30-8 PM (via Zoom)**  
With Dianne Prichard, Dr. Christopher Peters, and Kathryn Yanik. Registration required.



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**No Limb-its Amputee Social & Support Gatherings**  
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**Community Acupuncture**  
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Community acupuncture allows for individualized treatment in a common treatment area.

**NEWS**

**MEDICAL ASSOCIATES ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Kathleen Fear, CRNA**, joined their anesthesia department. She received her Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice, Master of Science in Nursing, and Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Iowa.



Most recently, Fear worked as a nurse anesthetist in the ambulatory surgery center at the University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics. She is board-certified by the National Board of Nurse Anesthesia, and directs anesthesia care, pain management, and critical care before, during, and after surgeries and other invasive procedures.

**John Winter** joined Medical Associates Health Plans as its new director of Sales & Account Management. He received his Master of Business Administration from Webster University in St. Louis, MO, and Bachelor of Business Administration in Management from National University in San Diego.

Most recently, Winter was an agency owner at Allstate, and before that he was a regional sales director at UnitedHealthcare. Winter will oversee sales strategy, build and maintain strong relationships with employers and partners, and collaborate to deliver customized health insurance solutions. He will also focus on client and member engagement, as well as identify opportunities that support long-term growth and organizational goals.



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RESTAURANT REVIEW

# Taste

## GOERDT'S BREWHAUS OFFERS CRAFT BEER AND AUTHENTIC SLOW COOKED BARBECUE

Article & Photos by Cassie Cate

*Most would agree that with time and love comes excellence and experience, and Goerdt's Brewhaus can surely back this claim. With deep roots in the brewing industry, the father and son team of Steve and Sam Goerdt, along with Sam's wife Jackie, have rooted themselves deeper as they have embarked on a venture to bring craft beer and BBQ to the Tristate area.*

As the grandson of one of the original owners of the Potosi Brewing Company, Sam always had an affinity for brewing. The Goerdt family name has been synonymous with the beer industry, which helped inspire Sam to receive an education in brewing, later to become the Brewmaster at the Galena Brewing Company. There, he met his now wife and co-owner Jackie. When the opportunity to purchase the Galena Brewing Company presented itself, the three went all in. Sam's father Steve has always been a beer connoisseur and was happy to embark on the journey with his son and wife. And so, a new history in the already historic town of Galena began.

Goerdt's Brewhaus is in a historic building, as is much of the town of Galena. This history has helped shape the business, as they pay homage to the town's roots in the Civil War and

mining, which they have used for inspiration to help fashion and design the labels, marketing, and ambience used to bring customers into this historical mindset.

According to Sam, "We're a Western European/Bavarian style themed brewery that focuses on light but complex lager styles, with some IPAs, sour, and ales also available on our twelve taps." The Goerdt's have found most customers prefer light beers, and they work with this to help build on their customers' tastes, sharing some of the world's best malts, yeast, and hops, producing full flavor brews.

The best seller at the Brewhaus is the Alpine Blonde, Premium American Lager. Sam says, "We start with the best ingredients we can get, including yeast from one of the oldest German breweries in the world, and let time do its thing after hitting our numbers on brew day, and make sure it's treated carefully in each step leading up to and including going into the glass of a customer." This precision to detail and desire for an excellent product are what keep the customers coming back to enjoy other top sellers, like the Brewer's Amor, Mexican style Lager, Hinterland Helles, Munich Helles Style Lager, and the General Grant, American stout.

Goerdt's Brewhaus is not solely about the brew. They also offer a full BBQ menu. The kitchen has been converted into a modern smokehouse, allowing fresh BBQ to be served daily. According to Sam, the highlight of the business is what puts the inches on the waistline- the BBQ and beer! "Being responsible for both of those things, I'm biased, but I do believe our products define us more than anything, and we take a lot of pride in that." Sam gives credit to his excellent staff that helps prepare each day. It can be a guessing game, as they prepare the BBQ fresh, and when it runs out, customers must wait for the next day to receive the benefits of amazing BBQ that can only be created with low and slow cooking over time. From sausages to schnitzel, ribs, pork, and brisket, Goerdt's offers something every to make every diner happy.

The community is willing to wait for this indulgence, however, and the Goerdt's welcome them with open arms, always looking for ways to work with other local businesses. After growing up in the area, Sam feels a strong commitment to the community, and with several children in the local schools, both he and his wife



are always looking for ways to invite the community in. Sam says, “We’re looking forward to growing with the community in the future”.

The environment at Goerdert’s Brewhaus is welcoming and offers fun for all ages. According to Sam, “One of the great features of our establishment is we’re highly adaptive and have a lot to offer: a pool table room and arcade room, lounge room, enough space to dance, get a quiet booth in the corner, or have some fun at the bar and get to know your barstool neighbor. Overall, we’re aiming for a homey, and comfortable atmosphere that’s inviting to everyone, including families.”

Customers have lots of chances to continue this socialization with all the events the establishment has to offer. Every Friday night from seven to eleven is Karaoke night, and almost every Saturday, the house is rocking with live music. The nicer months in spring and summer add in DJ and dancing nights, even offering Polka and Mexican style bands.

Obviously Goerdert’s knows how to put on a party, and they use this to offer several private events packages. From kid’s birthday parties to renting the whole facility, they will work with clients to create a memorable experience. They can accommodate around one hundred and fifty people, and customers can request information and check out the different packages on their website. Delivery or carryout is also available for catering purposes, and this can accommodate enough for weddings and other large parties.

If you are looking for a place to enjoy some authentic brew and BBQ in the Tristate

area, while also embracing the charm and ambiance of good ole Galena history, Goerdert’s Brewhaus is a sure bet for an enjoyable time. Goerdert’s Brewhaus is already helping to shape the fabric of the community. Sam adds, “We greatly appreciate the support we receive from our community and guests. We’re enthusiastic to add to what the great town of Galena already has

to offer and aspire to make positive impacts on our community now and throughout the future.” ❖

Goerdert’s Brewhaus is located at 227 North Main Street in Galena. You can visit their website at [Goerdtsbrewhaus.com](http://Goerdtsbrewhaus.com).

*Comments on this article can be sent to [comments@juliensjournal.com](mailto:comments@juliensjournal.com).*

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# THE FROSTED GLASS Taste

Article and photo by Joshua Nichols

## WHAT WE'RE DRINKING: RED HEADED STRANGER

*What type of beer is it: American Red IPA*

*ABV: 6.8%*

*Who brews it: Big Grove Brewery*

*Where you can find it: Hy-Vee Wine & Spirits*

*Expected Price: \$11.99 for a six pack of 12 oz cans*

**A**re you familiar with the red IPA? It's not an especially popular style of IPA, and it's difficult to find on store shelves and coolers. When one is released, it's usually part of a seasonal batch. That's the case with Red Headed Stranger, a recent release by Big Grove Brewery.

Regardless of your familiarity with a red IPA, you've likely heard of some different types of IPAs. New England (hazy, fruity) and West Coast (crisp, strong bitterness) are the predominant styles in the American market. Imperial IPAs have lost some market share as drinkers move away from beers with high ABV, but they are still a common sight on a brewery's in-house tap

list. A red IPA sets itself apart by incorporating strong, malty flavors into the IPA, greatly reducing the typical piney flavor associated with the aforementioned IPAs. Personally, I find that red IPAs are closer in taste to an amber ale than other IPAs.

Upon the first pour of Red Headed Stranger, the cognac color immediately stands out. Red-copper is unique among IPAs. Many New England and West Coast IPAs usually possess a color that evokes amber, honey, or caramel. The aroma is initially of earthy and resinous hops, but it quickly fades to a more subtle yet crisp scent. The first drink has muted carbonation and an even taste saturated with faint

hoppiness. After the swallow, you'll be left tasting more malt than hop, and a sweet, graham-cracker aftertaste briefly lingers. After a couple of drinks, you'll notice the lacing on your glass.

Even though a red IPA is markedly different in taste than a New England or West Coast IPA, it, like all IPAs, uses hops. The featured hops in Red Headed Stranger are Chinook and Amarillo. Chinook hops embody the piney, resinous flavors found in many West Coast IPAs, as well as adding an earthy undertone to a beer. Amarillo hops tend to produce citrus flavors and will often add hints of orange or grapefruit to a beer. In Red Headed Stranger, any citrus flavor is very subdued. Interestingly, Amarillo hops have a very high content of myrcene oil, which leads to the stereotypical citrus and resin taste that dominate classical IPAs. I found Red Headed Stranger to be more earthy and malty than expected, so Amarillo is likely emphasized less than Chinook. This unique combination makes this beer a subdued IPA, but an IPA nonetheless.

You'll likely enjoy Red Headed Stranger if you enjoy beers that use hops subtly and don't over-emphasize piney, bitter, flavors. Beers like Bell's Two Hearted Ale and Founder's All Day IPA strike this balance. If you're a fan of amber ales like the Alaskan Amber, Red Headed Stranger may also be to your liking. Finally, if you have a couple of pretentious craft beer snobs as friends, red IPAs may be a subtle way to acknowledge their love of IPAs while keeping yourself far away from the latest triple IPA release.

Red Headed Stranger is a unique beer. It's not bitter or fruity enough to fit the schema of a 2020s IPA in America, yet it has a little too much resin to be taken as an amber ale. It, like many red IPAs, exists as an intriguing and complementary blend of two distinct styles of beer. Above all else, this is a very drinkable beer that takes care not to overwhelm you with strong hop or malt flavors. It might not be your new favorite beer, but it's also not something that would immediately alienate a beer drinker. So, try a glass before it's done for the season. And maybe put on some Willie Nelson while you're at it.

Have a beer that you'd like to see us review? Send it to [beer@juliensjournal.com](mailto:beer@juliensjournal.com) and we'll do our best to feature it in a future issue. ❖

SIPS &amp; TIPS

## Taste

Article &amp; Photo by John B. Donovan



## WINES TO ENJOY IN APRIL

*“Wine makes every meal an occasion, every table more elegant, every day more civilized.” — Andre Simon*

**T**eamWine got together on a chilly Monday in February to taste and review wine, enjoy food and fellowship for this April column. We believe that wine is a wonderful reason to get together with friends and, as Andre Simon states above, make things more civilized and elegant. We are fortunate enough to have a good reason to do so once a month. April is this sort of in-between month when weather is warming, yet days of rain can be cool and cloudy. Yes, we know that April showers bring May flowers, but some days it can just be too much. Can I just say right here, this is when wine can help. On those gray days, stop by your favorite wine shop on your way home from work and pick up a bottle. Once you are home, pour yourself, and your favorite

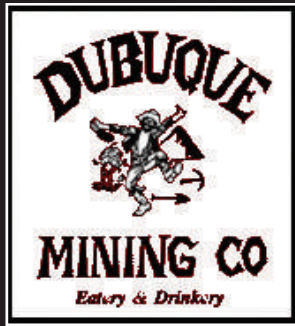
other (if appropriate) a glass and enjoy.

## SIPS

Our white is from France and is a **2023 Château Lamothe de Haux Bordeaux**. (12%abv \$27). This was a delicious wine with a clear, light-yellow color. Even before tasting we had some floral aromas, and hints of toffee. The wine was ever-so slightly effervescent with medium to high acidity and a medium body. On the palate we had ripe pear some stone fruit and pineapple flavor came through and provided a lovely long finish. This wine went very well with the hard white cheese we had yet, the salt from olives took the punch right out of the wine. The wine

over-powered the hummus. We felt this would be wonderful for an opening salad course with a light vinaigrette dressing. We also thought a pasta dish with chicken and a white sauce would go well as would flat bread with roasted vegetables.

Our red, **2017 Cullen Mangan Vineyard Red Moon** (12% abv, \$27) from Australia was a charming surprise. The wine is a bio-dynamic, Malbec-dominant (approx. 57%) red blend from Margaret River, Western Australia, and featuring 37% Petit Verdot and 6% Merlot. Dark garnet in color with aromas of dusty rose, cherry cigar or dark cherry and hints of vanilla. These scents made us eager to taste the wine. The wine had a medium body, which surprised us because of its darker color. The wine had noticeable, but not unpleasant, acidity. Flavors of flambéed cherries presented on the palate as did notes of cassis. The wine had a pleasing mouthfeel as it went well the hummus, cheeses, and, you guessed it, the ever-present chocolate! TeamWine felt



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this wine might do well as a Thanksgiving wine, or also with Indian, Thai or Ethiopian food. TeamWine liked both wines!

April is this sort of in-between month when weather is warming, yet days of rain can be cool and cloudy.

## TIPS

To decant, or not to decant a wine. First off, any wine can be decanted, yes, even whites. One reason, unless you are an experienced pourer of wine, you'll likely drip a bit when pouring from a bottle. If it's red wine, that drop can stain a tablecloth, or someone's clothes. Pouring from a carafe usually prevents that issue.

But second, you decant wine to allow it to breathe, to open up. Red wines, and especially older ones, could be opened as much as an hour before being enjoyed. After all, the wines have been holed up inside the bottle, and they want to stretch (figuratively of course) their legs and breathe. No, they won't go bad being opened early, they actually will improve.

So, what about whites? White wines, especially older ones, can certainly improve with decanting. They usually don't need to be opened as early as reds but decanting 15-30 minutes before you pour them is adequate. The time to breathe will help them develop richer notes and depth of flavors. Younger, acidic wines, in most cases, do not need to be decanted, but it also won't hurt them if they are.

And what about temperature for serving, the rule of thumb is, take whites out of the refrigerator 30 minutes before pouring, and for reds, put them into the refrigerator for 30 minutes before pouring.

Salut! ❖

Comments on this article can be sent to [comments@juliensjournal.com](mailto:comments@juliensjournal.com).

# Welu Inc | Beyond Print Offers Environmentally Friendly Printing & More



*Some may remember standing at the cashier in the grocery store and being asked “Paper or plastic?” The grocery bag transition from paper to plastic in the eighties and nineties was a decision based on cost and convenience. Plastic bags were cheaper to produce, weighed less for transportation and took up less storage space. However, this was well before we understood the environmental impacts of plastic.*

**W**e now have a better understanding of the environmental impacts of fossil-based materials. Originally, plastic was produced for durability, degradation resistance and a long lifecycle. While these are helpful attributes, we unfortunately have now become familiar with the terms “forever chemicals” and “microplastics”.

On the other hand, most paper is made from renewable wood fiber which comes from managed forests. Managed forests are certified by outside agencies and represent a renewable system. In other words, trees are grown and harvested in a way that preserves biological diversity. In addition, paper rapidly and safely biodegrades and can be recycled multiple times.



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In fact, based on 2018 EPA recycling data, paper & paperboard recycling contributes to 67% of all Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) recycled. While all plastic only accounts for about 8-9% of MSW recycled.

Despite these advantages, the paper and printing industry has regrettably received some misguided press over the last couple decades. “Don’t print, save trees!” became a popular mantra. While that phrase had some popular appeal, the fact is that modern, responsible forestry has decreased deforestation in the US. For instance, to protect forests, the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certifies forests as environmentally and ecologically responsible. And through FSC’s Chain of Custody (CoC) Certification, the integrity of the supply chain (from forest to consumer), ensures paper products are produced responsibly.

At Welu Inc | Beyond Print, we have invested in CoC Certification by the Forest Stewardship Council, and our house stock contains recycled fiber. In addition, our UV LED printing inks and curing technology eliminates solvent evaporation and lowers Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) emissions. Our digital presses allow for personalized print and shorter print runs. We offer targeted solutions that reduces the need to “blanket” an area with mail. We also offer solutions beyond ink on paper. For instance, we are skilled with omni-channel marketing to supplement direct mail with both social and digital advertising.

Print and paper are not automatically sustainable. Its environmental performance depends on certified fiber sourcing, recycled content, energy used in production, transportation, and end-of-life recovery. However, when responsibly produced, print operates within a renewable cycle and established recycling system — a distinction that matters in lifecycle comparisons.

.....  
*Welu Inc was founded in 1928 by Anton V. Welu and succeeded by his son David J. Welu. David’s daughter, Julie Frommelt joined the business in 2002 and is currently in charge of all operations. Welu Inc has evolved over the last century to move “Beyond Print” and provide targeted marketing solutions that use a variety of channels to communicate messages and capture consumer data.*

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*For more information contact, Julie A. Frommelt @ [JulieFrommelt@WeluInc.com](mailto:JulieFrommelt@WeluInc.com)*

# Business & Community News

## BLUFF STROKES ART CENTER PROGRAMMING

Bluff Strokes Art Center has released its early 2026 programming. Adult classes include Beginning Drawing, Intermediate Watercolor, Rendering Techniques in Drawing, and The Power of Composition. Youth-only offerings include Teen Art Club, Middle School Art Adventures, and Grades 3-5 Art Adventures.

Brief classes include Draw & Etch: Custom Brass Jewelry Making and Willow Basket Making. They also offer drop-in open studio and figure drawing sessions. Scholarships are available. Ages 14+. Visit [Bluffstrokes.org/Programming](http://Bluffstrokes.org/Programming) for registration and programming details.



## ART CONTEST WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Hosted by the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra (DSO) and Dubuque Museum of Art (DUMA), “The Color of Music Art Contest” is an annual event celebrating the strong ties within Dubuque’s arts community. Entrants were asked to create an original work of art using Jean Sibelius’ *Finlandia* as inspiration. Laney Goerd, Luna Pham, Will Hoyer, and Catherine Recker were the winners, and Kelsey Ben-

## NEW CHILDREN’S BOOK NAVIGATES LOVE & LOSS

*Just Follow My Light*, written by Kate Lange, a Dubuque resident and school counselor, is a heartfelt children’s book that offers comfort and reassurance to families navigating grief, remembrance, and love that endures beyond loss. The book contains vivid illustrations and reminds young readers that the people we love never truly leave us when we carry their light in our hearts and keep spreading it to others. The book is available on Amazon.

## DMASWA RECYCLED 4,820 POUNDS OF HOLIDAY LIGHTS

The Dubuque Metropolitan Area Solid Waste Agency (DMASWA), in partnership with the City of Dubuque Public Works Department, the Carnegie Stout Public Library, City of Dyersville, the Dubuque County Library-Asbury Branch, and Steve’s Ace Hardware offered seasonal collection locations to recycle unwanted/defective holiday lights. This year’s program diverted 4,820 pounds of lights for recycling that would have otherwise been landfilled.

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ton and Kristine Thielen received honorable mentions.

The winners received a family membership to the Dubuque Museum of Art and tickets to the Dubuque Symphony Orchestra's performance of "Symphonic Landscapes" held on February 28 and March 1, 2026. Winners' art also served as cover art for the DSO's concert program book that weekend.

All works will be displayed at *The Color of Music* exhibition, at the Dubuque Museum of Art.

### HEARN NAMED CUES OUTSTANDING CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Dupaco Credit Union President and CEO **Joe Hearn** has been named Credit Union Executive Society (CUES) Outstanding Chief Executive, one of the industry's highest individual honors. The award recognizes a CEO who demonstrates visionary leader-



ship, organizational transformation, strong advocacy for the credit union movement, and an unwavering commitment to members, employees, and community impact.

### CAPRA BANK WELCOMES EMILEE SAUSER AS ASSISTANT VP, TREASURY MANAGEMENT

Capra Bank President Tyson Leyendecker is proud to announce **Emilee Sauser** has joined as Assistant Vice President, Treasury Management, bringing more than 15 years of banking experience and deep Dubuque roots to the team.

Born and raised in Dubuque, Sauser began her banking career as a part-time teller and quickly advanced through roles including personal banker and most recently treasury management specialist.

Her well-rounded background, spanning frontline customer service to complex treasury implementation, gives her a unique ability to understand both the technical and relational sides of banking. Sauser is passionate about helping businesses streamline operations, strengthen cash flow management, and implementing smart solutions



that support long-term growth.

A strong believer in investing locally, she teaches two Junior Achievement classes each year, sharing her financial knowledge with students and helping build the next generation of financially confident leaders in the Dubuque community.

Outside of the bank, Sauser and her husband, Justin, stay busy with their two sons, Ethan and Brooks. Hockey season keeps the family on the move from October through March, where you'll likely find her cheering in a chilly rink somewhere across the Midwest. When she's not rink-side, she enjoys quality time with her family and getting lost in a good book.

Sauser's experience, community commitment, and client-first mindset make her a strong addition to Capra Bank as it continues elevating treasury management services in Dubuque and beyond.

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