

COMMUNITY E-NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2022 · ISSUE 2 · VOLUME 3

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YEARS 1987-2022

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HERE WE GROW AGAIN!

Please join us as we extend a warm welcome to a few new business members. Kristian Martens of Martens Lawn Care AND Ashley Mason of Ashley Mason Equestrian join us from Oakland this month! Welcome them to the community, read about their amazing companies on the next page, follow them on social media and check out their websites for more information.

<u>AshleyMasonEquestrian.com</u> Martens-Lawn-Care.business.site



A WARM WIDA WELCOME

ASHLEY MASON EQUESTRIAN & MARTENS LAWN CARE

California native, **Ashley Mason** was brought up with a love of the outdoors and horses very young. Her father would take her out riding in a backpack carrier when she was just 2 months old. Passionate about horses, Mason showed horses locally in 4H and programs throughout high school, and then started Ashley Mason Equestrian in San Francisco in 2009. Mason had a successful program, having taken clients from never being around horses to national rankings, but wanted to build something even greater!

When Mason moved to Iowa in 2015, she purchased 25 acres of land and started her new venture in Oakland from a blank slate. After many renovations to barns and outdoor facilities, her Riding Academy opened in 2019. Her programs are much more than just riding horses. Mason has carefully developed a HorseMastership curriculum program to ensure that her students are educated on riding skills, horsemanship skills, horse knowledge, stable management and riding equipment care. Ashley loves watching her riders develop skills, build confidence and gain lifelong friends. AME not only offers classes but also day camps and summer camps for riders. The programs have had a tremendous impact on students in our communities. Mason recently applied for an Amber Grant to expand on her facilities and future programs, and we wish her the best of luck. For upcoming Ashley Mason Equestrian classes, please check out page 8.





A budding entrepreneur, Kristian Martens recently became the youngest business member of our community. The Oakland resident takes a great deal of pride in his work as a solo operator and is proud of accomplishing a rating of 5/5 stars on Google in his first year of business, and with over 25 reviews. Martens started working part-time with his brother at the age of 14 and discovered that he just had a natural eye for lawn care and landscaping. Coupled with the fact that he is young, motivated, reliable and a hard worker, Martens decided to go out on his own to fulfill his entrepreneurial passion. His main goal: to ensure high quality lawn and landscaping services that keep your yard flourishing on a regular basis, along with friendly prices.

The son of Mischa and Mark Martens, Kristian graduated from Treynor High School in 2020. When he is not working, Martens enjoys spending his time being active, participating in sports and fitness and spending quality time with family and friends. In 5 years, his plan is to have enough work to be able to employ multiple employees year-round. We like the sound of that! For now, Martens is enjoying the process of owning his own business and loves the hard labor that it entails. If you are looking for a lawn service company that goes above and beyond, check out MLC online and on social media.









MINDEN, IOWA

Meet Melissa Poland-Wisniewski, founder of "Rustic Door Boutique" in Minden, Iowa. Originally from Treynor, Melissa has been working in the travel industry for 22 years. Rustic Door Boutique was started when she decided to turn a hobby that she loved into something a little more. Poland-Wisniewski finds making her candles to be relaxing, and I can see why. Candles can bring an extra warmth, light, coziness and a sense of "home" to the spaces that we live in. Melissa's debut candle was "Apple Maple Bourbon", with delicious notes reminding you of fall. She has expanded since with four additional scents: Black Raspberry Vanilla, Tobacco Caramel, Mahogany Teakwood (my personal favorite) and Lemon Drop, has a seasonal Frasier Fir scented candle, and is experimenting with new scents for the future. She also offers car diffusers that come in one of her five signature scents.

Melissa moved to Minden four years ago with husband, Mark. They have one son Andrew, who lives in Council Bluffs. She has been a huge driving force in highlighting small businesses in rural southwest Iowa herself. Through ongoing collaborations with the Countryside Market in Minden, they are hosting pop-up events that highlight small rural entrepreneurs. After an amazing turnout last fall, Melissa is working with the Countryside Market to host another Spring Vendor Fair on April 30, where local and rural entrepreneurs and producers can come together to share with the community. There is an amazing vendor line-up and Chris Shelton will be playing music live.

Put this on your calendar and come check it out. Melissa's products can be bought online at: <u>rusticdoorboutique.com</u> or you can find her on Facebook and Instagram.



Support a Small Business

If your business is doing well and you want to help one that is either starting out or struggling right now, please consider helping them out by sponsoring a 1-year membership with WIDA.

Small businesses and new businesses alike can sometimes have limited marketing funds OR may still be recovering from COVID-19 business restrictions and losses. Your generous gift can either be recognized or can remain anonymous, but will allow tangible promotion, support, and networking opportunities for those in need. Please call the WIDA office at 712-482-3029 to discuss levels of membership assistance or send an email to Kristine4WIDA@outlook.com.

TREYNOR, IOWA



Four Corners Community Foundation (formerly TS Community Foundation) celebrated their new name on Monday, February 28th in Treynor with a ribbon cutting, coffee and donuts. Four Corners Community Foundation, a 501c3 organization, established in 1999 is designed to help people achieve more with their donations by partnering in community projects and encouraging individual charitable giving in the local southwest Iowa area. Community partners included J's Coffee and Donuts, WIDA, PCCF and the City of Treynor.

In 2019, Four Corners Community
Foundation joined as an affiliate of
Pottawattamie County Community
Foundation to continue efforts to spur
growth and prosperity in southwest Iowa and
leverage the national accreditation and the
Endow Iowa tax credit capability with PCCF.

Four Corners Community Foundation is a community of giving people and excited to help make an impact for generations to come! If you are needing a 501c3 status, looking to start a community project or wanting to start a family charitable fund, contact www.ourpccf.org/affiliates/4CCF



SWIEF SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION CLOSES ON MARCH 15

Southwest Iowa Educational Foundation (SWIEF) scholarships are available to students from the following counties: Cass, Fremont, Harrison, Mills, Montgomery, Page, Pottawattamie, and Shelby, and to eligible students who attend the following high schools: Boyer Valley, Exira-EHK, IKM-Manning, and Southwest Valley.

<u>Learn more about SWIEF and its annual scholarship application.</u>

MACEDONIA, IOWA

Hello my pretties...the "Wizard of Oz" is coming to the Grist Mill Theater soon and all ages are welcome to audition!

Audition Dates:

Friday, April 1 at 7:00 pm Sunday, April 3 at 2:00 pm

Show Dates:

Friday, June 24 Saturday, June 25 Sunday, June 26

Thinking about auditioning but not sure? Join directors Gene Sanny and Vince Baker for a walkthrough of the process, and what they are looking for in a member of the cast at a **FREE Auditioning Workshop** on Saturday, March 19 at 10:00 am. Even if you have already auditioned before, there is always something to learn!

Call For Member Submissions



Our newsletter deadline is the 20th of each month!

Looking for positive content that helps to further tell the stories of our communities! Shoot an email to Kristine4WIDA@outlook.com or reach out with any questions. Our rural communities are what make our newsletter SO GREAT!



POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY







NOMINATIONS OPEN TOMORROW!

Give rural Southwest lowa public school teachers the chance to win \$10,000!







Nominations for the 2022 Outstanding Teacher Award can still be submitted for consideration up until Thursday, March 31. A total of 48 educators have been honored, and a total of \$500,000 has been awarded by the Charles E. Lakin foundation since starting in 2008. This award was created to honor four local educators—two elementary teachers (K-6), and two secondary (7-12) teachers whose efforts encourage and motivate students to come to school and who see teaching as a calling, rather than a job.

Each winner will receive \$10,000. An additional \$2,500 will be provided to their corresponding school districts. Teachers at schools within a 40-mile radius of Charles's hometown of Emerson are eligible. Educators may not be nominated by family members. Visit Green Hills AEA to submit a nomination: https://www.ghaea.org/

RIBBON CUTTING EVENTS

A red ribbon-cutting ceremony is an important part of your overall marketing and advertising plan. It is a great way to kick-off a new business, an expansion or relocation, or a reopening of a business. Ribbon-cuttings can also mark milestone events, anniversaries or the opening of a newly renovated space. WIDA assists in celebrating ribbon cuttings throughout the year. Let us help with your upcoming event. Contact us prior to choosing a date. We will help you organize, plan and host a high-impact ribbon cutting that will get your business the exposure it deserves. Contact the WIDA office at 712-482-3029



RIBBON CUTTING EVENTS COMING SOON

Wicked Moon Tattoo & Piercing
(Avoca)

Frosting, Inc. (Walnut)

Occasional Collective (Treynor)

Barley & Beans (Avoca)

The Flirty Fig (Avoca)

Ashley Mason Equestrian (Oakland)



ASHLEY MASON EQUESTRIAN SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

Saturday, March 12

Basic Horse Handling Class

12:30 pm to 2:00 pm

This fun class is a great introduction to horses and how to handle them safely. \$25 Fee, Pre-Registration Required.

Saturday, March 26

Basic Horse Vet Care Class

12:30 pm to 2:00 pm

This class covers all the basics when it comes to making sure that our horses are in top shape. From taking temperature to knowing when to call a vet, this class is a hands-on approach to everything vet care.

\$25 Fee, Pre-Registration Required

Saturday, April 2

Basic Feeding Class

12:30 pm to 2:00 pm

We all know that horses eat hay, but there is a lot more to keeping a horse healthy and happy. Come learn all about what it takes to keep our fourlegged friends healthy, in good shape and ready to ride!

\$25 Fee, Pre-Registration Required

Sunday, April 3

Open House/Ribbon Cutting

11:00 am to 3:00 pm

Come and find out what all the buzz is about! Ashley Mason Equestrian is having an Open Barn Day. Come pet ponies, learn about what riding lessons are and see what all AME has to offer. We will also be offering Early Summer Camp Registrations as well! This event is FREE!

Sunday, April 10

Pony Day Camp

9:00 am to 3:00 pm Love horses? Want a day of pony snuggles and riding? Well Pony Day Camp is your answer! This camp includes fun Art Projects, Nature Hikes, Learning all about our four- legged friends and of course riding. \$75 Fee, Pre-Registration Required

Saturday, April 16

Basic Horse Behavior Class

12:30 pm to 2:00 pm
We all know that horses act like...
HORSES. This class covers all the
things that make horses who they are.
From how to tell if your horse is happy
to why they are scared of silly things!
\$25 Fee, Pre-Registration Required



DREAMLAND THEATRE SHOWBILL MARCH 2022

107 Broadway, Carson, Iowa 712-484-2281

"Now All Digital"



Doors Open at 7:00 pm Show Time at 7:30 pm All Tickets are \$4.00/person

Marry Me

Rated PG-13, Length: 1 hr 52 min March 4, 5, 6

Death on The Nile

Rated PG-13, Length 2 hr 7 min March 11, 12, 13

Dog

Rated PG-13, Length: 1 hr 41 min February 18, 19, 20

Uncharted

Rated PG-13, Length: 1 hr 55 min February 25, 26, 27

Movie schedule is subject to change due to film availability.

For up-to-date movie schedule information, visit us on <u>Facebook</u>











Wednesday, March 9

Gardening for Diversity: Planning and Mapping Your Garden

6:30 pm. Ages 14+ Registration required. \$15 fee. Council Bluffs Public Library. Meeting Room B

Register: <u>mycountyparks.com</u>

Thursday, March 10 **Little Storey's Pop-Up** 5:30 to 7:30 pm Occasional Collective 12 E Main, Treynor

Thursday, March 10

More Information Here

Designing Native Seed Mixes

7 to 8 pm. Virtual Program.
Registration required. \$10 fee.
Registered participants will receive Zoom information on the day of the event.
Register: goldenhillsrcd.org

Friday, March 11 Occasional Collective Open Market Days Fri 11 am-6 pm; Sat 10 am-4 pm

Saturday, March 12 **GRAND OPENING Wicked Moon Tattoo & Piercing**3:30 to 4:30 pm
220 West Lyon St, Avoca
<u>Facebook Page</u>

Saturday, March 12
Annual Open House
Minden Meat Market &
Hodges Smokehouse Catering
11 am to 1 pm, Minden Community Club
102 Broadway St., Minden











Randy & Susan Miller 402-651-0652 (cell)

RASE90@frontiernet.net

712-484-3969 (home)

EZ GREENHOUSE 514 MAIN ST. MINDEN IA 51553 712-308-3125 ezgreenhouse@gmail.com





Saturday, March 12

Goat Trek & Treats - Wine Edition 2022

4:30 to 6 pm

Registration required. \$45 fee.

Honey Creek Creamery, Register Here

Thursday, March 17

Corned Beef & Cabbage Special, \$12

Dine-In or Take-Out

Breezy Hills Vineyard, (712) 485-2083

Friday, March 18

American Legion Fish Fry

5 to 7 pm

211 Broadway St., Minden

Saturday, March 19

A Land Ethic Workshop: Waterfowl Identification

9 am to 12 pm

Hitchcock Nature Center. Ages 14+ Registration required. \$15 fee.

Register: <u>mycountyparks.com</u>

Saturday, March 19

St. Paddy's Day 5K Run Walk or Crawl

Register 9 to 10 am, Run 10:15 am

\$30 Entry. Pre-Register at

www.carsongov.com

Carson Community Center

316 S Commercial St., Carson

Saturday, March 19

Free Auditioning Workshop

10:00 am

Grist Mill Theater, Macedonia

Grist Mill Facebook

Saturday, March 19

Goat Trek & Treats - Wine Edition 2022

4:30 to 6 pm

Registration required. \$45 fee.

Honey Creek Creamery, Register Here

Saturday, March 19

<u>Small Towns Care: Suicide Awareness &</u> Prevention

10:30 am to 2:30 pm: Speakers at Legion Hall 12:30 pm: 1.4 mile Walk of Hope at Courthouse 1:00 pm: Celebration of Life at The Exchange

Sunday, March 20

Crescent Auxiliary Breakfast

8 am to 12 pm

Crescent Volunteer Fire Department Adults: \$6, Kids under age 12: \$3

Thursday, March 24

Common Rosaceae (rose) Identification

7 to 8 pm. Virtual Program.

Registration required. \$10 fee.

Registered participants will receive Zoom information on the day of the event.

Register: goldenhillsrcd.org

Saturday, March 26

Minden Vendor Frenzy

Doors Open at 5 pm, Bidding Starts at 6 pm Minden Community Hall, 105 Broadway St. More Information Here

Saturday, March 26

Spring Renewal Experience

2:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Hitchcock Nature Center. Ages 16+

Registration required. \$12 fee.

Park entry fee included in registration. Please

meet at the Loess Hills Lodge.

Register: <u>mycountyparks.com</u>

Sunday, March 27

Staley's Chicken Dinner

11 am to 1 pm

U.M.B.A. Hall, 300 2nd Ave., Underwood \$10 Dinner, Ages 5-10 \$7, 4 & Under FREE Silent Auction, Live Auction Raffle













Grain Bins, Buildings, Electrical & Concrete Work 712-485-2677 Neola. Powa 800-377-1685









Thursday, March 31

Cirsium (thistle) Identification

7 to 8 pm. Virtual Program.
Registration required. \$10 fee.
Registered participants will receive Zoom information on the day of the event.
Register: goldenhillsrcd.org

Saturday, April 2

Frosting, Inc. Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

10 am to 4 pm 201 Antique City Dr, Walnut More Information Here

Saturday, April 2

Match Game: Benefit for Relay 4 Life

5:00 pm Cocktails, 6:00 Dinner Carson Community Center 316 S. Commercial St., Carson \$25/person, \$40/couple OR \$150/table of 8 Call 402.651.1479 (Kathy), 402.960.8968 (Jackie) or 402.350.9570 (Cami)

Sunday, April 3

Ashley Mason Equestrian Open House and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

11 am to 3 pm 43316 Hwy 6, Oakland

Sunday, April 3

Spring Vendor & Craft Fair

9 am to 2 pm Neola Area Community Center, 110 4th St. <u>Vendor Link</u>

Thursday, April 7th

Common Weeds & Invasive Species of Iowa

7 to 8 pm. Virtual Program. Registration required. \$10 fee. Registered participants will receive Zoom

information on the day of the event.

Register: goldenhillsrcd.org

Saturday, April 9

Kites and Bike Helmets for Kids

9:30 am to 11 am Underwood Middle School, 601 3rd St. Sasshole Donut Truck will be on site

Saturday, April 9

A Land Ethic Workshop: Woodland & Prairie Flowers

9 am to 12 pm Hitchcock Nature Center. Ages 14+ Registration required. \$15 fee. Register: <u>mycountyparks.com</u>

Saturday, April 9

Goat Trek & Treats - Wine Edition 2022

4:30 to 6 pm

Registration required. \$45 fee.

Honey Creek Creamery, Register Here

Saturday, April 9

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

1:00 pm

Fireman's Park, Walnut

Wednesday, April 13

Selecting Native Species

6:30pm. Ages 14+

Registration required. \$15 fee.

Council Bluffs Public Library. Mtg Room B

Register: <u>mycountyparks.com</u>

Saturday, April 23

Arrowhead Park Trail Run

8 am to 12 pm: 4 Hour Enduro

9 a: 5K Trail Run

9:05 am: 10k Trail Run

9:10 am: Walkers and Hikers

Registration: \$25 in March, \$30 in April

Day of Event \$35, cash only

Pottawattamie County Trails Association

Register Here





JULIANNA HRASKY

Owner

julianna@prairiecrossingwine.com

C: 402.250.0746 W: 712.487.3812

PRAIRIE CROSSING Vineyard & Winery

31506 Pioneer Trail | Treynor, IA 51575 www.prairiecrossingwine.com



COME JOIN A

Please view and apply to our open positions and opportunities at

www.osigroup.com/careers

OSI offers competitive pay and benefits including paid time off, medical, dental, vision, health savings, and 401k!

OSI is an equal apportunity employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual arientation, gender identity, disability or protected veteran status or any other characteristic interacted by law.

CHECK OUT A DAY PASS TO POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY PARKS

Beginning <u>May 1st</u>, swing into the Council Bluffs Public Library to check out a Day Pass to the Pottawattamie Conservation Parks.

Pottawattamie Conservation has partnered with the Council Bluffs Public Library to offer park passes that allow entrance for one vehicle into the Pottawattamie County parks. Passes are available for checkout to anyone with a library card at the library's front desk.

The pass admits 1 vehicle into any of the Pottawattamie Conservation parks for one day. The Loess Hills Lodge at Hitchcock Nature Center is available with park pass entry. The pass is not eligible for any other benefits other than entrance admission. Passes are available on a first come, first serve basis. Holds cannot be placed on passes and must be checked out with an Adult library card. Passes must be returned to the library within 5 days of checking out.

For more information about day passes, please contact the Circulation Desk at 712-323-7553, option 2.

Saturday, April 23

Guyers Greenhouse - OPENING DAY 110 W. Ellsworth Street, Avoca

Friday, April 29

Stanley's Snack Shack - OPENING DAY 18057 Mahogany Road, Honey Creek

Saturday, April 30

Countryside Market Spring Vendor Fair 10 am to 4 pm 300 Main St., Minden More Information Here

Saturday, April 30 **Treynor City Wide Garage Sale**

Tuesday, May 3 - Sunday, May 15 **Intro to Backpacking**

3-part Lecture and Hands-On Course Hitchcock Nature Center. Ages 18+ Registration required. \$40 fee. Register: <u>www.pottconservation.com</u>

Saturday, May 21

A Land Ethic Workshop: Morels, Fungi and Lichen

9 am to 12 pm Hitchcock Nature Center. Ages 14+ Registration required. \$15 fee. Register: <u>mycountyparks.com</u>

Saturday, May 21

Livestock on the Land Film Showing & Farmer Panel

7 pm to 9 pm Pin Oak Place 1240 Ironwood Rd, Harlan Click Here to Learn More

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIPS

BRONZE MEMBERSHIP \$100/YEAR

- Front page welcome in our e-newsletter.
- Listed on WIDA website and Annual Report as a business member.
- Membership window decal to show local support.
- Receive WIDA monthly e-newsletter.
- Access to Ribbon Cuttings for special events.
- Promotion of news releases, when sent in.
- Event postings on WIDA website, and in monthly e-newsletter when sent in.
- Advertisement in monthly e-newsletters.

FREE SERVICES

- Assist you in claiming a Google account.
- Advertisement of your promotions and specials - such as open houses, holiday promotions, and specialty days (military % offs, etc.) in e-newsletter every 3 months.
- Receive WIDA monthly e-newsletter.
- Access to Ribbon Cuttings for special events. Highlighted in Rural Business Directory.

Western Iowa Development Association is a 501(c)6 association for POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY, IOWA AND BEYOND.

OUR GOAL IS TO PROMOTE SMALL BUSINESSES, ENCOURAGE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, ENHANCE THE COUNTY AND DEVELOP TOURISM.

SILVER MEMBERSHIP \$500/YEAR

- Front page welcome in our e-newsletter.
- Listed on WIDA website and Annual Report as a business member.
- Membership window decal to show local support.
- Receive WIDA monthly e-newsletter.
- Access to Ribbon Cuttings for special events.
- Promotion of news releases, when sent in.
- Event postings on WIDA website, and in monthly e-newsletter when sent in.
- Advertisement in monthly e-newsletters.
- Highlighted in Rural Business Directory.
- Town Landing Page Sponsor for a year.
- Tourism venues listed on TravelIowa.com
- Assistance creating marketing materials upon request.
- Listed on front page of WIDA newsletter as sponsor for a year.

GOLD MEMBERSHIP \$1000/YEAR

- Front page welcome in our e-newsletter.
- Listed on WIDA website and Annual Report as a business member.
- Membership window decal to show local support.
- Receive WIDA monthly e-newsletter.
- Access to Ribbon Cuttings for special events.
- Promotion of news releases, when sent in.
- Event postings on WIDA website, and in monthly e-newsletter when sent in.
- Advertisement in monthly e-newsletters.
- Highlighted in Rural Business Directory.
- Town Landing Page Sponsor for a year.
- Tourism venues listed on Travellowa.com
- Assistance creating marketing materials upon request.
- Listed on front page of WIDA newsletter as sponsor for a year.
- Listed on home landing page of WIDA website for a year.
- Vendor recommendations upon request.
- Distribution of your promotional items at tourism events upon request (parades, etc).

CONNECT WITH WIDA









301 Oakland Avenue • Oakland 712-482-6431 www.ArborBanking.com Stay up to date with all things WIDA! Sign up to receive our monthly e-newsletter by emailing Kristine4wida@outlook.com OR go directly to our website newsletter archives below:

Newsletter Archives

With every newsletter, I hope to celebrate, inform, advocate for, and generate connectivity in our rural Western Iowa communities.

1433 FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS 1076 NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS

*Help us reach 2000 on both and spread the word about our amazing rural communities.

