

AT THE LIBRARY

Blind Date With a Book is Back!

By Jenisa Harris, WPL

Single? In a relationship? “It’s complicated?” No matter! During the entire month of February, you can head to the Washington Public Library and have a blind date with a book!

“Blind Date with a Book,” is back, and it’s not just for adults this year! Teens will have their own selection of books. “Blind Date with a Book” will go on the entire month of February. Just select a wrapped book from our “Blind Date with a Book” display and check it out. Take it home,

unwrap it, and enjoy! If you don’t like the book, simply return it to the library. Its feelings won’t be hurt. These books are specially chosen by the library staff as being particularly deserving of a date with a willing reader. From romance, non-fiction, mystery, history, or out of this world fantasy! Inside the cover of each book will be a “Rate-your-Date” card for you to fill out after you are finished reading your book. You can tell us if your “Blind Date with a Book” swept you off your feet, was love at first sight, or a total dud.

After you fill out your “Rate-your-Date” card make sure you drop it in the Blind Date with a Book box that will be at the front desk of the Library. The more books you read and the more “Rate-your-Date” cards you fill out and turn in the more chances you have of winning a sweet treat! At the end of the month we will draw one of the “Rate-your-Date” cards and that lucky patron will win!

So stop by the Washington Public Library the month of February and you might fall in love with literature.



Blind Date with a Book is back.

Local woman honors the memory of the Tent Players

A look at the Theatre Museum of Repertoire Americana

By Marilyn Higgins

MT. PLEASANT - Grace Davis works at the Theatre Museum of Repertoire Americana in Mt. Pleasant. She is Vice-President of The National Society for the Preservation of Tent Folk and Repertoire Theatre, a historical society which operates the Museum. The Museum, founded in the 1970s as part of Old Threshers, pays tribute to a forgotten staple of Midwest life: the Tent and Theater Troops which entertained thousands in days gone by.

In the days when the railroads were king, before the movies monopolized the world’s attention, theater troops roamed the Midwest, putting on plays, vaudeville skits, and musical performances. In Spring and Summer, they pitched great tents, performing in fields to sold-out crowds. Come October, they began playing theaters- or, rather, “opera houses,” as, to some, the term “Theater” brought to mind cheap, dirty, immoral entertainment in those days.

Some had railroad cars. Some had trucks. Come the days of motor homes, the tent folk found them quite agreeable. Through photographs and artifacts, visitors may see how these performers lived. Hila Morgan, an Iowan actress and showrunner in her own right, owned two railroad cars that carried her show throughout the country. One photo of the train bears Morgan’s writing:



A relic from an old opera house, this curtain advertised local businesses before and after the shows. Many of these curtains remained in place, furlled above the stage, long after the opera-houses became movie theaters and their purpose disappeared. According to Grace Davis, it was only a matter of asking for them. (Marilyn Higgins/The Union)

“This is my home. Oh, happy days.”

As times changed, so did the shows. Many troops sold their shows to others. Some had other plans. The Dubinsky Brothers of Kansas City bought a theater. Edward, the youngest brother, changed his name to Durwood, and would buy other theaters in Missouri and Kansas. After the Second World War, they began constructing drive-ins. Nowadays, the Durwood enterprise, only recently sold by that family, is known as AMC, one of the largest movie theater chains in the world.

The museum possesses, according to Davis, the largest collection of opera house curtains in the world. These are not just dividers. They are beautifully-painted landscapes, used as backdrops. Pre-show curtains would often feature squares for advertisements, sold to local businesses.

To Davis, this subject is personal. Between 1917 and 1938, her grandparents ran the Lew Henderson Players, their own



You’ve heard of a player piano, but have you heard of a player accordion? This incredible instrument, which accompanied a tent company in its travels, is on display at the museum. (Marilyn Higgins/The Union)



Grace Davis presents a Schaffner Players poster dating to the 1940s. This is only one of hundreds of historical posters, scripts, and advertisements kept at the museum. This poster is unique, in that it advertises a Mt. Pleasant show. (Marilyn Higgins/The Union)

company. Even after the end of the company, the family remained in show business. Her husband, Mr. James Davis, owned the last professional tent theater company in the United States of America. This enterprise only closed in 1997.

The museum has an

extensive archive of promotional materials, scripts, and even interviews with old-timers long passed. Therein, the public can catch a glimpse of this bygone era, and help keep these memories alive.

Call Marilyn Higgins at 319-368-8895 or email her at marilyn.higgins@southeastiowaunion.com

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NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTOR, AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS
CASE NO. ESPR007165
THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT
JEFFERSON COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF CHARLOTTE MARIE PFAB, Deceased.

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Charlotte Marie Pfab, Deceased, who died on or about December 30, 2025.

You are hereby notified that on January 26th, 2026, the Last Will and Testament of Charlotte Marie Pfab, deceased, bearing date of July 12th, 2018 was admitted to probate in the above-named court and that Kathleen Kessel was appointed Executor of the estate. Any action to set aside the will must be brought in the district court of said county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter forever barred.

Notice is further given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the clerk of the above named district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.

Dated: January 26th, 2026
Kathleen Kessel
709 S. 2nd Street
Fairfield, IA 52556
John A. Morrissey, ICIS PIN No: AT0005632 Attorney for Executor
Firm Name: Morrissey Law Offices
Address: 109 North Court Street, Fairfield, Iowa 52556
Date of second publication the 12th day of February, 2026.

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S LEVY AND SALE
STATE OF IOWA, JEFFERSON COUNTY
Iowa District Court, JEFFERSON COUNTY
COURT CASE # E0004812

TWO RIVERS BANK & TRUST PLAINTIFF

JASON R. SMITH, UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF JASON R. SMITH, AND PERSONS IN POSSESSION DEFENDANT (Judgment Debtor)

As a result of the judgment rendered in the above referenced court case, an execution was issued by the court to the Sheriff of this county. The execution ordered the sale of defendant(s) REAL ESTATE to satisfy the judgment. The property to be sold is described below:

LEGAL ADDRESS:
LOT FIVE (5) OF BLOCK ONE (1) OF GREENACRES SUBDIVISION TO THE CITY OF FAIRFIELD, JEFFERSON COUNTY, IOWA
LOCAL ADDRESS:
713 W. TAYLOR AVE., FAIRFIELD, IA 52556

The described property will be offered for sale at public auction for cash only as follows:
Date of Sale: 03/17/2026
Time of Sale: 10:00 AM

Place of Sale: JEFFERSON COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT CENTER, MAIN LOBBY
This sale is not subject to redemption.
Judgment Amount: \$93,288.71*
Costs: \$437.40

Accruing Costs: PENDING
Interest: 4.25% FROM 12/3/25
Attorney: WILLIAM R. JAHN, JR (319) 754-6587
Date: 1/16/2026
Sheriff Bart Richmond, Jefferson County, Iowa
Michele Campbell, Sgt. Civil Clerk
*PLUS \$2,615.27 ACCRUED INTEREST

TRUST NOTICE

IN THE MATTER OF THE TRUST: Revocable Trust of John D. Dahl and Melva L. Dahl

To all persons regarding John D. Dahl, deceased, who died on or about January 10, 2026. You are hereby notified that the Co-Successor Trustees listed below are the Co-Successor Trustees of the Revocable Trust of John D. Dahl and Melva L. Dahl dated May 9, 2023. Any action to contest the validity of the trust must be brought in the District Court of Jefferson County, Iowa, within the later to occur of four (4) months from the date of second publication of this notice or thirty (30) days from the date of mailing this notice to the spouse of the decedent settlor, and to all heirs of the decedent settlor whose identities are reasonably ascertainable. Any suit not filed within this period shall be forever barred.

Notice is further given that any person or entity possessing a claim against the trust must mail proof of the claim to the trustee at the address listed below via certified mail, return receipt requested, by the later to occur of four (4) months from the second publication of this notice or thirty (30) days from the date of mailing this notice if required or the claim shall be forever barred unless paid or otherwise satisfied.
Dated on January 30, 2026.

Ruth E. Riggis, Co-Successor Trustee
615 15th Ave
Amara, IA 52203
Blain Smith, Co-Successor Trustee
900 Hilltop Rd
Keosauqua, IA 52565
Thomas M. Buchanan #AT0001162,
Attorney for Trustee
Bloeite, Elwood & Buchanan
Law Office
702 Third St, PO Box L,
Victor, Iowa 52347
Date of second publication the 12th day of February, 2026.

NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTOR AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS
PROBATE No. ESPR007162
IN THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR JEFFERSON COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF VIRGIL L. MYERS, DECEASED

To all persons interested in the Estate of Virgil L. Myers, Deceased, who died on or about December 7, 2025:

You are hereby notified that on January 22, 2026, the Last Will and Testament of Virgil L. Myers, deceased, bearing the date of March 27, 2009, Codicil to Last Will and Testament, dated March 22, 2017, and Second Codicil to Last Will and Testament, dated April 18, 2022 was admitted to probate in the above named Court and that Daniel B. Myers was appointed Executor of the Estate of Virgil L. Myers. Any action to set aside the Will must be brought in the District Court of said county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice to all heirs of the Decedent and devisees under the Will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter forever barred.

Notice is further given that all persons indebted to the Estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the Clerk of the above named district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.

Dated January 22, 2026.
Daniel B. Myers
2499 200th St
Fairfield IA 52556
Executor of Estate:

Attorney for Estate:
Vanessa M.Y. Wilman
Foss, Kuiken, Cochran, Helling & Wilman P.C.
P.O. Box 30
Fairfield, Iowa 52556
AT0011731
Date of second publication: the 5th day of February, 2026.

NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTORS, AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS
CASE NO. ESPR007158
THE IOWA DISTRICT COURT FOR JEFFERSON COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MARILYN DARLENE GLASS, Deceased

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of Marilyn Darlene Glass, Deceased, who died on or about December 5, 2025: You are hereby notified that on January 28th, 2026, the Last Will and Testament of Marilyn Darlene Glass, deceased, bearing date of June 26, 2025, was admitted to probate in the above-named court and that Paul A. Miller and Robert Glass have been appointed Executors of the estate. Any action to set aside the will must be brought in the district court of said county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred.

Notice is further given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the clerk of the above-named district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.

Dated January 28th, 2026.
Robert Glass
Co-Executor of Estate
508 Bonnett Circle
Libertyville, IA 52567
Paul A. Miller
Co-Executor of Estate
119 N. Court Street
Fairfield, IA 52556

Paul A. Miller, ICIS#: AT0005415
Attorney for Executors
Miller Law Office
119 N. Court Street
Fairfield, IA 52556

U.S. history presentation at Harlan-Lincoln House on Presidents Day

Submitted by Lynn Ellsworth

The Harlan-Lincoln House will once again present two opportunities to learn about U.S. history on Presidents Day, Monday, February 16. Ethan Afshani, whom we met two years ago when he gave a presentation about collecting Lincoln artifacts, will return to present “An Eyewitness Account of the Battle of Gettysburg.” The presentation is based on the diary of Lt. Henry J. Waltz, quartermaster of the 93rd Pennsylvania

Infantry. Afshani collaborated with Joshua McCracken, books and manuscripts specialist at Freeman’s Hindman Auction in Chicago, to edit and publish this diary/ledger, purchased at “The Horse Soldier” in Gettysburg, PA. The book will be available for purchase, and Afshani will also have Gettysburg artifacts to show.

The talk will be held at the Union Block Building, 111 West Monroe Street, Mount Pleasant at noon and again at 6:30 p.m.

KILJ Radio is sponsoring the program which will defray costs; however, donations are always welcome and go to the maintenance and preservation of the Harlan-Lincoln House.

Ethan Afshani is from Buffalo, New York. He graduated from Canisius University in Buffalo, in 2025 with a degree in political science. He defines himself now as an author and collector of Americana and Civil War memorabilia and plans to obtain a master’s degree at Gettysburg College.



Ethan Afshani