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GOUGH

INSIDE A MASTERPIECE

Children twirl and dance through this projection of "The Starry Night," part of "Beyond Van Gogh: The Immersive Experience," on display through July 20 in Davenport's RiverCenter. (Paquin Entertainment Group)

Step inside van Gogh's art in Davenport exhibition

By Diana Nollen, The Gazette

To step into the artistry of Vincent van Gogh is to step into his mind and life, a past that's very much present. And that's what makes "Beyond Van Gogh: The Immersive Experience" so magical, said Fanny Curtat, 37, of Montreal, the art historian who helped develop the project.

The exhibition, in which viewers walk among 300 of van Gogh's works projected on the walls, panels and floors, is on view through July 20 in the Great Hall at Davenport's RiverCenter, 136 E. Third St.

WHAT YOU'LL SEE

The exhibition shows different aspects of his life and life's work. Visitors begin by entering the Introduction Hall, where they can see excerpts from van Gogh's letters and read his own words. "We have a unique case in art history where we have such a treasure trove of information about his life, about his connection to his brother Theo, because of their letters that they exchanged over 18 years — you really feel that. Because of their strong bond between the brothers, you have an access to his soul to his mind to his heart, and that's something so, so

incredible," Curtat said. "... You do feel a connection with them, so we felt that was a great way of starting the experience. "It's about having a connection to Vincent and seeing that he's still very much relevant — that the self-doubt and angst that he's going through are things that are familiar to most of us." Then visitors will step into the Immersive Room, "where everything moves," Curtat said, describing it as "a little bit trippy." The space is dedicated to his work, and is a loop of about 35 minutes. "Usually, people stay for more, because

► VAN GOGH, PAGE 6C

IF YOU GO

- **What:** "Beyond Van Gogh: The Immersive Experience"
- **Where:** RiverCenter's Great Hall, 136 E. Third St., Davenport
- **When:** Through July 20; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Thursday; 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday; timed entries every 15 minutes, with last entry one hour before closing time each day
- **Tickets:** \$29 and up for adults; \$19.99 and up for ages 5 to 15; vangoghquadcities.com/tickets
- **Details:** vangoghquadcities.com



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MOVIE REVIEW

‘Fast’ franchise may be running on fumes

By Katie Walsh, Tribune News Service

In the last exciting installment of the “Fast and Furious” franchise, 2021’s “Fast 9,” the gang drove a car into space, tangled with a long-lost brother and pushed the physical limits of various vintage Dodge Chargers in far-flung locations around the globe, as Dominic Toretto (Vin Diesel) is wont to do.

Since then, the “Fast” world has had a few external shake-ups. Longtime director Justin Lin departed the franchise only a week into filming on “Fast X,” which is now being billed as part one of a three-part finale. He’s been replaced with a franchise super fan: “The Transporter” director Louis Leterrier, who swooped in to save the day like a member of Dom’s family piloting a muscle car out of an aircraft.

But rest assured, in “Fast X,” the Coronas are cold, the booties are shaking and the sleeves remain optional.

Leterrier, working with a script credited to Lin and Dan Mazeau, takes to his turn behind the wheel with the enthusiasm of a kid who just got a new set of toys, crashing together cars and characters excitedly — but without much sense. He clearly has a reverence for the lore of the franchise, which sprouted out of a tale of drag races and DVD player heists, but he doesn’t exhibit the restraint of Lin, which is somewhat hilarious considering the automotive antics Lin got up to in this series.

If Leterrier is making “Fast” fan-fiction, then Jason Momoa is doing parody as the franchise’s wildly flamboyant new villain, Dante Reyes. In the opening of “Fast X,” Momoa has been retconned into the finale of Lin’s



Jason Momoa, who grew up in Norwalk has joined the mayhem in “Fast X,” bringing energy and excitement to this installment of the franchise. (Giulia Parmigiani/Universal Pictures via AP)

“Fast Five,” in which Brian O’Conner (Paul Walker) and Dom dragged a bank vault full of drug money belonging to Hernan Reyes (Joaquim de Almeida) out of a Rio de Janeiro police station with cables attached to Chargers, naturally. Dante is Reyes’ son, and now he’s seeking revenge on Dom’s family because his own was destroyed.

Dante wears satin blouses and scrunchies, giggles like Snidely Whiplash as he forces Dom to choose between members of his family to save, and yells things like, “That’s awesome!” at particularly huge explosions. At one point he sarcastically refers to someone

“in peril,” taunting Dom while inadvertently referring to the long history of action-adventure filmmaking. Because what is the “Fast” franchise if not “The Perils of Pauline” on steroids? If only Buster Keaton could get a load of this.

At least Momoa and Leterrier are having fun in “Fast X.” The rest of the gang seems a bit lost, scattered about the globe haplessly, getting into pointless fisticuffs with each other. Diesel seems vacant, and at this point, he is merely the vehicle to keep this franchise moving forward, staring stoically at his new family members that seemingly pop up out of nowhere, and duti-

fully drifting the Dodges.

Leterrier has a facility for car-based action sequences, and there’s a playful quality to the camera in the racing scenes as the camera swoops around windshields and wanders into windows to link together various close-ups of the drivers. An early sequence where Dante sends a giant bomb pinballing around Rome is somewhat delightfully silly, and of course, the signature drag race scene in Rio delivers that reggaeton-flavored “Fast and Furious” thrill that we’re seeking.

But the problems with “Fast X” exist on a more structural story level. It feels like Leter-

WATCH IT!

- **What:** “Fast X”
- **Cast:** Vin Diesel, Helen Mirren, Jason Momoa, Brie Larson, Nathalie Emmanuel, Sung Kang, Jordana Brewster, Chris “Ludacris” Bridges, Jason Statham, John Cena, Michelle Rodriguez, Rita Moreno, Charlize Theron, Tyrese Gibson, Scott Eastwood, Daniela Melchior, John West Jr.
- **Rated:** PG-13 for intense sequences of violence and action, language, and some suggestive material
- **Run time:** 141 min.
- **Stars:** ★★ 1/2
- **Where:** Marcus Cinema, Collins Road in Cedar Rapids, Coral Ridge Cinema in Coralville, Sycamore Cinema in Iowa City

rier and Mazeau are just digging up loose familial relations and celebrity cameos and throwing characters together for the heck of it, tossing a handful of Oscar-winning actresses (count ’em: four) in the audience’s face to create a distraction from the other weaknesses in the script. Brie Larson has all of four scenes in what is essentially a cameo appearance in a meaningless role; Scott Eastwood pops up then disappears, characters cross and double cross and then cross again, all while longtime franchise standouts Tyrese Gibson, Chris “Ludacris” Bridges and Sung Kang are left to wander around London for some reason.

Leterrier and Momoa bring an energy and excitement to “Fast X” that juices the engine to deliver the goods that fans want. But the jumbled lore and odd treatment of characters may leave fans with more questions than answers, and wondering if the franchise is running on fumes.

MOVIES

OPENING

ABOUT MY FATHER

The film centers around Sebastian (Sebastian Maniscalco) who is encouraged by his fiancée (Leslie Bibb) to bring his immigrant, hairdresser father, Salvo (Robert De Niro), to a weekend get-together with her super-rich and exceedingly eccentric family (Kim Cattrall, Anders Holm, Brett Dier, David Rasche). The weekend develops into what can only be described as a culture clash, leaving Sebastian and Salvo to discover that the great thing about family is everything about family. (PG-13, 90 min., Marcus Cinema in C.R., Coral Ridge Cinema in Coralville, Sycamore Cinema in I.C.)

KANDAHAR

A CIA operative and his translator flee from special forces in Afghanistan after exposing a covert mission. (R, 120 min., Marcus Cinema in C.R., Coral Ridge Cinema in Coralville, Sycamore Cinema in I.C.)

THE LITTLE MERMAID

Live-action reimagining of the Oscar-winning animated musical classic. Ariel is a beautiful and spirited young mermaid with a thirst for adventure. The youngest of King Triton’s daughters and the most defiant, she longs to find out more about the world beyond the sea. While visiting the surface, falls for the dashing Prince Eric. While mermaids are forbidden to interact with humans, Ariel must follow her heart. She makes a deal with the evil sea witch, Ursula, which gives her a chance to experience life on land but ultimately places her life — and her father’s crown — in jeopardy.



Spirited Ariel (Halle Bailey), the youngest of King Triton’s daughters, longs to be where the people are — up where they walk, wandering free — in “The Little Mermaid.” (Disney via AP)

(PG, 135 min., Marcus Cinema, Collins Road in C.R., Coral Ridge Cinema in Coralville, Sycamore Cinema in I.C.)

THE MACHINE

Set 23 years after the original story which inspired it, The Machine finds Bert (Bert Kreischer) facing a familial crisis and the arrival of his estranged father (Mark Hamill) when the ghost of his booze-soaked past arrives: a murderous mobster (Iva Babic) hellbent on kidnapping Bert back to the motherland to atone for his crimes. Together, he and his father must retrace the steps of his younger self (Jimmy Tatro) in the midst of a war between a sociopathic crime family while they attempt to find common ground. (R, 112 min., Marcus Cinema in C.R., Coral Ridge Cinema in Coralville, Sycamore Cinema in I.C.)

YOU HURT MY FEELINGS

A sharply observed comedy about a novelist whose long marriage is suddenly upended when she overhears her husband give his honest reaction to her latest book. A film about trust, lies,

and the things we say to the people we love most. (R, 93 min., Marcus Cinema in C.R.)

CONTINUING

BOOK CLUB:
THE NEXT CHAPTER

Four best friends (Diane Keaton, Jane Fonda, Candice Bergen and Mary Steenburgen) take their book club to Italy for the fun girls trip they never had. When things go off the rails and secrets are revealed, their relaxing vacation turns into a once-in-a-lifetime cross-country adventure. (PG-13, 107 min., Marcus Cinema, Collins Road in C.R., Sycamore Cinema in I.C.)

FAST X

Over many missions and against impossible odds, Dom Toretto (Vin Diesel) and his family have outsmarted, outnerved and out-driven every foe in their path. Now, they confront the most lethal opponent they’ve ever faced: A terrifying threat emerging from the shadows of the past who’s fueled by blood revenge, and who is determined to shatter

this family and destroy everything — and everyone — that Dom loves, forever. (PG-13, 141 min., Marcus Cinema, Collins Road in C.R., Coral Ridge Cinema in Coralville, Sycamore Cinema in I.C.)

GUARDIANS OF
THE GALAXY VOL. 3

The band of misfits are looking a bit different these days. Peter Quill, still reeling from the loss of Gamora, must rally his team around him to defend the universe, along with protecting one of their own. A mission that, if not completed successfully, could lead to the end of the Guardians as we know them. (PG-13, 149 min., Marcus Cinema, Collins Road in C.R., Coral Ridge Cinema in Coralville, Sycamore Cinema in I.C.)

THE SUPER MARIO
BROS. MOVIE

Based on the world of Nintendo’s Mario games: While working underground to fix a water main, Brooklyn plumbers Mario (Chris Pratt) and brother Luigi (Charlie

Day) are transported down a mysterious pipe and wander into a magical new world. But when the brothers are separated, Mario embarks on an epic quest to find Luigi. With the assistance of Mushroom Kingdom resident Toad (Keegan-Michael Key) and some training from the strong-willed ruler of the Mushroom Kingdom, Princess

Peach (Anya Taylor-Joy), Mario taps into his own power. (PG, 92 min., Marcus Cinema, Collins Road in C.R., Coral Ridge Cinema in Coralville, Sycamore Cinema in I.C.)

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HOOPLA

GO WITH THE FLO

Miami's melting pot shaped genre-hopping hip-hop artist

By Ed Condran, correspondent

While hanging out backstage with Kid Rock 15 years ago in Philadelphia, the rap-rocker was ripping art-rockers Radiohead.

"No one reaches for Radiohead to take the party up a notch," Rock — aka Robert Ritchie — told me.

But the conversation switched to Flo Rida, and there is no debate. Party and Flo Rida go together like peanut butter and jelly.

When Flo Rida — aka Tramar Dillard — released "Mail on Sunday" in 2008, it was obvious there was a new master of ceremony.

"Low," the initial single, which features rapper T-Pain, introduced Dillard to the world.

"When I look back at 'Low,' well, that song set the tone for me," Flo Rida said while calling from Miami.

"It's a varied record that led me from urban to the pop charts. That song and that album changed my life. That album allowed me to do what I want to do stylistically."

Flo Rida, who will perform Saturday on the Q Casino Back Waters in Dubuque, is versatile. He can crank out bangers like "Low" and go to the other end of the spectrum to country-rap, as he did in 2022 with "High Heels" with Walker Hayes, and "No Bad Days" with Jimmie Allen.

"There are many sides to me," Flo Rida said. "I've had different styles and worked with different producers. It's been quite a journey. But so much of it goes back to 'Low.' People love that song. T-Pain knocked it out with such a great melody on the hook. There are so many great melodies on the verses."

Flo Rida looks back to "Low" and "Mail on Sunday," but part of the secret to his success is that he looks forward and delivers in surprising fashion.

"Part of what makes things

work for me is that I listen to different genres," he said. "It helps me come up with different melodies. This is a labor of love. It helps that I grew up in Miami, which is a music melting pot. Miami has helped make me who I am. There is no city like it in the world. Look at who came out of there and what is there."

There's considerable glitz around Flo Rida, who is friends with DJ Khaled and Rick Ross, but the rapper paid his dues and his work ethic is laudable.

"You got to put the time in to be successful," Flo Rida said. "I love going into the studio. When I go in, it's organic, but

I work hard when I'm there. When you work hard, the sky is the limit. You can see what I've done."

Like 2009's "R.O.O.T.S. (Route of Overcoming the Struggle)" with feel-good tunes, including "Finally Here," "Jump" and "Gotta Get It

(Dancer)."

"Only One Flo, Pt. 1," which was released in 2010, is filled with polished club tracks.

"Why You Up Here" and "On and On" amp up the party.

"Wild Ones," from 2012, hits with slick, celebratory and swaggering tracks, such as the playful "Good Feeling" and the infectious "Sweet Spot." The artist will draw from each of his albums when he performs in Dubuque.

Flo Rida is a fascinating figure in hip-hop. He's inoffensive. His songs have hooks but some of them are akin to "Seinfeld," as in the tunes are about nothing. He's also a very good technical rapper, who could hold his own with the iconic Eminem.

"I love what I do," Flo Rida said. "I go all out with what I'm passionate about."

It's paid off, since he's sold more than 80 million albums.

"It's great to have a fan base who supports what I do," he said. "They show up when I perform, and I just go out there and give it my all."

IF YOU GO

- **What:** Flo Rida, with Too Hype Crew opening
- **Where:** Back Waters Stage, Q Casino, 1855 Greyhound Park Rd., Dubuque
- **When:** 7:30 p.m. Saturday
- **Tickets:** \$49.99 and \$69.99; backwatersstage.com/events/flo-rida/



Miami native and hip-hop artist Flo Rida is coming to the Back Waters Stage at Dubuque's Q Casino on Saturday night. (Flo Rida)

COMING ATTRACTIONS

NOW ON SALE

- Gizzae:** May 26, CSPA Hall, Cedar Rapids, \$25-\$30
For the Love of It: Insomnia: May 26, Englert Theatre, Iowa City, \$34.50-\$51
Liverpool Legends: Beatles Experience: June 2, Englert Theatre, Iowa City, \$45-\$65
Buckcherry: June 2, Q Showroom, Q Casino, Dubuque, \$35-\$40
Orchestra Iowa: Branford Marsalis Quartet: June 3, Paramount Theatre, Cedar Rapids, free to \$69
Marcus King: June 3, McGrath Amphitheatre, Cedar Rapids, \$42.50-\$72.50
Pork Tornadoes: June 3, Back Waters Stage, Q Casino, Dubuque, \$20
The World Famous Glenn Miller Orchestra: June 8, Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, \$25-\$30
Rival Sons: June 13, Club 5 at Alliant Energy PowerHouse, Cedar Rapids, \$32.50-\$35
James McMurtry: June 14, Englert Theatre, Iowa City, \$15-\$20
Beatles vs. Stones: June 17, Paramount Theatre, Cedar Rapids, \$38-\$78
Nick Swardson: June 17, Riverside Casino Event Center, Riverside, \$28.50-\$48.50
The Avett Brothers: June 22, Alliant Energy PowerHouse, Cedar Rapids, \$45-\$99
Cedar Rapids Opera: "Gianni Schicchi" & "American Gothic": June 22 to 24, Brucemore, Cedar Rapids, \$15-\$30
Billy Currington: June 23, McGrath Amphitheatre, Cedar Rapids, \$35-\$99
Goran Ivanovic & Fareed Haque: June 23, Englert Theatre, Iowa City, \$20-\$30
3 Doors Down: June 23, Backwaters Stage, Q Casino, Dubuque, \$54.99-\$175 VIP

- Lyle Lovett and His Large Band:** June 25, Hancher Auditorium, Iowa City, \$25-\$85
Mat Kearney: June 27, Englert Theatre, Iowa City, \$20-\$89.50
Jo Dee Messina with Drew Parker: June 30, Linn County Fair Grandstand, Central City, \$30 to \$100 VIP, plus \$5 gate
The Revivalists & The Head and The Heart: July 3, McGrath Amphitheatre, Cedar Rapids, \$41-\$101
Falling in Reverse: July 8, Alliant Energy PowerHouse, Cedar Rapids, \$39.50 to \$99
Booker T. Jones: July 9, Englert Theatre, Iowa City, \$20-\$42.50
Bela Fleck: July 11, Englert Theatre, Iowa City, \$60-\$84.50
Darius Rucker: July 13, Back Waters Stage, Q Casino, Dubuque, \$69.99-\$265 VIP
Dream Theater's Dreamsonic, with Devin Townsend & Animals as Leaders: July 13, Alliant Energy PowerHouse, Cedar Rapids, \$39.50-\$124.50
Rescheduled: Seinfeld Live: July 14, Paramount Theatre, Cedar Rapids, \$67.50-\$165
Little Feat: July 18, McGrath Amphitheatre, Cedar Rapids, \$39-\$89
Totally Tubular 80s Party with A Flock of Seagulls: July 19, McGrath Amphitheatre, Cedar Rapids, \$25-\$45
The Little Mermen: July 20, Englert Theatre, Iowa City, free-\$20
Shinedown: July 20, Great Jones County Fair, Monticello, \$56
Granger Smith: July 21, McGrath Amphitheatre, Cedar Rapids, \$33.50-\$60.50
Pitbull: July 21, Great Jones County Fair, Monticello, \$75
Jon Pardi with Russell Dickerson: July 22, Great Jones County Fair, Monticello, \$56
The Wilder Blue: July 22, The James Theater, Iowa City, \$15



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Grounds for growth

Coffee Emporium opens Tiffin cafe

By Elijah Decious, The Gazette

TIFFIN — A growing, locally-owned coffee empire has opened its third location in Johnson County.

Since coming under new ownership with Abby Ochs, Coffee Emporium has left Cedar Rapids and taken on a life of its own in Johnson County.

In less than two years, the brand has opened a new location in Coralville's Iowa River Landing, sold the original downtown Cedar Rapids location first opened in 1991, and taken over High Ground Cafe in Iowa City.

Now, it's opening a new site with new features in a new city.

FIRST DRIVE-THRU

With the first three locations, Coffee Emporium's model has relied on pedestrian traffic in downtown Cedar Rapids, Coralville's Iowa River Landing and Iowa City. But with its new Tiffin location in a mostly residential area, its first drive-thru will come in handy.

"For a local brand, it sets us up to compete with the Starbucks of the world," Ochs said. "We're in Iowa and winter is cold. It was something for convenience purposes on the way to drop off the kids, on the way to work."

With 2,600 square feet of space inside and seating for 28, the new coffee shop is larger than the Coralville cafe but slightly smaller than the Iowa City site. The full new kitchen in Tiffin will prepare baked goods for the other locations.

It's a slightly more upscale version of the Coralville site, which Ochs modeled after European cafes.

Ochs anticipates a different clientele at the new site as developers continue to build up the area. In addition to new developments and rapid growth in the Tiffin area, Coffee Emporium's agreement with developers includes exclusivity rights for coffee shops within a mile of the location.

WHAT'S ON THE MENU?

Coffee Emporium's menu in Tiffin mirrors its other two locations from food and coffee down to the cocktails. But over time, the fast-growing cafe menu has evolved.

Customizable breakfast sandwiches with sourdough bread, egg, house aioli and cheese are the star of the morning menu. For lunch, diners can quickly get a pressed panini in several varieties: BLT grilled cheese, turkey bacon ranch, ham and cheese, grilled cheese or veggie grilled cheese.

If you need something a little stronger than coffee at lunch or after work, a rotating selection of five seasonally appropriate cocktails keeps things fresh.

Monster Coolers, a new energy drink trending in drink shops around the country, have also been added to the menu in a variety of fruity flavors.



The newest Coffee Emporium location in Tiffin offers a variety of drinks and food options, as well as a drive-thru. (Savannah Blake photos/The Gazette)



Employee Bethany Kasperek steams milk for a latte on May 18 at the Coffee Emporium in Tiffin.



A latte with a fancy swirl at the Coffee Emporium in Tiffin.

MORE GROWTH SCHEDULED

After selling their Cedar Rapids location, taking over an Iowa City location and opening the new Tiffin location all in a matter of months this spring, Coffee Emporium is eyeing one more location.

It's come a long way from the owner's purchase of the Cedar Rapids location in February 2021, when Ochs thought Coffee Emporium would be a "one and done."

The next one in North Liberty, scheduled to open this



Employee Payton Wubben prepares the garden sandwich at the Coffee Emporium in Tiffin on May 18.

fall, will complete a quadrant around Johnson County. After that, the brand plans to slow growth to ensure sustainability — key among which is the

local chain's company culture. "What's important to me is we keep a good team culture. As long as the team is still feeling good, and we're able to

IF YOU GO

- **What:** Coffee Emporium
- **Where:** 1100 Andersen Place, Unit 500, Tiffin
- **Hours:** 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday; 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday
- **Phone:** (319) 626-2272
- **Website:** coffeeemporiumia.com
- **Details:** Customizable breakfast sandwiches and hot lunch panini join coffee and cocktails. Drive-thru, carryout and dine-in available.



This pretty caramel macchiato is among the offerings at the Coffee Emporium in Tiffin.

maintain that company culture, I'm all for continuing to expand," Ochs said.

Along the way, plans for an uptown Marion location and southwest Cedar Rapids location — initially expected to be finished this summer — fell through, prompting the brand to realign its vision with a focus on Johnson County rather than the Corridor as a whole.

"It's evolved in the best ways possible. We've gotten a lot less scrappy," Ochs said. "We have a clean menu, consistency. But I don't think it's done evolving."

Comments: (319) 398-8340; elijah.decious@thegazette.com

MUSIC

Orchestra Iowa to dedicate sculpture

CEDAR RAPIDS — The public is invited to see and hear "Sound-Wave," Orchestra Iowa's new interactive, musical art sculpture, during a dedication ceremony from noon to 2 p.m. June 3 at its new home in front of the orchestra's administrative offices at 119 Third Ave. SE.

Local artists John Schwartzkopf and Dale Merrill designed and created the piece, measuring 20 feet long and crafted with environmentally

friendly products and materials.

Taking inspiration for accessibility and encouraging spontaneous play in the downtown community, while also honoring Orchestra Iowa's long-serving musicians during its first century, this sculpture celebrates the past and encourages the future of music and creativity.

The free event will feature a formal dedication, as well as live demonstrations of how the instrument functions, how to play it, and the technology behind the music.

The celebration also includes music, refreshments and kid-friendly activities.

Orchestra Iowa staff and board members worked in partnership with the Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance and Murals & More for this Centennial Season project.

Coming soon to Codfish Hollow

MAQUOKETA — David Huckfelt & The Unarmed Forces, with Elizabeth Moen and Chris Porterfield will

launch June's concerts at Codfish Hollow Barnstormers, 5013 288th Ave. The event runs from 8 to 11 p.m. June 3. Tickets: \$30 in advance, \$35 day of show.

June 10: Them Coulee Boys, Humbird and Long Mama, 8 p.m., \$30 in advance, \$35 day of show

June 19: Wilderado, 8 p.m., \$25 in advance, \$30 day of show

June 22: Charlie Parr, 8 p.m., \$25 in advance, \$30 day of show

June 24: Deer Tick and Country Westerns, sold out

June 25: Mike and The Moonpies with Brit Taylor, 8 p.m., \$30 in advance, \$35 day of show

Tickets for all shows are available at codfishhollowbarnstormers.com.

Glenn Miller group back to Coralville

CORALVILLE — Get ready to swing when The World Famous Glenn Miller Orchestra returns to the Coralville Center for the Performing Arts, 1301 Fifth St., at 7 p.m. June 8.

The present ensemble

was formed in 1956 and has been touring consistently since, playing an average of 300 live dates a year all around the world.

Now under the direction of Erik Stabnau, the band is known for such 1930s and '40s classics as "Little Brown Jug," "Moonlight Serenade," "In the Mood," "Tuxedo Junction," "Pennsylvania 6-5000," "Chattanooga Choo Choo" and "A String of Pearls."

Tickets are \$25 to \$30 at coralvillearts.org/27/See-a-Show.

HOOPLA

Right where he needs to be

Gary Allan, heading to C.R. and happy to be back on tour

By Bill Forman, Last Word Features

After his 2013 album "Set You Free" debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 chart, Gary Allan should have had it easy. And by all appearances, he would.

The album's first single, "Every Storm (Runs Out of Rain)," sold 2 million copies, topped the country charts, and earned the admiration of Maya Angelou.

"There's a country song out now which I wish I'd written, that says, 'Every storm runs out of rain,'" Angelou, the celebrated poet and civil rights activist told an interviewer. "I'd make a sign of that if I were you. Put that on your writing pad. No matter how dull and seemingly unpromising life is right now, it's going to change. It's going to be better. But you have to keep working."

Meanwhile, Allan kept the momentum going with two more country hits, "Pieces" and "It Ain't the Whiskey."

"After two uplifting singles, Gary Allan has become the dark, heart-broken and wretched singer his fans have loved for over a decade," enthused "Taste of Country" reviewer Billy Dukes in his review of "It Ain't the Whiskey." A truly heartbreaking ballad set in an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, the song remains a staple of Allan's live set.

All in all, it was a watershed year for a musician who'd spent his early years playing Texas venues such as Fort Worth's Billy Bob's ("The World's Largest Honky-tonk"), Cowboys Arlington ("A REAL Texas honky-tonk") and Clute's family-friendly Great Texas Mosquito Festival. Allan would spend the next year and a half out on the road promoting the album and, when time allowed, recording the next one.

ROCKY ROAD

By 2015, Allan was back on country radio with "Hangover Tonight." During interviews, he talked about the new single and a forthcoming album, tentatively titled "The Hard Way," which he'd just finished recording. But while the artist was talking to the press, his label was having second thoughts.

True, Allan had made a lot of money for MCA Nashville over the previous decade, releasing a half-dozen top 5 country albums, a string of hit singles ("Right Where I Need to Be," "Watching Airplanes," "Nothing On but the Radio," the list goes on), and selling upward of 10 million records. But the label also knew that corporate-controlled "country" radio stations were no longer keen on artists who drew musical inspiration from the Bakersfield sound of Merle Haggard and Buck Owens.

So MCA did what many other bottom-line-driven labels were doing at the time. They told Allan they didn't hear a hit and sent him back to the drawing board.

COMEBACK

All of which resulted in an eight-year gap between "Set You Free" and its country-rock follow-up, "Ruthless,"



Country singer Gary Allan is happy to be back on the road, swinging through the McGrath Amphitheatre in Cedar Rapids on Sunday night, with fellow country hitmaker Tracy Lawrence. (Eric Adkins)

released in June 2021. "Ruthless" reunites Allan with several of the musicians who appeared on his 1999 "Smoke Rings in the Dark" album, as well as producers Mark Wright and Tony Brown, who helped define the sound of '90s country with a list of clients that included Brooks & Dunn, Trisha Yearwood, Lee Ann Womack and Martina McBride.

(Brown also is famous for playing piano for Elvis Presley, whose mid-period singles "Suspicious Minds" and "Burnin' Love" had the sound Allan was aiming for on the album's title track.)

While Allan's label may have been ambivalent, music critics welcomed him back. "Ruthless" is awash with melody, harmony, guitars and pain, everything that is great about country music," raved "Lyric Magazine," while "Rolling Stone" named it one of the best country albums of 2021.

With live venues back open, Allan spent much of last year out on the road, and is continuing to make up for lost time with "Best I Ever Had," a five-song EP of new material that he released in February. He's back on the road, coming to the McGrath Amphitheatre in Cedar Rapids Sunday night along with country hitmaker Tracy Lawrence.

Before his soundcheck for a recent headlining show at Missouri's Black River Coliseum, Allan took time out to talk about whitewashed country music, quarantining on a yacht, and the art of being ruthless.

Q. You spent the second half of 2021 out on the road with your "Ruthless: 25 Years the Hard Way" tour. How different would you say the "Ruthless" album is from what would have been "The Hard Way"?

A. Oh, I would say only four songs made it from that. I'd finished it, and the record label said they didn't hear a single. And yeah, now all you can do is say, "OK, I'll go find more songs." So that happened to me twice. And after a five-year or six-year period, I finally had to go in and talk to the label and say, "Look, I don't think we're doing ourselves any good — or doing me any good right now — just by constantly pushing this down the road. Because all it looks like is that I'm not recording music and I'm starving my fans, so we have to put something out whether you guys like

it or not. And that's this "Ruthless" album."

Q. And how much resistance did you get?

A. It's obviously frustrating when you turn in something and they don't hear the things that you hear. So that part was frustrating, when you give them the whole album, and then they say they don't hear a hit. And then there's songs that they're jumping up and down about, and you're like, "Eh, I don't hate it. But if you guys think it'll work, I'll try it." And then it doesn't work and you're like, "Well, that was a waste of time." But we eventually got them to release something.

Q. In years past, I've heard you mention the old music industry truism "You're only as good as your last record," and you seemed kind of resigned to that idea. But your records have never sounded that calculated. How do you walk that line?

A. To me, I just try to find songs that I love, and that's the continuity. I mean, I second-guessed myself a little bit with "Hangover Tonight." They just kept saying you have to do something that sounds more like what's happening on the radio today. But I tried not to do that, especially with "Ruthless." And I for sure won't do that in the future, because I think I've recognized that as a mistake.

Q. One of the songs that didn't survive the journey from "The Hard Way" to "Ruthless" was the single "Mess Me Up," which has some really dark lyrics ("Twist that knife / Come on make it hurt / Make me go out in a field / Light a fire and just watch it burn") which may explain why it didn't get much traction on country radio. Were you at all tempted to include it on this album, or did the lyric seem too dark at a time when people were 18 months into a pandemic?

A. No, I don't think that had anything to do with it. To me, if it didn't work as a single, why put it on the record? It just gives me more space to put on something else, in my eyes.

Q. You mentioned in a recent Rolling Stone interview that you've been listening a lot to Gram Parsons' "Return of the Grievous Angel," which has that great verse about The King (Elvis Presley) wanting to put down his amphetamine crown, unbuckle the Bible Belt,

and head out on the road with "the truckers and kickers and cowboy angels" to find a good saloon in every town. Which sounds like the image a lot of us have of country music back in days past — without the amphetamines, of course. Do you miss that — or miss what was left of it when you started out?

A. I do. I think that was the glory of country music. And I think it's been slowly whitewashed in every sense. To me, country music was about Monday through Friday. And pop was about the weekends. And now it seems like it's

just all about the weekends and, you know, pickup trucks and beer.

Q. How long did you go without touring?

A. 462 days, not that I was counting.

Q. It seems like you've changed up your set list this year. Is that true?

A. Yeah. You know, I would always like to go out and play all brand-new songs. But every time we do it, we realize the fans want to sing along with the hits. So that's most of the set list we're strapped to. I think we put five new ones in there that are off the new record,

IF YOU GO

- **What:** Gary Allan & Tracy Lawrence
- **Where:** McGrath Amphitheatre, 475 First St. SW, Cedar Rapids
- **When:** 7 p.m. Sunday
- **Tickets:** \$46 to \$126, creventsllive.com/events/2023/gary-allan-tracy-lawrence
- **Artist's website:** garyallan.com

"Ruthless." **Q.** Back during the height of the pandemic, you were down in the Dominican Republic and refused to come back until there was a COVID vaccine. Why was that? It seems like there would have been the same risk everywhere.

A. We were on a boat, so no. It was me and my fiancée, and one of my best friends and his wife, on a 100-foot yacht, towing the fishing boats.

Q. So what's that like?

A. It was a bucket-list thing for me. I have a buddy that bought a really nice yacht, and he was trying to get me to go down there from the beginning of the pandemic, and I was a little afraid to fly. But when I did go down, it was awesome. At first I thought, "Wow, this is a lot of sitting around in isolation." But by the end of it, I had sunk into a routine and thought, "You know what? I could do nothing for the rest of my life and be happy." But it feels good to get back out here working again.



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Broad side-by-side brush strokes are the hallmark of this self-portrait by 19th century Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh. Several self-portraits are included in "Beyond Van Gogh: The Immersive Experience," on view through July 20 at Davenport's RiverCenter. (Paquin Entertainment Group photos)

Van Gogh/Feel his paintings' energy

► FROM PAGE 1C

it's very seamless," she said. "... There's a progression to his work. You really go on a journey. You can set foot in that room at any moment, and you'll be part of it."

The exhibition requires 30,000 square feet and changes according to the configuration of each venue.

The entire experience takes about an hour. With timed entries every 15 minutes, viewers won't be packed shoulder to shoulder.

"You're never in a crowded space where you feel like you can't enjoy the projections around you," Curtat said.

It also appeals to all ages, she noted, and has a soundtrack spanning the decades, further bridging past and present.

"It's great for kids because they keep running around. They follow the brush strokes, they're twirling around the petals. There's something very playful and very dreamlike about this way of experiencing things. And so for people who might be intimidated by museums, this might be a great introduction," she said.

"But my hope is that with an experience like this, they'll develop a connection to van Gogh, and maybe (he) next time they have a chance to go see an original on a museum wall, they'll be curious about that, as well.

"These experiences are not meant to replace a museum experience. There's nothing like an original," Curtat explained. "It's really about enhancing. It's about bringing more ..."

FROM THE BEGINNING

Produced by Paquin Entertainment Group, headquartered in Canada, "Beyond Van Gogh" has sold more than 5 million tickets globally, and typically sells out in each stop.

The project is the brainchild of creative director Mathieu St-Arnaud and his team at Montreal's Normal Studio. They're the experts on the digital aspects, Curtat said. She was brought on board to provide the artistic expertise on van



Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh found healing beauty in nature, often capturing the essence of flowers in his artwork. "Sunflowers are definitely his flowers," art historian Fanny Curtat said.

Gogh, a Post-Impressionist painter born in the Netherlands in 1853, who lived and worked in France until his death in 1890.

"He revolutionized painting because he connected the dots between Impressionism and Expressionism," Curtat said. "(He) went about his style and his painting with a true passion that wanted to forgo any classical training that was happening in France at that time.

"(He) wanted to make art for generations to come. He wanted to catch an energy. It's not about painting what he saw, so much as what he perceived. It's a painter of emotion. It's a painter of energy. And that's really what we should remember about him."

The project team "knew of him of course," Curtat said. "They were fascinated by his work, but they needed help to pinpoint which works were important; what story we could tell; how is it still relevant; how these very much contemporary tools could help retell the story to a wider audience ... And so the idea was really to dig deeper into the history side of things."

The result was a collaboration between the artistic director, lead motion designer and Curtat, "to really find this common ground between this wealth of knowledge that we have from van Gogh, because he's so widely popular," she said.

A prolific letter writer

as well as painter, the Dutch-born van Gogh left a rich legacy of written words and artistic works, so it was up to the exhibition designers to use their tools to tell the story.

It was a quick six-month project which fell during the pandemic, when the team members were working from home, communicating online. That level of anxiety figured into the process as well as the finished product, which debuted April 15, 2021, in Miami.

"Here's an artist who is famous for going through crisis upon crisis in his life, and yet can find beauty in the most minute details around him — a pair of boots by the door, a bag of onions on the table — things about his day-to-day life that were so beautiful and poetic," Curtat said.

That mirrored what the designers were doing, she noted, "as we were cooped up in our own bedrooms and offices and at home. And it became very clear that he was incredibly relevant because of that, because there's a real power in this idea of transcending the ordinary into something incredibly beautiful into something extraordinary.

"These lessons that van Gogh had about the power of color, the power of nature, the healing quality of nature, and all of these things that are part of his work. And that became even more relevant with everything

we were going through, so it was a really interesting creative process."

RECURRING THEMES

The exhibition is bursting with sunflowers, one of van Gogh's favorite subjects.

"Sunflowers are definitely his flowers," Curtat said. "There's something rough about them, a little bit rustic, which he appreciated. But they are also a good example of his way of thinking about colors.

"The sunflower turns toward the sun, so it's the flower of gratitude. It's the flower of gratefulness. By extension, yellow becomes this color of life and this color of gratitude. He thought about color very much symbolically. He used a lot of blues and yellows, because he used a lot of complementary colors.

"The colors really do the work for him, the way he puts them side by side and not really blending them. He uses color dynamics to create this energy on the surface. The colors are sort of fighting themselves, interacting between themselves, and that creates a lot of tension, a lot of movement on his pieces.

"So that's why pretty much anybody, even if they don't know a lot about him, will be able to identify a painting of his, because there's something so unique about his style," she said.

"Starry Night" has been the star of the show. "That has got to be not only his most famous



Art historian Fanny Curtat of Montreal brought her perspective to "Beyond Van Gogh: The Immersive Experience," which debuted in Miami on April 15, 2021, and is on view now in Davenport.



Scale is part of the intrigue of "Beyond Van Gogh: The Immersive Experience," according to Fanny Curtat, art historian for the project.

painting, but one of the most famous artworks in the world, period," Curtat said. "Not a lot of artwork rival with that level of (acclaim), so that's mainly what people expect — and rightly so. It is stunning.

"There's an energy to that painting that you remember before anything else of it. People don't remember the village that's in the bottom of it. They remember this swirling sky, this energy, this movement, so people really do connect with it for a reason."

Other conversations swirl around what she calls "the ear-cutting incident," in which the troubled artist cut off his left ear with a razor, after a heated argument with Paul Gauguin, who declared he was moving out of their shared quarters.

Van Gogh lost so much blood that he nearly died. "It scared him, and he walked himself to an asylum to get help," Curtat said, noting that he developed an infection that hampered his

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recovery.

"But there is so much more to him," she said, and that "Starry Night," along with "everything else he's done, exemplifies that."

"He's known for the darkness in his life. And yet, when you look at his work, what you remember ... is the light. It's the power, it's the energy, it's a life-force, almost. And so that's really what we wanted to do with this show. It's called 'Beyond Van Gogh' because it's really about going beyond this legend of his," she said.

"There is nothing to deny about the darkness that he's been through. He's been through a lot and that's undeniable. But to reduce his work and his life to the lowest point of his life ... that's not what his work was about.

"His work is not about the darkness. It's not a mirror of darkness — it's ways of getting out of it. It's about healing. It's about changing. It's about appreciation of life, and life and beauty, and power and healing," Curtat said.

HOOPLA

THEATER

CONTINUING

SPONGEBOB MUSICAL

To Sunday, Theatre Cedar Rapids

When the citizens of Bikini Bottom discover that a volcano will destroy their humble home, SpongeBob and friends come together to save their undersea world.

Where: Theatre Cedar Rapids, 102 Third St. SE. **When:** 7:30 p.m. today to Saturday; 2:30 p.m. Sunday. **Tickets:** \$15 to \$48. TCR Box Office, (319) 366-8591 or theatrecr.org/event/the-spongebob-musical/2023-05-05

UPCOMING

HONK

June 2 to 11, Revival Theatre, Cedar Rapids

Ugly looks quite a bit different from his duckling brothers and sisters. The other animals on the farm are quick to point this out, despite his mother's protective flapping. Feeling rather foul about himself, the little fowl finds himself on an adventure of self-discovery, all the while unknowingly outwitting a hungry Cat. Along the way, Ugly meets a flock of unique characters and finds out that being different is not so bad. **Where:** CSPS Hall, 1103 Third St. SE, Cedar Rapids. **When:** June 2 to 4 and 9 to 11; 7:30 p.m. Friday, Saturday; 2:30 p.m. Sunday. **Tickets:** \$25 to \$55. revivaltheatrecompany.com/shows/honk

PLAZA SUITE

June 9 to 25, Giving Tree Theater, Marion
Neil Simon's portrait



Patrick Star (James Odegaard, center) becomes a star among some of the residents of Bikini Bottom who are entranced by his wisdom as a crisis looms in the undersea world of "The SpongeBob Musical." The color-drenched show ends its run this weekend at Theatre Cedar Rapids. (Farrar Design Studios)

of three couples successively occupying a suite at the Plaza. First, a suburban couple stay there while their house is being painted. It turns out to be the one in which they honeymooned 23 (or was it 24?) years before and was yesterday the anniversary, or is it today? This wry tale of marriage in tatters is followed by the exploits of a Hollywood producer who, after three marriages, is looking for fresh fields. He calls a childhood sweetheart, now a sub-

urban housewife, for a little physical diversion. Over the years she has idolized him from afar and is now more than the match he bargained for. The third couple is a mother and father fighting about the best way to get their daughter out of the bathroom and down to the ballroom where guests await her — or as Mother yells, "I want you to come out of that bathroom and get married!" **Where:** Giving Tree Theater, 752 10th St., Marion. **When:** June 9 to 25; 7:30 p.m. Friday, Saturday;

2 p.m. Sunday. **Tickets:** \$25. givingtreetheater.com

TWELFTH NIGHT

June 16 to July 2, Riverside Festival Stage, Iowa City

After losing her twin brother in a shipwreck, Viola washes onto the shores of Illyria: a idyllic dukedom full of revelry and music. Viola hatches a plan to survive on her own, disguising herself as a young gentleman in the court of Duke Orsino. Soon she is caught up in a storm of romance,

antics, revenge and mistaken identity. Shakespeare's classic play is populated by a raucous band of Illyrians in a resort paradise. **Where:** Riverside Festival Stage, Lower City Park, 200 Park Rd., Iowa City. **When:** Jun 16 to July 2; 7:30 p.m. Thursday to Sunday. **Admission:** Free, no reservations needed. **Information:** riversidetheatre.org/12night/

CHARLIE AND THE WOLF
June 18 and 19, Cedar Rapids Opera

Juneteenth public world premiere of an opera composed by Dave Ragland Jr., with lyrics by Mary McCallum. Schoolkid Logan gets the surprise of her life when music class is suddenly interrupted by jazz saxophonist Charlie Parker and classical composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. The story reminds us we all play with the same notes — we just interpret them differently. This production can serve as an introduction to opera for all ages, and entertain opera veterans, as well. **Run time:** 40 minutes. **Iowa City:** 1 p.m. June 18, Englert Theatre, 221 E. Washington St. **Cedar Rapids:** 1 p.m. June 19, Whipple Auditorium, Cedar Rapids Public Library, 450 Fifth Ave. SE. **Admission:** Free. **Details:** cropera.org/juneteenth-2023

GIANNI SCHICCHI & AMERICAN GOTHICAL

June 22 to 24, Cedar Rapids Opera

Impostors and high jinks abound in Puccini's one-act farce, "Gianni Schicchi," sung in English. After intermission, Robert Lindsey-Nassif's "American Gothical" takes the stage as a love letter to one of Iowa's most famous paintings. **Where:** BruceMorse's Peggy Boyle Whitworth Amphitheatre, 2160 Linden Dr. SE, Cedar Rapids. **When:** 7:30 p.m. June 22 to 24, rain date June 25. **Tickets:** \$30 adults, \$15 students; cropera.org/giannischicchi-american-gothical

ART/EXHIBITS

CONTINUING

CAMPBELL STEELE GALLERY

1064 Seventh Ave., Marion
Weets & Steele Botanicals: This marks the first time these artists have presented their art in a unified gallery setting. While Barbara A. Weets implements a non-traditional use of watercolor, her paintings reflect a strong appreciation for the natural world. Priscilla Steele is a scenic designer and painter, a furniture designer, and a drawer and printmaker. To May 27. Hours: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. today; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Saturday.

CEDAR RAPIDS MUSEUM OF ART

410 Third Ave. SE, Cedar Rapids; crma.org

Overalls: Grant Wood's Depictions of Denim: Grant Wood is well-known for appearing in his working uniform, overalls. Made of denim, they were not only a great working outfit but also referenced his youth growing up on a farm. But overalls were used for far more than farming, and depictions of overalls, denim and jeans appear frequently in his work. To Aug. 27.

Chunghi Choo: Visionary: A celebration of the work of Chunghi

Choo, a jewelry maker and metal-smith from Incheon, South Korea, who taught jewelry making and metal-smithing at the University of Iowa from 1968 to 2015. To Oct. 8.

CSPS HALL

1103 Third St. SE, Cedar Rapids; cspshall.org/exhibits

Good Business: An Iowa Pop Art Exhibition: "Being good in business is the most fascinating kind of art. Making money is art and working is art and good business is the best art." — Andy Warhol. This exhibition, curated by the artist collective known as Iowa Pop Art in collaboration with CSPS, features work that embraces and pushes against this premise put forth by Andy Warhol. To June 16.

HERBERT HOOVER PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

210 Parkside Dr., West Branch; hoover.archives.gov/special-exhibits-summer

Exquisite Miniatures by Wes and Rachelle Siegrist: These miniature paintings, with many measuring less than 9 square inches, are designed for visitors to take an up-close look under a magnifying glass, revealing even more detail. The ex-

hibit features 50 signature paintings including landscapes, portraits, still lifes, wildlife and more, connecting the "Great Humanitarian" former president and his wife to an appreciation for arts and the natural world. To Sept. 24.

NATIONAL CZECH & SLOVAK MUSEUM & LIBRARY

1400 Inspiration Pl. SW, Cedar Rapids; ncsm.org

folkjord: The brainchild of Barney Studio in Bratislava, Slovakia, it grew out of a love for traveling, art, food, and Slovaks and Czechs living abroad. These prints celebrate the similarities of major known or unknown sights in Slovakia and the Czech Republic, to places around the world, including Cedar Rapids. Skala Bartizal Library, to Aug. 13.

Moravian Folk Motifs: Seventeen painters from across Moravia have created a gallery of large folk motifs that showcase their signature styles. These mosaics of decorative paintings represent five regions of Slovaccko (Podluai, Kyjovske Dolnacko, Straznicke Dolnacko, Uherskohradistske Dolnacko, Hornacko) and form an educational trail through Moravia. Anderson Gallery, to Aug. 27.



This print, "30 years of Czech and Slovak Independent States, 1993-2023," is among the works in the "folkjord" exhibition, on view through Aug. 13 at the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in Cedar Rapids. The prints, from the Barney Studio in Slovakia, show the similarities between sights in Slovakia and the Czech Republic with places around the world, including Cedar Rapids. (The Barney Studio)

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Festivals kicking off summer

Here's a glance at May and June festivals around Eastern Iowa:

MAY

May 25: Taste of Lansing, 274 Main St., Lansing. Food festival in downtown Lansing. allamakeecounty.com/events/taste-of-lansing

May 27 & 28: Bentonsport Flea Market & Craft Show, Bentonsport Historic District, 21964 Hawk Dr., Bentonsport. Antiques, crafts, food, covered wagon rides and more. villagesofvanburen.com/calendar.html

May 27 to 29 and June 3 and 4: Spring Iowa Renaissance Festival, Middle Amana Community Park, 801 27th Ave, Middle Amana. Comedy, swordplay, music, magic, horseback jousting, marketplace, food and drink. iowarenfest.com

JUNE

June 1-3: Manchester River Days, 200 E. Main St., Manchester. Food, vendors, music, 5K run, float parade and more. manchesteriowa.org/events/manchester-river-days/

June 3: Marion Kiwanis BBQ Rendezvous, 11 a.m., Lowe Park, 4500 N. 10th St., Marion. Food vendors, live music, kids activities; free admission.

June 2-4: St. Joseph Fun Days, St. Joseph Church, 1790 14th St., Marion. Carnival rides, kids games, fun run and 5K race, live music, games, country store, food, adult beverage tent and more. Free admission. stjosephfundays.org/

June 2-4: Iowa Arts Festival, downtown Iowa City. Downtown. Local and national artists, food, kids' activities, local and national musicians; free admission. summerofthearts.org/

June 2-4: Denmark Heritage Days, Denmark. Custom



A child reaches up to try to pop the bubbles blown by Blithe the fairy — Rachael Autera of Council Bluffs — during the 2022 Iowa Renaissance Fair in Middle Amana. This year's spring festival will be held May 27-29 and June 3-4 in Middle Amana Community Park. (Savannah Blake/The Gazette)

cars and pickups, gas engines, antique tractors, music, yard sales, food, 1 p.m. tractor parade Saturday and Sunday, games. denmarkheritagedays.com/

June 3 and July 22: Colonies in Bloom, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Amana Colonies. self-guided garden tour, with printed maps of locations; Garden Party to follow. amanacolony.com/things-to-do/events/themed-weekends/colonies-in-bloom/

June 3: Iowa Craft Brew Festival, Lauridsen Amphitheater at Water Works Park, 2201 George Flagg Pkwy., Des Moines. Iowa's largest brewing festival features craft beer and cider, food trucks, live

music. iowabeer.org/icbf
June 9 & July 14: Downtown Summer Nights, First Avenue, Dyersville. Music, games and cold beverages. dyersville.org/events/

June 9-11: Farmington Strawberry Festival, South Front Street, Farmington. Rides, games, live entertainment, vendors and more in downtown Farmington. villagesofvanburen.com/calendar.html

June 10-17: Juneteenth events, organized by the African American Museum of Iowa, Cedar Rapids. Events in various metro-area locations; including Juneteenth Commemoration with live performances June 17 at NewBo City Market, 1100 Third St. SE,

Cedar Rapids. blackiowa.org/events/juneteenth/

June 14-July 4: Cedar Rapids Freedom Festival, various sites around Cedar Rapids. Tribute to Heroes, Balloon Glow, DockDogs, 10 a.m. parade June 24, movie at the ballpark, music; July 4 pancake breakfast, car show, concert and fireworks. freedomfestival.com/events/

June 16 & 17: Lawler Irish Fest, downtown Lawler. Irish music and dance, classic rock and country bands, kilt contest, food, games, 1 p.m. parade Saturday; admission \$5 per day. lawleririshfest.com/

June 17: Wurst Festival, 622 46th Ave., Amana. Celebrating German sausage-making traditions with food,

games, contests and the Dachshund Derby. amanacolony.com/things-to-do/festivals/wurst-festival/

June 18: Snake Alley Art Fair, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Snake Alley, Sixth and Columbia streets, Burlington. Live music, art, food and kids' activities. btownart.com/snake-alley-art-fair.html

June 23 & 24: Fairfax USA Days, Fairfax. 5K, food, street market, movie in the park, kids' rides, games, Friday street dance, 11:30 a.m. parade Saturday. fireworks 9:30 p.m. Saturday. thebankhere.com/usadays

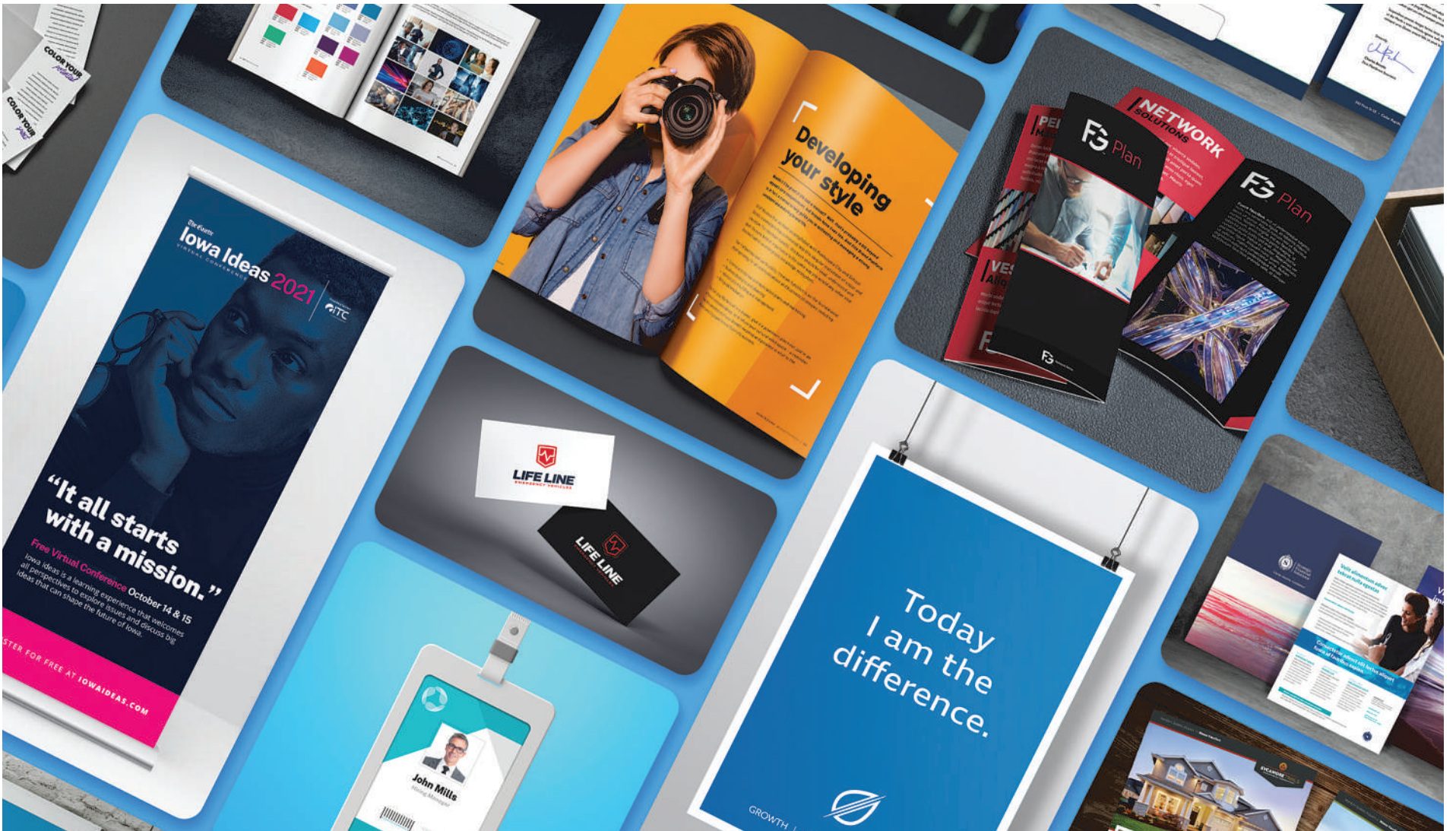
June 23 & 24: TrekFest, Riverside. Theme: Quark's Bar. Games, 10 a.m. Saturday parade, costume contest, "Star Trek" celebrity meet-and-greet with Chase Masterson, Lolita Fatjo and John Paladin, fireworks. trekfest.org/

June 23-25: 25th Annual Des Moines Arts Festival, Western Gateway Park, 1200 Grand Ave., Des Moines. Visual artists, performing artists, live music, and local food and beverage vendors. desmoinesartsfestival.org

June 24: Downtown Iowa City Block Party, 4 to 11 p.m., various sites. Food, music, games, kids' talent show. downtowniowacity.com/events/downtown-block-party/

June 24: Lazy River Beer & Wine Festival, Marquette Riverfront, Marquette. Beer, wine, food and live music on the banks of the Mississippi River. mcgreg-marq.org/events/lazy-river-beer-and-wine-fest-1

June 28-July 2: Linn County Fair, 201 Central City Rd., Central City. With 4-H and FFA exhibits, entertainment, vendors, grandstand music, races and contests. thelinncountyfair.com/



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