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# United Community Bank Offers Good Credit Tips

United Community Bank is encouraging consumers to start the New Year right by establishing good credit habits and financial wellness goals to get on the path to financial prosperity. “Having good credit is key to a strong financial foundation, so it’s important to build a record of responsible credit practices that demonstrate sound money management,” said Seth Vogel, Asst. Vice President at United Community Bank, pictured right. “Remember, it’s much easier to build a credit score than repair a damaged one. United Community Bank is here to help as you embark on your credit journey and help you avoid costly missteps.”



United Community Bank offers the following tips to help consumers build and maintain good credit:

- If you are just beginning to establish your credit history, open a checking account and keep careful track of your balance.
- Use debit and credit cards for convenience and safety, but not to overspend. Missed or late payments damage your credit and hurt your credit score.
- A good mix of credit (such as a revolving credit line and an installment loan) also boosts your credit score and further shows that you can manage different types of credit.
- Demonstrate stability in the three to six months before a major purchase. Avoid opening or closing accounts or moving large amounts of money around.
- Build an emergency fund equal to at least six months of living expenses. If the unexpected happens, you will still be able to pay fixed expenses instead of falling behind.
- Alter your credit focus as you approach different stages in your life. As you near retirement, for example, start paying down major purchases, such as a mortgage.
- Monitor your credit regularly so you can correct any errors and detect any potential signs of identity theft. Order a copy of your credit report annually from [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com).

Established in 1931, United Community Bank is a locally owned community bank with locations in Milford, Okoboji, Hartley, Ocheyedan and Lake Park, Iowa. They pride themselves on serving the needs of their communities, businesses, farmers and citizens with a full range of financial services, while delivering unsurpassed customer service.

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## Okoboji High School Trap Team

The Okoboji High School Trap Team scored 1350 points to win the 2020 Conference Fall Trap League over teams from Maryland, Virginia, and Idaho. During the fall of 2020, over 10,700 athletes participated. This was an increase of a 25% increase over the previous fall. Conferences are determined by team size rather than geographic location for fair competition.

In addition to winning the team trophy, 3 Okoboji individuals won medals. Keegan Kendall won 1st place male (23.4 average), Peyton Hromatko won 3rd place male (22.6 average), and Kylan Green won 3rd place female (19.3 average).

The USA Clay Target League currently has over 35,000 athletes. It started in Minnesota 20 years ago and is now in 26 states. The League is the safest sport in high school and college, with no injuries reported since the inception of the League in 2001. Each athlete must complete the Firearm Safety Certification before their participation.

The Okoboji High School Trap Team spring season will start in March 2021 at Twin Forks Trap and Skeet event.



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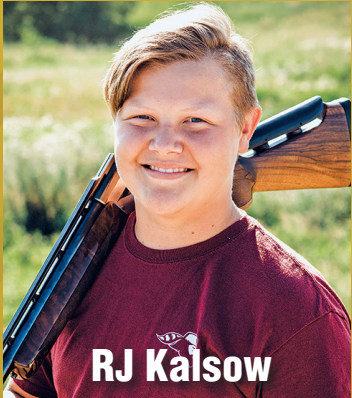
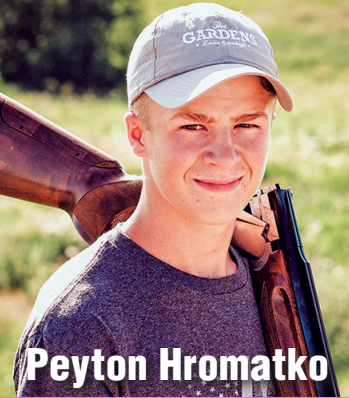
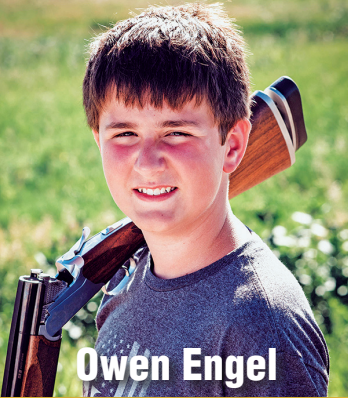
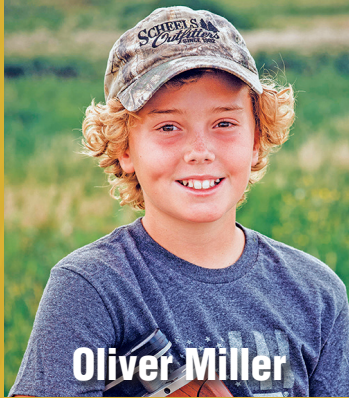
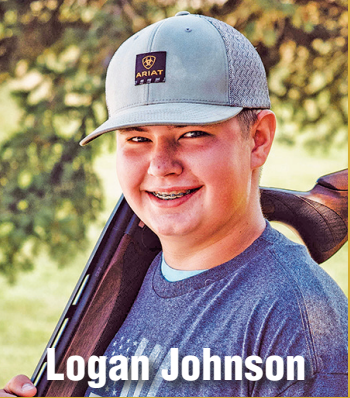
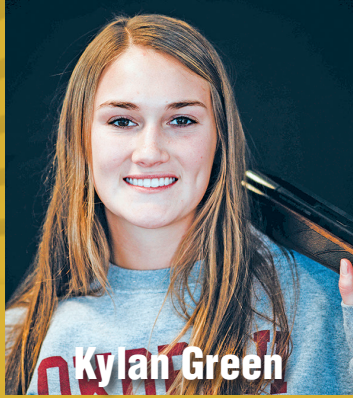
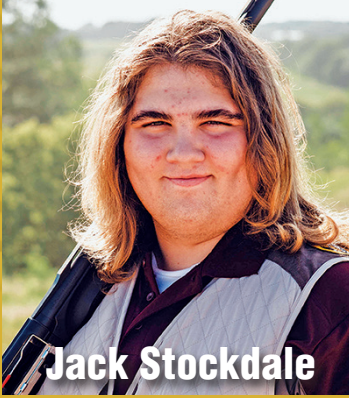
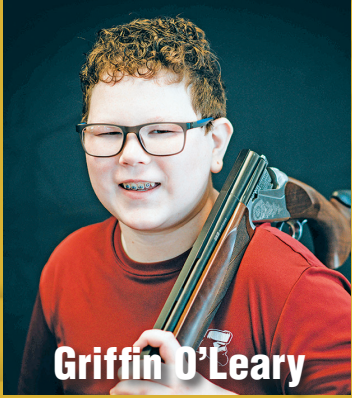
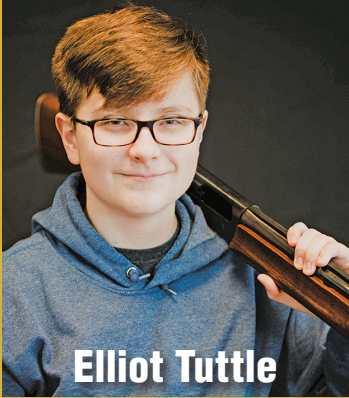
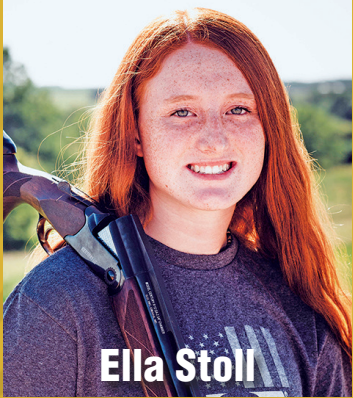
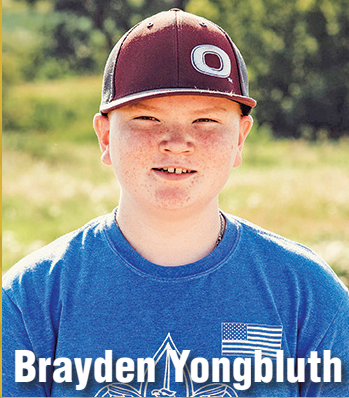
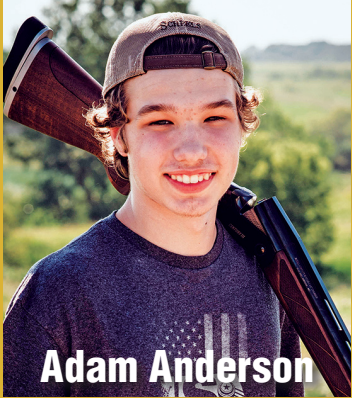
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# OKOBOJI TRAP TEAM



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(23.4 average)

**Peyton Hromatko**  
**3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE MALE**  
(22.6 average)

**Kylan Green**  
**3<sup>RD</sup> PLACE FEMALE**  
(19.3 average)



**1<sup>ST</sup> PLACE TEAM**

**2020 FALL TRAP LEAGUE CONFERENCE 2**



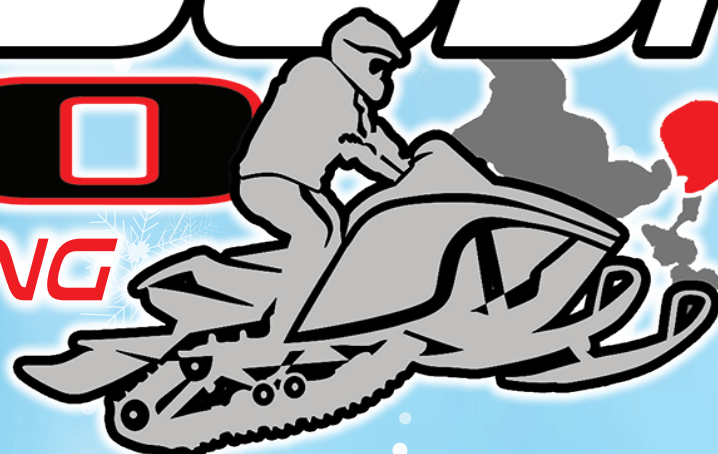
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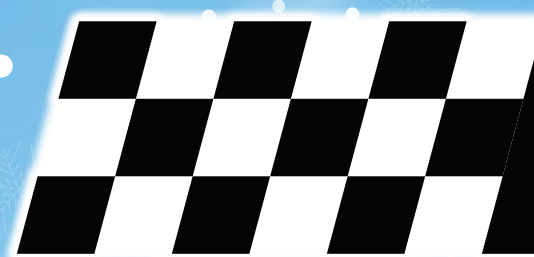
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# Obituaries

**Mary Lou Adams**, 77, of Arnolds Park, passed from this life on January 8, 2021, after a long battle with Parkinson's. It took her body but never touched her love of her dear family, friends, or faith.

Mary was born on May 20, 1943, to Dagne and Frieda Tveidt, and was raised on a dairy farm in Ceylon, Minnesota, with her sister Caroline and brother David. She attended Gustavus Adolphus College and Mankato State, graduating in 1965. She taught third grade in Jackson, Minnesota, where she met John in 1965. They married December 26, 1966, and moved to Flandreau, South Dakota, and then to Milford in 1967. She taught third grade in Flandreau and Spirit Lake before starting her family.

In Milford they happily welcomed three children - Heather (1969), John (1971), and Julie (1972). Mary loved nothing more than being a mom, and she never missed an athletic event or school function. She loved her kids' friends as her own. Above all else she was a wonderful, fun, patient, loving mother.

Mary and John were married 54 years and 14 days. They jointly cherished their family, and together they also started and grew The Lakes News Shopper where Mary performed many roles over the years until her retirement in 2010. If you are reading this she likely took your garage sale ad while also making sure to ask after your family and perhaps offer a bit of advice.

Mary's greatest joy in retirement was her six grandchildren, she was an amazing and engaged grandma who loved celebrating their birthdays, sports victories, and other milestones. She enjoyed moving to Lake Minnewashta in 2000 and spent many afternoons happily watching her grandkids and others swim or fish off the dock. She loved a good game of cards, ice cream, Christmas, sports of all kinds (watching them, not actually sweating herself), baking, snow days, and music. She asked great questions and was a wonderful listener. Mary had a beautiful smile and an infectious laugh, which together with her generous spirit could light up a room.

Mary Lou cherished her brother David and sister Caroline and their families, they were never far from her mind. She also loved spending time with her cousins over the years. Her family and also her faith were the cornerstones of her life. She served on the church council and was very active in church groups at First Lutheran.

Mary's true gift was connecting with people, and she loved her friends and community so deeply. Whether you were a Young Homemaker, a neighbor, a member of her bible study or book club, one of the gals from the office, a friend from First Lutheran, or someone who shared a bleacher with her - you know how much her heart beat for her friendships, and perhaps a good nugget of gossip.

Preceding her in death were her parents Dagne and Frieda Tveidt and sister-in-law Irene Tveidt. Left to cherish her warm and wonderful memory: her husband John; daughter Heather and her husband Brad Dotson of Des Moines; son John and his wife Michelle of Arnolds Park; and daughter Julie of Des Moines; grandchildren Eli, Olivia, and Isaac Dotson; Shaelyn and Tyler Adams; and Mya Adams-Parks; brother David Tveidt; sister Caroline and her husband Richard Simmering; several nieces, nephews, cousins, and other family members; and countless friends.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent to the Mary Adams Memorial Fund at First Lutheran Church, 1525 Three Cross Road, Milford, 51351.

A memorial in Mary's honor will be established to fund an annual bible camp scholarship at Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp.

A full celebration of life memorial service to honor this Christian life well lived will be held at First Lutheran in Milford when we can come together safely this summer.



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I S A A O I R R Y G S M L Z Z U P U L U  
V K U D E M S O W T F D Z S N I U L U D  
I I O F L S G E I D O S Z E P T K C T O  
R S B H O G D M Z H B K U R U I M H I K  
T U S N I I U R T A N S P B T A Z O O U  
E E L I K L B E O S M Y R O M E M D N D  
B F B O A S M J N W E L B M A R C S G E  
F N Y T R Y D S E C N E R E F F I D T H  
S B I B I L R P L T C J C Z P V T N F S  
G N M A R G O T P Y R C H T U S E V V I  
G G C N W P W S V C J M E G O M Y S B L  
C B S R U V S D Y Z A V S M Y S T G J P  
L K R L V O S R D S M Y S O I H S L A M  
J S A A H V O A Y G U I J B F T I F L O  
Y R P B I V R O F U S N Y E S R S T P C  
A I J A B N C B S R E K C E H C L A L C  
I S C T H R F B V Y S K C Y V J S K P A

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

## WORDS

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BRAIN  
CHECKERS  
CHESS  
CLUE  
CROSSWORD  
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# Obituaries

A funeral service for **Earline Blahauvietz**, age 93, of Spirit Lake, was held Saturday, January 9, 2021, at Turner Jenness Funeral Home in Spirit Lake. Burial was at Union Cemetery in Harris, Iowa. A recording of Earline's service can be viewed using a link found at [turnerfuneralhomes.com](http://turnerfuneralhomes.com).

Earline Elsie Benner Blahauvietz, Spirit Lake, was born on June 2, 1927, in Primghar, Iowa, to Earl and Elsie Benner.

She grew up on a farm in Primghar and attended elementary and secondary school graduating from Primghar High School in 1944. In high school she was involved in musical operettas and glee club. After graduating, Earline worked for a year to earn money to go to college. She attended Waldorf College in Forest City, Iowa, for two years and was very active in music (singing and piano) and art classes. Her plan was to teach for two years after college and then return to get her music degree. In 1947, she started dating Donald Hagen from Primghar and her plans changed. She found a teaching position at Calumet High School to be closer to home and was head of the music department there until they married on June 13, 1948. They lived in Primghar and later Hartley. During this time Earline taught piano lessons and had up to 30 students per week. She was also very involved with music directing for the church choirs. Earline and Don had over 25 years of marriage before he passed in January, 1975. During their marriage they built homes, townhouses and apartments which Earline continued to manage as rentals after his death. Having grown up in the depression, Earline learned at an early age to be creatively frugal and to have a very strong work ethic.

Earline became active in BPW and Federated Woman's Club holding offices in both organizations. During her life, she took numerous art classes and worked in a variety of media such as water colors, pencil and oils. Her homes were always filled with her beautiful artwork. Earline worked as Director of Art, Music and Ceramics at Village Northwest Unlimited in Sheldon and later became the Chamber of Commerce Secretary of Hartley. She worked as the Elementary School Principal secretary in Hartley until she was introduced to Wayne Blahauvietz from Harris, Iowa, in 1981. They married December 27 of that year. Earline had always dreamed of having children and with this marriage came the "whole package" as she said: children, grandchildren and later great-grandchildren. They were married for over 38 years before he passed in August 2020. Wayne and Earline lived on the family farm in Harris until 1989 when they moved to their lake home near Crandalls' Beach on Big Spirit. In 2016, they moved to Keelson Harbour in Spirit Lake.

Earline was active in the O-Sirrah Club in Harris, played the piano at the United Methodist Church in Harris and sang in the church choir at Grace Lutheran Church in Spirit Lake. She enjoyed gardening, cooking, attending musical performances, singing, traveling, photography and the Okoboji Summer Theater. She loved living on the lake enjoying the beauty and peacefulness which was often captured in her artwork.

Her family and friends would describe her as a warm, friendly, funny, caring, generous and compassionate person. She was a loving wife and seamlessly fell into her role as step-mom, grandmother and great-grandmother filling a void in the family. She looked forward to family gatherings and especially enjoyed when all the little ones came to see her.

Earline passed away peacefully on Tuesday, January 5, 2021, at her apartment at Keelson Harbour.

Earline is survived by her four step-children and their spouses: Jeanne and Ken Roberts of Scottsdale, AZ; Rob and Cathy Blahauvietz of Lincoln, NE; Joni and Calvin Harms of Harris, IA and Rick and Abby Blahauvietz of Brentwood, TN. Her 7 grandchildren and spouses: Scott Blahauvietz of Lincoln, NE; Ryan and Lindsey Blahauvietz of Timnath, CO; Kari Blahauvietz of Lincoln, NE; Megan and Coy Carter of Little Canada, MN; Teri and Jason Tapps of Ankeny, IA and Benjamin and Hailey Blahauvietz of Brentwood, TN. Her 9 great-grandchildren: Avery, Addy, and Aimee Blahauvietz of Lincoln, NE; Elle and Collins Weerts of Lincoln, NE; Jazlynn and Bodhi Tapps of Ankeny, IA and Blaklee and Quinn Blahauvietz of Timnath, CO. Her brother-in-law and sister-in-law Kay and Susan Blahauvietz of Cocoa Beach, FL. She also is survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husbands, Wayne Blahauvietz and Donald Hagen, her 2 sisters Velma and Verna, her brother Eldred (Bud) and her parents.

Turner Jenness Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.



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# Obituaries

In loving memory of **Marjorie Jennings Ilich**, who passed from this world on January 1, 2021.

Marjorie was a true friend, a devoted wife, a wonderful mother, an artist, a writer, and so much more. A smile and a laugh that will be missed beyond description.

A graduate of University of Nebraska, she taught grade school for a time and enjoyed a lifelong love of books, managing book stores and authoring several children's books of her own. A love of flowers and English gardens kept her hands in the soil for countless springs and summers. Later she took to designing homes and had the fortune to build one for herself and her husband, John, a dream she had held for years.

Born and raised in Council Bluffs, Marjorie lived much of her adult life in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and later Sedona, Arizona, but spent many childhood summers at Okoboji, and always returned throughout her years. She always considered it to be her true home.

Marjorie was preceded in passing by her father, Dean, her mother, Geraldine, and her husband of 57 years, John, who passed in early 2016. She is survived by her daughter, Susan Ilich-Jones (Bill), her son Mark Ilich (Lynne), her two sisters, Deanna Jennings, of Grand Rapids, MI.; Becky Jennings-Matili, of Fresno, CA.; her brother, Bruce Jennings, of Grand Rapids, MI.; and Bill and Judy Hughes, of Council Bluffs, IA. She loved her family more than anything else in this world.

She will be missed for her wit. For her compassion. Her love of animals. Her intellect. For her boundless energy and curiosity and spark and, again, so much more. An old soul, an eclectic soul that followed its own path, and mostly a kind soul, she will simply be missed- more than we know how to say.

We love you Mom- Always and Forever.

The Family will be holding a Celebration of Life sometime in the summer of 2021, with Father Tim performing the Service.



# Obituaries

**Ardyce Mae Rueter**, daughter of Arthur and Anna (Brenne) Anderson, was born on December 2, 1934, in Lakefield Minnesota. Ardyce was baptized and later confirmed in the Lutheran faith at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Lakefield. She lived her youth there and attended Lakefield Public School. After graduating in 1953 she worked at the Farmer's State Bank in Lakefield. On April 27, 1957, Ardyce married Charles Henry Rueter of rural Harris, Iowa. They farmed and made their home in the Harris area until 1993 when they semi-retired and moved to their home in Lake Park, Iowa.

Ardyce was a member of Concordia Lutheran Church and the ladies bible study group. She enjoyed being with her family, golfing, bowling, cooking and baking, traveling, reading and watching the birds. For many years Ardyce had a huge garden and enjoyed taking care of her beautiful flowers. She especially loved taking care of her grandchildren and attending all of their events. Ardyce was a long time member of the O'Sirrah Club and a 4-H leader for her girls. Chuck and Ardyce spent many winters in Arizona with new and old friends. They enjoyed square dancing and playing cards. They especially enjoyed living close to the city park and campground and walking and meeting neighbors.

For the past six years Ardyce has resided at Accura Health Care Center in Spirit Lake, Iowa, where she was cared for by some beautiful people. They became like a second family to Ardyce and her family.

Left to cherish her memory are her children Debra (Mark) Lemmons of Milford, Lori (Terry) Sheeler of Spirit Lake and Scott (Tricia) Rueter of Lake Park. Five grandchildren Brandon (Cassy) Sheeler, Brittany (Ken) Brennan, Greg (Sabrina) Sheeler, Jacie Rueter and Jaden Rueter. Seven great-grandchildren, Jared, Avery, Will, Blake, Mila, Leo and Eva. One brother, Vernon Anderson of Rochester, Minnesota, her brother-in-law Loyd and his wife Sharon Rueter of Worthington, Minnesota, and many nieces, nephews and friends.

Ardyce was preceded in death by Charles, her husband of 57 years, her father and mother, sisters, Adelaide, Evelyn, Violet, Agnes, Ruby and baby Annabelle in infancy.



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## Milford Library News

MML's January Adult Craft will bring the beauty of nature into your home with the DIY Live Winter Centerpiece. Provided supplies include greenery, some decoration, foam, and a small container. Written instructions will be included along with a link to the video demonstration. Contact the Milford Memorial Library for more information and to pre-register. The cost of the craft is \$5. Participants can pick up their kits at the library Monday, January 18, through Wednesday, January 20. You can preregister by calling 712-338-4643 or by going to this link: <http://milfordlibrary.weebly.com/adult-program-registration.html>.

Join us on Tuesday, January 20, for a Paint Night! Contact the library at 712-338-4643 to pre-register and the cost is \$5. Pick up your Paint Night Kit on Friday, January 22, Monday, January 25, or Tuesday, January 26, from 10:00am to 5:00pm, and pay when you pick up your kit. All kits include a canvas, paint, paint brush, and instructions. You can do this kit on your own and a special video link will be provided for visual instructions. If you have any questions contact the library.

As the weather turns cold and bleak, let MML's Young Adult (4th through 12th graders) Subscription Box: A Comfy Cozy January be an area of solace. Projects include a marbled mug, wooden bead trivets, and a DIY art candle. Nuzzled inside are recipes for hot chocolate and popcorn, a to-watch list, a reading list, a playlist, and a list of virtual game night ideas. This is a free program, but registration required. Wednesday, January 27, will be the last day to pick up this little box of peace. Register by calling 712-338-4643 or emailing [milfordlibrary51351@gmail.com](mailto:milfordlibrary51351@gmail.com).

Do you have faxes to send, printing to complete, or copies to make? MML would be happy to help you with all of it. Faxes are \$3.00 for the first two pages and \$0.50 per additional page. Printing and copying can be completed by emailing the library at [milfordlibrary51351@gmail.com](mailto:milfordlibrary51351@gmail.com) or bring your papers to the drive-up window. Normal printing prices apply (\$0.25 for black and white per page and \$0.50 for color per page). You may pick up your printing or drop off your faxes during normal drive-up window hours.

Milford Memorial Library's drive-up window hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 10:00am to 5:00pm and Wednesday 10:00am to 6:30pm.

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## Lakes Area Dog Park Update

Amy Pas, President of the Lakes Area Dog Park Board and Eric Scheve, Director of The Lake Okoboji United Methodist Camp are excited to announce that the organizations have renewed their partnership for another 10 years.

Eric Scheve said, "We are excited to continue our partnership with the Lakes Area Dog Park, it has been a pleasure working with all of the past and present board members. We are excited to continue providing a safe space where people and their dogs are able to socialize, exercise and enjoy the outdoors."

The dog park occupies six acres of land on the south campus of the Methodist Camp. Amy Pas stated "We are delighted with the extended agreement and very thankful to be able to use this beautiful outdoor space."



The Methodist Camp and their staff have been wonderful to work with the last five years. The dog park has been going strong in all sorts of weather.

We run solely on donations and we've built the entire park with them." For more information or to donate, visit [lakesareadog-park.com](http://lakesareadog-park.com)

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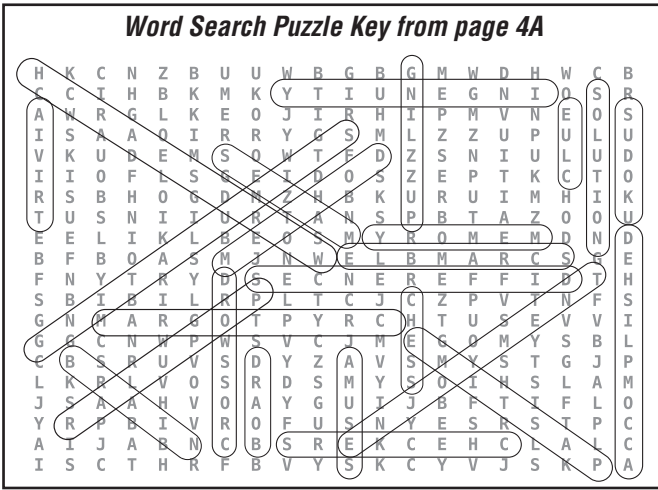
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Word Search Puzzle Key from page 4A



## View From The Bench

by John Adams, Jr.

### A Life Well Lived

Our family and this community lost a very special woman on Friday, January 8th when my mother, Mary Lou Adams, passed away at 12:10 p.m. after a very long battle with Parkinson's Disease. While my mom was in isolation since March in the nursing home due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we were blessed to spend the last 12 days of her life with her at Lakes Regional Healthcare after she was brought there by ambulance on December 28th. My mom was a Christian, loving, selfless, caring, funny and beautiful woman who always brought a smile to whomever she was visiting with.



We could not have asked for a better mother growing up than Mary Lou Adams, as my mom was the epitome of putting her family and our needs well ahead of her own. We never wanted for anything growing up, and by anything, I mean our parents' time and energy. Our family always came first to them, and whether we needed a ride to Terrace Park in the back of my mom's station wagon, a trip to the Arnolds Park Dairy Queen, or a shoulder to cry on after a tough game, my mom was always there, constantly juggling work and a young family without ever complaining. Our house at 1605 M Avenue in Milford was the hub of all the activity in our neighborhood, with countless friends coming and going, eating meals, staying overnight and playing in our yard. My mom made all of our friends feel like they were a part of our family, and that didn't change when we got to college as she always welcomed home our new college friends and had them over for holidays and gatherings while treating them as a member of our family. You don't always appreciate this as a kid or young adult, but the minute that you become a parent you start to realize all of the sacrifices that your parents made for you while growing up. I am far from a perfect parent, but I try my best to model my parenting after my mom and the many lessons that she taught us about always putting your faith and family before yourself and always being there for your kids.

My mom continued her love for children and full houses as she moved on to the next stage of her life as the grandmother of six awesome grandchildren. After we moved back from Wyoming my mom rarely missed any of Shaelyn's or Tyler's games or activities, as well as making many trips to Des Moines to see my nieces and nephews play and perform. I can still hear her second guessing my base coaching while sending one of Shae's or Tyler's teammates to score from third base in softball or baseball on a play where perhaps I should have kept them on third; or seeing her proudly sit in church while listening to Shaelyn sing a beautiful song as my mom always wanted a musical child but Heather, Julie and I were far from talented in that area, so she was so happy and proud that her granddaughter could sing. Even when my mom's health started to fail and she was moved into the nursing home, my dad made sure that she still made it to our kids' games and she would sit in the front row in her wheelchair cheering on her Pioneers while letting me know after the girls' games what I should have done differently.

While my mom loved watching us and later our kids compete, she always said she preferred herself to live by the motto of Eeyore from Winnie the Pooh, "stay undefeated, don't compete". Even though my mom didn't participate in sports, she competed and won in her life, and she competed like a warrior until the very end of her life, hanging on for 12 days in the hospital after 10 months of isolation in the nursing home to see and spend time with her family. Even though she wasn't responsive for the last week or so, we believe she competed to stay alive to hear and feel her family around her retelling old family stories that made us laugh so hard we cried. I would say that my mom lived by another popular Eeyore quote, "A little consideration, a little thought for others, makes all the difference" as she always was thinking of others and she knew that making others feel wanted and loved made all the difference in their lives. I strongly believe that our duty in this life is to make this world a better place to live than it was when we entered it; well Mary Lou, you competed and forgive my language here, but you kicked ass with that; we are all better people and this world is such a better place because of the selfless life that you lived. You will be missed and we forever love you, mom!

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## Morningside College Announces Dean's List for Fall Semester

Morningside College Vice President for Academic Affairs Chris Spicer recently announced the 402 students named to the Dean's List for the fall semester of the 2020-21 academic year.

The Dean's List recognizes Morningside College students who achieve a 3.67 grade point average or better and complete at least 12 credits of coursework with no grade below a "C-." Students that achieved a 4.0 grade point average are denoted with an asterisk (\*).

Congratulations to the following area students:

Arnolds Park: Danielle L. Unrau.  
Spencer: Sydney J. DeVlaeminck, Jenna L. Dirckx, Mackenzie L. Johnson and Reannen M. Taylor.  
Spirit Lake: Carissa L. Doran\*.

## IGL Area Chamber Cancels Winter Games 41 Indoor Events

Over the course of the last few months, the Iowa Great Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and staff have been meeting regularly to monitor the COVID-19 situation in our region and across the country to assess its impact on the 2021 University of Okoboji Winter Games.

After much discussion with local government, healthcare officials and committee members, we feel it is in the best interest of our visitors, volunteers, and community to make the following changes to Iowa Great Lakes Area Chamber events.

The Board of Directors have made the difficult decision to cancel all INDOOR events presented by the Iowa Great Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce. The following events will be canceled for the 2021 University of Okoboji Winter Games: Chili Cookoff, Chocolate Classic and Cribbage Tournament.

Many other Winter Games events are still scheduled and we strongly encourage everyone to continue to wear your masks and practice social distancing. Stay tuned for a full schedule of events coming soon!

For more information or questions on this decision, please contact the Iowa Great Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce at 712-332-2107 or email [kiley@okobojichamber.com](mailto:kiley@okobojichamber.com).

We look forward to seeing you all at these events again in 2022!

## Be a Tourist in Your Backyard

by Rebecca Peters, Okoboji Tourism Director

Each year thousands of people visit the Iowa Great Lakes to enjoy the amenities our area has to offer. Join me each week as I become a tourist in our backyard to explore a few of the spots that make the Iowa Great Lakes special!

This week was another first for me – fishing! As the ice gets thicker, fish houses pop up across the bays on our lakes. People come from all over to fish the Iowa Great Lakes each winter. It was obviously something I needed to try!

The first step in fishing the Iowa Great Lakes is to have a fishing license. Knowing that license fees in Iowa support local conservation and public access to outdoor opportunities made the purchase even sweeter! Having no experience, or equipment, I decided to hire a guide. Darrin Jones from Big Fin Guide Service assured me I would have fun and catch plenty of fish. We met at a public access ramp and headed out to his fish house. Darrin had everything set up and ready to go. He gave me a few instructions, handed me a pole, and I dropped my line! I was fishing in 12 feet of crystal clear water. For the first five minutes I patiently watched my bait quiver and quietly repeated, "Here fishy, fishy." Nothing happened. I asked, "Do people really enjoy this?" I was assured that yes, people really enjoy this, and I should be patient and keep watching for fish.

Very soon a fish swam up! He took a look at my bait and bit! I set the hook and froze. What next? Darrin enthusiastically encouraged me to reel it in. Slow and steady. I could do it. And you know what? I did it! I caught my first fish! He was just a little guy, but I needed a picture. This was the first fish I had ever caught!

From that point on I was as hooked as the fish on my line. I couldn't wait to get my line back down to lure in another! For the remainder of the afternoon I patiently watched for fish, and hoped they would bite so I could steadily reel them up. Thankfully, they were bigger than the first!

I now understand why so many fish houses pop up across our lakes each winter. If you haven't already tried ice fishing, you need to! We're so lucky to have this great fishing opportunity right in our backyard. Get out and enjoy it! Hire a guide, or visit one of our area bait shops. They're very knowledgeable, and will help you get set up for a fun and successful time on the ice.



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- Fri., Jan. 15: Hawaiian Chicken & Country Fried Steak
- Mon., Jan. 18: Hot Beef & Taco Salad

**WEEKEND SPECIALS**

- Fri., Jan. 15: Fish Fry (starts at 4:00pm)
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## Birthday Announcement

Happy 90th Birthday to Marge Pedersen on Tuesday, January 12, 2021. Please help shower her with cards. Warm wishes can reach her at 1511 Kristin Drive, Spencer, IA 51301. Happy 90th Birthday from your family!

## Next Exhibit: Grand Artsby

Arts on Grand in Spencer and No Boundaries are pleased to announce their first collaboration project the Grand Artsby Exhibit. The exhibit will feature work by Sophie Krukow and JD Bumgarner, two Spencer high school students. A school collaboration project headed up by the pair will be on exhibit as well. The exhibit starts Thursday, January 14th and ends Saturday, February 28th. For more information, please contact Arts on Grand.



## Lakes Area Senior Center News

by Pam Foxhoven

Happy New Year!  
Red Cross will be here Monday, January 25, for a blood drive. Log on to their site and sign up. No walk-ins. Please donate and help save a life.  
Need a space for a family event, company meeting, or a get-together with friends, call 712-336-5247. We have plenty of room to practice safe, social distancing and everything is clean and sanitized.  
We continue to serve meals to-go. For reservations, please call 712-336-5247 by 1:00pm the day before eating.  
Everyone please stay safe and healthy.

## Conservation Reserve Program General Signup Underway

Agricultural producers and private landowners interested in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) can now sign up for the popular program until February 12, 2021. The competitive program, administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), provides annual rental payments for land devoted to conservation purposes.

"This signup for the Conservation Reserve Program gives producers and landowners an opportunity to enroll for the first time or continue their participation for another term," Acting FSA State Executive Director, Bob Wegand said. "This program encourages conservation on sensitive lands or low-yielding acres, which provides tremendous benefits for stewardship of our natural resources and wildlife."

Through CRP, farmers and ranchers establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species, such as approved grasses or trees, to control soil erosion, improve water quality and enhance wildlife habitat on cropland. Farmers and ranchers who participate in CRP help provide numerous benefits to their local region and the nation's environment and economy. CRP general signup is held annually and is competitive; general signup includes increased opportunities for wildlife habitat enrollment through the State Acres For Wildlife Enhancement (SAFE) initiative.

New cropland offered in the program must have been planted for four out of six crop years from 2012 to 2017. Additionally, producers with land already enrolled but expiring on Sept. 30, 2021, can re-enroll this year. The acreage offered by producers and landowners is evaluated competitively; accepted offers will begin Oct. 1, 2021.

Signed into law in 1985, CRP is one of the largest private-lands conservation programs in the United States. The program marked its 35-year anniversary in December 2020. Program successes include:

- Preventing more than 9 billion tons of soil from eroding, which is enough soil to fill 600 million dump trucks.
- Reducing nitrogen and phosphorous runoff relative to annually tilled cropland by 95% and 85%, respectively.
- Sequestering an annual average of 49 million tons of greenhouse gases, equal to taking 9 million cars off the road.
- Creating more than 3 million acres of restored wetlands while protecting more than 175,000 stream miles with riparian forest and grass buffers, which is enough to go around the world seven times.
- Benefiting bees and other pollinators and increasing populations of ducks, pheasants, turkey, bobwhite quail, prairie chickens, grasshopper sparrows, and many other birds.

All USDA Service Centers are open for business, including those that restrict in-person visits or require appointments. All Service Center visitors wishing to conduct business with FSA, Natural Resources Conservation Service or any other Service Center agency should call ahead and schedule an appointment. Service Centers that are open for appointments will pre-screen visitors based on health concerns or recent travel, and visitors must adhere to social distancing guidelines. Visitors are also required to wear a face covering during their appointment. Our program delivery staff will continue to work with our producers by phone, email, and using online tools. More information can be found at [farmers.gov/coronavirus](https://farmers.gov/coronavirus).



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## Virtual Healthy Relationship Education Training Offered

Professionals who work with children and families can gain additional tools to help couples build healthy relationships during a virtual training in February.

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach is offering Healthy Relationship Education Training on February 11 via Zoom. During the one-day program, professionals will learn how to use relationship education as a strategy to meet the safety, permanency and well-being needs of children.

"We know that children growing up in a home where there is a healthy, stable couple relationship have fewer behavioral and emotional problems and perform better in school," said Malisa Rader, a human sciences specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach. "That is why healthy couple relationships are so important."

This program uses a research-based curriculum that is being implemented across the country to help professionals encourage the development of healthy couple relationships. Research shows that when parents have more supportive and less conflicted couple and co-parenting relationships, the entire family is better equipped to handle stressors, which helps maintain family cohesion, child safety and permanency, Rader explained.

The all-day class consists of eight modules, which are based on the National Extension Relationship and Marriage Education Model. Rader and Cheryl Clark, also a human sciences specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach, will teach the class. Interactive lessons, discussions and resources will be provided. Professionals who participate will gain an understanding of the important aspects of couple relationship education.

Healthy Relationship Education Training is scheduled for Thursday, February 11, from 8:30am to 4:30pm. There is a \$50 fee for the program, which includes a curriculum manual and tools. For more information or to register, go to <https://bit.ly/3a4qg86> or contact Malisa Rader at [mrader@iastate.edu](mailto:mrader@iastate.edu) or 515-708-0622.

Iowa social workers, licensed marriage and family therapists, and licensed mental health counselors should contact their licensing board to determine course approval for continuing education contact hours. ISU Extension and Outreach will offer 6.00 professional education contact hours for social workers, marriage and family therapists and mental health counselors.

## Virtual Program Offers Tips for Parenting in a Pandemic

Raising children has its rewards and challenges, but the COVID-19 pandemic has brought with it new challenges for families, says Malisa Rader, a human sciences specialist with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

"ACT Raising Safe Kids" teaches positive parenting skills to parents and caregivers of children from birth to age 8. The program will be offered via Zoom from 10:00 to 11:30am on Tuesdays, February 2 through April 6.

"We are excited to bring this educational offering virtually to families," said Rader, who specializes in family life issues. "It is what ISU Extension and Outreach has done for over 100 years – respond to the needs of Iowans where they are."

In the series of lessons parents and caregivers will gain strategies for:

- Dealing with children's difficult behaviors using developmentally appropriate responses;
- Controlling their own anger;
- Helping children control their anger;
- Teaching children how to resolve conflicts without using violence;
- Using positive discipline methods that fit the children's age;
- Reducing the influence of media violence on children.

Participants will receive the ACT Parent Handbook, which includes sets of fact sheets with information on children's typical problem behaviors and outlines basic child development information. The handbook also includes handouts on anger management, positive discipline, media literacy and positive ways to resolve conflict.

The program is based on research that indicates that effective parenting is a critical factor to prevent youth behavior problems, according to Rader. She encourages professionals working with families to share this information with clients.

Cost for the entire series of lessons and resources is \$40 per participant. An educational pre-session for parents, foster parents, grandparents, primary caregivers and others in a parenting role will be held Tuesday, January 26, at 10:00am. Individuals must have registered for the program to attend this session.

To learn more or to register, visit <https://bit.ly/act17233> or contact Malisa Rader at [mrader@iastate.edu](mailto:mrader@iastate.edu) or 515-708-0622.



## Crane Celebrates 90 Years

Tom Crane of Milford turned 90 years old on Thursday, December 31, 2020. Birthday wishes can be sent to Tom at 1501 L Avenue, Milford, Iowa 51351.

## Area Students Graduate from ISU

This fall, 2,001 students earned degrees from Iowa State University. The graduates were recognized in a virtual ceremony due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Congratulations to the following area students:

Brewster, Minnesota: Samantha Obermoller.

Colfax: Matthew Moorberg.

Lake Park: Ashley Erne, cum laude.

Sibley: Jill Berkland, cum laude.

Spencer: Kayla Caskey and Marisa Swank.

Spirit Lake: Erin Block.



## THE LAKES NEWS Auction Calendar

**Thurs., Jan. 14 – 10:00 AM –**  
226 Acres in Buena Vista at auction. This will be a Virtual Online Auction. Auctioneers: Midwest Land Management. 712-262-3110. [www.midwestlandmanagement.com](http://www.midwestlandmanagement.com).

**Sat., Jan. 23 – 9:00 AM –**  
Coin Auction in Windom, MN. Auctioneers: Gravley Auction. 507-822-0403. [www.auctions.go.com](http://www.auctions.go.com)

**Wed., Jan. 27 – 10:00 AM –**  
196.7 Acres at Auction in Dickinson, Co., IA. Auctioneers: Hjelm. 712-262-3529. [www.theacreco.com](http://www.theacreco.com).

**Wed., Feb. 3 – 10:00 AM –**  
270 Acre in Palo Alto Co., IA, at auction. This will be a Virtual Online Auction. Auctioneers: Midwest Land Management. 712-262-3110. [www.midwestlandmanagement.com](http://www.midwestlandmanagement.com).

## THE LAKES NEWS Auctions Page 11A

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you personally and directly in using people register or good of the area are qualities that would make Murphy Supervisor.

time to navigate through uncertain times. Jeff will rely on his depth of experience as a public servant. He includes 11 years of experience serving on the City Council, 15 years serving on the Iowa Great Hunter of Commerce Board, 10 years serving on Tourism Committee. Jeff will keep on this vast guide his decisions for our country. Therefore, Jeff has always been open-minded and will be options from all sides of a tough issue before acting.

County is a unique, one-of-a-kind place that is family and is a wonderful place to raise a family business. We believe Jeff has all of the qualities look forward to the future while also honoring and heritage of the area. We encourage you to also be the winning election.

Teresa Beck, No Iowa

Tuesday, January 12, 2021

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FRI. Jan. 15 - 7:15  
SAT. - SUN. Jan. 16 & 17 - 1:15, 4:20, 7:15  
MON. - THU. Jan. 18-21 - 7:15

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Wonder Woman: 1984: Fast forward to the 1980s as Wonder Woman's next big screen adventure finds her facing two all-new foes: Max Lord and The Cheetah.

FRI. Jan. 15 - 7:00  
SAT. - SUN. Jan. 16 & 17 - 1:00, 3:50, 7:00  
MON. - THU. Jan. 18-21 - 7:00

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World Search Puzzle Key from page 12A

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## January Family Nature Night

Are you ready for the first Family Nature Night of 2021? It will include learning about some new animals. But what about enchanted animals? How do they fit in?

You can learn about the enchanting animals found around the world on Friday, January 22, during our Enchanting Animals themed Family Nature Night. This program will be held inside the new Maser Monarch Lodge on the west side of the Nature Playscape. This event will have two time slots with one at 5:00pm and one at 7:00pm with a limit of 6 families per program.

"We're looking forward to talking about animals from around the world instead of just focusing on our animals here in Iowa. There are some really cool animals out there," said environmental education coordinator Bryanna Kuhlman.

This program will begin with a book called Enchanting Creatures by Camilla de la Bédoyère being read to learn some fun facts about animals around the world. They're not the usual animals you would think of and it shares fun facts to show why they're enchanting. The program will also include two crafts featuring a narwhal and a weedy sea dragon. The kids will be using paint to bring a paint shirt or come in clothes you won't mind getting dirty.

"We're very excited to be doing crafts again. Since our other programs have been outside, we haven't done them and we know some kids will be excited too as they have asked for more crafts," Kuhlman said.

Each family will be placed at a table with craft supplies for each child coming with them. We will make it easy to social distance and families won't have to share craft supplies in the interest of safety. Just like when you visit the Nature Center, we do ask that everyone aged five and up wear a mask. When calling to save your spot, please share how many children will be coming with you so everyone gets the craft supplies.

Family Nature Night lasts approximately 45 minutes and is free to the public. There is a limit of 6 families per program. There are two time slots at 5:00pm and 7:00pm. Please pre-register for one of the two time slots by calling 712-336-6352.

For more information, visit [www.dickinsoncountynaturecenter.com](http://www.dickinsoncountynaturecenter.com). You can also keep up on the latest happenings on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.



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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The publisher does not necessarily share the views/opinions stated in the "Letters to the Editor" published in The Lakes News Shopper.

To The Editor:

### Now Is The Time

For four years, Republicans have supported President Trump and criticized those that found fault in his words and actions. This week Trump's actions went beyond the pale for many Republican party members. Many have reversed their support and are even calling for his removal. One stated "The outgoing President incited violence in an attempt to retain power. Any elected leader defending him is violating their oath to the Constitution and is rejecting Democracy in favor of anarchy." But what about your Republican friends and neighbors? How are they looking at it?

In the years since Trump was elected, he has spewed hatred, lies and discrimination. Still lavish praise was heaped on him by his supporters. Now the time has come for all Republicans to state their position. Do you still support Trump's words and actions? The Republican Party was called the GOP for good reason. It was the Grand Old Party, standing for small government, equality, fiscal conservatism and responsible governance. Sadly, it became the party of Trump, the party of hatred, discrimination, self-serving and lie telling.

Now is the time for all Republicans to let your neighbors know where you stand.

**Robert Sneitzer**  
Spirit Lake, Iowa

This letter was paid for by the author.

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## Anniversary Announcement

Anniversary wishes are in order for Bernard and Marlene Kelley celebrating their 70th Wedding Anniversary on Thursday, January 14, 2021.

Please join their family in wishing them a Happy Anniversary by sending a card to: Bernard and Marlene Kelley, 3049 230th Street, Terril, IA 51364.




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## O'Neal Named to Honors List

Grace O'Neal of Spirit Lake was one of 244 students named to Concordia University, Nebraska's honors list for the Fall 2020 semester.

The top 25 percent of all undergraduate students who complete at least 12 credit hours qualify for the honors list.



## Birthday Announcement

Happy 96th Birthday to Calvin Dodge on Thursday, January 21, 2021. Please help shower Calvin with cards. Warm wishes can be sent to 1401 H Avenue, Apartment 103, Milford, IA 51351.

Happy 96th Birthday from your family!

**THE LAKES NEWS**  
**Auctions** Page 11A

## Family Services Resource Guide

Dickinson County's Family Resource Guide is a comprehensive free resource for local residents to utilize when trying to locate services in and around the county. With a variety of services and help providers listed, the book is a one-stop-shop to locate local resources. To access the free guide online, visit <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/dickinson/country-resource-guide>. If you have services to add to the guide, contact Sue at 712-336-3488 or [boettche@iastate.edu](mailto:boettche@iastate.edu).



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**Website: [stalbanseiscopalchurch.org](http://stalbanseiscopalchurch.org)**

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--	--	--

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## Here's to a better 2021!

It was back before Thanksgiving that we received a new CD from Chris Hopkins, with the *Echoes of Swing* band in Bochum, Germany. We had interviewed Chris (long-distance) several years back, for *Class 104* or *Class 105*, after being "gifted" one of *Echoes'* earlier albums for airplay. We enjoyed the music then, and we continue to like what the Echoes group has produced over the last 20 years.

Even before we had a chance to give *Chris Hopkins meets the Jazz Kangaroos — Live*, a more than casual listen, a second CD showed up. On that one, Drummer Guillaume Nouaux is featured with seven different stride pianists on 15 really bouncing cuts titled, *The Stride Piano Kings*.

The *Jazz Kangaroos* album was recorded in Wasserburg Haus Kemnade, in Hattingen, Germany, and features pianist Hopkins, along with bassman Mark Elton, guitarist David Blenkhorn, and George Washingmachine on violin and vocals. The four feature the Paul James/Kay Swift, *Can't We Be Friends*; and the Edgar Sampson/Irving Mills composition, *Blue Lou*; along with Irving Berlin's *Russian Lullaby*; and Django Reinhardt's, *Swing 1942* — in addition to six other songs from about the same era.

While a little stride piano can too often go a long way, the artists Nouaux brought together worked hard to make the style work — from Bernd Lhotzky's opening track featuring James P. Johnson's *Harlem Strut*, to the last of the 15 cuts, where Lhotzky closes with Harold Arlen's contrasting *Over the Rainbow*. In between, Louis Mazetier, Luca Filastro, Harry Kanter, Alain Barrabes, Rossano Sportiello, and Chris Hopkins, more than fill their roles with songs like *Tea For Two*, *Runnin' Wild*, *Jitterbug Waltz*, and *Cherokee*. Like the first CD, this was also recorded in 2019...

Each album is so good, we'd be hard-pressed (No pun intended) to say one is better than the other. They are both true and much-needed first-of-the-year pick-me-ups! You should be able to find and listen to at least parts of the albums just by searching for the titles — on or off your favorite music pages. Let us know what you think! While Chris Hopkins is on Facebook, you will also find a lot of information at: [HopkinsJazz.Com](http://HopkinsJazz.Com)

With the University of Okoboji Winter Games coming up at the end of the month, The Little Swan Lake Winery has entertainment planned for each Sunday afternoon through January. This weekend will see Dave & Ryan on the stage in the barn; with *The Beyond Blue Duet*, next Sunday; and *Storm Rising* lighting things up on the same stage on the 31st. All three shows will run from 4-6:00...

Research director RD notes this week that the premiere party for ABC television's *Batman* program was February 12, 1966. With stars Adam West and Burt Ward, the show's theme song was composed by Neal Hefti and recorded by Nelson Riddle. The popularity of the show inspired many other artists to record the song including, Al Hirt, *The Ventures*, and *The Markettes*, the group that also covered the theme from *The Avengers*, the series that starred Patrick MacNee and Diana Rigg...

Wednesday will be *Make Your Dream Come True Day* — though that probably doesn't mean you should head to the casino! Through the decades the pop charts have been flooded with songs about dreaming. Johnny Mercer's *Dream (When You're Feeling Blue)*, was written in 1944, and released by Tony Bennett, Susannah McCorkle, and Michael Buble in recent years. Dream lover, was written and recorded by Bobby Darin in 1959. And, the number one hit, *Daydream Believer*, was written by John Stewart and released by *The Monkees* on the RCA label in 1967...

Regardless of the weather, Friday will be Hat Day. One of the many different styles of hats to choose from for the day's honors could be the Tribby — most famously worn by Frank Sinatra. The photo on the cover of his most successful album, *Come Dance With Me*, shows Ol' Blue Eyes wearing one of his favorites. The LP spent more than two years on the Billboard charts, and won three awards at the 1960 Grammy Awards.

Chris Montez is expected to celebrate his 78th natal day on Sunday. The Los Angeles-born singer-guitarist had hits with a variety of music styles. Montez released his Rock and Roll single, *Let's Dance*, in 1962, and it high-stepped all the way to number four on the charts. Four years later he recorded the soft ballad, *Call Me*, as well as the title track and the pop standard, *The More I See You*, for an A&M LP. The forties tune was written by Harry Warren and Mack Gordon. Montez's version of their song became the most well-known and commercially successful...

**Editor's note:** Back in the early 1990s, RD danced with Montez when he was hosting an *Oldies Show* at the Kato Ballroom in Mankato...

**PS:** Trying to keep things light on his ever-popular *Wheel of Fortune* television show last week, host Pat Sajak quite properly quipped that "Nobody will ever look at toilet paper the same way again." That's funny because it is very 2020 — and very true.

Regardless of one's view about the year 2020, henceforth it will be known only by its blurred image in the mirror of history. While that history can be written and "rewritten," it cannot be changed. Today, we can only affect change on tomorrow's history.

Closer to home, the Dean of Student Affairs at the University of Okoboji told us with a smile on his face, but in a more serious vein on New Year's Eve, that he is anxious for the day when a good firm handshake will replace the "elbow bump" that has become the joked about 2020 greeting of necessity. Yes, the Dean's name is "Herman." And Herman took us one step further, noting that world would be a better place if we all wake up every morning with "an attitude of gratitude — then hang on!"

----- ALL THE NEWS THAT FITS WE PRINT -----  
Please send your music-related announcements and comments to [RAMBoling@Mindspring.Com](mailto:RAMBoling@Mindspring.Com) or PO Box 676, Okoboji, Iowa 51355-0676

Deadline for **RAMBoling** submissions is the Friday prior to Tuesday publication

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Please order early for best selection and to avoid shortages. No survival guarantee on stock sold at these prices. Sizes are estimated and may be subject to nursery availability





## Dickinson County SnowHawks Awarded ISSA Snowmobile Club of the Year

by the ISSA Awards Committee

The ISSA Snowmobile Club of the Year for 2020 was the Dickinson County SnowHawks in Region 1. The club finished the 2019-20 season with 84 members. The club is 100 percent ISSA, meaning all of their members are also members of the state organization.

The club has held an annual youth snowmobile safety class for more than 20 years. The club donates to a local family that has a child with Spina Bifida and also donates to the ISSA Scholarship Foundation and Club Challenge and gives club scholarships to students in the four schools in Dickinson County.

Club trails do not go on private land, so instead of a landowners' appreciation event, members hold a Sponsorship Fun Run for the businesses that support the club.

Congratulations to the Dickinson County SnowHawks!

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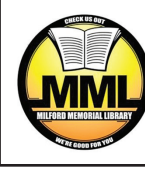

**KARRI ANDERSON**  
Office Manager

1-800-383-2790 or 712-336-2790  
 Corner of Hill Avenue, Hwy. 9 & 71, Spirit Lake, IA

## Milford Library News

**Youth Corner**

Milford Memorial Library has lots of new books each week, as well as Book Bundles each month. The January Book Bundles include snowmen, librarian favorites, Tedd Arnold, Rosemary Wells, fun facts, planets, and football. You can find out more information about Book Bundles through this link: <http://milfordlibrary.weebly.com/book-bundles.html>. If your kiddos would like to see covers of the new books, feel free to visit the Youth Page at <http://milfordlibrary.weebly.com/youth.html>. MML hopes to be open soon, but we still have plenty of ways for your family to get their hands on some books through Book Bundles and reserving book titles or authors.

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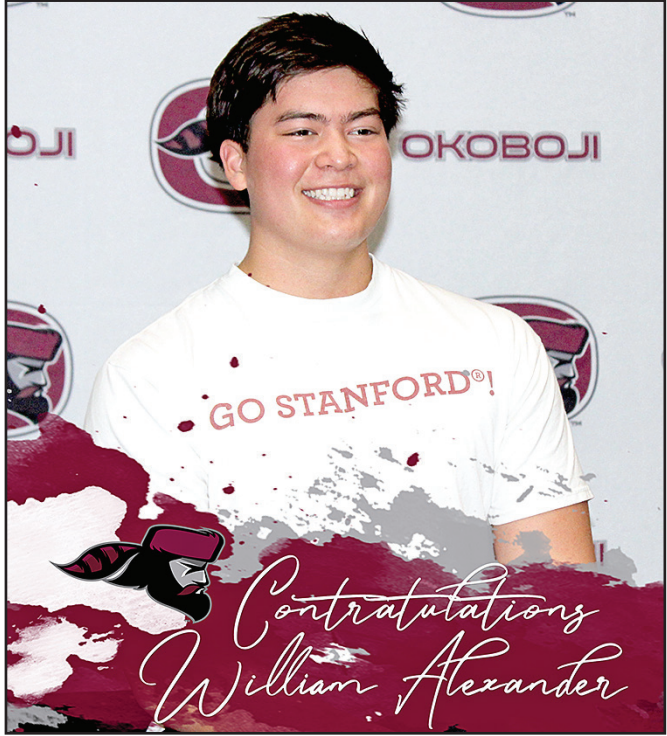
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# William Alexander Perfect ACT and Acceptance to Stanford

by Brian Downing, Okoboji High School Principal

The Okoboji Community School District would like to take a moment to recognize and celebrate OHS Senior William Alexander. William has accomplished much in his time at Okoboji High School. Last spring William earned the highest possible composite score of 36 on the ACT. Fewer than one half of all the students who take the ACT earn a perfect score. Of the nearly 1.8 million who took the test last year, William is one of only 4,879 who earned the top score!

More recently, William was accepted to Stanford University in California. He will start at Stanford next fall with the goal of earning a degree in economics before pursuing a Masters in Business Administration. Okoboji High School recently held a recognition event for William along with his mother Helen and his brothers John (OHS Class of 2020) and David (OHS Class of 2019.) We are very proud of the Alexanders and the amazing pathways they have each begun to pioneer!

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## Country Schools: Past and Present

Ruth Ann Van Donslear of Milford wrote stories about her school days in the Baker School in O'Brien County. The stories are featured in the new book Country Schools: Past and Present Volume 1 (2015), Volume 2 (2017), Volume 3 (2020). Her research about the history of the little country one-room schoolhouse on the prairie from 1920 through today includes interviews of hundreds of people ages 5 to 100 years old, from tots to Governors, who were former and contemporary students and/or teachers in the northern plains and Iowa, passionately recalling their country school days.

The ultimate goal became to preserve the school's history and for the comprehensive illustrations to bring the schools back to life. It also includes oral histories of individuals who are living the country school experience today, a way of life and education that is no longer prevalent. If you attended a country school, you will enjoy the memories prompted by stories and photos collected from schools. If you are not familiar with country schools, you can explore through the stories. History teachers, students, residents in assisted living, senior centers, libraries, all ages, and all groups enjoy the books. Price: \$49 each includes tax and shipping. Contact Betsey DeLoache, betseysd@mncomm.com, 8842 Shell House Rd, Edisto Island, SC 29438. Call Karin Vanden Berg at 712-324-9718.

## Your Support Makes a Difference

The Youth In Philanthropy (YIP) program of the Okoboji Foundation continues to request donations from the community to help reach their goal of \$55,000. Fundraising will continue through March 31st.

"Youth in Philanthropy is important to me because it is giving back to our community," said YIP student, Graycen Rubis. "Raising money for things is a great way to give back and help."

Twenty-five students from area high schools participate in the YIP program from October through May learning about the Okoboji Foundation and how the Foundation partners with area non-profits.

"YIP has shown me how our efforts benefit local non-profits and how much these local non-profits do for our community," said Lauren Duffy, second year YIP participant.

"Since my community has given so much to me, I feel YIP is the perfect outlet for me to give back," said Ben Fisher, third year YIP student. "It's for these reasons that I love it and apply for the program each year."

Everyone is invited to support Youth in Philanthropy and these future community leaders with a gift. Sponsorships can be mailed to Okoboji Foundation, PO Box 593, Okoboji IA 51355, or you can give online at [www.okobojifoundation.org/yip](http://www.okobojifoundation.org/yip).

The Okoboji Foundation is the community foundation for the Iowa Great Lakes Region. Youth in Philanthropy began in 2010, and provides grants steered by student decision. To learn more about YIP visit [www.okobojifoundation.org](http://www.okobojifoundation.org) under the YIP tab. For additional information call 712-332-7177.



Lauren Duffy, Ben Fisher, & Graycen Rubis.



## First Baby of 2021 (Finally) Arrives!

After a busy December in Spencer Hospital's Birth Center, January started very quietly – so quiet that the first baby of the New Year didn't arrive until January 6th. As long as the wait seemed for the birth center staff, it really felt long for new mom Patty Schulz and her husband Dave. Patty's labor started Tuesday morning yet baby Reba Jayne didn't make her appearance until early Wednesday evening, after 36 long hours of labor for her mom.

"We were really excited to arrive at the hospital to have her; I was so ready, yet I was also starting to get worried for her the longer labor went," Patty shared. Fortunately, once Reba was ready, the delivery went smoothly and Dr. Hilary Kerrick delivered the healthy baby girl.

Reba Jayne weighed 7 pounds, 1 ounce and measured 19.25 inches long. Patty and Dave said they chose the name "Reba" because they liked that it's a familiar, yet not common name. After researching it in a baby names book, they learned it also means "fourth born" and Reba is Patty's fourth baby.

Grandparents are Paul and Linda Schulz of Hampton, IA, and Steve and Dodi Haugen of Slayton, MN. Siblings include Dillon (28), Owen (14), Kathryn (9) and Maverick (6).

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**Traynor Wins Final Challenge**

Congratulations to Patrick Traynor of Omaha for winning our final U-Pick-Em Challenge with 13 correct picks last week. Patrick tied Tom Wuggazzar of Arnolds Park and won the tiebreaker by four points to win \$100 in cash compliments of Milford Motors and The Lakes News Shopper. Thank you to everyone who played this year, we will definitely plan on this again next fall. Thank you as well to the following amazing sponsors for making this promotion possible: Blink Marketing, BooneDock's, Consumers Lumber Company, Fareway, Hy-Vee, Jiffy, Milford Motor Company, Okoboji Barn, Perkins Restaurant & Bakery, Phil's Marketplace Motors, Spencer Auto Parts, Sportsman's, Sunshine Foods, The Lakes News Shopper, The Tobacco Shop, and The Venue.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The publisher does not necessarily share the views/opinions stated in the "Letters to the Editor" published in The Lakes News Shopper.

To The Editor:

**The American Democracy??**

The deplorable January 6th assault on our Capitol will never be forgotten. It was fomented and incited by President Trump and his enablers. It should be no surprise coming from a man having no regard for our constitution, institutions, rule of law, separation of powers or mankind in general. He believed being president allowed him unlimited personal power and gain, in essence being a monarch never to be challenged by future fair elections. Actually, he is the embodiment of conservatism radicalized over the past fifty years as eloquently outlined in a new book, "We Should Have Seen It Coming!" Hopefully by the time this is printed, Trump will have been dealt with as well as Giuliani, Don Jr., Representative Brooks, Senators Hawley and Cruz and any others who abetted this insurrection so they cannot damage our country further. Enough is enough!

We citizens have taken our democracy for granted and now clearly see how fragile it really is. We see dictators around the world showcasing the Capitol assault as the culmination of democratic failure. Do we want to continue the course of divisiveness to ruination or rekindle a new chapter for the great American experiment? The Georgia senatorial election may have provided an answer. It is now critical that we get behind newly elected President Biden and his team to begin rebuilding depleted administrative departments, respect/utilize institutions, competently tackle the COVID disaster, re-establish international ties and finally lead legislative initiatives to address America's problems and opportunities. But maybe more important, we re-generate an "air of inclusiveness" for all; based upon truth, fairness, empathy and shared values. The road ahead will not be easy. But the American Dream is still alive and well if we collectively make that choice. Let's get to work!

**Terry B. Yarns**  
Spirit Lake, Iowa



## Flagfest & Sesquicentennial Beard Competition

Last call for the "Late Bloomers" to enter into the Spencer Chamber of Commerce Beard Competition for June 11, 2021. Deadline to register is Friday, January 15, at 1:00pm.

Interested parties must be shaved and come to the Chamber Office, 1805 Highway Boulevard, Spencer, to register.

Registration is Monday through Friday, 8:00 - 11:30am or 12:30 to 4:00pm. With the exception on Friday, January 15, hours are 8:00am to 1:00pm.

Must be shaved and a photo will be taken. Entry fee: \$15.00

## Is Drought in the 2021 Forecast?

Livestock producers and agribusiness professionals are invited to a webinar discussing climate and weather predictions for the 2021 growing season. The webinar, set for Wednesday, January 20, from noon to 1:00pm, features Dennis Today, director of the USDA Climate Hub in Ames.

Today will bring accurate and important information for those who work with livestock and crop production agriculture.

"Dennis Today is known nationally for his knowledge and experience in weather forecasting and comes with distinction as the former president of the American Association of State Climatologists," Beth Doran, Beef Specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach, and Fred Hall, Dairy Specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach, said. "This is a timely presentation, given that currently more than half of Iowa is experiencing drought conditions ranging from abnormally dry to severe drought."

The webinar is offered by the ISU Extension Dairy Team as part of its monthly webinar series. Anyone interested in learning about the weather predictions for 2021 can attend the webinar at <https://iastate.zoom.us/j/dairyteam/fredprogram>.

Use the above link to connect directly to the webinar on January 20 at the noon start time. No preregistration needed and there is no fee to attend.

For more information, contact Hall by email at [fredhall@iastate.edu](mailto:fredhall@iastate.edu) or Doran by email at [doranb@iastate.edu](mailto:doranb@iastate.edu). Both may also be reached at 712-737-4230.

## A program for Cattlewomen, to be Offered in Emmetsburg

Iowa State University Extension and Outreach Palo Alto County and Iowa Lakes Community College have teamed up to host Boots in the Barn, a program for women beef and dairy producers.

Boots in the Barn is a three-part series for women involved in a dairy or beef operation and/or industry and will be held at the Iowa Lakes Community College Farm in Emmetsburg. The sessions will be held February 10, February 24 and March 10 from 1:00 to 3:00pm.

"We've had great success with [agriculture] programs designed specifically for women," said Jenn Bentley, dairy specialist with ISU Extension and Outreach. "Women often prefer to learn in small groups and with hands-on opportunities. They like to ask lots of questions of presenters without feeling intimidated... Programs designed for women alone are very effective."

The February 10 session will feature Dr. Caitlyn Messerschmidt, veterinarian at Iowa State University. Dr. Messerschmidt will guide participants using Frosty (a life-size cow model), practicing putting chains on a calf to pull it and learning how to assist a cow in calving. Other topics include immediate calf care and colostrum. This session is sponsored in-part by a Professional Dairy Producers Foundation educational grant.

On February 24, ISU Extension and Outreach beef and dairy specialists and Iowa Lakes Community College instructors will lead participants in how to help calves nurse, selecting colostrum products, mixing milk replacers and how to wean calves from milk and start them on dry feed. Participants will view both maternal and calf housing.

The third session will be held on March 10 and cover health basics and how to determine whether an animal is healthy or unhealthy. Activities include handling medicines and vaccines, giving injections, safety in working cattle and two national programs, Beef Quality Assurance and Farmers Assuring Responsible Management. These sessions will be led by ISU Extension and Outreach and Iowa Lakes Community College staff.

There is a \$15 fee for this program and pre-registration is required. Register online at [www.bit.ly/bootsinthebarn](http://www.bit.ly/bootsinthebarn) by Saturday, February 6, at which time registration closes.

For more information on Boots in the Barn, contact Jamie Neff at [jblaser@iastate.edu](mailto:jblaser@iastate.edu) or 712-852-2865.

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Wednesday, February 3 at 10:00 AM

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## Okoboji High School Trap Team

The Okoboji High School Trap Team scored 1350 points to win the 2020 Conference Fall Trap League over teams from Maryland, Virginia, and Idaho. During the fall of 2020, over 10,700 athletes participated. This was an increase of a 25% increase over the previous fall. Conferences are determined by team size rather than geographic location for fair competition.

In addition to winning the team trophy, 3 Okoboji individuals won medals. Keegan Kendall won 1st place male (23.4 average), Peyton Hromatko won 3rd place male (22.6 average), and Kylan Green won 3rd place female (19.3 average).

The USA Clay Target League currently has over 35,000 athletes. It started in Minnesota 20 years ago and is now in 26 states. The League is the safest sport in high school and college, with no injuries reported since the inception of the League in 2001. Each athlete must complete the Firearm Safety Certification before their participation.

The Okoboji High School Trap Team spring season will start in March 2021 at Twin Forks Trap and Skeet event.

## Students Named to Dean's List

Augustana University in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, announced the students named to the Dean's List for the fall semester of the 2020-21 academic year.

The Dean's List recognizes full-time students who have a minimum of 12 credit hours with grade-point averages at 3.5 or above (on a 4.0 scale).

Congratulations to the following area students: Mikia Kriener of Okoboji, Alyssa Post and Sofia Stumpf of Lakefield, Lauren Sandison of Spirit Lake and Cassandra Soma of Spencer.

## Drexler Named to President's List

Minnesota State Community and Technical College has named Brian Drexler, of Lakefield, Minnesota, to its President's List for the 2020 Fall Semester.

Students on the President's List completed a minimum of six college-level credits and 75 percent of the courses in which they enrolled for the semester and earned a grade point average of 4.0.



personality and ability to bring people together is good of the area are qualities that would make County Superior time to navigate through uncertain times. Jeff will have depth of experience as a public servant as includes 11 years of experience serving on the Board of Directors for the Lake County Chamber of Commerce Board, 10 years serving on the Chamber of Commerce Board, 5 years serving on the Family YMCA Board, and 5 years serving on the Tourism Commission. Jeff will have the ability to guide the decisions for our county. Throughout his life, Jeff has always been open-minded and willing to explore from all sides of a tough issue before acting.

County is a unique, one-of-a-kind place that is family and is a wonderful place to raise a family because. We believe Jeff has all of the qualities we seek forward to the future while also honoring and a heritage of the area. We encourage you to vote in the upcoming election.

Teresa Beck,  
We, Lake

Wednesday by going to [www.lakesnewsshopper.com](http://www.lakesnewsshopper.com) and clicking on a subscriber.

you have already registered there are some options. If you need [info.lakesnewsshopper.com](http://info.lakesnewsshopper.com) you can go through them to refund your money. If you sent your registration form directly to us we can either refund your money or we will prapare you for 2021. We hope keeping at least 6 feet apart, stay in shape, and be ready for the 2021 Annual University of Okecheg County Clinic.

Please visit their website or check them out on the latest updates at [www.lakesnewsshopper.com](http://www.lakesnewsshopper.com)

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The award recipients will be announced in April. Visit [www.iowastem.gov/scale-up-application](http://www.iowastem.gov/scale-up-application) for more information on the 2021-2022 STEM Scale-Up Programs.


Those with questions are encouraged to call DCPH at 712-339-6050, visit [www.lakeshealth.org](http://www.lakeshealth.org) and follow Lakes Regional Healthcare on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube.

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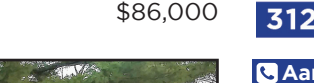






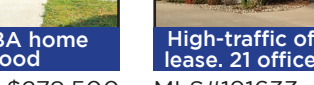
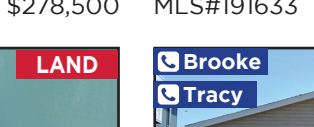




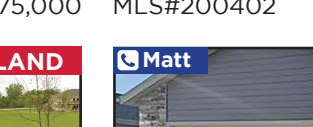
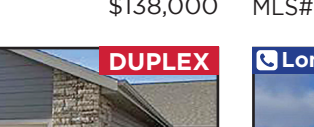





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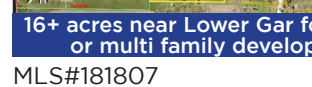
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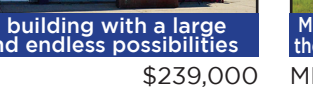
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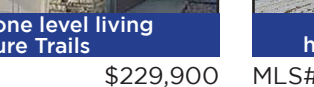
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Sharon Schruink  
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Tia Hofmeyer  
320-7653



Nick Yates  
490-3912



Kymm Jones  
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**THE 6TH GRADE OKOBOJI BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM** won first place in the Spencer Tailtwister Tournament on Saturday, January 9, 2021, beating out the Bishop Garrigan, Spencer and Southeast Valley teams. Participants (front) Camden Vonk, Miles Wasson, Colin Christensen; (back) Dave Vonk, Trey Vander Pol, Asa Jacobsen, Simon Walleck, Kade Nissen, Dillon Lindgren, Rob Wasson.

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## Spencer Welcomes Over 200 Babies in the Year of the Pandemic

Despite 2020 being one of the most unusual years to date, one thing remains certain, new life and new beginnings continue to provide hope for the future. In 2020, 229 babies were born at Spencer Hospital, with 118 of those girls and 111 boys.

"This has been quite a unique year in our birth center trying to navigate our way through the COVID-19 pandemic, yet our team continues to enjoy the opportunity to help families welcome little ones into the world as well as educating and pampering new moms," commented Jeannette Hasley, Spencer Hospital Birth Center Director.

"It's always fun to learn the names parents select for their babies, which often come with a story of why the name was picked or it's simply because the family likes the name," Hasley said. In 2020, the baby names at Spencer Hospital reflect a mix of traditional and unique, with very few duplicate names.

Of the 118 baby girls born in 2020, the names range from Adaline to Zaelynn, with three babies named Saylor, making it the most popular girls' name for the year locally. Of the 111 baby boys born at Spencer Hospital, tied for the most popular boy names were Christian and Theodore. Other popular names which were given to at least two of the 2020 babies included Annie, Athena, Eden, Ella, Gracelyn, Lennyn, Olivia, Phoenix, Quinn, and Tatum for girls, and boys named Bennett, Caleb, Jaxon, Maddox, Owen, and Waylon.

However, in Spencer Hospital's nursery, it is more common to see babies with one-of-a-kind names. Some of the unique names for girls were Arlie, Cora, Gamay, Harlow, Kinsley, Luna, Rhyplee, Sunshine, Vaeda, and Zaelynn, and the boys were Brison, Calum, Cashel, Chauncei, Da'Zarrious, Irving, Jinzen, Kyler, Olund, Romik, Tyce (pictured), and Zion. Some of the "old school" names that are making a comeback for baby names include Adaline, Beatrice, Eleanor, Rebecca, Charles, Christopher, Hank, Henry, and Theodore.

"Each baby has his or her own special personality and it's always fun to learn the name the parents have chosen for their child," Hasley said. "We're already off to a great start of welcoming new babies in the new decade. We're so fortunate to have an experienced group of family practice physicians at Avera Medical Group Spencer who specialize in obstetrics. They provide excellent women's health services before conception, then guidance through pregnancy and delivery, and pediatric care once baby is born. In addition to our great physicians, we also have a team of registered obstetrical nurses that are here to provide outstanding clinical expertise along with facilitating your once in a lifetime birth experience!"



## Dickinson County Treasury Updates

Dickinson County Treasurer Kris Rowley says, "Governor Reynolds' Proclamation of Disaster Emergency related to COVID-19 was updated on January 7, 2021. As expected the noncommercial driver's license expiration suspensions came to an end. There is one motor vehicle-related proclamation still in place related to driving for 90 days with temporary tags from a dealer while waiting on titling/plating. There are also federal suspensions still active regarding commercial driver's licenses (CDLs) and commercial learner's permits (CLPs) through February 8, 2021."

- Driver's Licenses that expired beginning January 16, 2020, and during the proclamation are again subject to the printed expiration date on the license, beginning on January 9, 2021. The 60-day grace period for driving on an expired license will resume as normal, applied to the original expiration date of the license. If your driver's license has been expired more than one year, you will have to retest. Contact the Dickinson County Driver's License station to schedule an appointment.
- The Dickinson County Driver's License Station is open by appointment only – call for an appointment at 712-336-6277 or renew online if eligible at <https://iowadot.gov/mvd/driverslicense/service-selector>. Some driver's licenses can be extended for 6 months for driving purposes online with the Department of Transportation.
- Through February 28, 2021, commercial driver's licenses (CDLs) and commercial learner's permits (CLPs) that expired on or after March 1, 2020, are considered valid until February 28, 2021, for driving anywhere in the U.S., in accordance with relief provided by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. Beginning March 1, 2021, all CDLs/CLPs will be subject to their printed expiration date when driving out-of-state and while driving in Iowa, the 60-day grace period will resume as normal, applied to the original expiration date of the license unless these are extended.
- Motor vehicles purchased from a dealer between September 1, 2020 and February 6, 2021, and using dealer-issued temporary tags until the vehicle can be titled and plated at the county treasurer's office can be operated on the highways of this state without registration plates for up to 90 days after the date of delivery of the vehicle to the purchaser from a dealer. Normally this must be completed by 45 days. The requirement to submit title application work to the county treasurer within 30 days remains in effect. If late, a late title penalty of \$10.00 is charged at the county treasurer's office.
- REAL ID driver's license enforcement was extended by federal law until October 1, 2021.

Rowley says, "We are open to the public, but because of social distancing health needs the number of people in the Tax/Motor Vehicle office and in the Driver's License Station are limited. Facemasks are required for entry. We are asking people to pay taxes and motor vehicle renewals through our online website, mail, dropbox or by phone, so we can save the in-office visits for our transactions that require face-to-face visits."

The website for Dickinson County is <https://dickinsoncountyiowa.gov>. There are links to the Iowa Tax and Tags website, [www.IowaTaxAndTags.org](http://www.IowaTaxAndTags.org), for making property tax and motor vehicle renewal payments. There are also links on the county website in the treasurer tab for motor vehicle forms and to the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT). The IDOT offers many driver's license services online if eligible at <https://iowadot.gov/mvd/driverslicense/service-selector>.

If you have questions, call the treasurer's office at 712-336-1205 or email the treasurer at [krowley@dickinsoncountyiowa.gov](mailto:krowley@dickinsoncountyiowa.gov). Driver's license appointments can be made by calling 712-336-6277. The tax, motor vehicle and driver's license office are open from 8:00am and 4:30pm but are closed through January 31, 2021, between 1:00 and 2:00pm.

<b>OPEN HOUSE</b> SUN. 17 <sup>th</sup> 1:00-3:00 501 Lake Street, Emmetsburg	<b>EMMETSBURG</b> Charming with Character 3 BED 3 BATH Home 3,536 SF - 0.2 Acres \$304,500 #20-2098	<b>65 HELEN AVENUE</b> With Lake Access 5 BED 3.5 BATH Home 3,238 SF - 0.55 acres \$629,900 #20-2069	<b>CHALSTROM BEACH</b> Completely remodeled Luxury 3 BED 2 BATH 1773 SF - East Lake \$650,000 #20-1396	<b>EMERALD HILLS</b> LUXURY AT IT'S FINEST!! 4 BED 3 BATH Home 2,932 SF \$439,900 #20-1433
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<p><b>Accountants</b></p> <p><b>Erichsen, Kallsen &amp; Associates, CPA's, LLP</b> Premier Tax, Financial and Business Advisors <b>William Kallsen, CEO</b> Certified Public Accountant 605 Lake St. Ste 6 Spirit Lake, IA 51360 Phone: 712.336.2632 Fax: 712.336.2763 <a href="mailto:bill@eka-cpas.com">bill@eka-cpas.com</a> <a href="http://www.eka-cpas.com">www.eka-cpas.com</a></p>	<p><b>Advertising</b></p> <p><b>THE LNS</b> THE LAKES NEWS SHOPPER Have The Lakes News Shopper emailed to you every Tuesday by going to: <a href="http://lakesnewssshopper.com">lakesnewssshopper.com</a> and clicking on "e-subscribe"</p>	<p><b>Dentists</b></p> <p><b>HILL AVENUE DENTAL</b> <b>DARREN DOTSON, D.D.S.</b> <b>AMY E. HARTZELL, D.D.S.</b> 1510 Hill Avenue Downtown Spirit Lake <b>Office: 712-336-4895</b> <a href="http://www.hillavenuedental.net">www.hillavenuedental.net</a> Providers for Delta Dental, Blue Dental and MetLife Now Accepting CareCredit Financing Available</p>
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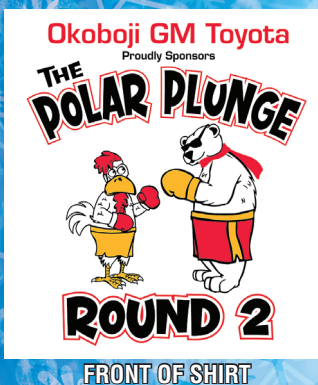
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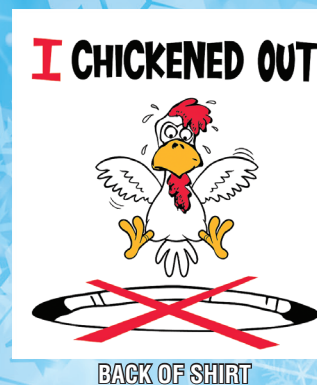
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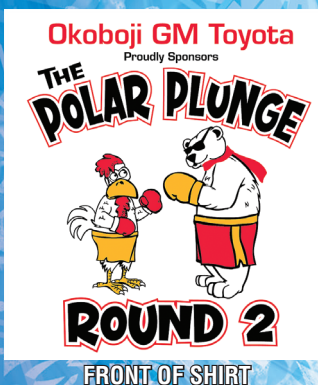
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**View complete job description and download application at [www.iowalakes.edu/jobs](http://www.iowalakes.edu/jobs). Contact Lynn Miller at [lmiller@iowalakes.edu](mailto:lmiller@iowalakes.edu) or 712-362-0409.**

**IOWA LAKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

**Human Resources 19 South 7th Street, Estherville, IA 51334.**  
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**Jackson County PART-TIME DISPATCHER**

The Jackson County Sheriff's Department is seeking applications to fill part-time Dispatcher positions. The Dispatcher is responsible for carrying out the day-to-day operations of the public safety dispatch center, responding to 911 emergencies, dispatching the appropriate emergency services and maintaining contact with emergency personnel via radio while they are in the field.

The job requires a high school diploma, some additional related training and at least one year of related experience. A valid driver's license is required; the ability to obtain and maintain required certifications through continuing education classes and training is also required; ability to lift 25 pounds, good communication skills, computer knowledge, good organizational skills, and must be in good physical and psychological health. Training will be provided. Rotating shift work required. Background check and pre-employment physical will be required. This is a part-time, non-benefited position. Wage is \$19.69 per hour.

**An application, supplemental application and a full job description can be obtained on the County website at [www.co.jackson.mn.us](http://www.co.jackson.mn.us), from the Jackson County Coordinator's Office, Courthouse, 405 4th Street, Jackson, MN 56143, or by calling 507-847-4182. A completed County application, and supplemental application are required. Failure to submit all required documents will disqualify the applicant.**

Applications must be delivered or postmarked to the Jackson County Coordinators Office by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, January 22, 2021. Faxed or emailed applications will not be accepted.

In order to ensure the safety of citizens, employees and property, Jackson County has adopted a drug and alcohol testing policy which applies to all candidates being considered for employment with Jackson County (Ref. Policy 501). A drug and alcohol test must be completed within 24 hours of all contingent verbal offers of employment, unless alternate scheduling arrangements are approved by the County Coordinator.

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EEO/AA and Drug Free Employer

**Human Resources Coordinator Spirit Lake**

This position provides support to Human Resources and various other departments related to short-term and long-term projects and is responsible for providing necessary receptionist backup. Support for Human Resources may include managing confidential projects, maintaining employee records, organizational development files, and training materials. The Human Resources Coordinator serves as a business partner to managers, supervisors, and employees by performing a variety of complex, professional level work functions and must be able to make decisions in a fast-paced environment. Must be flexible, professional, have a high level of discretion and be able to maintain confidentiality. In addition, must have experience in a related field, attention to detail and must be able to organize and prioritize work.

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**Jackson County Deputy Auditor/Treasurer**

The Jackson County Auditor/Treasurer Office is seeking applicants for a full-time (40 hrs per/yrk) Deputy Auditor/Treasurer. The primary responsibilities, under the direction of the County Auditor/Treasurer, are customer service, administrative duties, property tax, payroll, accounts payable, general accounting, election duties, vital statistics and other duties as directed. This position requires a combination of education and related experience beyond high school in accounting, finance, or business administration totaling four years. An associate degree in accounting, finance or business administration is preferred.

Strong knowledge of Office programs including Microsoft Excel and Word; and good communication skills, both written and verbal are essential. Please note that all interested applicants will be required to take a basic job skills test to be considered for an interview.

Salary range is \$19.69 - \$25.59 per hour, depending on qualifications, and includes a competitive benefits package with health insurance & PERA pension.

**An application and a full job description can be obtained on the county website at [www.co.jackson.mn.us](http://www.co.jackson.mn.us), from the Jackson County Coordinator's Office, Courthouse, 405 Fourth Street, Jackson, MN 56143; or by calling 507-847-4182. Resumes will be accepted, and are encouraged, but must be accompanied by a completed application. Faxed or emailed applications will not be accepted.**

**Applications must be delivered or postmarked by 4:30 pm, on Friday, January 22, 2021, to the Jackson County Coordinator's Office.**

In order to ensure the safety of citizens, employees and property, Jackson County has adopted a drug and alcohol testing policy which applies to all candidates being considered for employment with Jackson County (Ref. Policy 501). A Drug and Alcohol test must be completed within 24 hours of all contingent verbal offers of employment, unless alternate scheduling arrangements are approved by the County Coordinator.

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**Box 119, Jackson MN 56143**

**507-847-3608-phone or 507-847-3078-fax or emily.anderson@jccschools.com**

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2-15c

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**SKILLS / REQUIREMENTS:**

- At least one previous role based in strong customer service experience
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**HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR**

**Jackson County**

Jackson County Highway Department has a FT opening for a Heavy Equipment Operator.

Minimum requirements for this position include:

- Graduation from high school or GED;
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- Ability to operate a variety of machines and equipment necessary to perform this position, such as tandem trucks, motor grader, mower tractors, back hoe, dozer, excavator, skid loaders with attachments, pay loaders, shouldering machine, seeding machine, steel roller for patching, distributor, and sprayers;
- Ability to safely operate mower, chainsaws, tractors, power tools, hand tools, and light power equipment;
- Ability to operate using electronic controls;
- Working knowledge of survey techniques and the ability to read ditch maps;
- Ability to lift and carry 75 lbs;
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with others; and
- Ability to communicate effectively and the ability to courteously serve the public

This position is classified Grade 10 in the county compensation plan with a starting wage of \$19.69 per hour or DOQ. Includes a competitive benefits package, including PERA pension. This is a full-time position working 40 hours per week.

An application and a full job description can be obtained on the county website at [www.co.jackson.mn.us](http://www.co.jackson.mn.us), from the Jackson County Coordinator's Office, Courthouse, 405 Fourth Street, Jackson, MN 56143; or by calling 507-847-4182. Resumes will be accepted, and are encouraged, but must be accompanied by a completed application. Faxed or emailed applications will not be accepted.

Position is open until filled with applications received by Friday, January 29, 2021, 4:30 p.m. receiving first consideration for the position.

In order to ensure the safety of citizens, employees and property, Jackson County has adopted a drug and alcohol testing policy which applies to all candidates being considered for employment with Jackson County. (Ref. Policy 501). A Drug and Alcohol test must be completed within 24 hours of all contingent verbal offers of employment, unless alternate scheduling arrangements are approved by the County Coordinator.

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1-14c

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4-17c

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# Making Music Wearing Masks: COVID-19 Won't Stop The Music At Iowa Lakes Community College

Music professors at Iowa Lakes Community College have spent hours finding a way for Iowa Lakes students to continue making music safely during the coronavirus pandemic.

"Our students love to perform and are very adaptable. They know that without the masks, we wouldn't be able to make music. We all love music too much to allow that to happen," shared Carol Ayres, Iowa Lakes Music Professor.

Every music student wears a mask, but these masks are not one size fits all. Each protective equipment piece caters specifically to the instrument utilized, whether it is a trombone, a flute, one's voice, or any other device.

Iowa Lakes vocal students wear specialized masks designed by Broadway singers. These specialized masks feature three layers of fabric and a filter to reduce respiratory droplet emissions while still allowing space around the mouth to sing comfortably.

Masks for instrument players ensure the face is covered when playing and not playing to reduce respiratory droplets and contain three layers of fabric with a hole sewn into it, like a buttonhole, to allow the mouthpieces to fit through them.

Even the instruments themselves have masks called bell covers. Bell covers help prevent droplets from coming out the other end of musical instruments. Since human breath powers musical instruments, tiny

virus particles may become airborne, making bell covers as essential as face masks.

"We are doing everything we can to ensure our students get to continue making music. Measures we've taken beyond utilizing the masks include maintaining social distancing, allowing for adequate air exchanges in rooms, spreading rehearsals out to several locations, and pre-recording musical performances to offer virtually," continued Ayres.

With protocols on the best ways to safely make music changing frequently, Brett Fuelberth and Carol Ayres, Music Professors at Iowa Lakes, attend countless Zoom meetings and webinars to stay current with the recommended guidelines.

Many professional music organizations including the College Band Directors National Association (CBDNA), National Federation of High School State Associations (NFHS), American Bandmasters' Association (ABA), and National Band Association (NBA), and the National Association for Music Education (NAFME), developed studies



Owen McKim (SPIRIT LAKE), a freshman in the Culinary Arts program at Iowa Lakes, practices his trumpet fully masked in protective gear that doesn't mask the sound.

to help determine the best way to mitigate potential virus spread through practicing and performing music. The studies measure aerosols transmission and choose the best ways to minimize aerosols produced and distributed while singing, breathing, and playing instruments.

"We realize music is an integral part of who our music students are - enhancing the good times and helping them through hard times. Research has provided us with valuable information needed to provide a safe environment for our students to continue their musical endeavors," explained Ayres.

In the upcoming months, the Iowa Lakes Music Department hopes to offer many musical performances. The Iowa Lakes music department will be hosting the annual Jazz Band Contest in person on February 3 and 4, 2021, with all participants following safety protocols.

Visit [iowalakes.edu](http://iowalakes.edu) for music updates and to find out more about the annual Jazz Band Contest.

## Priority Groups Established by State for COVID-19 Vaccinations

The biggest question of 2021 so far, at least the one addressed to those in the healthcare world, has been: "When can I get vaccinated against COVID-19?"

The answer varies from state to state. In Iowa, as of today, if you work in healthcare or are a resident of a long-term care facility, you are eligible to schedule and receive a vaccine. Those in the next priority groups are identified; however, a time frame has not been announced by the state for the next round of vaccination opportunities.

"In our state, the Iowa Department of Public Health is following the CDC priority recommendations with the goal of consistently offering the vaccine to priority groups at the same time across each of the 99 counties," explained Colette Rossiter, Clay County Public Health coordinator. "Currently in the state, by order of the Iowa Department of Public Health's Vaccine Shortage Order, only people in Phase 1a are eligible to be vaccinated. This includes healthcare personnel and residents of long-term care centers."

Rossiter said Clay County initially received 600 doses just prior to Christmas of Moderna vaccine to administer to healthcare workers. This week another 200 doses were delivered; again, directed for immunization of healthcare personnel.

"We are close to having immunized everyone in the healthcare personnel category who has opted to receive the vaccine at this time," Rossiter said. "If an eligible healthcare worker has not scheduled an immunization time and would like to be

vaccinated, we encourage them to contact our public health office to schedule soon."

She added, "We're anxious to begin offering immunization to the next priority tier, enabling more local citizens to be protected against COVID-19; however, we must wait until the state directs us to do so and sufficient vaccine supply is provided. It's essential that health departments in all 99 counties are consistent in who is offered vaccination opportunities."

The next priority group identified by the CDC based on recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices represents a large number of people. Rossiter said that on a state level, there may be further definition of who is eligible to be vaccinated and potential priority tiers identified within the priority group.

Current CDC recommendations for Phase 1b and 1c are listed below:

**Phase 1b Priority Group.**

- Frontline essential workers such as fire fighters, police officers, corrections officers, food and agricultural workers, United States Postal Service workers, manufacturing workers, grocery store workers, public transit workers, and those who work in the educational sector (teachers, support staff, and daycare workers.)
- People aged 75 years and older because they are at high risk of hospitalization, illness, and death from COVID-19. People aged 75 years and older who are also resi-

dents of long-term care facilities should be offered vaccination in Phase 1a.

**Phase 1c Priority Group**

- People aged 65 – 74 years because they are at high risk of hospitalization, illness, and death from COVID-19. People aged 65 – 74 years who are also residents of long-term care facilities should be offered vaccination in Phase 1a.
- People aged 16 – 64 years with underlying medical conditions which increase the risk of serious, life-threatening complications from COVID-19.
- Other essential workers, such as people who work in transportation and logistics, food service, housing construction and finance, information technology, communications, energy, law, media, public safety, and public health.

As vaccine availability increases, vaccination recommendations will expand to include more groups and will become more widely available, with many pharmacies also offering immunizations.

Clay County Public Health, with assistance from Spencer Hospital, is planning community immunization clinics as larger population groups become eligible to be vaccinated. The clinics will be widely communicated to the public. Individuals will be scheduled vaccinations time to ensure an orderly process and to promote social distancing.

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