

Sunshine Foods

Prices Effective Tues., Dec. 24 to Tues., Dec. 31!

<p>SUNNY DEAL!</p> <p>Josh Cellars Pinot Grigio or Chardonnay Wines 750 mL + Deposit \$9.98</p> <p>Extremely Limited Supply! While Supplies Last!</p> <p>LIMIT 24</p>	<p>SUNNY DEAL!</p> <p>Josh Cellars Cabernet Wine 750 mL + Deposit \$11.98</p> <p>Extremely Limited Supply! While Supplies Last!</p> <p>LIMIT 24</p>	<p>SUNNY DEAL!</p> <p>14 Hands Wine 750 mL, Variety, + Deposit \$7.98</p> <p>Extremely Limited Supply! While Supplies Last!</p> <p>LIMIT 24</p>
<p>SUNNY DEAL!</p> <p>Meiomi Pinot Noir Wines 750 mL + Deposit \$15.98</p> <p>Extremely Limited Supply! While Supplies Last!</p> <p>LIMIT 24</p>	<p>SUNNY DEAL!</p> <p>Kim Crawford Wines 750 mL, Variety + Deposit \$11.98</p> <p>Extremely Limited Supply! While Supplies Last!</p> <p>LIMIT 24</p>	<p>SUNNY DEAL!</p> <p>Yellowtail Wines 750 mL, Variety, + Deposit \$3.98</p> <p>Extremely Limited Supply! While Supplies Last!</p> <p>LIMIT 24</p>
<p>SUNNY DEAL!</p> <p>Woodbridge Wines 1.5 Liter, Variety, + Deposit \$9.98</p> <p>Extremely Limited Supply! While Supplies Last!</p> <p>LIMIT 24</p>	<p>DIGITAL DEAL!</p> <p>Coors Light or Miller Lite Beer 24 Pack Cans + Deposit AD PRICE \$20.99 -4.00 \$16.99</p> <p>Extremely Limited Supply! While Supplies Last!</p> <p>DIGITAL COUPON LIMIT OF 4 COUPON USES</p> <p>Must use digital app to get digital coupons. Limit 4 coupon uses per customer.</p>	<p>DIGITAL DEAL!</p> <p>Kahlua Coffee Liqueur 1.75 Liter AD PRICE \$49.99 -10.00 \$39.99</p> <p>Extremely Limited Supply! While Supplies Last!</p> <p>DIGITAL COUPON LIMIT OF 2 COUPON USES</p> <p>Must use digital app to get digital coupons. Limit 2 coupon uses per customer.</p>
<p>DIGITAL DEAL!</p> <p>Cutwater 4 Pack, 12 oz. Cans + Deposit AD PRICE \$14.99 -7.00 \$7.99</p> <p>Extremely Limited Supply! While Supplies Last!</p> <p>DIGITAL COUPON LIMIT OF 2 COUPON USES</p> <p>Must use digital app to get digital coupons. Limit 2 coupon uses per customer.</p>	<p>DIGITAL DEAL!</p> <p>Michelob ULTRA Beer 24 Pack Cans + Deposit AD PRICE \$28.99 -10.00 \$18.99</p> <p>Extremely Limited Supply! While Supplies Last!</p> <p>DIGITAL COUPON LIMIT OF 4 COUPON USES</p> <p>Must use digital app to get digital coupons. Limit 4 coupon uses per customer.</p>	<p>DIGITAL DEAL!</p> <p>Busch Light Beer 12 Pack 12 oz. Bottles + Deposit AD PRICE \$16.99 -7.00 \$9.99</p> <p>Extremely Limited Supply! While Supplies Last!</p> <p>DIGITAL COUPON LIMIT OF 4 COUPON USES</p> <p>Must use digital app to get digital coupons. Limit 4 coupon uses per customer.</p>
<p>DIGITAL DEAL!</p> <p>Busch Light Beer 24 Pack 12 oz. Cans + Deposit AD PRICE \$20.99 -3.00 \$17.99</p> <p>Extremely Limited Supply! While Supplies Last!</p> <p>DIGITAL COUPON LIMIT OF 4 COUPON USES</p> <p>Must use digital app to get digital coupons. Limit 4 coupon uses per customer.</p>	<p>SUNNY DEAL!</p> <p>Smirnoff Holiday Punch 6 Pack 12 oz. Bottles + Deposit \$2.99</p> <p>Extremely Limited Supply! While Supplies Last!</p> <p>LIMIT 4</p>	<p>SUNNY DEAL!</p> <p>Pirate Water 16 oz. Cans + Deposit 2/\$1.00</p> <p>Extremely Limited Supply! While Supplies Last!</p> <p>LIMIT 48</p>
<p>DIGITAL DEAL!</p> <p>Black Velvet Whiskey 1.75 Liter, Original Var. ONLY + Deposit AD PRICE \$19.99 -5.00 \$14.99</p> <p>Extremely Limited Supply! While Supplies Last!</p> <p>DIGITAL COUPON LIMIT OF 6 COUPON USES</p> <p>Must use digital app to get digital coupons. Limit 6 coupon uses per customer.</p>	<p>DIGITAL DEAL!</p> <p>Admiral Nelson Spiced Rum 1.75 Liter + Deposit AD PRICE \$20.99 -5.00 \$15.99</p> <p>Extremely Limited Supply! While Supplies Last!</p> <p>DIGITAL COUPON LIMIT OF 2 COUPON USES</p> <p>Must use digital app to get digital coupons. Limit 2 coupon uses per customer.</p>	<p>DIGITAL DEAL!</p> <p>Fleishman's Vodka 1.75 Liter + Deposit AD PRICE \$10.99 -1.00 \$9.99</p> <p>Extremely Limited Supply! While Supplies Last!</p> <p>DIGITAL COUPON LIMIT OF 2 COUPON USES</p> <p>Must use digital app to get digital coupons. Limit 2 coupon uses per customer.</p>

All specials are while supplies last. Extremely Limited Supplies! No Rain Checks on Holiday Wine, Beer & Spirits Specials WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!

Sunshine Foods OPEN DAILY • NORTH MILFORD • PHONE: 338-4716

Download on the App Store | Download our app & earn rewards! Search for sunshine foods! | GET IT ON Google Play

Godfather's Pizza

16th ANNUAL

Thank You Celebration

CHOOSE ANY REGULAR SPECIALTY PIZZA

SMALL	MEDIUM	LARGE	JUMBO
9.99 ₍₄₁₆₎	14.99 ₍₄₁₆₎	19.99 ₍₄₁₄₎	28.99 ₍₄₁₂₎

Offer valid through 1/1/25. Not valid w/ any other coupon or special offer. 1 per visit.

Spirit Lake-712.336.5000 / Milford-712.338.9000 / Spencer-712.262.7742 / gogodfathers.com

Do you need Help with Back Pain, Balance, Core Strength, or Nutrition?

We have Something for Everyone!

EMSCULPT® EMSELLA®

EMSELLA (Help with Urinary Leakage & Sexual Function)

EMSCULPT NEO (Strengthening Abs, Arms, Legs, & Glutes)

CHIROPRACTIC CARE FOR ALL AGES

Infrared Sauna with Red Light Therapy

Acupuncture • Decompression/Traction

Ion Cleanse • Nutrition

Supplements - Nutridyn

7 Systems Weight Loss Program

Oliveda (Waterless Skincare)

Natural Family CHIROPRACTIC

712-336-2626 • 802 Lake St. Suite 4 • Spirit Lake, IA 51360 • naturalfamilychiro.com

Start your New Year with a New Grill from ACE

100 YEARS OF HELPFUL SINCE 1924



Weber Spirit S-315



Weber G-36 Griddle

BE SURE TO CHECK OUT OUR GREAT SELECTION OF YETI PRODUCTS!

YETI COOLERS



TRAEGER WOOD FIRED GRILLS

Traeger 575



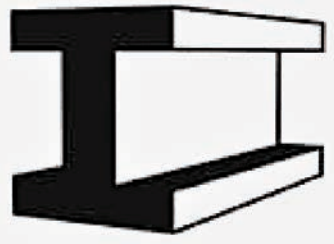
Fick's ACE HARDWARE

3401 Bergquist Ave. Spirit Lake • 712-336-3373
 1 block off Hwy. 71, across from Ferguson's Landscape
 Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.
 Sat. 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. • Sun. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

409 Central Ave. Estherville • 712-362-3745
 Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.
 Sat. 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. • Sun. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

MERRY Christmas

AND HAPPY NEW YEAR



GARLAND
IRON
WORKS

From Your Lakeshore
To Your Front Door,
We Are Here For You!

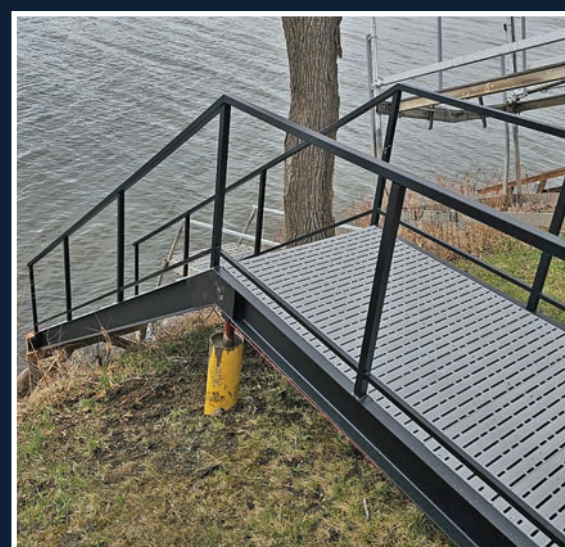
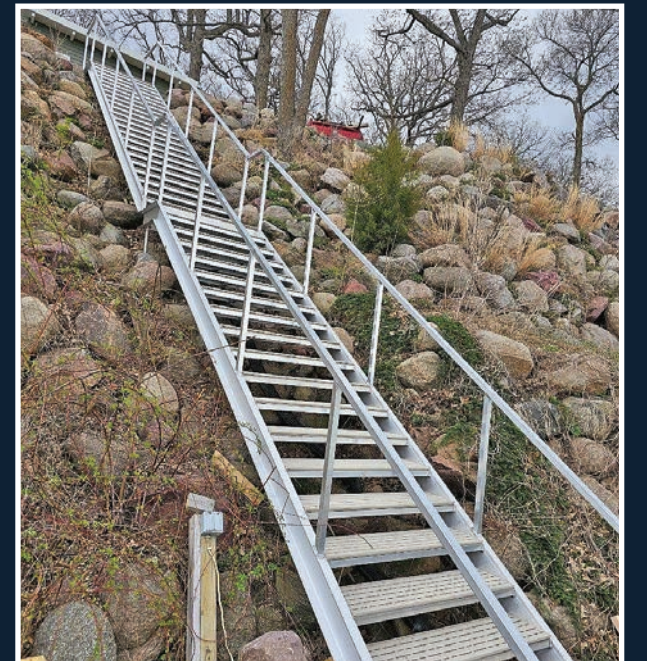
We Offer All Types of Welding Services!



A Few Areas We Specialize In Are:

- Custom Decorative Railings
- Stairs
- Fencing
- Plasma CNC Fabrication
- Custom Home Decor
- Welding & Repairs
- One-of-a-kind Handmade Pieces

Manufacturing & Metal Fabrication On-Site



Call Us Today For an Estimate!

712-330-1311

garlandironworks.com 

Sunshine Foods

SUNNY DEAL! Full Rack Baby Back Ribs **\$14.99** Each

SUNNY DEAL! Smoked Chicken Pieces **\$5.99** Per Pkg.

SUNNY DEAL! Home of the \$5.99 Pepperoni Pizza **\$5.99** Each

SUNNY DEAL! BBQ Flavor Pizzas 12" Ready to Bake Beef, Pork, or Chicken **2/\$20**

SUNNY DEAL! Smoked Baked Beans or Bacon Mac & Cheese **\$4.99** Per lb.

SUNNY DEAL! Smoked Cheeses **\$9.99** Per lb.

SUNNY DEAL! Blackened Smoked Shrimp **\$18.99** Per lb.

SUNNY DEAL! Smoked & Fried Jumbo Wings **10/\$10**

Happy Holidays
 Prices Effective Dec. 25-31!
NORTH MILFORD
PHONE: 338-4716
 All specials are while supplies last. No rain checks on ad specials.



PIONEERING PATHWAYS

Welcome Home WILL DIBLE!



The Okoboj School Board is excited to announce the hiring of Will Dible as the next superintendent of the Okoboji Community School District, following the retirement of Mr. Abrahamson on June 30, 2025, after eight years of dedicated leadership. A 2004 graduate of Okoboji High School, Will's return to lead our district is a special full-circle moment for all of us. Mr. Dible's hiring will be made official at the board meeting on January 8, 2025.

Will is a dedicated and accomplished leader with a student-centered approach to education that aligns perfectly with our district's vision. We are confident that his leadership will continue to move Okoboji forward in a positive direction.

Please join us in welcoming Mr. Dible to his new role. He will officially begin his duties as superintendent on July 1, 2025.



Let Sunshine Foods Handle Your Holiday Parties!

24-Hour Notice Required for All Trays!

Whether Your Celebration is Large or Small, Sunshine has a Tasty Solution for Your Party Planning!

OPEN DAILY • 712-338-4716
 NORTH MILFORD

PARTY TRAYS

Gourmet Fruit Tray			
12" Tray	Serves 10-12		\$33.99
16" Tray	Serves 15-20		\$49.99
18" Tray	Serves 25-30		\$59.99

Veggie Tray			
12" Tray	Serves 10-12		\$33.99
16" Tray	Serves 15-20		\$49.99
18" Tray	Serves 25-30		\$59.99

Cracker Snacker Meat & Cheese Tray			
12" Tray	Serves 10-12		\$33.99
16" Tray	Serves 15-20		\$49.99
18" Tray	Serves 25-30		\$59.99

7 Layer Taco Dip Tray			
12" Tray	Serves 8-10		\$27.99
16" Tray	Serves 15-20		\$39.99
18" Tray	Serves 25-30		\$49.99

SUSHI PLATTERS

Veg Combo Platter (60 Pcs)	
Vegetable Roll	\$35.99
Cucumber Cado Roll	
Salad Roll	
Small Cado Roll	
Small Carrot Roll	
Small Cucumber Roll	

Mixed Sushi Platter (60 Pcs)	
Nigiri Sushi	\$49.99
Salmon Roll	
Tuna Roll	
Creamy Roll	
Shrimp Roll	
California Roll	

Spicy Combo Platter (60 Pcs)	
Nigiri Sushi	\$59.99
Spicy Salmon Roll	
Spicy Tuna Roll	
Spicy Shrimp Roll	
Spicy Crab Roll	

Mixed Nigiri Combo Platter (62 Pcs)	
Tuna Nigiri	\$89.99
Salmon Nigiri	
Shrimp Nigiri	
Unagi Nigiri	
Yellowtail Nigiri	
Any kind of fish upon request	

Special F.F Sushi Platter (70 Pcs)	
Nigiri Sushi	\$79.99
Shrimp Tempura	
Dragon Roll	
Rainbow Roll	
Crispy Roll	
Tiny Roll	

CUSTOM PLATTERS available upon request!



The **Hair** in Spirit Lake
GALLERY Welcomes
Jenny Dunham to their team!



- COLORS
- BLOWOUTS
- HAIRCUTS
- DEEP CONDITIONING

Call today to set up an appointment with Jenny!

1606 Hill Ave., Spirit Lake 712.336.5064

Thank You Secret Santas

Okoboji Flooring & Furniture, the Campus Women's Club, and the Milford Memorial Library would like to give a huge thank you to all of the wonderful Secret Santas that helped make our 2024 Secret Santa Program a success! Thank you also, to our many behind the scenes volunteers that assisted and helped everything run smoothly. This program was designed to help out the less fortunate families and children who aren't quite sure if Santa is bringing gifts, and because of everyone who helped, every family nominated was able to receive presents!

This year, many businesses, organizations, and individuals all stepped up and helped spread Christmas joy throughout the hearts of many. Please know that however you may have helped this program work, you touched the lives of 50 children this year! The sparkle in their eyes when Santa delivered the gifts makes all of the work well worth it.



City of Arnolds Park Salvaged Pavers for Sale

The City of Arnolds Park is selling salvaged pavers from the 1999 Highway 71 project. There are approximately 25 sets of 24" x 24" pavers available with four different designs. The cost of the pavers are \$150 each or a set of four for \$500. They are available on a first come first serve basis, contact City Hall for further information at 712-332-2341.

THE LAKES NEWS Auctions
Page 2B

SHOP, DINE, & ENJOY
all that the
GREAT LAKES SHOPPING MALL
has to offer!
GREAT STYLES FRIENDLY SMILES

Lakes Area Senior Center

Activities • Dinner Date • Events

SPEAKER ON TUESDAY
at 12:30pm

- December 31: Treva Graves- Healthy Food Conversations

No Dance in December

Please stop in and see what we have to offer!

We are looking for more volunteers! Join our wonderful group!

Exercise • Cards • Pool • Music Speakers • Great Conversations

DINNER DATE MEALS!
Enjoy Socializing & Nutritional Meals

30 Monday Crunchy Baked Chicken Bread Vegetable Fruit/Dessert	31 Tuesday CLOSED	1 Wednesday CLOSED	2 Thursday Scalloped Potatoes and Ham Bread Vegetable Fruit/Dessert	3 Friday Meatloaf Bread Vegetable Fruit/Dessert
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PLEASE CALL 712-336-5247 BY 1:00 PM FRIDAY TO RESERVE A MEAL FOR NEXT WEEK • Elderbridge suggests a donation of \$7 - \$10 or whatever is affordable. Dinners are provided by CARSTENSEN'S MEAT & GROCERY of Lake Park.

LAKES AREA SENIOR CENTER 2101 Zenith Ave. • Spirit Lake, IA • 712-336-5247

SHOP Local THIS Christmas

PAYING CASH!
OLD JEWELRY IS EASY MONEY!

WE ARE BUYING GOLD & DIAMONDS

- 10k, 14k & 18k Gold
- Class Rings
- Broken Chains
- Divorce Diamonds
- "Old Boyfriend" Jewelry
- Single (lost) Earrings
- Scrap Gold
- Dental Gold

SPIRIT LAKE SILVER & GOLD

Great Lakes Mall Spirit Lake • 712-336-5405
www.spiritlakesilverandgold.com

Volunteer at the LASC

The key to the Lakes Area Senior Center's success rests in people like you who embody the spirit of greatness by saying "Yes I can, and YOU can too!" Volunteers don't necessarily have the time, they just have the heart. Volunteers are unpaid - not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless.

There is no "I" in team, but there is a "U" in volunteer. Very important people

- Outstanding
- Love to be helpful
- Understanding
- Needed for many things
- Team player
- Enthusiastic
- Enjoy helping
- Ready at a moment's notice
- Special people

Volunteers are always welcome to help with events and Dinner Date. If you are willing and able to be a volunteer, please contact Jackie at 712-336-5247. One day a week or one day a month all volunteers are appreciated.

Merry Christmas

Open Christmas Eve for Last Minute Stocking Stuffers & Gift Certificates

Wild Child
infant • toddler • tween

great lakes mall • spirit lake • 712-336-6902
OPEN Monday-Saturday 10AM-5:30PM

Melissa & Doug Toys
Like Us On Facebook



year of **YOU**
Look & Feel Amazing

be **RADIANT**
LASER SKIN STUDIO

- NEW! Mermaid Facial (Skin Boosters for Plumping)
- Vivace RF Microneedling
- PRX Wigo Skin Tightening
- ADVAtx Laser - Red Vessels
- IPL for Brown Spots
- Laser Hair Removal
- Medical Grade Skin Care
- Hydrafacials/Dermaplaning

Gift Certificates Make Great Gifts!

Go online to beradiantmedspa.com, for details on services, to purchase certificates, or to book an appointment.

OTHER SPECIALIZED SERVICES INSIDE BE RADIANT

Complimentary CONSULTATIONS!



Lip Filler • Botox/Xeomin/Daxxify
Under Eye PRF Treatments
Facial PRF Rejuvenation
Facial/Filler

Marsha Haar, ARNP
revitalizeaesthetic.com

TAYLOR GALBRAITH
MASSAGE
I GOT YOUR BACK

Swedish
Deep Tissue
Hot Stone
Sinus Treatment
Cupping

Taylor Holtz
712-260-4917

Gift Cards AVAILABLE!

Cathy Thee, Aesthetic Laser Specialist • Marsha Haar, ARNP Medical Director

1015 HWY 71 S OKOBOJI PLAZA, OKOBOJI (Next to The Outrigger)

701 SENECA ST., STORM LAKE (with Eden Restored, behind Fareway)

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM YOUR FAVORITE FASHIONISTAS!

Follow us on social media for after Christmas sales!



the **LOOK** FASHIONS
GREAT LAKES MALL, SPIRIT LAKE
OPEN MON-SAT 10-5:30
FOLLOW US: f i

SHOP, DINE, & ENJOY *all that the*
GREAT LAKES SHOPPING MALL
has to offer!
 GREAT STYLES FRIENDLY SMILES

Support
THE LAKES NEWS SHOPPER
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Love Your **Nails**
 • Manicures • Pedicures
 • Acrylics • French Tip
 • Gel-X • Shellac

(712) 339-9466
 Great Lakes Mall • Spirit Lake **Cali Nails**

Find Last Minute *Gifts & Stocking Stuffers*

Gift Certificate
 amount: INTERIORS
 from: INTERIORS

SHOP OUR AFTER CHRISTMAS
SALE 40% OFF
 HOLIDAY DECOR, ORNAMENTS AND GREENERY

INTERIORS
 FURNITURE & HOME

LIGHTING • WALL ART • FLORALS
 EVERYDAY & SEASONAL DECOR
 BATH • BEDDING • KITCHEN

Great Lakes Mall • Spirit Lake • 712.336.1000 • Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm

Shop Local

- Bank Midwest
- Cali Nails
- Hallmark
- El Mariachi Bar & Grill
- Faust Institute of Cosmetology
- Fashion Formula
- Hy-Vee Wine & Spirits
- Interiors
- Lakes AutoSport Repair
- The Look Fashions
- MediaCom
- Spirit Lake Silver & Gold
- Spirit Spa
- Valvoline
- Wild Child



Merry Christmas from:

SELECT MERCHANDISE 25-50% OFF

FASHION FORMULA
 The Great Lakes Mall Spirit Lake, IA | 712-336-3824

Sizes Petite-Plus Available
 Monday-Saturday 9-5

Become a Fashion Formula Facebook Fan!

CHRISTMAS POSTCARD

To : Our Customers

From : **SILVER & GOLD**

Thank you for all of your support this holiday season. May the magic of Christmas fill your heart with warmth and happiness!



Mr. B's Flooring Gives Back to Spencer Hopsital - Abben Cancer Center

Abben Cancer Center received a generous donation of over \$3100.00 from Mr. B's Flooring. During the month of October (Breast Cancer Awareness Month), Mr. B's Flooring partnered with Mohawk to have 20% of their Smart Cushion Carpet Padding (pink pad) sales be given back to the Abben Cancer Center, which will help support various patient needs. Jason and Tammy Brown, Mr. B's Flooring commented that they thought it would be a great way to give back to the community and help those in need.

DO YOU KNOW A KID WHO NEEDS A BED?

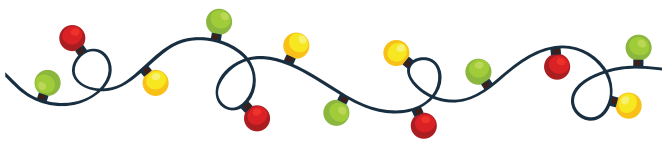
WE GIVE BEDS TO KIDS WHO NEED ONE

CALL: 844-432-2337 X. 5593

ONLINE: SHPBEDS.ORG/APPLY

SHP

SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE
SPIRIT LAKE CHAPTER
SERVING THE IOWA GREAT LAKES REGION



Weekly Social Gathering

You are invited to a weekly social gathering every Wednesday from 12:30 - 4:30pm at the American Legion in Milford. Come and play a game of cards. Coffee will be provided. They hope to see you there.

YOUR AGENT!

Multi-Million Dollar Producer!

MARILYN STRICKLAND
Broker - Associate
Hoen Realty

712-336-2790 or 712-320-7070

Saturday, January 11th
9 AM - 3 PM

WINTER WIND

Hosted at Onocota Park
Spencer, Iowa

Three Concurrent Sessions
Lunch & Water Bottle Included

Register online at www.dickinsoncountyconservationboard.com

CLAY COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD
Dickinson County CONSERVATION BOARD
IOWA LAKES REGION LABORATORY
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY Extension and Outreach



Give the gift of

re*be

DERMATOLOGY, MEDICAL & COSMETIC PROCEDURES

MERRY Christmas and Happy New Year

from all of us at re*be!

Botox® | Face Lifts
Breast Surgery | Fillers
Skin Checks | Liposuction
Laser Face Peels | Varicose Veins & Much More

biote Hormone Therapy

• Increase Energy • Balance Mood • Improve Your Sleep

Clinic CLOSED Dec. 23 - Jan. 3 • *We can't wait to see you in the New Year!*

712.332.6001 | rebeyou.com | 3301 HWY. 71 Spirit Lake, IA | Dr. Ronald Kolegraff, MC, FACS • Nicole Stall, NP-C, DCNP Dermatology Certified • Dr. Keli Kolegraff, MD, PhD

Okoboji School Board Names Will Dible Next District Superintendent

The Okoboji Community School District School Board has named Will Dible as the district's next superintendent, pending formal board approval at its meeting on January 8, 2025.

As superintendent of the Alburnett Community School District, Dible has launched student-centered initiatives such as 3DE, a framework designed to make high school education more experiential and relevant to real-world challenges. In addition, he has overseen facility expansions, developed the Professional Learning Community (PLC) process, and was the first district in Iowa to implement a brand new student information system (SIS) in Alma.

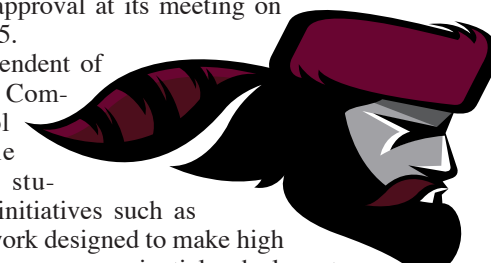
Prior to his current role, Dible served as principal of Spencer High School and director of school improvement for the Spencer Community School District. He holds advanced studies certificates with superintendent and principal endorsements from the University of Northern Iowa and a master's degree in teaching from the University of Iowa. He is also an alumnus of Okoboji High School.

"I feel honored and blessed to be given this opportunity by the Okoboji School Board," said Dible. "It is very exciting to be able to come back to the community that helped shape me and I am looking forward to serving the students, staff, families and community of the area during this time of exciting and innovative projects and initiatives."

Board members worked with Grundmeyer Leader Services to conduct the search. Dible interviewed with groups of students, parents, teachers, and community members on Monday, Dec. 16th.

"Will is a dedicated and accomplished leader, as well as a proud Okoboji alumnus," said Board President Juli Johnson. "His student-centered approach to education aligns seamlessly with our district's vision and establishes a strong foundation for achieving the goals of our schools and community."

Dible will officially begin leading Okoboji Community School District on July 1, 2025.



Keep Your Floors Merry & Bright!

Heartfelt thanks and best wishes to our wonderful customers!

WISHING YOU **Happy Holidays** AND A WONDERFUL NEW YEAR

SAVE NOW ON IN-STOCK VINYL PLANK!

25% OFF SELECT STYLES
EXPIRES 12-31-24

MOHAWK

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE!
1208 4TH AVE. SW, SPENCER
Just East of Wal-Mart in Spencer!
712-580-4400 www.mrbflooring.com
Mon.-Fri. 8:30am to 6pm, Sat. 9am to 5pm, Closed Sun.

Mr. B's FLOORING

SMITH BROTHERS of BERNE

2025 NEW YEAR'S SALE

20% OFF ALL SMITH BROTHERS IN-STOCK OR CUSTOM ORDER FURNITURE

Sale Dates: December 26 - January 8

Steffen FURNITURE by Klee

420 N Grand Ave, Spencer
Phone 712-262-5420
www.steffenfurniture.com
Monday-Friday 9 am - 5 pm;
Saturday 9 am - 4 pm; Thursday 'til 7 pm



THEATRES SOUTHPARK

ELEVATING THE MOVIE-GOING EXPERIENCE

NOW PLAYING
MUFASA THE LION KING
SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 3

NOW PLAYING
WICKED
HOMESTEAD

NOW PLAYING
MOANA 2
KRAVEN THE HUNTER





EXTENSIVE REMODEL
ALL NEW ULTRALUX LOUNGERS WITH HEATED SEATS & TRAY TABLES

FULL KITCHEN & BAR
TRADITIONAL FAVORITES: POPCORN, CANDY, & SODA
APPETIZERS, BURGERS, SANDWICHES, FLATBREADS & COCKTAILS

Enjoy dinner and a movie under one roof! Come check it out & enjoy the newly renovated The Palms Theatres - Southpark.

To view our current movie line-up visit:
FRIDLEYTHEATRES.COM

Scan this code with your smart device to view showtimes and buy tickets online!



New Year's Celebration! **CAPTAIN'S ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEX**

UPCOMING ENTERTAINMENT



FRIDAY & SATURDAY, DEC. 27 & 28
Zero Below 9pm

TUESDAY, DEC. 31
Grunge Pop 9pm

Free Show!

Balloon Drop at Midnight!

New Year's Eve Celebration

FRI. & SAT., JAN 3 & 4
Six to Midnight 9pm

FRI. & SAT., JAN 10 & 11
Shirts & Skins 9pm

Check out our current lineup of events at CaptainsGetaway.com

OPEN DAILY AT 3 PM • 107 WEST BROADWAY, ARNOLDS PARK




NEW YEARS EVE
20 *parties* 25
in the Marina District



NEW YEARS EVE DINNER
Enjoy a special evening at Snappers with our NYE dinner featuring steaks & seafood.

LIVE MUSIC AT 8PM
with Ryan Sather & Dave Rowley

For reservations call 712.332.8293, email events@parksmarina.com or visit: snappersboji.com



DANCE PARTY
with DJ Aventi starting at 9PM

MIDNIGHT
champagne toast with balloon drop and party favors

gardensboji.com



DRINK SPECIALS
with \$3 beers and bombs

NEW YEAR'S DAY
\$10 Pizzas, \$10 beer buckets and \$3 bombs

Extended Holiday Hours: Open daily @ noon Dec. 26- Jan 5

okobojiboats.com

Kiwanis Bingo Nights



Milford Kiwanis presents Bingo Nights. The next Bingo Night will be Thursday, December 26, 2024. Card sales begin at 5:30 and Bingo is from 6:00-8:00. The progressive jackpot blackout game for the end of the night will be \$200. A meal will be provided by the VFW Auxiliary for just \$7.00. The Spirit Lake VFW is located at 914 Lake Street. Bingo profits support Milford youth needs, programs, and scholarships.



January Kenue Coffee Hour

Join Dickinson County Nature Center staff for Kenue Coffee Hour: Abbie Gardner at the Maser Monarch Lodge on January 2nd at 10:30 a.m. We welcome our speaker for January - Mary Dreier, Director of Dickinson County Museum, as she presents the details of Abbie's life, which extend past the Spirit Lake Massacre.

"We will be exploring parts of Abbie's story that have not been widely publicized - including the fact that Abbie, at the time of her death, was a wealthy woman," stated Dreier.

As Director Dreier shares these lesser-known facts during her presentation titled Abbie-Beyond the Massacre, you can enjoy a hot cup of coffee from the light coffee bar provided by the Nature Center.

"There is lots more to Abbie Gardner's story than the Spirit Lake Massacre. She was smart, tenacious, a brilliant business-woman, author, and more," stated Dreier.

Stop in to journey through our local history and engage with other enthusiasts.

No registration is required for Kenue Coffee Hour. For more information, visit www.dickinsoncountynaturecenter.com or call the Nature Center at 712-336-6352.



We're still open.

THURSDAY - MONDAY
8 AM - 2 PM

1109 Lakeshore Dr. Okoboji, IA



HAPPY HOUR 4-6PM

MEET AT THE SHACK!

FREE SOUP
SUNDAYS

BOTTOMLESS MIMOSAS
\$25 | SAT & SUN

The games will be on!

EXTENDED HOLIDAY HOURS. OPEN DAILY DEC 26 - JANUARY 5






MILFORD KIWANIS PRESENTS

FUN BINGO

Nights **2ND AND 4TH THURSDAYS OF THE MONTH**

Spirit Lake VFW • 914 Lake Street

December 26th **BINGO 6-8** Card sales begin at 5:30

Jackpot progressively builds. The Jackpot prize for December 26 will be \$200!

MEAL PROVIDED BY VFW AUXILIARY FOR JUST \$7.00!

The VFW Canteen serves your favorite beverages & pizza at very reasonable prices.

BINGO profits support local scholarships and youth programs. Milford Kiwanis meets every Tuesday at 7am at the Milford Community Center.




Register Your Child for

FREE BOOKS

Register your child in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and get a FREE BOOK every month until their 5th birthday.

If your child lives in Dickinson County, register for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

This program is sponsored locally by



Learn more at ImaginationLibrary.com



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 Lakes News Shopper

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 @LakesNewsShopp

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ATTRACT ATTENTION TO YOUR BUSINESS WITH 47,2000+ IMPRESSIONS AVERAGED WEEKLY!

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THE LAKES NEWS SHOPPER WORKS!



- 80% of people read The LNS & look at the ads.
- 75% of our readers are between the ages 25-64.
- 75% of our readers purchase advertised products.
- 56% of our readers are female, the household purchasers.
- 50% of our readers keep The LNS for 3 days or more.

CIRCULATION VERIFICATION COUNCIL

Stats per the 2024 Circulation Verification Council audit.

Mobile Food Pantry In Lake Park

The Food Bank of Iowa Mobile Food Pantry will be open for distribution on Thursday, January 2, 2025, from 4:30 - 6:30pm, at the Lake Park Methodist Church located at 1471 135th Ave, Lake Park. Registration will be inside the church beginning at 3:30 pm, you must be present to register. You may pick up groceries for someone that is not able to make it. Please do not line up at the front door (southeast corner of church) before 3:30pm. Please bring boxes, bags or containers for your groceries. Distribution will begin at 4:30pm. Volunteers will help bring your groceries to your vehicle. Questions? Call Jerilyn Marra 712-348-0475.





MERRY Christmas

SHOPPING LOCALLY



It Matters

When it comes to shopping and deciding where to spend your money, it matters. It matters because the local businesses owned by your friends and neighbors depend on you, the consumer, to support them. Giving back to the community in this way allows it to continue to serve you and will only improve from your investment.

SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY
Discover unique gifts, personalized service, and best of all, contributing to the livelihood of others. Your community will reap the benefits of your investment in its small businesses. Your purchase will help small businesses reach their goals rather than lining the pocket of a company executive.

KEEPING MONEY LOCAL
Instead of adding to a big corporations' bottom line, you can keep your money right here in the community you live, work, and love. When you shop local, you're investing in your community, with very dollar spent supporting local jobs and strengthens the economy.

FIND YOUR LOCAL SHOPPING AND DINING IN THE IOWA GREAT LAKES AREA IN



THE LAKES NEWS SHOPPER

 **PEARSON LAKES ART CENTER**

2201 HWY 71 N PO Box 255 | Okoboji, IA 51355

Winter Hours:
Tues-Sat: 10am-4pm | Thurs: 10am-9pm
PLAC will be closed through 1/2

VISUAL ARTS



Selections by the No Boundaries Gallery Project Team
Through 2/22 | Reception 1/16, 5-7pm



Rosalise Olson
Through 2/24



Digital Photo Art by Denis Hagen
Through 2/8

EDUCATION CLASSES

REGISTER NOW FOR JANUARY YOUTH ART CLASSES

 **Grades K-12**
Must register by 1/3

HEART WEAVING BASKET With Rachele Fratzke
Jan. 11 | 10am-3pm (bring a sack lunch) | \$35/\$45
Level: Any, 18 years+, Register by 1/7

Join us for a heartwarming weaving workshop where you'll learn to craft a beautiful, handmade heart-shaped basket! This unique project blends traditional weaving techniques with a modern twist, perfect for beginners and experienced crafters alike. In this hands-on session, you'll be guided through each step of the basket-making process using natural reeds.

MOSAICS
Learn the basics based on age group and create a beautiful glass image during this 3 week course.



MINDFUL ART 1.0 With Kares Knudtson
Jan. 23 | 6-7:30pm | \$35/\$45
Level: Any, 18 years+, Must register 1 day prior to class.

This mindful drawing activity merges neuroscience and drawing to explore our limitations and foster change in our behaviors. This class is for EVERYONE that could use a positive shift in their mood. All artistic abilities welcome, even if you don't necessarily consider yourself 'creative'. Come try it, you will like it! The finished product will be a work of art matted to 11x14.

CULINARY CLASSES

Wine Class
With Jennifer Tritle-Oitzman
6:00pm | \$45/\$55

Jan. 9: Wine 101 - Back to Basics
Feb. 6: African American Owners & Winemakers
Mar. 6: New World vs Old World Blind Tasting
Apr. 3: Wines of Argentina

Chinese New Year Luncheon
With Helen Alexander
Jan. 15 | 11:00am | \$50/\$60

Usher out the old and bring forth luck and prosperity for the New Year! Helen will teach about the historical significance of this holiday and how to prepare foods traditionally served by generations of her own family. Class includes light hands-on activities in food prep, a festive luncheon with herbal tea, and a glass of wine. Must register by Jan. 11.

Cozy Crockpot Creations
With Sarah Page from So Good by Sarah
Jan. 18 or Feb. 13 | 1:00pm | \$40/\$50

Hands-on class includes assembling a hearty and satisfying take-away meal for two to pop right in your crockpot at home, as well as recipes, and generous samplings of several crockpot meals. Must register 5 days prior to class.

 **SCAN FOR FULL CLASS DESCRIPTIONS**
lakesart.org | 712-332-7013

Online registration now available for culinary & education classes.

Super Sourdough Saturday
With Sheila Thelen of Okoboji Wellness Clinic
Feb. 8 | 1:00pm | \$45/\$55
Register by Feb. 1

Class includes instruction, a sourdough starter, wooden spoon, taste samples, and hands on experience kneading a mini loaf you will take home, bake, and enjoy! Class is approximately two hours.

Keep local businesses alive and thriving all year long by **SHOPPING LOCAL.**

the ROOF GARDEN BALLROOM

BOOMERS AND CROONERS ARE BACK!



- SUNDAY, JUNE 15TH**
REMEMBERING BOBBY VEE
TICKETS: \$29 - \$39
BOOTH: \$300
- SUNDAY, JUNE 29TH**
HERMAN'S HERMITS
TICKETS: \$39 - \$49
BOOTH: \$400
- SUNDAY, JULY 13TH**
AN EVENING WITH THE LOVIN' SPOONFUL
TICKETS: \$25 - \$35 | BOOTH: \$300
- SUNDAY, JULY 27TH**
A MAN NAMED CASH
TICKETS: \$29 - \$39
BOOTH: \$275
- SUNDAY, AUGUST 3RD**
THE RAT PACK LEGACY
TICKETS: \$25 - \$35
BOOTH: \$275

***DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM**
***SHOW STARTS AT 7:30 PM**

FOR UP-TO-DATE CONCERT INFORMATION
ROOFGARDENBALLROOM.COM
*All ticket purchases subject to \$7 processing fee



LOS PUEBLOS
MEXICAN AND AMERICAN GRILL
OKOBOJI, IA
EST. 2003

Happy Hour · Mon.-Thurs. · 2-6pm!
House Margaritas & Beers

1/2 OFF
(excludes premium margaritas)

Holiday Gift Cards Available!

GLOSED Dec. 24, 25 & 26 Merry Christmas!

OPEN:
Sunday-Thursday 11am-8pm
Friday & Saturday 11am-9pm

Hwy. 71 Arnolds Park
332-7315




west

SUPPORT YOUR **Local BREWERY**

OPEN YEAR-ROUND

NOW FEATURING
Brunch Pizzas & Bloody Beer Bar
SUNDAYS 12(noon)-3pm

THE LOFT AT WESTO
Private Event & Rental Space
Overlooking the Brewery!
Any inquires and interest email loft@westobeer.com

\$1 OFF PINT
\$2 OFF PIZZA

Limit 1 coupon per ticket. Expires December 29, 2024

TAP ROOM HOURS: Tues.-Fri. 2pm-10pm | Sat & Sun. 12(noon)-10pm
PIZZA HOURS: Tues.-Fri. 4-9pm | Sat. 12(noon)-9pm | Sun. 12(noon)-3pm

503 Terrace Park Blvd
West Okoboji • westobeer.com
@westobeer




MAIN STREET BAR & GRILL

Tuesday Dec. 31st
New Year's Eve Special



Prime Rib \$28
Cheesy Potatoes, Salad Bar and a Bun
Start Serving at 5:30pm

202 East Main St., Terril, IA
712-853-6198



GET MORE FOR YOUR BUCK

BANG!

THE LNS

CREATE A POWERFUL MARKETING PUNCH BY COMBINING PRINT & DIGITAL ADVERTISING WITH THE LAKES NEWS SHOPPER!

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712-338-2232 • lakesnewsshopper.com

THE LAKES NEWS SHOPPER WORKS!

- 80% of people read The LNS & look at the ads.
- 75% of our readers are between the ages 25-64.
- 75% of our readers purchase advertised products.
- 56% of our readers are female, the household purchasers.
- 50% of our readers keep The LNS for 3 days or more.

Stats per the 2024 Circulation Verification Council audit.



Perkins
AMERICAN FOOD CO.

ONLINE ORDERING NOW AVAILABLE AT PERKINSRESTAURANT.COM

OPEN CHRISTMAS EVE - 6AM TO 2PM
CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY
REGULAR HOURS THURS-MON

MILFORD, IA 712-338-4060

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
CELEBRATE WITH OUR RIBS FOR TWO SPECIAL



• RIBS FOR TWO - JUST \$49.99 •

Each person get a 1/2 rack of our tender fall-off the bone Baby Back Ribs seasoned with our signature dry rub or drizzled with our Maple Bourbon BBQ Sauce, one side, one beverage and a slice of pie.
OFFER GOOD DECEMBER 28-31.

CLEAN MODERN SLEEK

We have all your glass needs

MERRY CHRISTMAS
FROM ALL OF US AT NORTHWEST GLASS!




WE ARE BACK OPEN
& FULLY READY TO SERVICE THE LAKES AREA AGAIN AFTER THE FLOOD!

Northwest Glass
511 S Grand Ave | Spencer, IA | www.nwglassia.com | 712-262-4992

January Nature Tots: Ants & Beetles

Is your little one (2-5 years old) trying to learn the alphabet? The Dickinson County Nature Center provides a free monthly program – Nature Tots, and the theme for 2025 is Animals ABC's.



On Wednesday, January 8th, at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., learn about the letters "A" and "B" for Nature Tots "Ants and Beetles."

The program will start with reading a story about big bugs, and our young nature enthusiasts can practice crawling and hopping like various insects. They will also closely examine some of the Nature Center's preserved insect mounts.

Attendees will develop motor skills by making a bug collection, searching through sensory bins for letters that match the correct insect, and learning about insect body parts using creative crafting skills and assembling cutout materials.

Nature Tots lasts about 45 minutes and is a free monthly program and requires a chaperone. Please register by 5 p.m. on January 6th under the Programs/Events page at www.dickinsoncountynaturecenter.com. Registration for each event opens 2 months prior to the event. Find our 2025 Programs Schedule on our website. Like and follow the Dickinson County Nature Center on Facebook and Instagram to see the latest updates and programs.

10:00 AM SUNDAYS
Priest in Charge, The Reverend Carolyn Tuttle
 Live Stream through our Facebook Page
 Email: office@stalbanepiscopalchurch.org
 Website: stalbanepiscopalchurch.org
 The Episcopal presence in the Iowa Great Lakes Area
 23rd & Zenith Ave. • Spirit Lake • 712-336-1117

Excelsior United Methodist Church
 Deep Roots - Strong Faith

 We Invite You to Join Us for
Worship & Fellowship
Sunday at 9:00 am
 Rev. Dr. Jennifer Hesebeck
 2005 150th Ave, Milford • 712.330.7149

FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH
 nondenominational
WORSHIP WITH US!
SUNDAY • 10:30 AM
 Coffee & Fellowship
 Before & After the Service
 Rev. Dr. Jennifer Hesebeck, Pastor
 805 Okoboji Avenue • Milford, IA
712.338.4642 • www.faithcommunitymilford.com

HARBOR OF JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMC
 1204 L Ave. Milford • 712-338-2355
 Pastor Tim Voth
HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS!
 CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 6:00 PM
 JOIN US FOR WORSHIP EVERY
SUNDAY AT 9:30 AM
 OR ONLINE AT HARBOROFJOY.COM

"She gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." ~ Luke 2:7

CUPBOARD LOCATED ON SW CORNER OF BUILDING. ITEMS AVAILABLE 24/7



READ THE BIBLE WITH US IN 2025 STARTING JAN 1 WITH BIBLE RECAP IN THE "YOU VERSION APP"

HOW TO SAVE THE "THE BIBLE RECAP" PLAN - DOWNLOAD FROM APP STORE "BIBLE APP - YOU VERSION"

1. OPEN BIBLE APP
2. CLICK 'DISCOVER' AT THE BOTTOM OF YOUR SCREEN
3. IN THE 'SEARCH' BAR TYPE 'BIBLE RECAP'
4. SCROLL DOWN UNTIL YOU SEE BLUE BIBLE RECAP IMAGE UNDER 'PAGES' AND CLICK ON IT
5. ONCE ON 'THE BIBLE RECAP' PAGE SCROLL DOWN TO 'PLANS' AND CHOOSE THE ONE THAT SAYS '365 DAYS' ON IT AND CLICK ON IT
6. AFTER YOU OPEN IT, IT WILL SAY 'START PLAN' IF YOU CLICK ON THAT, IT WILL START THE PROGRAM THAT DAY, YOU CAN CLICK ON SAVE FOR LATER IF YOU WANT TO SAVE IT NOW.

HOW TO GET BACK INTO THE "THE BIBLE RECAP" PLAN

1. OPEN BIBLE APP 2. CLICK 'PLANS' AT THE BOTTOM OF YOUR SCREEN
3. ONCE YOU HAVE STARTED THE PLAN IT WILL BE LISTED UNDER 'MY PLANS'
4. IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY STARTED IT YOU WILL FIND IT LISTED UNDER 'SAVED' AND CAN CLICK ON 'START' WHENEVER YOU ARE READY TO START IT.

Spirit Lake United Methodist Church
 Join us in choosing to make Christmas what it should be—a joyous celebration of Jesus' birth that enriches our hearts and the world around us.

DECEMBER 24 •
 ANGEL'S SONG
 CHRISTMAS EVE
 CANDLELIGHT SERVICES
 3:00 PM TRADITIONAL WORSHIP
 5:30 PM CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP
DECEMBER 29:
 ONE WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 AM
Joy with community. A place for all people, including you!
 1812 GARY AVE., SPIRIT LAKE, IA • 336-3115

Join Us...
TWO WORSHIP SERVICES TO CHOOSE FROM
Saturdays at 6:00pm
Sundays at 9:00am
 try Chair Yoga with Sue DeBord -
Tuesdays at 10:00am
calvarylovesall.com

CALVARY United Methodist Church
 679 W. Okoboji Grove Rd., Arnolds Park
712-332-2447
 Sharing God's Love with ALL Find us on

25TH Anniversary 1999 - 2024
 As we close out 2024, we reflect on the incredible staff, volunteers, and donors we have. Your generosity and faithfulness over the past 25 years has allowed us to serve expectant mothers and mothers with young children with love, integrity, and hope.
 On behalf of our Board of Directors and Executive Director, THANK YOU for your dedication, commitment, and support! We look forward to 2025 and continuing our mission together with you in the years to come.
 1004 22nd Street, Milford, IA 51351
 712.338.3333 / www.cherishcenter.org

 Community. Hope. Renewal.

AA Meetings
 The Jackson Java open AA meetings will resume on Tuesdays at 7:00pm, at Jackson Center for the Arts (309 2nd Street, Jackson, Minnesota).
 For more information, contact Aili at 507-840-0639.

Scheduled Presentations
 Scheduled dinner date speaker presentations at the Lakes Area Senior Center:
 • December 31-Treva Graves

Support
THE LAKES NEWS SHOPPER
 Advertising Family of Merchants.

Lakes Area Senior Center Classes and Events
 Seniors Movin' On is an exercise group that meets every Monday, Wednesday & Friday morning at 9:00 a.m.
 The exercise program is based on the Silver Sneakers Program.
 Blood Pressure Screening the last Tuesday of every month
 Zumba class on Thursday at 5:00
 Asian MahJong—1st and 3rd Monday at 1:00pm
 Breakfast—Canceled in December. Please come on January 19, 2025.
 The Senior Center also has pool and ping pong available. Stop in and see them!
 The Senior Center will be closed December 23 through December 27. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
 The Senior Center is located at 2101 Zenith Avenue, Spirit Lake, Iowa.

First Lutheran Church
 9/8/2024 - 5/18/2025
SUNDAY Schedule

WORSHIP 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM
FELLOWSHIP 9:30 AM
EDUCATION 9:45 AM
 1525 Three Cross Road
 Milford, IA
office@3cross.org 712-338-4514 www.3cross.org

Northwest Iowa Corridor Habitat for Humanity
 Dear Friends and Neighbors,
 Many of us in the Clay & Dickinson County area are blessed to have a house to call "home" but, we, the Board of NWIC Habitat for Humanity are acutely aware that during this time there are many who worry everyday about their housing needs.
 Now more than ever, with the damaging and destroying effects of the summer high water in our region, the need for decent AFFORDABLE housing is overwhelming! We are making an effort to do our part to build new homes, but we need your financial help.
 We have been building homes in the Clay & Dickinson corridor for many years but have now been asked to step up our capacity to build at a faster pace. To meet this challenge, we have rented office space and hired an Executive Director, Joseph Bjornstad. We are currently building a twin home in Spirit Lake and have plans for at least two homes in Spencer beginning next year.
 Will you help us to continue the momentum we have built up? Your donation is tax deductible, so if you can give a year end gift or put us on your "New Year's Resolutions" list, we would be so grateful. We would love to share the warm feelings we get every time we hand the keys over to a new homeowner and they too experience the thrill of having a place to call "HOME!"
 Thank you for your consideration of this worthy cause.
 Sincerely,

 Joseph Bjornstad, Executive Director and the Board of Directors for NWIC Habitat for Humanity
 To donate online, volunteer, or apply for a Habitat for Humanity home, scan this:

 Northwest Iowa Habitat for Humanity has a new office location.
710 Lake Street, Spirit Lake, IA 51360
www.nwiwahabitat.com • Phone: 712-363-3479

Lueders Ridiculous Christmas Lights are Back for the Holiday Season
 The Lueders, located at 1078 110th Street, Lake Park, Iowa, will have lights running nightly, 5:30pm to 10:00pm, through December 31st. Their display is 250,000 computer controlled lights set to music. Be sure to tune your radio to 97.5 and listen to the music as you enjoy the show. "From our family to yours, Merry Christmas and a Wonderful New Year!"

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
 4:00PM & 7:00PM
CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP SERVICE
 9:00AM
 IN PERSON WORSHIP and LIVESTREAM at
www.LCMSLAKES.org
 Hwy. 71 and 27th Street
 South of Lakes Regional Hospital
 712-336-1010 • lcmsslakes.org • Rev. Paul Dare
 The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
 Sharing Christ's Love • Living Our Witness • Inviting Others

Award-Winning Agents Celebrated for Outstanding Production

Spencer area professionals celebrated by EXIT Realty Corp. International Each year, in alignment with EXIT Realty Corp. International's convention, the brand acknowledges exceptional performance and celebrates the achievements of their company's many high performing associates across the United States and Canada through both cumulative and production awards.

"The circle award categories are representative of the accumulation over time of a serious number of transactions. At EXIT, we set a very high threshold to qualify for awards, and it's so impressive, especially in this shifting market, to see our people rising to the occasion. We're so proud of their dedication to EXIT and the industry," shared EXIT Realty Co-Chair, Tami Bonnell.

The following associates were recognized among EXIT Realty's top real estate industry champions:

* Dana Reinders, Sales Representative with EXIT Realty Midwest in Spencer, was inducted into the corporation's prestigious Sapphire Circle in recognition of 250 real estate transaction sides accumulated, honoring their long-standing commitment to excellence within the industry, as well as receiving the distinguished Silver Award, in recognition of 50+ real estate transaction sides closed during the production year from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024.

* Kari Stave, Sales Representative with EXIT Realty Midwest in Spencer, was inducted into the corporation's prestigious Sapphire Circle in recognition of 250 real estate transaction sides accumulated, honoring their long-standing commitment to excellence within the industry, as well as receiving the distinguished Silver Award, in recognition of 50+ real estate transaction sides closed during the production year from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024.

* Tammy Fredericksen, Associate Broker with EXIT Realty Midwest in Spirit Lake, was inducted into the corporation's prestigious Emerald Circle in recognition of 750 real estate transaction sides accumulated, honoring their long-standing commitment to excellence within the industry, as well as receiving the distinguished Platinum Award, in recognition of 100+ real estate transaction sides closed during the production year from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024.

Bonnell, along with corporate executives Founder and Chairman, Steve Morris, U.S. CEO, Craig Witt, and Canadian CEO, Joyce Paron, presented awards to those attending the much anticipated awards ceremony, one of many highlights during EXIT's three-day event. In addition to recognizing top performers, the convention featured keynote addresses from company leaders, peer-led sessions, and insights from special guest speaker and Author, Hal Elrod, and brought together associates from across North America for networking, knowledge sharing, and professional development.

Caregivers Support Group

Lakes Area Caregivers Support Group is available for help dealing with the stress of being a caregiver to someone with Alzheimers or other dementia disorders.

This community caregivers group meets at 10:00 every Wednesday morning at First Presbyterian Church in Spirit Lake. This is an opportunity to discuss with other caregivers stories and concerns in a comfortable and confidential manner.

A typical meeting might include a presentation on topics such as handling of legal issues, stress reduction, care facilities, positive coping language, and sharing personal methods of handling challenges faced every day by other caregivers.

For more information, call 712-336-1649 or 712-330-1270.

MILFORD PIONEER THEATRE
905 Okoboji Avenue
Milford • 515-207-2306
milfordpioneertheatre.com

NOW PLAYING DEC. 24-29

Beer & Wine Available

SHOWS AND TIMES MAY VARY, PLEASE CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES.

MUFASA
The Lion King
PG
Mufasa: The Lion King® enlists Rafiki to relay the legend of Mufasa to young lion cub Kiara, daughter of Simba and Nala, with Timon and Pumbaa lending their signature schtick. Told in flashbacks, the story introduces Mufasa as an orphaned cub, lost and alone until he meets a sympathetic lion named Taka—the heir to a royal bloodline. The chance meeting sets in motion an epic journey of an extraordinary group of misfits searching for their destiny—their bonds will be tested as they work together to evade a threatening and deadly foe.

TUES 12/24 1:05 & 3:45
WED 12/25 1:10, 3:50 & 6:40
THURS-SAT 12/26-28 11:00am, 2:00, 4:45 & 7:30
SUN 12/29 11:00am, 2:00, 4:45 & 7:30

SONIC
PG
Sonic the Hedgehog returns to the big screen this holiday season in his most thrilling adventure yet. Sonic, Knuckles, and Tails reunite against a powerful new adversary. Shadow, a mysterious villain with powers unlike anything they have faced before. With their abilities unmatched in every way, Team Sonic must seek out an unlikely alliance in hopes of stopping Shadow and protecting the planet.

TUES 12/24 12:50 & 3:30
WED 12/25 12:50, 3:30 & 6:10
THURS 12/26-28 10:15am, 12:50, 3:30 & 6:10
SUN 12/29 11:00am, 1:45, 4:30 & 7:15

FREE HOLIDAY MOVIE!

THE POLAR EXPRESS
PG
TUES & WED 12/24-25 10:00am & 10:30am

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

Dean's List Honorees

Morningside University Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Chris Spicer announced the following area students named to the Dean's List for the fall semester of the 2024-25 academic year.

The Dean's List recognizes Morningside 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 (*).

Milford: Margaret Bergeson and Haley Hallengren.
Spencer: Lauren Ellis*, Madelynn Morony*, Olivia Ruden and Abby Schmidt*.
Spirit Lake: Anna Fuelberth*.

Terril Fun Days Meeting

Residents are welcome to a Terril Fun Days meeting the Terril Memorial Building Monday, December 30, 2024, at 6:00pm, to discuss the disbursement of funds from the account. Bring your ideas!



THE LNS
Support
THE LAKES NEWS SHOPPER
Advertising Family of Merchants.

December Activities at the LAAC

Tuesday, December 24
Closed
Wednesday, December 25
Closed - Merry Christmas!
Thursday, December 26
Closed
Friday, December 27
Closed
Saturday, December 28
Reserved
Sunday, December 29
Facility available for rent
Monday, December 30
9:00 - Exercise
12:00 - Dinner Date
Tuesday, December 31
8:30 - Kiwanis
12:00 - Dinner Date
12:30 - Dinner Date Speaker - Treva Graves
12.30 - Bridge

Dinner Date meals are available every weekday. Call by 1:00pm on Friday to reserve a meal for the next week. Join us on every Tuesday for Dinner Date and stay for program at 12:30 with our featured Dinner Date Speaker. The pool table room is open every weekday. The card room closes from 12-12:30 for cleaning. Our next Breakfast Fundraiser will be Sunday, January 19, 2025, from 8:30-12:30 - Free Will Offering. No dance this month! Senior Center is Closed the week of Christmas, December 23-27. The facility is available to rent most weekends. Call or visit with someone at the office for more details. The Lakes Area Senior Center is located at 2101 Zenith Ave in Spirit Lake.

Terril Fun Days Meeting

Mon Dec 30	Terril Memorial Building	6:00 PM
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Residents are welcome to a Terril Fun Days meeting to discuss the disbursement of funds from the account. Bring your ideas!

PUB 19
EST. 2015
BAR & GRILL
OKOBOJI VIEW

PRIME RIB
Friday & Saturday Nights

Open New Year's Eve
4:00 - 8:45 pm
Not taking reservations
Merry Christmas from the staff of Pub 19 & Okoboji View!

PUB 19 WINTER HOURS
Closed Mon.-Wed.
Thurs.: 11am-7:45pm
Fri. & Sat.: 11am-8:45pm
Sun.: 11am-7:45pm

Hwy. 86 • West Lake Okoboji
712-332-8142 • www.pub19barandgrill.com

SMOKIN' JAKES
HELP WANTED
BEST RIBS Around

HICKORY SMOKED FRESH DAILY
BABY BACK PORK RIBS & BRISKET
TENDER MEATS
HOMEMADE SOUPS
DAILY SPECIALS
BOTTOMLESS BOWL OF SOUP!

THURSDAYS: Meat Raffle!
Sponsored by the Twilight Masonic Lodge
Key Chain CASH Drawing

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University of Sioux Falls Dean's List

The University of Sioux Falls congratulates the following area students who made the Fall 2024 Dean's List: Erin Gallagher, Peyton Hanson and Helena Meium-Bratrud of Jackson, Minnesota; Creighton Morisch and Mason Weeks of Spirit Lake; and Sadie Voss of Lakefield, Minnesota.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor,
The Red Cross conducted a successful blood drive in Spirit Lake on December 16, 2024. We obtained 30 units, 3 of which were power reds and 24 whole blood donations. This made a total of 30 units. We had 3 deferred donors, 1 quantity not sufficient and only 1 no show. I'm most excited about the only one no show so folks are making appointments and keeping them. Thank you, Spirit Lake!

The blood supply continues to be dangerously and critically low. Many lives hang in the balance that need blood to survive. Now that fall has turned to winter, the blood demand, hopefully, will slowly decrease.

Blood cannot be manufactured. We can do all kinds of transplants and medical miracles but blood cannot be humanly made. Thanks to all of you that donated and you can be sure you have saved a life and sometimes 2.

Thanks to my staff for their volunteer help: Sandi Gilligan, Leah Streeter, Linnea Johnson/Scott and Cheryl Petersen who was the coordinator in my absence. Without your help, this would not have been a success. Thanks also to the Senior Center that hosts us when the drive is here.

Mark your calendars for February 24, 2025, for the next opportunity to give. Please make your appointment at RedCrossBlood.org or 800-733-2767. Let's make January 2025 a huge giving month.

Karen Dokken, Chairman.

Carpenter Celebrates 102nd Birthday

Ted Carpenter, of Heritage Landing Senior Apartments in West Okoboji, celebrated his 102nd birthday on December 16, 2024. It has been an eventful year for him leading up to his birthday. If you'd like to congratulate Ted on this milestone birthday, you can send cards to him at: Heritage Landing, 1005 Jeppeson Road, Suite 205, Milford, Iowa 51351.

ILCC Offers Moped Classes This Spring

Iowa Lakes Community College offers Moped Safety classes this spring to help area youth meet state requirements for obtaining a moped license. These classes fulfill the state-mandated safety education course required for individuals under 16, with the first class on January 11, 2025.

Students must be at least 13 ½ years old by the date of the class to enroll. Iowa Lakes has scheduled classes earlier this year to ensure greater flexibility for families juggling sports, school, and extracurricular activities.

The one-day, classroom-only courses will be held from 8:00am to 2:00pm on the following dates and locations:
January 11 – Emmetsburg Campus, Room 17
February 1 – Spencer Campus, Room 108A
March 1 – Estherville Campus, Room 29
April 5 – Algona Campus, Room 33
Students should bring a pencil, paper, and any desired snacks or a sack lunch.

Registrations available at ce.iowalakes.edu/moped.



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Mobile Food Pantry In Lake Park

The Food Bank of Iowa Mobile Food Pantry will be open for distribution on Thursday, January 2, 2025, from 4:30 - 6:30pm, at the Lake Park Methodist Church located at 1471 135th Ave. Lake Park. Registration will be inside the church beginning at 3:30 pm, you must be present to register. You may pick up groceries for someone that is not able to make it. Please do not line up at the front door (southeast corner of church) before 3:30pm. Please bring boxes, bags or containers for your groceries. Distribution will begin at 4:30pm. Volunteers will help bring your groceries to your vehicle. Questions? Call Jerilyn Marra 712-348-0475.



Stokes Named to President's List

Chadron State College has announced Jordyn Stokes of Estherville, was named on the Fall 2024 President's Lists. The President's List consists of students with a 4.0 cumulative grade point average on a 4.0 scale. To qualify for either list, students must be enrolled in 12 credit hours of coursework, be seeking their first bachelor's degree, and have no incomplete grades during the semester.

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YIP Provides Christmas Experience for Families in Need

Students of the Youth in Philanthropy (YIP) program at the Okobojo Foundation had the opportunity during their December meeting to brighten the holiday season for children in their community. This event goes beyond their annual grant fundraising efforts, demonstrating the tangible impact of their philanthropic work.

For several years, an anonymous donor to the Foundation has generously provided funds to purchase gifts for children in need. In collaboration with a local school and Kaden's Kloset, the Okobojo Foundation identifies 35 children who benefit from this program. Each YIP student receives funds to shop for gifts tailored to a specific child. "Working on Project Christmas has been so rewarding," said Abby Scott, a Spirit Lake senior and YIP participant. "I enjoyed being able to give back to the kids that live within my community. It strengthened my drive to be a part of the YIP program!"

At the December meeting, students gathered at Kaden's Kloset to deliver their stockings filled with gifts. Director Tina VandeHoef shared Kings and Queens Local organization's mission to support foster and adoptive families so kids in care feel like royalty. The organization provides essential items such as meal assistance, clothing through Kaden's Kloset, caregiver support, and resource groups to families welcoming children into their homes. The students also participated in a service project, organizing and stocking the shelves at Kaden's Kloset, contributing directly to the organization's operations. For more information on how you can volunteer and financially support the important efforts of this organization, please reach out to Tina at info@kqlocal.org or on their website: www.kqlocal.org.

The YIP's monthly meetings take place at various nonprofit organizations, offering students a firsthand look at the diversity of charitable needs, projects, and programs in the community. "What this program is doing for our area and teaching our youth will last a lifetime for everyone involved," said Kent Stensland, an Okobojo Foundation board member. "It is so energizing to see these young adults fully engaged in supporting their communities."

Please help us celebrate the spirit of giving this season by supporting Youth in Philanthropy and the future leaders of our community. Donations help fund the YIP annual grant program in the spring and can be sent to Okobojo Foundation, PO Box 593, Okobojo, IA 51355.



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View From The Bench by John Adams, Jr.

Merry Christmas

With having had some very long View From the Benches the last few weeks recapping the Big 12 Championship Game and the Cy-Hawk Rivalry, I decided to take a week off from sports and keep this one nice and short (I was going to write about my 13-2 Minnesota Vikings but didn't want to jinx them before they play the hated Green Bay Packers this coming Sunday). Merry Christmas to all of our loyal readers, we are so blessed to have you all read The Lakes News Shopper and support our valuable merchants who make it possible to print our publication every Tuesday. We hope that you are able to spend this Holiday Season with family and friends, and take the time to reflect upon the struggles and blessings of 2024. Remember that those struggles are what makes those blessings so special. We were so blessed to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of The Lakes News Shopper all of 2024 and are anxious to serve our community for what we hope is a very long time! Making it for 50+ years would not be possible without our very talented staff that we've been blessed with through the years, our faithful readers, and our loyal merchants who advertise with us and make it possible to put out the product we do every Tuesday. Being a free newspaper, we can't print 21,000 copies every Tuesday without the advertisers who put their trust in us and in our readers to support them by purchasing products with those you see in The LNS. When doing your last-minute shopping this Christmas season, as well as shopping throughout the year, please shop local and support our community businesses that support our community! Please remember that the true meaning of Christmas is to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Keep Jesus close to your heart, lean on Him in your hard times and celebrate Him for all of your gifts. May your Holiday Season be spent with family and friends, creating memories and cherishing every moment that you get together. If you are unable to be with loved ones during the Holidays, please reach out to them and let them know how much they mean to you and draw upon the many cherished memories you have with them. MERRY CHRISTMAS from all of us at The Lakes News Shopper, thank you so much for letting us be a part of your weekly routine!



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Northwest Iowa Habitat for Humanity Announces First Partner Family

Northwest Iowa Habitat for Humanity is proud to announce Alyssa Glienke and her two children as the first partner family for its inaugural home build. Alyssa's journey reflects the core mission of Habitat for Humanity: to provide safe, stable, and affordable housing for families in need.



Selected through a rigorous application process, Alyssa and her family will soon call the newly built home in Spirit Lake their own. Partnering with Habitat for Humanity means more than just receiving keys—it's about building hope, opportunity, and strength within the community. Like all Habitat partner families, Alyssa will contribute "sweat equity" by participating in the construction process and other program requirements, ensuring this home becomes a reality.

Habitat for Humanity affiliates nationwide are transforming lives through homeownership opportunities. Alyssa's story aligns with the belief that everyone deserves a decent place to live, and Northwest Iowa Habitat for Humanity is committed to this vision.

Northwest Iowa Habitat for Humanity invites local volunteers, donors, and businesses to join the effort. Together, we can build more homes and create stronger, more vibrant communities across Clay and Dickinson Counties.

This Is Fun!

by Sara Gifford

There's excitement to handle!
The Lord's birthday; stay awake!
How to put 2,000+ candles
On a birthday cake?

Get the tree out of storage,
Get the tinsel! Get the lights!
They glow green, blue, and orange,
Shining in the blue twilight.
It is such a homey sight!

Christian soldiers on the go,
Eyes as luminous as chrome.
Where do all those candles go?
Light a bunch in every home.

We are in the Christmas mood,
And joy keeps us on our toes.
No room for an attitude,
And, definitely, God bless Rose!

(Rose Simms was the activity director where I lived when this poem was written. Keep rockin', Rose!)

P.S. I wish to thank everyone who makes our Christmas merry.



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Top spellers from a previous K of C IGL Council 5043 Spelling Bee.

K of C to Hold Spelling Bee

Area boys and girls in grades 4, 5, 6 and 7 are welcome to compete in the 2025 Knights of Columbus Spelling Bee. Iowa Great Lakes Council 5043 is sponsoring the always-entertaining contest, and this time will combine it with the Milford Council and have it at Okoboji Middle School Tuesday, January 21. Free on-site registration – requiring a parent's signature – will be available.

The first and second place spellers and an alternate in each grade will then be eligible to compete in the Regional Spelling Bee. The first and second place contestants in the regional competition may advance to the state spelling bee in Ames.

Students can prepare for the competition by accessing the spelling lists at <https://www.iowakofc.org/spellingbee> and choosing their grade list. Students from other area school districts are invited to participate.

Any questions may be directed to Paul Katzfey, Youth Director Council 5043, text or call 712-330-6371, or by email to mlkpmk1200@gmail.com. You may also contact Don Breuker, Coordinator K of C Spelling Bee, at 712-336-4855, 712-461-1321, or bfsdonb@msn.com.

Iowa Great Lakes Council 5043 is one of the most active in Iowa, in the past few years contributing more than \$30,000 to local community needs, including Hope Haven, Iowa Helping Hands Fund, American Wheelchair Mission, the Grotto of the Redemption, Cherish

House, Guatemala Mission, Women of the Well Project, as well as to local family, community and parish needs. Local Knights sponsor annual youth events including the Free Throw Competition and the Knights of Columbus Coats for Kids Drive. They also run the Tootsie Roll Drive for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities Labor Day weekend, benefiting Special Olympics and local organizations, and the Food Drive for Upper Des Moines Opportunity.

The Knights of Columbus is an international Catholic family fraternal service organization with 1.9 million members in more than 16,000 local councils. Last year, Knights donated more than 76.7 million volunteer hours and \$185 million to charitable and benevolent causes, sponsoring projects to benefit their church, councils, communities, families and youth.

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Milford Memorial Library News

On Tuesday, December 31, Milford Memorial Library will be closing at 11:00 a.m. and will be closed all day on Wednesday, January 1, in observance of the New Year holiday. We look forward to seeing everyone on Thursday, December 26, at 9:30 a.m. We hope you have a safe and happy holiday.

Join MML for our weekly Building Bookworms Storytime on Mondays at 10:30 a.m. Take a look below for our themes. All materials and services are provided by the library free to participants. All kids and their adults are welcome to stay after storytime and mingle. For more information, contact the library or check out our Facebook page.



- December 30, 10:30 a.m. – Sweet Syrup
- January 6, 10:30 a.m. – Crayons
- January 13, 10:30 a.m. – Kites
- January 20, 10:30 a.m. – Penguins
- January 27, 10:30 a.m. – Plants

Join MML on Thursday, January 2, at 2:00 p.m., for a free showing of The Chronicles of Narnia: the Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe. This is a free activity and popcorn will be provided.

MML's After-School Adventures will be held on Thursday, January 9, at 3:30 p.m. The kids will be creating a wooden melting snowman. A small snack will be provided. This is a free program and all materials are supplied by the library.

Any interested individuals are welcome to join the Milford Memorial Library Book Club on Tuesday, January 21, at 1:00 p.m., to discuss Chris Whitaker's All the Colors of the Dark. Copies can be found in our library. It is not necessary to attend all of the meetings, and you are welcome to come and go as you please.

Start 2025 with online homework help from Brainfuse. Get free help in math, science, reading, and more! Visit milford.lib.ia.us to get homework help from a professional online tutor. This is a free online resource provided by the State Library of Iowa.

Get personalized assistance navigating VA benefits including education programs and career development. Brainfuse VetNow navigators are here to support you every step of the way. Simply log in to VetNow from milford.lib.ia.us and connect with a live navigator to guide you with maximizing your well-deserved benefits. This is a free resource provided by the State Library of Iowa.



Kiwanians Present Check to Local Kings and Queens Chapter

Tina Vande Hoef, Executive Director of Kings and Queens Local, is flanked by Kiwanians Duane Hurlley, left, and Rolf Carlson, right. A check was presented to the area chapter of Kings and Queens Local to support the important work they do within our area. Kiwanis club members very much enjoyed a presentation about the mission and work of this group from one of their Board members, Julie Kliegl. Formed in 2019, this dynamic group builds connections with local schools, churches and the judicial system to benefit foster and adoptive children within a five-county area. In a typical year, they serve 200 children and over 50 families. Their numbers continue to grow, and the Iowa Great Lakes Region is very lucky to have this hard-working non-profit in its midst. Check out their webpage for additional information www.kqlocal.org

Check out the Milford Kiwanis Club on Instagram: [milfordkiwanis](https://www.instagram.com/milfordkiwanis) or on Facebook: [@milfordkiwanis](https://www.facebook.com/milfordkiwanis) They welcome visitors to any of their meetings, please check them out. They meet on Tuesday mornings at 7:00am in the Milford Community Center, west side. *Note: There will be no meeting on Tuesday, December 31, 2024.*



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Birkland Earns Degree

Grace Annelise Birkland of Spirit Lake was among 1,132 graduates who received degrees from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln during commencement exercises December 20 and 21 at Pinnacle Bank Arena.

Birkland earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts with distinction from the Hixson-Lied College of Fine and Performing Arts.

Chancellor Rodney D. Bennett presided over the ceremonies.

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Obituaries

"It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35
 It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of **Idella Lorain (Osborn) Hesby**, 60, of Milford on Monday, December 16, 2024. Idella was surrounded by her loved ones by her side at her home in Milford.

Idella was born on September 10, 1964, to Douglas and Dianne (Brightman) Osborn in Jackson, FL. Idella earned her GED and continued on to pursue a CNA certification from Iowa Lakes Community College. She met the love of her life, Doug Hesby, through Doug's brother Denny. From there the two found love in a whirlwind romance that blossomed into a love that bonded the two together. Idella and Doug were united in marriage on March 13, 1987. Idella continued her giving by working as an in-home healthcare provider and a homemaker raising her three children.

Idella was a member of the Harbor of Joy Lutheran Church and participated with the Respite Angels Organization. In her free time, she enjoyed spending time with family, her children, granddaughter and volunteering at her church.

Idella's lasting memory will be held in the hearts of everyone she met including her husband, Doug Hesby, of Milford; children, Curtis Osborn of Lone Tree, CO; Cindy (Steve) Rodriguez of Ft. Collins, CO; and Christina Thorson and her significant other, David Brinkman of Milford; granddaughter, Allie Rodriguez of Ft. Collins, CO; brothers, Wade Osborn and Joe Osborn and her sister, Donna McKay. She was preceded in death by her parents; siblings, Duane Osborn, Della Miller, Delores Osborn and Dorthey Laufer.

A celebration of life for Idella will be held at the Harbor of Joy Lutheran Church at a later date. Funeral services are under the direction of Robinson Funeral Home in Spirit Lake. Online condolences may be left at www.spiritalakefuneralhome.com



Obituaries

Wayne Groff, 73, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa passed away Thursday, December 12, 2024, at The Views in Marion, Iowa from complications of frontal temporal lobe dementia (FTD). A visitation will be held from 10 – 11:00 a.m. prior to the 11:00 a.m. funeral service at Cedar Memorial Chapel of Memories, Cedar Rapids, Iowa on Monday, December 30, 2024. Burial: Cedar Memorial Cemetery.

Wayne Lee Groff was born in Spirit Lake, Iowa on January 31, 1951, to Mildred Frances (Taylor) Groff and Leslie Allen Groff, and grew up on a farm in northwest Iowa in the small farming community of Lake Park, Iowa. He graduated from Harris-Lake Park High school in 1969 after a full and successful span of school activities that included football, leadership roles in student council, speech competitions, leading roles in school operettas—and music, music—and more music. He was an accomplished pianist and an All-State trombonist, who never brought home anything less than a 1+ rating at contest time. He loved singing with the high school mixed choir and was a member of various small groups—vocal as well as instrumental—and earned the John Philip Sousa award his senior year for musicianship and performance.

While music was in his bones, so was a growing interest in engineering and communications. By age 16 he'd acquired his ham radio license and he became known as WA0NJS across the airwaves, not only in the U.S., but internationally. It was a big deal to him when he worked someone from another country.

This love of all things electronic and communication would lead him to studying electrical engineering at Iowa State University after high school graduation, where his devotion to all things music once again blossomed as he sought out musicians and formed his own rock band—Meloncolony, which served as a welcome source of income in the days of being a poor college student.

Wayne, Matt, Clint, Bob and Chuck, his best band mates, played their way across central and west central Iowa and into Nebraska and South Dakota on weekends for homecoming and prom dances. Before the band concluded their career they played at the Roof Garden in Arnolds Park, Iowa, and other noted Iowa ballrooms such as the Starline in Carroll, the Playmour in Fort Dodge, Iowa, the Hilton Coliseum in Ames, Iowa. They even enjoyed a brief encounter with politician Hubert H. Humphrey in Omaha, NE in a service elevator. The secret service made the band wait to haul their equipment up to the ballroom, until Mr. Humphrey was safely transported. Their music even rocked the dance floor one summer at the famous Mocumba Club in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Wayne and his high-school sweetheart, Rebecca Zobel, married on September 18, 1971, before the rock band days were over, but the couple grew tired of being poor young marrieds, so they accepted jobs in Des Moines with the Department of Public Safety where Wayne worked on the team designing and installing the new communications system for the Iowa State Patrol.

His dream goal of working for Rockwell-Collins in Cedar Rapids, Iowa in an engineering capacity came to fruition in February, 1978, and his career with that company would last 33 years until his retirement in July, 2011. His engineering and business prowess would lead him from engineering into program management, and eventually into a director of programs position on the business end of defense electronic communications systems.

As his career grew, so did the family. Daughter Joanna was born in 1977 and her sister Jennifer joined the family in 1980.

Wayne was never satisfied with just a few hobbies and before serious health decline stole him away, he would build and race his own go-kart, pitch for a Rockwell-Collins men's softball league, turn into a ferocious competitor on the racquetball court, work at his golf game (although he never did achieve a hole-in-one), and when he turned 50 years of age, he converted from his earlier Honda motorcycle phase to a devout and loyal Harley Davidson motorcycle enthusiast—and one who liked a good cigar and two fingers of good quality Scotch whiskey.

He and his Harley buds enjoyed many summer trips together, touring the western United States and other parts of the U.S. that had fun winding roads that true cyclists love.

Through his business travel as well as family vacations he would get to see Puerto Rico, Mexico, Canada, Australia, England, France, Germany, Spain and Israel.

While he wasn't much help with domestic chores around home, or in the kitchen, he could repair anything that broke, grilled an excellent steak, and took his lawn growing and maintenance chores very seriously producing a mean patch of gorgeous grass around the family home.

He was immensely proud of his daughters' music and academic accomplishments and never missed one of their recitals or performances. Equally so, he never missed any of his wife's choral group performances either.

He loved his wife's cooking and was a willing guinea pig when she tried out new recipes, except for the time she used paprika that had gone rancid. One taste of the recipe, and it went into the trash, both agreeing it would be inhumane to toss it out for the raccoons.

When Wayne was in junior high his parents bought the family a set of encyclopedias. He read the complete set, A to Z. He used to say his head was full of hundreds of useless bits of information. He wanted to know about all manner of things in this life, and it was this curiosity that made him a fun conversationalist.

Wayne is survived by his wife Rebecca, daughters Joanna (Derek) Nohr, Jennifer (Maher) Ardat, grandchildren Adrienne Nohr, Reese Nohr, Jocelyn Nohr, Ali Ardat and Eden Ardat. Sister Judy and husband Gary Taber, niece Lisa (Matt) Carstensen and great-niece Emma Niswander, sister-in-law Jane Zobel, nephew Mark Zobel, sister-in-law and brother-in-law Kathy and Norman Greiner, niece Bekki Greiner, great-nephew Joe Russell, and great-niece Ali Russell. He was preceded in death by his parents, two nephews, two brothers-in-law and his wife's parents.

The family wishes to extend their deepest gratitude to the staffs of Meadowview Memory Care and The Views of Marion, along with the nurses and care staff from Mercy Hospice for the loving and vigilant care they provided to Wayne all through his many long years of dementia decline.

No formal memorial fund has been selected, but as Wayne loved supporting local musicians, the family encourages you to do the same and be generous in tips in his memory when the opportunity arises.

The funeral service will be live streamed at www.cedarmemorial.com under the obituary for Wayne Groff, under the video tab starting at 11:00 AM, December 30, 2024.

Please share a memory of Wayne at www.cedarmemorial.com under obituaries.



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Word Search Puzzle Key from page 11A

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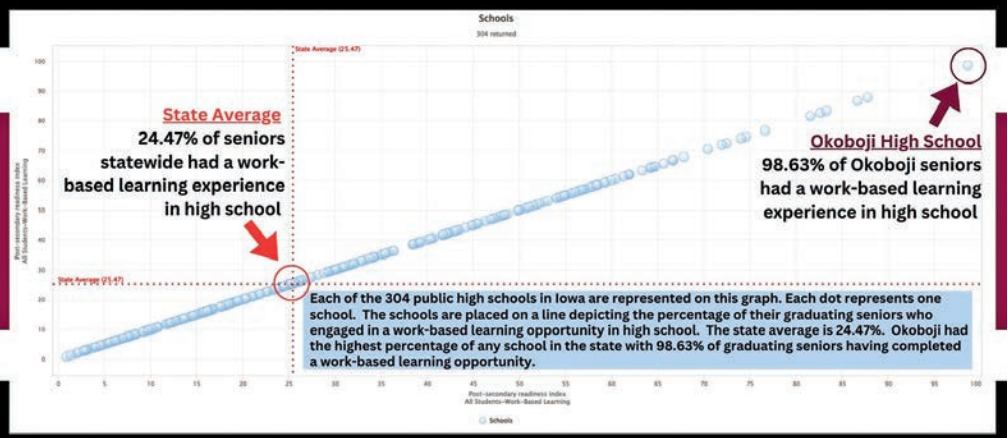
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OHS Leads the State In Work-Based Learning Opportunities



Okoboji High School has topped the state in work-based learning opportunities, with an impressive 98.63% of graduating seniors participating in a workplace learning experience. This accomplishment puts OHS at the top of all 304 public high schools in the state in this measure and reflects the success and impact of the school's Senior Internship Program, which has been a cornerstone of Okoboji education for a decade.



The Senior Internship Program, now in its 10th year, requires every graduating senior to complete an offsite internship in a career area of their interest. With support from Okoboji staff, seniors select a field of interest, make contact with a business or organization, set up an complete the internship, and document and reflect on the process along the way. This hands-on experience empowers students to explore potential career pathways, gain real-world skills, and make informed decisions about their futures.

Internship opportunities at Okoboji High School span a wide range of fields, including medicine, law enforcement, engineering, emerging technologies, mental health, education, and many more. Some students have even worked remotely with professors, traveled to other states or countries, and engaged in specialized fields that align with their aspirations. These unique opportunities often lead to transformative outcomes, with students confirming or changing their post-secondary plans based on their experiences.

"Over the past 10 years, the Senior Internship Program has been a life-changing opportunity for hundreds of students," said Principal Brian Downing. "This program is a testament to our commitment to pioneering pathways for every student and ensuring they are prepared for life beyond high school."

While the statewide average for work-based learning among graduating seniors is 24.47%, Okoboji High School far exceeds this benchmark. The school's dedication to career readiness and individualized learning opportunities has set a high standard, demonstrating what is possible when schools prioritize hands-on, real-world education for every student.

This milestone not only highlights Okoboji High School's leadership in innovative programming but also underscores the powerful outcomes of community partnerships, student exploration, and a district-wide vision for success. This program would not be possible without amazing business partners who invite our students into their already busy lives to give them the opportunity to see what it is really like to work in a particular field. It also requires parental support and a vision of education that goes beyond the walls of the school.

Turner Jenness Funeral Homes wishes the community a **MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY NEW YEAR**

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As we enter the new year, we remain deeply committed to providing compassionate care and guidance when it is needed most.

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THE LAKES NEWS Auction Calendar

Now – Dec. 31 – Inventory Liquidation at auction online only. Auctioneers: Howells, Helmers & Rooney: 712-260-9690. www.howellrealestateandauktion.com.

Mon., Dec. 30 – 10:00 AM – 151.39 acres at auction in Jackson, Co., MN. Auctioneers: Christopher & Rooney: 712-841-3125. www.christopherauction.com.

Tues., Jan. 7 – 10:00 AM – 141.21 acres at auction in Martin Co., MN. Auctioneers: Hartungs: 507-236-7629. www.auctioneer-ally.com.

Wed., Jan. 22 – 10:00 AM – 76.2 acres at auction in Clay Co., IA. Auctioneers: Hjelm, Sikora & Laubenthal: 712-240-3529. www.theacreco.com.

Thurs., Jan. 23 – 10:00 AM – 152.1 acres at auction in Clay Co., IA. Auctioneers: Midwest Land Management: 712-301-4664. www.midwestlandmanagement.com.

THE LNS Recipe Corner
Clip this recipe card to save

Chocolate Reindeer Cupcakes Makes 12 Servings

For Chocolate Cupcakes:

- 2/3 cup butter, softened
- 3/4 cup superfine sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1 1/2 cups self-rising flour
- 2 tablespoons cocoa powder

For Chocolate Frosting:

- 3/4 cup butter, softened
- 3 1/3 cups confectioners' sugar
- 7/8 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 4 to 6 tablespoons milk

For Decorations:

- 12 sets candy eyes
- 12 red gumdrops
- 1 cup semisweet chocolate chips

For Chocolate Cupcakes: Preheat the oven to 375° F. Line muffin tin wells with 12 paper cupcake liners. In a large mixing bowl, using an electric mixer, cream butter and sugar together until light and fluffy. Add the eggs one at a time, beating after each addition. Gradually add flour and cocoa powder, mixing until all ingredients are incorporated. Spoon the batter into the paper liners. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes, or until tops are springy to the touch. Cool in the pan on a wire rack for 10 minutes. Remove cupcakes from pan and allow to cool completely before decorating.

For Chocolate Frosting: In a large bowl, cream butter until light and fluffy. Gradually beat in confectioners' sugar, cocoa and vanilla. Add milk one tablespoon at a time until frosting reaches the desired consistency. Frost each cupcake using an offset spatula.

To Decorate: Arrange candied eyes and gumdrop nose on frosted cupcake. Melt semisweet chocolate in a heatproof bowl set over a pan of simmering water. Cool slightly, and transfer to a pastry bag fitted with small plain round tip. Pipe antlers with chocolate on parchment or waxed paper; place in the refrigerator or freezer and allow to set. Once the chocolate has set, carefully remove antlers from paper and insert in cupcake. Serve.

Recipe Courtesy of: Lines+Angles

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Al-Anon Meetings

Milford New Hope Al-Anon meetings will take place on Zoom now through April 16, 2025. Meeting ID is 77557290457 and the pass code is JXEU2H.

Thursday meetings at Calvary United Methodist Church in Arnolds Park have closed.

For more information, go online to Iowa-Al-Anon.org, meetings tab, find a group (enter: Milford, IA 51351 USA). Or call 712-580-4406.

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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/county-resource-guide>. If you have services to add to the guide, contact Sue at 712-336-3488 or boettche@iastate.edu.

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Tops Meetings

Tops Chapter #369, Spirit Lake, meets Friday mornings at 10:00am at the Spirit Lake United Methodist Church, 1812 Gary Avenue, Spirit Lake (use east door). If you are one that needs help with motivation and food planning to lose weight, this may be the support group for you. Visitors are welcome to attend their first TOPS meeting free of charge without obligation. For more information, call Betty Sangel at 712-320-4458.

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1. Do the Reindeer talk?
S. Are the elves VERY Small
Please leave an ANSWER with the Gifts PLEASE.
LOVE YAMAMA

DEAR SANTA,
SORRY I HAVE BEEN A BIT CHEEKY THIS YEAR- I WILL DO BETTER KEEPING MY ROOM CLEAN. HAVE A GOOD HOLIDAY
LOVE OLIVIA

Dear SANTA,
This Christmas, I want an electric scooter, A job that allows me to help those I love,
And a million dollars.
With lots of Love, Laura

Dear Santa,
My name is Mazie, I love Christmas
I would like a Belle dress, a pint vacuum cleaner and a Dr. Kit and some pretend makeup
I will leave some cookies and milk out for you and me! Drive your sleigh carefully.
Merry Christmas!
Mazie

Dear Santa,
I want a castle as big as my tent, and I want it to look like my tiny one, but bigger. I want \$5. I want a bigger, I want a lock and key, I want a pixie notebook with a crystal ball, I want a chest with holes in it with shapes and shapes to put in the holes. This is for my sister, Isabella. She also would like a futon with JJ and friends on it. We love you, Santa. You give us gifts every year. You are a nice person.
Love,
Sofia and Isabella




Ad Prices Effective: Monday, Dec. 23 - Sunday, Dec. 29, 2024

3.99 ea. with purchase of 3 Party Size Frito-Lay snacks, queso, dip or salsa 8.12 to 24 oz.

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.59 Yoplait yogurt 4 to 6 oz.	2.99 Basket & Bushel blackberries 6 oz. pkg.	2.75 ea. with purchase of 4 7UP soda 6 pk. bottles 16.9 fl. oz. or 6 pk. mini cans 7.5 fl. oz.	5.98 Bubbl'r sparkling water 6 pk. cans 12 fl. oz.	4.98 Fish Market raw shrimp shell-on, EZ peel & deveined, 41 to 50 ct., 12 oz. pkg.
.99 Hy-Vee soda or mixer 2 liter	4.28 Banquet breaded chicken 24 to 32 oz.	.88 Hy-Vee broth 14.5 fl. oz.	4.98 Fish Market raw shrimp shell-on, EZ peel & deveined, 41 to 50 ct., 12 oz. pkg.	3.99 Hillshire Farm sausage rope, links or Lit'l Smokies, 12 to 14 oz.
1.69 lb. Cook's Super Trim ham portion	2.88 lb. Boneless pork shoulder roast Hormel Always Tender	3.49 Sara Lee Artesano bread, dinner rolls or Hawaiian dinner rolls 12 ct. or 20 oz.	3.98 Welch's sparkling juice 25.4 fl. oz.	5.99 Brew Pub Lotzza Motzza pizza 20 to 26.82 oz.

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SUNNY DEAL!

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Palo Alto County, IA

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FARMLAND AUCTION

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

Auction will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall 920 E 10th Street, Fairmont, MN

141.21 ACRES +/- OF BARE FARMLAND IN LAKE BELT & ROLLING GREEN TWPS., MARTIN COUNTY, MN

For full flyer, informational booklet and bidding details, visit WWW.AUCTIONEERALLEY.COM

OWNER: MATTHEW HANSEN
AUCTIONEERS AND SALES STAFF
DUSTYN HARTUNG-507-236-7629 LEAH HARTUNG 507-236-8786

LAND SERVICES UNLIMITED Auctioneer Alley

151.39 +/- ACRES

HERON LAKE TOWNSHIP, JACKSON COUNTY, MN.

FARMLAND AUCTION

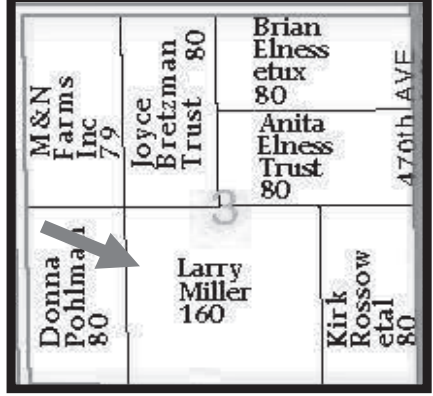
Monday, December 30, 2024 @ 10:00 A.M.

In case of very inclement weather, sale backup date will be 12/31/24. Check website for updates!

SALE LOCATION
Auction will be held at the Lakefield American Legion 413 Main Street Lakefield, MN

PROPERTY LOCATION
Located 5 miles northeast of Lakefield, MN

LEGAL DESCRIPTION
W1/2 SE1/4 & E1/2 SW1/4 excepting 8.61 acre surveyed tract 3-103-36 Jackson County, Minnesota. Parcel #080030300



CROP PRODUCTIVITY INDEX RATING: 88.7

OWNERS
Larry Miller Estate & Jordan Phibbs Etal.

AUCTIONEERS
Scott Christopher 507-841-3125
Dan Pike 507-841-0965
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Donations Needed at the LASC

Ongoing activity center wish list:

- City of Spirit Lake GREEN garbage bags.
- Postage Stamps
- Zip-lock Baggies:
- Sandwich size
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper
- Facial Tissue
- Coffee regular and decaf and filters

"Thank you for your donations and support!"

Mobile Food Pantry In Estherville

The mobile food pantry from the Food Bank of Iowa is returning again. The free distribution will take place from 4-6 p.m. Thursday, January 2, at the Good News Estherville Church. The food will be distributed inside the church. Recipients are asked to bring bags, laundry baskets or boxes to carry the food. At the December Food Bank, 547 individuals (218 families) received 6,000 lbs. of food. The Food Bank of Iowa partners with 700 agencies in 55 counties to distribute nearly 2 million pounds of food each month, so that no one goes hungry in Iowa.

If you have questions, call the Good News Estherville Church at 712-362-4984.



UDMO, Inc. in Clay and Dickinson County Named a Top 100 Nonprofit in North America

Upper Des Moines Opportunity, Inc. (UDMO) is proud to announce we have been granted one of PepsiCo Foundation's 2024 Community Impact Awards. The PepsiCo Foundation is the philanthropic arm of PepsiCo, Inc. (NASDAQ: PEP), one of the world's leading food and beverage companies. The program is a part of the company's efforts to support local communities by providing resources for valuable programming, such as the UDMO Food Pantry.

UDMO is one of 100 public charities and organizations across the United States and Canada to receive a \$7,500 Community Impact Award for their hard work and commitment to the communities they serve. Through strategic partnerships, such as the Community Impact Awards the PepsiCo Foundation aspires to provide lasting change by tackling the challenges of inequality whether it be through access to economic opportunity, clean water, or food security.

"Collectively, UDMO Clay and Dickinson County Outreach centers provided nearly \$750,000 worth of food assistance during FY24 to help over 2,000 individuals meet their health and nutrition needs and prevent hunger. The outreach centers also provide a variety of other assistance programs annually including help to pay a portion of a household's utilities and many special projects (Back to School, Coats for Kids, Adopt a Family, Senior Program and more). Thank you, PepsiCo Foundation for this Community Impact Award, it will help UDMO to continue the work we've been doing for nearly 60 years. Helping People. Changing Lives," Julie Edwards, UDMO Executive Director said.

"At the PepsiCo Foundation, we believe that the strength of our communities lies in the hands of local leaders and nonprofit organizations who understand the unique local social challenges and opportunities of their community. The PepsiCo Foundation Community Impact Awards allow us to celebrate these trailblazers who are driving meaningful change in our communities across North America," PepsiCo Foundation President and Global Head of Social Impact at PepsiCo, C.D. Glin said. "We invited PepsiCo employees to nominate local organizations of their choice and our employee's most admired nonprofits were selected as Community Impact Award recipients. We are honored to work alongside these inspiring organizations to amplify their efforts to create lasting positive social impacts across North America."

The Foundation's dedication to partnering with local nonprofits stems from its understanding that these organizations are deeply rooted in the communities where PepsiCo employees live and work. By collaborating with local partners, the Foundation can more effectively address community-specific needs and leverage the unique strengths of each organization to foster local, leading and lasting solutions.



UDMO Clay & Dickinson County Outreach Teams
F: Dawn & Sondra B: Teri & Jason

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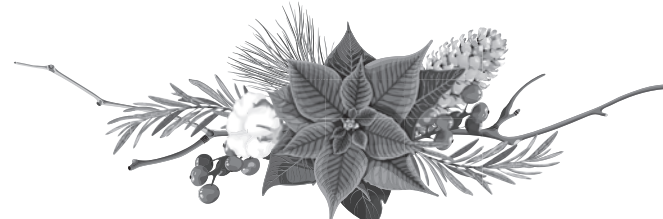
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EMPLOYMENT

EMPLOYMENT

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Address communications to Gregg L. Owens, City Administrator, Spirit Lake City Hall, 1803 Hill Avenue, Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360 and the position will be open until filled. Application forms are available at City Hall. If emailed, email to gregg.owens@cityofspirittake.org

The City of Spirit Lake, Iowa is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Females, minorities, veterans and members of other protected classes are encouraged to apply. Posted 12/19/2024

Children's Librarian Position
Milford Memorial Library

The Milford Memorial Library has an immediate opening for a Children's Librarian. This position is part-time (approximately 25 hrs./week). Successful applicants will have the ability to maintain working knowledge of library trends through continuing education and involvement in library operations; plan, arrange, and perform children's programming; serve as a specialist in our children's collection, and assists patrons in its use; work well with others and the public; share in the duties of Library Assistants as time allows.

Minimum Qualifications: Ability to work all hours of library operation, including evenings and weekends; effectively communicate orally and in writing; provide quality customer service for library patrons of all ages; work well with children; experience with computer systems (word processing, databases, spreadsheets, internet); ability to use computer, copy machine, fax, and other office equipment.

Preferred Qualifications: Experience with children's programming; previous experience working in a school or public library setting; familiarity with books and other library resources.

Hourly range is \$15.89 - \$17.96 dependent on qualifications. Please submit an application to Gillian Anderson, Library Director, Milford Memorial Library, 1009 9th St., Milford, IA 51351. Applications are available at Milford Memorial Library or online at <http://milfordlibrary.weebly.com/employment-opportunities.html>. Applications will be taken until January 10, 2025, or until the position is filled. The City of Milford is an equal Opportunity Employer.

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View complete job description and application process at www.iowalakes.edu/employment. Contact Lynn Miller at lmiller@iowalakes.edu or 712-362-0409.

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 Extension and Outreach
CLIPPINGS a weekly column from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach

Windbreaks

by Kris Kohl, Field Agricultural Engineer
 Winter is coming fast and with it, snow and wind. Cattle and farmsteads both can really benefit from properly placed windbreaks. There are two main types of windbreak function on a farm: livestock windchill protection and snow windbreaks. The rest of this article will discuss how to use each one to its greatest benefit.

The first type is livestock windchill protection. These windbreaks are built with 20% open and 80% closed. The normal high wind direction is the north and west of a feedlot and by allowing the 20% open, air will come through and reduce its speed by about 1/5 of the high speed. This means a 50 mile per hour wind will feel like a 10 mile per hour wind, which is much better than 50 miles per hour.

Snow will tend to pile up two times the height of the windbreak. A farmer using cornstalk bales to build a windbreak to protect his cattle might build it 10 feet high and have 6 feet solid and 1.5 feet open space along the northwest side of the feed yard. It should be placed at least 20 feet back from the yard for the snow area. This area should also have a natural slope to direct the spring melt water away from the yard. The protected area will be 10 times the height, which, in our case is going to be 100 feet down wind. We would like to place the feed bunks and water in this zone along with driveways for traffic.

The second type is snow windbreaks. Snow is always a problem in the winter and moving it around with equipment does not add to the bottom line. These windbreaks are built with 50% solid and 50% open. They will dump and drift snow for 3 to 4 times the height and the height of the drift will be 1.2 times the height. For our example, we will start with a 6-foot-high windbreak with 6-foot-wide openings 6 feet of solid. This will accumulate snow for 24 feet with a drift that will be 7.2 feet high about 18 feet back from the fence. With snow windbreaks, I would like to place them about 6 times their height away from driveways and lanes to greatly reduce the time and effort of moving snow around the farmstead. For our 6-foot example, that means 36 feet back from the driveway.



Do-it-Yourself Food Gifts

by Amy Jones, Human Sciences Specialist
 Do-it-yourself food gifts are unique expressions of warmth and connection with a personal touch. When crafted with health in mind, they become even more meaningful, offering both nourishment and joy. Perfect for a festive gathering, heartfelt thank-you, or a simple gesture of kindness, healthy, homemade food gifts, like dry soup mixes, spice blends, and dip mixes, are simple and affordable options for family, friends, co-workers, neighbors and teachers.

Soup it up. Capture the essence of comfort and warmth with dry soup mixes. Recipes containing ingredients like beans, pasta, lentils, and whole grains are simple to assemble, and they can be made in advance. Recipes ideas include: Three-Bean Chili in a Jar, Chicken Noodle Soup Mix, Split Pea Soup Mix and Spicy Black Bean Soup Mix. This is the gift of a hearty meal that has a lengthy shelf life and is as nutritious as it is delicious and easy to prepare. Packaged in a clear jar or bag, the colorful layers of ingredients are decorative on their own. Add a festive ribbon or tie and it's ready to go. For a larger gift, put the soup package in a basket or bag with shelf-stable ingredients like canned tomatoes, perhaps adding a wooden spoon, spoon rest, or colorful kitchen towel or oven mitt.

Spice it Up. Homemade salt-free and sugar-free seasoning mixes and herb and spice rubs enhance the flavor of foods in a heart-healthy way. Create your own seasoning and rub blends with versatile ingredients like onion and garlic powder, cayenne or red pepper flakes, and dried sage, rosemary, and thyme. Try salt free Taco Seasoning Mix <https://spendsmart.extension.iastate.edu/recipe/taco-seasoning-mix/> or Dried Onion Soup Mix <https://spendsmart.extension.iastate.edu/recipe/dried-onion-soup-mix/> from Spend Smart. Eat Smart. For a more substantial gift, line a basket with a colorful apron or dish towel. Arrange the mix with a serving platter or bowl and utensils to enhance the theme. You can even include cards with recipe ideas.

- Keep these tips in mind for your healthy food gifts:
- **Shop.** Choose recipes with accessible, affordable ingredients. Buying in bulk can save money when making multiple gifts.
 - **Be Efficient.** Gather ingredients and jars or bags, line them up, and assemble several gifts at once. Make extras to keep on hand for last minute occasions (or for your own use after the holidays).
 - **Contain It.** Choose packaging that suits the recipe, such as a jar, bottle, or bag. Consider accessibility, cost, and options to repurpose or reuse.
 - This institution is an equal opportunity provider. For the full non-discrimination statement or accommodation inquiries, go to www.extension.iastate.edu/diversity/ext.
 - **Tag It.** Make or purchase tags with space to handwrite or print out things like ingredients, how to prepare, how to use, and a "To /From" section or separate tag.
 - **Package It.** If you want to add to the gift, pair it with other shelf-stable ingredients, cooking implements, and/or serving dishes.

And last but not least: DIY Dips. The perfect accompaniment to a platter of fresh vegetables, dips are a wonderful option for gatherings at holidays or any day. Give your family and friends a homemade dip mix or two like Tex Mex Dip Mix or Herb Dip Mix or create your own signature blend. For a more substantial gift, add a dip bowl and a package of crackers.

With a little planning and preparation, you can craft a healthy homemade food gift that truly shows you care
 Adapted from Tufts Health & Nutrition Letter December 2024.

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SYC hunters and the guides during the deer hunt in September of 2024.

Special Youth Challenge Ministries Offer Outdoor Hunting Opportunities

by Steve Weisman

For the past 22 years, Special Youth Challenge (SYC) Ministries of Iowa, with its headquarters near Webb, IA, has been offering youth with special challenges a chance to participate in and enjoy shooting sports in God's great outdoors. SYC provides training and adaptive equipment to help the hunters achieve this goal through guided spring turkey and fall deer hunts at no cost to the hunters or their families.

A non-profit entity, SYC Iowa (SYCIowa.org) is a faith-based organization geared towards youth with special challenges and life-threatening diseases, along with adult disabled Veterans to provide no-cost guided hunting and training experiences using adaptive equipment to accommodate all individuals with all abilities.

According to Gary Van Wetering, long-time volunteer and current president elect and Shawn Peterson, a volunteer since 2003 and current board member, everything is on a total volunteer basis with 26 members on the SYC board. Van Wetering says, "Since SYC hunters have a physical challenge, special need or have had a life-threatening disease or injury, it takes a lot of volunteers to help. The SYC board members are truly motivated by the simple smile on a hunter's face and enjoy creating the best environment possible for the hunters and their families. We have approximately 300 volunteers to develop sportsmen's skills and enjoy God's great outdoors."

Peterson adds, "A lot of SYC's growth is by word of mouth. SYC is 100% volunteer run and is funded by the overwhelming generosity of local residents and businesses. The average cost of \$600 per hunter is totally taken care of by volunteer funding."

SYC growth

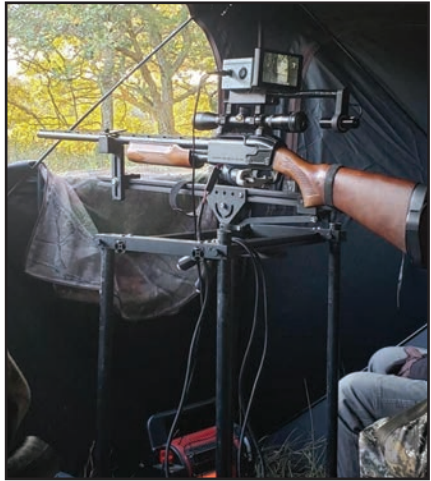
Growth of the organization has been steady over the past 22 years. "The first hunt in 2002 included four youth hunters. Since that first deer hunt, SYC has hosted 22 deer hunts and 21 turkey hunts, hosting approximately 160 different kids and 40 disabled veterans. This equates to approximately 400 turkey hunts and 440 deer hunts with about 6,000 volunteers in those 840 hunts over those 22 years. A high percentage of our kids return subsequent years. It's also interesting that a lot of them do not come from hunting parents. We have even had some who started as participants and have graduated to be volunteers."

The average percentages of success include 30% for turkey hunts and 70% for deer hunts. Area landowners willingly open up their private land for the SYC hunts.

In addition to hunters from Iowa, hunters have come from the states of Colorado, Georgia, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nebraska, New York, Ohio,



Members of the SYC Executive Committee receive a generous donation from IGL Pheasants Forever after the SYC property was flooded in June 2024. (L) Gary Van Wetering, SYC president-elect; Next to him, IGLPF member Mary Jo Rapp; Jaymie Bral, SYC president; Jay Rehstrom, SYC treasurer; and Jacob Myers, SYC secretary.



An example of equipment that has been engineered by one of the SYC board members.

Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia and Wisconsin.

Events for the year

Three events are held each year: spring turkey hunt in April, fall deer hunt in late September and the annual SYC Fundraiser Banquet in November. Let's take a look at the two hunts:

Spring Turkey Hunt in April and Fall Deer Hunt in late September.

Both hunts are fully guided and offer the youth themselves the opportunity to hunt. Each hunter is assigned two guides. All blinds are accessible, and all firearms are tailored to the special needs of the youth, including a separate screen for scope use and a double trigger system for the guide and the hunter.

The equipment is custom developed to provide a safe experience. The target is displayed on an easy-to-see camera screen, the gun rests and swivels on a four-leg stand which helps to absorb the recoil. The Hunt Guide must have their trigger pressed before the Hunter presses their trigger for the gun to fire, which provides an increased level of safety.

Each hunt weekend takes place on a Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Each hunt starts with gathering on a Friday to sight guns in and become familiar with the equipment. Following is a full banquet welcome dinner where hunters are recognized, and new

hunters are given a camo bible, camo clothing and a handmade SYC quilt. The Guest Speaker will present to end opening night.

Saturday is a full day of hunting with midday rest break and lots of food morning and evening. Sunday morning is the last opportunity to hunt with church service mid-morning and recognition of hunters, guides, and volunteers to end the amazing weekend.

Lots of positives

So, what do the participants, guides and parents think about the SYC? Megan, a SYC hunter gives her top 11 reasons to love SYC with a chance to be with people like yourself, a family, hunting and a time to be with God as her top four.

Another hunter notes, "SYC has helped me realize that just because I am in a wheelchair I can do things that I thought I couldn't. SYC has helped me think of myself differently because I used to think that I couldn't do many things, but SYC showed me I can. I think all kids should think about what they think, they think they can't do and try to do it. I will always remember SYC for how they helped change my life."

One of the hunter's moms shares the joy of the entire weekend. "We had such a wonderful time. So much love and caring went into making the weekend so special. Mitchell has a memory he will cherish for a lifetime, and so do we. We look forward to coming back. Thank you for the fellowship and the time together."

A volunteer mentor/guide reflects, "These hunters and volunteers for Special Youth Challenge Ministries are amazing and I am so glad I got the opportunity and hope there are many more to come."

Becoming a part

According to both Van Wetering and Peterson, there are many ways people can help the SYC meet its purpose and mission. Van Wetering notes, "We are a Christian ministry, and people can simply pray for us. We can always use volunteer mentors or people on a SYC committee. Since we are a volunteer organization, we can always use people's financial contributions."

Here is an example of an area organization stepping up. According to board member Mary Jo Rapp of the Iowa Great Lakes Pheasants Forever (IGLPF) chapter, "Gary came to us in June and told us about their mission and organization. We believed that what SYC is doing fits in with our mission of promoting outdoor recreation and fostering youth engagement. After the meeting, we unanimously voted to contribute \$5,000 to the SYC."

Van Wetering says, "We have organizations like this, businesses and individuals who see the SYC as something important. They are all greatly appreciated!"

To learn more about SYC, go to SYCIowa.org or call 866-792-4692.



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