



# THE LAKES NEWS SHOPPER™



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# OKOBOJI ELEMENTARY

PIONEERING PATHWAYS FOR EVERY STUDENT

**WE HAVE A  
NEW ELEMENTARY  
SCHOOL COMING IN  
FALL OF 2027!**



## OKOBOJI COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Pre-Kindergarten & New Kindergarten Family **INFORMATION MEETING**

**Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM**

**Okoboji Elementary School • 705 N Ave, Milford**

**\*Please enter through main doors on the east side of the building**

#### PRE-KINDERGARTEN

Come meet the teachers and learn more about Okoboji Schools!

All children who will be 4 years old on or before September 15, 2025, are eligible for Pre-K for the 2025-26 school year!

\*Optional to bring your child to the meeting.

**Full day & half day possibilities for Pre-K!**

#### NEW FAMILY KINDERGARTEN

Come meet the teachers and learn more about Okoboji Schools!

All children who will be 5 years old on or before September 15, 2025, are eligible for kindergarten for the 2025-26 school year!

**\*Please bring your child so that we can help you in determining the best placement for them next year by conducting some readiness activities.**



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**Call the OES office at 712-338-2458 for more information!**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [WWW.OKOBOJISCHOOLS.ORG](http://WWW.OKOBOJISCHOOLS.ORG)



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**Bedell Barracudas Swimmers Qualify for State Meet**

Congratulations to all the Bedell Barracuda Swimmers who qualified for the State meet which will be held in Marshalltown on March 1 and 2, 2024: Keaton Cook, Emma Cunningham, Theresa Cunningham, Cooper Daggett, Caleb Duhn, Trice Edwards, Brielle Eick, Jovie Erickson, Lola Erickson, Braelyn Ferguson, Merritt Haulard, Josi Henson, Gabriella Hurtig, Ray Kaiser, Ella Kasperbauer, Maddox Krull, Elias Mendenhall-Borus, Abigail Mensing, Jackson Mensing, Noah Mensing, Henry Meyer, Oliver Miller, Aubrey Paterson, Bristol Paterson, Carson Profit, Nellie Rohling, Nori Rohling, Zayla Ruisenor, Buddy Wahpepah, Lanaeh Wahpepah, Nevaeh Wahpepah, Ethan Weston, Kaela Weston, Grady Wilken, Emerson Wittrock and Lindy Wittrock. Missing from the picture: Finn Donovan, Josephine Haulard, Jade Henson, Avery Krull, Reese Philips, JR Sandy, Gemma Tamsiea, Aldon Welle and Alex Wilken.

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- ELITE TEACHERS WHO PIONEER A PATHWAY FOR EVERY STUDENT
- TOP-NOTCH FACILITIES THAT INCLUDE A NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL AND A NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PLUS CRITICAL ADDITIONS TO OUR CURRENT HIGH SCHOOL COMING IN THE FALL OF 2027
- DISTRICT-WIDE, WE OUTPERFORM THE STATE IN ACADEMIC PROFICIENCY BY OVER 8% (ACCORDING TO THE IOWA SCHOOL PROFILE WEBSITE)
- 98.6% OF THE CLASS OF 2023 COMPLETED A WORK BASED LEARNING EXPERIENCE, WHILE STATE AVERAGE WAS 24.5%
- 17% OF OUR STUDENTS LIVE IN SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES AND CHOOSE TO OPEN-ENROLL AT OKOBOJI
- OUR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS EARNED 1,355 COLLEGE CREDITS IN 2023-24, THE HIGHEST IN DICKINSON COUNTY

2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

**OPEN ENROLLMENT**

APPLICATION DEADLINE MARCH 1ST

LEARN ABOUT 2025-26 OPEN ENROLLMENT AT OKOBOJISCHOOLS.ORG



**Ongoing Activities at the LASC**

Seniors Movin' On is an exercise group that meets every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning at 9:00am. The exercise program is based on the Silver Sneakers Program. Blood Pressure Screening the last Tuesday of every month. Zumba class on Thursday at 4:00pm. Asian MahJong—1st and 3rd Monday at 1:00pm. Breakfast—March 16, 8:30-12:30. Dance—March 30th, 2:00-5:00pm; potluck lunch at 3:00pm. Dance to music by Bill and Jackie. The Lakes Area Senior Center also has pool and ping pong available. Stop in!

**Summer CAMP**

Registration Opens **March 3rd at 8 AM**

See our camps at [www.dickinsoncountyconservationboard.com](http://www.dickinsoncountyconservationboard.com)

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## CONGRATS TO THE LAHA BOJI BLIZZARD PEEWEES

who went 4-0 on February 15 & 16 taking 1<sup>st</sup> Place at the Onalaska-Holmen Tornado Youth Hockey Tournament in Onalaska, WI!



Photo Credit: Jason Keonin

Pictured L to R: Declan Raveling, Landon Meyers, Mike Slife (coach), Daxton Smith, Cameron Remillard, Nick Erdmann (coach), Brantley Williard, Malachi Slife, Bryce Benschoter, Ryden Begley, Jace Maher, Ryder Erdmann, Croix Howard, Harrison Keonin, Addison Raveling, Ayden Myers, Justin Maher (coach)

The weekend was full of great competition & sportsmanship. Boji defeated Waunakee in the championship game in overtime 3-2. A big thank you to head coach Nick Erdmann and assistant coaches, Mike Slife and Justin Maher for your excellent leadership with the team!

## ILCC Releases Dean's List

Iowa Lakes Community College celebrates the students on the Fall 2024 Honors Lists, recognizing their outstanding academic achievements. This semester, 141 students have earned the prestigious President's List honor, and 242 students have been named to the Dean's List.

The Dean's List focuses on students with a GPA of 3.25 or higher who maintain full-time enrollment status and have at least 12 graded credits.

Congratulations to the following area students:

Estherville - Emerson Blair, Lydia Bunde, Yahir Camberos Barajas, Jess Christensen, Aidan Cilliers, Cole Danner, Matthew Davids, Kaylyn Domek, Blake Enderson, Michael Enderson, Claire Funston, Cole Hansen, Luke Heinrichs, Carter Ingvall, Brenden Lundgren, Kiania Manning, Nolan Merryman, Mallory Nelson, Elias Nevalainen (President's List), Hannah Nitchals, Jessie Nitchals, Madison Norton, Dylan Peta, Alijah Skrepak, Carter Snyder, Carter Spies, Ericka Trostin and Franciliya Wijekoon.

Gruver - Parker Rowley.

Lake Park - Kimberly Martinez.

Milford - Gabriel Brackett, Leila Dirks, Karli Fife, Ellsa Jorgensen, Miranda Miller and Julia Wittrock.

Spencer - Emily Boelter, Tobias Bozarth, Trevor Cookinham, Monroe Daniels, Tristan Decker, Brock Edington, Scarlet Finch, Hannah Geiger, Shainee Henely, Stephanie Holliman, Elijah Hookfin, Hayley Khenkitisak, Katelyn Kivela, Elizabeth Morse, Raven Neuman, Laci Seymour, Corey Shields, Latasha Smith, Hannah Wedeband and Carys Whitaker.

Spirit Lake - Aidan Bramblett, Alisha Dungan, Patrick Folan, Preston Gigstad, Alaina Hinders, Jonathan Jones, Gwendolyn Mansfield, Cale Quiring, Kennedy Runkle, Tristin Sidles, Parker Westerman and Dani Winkel.

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## MILFORD



### Milford RAGBRAI Looking for Hosts to House Riders

Milford, Iowa - The Milford RAGBRAI Committee is seeking volunteers who can offer overnight accommodations for RAGBRAI riders or support staff on July 20, 2025.

**Host Expectations:** Some riders will want or need to stay at a home versus camping in the campgrounds. Riders will expect a place to put a tent outside or inside floor space for a sleeping bag, possible access to a bathroom and shower, a place for parking vehicles for those riders who are coming with support, and possibly somewhere to fill a water bottle. It is completely up to the hosts how many guests and the amenities you would like to offer.

Local housing volunteers are not expected to entertain guests or provide them with amenities. Hosts are also not required to transport or feed riders.

**Rider Expectations:** Riders will be well-behaved, appreciative guests who will remember the host's kindness. This is also a great opportunity to meet some fascinating people. Riders will arrive mid-to early afternoon on Sunday, July 20, and be gone before 9:00am the next day.


**Sign up to be a host or if you have already matched with riders.**

There are several ways you can sign up to be a host or let the Milford RAGBRAI Committee know you already have someone lined up to stay at your home.

1. Match yourself with a rider. Join the Milford RAGBRAI Housing Match group on Facebook to match yourself with a rider. There will be posts from riders on what they are looking for and you can reach out to them personally.
2. Leave the matching up to the Milford RAGBRAI Committee. Go to [milford.ia.us/ragbrai](http://milford.ia.us/ragbrai) to fill out the Milford RAGBRAI Host Form. This form includes several questions on what you are willing to provide and they will find a good match for you. Once a match has been made the host will be notified.
3. Already had someone reach out and they are staying at your place? The Milford RAGBRAI Committee wants to make sure riders and hosts are able to find each other on July 20. If you want your contact and address information available at the Milford RAGBRAI Information Center, please fill out the Already Matched Rider and Housing Form at [milford.ia.us/ragbrai](http://milford.ia.us/ragbrai). The Milford RAGBRAI Committee will have this information available at the Milford RAGBRAI Information Center for riders looking for their hosts on July 20.

Milford RAGBRAI will only match hosts with riders who are registered with RAGBRAI. Those who house unregistered riders open themselves up to the full liability for whatever may happen at their home. Keep this in mind when accepting requests on your own. A great way to check to see if a rider is registered is to ask for their RAGBRAI confirmation number and check with the Milford RAGBRAI Committee.

For those interested in reaching out to the Milford RAGBRAI Committee please feel free to email [milfordragbrai@gmail.com](mailto:milfordragbrai@gmail.com). Follow along with updates on the Milford RAGBRAI Facebook page and Instagram.



**Questions? Get in touch**  
Tim 507.227.5919  
Sean 515-320-0805  
<https://nwiabka.org>  
Check us out on Facebook @ NorthWest Iowa Beekeepers Association

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\$75/person, \$100/family, \$50/youth  
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Level 1 Training  
March 1, 2025  
8:30a.m.-4p.m.  
Dickinson Co. Expo Center  
1602 15th St, Spirit Lake, IA

## Respite Angels

Please join the Respite Angels on Thursday, February 27, at 10:00am, at Calvary Methodist Church in Arnolds Park for music with Pastor Chris St. Clair. Chris is a multi talented musician and he will bring his guitars and voice to life in a fun filled time.

## Dance in Brewster

JK Country will play for a dance at the Brewster Legion in Brewster, Minnesota, Saturday, March 8th, 7:00-10:30. Come for an evening of great music and dancing. Bring a friend or two.

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**THE LAKES NEWS Auctions**

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## View From The Bench

by John Adams, Jr.

### Bulldogs Bite Just Enough vs Panthers

The college men's basketball game of the day on Sunday featured two of our in-state rivals, the Drake Bulldogs traveling to Cedar Falls to take on the red-hot Northern Iowa Panthers. Under new coach Ben McCollum, Drake has had a tremendous season, entering the game with a 24-3 record and a slim one game lead in the Missouri Valley Conference over their rival UNI, who was riding a six-game winning streak and playing their best basketball of the season. To add even more hype to the rivalry, the game was featured on national television with ESPN2 doing the broadcast.

The game definitely lived up to the hype as the Bulldogs pulled out a thrilling 64-58 overtime win in a game that featured big-time shots, questionable foul calls and both teams leaving absolutely everything they had on the court. Drake controlled most of the first half and twice took the largest lead of the game at eight, but the Bulldogs couldn't put the Panthers away as UNI trimmed the lead to 30-27 at halftime. UNI quickly cut that lead to 34-33 on a Ben Schweiger jumper early in the half, but the Bulldogs would respond with a 7-0 run to take another eight-point lead. The Panthers once again would battle back and take a 50-49 lead on a Trey Campbell layup with just over 4:00 remaining. From there, no team would lead by more than two points for the rest of regulation; Campbell hit a big three-pointer to give UNI a 54-53 lead and the Panthers would add one free throw to take a 55-53 with just :07 left. Drake got a good look from star Bennett Stirtz that was off the mark but a long rebound came to Mitch Mascari and he was fouled on a three-point attempt at the buzzer. The 88% free throw shooter missed the first attempt as the sellout crowd went into a frenzy, but Mascari calmly made the last two to push the game into overtime. Tytan Anderson gave UNI a quick lead in overtime with a bucket in the paint, but Stirtz would answer with a putback of his own miss to tie the game. Anderson then fouled out of the game on a double foul with Drake's Isiah Howard as the two battled for position on the elbow by the free throw line. There didn't appear to be much contact and UNI coach Ben Jacobsen said after the game, "It might be the worst call I've seen in my 19 years as a head coach, because of the impact it had on the game." Jacobsen did say both teams had some calls go their way and against them, stating, "Look, there were seven or eight calls that (McCollum) is going to feel like were the wrong call, and there's seven or eight of them that I feel like were the wrong call. But they didn't decide the game." Drake would take advantage of Anderson being out of the game, as UNI struggled to get any flow on offense. Daniel Abreu made a tough fadeaway jumper to give Drake a 59-57 lead that they would never relinquish. UNI was only able to score one more point and then Stirtz put the game away as his team was clinging to a 61-58 lead with a tough three-pointer as the shot clock wound down with just :16 remaining.

The win gave the Bulldogs no worse than a tie for the Missouri Valley Conference regular season title, and with games this week against two lower-level teams, including a home game vs last place Missouri State on Sunday, Drake is in great position to win the conference outright. UNI is now in a second-place tie with Bradley and will travel to Peoria to take on the Braves on Sunday in a game that will probably determine the #2 seed in the MVC Tournament, which begins on March 6th. Drake is now tied with #1 Auburn with the most wins in all of Division I with 25. While I feel like the Bulldogs deserve an at-large berth in the NCAA Tournament if they should falter at the MVC Tournament, I have a feeling they will find themselves with the same fate as last year's MVC Champion, Indiana State, who Drake beat in the Finals, on the outside looking in and with a spot in the NIT. Drake has some impressive non-conference wins over Kansas State and Vanderbilt, but the Valley has recently turned into a one-bid league and I fear the same will hold true this year. Let the madness begin!

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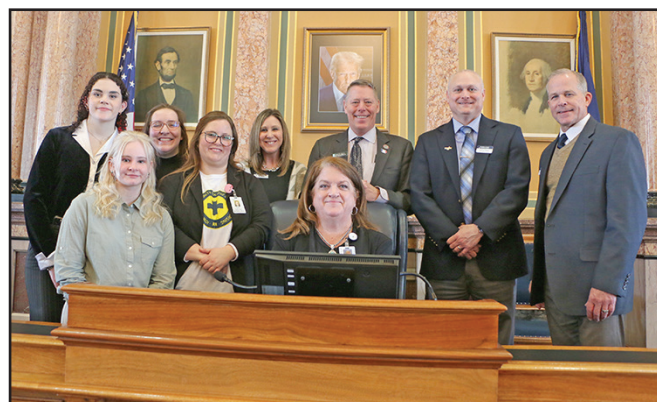
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**Kiwanis Bingo Nights**

Milford Kiwanis presents Bingo Nights on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. The next Bingo Night will be Thursday, February 27, 2025. Card sales begin at 5:30 and Bingo is from 6:00-8:00. There will be a progressive jackpot blackout game at the end of the night. 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.



**REPRESENTATIVE WILLS WELCOMES ILCC** - Representative John Wills (R-Spirit Lake) welcomed and visited with students and staff from Iowa Lakes Community College, who were visiting the Capitol for Community College Day on the Hill.

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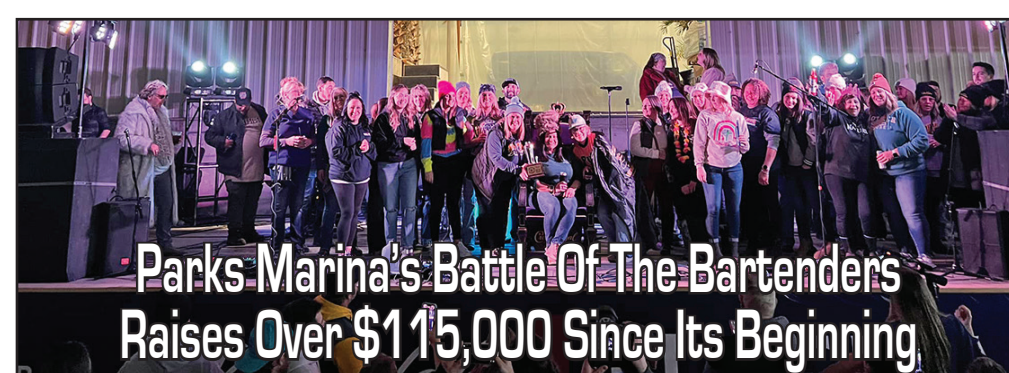
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**Parks Marina's Battle Of The Bartenders** Raises Over \$115,000 Since Its Beginning

Each year, locals and tourists head to the frozen lakes to celebrate Winter Games, a unique weekend full of winter festivities. At this year's 45th annual Games, the Battle of the Bartenders kickoff charity event, held Jan. 23, raised \$15,571 in one hour alone. The event, now in its 11th year, has raised over \$115,000 for selected charities since its beginning.

"It's the premier charity event of the weekend," Debbie Parks, marketing director at Parks Marina, said. "This year we welcomed some exciting changes to the event by encouraging Venmo donations ahead of time and ensuring every participating bar receives a minimum of \$250 toward their charity of choice."

Attracting over 20 bars and restaurants and thousands of attendees at Parks Marina, the Battle of the Bartenders pitted the area's best mixologists in a head-to-head best drink competition.

Parks Marina was proud to present five checks to charities and causes selected by the winning teams— Puff's Lounge in first place, Johnny's Pub in second, Snappers in third, Indian Hills Golf Club in fourth and Mainstreet Bar & Grill in fifth. The proceeds were split 40-30-15-10-5 to BV County Public Health & Home Care, Margaret Travaille Cancer Fund, Matti Banks Trust, Upper Des Moines, and the Lakes Regional Healthcare Diabetes Fund, respectively. All other charities received a \$250 donation.

Other Winter Games fundraising activities at Parks Marina were nothing short of successful. Combined participation in the "Human Dog Sled Races", men's and women's Keg Toss, the "Best in Snow" Dog Show and the "Smooching Races" raised over \$3,000 for various charities and organizations. Proceeds from these events were matched by Doll Distributing and Exit Realty.

"The charities that benefit are often those local folks in need that fall through the cracks, and it makes the event extra special," Parks said.

Parks Marina continues to not only be dedicated to the service and care of its customers, but also to the Iowa Great Lakes Region and its surrounding communities.

**Snappers WINTER SPECIALS**

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**March 6** Okoboji Performing Arts

**April 3** Conservation Foundation of Dickinson County

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## A Night of Fun & Fundraising at the Spirit Lake Athletic Booster Club Gala

The Spirit Lake Athletic Booster Club invites you to an unforgettable evening of community, celebration, and support for our local student-athletes. Join them Friday, February 28th, at Waterfront for their annual gala, where every dollar raised goes directly toward providing essential equipment and uniforms for Spirit Lake High School and Middle School athletes.



The evening kicks off at 5:30pm with a cocktail hour, followed by a delicious dinner buffet featuring chicken and steak. Enjoy inspiring presentations from coaches, an exciting silent auction, and live music from Okoboji favorite, Scott Larsen! Plus, a percentage of all bar sales will be donated back to the Booster Club—so every sip supports our athletes.

Tickets are \$50 per person and must be purchased by February 20th. Don't miss this chance to enjoy a fantastic night while making a difference for our student-athletes.

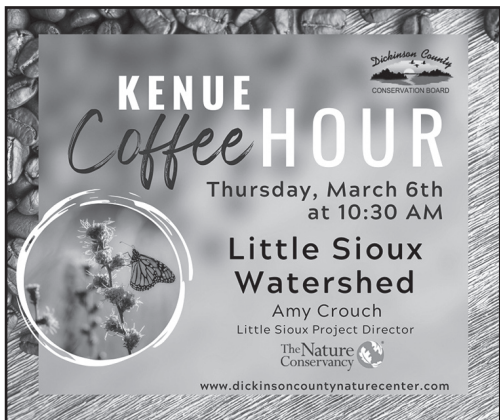
Reserve your spot today! For ticket purchases and more information, contact the Indian Athletic Booster Club at [tabspiritalake@gmail.com](mailto:tabspiritalake@gmail.com) or visit [bit.ly/IABCCGala25](http://bit.ly/IABCCGala25)

Come raise a glass, place your bids, and cheer on the future of Spirit Lake athletics!

## March 6 Kenue Coffee Hour

Connect over a cup of coffee during Kenue Coffee Hour at Maser Monarch Lodge on Thursday, March 6th, at 10:30 a.m.

The Dickinson County Nature Center provides this monthly gathering which offers adults an opportunity to listen to speakers every month present about our natural world in some regard.



Attendees will have a chance to listen to Amy Crouch, Little Sioux Project Director. This month's program will center around the Little Sioux Watershed and its global significance. During the presentation, Crouch will explain why The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is involved in Iowa and how the watershed's ecological health directly affects our well-being.

"We'll then focus on the global importance of the Little Sioux Watershed, discussing efforts to maintain or improve its ecosystem health and why these efforts matter for people, plants, and animals alike," Crouch stated.

"Caring for the Little Sioux Watershed, and nature in general, is caring for ourselves. If our environment is healthy and functioning well, so are we!"

Registration is not required for adults to attend and enjoy some coffee and conversations. For more information, visit [www.dickinsoncountynaturecenter.com](http://www.dickinsoncountynaturecenter.com). Like and follow the Dickinson County Nature Center on Facebook and Instagram to see the latest updates and programs.

## Houseman Named to Dean's List

Elenora Houseman of Estherville, Iowa, has been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2024 quarter and semester terms at Mercy College of Health Sciences in Des Moines, Iowa. To qualify for this academic recognition, students must attain a grade point average (GPA) between 3.50 and 3.749 for a minimum of six semester credit hours or four quarter credit hours in their most recent term.

## ILCC Releases President's List

Iowa Lakes Community College celebrates the students on the Fall 2024 Honors Lists, recognizing their outstanding academic achievements. This semester, 141 students have earned the prestigious President's List honor, and 242 students have been named to the Dean's List.

The President's List distinction showcases students with unwavering commitment and academic brilliance who achieve a perfect 4.0 GPA while enrolled full-time and completing 12 or more graded credits.

Congratulations to the following area students:  
 Arnolds Park - Adam Miller  
 Estherville - Caleb Lausen, Grace Lutat, Elias Nevalainen, Audree Reinhardt and Delanie Rezac.  
 Gruver - Brianna Fix.

Milford - Grace Fisher, Breanna Furman, Caleb Hodge, Scott Newell and Benjamin Stacey.  
 Okoboji - Leah Wallin.

Spencer - Melissa Agustin-Sebastian, Caden Atherton, Chance Baber, Alex Baldwin, Dena Birchard, Ava Haldin, Braylee Haldin, Kelsi Hansen, Kailey Krull, Mahee Montenegro, Peyton Morey, Zackary Richter, Mariana Rosales, Mallory Salton and Kennedy Warburton.

Spirit Lake - Morgan Fine, Lindsey Johnson, Elizabeth Leinbaugh, Michael Morris, Gracie Relph and Riley Sorenson.  
 Terril - Adrianna Krieger.



## Iowa Lakes Culinary Program Boosted by Generous Equipment Donation from Wild Rose Casino

Iowa Lakes Community College's Culinary & Hospitality Management program receives professional kitchen equipment valued at \$12,777 from Wild Rose Casino and Hotel, enhancing the program's ability to offer hands-on learning experiences for future chefs and hospitality professionals.

The partnership between Iowa Lakes Culinary and Wild Rose Casino and Hotel is rooted in a shared history. Jesse Grossnickle, Instructor of Culinary and Hospitality Management at Iowa Lakes and a 2006 graduate of the College, began his career at Wild Rose as a Food and Beverage Supervisor. Steve Cody, now General Manager at Wild Rose, was head of accounting during Grossnickle's tenure.

The collaboration gained momentum in the spring of 2024 when Grossnickle and his students catered an event for the Emmetsburg Chamber of Commerce hosted at Wild Rose Casino. Spotting an underutilized kitchen in the casino, Grossnickle saw an opportunity. Over the following year, he collaborated with Cody to secure a generous donation of the kitchen's professional equipment from Wild Rose's corporate office.

"We are extremely thankful to Wild Rose Casino for this incredible equipment donation," said Grossnickle. "It will elevate the training experience in our food labs and prepare our students for success in the industry."

The donated equipment includes high-quality kitchen essentials, including an ice cream machine, a floor mixer, a pizza oven conveyor, and more. The equipment will enable students to refine their craft in a real-world setting with more professional-grade tools.

The partnership shows the importance of strong community ties and meaningful industry collaborations. For more information about the Culinary and Hospitality Management program at Iowa Lakes, please visit [iowalakes.edu](http://iowalakes.edu).

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**WED-THURS 2/26-27 6:30**  
**FRI 2/28 4:00 & 6:50**  
**SAT-SUN 3/1-2 1:00, 3:50 & 6:45**  
**MON-THUR 3/3-6 6:30**

Full of Paddington's signature blend of wit, charm, and laugh-out-loud humor, Paddington in Peru finds the beloved, marmalade-loving bear lost in the jungle on an exciting, high-stakes adventure. When Paddington discovers his beloved Aunt Lucy has gone missing from the Home for Retired Bears, he and the Brown family head to the wilds of Peru to look for her, the only clue to her whereabouts a spot marked on an enigmatic map.  
**WED-THURS 2/26-27 6:45**  
**FRI 2/28 4:15 & 7:10**  
**SAT-SUN 3/1-2 1:15, 4:10 & 7:00**  
**MON-THUR 3/3-6 6:45**

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!

Scan to schedule an appointment.

### FFA Blood Drive

Harris-Lake Park High School FFA will host a Blood Drive at the Community Center on Wednesday, March 5, 2025, from 11:00am to 4:00pm. Please visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter: HARRIS-LAKEPARK to schedule an appointment.

### Little Swan Lake Winery

Life... Drink it In!  
 We are open for walk-in & tasting!  
**Winter Hours**  
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**Adam & Jacob**  
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**Music & Dancing**  
**6:00-8:00 PM**

**TUESDAY,**  
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THE LAKES NEWS  
 Auctions  
 Page 2B

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 JAPANESE BOBTAIL  
 MAINE COON  
 MUNCHKIN  
 NORWEGIAN FOREST  
 PERSIAN  
 RAGAMUFFIN  
 RUSSIAN BLUE  
 SCOTTISH FOLD  
 SIAMESE  
 SIBERIAN  
 SPHYNX  
 TOYGER  
 TURKISH ANGORA

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

## Terril Library News

Great things are happening at the Terril Library. One hundred new books were awarded from the Brownstone Book Company. These award winning books bring new reading adventures for the toddler to age 10 and can be checked out at the library.

Children's Story Hour continues every 2nd Saturday of the month at 10:00am.

Book club is every 4th Wednesday of the month at 1:30pm. A large selection of used books and DVDs are for sale.

Library hours: Monday 1:00 - 6:00, Wednesday 9:00 - 5:00, Friday 10:00 - 2:00, Saturday 9:00 - 12:00.

The Terril Library staff and board would like to thank you for your continued support.

## Spirit Lake Library News

### Looking For Something To Do? (Part 2)

By Jill Jennings

Last week I encouraged you to come to the Spirit Lake Public Library to read/listen to a book or read a magazine or newspaper while you are waiting to go to an appointment or to pick up your kids from practice. This week, I will spotlight some ideas for non-readers. You are welcome at the library, too!

Our public computers are available for anyone over the age of 10 to use. You could look up something on the internet or borrow a DVD and watch a movie. You do not have to have a library card to use our computers.

We have free WiFi, so you could bring your own device and use it at the library.

How about a game or a puzzle? We have several of each that you could put together or play. You might even find someone else willing to play a game with you!

If you have younger kids, our children's play area is well stocked with lots of games, puzzles and toys to entertain the younger set. You could color with your child. There's a coloring station stocked with coloring pages, crayons and colored pencils. If you would rather just relax with a cup of coffee, while the kids play, you can sit and keep an eye on them.

We have a private room that we call the proctor room with a nice big table, if you would like to work on a project for a morning or an afternoon. Just check with the front desk to reserve that space.

So, come see us at the library. We welcome all: readers and non-readers alike!

SLPL staff reading spotlight: Jill is currently reading Good Energy: the Surprising Connection Between Metabolism and Limitless Health by Casey Means, MD, and listening to Paris for One & Other Stories by Jojo Moyes on Libby.

- Upcoming activities at the SLPL:
- Monday, March 3, 10:00-11:30 a.m., Children's Play Time
  - Monday, March 3, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Mah-Jongg
  - Monday, March 3, 5:15 p.m., Library Board Meeting
  - Tuesday, March 4, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Quilters
  - Wednesday, March 5, 12:30-4:00 p.m., Quilters
  - Thursday, March 6, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Mah-Jongg



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I am honored to extend my sincere congratulations to Spencer Hospital for achieving the distinguished recognition as a Top 100 Rural & Community Hospital for the tenth consecutive year. This incredible milestone is a testament to the unwavering commitment, dedication, and excellence of the entire Spencer Hospital team.

Consistently earning a place among the top hospitals in the nation for a decade is no small achievement. It underscores Spencer Hospital's steadfast dedication to delivering high-quality healthcare services to our community while maintaining the highest standards of safety, patient care, and excellence.

This recognition not only celebrates the hard work and dedication of the healthcare professionals and staff at Spencer Hospital but also reaffirms the hospital's essential role in ensuring the health and well-being of our community.

On behalf of the hospital board and our entire community, I extend my deepest appreciation and gratitude to the leadership team, medical staff, nurses, support staff, and volunteers at Spencer Hospital. Your tireless efforts and dedication make a lasting impact on the lives of those you serve.

Once again, congratulations on this outstanding achievement. Spencer Hospital's commitment to excellence continues to shine, and we are proud to celebrate this well-earned milestone.

Sincerely,

**Amanda Bare, Chairman of the Hospital Board**  
**Trustees: Julie Christensen, Larry Harden, Steve Lensing and Bruce Nystrom; Advisory Board Members: Bridget Bailey, Casey Baker, Angela McCaulley, Dr. Charlie Crouch, Brent Swart and John Cotton.**

## Area Students Named to the President's List at ISU

The following area students were named to the President's List at Iowa State University. Students achieving this prestigious designation have maintained a 4.0 GPA for two consecutive semesters.

Congratulations to the following area students: Kya Thiel of Estherville; Lauren Ditsworth of Milford; Caleb Frostestad of Okoboji; Sophia Behrens, Jazmine Edwards, Carly Izard, Owen Kierscht and Mary Matthiesen of Spencer.

## Community Health Center of Spencer Launches New Facebook Page

In preparation for their upcoming opening in Spencer, Community Health Center is excited to announce the launch of their new Facebook page.

The page, titled 'Community Health Center of Spencer,' will keep you updated with relevant content, including progress leading up to their opening, current employment opportunities, and, once open, information about services, events, and community updates.

As a federally qualified health center (FQHC) under the umbrella of Community Health Center of Fort Dodge, Inc., they are committed to providing high-quality medical, dental, and behavioral health services to people of all ages and income levels. The new center will be located at 233 W 7th Street in Spencer, Iowa.

The Community Health Center encourages you to like and follow their new page by searching 'Community Health Center of Spencer' on Facebook or by using this link: <https://www.facebook.com/CHCofSpencer>

For more information about Community Health Center, visit [www.chcfd.com](http://www.chcfd.com).



## Look Who's 80!

Please join the family in celebrating Paul's 80th birthday on Sunday, March 9, 2025. Cards can be mailed to: Paul Erdmann 4581 S. Abilene Circle, Aurora, CO 80015.

## News from Dickinson County Treasurer

by Kris Rowley

The Dickinson County Treasurer's Office is now accepting the 2025 Iowa Property Tax Credit Claims for property tax assistance for the September 2025/March 2026 property tax payments. There are three types of assistance available.

One is a property tax credit for those who qualify by either age or disability as well as income. The property tax credit is paid by the state of Iowa on a sliding scale with a maximum amount of \$1000. Another program sets a baseline amount for future property taxes. It is based on age and income. There is also assistance paid by the state of Iowa for mobile home, manufactured and modular homeowners who qualify by age and income.

"Property tax credits were established by the state legislature many years ago to help low-income elderly property owners, totally disabled property owners and low-income mobile homeowners pay their property taxes," says Dickinson County Treasurer Kris Rowley. "Three years ago, the Iowa legislature created a property tax baseline, like a freeze, for claimants 70 years and older with qualifying income."

The claim forms are available at the Dickinson County Treasurer's Office or on Dickinson County's website at <https://dickinsoncountyia.gov/treasurer> on the Treasurer page under Property Tax Assistance. Proof of all income and/or proof of disability if applicable must be submitted as well. Claims must be submitted each year.

The eligibility for the property tax assistance programs are as follows:

- 65 or older as of December 31, 2024, with a total household income in 2024 of less than \$26,219.00 for Property Tax Credit.
- 18 or older and totally disabled as of December 31, 2024, with a total household income in 2024 of less than \$26,219.00 for Property Tax Credit.
- 70 or older as of December 31, 2024, with total household income in 2024 below 250% of the federal poverty levels to establish a Property Tax Baseline the first year claimed. The baseline is reset if a claimant doesn't meet the qualification in a given year or fails to file each year. Income guidelines are below.
- 23 or older as of December 31, 2024, with a total household income in 2024 of less than \$26,219.00 for mobile/manufactured/modular home tax credits.

Number of persons in family/household	Total household income is less than or equal to
1	\$37,650.00
2	\$51,100.00
3	\$64,550.00
4	\$78,000.00
5	\$91,450.00
6	\$104,900.00
7	\$118,350.00
8	\$131,800.00

For families/households with more than 8 persons, \$13,450 is added for each additional person.

There is also Rent Reimbursement Assistance available through the Iowa Department of Human Services for people 65 and older or 18 - 64 years and disabled. Income must be less than \$26,219 to qualify.

For more information regarding property taxes or credit claim forms, contact the Dickinson County Treasurer's Office at 712-336-6333, option 4. The deadline for applications is **June 1, 2024, to appear on the property tax statement.** The county treasurer can extend the deadline to accept claims through March 31, 2026, for just cause.

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 Carol Sporrer, CPA  
 Rebecca Graves, CPA  
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 Milford, IA 51351  
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**Dentists**

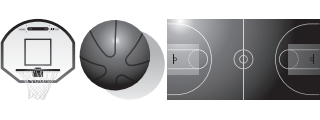
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## Dance 4 Fun

The Everly dance, sponsored by Dance 4 Fun, will be held on Saturday, March 1st, at the Hap Ketelsen Community Center in Everly, Iowa. The doors are open at 6:15, the dance is from 7:00pm -10:30pm. The band is Janene and the Machine. Put on your dancing shoes and come join us for a fun evening of dancing! Feel free to bring snacks to share. Singles and married couples are welcome.

**Cast Into Savings at Fisherman's Factory Outlet**  
 Your casting accuracy could save you an additional **10%-15%-25%-40% OFF YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE**  
 • 3 casts per customer • Discounts available on purchases up to \$200 • Not valid with other offers • One discount per day  
 Special good thru Sunday, March 2, 2025  
**Clear Out Your Tackle Box and Stock it with New 2025 Product... Get Ready for Spring Fishing and SAVE Even More!**  
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 HOURS:  
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 BRANDS YOU CAN TRUST!  
 MITCHELL, Abu Garcia, FLUJER, PENN, Berkley, SAVAGE, PLANO, FRABILL, JOHNSON, Shakespeare, STREN

**Scheduled Presentations at the LASC**  
 Dinner Date Speakers:  
 March 4—Nature Center  
 March 11—TBD  
 March 18—TBD  
 March 25—Treva Graves

**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  
 • Face Tissue  
 • Coffee regular and decaf and filters  
 Thank you for your donations.

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 NEW TO THE STORE: **SKB** SHOTGUNS  
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 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday & Saturday: 9:00-5:30 • Thursday: 9:00-7:00 • Sunday: Closed



# SPIRIT LAKE MUSIC CONCERTS

AT THE SAMI CENTER

<b>FEBRUARY 25</b> 7 PM 5TH - 12TH PARADE OF BANDS	<b>MARCH 4</b> 7 PM 7TH - 12TH JAZZ BAND VOCAL JAZZ & SHOW CHOIR	<b>MARCH 22</b> 7 PM HS VOCAL CONCERT W/ CENTRAL COLLEGE	<b>APRIL 8</b> 7 PM 7TH & 8TH SPRING BAND CONCERT
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WATCH IN PERSON OR ONLINE!  
https://spirit-lake.k12.ia.us/sami-bedell-center/

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Multi-Million Dollar Producer



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Broker - Associate  
Hoien Realty

712-336-2790 or 712-320-7070

## Activities at the LAAC

**Tuesday, February 25**  
8:30 - Kiwanis  
12:00 - Dinner Date  
12:30 - Dinner Date Speaker  
-Treva Graves  
12:30 - Bridge

**Wednesday, February 26**  
9:00 - Exercise Class  
12:00 - Dinner Date

**Thursday, February 27**  
10:00 - Strummers  
12:00 - Dinner Date  
1:00 - 500 Cards  
3:00 - Cribbage  
5:30 - Singles Group

**Friday, February 28**  
9:00 - Exercise Class  
12:00 - Dinner Date

**Saturday, March 1**  
Available For Rent

**Sunday, March 2**  
Available For Rent

**Monday, March 3**  
9:00 - Exercise  
12:00 - Dinner Date  
1:00 - Asian Mahjong

Dinner Date meals are available every weekday. Call by 1:00pm on Friday to reserve a meal for the next week. Join The Lakes Area Senior Center every Tuesday for Dinner Date and stay for a program at 12:30 with their featured Dinner Date Speaker. The pool table room is open every weekday. The card room closes from 12-12:30 for cleaning. Their next Breakfast Fundraiser will be Sunday, March 16, 2025, from 8:30-12:30 - Freewill offering. Dance to live music the last Sunday of the month with a potluck lunch at 3:00pm. 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.

## Mobile Food Pantry In Lake Park

The Food Bank of Iowa Mobile Food Pantry will be open for distribution on Thursday, March 6, 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 3:30pm, 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 3:30 pm. 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.



Join Us... 

### Two Worship Services

Saturdays at 6:00pm & Sundays at 9:00am

Try Chair Yoga with Sue DeBord - Tuesdays at 10:00am



679 W. Okoboji Grove Rd., Arnolds Park  
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Find us on  [calvarylovesall.com](http://calvarylovesall.com)



### Thrift Store

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### 10:00 AM SUNDAYS

Priest in Charge, The Reverend Carolyn Tuttle  
Live Stream  through our Facebook Page

Email: [office@stalbanepiscopalchurch.org](mailto:office@stalbanepiscopalchurch.org)  
Website: [stalbanepiscopalchurch.org](http://stalbanepiscopalchurch.org)

The Episcopal presence in the Iowa Great Lakes Area  
23rd & Zenith Ave. • Spirit Lake • 712-336-1117

### Iowa Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship



Meets second & fourth Sundays  
10:00 am/Coffee & Fellowship after the Service  
Lakes Area Activity Center,  
2101 Zenith Ave, Spirit Lake  
See [uuokoboji.com](http://uuokoboji.com) for dates and program schedule.  
We are a progressive, liberal welcoming congregation



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](http://www.faithcommunitymilford.com)

# SHROVE TUESDAY

## PANCAKE DINNER

MARCH 4 5-7PM

Immanuel Luth. Church  
Hwy. 71 & 27th Street  
1 Block South of  
Lakes Regional Hospital

All-You-Can-Eat  
Pancakes, Sausages, & Beverages

Free Will Donation

Proceeds support  
Immanuel's Youth Ministry




### 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  
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### HARBOR OF JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMC

1204 L Ave. Milford • 712-338-2355  
Pastor Tim Voth

### ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

March 5 at 6:00pm


JOIN US FOR WORSHIP EVERY  
SUNDAY AT 9:30 AM  
OR ONLINE AT [HARBOROFJOY.COM](http://HARBOROFJOY.COM)

BIBLE READING WITH US  
GO TO THE BIBLE RECAP APP "YOU VERSION"  
• WEEK 9 •  
NUMBERS 7, 8-10, 11-13, 14-15, 16-17, 18-20, 21-22

**BLESSING BOX**  
Have a blessing LEAVE IT  
Need a blessing TAKE IT  
Above all be BLESSED

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### VISUAL ARTS



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Opening Reception: 3/6, 5-8pm



Russian & Soviet Impressionism  
Permanent Collection

### PERFORMING ARTS

**7/1 | Commotion**  
A Tribute to CCR | 7:30 PM | \$35/\$45  
MEMBERS ONLY PRE-SALE 2/25-3/3

**7/8 | Frontiers** The world's number one  
tribute to Journey  
7:30 PM | \$35/\$45  
MEMBERS ONLY PRE-SALE 3/4-3/10

**7/15 & 7/16 | The Texas Tenors**  
Country | 7:30 PM | \$40/\$50  
MEMBERS ONLY PRE-SALE 3/11-3/17

Call 712-332-7029 to purchase pre-sale tickets.  
Sales begin at 10am - please have credit card information ready.

Family Memberships start at \$75/year  
Renew Your Membership or Become One Today!

Receive discounts on classes, workshops & performance tickets. As a member you'll be informed of all events and classes, so you'll never miss a thing!

### EDUCATION CLASSES

Register online or call 712-332-7013

**Plate to Palette**  
Hands-On Cooking & Art for Kids Ages 7-12  
4-6pm | \$30/\$40  
With Cathie Critchitt owner of Lagniappe Tearoom  
Travel Down Historic Route 66; prepare the "mom & pop" cuisine this infamous roadway inspired, as well as create art uniquely representing each state along the way. Must register 2 days prior to each class.  
Feb. 27: Texas Chili & New Mexico Green Chile  
Mar. 27: Arizona Fry Bread

**REGISTRATION TODAY FOR MARCH YOUTH ART CLASSES: BATIK PAINTING**

**Grades K-12**  
Scan for full class descriptions and to register online by 2/26

### CULINARY CLASSES

Visit [lakesart.org/culinary](http://lakesart.org/culinary) for full schedule

<b>Wine Class</b> With Jennifer Trittle-Oitzman 6:00pm   \$45/\$55 Mar. 6: New World vs Old World Blind Tasting Apr. 3: Wines of Argentina May 7: Frog's Leap Wine Tasting, small savory bites included. \$75/\$85	<b>Wine Dinner</b> With Chef Scott Ellenbecker of Round Lake Winery Mar. 13   6:00pm   \$125/\$135 Chef Scott has created a beautifully decadent 5 course dinner with a seafood forward menu. Round Lake Vineyard wines will be paired with each course to enhance the flavors of each dish. Visit <a href="http://lakesart.org/culinary">lakesart.org/culinary</a> for full menu. Must register by Mar. 7.	<b>Beautiful Brunches</b> With Sarah Page from So Good by Sarah Mar. 20 & Apr. 23   11:00am   \$50/\$60 Quiches, casseroles, chicken salad croissants, and fruit! Sarah has planned the perfect brunch to welcome warmer weather! Class has a light hands-on activity to assist the chef, and then relax and enjoy a delectable meal. A glass of wine included. Must register 5 days prior. Each brunch will offer a unique menu.
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## 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.

### 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](http://www.3cross.org)

## Lakes Area Senior Center

• Activities • Dinner Date • Events • Exercise • Cards  
• Pool • Music • Speakers • Great Conversations

### SPEAKER ON TUESDAYS at 12:30pm

- Feb. 25: Treva Graves
- March 4: Nature Center
- March 11: TBA



Please stop in and see what we have to offer!  
Exercise • Cards • Pool • Music  
Speakers • Companionship

### DINNER DATE MEALS!

Call to reserve your nutritional meals for next week!

<b>3 Monday</b> Spaghetti Vegetable Garlic Bread Fruit/Dessert	<b>4 Tuesday</b> Hot Pork Mashed Potatoes Vegetable Bread Fruit/Dessert	<b>5 Wednesday</b> Salisbury Steak Vegetable Bread Fruit/Dessert	<b>6 Thursday</b> Chicken Cordon Bleu Casserole Vegetable Bread Fruit/Dessert	<b>7 Friday</b> Beef Tips Vegetable Bread 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**



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**TWEETERS**  
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**HAPPY HOUR TUESDAY - THURSDAY 5-8PM**

**DINNER ONLY! ALL COMBINATIONS 15% OFF**

**HOURS:** Tuesday - Saturday 11AM-9PM, Sunday 11AM-3PM, Monday Closed. **CHECK OUR FACEBOOK FOR DAILY SPECIALS!**

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**RASPBERRY SHANDY IS BACK!**

Available in the Taproom Starting Saturday at 12 (noon)  
**6 PACKS & CASES AVAILABLE**

**MERCH • SOUP • DESSERT**

**\$1 OFF PINT**  
**\$2 OFF PIZZA**

Limit 1 coupon per ticket. Expires March 30, 2025  
**TAPROOM HOURS:** Tues.-Fri. 2pm-10pm | Sat & Sun. 12(noon)-10pm  
**PIZZA HOURS:** Tues.-Fri. 4-9pm | Sat. 12(noon)-9pm | Sun. 12(noon)-3pm

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**RE/MAX Lakes Realty's Aaron & Brooke Jones Earn Broker/Owner Regional Eagle Award**

ARNOLDS PARK, IA, 2/19/2025 – RE/MAX, the most productive real estate network in the world\*, presented Broker & Owners Aaron & Brooke Jones of RE/MAX Lakes Realty with the Broker/Owner of the Year Eagle Award for the RE/MAX Central Region. This prestigious award recognizes one outstanding Broker/Owner in each Region who demonstrates extraordinary commitment and loyalty to fellow RE/MAX Associates and employees while exuding the utmost trust and professionalism to clients.

"It's a tremendous honor to receive this award," said Aaron Jones. "The fact that our business partners Jeff and Rachel Carlson at RE/MAX Experience in Sioux City won this last year I think proves that RE/MAX is not only a great place for our agents to be, it shows we simply attract the very best professionals in the business. As RE/MAX Broker/Owners, we are fully committed to our agents by providing great tools, support, and some of the best commission splits in the industry. We are certainly humbled to receive this honor, but it would not be possible without the support and leadership of Beth Toliver and Rachel Heyer, as well as our outstanding group of agents."

Jeff Berlin, RE/MAX Central Region Manager, had this to say about the team at RE/MAX Lakes Realty and RE/MAX Experience. "When I was looking at our 88 RE/MAX offices in the Iowa/Nebraska region to select the most outstanding Broker, Aaron and Brooke Jones stood out above the rest in 2024. They exemplify our highest standard at RE/MAX, which is certainly Professionalism. Aaron, specifically, is a fantastic broker. REALTOR, mentor, community leader, husband and father. He has led the Lakes area real estate market in many different metrics for years now, and we look forward to having his RE/MAX office continue to dominate in the future. What a record-setting year, and well-deserved!"

Jones purchased RE/MAX Lakes Realty in 2014 from Dennis Lippin. The office has consistently ranked #1 in sales production in Dickinson County year in and year out. In fact, in 2024, RE/MAX Lakes Realty sales production exceeded \$111 million, nearly \$50 million more than the next highest producing office in Dickinson County.

In addition to this year's Broker/Owner of the Year Eagle Award, Aaron Jones has also earned RE/MAX's Lifetime Achievement and Hall of Fame awards, among others, and Brooke Jones has also achieved multiple Executive and 100% Club Awards.



**LAGNIAPPE**  
 Tea Room - Spirit Lake, IA  
 Est. 2024

**It's not just Tea Time - it's Mardi Gras Time**

Serving Brunch & Light Fare Dinners with a Mardi Gras Flair!

**NEW** festive menu and drink items January 6th to March 4th. Celebrate with us this season!

(712) 330-1955  
 1608 Hill Ave. Spirit Lake  
 Thursday-Monday 11am - 7pm

**Sculpting The Modern Man: Continuing Education at ILCC**

Lakes Community College will offer a comprehensive continuing education opportunity for barbers and cosmetologists on Monday, March 24, from 9:00am to 4:30pm, at the Laker Salon on the Emmetsburg campus.

Sculpting the Modern Man plus Iowa Law & Sanitation will be led by experienced instructor Heather Morey. The interactive full-day program fulfills the Iowa Board of Barbering and Cosmetology standards for six hours of continuing education requirements.

The day will begin with a motivational welcome session and a two-hour review of Iowa Law & Sanitation, followed by a live demonstration showcasing modern barbering techniques. The afternoon session will include consultations, fading techniques, a complete shave with facial, and a rosemary and castor oil blend scalp massage demonstration.

Participants will have a one-hour lunch break at 11:30 a.m., with the option to bring their lunch or visit nearby establishments.

**Course Schedule and Pricing:**  
 Full-Day (6 Hours): \$150  
 Morning Session (2 Hours - Iowa Law & Sanitation): \$50  
 Afternoon Session (4 Hours - Professional Training): \$100  
 Registration is available online at [ce.iowalakes.edu/barber-and-cosmetology-classes](http://ce.iowalakes.edu/barber-and-cosmetology-classes) or by contacting Melissa Haukap at 712-852-5200. Registrations can be completed either by phone or online.

**ARNOLDS PARK AMUSEMENT CENTER**  
 Lake Okoboji

**FREE KARAOKE NIGHT**  
 WITH JASON GRINNEN ENTERTAINMENT

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH**  
 7pm - 11pm  
 Majestic Pavilion

**MAJESTIC MENU:**  
 Soup & Sandwiches  
 Popcorn & Candy  
 Open Bar

**No Cover, Just A Fun Evening of Singing with Friends!**

**Boji Blizzards Win Championship in Onalaska, Wisconsin**

Congrats to the LAHA Boji Blizzard Peewees who went 4-0 on February 15 and 16, taking first place at the Onalaska-Holmen Tornado Youth hockey tournament in Onalaska, Wisconsin!

The weekend was full of great competition and sportsmanship. Boji defeated Waunakee in the championship game during overtime 3-2.

A big thank you to head coach Nick Erdmann and assistant coaches, Mike Slife and Justin Maher for your excellent leadership with the team!

Pictured are: Declan Raveling, Landon Meyers, Mike Slife(coach), Daxton Smith, Cameron Remillard, Nick Erdmann(coach), Brantley Williard, Malachi Slife, Bryce Benschoter, Ryden Begley, Jace Maher, Ryder Erdmann, Croix Howard, Harrison Keonin, Addison Raveling, Ayden Myers, Justin Maher(coach).

Photo courtesy of Jason Keonin.

**the RG BALLROOM**

**BOOMERS AND CROONERS ARE BACK!**

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

**FOR UP-TO-DATE CONCERT**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 15TH**  
**REMEMBERING BOBBY VEE**  
 TICKETS: \$29 - \$39  
 BOOTHS: \$300

**SUNDAY, JUNE 29TH**  
**HERMAN'S HERMITS**  
 TICKETS: \$29 - \$49  
 BOOTHS: \$400

**SUNDAY, JULY 13TH**  
**AN EVENING WITH THE LOVIN' SPOONFUL**  
 TICKETS: \$25 - \$35 | BOOTHS: \$300

**SUNDAY, JULY 27TH**  
**A MAN NAMED CASH**  
 TICKETS: \$29 - \$39  
 BOOTHS: \$275

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 3RD**  
**THE RAT PACK LEGACY**  
 TICKETS: \$25 - \$35  
 BOOTHS: \$275

ROOFGARDENBALLROOM.COM  
 \*All ticket purchases subject to \$7 processing fee

**BINGO Winners**

**Winners Announced!**

We have winners! Congratulations to Sid Roskens (Fostoria), Robin Villalpando (Spencer) and Justin Letscher (Spirit Lake). Sid was the second one to submit a BINGO card obtaining the letter "X", and is the winner of \$50. Robin was the third one to submit a BINGO card obtaining the letter "X", and is the winner of a gift card. Justin was the first one to submit a BINGO card obtaining the letter "L", and is the winner of \$100.

A special thanks to our sponsors: InHome Fitness, Natural Family Chiropractic, Interior Sewing by Lisa, Milford Communications, Premier Communications, Lagniappe, Jiffy, Farmers Savings Bank, The Tobacco Shop, Weasy's, Katy Lynn Boutique, Keelson Harbour and La Barca.

There are still many more chances to win. The promotion will run until April 1, 2025, or until all prizes are claimed. Prizes will total up to \$1,000. The complete set of rules are published on our website: [LakesNewsShopper.com](http://LakesNewsShopper.com).



# Obituary

**Jason Michael Kelly**, age 55, of Spirit Lake, Iowa, passed away on February 20, 2025, at Accura HealthCare of Spirit Lake, after a courageous battle with Myotonic Muscular Dystrophy. Born on October 12, 1969, to Gary and Ruth Ann (Roemer) Kelly, Jason lived a life filled with passion and dedication. He was a loving son, father, brother, and friend, and he will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Growing up in Spirit Lake, Jason had a deep love for music, often playing the guitar in his free time, and was a devoted fan of the Minnesota Vikings. He enjoyed technology—building and fixing (at least trying) and the internet. He also was an avid HAM Radio operator - N0PBG - "N-ZERO-P-B-G", Storm Chasing, Fast cars as long as they aren't FORDS, Boating, and sitting by the lake. Jason was a volunteer firefighter at Arnolds Park Okoboji Fire and Rescue. His lifelong dream was to become a paramedic, a dream he made a reality after attending University of Iowa and earning his Paramedic License. Jason went on to serve the community as a paramedic at Spirit Lake Regional Healthcare and Palo Alto County Hospital, where he worked until his illness led to his early retirement.

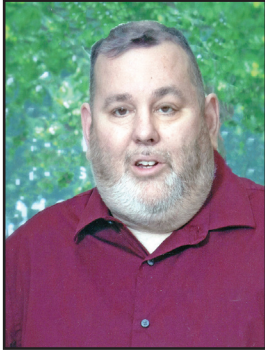
Jason was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Lawrence and Elizabeth "Betty" Kelly, and his maternal grandparents, Von and Beulah Roemer.

He is survived by his beloved son, Matthew (Kayla) Kelly, from his previous marriage to Tammy Werner; his grandchildren, Raelynn and Braxton Kelly; his parents, Gary and Ruth Ann Kelly; his brother, Joshua (Amy) Kelly, as well as his nephew, Benjamin Kelly, and his niece, Courtney Kelly. Jason's memory will live on in the hearts of his family and friends.

A memorial service will be held, at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, March 1, 2025, at the First Presbyterian Church in Spirit Lake. There will be a visitation one hour prior to the service on Saturday at the church. The family requests you wear casual attire - no ties. Arrangements are under the direction of the Robinson Funeral Home in Spirit Lake. Online condolences may be left at [www.spiritlakefuneralthome.com](http://www.spiritlakefuneralthome.com).

Jason's family would like to express their gratitude for the love and support they have received during this difficult time. His kind spirit and dedication to others will always be remembered.

Memorials may be sent in Jason's name to the Dickinson County EMS Association or the Arnolds Park & Okoboji Fire and Rescue.



# Obituary

A memorial service for Kent Kastrup, age 77, of Spirit Lake, was held Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at Calvary United Methodist Church in Arnolds Park.

**Kent Wayne Kastrup**, the son of Loran Wayne and Esther Ruth (Sittler) Kastrup, was born on August 13, 1947, in Spirit Lake, Iowa. He passed away on February 16, 2025.

Kent graduated from Arnolds Park High School in 1965 and later earned his Associate of Arts degree. He honorably served his country in the United States Navy from April 4, 1966, until January 13, 1970, achieving the rank of Petty Officer 2nd Class. Throughout his life, Kent lived in Arnolds Park, New York City and Hawaii before moving to Spirit Lake in 1973.

On January 23, 1974, he was married to Joann Marie Lindsay in Spirit Lake. He worked in upholstery at Style Craft for over thirty years, was a dedicated business owner and also a skilled carpenter. Kent attended Calvary United Methodist Church and was actively involved in his community as a member of the American Legion Post 384 of Milford, Ducks Unlimited and Pheasants Forever.

In his free time, Kent found joy in duck hunting, pheasant hunting and bullhead fishing in early spring. He was known for his tomato plants, which he nurtured every summer and generously shared with neighbors and those passing by. Alongside his neighbor, Ivan, he delighted in coming up with a "new invention". Kent's creativity extended to writing poems and songs, loved all forms of wildlife and was always engaged in home improvement projects, a passion he pursued for fifty-one years.

Those left to cherish his memory include his wife of fifty-one years, Joann Kastrup; son, Michael; brother, Gary; twin sister, Kathi Davis; son-in-law, Jeffrey Meyers; sisters-in-law, Barb Lindsay, Diana Lindsay and Sandra Watts; as well as many cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Kent was preceded in death by his dad and mom, grandparents, mother-in-law, several brothers and sisters-in-law, best friend, Bill (Hymer Dean), other family members including aunts, uncles, cousins, his niece, and many friends throughout the years.

Turner Jenness Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.



# Obituary

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of **Polly Connors**, who left us peacefully on February 12, 2025. She was a beloved sister, aunt, and friend.

Polly was born August 23 in Adair, Iowa, to Earl and Frances Duffy Connors, the third of three daughters. Throughout her life, she touched the hearts of everyone she met with her kindness, warmth, and generosity.

Polly graduated from St. Lawrence Elementary and Kuemper Catholic High School in Carroll, Iowa. Polly went on to earn her Master's degree at the University of South Dakota, majoring in Special Education. She furthered her education and earned another Master's degree in reading literacy from Drake University. Polly worked at Prairie Lakes AEA as a Special Ed Consultant. She loved helping children and families become the best version of themselves.

Polly was a dedicated teacher who truly loved life. Her zest for living was evident in her unwavering optimism, boundless energy, and joy in everyday moments. She cherished her family, friends, and faith above all else. Her family will always remember her for her unwavering love, strength, and the laughter she brought into their lives. Polly had a passion for antiques, golfing, and having fun. Polly and her mother ran The Antique Shop in Arnolds Park from 1977 to 2015. She was the City Champ in Spencer, Iowa, for women's golf! Her vibrant spirit will live on in the memories of all who knew her.

Polly's life was enriched by her profound love for animals. Her compassion extended beyond her own animals. As a steadfast advocate for animal welfare, she volunteered at the local shelter.

Polly was preceded in death by her parents, Earl and Frances Connors and her sister Cae (Dr. RJ) Shima. She is survived by her sister, Toni Whannel (Jay); nephew, Jay Whannel (Liz); and 2 great-nephews, Connor and Austin Whannel.

A funeral service was held at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Milford, Iowa, on Tuesday, February 18, 2025. Burial was at Calvary Cemetery. Following burial, Polly's final party was held at The Ritz in Arnolds Park, Iowa.

She will be deeply missed but never forgotten!

Turner Jenness Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.



# Obituary

**"Be kind and humble and a positive agent for change."**  
**Jason Moore, 11-22-2024**

**Jason Fletcher Moore** was born on January 13, 1972, to William and Linda Moore in Dubuque, Iowa. He was raised in Coraopolis, Pennsylvania, from December 1972 until graduating from Moon Area High School in 1990. He played soccer and baseball but especially enjoyed playing the drums in the school band activities. Of course, he continued to be a strong Pittsburgh Steeler fan.

Following high school, Jason graduated from Parks College/St. Louis University in 1995, majoring in Aviation Administration. He began his career at Union Pacific Railroad in 1999 and continued in various positions with emphasis in a management role as a dispatcher in Omaha, Nebraska, until his passing, 2025.

Jason met the love of his life, Mildred "Millie" Aragon, and they were married in 2009. They welcomed two children, Zoe Isabelle Moore, 2010; Evelyn Lucille Moore, 2011. He was dedicated to his family, always putting them first. The love and devotion to his daughters was beyond believable. Everything Jason worked for was for Millie and the girls. Being a devoted husband and "daddy" was his life's goal and he excelled at that.

Jason was a naturally talented musician and was mechanically and analytically skilled. He enjoyed all types of music, except country, and even played in a band for a time, "Off the Hook". His daughters brought him so much joy and pride, both for their character and talents. Their music, whether the piano or the violin, or show choir, or daily singing and dancing filled his world.

Whatever he put his mind on, his focus was on excellence, very particular about even the smallest of details. He had a strong sense of right and wrong. Centered at that was his demand for fairness and kindness which made him a special friend, colleague, and inspiration to his family. Jason had a wonderful and quick sense of humor and even developed a skill for cooking in the last couple of years. He loved cars and working on the mechanics of equipment, unless it detracted from time with his family.

Jason passed away on January 30, 2025, after a 2-month battle with esophageal cancer, which he fought valiantly through each day to have time with his family.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Millie; his daughters, Zoe and Evie; his parents, Linda and Bill Moore; Aunt, LeeAnn Stransky; Aunt, Lydia (Terry) Shipley; Cousins, Robin Yerrington, Nick and Matt Shipley.

Jason was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Evelyn and Arthur Weik, and paternal grandparents, Lucille and Fletcher Moore; and cousin, Tom Stransky.

There was a Celebration of Life starting on Saturday, February 15, 2025, at Roeder Mortuary in Gretna, Nebraska. The family will have a private burial in Ft. Dodge, Iowa, at a later date.



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For accommodations of individuals with special needs at events, please call 712-332-1215/TTY: 711

## 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.

## 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.

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**Word Search Puzzle Key from page 7A**

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G H M N P L C F O E J I C V K Y E O J U  
Y A I E C L D T U R K T S H A N G O R A S  
O I R H W M K A W T A R T G D B K E X  
T H I K F K X N E W O M B A Y Y S L V  
V E C I A X H W U G A E R B I R H A N I T  
C C A N X R U E I O G O G H A D W N P Y  
L O N U T L S H A C H A R T R E U X I W  
O O C W S E E B N R S T B E R T A N G F  
X N U O N S C K F N I F F U M A G A R F  
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C I L H D J G N R P E D R H A U S Y O A  
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<b>213 Hwy. 71   Arnolds Park</b> The Retreats at Stone Fountain, 3 bedroom, 2 bath top floor condo with many extra touches. Offered at <b>\$539,000</b>	<b>15817 Furman Rd.   Spirit Lake</b> West Okoboji Harbor, 4 bedroom, 5 bath home with two lakeside porches. Offered at <b>\$1,500,000</b>	<b>1612 Joy Loy Lane   Wahpeton</b> Wahpeton Canals, West Lake - 4 bedroom, 2 bath home on 116' of lake shore. Offered at <b>\$595,000</b>	<b>1103 Sanborn   Okoboji</b> 2 bedroom, 2 bath Malibu Condo, beautifully updated. Offered at <b>\$359,000</b>	<b>3109 Keokuk   Spirit Lake</b> Pointe of Pines, 4 bedroom, 3 bath lovely ranch home. Offered at <b>\$449,000</b>	<b>1605 Stern   Wahpeton</b> 2 bedroom, 1 bath updated home just steps from West Lake Okoboji. Offered at <b>\$114,900</b>

## 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 4:00 - 6:00pm, Thursday, March 6, 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 February Food Bank, 537 individuals (189 families) received 4,881 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.

## Minnesota State Dean's List

The Academic High Honor and Honor lists (Dean's lists) for the past fall semester at Minnesota State University, Mankato have been announced by Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs David Hood.

Students qualified for the High Honor List by achieving a 4.0 straight "A" average, while 3,050 students earned a 3.5 to 3.99 average to qualify for the Honor List.

To qualify for academic honors, undergraduate students must be enrolled for at least 12 credit hours for the semester.

Congratulations to the following area students: Benjamin Maki (*honor list*) of Spencer; Emma Hackbarth (*high honors list*), Maci Higgins (*high honors list*) and Paige Hinrickson (*honor list*) of Spirit Lake.

## Milford Memorial Library News

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.

- March 3, 10:30 a.m. – Stinky Stories
- March 10, 10:30 a.m. – Rainbows
- March 24, 10:30 a.m. – Magic
- March 31, 10:30 a.m. – To Be Announced
- April 7, 10:30 a.m. – Pirates

During the month of March, kids in 4th grade and younger may take part in Read Across America Bingo. At MML's front desk, pick up your special bingo card with 25 interactive reading options. Four Bingos in a row equals a small prize, and a completed bingo card equals a prize drawing entry. Read Across America Bingo will be available from Saturday, March 1, through Monday, March 31.

On Wednesday, March 5, at 5:30 p.m., an open meeting of the Board of Trustees for the Milford Memorial Library will take place in the Milford Community Center. The agenda will be posted on MML's website and front bulletin board at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend and offer their thoughts in order to make MML a better library.

Milford Memorial Library's After-School Adventures will be meeting on Thursday, March 13, at 3:30. We will be decorating wooden bird houses. A small snack is provided with this free activity. If you have any questions please call MML at (712) 338-4643 or by email [milfordlibrary51351@gmail.com](mailto:milfordlibrary51351@gmail.com).

Milford Memorial Library has Federal 1040 tax forms and the Federal 1040 tax instruction booklets. Federal forms and booklets are available in English, large print, and Spanish. MML will be charging for copying and printing tax forms. Blank tax forms will cost \$0.10 per page and filled out tax forms will cost \$0.20 per page.



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## 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.

## 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](mailto:boettche@iastate.edu).

For additional Lakes Area Listings go to [Hoiien.com](http://Hoiien.com)

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## Community Support Needed to Help Youth in Philanthropy Reach Fundraising Goal

The Youth in Philanthropy (YIP) program, an initiative of the Okoboji Foundation, is calling on the community to help reach its ambitious \$75,000 fundraising goal. With over 80% already raised, YIP is in the final stretch — and thanks to a generous \$10,000 challenge grant, every dollar donated by April 1st will be matched, doubling the impact of each contribution.



Teegan Jones, Grant Meyer, Cora Niemeier, Nora Conover, and Addie Baker.

Every donation directly benefits the community through YIP grant awards, empowering students to fund projects that make a lasting difference. A prime example of this impact is the recent kitchen upgrade at the Lakes Area Senior Center. In May 2024, YIP students awarded a \$7,500 grant to bring the facility up to code, ensuring continued meal services and community events. During their February meeting, students toured the renovated kitchen and heard firsthand from Lakes Area Senior Center President, Jackie Spangl, about its importance.

"The Lakes Area Senior Center isn't just for seniors — while we're well known for our 'Dinner Date' program serving those 55 and older, we also offer activities for all ages, including Zumba, chair yoga, pool, and card games," said Spangl. "With this kitchen upgrade, we can continue to provide meals and social opportunities, and even host events like birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, and graduations. This space remains open and available thanks to community support."

Beyond funding impactful projects, YIP equips students with essential skills in philanthropy. Following their site visit, students participated in an in-depth grant review session, preparing them to evaluate funding applications for the upcoming 2025 grant cycle.

"It was an insightful and meaningful experience," said Ali Schmitz, Okoboji Foundation Administrative Director and YIP leader. "Reading and scoring grants takes careful thought, and we work to ensure students understand what impact truly means for the Lakes Region."

Now in its fifteenth year, YIP continues to educate young leaders, strengthen donor-community connections, and fund projects that enhance local spaces and services. By supporting YIP, donors are investing in the future of the community, ensuring that projects like the Lakes Area Senior Center kitchen upgrade become a reality.

To contribute, donations can be sent to the Okoboji Foundation (memo: "Youth in Philanthropy") at PO Box 593, Okoboji, IA 51355. Online donations are also accepted at [www.okobojifoundation.org/yip](http://www.okobojifoundation.org/yip).

For more information about YIP, the Okoboji Foundation, or ways to get involved, contact the Foundation staff at 712-332-7177 or [info@okobojifoundation.org](mailto:info@okobojifoundation.org).

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**THE LAKES NEWS Auction Calendar**

Wed., March 12 – 10:00 AM – 40 acres at auction in Royal, IA. Auctioneers: Midwest Land Management. 712-262-3110. [www.midwestlandmanagement.com](http://www.midwestlandmanagement.com).

Thurs., March 13 – 10:00 AM – 126.72 acres at auction in Jackson Co., MN. Auctioneers: Christopher & Dan Pike. 507-841-3125. [www.christopherauction.com](http://www.christopherauction.com).

Sat., March 15 – 9:00 AM – 2 Day gun auction in Estherville, IA. Auctioneers: Howells & Helmer. 712-260-9690. [www.howellreal-estateandauction.com](http://www.howellreal-estateandauction.com).

Sat., March 22 – 9:00 AM – 2 Day gun auction in Estherville, IA. Auctioneers: Howells & Helmer. 712-260-9690. [www.howellreal-estateandauction.com](http://www.howellreal-estateandauction.com).

**THE LNS Recipe Corner**

Clip this recipe card to save

**Green Asparagus Wrapped in Roast Beef** Makes 4 Servings or 8 Appetizers

1. Blanch the asparagus spears in a large saucepan of salted, boiling water for 2 to 3 minutes until tender to the bite.
2. Drain and refresh immediately in a large bowl of ice water. Remove from the water after 3 minutes and pat dry. Season with salt and pepper.
3. Spread the slices of roast beef with the cottage cheese. Place an asparagus spear at one end of the slice and roll into a cigar shape, enveloping the asparagus in the center.
4. Arrange on a platter and sprinkle with chopped scallion before serving.

8 thick asparagus, woody ends removed  
8 slices roast beef, cold, trimmed of excess fat and gristle  
1 cup cottage cheese  
2 scallions, or spring onions, chopped  
Salt  
Freshly ground black pepper

Recipe Courtesy of: Lines+Angles

**THE LAKES NEWS Auctions**

Page 2B

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<b>2.99</b> Dole chopped or premium salad kit 9.6 to 13.3 oz. pkg.	<b>3.99 lb.</b> Smithfield deli shaved ham water added	<b>.88</b> Campbell's chicken noodle, tomato, cream of chicken or cream of mushroom soup 10.5 or 10.75 oz.
<b>2.48</b> Hy-Vee ice cream 48 fl. oz.	<b>1.88</b> Hy-Vee peanut butter 16 oz.	<b>2.28</b> Eggo waffles 10 ct.
<b>3.99</b> Simply Done bath tissue 6 mega or 12 double rolls	<b>3/\$2</b> Hy-Vee pizza crust mix 6.5 oz.	

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**WEEKEND WAYS** 2 DAYS ONLY  
**Friday, February 28th & Saturday, March 1st**

ALL SPECIALS ARE WHILE SUPPLIES LAST. NO RAIN CHECKS!

**DIGITAL DEAL!** **SUNNY DEAL!**

**Navel Oranges** 4 lb.  
 AD PRICE \$3.98  
 -1.00  
**\$2.98**

Friday & Saturday ONLY

MUST USE DIGITAL APP TO GET DIGITAL COUPONS. LIMIT 1 COUPON USE PER CUSTOMER.

**SUNNY DEAL!**

**Pork Spare Ribs** Bone-In, USDA Inspected, Per lb.  
**\$1.99**

Friday & Saturday ONLY

USDA INSPECTED

**DIGITAL DEAL!** **DEAL OF THE WEEK!**

**Best Choice Grade AA Premium Butter** 2/\$7  
 1 lb. Sticks  
 AD PRICE  
 -1.00  
**2/\$6**

MUST BUY 2 | DIGITAL COUPON | LIMIT OF 1 COUPON USE

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**SUNNY DEAL!**

**Fresh Florida Strawberries** 1 lb.  
**\$1.88**

**SUNNY DEAL!**

**Red Potatoes** 5 lb.  
**\$2.48**

**SUNNY DEAL!**

**Fresh Blueberries** 1 Pint  
**4/\$10**

**SUNNY DEAL!**

**Nabisco Oreo Cookies** 7.5-14.03 oz.  
**\$2.88**

Friday & Saturday ONLY

DIGITAL COUPON | LIMIT OF 1 COUPON USE

**DIGITAL DEAL!** **SUNNY DEAL!**

**Best Choice Soda Pop** 2/\$2.50  
 2 L Flavors  
 AD PRICE  
 -50¢  
**2/\$2.00**

Friday & Saturday ONLY

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**DIGITAL DEAL!** **SUNNY DEAL!**

**Dole Classic Spinach** 8 oz.  
**\$2.98**  
 AD PRICE  
 -1.00  
**\$1.98**

DIGITAL COUPON | LIMIT OF 2 COUPON USES

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**SUNNY DEAL!**

**Red Ripe Roma Tomatoes** Per lb.  
**88¢**

**SUNNY DEAL!**

**Red Seedless Grapes** Per lb.  
**\$1.98**

**SUNNY DEAL!**

**New York Strip Whole Loin** USDA Choice, 15-17 lb. Average, Per lb.  
**\$9.99**

Cut & Wrapped \$10.99 Per lb.

USDA CHOICE

**DIGITAL DEAL!** **SUNNY DEAL!**

**Best Choice Granulated Pure Sugar** 10 lb.  
 AD PRICE \$7.74  
 -75¢  
**\$6.99**

Friday & Saturday ONLY

DIGITAL COUPON | LIMIT OF 1 COUPON USE

MUST USE DIGITAL APP TO GET DIGITAL COUPONS. LIMIT 1 COUPON USE PER CUSTOMER.

**DIGITAL DEAL!** **SUNNY DEAL!**

**Fiora Bath Tissue** 12 Ct. Double Rolls or Fiora Paper Towels 6 Ct. Regular Rolls  
**\$3.99**  
 AD PRICE  
 -1.00  
**\$2.99**

Friday & Saturday ONLY

DIGITAL COUPON | LIMIT OF 1 COUPON USE

MUST USE DIGITAL APP TO GET DIGITAL COUPONS. LIMIT 1 COUPON USE PER CUSTOMER.

**SUNNY DEAL!**

**Gurley's In-Shell Peanuts** Per lb. Salted or Unsalted  
**\$2.48**

Full 25 lb. Cases \$49.99

**SUNNY DEAL!**

**New York Strip Steaks** USDA Choice, Beef Boneless, Per lb.  
**\$12.99**

USDA CHOICE

**SUNNY DEAL!**

**Sunshine's Own 80% Lean Ground Beef** Family Pack, Per lb.  
**\$4.49**

**SUNNY DEAL!**

**Pork Chops** USDA Inspected, Assorted, Per lb.  
**\$1.79**

USDA INSPECTED

**SUNNY DEAL!**

**Ragu Pasta Sauce** 16 oz. Alfredo or 24 oz. Spaghetti  
**\$1.88**

Friday & Saturday ONLY

**DIGITAL DEAL!** **SUNNY DEAL!**

**Best Choice Premium Cheese** 7-8 oz. Shredded or Chunk  
**\$2/4**  
 AD PRICE  
 -1.00  
**2/\$3**

Friday & Saturday ONLY

DIGITAL COUPON | LIMIT OF 1 COUPON USE

MUST BUY 2 | MUST USE DIGITAL APP TO GET DIGITAL COUPONS. LIMIT 1 COUPON USE PER CUSTOMER.

**SUNNY DEAL!**

**Daily's Old Fashioned Thick Cut Stack Pack Bacon** 1.5 lb.  
**\$9.99**

**SUNNY DEAL!**

**Johnsonville Smoked Rope Sausages** 12-13.5 oz.  
**\$3.99**

**SUNNY DEAL!**

**Smokin' Boji BBQ**

Smokin' Boyd's BBQ Pizza: **\$9.99** Each  
 Smoked Pork and Bacon  
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**SUNNY DEAL!**

**Okoboji's BEST Fried Chicken** 8 Piece  
**\$14.99**

**DIGITAL DEAL!** **SUNNY DEAL!**

**Best Choice Breakfast Sandwiches** Jimmy Dean  
 12.8-17 oz.  
**\$5.99**

**SUNNY DEAL!**

**Smithfield Pork Sausage Rolls** 16 oz.  
**\$3.99**

**SUNNY DEAL!**

**Gary's Quicksteak** Beef or Chicken 12 oz.  
**\$5.99**

**SUNNY DEAL!**

**Best Choice Fish Sticks or Fillets** 11.4-12 oz.  
**\$3.99**

**SUNNY DEAL!**

**Chicken Drumsticks or Thighs** Grade A, Per lb.  
**\$1.49**

**DIGITAL DEAL!** **SUNNY DEAL!**

**Izzio Artisan Ciabatta Rolls** 9 oz.  
 AD PRICE \$3.99  
 -50¢  
**\$3.49**

DIGITAL COUPON | LIMIT OF 2 COUPON USES

MUST USE DIGITAL APP TO GET DIGITAL COUPONS. LIMIT 2 COUPON USES PER CUSTOMER.

**DIGITAL DEAL!** **SUNNY DEAL!**

**Best Choice Canned Vegetables** 14.5-15.25 oz. Peas, Corn or Beans  
**5/\$4**  
 AD PRICE  
 -1.00  
**5/\$3**

MUST BUY 5 | DIGITAL COUPON | LIMIT OF 1 COUPON USE

MUST USE DIGITAL APP TO GET DIGITAL COUPONS. LIMIT 1 COUPON USE PER CUSTOMER.

**SUNNY DEAL!**

**Seabest Salmon Fillets** 16 oz.  
**\$5.99**

**SUNNY DEAL!**

**Seabest Perch Fillets** 16 oz.  
**\$4.99**

**DIGITAL DEAL!** **SUNNY DEAL!**

**Best Choice Frosted Toaster Pastries** 8 Ct. Compare to Poptarts!  
 AD PRICE \$1.99  
 -50¢  
**\$1.49**

DIGITAL COUPON | LIMIT OF 1 COUPON USE

MUST USE DIGITAL APP TO GET DIGITAL COUPONS. LIMIT 1 COUPON USE PER CUSTOMER.

**SUNNY DEAL!**

**Old Dutch Restaurant Tortilla Chips or Puffcorn**  
 Pre-priced \$4.99-\$5.29 Var.  
**\$2.88**

**DIGITAL DEAL!** **SUNNY DEAL!**

**Jack's Original Pizza** 13.8-16.1 oz.  
**3/\$10**  
 AD PRICE  
 -1.00  
**3/\$9**

MUST BUY 3 | DIGITAL COUPON | LIMIT OF 1 COUPON USE

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**DIGITAL DEAL!** **SUNNY DEAL!**

**Bellatoria Pizzas** Personal Size or Roma Original 11"  
**3/\$9**  
 AD PRICE  
 -1.00  
**3/\$8**

MUST BUY 3 | DIGITAL COUPON | LIMIT OF 1 COUPON USE

MUST USE DIGITAL APP TO GET DIGITAL COUPONS. LIMIT 1 COUPON USE PER CUSTOMER.

**SUNNY DEAL!**

**Best Choice Broth or Stock** 32 oz. Box Var.  
**\$1.77**

**SUNNY DEAL!**

**Chicken of the Sea Tuna** 5 oz. Can in Water or Oil  
**99¢**

**SUNNY DEAL!**

**Best Choice Oats** Big 42 oz. Quick or Old Fashioned  
**\$4.49**

**SUNNY DEAL!**

**Dunkin Donuts Coffee** 10-12 oz. Bag or 10 Ct. K-Cups  
**\$7.99**

**SUNNY DEAL!**

**Core Power Protein Drinks** 26g Protein Drinks  
**2/\$6**

Full Cases \$34.99

**Core Power Elite Protein Drinks** 42g Protein Drinks  
**2/\$8**

Full Cases \$39.99

**SUNNY DEAL!**

**Yoplait Yogurt** 4-6 oz.  
**10/\$6**



# THE LAKES NEWS SHOPPER Auctions

## Land Auction

Wednesday, March 12 • 10:00 A.M.  
Royal Community Building, Royal, IA

### 40 Acres m/l

Clay Twp., Sec. 29  
Clay County, IA

Avg. CSR2: 95.2

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- 76.2 Acres Clay Co. **SOLD**
- 65 Acres Palo Alto Co. **SOLD**
- 118.55 Acres Palo Alto Co. **SOLD**
- 55 Acres Palo Alto Co. **SOLD**
- 40 Acres Palo Alto Co. **SOLD**
- 40 Acres Palo Alto Co. **SOLD**
- 17.5 Acres Clay Co. **SOLD**
- 158 Acres Humboldt Co. **SOLD**
- 79.5 Acres O'Brien Co. **SOLD**
- 40 Acres O'Brien Co. **SOLD**
- River Bend Lot 23 Spencer **SOLD**

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## TRAILS TALK

Erin Reed, Executive Director, DCTB

**Dickinson County Recreational Trails**

[www.dickinsoncountyrails.com](http://www.dickinsoncountyrails.com)

**2024 Year In Review**

At the beginning of each year, the DCTB takes time to visit our partner cities and provide updates on what the previous year's trail activities involved. We are fortunate to be a part of a very supportive community of donors and local foundations along with the cities and county that make our success possible.

Below are a few numbers and highlights from the Dickinson County Trails Board 2024 Annual Report that we have been sharing with our local partners.

- 2.5 Miles** – The construction of Tatanka Ska Trace made significant strides in 2024 with completion of the middle 2.5-mile segment that finalized the joining of Lake Park to the entire Iowa Great Lakes Trails system. The DCTB is thrilled to have completed this link many years ahead of schedule; the trail has already been met with great enthusiasm and use.
- 3,000 Trail Brochures** – New trail map brochures distributed throughout the Iowa Great Lakes. As the trails system continues to expand, the existing base map became obsolete, prompting the DCTB to dedicate the first part of the year to developing an updated trail map and information brochure.
- 5.3 Miles** – Tree clearing and minor grading project along the rail trail going east from Orleans to Highway 71 in preparation for trail construction in a couple years. The project also allows for trail use by mountain and fat tire bikes, walkers and joggers prior to full development.
- 416,319 Trail Counts** – The number of user counts tracked through 10 counters placed around the trails system in 2024.
- 2,512 Daily Counts** – Average daily count of trail users from Memorial Day through Labor Day.
- 10 Trail Benches** – New benches placed around the trail system in honor of loved ones and friends.
- 3 Adaptive Tricycles** – Donated to local kids through DCTB's partnership with Hope Rolls.
- \$920,000** – Grant funding awarded through the Region 3 TAP and State Recreational Trails program.

**6,000+ Miles** – The number of miles Seniors And Lawmen Together (SALT) volunteers log while they watch over the trails system and its thousands of users each season.

We also share gratitude for our partnership with the Dickinson County Conservation Board (DCCB). Brian Cuperus and Clay Pavelko with the DCCB manage all the general trail maintenance such as mowing and trimming trees for over 50 miles of trail routes and the work they do keeps our trails in excellent condition.

Overall, 2024 was a year of significant progress and development for the Iowa Great Lakes Trails. With new development, maintenance efforts and community engagement, the trail system continues to thrive and serve as a vital recreational asset for residents and visitors alike. The partnerships with local governments, donors, foundations, and organizations like the Dickinson County Conservation Board are instrumental in ensuring the success and sustainability of the trails. As we move forward, we remain committed to enhancing and expanding the trail network, further enriching the quality of life in our community.

*As always, Happy Trails to You and Yours.*  
Erin Reed, DCTB Executive Director

**126.72 ACRES**  
**HERON LAKE TOWNSHIP, JACKSON COUNTY, MN.**

## FARMLAND AUCTION

Thursday, March 13, 2025 @ 10:00 A.M.

**In case of very inclement weather, sale backup date will be 3/14/25. Check website for updates!**

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

**PROPERTY LOCATION**  
Located 4 miles northwest of Lakefield, MN

**LEGAL DESCRIPTION**  
W1/2 NW1/4 & Part of Lot 1 (E1/2 NW1/4) 7-103-36 Jackson County, Minnesota. Parcel #080070500

**CROP PRODUCTIVITY INDEX RATING: 91.5**

**OWNER**  
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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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All real estate advertised in The Lakes News Shopper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin or any intention to make any such preference limitation or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

**FOR RENT:** 2 BR apartment with garage in Milford. No smoking and no pets. Deposit and references required. Contact 712-330-6790 if interested.

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## NOTICES

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**CITY OF MILFORD:**

**MUNICIPAL UTILITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED**

The City of Milford is seeking two applicants to serve on the Municipal Utility Board (remainder of terms through 12/31/2025 and 12/31/2030) The Utility Board oversees and makes policies concerning the affairs of the Milford municipal water and electric utilities. This board is an excellent opportunity for community involvement and to have a hand in shaping policies and decisions.

If interested in the position, please contact Milford Municipal Utility Manager Brad Willemsen 712-338-2401, email [bwillemsen@mmuia.us](mailto:bwillemsen@mmuia.us) or visit [www.milford.ia.us](http://www.milford.ia.us) for a board member application. The position will remain open until it is filled. The appointment will be made by the mayor with city council approval and will be in accordance with the City's Volunteer Board Appointment Policy.

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## GARAGE SALE

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- Mary Ellen Inbody

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## Do You Have A Special Weekend Event In The Future?

A Family get-together, anniversary, graduation, birthday? The Lakes Area Senior Center has a beautiful, clean facility with most weekends available. Call and visit with someone at the office for details at 712-336-5247.

Consider renting their large dining room which seats 100, if extra tables are set up. It rents for \$125 per day.

Rental for the dining room and kitchen is \$160.00 per day.

Their smaller card room, which seats 40, also has a small kitchenette, and rents for \$75.00 per day.

There is also a small meeting room for \$40.00.

Please note new pricing effective January 1, 2025.



## Attention: Bulls & Brews Event Expected to Draw Crowds to Clay County

Attention all restaurants and retailers in Clay County! Get ready for an exciting weekend ahead as the Clay County Fair & Events Center, in partnership with Raise 'em Rank Rodeo and sponsor C&B Operations, presents the Bulls & Brews event on March 7th and 8th.

Restaurants and retailers throughout Clay County are encouraged to prepare for an influx of visitors during the Bulls & Brews event weekend, as there will be an anticipated 1,200 attendees per evening. This presents a prime opportunity to showcase your offerings and attract new customers. Get involved and make the most of this exciting event!

**Event Details:**

- Date: March 7th and 8th, 2025
- Time: Doors open at 5:00pm
- Location: Clay County Regional Events Center, Spencer
- Highlights: Craft beer sampling, bull riding competitions, concessions, live music

Featuring thrilling bull riding competitions produced by Raise 'em Rank Rodeo, the Bulls & Brews event promises an action-packed evening for attendees of all ages. Doors open at 5:00pm with craft beer sampling available from local and regional breweries until 8:00 pm each night, and a band playing in the ballroom following the Saturday evening performance. Additionally, a variety of drink options and concessions will be available for purchase throughout the event.

For more information about the Bulls & Brews event, please contact Jason Brockshus at 712-580-3000 ext. 217 or by email at [Jason@claycountyfair.com](mailto:Jason@claycountyfair.com).

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## Biosecurity, Protecting Our Communities

by Ashley Englin, Swine Specialist

This time of year, is a great time to talk about biosecurity. So, what is biosecurity? It is the practices that the agriculture community put in place to minimize the spread of diseases. The people who care for livestock take pride in their herds and the health of those herds.

We have several tools at our disposal to deal with disease outbreaks that are presented to our herds, but the best tool is mitigating the risk that the animals are exposed in the first place. This can be done by determining the different ways that animals could be exposed to diseases.



First, it is important to clean and disinfect a farm or facility before new animals arrive. The animals that were previously housed in the facility could have been carrying a disease that the new herd has not been exposed to. By doing so you are ensuring that the animals enter a barn that is free of disease challenges. Animals could also be exposed to disease from contact with other animals. Most operations use a closed herd system. This means that all the animals arrive and depart the farm at the same time. Doing this ensures that all animals are the same age and have had similar health histories. This is often referred to as an all-in and all-out procedure.

The next thing we focus on is the care giver. There are several ways for the caregiver to track diseases to the herd based on where they travel and who they come in contact with. It is a good practice to have a separate pair of shoes that gets worn to your barn where your animals are located that you don't wear to places where other animals are housed. This helps prevent tracking any diseases from your farm and makes sure you aren't carrying anything back with you. Keep vehicles clean, paying extra attention to areas you touch with your hands and your floor mats. Using a product like a disinfectant wipe or a spray disinfectant will prevent a lot of transfer. Practicing proper down time is also important. This means that you spend a certain amount of time away from any animals before encountering animals again. It is commonly suggested to wait a longer amount of time before coming in contact with breeding stock especially.

The last thing to consider is having a standard disinfecting protocol for any tools, buckets, boots, gating etc. that you have used somewhere other than your farm. This could involve spraying everything down with a disinfectant solution and letting it sit for an amount of time before using the equipment again.

All of these measures, together, can help keep your animals healthy and protect the agriculture communities in which we live.

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**EMPLOYMENT**

**IOWA LAKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
is accepting applications for an  
**ATHLETICS AND CAMPUS  
MARKETING COORDINATOR**

located on the Emmetsburg and Estherville Campuses. Responsible for managing project requests and marketing initiatives for athletics, music, and student organizations. Oversee the maintenance and content of the athletics website, creation of promotional materials and social media content for assigned areas, and coordinate multimedia production. An Associate Degree in Marketing, Business Management or related field with one to four years of relevant experience required. Salary \$22.12/hour. Review of applications will begin March 3, 2025.

**View complete job description and application process at [www.iowalakes.edu/employment](http://www.iowalakes.edu/employment). Contact Lynn Miller at [Immiller@iowalakes.edu](mailto:Immiller@iowalakes.edu) or 712-362-0409.**

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Matuska Taxidermy Supply Company supplies the taxidermy industry with top quality products manufactured right in Spirit Lake - and they're growing! Matuska Supply Company is looking for reliable, detail-oriented, self-starters with great communication skills who follow directions and are team players to work in a fast paced environment. Competitive pay, benefits, flexible schedule, fun, family/friendly work environment is offered!

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Send resume to [matuskataxidermy.com](http://matuskataxidermy.com) or drop off @ 3735 Hwy 71, Spirit Lake IA

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is accepting applications for a full-time  
**WIND ENERGY INSTRUCTOR/  
COORDINATOR**

located on the Estherville Campus.

Primary responsibilities are to develop, coordinate, and teach courses in the wind energy and turbine technology program. Must evaluate and report student performance and progress in assigned courses. Refer to online job description for qualification listing. Assist the Dean and/or project manager with fulfilling milestone objectives for grant funded projects. Salary commensurate with education and related experience. Paid sick leave and personal leave. Employee health, dental, and vision insurance. Partially funded family insurance available. Employee life and disability insurance. Employee retirement plan. Review of applications will begin March 10, 2025.

**View complete job description and application process at [www.iowalakes.edu/employment](http://www.iowalakes.edu/employment). Contact Lynn Miller at [Immiller@iowalakes.edu](mailto:Immiller@iowalakes.edu) or 712-362-0409.**

**IOWA LAKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
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**FULL TIME POSITION  
• PARK CARETAKER •**

The City of Spirit Lake, Iowa seeks to fill a full time position of Park Caretaker. Candidates must have a CDL or acquire one within 6 months of hire. Job duties include general park maintenance, mowing, clearing brush, painting, and general labor and may require certification for water testing at the splash pad. Must be able to operate push and riding mowers and perform outdoor work involving repeated physical stress and will assist in snow removal activity and in other departments as needed. Must have good people skills and able to operate in a team with other workers. Pre-employment drug test required. Hourly wage will be dependent upon experience/qualifications.

Applications are available at City Hall. Submit to: Gregg L. Owens, City Administrator, 1803 Hill Avenue, Spirit Lake, IA 51360, position open until filled.

The City of Spirit Lake is an Equal Opportunity Employer, women, minorities and veterans are encouraged to apply. Posted February 14, 2025.

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**EMPLOYMENT**

**• SANITATION WORKER •**

The City of Spirit Lake is seeking to fill a full time sanitation worker position. Candidates must be able to drive and operate a sanitation truck. Job duties include refuse collection, requiring regular lifting of trash bags and the collection of other residential and commercial trash; ability to operate roll-off truck, and other equipment. Snow plow operation may also be required. Must have good people skills and be able to operate in a team with other workers. Must possess or be able to obtain a CDL. Pre-employment drug test required.

Applications are available at City Hall, and shall be returned c/o Gregg L. Owens, City Administrator, 1803 Hill Avenue, Spirit Lake, IA 51360. The position is open until filled.

The City of Spirit Lake is an Equal Opportunity Employer, women, minorities and veterans are encouraged to apply. Posted February 14, 2025.

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The Dickinson County Museum is searching for a **Museum Director**

The Museum Director oversees the general operations and administration of the Museum, with a focus on programming, collections management, financial oversight, and marketing efforts.

- Strong organizational, communication, and leadership skills
- Previous experience in administration, cultural resource management, or related fields preferred
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team in a fast-paced environment.
- Detailed job description available on request

If you are a dynamic, passionate leader with a commitment to preserving history and fostering community engagement, we encourage you to apply.

Send cover letter and resume to [staff@dickinsoncountymuseum.org](mailto:staff@dickinsoncountymuseum.org) or Dickinson County Museum  
 1708 Keokuk Ave. | P.O. Box 532  
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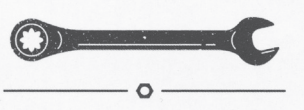


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**Kiwanis Bingo Nights**

Milford Kiwanis presents Bingo Nights on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. The next Bingo Night will be Thursday, February 27, 2025. Card sales begin at 5:30 and Bingo is from 6:00-8:00. There will be a progressive jackpot blackout game at the end of the night. 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.



**IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
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**CLIPPINGS** a weekly column from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach

**Spot, Stop and Avoid Fraud**  
by Carol Ehlers, Human Sciences Specialist, Family Wellbeing and Finance

Looking to protect yourself from fraud, identity theft, and scams? Wondering why senior adults are a special target of scammers? Looking for the best way to improve your understanding of how to keep yourself safe or wondering what to do if you are a victim of fraud? You can stay independent and spot, stop and avoid fraud.

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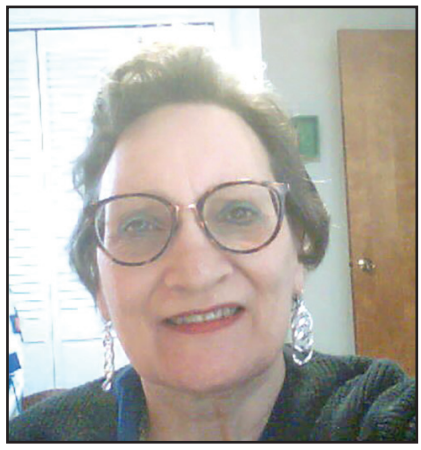
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**Moneta Mystery Revealed**

by Vicky Treimer

It danced within my thoughts. The mystery of what happened had to be revealed! This ghost town of Moneta had a history—yet unknown. I was a toddler in the mid 1960's, yet the town intrigued me—over decades later. And so, it was time to delve into the history of sweet Moneta. Years later, my one and a half year research began. What was revealed was astounding! I marvel at the industrious business transactions between Moneta and Sioux City in the early 1900's. It's hard to fathom how prosperous Moneta once was—especially now. Moneta was one big family and one large playground. Activities were bizarre, eventful, wholesome and, some, even unlawful.



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Dear Tony, How can I become better at planning for success in my career and life?

In 2013, while walking to a lecture on Oxford University, I happen to meet Harvard professor and author Clayton Christensen on a street corner. He was very gracious, smiled, shook my hand, and we walked together for about 6 blocks. He asked what I was doing in Oxford, and I shared with him how we were discussing his disruptive innovation models in our classes on strategy and innovation. He said he once studied at Oxford as a student. To this day his approachability, peaceful spirit, and friendly demeanor stand out. It turns out he didn't get this way by accident.

Clayton wrote a book in 2012 called "How will you Measure Your Life" where he asks the tough questions about establishing a purpose for your life, using your time on earth to advance this purpose, and in the end how important faith and family are in deciding true measures of a life well lived. (It is a great read—check it out on Amazon). When I met Clayton I hadn't read this book yet, but I did look up an article he wrote from 2010 in Harvard Business Review on the same topic (<https://hbr.org/2010/07/how-will-you-measure-your-life>). I was struck by Clayton's recommendation at the end of the article:

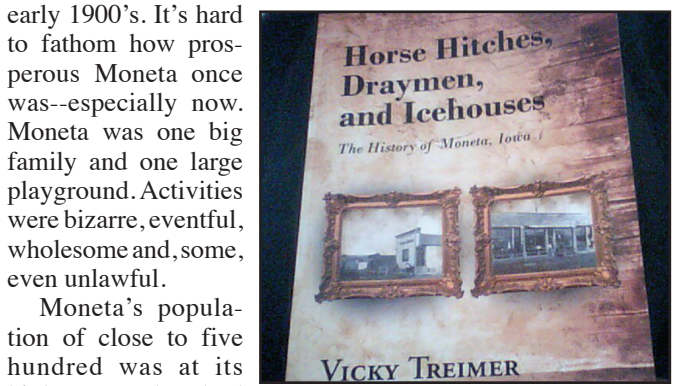
"Don't worry about the level of individual prominence you have achieved; worry about the individuals you have helped become better people. This is my final recommendation: Think about the metric by which your life will be judged and make a resolution to live every day so that in the end, your life will be judged a success." Clayton Christensen (1952-2020)

The interaction with Clayton, plus a few other motivating forces in my life, caused me to develop what I call my "Purpose, Goals, and Plans" each year. It is a simple, 7-step process but one that I find effective. The steps are:

1. **Document.** Write down your personal and professional goals for the next year. I have 6 each, for example. Don't worry about etching these in stone but do your very best to lay out 6 good goals for home and at work. Goal, metric on what success looks like, timeframe—be specific.
2. **Gather & Organize.** Get a binder and enough tabs to have one for every goal in step 1. On the tab write down the goal topic. On a paper write down all goals for that area and insert it into the binder under the appropriate tab.
3. **Measure & Monitor.** As the year goes by, keep track of your goals and any progress. Make notes. Update goals. Hang onto any mementos—add them to the binder. The more mementos, the more color, the more impact on your life. Place the binder in a visible place.
4. **Edit & Refine.** As the year goes by, revisit your purpose to edit/refine, as well as remind you what it is you live for and what defines your reason for living.
5. **Reflect.** At the end of the year, look back and evaluate what went well, what didn't, how to improve. Be super honest with yourself.
6. **Recognize.** An important step is to look back on the year and recognize the important people in your life. For many years I sent them a certificate (very formal!) with a personal note of appreciation, noting in detail about how they impacted my life.
7. **Repeat.** Make a new binder with goals for the next year. Meet with people you trust at least once a year to gain their input as necessary and recruit any new support you need to get where you want to go.

**Pro Tip:** As the year goes by, use the binder to collect mementos, pictures, artifacts, of your life journey. For example—programs from grade school / high school graduations, 5K registrations with kids, etc. Allow your binder to become a formal record of your life for that year, and over time you will cherish those memories.

If you use this process faithfully throughout the year, I guarantee you will accomplish more than you ever dreamed of. Check out my website for FREE resources & more: [The River \(http://therivercoach.org\)](http://therivercoach.org)  
Got a question? Send your question directly to Tony at [tony@therivercoach.org](mailto:tony@therivercoach.org)



Moneta's population of close to five hundred was at its highest one hundred years ago. She covered sixty-six and a quarter acres with twenty flourishing businesses. Moneta businesses met all of the needs of her citizens. The iconic corner gas station and school were helpful in keeping Moneta growing.

Moneta had an ambience all her own. Inasmuch, that people acquainted with Moneta would cherish recollections like no other. Perhaps it was a kid ride on the railroad pump car to Hartley and back. Or remembering the penny candy or the penny beer. Can you now imagine such a time lived? The speakeasies and hidden gambling devices were not so well concealed. I, myself, can envision Moneta's Main Street businesses and the activity that once prevailed. The memories warm and comfort me. Though the town of Moneta rests, I bring alive the mystery and the history of Moneta to you!

Book signings for "Horse Hitches, Draymen and Ice Houses; The History of Moneta, Iowa" are at the Spencer Public Library, 21 East Third Street, Spencer, Iowa on March 22 at 10 a.m. A second book signing will be on April 5, at the Patch Eeten House, 151 First Street SE, Hartley, Iowa.

"Horse Hitches, Draymen and Ice houses; The History of Moneta, Iowa" can be purchased online at: Amazon, Barnes and Noble, Ebay, Good Reads, Thrift Books, Walmart, Google Books, and Books-A-Million.

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**'A Home for Heroes' - Ruthven Care Center Now Approved for VA Benefits**

by Jay Schoning

The Veterans Administration provides quality, thoughtful, skilled care services to Veterans, from those who need assistance with daily tasks in their older age to those with traumatic brain injuries. VA's long-term care options give Veterans tailored support and a peace of mind. In 2021, more than 9.2 million Veterans (roughly half of all living U.S. Veterans) were enrolled in VHA, and around 6.8 million received care through VHA. Now, the Ruthven Community Care Center has been awarded an opportunity to serve Veterans as a VA approved facility accepting VA benefits.



Front L-R: Tami Eaton, Andrea Bowman, Sarah Rabel, Jordan Buettner and Sue Stearns. Back L-R: Becky Miner, Ryan Sikora, Gina Grund and Jerry Powell. Missing from photo is Diana Wichman and Christa Hart.

The Ruthven Community Care Center (RCCC) has been approved as a Veterans Affairs approved facility, partnering with the Veterans Affairs office out of Sioux Falls. The VA will be coming to RCCC on February 5th to do final training and walk-through, and hopefully they will be able to begin to accept VA benefits within just a couple weeks. The VA benefit contract is in place for five years before it is up for renewal, giving Veterans a peace of mind. They only allow so many facilities per region. RCCC already has their assisted living under VA qualifications.

To be approved, there were certain parameters that had to be met including how good site surveys are, CMS scores. This is the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services system to measure the experience Medicare beneficiaries have with the health care system at RCCC—and RCCC has met the criteria to apply now.

Ryan Sikora, Administrator for the RCCC Campus, said typically a care center like ours would not be picked because they already have one VA facility in our region and RCCC is a relatively smaller facility than they usually choose. He emphasizes that RCCC received this honor to serve our Veterans "because of the staff; the care staff, support staff, leadership staff, a supportive board, and just all of our caring employees." Ryan said the facility is fully staffed and has not used an 'agency' in over two months, which not many facilities can say. "Our employees know our residents on a personal basis."

Ryan said "They came here and toured the facility and went through our books and our satisfactory reports and ultimately chose us. It is a huge deal—it allows us to care for and accept Veteran Affairs benefits." Veterans, as with all VA benefits, must apply for admission through the VA office and they will send RCCC referrals.

RCCC currently has 13 Veterans in the residence—and Ryan said they have already sent their names in for Veterans Benefit approval. "Any Veteran that is already here now can also utilize those benefits. It's really a pretty good deal; it opens up a lot more referrals to us to be able to take care of our Veterans." Veterans will be referred to Ruthven from all over the region as there are only a few select care facilities that meet the stringent VA requirements. RCCC will be accepting all the VA billing.

Ryan says "it is really a win-win situation; it helps out the facility, we're able to take care of our Veterans, and it puts us on the map for the good things we have been doing with our patient satisfactory surveys, and our above-average yearly inspections that come in." The VA also does yearly surveys and walk-throughs, but Ryan said they are basically the same high standards set by the CMS and DIAL. Veterans are fully covered for all levels of care under the VA plan.

The CMS and DIAL rates care facilities on tiers. RCCC is rated a 3-Tier facility which logically is probably the highest rating RCCC can be at. "Realistically we can never be a 5-tier facility, as to be at a higher tier you have to have more certified beds than we currently have; and we have licensed 46 beds," Ryan said. RCCC reached a 3-tier status this past year after their second straight high yearly survey in a row. "We accomplished this high rating because we only had two infractions in 2023 and two this year (2024)." That is well below the Iowa state average of 11 infractions a year by care facilities. Ryan

says "We're as high as we can be (in tiers) and it's good to be recognized for that—and be able to offer this new service to our Veterans who deserve so much more. In my mind, we're a 5-tier facility."

Ryan said they submitted the application a year ago, that's how long it takes to be approved—and from a business aspect, accepting VA and meeting all their high criteria, is a very good option for the facility. "We have to meet and maintain their high standards, and we are reimbursed at a higher rate than Medicaid. Actually, our Generation Management team, that the board hired, was very surprised we were awarded it. We are a small facility by VA terms and they already have a building in the region. With our quality measures we've been hitting, and everything else Ruthven brings to the table, it was really a no-brainer for them." The RCCC Board of Directors are also very happy for the work the team has done to accomplish this.

The Ruthven Community Care Center Campus is currently full. The Villa Senior Apartments are full for the first time in their 18 years of existence. The Assisted Living is full with a waiting list of 4, and the skilled care facility is mostly full, however, residents will come to recover then move to Assisted Living, the Villa, or back to their home opening up a room.

Ruthven is very fortunate to have such a wonderful facility for those with a variety of needs to live a happy healthy life—and we are very fortunate for the caring staff that truly considers everyone 'family'.