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Easter Egg Hunt

The Campus Women's Club
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Egg Hunt Saturday, April 19,
10 a.m. sharp, at St. Joseph
Catholic Church.

The hunt will be inside the
parish center for three age
groups of 0 to 1, 2 to 3 and 4 to
5. Children should bring their
own bags or baskets to gather
eggs. Each child will receive
eggs and a gift sack of candy
and a toy.

Dance in
Brewster

Prairie Thunder will be play-
ing for a dance on Saturday,
April 12th, 7:00-10:30, at the
Brewster Legion in Brewster,
Minnesota. Join them for an
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Left to Right: Sofia Reynosa, Maddie Hoss, Kyann Eick, Brielle Eick, Finlee Fear, Alyvia Collins



3RD Grade Boys

Left to Right: Joshua Zalabowski, Liam Peters, Easton Lockey, Briar Gebel, Cooper Engel, Jhase Hesse, Grady Wilken, Maverick Doeden, Hayden Marchand



4TH Grade Girls

Left to Right: Sophia Wilcox, Bridget Nussbaum, Nova Clark, Kamberlyn Wipf, Hadley Kastner, Vivian Oberman, Olivia Olson



4TH Grade Boys

Back Row: Leo Sewell, Taten Jeppson, Camden Christensen, Kipton Carstens, Easton Issendorf, Danial Kelley
Front Row: Brayden Shannon, Mack Klopstad, Jax Kennedy, Oliver Thompson
Coaches: John Carstens, Cooper Thompson, John Klopstad



5TH Grade Girls

Back Row: Aria Vonk, Sydney Graves, Jerrielle Samuels, Raya Jacobsen, Aria Derner, Rowan Lindgren
Front Row: Jenna Vander Wolde, Layla Evenson, Jayce Lorenz, Olivia Brewer, Kylee Baschke, Amelia Myhre
Not Pictured: Lenin Umscheid & Izzy Newlin



5TH Grade Boys

Back Row: Cash Leman, Hadley Powell, Mason Meyer, Camden Johnson, Brian Oyler, Ian Wall
Front Row: Jasper Muckey, James Larson, Jacob Anderson, Kyron Hemphill, Lucas Mueller, & Austin Loerts
Not Pictured: Lleyton Peter & Beckham Van Kleek



6TH Grade Girls

Back Row: Isla Daggett, Charlie Sires, Lively Nitchals, Della Bergeson, Lilly Dahms, Jayda Reynosa
Front Row: Amelia Beyer, Harper Berning, Taylynn Engel, Alexis Thompson
Coached by: Eric Thompson and Jen Engel



6TH Grade Boys

Back Row: Edmund Jorgensen, Wyatt Youngwirth, Sutton Franzen, Brady Kelley, Kaden Becker, Easton Doeden, Liam Johnson, Don Collett, Grant Langner, Micah Cook
Front Row: Carsyn Collins, Evan Schmidt, Reid Wolf, Zayvien Allen, Ethan Schmidt, Austin Jensen, Liam Schmitz, Graysen Nelson
Not Pictured: Benton Archer



7TH Grade Girls

Back Row: Zoey Pappa, Vaeda Franzen, Emily Breuer, Selah Simmington
Front Row: Lexi Thompson, Rylee Nissen, Julia Kaiser, Landrie Derner



7TH Grade Boys

Left to Right: Alex Anderson, Chandler Lange, Mason Schwery, Porter Prentice, Kaden Meyer, Baylon Fear, Ryder Neuharth, Kaiden Mueller, Sam Dotson, Ben Newlin, Chance Neuharth



8TH Grade Girls

Left to Right: Coach Eric Thompson, Samantha Clark, Brynley Wipf, Ava Wasson, Rylee Mitchell, Braelyn Thompson, Pacey Vonk, Adalee Leman, Coach Annie Wasson



8TH Grade Boys

Back Row: Abrym Plathe, Owen Boer, Daltry Lufkin, Marshal Whiting, James Sandahl
Front Row: Liam Miller, AJ Karzin, Chris Samuels, Cory Ness

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Republican
Party Meeting

Are you interested in becoming involved with the Dickinson County Republican Party? Join the Dickinson County Republican Party at a Central Committee meeting on April 21, 2025, at 5:30pm. The meeting is held at the Spirit Lake Library meeting room. Please enter through the back side door. The Dickinson County Republican Party looks forward to seeing you.

Let's Get Social After 5 at Pearson Lakes Art Center

The Iowa Great Lakes Area Chamber is hosting a Let's Get Social event at Pearson Lakes Art Center on Tuesday, April 22nd, from 5-7pm. Remember Business After 5? Well, it's back, just with a new look. This event offers local professionals, business owners, and community members the perfect opportunity to connect, engage and enjoy an evening of great conversations, light snacks from Krafty's Meat Market, craft beer from WestO Brewery and wine samples from Okoboji Wines! Come check out what Pearson Lakes Art center has to offer and what is on their agenda for the upcoming years. The IGLA Chamber team is thrilled to bring together our local businesses for an evening of networking and camaraderie at Pearson Lakes Art Center.

This Business After 5 Social event is free and open to the public. Guests are encouraged to bring business cards and invite colleagues to join in the festivities. See you then!



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MOTIVATE • ACT • TOGETHER • HELP • MOTIVATE • ACT • TOGETHER • HELP

Letter to the Editor
Lakes News Shopper
Spirit Lake, Iowa 51351

April 8, 2025

Dear Editor,

The beauty of Dickinson County is among nature’s best. It has been a bit unsettling over the past few years to take in the sights and sounds of an increasing number of towering wind turbines and miles of highline wires. It has been a dramatic permanent transformation of our natural landscapes. We now have 146 wind turbine towers in our county. An out-of-state company, Invenergy and its Red Rock Energy Center, wants to plant more promising money and progress. How many more? We wish we knew. When will these out-of-state companies think Dickinson County has enough towers? Will 1,460 or 14,600 towers be enough? This letter is being written to hopefully **MOTIVATE** many of you to **ACT**, **COME TOGETHER**, and **HELP** determine when Dickinson County has had enough towers.

It is usually instructive to follow the money. It would be nice if we could, but there is little transparency. When you see those turbine blades moving, money is also moving - millions to out-of-state corporations. Much of the cash comes from government subsidies and tax breaks—our tax dollars, handed over to them along with taxes from every county in the USA. What do we get back? Relatively little it turns out. The tax revenue to the county they brag about is a sliver next to their haul. Our electric bills? Up 16% last year, even as these turbines occasionally spin. That power doesn’t light our homes—it’s shipped off to faraway grids. We’re paying more for less. We need confirmation that our sacrifice is worth it. Currently, it seems like a raw deal. We know the vast majority of dollars in the “deal” don’t flow here. Unfortunately, the “deal” can’t be defined.

We know the landowners leasing their fields get a cut, and they deserve it—farming’s tough. However, there are costs that all of us have to bear. Beyond the taxes paid to subsidize the corporations, our local taxes are increasingly consumed. Their heavy trucks tear up our roads during construction and we spend more on upkeep around their turbine sites. Jobs? A quick burst of itinerant workers comes and goes, leaving a handful of maintenance gigs. The “economic boom” sounds shiny until you see how little sticks around. Show us the numbers—how much have the current 146 towers brought to local wallets? More turbines do not feel like a win for the residents of Dickinson County.

There are costs we can see with our own eyes. This is information we can trust. During the day, our horizons are forever carved up by towers and at night previously pure skies are dominated by blinking lights. The proposed next generation of towers, at nearly 600 feet tall, would be visible from over 17 miles away, well over halfway across Dickinson County. Look at old wind farms worldwide: useless towers litter the land, boneyards filled with blades, the unfulfilled promise of a short term “clean energy” rotting away. They are not recycled. Dickinson County will be no different.

Why do we want more wind towers? Can a convincing argument be made for us to bear these costs and compel us to leave our kids a county that’s louder, uglier, and poorer in spirit? Once these giants rise, there’s no undoing it—the bell’s rung and the damage done. A few decades from now after their purported productive lives are spent, the weathered towering eyesores won’t look any better. .

Farmers should decide what’s best for their land, no question. But when turbines roar and pollute our views, it doesn’t stop at the fence line. We best know our land’s worth and need to protect its beauty and strength. Wind turbine projects trade our heritage for a quick buck that skips town. We’ve hosted 146 towers already. We think that is enough for now. And again, what potentially would be enough if we do not get involved? Until we can determine if the sacrifice of our lands is worth some greater good, until we see the costs we bear bring about lower electric bills with substantial revenue staying local, 146 is enough. If the facts can be discovered and show real gain for Dickinson County and our environment —not just distant shareholders—we’re all ears. But right now, it’s a lopsided deal: the out of state corporation gets rich due to our sacrifices.

We are not against progress—we’re against being played. Take the time to attend meetings. Watch for notices of public hearings, contact your local board of supervisor representative, and share your concerns with state officials. Demand the full financial breakdown including corporate profits —where’s the money going, and what’s it doing for us? Support our local leaders so we can together best determine if additional wind turbines could help our wallets and protect our lands. If towers can’t do that, tell them no more, 146 is enough. .

Sincerely,

Tony & Sheila Thelen
Residents of Dickinson County

David & Kris Saggau
Residents of Dickinson County



Cc: Iowa Great Lakes Association

MOTIVATE • ACT • TOGETHER • HELP • MOTIVATE • ACT • TOGETHER • HELP

Goodlow Named to the Dean's List

Edison Goodlow, of Spirit Lake, has been named to the 2024 fall trimester Dean's List at Palmer College of Chiropractic's Main Campus in Davenport, Iowa.

Early Accepted at Palmer College

Isaac Early, of Spirit Lake, has been accepted for enrollment for the 2025 spring trimester in the Doctor of Chiropractic degree program at Palmer College of Chiropractic's Main Campus in Davenport, Iowa.



OMS Speech Team Performance

"If I lived in Africa, I think I'd be a meerkat - a camel - a lion!" With a steady beat and lots of humor, the entire speech team finished their evening with a fun Choral Reading. The Okoboji Middle School 7th & 8th grade speech team made their audience laugh many times during their performance on March 25. Their goal was to enjoy performing and to learn about the speech categories used in high school contests. This year they performed two Reader's Theatre pieces and a Choral Reading. The students enjoyed the practices and the chance to perform. Students involved were Chandler Boone, Kierra Briggs, Alana Bruna, Ariana Crooks, Madalyn DeMuth, Hudson Downing, Meggann Fisher, Emma Frerichs, Judah Jack, Tristan Johnson, Kennedy Marchand, Clarire Sandbulte, Brody Titterington, and Vivian Van Wyhe. Coaches were Erin Frerichs and Deborah Clark with assistance from Linnea Lambert.

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ANNIVERSARY

PUBLIC HEARING

About the Notice to Bidders for the New Elementary School and Additions/Renovation to the High School. Learn more about the design and bid timeline.

Date: April 9th

Time: 5:25 PM

Location: OMS Media Center

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GO TO THE BIBLE RECAP APP "YOU VERSION"
WEEK 15:
1 SAMUEL 4-8, 9-12, 13-14, 15-17, 18-20
PSALM 11 & 59
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PSALM 7, 27-31, 34, 52

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SLHS All School
Reunion Date
Changed

The Spirit Lake High School All School Reunion committee would like to announce a change to the All School Reunion for 2025. The All School Reunion is for classes who graduated 50 or more years ago. This year the reunion will be held on Sunday, July 13, 2025, at the Immanuel Lutheran Church Community room. More details will be provided with invitations, but the committee wanted everyone to be aware of the change of date and location. Save the date.

Single Spirits

The Single Spirits of Spirit Lake (Iowa) invite persons single, widowed, or divorced, to their regular monthly fun night playing cards, games and fellowship, April 10, 5:30pm, at the Lakes Area Senior Center (under the water tower in Spirit Lake). Join them for a fun evening and have a snack.

Iowa Lakes Unitarian
Universalist Fellowship



Meets second & fourth Sundays
10:00 am/Coffee & Fellowship after the Service
Lakes Area Activity Center,
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See uuokoboji.com for dates and program schedule.
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Holy Eucharist with Palms

MAUNDY THURSDAY • April 17, 5 PM
GOOD FRIDAY • April 18, 5 PM Stations of the Cross
EASTER SUNDAY • April 20, 10 AM

Email: office@stalbansepiscopalchurch.org
Website: stalbansepiscopalchurch.org
The Episcopal presence in the Iowa Great Lakes Area
23rd & Zenith Ave. • Spirit Lake • 712-336-1117

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

JOIN US FOR
EASTER SUNDAY



April 20, 2025
8 am & 10:30 am
EASTER BREAKFAST &
EASTER EGG HUNT INBETWEEN SERVICES

801 HILL AVE.
SPIRIT LAKE, IA 51360

Area Community Bands Present Their
Holiday Concert, Monday, April 14

The Northwest Iowa Concert Band, directed by Rich Nicklay, and the Northwest Iowa Jazz Band, directed by Scott Benjamin, will present their Holiday concert, Monday, April 14, 7:30 p.m. at Estherville VFW, 314 South 1st St. The VFW offers easy access to the building and adequate parking. The VFW will be serving a burger Basket (beef, pork) meal, starting at 6:00pm and going throughout the concert. Volunteer members in the groups come from 15 cities, up to 70 miles away. The program will include concert and jazz band music representing a variety of styles including traditional marches, Broadway show tunes, Irish melodies, ballads, swing and samba. The community bands are partially sponsored by Excel! Estherville, a non-profit corporation and affiliated division of the Estherville Area Chamber of Commerce. Free Admission and refreshments.
Towns represented are: Estherville, Emmetsburg, Spirit Lake, Okoboji, Milford, Spencer, Superior, Ringsted, Bode, Algona, Humboldt, Swea City, Le Mars, Wallingford, Ruthven, Jackson


Come back to Church this Easter Season!
Join us for Holy Week...

PALM SUNDAY SERVICE
April 13, 9:30 am
Followed by Easter Egg Hunt & Potluck at Wesley Place

HOLY THURSDAY SERVICE
April 17, 6:30 pm

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
April 18, 6:30 pm

The Greatest Comeback
EASTER SUNDAY – APRIL 20
Traditional Service 8:30 am
9:30 AM Fellowship Time/Coffee & Rolls
Contemporary Service 10:30 am



Spirit Lake
United Methodist
Church

1812 Gary Avenue • Spirit Lake, IA • 336-3115

Spring Tea & Fashion Show

SATURDAY, APRIL 26TH, 2025
2-4 PM
Calvary United Methodist Church
Arnolds Park, IA

\$15 per person
*Reservations will be taken until April 23rd
Call 712-332-2447

Fashions by Kari's of Okoboji & Spencer & Grand Bridal, Spencer
Entertainment by Calvary United Methodist Bell Quartet



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

HOLY WEEK
Services



First Lutheran Church

Palm Sunday
April 13th at 8:30AM or 11:00AM
Pancakes at 9:30AM
Easter Egg Hunt at 9:45AM

Maundy Thursday
April 17th at 6:30PM

Good Friday
April 18th at 6:30PM

Easter Sunday
April 20th at 6:30AM & 8:30AM & 10:30AM

First Lutheran Church, Milford • 1525 Three Cross Road
www.3cross.org • 712.338.4514

Wagner Named Personal Banker at Northwest Bank in Spirit Lake

Jed Jensen, Bank President at Northwest Bank in Spirit Lake, is pleased to announce Mallory Wagner as Personal Banker. In her new role, Mallory will focus on building customer relationships while delivering personalized banking services, including consumer lending solutions.



Originally from Arkansas, Mallory relocated to Spirit Lake three years ago and quickly became an integral part of the Northwest Bank team. She has expanded her knowledge and demonstrated a commitment to exceptional service. Most recently, she served as a Universal Banker, assisting customers with their daily banking needs.

Mallory resides in Estherville. She and her fiancé Chris Witzke are preparing for their upcoming wedding in June. She enjoys reading, spending time outside and cheering on baseball while supporting her fiancé in his coaching role for Iowa Lakes Community College. Mallory is eager to become more involved in the Spirit Lake community.

Jed Jensen, Bank President, added, "Mallory exemplifies the true meaning of customer service, which aligns with our mission—Building Relationships, Exceeding Expectations. Her experience and dedication will ensure a seamless transition into her new role."

Northwest Bank is a \$2.9 billion community bank that offers a full line of business, agricultural, mortgage, consumer deposit and lending services as well as wealth management and insurance services. Northwest Bank has offices located in Afton, Algona, Ames, Arnolds Park, Ankeny, Creston, Estherville, Fort Dodge, Humboldt, Le Mars, Milford, Shenandoah, Sioux Center, Sioux City, Spencer, Spirit Lake, West Des Moines, Iowa and Omaha and La Vista, Nebraska. Member FDIC.

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.



Ongoing Activities at the LASC

Senior's Movin' On is an exercise group that meets every Monday, Wednesday & Friday morning at 9:00 a.m. The exercise program is based on the Silver Sneakers Program.

Blood Pressure Screening the last Tuesday of every month

Zumba class on Thursday at 4:00pm

Asian MahJong—1st and 3rd Monday at 1:00pm

Dance—April 27th, 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.

The Lakes Area Senior Center is located at 2101 Zenith Ave in Spirit Lake.

Located directly across from Arnolds Park Amusement Park

THE HUTT Bar & Grill

See our website & menu: thehuttbarandgrill.com

DAILY SPECIALS at 11am

Friday Night Special
Fish Fry
Fish Tacos

Saturday Night Special
Prime Rib
Chicken Parmesan

OPEN Wed. thru Fri. at 11:00 AM
Saturday & Sunday at 8am (Breakfast)
Mon at 11am • Tuesday - CLOSED

Book your Birthday Party or event with us!
We have a special menu for your special occasion.

Hwy. 71 South • Arnolds Park, IA • 712.332.8074



The Peacock
— LOUNGE AND GRILLE —

NOW OPEN
WED - FRI • 4:00 PM
SAT - SUN • 11:00 AM

MARK YOUR CALENDARS
GRAND OPENING
SATURDAY,
APRIL 26 • 8 PM
decoy TO PERFORM

575 HWY 71
Arnolds Park, IA
712-337-6222

FULL KITCHEN WILL BE OPEN SOON!

Scheduled Presentations at the LASC

- April 8—John Smeltzer/SPPA
 - April 15—Jennifer Ames-quilter/Health
 - April 22—TBD
 - April 29—Treva Graves
- The Lakes Area Senior Center is located at 2101 Zenith Ave in Spirit Lake.



Tues., April 8 – 2:00 PM – 40 Acres of farmland and building at auction in Fairmont, MN. Auctioneers: Hartungs 507-236-7629. www.auctioneeralley.com.

Wed., April 9 – 10:00 AM – Farm equipment auction in Alpha, MN. Auctioneers: Christopher. 507-841-3125. www.christophe-rauction.com.

Thurs., April 10 – 10:00 AM – Farmland auction in Sibley, IA. Auctioneers: Zellmer & Bruere. 712-898-5913. www.peoplescompany.com.

Sat., April 12 – 8:30 AM – Community Day auction in Ceylon, MN. Auctioneers: Howells & Helmer. 712-260-9690. www.howellrealestateandauCTION.com.

west

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PIZZA HOURS: Tues.-Fri. 4-9pm | Sat. 12(noon)-9pm | Sun. 12(noon)-3pm

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OPEN 7 NIGHTS PER WEEK:
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FRI: 5-11pm
SAT: 11am-11pm
SUN: 11am-9pm

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Lake Okoboji

MARCH 20TH - APRIL 20TH

EASTER Spring Sale!

\$5^{off} Day Passes

\$10^{off} Memberships

DISCOUNT CODE: **SPRING25**

the RG BALLROOM

BUSCH LIGHT

Save THE DATE

MIDWEST COUNTRY MUSIC ORGANIZATION 2024 AWARD SHOW

SATURDAY, APRIL 12th 2025

CAPTAIN'S ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEX

LIVE MUSIC • GOOD VIBES

FORE! Good Times!

- Experience The Masters Like Never Before
- New Lower Bar & HUGE TV WALL
- Expanded Seating & Beers on Tap!

Enjoy Dinner with Family & Friends
Kitchen Open 5-10pm

Starters • Wings • Rice Bowls
Quesadillas • Sandwiches
• Smash Burgers
• Kids Menu & More!

UPCOMING ENTERTAINMENT
STARTING AT 9PM
APRIL 11 & 12
Jason Mayer
APRIL 18 & 19
Renegade Soul
APRIL 25 & 26
Grunge Pop

Check out our current lineup of events at CaptainsGetaway.com
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splash

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TODAY!

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OFF-SEASON

\$120.00 *plus tax*

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\$220.00 *plus tax*

BUY 10 PASSES,

GET THE 11TH ONE FREE

Grab a Punch Card for Boji Splash Waterpark and enjoy 11 all-day passes for the price of 10!

Valid for ages 4 and up, each card is good for the specified season.

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SPIRIT LAKE SCHOOLS

Spring Music Concerts

APRIL 8

7th & 8th Grade Band Concert

7 pm

MAY 6

HS Band & Vocal Spring Concert

7 pm

MAY 8

5th & 6th Band Concert

7 pm

MAY 13

TK-6th Grade Spring Concert

9 am – noon

MAY 13

7th & 8th Vocal Concert

7 pm

Join us at the Sami Center

or

Watch live:

www.youtube.com/@samicenter1048

4 BIG PRIZES on the Line!

WOMEN'S MARCH MANIA BRACKET CHALLENGE

194 Entries!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WOMEN'S FINAL FOUR

AFTER THE FINAL FOUR WEEKEND OF GAMES!*

Place	Name	# Points	PREDICTED CHAMPION
•First	Justin Letscher	364	UCONN
•Second	Tim Soper	351	UCONN
•Third	Robert Schonberner	343	UCONN
•Fourth	Rancy Franker	338	UCONN

*Standings are as of the last game on Sunday night.
Check next week's paper for pictures of the Winners!

THANKS TO OUR MARCH MANIA SPONSORS:

Blink Marketing • Boji Boat Brokers • Boji Doors • BooneDock's • Boss' Pizzeria

Captain's Getaway • Carstens Financial Group • Consumers Lumber Company

Fareway • Farmers Savings Bank • Flooring America • Hy-Vee • Jiffy

Lee Custom Homes • Midwest Land Management • NextHome

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THE LNS

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Milford RAGBRAI Fundraising

Milford, Iowa - The Milford RAGBRAI budget and fund-raising committee met last week to discuss the upcoming visit and overnight stay at Milford Sunday, July 20. They have set a fundraising goal of \$50,000 to assist with expenses expected to be incurred with this visit. Several ideas were brought to the table but perhaps the most interesting and most entertaining idea will be the opportunity for people to “Adopt A Port-a-Potty.” With 20,000 plus riders expected, there will be 100 port-a-pottys throughout the city. This is where the meeting and the people on the committee got a little crazy. Remember their second goal is to have FUN, FUN, FUN. The rules of this fundraiser are simple. For \$25 each, a person can adopt one or more of 100 port-a-potties for this event. On the front door of the potty, a photo and/or a message will be printed on a laminated poster. This is a fun way to welcome riders to Milford with your message, say Happy Birthday to someone, advertise your business or use one of many message possibilities. The committee reserves the right to make sure messages are not vulgar or political in nature, harming anyone, and the right to reject any message we deem inappropriate. You may submit a photo or have a staff photographer take the photo. Volunteers will randomly hang the posters as soon as the potties arrive. Locals may find it fun to travel around to view the posters. The committee expects to raise \$2,500 toward their \$50,000 goal with this project as well as experience a whole lot of fun throughout the ordeal. Milford Mayor, Steve Anderson, eagerly paid his \$25 to be the first to adopt. His photo and message, as shown, will be seen on a potty probably placed close to City Hall. To date, 10 adoptions have been made by members of the budget and fundraising committee and even a Waukee, Iowa, resident. There are only 90 spaces left.



Our Mayor is #1 in the #2 business.

To get on the adoption list, please call Susan Reiser, 712-320-2584, and start the process. Unlike regular adoptions, this will be fast and to the point. Help the Millford RAGBRAI Committee reach their \$2,500 goal for this idea. Their budget and fundraising committee will also be reaching out to the community for larger donations toward the event. The fundraising levels are: \$500 - Kickstand Sponsor; \$1,000 - Spoke Supporter; \$2,500 - Gear Grinder Sponsor; \$5,000 - Chain Reaction Sponsor. Each level includes advertising opportunities for businesses or individuals. Donations will also show support for the community and event. For more information on the levels and to donate to Milford RAGBRAI, contact Brad Simington at Farmers Savings Bank (bsimington@fsbfostoria.com) or Susan Reiser at St. Joseph Catholic Church (sreiser@milfordcable.net). The committee will be able to make this a successful event with the many different outlets of community support. For those interested in reaching out to the Milford RAGBRAI Committee, please feel free to email milfordragbrai@gmail.com. Follow along with updates on the Milford RAGBRAI Facebook page and Instagram. For more information go to our website at milfordragbrai.com.

Palm Sunday

April 13, 2025

View From The Bench

by John Adams, Jr.

Beyond the Bracket: Final Four Musings

You couldn't have had much more polar opposite games for the Women's and Men's NCAA Final Four games this past weekend. The Women's Championship saw two lopsided games on Friday night with South Carolina beating Texas 71-57 in a SEC matchup, and UCONN drubbing UCLA 85-51 in the nightcap. UCONN continued their dominant NCAA Tournament run on Sunday night in the Championship Game, taking down the defending National Champions, South Carolina 82-59 in a game that was controlled by the Huskies from start to finish. This is UCONN's 12th national championship, but their first since 2016. While I like to see new teams win the title, I was happy for Huskie standouts Paige Buckers and Azzi Fudd, who have both battled through major knee injuries to reach this plateau with their teammates. Fudd finished with 24 points and earned the Most Outstanding Player of the Final Four award while Buckers added 17 points. It was also nice to see a team with mostly original players on their roster win the big game. The Men's games on Saturday night were both hard-fought battles that came down to the wire. In another SEC matchup, Florida rallied from an eight-point halftime deficit to beat Auburn for the second time this season, 79-73. Gator senior guard Walter Clayton, Jr continued his NCAA Tournament brilliant play with a 34-point performance, including five three-pointers. Clayton became the first player to score over 30 points in Elite Eight and Final Four games since the legendary Larry Bird in 1979. The nightcap was another thriller, with Houston rallying to take down Duke 70-67. The Cougars came back from a 14-point deficit with just over 8:00 remaining, ending the game on an amazing 9-0 run in the final :33. Houston pulled out the improbable win the same way they have won all season, with their stifling defense. The Cougars limited the high-scoring Blue Devils to just one basket in the last 10:00 of the game, including a 1-9 stretch in the final four minutes with the game on the line. Senior L.J. Cryer had a sensational game for Houston, finishing with 27 points while senior big man J'Wan Roberts added 12 rebounds and 11 points, including two big free throws with :16 left to give the Cougars a one-point lead. While the over-the-back call that led to those free throws may have been questionable, one could not question that Houston deserved to win this game with how they stayed the course of playing their style with constant ball pressure that just wore Duke out. Houston and Florida should be a great game on Monday night (we go to press Monday afternoon so as you read this you will know who won). I think Houston's defense will give Florida problems and the Cougars will pull out another close game, winning their first National Championship 71-68. While the SEC was the most-talked about men's conference all season long, the Big 12 has shown once again in this NCAA Tournament that they are one of the best leagues in the nation. Heading into the National Championship game, the Big 12 has the best record at 14-6, an impressive .700 winning percentage, the SEC is second at 21-12 (.636) with the Big 10 third at 13-8 (.619). One thing has held true in both Final Fours, experience and culture matters as both teams playing in the National Championship games are dominated by juniors, seniors and fifth-year graduates, which is great to see in this new NIL and Transfer Portal world!

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Dickinson County Veterans and Spouses

You are invited to attend Coffee with Spring Jones, CVSO

When: Thurs., April 10th, 2025

From: 1:30 to 3:00 pm

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1802 Hill Ave, Spirit Lake, IA

FREE Coffee, Cookies & Conversation

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Arnolds Park FIRE & RESCUE

48th Annual PANCAKE FEED & Fund-Raiser

Friday, May 2 • 5-8pm

Saturday, May 3 • 7am-Noon

Arnolds Park Fire Station Hwy. 71 • Arnolds Park

Adults: \$6.00

Children Under 12: \$3.00

Pancakes (Served by Milford Boy Scouts)

Sausage (Grilled Fresh by the Firefighters) & Beverage.

Funds raised will be used towards the purchase of personal protective equipment

Lake Park Fire Department OMELETTE FEED

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

SERVING 10:30AM-1:00PM

Drive-Up Service Also Available!

at the Lake Park Fire Station

• Free Will Donation •

Funds will be used to purchase and update equipment! Come out & support your local fire department

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Kiwanis Bingo Nights

Milford Kiwanis presents Bingo Nights on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. The next Bingo Nights will be Thursday, April 10 and 24, 2025. Card sales begin at 5:30 and Bingo is from 6:00-8:00. 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.



VFW Auxiliary Kitchen

We are excited to use our **NEW KITCHEN** in a **Positive & Delicious way!**

Great menu options & combinations reasonably priced!

- Burgers & Fries
- Wing Night
- Appetizers & More

Taking reservations for parties, funeral luncheons, class reunions, or family reunions.

Hours: 4:00-6:00
Wednesdays, Fridays & Saturdays

VFW Post 4514 Canteen
914 Lake Street • Spirit Lake

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NOW PLAYING APRIL 10-17



Charles Dickens embarks on a heartfelt journey to mend his relationship with his son, Walter, by sharing the ultimate story of hope and redemption: the life of Jesus Christ. Through young Walter's vivid imagination, the story comes to life, from the nativity to the resurrection, weaving themes of sacrifice, love, and eternal triumph. The King of Kings is a visually stunning animated retelling that brings the timeless story of Jesus to a new generation, inspiring faith and wonder in all who watch.

FRI 4/11 6:30 & 7:15
SAT & SUN 4/12-13 1:00, 3:30 & 6:00
MON-THUR 4/14-17 6:30

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!



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VFW

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John W. Kidd Post 4514
Community Based Service Organization

Music & Dancing
6:00-8:00 PM

TUESDAY,
APRIL 8
Steve Lang

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TUESDAY,
APRIL 15
Itty Bitty Boji Band

OPEN at 2PM Every Day!

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FRIDAY, APRIL 11TH @ 4:30PM

Hand Breaded
Pollock with
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- Daily Lunch & Evening Specials
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712.858.4500
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Open Wed. thru Sun. at 11 a.m.



Heritage Square Fundraiser

Gunderson's Restaurant
in Lake Park

Trivia Night

SAT | APRIL | 19
5-7:30PM

FOOD AND DRINK SPECIALS

Sign up on Facebook by April 13 to reserve your team's spot!
Friends of the Museum,
Facebook page
Venmo \$75 entry fee
(4-6 ppl/team)



Sip. Dine. Shop.

LOCAL

Boat Renewal Deadline Is Fast Approaching

Before you put your boat in the water, be sure you have *Red 2025* stickers on it, so you are current on your registration. The Recorder's office is located at the East end of the first floor in the Dickinson County Courthouse (1802 Hill Ave – Spirit Lake) and office hours are Monday – Friday, 8:00am – 4:30pm; cash, check or credit card are accepted.

SMOKIN' JAKES

OLD TOWN
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"BEST RIBS Around!"
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HICKORY SMOKED FRESH DAILY

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Thursdays: Meat Raffle!
Sponsored by the Twilight Masonic Lodge
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HOURS: Mon.-Thurs. 11am-10pm
Fri. & Sat. 10pm-3am Late Night Breakfast
117 W. Broadway, Arnolds Park 712-332-5152

SPIRIT LAKE COMMUNITY FIRE DEPARTMENT'S 70TH ANNUAL PANCAKE DAY

SATURDAY, APRIL 12TH • 7 AM TO 1PM
SERVING AT THE FIRE STATION • 2001 PEORIA AVENUE

- FREE WILL DONATION
- TOUR THE STATION AND TRUCKS
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ALL PROCEEDS USED TO PURCHASE NEW EQUIPMENT



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Join Us for League Sign-Up & Open House THURSDAY, APRIL 10 AT 5 PM IN PUB 19



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Life... Drink It In!

We are open for walk-in & tasting!

Spring Hours
Thursday-Sunday 11am-6pm

Sunday, April 13
Duo Republic
Bison Enchiladas!

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Kazarelli's

Beach Club
Italian & American Cuisine
from our made from Scratch Kitchen!

Sunday Brunch Club 10am-1pm

Sunday, April 20th
Call Now for Easter Champagne Brunch Reservations!
Serving your favorites from 9am-1pm

WEDNESDAY EVENING DINNERS Starts April 16!

15 Dam Road, Arnolds Park • 712-337-3238
NEW HOURS: THURS. 5PM-CLOSE | FRI. 4PM-CLOSE
SAT. 4PM-CLOSE | SUN. 10AM-1PM

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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

To The Editor:

You Got What You Voted For

Day 1 or "very quickly," consumer prices will decline, the Ukraine war will be ended, inflation will be a thing of the past, all international trade rip-offs to America end leading to re-birth of USA manufacturing and jobs, borders locked down and deportations expanded (to fight fentanyl), fossil fuel exploitation to negate alternative energy sources; all leading to America's "best economy ever!" What a bunch of hogwash! Are you Trump voters happy with a grifter wannabe dictator who doesn't seem to understand that tariffs are a tax on his own citizens? Are you happy with program cuts carried out by loyal corrupt department morons at the behest of a billionaire who tries to buy elections? Well, it was all laid out for you in Project 2025 plus Trump's wild campaign rhetoric. And now, a coming crowning touch is new tax cut legislation, which will be sold as a benefit to all, but again mostly will favor corporate executives and the billionaire class. We study history because it repeats itself. So, let's look at past major Republican enacted tax cuts in billions of dollars:

President	Revenue	Outflow	%Rev	%Out	Debt	GDP +
Reagan	768	944	17.6	21.7	1442	2422
H.W. Bush	1083	1342	17.2	21.3	1063	1220
W. Bush	2159	2602	16.6	17.6	4351	3935
Trump (1st)	3449	5589	16.3	26.3	7372	1806
Total					15487	

Now compare these numbers to Clinton's terms in office.

Clinton	Revenue	Outflow	%Rev	%Out	Debt	GDP +
Clinton	1651	1604	18.7	18.8	1263	3751

Clinton showed that a balanced budget can be achieved with reasonable tax policy and controlled spending. He also left office with approximately \$150 billion surplus which could have been used to pay down debt but was rebated by Bush and another tax cut imposed. (Incidentally, W. Bush was the first president in American history to go to war along with a tax cut.) As you can see, revenue and GDP grew under all administrations; but nearly half of our nation's debt resulted from reckless Republican Administration tax cut policies which promised GDP growth and corporate capital projects would more than make up for them! Will you Trump voters fall for this again? Trump's tax cuts coupled with tariffs are leading America toward economic disaster and possibly world economic collapse. Apparently, the end goal is to bankrupt our Constitutional Democracy; replaced by rule of an authoritarian plus selected oligarchs where we are all subservient. Has Benjamin Franklin's 1787 admonition come true?

Terry B. Yarns
Spirit Lake, Iowa
**A portion of this letter was paid for by the author.*

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Volunteer at the LASC

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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.

Activities at the LASC

Tuesday, April 8
8:30 - Kiwanis
12:00 - Dinner Date
12:30 - Dinner Date Speaker - John Smeltzer/SPPA
12:30 - Bridge
Wednesday, April 9
9:00 - Exercise Class
12:00 - Dinner Date
Thursday, April 10
10:00 - Strummers
12:00 - Dinner Date
1:00 - 500 Cards
3:00 - Cribbage
4:00 - Zumba Class
Friday, April 11
9:00 - Exercise Class
12:00 - Dinner Date
Saturday, April 12
Available For Rent
Sunday, April 13
Card Room Reserved
Monday, April 14
9:00 - Exercise
12:00 - Dinner Date
1:00 - Pinochle Club

Dinner Date meals are available every weekday. Call by 1:00pm on Friday to reserve a meal for the next week. Join us every Tuesday for Dinner Date and stay for a program at 12:30 with our featured Dinner Date Speaker. The pool table and ping pong room is open every weekday. The card room closes from 12-12:30 for cleaning. Our next Breakfast Fundraiser will be Sunday, May 18, 2025 from 8:30-12:30 - Free Will Offering. Dance to live music the last Sunday of the month, April 27, with a potluck lunch at 3pm. Cost: \$8.00 / Couple: \$15.00. 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.

Compost Available for the Public

Spring has sprung! Temperatures are rising, and it's the perfect time to start thinking about your garden or what flowers to put in your planters. The best way to get those big tomatoes and peppers, help those dry trees and produce flowers all your neighbors will envy is to improve your soil health with compost!

Compost can be put anywhere you have plants. Around trees, tilled into your garden, in potted plants and even on your grass lawn. The Dickinson County Regional Collection Center in Milford turns last year's greenwaste into valuable compost. Woodchips are also available and are useful for landscaping and tree plantings.

Finished compost and woodchips are available at the Dickinson County Regional Collection Center at 2260 220th Street in Milford. It is free of charge if you are filling up your own containers. For trailer/truck loading, there is a \$10 per bucket (3 to 3.5 cubic yards) loading fee. Call for loading availability at 712-338-2549 or email RCC@dickinsoncountyiowa.gov

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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

To The Editor:
Dickinson County Taxpayers Association gave a very professional presentation on why Dickinson County Board of Supervisors must reduce its General Levy from (fiscal year 24/25) 3.39806 to (fiscal year 25/26) 2.45.

Mike Fergen followed up with another world class presentation of why the (fiscal year 25/26) General Levy must be reduced to 2.45.

A citizen - a little person - said he was making \$32,000 a year - that he was financially being eaten alive with higher and higher real estate tax and rising insurance costs. And he and his wife didn't want to be forced out of their home. He reminded the Board of Supervisors that last year two Supervisors were voted out of office and that "could happen to you, too."

But the County Bureaucracy was prepared to strike back: Yes, yes we over-tax and have a huge reserve. But you must know we failed to match our bond portfolio maturity dates to our own cash flow needs. Because of our failure to match our bond maturities to our needs, we can't cash in our bonds without a loss.

Brilliantly, the Auditor chimed in: Wait, wait you can't touch ½ of the reserves as they are specifically allocated by law and can't be touched.

In other words, you must be eaten alive financially and may lose your house and have to move to a senior home but our bureaucratic needs are more important than yours.

And then to sum it up, Steve Clark: Yes, yes we have over-taxed with the highest levy we could get by with. We can't help it if someone goes to Arnolds Park and buys a little house for \$267,000 and rents it out. We can't help it if someone buys a lake home for millions of dollars - and the assessment goes way up. That's just the way it is, people want to live here and they are paying higher and higher prices to do so. And if you can't afford to live here you may have to move - as many people before you have had to move. Get used to it.

The real estate tax is the cruelest of all taxes and the most regressive of taxes, and not based on your ability to pay and must totally be eliminated.

Property tax is an outdated system. It punishes people simply for owning something - a home - regardless of their income or life situation. Just because a neighbor renovates their kitchen, builds an addition, or rents their property doesn't mean YOUR tax burden should go up. But under this system, it often does. Property taxes are based on assessments that don't reflect actual income, and they assume you can afford ever-increasing costs simply because you live somewhere. This isn't fair and it doesn't make sense in today's world. The little person should not be penalized because someone down the road decided to invest money into their own home. One person's upgrade shouldn't dictate another person's hardship.

Bill Murphy
Okoboji, Iowa

*A portion of this letter was paid for by the author.

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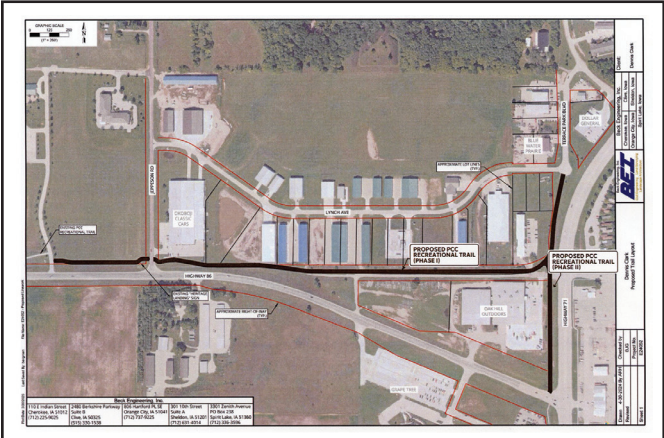
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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.



New Bike Trail to Connect Milford, Enhance Community Connectivity

A new initiative, the Milford West Okoboji Bike Trail Project, is underway, aiming to provide safe and accessible cycling routes for residents and visitors alike. The proposed trail will connect Highway 86 to Oak Hill Outdoor on Highway 71, significantly improving bicycle accessibility within the community.

The project is designed to offer a scenic and secure route, allowing cyclists of all ages to easily reach popular local destinations, including restaurants and coffee shops. Notably, the trail will divert bicycle traffic away from the busy Three Cross Road near the church, enhancing safety for cyclists and motorists.

Organizers emphasize that the trail will provide convenient access to an estimated 80% of Milford residents, fostering a more connected and bike-friendly community. The project is seen as a crucial step in linking the greater city of Milford to the broader Iowa Great Lakes Trails system.

Funding for the Milford West Okoboji Bike Trail Project relies on community support. Donations are being sought to ensure the project's completion. Those interested in contributing can make checks payable to "Milford West Okoboji Trail" and drop them off at Northwest Bank in Milford. The organization has secured tax-exempt status, with EIN #33-4013601.

The project leaders express gratitude to all who contribute to making the trail a reality. They believe the initiative will significantly enhance the quality of life for Milford residents and contribute to the region's recreational infrastructure. For further details or to contact the project organizers, individuals are encouraged to visit MilfordWestOkobojiTrail.com.



Spirit Lake Library News

Curbside Pickup

Now that you know how to log on to your SLPL account (see last week's article), let's talk about how to reserve materials online for curbside pickup.

Begin by going to our website at slpublib.com. Next, click on Search Catalog. In the upper right-hand corner, input your library card number and phone number (no dashes & without 712, if that is your area code). If you cannot find your library card, we can make you a new one for \$3. Next step is to click LOG IN. (Not SIGN UP!) You are now signed in to the card catalog.

Next, in the upper left-hand corner, search for the books, movies or other materials you would like to have reserved for you. Click on the title to view more information. Click on the "Reserve" button. Usually it's at the top of the bibliographical record, but sometimes you have to scroll down to the bottom. Click "Place Reserve." If you change your mind, you can click "Cancel Reserve." Follow the same steps for reserving more items.

When finished reserving items, click "LOG OUT" in the upper right-hand corner. Wait for the notification (text, email, or phone call) that your order is ready to be picked up. We will put a wrapper around your order and place it in alphabetical order by last name in the entryway of the library. Curbside items are available to pick up Monday through Thursday, 8:15 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; Friday 8:15 a.m.-4:00 p.m.; and Saturday 8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

You will have three days to pick up your reserved materials. Don't have time to pick them up? Ask us about how to suspend your reserves. If you have any questions, please call us at (712) 336-2667.

SLPL staff spotlight: Debbie is currently watching romcoms on Hoopla.

Upcoming Activities At SLPL

- Monday, April 14, 10:30 a.m. Story Time
- Monday, April 14, 1:00-3:00 p.m. Mah-Jongg
- Tuesday, April 15, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Quilters
- Wednesday, April 16, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Page Turners Book Club (The Measure by Nikki Erlick)
- Wednesday, April 16, 12:30-4:00 p.m. Quilters
- Thursday, April 17, 1:00-3:00 p.m. Mah-Jongg
- Saturday, April 19, Library Closed



Dickinson County Fair 2025 Open Class Entries

There will be open class entries in Photography, Woodworking, Decorative T-shirts and Sweatshirts, Quilts, Painting, Creative Arts and Handicrafts, Foods, Horticulture, Vegetables, and a new class of Individual Table settings Casual and Formal at the Dickinson County Fair 2025. Exhibitors are limited to permanent and summer Dickinson County residents. There is a junior division for 18 year olds and younger and a senior division for 19 year olds and older. Photography exhibits can be entered in color or black and white Classes. Furniture for indoor and outdoor use can be entered in the woodworking area. In the Decorative T-shirt and sweatshirt Class, exhibitors can show their artistic talents decorating the Item using cross-stitch, paints, appliqué, beads or other, materials. Some of the quilt classes are patchwork, sampler, infant, hand quilted And others. Painting classes can be drawings using chalk, charcoal, pencil, Ink, pastels, oil painting, water base painting or an illustration of a poem or story. Creative arts or handicraft classes are basket weaving, leather craft, Nature craft, stained glass, holidays, doll stuffed animal, doll or toy, or any other craft not specified. Food classes include pie, bread, cookies, Jams & jellies, decorated cake, candies, and garden vegetables.

There is an entry fee of \$1.00 per class. Exhibits check in time is July 14th and 15th, from 9:00am to 1:00pm, and Wednesday, July 16th, from 8:00 to 10:00am, at the Dickinson County Expo Center office in Spirit Lake. Open class rules and regulations and entry forms are available at the Dickinson County Expo Building. Call John at the Expo Building to pick up rules at 712-336-0479 or to have him email them to you. If you have any questions, you may also call Carla at 712-320-3701.



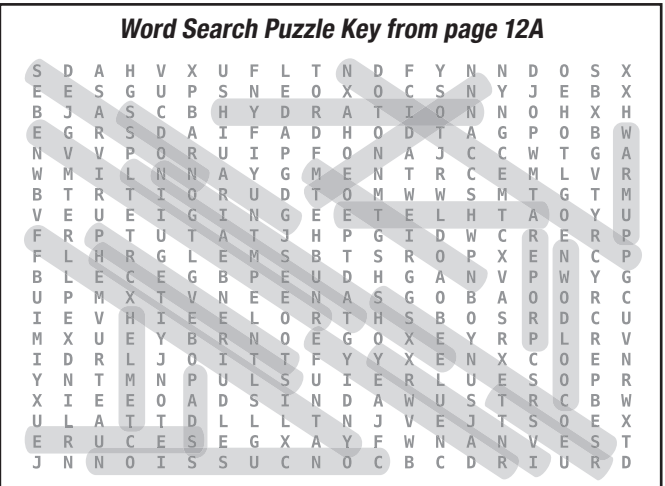
Caregivers Support Group

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.



Dr. Chad Niemeier, his wife Billi Niemeier (owner of BioBody Mind and Soul- located inside Niemeier Spine and Sports Chiropractic) Dr. Kayla Updike, Mariah Mentink, and Kelly Meyer.

Celebrating 20 Years in Business

Niemeier Spine and Sports Chiropractic is celebrating 20 years in business this year! Owner, Dr. Chad Niemeier, was inspired to start his business after being injured playing football his freshman year. After several treatments with a chiropractor, he was able to play again and that's when he decided to become a chiropractor and make a difference in people's lives. Dr. Niemeier and Dr. Updike have a passion for helping people feel better and offer treatments for all ages, from infant to elderly. Living in Lake Park and being part of such a great community has helped them get to know his patients on a personal level, knowing what is happening in their daily lives and being able to take care of all their chiropractic needs. Dr. Kayla Updike has now been with the clinic for 10 years and is a local Lake Park graduate. Niemeier Spine & Sports Chiropractic is your full service chiropractic clinic providing care for all ages in Lake Park and the surrounding areas! We offer a variety of adjusting techniques, acupuncture, soft tissue therapies, deep tissue laser therapy and more to fit your individualized needs! Congratulations on an incredible 20 years in business and many more to come!

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West O Beer Announces 'The Terrace' Outdoor Expansion

WEST OKOBOJI, Iowa — West O Beer, a craft brewery located in West Okoboji, Iowa, recently announced plans to expand its taproom to include an outdoor space the brewery calls “The Terrace.”

“We love inviting people into our taproom and brewery to experience everything we have to offer, including craft beer and brick-oven pizzas” West O Beer owner Matt Matthiesen said. “We also know that families and friends come to Okoboji to enjoy the outdoors, and children especially need more space and things to do. This is why we’re so excited to offer that added opportunity with ‘The Terrace,’ named for our location near Terrace Park Beach on the south shore of West Lake Okoboji.”

The new 2,500-square-foot outdoor space, located east of the building’s main entrance, will feature a performance area for musicians and other entertainers, beautiful landscaping, comfortable seating, a children’s play space, outdoor games, paved accessible parking and more.

Matthiesen said construction on the outdoor space will begin shortly. He expects The Terrace to be open to the public in May.

“All of our plans are in place. Right now, we’re just waiting for the contractors to begin,” he said. “Once construction is underway, we’re hopeful to have the space open in May. We also have a few fun things in the works to coincide with the grand opening, so be on the lookout for that announcement.”

For more information, visit www.westobeer.com.

West O Beer was founded in 2013 by co-owners Matt and Michaela Matthiesen after the couple gained a decade of experience as home brewers.

“My dad used to brew beer at home when we were kids,” Matt said. “It was always something we wanted to try. Then in 2003, my wife Michaela lined up a home brew session with some friends of ours, and we started brewing on a regular basis. Michaela’s dad even decided to plant three acres of barley and 40 hop vines in his back yard. In 2008, we started a business plan for a microbrewery. All of our plans revolved around family — not immediate family, but a West O Beer family. We wanted to find other people out there, an entire team, who all shared our same love for beer — then grow it, and share it with others. We found them, and it worked.”

West O Beer is more than a brewery. The company’s motto — Quality Beer, Committed to More — speaks to West O Beer’s involvement in the local community and its commitment to water quality and conservation efforts throughout the region.

“Water is the most constant ingredient and flavor in beer,” Matt said. “This ingredient led us to an empty lot in West Okoboji, which was serviced with spring-fed, naturally soft water from West Lake Okoboji. Building on this lot in 2013 was the best decision we ever made. Our water is so important that we donate a portion of our proceeds to help preserve and protect the natural resources of the Iowa Great Lakes Region.”

West O Beer is located at 503 Terrace Park Blvd in West Okoboji, Iowa.

Lakes Area Senior Center

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SPEAKER ON TUESDAYS at 12:30pm

- April 8: John Smeltzer/SPPA
- April 15: Jennifer Amesquiter/Health
- April 22: TBD

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Frog's Leap Winery Tasting Event

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Cup N' Saucer Dinners With Chef Seth Lintelman

Apr. 24 & May 22
6:00pm | \$150/\$160

Each gourmet dinner offers 4 courses and a unique menu, drawing upon the freshest seasonal ingredients. Dinner includes a glass of wine selected to complement the dining experience. Must register 7 days prior to each dinner.

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.

Apr. 17: California Classic Hamburgers

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lakesnewssshopper.com

Spirit of Harmony, Sweet Adelines Chorus, presents their annual "Friends and Family Night" Monday, April 14, 2025, at 7:00 PM at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Spirit Lake. The public is invited to attend as the chorus will present selections that will be sung as part of their regional competition in Rochester, Minnesota, later this spring. Featured along with the Spirit of Harmony Chorus are Affinity Quartet and The Peppers Quartet. The chorus and quartets feature women from northwest Iowa. A special part of the festivities this year is the recognition of the 45th year anniversary since chartering as a chorus in the Sweet Adelines International Organization. A freewill donation will be taken at the door and light refreshments served. Come support this dynamic group and learn why these birds really do enjoy joining together in song!



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435 240th Avenue | Arnolds Park
Bridges Bay, East Lake - 2 bedroom, 2 bath beautiful top floor condo. Offered at **\$522,865**


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465 240th Avenue | Arnolds Park
Pointe Residence, Bridges Bay - 4 bedroom, 3 bath elegant and private condo. Offered at **\$995,000**




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1612 Joy Loy Lane | Wahpeton
Wahpeton Canals, West Lake - 4 bedroom, 2 bath home on 116' of lake shore. Offered at **\$499,000**

GREAT FAMILY HOME

3109 Keokuk | Spirit Lake
Pointe of Pines, 4 bedroom, 3 bath lovely ranch home. Offered at **\$449,000**

NEW PRICE

1605 Stern | Wahpeton
2 bedroom, 1 bath updated home just steps from West Lake Okoboji. Offered at **\$99,900**



NEW PRICE

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Okomo Bay, East Lake - 5 bedroom, 4 bath townhome with lakeside deck & patio. Offered at **\$840,000**

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A Vintage Classic! This home offers a 'walk to everything' location; Historic Arnolds Park, Arnolds Park City Park, The Central Emporium, a great selection of restaurants & night time establishments, and a fantastic boardwalk to exercise the dog(s)! This century home is in well kept restored and updated condition. The oak hard wood flooring is as beautiful as it is practical. And, the unique character of the interior spiral staircase and walk way; you won't find it duplicated! And, the boathouse deck is a favorite sunset watching spot and below is a great place for water toy storage, or with a little work, could be extra living/sleeping space for the younger set. This home is as beautiful as it is unique, a true Okoboji Classic. 196 Park Place, Arnolds Park. Call Eric Hoiien 712-320-2790. MLS#250337


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Saturday, April 12 - 10-11:30am
916 9th Ave. E. Spencer, IA

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\$249,900 MLS #241437
Hosted by **George Carlson**

Saturday, April 12 - 10-11:30am
2132 230th Ave. Milford, IA

Modern oasis nestled on 3 acres of serene landscape, newly built shouse with a sleek design & modern finishes.
\$1,950,000 MLS #250063
Hosted by **George Carlson**

Saturday, April 12 - 12:30-2pm
1761 260th Ave. #12 Spirit Lake, IA

An Okoboji getaway at Acorn Ridge. 3 bed, 2 bath move in ready home with instant lake access.
\$274,995 MLS #250263
Hosted by **Brandon Visser**

Saturday, April 12 - 10-11:30am
626 Mallard Creek Drive Arnolds Park, IA

3 bed, 2 bath home in Pelican Ridge with modern updates & fantastic community amenities.
\$354,900 MLS #250331
Hosted by **Brandon Visser**

Saturday, April 12 - 11-12pm
290 240th Ave. #180 Arnolds Park, IA

3 bed, 3 bath large cabin at Bridges Bay Resort. 2-stall garage with plenty of parking & awesome amenities.
\$529,000 MLS #250145
Hosted by **Tonya Vakulskas**

Saturday, April 12 - 11-12pm
1609 W 15th St. Spencer, IA

Immaculate custom home in Deerfield with 5 beds, 4 baths, 3-stall garage and many details to appreciate!
\$699,000 MLS #250244
Hosted by **Amy Lange**

Sunday, April 13 - 10-11am
1401 & 1405 38th St. Spirit Lake, IA

2 brand new homes! One level living with in-floor heat featuring 3 beds, 2 baths and quality finishes throughout.
\$439,950
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Hosted by **Steph Johnson**

Sunday, April 13 - 12-1pm
425 240th Ave. #201 Arnolds Park, IA

Fantastic East Lake condo at Bridges Bay! 3 bed, 2 bath with open, spacious floor plan & Bridges Bay amenities.
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Okoboji Backpack / Faith Community Church representatives Bonnie Unscheid and Lori Towne accepting donations from Laurie Simington and Vicki Peter of Farmers Savings Bank.

Okoboji Backpack Program

Throughout the month of March, Farmers Savings Bank collected food donations for the Okoboji Backpack Program. Community members and employees of FSB donated nonperishable food items for the program that serves children in need of nutritious meals over the weekend and summer months. Over 25 "backpacks" of food are prepared by Faith Community Church and the Okoboji Backpack team and delivered to student lockers by guidance counselors every Friday.

"We truly enjoy being a part of the Okoboji School District and partnering with them in Pioneering Pathways for Every Student," said Laurie Simington, Director of Marketing at Farmers Savings Bank. Laurie went on to say, "We are proud of our community, the volunteers at Faith Community Church, and the students at Okoboji and are happy to contribute to students through this vital program. We would like to give a big thank you to our team members and MANY community members who dropped off food or gave monetary donations for The Backpack program."



Spencer Municipal Utilities Honored With National Award

Spencer Municipal Utilities has earned the American Public Power Association's Safety Award of Excellence for safe operating practices in 2024. The utility earned a diamond award in the category for utilities with 30,000-59,999 worker-hours of annual worker exposure.

"Our staff, along with our safety committee, work every day to make sure we are a safe place to work, and this award shows safety is a priority for our entire team," said James Mammen, Safety & Risk Coordinator of Spencer Municipal Utilities.

More than 200 utilities entered the annual Safety Awards for 2024. The entrants are placed in accordance with their number of worker-hours and ranked based on the most incident-free records and overall state of their safety programs and culture during 2024. The incidence rate is based on the number of work-related reportable injuries or illnesses and the number of worker-hours during 2024, as defined by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

"Spencer Municipal Utilities is proud of its safety record," said Steve Pick, General Manager/CEO of Spencer Municipal Utilities. "This award is a testament to the hard work that goes into ensuring our team members go home safe to their families each and every day."

When we think back to 2024 and the additional workplace hazards in the days and weeks following the flood, I couldn't be prouder of our team for not only keeping our teams safe, but also our customers and all who came to assist our community in a time of need."

"Harnessing electricity to keep our communities powered is vital work that can be dangerous, even deadly, if the proper attention isn't paid to tried-and-true safety practices," said Jon Beasley, Chair of APPA's Safety Committee and Vice-President of Electric Cities of GA. "This award honors utilities that hold fast to these practices and – in doing so – put the safety of their personnel and their customers above all else."

APPA has conducted the Safety Awards annually for more than sixty-six years. APPA is the voice of not-for-profit, community-owned utilities that power 2,000 towns and cities nationwide. SMU is a leading provider of cable, internet, and telephone service in the Spencer community and has been providing water since 1886 and electric services since 1901.

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Corridor To Conduct Regional Wage & Benefit Survey

The Iowa Lakes Corridor Development Corporation (Corridor) is teaming up with the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) Strategic Marketing Services and the Institute for Decision Making (IDM) to launch a regional wage and benefit study in April and May.

Launching on Wednesday, April 23rd, businesses throughout Buena Vista, Clay, Dickinson, and Emmet counties will be receiving an email with a questionnaire to complete, which will assist area employers and economic development groups with ensuring Northwest Iowa remains an attractive and competitive place to live and work. Questions will cover specific hourly/salary wages for occupations, benefits, workforce trends, community amenities, and organization demographics.

Survey results will assist the Corridor and its local businesses with workforce recruitment and identifying workforce trends. Reports based on survey results will be provided to participating businesses to allow them to benchmark their organization against similar organizations in Northwest Iowa. Results will be released by July 2025.

“We appreciate the partnership with the UNI Strategic Marketing Services and Institute for Decision Making as we conduct this Wage & Benefit survey,” said Corridor President & CEO Curt Strouth. “This data will assist our local businesses with workforce development and recruitment data.”

Questions can be directed to the Corridor’s Business Retention and Workforce Partnership Coordinator Joanne Follon at 712-264-3474 or Chelsea Morrison at Strategic Marketing Services by email at chelsea.morrison@uni.edu.



Rote Named to American Rivers Conference Winter Sport All-Academic Team

The American Rivers Conference (A-R-C) recently announced its 2024-25 Winter Sport All-Academic Team.

The team consisted of a total of 304 student-athletes across the conference and is made up from the league’s eight winter championship sports.

Rote, a native of Milford, was one of 23 total student-athletes from Buena Vista University to land a spot on this year’s winter sport team.

To be eligible for A-R-C All-Academic honors, a student-athlete must be on the eligibility list for the sport of nomination, at least a sophomore in academic standing with at least one year in residence and attain a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or better (on a 4.0 scale).

BUV had six members from its dance team make the list which was the league-high for that sport.

Nebraska Wesleyan led all nine A-R-C schools with a total of 46 student-athletes.

Run for the Son Saturday, May 3

Ride with the Christian Motorcyclists Association in their annual Run for the Son on Saturday, May 3, 2025. They will be leaving from Kwik Star,

101 E 42nd Street, Spencer, at 10:00am (gathering at 9:30). Then the route will go to Yesterday’s Memories/Truck Museum in Sanborn (106 Eastern Street), and on to Pizza Ranch in LeMars (11 Central Avenue). Bike blessings will be at each stop.

For more information, contact Christian Motorcyclists Association - Spirit Riders 1242. Road Captain - Marvin Smith (712-260-9638). President - Mike Capps II (319-759-8164).



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Obituary

Darwin Van Maasdam, age 74, of Ocheyedan, Iowa, died Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

A visitation with the family present was held on Monday, April 7th, at the United Methodist Church in Lake Park.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at the United Methodist Church in Lake Park, IA with Rev. Sedar Shako, officiating.

Darwin Van Maasdam was born June 15, 1950, at LeMars, IA the son of Casey and Donna (Stevens) Van Maasdam. He grew up in several area communities in northwest Iowa and Southwest Minnesota, like Maurice, Fairfax, Kingsley, IA and Hutchinson, MN before settling in Harris, IA. He graduated from Harris Lake Park Community School in 1968. In 1970, he met Edna Van Der Wilt in Sibley and they were united in marriage on June 19, 1971. They made their home near Harris for a short time before moving to Lake Park. While in Lake Park they raised their family. He owned a few businesses over the years, like a filling station, convenience store, car washes in Lake Park and Spirit Lake and for many years he owned and operated a trucking company. In 2015, he and Edna moved to Ocheyedan. He enjoyed going on snowmobiling trips with his family taking vacations to the Black Hills, spending time playing cards with friends. He was often involved in fixing or tinkering on vehicles or helping others. He truly enjoyed spending time with his family and especially his granddaughters. He was a loving husband, father and grandfather. He will be greatly missed.

He is survived by his wife, Edna of Ocheyedan, IA; their sons, Ryan (Kate) Van Maasdam of Spirit Lake, IA and Matt (Rachel) Van Maasdam of Parker, CO; granddaughters, Avery and Audrey; step-grandchildren, Jack, Hailey and Christian and most recently a great-grandson, Crew; along with his siblings, Stewart Van Maasdam of Spencer, IA; Lucy Lemker of Dike, IA; Colleen Meyer of Milford, IA and Marley Schwarting of Lakefield, MN.

Darwin was preceded in death by his parents, Casey and Donna.



Notice to Families and Visitors of Milford Cemetery

Starting the week of April 13, the Milford Cemetery will begin removing Christmas decorations and faded flowers. Any items you wish to keep, please remove them before that date. If you are unable to do so, contact Terry Gano at 712-339-5022 or terryjoann@msn.com.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping the cemetery well-maintained.



Dear Tony, I have a habit of letting a negative experience dominate my attitude and outlook in life. How can I deal with adversity in a positive way?

We all deal with setbacks in our personal and professional life. Seems like no matter how much planning and preparation we do, inevitably we face obstacles, barriers, and resistance to the best laid plans. When we face problems, it's how we react that is most important.

The Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius (121 – 180 A.D.) acknowledged this with the simple statement: "What stands in the way, becomes the way". Others, like Jack Canfield, have expressed it in a formula. The formula reads "Event + Reaction = Outcome", stressing that without a reaction, no outcome can be determined. It also means that no event by itself has any meaning until you attach your reaction to it. So how you react to setbacks in your life is key to finding the meaning of things that happen to you in life.

Below are 6 steps that I've found are helpful when dealing with setbacks.

1. Accept it. Acceptance can take time and be difficult. Spending energy on complaining, wishing it wasn't happening, or other negative thoughts is just wasting time and energy. Begin by acknowledging the reality of the situation and you will be a lot better off.

2. Stay positive. We have choices to make in life. A relatively simple choice we have in life that can have a major impact is to simply choose to be a positive person. Choose to assume good intentions in others. Ask yourself, what can I learn from this experience?

3. Take action. Setbacks can sometimes paralyze us and stop us in our tracks. It's OK to step back and think for a bit, but do not let inaction set in. Take a small step to act in a positive and constructive way. If you find yourself in this situation, the first step is the hardest. Find a way to move in a positive direction. Once you start, you'll find and build upon your own momentum.

4. Talk about it. Find someone you trust to have a conversation about it. Another option is to write about it. There is something magical about talking through an issue with a trusted friend or placing your thoughts down on paper. It clarifies things and often things are not nearly as bad as what you might have thought. Pro-tip: It's easy to want to shut down and isolate yourself. However, walling yourself off to the world is one of the worst things you can do. We all have people in our lives that want to help us – spouses, family, friends, clergy, professional colleagues. Find someone and talk to them. Get over your fear, self-loathing, apathy, or embarrassment and reconnect with those you love and the world around you.

5. Learn from it. No matter what comes your way in life, there are silver linings to everything. We must activate our sensory perception to see them. This is one of the hardest parts of dealing with setbacks – looking for the positive outcomes that can be brought into your life no matter how major the setback is.

6. Have faith. Trust that everything that happens to you happens for a reason, and sometimes we can't always make the pieces fit together and understand why. When you are in this situation, trust that a higher power is in play for the good of your life. When you've met the ends of your road with science, technology, and other worldly things, invite a bit of faith in your life. Have faith that your life is headed in the right direction no matter how dire things may seem.

At some point in every challenging circumstance, there comes a point when you must face how much you are going to allow this situation to change you. Are you open to revisiting long held beliefs? Are you open to allowing new relationships to be created? Are you going to accept that what happened to you is happening for a reason, even if you don't know or understand what that might be at the moment?

I recommend being open to grow, change, and become better in the future. The alternative is to get stuck, potentially bitter, and closed-minded about the world around you. Choose the positive and constructive route, even though it may be hard to do so at the beginning.

Check out my website for FREE resources & more:
The River (<http://therivercoach.org>)
Got a question? Send your question directly to
Tony at tony@therivercoach.org

Obituary

A funeral service for **Sharlene Engel**, age 88, of Lake Park, Iowa, was held Saturday, April 5, 2025, at Concordia Lutheran Church in Lake Park.

Sharlene Elsie Stettinichs was born on May 17, 1936, in Rock Rapids, Iowa, to Harry and Martha Stettinichs. Sharlene attended a country school by Lester, Iowa, for four years. The family moved to Alvord, Iowa, to farm and at age 10, they moved to the family farm in Larchwood. After Sharlene graduated in 1954, she moved to Rock Rapids and worked as a telephone operator.

Sharlene met Larry Sheeler in high school and was married on September 6, 1958. After Larry served in the service, they moved back home to the family farm near Kingsley, Iowa, and later farmed near Larchwood. After living in Sioux Falls for a short time, they moved to California where Larry worked in a glass plant. They started raising their family when they made the move back to Larchwood after one year. At that time, Sharlene worked at her parents' Stettinichs Café. A few years later, they moved to Luverne where Larry worked at IBP and a few years later the family moved to West Point, Nebraska, after Larry's promotion. After two years, they returned to Luverne and Sharlene began working part time as a telephone operator. The Sheeler family of five moved several times in Luverne as Sharlene and Larry remodeled homes as we call today, "flipped houses". After Larry passed away on May 1, 1976, Sharlene began work as a part-time aide at Luverne Elementary.

After Sharlene met John Engel at the VFW in Luverne, they began dating and were later married on March 11, 1978. They raised their family in Lake Park, Iowa, and were members of the Concordia Lutheran Church in Lake Park. John had a Plumbing & Heating Business and Sharlene owned and operated the Downstairs Attic, a secondhand store in the basement of the plumbing business. After several years, they moved to Shakopee where Sharlene worked at the Scott County Courthouse. Four years later, they returned to Lake Park to the Engel Family Home on Silver Lake. They remodeled and ran a Bed & Breakfast from their home. They enjoyed meeting many people and visiting with their customers.

Sharlene enjoyed gardening, fishing with the family, watching her kids in sports and traveling with family, especially her husband, John. She loved being around and seeing her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Sharlene passed away March 31, 2025, at the Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, at the age of eighty-eight.

She was preceded in death by her first husband, Larry Sheeler; parents, Harry and Martha Stettinichs; sister, Carol Smith; brothers-in-law, Dean Sheeler and Rodney Engel; and sisters-in-law, Carolyn Snyder and Gloria Ellsworth.

Left to cherish Sharlene's memory are her husband, John Engel; six children, Steve (Judy) Sheeler, Terry (Lori) Sheeler, Troy (Nancy) Sheeler, Sherri (Mike Nelson), Elyse Engel (husband, Mike Webber) and Brian Engel; grandchildren, Amanda Sheeler, Jennifer Sheeler, Cory (Brittany) Sheeler, Brandon (Cassy) Sheeler, Brittany (Ken) Brennan, Greg (Sabrina) Sheeler, Derek (Madison) Sheeler, Marcus (Cat) Sheeler, Leah Sheeler, Marissa Sheeler, Mariah Sheeler, Vincent Sheeler, Andrea Nelson, Skyla Nelson, Brad Engel, Amy (Matthew) Hansen, Jenny (Noah) Utterback, Krystina (Ryan) Moore and Ryan (Jennifer) Bachand; twenty-two great-grandchildren; two brothers, Stan Stettinichs and Virgil Stettinichs; brother-in-law, Bob Smith; sisters-in-law, Darlene Sheeler and Sylvia Stettinichs; brother-in-law, Bob Engel; many nieces and nephews.

Sharlene was blessed with love and mercy from her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Turner Jenness Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.



Obituary

Ruth Ann Kelly, 76, of Spirit Lake, Iowa, died on April 5, 2025, at Accura HealthCare of Spirit Lake.

A funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at the First Presbyterian Church in Spirit Lake. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service on Tuesday at the church. Burial will be held in the Lakeview Gardens Cemetery in Okoboji. Arrangements are under the direction of the Robinson Funeral Home in Spirit Lake. Online condolences may be left at www.spiritlakefuneralhome.com

Ruth Ann was born on October 10, 1948, in Jefferson, Iowa, to Von and Beulah Roemer. She grew up in Jefferson, where she was a 1966 graduate of Jefferson High School. On September 16, 1966, Ruth Ann married Gary Kelly. Together, they made their home in Spirit Lake, Iowa, where they raised two sons, Jason and Joshua. Ruth Ann worked as a Medical Transcriptionist for Iowa Lakes Orthopedics for many years, retiring in 2000. She was also a member of the First Presbyterian Church. Ruth Ann had a passion for quilting and scrapbooking. She created special memory books and quilts for her sons and grandchildren, passing down a legacy of family memories. She also shared the cherished family recipe for "Grandma Kelly's Rhubarb Pie" with her daughter-in-law, ensuring it would be passed down for future generations. Her chocolate chip cookies were a family favorite.

Ruth Ann loved to travel, often seeking warm destinations during the cold Iowa winters. She cherished spending time with friends and family, whether it was going on shopping trips to Sioux Falls with Diane Tucker or enjoying a "latte and cookie" or having a spa day with her granddaughter.

She is survived by her husband, Gary Kelly, of Spirit Lake, IA; son, Joshua (Amy) Kelly, of Independence, IA; three grandchildren: Matthew (Kayla) Kelly, of Sioux Falls, SD; Benjamin Kelly, of Ames, IA; and Courtney Kelly, of Des Moines, IA; two great-grandchildren: Raelynn and Braxton Kelly, of Sioux Falls, SD; best friend of 53 years, Diane (Ray) Tucker, of Spirit Lake, IA; brothers-in-law, James (Judy) Kelly, of Minneapolis, MN; and David Dill, Sioux Falls, SD; Aunt Barb Hanen, of Cedar Rapids, IA; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Ruth Ann was preceded in death by her parents, Von and Beulah Roemer; her parents-in-law, Lawrence and Elizabeth (Betty) Kelly; her brother, James Roemer; and her son, Jason Kelly.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to the staff of Accura HealthCare of Spirit Lake, St. Croix Hospice, Dr. Muetting, Pastor Clint Lovell, and the First Presbyterian Church for their loving care and support during Ruth Ann's final days.



Obituary

Diane K. Brown, age 87, of Spirit Lake, formerly of Lake City, Iowa, passed away on Friday, March 7, 2025, at the Keelson Harbour in Spirit Lake, Iowa. Burial will take place in the Lake City Cemetery near Lake City, Iowa, at a later date.

Diane Kay Nichols was born on June 11, 1937, in Calhoun County, Iowa. She was the oldest daughter of Don and Sylvia (Blair) Nichols. She married the love of her life, Charles (a.k.a. Charlie, Chuck or Pudge) and the two lovebirds made it official on November 22, 1967, in Carroll, Iowa. Diane had several secretarial positions over the years, including the elevator in Lake City, and Area on Aging on Grand Avenue in Spencer. She retired in the early 2000s. That's when the young couple became snowbirds - traveling to South Padre for 14 years and Arizona for 2 years. They also enjoyed their beautiful home they built in Triboji for many years.

Diane loved to go to concerts and Rock the Roof was one of her favorites to attend (even before they had air conditioning!) She would get the Lakes News Shopper every Tuesday and sit down with her calendar and plan what dances / bands they were going to attend that week! They could "twist" like no one else at the VFW or Table 316, just to name a few.

Diane had many hobbies, she enjoyed fishing, gambling, bus trips, playing cards (best score keeper, ever!), eating out and especially enjoyed the many vacations they took. She was the kindest, sweetest person to everyone she met.

Charlie and Diane had so many wonderful, lifelong friends they acquired over the years. Both are greatly missed! We all know they are happy to be reunited in heaven. Enjoy all the ice cream you can eat! Rest in peace, our dear friend.



Obituary

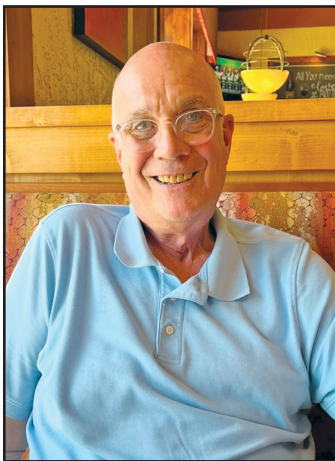
Paul Wayne Scharnberg, 67, of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, passed away on January 14, 2025. Born on April 26, 1957, in Spencer, Iowa, Paul was the son of Darrel Scharnberg and Marjorie Thorne, both of whom preceded him in death.

Paul was a kind and gentle soul, known for his resilience in the face of adversity and his ability to bring warmth and light to those around him. He helped to raise money for the underprivileged and had a passion for theatre and the arts. His presence will be deeply missed.

He is survived by his siblings: Kenneth Scharnberg of Spencer, IA; Darlene Kelso of Spencer, IA; and Larry Scharnberg of Springfield, MO.

A graveside memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 26, 2025, at 4:00 pm, at Riverside Cemetery in Spencer, IA, where Paul will be laid to rest. The Scharnberg family plots are in the northeast corner of the cemetery.

In honor of Paul, the family encourages everyone to cherish the time spent with loved ones and to remember him for his kindness, strength, and enduring spirit.



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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.



Lunch and Learn

TURNER JENNESS
Family Funeral Homes

Please join us for a free Lunch and Learn!

PIZZA RANCH
Spirit Lake
Tuesday, April 15th
at 11:30 am

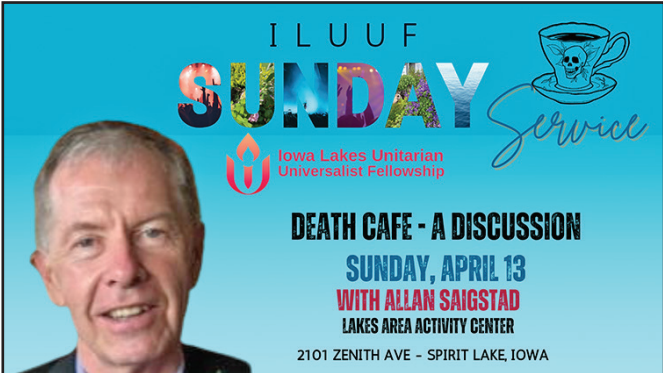
THE HUTT
Arnolds Park
Thursday, April 17th
at 11:30 am

TO RSVP TO YOUR CHOICE OF LOCATION, PLEASE CALL
712-336-2575



Kruger Earns Second Place at State Free Throw Competition

Camden Kruger, a fourth-grade student from Spirit Lake Elementary, achieved a notable accomplishment by securing second place at the State Knights of Columbus Free Throw Competition. The competition, held on March 30th in Boone, Iowa, showcased the skills of young athletes from across the state.



ILUUF Presents Death Cafe Conversation

On Sunday, April 13th, the Iowa Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (ILUUF) invites you to attend a Death Cafe conversation led by Allan Saugstad at 10:00am. What is a Death Cafe? It's not an actual cafe, rather an event where people are free to discuss their finite lives and the fears associated with such. The purpose is to help relax the taboo surrounding the topic of death through uplifting and thought-provoking discussion, accompanied by laughter, new acquaintances and refreshments. ILUUF services are held on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month at the Lakes Area Senior Center located at 2101 Zenith Avenue in Spirit Lake. Expect thought-provoking discussions, guest speakers, and people of all ages and backgrounds at ILUUF services. Unitarian Universalism (UUism) is a liberal religious tradition that emerged from the merger of Unitarianism and Universalism, emphasizing theological diversity, inclusivity, and social justice, with a focus on shared values and principles rather than a single creed. Visit www.UUOkoboji.com for more information on our progressive and welcoming fellowship. All ages welcome.



Cliff Hinderman Memorial Garage Sale

The Grace Lutheran Church in Spirit Lake, at the corner of 8th and Hill Avenue in Spirit Lake, will be hosting a very large garage sale June 12, 13 and 14 in Cliff's honor. 100% of the proceeds will be used to benefit Oaxaca Youth Empowerment and the families they serve, Cliff's passion. Cliff spent the last 24 years of his life helping extremely poor children in Oaxaca, Mexico, get an education by helping this organization. Cliff always said that you can give a child a taco and it is good for a day. Give the child an education and it is good for a lifetime. He was instrumental in helping over 2,000 children complete high school and over 150 complete university.

If you have saleable items that could be included in the garage sale please call the Grace Lutheran Church at 712-336-2446. If you want to learn more about Oaxaca Youth Empowerment, sponsor a child or donate money, please contact Pastor Jami at the Grace Lutheran Church, 712-600-4548 or email at supportministries@gracespirittlake.org or Dennis Lippon, 712-330-7241 or email at dennislippon47@gmail.com. Your help will change the futures of these children and their families. Sorry, we cannot accept appliances, electronics, exercise equipment or mattresses for the sale.



Congratulations to Paul for being the winner of Milford Memorial Library's Read Across America Bingo Drawing! Thank you to everyone who participated in MML's Read Across America Bingo. You should be proud of your hard work in completing your bingo. We are looking forward to next year's Read Across America Bingo.

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.

- April 14, 10:30 a.m. - Starstruck
- April 21, 10:30 a.m. - Trees
- April 28, 10:30 a.m. - Superheroes
- May 5, 10:30 a.m. - Cinco De Mayo

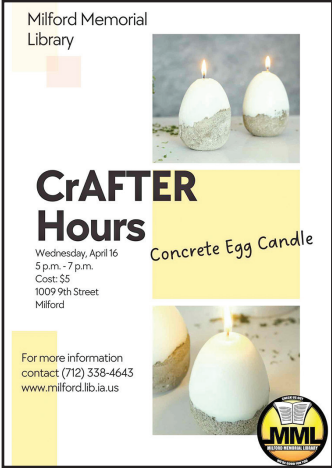
The Milford Memorial Library Book Club will be discussing When Books Went to War by Molly Guptill Manning on Tuesday, April 15, at 1:00 p.m. Any interested individuals may find copies at MML. It is not necessary to attend all of the meetings, and you are welcome to come and go as you please.

Join MML for CrAFTER Hours on Wednesday, April 16, at 5:00 p.m. This month we will be creating concrete egg candles. Cost is \$5. Register now by calling MML at 338-4643.

MML's All-Day Play will be held on Monday, April 21, from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This is a come-and-go play time that kids can experience different toys with their friends.

Fourth through twelfth graders are invited to make crayon slime on Monday, April 21, during Y.A. Maker Monday! Supplies will be available for this free come-and-go activity from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Stop by the Milford Memorial Library to see the brass collection provided by Amy O'Connor. This display will be available through May.



Puzzle Race at West O Beer to Raise Funds for Humane Society of NW Iowa

West O Beer — a craft brewery in West Okoboji, Iowa — recently announced plans to host a Puzzle Race to benefit the Humane Society of Northwest Iowa. The event is scheduled for Saturday, April 12 and will feature three races beginning at 1:00pm, 3:30pm and 5:00pm. The 1 p.m. race is family-friendly with soda being offered in place of beer for those under age. "The Humane Society's mission goes beyond shelter walls. It's about bringing people together to make a difference for animals in need," said Melanie Becker, Board Treasurer at Humane Society of Northwest Iowa. "Events like the Puzzle Race not only raise critical funds for our animals but also create a sense of community, where supporters can have fun while making an impact. We're grateful to West O Beer for providing a space where people can come together for a cause that changes lives — both human and animal. Puzzle. Race. Rescue."

To win, your team of four must complete a 500-piece puzzle, eat 12 chicken wings and drink eight beverages in the fastest time. Prizes will go to the top three placing teams and you will be able to keep your completed puzzle at the end of the competition. Puzzles, wings and beverages are all included in the entry fee.

"Our partnership with the Humane Society is not just long-standing, but one of our most unique, as grain from our brewing process is used to make dog treats that also raise money for their cause," said West O Beer owner, Matt Matthiesen. "Their creativity in getting groups of family and friends together for such a unique event up in our Loft event space is such a fun way for West O Beer to continue supporting their efforts."

To enter, go to <https://tinyurl.com/2s2r7ryv> and select your preferred start time. The entry fee is \$135 per team.

West O Beer is located at 503 Terrace Park Blvd in West Okoboji.

The Humane Society of Northwest Iowa is a 501(c)3 non-profit animal shelter that proudly serves Dickinson, Clay, Emmet, Palo Alto, O'Brien and Osceola counties. Their mission is to promote the ethical and humane treatment of all animals, as well as provide care, housing and rehabilitation for animals in need and promote responsible pet ownership by educating on the importance of spaying or neutering animals. Learn more at www.humanesocietyofnwia.com.

REAL ID Enforcement Dates Approach

by Dickinson County Treasurer Kris Rowley

The REAL ID Enforcement date is Wednesday, May 7, 2025!

On May 7, 2025, a REAL ID-compliant driver's license or identification card or a US Passport will be needed to board domestic commercial flights, and to enter most federal buildings or nuclear facilities. REAL ID cards are issued through driver's license stations.

In Iowa, nearly 75% of all driver's licenses and IDs are currently REAL ID-compliant. A REAL ID card has a gold star in the upper-right corner. To get one in Dickinson County, contact the Dickinson County Driver's License Station at the Courthouse in Spirit Lake for an appointment. It is open Monday through Friday from 8 am until 4:30 pm. Set up an appointment by calling 712-336-6333 option 3.

Documents that prove your identity, date of birth, social security number and Iowa residency and residential address will be needed. A checklist of what to bring can be found on the Iowa Department of Transportation's website at this link - <https://iowadot.gov/mvd/realid/success.aspx>.

Dickinson County Treasurer Kris Rowley says, "Not everyone needs a REAL ID driver's license or identification card. The non-REAL ID cards will work to drive and prove age or identity for most situations. But if you are planning to fly or enter federal buildings or nuclear plants, a REAL ID driver's license or identification card will be needed unless you present a passport."

More information can be found on the Dickinson County website: www.dickinsoncountyiowa.gov. It also has links to the Iowa Tax and Tags website, www.IowaTaxAndTags.org, for making property tax and motor vehicle renewal payments. If you have questions, call the treasurer's office at 712-336-6333 option 4 or email the county treasurer at krowley@dickinsoncountyiowa.gov.

A logo for BMB Lawn Care featuring a lawnmower and the text "BMB LAWN CARE".

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JUNE 24TH

A photo of Lyndsey Fennelly, a woman with blonde hair, smiling.

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A QR code for signing up for the camp.

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A photo of hands holding soil with a small plant growing in it.

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A photo of the Cherished Again store exterior.

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A logo for Cherished Again featuring a house and the text "cherishedagain".

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A photo of a blue moving truck with boxes inside.

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A photo of Kirt W. Carstens, a man in a suit.

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St. Alban's Episcopal Church
Holy Week Schedule

All are welcome to join the St. Alban's Episcopal Church during Holy Week.

- April 13 - Palm Sunday 10:00am with Holy Eucharist with Palms. Mother Carolyn Presiding
- April 17 - Maundy Thursday 5:00pm Holy Eucharist with foot washing. Mother Carolyn Presiding
- April 18 - Good Friday 12:05pm. Stations of the Cross
- April 20 - Easter Sunday 10:00am Holy Eucharist with Father Paul.

For questions and more information, call 712-336-1117. Or email, office@stalbansepiscopalchurch.org.

St. Alban's is located just east of Lakes Regional Healthcare 2011 23rd Street, Spirit Lake, Iowa.

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Corridor Announces Big Idea Challenge Winners

The Iowa Lakes Corridor Development Corporation (Corridor) has announced the winners of the inaugural Big IDEA entrepreneurial challenge after the in-person pitch competition.

The Corridor hosted the first Big IDEA pitch competition on Tuesday, April 1, 2025. At the event, five of the region's entrepreneurs shared their next "Big IDEA" with a panel of judges and some local angel investors. These five entrepreneurs had first shared their ideas with the public through a video. These videos were submitted for public voting in February, and the top five vote-getters advanced to the pitch competition.

Awarded first place and receiving a prize of \$5,000 was Cody Fuller with Fuller Radiance, LLC out of Storm Lake. Fuller Radiance produces customized gift items including lamps, fidget toys, and centerpieces.

Second place awarded \$3,000 to Cayden Fischer of Storm Lake for his business, Outlaw Kicks. Fischer designs and sells custom painted shoes to athletes and other individuals who want to express themselves through their apparel.

Third place winning \$1,000 was Jack Bauermeister with Glacier Made in Arnolds Park. Glacier Made designs sustainable and durable lake wear from swimwear to shirts, and sweatshirts to sunglasses. Glacier Made will soon be opening a physical storefront in 2025.

Honorable mentions and awards of \$500 each went to Vanessa Moore with the Spencer Create Catalyst, and Jeff Krage with Boji Bites.

The Spencer Create Catalyst is a program to connect rural small businesses that need marketing and social media support with local students to give experience to young designers and provide affordable marketing opportunities for small businesses.

Boji Bites is an idea to deliver food directly to boats in the Okoboji area to deliver boaters with the perfect day on the lake without having to leave the water by partnering with local restaurants.

"Every one of these entrepreneurs was deserving of recognition for their ideas," said Corridor President and CEO Curt Strouth. "Each of them shared their passion for their business as well as the Corridor region, and we are excited to support them in their endeavors to expand their Corridor businesses."

A committee of local business owners supported the program through development and the event. Jeremy Morrison (Bonfire Web Co. and Topog Coffeehouse), John Adams Jr. (The Lakes News Shopper), Amanda Bare (Century Farms Distillery), Elaine Quastad (The Style Loft & Q Custom Designs), and Katherine Cota (Director of the Lamberti Center for Rural Entrepreneurship at Buena Vista University) made up the committee. Cota assisted each competing entrepreneur with pitch and business coaching. Morrison, Adams, Bare, and Quastad served as the panel of judges for the competition.

"We had a great committee that helped us put this inaugural challenge together from the very beginning," shared Corridor Senior Vice President of Economic Development Trevor Smith. "We appreciate their expertise and experience as entrepreneurs in our region."

To learn more about these businesses, follow the Iowa Lakes Corridor Development Corporation on social media or visit their website as they share profiles on each business and entrepreneur over the coming weeks.



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Recipe Corner

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Blackberry Streusel Tart

Serves 6 to 8

1 1/2 pints blackberries (about 3 cups)

1/2 cup granulated sugar

1 tablespoon cornstarch or tapioca flour

1/2 teaspoon freshly squeezed lemon juice

1 prebaked 9 1/2 tart crust (see below)

Streusel

3/4 cup all-purpose flour

1/4 cup firmly packed brown sugar

Pinch of kosher salt

3 ounces (6 tablespoons) cold unsalted butter, cut into 1/2-inch pieces

Tart crust

1 large egg

2 to 3 tablespoons heavy whipping cream

2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour

2 tablespoons granulated sugar

1/4 teaspoon kosher salt

7 ounces (1 1/4 tablespoons) cold unsalted butter, cut into 1/2-inch pieces

Flour for dusting

Make the crust: In a small bowl, whisk together the egg and 2 tablespoons of the cream. Combine the flour, sugar and salt in the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment and mix on low speed until combined. Scatter the butter pieces over the top and mix on low speed until the butter is the size of small peas. Add the egg-and-cream mixture and mix on low speed for about 10 seconds. Stop the mixer and gently squeeze a small amount of the dough in your hand. If the dough comes together and does not have any dry pieces it has enough moisture. If the dough is dry, add another tablespoon of cream. Mix and test again until the dough almost comes together in a ball. Line the tart pan with parchment paper and then place the dough on top. Preheat the oven to 350 F. Bake until the edges of the crust are golden brown, about 35 minutes. Remove and cool. In a bowl, gently combine the blackberries, sugar, cornstarch, and lemon juice. Spread the blackberry mixture evenly in the tart crust. To make the streusel: In a food processor, combine the flour, brown sugar, salt, and butter and pulse until the butter is the size of large peas. Sprinkle over the blackberry filling. Bake at 350 F until the streusel is browned and the fruit is bubbling, about 25 minutes. Let the tart cool until it can be handled, then remove the tart and place on a platter. Serve warm or at room temperature.

Recipe Courtesy of: "Classic Stars Desserts" (Chronicle Books) by Emily Luchetti

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214 Entries!

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AFTER THE FINAL FOUR WEEKEND OF GAMES!*

Place	Name	# Points	PREDICTED CHAMPION
• First	JoAnn Cookinham	327	Florida
• First	Julie Kliegl	327	Florida
• First	Wyatt Gray	327	Florida
• Fourth	John Whitrock	323	Florida

*Standings are as of the last game on Saturday night. Check next week's paper for final standings!

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Cliff Hinderman Memorial Garage Sale

The Grace Lutheran Church in Spirit Lake, at the corner of 8th and Hill Avenue in Spirit Lake, will be hosting a very large garage sale June 12, 13 and 14 in Cliff's honor. 100% of the proceeds will be used to benefit Oaxaca Youth Empowerment and the families they serve, Cliff's passion. Cliff spent the last 24 years of his life helping extremely poor children in Oaxaca, Mexico, get an education by helping this organization. Cliff always said that you can give a child a taco and it is good for a day. Give the child an education and it is good for a lifetime. He was instrumental in helping over 2,000 children complete high school and over 150 complete university.

If you have saleable items that could be included in the garage sale please call the Grace Lutheran Church at 712-336-2446. If you want to learn more about Oaxaca Youth Empowerment, sponsor a child or donate money, please contact Pastor Jami at the Grace Lutheran Church, 712-600-4548 or email at supportministries@gracespiritlake.org or Dennis Lippon, 712-330-7241 or email at dennislippon47@gmail.com. Your help will change the futures of these children and their families. Sorry, we cannot accept appliances, electronics, exercise equipment or mattresses for the sale.

Free Breakfast Saturday, April 12 At Grandview Church Gym

Free Breakfast Saturday, April 12, from 8:00 - 10:00am, at the Grandview Church gym. Burritos, pancakes, sausage, and eggs are being cooked, and milk, juice and coffee will also be served. The breakfast is completely free, and everyone is invited. Breakfast will be served at Grandview Baptist Church's gym, which is at 3705 170th Street in Estherville. They have had an average of 130 people attend the free breakfasts. There will also be a small food pantry for families to take shelf-stable food. Thanks to Estherville Foods, HyVee, Fareway, Kwik Star, and I & B Ag Supply for donating to the Free Breakfast. If you have questions, please contact Brett Fuelberth at 712-330-1145.

Easter Sunday
April 20, 2025

HERE WE GO AGAIN!

INVENERGY has submitted an application to Dickinson County to add an additional **67 Turbines at 591 feet each!** The board of adjustment will host public meetings on **April 28th, 29th, and 30th at 6:00pm** at The Dickinson County Courthouse.

Please let the board of adjustment hear your concerns!

We are hosting a community event to assist with writing letters to submit to the board of adjustment and to answer questions.

Thursday, April 10th • 5:00-7:00pm and
Saturday, April 12th • 9:00-11:00am
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- Anniversaries & Weddings** Recognize a milestone in your relationship.
- Athletic & Academic Achievements** Show support for local teams and students.
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Spencer
303 E 13th St, Spencer, Friday, April 11, 4-7pm, Saturday, April 12, 8am-12pm. Fishing sale! Poles, reels, tackle, depth finders, and boating equipment.

1-27P

Cliff Hinderman
Memorial Garage Sale
June 12 • 13 • 14
Thursday 4-7 • Friday & Saturday 8-12



Cliff's passion was helping the children of extremely poor families in Oaxaca, Mexico get an education. "Give a child a taco and it is good for today. Give a child an education and it is good for a lifetime". Cliff Hinderman.

100% of the proceeds will be used to change the future of these children and their families.

Garage Sale Held at
Grace Lutheran Church in Spirit Lake
• 801 Hill Avenue •

1-27P

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NOTICE OF SALE OF SURPLUS VEHICLES

The City of Spirit Lake, Iowa is selling the following vehicles: 1994 International single axle dump truck with plow – 6884 hours/55,612 miles; 2007 Vacall street sweeper with GMC truck and chassis – 21,215 truck miles; 1978 John Deere JD770 grader with v plow and spare tires/parts; 1978 Rosco steel wheel roller; Agco Allis mower with snow blower attachment; 2010 Ford F150 XL extended cab pickup – 143,601 miles; 1973 Massey Ferguson ditch mowing tractor – 1328 hours; 1972 Ford 2000 tractor – 1930 hours; 2017 Chevy Tahoe police vehicle (mileage to be verified); 1999 Ford E250 cargo van – 52,000 miles; 1986 Chevy ¾ ton pickup, 6.2L diesel "army truck"; 1954 Ford F600 fire truck converted to sewer jet truck.

All vehicles sold "as is" with no representations or warranties, express or implied, buyers to make their own inspections, if desired.

Sealed bids must be received at the Office of the City Administrator no later than 11:00 a.m. on April 24, 2025 and must be via a sealed envelope, clearly marked on the front as to the identity of the bidder and the vehicle for which a bid is being submitted and any bid for any vehicle must be separate and in a separate envelope and not combined with a bid for any other vehicle.

Any questions must be in writing and emailed to
Gregg L. Owens, City Administrator, at
gregg.owens@cityofspiritlake.org.
Viewing of vehicles must be by appointment,
arranged in writing in advance.

Further terms and conditions may be found
at the City's website.

3-29C

• PUBLIC NOTICE •

Notice is hereby given that on Monday the 28th, Tuesday the 29th, and Wednesday the 30th of April 2025, at the hour of 6:00 p.m. in the community room, first floor of the Dickinson County Courthouse, 1802 Hill Avenue, Spirit Lake, Iowa, the Dickinson County Board of Adjustment will hold a public hearing on the Conditional Use application for RedRock Wind Project, LLC and participating landowners within the project area to construct 67 Wind Energy Conversion Systems on the following described property: Sections 1, 12-16, 20-29, 32-36, Milford Township, Sections 1-36, Lloyd Township, and Sections 21, 22, 26-29, 31-36, Richland Township, Dickinson County, Iowa in the A-1 Agricultural District, allowed only as a conditional use. The contact person for the RedRock Wind Project is Joseph Crowley. The application is available for review at the Dickinson County Planning & Zoning office.

Jeff Ashland, Chairperson
Dickinson Co. Board of Adjustment

1-27C

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View complete job description and application process at www.iowalakes.edu/employment.
Contact Lynn Miller at lmiller@iowalakes.edu or 712-362-0409. For additional information, contact Tammy Shimon at tshimon@iowalakes.edu or 712-852-5293.



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Human Resources, 19 South 7th Street, Estherville, IA 51334
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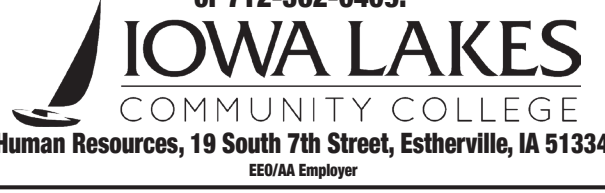
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View complete job description and application process at www.iowalakes.edu/employment.
Contact Lynn Miller at lmiller@iowalakes.edu or 712-362-0409.



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

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THE LAKES NEWS Auctions

Page 2B

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Donations Needed at the LASC

Ongoing activity center wish list:

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

The Lakes Area Senior Center would like to thank you for your donations.

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.

Al-Anon Meetings

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

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

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

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.

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.

No School Day Camp

No school on April 18th? Need a screen-free boredom buster? Youth in 4th- 8th grade can get signed up for No School Day Camp: “Meet the Feet” at the Dickinson County Nature Center on April 18th, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., where youth will learn about the diverse range of animal foot adaptations, including webbed feet, claws, and hooves.

Campers will also examine the various functions of digging, swimming, walking, and climbing. Throughout the camp, attendees can look forward to engaging with live animals, participating in challenging games on foot, and enjoying a hike around Kenue Park.

“With spring finally here, get away from the tech and enjoy a stress-reducing, educational, interactive day outdoors with friends,” said Amy Heibult, community relations coordinator of the Dickinson County Conservation Board.

To register for this camp, you can visit www.dickinsoncountycconservationboard.com under Program Registration. The cost is only \$15 per child for the day and includes two snacks; a sack lunch and refillable water bottle are required. Registration closes at 5 p.m. on April 15th.

It’s So Easy To Eat Healthy

by Bill Brandt, owner and operator of Brandt Gardens & Greenhouse LLC

Brandt Gardens & Greenhouse LLC, Lakefield, Minnesota, has this healthy solution for you and your family – Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). Our business will deliver to your home or workplace, a weekly CSA share/box of locally grown produce for up to 20 weeks, starting in May and ending in October.

The following are the CSA share choices:

CSA Mini Share: includes one monthly delivered box of locally grown produce starting in May - October which is a total of 6 times/boxes for the 2025 growing season. A CSA mini share is for a household of 1 to 2 adults/family.

CSA Bi-Weekly Share: which is delivered every other week for a total of 10 boxes of locally grown produce

CSA Half Share: includes a weekly delivered box of locally grown produce starting in May - October for a minimum of 17 weeks to a maximum of 20 weeks. A CSA half share is for a household of 1 to 2 adults/family.

CSA Full Share: includes a weekly delivered box of locally grown produce starting in May - October for a minimum of 17 weeks to a maximum of 20 weeks. A CSA full share is for a household of 3 to 4 adults/family.

We intend to deliver 20 weeks/times for your enjoyment of our boxed produce half or full share but wish to have an understanding that our growing season can be unpredictable and have included the 17 week minimum. Deadline to purchase a CSA share is May 1, 2025.

The following fruits and vegetables will be available sometime during the 2025 growing season in the CSA box share: apples, asparagus, beans-green, beets-red or golden, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage-green or red, carrots, cauliflower, celery, chard, cucumbers-slicers-burpless-pickling, eggplant, *garlic, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce-leaf green-red-romaine, onions-red-yellow-white, peas-sugar snap, peppers-sweet bell-hot, pie pumpkins, potatoes-red-white-Yukon, rhubarb, radishes, rutabagas, shallots, summer squash-yellow, sweet corn, tomatoes, winter squash- 10 varieties, and zucchini.

Our business is offering our community members another choice/means of accessing good food. Good food does two simple things. Good food tastes better and good food nourishes our body. Nothing is better than the first taste of a vine ripened tomato or that first ear of fresh sweet corn or for that matter, anything grown in the garden after a long cold winter!

Just as important as these two simple things is the idea of knowing exactly where your CSA box share of food was grown.

Brandt Gardens & Greenhouse LLC is leading the way with this economic model, but are teaming up with other growers in the surrounding area to help supply these CSA share boxes of fresh produce. The majority of the produce in the boxes will be grown by Brandt Gardens & Greenhouse LLC, but some of the items such as apples, garlic, or strawberries we do not grow and will rely on other growers of our area to supply. Produce quality in the boxes will be strictly monitored and high standards will be required for customer satisfaction.

The following will be our delivery schedule for the 2025 growing season: Lakefield, Estherville and Windom on Tuesdays, the Lakes Area which includes: Spirit Lake, Milford, and Spencer on Wednesdays, Jackson on Thursdays, and Sibley, Brewster and Worthington on Fridays. Farm pick-up is also an option. Note, that we work with our customers as needed to meet their delivery needs.

Please note: we are now approved to accept SNAP-EBT toward the purchase of CSA produce and/or any produce (for more information on this new service please contact us. We are excited to help you get fresh produce.)

For additional information on the CSA program, including cost, call Rhonda at 507-360-5903 or Bill at 507-360-5904 or email us at brandtgardens@gmail.com or check out our website at www.brandtgardens.com.

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Milford Memorial Library News

Congratulations to Paul for being the winner of Milford Memorial Library's Read Across America Bingo Drawing! Thank you to everyone who participated in MML's Read Across America Bingo. You should be proud of your hard work in completing your bingo. We are looking forward to next year's Read Across America Bingo.

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.

- April 14, 10:30 a.m. - Starstruck
- April 21, 10:30 a.m. - Trees
- April 28, 10:30 a.m. - Superheroes
- May 5, 10:30 a.m. - Cinco De Mayo


The Milford Memorial Library Book Club will be discussing When Books Went to War by Molly Guptill Manning on Tuesday, April 15, at 1:00 p.m. Any interested individuals may find copies at MML. It is not necessary to attend all of the meetings, and you are welcome to come and go as you please.

Join MML for CrAFTER Hours on Wednesday, April 16, at 5:00 p.m. This month we will be creating concrete egg candles. Cost is \$5. Register now by calling MML at 338-4643.

MML's All-Day Play will be held on Monday, April 21, from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. This is a come-and-go play time that kids can experience different toys with their friends.

Fourth through twelfth graders are invited to make crayon slime on Monday, April 21, during Y.A. Maker Monday! Supplies will be available for this free come-and-go activity from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Stop by the Milford Memorial Library to see the brass collection provided by Amy O'Connor. This display will be available through May.




CrAFTER Hours

Wednesday, April 16
5pm - 7pm
Cost: \$5
1009 9th Street
Milford

For more information contact: (712) 338-4643
www.milford.lib.ia.us



Concrete Egg Candle



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Photo credit: "Floral Fantasies" by Yuliia Popova

Regional Talent Shines in Orange City at the 2025 Regional Art Show

The 2025 Regional Art Exhibition, presented by Orange City Arts, will showcase 34 works by 29 talented artists from Iowa, South Dakota, and Minnesota. The exhibit will run from April 5 to May 3, 2025, at the NWC DeWitt Theatre Arts Building, located at 721 Albany Ave SE, Orange City, IA.

This year's optional show theme, "Stewards of Creation," encourages artists to reflect on themes of responsibility, care, and the relationship between humanity and the natural world, aligning with the themes explored in Northwestern College Theatre's production of An Enemy of the People.

This free-to-attend exhibit invites the public to explore a variety of artistic styles and mediums. Cash prizes will be awarded to "Best in Show" and "Honorable Mention" recipients at a closing reception on May 3, 2025, at 6:30pm, where show winners will be announced by jurors Amy Williams (Art Professor at NWC) and Roberta Pottebaum (MOC FV teacher and artist).

Exhibit viewing hours are Monday through Saturday, 9:00am to 10:00pm.


The Regional Art Exhibition runs in conjunction with Northwestern College Theatre's production of An Enemy of the People. Tickets for the play can be purchased through the NWC Box Office online or by calling 712-707-7096.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to celebrate and support regional artists in a creative and inspiring setting!

The mission of Orange City Arts is to enrich our community by showcasing artists, facilitating arts education, and supporting local creative talent.




2025 Clay County Fair Grandstand Lineup Complete

The 2025 Clay County Fair, powered by SMU, has finalized its Grandstand lineup with one more exciting addition! The Roots & Boots Tour will take the stage on Tuesday, September 9, featuring country music stars Sammy Kershaw, Collin Raye, and Aaron Tippin performing on stage together. They join an already thrilling SMG Concert Series, including Oliver Anthony (Saturday, September 6), comedy legend Jeff Dunham (Sunday, September 7), and award-winning vocal group Home Free (Monday, September 8). Fairgoers can also enjoy high-energy events like Bulls & Broncs, Dirt Track Racing, All Star Monster Trucks, and the Outlaw Truck & Tractor Pull. Get ready for nine nights of unforgettable entertainment at the World's Greatest County Fair!



GRANDSTAND TUESDAY, SEPT. 9

ROOTS & BOOTS TOUR



TICKETS ON SALE APRIL 11 11AM CST

Roots & Boots Tour
Tuesday, September 9, 7:30 PM

Sammy Kershaw

With a career spanning over four decades, Sammy Kershaw is nothing short of a country music legend. A multi-platinum artist with over 25 Top 40 hits, his unmistakable voice and Louisiana-bred charm have made him a staple in the genre. From chart-toppers like "She Don't Know She's Beautiful" and "Queen of My Double Wide Trailer," Kershaw delivers timeless storytelling with every song. His sound blends country swagger with heartfelt ballads, capturing the essence of '90s country at its finest. As part of the Roots & Boots Tour, Sammy is bringing his signature energy and vocals to the stage—proving once again why he's one of country's most enduring stars.

Collin Raye

Few voices in country music can rival the pure, emotional power of Collin Raye. With 16 No. 1 hits and a career built on heartfelt ballads and powerhouse vocals, Raye has given country music some of its most unforgettable songs, including "Love, Me," "In This Life," and "Little Rock." His ability to tug at heartstrings and tell deeply personal stories through song has cemented his legacy as one of country's most soulful performers. As part of the Roots & Boots Tour, Raye is set to deliver a moving set filled with soaring vocals, emotional depth, and the kind of authenticity that makes country music great.

Aaron Tippin

If there's one thing Aaron Tippin knows, it's how to fire up a crowd. Tippin is an artist who puts his heart, soul, and blue-collar grit into every performance. Since his breakout hit "You've Got to Stand for Something," he's been a voice for the working class, delivering anthems like "Kiss This" and "Where the Stars and Stripes and the Eagle Fly." His vocals, undeniable stage presence, and unwavering patriotism make him a standout on the Roots & Boots Tour, where he's set to bring that same raw, high-energy performance that has made him a fan favorite.

Ticket prices are \$35 (Stage Front Standing), \$45 (Reserved Grandstand Seating), and \$25 (General Admission Bleachers). Tickets for all Grandstand events will go on sale Friday, April 11, at 10:00 AM. Tickets will be available online at www.midwestx.com, by phone at 515-244-2771, or in person at the Events Center Box Office. All tickets, regardless of purchase location, are also subject to a \$5.00 ticketing fee, which is not included in the advertised price.