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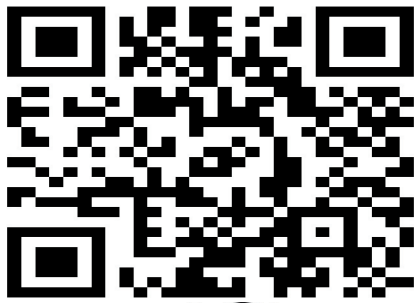
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BVU Summer 2025 Dean's List

Buena Vista University congratulates more than 120 students who were named to the Summer 2025 Dean's List. The Dean's List recognizes full-time students achieving a 3.5 grade point average or higher for the semester. Congratulations to the following area students: Kenneth Fuhrman-Wheeler and Mason Wickett of Milford, Connery Sweeney of Arnolds Park, and Dakoda Williard of Spirit Lake.



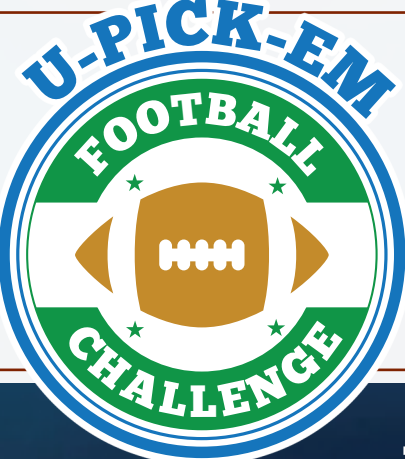


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GAME #2

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GAME #11

Bengals at Vikings

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GAME #13

Cowboys at Bears

GAME #14

Chiefs at Giants

GAME #15

Lions at Ravens



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Best Choice Apple Juice
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2/\$4



2 TIE BREAKERS: Total Score Okoboji vs. Spirit Lake: _____ AND Total Score Lions vs. Ravens: _____

Name: _____ Town: _____ Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

One entry per person per week. The Lakes News Shopper U-Pick-Em Pigskin Challenge runs weekly through the December 12, 2025 issue. The winner will be whoever picks the most correct games. For rules go to: LakesNewsShopper.com

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“A Sweet Week” for Okoboji Homecoming 2025

Okoboji schools present “A Sweet Week” for Homecoming 2025, running from September 22nd-26th, 2025.

This year's Homecoming activities include: Wednesday, September 24th 7:00 PM - Coronation and Community Pep Rally, OHS South Gym, followed by Beefcake Volleyball and Powderpuff Football finals.

Friday, September 26th, 1:00 PM - All School Pep Rally followed by the Community Parade beginning at 2:15 PM. The parade will begin at OMS on 6th Street (East), to H Avenue (North), to 7th Street (East), to N Avenue (North), to 10th Street (West), and back to Okoboji High School.

Friday, September 26th, 7:00 PM - Homecoming Football Game vs. Estherville-Lincoln Central, halftime entertainment by the OHS Dance Team and the Pioneer Pride Marching Band.

Friday, September 26th, 9:30 PM to 11:00 PM - OHS Homecoming Dance at OHS Commons.

Get your official Okoboji Homecoming 2025 t-shirt (pictured) by ordering online through the form on our OHS Facebook Page. Orders must be submitted by Thursday, September 18th, and will be delivered to the OCSD building of your choice.



Clark Museum will be open as long as the weather stays nice!

- A visit through the Clark Museum, whether you live in Dickinson County or another area, will probably display photos or advertisements of past schools, churches and businesses that you attended.
- Thousands of photos and advertisements of communities on display.
- Many say the Clark Museum is "ONE OF A KIND."

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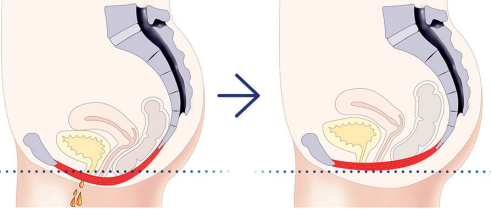
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The Dickinson County Hunger Coalition would like to thank the Winther-Stave employees for donating the proceeds of their recent Jeans Day to us.

Thank You for helping make a difference in our community!



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FOOD IS AVAILABLE 24/7 at:

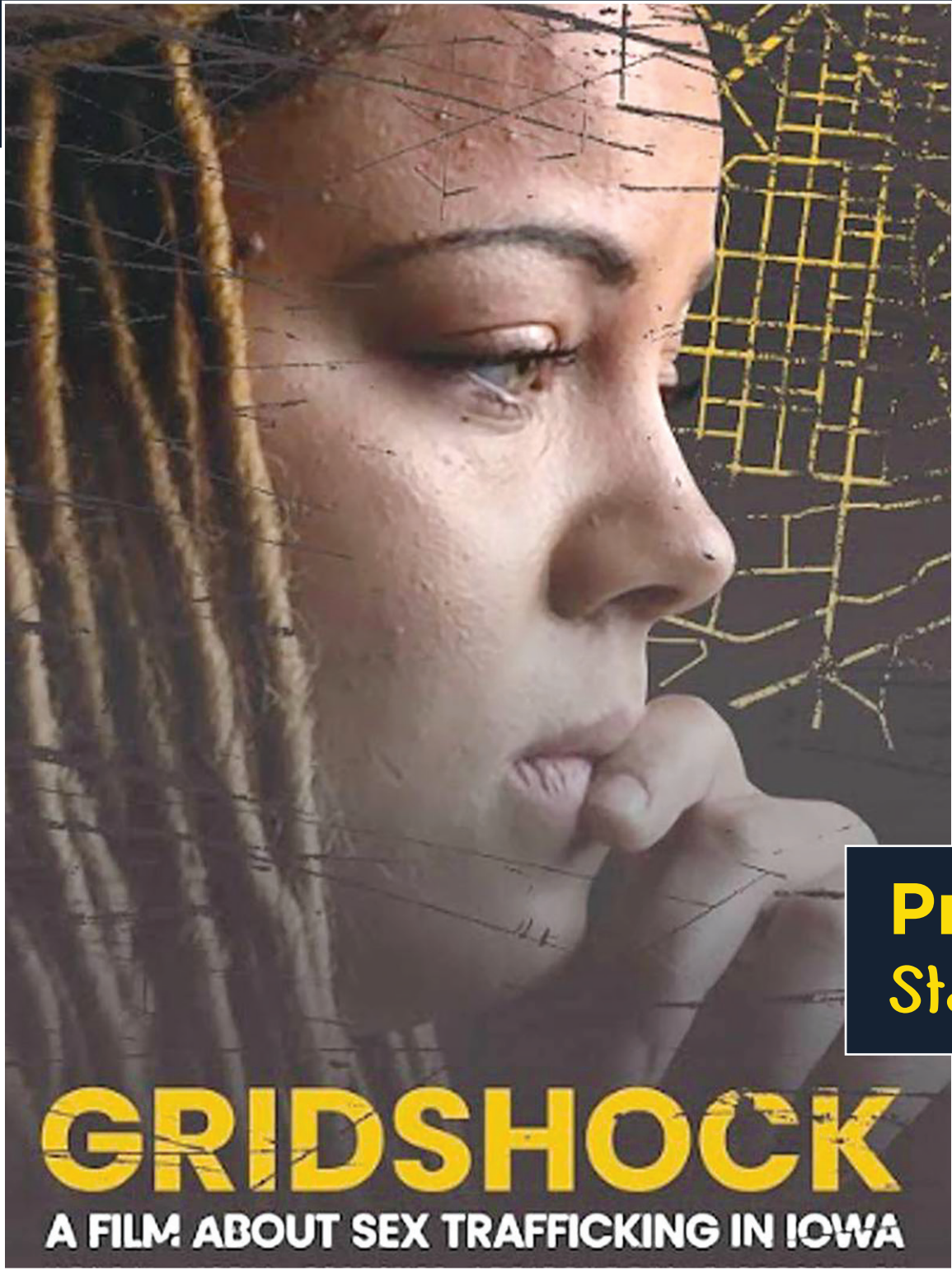
- Randy's Pantries at Milford LRH Physical Therapy
- Randy's Pantries at Spirit Lake Senior Center
- Milford Blessing Box at the Harbor of Joy Church
- First Lutheran Church in Milford (1525 Three Cross Road)
Hours: 8:30am-4:00pm Monday thru Thursday and 8:30am to Noon on Sundays



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- ACTION STEPS • WHAT TO LOOK FOR
- THE 'SEED' OF IT ALL

Presenting:
Stacy Besch, Team Iowa



Lakes Area Senior/Activities Center Events

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

Blood Pressure Screening is the last Tuesday of every month.

Zumba class on Thursday at 4:30pm.

Asian MahJong - 1st and 3rd Mondays at 1:00pm.

Pinochle Club- 2nd and 4th Mondays at 1:00pm.

Chair yoga every Friday at 10:00am.

They also have pool and ping pong available.

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



The River
AN EXECUTIVE COACHING BLOG
TONY THIEL

Dear Tony,
I've been told I should "step up and be a leader." But honestly, leadership feels overwhelming. What does it really take to lead?

That's a powerful question—and one I've wrestled with myself. Too often, we confuse leadership with a title, a corner office, or a nameplate on the door. But the truth is, leadership has little to do with position. It has everything to do with action.

Real leadership begins long before anyone else is watching. It begins with how you lead yourself.

I learned this lesson the hard way in my early career. I was eager to move up, make decisions, and have influence. But I quickly discovered that if I couldn't manage my own time, handle stress with grace, or admit when I was wrong, I wasn't ready to lead others. Self-leadership is the training ground for every other kind of leadership.

And it's not easy.

Leaders face criticism. Sometimes fair, sometimes not. You can't please everyone, and you shouldn't try. You'll face ambiguity. The answers aren't always clear, and waiting for perfect information usually means you're already late. Decision-making becomes part art, part courage. Innovation demands risk—often with no guarantee of success. These challenges aren't exceptions; they are the very fabric of leadership.

But here's the paradox: it's in those challenges that leadership becomes most meaningful.

- The coach who steadies a team after a heartbreaking loss.
- The neighbor who organizes a food drive when the pantry shelves run bare.
- The frontline worker who offers ideas to make things safer, faster, or better—and speaks up even when it's risky.

None of these people waited for a title. They simply acted. Humans need leaders—not perfect ones, but real ones. Leaders who listen. Leaders who collaborate. Leaders who see more in others than those people see in themselves. We need leaders in our communities, in our companies, and in our homes. And we need leaders who can talk to each other across differences, lift one another up, and remind us that progress is never a solo act.

So, if you're asking what it takes to lead, I'd say start small. Lead yourself first:

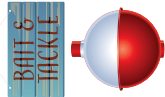
- Keep your promises, especially the ones you make to yourself.
- Take responsibility when things go wrong.
- Stay curious when the path isn't clear.
- Practice gratitude when criticism comes.

And remember: you don't have to change the world overnight. Sometimes leadership is simply showing up, again and again, in ways that matter. Sometimes it's asking a hard question in a meeting. Sometimes it's approaching someone in private. Sometimes it's offering encouragement to someone who thinks they've failed. Sometimes it's quietly making a decision others are afraid to make.

Leadership isn't glamorous. It's not always comfortable. But it is desperately needed. And the truth is, you may already be someone's leader without even knowing it.

So to the person who asked: don't be afraid of leadership. Embrace the challenge fully understanding that it's a hot kitchen to operate in. But if you lead with humility and courage, you won't just shape outcomes. You'll shape people. And that's the kind of legacy worth leaving.

Check out my website for FREE resources and more at www.therivercoach.org
Got a question? Send it directly to Tony at tony@therivercoach.org



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.



"Proud to Be Pioneers" Yard Signs Available Ahead of Homecoming

Okoboji Fans! Show your Pioneer Pride this Homecoming season with a "Proud to Be Pioneers" yard sign! Limited quantities of these spirited signs will be available beginning Friday, September 19—just in time for Homecoming week.

Community members can pick up their signs at the The Lakes News Shopper office, or reserve one in advance by emailing okobojiboosters@gmail.com.

Don't miss this chance to celebrate our students, athletes, and community. Supplies are limited, so be sure to grab yours early and join in cheering on the Pioneers!

For questions, please contact the Okoboji Boosters at okobojiboosters@gmail.com.

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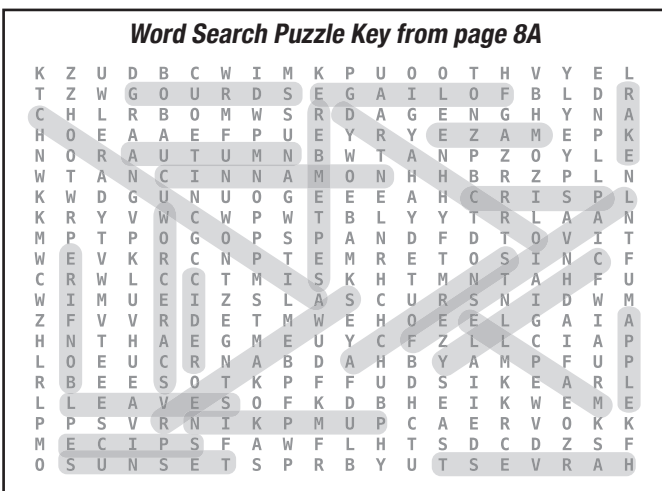
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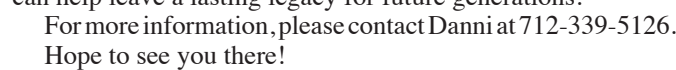
If your business wants to be in the parade, please fill out the form on the OHS Facebook Page by Wednesday, September 24th. All Parade participants will line up in the Middle School parking lot by 1:30 pm.



Homecoming window painting will be offered to any businesses in the Okoboji School District. Students will paint windows on Monday, September 22nd, and clean them on Sunday, September 28th. If your business wants to have windows painted, please fill out the form on the OHS Facebook Page by Thursday, September 18th.

The local chapter of Ducks Unlimited, "The Marsh Marigolds," invites the public to a recruitment meeting on Wednesday, September 24, at 6:00 p.m. at Oak Hill Outdoor in Milford.

Join the committee for drinks and wings to learn how you can contribute to waterfowl and wetlands conservation. This event is an opportunity to meet the dedicated members of "The Marsh Marigolds" and discover how your involvement can help leave a lasting legacy for future generations.



One last thing that I believe would help that many of these shooters have in common is that they spend a lot of time on social media and the internet in a “dark internet” culture that feeds into their extremism. Social media can be a cancer that continues to grow if you allow it to, as it just feeds the things that you already believe, and enforces your views even stronger. Use social media for good, follow people who are positive and bring good energy, and try to limit your screen time. If you are a parent, be sure to limit your child’s screen time, and if they are gaming, be sure you know what they are playing and who they are playing with. I’ve gotten a little long-winded with this article, but felt like a lot of this needed to be written and hopefully heard. While I am so far from perfect, and so far from being Christ-like, I know that trying each day to live that way, while I may fail, will at least make those around me better; and if we all do that, slowly but surely, this country will change, one community at a time!

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Spirit Lake K of C Tootsie Roll® Drive Nets Thousands for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities

The results are in and those Tootsie Rolls you might have received at Jennings Tow and Repair, Fareway, Wal-Mart, The Barefoot Bar or Bomgaars were part of a great cause. The local Knights of Columbus again distributed the sweet treats, with goodwill offerings benefiting persons with intellectual disabilities. Brian Nokleby, Knights of Columbus, accepts a donation from a young visitor at Wal Mart on Spirit Lake Labor Day Week-end.



The Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Drive is held annually, with most of the donations distributed to Hope Haven in Spirit Lake and Estherville. The funds will assist with the Hope Haven mission, including: "As followers of Christ, we unleash potential in people through work and life skills so that they may enjoy a productive life in their community." In addition, nearly a third of the funds were designated specifically for Special Olympics.

Iowa Great Lakes Council 5043 is one of the most active in Iowa, in the past few years contributing more than \$30,000 to local community needs, including Hope Haven, Iowa Helping Hands Fund, American Wheelchair Mission, the Grotto of the Redemption, Cherish House, Guatemala Mission, Women of the Well Project, Prison Ministries, as well as to local family, community, and parish needs. Local Knights sponsor annual youth events including the Free Throw Competition, Spelling Bee, Coats for Kids, and the Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest.

In 1882, Blessed Michael McGivney, a young parish priest in New Haven, Connecticut, founded the Knights of Columbus to serve the needs of a largely immigrant Catholic community. What began as a small fraternal benefit society has since grown into one of the world's leading international charitable organizations, with more than 1.9 million members in over 16,000 local councils. In the past year Knights provided 285,000 children with winter coats, brought 243 U.S. service members to Lourdes on pilgrimage, and gave more than \$325,000 to the formation of men and women pursuing a religious vocation.

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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.

Letter:

It is disheartening to learn of summer spikes in bacteria at 2/3's of Iowa's state beaches. Iowa is falling far short of managing our nutrient load including nitrite and phosphate runoff from our land and into our waterways. Not to mention, the eroding loss of our topsoil. Iowa's economic engine and the black gold among our natural resources.

Iowa's first in the nation per capita cancer mortality rate (and rising cancer trends) coupled with communities across the State having drinking water perpetually at risk are bad for business and a detriment to recruiting the skilled workforce Iowa needs to be competitive in the world marketplace.

The rhetoric and lack of urgency to address Iowa's water quality remains unchanged since the 1990s. Touting volunteer efforts and collaboration with farmers, landowners and partners conjure up the appearance that we are addressing water quality concerns with vigor. Yet, the water quality crisis continues with lackluster outcomes.

Every Iowan, on or off the farm, has a hand in the water quality problem and a role in the solution. That said, fertilizer, manure and agriculture contamination remain the biggest threats as noted by Sarah Howe of the Iowa Environmental Council.

Speaking as a farmer and landowner and without pointing fingers or playing the blame game, there are simple strategic adjustments that we can implement with our agriculture which will make a material improvement to our water and soil quality.

Cover crops, no-till, prairie strips, buffer strips along our waterways, precision agriculture, converting marginal-unprofitable crop acres to grass and grazing, restoring wetlands all lend to improving water and soil quality. Moreover, there is government funding to support these stewardship practices.

In short, a key component of Iowa's water quality fix is a simple statewide adjustment to our farming practices. We can no longer kick the can down the road...or float it downstream.

As Ben Franklin once noted, "when the well is dry, we know the worth of water." The same could be said if the well were poisoned.

**Greg Grupp
Spirit Lake, Iowa**

Lakes Area Farmers Market News

Lakes Area Farmers Market is still open until the end of September. At that time, the marina starts moving boats into the building for winter storage. But some vendors will remain outside into October with a selection of vegetables and other items. Lots of fall vegetables are available at the Farmers Market. Now is the time to get some for use over the winter. Potatoes store for several months in a cool, dry place (not the refrigerator). Winter squash, such as acorn, butternut, and buttercup, also can be stored for several months. Tomatoes can be canned or frozen. Clean and freeze peppers or onions or, store onions in a cool, dry place. Carrots should be refrigerated. Besides vegetables, there is excellent sourdough bread, quick breads and bars, pickles and salsa, jelly, and honey. The farmers Market is located on the fairgrounds in Spirit Lake and is open Wednesday 3:30 to 7:00 PM and Saturday 7:30 AM to 12:00 noon. We hope to see you there.

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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, September 25 and October 9, 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.

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.



Engines Roar at the 17th Annual Airport Drags

Spencer, Iowa – The Black Knights Car Club invites you to the 17th Annual Airport Drags at the Spencer Airport on Sunday, September 21, 2025, at the Spencer Airport – 1957 330th Street, Spencer. Gates open at 9:00 AM; races: 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM; admission is \$5 per pass or \$30 all day or \$5 for spectators. Racers will go head-to-head on a 350-foot strip with a light start. This event is open to registered and licensed vehicles with proof of insurance, running D.O.T. tires only. (No motorcycle classes.) All cars will be inspected before racing, and safety inspectors have the final say. Bring your friends, grab your lawn chairs, and get ready for the roar of engines, the smell of rubber, and a day full of racing excitement. Food and drinks will be available on-site. For more details, visit blackknightsclub.net or contact Nick Maranell at 712-209-3722 or Ray Tucker at 712-330-7183.

SNHU Announces Summer 2025 President's List

It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Summer 2025 President's List. The summer terms run from May to August. Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer. Congratulations to the following area students: Molly Peters and Justin Richardson of Spencer, and Jasmine Mixon of Estherville.

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Deadline for payments without penalty is Tues., Sept. 30, 2025

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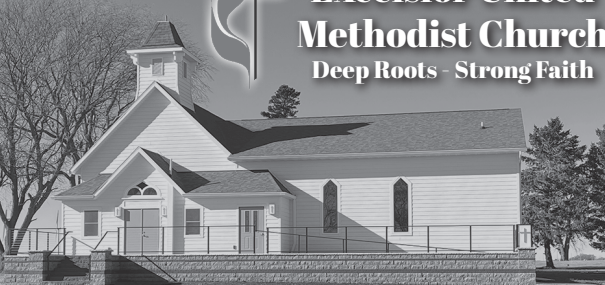
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Final Closure of Spencer and Lakes Regional Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery

Spencer and Lakes Regional Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery is closing permanently. The office in Spirit Lake, Iowa, located at 3401 US HWY 71, will become unavailable as the practice prepares for its final closure. The Worthington, Minnesota, office at 507 S Shore Dr, will cease patient care after September 30, 2025.

Patients who wish to retrieve their records can do so by calling (712) 339-6008 or emailing info@slralsurgery.com. For future oral surgery needs, patients are advised to contact their dentist. In the event of a medical emergency, individuals should seek care at their local emergency department or call 911.

Dr. Karen K. Potaczek extended her gratitude to all patients for their trust over the past 11.5 years.

LRH Offers Free Guidance to Medicare Recipients

Help is available by appointment

It can cost you money not to review your Medicare Part D drug coverage annually. In one hour a Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) counselor can complete a review and let you know if you can save money and make sure you have access to the medications you need.

SHIIP counselors Robert Emgarten, Dr. Brian Ford, Donna Gray, Barry Orness, and Betsy Tonsfeldt are available to help anyone newly eligible for Medicare or already on Medicare:

- Check current Part D or Medicare Advantage plans to make sure medications are covered at the lowest cost and with the least amount of restrictions
- Review employer drug coverage and compare to other Medicare options
- Check eligibility for Part D Extra Help
- Understand options if currently not enrolled in a drug plan

This is a great opportunity for people on Medicare to review and choose what coverage they want for 2026. Every year Medicare Part D and Medicare Advantage plans can change their premiums, deductibles, co-payments, benefits, and the drugs they cover. To avoid costly surprises on January 1, a free, confidential counseling appointment with a SHIIP volunteer may be beneficial. Appointments are being held at Lakes Regional Healthcare. Those with SHIIP appointments are encouraged to enter the hospital through Door A, which is the main door on the west side of the hospital off Highway 71.

Although counseling services are available year-round, the open enrollment period for Part D drug coverage and Medicare Advantage plans runs from October 15 through December 7. Those interested in scheduling an appointment can call 712-336-6698 and leave a message. A SHIIP Scheduler will then return the call to schedule an appointment.



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Lakes Area Senior/Activities Center Presentations

Please call 712-336-5247 to let the Lakes Area Senior/Activities Center know you will be attending. The following presentations begin at 12:30pm, 1:00pm and 1:30pm

- Wednesday September 17 - Cari from St. Croix Hospice discussing how hospice has changed and the services they offer.
- Tuesday, September 30 - public health comes to do blood pressures. No special speakers

All presentations are at 12:30. The Lakes Area Activities/Senior Center is located at 2101 Zenith Ave in Spirit Lake.



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Wed., Sept. 17- Cari from St. Croix Hospice discussing how hospice has changed and the services they offer.

Tuesday, Sept. 30th - Public Health comes to do blood pressure checks. No special speaker.

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Sunday, Sept. 21
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Volunteer at the Lakes Area Activities/Senior Center

The key to the Lakes Area Activities/Senior Center success rests in people in the community that are willing to dedicate their time to help out with various events. They are looking for more volunteers to join their team that are willing to help with events and Dinner Date.

If you are willing and able to be a volunteer, please contact Kathleen at 712-336-5247. One day a week or one day a month, all volunteers are appreciated.

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DAILY SPECIALS at 11am

DAILY SPECIALS

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Pan Fried Chicken
- Thur., Sept. 18: Hamburger Steak
Hawaiian Chicken
- Fri., Sept 19: Chicken Philly
Country Fried Steak
- Mon., Sept. 22: Hot Beef
Taco Salad
- Tues., Sept. 23: CLOSED

Friday Night Special
Fish Fry
10 oz. Ribeye

Saturday Night Special
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WINNER

Congratulations to Gregory Kuemper of Spirit Lake for winning Week #2 of our U-Pick-Em Challenge with 12 correct picks. Gregory edged out five contestants who had 11 correct picks. Gregory wins \$100 in Sunshine Foods Gift Cards compliments of Sunshine Foods and The Lakes News Shopper. Be sure to play this week for your chance to win \$100 in gift cards!

A HUGE thank you to all of our sponsors for making this weekly football contest possible.

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Weekly Social Gathering

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

Make a Splash at the Kiwanis Duck Derby 2025

Get ready for a quacktastic time as the Spirit Lake Noon Kiwanis Club hosts the highly anticipated annual Duck Derby on Saturday, September 27th, during the University of Okoboji Oktoberfest at Preservation Plaza.

With tickets priced at just \$10 each or 3 for \$25, you could be the lucky winner of the grand prize—\$1,000. Not to mention, 2nd and 3rd place winners will also take home \$250 and \$100, respectively.

Don't miss your chance to be part of this thrilling event. Grab your tickets in advance from any local Spirit Lake Kiwanian or visit the Spirit Lake Noon Kiwanis Club on Facebook to secure yours online. For last-minute thrill-seekers, remaining tickets will be available during the University of Okoboji Oktoberfest festival until 2:00 PM, but hurry — the race kicks off at 3:00 PM sharp.

Remember, every dollar raised helps support children and families in need within our community. A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who has purchased a ticket and is making a difference this year.

Join the Spirit Lake Noon Kiwanis Club for a day of fun, excitement, and giving back—may the best duck win.

Family Favorites

PRIME RIB SERVED EVERY NIGHT!

FULL BAR | DINE IN | CARRY OUT | MENU ONLINE

1027 Highway 71, Okoboji | 712.332.9421 | tweetersokoboji.com

THE PLACE TO MEET

TWEETERS
EST. 1972

in OKOBOJI

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KITCHEN OPEN LATE

Beach Club

Kazarelli's
Italian & American Cuisine
from our made from Scratch Kitchen!

Fresh Seafood from Around the World!

GAME DAY SATURDAYS
11:00AM - 2:00PM

Watch The Games Here!
GAME DAY SPECIALS!

15 Dam Road, Arnolds Park • 712-337-3238

FALL HOURS: TUES. - FRI. 5PM-CLOSE
SAT. 11AM-2PM & 5PM-CLOSE

The only bar surrounded by West Lake Okoboji.

Located at Arnolds Park Amusement Park
Next to the State Pier

Staying open as long as the weather permits!

Watch your favorite college & pro football games on the lake!

- All Outdoor Seating
- Come by Land or Sea
- Beautiful Sunsets
- Seating up to 180

Fall Hours: Mon-Fri open at 1pm • Sat at 11am & Sun at Noon (weather permitting)

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*WITH CATERING PURCHASE

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BOAT CLUB
LAKE OKOBOJI

ARNOLDS PARK
AMUSEMENT PARK
Lake Okoboji

THIS WEEK!

FRIDAY 9/19	The Lake View Deck Friday Night Live Now through October 3rd! Join us for live music on The Lake View Deck. The Lake View Deck is open at 4pm. 6:00-9:00PM
FRIDAY & SATURDAY 9/19 - 9/20	Raceway Arcade Go-Karts & Arcade Now through October 4th! Take a ride on our go-karts & play some games at the arcade! Friday - 6:00-10:00PM, Saturday - 2:00-10:00PM. 2:00-10:00PM
SATURDAY 9/20	The Lake View Deck College Football Now through October 4th! Join us in cheering on all your favorite college football teams! 10:00AM
SATURDAY & SUNDAY 9/20 - 9/21	Queen II Queen II Cruise Now through November 1st! Join us for a fall cruise around Lake Okoboji! 1 PM Cruise only. 1:00PM

AP Gift Shop, Maritime & AP Museum - Monday - Friday - 10am - 4pm
** Wooden slide is closed for the season

Queen II Ticket Booth - Opens at 11:30 AM for ticket purchases.

** Times Subject to Change

VFW
Auxiliary Kitchen
COME JOIN US!

Saturday, September 20th • 5:00 - 7:00pm

Steak Fry for the VFW & Auxiliary Kitchen

Baked Potatoes, Baked Beans, Green Beans, Dinner Roll & Pies for Dessert

\$20 per Plate • \$10 for 12 & Under

All Proceeds will go Towards Building & Bar Upgrades!

- Steaks Provided by American Foods in Alexandria Minnesota •

Taking Reservations for Parties, Funeral Luncheons, Class or Family Reunions.

Hours: Open at 4:00pm
5 Days a Week - Kids Welcome

VFW Post 4514 Canteen
914 Lake Street • Spirit Lake

THANK YOU!

For all of your support, please scan the QR Code to take a brief survey asking for feedback as we look to give more great experiences in 2026!

Golf Calendar

Iowa Great Lakes Area

Sept. 21	4-Person Best Shot Tournament	Spencer Golf & CC
Sept. 28	Captain's Getaway Men's ABCD Best Shot	Emerald Hills GC
Sept. 29	SGOWA	Brooks GC
Oct. 4	Honest Fellas Open	Emerald Hills GC
Oct. 4	8" Cup 4-Person Best Shot	Emerald Hills GC
Oct. 5	3-Person Best Shot	Emerald Hills GC
Oct. 12	Chili Bowl	Brooks GC
Oct. 19	EH Fall Classic 4-Person Best Shot	Emerald Hills GC
Oct. 26	EH 2-Person Decathlon	Emerald Hills GC
Oct. 26	Brooks Appreciation Day	Brooks GC

Featured Courses: [Watch for their ads in The Lakes News Shopper!]

Brooks Golf Club 712-332-5011	Emerald Hills Golf Club 712-332-7100	Indian Hills Golf Club 712-336-4768	Okoboji View Golf Course 712-337-3372	Spencer Golf & Country Club 712-262-2028	Spencer Municipal Golf Course 712-580-7280
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AN UNPARALLELED OKOBOJI GOLF EXPERIENCE.

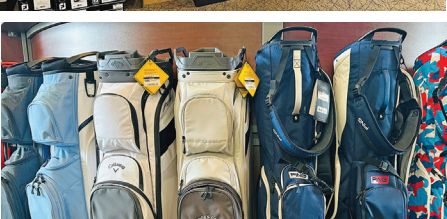


27 HOLES. 3 COURSES. 1 CLEAR CHOICE.

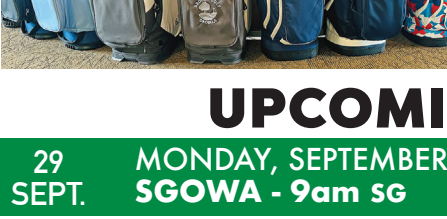
FALL GOLF SHOP SALE



Men's & Women's Shirts
20% OFF



Shoes
25% OFF



Golf Bags
20% OFF



Men's Shorts **30% OFF**

UPCOMING EVENTS

29 SEPT.	MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29	SGOWA - 9am sg
12 OCT.	SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12	Chili Bowl - TT before 1pm 18 Holes with Skins Game \$30 - Members / \$50 - Guests
26 OCT.	SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26	Brooks Appreciation Day - 1pm sg

Follow us on  www.brooksgolfclub.com 712-332-5011



BUD'S PUB
OPEN DAILY



THE LAKES NEWS Auction Calendar

Sat., Sept. 20 – 9:00 AM– Retirement metal fabrication auction in Estherville. Auctioneers: Howells. 712-260-9690. www.howellrealestateandauction.com.

Sat., Sept. 27 – 9:00 AM– Coin auction in Windom, MN. Auctioneers: Gravelly Auction. www.auctionsgo.com.

Sat., Sept. 27 – 9:00 AM– Golden Buys public auction in Spirit Lake. Auctioneers: Toerings. 712-395-0016.

Tues., Sept. 30 – 10:30 AM– Live & online farm equipment auction near Paullina. Auctioneers: Vander Werffs, Hattermann, Rydberg & Mouw. 712-729-3264. www.vw72.com.

Thurs., Oct. 2 – 12:00 PM– Online bidding begins for shop & property auction near Milford. Auctioneers: Vander Werffs, Hattermann, Rydberg & Mouw. 712-729-3264. www.vw72.com.

Wed., Nov. 5 – 10:00 AM– 153.37 acres at auction in Jackson Co., MN. Auctioneers: Pike & Christopher. 507-847-3468. www.auctioneeralley.com.

THE LAKES NEWS Auctions

Page 2B





Emerald Hills Golf Club

IOWA GREAT LAKES PREMIER GOLF COURSE

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, September 28

Captain's Getaway 4-Man Best Shot

- 4-Person Best Shot - 18 Holes
- 12 PM Shotgun Start
- Call for Details & to Register

NEW DATE!

Saturday, October 4

Honest Fellas 2-Man

Benefit: Make-A-Wish Foundation

- Sign up Individually - A & B Golfers
- \$100 Entry Fee Includes Golf, Cart & Cocktails
- Teams Drawn at 11:30am
- Shotgun Start at 1:00pm
- Filling Fast - Call to Register Today!

Sunday, October 5

3-Person Best Shot

- Tee Times from 10am-12pm
- Play in Threesome
- Meal Included
- Call to Register

Sunday, October 19

Emerald Hills Fall Classic 4-Person Best Shot

- 12pm Shotgun Start
- Great Mix of Fun & Competition
- Dinner After Golf
- Call to Register

Call 712-332-7100
Hwy. 71 S. • Arnolds Park
GolfEmeraldHills.com



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OKOBOJI VIEW

GOLF COURSE Est. 1962

UPCOMING EVENT

October 4

Okoboji View 4-Person 8" Cup

Call 712-337-3372 to Sign Up!

PRIME RIB

Friday & Saturday Nights

Pub 19 will be OPEN 7 DAYS a week thru September!

PUB19 Fall Hours:

Sun.-Thurs.: 11am-8pm | Fri.-Sat.: 11am-9pm

Hwy. 86 • West Lake Okoboji
712-337-3372 • www.okobojiview.net
712-332-8142 • www.pub19barandgrill.com

Community Gathering to Honor the Life of Charles James Kirk

Arnolds Park, IA—On Thursday, September 18, 2025, friends, family, and community members will gather at Preservation Plaza in Arnolds Park for a special Public Remembering of Charlie Kirk. The event begins at 6:30 p.m. and will celebrate Charlie's life, message, and the legacy he started.

The evening program will include prayer, music, candle lighting, and reflections on Charlie's life. There will be biblical remarks, with the community being invited to join together in an open prayer to close the service.

"Charlie wasn't just mentor— he was a light in our community," said Leo Kinnetz, Turning Point USA member. "He had a way of bringing people together, no matter who you were. His message was simple: love God, love others, and live with purpose."

Kinnetz also added, "When I think of Charlie, I think of someone who stood firm in his faith and values, but still found time to laugh, encourage others, and live fully. That's the legacy he leaves with us."

Event Details:

- What: Public Remembering of Charles James Kirk
- When: Thursday, September 18, 2025 – 6:30 p.m.
- Where: Preservation Plaza, Arnolds Park, IA
- (Rain location will be the Majestic Pavilion)

The community is encouraged to attend, light a candle, and join in honoring the life and legacy of Charles James Kirk. We have rented a space at Arnolds Park, it keeps us as simply a host.



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lakesart.org | 712.332.7029

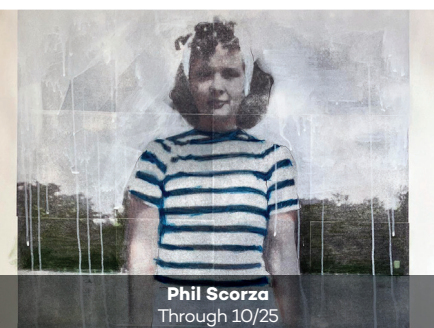
2201 HWY 71 N | Okoboji, IA 51355

Fall Hours:
Tues-Sat: 10am-4pm | Thurs: 10am-9pm

VISUAL ARTS



Plein Air Okoboji
Through 11/1



Phil Scorza
Through 10/25



Elissa Cox Wenhe
Through 11/22

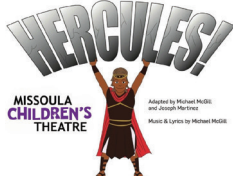
PERFORMING ARTS

9/25 | Manhattan Short Film Festival

6:00 PM | \$15

Audiences in over 500 cities spanning 6 continents unite for one week for the 28th Annual MANHATTAN SHORT Film Festival.

Join us after the screening for movie discussion, pizza, and a cash bar!



October 6: Auditions from 4-6pm

Followed by two hours of rehearsal for a small portion of the cast.

Registration Fee: \$25 per student
Registration open through 10/3

Please visit the PLAC website for commitment requirements and important details BEFORE registering.

HERCULES! is part of Missoula Children's Theatre's unique international touring project and is presented by The Pearson Lakes Art Center.

Open auditions are for 50-60 student roles, plus 4 assistant directors for 1st-8th graders. All students are encouraged to audition. Most students rehearse around 4.5 hours per day. **No advance preparation is necessary, but each student must pre-register.** Scan the QR code above or visit lakesart.org/performing.

EDUCATION CLASSES

Register online or call 712-332-7029

WHAT IS DISABILITY? EXHIBIT MURAL WORKSHOPS

Friday, Sept. 19th OR Sept. 26th
10am-11:30pm or 1pm-2:30pm | Free

Join us for an interactive workshop led by Holly Zinn Hample & Bridget Riversmith that celebrates the creativity and expression of artists with disabilities. Create your own piece of the mural to be included in an exhibition in November 2025 at the Pearson Lakes Art Center. Ages 18yrs+ up can create their own piece of the collaborative mural alongside the featured artists on 12x12 canvas. Register by 9/17.

JUST MAKE A MARK With Betty Haight & Paula Streeter

Thursday, Oct. 2 | 5:30-8pm | \$45/\$55
Optional Oct. 9th, 5:30-6:30pm

Is your mind busy with ideas that need a place to land? Or, do you need a little push to get started making art? This workshop will start you in the creation of a small book that serves as a place to create and play. We will provide the books, materials for painting and collage, examples of techniques we have used over the years in making our work, along with a lot of art talk and encouragement! Register by 9/26. Adult, all skill levels.

CULINARY CLASSES

Register online or call 712-332-7029

Wine Class

With Jennifer Tritle-Oltzman of Okoboji Wines

Thursdays | 6pm | \$45/\$55
Must register 1 day prior to each class

Oct. 2: Blends from Around the World
Nov. 6: Varietal Series, Pinot Noir
Dec. 4: Wines of Spain

Mediterranean Dinner Series

With Chef Jay Norton of The Hen House

\$100/\$110 per dinner | 6pm
Must register two days prior to each class.

Enjoy this small group dining experience at our expansive kitchen counter, allowing you up close and personal time with Chef Jay as he teaches and prepares a multi-course feast! Glass of wine served with each dinner.

Tuesday, Sept. 30: Journey to Spain
Thursday, Oct. 30: Journey to The Middle East

French Crepes with Four de Marie Bakery

With Pastry Chef Jacques Bouli & Brigitte Bouli

Thursday, Oct. 16 | 4pm | \$40/\$50
Registration required by 9/16

Chef Jacques will reveal the secrets to making mouth-watering crepes, which are rolled or folded with a variety of fillings. This class is a blend of hands-on and demonstration with the tasty reward of a savory traditional crepe filled with ham, cheese, garlic, and onion. A glass of wine is included. Registration required by 10/15.

HICKORY SMOKED FRESH DAILY

BABY BACK PORK RIBS & BRISKET

TENDER MEATS

HOMEMADE SOUPS

DAILY SPECIALS

BOTTOMLESS BOWL OF SOUP!

SMOKIN' JAKES

HELP WANTED!

"BEST RIBS Around!"

OLD TOWN ARNOLDS PARK, IA

Thursdays: Meat Raffle!

Sponsored by the Twilight Masonic Lodge

Key Chain CASH Drawing

HOURS: Mon.-Thurs. 11am-10pm

Fri. & Sat. 10pm-3am

Late Night Breakfast

117 W. Broadway, Arnolds Park

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DOWNTON ABBEY

— THE GRAND FINALE —

WED & THUR 9/17 & 18 6:45

FRI 9/19 4:00 & 7:00

SAT & SUN 9/20 & 21 12:00, 4:00 & 7:00

MON-WED 9/22-24 6:45

THE CONJURING

LAST RITES

WED & THURS 9/17 & 18 6:30

FRI 9/19 6:50 & 6:50

SAT & SUN 9/20 & 21 12:50, 3:50 & 6:50

MON-WED 9/22-24 6:30

Lakes Area Activities/Senior Center Event Space

The Lakes Area Activities/Senior Center has rooms to rent for your special event. Do you have a special weekend event in the future? A Family Get-together, Anniversary, Graduation, Birthday?

Their card/party room seats 40, has a small kitchenette and rents for \$75.00 per day.

There is also a small meeting room with tables/seating for 10 plus extra chairs for additional seating. \$40.00 per day.

Check out their building updates.

Consider renting their large dining room which seats 100 if extra tables are set up. Without kitchen: \$125.00 per day.

With kitchen: \$160.00 per day.

They have a beautiful, clean facility with most weekends available.

Call and visit with someone at the office for details. 712-336-5247

WED & THUR 9/17 & 18 6:45

FRI 9/19 4:00 & 7:00

SAT & SUN 9/20 & 21 12:00, 4:00 & 7:00

MON-WED 9/22-24 6:45

WED & THURS 9/17 & 18 6:30

FRI 9/19 6:50 & 6:50

SAT & SUN 9/20 & 21 12:50, 3:50 & 6:50

MON-WED 9/22-24 6:30

Many Voices Choir to Start Fall Rehearsals

The Many Voices Choir, a community chorale in NW Iowa, is seeking talented local vocalists for its upcoming fall season.

An informational meeting will be held for new and returning members on Monday, September 22nd, at 6:30 PM in the ILCC Estherville Campus Choir Room. Music for the holiday concerts will be distributed, followed by a short rehearsal.

Weekly rehearsals are scheduled to begin on Monday, September 29th, from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

For more information, interested individuals can contact Tim Schumacher at (712) 209-0202 or tschumacher87@yahoo.com. Additional details are also available on the Many Voices Choir Facebook page and website.

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Join us for

BREAKFAST

Free Will Offering

Sunday, September 21st

8:30 am - Noon

Sausage Gravy over Biscuits, Sausage & Ham Egg Bakes, Caramel Rolls

Orange Juice & Coffee.

Lakes Area Activities/Senior Center

2101 Zenith Avenue • Spirit Lake

(under the water tower)

FALL FAMILY FUN

Little Swan Lake Winery

Life... Drink It In!

We are open for walk-in & tasting!

Fall Hours

Tuesday-Sunday 11am-6pm

Open until 8 on Saturdays

Saturday, Sept. 20

Elliot Keane & a Jazz Quartet

Bison Steak Night!

6-8pm

Sunday, Sept. 21

Ryan Sather & Dave Rowley

Bison Roast!

4-6pm

For upcoming bands & events visit our website:

www.islwinery.com

Bed & Breakfast Open Year Round!

1 1/2 miles north of Superior on N16

Reservations recommended, Call 712-858-4592 or 712-380-3455

Occasions

104 East 4th Street, Spencer

BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

FREE WILL OFFERING

SUNDAY, SEPT. 21ST

8AM-12:30PM

Biscuits & Gravy, Scrambled Eggs, Pancakes and Bloody Mary Bar.

CLAY COUNTY FAIR

- DOLL RAFFLE -

Donated by: Zelda Hagedorn

Ticket Cost is \$5

Drawing Will Be Sept. 21 During Breakfast

Dolls Will Be Raffle Off Individually

Purchase Tickets Anytime or at Breakfast.

Do Not Need to Be Present to Win.

WED & THURS 9/17 & 18 6:30

FRI 9/19 6:50 & 6:50

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MON-WED 9/22-24 6:30

WED & THURS 9/17 & 18 6:45

FRI 9/19 4:00 & 7:00

SAT & SUN 9/20 & 21 12:00, 4:00 & 7:00

MON-WED 9/22-24 6:45

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MON-WED 9/22-24 6:30

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SAT & SUN 9/20 & 21 12:00, 4:00 & 7:00

MON-WED 9/22-24 6:45

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WIN BIG AT

Rock & Roll BINGO NIGHT

FEATURING: Mingo Music Bingo

Looking for an exciting way to spend your evening and a chance to win great prizes? Join us for Bingo Night at Occasions in Spencer and experience the thrill of winning big while having a blast with friends and family!

\$10 PER PERSON (Includes 1 Bingo Card - additional cards \$5 per card)

\$50 for a table for 6 (Includes 6 Bingo Cards - additional cards \$5 per card)

COCKTAIL HOUR: 5-6PM

BINGO GAMES: 6-8PM

Serving Hot Dogs & Maid-Rites!

SEPTEMBER 26 & OCTOBER 24

Occasions

104 EAST 4TH ST., SPENCER, IOWA (IN THE OLD MIDDLE SCHOOL)

WED & THURS 9/17 & 18 6:30

FRI 9/19 6:50 & 6:50

SAT & SUN 9/20 & 21 12:50, 3:50 & 6:50

MON-WED 9/22-24 6:30

WED & THURS 9/17 & 18 6:45

FRI 9/19 4:00 & 7:00

SAT & SUN 9/20 & 21 12:00, 4:00 & 7:00

MON-WED 9/22-24 6:45

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FRI 9/19 6:50 & 6:50

SAT & SUN 9/20 & 21 12:50, 3:50 & 6:50

MON-WED 9/22-24 6:30

WED & THURS 9/17 & 18 6:45

FRI 9/19 4:00 & 7:00

SAT & SUN 9/20 & 21 12:00, 4:00 & 7:00

MON-WED 9/22-24 6:45

FREE PUBLIC SHOWING

Okoboji High School Auditorium

Sunday, September 28

6:30PM

Milford, Iowa

Educating on the dangers of human trafficking in Iowa

Gridshock

A FILM ABOUT SEX TRAFFICKING IN IOWA

Presenting: Stacy Besch, Team Iowa

Stacy Besch, Team Iowa

Key points:

- WHAT IS IT
- WHO IS INVOLVED
- ACTION STEPS
- WHAT TO LOOK FOR
- THE 'SEED' OF IT ALL

For additional Lakes Area Listings go to [Hoiien.com](#)

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Corner of Hill Avenue, Hwy. 9 & 71, Spirit Lake, IA

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:

It is Wednesday the 10th; as I am watching news coverage of Charlie Kirk's assassination. Charlie stood for all that is good. He loved his Saviour, he loved his family, and he had a passionate love for his country. I am in deep mourning not only for Charlie's death, but for the demise of this country. Charlie was an advocate for free speech and devoted his time on college campuses willingly having discourse with any student who wanted to question him. He epitomized "Come let us reason together." He was bold enough to stand up for the values this country was built on. For this he was killed. *Fear is the enemy that silences truth.* Have we become a country that no longer wants to hear truth? There is an element of poison in this beloved nation that will destroy us if we do not stand up against it. It is up to me and you to do something about it. The killer meant this for evil, but God will use it in a mighty way for good.

Judy Valen,
Spirit Lake, Iowa



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\$2,399,000

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Spirit Lake Library News

Doin' The Shelf Shuffle
by Jill Jennings

The next time you stop by the Spirit Lake Public Library, don't get discouraged if you struggle to find an author or a series in the place where you last remember seeing them. To make room for new items and to organize the library a little better we have been shuffling things around. Some books might be just down a shelf, and others might be in an entirely new section.

One of the places we recently did a little rearranging is in the Large Print section. In order to make it easier to find the large print non-fiction books that we have in our collection, we have pulled them out of the adult non-fiction, and created a new large print non-fiction section within the Large Print area. Those books are now located where the Cozy Mysteries used to live. Everything along that south wall has shifted to the left: Cozy Mystery, Christian Mystery, Historical, and Christian. On the east wall, you will find Amish and Western. Heads up if you are a Louis L'Amour fan: those books are now shelved in the regular print adult fiction section. Look for the spine label LAM. If you need assistance you can always ask for help from one of the friendly staff at the SLPL.

Another area that has been shuffled a bit is the Juvenile Graphic Novels. We keep adding more titles, so the collection now wraps around the second bookcase. Again, if you need help finding a book, just let us know!

Did you know that we have puzzles that you can borrow or exchange? We have shifted the adult non-fiction books to make room for a designated puzzle section. This will make it so much easier to see the different designs because they will be all in one place!

SLPL staff reading spotlight: Breanna is listening to Verse and Vengeance by Amanda Flower on Libby, and reading Broken Beta by Caliope Stewart.

Upcoming activities at SLPL:

- Monday, September 22, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Movie (rated PG)
- Monday, September 22, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Mah-Jongg
- Tuesday, September 23, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Quilters
- Wednesday, September 24, 12:30-4:00 p.m., Quilters
- Thursday, September 25, 10:30-11:15 a.m., Story Time
- Thursday, September 25, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Mah-Jongg



Spirit Lake Library News

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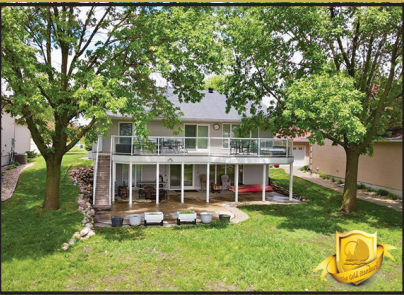


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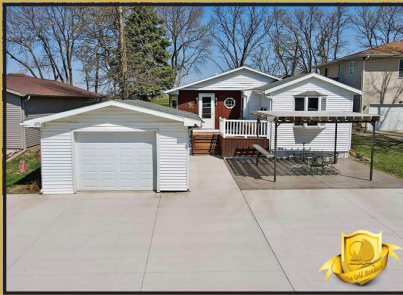


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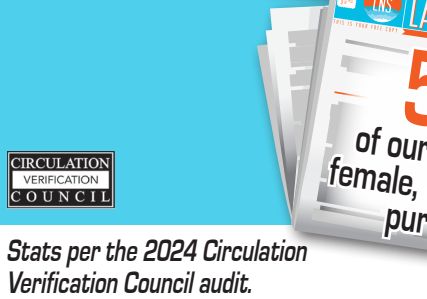
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Thank You!

Thank you for your generous expressions of love and sympathy for our Mom. Her adventurous spirit taught us so much. Thank you for your presence, gifts, cards and flowers - But most importantly, for being a part of her life.

♥ The Family of Betty Louise (Belken) Smith

"When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left and could say, I used everything you gave me."

- Erma Bombeck





Milford Memorial Library News

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

- September 22, 10:30 a.m. – Fall
- September 29, 10:30 a.m. – Can You Bear It?
- October 6, 10:30 a.m. – Silly Stories
- October 13, 10:30 a.m. – No Building Bookworms
- October 20, 10:30 a.m. – Dino Time
- October 27, 10:30 a.m. – Monster Mash

Do you like doing puzzles? If so, check out Milford Memorial Library's puzzle collection. We just added new puzzles to our collection. Stop in to browse our puzzle binder to find one you like. Let a librarian know what puzzle number you would like and we will retrieve the puzzle for you.

Ever wondered what the latest up-and-coming titles are? Pick up your copy of BookPage at Milford Memorial Library. Each monthly issue is a printed guide of recommendations for readers that highlights the best new books across genres. BookPage issues are sponsored by the Friends of the Milford Library Foundation.

For your cake pan needs, stop by Milford Memorial Library. You will find a variety of basic shapes and characters and hobby-inspired cake pans available for check out. Browse MML's cake pan collection by stopping in or going to our online catalog, www.milford.lib.ia.us, and search "cake pans".

BUILDING BOOKWORMS STORYTIME

Mondays at 10:30 a.m.

September 22: Fall

September 29: Can You Bear It? (Bring a stuffed animal to stay the night at MML!)



Obituary

A graveside service for **Jane Louise Joens** was held at 3:00PM on Saturday, September 13, 2025, at Okoboji Cemetery in Arnolds Park. Visitation took place 1:00 - 3:00 PM at the cemetery. Turner Jenness Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. www.turnerfuneralhomes.com

Jane Louise Joens, daughter of Donald and Doris (Wedeking) Cother, was born on April 22, 1947, in Estherville, Iowa. She was raised in Estherville and Pasadena, California, and later moved back to the area, where she dedicated her life to caring for others as a home health aide.

Jane made her home in Iowa for much of her life and was a faithful member of the Baptist Church. She had a deep love for her family and found joy in the simple pleasures of life, especially tending to her flowers and trees. Her kind and nurturing spirit touched many, both within her family and the community she served.

On September 6, 2025, Jane passed away with her daughter, Tammy, granddaughter, Crystal, and a close friend by her side at Lakes Regional Healthcare in Spirit Lake. She was 78 years of age.

She is survived by her three children, April Jordan (Bill), Tom Weltzin (Patti) and Tammy Bastman; ten siblings, Don, Rick, Rita, Ken, Mike, Loren, Dean, Bill, Roger, and Terry; 13 grandchildren, and 35 great-grandchildren.

Jane was preceded in death by her parents; one son, John Weltzin; her favorite son-in-law, David Bastman; one brother, Tom; sisters-in-law; and many other loved ones who welcomed her home.



Obituary

Teddy Jay Lowry was born on March 24, 1955, in Estherville, Iowa, to Ted and Marianne Lowry. He graduated from Spirit Lake High School in 1973 and married Jeanie Overocker on June 18, 1973. Teddy served 22 years in the United States Marine Corps, achieving the rank of E-8 Master Sergeant. During his time in the military, he had the opportunity to serve overseas a few times, broadening his horizons and deepening his commitment to serving his country.

In addition to his military career, Teddy also helped his father-in-law on the farm, where he developed a strong work ethic and appreciation for the land. He enjoyed gardening, hunting, and trapping, often referring to himself as "Trapper Ted." He was known for his kind heart and often described himself as an "old twinkie" - crusty on the outside but soft on the inside. Teddy was a devoted grandfather to his two grandchildren and loved his dog, Murphy.

Teddy is survived by his wife, Jeanie Lowry, and their daughter, Jennifer (Chuck) Hynek of Colbert, Washington. He also leaves behind his grandchildren, Chloe and Connor, and his sister, Janie (Paul) Molendorp of Spirit Lake. Additionally, Teddy is survived by his sisters-in-law, Lea Lowry of San Antonio, Texas; Terry Lowry of Spirit Lake; Connie (Rich) Weimer of Okoboji, Iowa; Vickie (Rick) Roghair of Hartley, Iowa; Marlys (Jess) Nichols of Spirit Lake, Iowa; and Cheryl (Jay) Jira of Hartford, South Dakota; as well as many nieces, nephews, and extended family members. Teddy was preceded in death by his parents, Ted and Marianne Lowry; brothers Terry Lowry and Rick Lowry, and in-laws Roger and Joyce Overocker, along with multiple aunts and uncles.

Teddy was preceded in death by his parents, Ted and Marianne Lowry; brothers Terry Lowry and Rick Lowry; and in-laws Roger and Joyce Overocker, along with multiple aunts and uncles.

Teddy passed away on August 23, 2025, in Spirit Lake, Iowa, leaving behind a legacy of love, kindness, and service to his country. A memorial visitation will be held 2:00 - 4:00 PM on Saturday, September 20, 2025, at Turner Jenness Funeral Home in Spirit Lake. Military rites will be conducted by American Legion Temple Post 123 at 1:30 PM. Turner Jenness Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. www.turnerfuneralhomes.com



Obituary

Judy Kay Gerard
November 28, 1943 – January 28, 2025

Judy Kay Gerard, a devoted wife, loving mother and grandmother, cherished sister, and treasured friend, passed away peacefully on January 28, 2025, in San Jose, California, at the age of 81.

Born in Spencer, Iowa, on November 28, 1943, daughter of James and Jenny (James) Olson, her early childhood was spent on a farm southeast of Milford. Judy was known from a young age for her warmth, curiosity, and deep caring for others. She started attending Milford Community School in 1949, graduating with the class of 1962, with whom she kept in touch and helped reunite through helping to organize many class reunions. Judy attended the University of Iowa, where she earned her degree in Business and Accounting in 1967. It was there she met her future husband, Evan Gerard.

After graduating, Judy moved to California and was employed by GRT, General Recording Technology. Evan was employed in Germany, and when Judy joined Evan there, they were married..... twice on November 23, 1970.

Later that same year, Judy and Evan moved to California to begin their life together. They were then blessed with two sons, Jamie and Jason. Evan's employment called the family back to West Berlin, Germany. Judy would often share about living in West Germany before The Wall was taken down. Whether for Evan's work or simply for the joy of travel, the two shared a life rich in experience, culture and an adventurous nature they passed on to their sons and granddaughter.

In their Campbell, California, home, Judy was active with the boys' activities in school and sports and was an avid "soccer mom." She was employed with the local school system as a Language Testing Technician for a number of years. Every summer, Judy would hear her Iowa Roots calling her home. She and Evan would spend time in Iowa, visiting family and friends, working on the family genealogy, and making wonderful memories.

Judy was a woman of many talents and deep passions. Her hobbies included scrapbooking, oil painting, gardening, cooking, reading, genealogy, and cheering on her favorite sports teams. She was definitely an Iowa Hawkeye Fan and loved Bing candy bars. She had a unique gift for turning everyday moments into meaningful memories. Her creativity and warmth left a lasting mark on everyone around her.

Above all, Judy will be remembered for her genuine kindness, her empathy, and her unwavering love for her family. She inspired those around her to live fully, to love deeply, and to lead with compassion.

Left to remember her with love are her beloved husband, Evan Gerard; their sons, Jamie (Adrianna) Gerard and Jason (Maria) Gerard; her granddaughter, Freia Gerard; and her siblings, Jean Roberts, Leann Groth-Olson, Mick (Dorothy Ann) Olson, and nephews. Her memory will live on in their hearts and in the countless lives she touched with her grace and generosity.

She lived a beautiful life, full of love, light, and laughter, and will be deeply missed.

Family and friends are invited to attend a Celebration of Life to honor Judy Olson Gerard to be held Saturday, September 20, 2025, at Faith Community Church Memorial Room from 2-4 pm with a program scheduled at 2:30 pm. Judy passed away on January 28, 2025, in San Jose, California.



A Celebration of Life for Donna Muilenburg will be held on Saturday, September 20, from 4 to 7 pm at Annabelle's Tea Room, located inside Donna's Gift Shop at The Wash House in West Okoboji.



The Wash House Gift Shop
1712 Terrace Park Blvd. • West Okoboji



Obituary

Donna Lorraine Muilenburg, age 89, of West Okoboji, passed away July 10, 2025. Donna was the daughter of John and Lorena (Gilson) Obman. She was the middle child and was born in the old Carroll, Iowa, hospital on February 28, 1936. She was baptized March 22, 1936, at Peace Lutheran Church in Wall Lake, Iowa. As a child, Donna's family lived on a farm near Albert City, where she attended Lincoln Lee School. The family moved to a farm near Sulphur Springs before finally settling in Rembrandt, Iowa, when Donna was in 6th grade. She was confirmed at St. John Lutheran Church in Storm Lake, Iowa, on June 18, 1950. Donna graduated from Rembrandt High School in 1954. She attended Buena Vista College in Storm Lake, Iowa, and received her two-year teaching degree.

On November 25, 1956, Donna was united in marriage to Melvin Charles Rossiter at St. John Lutheran Church. Donna and Melvin settled in the Spencer, Iowa, area to farm. Two children, Lisa and Randy, were born to this union. In November 1959, Donna was widowed at the age of 23 with a two-year-old and a four-month-old after Melvin died in a farm accident. Donna and the children moved back to her parent's farm in Rembrandt, where she continued to take college courses to finish her four-year teaching degree.

In April 1966, Donna was introduced by mutual friends to Earl Lee Muilenburg of Hartley, Iowa. This blind date turned out to be a success. Donna and Earl were married on September 18, 1966, at Faith Lutheran Church in Sioux Rapids, Iowa. They purchased the Muilenburg farm from Earl's parents and began their life together. Michael was born in 1969, and four years later the family was complete with the arrival of Ann.

Donna kept busy running the household and helping out on the farm. In 1978 she decided to open a small gift shop on the farm in her mother-in-law's old washhouse building. A friend once told her every hobby should make a profit, and she took that to heart. Due to Donna's talent and determination, the shop on the farm was successful, and she decided that she needed to expand. She moved her business to the Lakes area in the mid 1980s. After renting for a short time, she decided that she needed to buy something. The opportunity arose when the old White Oaks bait shop in West Okoboji came up for sale, and she bought it.

Donna always enjoyed doing big projects, and at age 60 she decided to expand her business again by moving the old Milford hospital and renovating it to be her gift shop. She also added a tea room. Ten years later she moved an 1870s farmhouse to create the Okoboji County Inn. The last step was to move the original Muilenburg farmhouse to West Okoboji. She enjoyed living the last 19 years here and being close to her businesses.

Donna was active in Altar Guild and Bible study as well as being a 4th grade Sunday school teacher for many years at St. Paul's Lutheran church in Hartley. After moving to the West Okoboji area, she became a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Spirit Lake.

Donna enjoyed playing the card game Golf and somehow ended up with the most aces and kings. Sequence was another favorite game, and she was always team yellow. She was an excellent cook and loved to try new recipes and was known for her cinnamon rolls, homemade noodle soup, quiches, and cold strawberry soup. Donna was the best hostess and loved interacting with her customers and guests. Her greatest joy was visiting Sanibel Island, Florida, with family every spring. She loved the beach and could sit there for hours.

Donna's life is honored and celebrated by her children: Lisa, Randy (Sarah), Michael (Karen), and Ann; her grandchildren: Chelsey and Jason Rossiter, and Makayla and Jacob Muilenburg; her great-grandsons: Easton and Jack; and her brothers: Kenneth and Richard (Eloise). She was also a beloved aunt to many nieces and nephews, and she always appreciated their visits and phone calls. She will also be so missed by her spoiled 19-year-old cat, Henry.

Donna was preceded in death by her first husband, Melvin; her husband of 50 years, Earl; her parents, John and Lorena; her sister, Phyllis (Don) Thayer; her brother, Dale Obman; sisters-in-law, Joan and Jean Obman; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Isaac and Alice Muilenburg; mother-in-law, Helen Rossiter; and niece, Julie Obman.

If you want to pay tribute or honor Donna's memory, support your local small businesses, especially if they are woman-owned. A celebration of life for Donna Muilenburg will be held on Saturday, September 20, from 4 to 7 pm at Annabelle's Tea Room, located inside Donna's gift shop at The Wash House, in West Okoboji. A private family burial will be held at a later date at Pleasant View Cemetery in Hartley, Iowa.





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Inflation: Keeping it basic and simple. No fancy lingo. That way I understand it. What is Inflation? When there is high demand for anything, and the supply can't keep up providing the amount of the good or service. Who causes Inflation? We do. You and I. We, and a whole lot of us, want something and there just is not enough to fill the want (the need – the demand). So, when more demand than product or service is available, the prices go up. It is just that simple and basic. Good or bad. Right or wrong.



Recipe Corner

Clip this recipe card to save

Chicken Fried Steak Fingers

Serves 6

Veggie oil for frying

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose steak seasoning, divided
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 1 egg
- 4 pounds beef cube steak

Dipping sauce

- 1 cup mayo
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 2 tablespoons yellow mustard
- 1 package dry Italian salad dressing
- 2 tablespoons dried dill

Preheat oven to lowest temperature. Pour 1 inch oil into a large cast-iron or other thick-bottomed skillet. Turn heat to medium low. Place the flour in a shallow pan. Sprinkle half the steak seasoning over flour, and mix together. Cut steak into 1-inch strips. Add the rest of the steak seasoning, rubbing into each piece. Turn heat to medium on skillet. Place each strip in the flour mix, then into the milk and egg mix, then back into the flour. Shake off excess and place each strip on a plate. Repeat until all strips are coated. Sprinkle a few drops flour over oil. If it sizzles, it's ready to fry. Using tongs or a fork, place strips side by side in hot oil. Don't crowd the pan, or it will cool the oil. After about 2 to 3 minutes, when strips start to brown on bottom, turn over. When second side is brown, remove and place on a cooling rack that has been set on a cookie sheet. Set the sheet in the preheated oven. Repeat until all fingers are cooked. In a bowl, whisk together all dipping sauce ingredients.



Recipe Courtesy of: "Lord Honey Traditional Southern Recipes with a Country Bling Twist" by Chef Jason Smith

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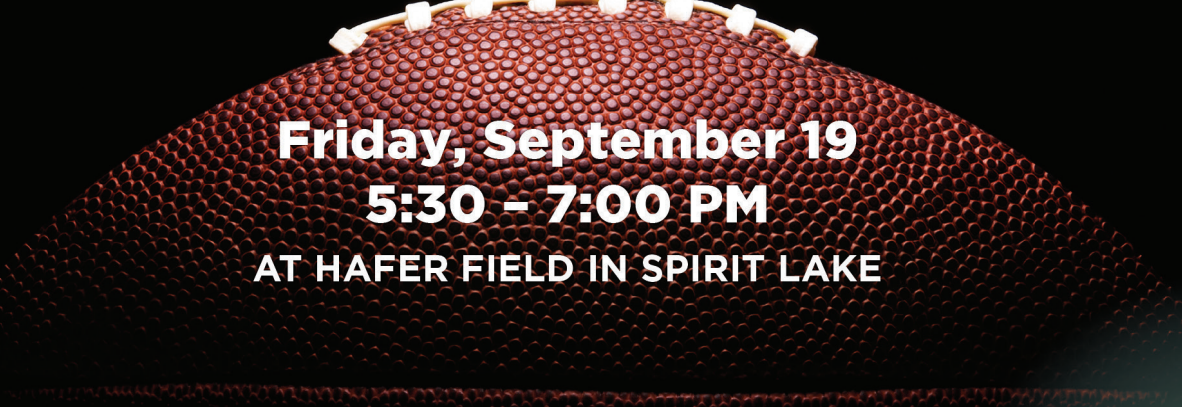
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Free Breakfast Saturday, September 20, from 8-10 am at the Grandview Church gym. Burritos, pancakes, sausage, and eggs are being cooked, and milk, juice and coffee will also be served. The breakfast is completely free, and everyone is invited. Breakfast will be served at Grandview Baptist Church's gym, which is at 3705 170th St. 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, Hy-Vee, Fareway, Ace Hardware, and I & B Ag Supply for donating to the Free Breakfast. If you have questions, please contact Brett Fuelberth at 712-330-1145.

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For more information, contact Aili at 507-840-0639.

Al-Anon Meetings

Milford New Hope Al-Anon meetings will take place on Zoom. Meeting ID is 77557290457 and the pass code is JXEU2H.

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New Laborshed Details Regional Labor Pool

The Iowa Lakes Corridor Development Corporation (Corridor) and Iowa Workforce Development announced the updated “Laborshed” reports for Buena Vista, Clay, Dickinson, and Emmet Counties for 2025.

Conducted every three years, the “Laborshed” study provides detailed information about workforce availability, occupations, wages, benefits and commuting patterns. Iowa Workforce Development estimates that there are 121,803 workers in the Corridor “Laborshed,” defined as the area or region from which an employment center draws its commuting workers. This is an increase of 5,000 over the 2022 estimate. Data is based on mail surveys of businesses in the region and phone call surveys of residents.

“Workforce data and commuting patterns from the Iowa Workforce Development Laborshed reports are important to both existing businesses and potential industry in the Iowa Lakes Corridor Region,” said Corridor President & CEO Curt Strouth. “In our Business Retention & Expansion visits and other conversations with business leadership, workforce is always a topic. Being able to put numbers to these conversations is helpful as we support business and community growth and develop local programming.”

Businesses in the Iowa Lakes Corridor Region draw workers from as far as Brunsville in the west, Fort Dodge in the east, Windom, Minn. to the north and Wall Lake to the south. The employed are currently commuting an average of 12 minutes one way.

Wholesale & Retail Trade is the largest employer industry in the region. Approximately 19,549 people (16.5 percent of the workforce) are employed in Wholesale & Retail Trade, consistent with 16.4 percent reported in 2022. In comparison, the percentage of people employed in healthcare increased from 12.7 percent to 15.8 percent. Other major industries are Manufacturing (11.4 percent of the workforce) and Transportation (8.1 percent).

Among survey respondents, 7.4 percent described themselves as unemployed. This is different than the amount published by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, which applies to a stricter definition for unemployment. 63.1 percent of these individuals are likely to accept an employment opportunity, and 1 in 4 employed people say they would be willing to change employment for the right opportunity.

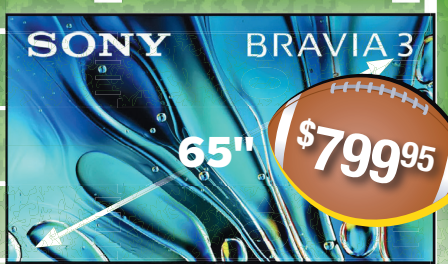
Laborshed reports for the region and the communities of Estherville, Spencer, Spirit Lake and Storm Lake are available on the Iowa Lakes Corridor Development Corporation website, <http://lakescorridor.com/>, or by email at info@lakescorridor.com.

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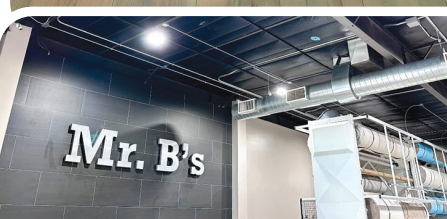
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2282 165th Street, Spirit Lake. September 20, 8am to 5pm. Rummage and craft sale. Area crafters will have their new and unique fall creations available for purchase. Bargains abound! **1-50P**
Hwy 71 S & 30th Ave behind Cruz'n Cars Motors, Spirit Lake. Fri & Sat, 9am-3pm. Toys, glassware, books, tools, microwave, clothing - all sizes & many new with tags, furniture, antiques, purses and many misc. Good prices. **1-50P**

803 Hill Ave, Spirit Lake. Fri, Sept 19, 12-6pm, & Sat, Sept 20, 8am-12pm. Household items, furniture, knick knacks, teen girls & boys clothing. **1-50P**

GARAGE SALE

Milford
508 11th St, Milford. Sat, Sept 20, 8am-4pm. PVC plumbing supplies, kayaks with trailer, pond or private lake weed control device, bicycles, Schwinn 3 wheel 2 place child cart, old school folding dining room table, lawn mowers, kitchen cabinets, food service tables, vintage child desk with drawer, church pew, 2 wheel trailer, much more. **1-50P**

2072 220th St, Milford. Sat, Sept 20, 9am - 5pm and Sun, Sept 21, 10am - 3 pm. 1.4 miles west of Catholic Church. Tons of women's clothing and shoes - all sizes & name brands. Glass ware, kitchen items, good reading books, home decor, a lot of hand tools, fishing poles, and a lot of misc. **1-50P**

THANK YOU

Our heartfelt thanks to everyone for your remembrances.

The Family of
Tim (Charley) James

The Family of Gary Wilson wish to express gratitude for all your thoughts, kindness & prayers throughout Gary's battle with MSSA infections the past three years. Thank you to Dr. Meyer & staff, to Katy & the compassionate team of Gentiva Hospice, our Ruthven Volunteer Fire Department - always ready to assist, as well as our treasured "cabin neighbors". Pastor Eric, Greg Jenness of Turner Jenness Funeral Home & staff for their guidance & support, those who furnished food, cards, memorials, flowers or called or visited. We are deeply grateful for each of you.

Cheryl Wilson & Daughters
Rhonda Weiland & Sheila Welch

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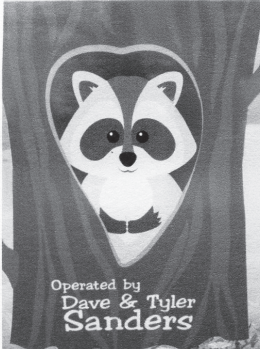


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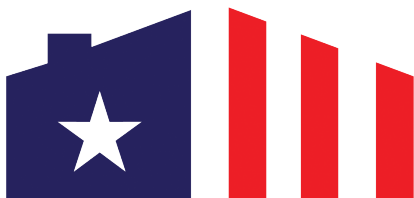
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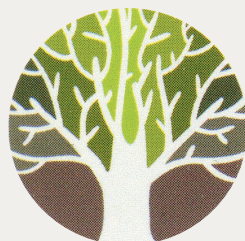
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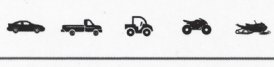
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Lakes Area Activities/Senior Center Schedule

Tuesday, September 16
8:30 - Kiwanis
12:00 - Dinner Date
12:30 Bridge
6:30 - Men's Group
Wednesday, September 17
9:00 - Exercise Class
12:00 - Dinner Date
1:00 - Speaker: St. Croix Hospice - Cari will discuss what Hospice is all about as it's changed over the years
Thursday, September 18
10:00 - Strummers
12:00 - Dinner Date
1:00 - 500 Cards
3:00 - Cribbage
4:30 - Zumba
5:30 - Singles Group
Friday, September 19
9:00 - Exercise Class
12:00 - Chair Yoga
12:00 - Dinner Date
Saturday, September 20
Facility Available For Rent
Sunday, September 21
8:30-12:00 Breakfast/ Free will offering
Monday, September 22
9:00 - Exercise
11:30 - Women's Group
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. 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, September 21, 2025 from 8:30-12:30 - Free Will Offering. The facility is available to rent most weekends. Call or visit with someone at the office for more details.
The Lakes Area Activities/Senior Center is located at 2101 Zenith Ave in Spirit Lake.

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The TOPS program on September 19 will be given by Ruth Ann Van Donslear

by TOPS Reporter, Colleen M. Lemkuil, Nurse and Health Educator.
The group will meet at 10 AM for the pledge, roll call, and then the program will be given by Ruth Ann Van Donslear, a KOPS member of the Spirit Lake Chapter. KOPS means Keeping Off Pounds Sensibly. Ruth Ann attends the weekly meetings to maintain her weight and has not gained weight in 20 years. She believes we need to be drinking 6 to 8 glasses of water a day for good health. 8-8 ounces of water is needed daily. Take care of your water daily.
Weigh-in will start at 9 AM. Leader Betty Sangel will greet you at the United Methodist Church of Spirit Lake, Iowa. The address is 1812 Gary Ave., which is one block east of the Dickinson County Courthouse. New members are welcome. Call Betty Sangel at 712-320-4458. For more information, go to www.tops.org.
Earlier this month, the lesson taught by Colleen Lemkuil and Ruth Ann Van Donslear was on exercise. The Yes, yes for September is to do the TOPS magazine exercises called “Frightfully Fit: Fantastic Moves for Bone Health”. We will also be participating in the Family Fun Bingo all month of September. The picture is of Colleen Lemkuil riding her bike for 30 minutes and 3 miles on the bike trail west of West Okoboji. We have wonderful bike trails in our area. Walk or ride a bike on our great trails. Some of our members walk dogs. Some play pickleball and others do water exercise at Cutty's Resort on the west side of West Okoboji. Exercise is important for weight loss and good health.



Community Health Center of Spencer Welcomes Dr. Daniel S. Garner, DMD, to Expanding Dental Team

Community Health Center of Spencer is pleased to announce the addition of Dr. Daniel S. Garner, DMD to its growing dental team. Dr. Garner brings a wealth of experience in general dentistry and a deep commitment to community-based care, and he is now accepting new patients.
A 1997 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh School of Dental Medicine, Dr. Garner has been practicing dentistry for over 25 years, offering a comprehensive range of services with a focus on preventive care and promoting lifelong oral health for patients of all ages.
In addition to his long-standing private practice in Pittsburgh, PA, Dr. Garner has dedicated much of his career to serving underserved populations. He helped establish the Hilltop Community Healthcare Center in Pittsburgh, has provided free dental care through the Donated Dental Services program in Western Pennsylvania, and supported global missions by helping launch dental care services in some of the most impoverished regions of Haiti through Heaven's Family Missions. He currently volunteers with the AFICF Free Clinic.
Dr. Garner's dedication to accessible, high-quality dental care aligns with the mission of Community Health Center of Spencer, where he will be offering a wide range of services—from routine checkups and cleanings to restorative treatments and patient education.
“We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Garner to our team,” said Renae Kruckenberg, CEO of Community Health Center. “His experience and heart for service will be a tremendous asset to our patients and our community.”
Community Health Center of Spencer is a federally qualified health center operating under the umbrella of Community Health Center of Fort Dodge, Inc. They provide comprehensive medical, dental, and behavioral health services to individuals and families, regardless of insurance status. They accept Medicare, Medicaid, most major insurance and offer a sliding-fee scale to those who qualify based on income and household size.
Appointments with Dr. Garner are currently being accepted by calling 712-232-4300



2025 Clay County Fair by the Numbers

Spencer, Iowa — Over the nine days of the 2025 Clay County Fair, powered by SMU, thousands of visitors once again filled the fairgrounds, making memories that will last a lifetime. Fairgoers from across the region came together to enjoy everything from thrilling grandstand entertainment to one-of-a-kind food creations, livestock competitions, and hands-on agricultural exhibits.
“Each year, the Clay County Fair showcases an incredible variety of talent, and our open class exhibitors were a shining example of that in 2025,” said CEO Jason Brockshus. “From the dedication of our exhibitors to the enthusiasm of our Grandstand crowds, it's always rewarding to see our community and visitors come together to create something truly memorable.”
The 2025 Clay County Fair's success can be seen in several key areas:
Youth Involvement
· 774 4-H and FFA exhibitors from 53 counties across Iowa, Minnesota, and South Dakota showcased their hard work in livestock and human sciences events.
· Approximately 1,145 third- and fourth-grade students from 15 regional schools took part in the Fair's educational opportunities through the AgCiting and SciCiting field trip programs, coordinated by ISU Extension and Outreach — Clay County.
Exhibitor Participation
· 457 unique commercial exhibitors, concessionaires, and vendors from 36 states were part of this year's Fair, including 150 agriculture-specific exhibitors. This helped the Clay County Fair maintain its title as the largest farm machinery and ag equipment show at any fair in the United States.
· Of these, 51 were new vendors, adding fresh variety and excitement to the Fairgrounds.
· 1,248 exhibitors entered open-class livestock and non-livestock competitions, with a combined 10,399 total entries, highlighting the depth of talent and dedication in the open-class divisions.
Attendance
· Grandstand shows drew 15,540 attendees, with highlights including Jeff Dunham, All-Star Monster Trucks, and Bulls & Broncs, which brought in some of the largest crowds of the week.
· Total Fair attendance for 2025 reached 316,242. Please note this figure is an early estimate, as the Fair is still awaiting reports from a few advance admission ticket locations.
As the 2025 Clay County Fair wraps up, the organization would like to extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who made this year's Fair possible. From volunteers and program directors to exhibitors, vendors, and sponsors—your dedication and hard work brought the Fair to life. The Clay County Fair looks forward to welcoming even more visitors and creating lasting memories in the years to come.



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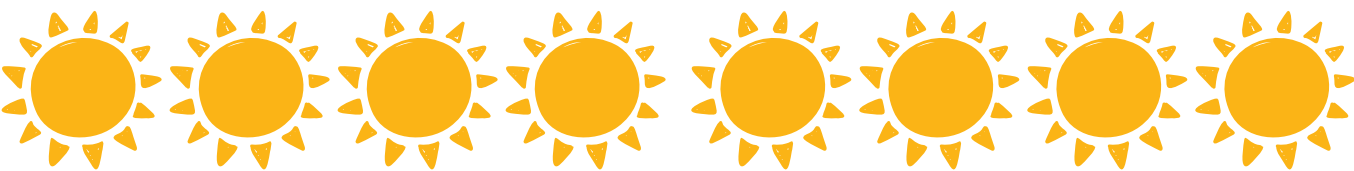
We have **TWO OPENINGS** for the November 4th election. Here's how to apply:

- 1 Get nomination papers from the Okoboji Community Schools Office, 1205 7th Street.
- 2 Attain 50 Signatures.
- 3 File the paperwork with the Dickinson County Auditors Office, 1802 Hill Ave #1400, Spirit Lake before **5pm on Thursday, September 18.**

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



PIONEERING PATHWAYS



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Inspiration for Our Day- "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." ~John 13:34

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