

# LAKES NEWS SHOPPER



THIS IS YNUR FRFF COP

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 4 2025

VOL/53 NO/05

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**Creamy Roll** 

**Shrimp Roll** 

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Tuna Roll

62 Pieces

Tuna Nigiri Salmon Nigiri **Shrimp Nigiri** 

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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



Mixed Nigiri Combo Platter

**Veg Combo Platter** 60 Pieces

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Vegetable Roll **Cucumber Cado Roll** Salad Roll **Small Cado Roll** Small Carrot Roll **Small Cucumber Roll** 







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LONELY OAK DISTILLERY from Earling, Iowa will be on-site with sampling of STEEPLE RIDGE BOURBON THURSDAY, NOV. 6 from 3-6pm



# Additional In-Store Sampling Events FRIDAY, NOV. 7 from 12-6pm SATURDAY, NOV. 8 from 11am-2pm

Sauvignon Blanc Pinot Grigio



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## Rock4Vets Concert Set For Nov. 13

The Iowa Rock 'n Roll Music Association will have a Rock4Vets concert to honor all who have served our country on Thursday, Nov. 13, 2025, in the Roof Garden Ballroom, located in Arnolds Park, Iowa. The guest emcee will be retired Command Sgt. Major Steve Waller with the Iowa Army National Guard. The concert will feature the band GALAXY, who were just inducted into the Iowa Rock 'n Roll Music Association Hall of Fame as part of the Class of 2025. Doors will open at 5 p.m. The concert will be from 6 to 8:30 p.m. All veterans will be admitted to this concert for free with a display of their military ID.

General admission is \$10. There will be no season passes or discounts for this event. Historic Arnolds Park will serve a

pulled pork meal available at a price of \$8 per person. Veterans and their spouses will eat for free with a display of their military ID.

Event organizer Doris Welle stated, "We are dedicated to upholding a nearly two-decade tradition of honoring our military veterans and active members of our Armed Forces

at Rock4Vets. Music was so important in helping them endure homesickness, serving so far from home and family. Now they can dine and dance to the music they love while socializing with other vets and the public that appreciates their service."



For more information, go to www. iowarocknroll.com/events

Ralph Kluseman, President of the Iowa Rock 'n Roll Association stated, "We are grateful for the support our sponsors who make this special tribute to our veterans









#### Women's Okoboji Weekend

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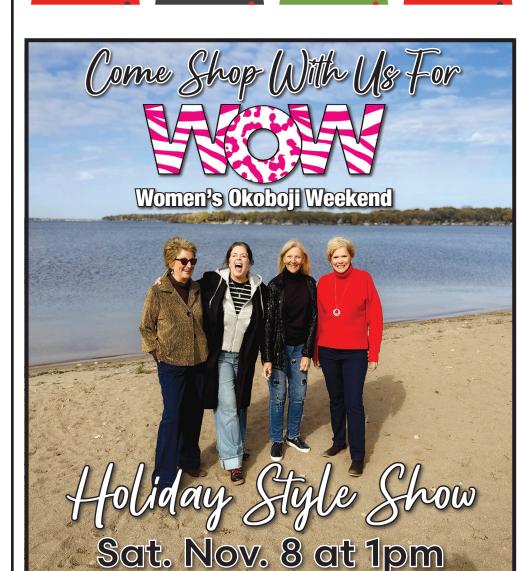












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## Hy-Vee to Support Local Communities by Providing Free Kids Meals, Food Bank Bundles and More

With food banks preparing to see a record number of families over the coming weeks, Hy-Vee will be providing multiple community support options at local

Hy-Vee store locations From November 3-7, Hy-Vee stores with hot food service will

provide a free kids meal to those ages 12 and under from 4-7 p.m. The same meal will be available to everyone else for \$3 and will be offered for dine- xbin

- or to go. The menu will be as follows: Monday, November 3: Baked Potato with Pulled Pork Tuesday, November 4: Spaghetti with Meat Sauce, Salad
  - and Garlic Bread Wednesday, November 5: Chicken and Noodles with Mashed Potatoes
  - Thursday, November 6: Chili and a Cinnamon Roll
  - Friday, November 7: Two Chicken Tenders, Mashed Potatoes and Corn

Hy-Vee stores will offer \$5 and \$10 food bank donation bundles for customers to purchase. The bags will include items most needed by food pantries, including canned vegetables, pasta sauce, canned proteins and cereal.





#### 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 presentation begins at 2:00pm

• Tuesday, November 4, 12:30 PM - "Nature Center": Danika's theme this week will be "Fresh Fish & Mussels".

• Tuesday, November 11, 11:30 PM -Veterans Day Program presented by John W. Kidd VFW Post #4514 and American Legion Timpe Post #23 and lunch. Thank You to the First Presbyterian Church Deacons and an autonomous donor.. They have provided funding for 40 Veterans to receive a free lunch on Veterans Day at the Lakes Area Activity/ Senior Center

• Tuesday, November 18, 12:30 PM - World War II presentation by Owen Primavera

• Tuesday, November 25 12:30pm-"Fresh Conversations" and . Dickinson County Public Health will be providing free blood pressure checks.

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





















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#### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

The Okoboji Women's Club has been organized since 1950. Originally the club was part of the National Federated Women's Club until the 1980s. The members from Okoboji area wanted to raise funds and provide volunteer hours to strictly serve area projects.

One major project was the Lakes Art Center. Between 1966 and 1968, our local Okoboji Women's Club was able to purchase an old garage on a hill along Highway 71 in the town of Okoboji. The Women converted the garage into a studio/shop. They hired an art instructor to provide classes for the community. Major benefactors, Bud and Bev Pearson, embraced their goals and the new Pearson Lakes Art Center was opened in 1991. It continues to provide education, gallery and live music events for the entire lakes region and its millions of visitors every year. Our speaker on November 7, at 1:00pm, is Bob Kirschbaum,

Executive Director of the Pearson Lakes Art Center. Okoboji Women's Club will meet on November 7, at 1:00pm,

at the Homestead Coop. If anyone is interested in attending this meeting and possibly joining the Okoboji Women's Club, please call Lyn Marksbury at 712-574-2165 to make a reservation.

Lyn Marksbury,

President of the Okoboji Women/s Club

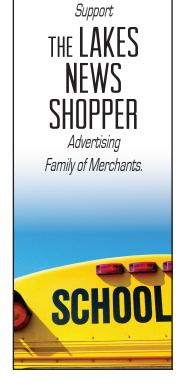
















# \* \* Happy \* \* Veterans Day

Kids, color this picture as your message of thanks, then bring it to The Lakes News Shopper to be featured in the paper and on social media. Help us display our appreciation for our nation's brave veterans!









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We believe in you. ₹

#### **We Salute Our Heroes** This Veterans Day!

**American Legion Post #1 American Legion Auxiliary #1 lowa Lakes Legion Riders Clay County Post 3159 VFW Post Auxiliary 3159** SPENCER, IOWA



## ans Day Program & at Lakes Area Senior Genter

Presentation of Colors & Short Program at 11:30 **Dinner at Noon - FREE Lunch for 40 Veterans Get Your Ticket in Advance from Area Legions!** 

**Lakes Area Activites/Senior Center** 2101 Zenith Avenue • Spirit Lake





HAPPY VETERANS DAY





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The Knights of Columbus is a charitable organization that supports many local projects

#### HONORING OUR VETERANS THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE AND SACRIFICE, WE SALUTE YOU!



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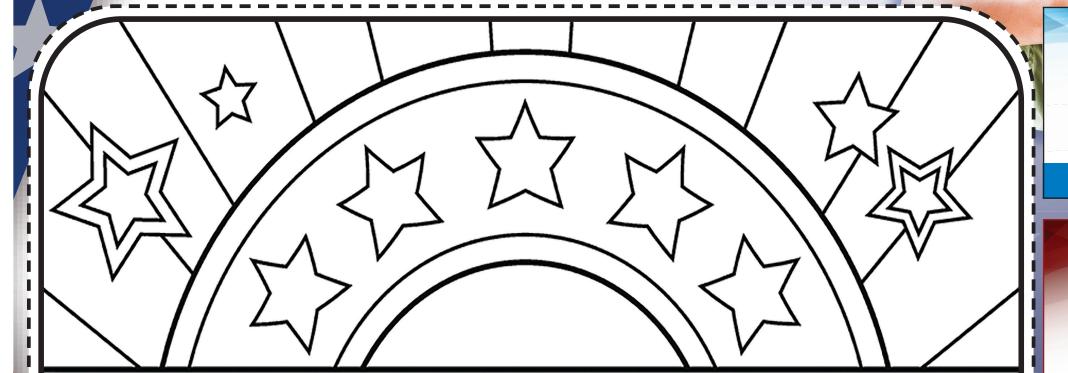


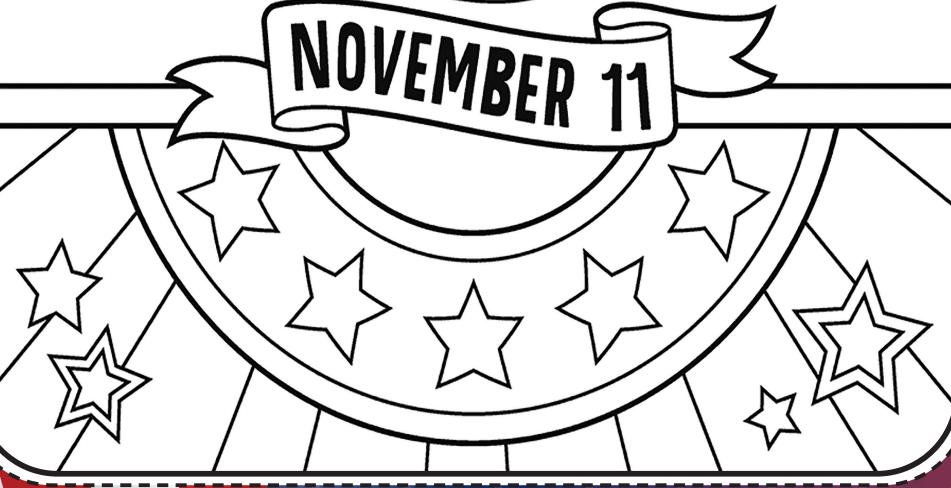


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# THANK YOU, blink<sup>®</sup>

#### WE SALUTE YOU!

**Happy Veterans Day,** from the Students, Staff & Board of the **Okoboji Community School District** 





Today, we honor the brave men and women who have served our nation. THANK YOU, VETERANS, FOR YOUR SACRIFICE AND **DEDICATION.** 

HOIEN

Marilyn Strickland Broker - Associate 712-320-7070 · marilyn@hoien.com

#### **HONORING OUR VETERANS**

Thank you for your service and dedication to our Nation. We salute you!

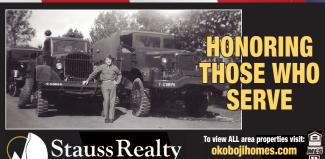
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## Thank You VETERANS

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#### THANK YOU Veterans for Your Honorable



THE LAKES NEWS SHOPPER Tuesday, November 4, 2025

#### Jones Named to Dean's List

Camry Jones of Arnolds Park, IA, has been named to the Dean's List for the summer 2025 quarter and semester terms at Mercy College of Health Sciences in Des Moines, Iowa. To qualify for this academic recognition, students must attain a grade point average (GPA) between 3.5 and 3.749 for a minimum of six semester credit hours or four quarter credit hours in their most recent term.

### Veterans Day Program Announced In Spirit Lake

Spirit Lake Middle School and High School invite all Veterans and the public to attend a program honoring veterans in the area. The program begins at 9:00 A.M. at the Sami Center in the Spirit Lake High School on Tuesday, November 11, 2025. All Veterans and the public are encouraged to come and help honor our veterans on this very important day. Guest speaker for





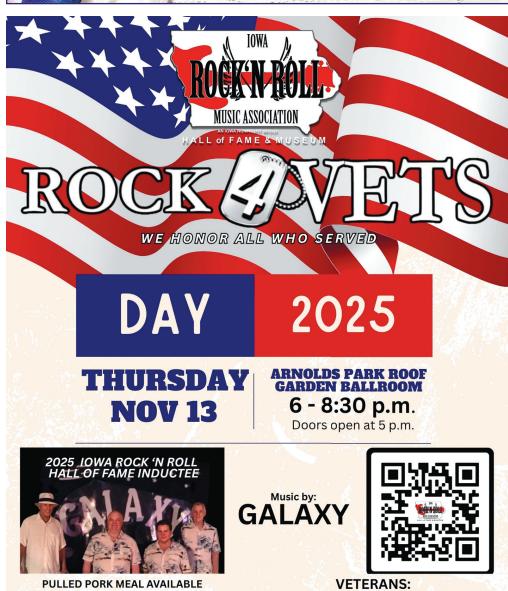
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# Weekly Social Gathering

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.

THE LAKES NEWS **Auctions** 

**Pages 2B** & 3B



iowarocknroll.com/events

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THUOMATA



The Food Bank of Iowa Mobile Food Pantry will be open for distribution on Thursday, November 6, 2025, from 4:30

- 6:30 pm at the Lake Park Methodist Church located at 1471 135th Ave, Lake Park. Registration will be inside the church beginning at 3:30 pm, you must be present to register. You may pick up groceries for someone that is not able to make it. Please do not line up



at the front door (southeast corner of the church) before 3:30 pm. Please bring boxes, bags or containers for your groceries. Distribution will begin at 4:30 pm.

Volunteers will help bring your groceries to your vehicle. Questions? Call the Lake Park Methodist Church at 712-832-3361 or Jerilyn Marra 712-348-0475.

## 

#### **DCNC - November Nature Tots**

Young nature lovers, ages 2-5, and a chaperone are invited to Nature Tots at the Dickinson County Nature Center. On Wednes-

day, November 12, at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., little ones will explore their nature ABCs with the Umbrella bird, Vulture, and Wood duck.



gram, participants can look forward to activities such

as picking up "insects" with tweezers, like a bird beak, to learn about the Umbrella bird's diet. They can also use their sense of smell, just like vultures find their food, and learn about Wood ducks by finding hidden colored eggs in Wood duck boxes. Little ones will also creatively decorate and color the designated letters for each animal and take them home.

"Through hands-on play and sensory learning activities, Nature Tots is a program that builds a lifelong love of nature," said Amy Heibult, community relations coordinator of the Dickinson County Conservation Board.

To register for this free monthly program, visit the event list under our Programs/Events tab at www.dickinsoncountyconservationboard.com. Like and follow the Dickinson County Nature Center for updates and new programs.

#### Iowa Lakes to Honor Veterans at **Annual Ceremony November 11**

Iowa Lakes Community College will host its annual Veterans Day Ceremony at 11 a.m. Tuesday, November 11, in the Janice K. Lund Performing Arts Center on the Estherville Campus. The event is free and open to the public.

"We're honored to recognize Veterans and military-affiliated students within our Iowa Lakes family and across our communities," said Tim Ireland, Director of the Veterans Center at Iowa Lakes. "Veterans Day is a time to reflect, learn, and say a sincere thank you on our campus and together as neighbors."

Master Sergeant Lorenzia "Lo" Henderson, U.S. Army (Ret.), will deliver the keynote address. Henderson served 32 years in combined service to the U.S. Marine Corps and U.S. Army/Army Reserve, including a combat tour in Iraq from 2004 to 2005. His distinguished career concluded as senior enlisted advisor to the Army Chief of Chaplains at the Pentagon. He holds a bachelor's degree in pastoral studies and is completing a Master of Social Work degree at Walden University.

The program will be emceed by Michelle Kogel, Professor and SAVE Program Coordinator at Iowa Lakes, who served six years in the Iowa Army National Guard.

Specialist Brooke Williams, a Criminal Justice student on the Estherville Campus and member of the Iowa Army National Guard, will present a brief history of Veterans Day during the ceremony.

The Estherville VFW John W. Bradford Post 3388 will present the colors, and musical selections will be performed by the Iowa Lakes Choir and Band, directed by Professor Brett Fuelberth and Music Director Lincoln Larsen.

Following the ceremony, Veterans and a guest are invited to enjoy a complimentary lunch in The Max dining hall from noon to 12:30 p.m., hosted by the Iowa Lakes Veterans Center Director.

Iowa Lakes Community College has earned recognition at both the state and national levels for its dedication to military and veteran students. Honors include the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Above & Beyond Award, nomination for the Secretary of Defense Freedom Award, the Governor's Certified Higher Education Military Partner designation, and recognition as a Top Veteran-Friendly School.

These distinctions reflect the college's ongoing commitment to supporting military students and their families in achieving academic and career success.

For those unable to attend in person, the ceremony will be streamed live at iowalakes.edu.



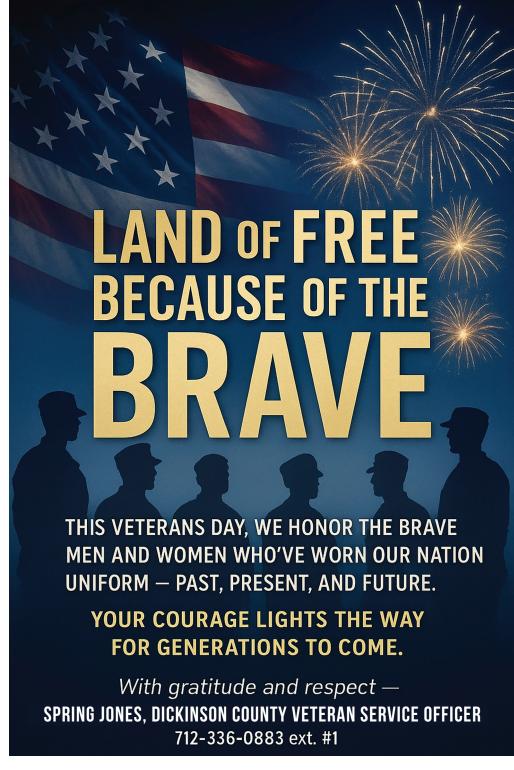


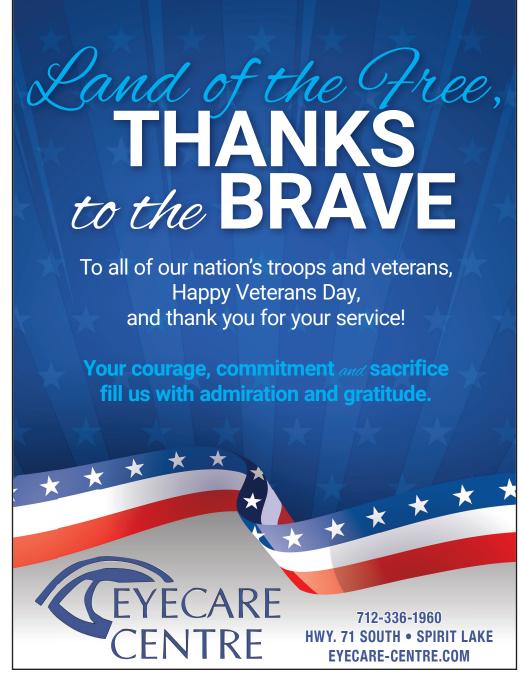
Tuesday, November 11th · gam Okoboji Middle School Gym

- Put on by Okoboji Elementary School
- Each individual grade level from OES will be singing a song for the audience to enjoy
- Special Veterans Day message by Mr. Steve Anderson, Milford Mayor & Veteran









# Save the Date: Turkey Dinner to Support the Lakes Area Senior Center

The leaves are turning, the air is crisp, and it's time for the comforting taste of a holiday tradition! The Lakes Area Activity/ Senior Center is inviting the entire community to their annual Fall Turkey Dinner, a beloved event that serves up a delicious meal while raising essential funds for the Center.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, November 16, 2025. From 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM, the Center at 2102 Zenith Ave. in Spirit Lake (right under the familiar Water Tower) will be filled with the warmth and aroma of a classic feast.

#### A Meal Catered with Care

This year's dinner promises a spectacular spread, expertly prepared and catered by Carstensen's. Attendees can look forward to piling their plates high with all the fixings that make autumn dining so special: tender turkey, creamy mashed potatoes swimming in gravy, flavorful sage dressing, hearty green bean casserole, sweet and tart cranberry sauce, fresh rolls and butter, pumpkin pie

Every ticket purchased for this meal directly supports the vital programs and activities that make the Lakes Area Activity/ Senior Center a cherished hub for local seniors. It's a chance to enjoy a wonderful meal and invest in a valuable community resource at the same time.

To join this wonderful community gathering, you can purchase tickets in advance: adults: \$18.00, children (ages 5-10): \$9.00, children under 5: free.

Tickets are available for purchase at the Lakes Area Activity/ Senior Center itself, or you may pick them up from any Board

For any questions about the dinner, or to get more details about the Center, please call 712-336-5247. Come share a meal with your neighbors and support the heart of the lakes area community!



# Fall Church Soup and Pie Supper

Immanuel Lutheran Church/ Spirit Lake is hosting their Annual Fall Soup and Pie Supper Thursday, November 6th, 5:00 - 7:00p.m. Soups are chili, chicken noodle, vegetable beef and potato wild rice and delicious pies. Also included are relishes, crackers, rolls and beverages. Meal prices per adult is \$8.00, children 5-10, \$3.00 and pre-school free. Public invited.

#### 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-stopshop to locate local resources. To access the free guide online, visit https://www.extension. iastate.edu/dickinson/countyresource-guide. If you have services to add to the guide, contact Sue at 712-336-3488 or boettche@iastate.edu.

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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:

There is a new 6-part documentary on PBS directed by Ken Burns, starting Sunday, November 16, about the American Revolution. Given the condition of our Nation, I would recommend watching this documentary. We should all be proud of our Nation's history, and the sacrifices of the patriots of our democracy. Ben Fanklin once said, "we have a democracy, if we can

Jim Gustafson, Milford, Iowa

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# **DICKINSON COUNTY TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION**

**Dickinson County Taxpayers Monthly Meeting** 

> November 13 · 8 AM **Sandhill Board Room**

Located at Lake Okoboji Resort & **Conference Center (formerly Arrowwood)** 

> Meetings are held the 2nd Thursday of each month now thru November. **PUBLIC IS WELCOME!**

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#### **Brewster American Legion** Dance on Saturday, November 8

Brewster, Minnesota and one of the best dance floors around.

Northwest Iowa favorites Bill & Jackie will be playing for a dance at the Brewster American Legion Hall on Saturday, November 8. They'll be performing your favorite dance music from 7:00 to 10:30pm that evening. Whether it's rock, country or line dance, Bill & Jackie perform a lively mix of music to suit all of your dancing needs.



#### 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.



#### Lakes Area Activities/Senior **Center Wish List**

- City of Spirit Lake green garbage bags
- Postage stamps
- Paper towels and Kleenex
- Toilet paper
- Coffee regular, decaf, filters and Styrofoam coffee cups

Thank you for your donations!





# **VFW BREAKFAST**

Sunday, Nov. 9 8:00 am to 12:30 pm

— PUBLIC WELCOME —

**SERVING:** 

Pancakes • French Toast Eggs • Sausage • Coffee • Juice

**VFW Post 3159 Veterans Hall** 

15 East 21st St. Spencer, IA



"The Lord Be with You"

10:00 AM **SUNDAYS** 

The Reverend Carolyn Tuttle, Rector Live Stream through our Facebook Page

Email: office@stalbansepiscopalchurch.org Website: stalbansepiscopalchurch.org

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



#### Meets second & fourth Sundays 9:30 am/Coffee & Fellowship • 10:00 am Service Lakes Area Activity Center,

**Universalist Fellowship** 

**Iowa Lakes Unitarian** 

2101 Zenith Ave, Spirit Lake See uuokoboji.com for dates and program schedule.

We are a progressive, liberal welcoming congregation



#### JOIN US FOR WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY AT 9:30 AM OR ONLINE AT HARBOROFJOY.COM

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Coffee & Rolls 9-11am

Lunch 11am-1pm

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JOYKIDS WEDNESDAYS 3:30-5PM HARBOR OF JOY **LUTHERAN CHURCH LCME** 

Saturday, Nov. 8

9:00am - 1:30pm

**Lake Park Methodist Church** 

1471 135th Ave., Lake Park



### Italian & American Cuisine from our made from Scratch Kitchen! **WEDNESDAY NIGHT THURSDAY NIGHT**

**DINNER SPECIAL:** Brick Chicken

PASTA NIGHT STARTS NOVEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>!

Build Your Own Pasta Bar with Salad and Bread

15 Dam Road, Arnolds Park • 712-337-3238 FALL HOURS: TUES. - SAT. 5PM-CLOSE

#### **Lakes Area Activities/Senior Center** Stop in and see what we have to offer!!!

TUES., NOV. 11 at 11:30am- Veterans Day Program present by John W. Kidd VFW Post #4514 and American Legion Timpe Post #23 Veteran

Thank you to the First Presbyterian Church Deacons and an anonymous donor for providing 40 Veterans with a free lunch.



Appreciation

#### **FALL TURKEY DINNER FUNDRAISER SUNDAY, NOV. 16** • 10:30am - 12:30pm

Purchase your tickets at the Senior Center! SIGN UP FOR DINNER DATE MEALS!

Call Today! Reserve your meal for next week Low Cost: \$7-\$10 Donation 712-336-5257

**BBQ Beef/Bun** Vegetable **Fruit** 

NOON

12 Wednesday **Beef Provalone Sliders** Vegetable & Fruit

Delicious, hot cooked meals. Great conversations- meet new people!

13 Thursday Meatball Sub Vegetable Fruit & Bread







**SUNDAY** • 10:30 AM

Coffee & Fellowship Before & After the Service

Rev. Dr. Jennifer Hesebeck, Pastor 805 Okoboji Avenue • Milford, IA .338.4642 • www.faithcommunitymilford.com



## Join Us...

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

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



Immanuel Luthera





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**Bedell Family YMCA** 712.336.9622 • www.okobojiymca.com FIND US ON FACEBOOK TO STAY UP TO DATE ON ALL ACTIVITIES!

**FELLOWSHIP** 

**EDUCATION** 

9:30 AM

9:45 AM

#### TIME TO TROT! **TURKEY TROT 5K**

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office@3cross.org (世) 712-338-4514 (世) www.3cross.org

**Thanksgiving Morning** Thursday, November 27

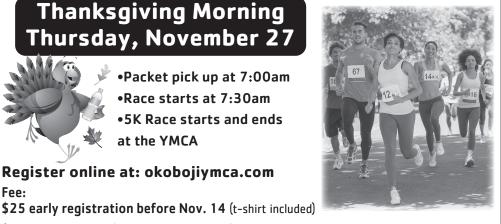


•Packet pick up at 7:00am •Race starts at 7:30am

•5K Race starts and ends at the YMCA

Register online at: okobojiymca.com

\$35 after Nov. 14 (t-shirt not guaranteed)



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Nov 1st-23rd

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Monday & Wednesday 3pm-10pm Tuesday CLOSED Thursday 11am-10pm Friday 11am-11pm

Saturday 8am-11pm Sunday 8am-9pm





#### West O Beer Donates \$1,760 to Historic Arnolds Park

West O Beer co-owner Matt Matthiesen recently presented a check for \$1,760 to Jon Pausley, CEO of Historic Arnolds Park. The West Okoboji-based brewery and pizzeria raised the funds through this year's sales of a seasonal beer called Tipsy House — a West Coast India Pale Ale brewed to celebrate the history of the legendary Tipsy House at Arnolds Park Amusement Park and to support its restoration and preservation. The historic attraction — which was originally constructed in 1930 completed its much-needed restoration ahead of the 2025 summer season. Through sales of Tipsy House over the last three summers, West O Beer raised a total of \$6,060 for the project.





**Upper Des Moines Opportunity in Dickinson County** 



#### Dance in Brewster

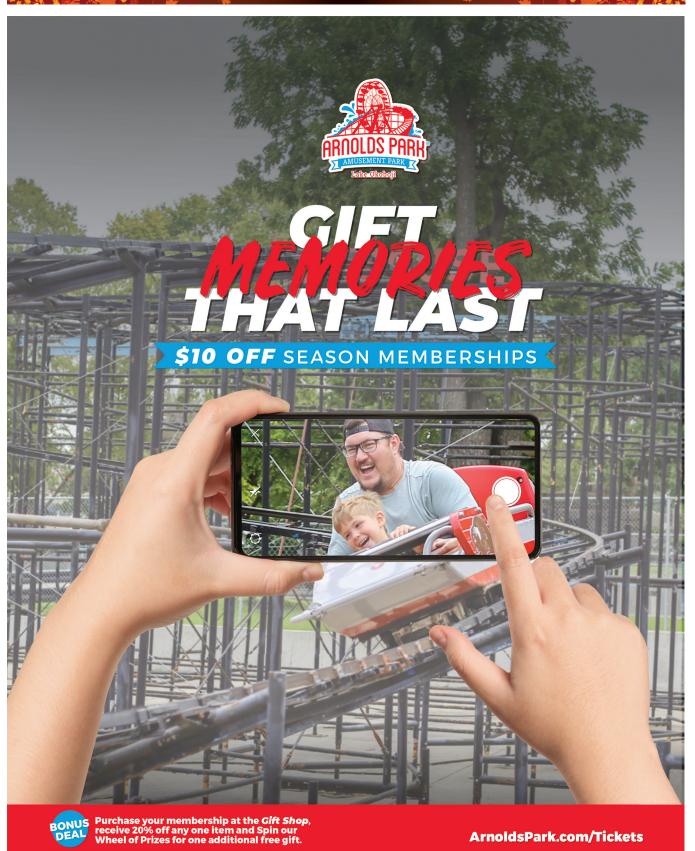
Boji Bill and Jackie will be playing for our dance Saturday, November 8th, 7-10:30, at the Brewster Legion In Brewster, MN. All are welcome for a great evening of dancing and music.







Facebook Page to learn more.





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Please complete and bring or mail this form to Perkins®, or reserve by phone. 24-hour advance notice is appreciated.

CONTACT INFORMATION Pickup Date & Time

Let the perks begin. Sign me up for MyPerkins® eClub. QTY. . SPECIALTY PIES Whole Pies - Serving Size: 6 slices per pie. Banana Cream 15.99 Chocolate French Silk.. 16.99 Coconut Cream. 15.99 15.99 16.99 Peanut Butter Silk. 15.99

OTY. . CAKES & CHEESECAKES Whole Cakes & Cheesecakes - Serving Size: 14 slices per cake. Carrot Cake. Chocolate Overload Cake ... New York Cheesecake..

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MONDAY | CLOSED TUE-THU | 4-9 pm FRI-SUN | 12-9 pm

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**Dotson Bison Sloppy Joes!** Saturday, Nov. 8

**Dave** Rowley **Bison Chili!** 

Sunday, Nov. 9 **Adam Layman &** 

Jacob Wittkamp ₹4-6pm **Bison Lasagna!** 

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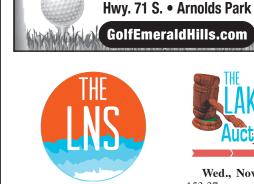


\$46\* - 18 Holes \$26 - 9 Holes **Both prices include cart.** 

\*Or play all day with extra cart fee.

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Sun. & Thurs.: 11am-7:45pm | Fri. & Sat.: 11am-8:45pm Hwy. 86 • West Lake Okoboji 712-337-3372 • www.okobojiview.net 712-332-8142 • www.pub19barandgrill.com



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Thurs., Nov. 6 - 10:00 AM-195 acres at auction in Clay Co., IA. Auctioneers: Midwest Land Management. 712-262-3110. www. midwestlandmanagement.com.

Wed., Nov. 5 - 10:00 AM-

Wed., Nov. 5 - 10:00 AM-

80 acres at auction in O'Brien Co., IA. Auctioneers: Midwest Land

Management. 712-262-3110.

www.midwestlandmanagement.

153.37 acres at auction in Jackson Co., MN. Auctioneers: Pike & Christopher. 507-847-3468. www.

auctioneeralley.com.

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Fri., Nov. 7 - 10:00 AM-100 acres at auction in Dickinson Co., IA. Auctioneers: Hjelm & Sikora. 712-262-3529. www. theacreco.com.

Sun., Nov. 9 - 10:30 AM-Estate Gun auction in Humboldt, IA. Auctioneers: Hundertmarks. 515-890-0380. www.hundertmarkauction.com.

Wed., Nov. 12 - 10:00 AM-146.3 acres at auction in Clay Co., IA. Auctioneers: Hielm & Sikora 712-262-3529, www.theacreco

Thurs., Nov. 13 - 10:00 AM-133.34 acres at auction in Clay Co., IA. Auctioneers: Vander Werff. Hattermann, Rydberg & Mouw. 712-729-3264. www.vw72.com.

Thurs., Nov. 13 - 10:00 AM-160 acres at auction in Dickinson Co., IA. Auctioneers: Midwest Land Management. 712-262-3110. www.midwestlandmanagement.

Thurs., Nov. 13 - 10:00 AM-154.80 acres at auction in Blue Earth Co., MN. Auctioneers: Hartungs. 507-236-7629. www. auctioneeralley.com.

Fri., Nov. 14 - 10:00 AM-34 acres at auction in Palo Alto Co., IA. Auctioneers: Midwest Land Management. 712-262-3110. www.midwestlandmanagement.

Tues., Nov. 18 - 10:00 AM-290.35 acres at auction in Osceola & Dickinson Counties, IA. Auctioneers: Midwest Land Management. 712-262-3110.www.midwestlandmanagement.com.

Tues., Nov. 18 - 10:00 AM-170.29 acres at auction in Martin Co., MN. Auctioneers: Hartungs. 507-236-7629.www.auctioneeral-

Wed., Nov. 19 - 10:00 AM-290.35 acres at auction in Osceola Co., IA. Auctioneers: Hjelm & Sikora. 712-262-3529. www theacreco.com.

Thurs., Nov. 20 - 10:00 AM-80 acres at auction in Jackson Co., MN. Auctioneers: Midwest Land Management. 712-262-3110. www.midwestlandmanagement.

Thurs., Nov. 20 – 10:00 AM– 412.70 acres at auction in Martin Co., MN. Auctioneers: Hartungs. 507-236-7629.www.auctioneerallev.com.

Sat., Nov. 22 - 9:30 AM-Coins at auction in Spirit Lake. Auctioneer: Toering. 712-395-0165.

Sat., Nov. 22 - 1:00 PM-Guns and ammunition at auction in Spirit Lake. Auctioneer: Toering 712-395-0165.

Tues., Nov. 25 - 10:00 AM-157 acres at auction in Clay & Dickinson Counties, IA. Auctioneers: Midwest Land Management. 712-262-3110.www.midwestland-

management.com. Tues., Dec. 2 - 8:00 AM- Online auction bidding opens for 80+ acres in LaCross Twp., MN. Auctioneers: Fladeboe. 320-212-9379 www.ladeboeland.com









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# 11th Annual

**Spirit Lake American Legion & Auxiliary** 

Sunday, Nov. 9

11am - 2pm

**Spirit Lake American Legion Post Headquarters** 1102 15th St., Spirit Lake



**Turkey with** all the fixin's, **Desserts and Beverages** 

#### FREEWILL DONATION

(Suggested Donation) \$10 Adult • \$5 Child Children under 5 - free

Remember our veterans on Veterans Day November 11, 2025

SCIENCE ON THE MENU

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**AGRICULTURE** 

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Register online at friendsoflakesidelab.com/events-calendar/ or pay at the door!

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#### LAKES AREA ACTIVITY/ **SENIOR CENTER**

2102 Zenith Ave., Spirit Lake (Under the Watertower)

**SUNDAY, NOV. 16, 2025** 

10:30AM to 12:30PM



Adults \$18; Ages 5-10 \$9.00; Children Under 5 Free

Tickets may be purchased at the **Lakes Area Activity/Senior Center Board member also have tickets** Call 712-336-5247 for information



507.376.3255 OR 507.372.2027 From Hwy. 9, turn onto 59 North, go 2 mi. past MN border, turn east on Co. Rd. 4 to curve, then 2 mi. north OR 4 ½ mi. south of the New Vision

Coop Elevator in Worthington on Co. Rd. 5





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BADLANDS

1:10, 4:10, 7:00 & 9:40



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The Arts on Grand Spencer Flood Book Committee and Occasions are proud to invite your to our community celebration of the publication of the Spencer, IA Flood of 2024 book.

#### **OPEN HOUSE COME AND GO EVENT**

FRIDAY, NOV. 7 4PM to 7PM

#### at Occasions

104 East 4th St., Spencer

- ~ Appetizers and Beverages
- ~ Free to the Public
- ~ Everyone is Welcome

This book is a compilation of 178 stories (494 pages) presented by Spencer citizens who are

One of the goals of this event is to unite those who were rescued by the brave citizens who came to their aid. As stories were being recorded, so many people said they had no idea who rescued them, it was "a guy in a boat". They expressed their desire to meet their heroes and thank them personally. It is the Committee's hope that this event will allow that to happen.

The committee appreciates the part you played in this disaster and hope you will do us the honor of attending. RSVP to 712.260.8672 or 970.373.9295 by November 3.

We hope to see you there!

Barbara Workman-Schneider, Committee Chair John Smock, President, Arts on Grand





We've Reached A Milestone!

Over 450 children are enrolled in our

**Dickinson County Program!** 

Register your child to receive a free book once a month from birth to age five. Imagination Library of Dickinson County is a 501c3 nonprofit organization.

Our program is run through donations that pay for the books. Please donate today to encourage early childhood development in our community. PO Box 165, Arnolds Park, IA 51331 - Contact Organizer Amy Pas - 712-320-7007











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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15TH FROM 10:00AM-5:00PM

TICKETS: \$25 AVAILABLE AT CLAY COUNTY HERITAGE AND **ARTS ON GRAND** TICKETS PURCHASED DAY OF EVENT WILL BE \$30 AT GREAT HALL OF ROYAL







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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









#### PLAC SCULPTURE TRAIL LOOP

Discover 22 permanent sculptures and 7 annually rotating works along the Pearson Lakes Art Center grounds and Sculpture Trail Loop.

This outdoor gallery is especially stunning in the fall—where vibrant leaves and contemporary art come together in a colorful seasonal display.

through May 2026 and available for purchase. Stop inside PLAC to pick up a trail brochure and enjoy the art-filled autumn stroll!

Register online or call 712-332-7029

Rotating sculptures are on view

Scan the QR code to learn more about the artists and their creations.



#### **EDUCATION CLASSES**

**HOLIDAY TIE-DYE T-SHIRTS** With Holly Zinn Hample

Saturday, Dec. 6 | 10am-11am, 11am-12pm, or 1-2pm \$16/\$18 per Shirt | Register by 12/3

In this festive, fun-filled workshop, participants of all ages will create a custom holiday themed tie-dye t-shirt to take home in a zippered bag with the washing instructions. Learn creative folding and tying techniques with a holiday twist! Select shirt size at the time of registration. For Individuals, Groups, and Families of All Ages! All youth must be accompanied by an adult. All materials included.

#### **DECEMBER YOUTH ART CLASSES:**

Mini Michelangelo's | K-2nd

Thursdays | 4:00-4:45pm Dec. 4, 11, 18: Ornament Painting on Canvas

Art Club | 3rd-6th

Thursdays | 5-6pm

Tuesdays | 4-5pm

Dec. 4, 11, 18: Cloud Painting on Canvas Teen Art | 7-12th

Dec. 2, 9, 16: Trees with Oil Paint



by 11/26

Scan for more info and to

register online

**CULINARY** CLASSES

Thursdays | 6pm | \$45/\$55

Dec. 4: Wines of Spain

Must register 1 day prior to each class

Nov. 6: Varietal Series. Pinot Noir

**Autumn Gourmet Dinner Wine Class** With Chef Seth Lintelman of Cup N' Saucer With Jennifer Tritle-Oitzman of Okoboji Wines

Thursday, Nov. 20 | 6pm | \$135/\$145

Registration required by 11/13 Chef Seth has a gift for choosing flavor

combinations - tantalizing taste buds and expanding our understanding of haute cuisine. Indulge in a beautiful four course tasting menu, curated using the freshest local produce and sustainably sourced ingredients. A glass of wine is included.

A Merry Little Holiday Brunch

Register online or call 712-332-7029

With Sarah Page of So Good By Sarah Custom Catering Tuesday, Dec. 9 | 11am | \$60/\$70

Registration required by 12/4

Make time for this lovely morning break in your busy holiday schedule. Let us serve you some delectable brunch foods while you slow down and savor the flavors of the season. Warm up in the company of others while sipping eggnog coffee or spiced wine, and receive a few delightful surprises! Limited seats available!

ImaginationLibrary.com





Dolly Parton's Imagination Library at ImaginationLibrary.com.

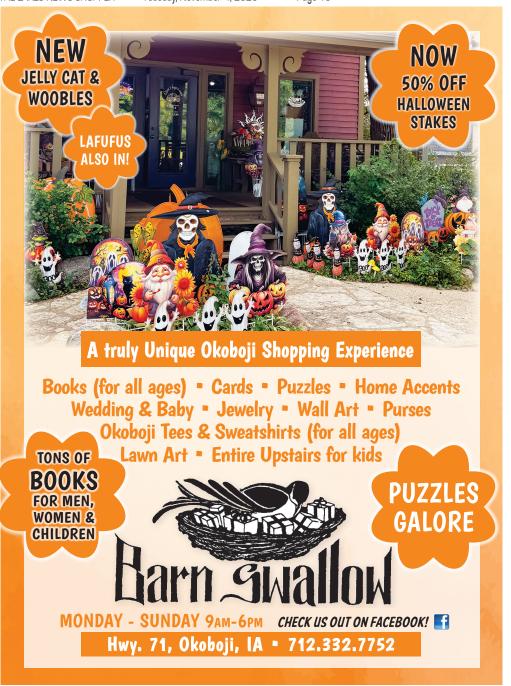
This program is sponsored locally by















#### Dance in **Brewster**

Boji Bill and Jackie will be playing for our dance Saturday, November 8th, 7-10:30, at the Brewster Legion In Brewster, MN. All are welcome for a great evening of dancing and music.





#### "Childhood Unplugged" - A Speaker Event and Dinner for Parents to be Held November 13

The Iowa Great Lakes Rotary Club is excited to partner with the Dickinson County Behavioral Health Coalition to spon-

sor its second "Let's Talk LIVE" event on Thursday, November 13th. The event will feature guest speaker Katherine Martinko at the Pearson Lakes Art Center.

This special event is open to all families in Dickinson County who want to explore how to reclaim childhood in a tech-driven world. Guest speaker Katherine Johnson Martinko, writer, editor, and author of Childhood Unplugged (2023) and

creator of The Analog Family newsletter—will share practical insights on digital minimalism and finding balance for kids and families.

"We worked with all three of our area schools - Spirit Lake, Okoboji and Harris-Lake Park – to identify a common issue and find a speaker to provide practical information to our community," said Katy Carey with Dickinson County Public Health. "The schools are unified in the importance of this message and urge parents to attend this event.'

Childhood

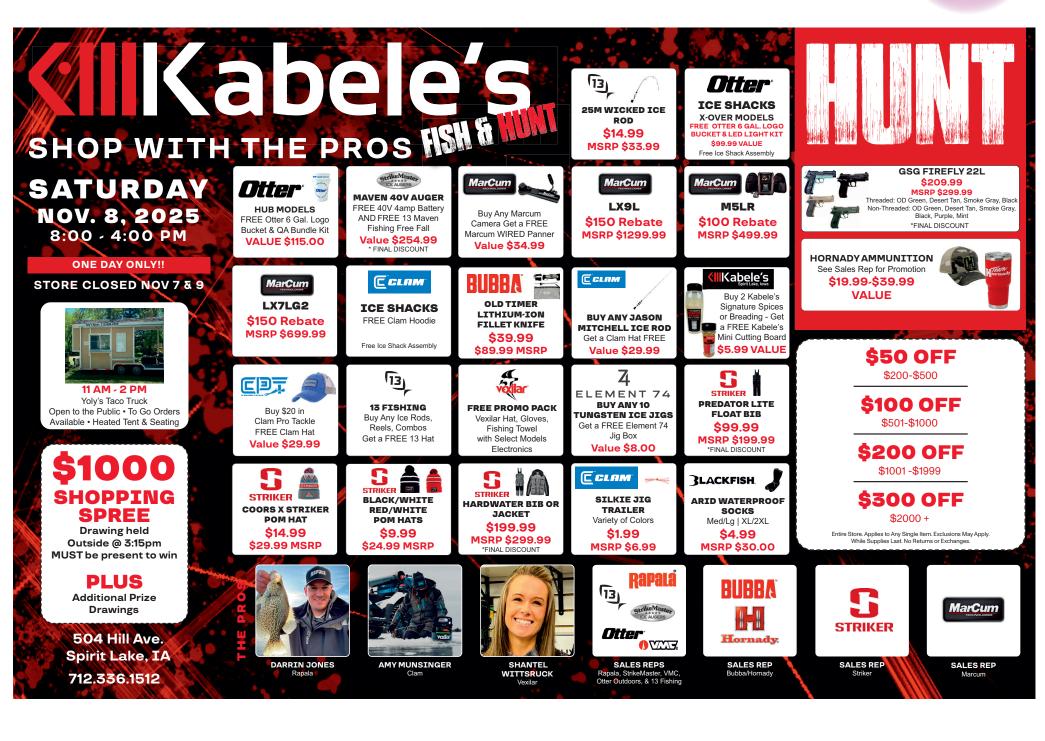
Unplugged

A free meal will be provided at 5:30 pm before the speaker at 6:30 pm and childcare will also be provided for children of attendees. Organizers are requesting RSVPs by November 7 to get a count to ensure enough food and childcare is available. Confidential questions can also be submitted via the RSVP for the speaker to answer at the event.

Iowa Great Lakes Rotary is partnering with the Dickinson County Behavioral Health Coalition to organize the event. The Coalition is a group of local providers, school counselors, program directors, public health officials, government resources and volunteers committed to the healthy mental well-being of Dickinson County residents.

To RSVP for the event, visit LetsTalkDickinson.org or IowaGreatLakesRotary.org





A funeral service for **Fred McKim**, 94 years old, of Arnolds Park, Iowa, and formerly of Plover, Iowa, was held Friday, October 31 2025, at Calvary United Methodist Church in Arnolds Park

Interment was on Saturday, November 1st, at Powhatan Cemetery in Rolfe, Iowa

Fred Evans McKim, Jr. was born December 8, 1930, in Plover, Iowa, to Leta (Heathman) and Fred Evans McKim, Sr. After graduating from high school in 1948, Fred enlisted in the United States Army in 1952, where he served honorably until his discharge in 1954, achieving the rank of Corporal.

On October 15, 1955, Fred was united in marriage to Margaret Ann Hanish in Laurens, Iowa. Over the years, they made their home in several Iowa communities including Plover, Rolfe, and West Bend before settling at their home on Emerald Hills Golf Course in Arnolds Park in 1995

Fred was a devoted member of Calvary United Methodist Church in Arnolds Park and proudly maintained seventy-four consecutive years of membership in the American Legion. He was also active in numerous professional and civic organizations, including the Iowa Falls Gateway Shippers and Agri Industries. In recognition of his leadership and service, he was appointed by Governor Robert Ray to the Iowa Railway Finance Authority.

During his lifetime, Fred volunteered for Operation Upshot-Knothole, a 1953 nuclear test at the Nevada Test Site involving military personnel. He also lent his expertise to twenty-one different boards, including the Iowa Department of Transportation and the Rock Island Grain Rail Transportation board.

Beyond his service and professional pursuits. Fred loved golfing and ballroom dancing, enjoying both well into his later years. Fred passed away on October 27, 2025, at Lakes Regional Healthcare in Spirit Lake, Iowa, at ninety-four years of age.

He is survived by his wife of seventy years, Margaret McKim; children, Denise Jensen and Don (Diana) McKim; five grandchildren, Brad (Kris) Jensen, Cory (Jami) Jensen, Angie (Scott) Schrage, Ryan (Brittany) McKim, and Katelyn McKim; and seven greatgrandchildren, McKena, Owen, and Easton Jensen, Karli, Kinzi, and Drake Schrage, and Mila McKim.

Fred was preceded in death by his parents, Fred and Leta Mc-Kim, and his siblings, Jack, Margaret, Jessie, Dorthy, Doris, Carol, Alice, Zola, and Frank

Arrangements are under the care of Turner Jenness Funeral Home.

## Travel Spending in Iowa Reaches \$7.5 Billion; Dickinson County **Tourism Continues to Climb**

Iowa Great Lakes tourism fuels jobs, small businesses, and year-round economic growth

Tourism in Iowa continues to surge, with the Iowa Tourism Office announcing that travel-generated expenditures reached \$7.5 billion in 2024, a 2.8% increase over the previous year. Dickinson County once again proved to be one of the state's leading destinations, with visitors generating \$241.6 million in spending — a 3.4% increase over 2023.

Statewide, tourism supported 71,918 jobs and delivered \$1.2billion in state and local tax revenue, according to the annual Tourism Economics report. In Dickinson County alone, the industry supports over 1,400 jobs.

"Tourism is a powerful economic engine for our county. These dollars don't just support attractions and hotels — they help our small businesses thrive, support local jobs, and strengthen the quality of life for everyone who calls Dickinson County home," said Kiley Zankowski, Executive Director of Vacation Okoboji. "We're proud to see continued growth."

Amy Zeigler, manager of the Iowa Tourism Office, said the state's momentum remains strong. "This year's numbers reflect the continued strength of our tourism economy and the enduring appeal of our state's destinations. To keep this momentum going, we'll continue to focus on understanding the evolving motivations of today's travelers and helping Iowa communities connect with them in the most impactful ways.'

The full Tourism Economics report is available at *traveliowa.com*. The Iowa Tourism Office, part of the Iowa Economic Development Authority, works with communities, attractions, and events to showcase Iowa's scenic beauty, welcoming spirit, and unique travel experiences.

### 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.

is JXEU2H.

Al-Anon Meetings

Milford New Hope Al-

Anon meetings will take place

on Zoom. Meeting ID is

For more information, go

online to *Iowa-Al-Anon.org*,

#### **View From The Bench** by John Adams, Jr.

#### Vikings Tame Lions in Shocker

After stumbling through October, losing two straight games, the Vikings' playoff hopes looked dim, especially after a humbling Week Eight 37-10 loss at the LA Chargers. Worse, Minnesota had to travel to face one of the best teams in the NFC, the Detroit Lion. The Lions had also beaten the Vikings five straight times, including last year's decisive 31-9 drubbing in the final game of the regular season that determined the Champion of the NFC North and the number one seed in the NFC. On Sunday, however, the Minnesota Vikings didn't just win—they stole the division's narrative back, proving that the season is far from over, and maybe, just maybe they have their future quarterback in J.J. McCarthy after a gritty, 27-24 victory.

The game started with the Lions showing their familiar offensive fire power, as Jared Goff quickly hit ex-Iowa Hawkeye Sam LaPorta for a 40-yard touchdown on a fourth and four play. Here we go again, Viking Nation all thought, as we had flashbacks to last year's shellacking. But this Vikings team, fueled by the return of J.J. McCarthy, finally had a spark that has been missing for most of the season. Myles Price immediately returned the ensuing kickoff 61 yards, setting up the offense with great field position. Four plays later, McCarthy hit Justin Jefferson, who reached back and snagged a fantastic one-handed touchdown catch over Amik Robertson. The Vikings kept the pressure on in the first quarter after getting a big stop on defense, taking an early 14-7 lead after McCarthy found another ex-Hawkeye, tight end T.J. Hockenson for another score.

The Lions clawed back to tie it, 14-14 on a fourth down touchdown run by former Iowa State Cyclone running back David Montgomery, but the key difference between this Vikings win and the frustrating losses of October was execution in the margins (something my Cyclones have forgotten all about). It started when the defense, playing with renewed fire, forced Montgomery to cough up the ball, recovered by Harrison Smith deep in Lions territory. The Vikings took advantage of this turnover as McCarthy scrambled 9-yards on third-and-goal—to put the Vikes up 24-14.

To me, the real, season-defining play came late in the fourth quarter. Up 24-17, the defense once again stiffened. The Lions marched, ready to tie the game, only for the much-maligned defensive line to create mayhem. After a clutch sack by Jalen Redmond, Detroit was forced to settle for a field goal, and that's when Levi Drake Rodriguez got his massive hand on the ball. The blocked kick was recovered by Isaiah Rodgers, who is always in the right place at the right time, and he took it all the way to the 26-yard line. Instead of a tie game, the Vikings got a chip-shot field goal from Will Reichard to go up 27-17. That five-point swing was the difference in the game.

The Lions scored late in the game on a deep pass from Goff to Jameson Williams to make it 27-24, forcing one final, whiteknuckle drive. With Minnesota needing one first down to ice the game and facing a third-and-five with the game on the line, the 77557290457 and the pass code rookie quarterback delivered a dagger; a perfect, 16-yard backshoulder throw to Jalen Nailor. While McCarthy was far from flawless on Sunday (143 passing yards and one interception), he was absolutely unrattled when it mattered the most, and he gave Vikings fans hope that maybe, just maybe, this team can make a push to the playoffs. With my Cyclones on a four-game



Tuesday, November 4, 2025

Page 17

THE LAKES NEWS SHOPPER

## **Engagement Announcement**

Elli Rose Hanson and Austin Henry Harms and are excited to announce their engagement. From high school hallways to a lakeside "yes"—these sweethearts got engaged on the shores of beautiful Lake Okoboji! Elli is the daughter of Brenda Jones, of Milford and Greg & Nikkie Hanson of Milford. She is finishing her RN degree at SDSU and will begin her career as a labor and delivery RN at Spencer Hospital. Austin is the son of Chad and Jill Harms, of Milford. He is currently finishing degrees in Ag Systems Engineering and Industrial Technology at Iowa State University with graduation in May. The couple will be married on August 29, 2026, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. They look forward to celebrating their special day surrounded by family and friends.



Wednesday, Nov. 5th • 12:30-4pm Get your walker checked and get a **FREE Tune-Up** courtesy of Sanford Health Equip. Sanford Health Equip will also be there to show you

proper maintenance for your walker. Walkers and parts will be present for purchase. No appointment necessary:

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Risotto With Sweet Potatoes. Peas and Green Beans

tablespoons olive oil

clove garlic, chopped

cups low-sodium vegetable

large sweet potato, peeled, chopped and parboiled

tablespoon packed brown

cup blanched green peas

cup blanched green beans

Recipe Courtesy of: Lines+Angles

Kosher salt, to taste

tablespoon white wine

onion, chopped

1 2/3 cups Arborio rice

sugar

Heat olive oil in a large

saucepan over medium heat.

Add the onion and sauté until

slightly translucent, about

3 minutes. Add the garlic

and cook another minute, stirring. Add the rice to the

pan and stir well to coat with



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#### **RETIREMENT QUESTIONS KEEPING YOU UP AT NIGHT?**

the oil. Cook until slightly toasted, about 3 minutes. Stir in

Reduce heat to low and cook for about 5 minutes. Add the

and the remaining broth and stir gently. Serve hot.

3/4 of the broth and the wine. Bring to a boil and then cover.

sweet potato, brown sugar, and salt and simmer for about 15

minutes, until the rice is tender. Stir about every five minutes,

adding more broth, if necessary. Add the peas and green beans



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#### **Bank Midwest Announces** Change in Leadership

Luke Donnenwerth Appointed President and Chief Banking Officer Spirit Lake, Iowa – October 14, 2025 – Bank Midwest is proud to announce the promotion of Luke Donnenwerth to the position of President and

Chief Banking Officer. Mary Kay Bates, CEO of Bank Midwest, expressed her confidence in the leadership transition, stating:

"Luke brings a strategic mindset complemented by sound wisdom and practical common sense. His leadership style - defined by humility, intelligence, and unwavering integrity inspires confidence among colleagues and customers



alike. Luke is known for consistently doing the right thing.' Reflecting on his new role, Luke Donnenwerth shared:

"I am honored to assume the role of President and Chief Banking Officer. I look forward to working closely with our exceptional team to drive continued growth and success; while remaining committed to serving and supporting the communities we proudly call home."

Luke joined Bank Midwest in 2010 as a commercial loan officer. He subsequently served as Market President before transitioning to the role of Chief Banking Officer in 2024. A native of Spirit Lake, he graduated from the University of Northern Iowa and began his banking career in 2005. Luke's outstanding contributions have been recognized by BankBeat. biz, which named him a Rising Star in Banking in 2023. That same year, he actively participated in the Iowa Bankers Association Leaders in Advocacy Program, representing the banking industry at both state and national levels. More recently, Luke was honored as Dakota Finance SBA Lender of the Year and received the Patriotic Employer designation from the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

Beyond his professional achievements, Luke is passionately involved in numerous community organizations, including the YMCA of the Okoboji's, Spirit Lake Youth Athletics, and the Good Neighbor Fund. He also actively participates in the Spirit Lake Noon Kiwanis Club, among other local groups.

Bank Midwest is an employee-owned financial institution with 11 locations across Iowa, Minnesota, and South Dakota. With assets exceeding \$1 billion, the bank offers a full suite of financial solutions, including loans, FDIC-insured deposit accounts, insurance, investment, and trust services.

Investments and insurance services are not deposits, are not FDIC insured, are not guaranteed by the bank, and may lose value.



thrilled to announce the Chair & Co-Chair of the 46th Annual University of Okoboji Winter Games scheduled for January 22nd-25th, 2026! The Chair of the 46th Annual University of Okoboji Winter Games this year is Mickey Harrington. "My husband, Jason, and I have proudly called the Iowa Great Lakes home for the past 23 years. We raised our two children here and



are grateful that both carry the strong Midwest values with them as Alec is a physician in Florida and Brooke is a math & science teacher in Texas. (We hope to bring them closer to home one day!) I've been a REALTOR® with Okoboji Realty for over a decade, following a fulfilling career with the Bank Midwest team. In both roles, I've had the privilege of helping others discover the beauty, charm, and welcoming spirit that make our area so special. Giving back is incredibly important to me. This community has given so much to my family, and I'm honored to serve and volunteer whenever I can. When it's time to unwind, I enjoy spending time with family and friends, boating, biking, golfing, catching concerts in the park—and indulging in my secret passion for professional bull riding! A heartfelt thank you to all the Winter Games sponsors, our amazing Iowa Great Lakes Chamber staff, first responders, police officers, and the many dedicated chamber businesses. Your unwavering support and tireless efforts ensure that Winter Games 46 will be one to remember. Be safe, have fun, and enjoy Winter Games!'

Co-Chair this year is Jordan Butler. Jordan lives in Spirit Lake with his wife, Christa, and their three kids, where they make the most of life in the Iowa Great Lakes. We love spending time on the water in summer and on the ice in winter. As the General Manager at Boji Powersports and a board member for the Iowa Great Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce, Jordan is all about fueling fun in the community. For the Butler family, the University of Okoboji Winter Games are the ultimate celebration of what makes this area special — great people, big energy, and a love for the lake no matter the season. Jordan is thrilled to help represent and rally the community he and Christa are proud to call home.

The Iowa Great Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce believes that both Mickey and Jordan enjoy being involved in the constant growth and enhancement of the events and they look forward to helping ensure that this year's Winter Games continues to thrive while grasping on to the important traditions.

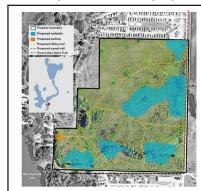
#### It takes a village

by Steve Weisman **Outdoor Editor** 

How many times have you heard this saying? "It takes a village." It has been applied in so many areas of our everyday lives:

parenting, education, work world and community projects. Most certainly, the adage fits in so many different situations.

Across our area communities, "It takes a village" has been a rallying cry and helped lead to success. It makes me proud to see evidence of this every day, whether on a personal note, for a community, a region, our state and across our country.



A most recent "It takes a village" at the Iowa Great Lakes... Protecting our lakes has been a rallying cry for decades at the Iowa Great Lakes. A major coordinator of this protection of land, water and wildlife has been the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation (INHF). Moving here to northwest Iowa in 1978, I have watched the INHF's conservation efforts, along with its supporters and partners, to protect over 1,500 sites encompass-

ing over 200,000 acres, in 96 of Iowa's 99 counties. This land many times turns into county and state parks, wildlife areas and popular trails. Right here in the Iowa Great Lakes, the INHF has protected

**Arnolds Park Nature Area secured** On Monday, October 27, the INHF announced that the fundraising project for the \$1,900,000 Arnolds Park Nature Area had been reached! The 73-acre property in Arnolds Park is

sandwiched between Upper Gar, Minnewashta and Lower Gar lakes. Roughly 240 acres drain through the property, making this a key location for restoring wetlands and prairie to aid with cleaning water flowing into Lower Gar and Milford Creek. The vision is for a city-owned space, open to the public, with

management work done by the county. The purchase also halted attempts to develop an RV park.

nearly 6,000 acres over the past four decades.

Receiving the news At noon on Monday, I received the exciting news and by the afternoon, I received this email from Abby Terpstra, Director of Philanthropy with the INHF, "The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation is pleased to announce that the fundraising goal for the \$1.9M Arnolds Park Nature Area project was reached! The INHF board of directors has approved exercising the option to purchase. The INHF will purchase the property and place a conservation easement on it prior to transferring ownership to the City of Arnolds Park. Your gift got us here! **Thank You** for your contribution." Terpstra then thanked "the village!"

• Thank you to our project partners: City of Arnolds Park, Ducks Unlimited and Dickinson County Conservation.

• Thank you to our community partners: East Okoboji Improvement Corporation, Okoboji Protective Association and Iowa Great Lakes Pheasants Forever.

• Thank you to the lead gift donors and the more than 300 individuals and families that stepped up to make this protection possible.

Yet another example that "It takes a village!" The recently acquired Arnolds Park Nature Area proves that we are not alone in our endeavors. By working together, sharing responsibilities and supporting one another, communities can achieve more and truly have a positive impact on us all!

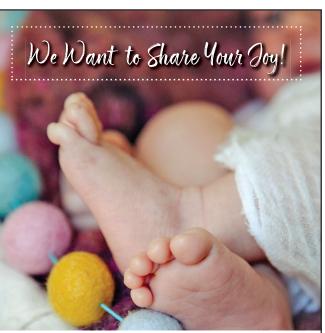




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Bird Haven will be Closed starting Tuesday, November 11<sup>th</sup> and will reopen on Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>





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### Spirit Lake Middle School PIE Teams Up with Fareway for One-Year Anniversary Fundraiser

munity fundraising partnership with the Fareway of Spirit Lake to celebrate the grocery store's one-year anniversary at its new location.

For a limited time, Fareway customers will have the opportunity to make a direct impact on the lives of local students by simply rounding up their purchase to the nearest dollar at checkout. The campaign will run from November 10th through November 15th.

"We are incredibly grateful for the generosity and community spirit of the Spirit Lake Fareway team," said Jen Johnson, SLMS PIE Board Member. "This 'Round Up' initiative makes it

simple and accessible for everyone to contribute to a great cause. Every single penny collected will go straight back into supporting our 5th through 8th graders."

Funds raised through the partnership will be used to enrich the existing middle school experience by supporting three key areas:

• Purchasing new books, subscriptions and curriculum materials for the library and classrooms. • Sponsoring student field trips that provide experiential learning opportunities.

• Fulfilling specialized faculty requests for tools and technology that enhance daily instruction. "Just in time for families to stock up for Thanksgiving, we are asking the community to shop locally and round up for our students," added Johnson. "It's a perfect, simple way to help fund

the resources that make the already great middle school experience even better for our kids." Spirit Lake Middle School Partners in Education (SLMS PIE) is a non-profit volunteer organization dedicated to supporting and enhancing the education experience for students and staff at Spirit Lake Middle School. PIE works to assist faculty and celebrate the middle school experience.





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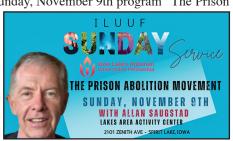
#### The Prison Abolition Movement - ILUUF

The Iowa Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship invites you to attend the Sunday, November 9th program "The Prison

Abolition Movement" presented by Allan Saugstad. What is the abolitionist movement for prisons? The prison abolition

movement is a net-

work of groups



and activists that seek to reduce or eliminate prisons and the prison system, and replace them with systems of rehabilitation and education that do not focus on punishment and government institutionalization.

Coffee and conversation begin at 9:30am with the program to follow at 10am at the Lakes Area Senior Center located at 2101 Zenith Avenue in Spirit Lake.

People of all ages and backgrounds share conversation, food and song at an ILUUF service. Guest speakers discuss issues affecting us both locally and globally. The ILUUF meets the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. Learn more at www.uuokoboji. com. All are welcome to attend this progressive fellowship.



#### Olivia Marlow Joins RE/MAX Lakes Realty As New General Manager

Aaron Jones, Broker & Owner of RE/MAX Lakes Realty, is pleased to announce that Olivia Marlow has joined the RE/MAX

Lakes Realty team as General Manager. Marlow brings to the role a strong mix of real estate experience paired with a diverse background in IT, sales, and marketing.

Olivia is no stranger to the Iowa Great Lakes area, having previously worked locally in real estate before spending the past four years in the IT and cybersecurity space. That experience has given her a fresh perspective on how technology and communication can streamline and enhance every part of the buying and selling process.



Outside of work, Olivia enjoys spending time outdoors with her dogs or gathering with family and friends. Known for her organization, creativity, and people-first approach, she has already proven to be a natural fit for the RE/MAX Lakes Realty family.

RE/MAX Lakes Realty has been the #1 real estate brokerage in sales production in Dickinson County for many years in a row and continues to grow with talented professionals like Olivia. You can contact Olivia at help@sellboji.com.



## OPEN HOUSE

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9** 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

#### 303 West 1st St., Lake Park, IA



For additional Lakes Area Listings go to Hoien.com

#### Lakes Area Dementia and Caregiver Memory Cafe for November 18

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OPEN HOUSE: Saturday, November 8th 10:30am-11:30am Why build when you can buy a move-in ready 3,400 sq. ft. home, at \$175/sq. ft, a real bargain in today's market? Plus 5 car garage on a double corner lot near Spirit Lake schools, shopping, bike trails, and the YMCA! This spilt foyer home offers 5 bedrooms and 3 full baths across sunlit

 $easy \ living \ spaces. \ Finished \ with \ granite \ countertops \ throughout, Anderson \ windows, luxury \ vinylows \ for \ vinylows \ for$ (LVP) flooring and carpet in bedrooms. The lower level adds flexible room for a family area, office,

Sand Beach on East Okoboji? RARE...But this solidly built raised ranch home has 78' of sand

beach shoreline with a gentle slope down to the water. And, in one of the very quiet locations on East Okoboji, this is a very rare find indeed. Located on the end of 9th street in Spirit Lake, it is just an 11 block stroll to the heart of downtown Spirit Lake, yet feels like worlds away. This portion of East Okoboji is light with boat traffic, yet still easy to get to your favorite East and West

REALTOR MLS

gym, or guest. Daily parking is easy with a 3 car attached garage. The added attached heated tandem garage approximately 46' x 15.5' with a 9' overhead door- ideal for boat

storage and a true mechanic's pit built into floor. Modern construction, generous square footage, exceptional garage capacity-plus a convenient location makes this home a standout! Schedule your tour and imagine the possibilities. \$595,0000. 3733

fun spots: Barefoot Bar, Central Emporium, Maxwell's Beach cafe, Arnolds Park, just to name a few. This home features newer Gerkin Windows, newer siding, and just needs some facelifting inside to make this one of the very great values currently available on East Okoboji. Compared to bare lot sales on the lower part of East

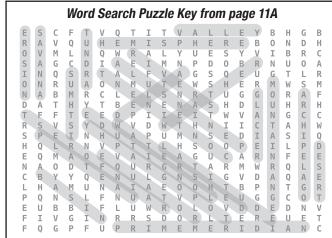
Okoboji, this is more than a 50% discount. See for yourself and do not pass this one by. \$750,000. **504 9th St, Spirit Lake.** Call Eric Hoien 712-320-2790. MLS#251395

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Laura Hanna, musician and retired educator, will use the piano and narrative to tell us about the history of worship music. Old hymns to more contemporary will be presented. You are invited to hear this presentation at the Lakes Area Memory Cafe on November 18 at 10:00am. This is a free event especially for caregivers and the person they care for. Time for meeting and talking to others is a part of the session along with refreshments The Cafe is held at the First Presbyterian Church in Spirit Lake. For more information, call 712-336-1649.





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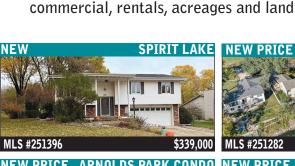
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#### Winter Games - The Countdown is on!

For the past 46 years, thousands of people have gathered to celebrate winter in Northwest Iowa. Join us January 22-25, 2026, for the 46th Annual Uni-

versity of Okoboji Winter Games presented by WestO 20 Beer! Event registration is officially open with some new and many classic events. Challenge yourself individually or gather your friends and family for a team event. Registration is open online at uofowintergames.com. Sign up



From classic Winter Games events such as Broomball, Chili Cook-Off, Snow Softball, 5K Fun Run, Axe Throwing Tournament, Snow Softball and much more, you are sure to stay entertained all weekend long! Stay tuned for a full weekend schedule of events.

For more information and additional updates, visit uofowintergames.com or find us on Facebook at facebook.com/ UofOWinterGames.

#### Kiwanis Bingo Nights

Milford Kiwanis presents Bingo Nights on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. The next Bingo Nights will be Thursday, November 13 and November 27, 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.



#### **Downtown Church Breaks Ground on Expansion**

Downtown Church, in north Milford, broke ground on a building addition in October. The new space will include a new sanctuary and fellowship areas. Their existing space will be used for youth and Sunday school for all ages. Downtown Church is thankful to be a part of the Iowa Great Lakes Region, and they hope the additional space will allow them to serve the community better, as they continue to share God's love and the good news of Jesus Christ.



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#### November 5-9, 2025

**Clay County Regional Events Center** Located on the Clay County Fairgrounds, Spencer, Iowa

Wednesday First Choice Party - Nov. 5th, 5:30-7:30 PM Admission - \$10/person or \$15/two people - Light appetizers served

Thursday & Friday Sales Days - Nov. 6th & 7th \$2 Admission, 10 AM - 7 PM

Hardcovers - \$5 Paperbacks - \$2

Hardcovers - \$4 Paperbacks - \$2 Saturday, Nov. 8th

No Admission - 10 AM - 5 PM Hardcovers - \$2 Paperbacks - \$1 Free Children's Books

> Sunday, Nov. 9th Closing Sale No Admission - 12 - 4 PM

All Books: \$10/Bag or \$30/Shopping Cart Free Children's Books

Enjoy browsing through thousands of books, visit with book-loving friends, and support the Rotary Service Club which is working to provide a better community and world!





#### Lucky Winners at Smokin' Jakes On Thursday, October 23, four lucky winners won the Smokin

Jakes Key Chain Ca\$h Drawing. Linda Geske, owner, presented the cash to the winners. Congratulations to Craig Grothen (\$125), Gene Lewis(\$125), Ben Voortman (\$125), and Tammy Johnson(\$141). Enter by getting your Key Chain at Smokin' Jakes and you're

entered for every Thursday's cash drawing. Smokin' Jakes is located at 117 West Broadway Street, in Arnolds Park.









#### Wedding Announcement

Alyssa Williams and Ben DeMuth were married on September 13,2025, at St. Katharine Drexel Catholic Church in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, with Fr. Nick Haiar officiating.

Alyssa is the daughter of Shelby Williams of Sioux Falls and Eric and Jennifer Williams of San Antonio, Texas. Her grandparents are Dean and Sharon Peterson of Spencer and Mary and Terry Dodson of Spencer.

Ben is the son of Mary and Paul DeMuth of Milford, Iowa. His grandparents are Barb and the late Dewey DeMuth of Milford and the late Mary and Ken Myrick of Lake Park. Alyssa is employed as a Genetic Counselor with Avera in

Sioux Falls. Ben is a pilot, employed with SkyWest Airlines out of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The couple resides in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.



When life grows noisy, when the calendar fills and the inbox spills over, where do you turn for inspiration? That was the question I recently asked a large group of professionals from across industries, continents, and careers. Their answers, while beautifully varied, revealed something timeless about the human spirit: our need for connection, reflection, and renewal.

Some answers were short and simple, "My spouse." Others were layered, "God and my mentors," or "I walk in nature and let the quiet do the talking." Taken together, they form a mosaic of how modern professionals sustain their motivation in an age of constant motion.

#### 1. The Power of Family

More than one-third of respondents named family—especially a spouse or partner—as their first line of encouragement. One wrote, "My wife helps me see perspective." Another shared, "I talk to my family and friends when I need to be reminded of who I am."

These responses remind us that the deepest form of inspiration often comes not from the extraordinary, but from the everyday people who know us best. In their eyes, we rediscover both humility and hope. Family steadies us when work feels uncertain, grounding ambition in love.

#### 2. Mentors and Professional Circles

Roughly one in four professionals said they lean on mentors, peers, and professional networks for guidance. They described conversations with trusted colleagues. LinkedIn communities. and long-time mentors who "ask the hard questions."

One person put it beautifully: "No one has the right answers all the time, but collectively the assistance toward the right direction is usually there.'

That collective wisdom—the steady hand of a mentor, the shared laughter of a peer group, the virtual community cheering you on—illustrates how leadership and learning are rarely solo pursuits. Growth is almost always a team sport.

#### 3. Faith and Spiritual Anchors

For many, inspiration begins with **faith**. Several respondents referenced scripture, prayer, or their relationship with God as the source of perspective in difficult times.

"Always to my faith first," one wrote. Another: "Biblical teaching keeps me centered.'

In a world that often rewards speed and noise, faith slows the rhythm and restores meaning. It reminds us that success without soul isn't success at all. Whether grounded in organized religion or personal spirituality, faith gives many professionals a compass when logic alone runs out of road.

#### 4. Books, Thinkers, and Ideas

A significant number turn to books, podcasts, and thought leaders. They mentioned everything from Harvard Business Review articles to Seth Godin videos and favorite authors whose words reignite curiosity.

This thread of intellectual inspiration underscores a universal truth: those who continue learning rarely stagnate. When we read the insights of others, we borrow courage and perspective that we can't always summon on our own. A well-timed sentence can sometimes shift an entire season of life.

#### 5. Reflection, Nature, and the Self

Finally, a smaller but profound group named self-reflection and solitude as their spark. One respondent said, "I ask myself questions and give myself time." Another wrote, "I go for a walk in nature by myself."

These individuals draw strength not from external voices but from inner stillness. They've learned what many of us forget—that silence can be a teacher, and that nature has a way of reminding us of proportion. When the waves crash or the wind moves through the trees, the world seems to whisper: "You're part of something larger."

#### The Common Thread

Across every category - family, mentors, faith, learning, and solitude—one truth rises: inspiration is relational. Sometimes that relationship is with others, sometimes with ourselves, and sometimes with something greater than us. But it always involves connection.

#### A Reflection for Leaders

If you lead a team, consider how you might foster these same sources of inspiration in the people around you. Create space for mentorship. Celebrate the families behind your employees. Encourage lifelong learning. And remind everyone—yourself included—that rest and reflection are not luxuries; they are leadership disciplines.

Because the truth is, no matter how seasoned or successful we become, every one of us will have days when we need to be reminded why we started. And when those moments come, may we have the wisdom to turn toward what truly inspires us—our people, our faith, our mentors, and that quiet place inside us that knows the way forward.

Check out my website for FREE resources and more at www.therivercoach.org \*\*NEW BOOK\*\* "Things We Desire" coming out 3 November 2025. Preorder at Amazon or any major book retailer.



Okoboji & Spirit Lake Cross Country Teams and Runners We Are All So Proud of You! Phone (712) 338-2232 Milford, IA www.lakesnewsshopper.com

**Congratulations to Spirit Lake Cross Country runners** on Making it to State! We Are Proud of You!



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Congratulations to all area

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THE LAKES NEWS SHOPPER

Financial Group

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Tuesday, November 4, 2025



Congratulations to Spirit Lake & Okoboji Cross Country Athletes on a GREAT SEASON! **Best of Luck at the State Meet!** 

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1102 Lake Street Spirit Lake • 336-3610 13 Market Street Lake Park • 832-3268 731 S. Grand Avenue **Spencer** • 262-4962 **Congratulations Pioneers** on a Great Season & on Making it to the State **Cross Country Meet! Proud to be One!** 



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Jenny Forsberg, MSN, ARNP will be at the following locations

Tuesday, Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> 9am-4pm - Spirit Lake Hy-Vee Wednesday, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> 9am-4pm - Spirit Lake Hy-Vee Thursday, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> 10am-5pm - Milford Hy-Vee Clinic Tuesday, Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> 9am-3pm - Spirit Lake Hy-Vee



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## THE LAKES NEWS SHOPPER AUCTIONS

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### **Land Auction**

Thursday, November 6 at 10:00 AM Royal Community Center, Royal, IA

#### 195 Acres m/l

Clay County, IA Cropland & Pasture!

Tr. 1 • 40 Ac. m/l • Avg. CSR2: 92.4 Tr. 2 • 114.31 Ac. • Avg. CSR2: 84.7

# Tr. 3 • 40.72 ac. • Pasture Land

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### Land Auction

Thursday, November 13 at 10:00 AM Milford Community Center, Milford, IA

#### 160 Acres m/

Dickinson County, IA Okoboji Twp, Sec. 17

Excellent Soils!

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www.midwestlandmanagement.com

#### **Land Auction**

Friday, November 14 • 10:00 A.M. Ruthven Social Center, Ruthven, IA

#### 34 Acres m/l

Lost Island Twp., Sec. 21 Palo Alto County, IA

Avg. CSR2: 86.1

For information call Zach Anderson • 712-298-1606

www.midwestlandmanagement.com

## **Land Auction**

Tuesday, November 18 at 10:00 AM Harris Community Center, Harris, IA

**290.35 Acres** 

Osceola County, IA Sec. 34, Fairview Twp.

Tr. 1 • 143.85 Acres • Avg. CSR2: 86.3 Tr. 2 • 146.50 Acres • Avg. CSR2: 84.8

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#### FARMLAND AUCTION TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2025 @ 10:00 AM Auction will be held at the KC Hall 920 E 10th Street, Fairmont, MN 170.29 ACRES +/- OF BARE FARMLAND IN SEC-TIONS 1, 2 & 3 OF EAST CHAIN TWP., MARTIN COUNTY, MN For full flyer, informational booklet and bidding details, visit: WWW.AUCTIONEERALLEY.COM OWNERS: MAURICE & VERNA KELLANDER TRUST **AUCTIONEERS AND SALES STAFF: DUSTYN HARTUNG-507-236-7629 LEAH HARTUNG 507-236-8786**



412.70 ACRES +/- OF BARE FARMLAND IN MARTIN COUNTY, MN

For full flyer, informational booklet and bidding details, visit: WWW.AUCTIONEERALLEY.COM **OWNERS: ROLOFF FAMILY** 

**AUCTIONEERS AND SALES STAFF: DUSTYN HARTUNG-507-236-7629 LEAH HARTUNG 507-236-8786** 



#### 133.34 SURVEYED ACRES IN PETERSON TWP, CLAY CO, IA AT AUCTION

Thursday, November 13, 2025 @ 10:30 AM Auction to be held at the Peterson Legion Community Building

**TRACT 1** 39.80 surveyed acres in E 1/2 SE 1/4 of Section 31-94-38 TRACT 2 93.54 surveyed acres in E 1/2 of Section 32-94-38

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Tuesday, November 25 at 10:00 a.m.

Milford Community Center, Milford, IA

157 Acres m/l

Clay & Dickinson County, IA

Tr. 1 • 77 Ac. m/l • Avg. CSR2: 91

Sec. 20, Meadow Twp, Clay County

Tr. 2 • 80 Ac. m/l • Avg. CSR2: 72.8

Sec. 16, Milford Twp, Dickinson County

For information call Ben Hollesen • 712-253-5779

www.midwestlandmanagement.com

**Land Auction** 

Thursday, November 20 • 10:00 A.M.

**Dunnell Community Hall, Dunnell, MN** 

80 Acres m/l

Petersburg Twp., Sec. 25

Jackson County, MN

Avg. Productivity Index: 94.9

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**AUCTION** 

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**SALES STAFF** Dan Pike 507-841-0965 **AUCTIONS CONTINUED** ON PAGE 3B

## Scott Christopher 507-841-3125 www.christopherauction.com

#### Check us out at www.Hundertmarkauction.com and Facebook for upcoming auctions and pictures. **Land Auction**

 $\mathsf{ESTATE}$   $\mathsf{GUN} + \mathsf{AMMO}$   $\mathsf{AUCTION}$ Located at Hundertmark Auction Building, Hwy 169 N, Humboldt, Iowa 2032 13th Street North, Humboldt, IA 50548

Sunday, November 9th at 10:30AM Lunch by Kelly's Lunch Box

**SELLING:** 180 long guns, from modern to vintage Military guns \* 80 hand guns <sup>\*</sup> many boxes Ammunition of all calibers \* gun cabinets/safes \* few sporting goods \* Go to HundertmarkAuction.com website and Facebook Page for pictures, listing of items to be sold. **AUCTION NOTE:** Must have Permit to Purchase/Carry to purchase any

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firearm. Open house for gun viewing is Saturday, 8th from 2-4 pm.

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#### **Brewster American Legion** Dance on Saturday, November 8 It's just a short drive across the Iowa/Minnesota border to

Brewster, Minnesota and one of the best dance floors around Northwest Iowa favor-

ites Bill & Jackie will be playing for a dance at the Brewster American Legion Hall on Saturday, November 8. They'll be performing your favorite dance music from 7:00 to 10:30pm that evening. Whether it's rock, country or line dance, Bill & Jackie perform a lively mix of music to suit all of your dancing



#### Northwest Iowa RSVP Welcomes New Director Mari Duncan with Community Meet-and-Greet

Northwest Iowa RSVP invites the public to a meet-and-greet event welcoming Mari Duncan, the new Director of the Northwest Iowa RSVP program, on Monday, November 10, from 9:30

Duncan, who began her role in September, is eager to connect with community members and learn more about their volunteer experiences. A long-time volunteer herself, Duncan sees the position as an exciting and rewarding opportunity to further strengthen community engagement across the region.

Duncan is a graduate of Iowa Lakes Community College with an Associate of Applied Science degree in Business and Administration Management and a diploma in accounting. She is currently pursuing an additional associate degree in accounting, which she is expected to complete this academic year.

The meet-and-greet will take place in Room 108 on the Spencer Campus. Attendees are invited to enjoy complimentary donuts and beverages while learning more about RSVP's mission, meeting Duncan and the County Coordinators, and networking with other volunteers. Individuals who are not currently volunteering are encouraged to attend and explore how RSVP helps strengthen communities across Northwest Iowa.

Northwest Iowa RSVP is part of the national AmeriCorps Seniors program and matches volunteers with opportunities that meet critical community needs. Its mission is to engage Iowans age 55 or better in meaningful service that benefits both their communities and their own wellbeing. Sponsored by Iowa Lakes Community College since 1977, RSVP volunteers must be at least 55 years old, though their work supports individuals of all ages.

iowalakes.edu.

For questions or more information, contact Mari Duncan at 712-580-8652 or mduncan@

## 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

Zumba class at 4:30pm on Thursday.

Tai Chi at 11:00am and

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 LAKES NEWS SHOPPER **AUCTIONS**

## **AUCTIONS** CONTINUED FROM PAGE

#### **LAND AUCTION**

#### 100 Acres Dickinson Co.

**Section 11 Silver Lake Township** Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup> - 10:00 am Lake Park Community Center, Lake Park, IA

Productive cropland & recreational wetland 74.91 crop acres - Great soils CSR2 86.3 Located 3 miles north of Lake Park Cropland, wetland, and home site



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#### LAND AUCTION

#### OSCEOLA & DICKINSON CO.

Wednesday, November 19th - 10 am Lake Park Community Center, Lake Park, IA

80.7 Ac Osceola Co - Sec 4 Harrison Twp Great looking all tillable farm - CSR2 79.1 One mile NW of Business Corner

81 Ac Osceola Co - Sec 5 Harrison Twp Gently rolling nearly all tillable farm - CSR2 84.6 One mile NW of Business Corner

#### 92.4 Ac Dickinson Co - Sec 3 Lakeville Twp

Attractive all tillable farm - CSR2 78.5 One mile west of Vick's Corner on Hwy 9



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515-368-3815

Chuck Sikora 712-260-2788 Joe Laubenthal

## LAND AUCTION

#### 146.3 Acres Clay County

**Section 2 Summit Township** 

Wednesday, November 12 - 10:00 am Milford Community Center, Milford, IA

Outstanding all tillable farm CSR2 92.4 Offered in two tracts: 71.8 acres & 74.5 acres Prime location 1 mi west of Fostoria on B14 Take a look at this one!



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#### **Jackson Co Farmland Auction Online Only**

**80± Deeded Acres of Farmland** in La Crosse Twp

Bidding Opens: Tues, December 2nd, 2025 at 8 AM Bidding Closes: Tues, December 9th, 2025 at 2 PM

80± Deeded Acres; The E1/2 of the NW1/4 of Section 29, Twp 104, Range 38,

La Crosse Twp, Jackson Čo. This Farm Has Tile and an Outlet.

Located 5± miles west of Heron Lake; Just SW of Heron Lake, at the JCT of MN60 & Co Hwy 24/900th St, go west on Co Hwy 24/900th St

4.6+/- miles to NE corner of the land. **Lawrence & Norma (Mixner) Liepold Trust, Owner** 

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Call or text Kristine Fladeboe Duininck at 320-212-9379 or Kristine@FladeboeLand.com

#### **Iowa Lakes Corridor Seeking** YOUR AGENT! Nominations For Business Awards

The Iowa Lakes Corridor Development Corporation (Corridor) is excited to announce the nomination period for the

15th Annual Business Recognition Luncheon to be held in January, 2026. This ceremony thanks the businesses and individuals in our

MARILYN STRICKLAND Broker - Associate

Hoien Realty

712-336-2790 or 712-320-7070

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

attend their first TOPS meeting

free of charge without obliga-

tion. For more information, call

Betty Sangel at 712-320-4458.

Activities/Senior Center Schedule

Lakes Area

Tuesday, November 4

8:30 - Kiwanis

and Mussels"

12.30 - Bridge

Wednesday, November 5 9:00 - Exercise Class

Thursday, November 6

11:00 - Tai Chi

1:00 - 500 Cards

3:00 - Cribbage

4:00 - Zumba

Friday, November 7

12:00 - Dinner Date

10:00 - Strummers

12:00 - Dinner Date

9:00 - Exercise Class

10:00 - Chair Yoga

12:00 - Dinner Date

Facility Available For Rent

9:00 - Church/Card Room

Saturday, November 8

Sunday, November 9

Monday, November 10

9:00 - Exercise

Tuesday, November 11

12.30 - Bridge

8:30 - Kiwanis

Program

12:00 - Dinner Date

1:00 - Pinochle Club

11:30 - Veterans Day

12:00 - Dinner Date

Dinner Date meals are avail-

able 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. The facility is available to rent most

weekends. Call or visit with

someone at the office for more

details. The Lakes Area Activi-

ties/Senior Center is located at

2101 Zenith Ave in Spirit Lake.

12:00 - Dinner Date

12:30 - Speaker: Nature

Center Danika's theme this

week will be "Fresh Fish



region for stimulating the region through job creation, investment and fostering quality of life throughout Corridor communities. Nominations are open for four awards to be given during

the luncheon: Small Business Excellence (fewer than 30 employees), Large Business Excellence (30 or more employees), Entrepreneur of the Year and Young Professional of the Year. Businesses and individuals may be nominated for various reasons: contribution to the local economy, recent expansion, new product or service, customer service, management practices and community involvement.

The business or individual must be located in one of the Corridor counties: Buena Vista, Clay, Dickinson or Emmet. A person can submit a nomination for any for-profit business, for you. Visitors are welcome to entrepreneur or young professional in any of the four categories. Businesses and individuals may nominate themselves. Multiple nominations are accepted.

Nominations will be reviewed and judged by a selection committee consisting of business owners and community leaders throughout the region. All information is confidential, and answers provided will be used solely by the judges for award purposes.

If you would like to nominate a business, entrepreneur or young professional, please visit lakescorridor.com/awards to download nomination forms and see a list of past winners. Nominations can be submitted via email at *info@lakescorridor*. com or mailed to the Corridor office at 520 2nd Avenue East, Suite 2, Spencer, IA 51301. All nominations are due by Monday, January 5 at 4 p.m.

For further information, please contact the Corridor at 712-264-3474.

# Travel-Generated Expenditures In Iowa Reach \$7.5 Billion

The Iowa Tourism Office released new data showing tourism-related expenditures in the state reached \$7.5 billion

in 2024, a 2.8% increase over 2023. Travel-generated expenditures in Clay County totaled\$41.8 million, an increase of 3.2%



Additional data from the Tourism Economics study shows travel-generated state and local tax receipts at \$1.2 billion. Tourism in Iowa also supported 71,918 jobs. The tourism industry employs 304 people in Clay County.

"It's great to see the continued growth in tourism here in Clay County," said Olivia Baxter, Tourism Coordinator for Clay County Tourism. "Visitors might come for an event or just to explore, but either way, their support makes a real difference for our local businesses and helps keep our community strong."

"This year's numbers reflect the continued strength of our tourism economy and the enduring appeal of our state's destinations," said Amy Zeigler, manager of the Iowa Tourism Office. "To keep this momentum going, we'll continue to focus on understanding the evolving motivations of today's travelers and helping Iowa communities connect with them in the most impactful ways."

The entire report is available at *traveliowa.com*.

The Iowa Tourism Office, part of the Iowa Economic Development Authority, works closely with community partners, attractions and events, to promote the state's beautifully vast scenery and unique history. For more information on everything Iowa has to offer tourists, visit traveliowa.com.



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#### MISCELLANEOUS

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



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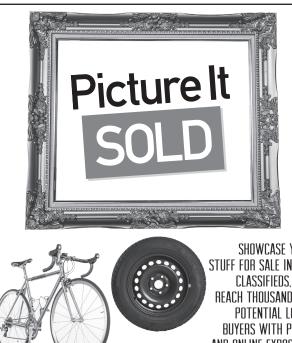
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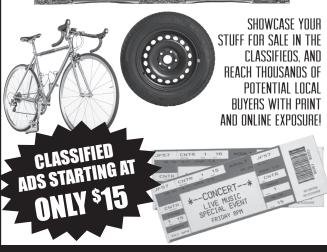
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#### What We're Looking For:

- · Proven experience with fiberglass resins and  $\textbf{composite materials} \ (\text{marine}, \ \text{automotive}, \ \text{or}$ industrial backgrounds are a plus)
- · Familiarity with silicone molding, resin casting, or pouring techniques
- Comfortable using hand tools, sanders, grinders, and mixing equipment
- Strong attention to detail and a passion for quality craftsmanship
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If this sounds like your kind of job, we'd love to hear from you! Please send your **resume**, examples of **relevant** experience, or even photos of your past work if available.

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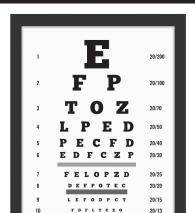


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#### Spirit Lake Library News

Gabbie

less) and pays \$15/hour.

by Amy Dissmeyer

We often lament the lost art of grammar and proper spelling. Gone are the days of the Oxford comma and proper capitalization, sacrificed for brevity and instant responses. If you have anyone under 25 in your circle, you can likely decipher "omw 2 urs, c u in 10" without difficulty.

Texting is everywhere, and now even the library is embracing instant messaging. Unlike your teenager, we promise complete words and proper spelling in our quest to help you navigate the information world.

Right from your phone, text SLPL at 712-206-4524 during library hours, and staff will respond promptly. Ask questions about your account, renew books, request titles, or pose any question you'd normally ask in person. You can also message us online while searching the catalog—yes, that's a real staff person responding, not AI!

With this service, you can now respond to text notifications using standard commands like RENEW DUE or RENEW ALL. These commands renew items without waiting for the automatic renewal date. These messages are automated and don't involve staff, so use the prompted words in all caps.

If you text outside normal hours, don't worry—we'll receive the notification and respond once we're back in the library. Texting is perfect when you can't call from the doctor's waiting room or your child's soccer game.

We hope you'll reach out however works best for you: phone, email, or text. But we still believe face-to-face communication is best, so we'll always look forward to seeing you at the library.

Whether you're team Oxford comma or team abbreviated efficiency, we're here to help in whatever format suits your lifestyle. The library is evolving with the times while maintaining our commitment to personal service and proper grammar—one carefully spelled text at a time.

SLPL staff reading spotlight: Amy is listening to The Pumpkin Spice Cafe by Laurie Gilmore on Hoopla, in anticipation of November's Evening Edition Book Club.

Upcoming activities at SLPL:

- Monday, November 10, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Mah-Jongg
- Monday, November 10, 3:30-4:30 p.m., Chess for Kids • Monday, November 10, 4:30-5:30 p.m., Chess for All
- Tuesday, November 11, Library Closed • Wednesday, November 12, 12:30-4:00 p.m., Quilters
- Thursday, November 13, 10:30-11:15 a.m., Story Time
- Thursday, November 13, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Mah-Jongg • Friday, November 14, 10:00-11:30 a.m., Autumn Craft

#### Adopt a Family for Christmas

If you are a Dickinson County family experiencing financial difficulties, Upper Des Moines Opportunity, INC. would like to brighten your Christmas.

The Upper Des Moines Opportunity Outreach Office is accepting applications for our Adopt a Family program, now through December 8th. Please stop in our office at 1575 18th Street Spirit Lake, IA to pick up your application or you may call our office at (712) 336-1112.

For more information on how to Adopt a Family or contribute to our program, you can also call the UDMO Outreach office at (712) 336-1112.

Names of all applicants and adopters are confidential.

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#### Kenue Coffee Hour

Take a trip across the world with your cup of coffee at Kenue Coffee Hour on Thursday, November 6, at 10:30 a.m. held at Maser Monarch Lodge. This month's speaker will be Ashley Scheve, who will share about her first-hand experience with the Peace Corps in Paraguay.

Scheve will also share about the Peace Corps, its mission, and various projects she assisted with while abroad. Along with stories, the audience will be able to take a closer look at some unique items from Paraguayan culture and learn a few phrases in one of the native languages, Guarani.

"The Peace Corps plays an important role in global conservation and education," said Amy Heibult, community relations coordinator of the Dickinson County Conservation Board. "It's inspiring to hear about someone's personal experiences from beyond our region!"

Enjoy a light coffee bar and good company while listening to an intriguing and educational presentation. All adults are invited to attend the free event hosted by the Dickinson County Nature Center on the first Thursday of the month. Find more events and programs at www.dickinsoncountyconservationboard.com.

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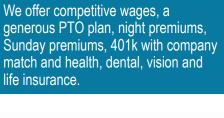
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dream-and now we're closer than ever. The City of Spencer has already pledged funding, and the project is in its final planning stages. Now, we need your help to reach our \$500,000 goal and make the Spencer Splash

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Pad a reality! Splash pads bring tremendous benefits to their communities. They encourage healthy, active play for all ages and abilities in a safe environment,

hance community well-being. The Spencer Splash Pad will be located at the Riverview

foster social connections for

families and visitors, and en-

Complex, next to the Spencer Aquatic Center. It will feature an 1,800 square foot kids' zone with exciting, interactive water features and a separate 1,000 square foot toddler area designed for children ages 2–5, along with shaded family seating for relaxation and connection. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2026 with completion in 2027.

The future of the Spencer Splash Pad depends on community support. This is our moment to make a lasting impact. We've dreamed, we've planned, and now it's time for action. Every single donation, no matter the size, matters. Please consider donating to help make this Splash Pad a reality! Visit https:// givebutter.com/gYmls7 or scan the QR code to donate today!

#### **Estherville Mobile Food Pantry**

The mobile food pantry from the Food Bank of Iowa is returning again. The free distribution will take place from 4-6

p.m. Thursday, November 6, at the Good News Estherville Church. The food will be distributed inside the church. Recipients are asked to bring bags, laundry baskets or boxes to carry the food. At the OctoberFoodBank,638 individuals (215 families) received 9,700 pounds of food. The Food Bank



of Iowa partners with 700 agencies in 55 counties to distribute 2.5 million pounds of food each month, so that no one goes hungry in Iowa. If you have questions, call the Good News Estherville Church at 712-362-4984.

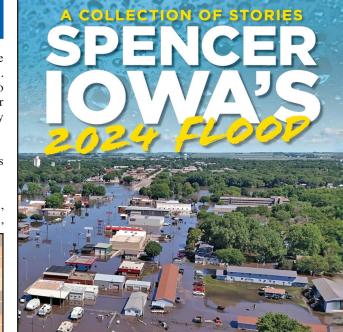
#### **Christmas Wreath Sales**

Milford Scout Troop 170 is currently doing their annual Christmas Greens now through November 9th. All Christmas greens are made from natural balsam fir evergreens. Offered

this year are a 22" wreath, door swag, candy cane, cross, mailbox swag, a holiday centerpiece in a wicker basket, real natural garland in lengths of 15', 25', and 50'. They also offer 2' to 3' tall spruce tips in bundles of 10. If you're looking to purchase some of these products, you



can contact one of the scouts of the troop to place your order or, if you haven't been contacted, you can contact Jason Simpson (712-330-7455) or Mick Umscheid (712-330-6343) and they can get you in contact with a scout to stop by and show you what they have to offer. Proceeds from the evergreen sales go to help the scouts cover the cost to go to summer camp. Thank you, from Troop 170, Milford.



## A Collection of Stories: Spencer, Iowa's 2024 Flood

When the Ocheyedan and Little Sioux Rivers converged and surged on the morning of Saturday, June 22, 2024, Spencer, Iowa, was forever altered. Following days of relentless rain, the water rose and violently swept into neighborhoods and the historic downtown in just a few hours. This flash flood required an estimated 600 to 800 water rescues, as local officials, neighbors, and volunteers raced against the rising tide. The bloated rivers and flooded storm sewers engulfed more than two-thirds of Spencer's homes, churches, and businesses, claiming the life of one out-of-town visitor. Amidst the chaos, many found a small measure of peace that the dark, murky waters arrived during the day. This anthology, presented by Arts on Grand of Spencer, collects the urgent, firsthand accounts—written by the residents, rescuers, and volunteers—who recognized the need to preserve the personal stories and historic details of their community's most fateful day.

Learn more about the historic flooding in Spencer, Iowa, and unite rescuers with rescues, Friday November 7, at Occasions 4-7pm. Located at 104 E. 4th Street in Spencer, Iowa. Books are available to purchase that night or visit Arts on Grand to purchase yours today.

The evening will feature an array of appetizers and beverages and is free to the public. Everyone is welcome. If you do not have your copy of this special book, they will be available during the event.

The committee appreciates the part you played in this disaster and hope you will do us the honor of attending.



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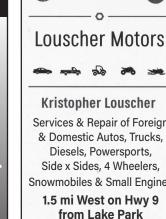


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## **Milford Memorial Library News**

712-332-7302

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. November 10, 10:30 a.m. – Got Your Goat?
- November 17, 10:30 a.m. Harvest with special guests from Okoboji FFA
- November 24, 10:30 a.m. Imagination

Join Milford Memorial Library on Thursday, November 13, at 3:30 p.m., for MML's After-School Adventures. This month,

we will be creating gratitude garlands. A small snack will be provided during this



free activity. Join us for MML's CrAFTER Hours on Wednesday, November 19, from 5 - 7 p.m. This month we will have a class on beginner sourdough. Cost is

\$5 for this event. Call the Milford Memorial Library to register at 712-338-4643.

MML's Book Club is happening on Tuesday, November 18, at 1:00 p.m. The featured book, James by Percival Everett, can be found in our library.

Now that the jack-o-lanterns and ghosts have been put away, now is the time to dust off the tinsel and the tree. We invite you to design and display a tree at the Festival of Trees! On Friday, November 21, through Friday, December 5, people may begin to bring in their trees. Trees will be judged on Saturday, December 6, during Holiday Fantasy. Tree categories are the following: Best Business, Best Personal/Family, Best Organization, Most Creative, and Librarian's Choice. If you have any questions, please contact the library by calling 712-338-4643 or by emailing milfordlibrary51351@gmail.com.

"Fill the Cart" for the Dickinson County Upper Des Moines Food Pantry will be Friday, November 21, through Friday, December 12! We are collecting non-perishable food items at the Milford Memorial Library. Help us fill their cupboards.

Okoboji Flooring and Furniture, Campus Women's Club, and the Milford Memorial Library are partnering once again for the Milford Area Secret Santa program. This program is aimed to give underprivileged families a chance to celebrate the holidays without stressing about finances. Anyone can anonymously nominate families, who may need help buying their children presents. The deadline for nomination is November 17. Forms are online. Paper forms can be picked up and dropped off at the Milford Memorial Library.

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#### COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES SPEAK TO THESE KEY TOPICS

The DCTA offered the six school board candidates from Harris-Lake Park, Okoboji & Spirit Lake schools the opportunity to respond to a set of important policy questions that we believe are key for voters. Their responses to our questions are quoted verbatim below.



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**DCTA QUESTIONS** 



HARRIS-LAKE PARK CANDIDATES

**CHAD HIBMA** 

**KAYLA UPDIKE** 



**OKOBOJI CANDIDATES** 

**AMANDA PLATHE** 

JILL KREMMIN



**SONJA HAMM** 



**MIEKA STECKER** 

Our district continues to focus on keeping

our students and staff safe. We're always looking for new ways to strengthen protective

measures and create a secure learning environment. Another big focus is maintaining

What do you feel are the top two or three challenges facing your school district over the next 1-3 years and what plans do vou have to address them?

Enrollment is always a challenge. Continuing to get word out about HLP!

As a small school, enrollment is always a challenge. There are a lot of great things going on at H-LP right now and keeping the momentum going and spreading the word is key.

Okoboji Schools are currently experiencing positive change and growth. Continuing to supporting that positivity is a priority

Schools across our nation continually strive to better academic achievement, school and student security, and fiscal responsibility. These should continue to be points of focus in the Okoboji School District.

Challenging behaviors and mental health -Continue to support students through resources at school, collaborate with

families to support student emotional well-being at home and school, retain quality school counselors and provide specialized spaces - ongoing discussion for a behavioral learning center Ensuring students feel safe at school -Continue to add visible safety measures, emergency preparedness by fostering partnerships with our law enforcement to continue training drills to prepare our staff and students for emergency situations, continue to build strong relationships between staff and students to foster a sense of belonging

and improving our school buildings. We recently completed a facilities assessment and are using that information to build a long-term plan that keeps our campuses strong and supportive for years to come. We're also working hard to attract and keep great teachers while addressing the growing behavior challenges we're seeing in students These two issues are closely connected, and we know supporting our teachers and helping students manage their needs both make a big difference. And of course, a huge shoutout to our incredible special education teachers and support staff — they're absolute assets!
Our students and community are fortunate

What are your plans or recommendations to improve reading, math and science scores for elementary, middle and high school in your district?

Our Administration has a really good handle on tests scores. Keeping an eye on scores and supporting our staff is important!

and staff do an excellent job of monitoring our scores and making sure we are excelling academically. They are always coming up with new ideas and programs to keep students excited and eager to learn and we support this.

Our administration, teachers,

It's important to understand what's happening in the current state before making any recommendations. Okoboji's scores are currently above average.

Promoting academic success includes continued support of the Okoboji School District teachers and staff. This includes support of school affiliated programs that can keep kids active and engaged in learning and involved in the community.

opportunities and applications across grade levels. Teacher training – aligning standards and curriculum that includes professional development working alongside a school improvement and curriculum specialist with AEA (Area Education Agency), data-driven interventions, building science skills in a collaborative nature across grade levels, consider incentives for growth achievement, tools and programs to support students setting growth

There are a few similar

goals for themselves.

ownership of their education is key. When kids are more engaged in their schoolwork, their reading and math skills can grow by leaps and bounds. It truly starts at home — when families encourage learning, limit screen time, set aside time for reading and homework, and practice math facts together, it makes a huge difference. At the same time, our district is taking big steps to support student success. We've restructured our MTSS time to give struggling learners more MTSS time to give struggling learners more focused instruction and intervention, added a math interventionist, and started reviewing student data every month to guide our efforts. We're also aligning our curriculum across grade levels to make sure there are no gaps in learning. And we can't forget our amazing teachers and support staff — they're some of the best around! Keeping learning front and context is our tea priority and I'm proud and center is our top priority, and I'm proud of how our district continues to strengthen what we do so well.

Yes or No: Do you feel that current teacher pay and incentive structures in your district are optimally aligned to incentivize excellence in instruction and support improvement in student outcomes?

there is always room for improvement.

Sharing is always something we

should look at if it makes sense.

We have done better, however

I do not feel like this is a simple ves or no. Teachers/staff go above and beyond for our students at H-LP and supporting them is crucial.

I think it is important to keep an

open mind while also making

sure we do what is best for H-LP.

Not being a part of those negotiations previously, it's hard to know this. Supporting teachers to foster greatness within our students is multifaceted.

I think, to be a responsible

great results.

advocate to the school staff and

community, it's wise to be open to

evaluating new ways of achieving

I don't feel I have enough information to fully answer this question. Support of teachers and staff should be a top priority to ensure successful student outcomes.

Due to the variances among the

would need to occur if considering

consolidation of resources due to

the unique needs of each district.

three districts, a full evaluation

Yes - our pay rates are in the top 17% of the state and we offer strong benefit packages and dollars allocated to support educational growth.

Yes - This is a topic that is

for our students.

already in action and is evaluated

regularly in an effort to be fiscally

responsible when possible while

providing the best opportunities

Yes, I believe our current structure is strong and competitive. We offer teacher salaries that rank in the top 20% across the state, along with a great benefits package that shows how much we value and support our staff. Our district also rewards continuing education - and the high quality of our educators at Spirit Lake really speaks for itself.

Yes, I feel there is financial

savings from sharing certain

we can all benefit, however,

it is also important to remain

human resources, and our

unique in our own district and

community. Here at Spirit Lake

we share in athletics, education,

school resource officer. My own children have benefited from

roles and finding synergy where

Yes or No: With three separate school districts in Dickinson County, redundancy in management and administrative services likely exist. Would you support evaluating management and administrative services and implementing a shared service model, to reduce costs and improve efficiency?

What do you feel defines success in education from the student's point of view?

If they are proficient in their classes and have learned life skills to succeed in life, the district has done well

A student being successful not only academically but also learning crucial life skills for what comes next in life. Being heard, building meaningful relationships, achieving goals, all while being in a supportive environment that promotes success

A student being and feeling adequately prepared for their next step whether that's the next grade, advancing their education. or entering the workforce defines

success in a school district.

The school district has a responsibility in ensuring students enter their next chapter of life being prepared academically, emotionally, and with a solid set of life skills. This is done in part by the school district creating and maintaining safe, welcoming environments where students can grow. Using these foundations, students can confidently navigate

what lies ahead for them.

As this would vary from student to student based on how success is defined along with individual interests and goals, I believe we have been able to capture a few commonalities. They want to feel valued and heard, achieve subject matter mastery and have growth opportunities, be recognized for hard work, sense of confidence, feel what they are learning has real world relevance and feel safe and supported.

these shared services and they are an excellent way to promote community and save money between our nearby districts. From a student's perspective, success is felt in many ways - when they reach personal goals in their learning, collaborate well with peers, and take part in music, clubs, and athletics. It's when they feel noticed and appreciated by teachers and classmates, tackle hard things and surprise themselves with what they can do, and experience opportunities they might not have had otherwise. Most importantly, it's when

they recognize that their teachers, staff,

and administrators genuinely have their best interests at heart and want

nothing more than to see them thrive

and graduate with pride from Spirit Lake Community School District.

## **Your Vote Counts!**