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Spicy Shrimp Roll
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Tuna Roll
Creamy Roll
Shrimp Roll
California Roll



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Georgia vs. Alabama



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GAME #4

Indiana vs. Ohio State



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GAME #5

Duke vs. Virginia



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GAME #6

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GAME #7

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GAME #9

Steelers at Ravens



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GAME #10

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GAME #11

Broncos at Raiders



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GAME #12

Bears at Packers



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GAME #13

Rams at Cardinals



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GAME #14

Texans at Chiefs



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GAME #15

Eagles at Chargers



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2 TIE BREAKERS: Total Score Indiana vs. Ohio State: _____ **AND** Total Score Bears vs. Packers: _____

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

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

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Winter Games Cheerleader Nominations Sought

In the true spirit of community fun and recognition, the University of Okoboji Winter Games Committee is giving the public the opportunity to nominate someone to serve as a 2026 University of Okoboji Winter Games cheerleader. Nominees must be 21 years of age or older and a resident of Dickinson County.

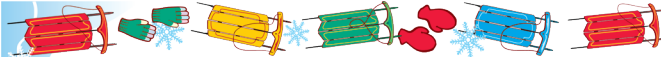
Each nominee should exhibit:

- a ready smile, generous heart and good nature
- an enthusiasm for all that our University of Okoboji campus has to offer and
- a sincere desire to give their time and talent to enhance the quality of life in the Iowa Great Lakes Area
- someone who is involved in volunteerism in our IGLA Community

Eight selected cheerleaders will cheer, cheer, cheer for O-K-O-B-O-J-I during the 46th Annual University of Okoboji Winter Games presented by WestO Beer on January 22-25, 2026.

Nomination forms are available at uofowintergames.com under the "Cheerleader" tab or at the Chamber office in Arnolds Park. The deadline for nomination forms is at 5 PM on December 31st, 2025. For more information contact the Iowa Great Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce at 712-332-2107.





2ND ANNUAL Christmas BAZAAR

St. Joseph Catholic Church, Milford
Hosted by the Rosary/Altar Society

Saturday, December 6
8:30 to 12 NOON

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- Christmas Gift Ideas
- Free Gift Wrapping
- Cookie Boxes featuring 10 different kinds of homemade cookies only \$20

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THE LAKES NEWS Auction Calendar

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

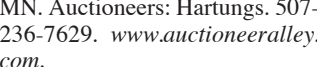
Wed., Dec. 3 – 10:00 AM— 113.56 acres at auction in Watonwan Co., MN. Auctioneers: Hartungs. 507-236-7629. www.auctioneeralley.com.

Wed., Dec. 10 – 10:00 AM— 100 acres at auction in Dickinson Co., IA. Auctioneers: Hjelm, Sikora & Laubenthal. 712-262-3529. www.theacreco.com.

Wed., Dec. 10 – 10:00 AM— Online estate auction in Storden, MN. Auctioneers: Christopher. 507-841-3125. www.christophe-rauction.com.

Thurs., Dec. 18 – 10:00 AM— 148.7 acres at auction in Clay Co., IA. Auctioneers: Midwest Land Management. 712-262-3110. www.midwestlandmanagement.com.

Thurs., Dec. 18 – 10:00 AM— 137.65 acres at auction in Fairmont, MN. Auctioneers: Hartungs. 507-236-7629. www.auctioneeralley.com.



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Advance reservations are not available.



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SING Holiday Fantasy
Sat., Dec. 6 • 9:00am, 9:50am & 11:25am
Sun., Dec. 7 • 9:50am & 11:25am
Tues., Dec. 9 • 4:15pm
Presented by Milford Commercial Club
1 hour 50 minutes



Wonka
Saturday, Sunday, & Tuesday
Dec. 13 & 14 • 10am & 11am
Dec. 16 at 4pm
Presented by Campus Women's Club
1 hour 56 minutes



How the Grinch Stole Christmas (2018)
Friday, Saturday, & Sunday
Dec. 19 at 2pm • Dec. 20 at 10am
Dec. 21 at 10am
1 hour 45 minutes



The Polar Express
Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday
December 23, 24 & 25
1 hour 40 minutes

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Holiday Fantasy

2025 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Raffle tickets can be purchased at: Boji Junction, The Coffee Shop, Milford Hy-Vee Pharmacy, and Boji Ware Apparel and Gifts.

Saturday, December 6

8:30 am to 10:30 am | **Holiday Bazaar**
At St. Joseph Catholic Church

9:30 am to 12:00 pm | **Milford Library Open House** featuring the following:
Voting on the Festival of Trees - Prizes will be awarded.
Free Holiday Crafts For Kids
Free Treats Sponsored by the Friends of the Milford Library
10:30 am to 12:00 pm | Visit with Santa (Bring your own camera)

TBA | **FREE Holiday Merchant Matinee: "Sing" (2016)**
At Milford Pioneer Theatre (Sponsored by the Milford Commercial Club)
Visit milfordpioneertheatre.com for details

11:00 am | **Holiday Fantasy Parade**
10:30 am | Parade line-up at St. Joseph Catholic Church parking lot

11:30 am to 12:30 pm | **FREE Chili & Soup—Milford Community Center**
Raffle tickets available to purchase at the Milford Community Center

12:00 pm | **Raffle Prize Drawing—Milford Community Center**
Raffle Prize winning numbers will be posted on the MCC website. Need not be present to win.

1:00 pm | **FREE Music Bingo—Milford Community Center**
VIP DJ & Karaoke presents HitMix Bingo! Featuring Patrick Doll
Chance to win Milford Bucks

See milfordcommercialclub.com for details.

Grand Prize Raffle Gifts

- (1) \$500 Gift Card to your choice of MCC Member Business
- (1) \$150 Shopping Spree at Sunshine Foods
- (1) \$100 Gas Card to Boji Junction Cenex
- (1) \$100 Gas Card to Okoboji Gas Company
- (1) \$100 Gas Card to Brew
- ... and much more

Food Drive

Ongoing Food Drive for Dickinson County
Upper Des Moines at Milford Memorial Library
Let's fill their cupboards for the holidays!

The Milford Commercial Club would like to remind everyone to shop locally this year, and have a very happy holiday season!
Events Subject to Change



CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

MILFORD & FOSTORIA

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5TH

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Milford Location Only:
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Milford | Okoboji | Hartley | Ocheyedan | Lake Park

Hours: M-F Lobby: 9am-4pm
M-F Drive-Up: 8:30am-5pm

The River

AN EXECUTIVE COACHING BLOG

TONY THELEN

Every family has a few phrases that get passed down through generations — little bits of wisdom that settle deeper than we realize. One of mine came from my mother. She used to say, “Make sure the good times outnumber the bad.”

At the time, it sounded simple. Almost too simple. But the older I get, the more I realize she was gently offering a blueprint for living. Not a plan to avoid difficulty — none of us escape that — but a reminder that even a single hard day doesn’t define us. What matters is the broader arc of our lives.

And let’s be honest: sometimes the bad days do pile up. Especially this time of year. The holidays can magnify whatever we’re carrying: the loss of someone we love, worries about money, loneliness, or the quiet pressures we keep tucked away. Some people sail through December; others feel the weight of it. So what do we do?

My mother’s advice wasn’t about ignoring pain or pretending everything is fine. It was about perspective, and the power each of us has to influence the scoreboard of our own life. If every day is hard, something needs attention. Either the circumstances need to change, or the way we’re seeing those circumstances needs to shift. Both paths require courage, and both lead toward hope.

Here are a few practical ways to “tilt the balance” when a bad day shows up uninvited:

- 1. Measure the day in moments, not hours.**
A bad morning doesn’t have to equal a bad day. You can turn things around at 2:17 p.m. with a walk, a call to a friend, or a quiet cup of coffee. People who seem resilient aren’t avoiding hardship, they’re experts at salvaging good moments inside hard days.
- 2. Get outside. Even for five minutes.**
There’s something healing about crisp air, winter sun on your face, or watching geese skim the lake. Nature resets the nervous system in ways we don’t always understand but always feel. You don’t need a hike, just a few steps toward fresh air.
- 3. Let someone know you’re struggling.**
Not with a long speech. Just a sentence: “Today’s been rough.” Most people are far more compassionate than we give them credit for. And saying it out loud shrinks the heaviness. Pain thrives in silence. Connection weakens it.
- 4. Do the next small thing.**
When life feels overwhelming, shrink the target. Wash one dish. Send one message. Fold one shirt. Small wins generate momentum, and momentum creates relief. You don’t have to reclaim the entire day, just the next ten minutes.
- 5. Revisit the things that used to bring joy.**
Read a few pages of a favorite book. Turn on the song you loved in high school. Watch a movie you’ve seen a hundred times. Familiar joy has power. It reminds you there’s a version of yourself who still knows how to smile.
- 6. Limit your exposure to comparison.**
Social media is a highlight reel, especially during the holidays. You’re comparing your behind-the-scenes to someone else’s perfectly staged front porch photo. Put the phone down. Real life happens away from the scroll.
- 7. Give something away — time, encouragement, gratitude.**
Service is one of the fastest ways to lift a fog. Buy a stranger’s coffee. Thank someone who deserves it. Send a note to a person who shaped your life. When you brighten someone else’s day, your own light strengthens.
- 8. Allow yourself the grace to begin again tomorrow.**
This might be the most important one. A rough day doesn’t make you weak. It makes you human. Don’t drag today’s weight into tomorrow. Let morning be a reset button.

We can’t control everything life hands us, but we can influence the balance sheet. The good days don’t have to be spectacular. They just have to be more frequent than the bad ones. A few minutes of peace. A laugh. A moment of gratitude. A conversation that warms instead of wounds.

That’s how the tally slowly shifts.

So as we head into the heart of the holiday season, remember my mother’s words. Let them land wherever you need them to: **Make sure the good times outnumber the bad.**

And on the days when they don’t — hold on. A better one is coming.

Tony Thelen is an executive coach and founder of The River Coaching and Consulting based in West Okoboji, Iowa. He has a new book called “Things We Desire” that is available on Amazon or any major book retailer, contact him for signed and personalized copies at tony@therivercoach.org



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Holiday Concert To Fill The Air With Festive Music At Iowa Lakes

Celebrate the season with music and community at the annual Holiday Concert hosted by the Iowa Lakes Community College Music Department. The performance will take place on Sunday, December 7, at 3:00 p.m. in the Janice K. Lund Performing Arts Center (P.A.C.) on the Estherville Campus.

This year's program will feature the Iowa Lakes Handbell Choir, various instrumental ensembles under the direction of Lincoln Larsen, and the Lakes Area Community Handbell Choir under the direction of Carol Ayres. Together, these talented musicians will share an afternoon of festive selections sure to inspire holiday cheer.

The event is free and open to the public, with no reservations or tickets required. Free-will donations will be gratefully accepted to support the purchase and maintenance of handbells and hand chimes.

Take a musical pause before the holiday rush begins, join friends and family for this heartwarming community tradition at Iowa Lakes.



Free Breakfast December 6 at Grandview Church Gym

Free Breakfast Saturday, December 6, from 8-10 am at the Grandview Church gym. Burritos, pancakes, sausage, and eggs are being cooked, and milk, juice and coffee will also be served. The breakfast is completely free, and everyone is invited. Breakfast will be served at Grandview Baptist Church's gym, which is at 3705 170th St. in Estherville. We have had an average of 130 people attend the free breakfasts. There will also be a small food pantry for families to take shelf-stable food. Thanks to Estherville Foods, Hy-Vee, Fareway, Ace Hardware, and I & B Ag Supply for donating to the Free Breakfast. If you have questions, please contact Brett Fuelberth at 712-330-1145.



Iowa Lakes Corridor Announces 15th Annual Business Recognition Luncheon Speaker

The Iowa Lakes Corridor Development Corporation (Corridor) is excited to announce that Devin Henderson will serve as the keynote speaker for the 15th Annual Business Recognition Luncheon on January 28, 2026.

Devin Henderson is a multi-talented powerhouse: an experienced presenter and seasoned performer, having logged thousands of performances as an award-winning comedian and magician and an in-demand keynote speaker. His unique combination of skills and storytelling and his hilarious and engaging interaction are what make him an audience favorite. His clients have included Pepsi, Hallmark, Cerner and hundreds more. His performances have been called, "unreal," "unexpected," and "unforgettable" and he delivers the ultimate keynote experiences to inspire possibilities, purpose and impact.

Henderson will keynote the event with "What else is possible?" For many individuals and teams, a once-held vision of unlimited possibility gets small and limited as a result of life's daily stressors, persistent insecurities, self-doubt, isolation, and even failure. But what if you and your team could reclaim and even expand your full potential at any time? And what if your truest potential was bigger, richer, and more satisfying than you had previously envisioned?

"We're thrilled to have Devin join us to share his story and challenge our businesses and community leaders to imagine what else is possible," said Corridor President & CEO Curt Strouth. "Our region is filled with outstanding people and businesses, and we want to empower them to keep striving toward their highest potential."

The Business Recognition Luncheon will be held at the Clay County Regional Events Center on January 28, 2026, from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm. RSVP for the event at www.lakescorridor.com/luncheon by Monday, January 12, 2026.



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Give Joy: Okoboji Secret Santa Program Begins!

Okoboji Flooring & Furniture, the Campus Women's Club, and the Milford Memorial Library's Secret Santa Program is well under way, and the time is here for sponsoring a child in need of Christmas gifts this holiday season!

As of November 19th, individuals, businesses, and organizations may begin choosing a numbered ornament off of the Christmas tree, located at 1007 Okoboji Ave, Milford, during normal 9-5 business hours. Those who choose to sponsor a child/children will receive an anonymous list of clothing sizes and a Christmas present list. We ask that you please return all presents wrapped and tagged with the number and letter of the child you received, by December 12th. If a business would like to sponsor a child/children, but doesn't have the time or staff to do the shopping themselves, we have a group of volunteers ready to step in and take over the shopping portion for you!

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call Okoboji Flooring & Furniture at (712) 338-6161.

Thank you to everyone who has sent in nominations. We are looking forward to brightening the holidays for these deserving families!

Many Voices Choir Announces 2025 Christmas Concert Series

The Many Voices Choir, Northwest Iowa's premier community chorale, is pleased to announce its annual Christmas concert series, "Peace Will Come." Under the direction of Timothy Schumacher, this year's program shares the Christmas story—from prophecy and nativity to worship and joyful praise.

The concert series will include performances on the following dates at these venues:

- Friday, December 5th, 7:30 pm: United Methodist Church in Spirit Lake
- Saturday, December 6th, 1:30 pm: St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Estherville

Admission to all concerts is free, a free-will donation will be accepted.

The theme of peace is woven throughout the concert. The opening anthem, "Advent Peace," blends Isaiah 26:3 and Lamentations 3:22–26 to reflect the longing for God's peace in the quiet nights before Christ's birth. Schumacher describes the selection—composed by Molly Ijames—as a stirring expression of Micah 5's promise: "This Child Shall Be Our Peace." The closing anthem, "Advent Lullaby," tenderly conveys the promise, "Emmanuel, God with you. There is no need to fear, I am love, I am here." The concert features Joan Gronstal on flute and Randy Nelson on cello, with DJ Gommels accompanying the choir.

Founded in 1988, the Many Voices Choir includes 40–60 singers from more than 15 communities across northwest Iowa and southern Minnesota. Choir member Paul Peterson shares, "The Christmas concert offers a wonderful variety of musical styles that will be very enjoyable for everyone to hear."

For more information or media inquiries, contact Tim Schumacher at 712-209-0202 or visit the choir's website: <https://sites.google.com/view/nwiowamanyvoiceschoir/home>



Kenue Coffee Hour

Sip on a warm cup of coffee at Kenue Coffee Hour on Thursday, December 4, at 10:30 a.m. at the Maser Monarch Lodge. This month's speaker, John Varcoe with the American Mountain Men, will speak about how Plains Sign Language was used as a form of communication with Native Americans.

Kenue Coffee Hour is a monthly program hosted by the Dickinson County Nature Center and is free for adults. Enjoy a complimentary coffee bar and some great conversation. No registration is required, and you can find more monthly events under Program/Events at www.dickinsoncountyconservation-board.com.

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, December 4, 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 November Food Bank, 738 individuals (261 families) received 10,690 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.



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Anniversary Announcement

Ron and Margo Sievers are celebrating five decades of love and commitment. They were united in marriage on a cold and snowy day, December 6th, 1975, in Belle Plaine, Iowa, surrounded by family and friends. A Golden Celebration is being planned for this upcoming June at their summer home on East Lake Okoboji.

Iowa Lakes Music Department Hosts Winter Recital

The Iowa Lakes Community College Music Department will showcase the talents of its student musicians at the annual Winter Recital on Tuesday, December 9th, at 2:00 p.m. in the Janice K. Lund Performing Arts Center on the Estherville Campus.

The recital will feature a variety of performances from soloists and small ensembles who are enrolled in private vocal and instrumental lessons at Iowa Lakes. From classical selections to contemporary works, the Winter Recital provides an opportunity for students to demonstrate their musical growth and share their artistry with the community.

"We are proud of the dedication our students put into their lessons and performances," said Lincoln Larsen, Director of Music and Performing Arts at Iowa Lakes Community College. "The Winter Recital is a wonderful way to celebrate their hard work and give the public a chance to experience the talent we have here at Iowa Lakes."

The event is free of charge and open to the public. For more information about upcoming events, contact the Music Department at 712-362-8345.

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THE LNS

THE LAKES NEWS Auctions

Page 2B

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Respite Angels

Steve Lang will be performing a Country Christmas on Thursday, December 4th, at 10:00 AM, at Calvary United Methodist Church in Arnolds Park. Join the Respite Angels for some holiday music along with some country music. This is a free concert, and all are welcome. Refreshments will be provided. If you have any questions, please call Chelsie at the church, 712-332-2447, or Kelly at Respite Angels, 712-229-6064.

Spirit Lake Library News

Cozy Mysteries
by Jill Jennings

What do you think of when you hear the word "cozy"? Snuggled up by the fireplace with a cup of tea and a book? Being stuck inside during a blizzard and baking cookies? Yes and yes! I also think of Cozy Mysteries: a sub-genre of mystery books. This is a great time of year to curl up with a Cozy Mystery.

Cozy Mysteries are such a nice type of book because they are so comfortable and easy to read. They have no graphic violence, generally no swearing or sex, and include a lighthearted crime. You can read these books before bed with no worries of nightmares! They focus on character & plot development, are set in a close-knit community, and have at least one unexpected turn of events. I love that they have humorous elements to the story and everything is OK by the end!

One of my favorite Cozy Mystery series is the No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency by Alexander McCall Smith. It's set in Botswana and the protagonist is amateur sleuth Precious Ramotswe. The idiosyncratic secondary characters include her husband, Mr. J.L.B. Matekoni, and Grace Makutsi, Mma Ramotswe's partner detective. I just finished the latest in this series, In the Time of Five Pumpkins, and it was very enjoyable.

Other Cozy Mystery series that the staff here at the Spirit Lake Public Library recommend are the Hannah Swenson series by Joanne Fluke, the Thursday Murder Club series by Richard Osman, the Stephanie Plum series by Janet Evanovich, and the Mysteries of Lancaster County series. Of course, I need to mention the queen of the Cozy Mystery: Agatha Christie!

If you've never read a Cozy Mystery book, try one today. You just might like it!

SLPL staff reading spotlight: Donna is reading The Perfect Hosts by Heather Gudenkauf.

- Upcoming activities:
- Monday, December 8, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Mah-Jongg
 - Monday, December 8, 5:15 p.m., Library Board meeting
 - Tuesday, December 9, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Quilters
 - Tuesday, December 9, 3:30-4:30 p.m., Children's Chess
 - Tuesday, December 9, 4:30-5:30 p.m., Chess All-Play
 - Wednesday, December 10, 12:30-4:00 p.m., Quilters
 - Thursday, December 11, 10:30-11:15 p.m., Story Time
 - Thursday, December 11, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Mah-Jongg
 - Saturday, December 13, 10 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Santa's Village

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

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Zootopia 2

WED-THUR 12/3-4 **6:50**
FRI 12/5 **4:20 & 7:15**
SAT-SUN 12/6-7 **12:15, 2:40, 5:10 & 7:40**
MON-WED 12/8-10 **6:45**

WICKED FOR GOOD

WED-THUR 12/3-4 **6:30**
FRI 12/5 **4:00 & 7:00**
SAT-SUN 12/6-7 **1:50, 4:40 & 7:30**
MON-WED 12/8-10 **6:30**

FREE HOLIDAY MOVIE! SING (PG)

SAT 12/6 **9:00am, 9:50am & 11:25am**
SUN 12/7 **9:50am & 11:00am**
TUES 12/9 **4:15pm**

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See our website & menu: thehuttbarandgrill.com

DAILY SPECIALS at 11am

DAILY SPECIALS

- Wed., Dec. 3: **Black & Bleu Burger**
Pan Fried Chicken
- Thur., Dec. 4: **Hamburger Steak**
Hawaiian Chicken
- Fri., Dec. 5: **Country Fried Steak**
- Mon., Dec. 8: **Hot Beef**
Taco Salad
- Tues., Dec. 9: **CLOSED**

Friday Night Special
Fish Fry

Saturday Night Special
Prime Rib

OPEN
Mon. thru Thurs. at 11:00 AM
SAT. & SUN. at 8am (Breakfast)
Tuesday - CLOSED

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Italian & American Cuisine
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Fresh Seafood from Around the World!

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Build Your Own Pasta Bar with Salad and Bread

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WINTER HOURS: TUES. - SAT. 5PM-CLOSE

HUNTING/FISHING SPOTLIGHT

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!
SEND US AN EMAIL AT MICHELLE@LNSPRINT.COM

BE SURE TO INCLUDE ANY OR ALL THE FOLLOWING!

HUNTER FIRST NAME*
HUNTER LAST NAME*
NAME OF PERSON SUBMITTING (IF OTHER THAN HUNTER)
PHONE
EMAIL

HUNT LOCATION* (STATE HUNT TOOK PLACE)
SPECIES*
WEAPON
UNIT/AREA
YEAR HARVESTED*
SIZE/SCORE

THE LNS

Little Swan Lake Winery
Life... Drink it in!
We are open for walk-in & tasting!
Fall Hours: Tuesday-Sunday 11am-6pm
Open until 8 on Saturdays

Thursday, December 4
CERAMICS & WINE
6-9pm
We'll have food too!
Make it yourself.
Great Christmas Gifts!

Saturday, Dec. 6
Mark Lair
Bison Chili! 6-8pm

Sunday, Dec. 7
Jeremy DeWall
Bison Pasta! 4-6pm

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Ladies' Accessories, Swimsuits,
Home Décor, Nautical & Gifts

VILLAGE WEST
RESORT & HOTEL
WEST LAKE OKOJOJI

West Side of West Lake Okoboji on Hwy. 86
712-337-3223

80th Birthday Announcement

Mike Jordan of Spirit Lake will be celebrating his 80th birthday December 15th. Many may remember him at the original Black Walnut Candy Shop in Arnolds Park working in the family business that his grandfather Frank Lagios began in 1919. His second career has been as a reporter/photographer for local newspapers in Spirit Lake, Estherville and Lakefield, Minnesota. The family requests a card shower sent to his winter residence: 408 Clen Oak Parkway, Burnet, Texas 78611.

Kiwanis Bingo Nights

The next Milford Kiwanis Bingo Night will be Thursday, December 11. 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.



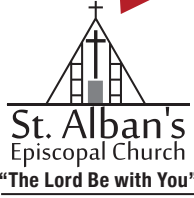
Iowa Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Meets second & fourth Sundays
9:30 am/Coffee & Fellowship • 10:00 am Service
Lakes Area Activity Center,
2101 Zenith Ave, Spirit Lake
See uukoboji.com for dates and program schedule.
We are a progressive, liberal welcoming congregation



ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

LESSONS & CAROLS SERVICE
7pm Sunday, December 14
An evening of wonderful Music & Bible Readings with a choir of singers from different churches in our community.
Refreshments following the event.



10:00 AM SUNDAYS
NOON WEDNESDAYS
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE:
7:00 PM

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

THE PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OF SPIRIT LAKE
INVITE YOU TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS Luncheon & PROGRAM
Thursday, December 11th
12:30pm
COST: \$15.00
RSVP TO 712-336-1649 OR EMAIL OFFICE@FPCSPIRITLAKE.ORG
PROGRAM PRESENTER: BETH CROSBY
"Celebrate the Gift"
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
3501 HILL AVE.
SPIRIT LAKE, IA 51360

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

Excelsior United Methodist Church
Deep Roots Strong Faith
We Invite You to Join Us for
Worship & Fellowship
Sunday at 9:00 am
Rev. Dr. Jennifer Hesebeck
2005 150th Ave, Milford • 712.330.7149

MAY THE JOY OF THE ADVENT SEASON
BLESS YOU AND YOURS!
JoyKids Christmas Program - Wed., Dec. 10th
Program at 5:15 pm | Supper at 6:00 pm
JOIN US FOR WORSHIP EVERY
SUNDAY AT 9:30 AM
OR ONLINE AT HARBOROFJOY.COM
"The word became flesh & made his dwelling among us." - John 1:14
CUPBOARD LOCATED ON SW CORNER OF BUILDING.
ITEMS AVAILABLE 24/7
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JOYKIDS WEDNESDAYS 3:30-5PM
HARBOR OF JOY
LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMC
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Christmas at Bethany
Yesterday & Today
Saturday, Dec. 13
11:00 am to 2:00 pm
A Collection of Nativity Scenes will be displayed this year!
Scandinavian Tea Room
with Traditional Scandinavian Goodies...
Lefse, Kringla, Almond Cake, Krumkake, Sot Suppe (fruit soup), Rommegrot (cream soup), Kransekake (Norwegian wedding cake) and much more!
Enjoy a Hearty Pulled Pork Lunch!
•Bake Sale
•Kids Corner
and much, much more!
A \$5 donation is suggested for the Scandinavian Tea Room and \$7 for the Pulled Pork Lunch.
Proceeds will benefit: Lutheran Lakeside Camp
"For Every Season" Campaign
Bethany Lutheran Church
15 W 14th St., Spencer, IA
Everyone Welcome!

Terril First Responders are Hosting Brunch with Santa!
Sunday, Dec. 7 * 10am - 1pm
in the Terril Memorial Building
Breakfast options will include: biscuits and gravy, scrambled eggs, toast, breakfast burritos, and breakfast soup!
Terril First Responders cover Eastern Dickinson County from North of Superior to the Clay County Line.
Your free will donation supports training and recruitment for the Terril First Responders and Terril Fire Department.
Santa will be there for kids to talk to and have their pictures taken with.

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.

Spirit Lake United Methodist Church
Our theme this year is "Grow Your Heart 3 Sizes"
May your heart grow three sizes as we learn together the power of the gift of Christmas!
DECEMBER 3: WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY MEAL & WORSHIP 5:30 PM AT WESLEY PLACE
DECEMBER 7: GRACE & HOPE ADVENT WORSHIP 8:30 & 10:30 AM
DECEMBER 10: CHILDREN'S PROGRAM 5:45 PM FOLLOWED BY POTLUCK
DECEMBER 14: LOVE & TREASURE ADVENT WORSHIP 8:30 & 10:30 AM FUN CHRISTMAS SWEATER SUNDAY
DECEMBER 14: IN THE SPIRIT A CELEBRATION OF THE SEASON EVENT AT OKOBOJI BREWING COMPANY. LIVE MUSIC, FOOD, CRAFTS FOR KIDS 2:30-4:30 PM
DECEMBER 17: WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY MEAL & WORSHIP 5:30 PM AT WESLEY PLACE BLUE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE 7:00 PM
DECEMBER 21: FORGIVENESS & JOY ADVENT WORSHIP 8:30 & 10:30 AM
DECEMBER 24: CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES 3:00 PM TRADITIONAL WORSHIP 5:30 PM CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP
DECEMBER 28: PRAISE GOD! ONE WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 AM
Joy with community. A place for all people, including you!
1812 GARY AVE., SPIRIT LAKE, IA • 336-3115

ATLAS INVITES YOU TO THE 2ND ANNUAL Auction Fundraiser AT SNAPPERS TURTLE BAY CAFE 24457 178TH OKOBOJI Thursday 12/4 5-7PM Lakes ATLAS PLEASE Join the auction! Shop for Christmas while enjoying food and fellowship All proceeds go to help ATLAS support clients in the area with a hand UP, not OUT!


Lakes Area Activity/Senior Center
Stop in and see what we have to offer!!!
SPEAKER TUES., DEC. 9 at 12:30pm Owen Primavera WWII
TUES, DEC. 16 & 23 - NO SPEAKER
DANCE TO LIVE MUSIC by Bill & Jackie Sunday, Dec. 14 from 2-5pm
Thank you to all for supporting the Lakes Area Senior Center! Happy Holidays
SIGN UP FOR DINNER DATE MEALS!
Reserve your meal for next week Low Cost: \$7-\$10 Donation Call Today! 712-336-5257
SIGN UP FOR DINNER DATE AND LISTEN TO THE SPEAKERS!
8 Monday Swedish Meatballs Vegetable Fruit & Bread
9 Tuesday Hot Beef Mashed Potatoes Vegetable Fruit & Bread
10 Wednesday Scalloped Potatoes and Ham Fruit & Bread
11 Thursday Meatloaf Vegetable Fruit & Bread
12 Friday Chicken Wraps Vegetable Fruit & Bread
PLEASE CALL 712-336-5247 BY 1:00 PM FRIDAY TO RESERVE A MEAL FOR NEXT WEEK
Dinners are provided by CARSTENSEN'S MEAT & GROCERY of Lake Park.
2101 Zenith Ave. • Spirit Lake, IA • 712-336-5247


First Lutheran Church
9/7/2025 - 5/24/2026
SUNDAY Schedule
WORSHIP 8:30 AM & 11:00 AM
FELLOWSHIP 9:30 AM
EDUCATION 9:45 AM
1525 Three Cross Road Milford, IA
office@3cross.org 712-338-4514 www.3cross.org

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Mike Young Live for Two Nights
Only at Circus Street

DECEMBER 5 & 6

OKOBOJI IOWA





SCAN FOR TICKETS





6:00 PM
LIVE MUSIC


8:00PM
SHOW STARTS

Oak Hill Outdoor - 2188
2188 IA-86, Milford, IA 51351

Mike Young

AS SEEN ON...





Lueders Ridiculous Christmas Lights Return to Lake Park

The highly anticipated Lueders Ridiculous Christmas Lights display at 1078 110th St. in Lake Park is officially back for another spectacular season.

The first lighting of the display is scheduled for Thanksgiving night at 5:30 p.m. The lights will then be illuminated nightly from Thanksgiving through New Year's Eve, operating from 5:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Visitors are encouraged to tune their car radios to 97.5 FM to listen to the synchronized music while enjoying the dazzling show.

Special Appearance by Santa

A special event is planned for December 6th, when Santa Claus will be making an appearance from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Santa's helpers will be on hand to distribute goody bags for the children and candy canes for all attendees.

Supporting Veterans

A donation box is located at the end of the driveway, and all contributions received are dedicated to supporting Veterans. For the latest news and updates, the public is advised to follow the Lueders Ridiculous X-Mas Lights Facebook page. The Lueders Family extends their heartfelt wishes to everyone for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Local Ties to Eagle Scout Achievement

Keaton Huls of Troop 127, Saint Francis Parish, and the Grand Canyon Council in Phoenix, Arizona, received his Eagle Scout Award on November 8, 2025. For his Eagle Scout project, Keaton refurbished steps used to help children participate at Feed My Starving Children, a non-profit organization. Volunteers at this organization package and ship food distributed to those in need across the globe.

The Eagle Scout Award is the highest achievement in Boy Scouts. Keaton is the son of Kevin and Valerie Huls of Phoenix, Arizona, and the grandson of Bob and Karen Huls of Spirit Lake, Iowa.



Easy Ways to SHOP LOCAL



Dine at Local Restaurants



Attend Events Like Sip & Strolls



Buy Gift Cards from Local Shops & Restaurants



Shop Local Online



Not Sure Where to Shop? Ask a Friend!



THE LAKES NEWS SHOPPER

1009 22nd Street • Milford, IA 51351
712-338-2232
lakesnewsshopper.com



Occasions

104 East 4th Street, Spencer

Dig In & Discover

WEDNESDAY 11:45am to 1pm

Enjoy a Great Lunch, Useful Information & Fun Conversation!

Call for reservations one day prior to event
262-1782

DECEMBER
MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

December 3 - Spencer High School Choir
December 10 - Glenn Henriksen and Father Kelly
December 17 - Spirit of Harmony Choir
December 21 - Breakfast

JUST BY ATTENDING!!
You can help us raise \$10,000

LET US CATER

YOUR HOLIDAY PARTY



MAKE IT A BUFFET DAY

WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU TODAY

1-SPECIALTY AND 1-TOPPING MEDIUM PIZZAS 2 FOR \$22.00

Some restrictions may apply. Price subject to change without notice. Not valid with any other offers. Coupon good at Spirit Lake, IA. Valid thru 12-31-25.

8-PIECE CHICKEN BOX FOR \$16.00

Some restrictions may apply. Price subject to change without notice. Not valid with any other offers. Coupon good at Spirit Lake, IA. Valid thru 12-31-25.

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AUGUST 7TH 2026

SPECIAL GUEST **CHASE MCDANIEL**



STYX
JUNE 18TH 2026

CONCERTS MAKE GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFTS!



CARLY PEARCE
JUNE 19TH 2026



GIFT MEMORIES THAT LAST
\$10 OFF SEASON MEMBERSHIPS

PURCHASE

Purchase your membership at the Gift Shop, receive 20% off any one item and Spin our Wheel of Prizes for one additional free gift.

The 2026 Arnolds Park Amusement Park membership deal is good through 12/31/25.



HOLIDAY SAVINGS ALL MONTH LONG!

FIND THE BEST GIFTS AT OAK HILL!

ALL APPAREL 60% OFF



WATERSPORTS 40% OFF



PELICAN DRINK MUGS 40% OFF



LEUPOLD & VORTEX OPTICS 40% OFF



UPCOMING LIVE MUSIC & EVENTS at Oak Hill Outdoor - 2188



Friday, December 5 • Boone & Lambert • 6 PM
Friday, December 5 • Circus Street Comedy: Mike Young • 8 PM
Saturday, December 6 • Jeremy DeWall • 6 PM
Saturday, December 6 • Circus Street Comedy: Mike Young • 8 PM
Saturday, December 13 • Santa Visits Oak Hill Outdoor! • 2 PM



OAK HILL
—DRAKE'S—



DRAKE'S

LOCATED INSIDE OAK HILL OUTDOOR
FULL BAR • FOOD • NIGHTLY SPECIALS

WEDNESDAYS: HitMix Bingo, Flatbreads & Tap-It Wednesday!
THURSDAYS: 3/\$6 Tacos, Margaritas/ Jason Grinnen Karaoke 6-10 PM
FRIDAYS: Live Music & \$4 Crowns!



OAK HILL OUTDOOR

oakhilloutdoor.com

HOURS:
Wednesday - Saturday 10am-10pm
Sunday - Tuesday CLOSED

Junction 71 & 86, Milford



EXIT Realty Midwest
is sponsoring their
5th Annual

TOY DRIVE

NOVEMBER 24 - DECEMBER 15

ALL DONATIONS
will be distributed to **LOCAL**
children & teens in need through
Upper Des Moines Opportunity.


Please drop off **NEW, UNWRAPPED TOYS**
at our **Spirit Lake Branch** during regular business hours.

All Toys Donated will be for Christmas Gifts & Birthdays throughout the year.


1306 18th St., Suite C, Spirit Lake
712-336-3405



SHOP **LOCAL.**
EAT **LOCAL.**
SPEND **LOCAL.**
ENJOY **LOCAL.**
IT TAKES **YOU**
TO START A TREND



THE LAKES NEWS SHOPPER



1009 22nd Street • Milford, IA
712-338-2232
lakesnewsshopper.com

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!

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.


West O Cozy Launch and Winter Games Kick Off

Attendees can get ready to raise a glass and turn on the Winter Games Spirit! The event will take place on Friday, December 5th, from 4-7pm at West O Brewery.

The organization is kicking off the season with a celebration of all things University of Okoboji Winter Games and the debut of this year's official Cozy!

This year's Cozy is described as a rich, malty Czech Dark Lager bursting with warm, comforting flavors: including roasted chocolate, smooth coffee, caramel, toffee, and a hint of toasted bread. It is basically winter in a glass, crafted to welcome the season and spark the excitement leading up to the 46th Annual University of Okoboji Winter Games!

Guests are invited to join for a night filled with great beer, good company, and hometown pride. The IGLA Chamber will also have select apparel on hand, allowing attendees to be among the very first to show off their Winter Games Spirit! Everyone is encouraged to come get COZY... the organizers eagerly await the opportunity to celebrate with the community!




west
CZECH STYLE DARK LAGER

GET COZY FOR THE WINTER GAMES.


ALWAYS THE LAST WEEKEND IN JANUARY MARK YOUR CALENDAR uofowintergames.com

GET LOCAL & SUSTAINABLE




west

COZY
CZECH STYLE DARK LAGER



CHAMBER

PAIRS WITH



Where Nature Is The Playground

Giving Tuesday Fundraising Drive Dec. 2, 2025

for the **NEW Nature Playscape** Coming to The Nature Center!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Dickinson County Conservation Board is calling on local businesses, families, and nature lovers to join in supporting this effort. Contributions can be made to the CFDC, a 501(c)3 organization that supports the DCCB in their mission to educate, conserve nature, and provide outdoor recreational opportunities for all.

The new playscape has been thoughtfully divided into themed zones, each offering unique ways for children to explore. Donors can choose to support an entire zone or help bring individual features to life. Donations can be made by visiting or mailing to the Dickinson County Nature Center or mail to the address: **Conservation Foundation of Dickinson County (CFDC) 22785 Nature Center Road Okoboji, IA 51355**

Generous Donors Have Pledged A \$500,000 Match To Encourage Local Donations

We are also recognizing donors who give \$1,000+ by engraving names on tree cookies placed within the playscape design (the Giving Wall).



Dickinson County CONSERVATION BOARD

HOOURS: Tues.-Sat. 10am-4pm
www.dickinsoncountyconservationboard.com

Milford Memorial Library News

On Saturday, December 6, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., you are invited to Milford Memorial Library's Holiday Open House during Milford's Holiday Fantasy. Come and enjoy kids crafts (make and take or to go), visit with Santa, Festival of Tree Voting, and treats provided by the Friends of the Milford Library.

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

- December 8, 10:30 a.m. – Kittens
- December 15, 10:30 a.m. – Library
- December 22, 10:30 a.m. – Merriest Time of Year
- December 29, 10:30 a.m. – New

Friday, December 5, is the last day to bring in your tree to Milford Memorial Library for the Festival of Trees! Judging will be on Saturday, December 6, during Holiday Fantasy. Categories are the following: Best Business, Best Personal/Family, Best Organization, Most Creative, and Librarian's Choice. Each category winner will receive Milford Bucks from the Friends of the Milford Library. If you have any questions, please contact the library by calling 712-338-4643 or by emailing milfordlibrary51351@gmail.com.

Starting Friday, November 21, "Fill the Cart" for Dickinson County Upper Des Moines Food Pantry will begin! We are collecting non-perishable food items at Milford Memorial Library until Friday, December 13. Help us fill their cupboards.

On December 1, join MML for Y.A. Maker Monday! From 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Young Adults can create a 3D Paper lamp or lantern. All materials are provided for this free come-and-go activity.


Come and enjoy MML's All-Day Play, on December 1, from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Spend time with friends and playing with different toys during this come-and-go playtime. All materials are provided by the library.

Holiday Fantasy Food Drive

Friday, Nov. 21—Friday, Dec. 12

Ongoing Food Drive for Dickinson County Upper Des Moines at Milford Memorial Library


Let's fill their cupboards for the holidays!



Milford Memorial Library's Holiday Open House

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 9:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

Join us for Make and take or to go crafts Festival of Trees voting Visit with Santa Treats supplied by the Friends of the Milford Library



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DCNC Nature Playscape Fundraising GivingTuesday

This GivingTuesday, on December 2nd, the Dickinson County Nature Center invites the community to come together and help bring the conceptual plans of the Nature Playscape to life! Since its opening in 2014, the existing natural playground has been loved and enjoyed for many years, but it's time to bring new life to the imaginative outdoor play area.

Plans have been designed for the project, with the hope of construction beginning in 2026 to upgrade the space and continue the all-natural concept, allowing children and families to climb, dig, swing, and explore.

Generous donors have pledged a \$500,000 match to encourage local donations towards the project. Currently, 32% of the funds have been raised for the match, thanks to our generous community. With continued community involvement, the Nature Center aims to make significant progress toward breaking ground in 2026.

GivingTuesday is a national day of giving, but it doesn't have to be limited to just one day.

"We want to build the Nature Playscape together with the members of our community," said Amy Heibult, community relations coordinator of the Dickinson County Conservation Board. "Every single contribution moves the project closer to coming to life for families to explore and connect."

You can donate by sending your gift to the Conservation Foundation of Dickinson County (CFDC), a 501(c)(3) organization that supports the Nature Center, via mail to 22785 Nature Center Road, Okoboji, IA 51355. Gifts can also be dropped off at the Nature Center or given online at our website, www.dickinsoncountycanvconservationboard.com/donate. All donations are tax-deductible and will be used towards the construction of the playscape.

To learn more about the plans for the Nature Playscape project and proposed features, visit www.dickinsoncountycanvconservationboard.com/nature-playscape and scroll down to watch the video of the 3D fly-through of the proposed features. Contact the Nature Center at 712-336-6352 with any questions.



Obituary

A visitation for Paul Chapman, 67, of Milford, will be held on Sunday, December 7th, from 5-7 PM at Turner Jenness Funeral Home in Milford. A Celebration of Life will be held at The Ritz in Arnolds Park on Monday, December 8, at 11:00am. A private family service will be held at a later time.

Paul Arthur Chapman, born on October 31, 1958, in Spencer, Iowa, peacefully passed away at Accura Healthcare on November 26, 2025, at the age of 67. A truly great man whose smile and kindness touched the lives of all who knew him.

Born to parents Earl D. "Squeeg" and Ruth Ann Wade Chapman, Paul was raised and educated in Spencer, graduating from Spencer High School. Paul enjoyed football and wrestling in his high school days, as well as riding his Yamaha motorcycle and snowmobile. He grew up bartending at his parents' business, Top of the Pine.

Paul was born a salesman, dedicating nearly 20 years to C&N Sales and later working in food sales and automotive parts, most recently delivering parts at Arnold Motor. He truly loved seeing people and enjoyed every opportunity to visit with others, always making sure they got what they needed. His genuine care and friendly spirit made every interaction memorable.

He loved woodworking, and among his most prized possessions were the toy boxes and wooden caterpillars he lovingly crafted for his grandchildren. These handmade treasures will be cherished for years to come. Paul spent his summers camping with his kids, creating cherished memories. He also loved taking vacations, especially trips to the Black Hills and later, Florida.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Connie Chapman; his son, Nick Chapman, and special friend, Jessica, of Sioux Falls; and his daughter, Jennifer Von Ehwegen and her husband, Tim, of Spencer, along with their two children, Tate and Jetta. Also surviving are Connie's son, Nick, and his wife, Crystal, of Florida, and their children, Alex, Will, Grace, Anna, and Olivia.

In addition to his wife and children, Paul is survived by his brothers: Dave and his fiancée, Meg, of Minneapolis; and Sam and his wife, Heidi, of Spencer. His memory lives on through numerous nieces, nephews, and countless friends who will forever hold cherished memories of their time spent with him.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Daniel Chapman.

Arrangements are under the care of Turner Jenness Funeral Home.



**RECIPE CORNER**
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One-Pan Mediterranean Creamy Chicken with a Kick

Serves 6

2	tablespoons olive oil
3	large boneless and skinless chicken breasts sliced into cutlets
1 1/2	teaspoons kosher salt, divided
2	cloves garlic, minced
1	cup heavy cream
1/2	cup chicken stock
1/2	cup sundried tomatoes, chopped
1/2	cup Parmesan cheese, grated, divided
2	teaspoons Rissys's Mediterranean Herb Rub, divided
1/2	teaspoon black pepper
1/2	teaspoon of Rissys's Spicy Pepper Shake, divided

Prep the Chicken: Tenderize the chicken cutlets a bit with a meat tenderizer, then pat the chicken dry. Season all over with 1 teaspoon of the kosher salt. Cook the Chicken: Heat the oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add the chicken and cook about 5 minutes per side, or until golden brown. Transfer the chicken to a plate. Make the Sauce: Add the garlic to the same skillet and cook until fragrant, about 30 seconds. Stir in the chicken stock, heavy cream, 1/4 cup of the Parmesan cheese, sundried tomatoes, 1 1/2 teaspoons Rissys's Mediterranean Herb Rub, the 1/2 teaspoon black pepper, 1/4 teaspoon Rissys's Spicy Pepper Shake, and the remaining 1/2 teaspoon salt until fully combined. Simmer and Finish Chicken: Return the chicken to the skillet. Bring the sauce to a simmer, then reduce the heat to medium low. Cook until the internal temperature of the chicken reaches 165 degrees Fahrenheit on an instant-read thermometer, about 5 minutes more. Serve: Stir in the remaining 1/2 teaspoon Rissys's Mediterranean Herb Rub, the remaining 1/2 teaspoon salt until fully combined. Simmer, and the remaining 1/4 cup Parmesan cheese. Serve immediately with crusty bread, pasta, rice, or mashed potatoes.

Recipe Courtesy of: Marisa Siddles

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Parks Marina holds Annual Boatload of Toys Fundraiser

Parks Marina, located on East Lake in Okoboji, Iowa, is once again teaming up with Upper Des Moines Opportunity (UDMO) in Dickinson County as part of its annual Boatload of Toys fundraiser, happening now through December 12.

A much-anticipated fundraising event, Boatload of Toys encourages community members to bring in new, unwrapped toys to the Marina, all of which are directly distributed through UDMO to families in need over the holiday season. Since 2008, the Boatload of Toys event has accumulated thousands worth of toys donated.

UDMO is dedicated to helping build stronger communities by addressing the effects of poverty on individuals and families. One of 16 Community Action Agencies serving Iowans since 1965, UDMO provides a helping hand during times of crisis, aiding individuals, families and children as they get back on their feet, with staff members working diligently to provide continued support while encouraging families to achieve self-sufficiency, according to their website.

Those who bring in donations by Dec. 12 will receive a 20% off shopping spree, valid for Parks Marina water accessories, Barefoot apparel, and shopping at Palm at the Park. This year, discounts can also be used online. Donations can be dropped off at Parks Marina in Okoboji or Sioux Falls or Palm at the Park in the Central Emporium.

For more information on the Boatload of Toys fundraiser, go to www.parksmarina.com or look for Parks Marina on Facebook. For more details on the Upper Des Moines Opportunity and their initiatives, go to www.udmo.com.

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View From The Bench

by John Adams, Jr.

Hawks Humble Huskers, Again

There was no late game drama needed this year in Lincoln for Iowa to defeat Nebraska for the 10th time in the last 11 games. Iowa had won back-to-back games on walk-off field goals and 13-10 victories, but Saturday the Hawks took the drama out of the game early in the third quarter and rolled to an impressive 40-16 victory as chants of “Let’s go Hawks” and “I-O-W-A” could be heard throughout Memorial Stadium the entire fourth quarter in a game that Iowa dominated in every aspect to finish their regular season 8-4 and 6-3 in the BIG. The win also wraps up an undefeated run in the Trophy Games in BIG Conference play for Iowa, where they totally dominated their rivals, Wisconsin, Minnesota and Nebraska by a total of 118-19.

The first half of this game was very competitive, with Nebraska taking a quick 7-0 lead on an Emmett Johnson short run after he had raced 70 yards to the goal line before being tripped up. Kaden Wetjen would put Iowa in great field position by returning the ensuing kickoff to the Nebraska 44-yard line, and then the Huskers were called for a facemask penalty that moved the ball to the 29-yard line. Iowa had to settle for a Drew Stevens field goal on that drive to trim the lead to 7-3. The Hawkeyes would take the lead on a beautiful stop and go route by emerging tight end DJ Vonnahme, quarterback Mark Gronowski hit him with a perfect pass and Vonnahme would score from 35-yards out to give Iowa a 10-7 lead. The Huskers would tie the game on a field goal by Kyle Cunanan, but the Hawks would answer with an impressive drive to take the lead for good on a Kamari Moulton 3-yard TD run. Cunanan added another short field goal to trim that lead to 17-16 but Iowa would take momentum into halftime and never give that up with a 51-yard drive that culminated with a short Gronowski run to give the Hawks a 24-16 lead.

Any doubt as to who would win this game was quickly removed when Karson Sharar forced a fumble on punt coverage and the ball squirted into the Nebraska end zone, where it was recovered by the Huskers for an Iowa safety that gave Iowa a 26-16 lead. Gronowski would add another TD run in the third quarter and the route was on. Moulton scored his second touchdown of the game after Reece Vanderzee made the catch of the game to put Iowa at the Nebraska one yard-line, and the Hawks lead 40-16. Iowa’s defense totally shut down Nebraska in the second half, limiting them to just 42 yards after they were torched by Johnson and the Huskers for 189 yards in the first half.

I wasn’t sure who would win this game until I listened to an Iowa Everywhere podcast, “2 Guys Named Chris” while driving down to Kansas City to celebrate Thanksgiving with our family. Whether you are an Iowa Hawkeye or Iowa State Cyclone fan, if you are ever looking for a podcast to add to your library, Iowa Everywhere does a fantastic job of covering both teams, and “2 Guys Named Chris” to me is the pinnacle as Chris Williams, who owns Cyclone Fanatics and Chris Hassel, who is an absolute media star who works for CBS Sports and is a die-hard Iowa Hawkeye fan, give fantastic perspectives of both programs. Chris and Chris were previewing the Iowa-Nebraska game and they were going over which each of them were going to pick, when Chris Hassel made an excellent point that stuck with me, he said “Iowa has the better team, better quarterback now that Dylan Riola is out; Nebraska is playing at home, which is a big advantage, but I’m going with Iowa all day because of their culture compared to Nebraska’s culture.” Hassel hit the nail on the head with the culture comment. I know Iowa fans sometimes complain about Kirk Ferentz and Iowa not winning the big game, or not having an exciting offense, but be careful what you wish for in a coach. Ferentz constantly has Iowa at 8-4 or better, his teams compete at a very high level, this year’s teams is just a few plays away from making the College Football Playoffs, he recruits and develops kids with high character who rarely get in trouble, and his culture is incredibly strong. Culture is a hard word to define, but you know when a program has it and when one is still searching for it, and there is no doubt which category these two football programs are in!





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Obituary

Mr. Lawrence Hansen, of Spencer, Iowa, passed away peacefully at his home on Sunday, November 23, 2025, at the age of 97. Funeral services were held on Monday, December 1, 2025, at 10:00 AM at Grace United Methodist Church in Spencer, with Pastor Chris St. Clair officiating. Prior to the service, a visitation was held at the church on Sunday from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M., with the family present. Following the funeral, interment will take place at Fairview Cemetery in Langdon, Iowa. Arrangements are under the direction of Warner Funeral Home of Spencer, and condolences may be sent to the family at www.warnerfuneral.com.



Lawrence Eugene Hansen was born September 28, 1928, at the Spencer Hospital, to Louis Olaf Hansen and Carrie Marie Holmberg. As an only child, Lawrence grew up on a farm northeast of Spencer. He received his early education at the local country school before attending and graduating from Lake Center School.

As a young man, Lawrence worked on the farm alongside his dad. Together they grew corn, oats, and hay and raised livestock. While still in high school, Lawrence drove as a bus driver, using his own car to pick up other students along the route to school.

Lawrence was married to the love of his life, Jolene Francis Harvey, on February 1, 1948. On February 1, 2025, Lawrence and Jolene celebrated their 77th wedding anniversary. To this union 6 children were born: Nancy (Lanny) Hanson of Spencer; Deb (David) Kaus of Spencer; Vickie (Richard) Hall of Ann Arbor, MI; Randal (Lisa) Hansen of Spencer; Curt (Julie) Hansen of Spencer; and Terry (Jolene) Hansen of Spencer. Throughout their lives as a couple, they enjoyed riding on his Harley Davidson motorcycle, bowling, and playing cards with friends and neighbors. Family was always very important to Lawrence, and he spent countless hours helping his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren with different projects.

Lawrence spent many years of his life involved in community activities. He played ball in the Langdon Softball League, was a trustee of Meadow Township, a leader for the 4-H Meadow Minutemen, and an active member of the Langdon United Methodist Church. He served as a member of the church board, chairman of the finance committee, and caretaker of the church and church grounds. Woodworking was one of Lawrence's hobbies. He made furniture, wooden decor, toys, and various items for family members and the God's portion sale at church.

Oliver tractors were Lawrence's passion. With the help of his sons, he restored 17 Oliver tractors, an Oliver hay rake, 2 Oliver plows, and an Oliver manure spreader. He enjoyed taking his Olivers to the Clay County Fair, parades, and tractor shows. Lawrence won several awards with his restored Oliver machinery.

Throughout his entire life, Lawrence was a dedicated and passionate farmer. He grew corn, beans, and oats and raised cattle, pigs, and sheep. His commitment to caring for the land was evident in the way he lived each day. In his later years, Lawrence enjoyed attending farm auctions and cruising around in his golf cart. He took a great deal of pride in caring for his yard. He spent hours maintaining the appearance of his yard and mowing his lawn up until his very last day.

Lawrence was known for his kindness, patience, and sense of humor. He was always ready to help neighbors, friends, and family. There wasn't a task or school project he wasn't willing to help with. Even in his later days he was willing to deliver meals and give rides as needed. His sense of humor and wit were with him until the end.

Lawrence passed away on November 23, 2025, at the age of 97. He was preceded in death by his wife, Jolene, parents Louis and Carrie Hansen, and parents-in-law Delon and Verna Harvey. He is survived by his children, 21 grandchildren, 24 great-grandchildren, 2 great-great-grandchildren, and many other relatives and friends.



Tree of Love Pays Tribute to Loved Ones

You are cordially invited to help us celebrate the 36th annual Tree of Love Lighting event on Sunday, December 7, at 3:30pm inside the Lakes Regional Hospital East Entrance in Spirit Lake. Sing carols with us to kick off the season, enjoy a holiday message by pastor Perry Aalgaard, and partake in refreshments.

Plan now to pay tribute to a loved one with a \$5 donation for a hand painted, wooden heart keepsake ornament. Tributes can be for a birthday, anniversary, memorial, holiday greeting, etc. Ornaments are available at the tree lighting ceremony and are also offered at the reception desk at the East Lakes Regional Healthcare Hospital throughout the season.

Your donation supports scholarships from the Lakes Regional Hospital Volunteers for students entering the healthcare field and also supports Meals on Wheels through the Voluntary Action Center.







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Obituary

A funeral service for Marilyn Zech, 88, of Spirit Lake will be held at 11:00 AM on Thursday, December 4, 2025, at Grace Lutheran Church in Spirit Lake. Visitation will be from 5:00-7:00 PM on Wednesday, December 3rd, at Turner Jenness Funeral Home in Spirit Lake.



In lieu of flowers, memorials in memory of Marilyn may be sent to Grace Lutheran Church and designated to support Oaxaca Youth Empowerment (formerly Oaxaca Streetchildren Grassroots), the Tanzania well-drilling project, or Igumbilo Girls School in Tanzania.

Marilyn Hazel Zech, the daughter of Johnnie and Hazel (Terry) Peters, was born June 19, 1937, in Pocahontas, Iowa. As a child, Marilyn loved animals, reading, and being outside. She often combined these loves by dressing up her cats in doll clothes and reading to them in the hayloft of the barn. Marilyn graduated from Pocahontas High School in 1955 and attended Buena Vista College for a time. On June 3, 1956, she married Lawrence H. Zech. They lovingly welcomed three children to this union and raised many, many foster children as well.

Marilyn cherished being a wife, mother, and grandmother. She regularly had fresh-baked goodies ready when the kids came home from school. She made delicious lasagna and yummy homemade cinnamon rolls. She and Lawrence traveled to Oaxaca, Mexico, with Señor Cliff one year and happily sponsored a child from the Oaxaca Streetchildren Grassroots. Marilyn's grandchildren have many fond memories of days spent with Grandma. They include going to Arnolds Park Amusement Park, attending plays at the Boji Bantam Theatre, swimming at the lake, and having lunches at McDonald's. The grandkids also remember days spent on the farm helping to split and haul firewood and jumping on the trampoline. In the evenings, Grandma and the grandkids made s'mores in the wood-burning stove and would end the day by piling on a bed around Grandma to listen to her read books before they went to sleep. The days always ended with the best hugs.

Marilyn enjoyed gardening and always canned and froze the bounty to enjoy after the growing season ended. In the summer, Marilyn would spend hours mowing the yard at the farm. She was always thankful if one of the kids thought of bringing her a glass of water. In the fall, raking leaves was a family activity. For several years, each spring the family planted 1000+ trees, converting the cornfield to a forested area.

One of Marilyn's inside hobbies was sewing. One day, she went to the fabric store, bought a pattern and fabric, then made three pairs of PJs for the kids to wear to bed that night. Later on, Marilyn spent summers sewing in the costume shop at the Okoboji Summer Theatre. As a member of Grace Lutheran Church, Marilyn shared her sewing talents by helping to make quilts to donate to Lutheran World Relief during sew and fun days. She also enjoyed delivering meals-on-wheels, often taking grandkids with her, when it was Grace Lutheran's month to volunteer.

After the kids were raised, Marilyn worked alongside Lawrence in his many endeavors. She was in charge of organization and bookkeeping duties when Lawrence was the general contractor on large construction projects. They also worked side by side in the Zech Hardwood business. The two traveled together many times to Tanzania in the early 2000s through the Western Iowa Synod and their Hatua Kwa Hatua (Step by Step) initiative. Lawrence and Marilyn were the first coordinators for the well-drilling project. One of the first wells where they trained local workers was at the Igumbilo Girls School.

Later in life, Marilyn remained independent. She was proud of the fact that her heating bill was only \$20 per month. In her 70s, she split and hauled firewood by herself to stoke the wood-burning stove in the basement all winter.

Marilyn lived her last ten years at Accura Healthcare in Spirit Lake. She continued to read, especially enjoying mysteries. She made lasting friendships with other residents and the staff. She always had a basket of candy available to share with staff and visitors.

Marilyn had an independent and sometimes stubborn personality. She had a dry wit and enjoyed ribbing family and friends until the end. Marilyn passed away quickly after God called and told her it was her time to rest. She was surrounded by loved ones at Lakes Regional Healthcare, where she died on November 25, 2025.

Marilyn is survived by her son, Keith Zech, and wife, Joanne, and their children, Anna, Jon, and Kayla; daughter, Diane Munch, and husband, Gerald; daughter, Missey Brown, and husband, Tharon, and their children, Austen, Torrey (Kim Leaver), and Abbey; great-grandchildren, Bryson Miller and Connor Miller; and many foster children and their families.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Lawrence Zech; parents, Johnnie and Hazel (Terry) Peters; step-parents, Fred and Edith DeWall; and sister, Patricia Weatherwax.

Arrangements are under the care of Turner Jenness Funeral Home.



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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.

Obituary

A Memorial Service for Norman Schulenburg, 76, of Okoboji, was held Monday, December 1, 2025, at Turner Jenness Funeral Home in Milford. A Celebration of Life Gathering will be held in the summer.



Norman Robert Schulenburg, the son of Robert Amond and Norma Dorothy (Beaton) Schulenburg, was born on July 11, 1949. He grew up in Greenfield, Iowa, where he graduated from Greenfield High School and later continued his education at Southwestern Community College.

Throughout his life, Norm took on numerous occupations and adventures. He worked as a bar owner, truck driver, and cable layer, with employment that included Thermogas, Kidd Construction, and most recently Ranco Fertiliservice in Sioux Rapids. His work often took him on the road, but Okoboji—where he moved around 1977—was always home base.

Norm lived in Sioux Rapids, Linn Grove, Greenfield, Cherokee, and Okoboji, but it was Okoboji where he spent most of his life and built lasting friendships. He traveled extensively, including yearly trips to Mexico beginning at age 21. He especially loved spending winters in Acapulco, where he formed close relationships he considered family.

He never met a stranger and enjoyed telling his adventures to anyone who would listen. Norm was always on the move. He enjoyed boating, flying, and sharing stories of his many adventures with anyone willing to listen. In true Norm fashion, he even parachuted out of an airplane from 14,000 feet, landing on a beach in Galveston, Texas.

He was an avid follower of Iowa Hawkeye sports and a dedicated WNBA fan. He was a proud supporter of his nieces' and nephews' athletic events and attended their games whenever he could. Much like his parents, his greatest joy was getting together with family and friends.

Norm lived life to the fullest and entirely on his own terms. He passed away on November 22, 2025.

Those left to cherish his memory include Uncle Don Beaton, El Paso, TX; Sisters—Robin McManus, Phoenix, AZ; Norene Boyer, Irving, TX; Ronda (Gary) Martin, Holstein, IA; Nephews & Nieces—Ryan (Jade) Gamble, Soldotna, AK; Jeremy (Elizabeth) Schulenburg, Des Moines, IA; Brandon (Sophie) Boyer, Vancouver, BC, Canada; Jamie (Aliece) Martin, Des Moines, IA; Jason (Danielle) Martin, Holstein, IA; Richard (Danielle) McManus, Peoria, AZ; Josh (Coralyn) Martin, Holstein, IA; Great Nephews & Nieces—Caitlin, Becca, Kyra, Nicole, Aiden (Marah), Gage, Sophia, David, Vada, Genevieve, William, Jase, Lincoln, Ruby, Karlee, Maddison, Maverick; Marilyn; Great-Great Nephew—Westen.

Norm was preceded in death by his parents; his sister, Karin Schulenburg; his brother, Richard Schulenburg; and his sister-in-law, Pat (Wetherell) Schulenburg; his niece, Renee Griffith.

Arrangements were under the care of Turner Jenness Funeral Home.



Obituary

Connie LaFoy, 99, of Arnolds Park, IA, passed away on Friday, November 28, 2025, at Accura Healthcare of Milford.

A celebration of life will be held at 1:30 pm on Saturday, June 20, 2026, at First Lutheran Church in Milford. Burial will take place in the Lakeview Gardens Cemetery in Okoboji. Arrangements are under the direction of the Robinson Funeral Home in Spirit Lake.



Sarah Alice "Connie" Conway LaFoy, a woman whose life spanned nearly a century of love, dedication, and tireless action, passed away peacefully on November 29, 2025, shy of her 100th year, when her big heart finally wore out. Born on August 3, 1926, on a farm near Fenton, Iowa, Connie was the cherished daughter of Matt and Mina Conway. She was the last surviving member of her generation.

Her marriage to the love of her life, Aubrey LaFoy, lasted an extraordinary 77.5 years, making them the second-longest-married couple in Iowa history. They met while attending college and were married in March 1948.

If love had a face, it was Connie's. She poured her love out without measure—daughter, wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and friend. She worried, cheered, protected, occasionally fussed, always forgave, and never stopped loving. Neighbors, friends, employees at the nursing home and even strangers felt her warmth. Even in death, she gave, donating her body to Mayo Clinic so future healers might learn from the heart that served so well.

A true lifelong learner, Connie graduated from Emmetsburg High School in 1944 and Iowa State Teachers College (now UNI) in 1949. It was in college that dormitory friends shortened Conway (her last name) to Connie, a name that fit her perfectly. She was also a dedicated member of Beta Sigma Phi for over 50 years, embodying the sorority's focus on friendship, learning, and philanthropy.

Her 33-year teaching career was a testament to her passion for education. She taught thousands of young people in elementary school, serving as more than just a teacher—she was a mentor, a friend, and a guiding light. Her unique ability to connect with each child fostered a love of learning that became her lasting legacy in the hearts and minds of those she touched.

Summers belonged to Okoboji, where she and Aubrey joined the Yacht Club; for 25 years, Connie served as Membership Chairman and lovingly produced the annual directory. Retirement brought winters in Mesa, Arizona, where she presided over the Computer Club, taught classes, played ladies' golf, and, with Aubrey, co-chaired the Moonlight Serenade Dance Club.

Travel called them, too—Holland in tulip season, Ireland's green hills, Caribbean blues, Alaskan wonders, and most corners of America. Connie never lost her childlike curiosity; she always wanted to know what lay over the next hill.

Through moves, seasons, joys, setbacks, and near the end, serious health challenges, Connie remained stubbornly optimistic. She and Aubrey lived independently as long as humanly possible, and even when that was no longer possible, she believed—until her very last day—that she would rally again. Even after setbacks, her optimism and determination to recover were an inspiration to all who knew her. Her hopeful attitude and sheer will to "get better" were a powerful reflection of her indomitable spirit.

Connie was also blessed with a green thumb; her meticulous plants and vibrant blooms were the envy of the neighborhood. She always knew the tricks for growing both flowers and succulents.

Connie is survived by her devoted husband, Aubrey; her three sons, Randy (Margaret), Ray (Marilee), and Carl (Lisa); seven grandchildren: Max (Katrina), Nick, Jacque (Mandy), Rod, Becca (Greg), Sonja, and Ed; and four great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her grand-dog, Tilly (Sonja's), and her precious friend, Kris, who was with her until the very end.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial gifts to the Okoboji Yacht Club Sailing School, First Lutheran Church (Milford), or the Milford Education Foundation.

A joyful Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, June 20 at 1:30 p.m. at First Lutheran Church in Milford. In honor of Connie's bright spirit, please wear vibrant, happy colors—the colors of rainbows and her beloved gardens. The family kindly requests no black or white.

Connie LaFoy didn't just live 99 years—she lived them beautifully, fully, and with a heart wide open. The world is softer, kinder, and far more colorful because she was here.

Obituary

Thomas John Cooper
October 29, 1951 - November 7, 2025

Thomas John (Tom) aka "Coop" Cooper passed away November 7, 2025, at the age of 74. Tom spent his childhood with his parents, Gerald "Jerry" Cooper and Bernice (née Back) Cooper Tripp, and his brother Tim. He graduated from Everly High School with the class of '69. He enjoyed all his class reunions, including his 55th. He played college football at both ILCC, Estherville, Iowa, and Morningside College, Sioux City, Iowa, graduating in '73.



Tom married Carol Sheehan on December 27th, 1972. They later moved to Milford, Iowa, where Tom coached the high school football team for a few years. He was always honored when his former players would call him Coach Cooper decades later. Football season would find him up in the radio booth calling plays for the KUOO or KICD announcers.

Tom and Carol were blessed with two daughters, Jill and Amy. Tom was an active dad, proudly encouraging them in their athletic and musical events at Okoboji High School.

He transitioned his summer job at Moeller's in Milford to become the full-time, well-known, dependable appliance repairman for the Lakes area. Customers would call Melanders specifically to ask for Tom. Tom's hobbies included growing the best tomatoes and green beans in his garden in the summer and pheasant hunting with his legendary Brittany Spaniel Sammie at his side in the fall.

He stayed active in his community. He served on the city council, utility board, and school board. His well-deserved retirement at 62 meant moving to Waukesha, WI, to be close to his young grandchildren. Tom stayed loyal to his Iowa Hawkeyes and became an avid Brewers and Packers fan.

Tom will be missed by his wife, Carol; daughters, Amy Cooper, Pendleton, IN, and Jill Larson; son-in-law, Eli Larson; grandchildren, Claire and Colin Larson, all in Waukesha, WI; his brother Tim, and sister-in-law Pat Cooper, Indianola, IA; one niece; three nephews; favorite Cooper cousins; two aunts; and many good friends.

Obituary

A Celebration of Life for Lowell Merry, age 95, of Milford will be held Sunday, December 7, 2025 at 2:00 PM at the Milford Community Center. A luncheon and time of fellowship will follow the service at the Community Center. There will be no formal graveside services.

Lowell L. Merry, our beloved dad, peacefully passed away on November 25, 2025, at age 95.

Lowell, the son of William and Mildred Merry, was born May 21, 1930, in Cherokee, Iowa. He attended Albert City School and was an excellent runner in track. During his high school years he helped on the family farm. After graduation, he enlisted in the Navy for two years, where he specialized in repairing essential military equipment aboard the naval training station.



On June 13, 1951, he married the love of his life, Donna Lu Peterson. They were blessed with four children: Dennis, Debbie, Dawn, and Diana. Throughout the years, his family grew by welcoming daughter-in-law Laura Reinders, sons-in-law Dave Coleman, Vaughn Coleman, and Jeff Reinders; ten grandchildren; and twenty-one great-grandchildren. His growing family was one of his greatest joys.

During his life he worked at various jobs, including as a milkman for Wells Blue Bunny, manager of Noel Ready Mix, foreman for Spencer Construction, part owner of Buy Rite Food Center, and a USPS rural mail carrier for thirty-one years, retiring at the age of 85.

He enjoyed playing golf for many years, and most of all, he loved spending time with his family. He devoted his life to the Lord in 1973. He loved the Lord with all his heart, and that was felt by everyone who came in contact with him.

Lowell is survived by numerous family members, which include his three sisters, all of Storm Lake: Billie Ann Melohn, age 97; Jean Sievers, age 90; and Ginny Lewis, age 93.

Lowell touched many, many lives with his sweet and kind spirit and was considered by those close to him as a prayer warrior! He will be greatly missed by all who knew him and loved him, but rejoice with him as he is now being comforted and has finished his journey with his faith in the Lord!

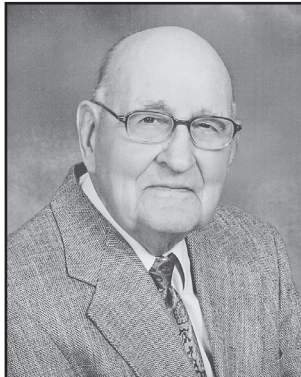
Arrangements are under the care of Turner Jenness Funeral Home.

Obituary

Albert Breuker passed away on November 25, 2025, at the age of 102.

A funeral mass was at 10:30 AM, Monday, December 1, 2025, at St. Andrew's Catholic Church in Sibley with Father Siby Punnoose and Father Dan Gunther concelebrating. A graveside service with military honors followed at Union Cemetery, rural Harris, Iowa.

A rosary began at 3:45 PM, Sunday, November 30, 2025, with visitation from 4:00 to 6:00 PM at Jurens Funeral Home in Sibley.



Albert was born on December 17, 1922, the only child of John and Mary Dougherty Breuker. Albert attended Harris Community School through the tenth grade and then worked at home on his parents' farm. In 1941 he bought a truck and started hauling gravel. He worked on the construction of runways in North Dakota, Nebraska, and Texas as part of the war effort.

On October 26, 1942, Albert married Viola Kane. He was drafted into the army in February of 1943 and proudly served his country until the end of World War II. While stationed in Europe, Albert was one of the fortunate ones who survived the Battle of the Bulge.

After being discharged from the army, Albert and Viola began farming on a quarter of land east of Harris. They were blessed with four sons. Farming kept everyone in the family busy, but Albert made time to help out in the community by being a 4-H leader for many years and was a member of the Harris Volunteer Fire Department. In the spring of 1958 the Breuker family moved to a larger farm west of Harris and lived there until 1979, when Albert and Viola moved to a new house in Harris. In August of 1983, Albert's wife of forty years passed away. Albert continued to live in the house in Harris until 2018, when he was no longer able to live by himself. He became a resident of the Lake Park Care Center at that time and lived there until October of 2024. At that time, he moved to Accura HealthCare in Spirit Lake and lived there until his passing.

While living in Harris, he worked at the Harris Elevator for several years and continued to do some farming. He retired from farming in 2006, having farmed for sixty years. He was mayor in Harris for many years, and when the Harris Cafe closed, Albert set up a little coffee shop in the community building and ran it every morning, six days a week, for many years. Albert was a member of St. Andrew's Catholic Church in Sibley for many years. He was also a long-standing member of the local American Legion post.

Albert was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Viola, grandson Jeremy, daughter-in-law Charlene, and special friend Della Mae Rubsam.

He is survived by his four sons, Don (Linda), Jim (Linda), Dan (Maureen), and Jerry (Myrna); six grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Albert had a long, full life and was loved and admired by many. He will be missed.



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DIGITAL DEAL! Kentucky Legend Sliced Bacon 16 oz. \$3.99 -1.00 \$2.99 DIGITAL COUPON LIMIT OF 10 COUPON USES Must use digital app to get digital coupons. Limit 10 coupon uses per customer.	SUNNY DEAL! Holten Smashburgers 32 oz. \$10.99	SUNNY DEAL! Sunshine's Own 80% Lean Ground Beef Family Pack, Per lb. \$4.97	SUNNY DEAL! Chicken Breast Grade A, Boneless, Skinless, Tray Pack, Per lb. \$2.99	SUNNY DEAL! Smokin' Boji BBQ 14" Stuffed Crust Pizzas Beef, Sausage, or Pepperoni \$14.99 Smoked Chicken 5 Thighs & 5 Legs 10/\$10 Smoked Brisket \$16.99 Per lb. With Sauce \$12.99 Per lb.	Smokin' Boji's BBQ Okoboji Original For Catering Call: 712-330-3998 Smokinbojibbq@gmail.com 18 to 24 hour notice required
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SUNNY DEAL! Mission Soft Taco Tortillas 10 Ct. 2/\$5	SUNNY DEAL! Frito Lay Doritos 6-10.75 oz. Var. 2/\$7 MUST BUY 2 or \$3.99 Each	DIGITAL DEAL! Sabra Hummus 10 oz. Var. \$2.99 -50¢ \$2.49 DIGITAL COUPON LIMIT OF 2 COUPON USES Must use digital app to get digital coupons. Limit 2 coupon uses per customer.	SUNNY DEAL! Wishbone or Western Salad Dressing 15 oz. \$2.49	SUNNY DEAL! Buffalo Wild Wings Sauce 20-24 oz. \$4.99	SUNNY DEAL! Chick-Fil-A Sauce 16 oz. \$4.99
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THE LAKES NEWS SHOPPER AUCTIONS

ONLINE ESTATE AUCTION

Wednesday, December 10th, 2025 @ 10:00 A.M.

Inspection: Equipment inspection will be welcome by appointment at the address of 35729 County Road 5 Storden, MN.



TRACTORS & HEADERS: Buhler Versatile 2160 Genesis II Tractor MFWD w/ approx. 6,869 hrs. 4 remote hyd. 14.9-46 rear duals, 380/85R30 front rubber, 22 front weights, International 856D Tractor w/ unknown hours, 2 remote hyd. w/ Miller loader & grapple bucket, 18.4-38 rear rubber, International Farmall 806D Tractor w/ unknown hours, cab, 2 remote hyd. newer Agri-trac 18.4-34 rear rubber, rock box, 2006 Mac Don 974 Flex Draper Bean Head 36", fully fingered selling w/ Harvest Hand header trailer, Case 1020 Bean Head 30" w/ AWS air reel, fully fingered, steel snoots, selling w/ homemade header trailer, Case IH 1083 Corn Head 8R30 w/ poly snoots

SEMI-TRAILERS, & WAGONS: 1980 White Road Boss 2 w/ unknown miles, 855 Cummins engine, 9 speed transmission, dual fuel tanks, 2 new batteries, 2001 Wilson Pace Setter Grain Trailer 43' w/ Surco 3500 electric tarp, ag hoppers, aluminum outside rims, 2009 Jet Grain Trailer 38' w/ Surco 4500 HD electric tarp, ag hoppers, steel rims, 1992 Top Hand Manufacturing Gooseneck Trailer 24' dual axle, 8.5 wide, Sure Steel Gooseneck Horse Trailer, dual axle, tack room, rubber mats, 1990 Interstate Manufacturing Inc. Steel Enclosed Utility Trailer, 21' bumper pull, dual axle, 2- Killbros 385 Gravity Wagons w/ brakes, 2- EZ Flow Gravity Wagons

FORKLIFTS, LAND ROLLER, & ROCK PICKERS: Allis- Chalmers 1600 Forklift w/ approx. 4,391 hrs. 2 stage lift, 5,000 lb. capacity, 17.5- 24 front rubber, Clark GP515 Forklift w/ approx. 6,699 hrs. 2 stage lift, 2,250 lb. capacity, LP fuel, Mandako 42' Land roller, 3 section, carrying wheels, Rite Way RR 900 ST Rock Picker w/ hyd. lift, steerable hitch, Rock Picker w/ hyd. lift, 4' pick-up

AUGERS, STALK CHOPPER, & TILLAGE EQUIPMENT: 2- Westfield MK 100-61 Augers w/ hyd. lift, swing hoppers, Peck 10" Auger 41' w/ electric motor, Rapat FX 3012 Conveyor 24", needs new belt, Balzer 2000 Stalk Chopper 20' w/ 4 carrying wheels, Spray Pup 750 Side Dresser 12R, 750-gallon tank, shut offs, Yetter coulters, 3 pt. attach. 2 carrying wheels, White 378 Row Crop Cultivator 12R 30, C-shank, John Deere 400 Rotary Hoe 30',

PICKUP, LAWN MOWER, & LP TANKS: 1998 Chevrolet S10 Pickup w/ approx. 81,185 miles, topper, cloth seats, new battery, Bad Boy ZT Lawn Mower w/ approx. 486 hrs. 60" deck, new battery, 1,000 Gallon LP tank on gear, 500 Gallon LP tank on gear



Scott Christopher
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www.christopherauction.com

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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 Co.
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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Land Auction
Thursday, December 18 at 10:00 a.m.
Greenville Community Center, Greenville, IA
148.7 Acres m/I
Clay County, IA
Sec. 29 & 32, Gillett Grove Twp.
Tr. 1 • 71.5 Ac. m/I • Avg. CSR2: 94.8
Tr. 2 • 77.2 Ac. m/I • Avg. CSR2: 93.2
Midwest Land Management
For information call Shane Brant • 712-301-4664 or Ben Hollesen • 712-253-5779
www.midwestlandmanagement.com

FARMLAND AUCTION
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2025 @ 10:00 AM
Auction will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall, Fairmont
137.65 ACRES +/- IN SEC 8 SILVER LAKE TWP. & 157 ACRES +/- IN SEC 9 MANYASKA TWP., MARTIN CO., MN
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OWNER: KENNETH SCOTT ESTATE
AUCTIONEERS AND SALES STAFF:
DUSTYN HARTUNG-507-236-7629
LEAH HARTUNG 507-236-8786



LAND AUCTION
100 Acres Dickinson Co.
Section 11 Silver Lake Township
New Date: Wed, December 10 - 10:00 am
Lake Park Community Center, Lake Park, IA
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74.91 crop acres - Great soils CSR2 86.3
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Cropland, wetland, and home site

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Christmas Card Making At The Library
A "Christmas Card Making" event will be held at each of the Jackson County Libraries as the December adult monthly program. The program will be led by Kris Heutnick. Enjoy crafting and creating Christmas cards to send to family and friends. The program will be held at each library location: December 4 from 5:30-7:30 PM at the Lakefield Library; December 6 from 10:00 AM - 12:00 noon at the Heron Lake Library; December 10 from 2:00-4:00 PM at the Jackson Library. All supplies will be provided. Space is limited. Registration is required. Call your local library to register or for more information: Heron Lake 507-793-2641; Lakefield 507-662-5782; Jackson 507-847-4748.

Lakes Area Activities/Senior Center Schedule

Tuesday, December 2
8:30 - Kiwanis
12:00 - Dinner Date
12:30 - Dinner Date
Speaker - Dickinson County Nature Center - Animal Diets - Dannika
12:30 - Bridge

Wednesday, December 3
9:00 - Exercise Class
12:00 - Dinner Date

Thursday, December 4
10:00 - Strummers
11:00 - Tai Chi
12:00 - Dinner Date
1:00 - 500 Cards
3:00 - Cribbage
4:00 - Zumba

Friday, December 5
9:00 - Exercise Class
10:00 - Chair Yoga
12:00 - Dinner Date

Saturday, December 6
Facility Available For Rent

Sunday, December 7
Facility Available For Rent

Monday, December 8
9:00 - Exercise
12:00 - Dinner Date
1:00 - Pinochle Club

Tuesday, December 9
8:30 - Kiwanis
12:00 - Dinner Date
12:30 - Bridge
Dinner Date meals are available every weekday. Call 712-336-5247 by 1:00pm on Friday to reserve a meal for the next week. Come for Dinner Date and hear our wonderful speakers. 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. Dance to live music by Bill and Jackie Sunday December 14, 2-5pm with potluck at 3pm. Call or visit with someone at the office for more details. The Lakes Area Activities/Senior Center is located at 2101 Zenith Ave in Spirit Lake.

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Clay County Fair Charitable Trust Invites Community to Support a "Blue-Ribbon Future" This GivingTuesday

SPENCER, Iowa — As communities across the country unite in generosity for GivingTuesday on December 2, the Clay County Fair Charitable Trust is inviting fair supporters, past and present, to help ensure that "The World's Greatest County Fair" continues to thrive for generations to come.

Established in 1993, the Clay County Fair Charitable Trust is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to preserving the Fair's rich heritage, supporting facility improvements, and expanding year-round opportunities for fairgoers. GivingTuesday provides a powerful moment to highlight the Trust's mission and offer donors a variety of meaningful ways to make an impact.

"The Fair is a place where memories are made, traditions are passed on, and families gather year after year," said Jason Brockshus, CEO of the Clay County Fair. "The Charitable Trust helps ensure we can keep that magic alive, not just for today's fairgoers, but for those who will walk through our gates decades from now."

Donors are encouraged to participate in one of the Trust's featured giving initiatives:

Plant the Future – Tree Initiative
Following the recent loss of trees across the Fairgrounds, the Trust is working with Del's Garden Center on a strategic 10-year planting plan to restore shade, beauty, and environmental health. A \$2,000 contribution provides one tree and long-term maintenance, along with donor recognition on the "Plant the Future" wall.

Light the Plaza – Solar Bollard Program
Help brighten Centennial Plaza with a solar-powered light that will shine for thousands of fairgoers each year. A \$2,000 contribution includes a personalized plaque on your bollard. Orders must be placed by June 1 for installation for the 2026 Fair.

Memory Wall – 6" x 9" Quilt Block
Celebrate a fair memory or honor a loved one with a personalized aluminum quilt block on the Creative Living Center's south wall. A \$250 contribution includes a custom inscription. Orders must be placed by June 1 for installation for the 2026 Fair.

Pen by Pen – Livestock Pen Replacement Program
Support livestock exhibitors by helping replace original 1960s-era pens in the Livestock Pavilion. A \$600 donation provides one new pen and includes recognition on a donor plaque inside the Livestock Pavilion. Orders must be placed by June 1 for installation for the 2026 Fair.

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Word Search Puzzle Key from page 8A

E	Z	E	E	N	S	N	B	C	A	N	F	V	G	E	Z	M	I	B	C
I	C	L	P	C	B	D	F	H	I	C	F	N	O	I	T	Z	C	E	F
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Clay County Fair
POWERED BY SMU

Have a Seat – Picnic Table & Bench Program
Provide much-needed seating for fairgoers during the 9-day Fair through a gift that is both functional and meaningful. A \$2,000 picnic table or \$1,000 bench includes a personalized commemorative plaque and placement at the 2026 Fair if ordered by June 1.

"Every donation, whether it's a tree, a pen, or a bench, becomes part of the Fair's story and helps keep our grounds strong and welcoming," said Brent Burns, Partnerships Director.

How to Give
Donors can make a secure online contribution or mail a check to:
Clay County Fair Charitable Trust
PO Box 527
Spencer, IA 51301
For questions or additional information about the Charitable Trust or GivingTuesday opportunities, contact brent@claycountyfair.com.



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MISCELLANEOUS

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3 bedroom, 1.5 bath house for rent in Spirit Lake. Oversized single attached garage, appliances included, lots of recent updates, close to Gilbert Park and East Lake Okoboji. \$1,250/month plus utilities. No smoking, no pets. Call Keith at Lakeland Realty. 712-336-0400. **2-9**

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RENTALS

Office space for rent in one of Spirit Lake's most-visible and high-traffic areas! This 1,200 sq. ft. space features 3 private offices, a reception area, front counter with desk space, and a restroom. Fresh paint and new carpeting throughout! Rent is \$1,250/month plus low monthly utilities. Available immediately. 1710 Lincoln Avenue, Unit A, Spirit Lake. Call Keith at Lakeland Realty of Iowa, 712-330-5155 to view! **4-12C**

FORRENT: 3 bedroom mobile home, all appliances furnished. No smoking, no pets 712-339-0174. **TFC**

FOR RENT: Lots for your mobile home available at A & K Trailer Park in Spirit Lake. Some utilities included. PH: 712-336-8400. **TFC**

SPACE FOR LEASE
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712-330-2857 4-09



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- ✓ New recipes to try at home

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Lakes Area Activities/Senior Center Event Space

The Lakes Area Activities/Senior Center has rooms to rent for your special event. Do you have a special weekend event in the future? A Family Get-together, Anniversary, Graduation, Birthday?
Their card/party room seats 40, has a small kitchenette and rents for \$75.00 per day.
There is also a small meeting room with tables/seating for 10 plus extra chairs for additional seating. \$40.00 per day.
Check out their building updates.
Consider renting their large dining room which seats 100 if extra tables are set up. Without kitchen: \$125.00 per day. With kitchen: \$160.00 per day.
They have a beautiful, clean facility with most weekends available.
Call and visit with someone at the office for details. 712-336-5247



Lakes Area Senior/Activities Center Events

Seniors Movin' On is an exercise group that meets every Monday, Wednesday & Friday morning at 9:00 a.m. The exercise program is based on the Silver Sneakers Program.
Blood Pressure Screening is the last Tuesday of every month.
Tai Chi at 11:00am and Zumba class at 4:30pm on Thursday.
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 Auctions
Page 2B

AA Meetings

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

Family Services Resource Guide

Dickinson County's Family Resource Guide is a comprehensive free resource for local residents to utilize when trying to locate services in and around the county. With a variety of services and help providers listed, the book is a one-stop-shop to locate local resources. To access the free guide online, visit <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/dickinson/county-resource-guide>. If you have services to add to the guide, contact Sue at 712-336-3488 or boettche@iastate.edu.

Tops Meetings

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

Al-Anon Meetings

Milford New Hope Al-Anon meetings will take place on Zoom. Meeting ID is 77557290457 and the pass code is JXEU2H.
For more information, go online to Iowa-Al-Anon.org, meetings tab, find a group (enter: Milford, IA 51351 USA). Or call 712-580-4406.

A Very Merry Market - Season of Giving Holiday Extravaganza Brings Joy and Purpose to the Community

Seasons Center for Behavioral Health invites the community to kick off the holiday season with A Very Merry Market - Season of Giving Holiday Extravaganza on Saturday, December 6th. This festive, family-friendly fundraising event will be filled with holiday cheer, community connection, and meaningful opportunities to support mental health services across our region.
The event is designed to bring people together to create joyful holiday memories while raising awareness about the importance of mental health and the vital services available in our area. With a mix of free and low-cost activities, there's something for everyone to enjoy.
Event Highlights Include:
• Vendor Fair: Shop local this holiday season! With more than 60 vendors already committed, and more joining daily, guests can find unique, handcrafted, and locally sourced gifts for everyone on their list.
• Bake Sale: Back by popular demand! Assorted cookie platters, cookie kits, and other baked treats will be available at the event, with cookie platter and cookie kit pre-orders offered for pick-up closer to the holidays.
• Photos with Santa: Children of all ages can meet Santa, share their holiday wishes, and take home one FREE family photo with the big guy himself.
• Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides: Enjoy a magical ride courtesy of The Pony Express, creating picture-perfect holiday memories.
• Gift Wrapping Station: Have your gifts beautifully wrapped for a small fee - whether purchased at the event or brought from elsewhere.
• Little Elves Shopping Services: Our cheerful elves will help kids shop for gifts for the special people in their lives.
Every dollar raised through A Very Merry Market will directly support the programs and services provided by Seasons Center for Behavioral Health, ensuring that children, individuals, and families in our community receive the compassionate, quality mental health care they deserve.
"This event is truly about bringing people together," said Stephanie Pohar, VP of Marketing & Fund Development at Seasons Center. "It's a way to celebrate the holiday season while also giving back and shining a light on mental health, something that impacts every family and community."
Join Seasons Center for a day of festive fun, community connection, and holiday spirit all while supporting a great cause!
Event Details:
• Date: Saturday, December 6th
• Location: Clay County Events Center, 800 W. 18th Street, Spencer, IA
• Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
• Admission: Free entry; activity costs vary.
For more information on this upcoming event and Seasons' services, please visit our website at: www.seasonscenter.org or Facebook page www.facebook.com/SeasonsCenterForBehavioralHealth

SHARE YOUR FAMILY RECIPES

to be featured in The LNS

Do you have a family favorite dinner recipe or a favorite dish that never lasts long at get-togethers?

The Lakes News Shopper wants to feature your recipes in future issues for the holidays!

Please Send Recipes to
Michelle@LNSPrint.com

Nominate Someone Today!

"Doing what's expected of you can make you good, but it's the time you spend going above and beyond what's required that makes you great!" -- Josh S. Hinds

The Spirit Lake Noon Kiwanis Club needs your help selecting this year's Citizen of the Years! Do you know a deserving person in our community that has dedicated years of volunteer service to others? This is a very distinguished honor that our Kiwanis club has bestowed upon an area resident, since 1947!

Help us recognize those that have given of themselves tirelessly and unselfishly to make this a better community. If you know of someone that you would like to be considered, please email slnoonkiwanis@gmail.com for a nomination form. The deadline is December 10th!

Writers and Writing

by Michael Tidemann

The Thief of Words offers gritty realism

If you like good stories you can sink your teeth into and chew on for a while, The Thief of Words is for you.

Anthony Bukoski, grandson of Polish immigrants, Marine Corps Vietnam veteran and former University of Wisconsin-Superior professor, offers a cavalcade of real-life characters in this stunning collection. Polish displaced persons, faithful Catholics and blue-collar workers dot Bukoski's landscape that ranges from Superior, Wis., flourmills and seedy lakefront bars to the steaming fields of Louisiana. Bukoski's depiction of waterfront bars is hauntingly reminiscent of that of East LA by a writer with a very similar last name, Charles Bukowski.

Bukoski also evokes fatherly images similar to Theodore Roethke's "My Papa's Waltz" in his title story, "The Thief of Words".

"If the neighborhood was awake, it would have wondered that something so precious could happen in the East End of Superior, Wisconsin, a father rescuing his son after a terrible thunderstorm. I wanted to be close to him to touch his work shirt, anything now that I realized how important he was for working like this, for taking care of us. This is the Polish way."

That love continues far past life on Earth.

"... and each time he's here, each time I miss him, Walter Wozniak of the Polish Club, Walter Wozniak of the Saint Adalbert's Holy Name Society, Wozniak the laborer, I say over and over in two languages, "Father... Father."

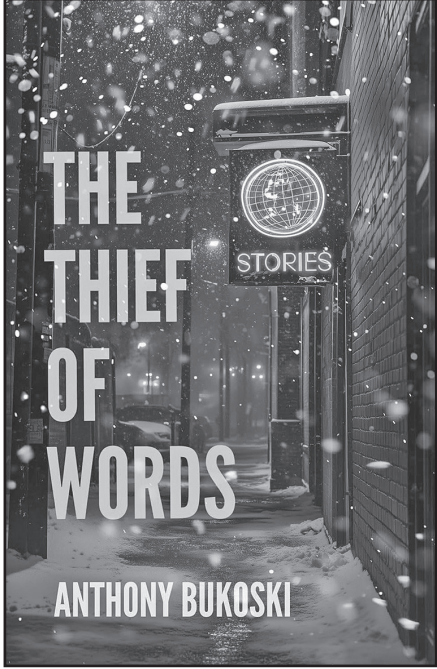
In the story "Chochecherries", the narrator finds similarities and unity between Polish refugees and his Native father who was displaced from the reservation.

"Forget Me Not", set in blue-collar Superior, tells how a man who goes to fight in Vietnam returns to find his girlfriend had married another man. One can only wonder if Bukoski had a similar experience.

Bukoski draws realistic characters into a masterful narrative that should leave anyone spellbound. Anyone who enjoys a good story would love this book.

Bukoski's biography is indeed impressive, with eight short story collections, including Time between Trains, a Booklist Editor's Choice as one of the best books of fiction for American libraries, and The Blondes of Wisconsin, winner of the Edna Ferber Fiction Award. He is also a member of the National Book Critics Circle and past fellow of the Christopher Isherwood Foundation.

(Michael Tidemann writes from Estherville, Iowa. His Facebook page is Author Michael Tidemann.)



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