

# LAKES NEWS SHOPPER

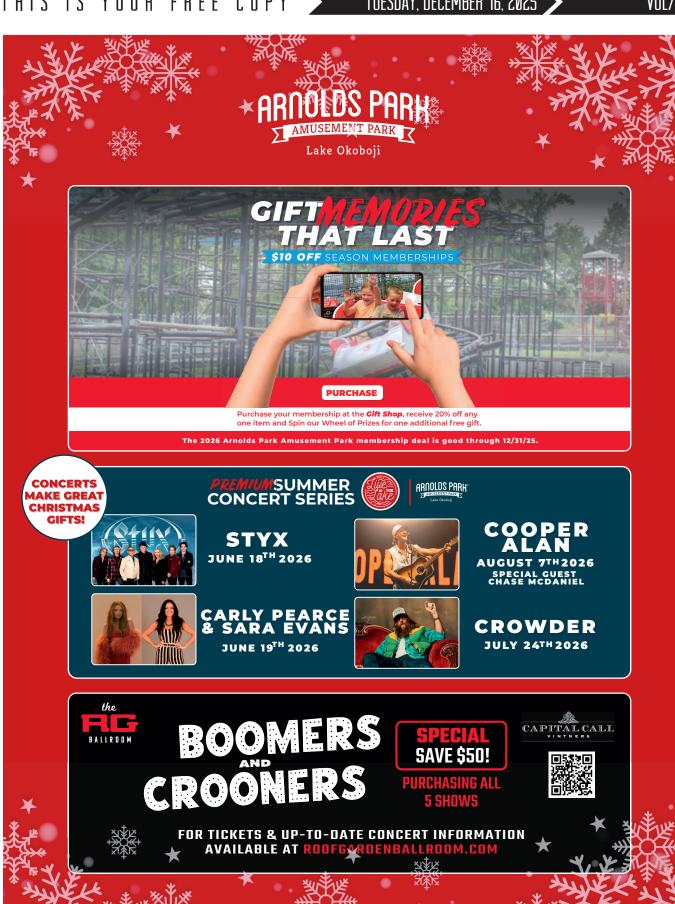


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TUESDAY. DECEMBER 16. 2025

VOL/53 NO/11

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Wed.

**Dec. 31** 

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2 TIE BREAKERS: Total Score Miami vs. Texas A&M: Phone #:

One entry per person for the contest. Entries due Friday, December 19, 2025 before 4pm. Winners will be announced January 6, 2026. The winners will be whoever picks the most correct games. For rules go to: LakesNewsShopper.com



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Wed.,

**Dec.** 31

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Michael Rohan Memorial Fund Raffle Update

The day finally arrived. The ticket was drawn and the winner of the queen size quilt supporting the Michael Rohan Memorial Fund was: Craig Tesch of rural Everly, Iowa. Craig was excited to receive the quilt.

Many tickets were purchased this year as well as a number of direct donations received. All the proceeds (donations) go to the Michael Rohan Memorial Fund. It is 100% funded by your donations and there are no administration fees. It is so important that our children and grandchildren



have some awareness of the water that they play in and swim in. This Fund is geared toward water awareness and lifesaving skills for our youth. Our kindergarten and 1st graders have that opportunity each year at the local YMCA at the end of their school year, paid for by the Fund. There is a scholarship program offered by this Fund to provide swimming lessons for a year at the local YMCA for our children in need. It also helps pay for the free Red Cross lessons at the Spencer pool in the summer. Keep this fund in mind when you are looking for something good to do to support all the children in the area. Merry Christmas to all, and thank you!!

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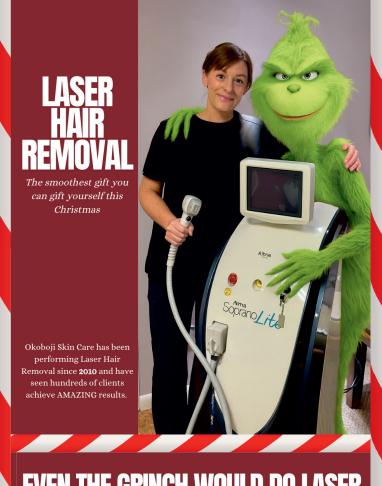


airy and smelly. His hands might be cold and clammy, but I think he's actually kinda... sweet" A gift card to Okoboji Skin Care is perfect

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# Weekly Social Gathering

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

#### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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

To The Editor: This letter is in response to the letter composed by Donald

C. Parsons from Sioux City/Orleans, Iowa. Greetings from the northern tier of Iowa! How fair of you to point out the fraud perpetrated in Minnesota involving a small percentage of the Somalian community (criminal gang?) while ignoring the hundreds of billions of dollars in fraud committed annually in this country--much of this by your own fellow good,

white residents. I know how to identify discrimination from Sioux City. It's by reading last week's letter to the Editor.

Holding the Front Line

(But not that Front Line) Kate Rustan,

Fostoria, Iowa

Page





GREATSTYLES FRIENDLY'SMILES



Anyone looking for a free Christmas meal will have their taste buds pleasantly tickled by sharing a meal with a new church

in town in Arnolds Park. Life360-Okoboji, an Assemblies of God church, is offering a holiday meal and festivities including chili, chicken noodle soup, cinnamon rolls, and a variety of pot-luck items as well. "Church food is the best food" quipped Pastor Brian Kelly. "Mostly because of the variety and especially the desserts!" The new church plant recently expanded their ministry to the Founders Hall on the Okoboji Bible Conference grounds, central to

Dickinson County. Following the free meal, much fun will be had by all featuring Christmas trivia and caroling for all those in attendance. "We packed the house last year with our 'Don't



be Home Alone for Christmas' meal and with an even larger capacity this year, we're looking forward to blessing even more of the community with a free meal and great times to be had by all," remarked Rev. Kelly. "We hope to be able to make the free community meal a monthly ministry at least to those looking for food and fellowship. In addition, the church will also be holding a

SHOP, DINE

& ENJOY

special Christmas Eve service in their sanctuary on Dec. 24th, from 5:00 to 6:00 PM. All are welcome to attend and join in the celebration of Christ's birth and love for all. Life360-Okoboji meets on Sundays at 10:30 AM with children's ministry provided, and Wednesday at 7:00 PM for Bible study and prayer at the Founders Hall building. In the future, look for more community meals, worship events, and holiday celebrations as the church grows. More information about the church and its activities can be accessed at https://life360.org/okoboji-ia/. Prayer requests can be directed to *bmkelly@life360.org* or by calling 712.339.9201.



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#### Date Change: Let's Get Social At Stay In Home Care

The Iowa Great Lakes Area Chamber is hosting a Let's Get Social event at Stay in Home Care to help them celebrate their Holiday Open House. Due to weather, we are changing the date - Join us on Wednesday, December 17th from 4-6pm.

Remember Business After 5? Well, it's back, just with a new look. This event offers local professionals, business owners, and community members the perfect opportunity to connect, engage and enjoy an evening of great conversations.

Help us celebrate Stay in Home care and a kick off to the Holidays with light snacks, drinks and plenty of holiday cheer. We can't wait to see you there!! This Business After 5 Social event is free and open to the public. Guests are encouraged to bring business cards and invite colleagues to join in the festivities. See you then!







The holidays have a way of slowing us down just enough to hear our own thoughts again. The frenzy of the year pauses, if only for a moment, and we're given the gift of reflection. It's a natural time to look back, to take stock, and to ask ourselves the kinds of questions that too often get pushed aside in the rush of ordinary days.

What went well this year?

What didn't?

What did I learn-about my work, my relationships, and myself?

Reflection is not about judgment. It's about understanding. It's a quiet, internal inventory that helps us make sense of the path we've walked and the one we're about to choose. And in that process, gratitude has a way of rising to the surface. We begin to recognize how many people contributed to our story this year. A mentor who offered guidance at the right moment. A colleague who stepped in when we were stretched thin. A friend or loved one who listened without needing to fix anything. None of us gets through a year alone, and acknowledging that truth enriches the meaning of our journey.

Professionally, this is the season to examine your contribution and your growth. What skills did you sharpen? What challenges forced you to stretch? Where did you find joy in the work, and where did you simply grind your way through? Equally important: What would you like to be different in the year ahead?

Personally, reflect on the moments that mattered. The conversations, the laughter, the forgiveness given or received. The ways you snowed up for the people you love—and the ways they showed up for you. Life's simplest joys often hold the richest lessons.

And then there's the forward-looking part: motivation and aspiration. No one can hand you motivation; it's an inside job. You shape it by choosing goals that matter deeply to you. Goals tied not just to achievement but to identity—who you want to become in the coming year. When you clarify what success looks like in the areas that matter most, your motivation rises to meet that clarity.

A helpful practice is to create a goal-setting framework across the key aspects of your life:

- •Professional the contribution you want to make in your
- •Community how you choose to engage, serve, or give back • People you love - the investments, time, and presence that strengthen relationships
- •Self your health, your learning, your inner life, your sense

When you define goals across these dimensions, life becomes

more in-depth, more intentional, and more fulfilling. To help jump-start this reflection, here is a Top 10 Year-End Reset List—a simple process to guide your thinking as you close

out this year and prepare for the next: Top 10 Year-End Reset List

1. Write down three things that went well this year. Name them, celebrate them, and understand why they mattered.

2. Acknowledge what didn't go well. Not with blame, but

with curiosity. What would you change if you could replay it? 3. Capture the lessons. Every success and every struggle has something to teach you, don't leave the year without harvesting

- the learning. 4. List the people who helped you. Reach out to each and thank them. Gratitude strengthens relationships in meaningful
- 5. Clarify what you want more of next year. Time? Calm? Achievement? Connection? Adventure? Growth? What means
- the most to you and the life you are architecting? 6. Clarify what you want less of. Stress without purpose,
- draining commitments, unproductive habits, or constant urgency. 7. Set 1–2 goals for each aspect of your life: Professional, Community, Loved Ones, Faith, and Self are good categories to start with.
- milestone? A habit you build? A behavior you practice consistently? Sometimes a goal is a direction, not an end state. 9. Choose one bold aspiration. Something that stretches

8. **Define how you will measure success.** Is it a feeling? A

you just enough to feel energizing. Call upon your dreams from when you were younger for motivation!

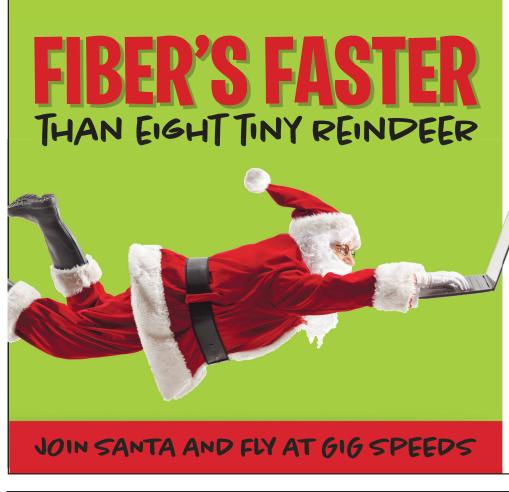
10. Commit your plan to paper. Writing has power. It clarifies intention and anchors your motivation for the year ahead. It also creates something you can react to over time. (Pro-tip: The odds of success go way up when you write down your goals)

Reflection doesn't change the past, but it does help us shape the future. It helps us carry forward the wisdom, release the weight, and remember the moments that made us who we are today. As you move through this holiday season, may you find gratitude in the journey behind you and inspiration in the path ahead.

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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## Milford's newest Eagle Scouts

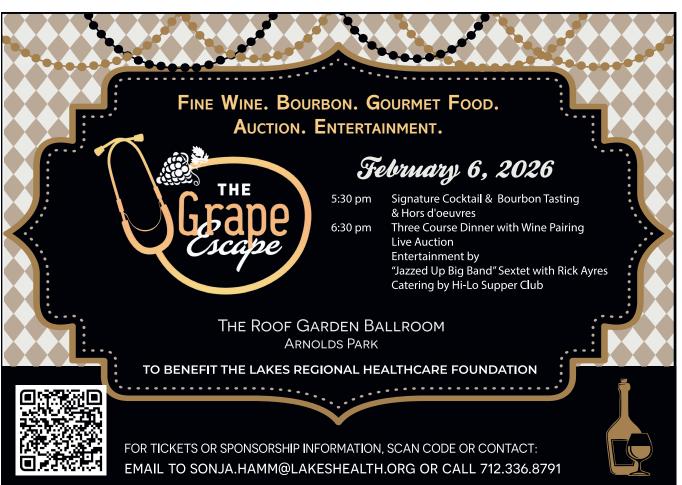
Milford Boy Scout Troop 170 is pleased to announce its three newest Eagle Scouts: Oliver Miller, son of Josh and Kristy Miller; Will Anderson, son of Steve and Sara Anderson; and Brayden Yungbluth, son of Andy Yungbluth and Laura Yungbluth. The Eagle Scout Award is the highest advancement rank within Boy Scouts of America. Miller, Anderson, and Yungbluth earned a combined 97 merit badges, volunteered countless hours, and completed their Eagle Scout Project. To earn Eagle Scout rank, scouts must demonstrate leadership on a significant project to benefit the community. Miller built benches at the Lakes Area Trap Range, Anderson built structures for fish habitat at Westport Pit, and Yungbluth painted bridges along the Dickinson County Trails System. Approximately 4% of Scouts become Eagle Scouts, and less than 1% of scout-aged Americans earn Eagle Scout each year. Miller, Anderson, and Yungbluth bring the total up to 73 Eagle Scouts for Milford Boy Scout Troop 170 since 1984.



## Holiday Grand Prize Winner

Susan Reiser, treasurer of the Milford Commercial Club, presents Kathleen Johnson, right, of Milford, with her \$500 shopping spree prize. Johnson, the winner of the grand prize in the Milford Commercial Club's Holiday Fantasy raffle held Saturday, December 6, at city hall, chose Sunshine Foods in Milford for that shopping spree. Her ticket was drawn from over 2,500 tickets.







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## Tuesday, December 24th

**Christmas Eve Worship Opportunities** at First Lutheran Church!

12:00PM - Christmas Eve Luncheon

Communion will be served at the 11:00AM and 10:00PM Services

#### 11:00AM 4:00PM 6:00PM 10:00PM

11AM & 10PM services will be live-streamed to our Facebook page, YouTube channel and website.

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

Wed., Jan. 21 - 10:00 AM-79.39 acres at auction in Dickinson Co., IA. Auctioneers: Midwest Land Management. 712-262-3110. www.midwestlandmanagement.

Page



## Lakes Area Activity/Senior Center Wish List THE LAKES NEWS Auctions

• City of Spirit Lake green garbage bags

• Postage stamps

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• Coffee - regular, decaf, filters and Styrofoam coffee cups Thank you for your donations!

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#### Kids Get a Chance to be Santa for a Sibling

Diane's Gold Standard Cleaning is spreading holiday cheer by hosting its 1st annual "Shop for Your Sibling" event tomorrow, Tuesday, December 16th.

The charitable event will run from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Lakes Area Activity/Senior Center in Spirit Lake. The goal is to give children a chance to select a special, free Christmas gift for a sibling up to age 14, thanks to the generosity of local donors and businesses.

Admission for lakes area children, who must be accompanied by a parent, is a simple act of giving: a non-perishable food item for the local food bank.

Once inside, kids can choose their gift which will be wrapped on-site. The evening is set to be festive, featuring complimentary cookies and drinks, and a special appearance by Santa Claus. Attendees will also have the opportunity to create a Christmas card for a local veteran or senior citizen.

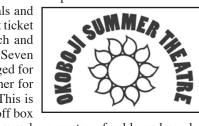
Organizers emphasize that donations of new gifts for children up to age 14 are still being accepted, and volunteers are needed

call 515-708-9400.

#### 2026 Okoboji Summer Theatre Discount Tickets Books On Sale

Discount Ticket Vouchers for the 2026 Okoboji Summer Theatre season are now available to purchase. The 2026 season

will include four musicals and three plays. The discount ticket book will cost \$160 each and include eight vouchers. Seven vouchers can be exchanged for any show and one voucher for a Friday student ticket. This is a savings of \$18 to \$42 off box



office prices. Individual vouchers are transferable and can be given as gifts for special occasions and can be used for 2-for-1 shows. Discount Books and Gift Certificates are available to preorder by emailing ostavoucherbooklet@gmail.com for ordering instructions. Books are available to purchase in person at Liberty National Bank (Okoboji), Northwest Banks (Spirit Lake, Arnolds Park, Milford), Pearson Lakes Art Center (Okoboji), and Arts on Grand (Spencer). Details about the 2026 season shows and guest artists/actors will be announced at the Okoboji Winter Games Omelet Brunch, Saturday, January 24. Individual ticket prices at the box office will be \$26.

Books are sold by the Okoboji Summer Theatre Association. The Okoboji Summer Theatre Association(OSTA) was established in 1952 to promote and support the students and staff of Okoboji Summer Theatre. OSTA provides scholarships for Stephens College students, sponsors a production each season, encourages theatre attendance, and assists in various capacities for the theatre. For information about OSTA or to make a monetary donation, contact ostassociation@gmail.com.



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#### **DAILY SPECIALS at 11am**

#### **DAILY SPECIALS**

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**Saturday Night Special** 

**Chicken Parmesan** 

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

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### 90th Birthday Announcement

Vivian Lynn celebrated her 90th birthday last summer with family, but her official 90th is December 22, 2025. She has been a long-time member of the Lake Park Historical Society, and this group would like to honor her with a card shower (surprise!) Please send your memories and/or greetings to Vivian Lynn, PO Box 424, Lake Park, Iowa 51347.

## **Local Students Spread** 'Joy of Life' to Fight Melanoma

The Spirit Lake High School Key Club is spearheading a holiday fundraising effort for The Joy of Life Foundation with their "Give the Gift of Joy this Christmas" campaign. The foundation is dedicated to providing education and spreading awareness about Melanoma skin cancer.

Donors are asked to select a card from a Christmas tree to make a contribution. The suggested donation amounts are \$120 for a new Sunscreen Dispenser or \$55 for a Refill Bag of Sunscreen. However, contributions of any amount are accepted to help prevent Melanoma.

The Joy of Life Foundation ensures that 100% of donations stay local, with funds specifically directed toward:

- Purchasing Sunscreen Dispensers.
- The upkeep and maintenance of the Sunscreen Dispensers.

• Purchasing sunscreen for the Dispensers.

The foundation currently maintains dispensers across five different counties: Dickinson, Emmet, Clay, Palo Alto, and Osceola, placing them at numerous local sites, including parks, pools, beaches, and sports fields, such as Arnolds Park, Gull Point, Lake Park Pool, and several Little League parks.

Donations can be made via Cash, Checks made out to The Joy of Life Foundation, or Venmo. Those with questions about the campaign can email Summer at 27stoller@spirit-lake.k12. ia.us or Becky at rgaskill@spirit-lake.k2.ia.us.

#### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

**Preserving the Legacy of Our Veterans Memorial This Holiday Season** 

As we enter the holiday season—a time for reflection, gratitude, and togetherness—I'd like to draw attention to an important effort happening right here in Dickinson County.

The Veterans Memorial Plaza in Spirit Lake holds deep meaning for our community. It is a place where we honor our local heroes from every branch of the military, and a place where families gather to remember the loved ones who served. It holds the stories of the men and women who once put on a uniform and said, "I'll go." Over the years, however, time and weather have taken a toll. Many of the engraved pavers bearing veterans' names have cracked, faded, or become difficult to read.

To ensure this memorial continues to stand strong for future generations, a restoration project is currently underway. This includes removing worn bricks and placing the existing names on granite monuments at no cost to the families. We also plan to add new benches and flagpoles to enhance the space for reflection and remembrance.

Community support is essential. During this season of giving, donations and sponsorships of new engraved names are welcome, and every contribution—large or small—helps move this effort forward. If you know someone who served in the military - whether a family member, friend, coworker, or community member—you may honor them by adding their name to the memorial as well.

For more information or to contribute, please contact the Dickinson County Veterans Office in Spirit Lake at 712-336-0883 Ext. #1.

Let's come together this holiday season to preserve this meaningful tribute to sacrifice and service. Supporting this project is one small way we can honor those who gave so much to all of us. Sincerely,

**Spring Jones, Dickinson County Veteran Affairs** 

## **WORLD TRAVEL INC.**

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## 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.

Atypical meeting might include a presentation on topics such as handling of legal issues, stress reduction, care facilities, positive coping language, and sharing personal methods of handling challenges faced every day by other caregivers.

For more information, call 712-336-1649 or 712-330-1270.

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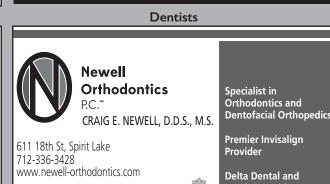
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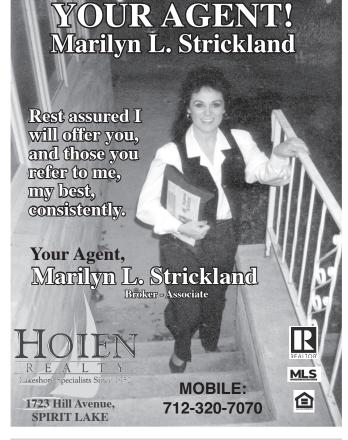
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**SNOWPLOW** 

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



#### VFW Auxiliary Gifts \$4.5K to Veterans

The VFW post 4514 auxiliary has delivered holiday gift cards to the veterans affairs office in the Dickinson County courthouse. The cards have been purchased from local businesses. Jennings, Kwik Star, HyVee, Fareway, Walmart and Bomgaars. The Veterans Affairs office disperses cards to veterans and their families that may need help over the holidays President Elaine Wallace, and Jr. vice president Ellen Moffit are presenting the last of the \$4500.00 in gift cards to Kay Miller at the Veterans affairs office.











Meets second & fourth Sundays 9:30 am/Coffee & Fellowship • 10:00 am Service Lakes Area Activity Center, 2101 Zenith Ave, Spirit Lake See uuokoboji.com for dates and program schedule.

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**Lakes Area Activity/Senior Center** 

calvarylovesall.com



### Christmas at the Dickinson **County Museum**

Christmas has a rich history in Dickinson County. From the annual Christmas tree at the intersection of Hill Avenue and

Lake Street in Spirit Lake, to Christmas Eve church services and Santa visits throughout the county, Christmas was a festive season.

The Dickinson County Museum continues the traditions of Christmas past with "Christmas at the Museum" Wednesday, December 17, at 10:00 a.m. This annual event includes singing carols to the vintage Arnolds Park Friends Church pump organ, storytelling, memories, goodies, and lots of good cheer.

All are welcome to enjoy this fun time, rich in Christ-



**CLOSED** 



#### Glenn Henriksen **Christmas Concert**

Glenn Henriksen of Armstrong, Iowa, will be performing a concert celebrating Christmas hymns of the church on Sunday, December 21st, 2025, 2:00 pm at Immanuel Lutheran Church, in Dunnell Minnesota. This concert will celebrate Christmas, with original arrangements by Glenn as well as a special appearance by Santa Lucia. The concert will also include an audience hymn sing-a-long.

A free-will offering will be taken. Plan to stay for coffee and cookies following the concert where you can meet Glenn in person. Glenn will have CDs available for sale, and can autograph them for you, the perfect Christmas gift for the music lover on your list.

Glenn Henriksen's special Christmas concert will be held at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 315 N Seeley Ave, Dunnell, Minnesota, Phone 507-695-

In the event of bad weather, please listen to KILR 97.3 FM



#### Stop in and see what we have to offer!!! **DEC. 25 & 26 DO YOU NEED A GIFT IDEA? YOU CAN NOW PURCHASE GIFT CERTIFICATES FOR YOUR**

LOVED ONES FOR DINNER DATE MEALS AT LAKES AREA ACTIVITY/SENIOR CENTER.

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If you don't have a gift certificate, call ahead and let us know you are interested - we will help get you signed up. Meals are available for those 60 and older (and their spouse regardless of age) with a confidential, voluntary, contribution. Meals are catered by Carstensen's Meat & Grocery out of Lake Park.

Reserve your meal for next week Low Cost: \$7-\$10 Donation

22 Monday

Pork Mac & Cheese Vegetable **Fruit & Bread** 

23 Tuesday

Grilled **Pork Chops** Vegetable **Fruit & Bread**  24 Wednesday Sliced **Roast Beef** 

Fruit & Bread

Served **Vegetable** 

25 Thursday **No Meals** 

Today.

26 Friday

No Meals Served **hristmas** Today.

PLEASE CALL 712-336-5247 BY 1:00 PM FRIDAY TO RESERVE A MEAL FOR NEXT WEEK Dinners are provided by **CARSTENSEN'S** of Lake Park.

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- Randy's Pantries at Spirit Lake Senior Center Milford Blessing Box at the Harbor of Joy Church
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Challenge this week for \$300 in cash prizes. A HUGE thank you to all of our sponsors for mak-

ing this weekly football contest possible!







Additional sponsors may be added and can be found on our website.



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Friday, Mar. 13 & Saturday, Mar. 14 7-9pm | \$80/\$90 | All Levels, 21+

Join instructors from Midwest Swing Dance Co. for a 2 night swing dance course in our galleries! This class is open to all ages (21+) and experience levels. We work from the ground up so that anyone at any ability level can learn how to dance. This class is not only for couples, but for

singles too! Hors d'oeuvres will be served and cash bar

#### SHOP PLAC THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Gift Shop • Exhibit Artwork

Thursday, Feb. 12, 6-8pm OR

Give the gift of one-of-a-kind art, artisan goods, and Okoboji-inspired treasures this holiday season.

Looking for gifts that brings people together? PLAC Gift Cards can be used for merchandise, art classes, workshops, or performances — making

memories that last far beyond the holidays. Gift a PLAC Membership - with discounts on classes,

performances, and events for all ages.

#### **EDUCATION** CLASSES Register online or call 712-332-7029

#### **JANUARY YOUTH ART CLASSES:**

Mini Michelangelo's | K-2nd Thursdays | 4:00-4:45pm

available. Register by Mar. 6.

Jan. 8, 15, & 22: Paper Mache Cottages

Art Club | 3rd-6th Thursdays | 5-6pm

Jan. 8, 15, 22: Paper Mache Vases

Teen Art | 7-12th Tuesdays | 4-5pm

Jan. 6, 13, 20: Paper Mache Animals

info and to by 1/6

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Saturday, Apr. 11, 10am-12pm | \$55/\$65 | All Levels, 21+

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

Registration required 2 days before each class

Jan. 15: The History of Prohibition

Feb. 5: Wines of Bordeaux Mar. 5: Blind Tastina: Cool Climate vs Warm Apr. 2: Varietal Series: Cabernet France

Designed for kids ages 7-12 years and an adult to work together as a group. Decorate your own adorable animal inspired Valentine Cupcakes! Take away your 6 cupcakes in a bakery box to share with family and friends.

\$40/\$50 per Group, add additional child for \$10

Tuesday, Feb. 3 | 4pm-5:15pm

Register by Jan. 29

Valentine Cupcake Decorating

Vith Janet Steinbach of Lakes Cakes Boji Custom Cakery

**Chinese Stir Fry Tasting Luncheon** With Helen Alexander

Register online or call 712-332-7029

Wednesday, Feb. 4 | 11am | \$55/\$65 Register by Jan. 29

Helen will explain the tips & techniques in preparing the perfect stir fry meal - keeping it simple, tasty, healthy, and seasonably fresh! This demonstration class will culminate in a lovely lunch of soup, three different stir fry dishes,

herbal tea, dessert, and a glass of wine.

# 2Del's GARDEN CENTER

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## The reason why the Iowa Great Lakes Fishing Club continues to grow

by Steve Weisman

Over its 58-year history, the Iowa Great Lakes Fishing Club (IGLFC) has evolved from its original title of the Iowa Great Lakes Muskie Club in 1987 to its current title of the IGLFC with the vision of contributing to the environment and area communities by improving the quality of local fisheries and promoting involvement through educational/recreational activities.

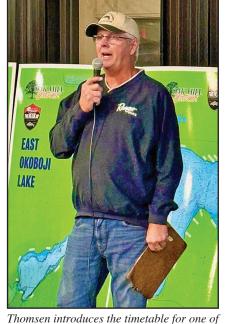
At the same time, club leaders have reached out to literally thousands of youngsters in helping them realize the importance of our natural resources and to encourage them to experience the sport of fishing and help them develop a connection to the outdoors and fishing as a lifelong passion.

An additional benefit has been helping entire families become outdoor and fishing enthusiasts. This has, in turn, boosted membership numbers to skyrocket in recent years to its current membership of 450 (both individuals and families). Here is an exciting statistic. In 2025, alone, a total of 24 kids' events have been held with club volunteers reaching out to and working with over 1,000 youngsters. Through the fundraising efforts of the club, youngsters received over \$50,000 (retail value) in fishing tackle and product at these youth events.

#### **Reason for such great success**

Most definitely it comes down to the member volunteers with schools and other organizations reaching out for IGLFC's volunteers to help their youngsters enjoy the sport of fishing. Then, of course, the growing number of sponsors is an integral part by providing financial support. Their belief in the mission and goals of the IGLFC has helped continue to increase sponsorship numbers.

The IGLFC officers, board members and club volunteers provide a lot of organizational support and "feet" on the ground. Finally, there is one more piece to the puzzle: the leader!



the KGLFC's DNR Night.

The leader who injects the organiza-

tion with enthusiasm That, of course, is Terry Thomsen, president of the IGLFC. President since 2018, Thomsen has been a long-time dedicated club member. To learn more about what makes him a successful leader,



Johnson. Simply put, all three agree that Terry simply has the "IT" that makes for a great leader.

According to Daniels, "Terry is extremely passionate about fishing and is willing to share that passion as the leader of the IGLFC. He is a true people person!"

Johnson agrees. "He is most definitely passionate about fishing and getting youngsters involved in the sport. He is both a good speaker and at the same time a good listener. His real passion is the kids' events."

Jacobsen reflects, 'Terry is a very engaging person and makes you want to get involved." Jacobsen continues with a chuckle. "As an example, I remember when Terry invited me to go fishing with him, and then later he invited me to an IGLFC board meeting, and not long after, I became the club's treasurer!'

All three agree that Terry leads by example and as Daniels notes, "Terry appreciates the ideas of members and is willing to listen to others and then often makes decisions based on the consensus of the board."

Over the years as the club and youth events have grown, it's become more problematic to get all of the equipment to the fishing site. Johnson remembers what it was like before they got their current enclosed trailer to haul the equipment. "I remember one time specifically. My pickup was totally packed, and Terry had put more than 30 rod/reel combos in his pickup. You know how a bunch of rods/reels can get tangled up in the back of a vehicle. What a mess, and it took a lot of time to get everything untangled. Well, that was it! We both decided we had grown enough that we needed a nice, enclosed trailer to store equipment and get everything from one place to another!"

Daniels says getting all the tackle boxes filled and ready for 24 kids' events takes a lot of time. "Terry is great about having the 'tackle box stuffers' (club volunteers) meet at his farm and spread everything out in his shed. Lots of stories and joking around helps make the time move faster. He just has a great way of getting others to want to participate.'

As individuals and families join the IGLFC, Terry and the board try to impart the comradery and enjoyment of the sport of fishing. As Jacobsen notes, "Being part of the IGLFC has gone from an internal focus to an external focus with Terry and the board working to make all members feel they are an important part of the club. Terry's leadership has been instrumental at expanding the outreach of the club.'

I visited with three board members: Paul As a result, youth fishing events have Daniels, Dean Jacobsen and Darwin expanded to include youngsters across county lines, including Clay, Dickinson, Emmet and Palo Alto counties.

#### Protecting fisheries and the envi-

Contributing to the environment and area communities by improving the quality of local fisheries continues to be important goals for the IGLFC. Johnson believes that Thomsen has really grown in his leadership skills. "He has expanded his relationship with the DNR, and when he sees an issue that is important, Terry is not afraid to be vocal and speak his peace."

A great example of this is the current battle to get a 5% increase in fishing license costs. Thomsen has personally spoken to the members of the Natural Resources Commission, called DNR leadership in Des Moines and also emailed all members of the House and Senate, along with the Governor to help them understand the importance of the license increase. That it is a user fee, not a tax increase!

Thomsen has researched the issue and found that without this increase, there will be significant cuts that could adversely impact Iowa's fisheries. Thomsen and the IGLFC board truly believe that this would be detrimental to the future of fishing in Iowa, which goes back to the negative impact it would have on the youth in Iowa.

Thomsen's leadership is now reaching out to the "Keep It Clean" campaign. Simply stated: keep the ice clean. Daniels says, "This is so important to all of us. Terry has led the charge on this and has created a partnership with the Okoboji Protective Association, the East Lake Improvement Corporation and the Spirit Lake Protective Association to create 4-foot reflective signs to be placed just on the edge of the ice at all of the lake accesses on Big Spirit, East Okoboji, West Okoboji, Upper Gar and Lake Minnewashta."

At the same time, Thomsen has worked with KUOO radio station to create a "Keep It Clean" advertising blitz so that listeners learn what "Keep It Clean" is all about!

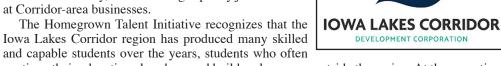
#### Leadership comes in all shapes and

While this is true, Daniels, Jacobsen and Johnson are glad that the IGLFC leader is Terry Thomsen. Daniels adds and the other two agree, "Terry creates a positive environment that people want to be around. Now, we need to just make sure that we continue to get volunteers that are willing to help keep things rolling. It is great that the IGLFC keeps expanding, but we need to have more members become part of it!"

# Iowa Lakes Corridor opens applications for 2026 Homegrown Talent Initiative grants

The Iowa Lakes Corridor Development Corporation (Corridor) is pleased to announce the opening of applications for the 2026 Homegrown Talent Initiative beginning December 10, 2025.

This growing program is designed to encourage recent college graduates who grew up in the region to return, build their careers locally, and fill the high-quality jobs available at Corridor-area businesses.



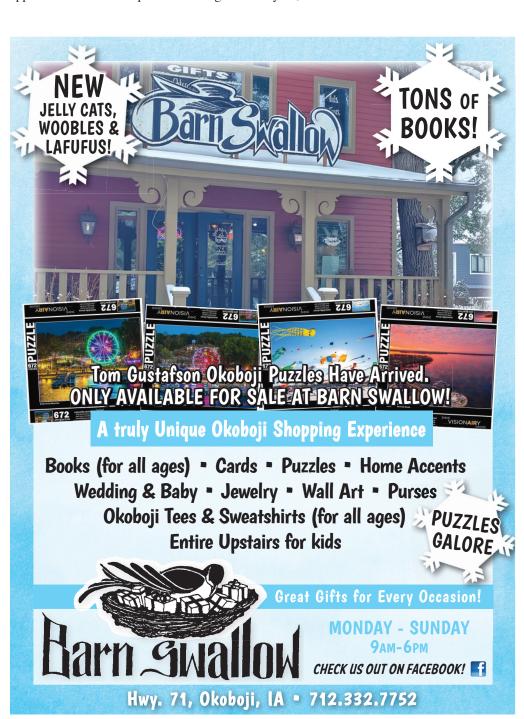
continue their education elsewhere and build early careers outside the region. At the same time, local employers consistently offer competitive, high-quality career opportunities with strong pay and benefits.

"One of our core missions is to strengthen our region's workforce and communities," said Trevor Smith, Senior Vice President of Economic Development of the Iowa Lakes Corridor. "The Homegrown Talent Initiative allows us to support young professionals who want to come home, and gives employers another tool to attract the qualified, homegrown talent they need."

Beginning in 2025, the Corridor awarded its first two Homegrown Talent Initiative grants to Taylor Krager and Callan Townsend. Each recipient receives \$6,000 in support over four years that can be used for student loan repayment, mortgage reimbursement, rent support, or childcare expenses. In 2026, the Corridor will award four grants, one in each of the counties we serve.

Applications for the 2026 award cycle are now open, and qualifying young professionals are encouraged to apply. To be eligible, applicants must:

- Have graduated from a high school within the Iowa Lakes Corridor region (Buena Vista, Clay, Dickinson, or Emmet County).
- Moved to (or planning to move to) a city within the Iowa Lakes Corridor region in the time of January 1, 2024, to February 15, 2026.
- Have accepted an offer or working a full-time job in the region.
- Have or will graduate from a two- or four-year college, trade school, or technical program within the last six years.
- Provide proof of student loan debt, mortgage or yearly rent expenses, or childcare expenses. Applications and full program details are available at lakescorridor.com/homegrown. The application window is open now through February 15, 2026.





Browning Gun Sales

HOURS: Mon., Tue., Wed., Fri., Sat. 9:00-5:30 · Thursday: 9:00-7:00 · Sunday - Closed

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Long Guns



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#### 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.

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 fol-

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.



## Cemstone's Iconic Christmas Truck is Coming to Spirit Lake

Cemstone, a leading producer of ready-mix concrete and construction materials, is thrilled to announce that its beloved Cemstone Christmas Truck will be stopping at its Spirit Lake, Iowa, location for a special three-day display.

The festive, holiday-themed ready-mix truck, known for its vibrant lights and decorations, will be available for public viewing and photos at Cemstone (1911 Peoria Ave, Spirit Lake) on Monday, December 15, through Wednesday, December 17, 2025.

The Cemstone Christmas Truck is a cherished tradition, bringing cheer to communities across the region each December. Guests are encouraged to bring their cameras to capture the perfect holiday picture.





# Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Thank you for a wonderful 2025. We wish you a prosperous 2026!





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#### Cy-Hawk Hoops Heaven in Hilton

During what appears to be a very cold and snowy winter it's great to have competitive basketball to watch, and this past week saw that at the highest level in the State of Iowa, as Iowa traveled to Hilton Coliseum to take on Iowa State in both women's and men's basketball in one of the best rivalries in the nation. All four of these teams are off to tremendous starts this season, entering these games with a combined record of 37-1 and three of the four teams being ranked in the Top 11 in the Nation, with the Iowa men just outside the Top 25.

Ladies first is always how this series goes, with the teams normally playing a night before the men's game. Wednesday night ESPN sent their A crew to cover this huge game of two undefeated teams, #11 Iowa vs #10 Iowa State, and the game drew a record crowd for a women's college game viewership on TV for November/December. Early on it looked like it would be an offensive explosion as both teams traded baskets in the first quarter with Iowa taking a 23-19 lead into the second stanza. The defenses turned up the intensity in the second quarter with both teams struggling to put the ball in the basket, as no team made a basket for the first three minutes of the quarter. Iowa State went on a 14-4 run to take a 33-26 lead, but Iowa would respond with a 9-0 run before a Kenzie Hare basket for ISU right before halftime tied the game at 35-35 at the break. The Cyclones came out on fire in the third quarter, as Chit Chat Wright, who was Iowa's best player all night, for some reason sat out for much of this quarter. An Addy Brown 3-pointer would give ISU a 58-42 lead and they would take a 61-48 lead into the final quarter after Taylor McCabe hit a 3-pointer at the end of the quarter. Iowa, however would not go away, quickly trimming the lead to 63-56 and then 64-60 after a 3-pointer by Wright. Audi Crooks, as she did all night long, would answer every Iowa run with two big baskets to keep the ISU lead at five points. The Hawkeyes would trim it to 72-69 and after 96% free throw shooter Jada Brown missed two free throws, had a chance to tie the game, but Hare would block McCabe's three pointer, and the Cyclones would make 2/4 free throws to put the game away for the 74-69 win in front of 14,009 raucous fans. Iowa State had three players with double-doubles, which is very impressive; Crooks, who leads the nation in scoring, had 30 points and 10 rebounds, Brown had 20 points and 12 rebounds and Williams had 11 points and a career high 12 assists. Iowa was led by Wright's 21 points while McCabe chipped in with 11 and Hannah Stuelke had a double-double with 10 points and 15 rebounds. Both of these teams proved that they are worthy of their high rankings and Iowa State head coach Bill Fennelly compared the game to a Sweet 16 matchup. Don't be surprised to see these two teams hosting NCAA Tournament games and advancing at least to the Sweet 16 this season.

The men's game was not supposed to be as close, as the #4 Cyclones entered the night as an 11.5-point favorite, but firstyear Hawkeye coach Ben McCullom had his squad ready to play with an outstanding game plan that frustrated Iowa State on both ends of the court the entire first half. Iowa was very patient on offense, often using the entire shot clock before hitting a 3-pointer or getting a lay-up just before the buzzer would sound, and then used stifling defense to cause contested shots and uncharacteristic turnovers by ISU. Iowa took a 23-12 lead with 7:00 remaining in front of a stunned sold-out Hilton Coliseum crowd on a lay-up by Alvaro Folgueiras. The Hawks would build that lead to 30-17 on a 3-pointer by All-American Bennett Stirtz. Iowa State did finish the half strong, and was able to trim that lead to 33-25 at halftime thanks to several big plays from their own All-American, Joshua Jefferson. The Cyclones started the second half with a 16-0 run to quickly take a 41-33 lead that they would never relinquish. Iowa, however would not go away, and a 3-pointer by Bennett Stirtz cut the lead to just one at 62-61 with 1:38 remaining. Nate Heise answered for ISU with a layup on a beautiful backdoor cut and pass from Blake Buchanan. Stirtz would then hit one of two free throws while Jefferson hit both of his to give the Cyclones the 66-62 victory, their third straight of the series. Jefferson led Iowa State with 24 points and 5 rebounds while Tamin Lipsey added 14 points and 5 assists. Tavion Banks led Iowa with 14 points and 4 rebounds while Stirtz and Cam Manyawu both added 10 points. For those Iowa fans who complained about the free throw discrepancy (ISU shot 23 while Iowa only shot 5), this is due to the style that Iowa plays. They bleed the shot clock down, then take either a contested 3-pointer or mid-range jumper; while Iowa State was attacking the basket with Jefferson and Lipsey for most of the night. Iowa was even out-shot at the FT line in their 83-64 home win over Maryland (38-12) and also by Western Michigan (22-17) in their 91-51 home win on Sunday.

The one thing I took from both of these games, besides the obvious fact that it is once again a Cyclone State, as Iowa State now owns a commanding 15-2 lead in the Cy-Hawk Series (do they have a running clock in this Series at some point?), in all seriousness now, I learned that all four of these programs are in excellent shape, and it is going to be a very fun winter of basketball for Cyclone and Hawkeye fans. All four programs are run by first-class coaches who do things the right way, and that is shown by how hard their kids play. In both games, Iowa could have easily been blown out in the second half (as many teams will do in Hilton Coliseum), but they kept battling and had chances late to beat Top 10 Cyclone teams on the road. In this crazy world of NIL and the transfer portal where there is so much wrong with college sports, enjoy what we have with these basketball programs and what is right with how they play the beautiful game of basketball the right way. And Cyclone fans, enjoy this once again being a Cyclone State!!





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Beneath The Waves: Celebrating The Depths Of Reading! by Amy Dissmeyer

A vibrant new mural now greets visitors to Spirit Lake Public Library's children's area, celebrating young readers who complete the library's "1,000 Books Before Kindergarten" program. The colorful artwork, funded by the Friends of Spirit Lake Public Library, honors early literacy and the children who achieve this important milestone.

Design firm Infuze Creative created the lake-themed mural featuring underwater characters excited about their treasure of books. As children complete the 1,000 books challenge, their names will be added to the display, creating a growing testament to their achievement.

The mural project was funded entirely by the Friends of Spirit Lake Public Library and specially recognizes two individuals whose families gave generously in their honor: Nan McClernon, a lifelong reader and library supporter, and Cliff Hinderman, a beloved Spirit Lake teacher. Both shared a deep passion for literacy and believed in the importance of sharing that passion with future generations.

The "1,000 Books Before Kindergarten" program encourages parents and caregivers to read 1,000 books with their children before kindergarten—a goal achievable by reading just one book daily for three years. Research demonstrates that children read to regularly enter school with larger vocabularies, better listening skills, and stronger foundations for academic success.

Since launching in 2013, Spirit Lake Public Library has enrolled 486 children in the program. Eleven completed the challenge in 2025 and will become the first to have their names added to the mural during a special graduation ceremony.

The public is invited to attend a ribbon cutting and the first 1,000 Books Graduation ceremony on Saturday, December 20, at 10 a.m. followed by refreshments and an opportunity to learn more about the honored donors and the program.

Families can register for the free program in person at the library or online at slpublib.com. The program is open to all children from birth to age five.

SLPL staff reading spotlight: Krista is listening to The Stolen Life of Colette Marceau by Kristin Harmel.

- Upcoming activities:
- Monday, December 22, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Mah-Jongg • Tuesday, December 23, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Quilters
- Wednesday, December 24, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Special Christmas Eve Hours
- Thursday, December 25, Closed



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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.





# Spirit Lake K of C Tootsie Roll® Drive Nets Thousands for Special Olympics and Hope Haven Those Tootsie Rolls you might have received at Jennings Tow and Repair, Fareway, Wal-Mart,

The Barefoot Bar or Bomgaars were part of a great cause. The local Knights of Columbus again distributed the sweet treats to benefit Special Olympics.

The Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Drive is held annually, and this year the KCs matched the funds and distributed them to Special Olympics and to Hope Haven in Spirit Lake and Estherville. The money raised helps support athletes with intellectual disabilities through sports. And the funds will also assist with the Hope Haven mission, including: "As followers of Christ, we unleash potential in people through work and life skills so that they may enjoy a productive life in their community.'



Knights of Columbus members in dark blue tees are, kneeling, Hernani Nabuco, Cail Donkersloot and standing, Nile Skogerboe. They presented a check at Hope Haven, Spirit Lake, to Paula Gomez, Special Olympics Coach, and Lakes Area Champion athletes.

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

In 1882, Blessed Michael McGivney, a young parish priest in New Haven, Connecticut, founded the Knights of Columbus to serve the needs of a largely immigrant Catholic community. What began as a small fraternal benefit society has since grown into one of the world's leading international charitable organizations, with more than 2.1 million members in over 17,000 local councils. Knights provided 1.6 million children with winter coats, brought 243 U.S. service members to Lourdes on pilgrimage, donated more than 158,000 wheelchairs through its Global Wheelchair Mission, and gave more than \$325,000 to the formation of men and women pursuing a religious vocation. Knights donated \$197 million to people in need and volunteered more than 47 million hours in service.













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**Milford Memorial** 

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.

**Library News** 

- December 22, 10:30 a.m. Merriest Time of Year
- December 29, 10:30 a.m. New
- January 5, 10:30 a.m. Owls
- January 12, 10:30 a.m. Paint • January 19, 10:30 a.m. - Quilt
- January 26, 10:30 a.m. Rhinestones
- Milford Memorial Library would like to announce and congratulate the winners of the Festival of Trees.

Best Business: Dollar Tree Best Organization: Milford Girl Scouts Best Family/Personal: Sofia Heithus Most Creative: Milford Girl Scouts

Thank you again to those who provided trees and to everyone who came out to vote. Thank you to the Friends of the Milford to those who provided Friends of the Milford Memorial Library for sponsoring the prizes for the Festival of Trees winners.

Milford Memorial Library would like to thank everyone who came out to create

holiday memories during Holiday Fantasy. Seeing community members gathered doing crafts and spending time together is something we always enjoy. Santa was excited to hear so many Christmas wishes. Thank you to the Friends of the Milford Library for donating and serving the tasty holiday treats. We would like to thank everyone who donated to the Holiday

Fantasy "Fill the Cart" Food Drive for Dickinson County Upper Des Moines Food Pantry. Your donations will help fill their cupboards during the holiday and winter season.

On Tuesday, December 23, Milford Memorial Library will have a free double feature! Home Alone will begin at 1:00 p.m. and Home Alone 2: Lost in New York will begin at 2:30 p.m. Popcorn will be provided for this free event.

On Wednesday, December 24, Milford Memorial Library will be closing at 11:00 a.m. and will be closed all day on Thursday, December 25, in observance of the Christmas holiday. We look forward to seeing everyone on Friday, December 26, at 9:30 a.m. We hope you have a safe and happy holiday.

Head to the kitchen with the Northey Girls at Milford Memorial Library. The display case is filled with multigenerational memories formed by cooking and baking together. They hope their memories will help you share your memories and to create your own.



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## **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.

## 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.

#### Lakes Area Activity/Senior Center Schedule

Tuesday, December 16 8:30 - Kiwanis 12:00 - Dinner Date

12:30 - Bridge Wednesday, December 17

9:00 - Exercise Class

12:00 - Dinner Date

Thursday, December 18 10:00 - Strummers

11:00 - Tai Chi

12:00 - Dinner Date 1:00 - 500 Cards

3:00 - Cribbage

4:00 - Zumba

Friday, December 19 9:00 - Exercise Class

10:00 - Chair Yoga

12:00 - Dinner Date Saturday, December 20

Facility Available For Rent Sunday, December 21

Facility Reserved

Monday, December 22 9:00 - Exercise

12:00 - Dinner Date 1:00 - Pinochle Club

Tuesday, December 23

8:30 - Kiwanis

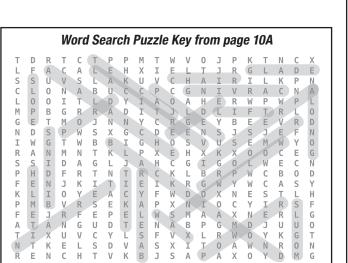
12:00 - Dinner Date 12.30 - Bridge

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. Call or visit with someone at the office for

Please call the Lakes Area Activity/Senior Center if anyone is interested in playing Euchre or Dominoes. One person is interested. Need more to start playing.

more details

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





A Funeral Service for Dennis Kintzi, age 81, of Milford, was held on Friday, December 12, 2025, at 11:00 am at Turner Jenness Funeral Home in Milford. Inter-

ment was at Milford Cemetery. Dennis Richard Kintzi, the son of Richard and Anna (Nelson) Kintzi, was born on June 6, 1944, in St. James, Minnesota. He graduated from high school and went on to attend Mankato State University. Dennis moved to Milford, Iowa, around 1968 and had made his home there ever since. He passed away on December 7, 2025.

Dennis enlisted in the Army National Guard in 1962, where he earned the rank of Spec. 4. He was a devoted member of

Grace Communion Fellowship Church for 40 years.

A gifted and lifelong musician, Dennis played with numerous groups over the years, including The Chevelles, Dee Jay & The Runaways, and the Bill Terry and Denny Kintzi Duo. In 1966, the hit song "Peter Rabbit" charted for 14 weeks. He toured throughout the United States and Canada, performing at local venues such as The Roof Garden and The Cobblestone, and appearing on Dick Clark's Where the Action Is, Upbeat, and many other television shows.

Dennis was also co-owner and sound engineer for the Iowa Great Lakes Recording Co. from 1966–1979. In 1978, he co-wrote the fight song for the University of Okoboji. His contributions to music were recognized through multiple inductions into the Iowa Rock 'n' Roll Music Hall of Fame—first in 1997 with Dee Jay & The Runaways, again in 1999 as co-owner of the Iowa Great Lakes Recording Co., and in 2012 with The Chevelles. He was also honored with inductions into both the South Dakota and Minnesota Rock 'n' Roll Halls of Fame.

Dennis continued to write and perform music throughout his adult life and deeply cherished the friendships he formed with fellow musicians.

In addition to his musical career, Dennis enjoyed a 30-year career with Stylecraft as a CNC Programmer. He was active in his church and enjoyed traveling, gardening, biking, and cheering on the Minnesota Vikings.

Those left to cherish his memory include his daughter, Allison (Jeff) Emery; grandchildren, Victoria (Wyatt) Keegan and Mitchell Emery; sister, Jayne (David) Lange; nephew, Jason (Jang) Lange and their daughter, JoJo; longtime companion, Becky Hitchcock; Becky's daughters, Crystal (Chuck) Fales and granddaughters, Railee White and Quinn Fales; and Patricia Rohmiller; as well as a host of friends and extended family.

Dennis was preceded in death by his parents, Richard and Anna

Turner Jenness Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.



CHAMBER

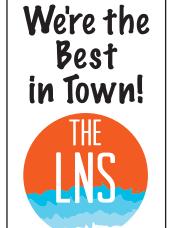
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# Spencer Chamber Announces Second Holiday Gift Card Sale Date — December 18

The Spencer Chamber will host a second date for the Holiday Gift Card Sale on December 18th at SMU and Fareway.

During this one-day-only event, shoppers can purchase Spencer Chamber Gift Cards at a discounted rate, making it a great opportunity to save money while supporting local businesses this holiday season

Spencer Chamber Gift Cards are accepted at more than 50 local retailers, restaurants, salons, grocery stores, and service providers, allowing recipients to choose exactly what they want — all while keeping dollars in our community.

"These cards make holiday shopping simple, local, and meaningful," said Sheriffa Jones, Executive Director of the Spencer Chamber. "Every purchase supports the small businesses that make Spencer such a special place to live and shop

In addition to the sale, several local sponsor businesses will be highlighted throughout the day for their continued support of

the community. Gift cards will be available for purchase in-person only at

SMU and Fareway. Quantities are limited and available while supplies last.

For more information on the Spencer Chamber Gift Card program and a list of participating businesses, visit spenceriowachamber.org.

Thank you to our local sponsor businesses: Spencer Municipal Utilities, Farmers Bank, CW Suter, Northwest Bank, Fareway, and Brown's Shoe Fit.

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Wishing You and Your Family a Very Merry Christmas and Warm Holiday Season!

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# The Dickinson County Christmas Bird Count for the Audubon Society will be held on Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup> this year. This long-running citizen-science event relies on volunteers to count birds to track bird population health. This event is a great way to get outdoors, observe the beauty of Dickinson County, and meet some of your neighbors. Bring your binoculars, a

friend, or a team, and have a good time together!

#### Volunteers Can Participate in Two Ways:

1)Those interested in driving (or walking) around and looking for birds will meet at 7:30 am at the Lakeside Lab Dining Hall. Coffee will be provided. We will meet back at Lakeside lab at noon to turn in counts & have some warm soup and lunch.

2) If you live within the count circle (see photo) you can report birds seen at your feeders by reporting them to Nick Blocha at the following email: nick.blocha@gmail.com

Snow date will be January 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026.
Results will be shared with all participants, compiled at a state level with other areas of the states, and sent to Audubon Society for their annual data collection efforts.

Any questions on this event, please contact Ed Thelen at edlinthelen@gmail.com











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# Lakes Area Activity/Senior Center Event Space

The Lakes Area Activity/Senior Center has rooms to rent for your special event. Do you have a special weekend event in

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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

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/Activity 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

0:00am. They also have pool and

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Black Knights Club Donates

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**Lake Park** 

The Black Knights Car Club has awarded year-end grants of \$1,000 each to four local food banks: UDMO Food Pantry in Estherville, UDMO Food Pantry in Emmetsburg, UDMO Food Pantry in Spencer, and the Dickinson County Hunger Coalition Food Pantry. These contributions are intended to support community members during the holiday season.

Funds for these grants were raised through annual events, including the Estherville Sweet Corn Days Car Show, the Spectacular Car Show in Arnolds Park, and the Airport Drags in Spencer. Community sponsorships and event fees directly support these and other charitable initiatives.

The club also finalized the selection of recipients for its Nursing Scholarships at Iowa Lakes Community College. This year's recipients are (Left to Right) Claire Gerber, Guen Mencias, Klania Manning, Ken Dunn (Black Knights) and not present Jazmine Besaw.

For more information, please contact Ken Dunn, Webmaster/ Treasurer, at 712-338-2179 or via email at ken@blackknightsestherville.com.

# Grand Reopening

## Join us December 16th-19th for our Grand Reopening!

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#### MISCELLANEOUS

#### MISCELLANEOUS

RENTALS

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#### RENTALS

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

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#### VOTICES

#### **NOTICES**

#### **ACCEPTING BIDS**

**Spirit Lake Community School District is** advertising for sale the following vehicle:

2009 Chevrolet Suburban LT 216,418 Miles

If you have any questions, call 712-336-2820

ext. 3500 - leave a message. Written bids are to be delivered to the District office by noon on December 22nd, after which the highest bid will be awarded the sale at the January 12th board meeting.

#### • NOTICE • **VACANCY OF COUNTY ATTORNEY**

Effective January 1, 2026, there will be a vacancy for the position of the County Attorney for Dickinson County. Pursuant to Iowa Code Sections 69.8, 69.14A, and 39.17 the Board of supervisors gives the following notice. The vacancy of the County Attorney may be made by appointment by the Board of Supervisors or by Special Election.

The Board of Supervisors intends to fill the vacancy by appointment, but the electors of the county have the right to file a petition requiring that the vacancy be filled by special election.

The person appointed to the County Attorney position must be a resident of the County at the time of their appointment. This appointment shall be effective through the General Election (November 3, 2026), at which time the person elected to the succeeding term shall serve the balance of the unexpired term. (lowa Code 69.14A (b) (2).

The Dickinson County Auditor, (1802 Hill Avenue; Suite 1400) must receive applications for appointment by 4:00 p.m. Tuesday December 30, 2025, from anyone interested in filling the above term of office. Appointment will be made on or before Tuesday, February 10, 2026. The board has the right to reject any and all

In the event of a vacancy for which no eligible candidate residing in the county comes forward for appointment, the county board of supervisors may employ a person to perform the duties of the office for at least sixty days but no more than ninety days. After ninety days, the board shall proceed with a

Within fourteen (14) days of the Board of Supervisors appointment of a new Cunty Attorney, a member of the public may file a petition with the County Auditor requesting a special election to fill the vacancy, and in such case, the Board's appointment is temporary and a special election shall be called. The petition shall meet the requirements of Section 331.306. A signature shall not be considered valid if the signature is dated prior to the date on which the appointment was made.

The petition is valid if signed by eligible electors of the county equal in number to at least ten percent of the votes cast in the county for the governor at the preceding general election. The petition shall include the signatures of the petitioners, a statement of their place of residence, and the date on which they signed the petition.

Alternatively, the board of supervisors may, on its own motion, call for a special election to fill the vacancy in lieu of appointment. The supervisors shall order the special election at the earliest practicable date, but giving at least thirty-two days' notice of the election and the election shall be held on a

#### Miscellaneous Miscellaneous Miscellaneous Miscellaneous

We are sincerely grateful to everyone for the cards, texts, phone calls, flowers, visits and kindness shown to us during our time of great loss. Your comforting expression of sympathy will always be remembered.

The Family of Lowell Merry



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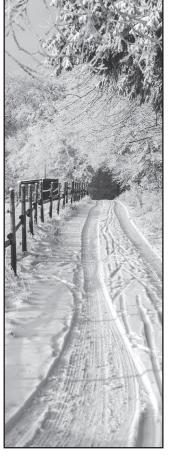
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## Gabriel "Fluffy" Iglesias to Headline the 2026 Clay County Fair

early at the Clay County Fair, powered by SMU! The Fair is excited to unwrap its first Grandstand announcement for 2026 as part of the SMG Concert Series: comedy superstar Gabriel "Fluffy" Iglesias will take the stage on Sunday, September specials with Netflix. The first in 2016 a handful of comedians with a theatrically 13th, 2026. Known for his larger-than-life personality and unforgettable storytelling, Fluffy is set to bring a night of big laughs and can't-miss entertainment to the Clay County Fair Grandstand!



Gabriel "Fluffy" Iglesias - Sunday, September 13th, 2026, at 7:30 pm

Gabriel "Fluffy" Iglesias is one of the world's most successful stand-up comedians and one of the highest-grossing touring comedians of all time. He is one of the most-watched comedians on YouTube, with over 2.4 billion views and over 34.7 million fans across social media. He was the 3rd-highest-grossing comedian of 2024, according to Billboard.

Iglesias has been included in The Hollywood Reporter's "Top 40 Comedy Players" issue alongside comedy giants Jerry Seinfeld, Chris Rock, and Lorne Michaels, and was also honored with the cover of Variety's comedy issue. The comedian has had the distinct honor of being one of the few to headline and sell out Madison Square Garden in New York, Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles, and The Sydney Opera House in Australia. On TV, Iglesias is the star and executive

producer of the Netflix original comedy series, Mr. Iglesias, which is currently streaming 3 seasons. Iglesias plays a good-natured public high school teacher who works at his alma mater. He takes on teaching gifted but misfit kids to not only save them from being "counseled out" by a bully bureaucrat Assistant Principal, but also to help them unlock their full potential. The show won best Primetime recognizes positive portrayals of Latino actors/actresses in the entertainment

In addition to his comedy series, Iglesias has released four stand-up comedy with I'm Sorry For What I Said When I Was Hungry, which was filmed at the sold-out Allstate Arena in Chicago to 20,000 fans. The second, One Show Fits All, was filmed in front of a sold-out audience at the Toyota Center in Houston and debuted in January 2019. The third Stadium, Fluffy premiered in October 2022 and was taped in front of a crowd of 55,000 fans at Dodger Stadium in Los Angeles, where Iglesias made history as the first comedian to perform at and sell out the largest MLB stadium in the US.

In April of 2024, Iglesias reupped with Netflix for a new two-special deal. The first of the new specials, Gabriel Iglesias: Legend of Fluffy, taped at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino in Florida last summer and premiered worldwide on January 7th, 2025, earning a top-ten spot on Netflix's global most-watched list.

On March 11th, 2025, Iglesias cemented his place in Hollywood as he received his very own handprint ceremony at the iconic TCL Chinese Theatre, where he was recognized for his impressive achievements in his career. He joins a small group of artists and talent to receive this honor. Additionally, it was also recently announced that Iglesias will receive a Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in Los Angeles in 2026.

Last December, Iglesias co-starred with Tim Allen in the second season of Disney+'s The Santa Clauses. He can be seen on NBC's Lopez Vs. Lopez, opposite George Lopez, which premiered on NBC/Peacock. Most recently, he costarred with Tim Allen this year on ABC's Shifting Gears.

Feature film credits include co-starring roles in Magic Mike, Magic Mike XXL, and A Haunted House 2. Gabriel's voice has been heard in many animated films, including the recent Space Jam: A New Legacy as "Speedy Gonzales," streaming on MAX. In 2017, Iglesias voiced the role of "Head Clerk" in Pixar's Academy Award-nominated animated film Coco.

Spencer, Iowa — Christmas came Comedy at The Imagen Awards, which He also voiced "Babo" in Ugly Dolls, "Rufus the Dog" in Sony's Golden Globenominated animated holiday film The Star, and "Cuatro" in Fox 20th Century Film's Academy Award-nominated animated film Ferdinand. Gabriel is one of released stand-up concert comedy film, The Fluffy Movie.

On the small screen, Fluffy's Food Adventures, a non-scripted comedic docufollow series, completed a 3-season run on FUSETV in 2017. Gabriel was a recurring guest star on the ABC sitcom Cristela, and also guest-starred in an episode of ABC's hit comedy Modern Family. Comedy Central aired Iglesias' hit series Stand-Up Revolution for 3 seasons. Comedy Central also aired Gabriel Iglesias: Aloha Fluffy in an unprecedented two-night comedy special to over 15 million viewers. The special was a follow-up to his previous DVD specials, Hot & Fluffy and I'm Not Fat...I'm Fluffy, which has sold millions of copies.

Gabriel Iglesias is the youngest of six children, raised by a single mother in Long Beach, CA. It was during his childhood that he developed a strong sense of humor to deal with the obstacles he faced. In 1997, he set out to hone his comedic skills and performed stand-up anywhere he could find an audience, including biker bars and hole-in-the-wall joints. Gabriel's stand-up comedy is a mixture of storytelling, parodies, characters, and sound effects that bring his personal experiences to life. His unique and animated comedy style has made him popular among fans of all ages.

Iglesias is repped by CAA, Arsonhouse Entertainment, and Hirsch Wallerstein Hayum.

Ticket prices are \$89 (Stage Front Reserved Chair Seating), \$69 (Reserved Grandstand Seating), and \$49 (General Admission Bleachers).

Tickets for Gabriel "Fluffy" Iglesias will go on sale Friday, December 19th, at 10:00 am. Tickets will be available online at www.midwestix.com, by phone at 515-244-2771, or in person at the Events Center Box Office. All tickets, regardless of purchase location, are also subject to a \$6.00 ticketing fee, which is not included in the advertised price.







#### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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

#### **Take Action**

Everyone is preoccupied with the holidays and dealing with the weather. Please try to find a few minutes to consider these actions by the administration which will affect you directly if they haven't already. And don't be distracted with everything being smeared with the president's name and likeness like it's gold paint in the oval office. Is the constitution next?

- A Global Trade War is declared justifying seizing emergency tariff powers. BUT the U.S. Constitution, in Article I, Section 8, explicitly grants Congress the power to "lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises," and to "regulate Commerce with foreign Nations". Watch for the ruling from the Supreme Court on this.

- A War on Drugs is declared justifying seizing all war powers, attacking Venezuela and committing war crimes. BUT only Congress has the sole power to issue a formal declaration of war.

- A Crime Crisis is declared justifying seizing control of the National Guard. BUT while Section 502 of Title 32 of the United States Code provides that "training or other duty" may include "support of operations or missions undertaken by the member's unit at the request of the President or Secretary of Defense", the word "request" in § 502(f)(2)(A) is significant. The president or the secretary of defense may ask a governor to deploy National Guard troops, but the governor is under no obligation to acquiesce.

- An Immigration Crisis is declared justifying suspending civil rights. But only Congress has the authority to suspend the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus, and this can only happen in cases of "rebellion or invasion" when "the public Safety may require it".

Now that these actions are instigating protests as designed, an insurrection can be declared justifying enacting martial law. Then it will be too late for you to take action. Contact your Senators and Congressman and demand they do their sworn duty to defend the constitution.

We're not divided by politics; we're divided by reality. January 6, 2021, Never Forget.

Diane Smith, Spencer, Iowa

#### Iowa Lakes Expands Student Pathways Through Partnership with Western Iowa Regents Resource Center

Iowa Lakes Community College has joined the Western Iowa Regents Resource Center (WIRRC) network, expanding opportunities for students to seamlessly pursue bachelor's degrees at Iowa's public universities.

The partnership, coordinated through the Iowa Board of Regents and WIRRC, strengthens transfer pathways for community college students across northwest Iowa. Through this initiative, WIRRC transfer specialists will serve as direct resources to help Iowa Lakes students explore transfer options, navigate admission processes, and connect with programs offered by the University of Iowa, Iowa State University, and the University of Northern Iowa.

"This partnership demonstrates our shared commitment to removing barriers and creating clear, affordable pathways for students who want to continue their education at Iowa's public universities," said Scott Stokes, President of Iowa Lakes Community College. "By working together, we are expanding opportunities for students to achieve their academic and career goals."

"We are thrilled that the WIRRC has added ILCC to the list of partnerships with community colleges in Western Iowa," said Greta Rouse, member of the Iowa Board of Regents. "By providing personal resources and local points of contact, this will continue the expansion of opportunities for students to achieve their higher education goals."

The WIRRC, supported by the Iowa Board of Regents, maintains staff across western Iowa including Creston, Council Bluffs, Harlan, Sheldon and Sioux City, to connect students to Regents university resources and degree programs.

Students interested in learning more about transfer options or connecting with the WIRRC may contact Tiffany Nolta, academic advisor at Iowa Lakes Community College, at 712-362-6833 or tnolta@iowalakes.edu.

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Family Services

Resource Guide

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

## **EMPLOYMENT**

#### **EMPLOYMENT**

 ZONING & BUILDING OFFICIAL The City of Spirit Lake, Iowa is seeking to fill the position of Zoning and Building Official.

#### **Duties include the following:**

- Under direction, provides City enforcement of local, state and federal regulations and policies related to building construction.
- Issue building permits, inspect building sites as necessary.
- Attends and participates in meetings of Planning and Zoning Commission and the Board of Adjustment. Maintains and updates zoning map.
- Zoning Officer responsible for processing and reviewing applications related to zoning matters and responding to inquiries related to building and zoning

#### Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

- Ability to comprehend and interpret and apply statutory and ordinance provisions related to zoning.
- Knowledge of material and methods used for building construction.
- Ability to perform standard arithmetic and statistical calculations.
- · Ability to comprehend and interpret maps, plans and blueprints
- Ability to access, comprehend and interpret various building codes
- · Ability to communicate clearly and to work effectively
- with members of the public. • Minimum Education, Training and Experience
- High School diploma and five years of work experience in a related field.

Address application, including current resume, to Gregg L. Owens, City Administrator, 1803 Hill Avenue, Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360, by December 22, 2025. Any questions, please email to gregg.owens@ cityofspiritlake.org Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience.



City of Spirit Lake

The City of Spirit Lake, Iowa is an Equal Opportunity Employer, Females, minorities. veterans and members of other protected classes are encouraged to apply

#### **PART-TIME** ATTENDANTS NEEDED

at Laser Car Wash - Milford & Spencer

We are now accepting applications for part-time attendants at Laser Car Wash in Milford and Spencer. Candidates must be available to work weekends or flexible shifts, depending on scheduling and availability. We encourage active retirees and students to apply! We're looking for friendly, energetic, and responsible individuals who value honesty and teamwork.

Interested? Pick up an application at either Laser Car Wash location!

The City of Arnolds Park, Iowa is accepting applications for the position of

#### Police Officer

This is a full-time position that includes a competitive wage and benefits package. Certification by the lowa Law Enforcement Academy or the ability to become certified in one year is required. Applicants must meet the minimum hiring standards as set forth by the **lowa Law Enforcement Academy.** 

**Applications are available at the Arnolds Park** City Hall, 54 N. Highway 71, Arnolds Park, Iowa 51331. Applications may be returned to: City of Arnolds Park, Attn: City Clerk, PO Box 437, Arnolds Park, Iowa 51331, or e-mailed to Linda Nase at Inase@arnoldsparkcity.com. The application deadline is Friday, December 26, 2025, at 4 p.m. If you should have questions concerning this position, please call 712-332-2341.

The City of Arnolds Park is an equal opportunity employer

#### IOWA LAKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE is accepting applications for a full-time

#### **HEALTH COORDINATOR**

located on the Emmetsburg Campus with travel to other campuses as needed.

Primary responsibilities include assisting the Director of Allied Health Workforce Education with day-to-day processes. Must be highly motivated and work with minimal supervision; be able to work closely with others as needed. May require some evening and weekend hours and occasional overnight travel. Position will include teaching First Aid/CPR classes. High school diploma or equivalency required. Completion of a post-secondary certificate program or degree beneficial. Certified to teach First Aid/CPR or willingness to become certified upon hire required. Background/experience in healthcare field i.e., LPN, Medical Assistant, CNA, Medical Office or other healthcare related fields preferred. Salary \$22.61 per hour. Paid sick leave, vacation, and holidays. Employee health, dental, and vision insurance. Partially funded family insurance available. Employee life and disability insurance. Employee retirement plan. Review of applications will begin January 5, 2026.

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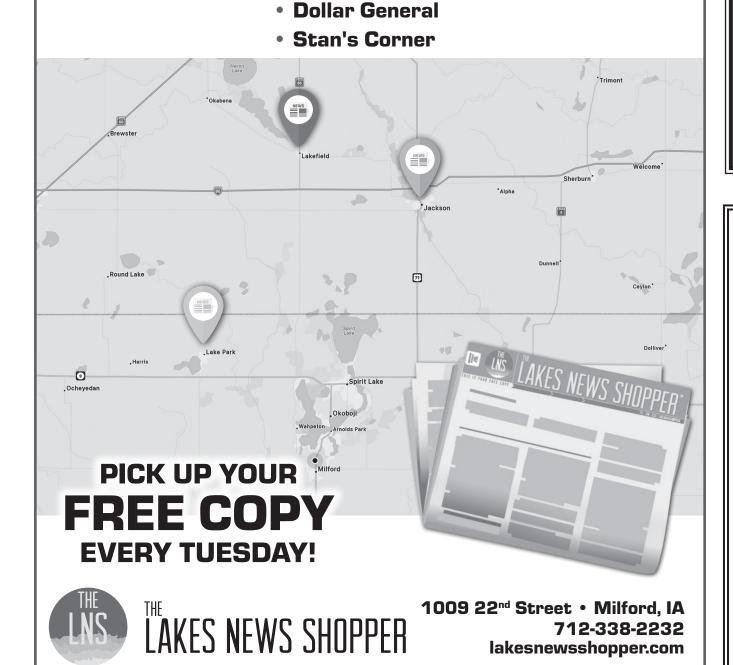
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