

## KES NEWS SHOPPEI



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VOL/53 NO/13

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Stop by either of our locations, January 2-16, become a member, and we'll waive the joiner's fee!

**BECOME A BEDELL FAMILY Y MEMBER!** 

As part of our membership drive, we'll pick two lucky winners to receive a no-cost, yearlong individual membership. Every check-in between January 2-16 is one entry in the drawing to win.

Financial Assistance is available to qualified applicants. The Bedell Family YMCA strives to provide memberships and program services to all who wish to participate. Our scholarship program, supported through contributions to the YMCA Annual Campaign, provides memberships and program scholarships for those in need within our available resources. Applications can be obtained at any of our locations or on our website.



THE LAKES NEWS SHOPPER Tuesday, December 30, 2025

#### Kiwanis Bingo Nights

Milford Kiwanis presents Bingo Nights on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. The next Milford Kiwanis Bingo Night will be Thursday, January 8 and 22. 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.



#### 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.

#### Dance 4 Fun

The Everly dance, sponsored by Dance 4 Fun, will be held on Saturday, January 3, at the Hap Ketelsen Community Center in Everly, Iowa. The doors are open at 6:15, the dance is from 7:00pm -10:30 pm. The band is Still Cruizin. Put on your dancing shoes & come join us for a fun evening of dancing! Feel free to bring snacks to share! Singles and

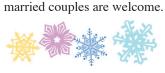
#### Mobile Food Pantry Returns

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, January 8, 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 December Food Bank, 531 individuals (185 families) received 8,179 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.





On behalf of our Cherish Center Board of Directors and Executive Director, THANK YOU for partnering with us and making his year's successes possible. We're looking forward to having a continued impact in 2026!

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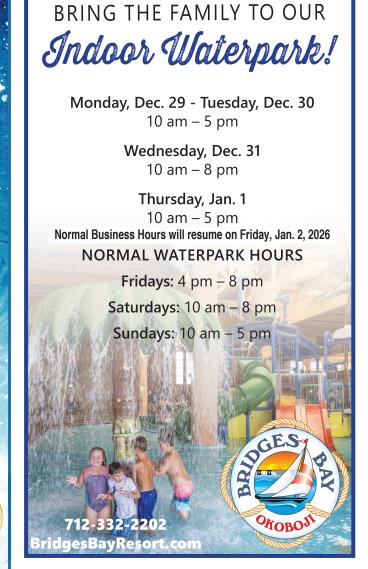
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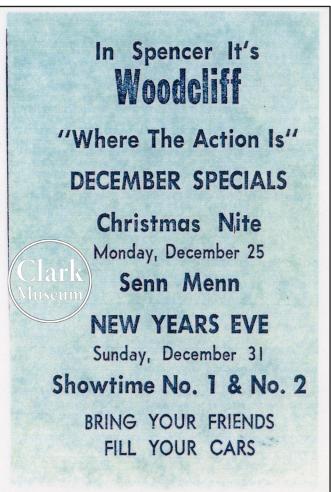
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Stepping Back In Time by Jerry & Irene Clark of the Clark Museum of Area & State History, Milford, Iowa

I would bet my uncle, Hal Clark, was at this place. He would never miss a dance for miles around. He liked the fast dancing steps - no slow dances. If he seen a lady setting, and she was a good dancer, he would say to her, "let's get with it." What a guy.



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#### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Letter to the Editor

I would like to publicly thank the good people of Okoboji Flooring & Furniture of Milford for all they do to sponsor the annual Secret Santa program. Through their efforts, and the generosity of local community members who donate the many gifts, less fortunate children in our area have gifts to open and enjoy at Christmas. This endeavor takes several hours for the staff and other volunteers to coordinate, collect, and distribute the many gifts for the children.

This program is such a worthwhile endeavor and highlights the kindness of the people of Milford. Anyone looking for a way to share their own good fortune with families who may be struggling, please consider this Secret Santa program next Christmas. The joy you will feel knowing that you have helped to spread happiness doing Santa's work will fill your own Christmas Stocking!

Jeannette Hughes Meyer Milford, Iowa

## 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.











#### Okoboji After Prom Fundraiser

Okoboji After Prom is selling the World's Best Dishcloths as a fundraiser to support a safe and fun After Prom event for Okoboji High School students. Bundles of six dishcloths are available for \$20.

Dishcloths can be purchased online (https://square.link/u/k5mZqDwC) picked up at home basketball games, or by emailing afterpromokoboji@gmail.com for more information.

Thank you for supporting Okoboji After Prom and our local



## Christmas Tree Drop-off Points for Burning of the Greens

As the holiday season draws to a close, the IGLA Chamber reminds the Lakes Area community of the classic Winter Games tradition known as the Burning of the Greens. Once holiday decorations have been enjoyed, community members are asked to drop off natural Christmas trees, wreaths, or other greenery at the trailer in the main Arnolds Park Amusement Park parking lot or at the Dickinson County Expo Building parking lot in Spirit Lake. All items must be free of lights and decorations. The Chamber extends its gratitude to Diamond Concrete for donating the storage containers that make the collection possible. These community contributions allow for the continuation of the tradition of creating a spectacular bonfire from recycled greenery.

The public is invited to gather at Preservation Plaza in Arnolds Park on Saturday, January 24th, at 6:30 pm for the closing ceremonies of the 46th Annual University of Okoboji Winter Games. This finale features the Burning of the Greens and a Fireworks Extravaganza, sponsored by Bank Midwest and Consumers Lumber. The 46th Annual University of Okoboji Winter Games, presented by WestO Beer, will run from January 22-25, 2026. For more information on how to get involved in the festivities, individuals can visit *uofowintergames.com* or call 712-332-2107.









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#### Big Thanks and Big Cheers to Local Sponsors! Upper Des Moines and the Great Lakes Mall wish to give munity's generosity, a total of 1,489

a huge shout-out to the local businesses and organizations that nonperishable items were collected. This sponsored trees for this year's Festival of Giving Trees. Their support is what makes this event such a success.

A big thank you goes to everyone who participated in this year's tree sponsorship:

- Canned Fruit El Mariachi
- Canned Vegetables DAR Ladies of the Lake
- Peanut Butter & Jelly ISU Extension and Outreach Dickinson County
- Pasta Noodles & Sauce Dickinson Co. Democrats
- Cereal Youth in Philanthropy with the Okoboji Foundation • Instant Potatoes – ISU Extension and Outreach Dickinson
- Pancake Mix & Syrup K Kids Kiwanis
- Snacks Hope Haven
- Rice Meals Dickinson County Nature Center • Condiments – Terril Fun Days Committee
- Cheerios & Honey Spirit of Harmony • Microwavable Meals – Bob & Ellen's
- · Canned Meat Spirit Lake Silver and Gold
- Canned Soup Lakes ATLAS
- Personal Hygiene Spirit Lake Senior Center The response this year was incredible. Thanks to the com-

amazing amount of food will go directly to families in need.

#### **Competition Results**

The event featured an abundance of creative, fun, and festive trees, making for a fierce competition. The winners in each category are:

Winner of Most Donations: Dickinson County Democrats (Pasta Noodles & Sauce) with an amazing 231 donations!

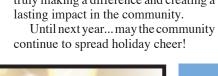
Winner of Most Creative Tree: Terril Fun Days Committee (Condiments) for their whimsical tree!

Upper Des Moines and the Great Lakes Mall offer a huge thank you to everyone who participated, donated, and helped fill the shelves at the Upper Des Moines Food Pantry. This kindness is truly making a difference and creating a











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- Fashion Formula
- Hy-Vee Wine & Spirits
- Interiors
- Lakes Auto Care
- The Look Fashions
  - MediaCom
- Spirit Lake Silver & Gold
  - Spirit Spa
  - Valvoline
  - Wild Child



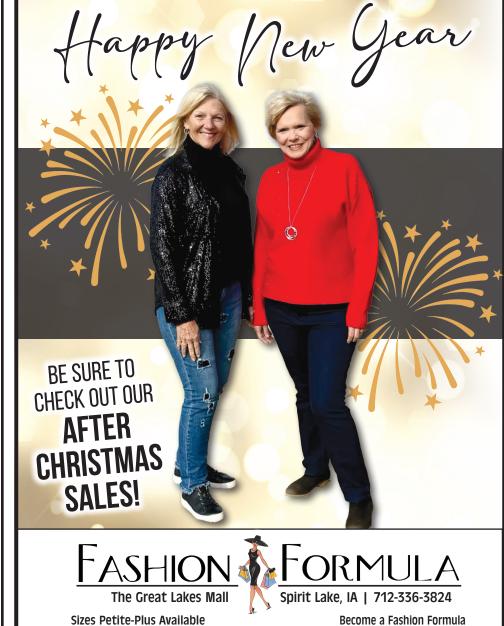


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## Spencer Hospital Hospice Earns 4 Star Recognition in We Honor Veterans Program

Spencer, Iowa — Avera@Home Hospice of Spencer Hospital has earned a Level 4 Star designation in the national We Honor Veterans (WHV) program, a milestone that reflects a deep and sustained commitment to providing high-quality, veteran-centered hospice care.

We Honor Veterans is a collaboration between the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO) and the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The program recognizes hospice organizations that demonstrate increasing levels of commitment and expertise in caring for veterans at the end of life. Hospices "earn their stars" by completing specific activities across progressive levels, helping veterans and VA partners easily identify providers equipped to deliver veteran-specific care through a knowledgeable and highly skilled workforce.

Achieving Level 4 means Avera@Home Hospice of Spencer Hospital has gone beyond education and partnerships to actively improve access to care and enhance the quality of services available to veterans and their families in northwest Iowa.

"This recognition reflects our unwavering commitment to honoring those who have served our country," said Alana Clark, Director of Hospice and Home Health at Spencer Hospital. "I am incredibly proud of our staff for achieving Level 4 Star status, but even more proud of the compassionate, respectful, and personalized care they provide to veterans during this important stage of their life journey. Our veterans deserve the very best."

A key contributor to this achievement is Chelsea Reed, who has led much of the work over the past four years to advance the hospice's participation in the We Honor Veterans program. Reed has worked tirelessly with the VA to ensure Avera@Home Hospice of Spencer Hospital provides the highest quality of care to veteran hospice patients and their families.

"Chelsea's dedication has been instrumental in reaching this level," Clark added. "Her commitment, persistence, and advocacy for our veteran patients have strengthened our partnerships with the VA and elevated the care we provide every day."

For veterans, this recognition means access to hospice care that acknowledges military service, understands the unique physical, emotional, and spiritual needs that may accompany that service, and honors each veteran's goals and preferences at the end of life.

Individuals and families interested in learning more about hospice services for themselves or a loved one are encouraged to contact Avera@Home Hospice of Spencer Hospital at 712-264-6380.



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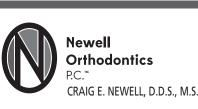
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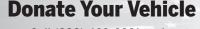


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Valid on gift card purchases Nov. 17, 2025 - Jan. 6, 2026. Not valid on prior purchases 952.934.1525 ChanhassenDT.com



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



Auctions

### **WORLD TRAVEL INC.**

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## THE LAKES NEWS

emailed to you every Tuesday by going to www.lakesnewsshopper.com and clicking on "e-subscribe"

#### RISE Ministries Announces Phil Wickham as Headliner for RiseFest 2026!

RISE Ministries is excited to announce another artist reveal for RiseFest 2026—acclaimed worship leader Phil Wickham! RiseFest is coming to Sheldon, Iowa—June 12-13, 2026.

Get ready for an unforgettable weekend of worship and community as Phil Wickham, Josiah Queen, and Ben Fuller take the stage at RiseFest 2026—with more artists to be announced soon! "RiseFest 2026 keeps getting better—and with one of the biggest worship artists, Phill Wickham joining us, I can't wait to see how God will move at next year's festival!" -Rob Roozeboom, Founder and President of RISE Ministries.

Early Bird Ticket Prices: \$60.50 per ticket when you purchase 10 or more. \$65 for individual tickets. Free for kids 10 and under. Visit risefestiowa.com to grab discounted tickets now during our Early Bird Sale. The sooner

you buy, the more you save! Enhance Your RiseFest Experience: For those looking to make the most of the festival weekend, camping passes and Prime Tickets (for the best seats in the house) are also available. These

premium options sell out quickly, so be sure to secure your spot today. RiseFest is the biggest family-friendly Christian music festival in Northwest Iowa, featuring powerful music, inspiring seminars, on-site camping, and activities for all ages.

Don't miss it—RiseFest, June 12-13, 2026. Gather your family, bring your friends, and experience something more.

For more information on RiseFest and RISE Ministries visit riseministries.com. Stay connected with RISE through social media on Facebook and Instagram. Email info@riseministries. com or call 712-324-9763.



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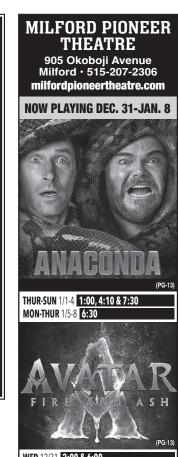
RENEWAL **ROUTINE** VISION

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

TRANSFORMATION







MON-THUR 1/5-8 6:00

#### Lakes Area Activity/Senior Center Schedule

Tuesday, December 30

8:30 - Kiwanis 12:00 - Dinner Date 12:00 - Blood Pressure 12.30 - Bridge

Wednesday, December 31 9:00 - Exercise Class 12:00 - Dinner Date Thursday, January 1 Happy New Year - Center

is Closed Friday, January 2 Center Closed Saturday, January 3 Facility available for rent

Sunday, January 4 Facility available for rent Monday, January 5

9:00 - Exercise 12:00 - Dinner Date 1:00 - Pinochle Club Tuesday, January 30

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 more details.

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.

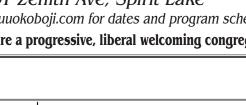
The Lakes Area Activities/ Senior Center is located at 2101 Zenith Ave in Spirit Lake.

#### **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

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## Word Search Puzzle Key from page 6A

## **Dickinson County**

**Recreational Trails** www.dickinsoncountytrails.com Erin Reed, Executive Director, DCTB



Winter Trails In The Iowa Great Lakes

With the plentiful snow we received last month, it's a great time to remind everyone that the Iowa Great Lakes Trails offer plenty of opportunities to stay active and enjoy the outdoors all winter long.

Winter Hiking Trails: Winter is a wonderful time to explore nature trails in the Iowa Great Lakes. A couple of our favorites include the Barney Peterson Memorial Trail, located across the road from Gull Point State Park, and Henderson Woods, adjacent to the trail bridge near the Lake Minnewashta boat ramp. Bundle up and enjoy discovering new scenery, unexpected surprises, and

#### abundant wildlife along the way. **Cross-Country Skiing Trails**

We are fortunate to have excellent cross-country skiing options throughout the winter months. Two miles of groomed trail are available at Brooks Golf Course, extending up to the Dickinson County Nature Center. As snowfall increases, additional trails will be added, offering both classic (traditional) ski tracks and a wide skate-ski lane.

Another premier location for crosscountry skiing is the Kettleson Hogsback Wildlife Management Area on the west side of Big Spirit Lake. Please note that, due to its designation as a public wildlife area, hunting is allowed in the complex. Trails in this area will not be groomed until mid-January, once the hunting season ends.

These winter trails are made possible

thanks to dedicated local volunteers, the Dickinson County Conservation Board, and support from the Dickinson County Trails Board (DCTB). We will continue to provide updates on snow and trail conditions on Facebook and www.dickinsoncountytrails.com.

Snowmobile Trails and Shared Use: Multiple trails and shared-use spaces are groomed by the Dickinson County Snowhawks for snowmobiling. The Spine Trail and Tatanka Ska Trace, in particular, have functioned as designated snowmobile routes since their inception. This arrangement provides a significant safety benefit by allowing snowmobiles to move through town on a controlled corridor, reducing street travel and encroachment on private property. The club also grooms several stretches along state highway rights-of-way where both trail systems are permitted.

Importantly, snowmobile grooming also enhances winter accessibility for other users. Groomed trails are more navigable for pedestrians and fat-tire cyclists than ungroomed snow, supporting multiuse enjoyment of the system throughout the winter season. With increased use by multiple groups, it's important that everyone remains mindful and respectful. Pedestrians and cyclists should step aside to allow snowmobiles to pass, and snowmobilers should slow down and use caution when passing others. With courtesy and care, we can all enjoy the trails and appreciate the mutually beneficial

relationship between user groups. While all users are encouraged to proceed with caution, the current approach strikes a practical balance between safety, available resources, and broad community benefit. We value having a trail system that supports year-round recreation and transportation for a variety of users, and we appreciate the cooperation that makes this possible.

Trail users should refer to the SnowHawks trail map and note that only groomed DCTB trails are open for snowmobile use. For more information about the SnowHawks and groomed trail locations, visit www.snowhawksdc.com.

Important Reminder: ATV, UTV, and OHV vehicles are not allowed on Dickinson County Trails. Using these vehicles on groomed snowmobile trails disrupts grooming efforts and damages the hard work of volunteers. However, ATVs and similar vehicles may operate on most roads and highways in Dickinson County. Please review state regulations at Iowa Code 3211.10 All-Terrain Vehicles and follow any applicable local ordinances.

#### **Friends Campaign Continues**

The Iowa Great Lakes Trails continue to grow and connect our communities in exciting new ways. Over the past few years, we've seen remarkable progress - more than 17 miles of new trails, a beautiful new trailhead in Spirit Lake, and several impactful maintenance projects. None of this would be possible without the generosity of our donors. With your continued support, we can further connect communities in Clay County, advance development of the rail trail Tatanka Ska Trace and maintain a safe, high-quality

If you have not already, please consider joining Friends of the Trails. Your contribution will help enhance the quality of life in the Iowa Great Lakes and make a meaningful impact on the area's health and economy. To learn more or to donate, please visit www.dickinsoncountytrails.

We deeply appreciate the community's ongoing support. Together, we continue to improve and expand the trail system, creating lasting benefits for generations to come.

As always, Happy Trails to You and Yours. Erin Reed, DCTB Executive Director

#### Blessings in the New Year!

THE LAKES NEWS SHOPPER Tuesday, December 30, 2025

**Next Dinner** 

Thursday, January 8

5:30-6:30

Doors open at 5:15

Community Table

All are Welcome to a FREE MEAL

2nd Thursday of each month all year

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

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Coffee & Fellowship Before & After the Service Rev. Dr. Jennifer Hesebeck, Pastor

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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 the future? A Family Get-together, Anniversary, Graduation, Birthday?

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

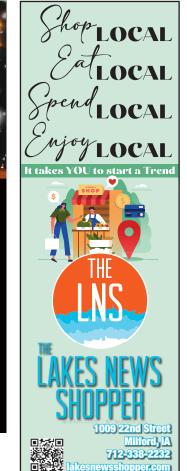
There is also a small meeting room with tables/seating for 10 plus extra chairs for additional seating. \$40.00 per day.

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.

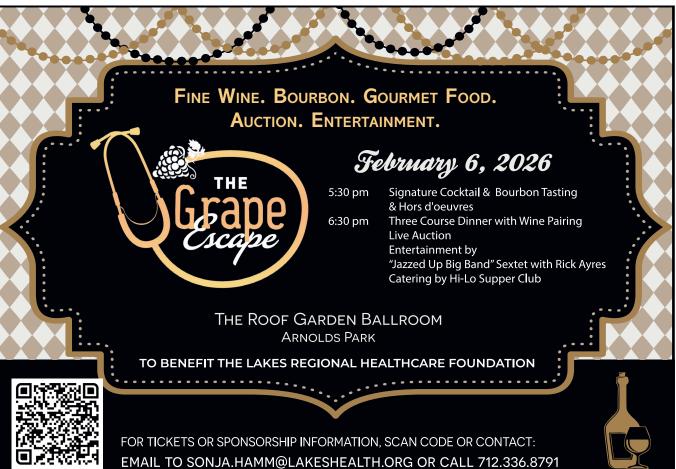
With kitchen: \$160.00 per day. They have a beautiful, clean facility with most weekends available. Call and visit with someone at the office for details. 712-336-5247.

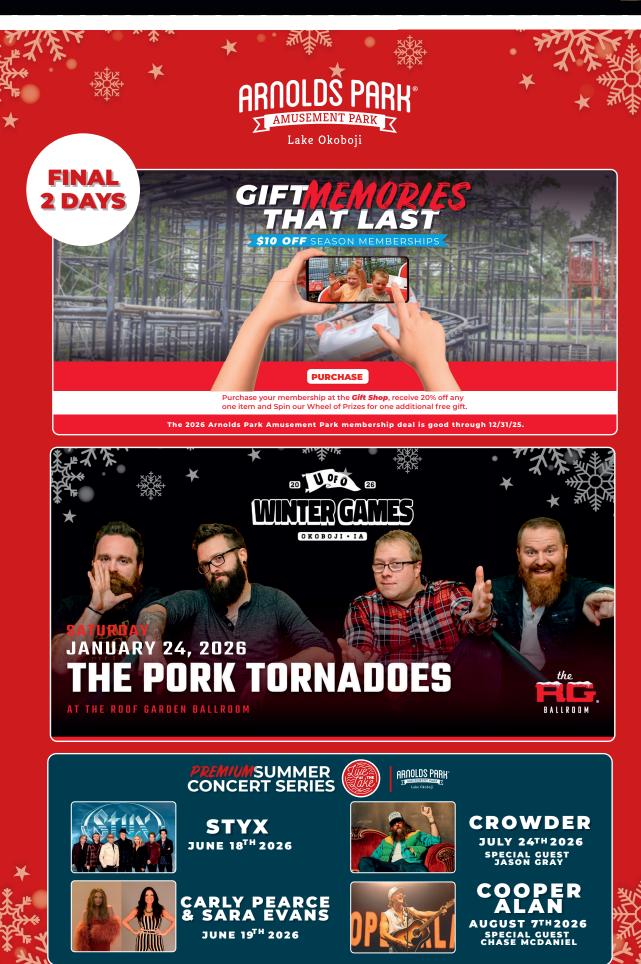


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#### Sports Top 10 Wish List for 2026

I am a bit fatigued about reading and writing about the Iowa State football situation with Matt Campbell leaving, Jimmy Rogers being hired, signees decommitting, most of our starters transferring and most of Washington State's signees committing to Iowa State, so I am going to turn towards the future. As we wind down another wild and crazy sports year, and look ahead to 2026, here is my Top 10 Wish List for what I hope happens in the sports world. Please keep in mind that I am a tortured sports soul with being a life-long Cyclone and Viking fan, so odds are pretty good most of these wishes won't come true, but hey, maybe, just maybe, this will be the year!

1. Continued success and a Final Four appearance for the #3 Iowa State Cyclones Men's Basketball Team.

2. Deep NCAA Tournament runs for the #10 Iowa State and #14 Iowa Women's Basketball teams, and that Audi Crooks continues to play at the dominant level that she has played at so far this season.

3. Another scorer for the #25 Iowa Men's Basketball team to emerge to take some of the load off Bennett Stirtz.

4. More coaches like Kirk Ferentz who run their programs the right way, and are extremely loyal. Two more examples of the strong culture that Ferentz and his Hawkeye program has are how few opt-outs they always have during their bowls and how few key players they lose in the Transfer Portal.

5. Speaking of the Transfer Portal, can we get someone with some common sense to figure out that these kids should be allowed a one-time transfer rule, and then after that, they should have to sit out a year if they transfer? This would put an end to much of the tampering that we have going on in today's "college" athletics world, and prevent players from bouncing from program to program every year.

6. A Commissioner for the NCAA or someone, anyone who also can figure out the NIL issue. This was supposed to be 'capped" at \$21.5 million for the entire athletic department, and now you hear of some football programs spending over \$30 million themselves. How is this legal?

7. This same person, or group of people to not allow professional athletes to now come back and play in college. Baylor is bringing in a former NBA Draft pick at semester to join their team for the second half of the season, and it's been reported that Trentyn Flowers who has actually played in NBA games is now being recruited to play in college. What in the h\*ll is going on here???

8. Brock Purdy to keep being Brock Purdy. In a world of megastars acting like fools and caring about just themselves, it's so refreshing to see Purdy continue to remain his humble and kind self while leading a depleted 49ers team to a 12-4 record and possible #1 seed in the NFC.

9. JJ McCarthy to actually stay healthy enough to see if he is good enough to be the #1 quarterback for the Vikings. I hate to see the current roster, which is talented enough to win big, wasted if he is not the "guy", and it's hard to tell with him missing 25 of 34 games in his two seasons due to injuries.

10. For Iowa State or Iowa to make the College Football Playoffs before Penn State. Yes, I am still bitter at Matt Campbell for leaving. Just when I was getting over and understanding it, now it appears that he is going to take all of our starters with him, turning what was once such a promising season with 18/22 starters coming back into one of the biggest question marks of a season we've ever had at Iowa State.

Sorry, this got a little long as I kept writing more for each wish as I went along. Speaking of long, like our winters here in Iowa, we are so blessed in this State that we currently have all four of our Power 5 basketball teams ranked, I'm pretty sure no other state can say that, and it sure helps us get through the cold winter nights to watch some great college basketball! Here's wishing you and your family a safe and blessed 2026; may your teams win most of their games, may your coaches stay in their jobs, may your star players remain healthy and may we all remember that these are just games meant to bring us memories and joy (yes, I need to work on what happens when they don't).



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Fall Hours: Tuesday-Sunday 11am-6pm Open until 8 on Saturdays



Join us for a New Year's Eve Party Wednesday, December 31



Mark

**Bison Meal!** 

Lair

8pm-Midnight Boon, Lambert & Dagel

**Bison Prime Rib Meal** at 8:30pm

Doors open at 7pm

**Sunday, January 4** 



\$55/person

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4 PM · COMICS ARRIVE TO ENJOY DRINKS WITH LOAKALS! 7 PM · BOON & LAMBERT

9 PM · COMEDY:

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- COREY KNOX

- MIKE YOUNG

- ANNIE LEDERMAN 11:30 PM · BOON & LAMBERT

FRIDAY LOAKAL MUSIC

5 PM • BRIANNA HELBLING

**♥** \$20 LOAKAL MUSIC PASS

8 PM · DAMON DOTSON 11 PM · CASEY MUESSIGMANN

**♥** \$50 BRUNCH & MUSIC PASS



11 AM · COMEDY BRUNCH

- COREY KNOX

- MIKE YOUNG - ERIK GRIFFIN

2-5 PM • BRIANNA HELBLING

SATURDAY COMEDY BRUNCH & MUSIC

6-9 PM · CASEY MUESSIGMANN

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THURS, JANUARY 1

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**ENJOY A 5 COURSE MEAL - RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.** 

THIS WEEKS SPECIALS & ENTERTAINMENT:

FRI. JANUARY 2 KARAOKE WITH JASON | 8PM

**Catch All The Games Here!** \$15 BEER BUCKETS & PRIME **RIB PHILLY SANDWICHES!** 

> HOURS: MON. - FRI. 4PM SAT. 11AM | SUN. 2PM

#### **Lakes Area Activity/Senior Center**

Stop in and see what we have to offer!!!

**EVENTS: UPCOMING BREAKFAST** 

Sunday, Jan. 18 at 8:30am-Noon

**CLOSED JANUARY** 1 & 2



#### SIGN UP FOR DINNER DATE MEALS! Reserve your meal for next week

Low Cost: \$7-\$10 Donation

5 Monday Goulash

NOON

Vegetable Fruit **Bread** 

6 Tuesday **Beef Tips** Vegetable Fruit & Bread

7 Wednesday **Hot Pork Gravy Mashed Potatoes** Vegetable Fruit & Bread

8 Thursday Hamburger Bun Vegetable **Fruit** 

9 Friday Lasagna **Garlic Bread** Vegetable Fruit

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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#### lakesart.org | 712.332.7029

2201 HWY 71 N | Okoboji, IA 51355

**Winter Hours:** Tues-Sat: 10am-4pm Thurs: 10am-9pm

**Happy Holidays!** PLAC will be closed 12/24-1/1

**VISUAL ARTS** 







Register online or call 712-332-7029

#### **EDUCATION CLASSES**

**JANUARY YOUTH ART CLASSES:** 

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

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

With Samantha McCandless



Scan for more

info and to

by 1/6

**NATURE COMPOSITION: MOSS WALL ART** 

Thursday, Feb. 12, 6-8pm OR Saturday, Apr. 11, 10am-12pm | \$55/\$65 | All Levels, 21+

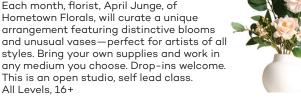
Design and assemble a beautiful square wall art piece using a mix of preserved moss, live air plants, and realistic faux succulents. Discussion of layout and composition will help you arrange natural textures and colors to create a low maintenance long-lasting work of art. All materials provided. Must register 1 week prior to class. Complimentary adult beverage supplied with each class.

#### STILL LIFE THURSDAYS- FLORALS

**Open Studio** 

Jan. 8, Feb. 5, Mar. 19, Apr. & May 21 10am-9pm, Come and Go | \$10/\$15

Hometown Florals, will curate a unique arrangement featuring distinctive blooms and unusual vases—perfect for artists of all styles. Bring your own supplies and work in any medium you choose. Drop-ins welcome. This is an open studio, self lead class. All Levels, 16+



#### **SWING DANCE CLASS** With Midwest Swing Dance Co.

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 available. Register by Mar. 6.

Register online or call 712-332-7029

Wine Class With Jennifer Tritle-Oitzman of Okoboii Wine

**CULINARY** CLASSES

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 Tasting: Cool Climate vs Warm Apr. 2: Varietal Series: Cabernet Franc

Valentine Cupcake Decorating

With Janet Steinbach of Lakes Cakes Boji Custom Cakery

Tuesday, Feb. 3 | 4pm-5:15pm \$40/\$50 per Group, add additional child for \$10 Register by Jan. 29

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

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

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.



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#### Steak & **Shrimp for 2**

USDA Choice 6 oz. grilled sirloin steak topped with garlic butter, served with four butterfly shrimp per dinner, your choice of two sides and cocktail sauce. **Each dinner is served with** a slice of pie\*

Offer good December 31st - January 2nd \*not valid with any other coupons or discounts

Customer Loyalty Coupon

Coupon Expires January 27, 2026 20% Off Your Total Bill UP TO TOTAL OF \$10 OFF

Present this coupon to the cashier at the time of sale and receive a 20% discount off your total bill (including entrées, drinks, side items, and desserts).\* Not valid with any other special or

discount programs. only at Perkins® Restaurant & Bakery located at Boji Junction, Milford, IA, One coupon per person per visit at participating Perkins® Restaurant and Bakery locations. Not valid with any other discount or offer. Coupon void if purchased, sold or retered for cash. Only original coupons accepted. Mutilated, tampered , forged, or photocopied coupons are not accepted. Sales tax, if applicable, must be paid by customer. Please present coupon when ordering.

Kid's Menus.

Bakery & To-Go

Customer Loyalty Coupon

whole fantastic fruit pie\* Not valid with any other special or discount programs.

Valid only at Perkins® Restaurant & Bakery located at Boji Junction, Milford, IA, One coupon per person per visit at participating Perkins® Restaurant and Bakery locations. Not valid with any other discount or offer. Coupon viol if purchased, sold or bartered for cash. Only original coupons accepted. Mutilated, tampered, forged, or photocopied coupons are not accepted. Sales tax, if applicable, must be paid by customer. Please present coupon when ordering.

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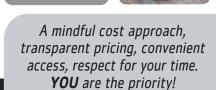
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Please join us in celebrating the retirement of

#### **SHANNON GREEN**





After nearly four decades of dedicated service in our Parts Department, Shannon is hanging up the keys. We invite all friends, family, and long-time customers to stop by and wish him well!

Friday, January 9th • 5:30-7:00pm (come and go) at the Dealership



HWY. 9 WEST • SPIRIT LAKE • 712-336-1500 SEE OUR ENTIRE SELECTION OF NEW & USED VEHICLES ONLINE **OKOBOJIGMTOYOTA.COM**  SERVICE HOURS: Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. • Sat. 8 a.m.-3 p.m

life for goal setting. Here is the list of goals that he recommends for holistic life success: Spiritual (values, faith), Financial (budgeting, saving, debt payoff, investing), Career (professional growth), Education/ Intellectual (learning, personal growth), Health/Physical (well-being, exercise, nutrition), Family (relationships, connection), and Social (community, friendships). Ramsey also has advice on actually reaching your goals. First, make

them specific and measurable. (Instead of "read more," say "read four books.") Set deadlines and break goals down into steps (daily, weekly, monthly). Make them your own. The goals you set must resonate with you, not others. Write them down. This makes them real and you more accountable. Lastly, acknowledge milestones and celebrate successes!

We at the Spirit Lake Public Library, would be happy to help in the pursuit of reaching your 2026 goals. We have many books that might support you.

To find resources for your Spiritual goal, look in the adult non-fiction section, Dewey Decimal numbers 133 - 364. There you will find books by Mother Teresa, Jane Goodall, and the Dalai Lama. Several Bibles, the Torah, and parenting books are available for checkout as well.

For your Financial goals, you could read The Total Money Makeover or Baby Steps Millionaires by Dave Ramsey, or Suze Orman's books The Laws of Money, the Lessons of Life, or The Money Book for the Young, Fabulous & Broke. Investing for Dummies by Eric Tyson is a brand new book that we have.

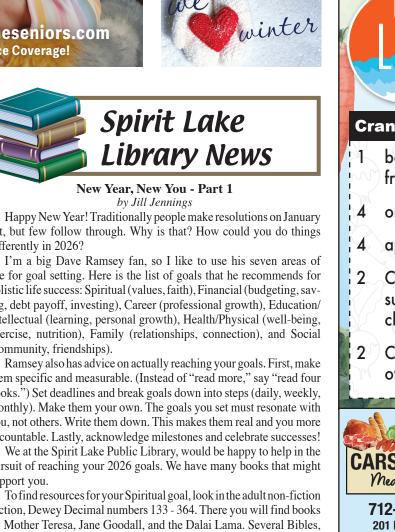
We do not have any hard copies on the shelf of books for professional growth, however, there are an abundance of titles available on Libby and Hoopla to download. Get out your tablet or smartphone!

Next week I will share some suggestions for the other four goal areas! SLPL staff reading spotlight: Anna is reading Poirot Investigates (Hercule Poirot, #3) by Agatha Christie

Upcoming activities:

Monday, January 5, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Mah-Jongg

- Tuesday, January 6, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Quilters
- Wednesday, January 7, 12:30-4:00 p.m., Quilters • Thursday, January 8, 10:30-11:15 a.m., Story Time
- Thursday, January 8, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Mah-Jongg



C sugar or sugar substitute of your choice

C pecans or nuts

1. Remove the stem and bottom end of each orange. Discard these parts. Cut up oranges into fourths with peeling attached. Remove any seeds. Pulse orange pieces in a food processor until the size of zest. Place processed oranges in a large mixing bowl.

Discard core pieces and any seeds. Pulse apple pieces in a food processor until pieces are firm and not mushy. Place processed apples in the mixing bowl with the oranges.

3. Pulse frozen cranberries in a food processor until the size of confetti. Place processed cranberries in the mixing bowl with the oranges and apples. Stir until all fruits are incorporated. 4. Stir in sugar. (The amount of sugar or sugar substitute

can vary depending upon personal taste.)

5. Cover the bowl and refrigerate at least 8 hours. 6. Just before serving, stir in chosen nuts.

Recipe Courtesy of: Debbie Morrow & Cyndee Dather



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**Totinos** Pizza Rolls 50 Ct.

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**Best Choice** Cooked Shrimp 52-70 Ct.







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#### Lakes Area Activity/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!



#### Community Table Hosts Free Monthly Dinner to Support Local Neighbors

Community Table is pleased to announce its upcoming monthly dinner, inviting all members of the community to join for a warm meal and fellowship. In keeping with the program's mission that "All are Welcome," the next dinner will be held on Thursday, January 8.

The event is hosted and sponsored this month by Downtown Church. Doors will open to the public at 5:15 PM, with dinner served from 5:30 to 6:30 PM.

#### Lake Park Mobile Food Pantry

The Food Bank of Iowa Mobile Food Pantry will be open for distribution on Thursday, January 8, 2025 from 4:30 - 6:30 pm at the Lake Park Methodist Church located at 1471 135th Ave, Lake Park. Registration will be inside the church beginning at 3:30 pm, you must be present to register. You may pick up groceries for someone that is not able to make it. Please do not line up at the front door (southeast corner of the church) before 3:30 pm. Please bring boxes, bags or containers for your groceries. Distribution will begin at 4:30 pm.

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



## Advertising Family of Merchants.

#### **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.

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.



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60' Lakefront & 4-Car Garage



On Wednesday, December 31, Milford Memorial Library will be closing at 11:00 a.m. and will be closed all day on

**MILFORD MEMORIAL LIBRARY** 

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

CLOSING AT 11:00 A.M.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1,

**CLOSED** 

IN OBSERVANCE OF THE NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY.

Thursday, January 1, in observance of the New Year's holiday. We look forward to seeing everyone on Friday, January 2, at 9:30 a.m. We hope you have a safe and happy holiday.

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

HAVE A HAPPY AND SAFE NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY kids and their adults are welcome to stay after storytime and mingle. For more informa-

tion, contact the library or check out our Facebook page.

- 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
- February 2, 10:30 a.m. Spectacular Space • February 9, 10:30 a.m. – Tremendous Teeth
- February 16, 10:30 a.m. No Building Bookworms-MML closed in observance of Presidents Day
- February 23, 10:30 a.m. Underwear

Join MML for Fun Craft Fridays on January 2, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This is a children and young adult free comeand-go craft time. This week we will be designing letter bead bracelets. There are a limited amount of supplies, so this will be a first come, first serve. If you have any questions, please contact Milford Memorial Library by phone at 712-338-4643 or by email at milfordlibrary51351@gmail.com.

Author Nicole Baart will be joining us on January 12th at 7:00 p.m. at the Milford Community Center. If you enjoy reading her books you should mark your calendars for this event! Nicole's novels range from romantic to suspenseful, but she is known for her artistic prose and finely drawn characters. Her stories celebrate the triumph of the human spirit and beauty in the midst of brokenness.

You're invited to MML's After-School Adventures on Thursday, January 8, at 3:30 p.m. This month we will be watching the movie Wonka. A small smack will be provided during this free activity.

Any interested individuals are welcome to join the Milford Memorial Library Book Club on Tuesday, January 20, at 1:00 p.m. This month we will be discussing Lessons in Chemistry. You are not required to attend each meeting and may come and go as you please.

712.330.9572



1121 Brooks Park Drive, PO Box 815, Okoboji, IA 51355 | **712.336.4000** |

**SCAN FOR MORE** 

INFORMATION







The team at Okoboji Motor Company wants to extend a sincere thank you to all of our customers for making 2025 a successful year. This past year has been wonderful, and it wouldn't have been possible without the support of our fantastic community. Your loyalty is the engine that keeps us running!

Whether you visited us for a new ride, a quick service, or just a friendly chat, thank you for choosing Okoboji Motor Company as your automotive home. We are truly honored to be a part of your journey.

We look forward to serving you in the New Year. May 2026 bring you nothing but open roads and happy miles!



HOLIDAY HOURS:
Wednesday, December 31 - 8am - 7pm
Thursday, January 1 - CLOSED
Regular hours the rest of the week





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REGULAR HOURS
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Saturday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
SERVICE HOURS:
Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. • Sat. 8 a.m.-3 p.m













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Lean Cuisine Frozen

**Entrees** 6-10.88 oz.



Selections Frozen \$

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**Skillet Meals** 







Peace Tea Peach 💥



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#### THE LAKES NEWS SHOPPER **Auctions**







As another year comes to a close, many of us find ourselves doing something that feels both natural and necessary: looking back, and looking ahead.

We glance into the rear-view mirror and replay the moments of the past year. The wins and the disappointments. The people who showed up for us, and the times we wished we had shown up better ourselves. At the same time, our eyes drift forward through the windshield, imagining what the next year might hold: the goals we want to achieve, the changes we hope to make, the life we want to live a little more intentionally.

These two actions, gratitude and goal setting, often get treated as separate exercises. One reflective. One aspirational. One about acceptance, the other about ambition.

But they are not opposites. They are, in fact, two sides of the same coin.

Looking back with gratitude is not about nostalgia or selfcongratulation. It is about clarity. When we take an honest look at the past year, we see our actions as they truly were, not as we wish they had been. We see patterns. We see habits that served us well and those that quietly worked against us. We recognize the people and circumstances that helped us move forward, and the moments when perseverance mattered more than talent or luck.

Gratitude brings accuracy to our reflection. It tempers regret and softens judgment. It allows us to say, "This is what happened, and I am thankful for what it taught me."

Looking forward through the windshield serves a different purpose. It is not about prediction; it is about intention. Goals are our way of envisioning who we want to become and how we want to show up. They give direction to our energy and shape to our effort. Without them, we may stay busy but drift aimlessly.

Yet goals that are disconnected from gratitude often miss the mark. When we don't take time to understand what truly mattered in the past year, we risk setting goals that impress others but don't fulfill us. Or goals that are reactive rather than intentional, built from frustration instead of wisdom.

Ralph Waldo Emerson captured this balance beautifully when he wrote, "What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us." The rear-view mirror and the windshield both matter, but they are secondary to what we carry inside: our values, our resilience, our sense of purpose. "What lies within us" is truly our Potential.

When gratitude and goal setting work together, something powerful happens. Gratitude grounds us. Goals stretch us. Gratitude reminds us of our capacity. Goals challenge us to use it more fully.

As you prepare for 2026, consider treating this season not as a hurried transition, but as a deliberate pause. Let your reflection shape your ambition. Let your appreciation inform your aspiration. A rich and rewarding year rarely comes from wanting more; it comes from understanding more. About yourself, your relationships, and the work that truly matters.

Here are five simple actions to help you begin 2026 on the right foot:

- Name the moments that mattered most. Identify three moments from the past year that brought genuine meaning. Not just success, but growth, connection, or clarity. These are clues to what you should protect and expand going forward.
- Acknowledge the lessons, not just the outcomes. Where did things fall short? Instead of assigning blame, ask what those moments taught you about your habits, assumptions, or
- Express gratitude outwardly. Make a point to thank the people who contributed to your journey. Mentors, colleagues, friends, or family. Gratitude strengthens relationships and reminds us that progress is rarely a solo act.
- Set goals that align with who you are becoming. Choose goals that reflect your values, not just your calendar. The best goals stretch you without disconnecting you from what matters most.
- Revisit both gratitude and goals regularly. Don't wait until next December. Build in moments throughout the year to look back, look ahead, and recalibrate.

The year ahead will bring its share of uncertainty, opportunity, and challenge. It always does. But when gratitude and goals travel together, the road feels more purposeful. And the journey

will be more fulfilling. Tony Thelen is an executive coach and founder of The River Coaching & Consulting, based in West Okoboji, Iowa. He works with leaders and organizations seeking clarity, balance, and sustainable performance. His new book, Things We Desire, is available through Amazon and major book retailers. He can be reached at tony@therivercoach.org



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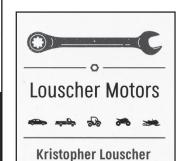


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