



THE LAKES NEWS SHOPPER™



THIS IS YOUR FREE COPY

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2026

VOL/53 NO/14

PO BOX 192 / MILFORD / IOWA 51351 / 712 - 338 - 2232 / LAKESNEWSHOPPER.COM

Pizza Ranch

40 Years ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

THROWBACK TO OUR ORIGINAL 1986 MENU!

BEVERAGES	BUFFET
Pop (glass)	.60
Pop (pitcher)	2.75
Beer (mug)	1.00
Beer (pitcher)	3.75
Milk	.60
Coffee	.40

TUESDAY NIGHT 5:00pm - 7:30pm

PIZZA
Includes Salad Bar 3.99 Drink Extra

PIZZA RANCH PIZZAS

	Italian Sausage	Canadian Bacon	Pepperoni
	Black Olives	Green Olives	Sauerkraut
	Green Pepper	Polish Sausage	Cheese
	Onion	Beef	Bacon Bits
	Pineapple	Mushroom	
Large	10.90	Medium 8.45	Small 5.40
Each add. ing.	Lg. .90	Med. .80	Sm. .70
			Mini .30

HOUSE SPECIALS

	1. The Round Up	12.95 9.95 6.95 2.75
	Beef, pepperoni, onion, mushrooms, sausage & black olives	
	2. The Sweet Swine	11.95 9.40 6.95 2.60
	Canadian bacon & pineapple	
	3. The Texan-Taco	12.95 9.95 6.75 2.75
	Beef, pepperoni, Italian sausage, Polish sausage, Canadian bacon	
	4. Bronco-All Meat	12.95 10.15 7.10 2.75
	Beef, pepperoni, Italian sausage, Polish sausage, Canadian bacon	
	5. The Prairie	12.90 10.15 7.10 2.75
	Black olives, green olives, mushrooms, onion & green peppers	
	6. The Sagebrush	11.95 9.40 6.25 2.60
	Polish sausage & sauerkraut	
	7. The Rancher	11.95 9.40 6.25 2.60
	Canadian bacon & bacon pieces	
	8. The Branding Iron	12.95 10.15 7.10 2.75
	BBQ beef	
	9. The Trail Blazer	12.95 9.95 6.95 2.60
	Pepperoni, sausage, Canadian bacon, mushroom and green pepper	
	10. The Bacon Cheeseburger	12.95 9.95 6.95 2.75
	Beef, onion, 2 cheeses, bacon pieces, & pickles	

MONDAY-FRIDAY ONLY JANUARY 12-16, 2026

Buy 1 Buffet get \$4 OFF 2nd Buffet
\$4 OFF any Large Pizza
\$4 OFF any Medium Pizza
\$4 OFF any 8 piece Chicken
\$4 OFF any 12 piece Chicken

Pizza Ranch 16 oz. aluminum logo collector cup to be given with every buffet purchase!

HAVE YOUR PICTURE TAKEN IN THE PIZZA SLICE!

DINE IN • TO GO • DELIVERY
(Limited Area)
WWW.PIZZARANCH.COM

Pizza Ranch Hwys. 9 & 71 • Spirit Lake 712-336-1419 **ORDER ONLINE**

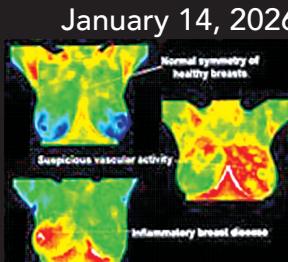




Dixon Family Chiropractic, PC

Chiropractic Care From Our Family to Yours

Join us!
Breast/Full Body Thermography
 January 13 & 14, 2026
7 Systems Weight Loss Informational Meeting
 January 14, 2026



Call for more details!

MLS® LASER THERAPY

The only MLS 7 Laser in Iowa

RESTORE MOBILITY.

PAINLESS • NONSURGICAL • DRUG-FREE RELIEF

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Manage the pain and inflammation of:

- Acute Injuries
- Arthritis & Bursitis
- Back & Neck Pain
- Musculoskeletal Disorders
- Neuropathy
- Occupational & Sports Injuries

MLS® LASER THERAPY

• Planter Fasciitis

• Post-Surgical Recovery

• Sprains & Strains

• Tendon & Ligament Injuries

• Wound Healing

WEEKLY SPECIALS

TUES JANUARY 6
 PARMESAN ENCRUSTED WALLEYE FILLET

FRI, JANUARY 9
 SHRIMP BOIL BUILT FOR SHARING

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7
 BUNCO | 6PM

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16
 LUNCH 4 KIDS FUNDRAISER | 8PM

UPCOMING EVENTS

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JOIN US WINTER GAMES WEEKEND

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22
 BATTLE OF THE BARTENDERS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24
 TEXAS HOLD EM TOURNAMENT | 10AM-2PM
 FUNK-UH-FRIED | 8PM

UPCOMING EVENTS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10
 Jessica McClintock | 8PM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18
 KAROKE W/ JASON GRINNEN | 3-6PM

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WED

HEAR IT. SEE IT. NOW SIT IN LUXURY.

Brand new at Carey's Electronics! Presenting RowOne Seating!



These deluxe home theater seats offer a variety of storage, reclining, table and even lighting features!

Come by and try out one of these beauties today!

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Cheers to 37 Years!

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



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REGULAR HOURS:
SALES HOURS:
Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m.-7 p.m. • Fri. 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
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.

YOUR AGENT!

MARILYN STRICKLAND
Broker - Associate
Hoien Realty

712-336-2790 or 712-320-7070

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Dollar
Producer!**

Hands Down



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Best
in Town!



Page 2B

RECIE CORNER

**Clip this
recipe card
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THE LNS

Grab all the ingredients and more
for this delicious recipe at
CARSTENSEN'S
Meat & Grocery

712-832-3620 • 201 Market Street • Lake Park

Pork with Artichoke Hearts

Serves 4

- Wash and cook rice your preferred method, I use a rice cooker.
- In a large pan over medium heat, brown pork then add onions and dry seasonings.
- After the onions are cooked, add lemon juice, chicken stock, artichoke hearts, and season to taste with ketchup, mustard and steak sauce.
- Bring up to a boil and serve over rice.

Recipe Courtesy of: **Sidney Kiersch**

CARSTENSEN'S Meat & Grocery	Baby Back Pork Ribs \$2.99 Per lb.	Best Choice Red or Gold Potatoes \$2.99 5 lb.	Blue Ribbon Classic Dairy Dessert \$5.99 128 oz.	Armour Meatballs \$3.99 11-14 oz.
---------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------

712-832-3620

201 Market Street

Lake Park



the YMCA
CELEBRATING
175 YEARS

NO PLACE

175 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Like This Place

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

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.

BECOME A BEDELL FAMILY Y MEMBER!

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.

WWW.OKOBOJIYMCA.COM • 712-336-9622

www.facebook.com/okobojiympca

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HARDWOOD • LAMINATE • TILE • VINYL PLANK • CARPET • SHOWERS • BACK SPLASHES • ONYX SHOWERS



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PREMIUM WATERPROOF FLOORS

Flooring Pictured: Longfellow

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Just East of Wal-Mart
712-580-4400
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Mon.-Fri. 8:30am to 6pm,
Sat. 9am to 3pm, Closed Sun.



Largest Showroom in
NW Iowa & SW Minnesota
New Builds • Remodels
Professional Installation
Free Estimates!

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FLOORING



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NEW YEARS SALE Now – January 9th



20% Off
All In-Stock or
Custom Order



**SMITH
BROTHERS
FURNITURE**



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STORE HOURS:
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Sat 9AM - 4PM



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Bring beauty, comfort, and precision to your home with Graber Blinds. Where craftsmanship and innovation come together. Every window treatment is custom-crafted for a perfect fit, offering the ideal balance of light control, privacy, and style. Built to last and designed to impress, Graber Blinds turn ordinary windows into stunning focal points.

BARGEN DESIGN + BUILD

BEAUTIFUL DESIGN | QUALITY CRAFTSMANSHIP | EXCELLENT SERVICE

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2188
COMMERCIAL COMPLEX



WINTER GAMES

DRAKE'S • 2188 SCHEDULE

22 JAN



LAUGH LOAKAL
THURSDAY, JAN 22

COREY KNOX ANNIE LEDERMAN MIKE YOUNG

4 PM • COMICS ARRIVE TO ENJOY DRINKS WITH LOAKALS!
7 PM • BOON & LAMBERT
9 PM • COMEDY:
- COREY KNOX
- MIKE YOUNG
- ANNIE LEDERMAN
11:30 PM • BOON & LAMBERT

23 JAN



LOAKAL MUSIC
FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

5 PM • BRIANNA HELBLING
8 PM • DAMON DOTSON
11 PM • CASEY MUESSIGMANN

24 JAN



SATURDAY 1/24
LOAKAL COMEDY BRUNCH & MUSIC

COREY KNOX ERIK GRIFFIN MIKE YOUNG
BRIANNA HELBLING CASEY MUESSIGMANN

11 AM • COMEDY BRUNCH
- COREY KNOX
- MIKE YOUNG
- ERIK GRIFFIN
2-5 PM • BRIANNA HELBLING
6-9 PM • CASEY MUESSIGMANN

ALL-WEEKEND LOAKALS PASS \$75

FOOD & DRINKS - EASY PARKING - LOUNGE SEATING

OAK HILL OUTDOOR - 2188 COMMERCIAL COMPLEX
INTERSECTION OF 71 & 86 - NORTH MILFORD
www.oakhillmarina.com



Games • Jewelry • Cards • Puzzles • Baby • Books • Entire Upstairs for Kids

Barn Swallow

Winter Sale!

OPEN: Monday - Sunday • 10am - 5:30pm

20% OFF ALL Woobles & Wall Art!

40% OFF ALL Christmas!

20% OFF ALL Sweatshirts & Tees!

Tom Gustafson Okoboji Puzzles Have Arrived!
ONLY AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT BARN SWALLOW!

Hwy. 71, Okoboji, IA • 712.332.7752 [f](#)



Winter Games Bridge Tournament

Calling all bridge players! It's time to register for the Annual Winter Games Bridge Tournament being planned for Friday, January 23, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Milford.

Doors will open at 11:00am. A soup and sandwich luncheon will be served promptly at 11:30am with party bridge to begin by 12 noon or so. Afternoon refreshments will be served. Door prizes will be awarded. Cost will be \$15 per person.

Reservations by Wednesday, January 21, are required so an accurate count for food and bridge can be obtained. Make reservations by calling Susan at 712-338-2274 or e-mailing her at sreiser@milfordcable.net. Singles or couples are encouraged to participate.

NEW YEAR - NEW RIDE!

Check out these High-Value Carts!

2022 E-Z-GO, gas, rear seat	\$6,450
2022 Club Car, gas	\$7,250
2020 Yamaha, gas	\$4,950
2018 Yamaha, gas, rear seat	\$4,650
2016 Yamaha, gas	\$3,350

Call us now for your 2026 seasonal rental!

• Seasonal Rentals • Weekly and Weekend Rentals

C&R NEW and USED GOLF CARTS
Sales and Service
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309 Okoboji Ave., Milford south end of Milford



Del's GARDEN CENTER

Winter Farmers Market



Saturdays 10am-1pm
Fresh Produce & 30 Other Vendors

Hot Mamas: All About Hormones at rebe

Winter Games Weekend
Saturday, January 24
8:30am - 10:30am

- 8:30am: Light Breakfast & Beverages
- 9:00am: Women's Hormone Replacement Therapy with Dr. Julie Hamann
- 10:00am: Q & A

biote
Hormone Therapy
• Increase Energy • Balance Mood
• Improve Your Sleep

rebeyou.com | 3301 HWY. 71 Spirit Lake, IA | Dr. Ronald Kolegraff, MD, FACS • Dr. Julie Hamann, MD

Botox® | Face Lifts | Breast Surgery | Fillers | Skin Checks | Liposuction | Laser Face Peels | Varicose Veins & Much More

BOGO 40% OFF
Minimum purchase of 4

+ \$200 OFF Your Entire Purchase
Minimum purchase of 4

ENDS 3/31

855-502-6514



Obituary

Dennis Lou Naatjes died in his sleep on New Year's Eve 2025, at the age of 79. Dennis was born in Canton, South Dakota, on May 9, 1946. He was the son of Erma (Heerde) and Lou Naatjes. He ended up moving to Northwest Iowa and graduated from Milford High School. He enlisted in the Artillery Army National Guard in 1964 and served for 6 years.

He spent most of his adult life working at Morton Buildings and being a police officer most notably in Everly. He eventually moved to Montana with his love, Betty "Betts" Gillman where he was a Sheriff's Deputy until he retired. After Betty died, his boys moved him back to Spencer in 2023 and then Spirit Lake after the flood.

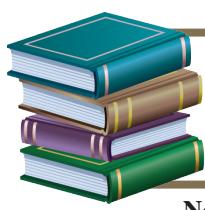
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Lakes Area Activity/Senior Center

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

EVENTS: UPCOMING BREAKFAST

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



WINTER GAMES CARD PARTY SATURDAY, JANUARY 24
Registration 8:30am - Card Playing at 9am

SERVED
AT
NOON

SIGN UP FOR DINNER DATE MEALS!
Reserve your meal for next week
Low Cost: \$7-\$10 Donation

12 Monday

Beef Stew
Fruit
Bread

13 Tuesday

Salisbury Steak
Vegetable
Fruit & Bread

14 Wednesday

Chicken & Rice
Casserole
Vegetable
Fruit & Bread

15 Thursday

Ham Loaf
Vegetable
Fruit & Bread

16 Friday

Taco Salad
Fruit
Bread

PLEASE CALL 712-336-5247 BY 1:00 PM FRIDAY TO RESERVE A MEAL FOR NEXT WEEK

Dinners are provided by CARSTENSEN'S of Lake Park. Meals are available for those 60 and older (and their spouse regardless of age)

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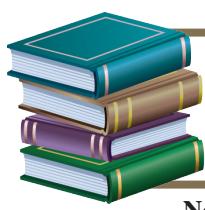
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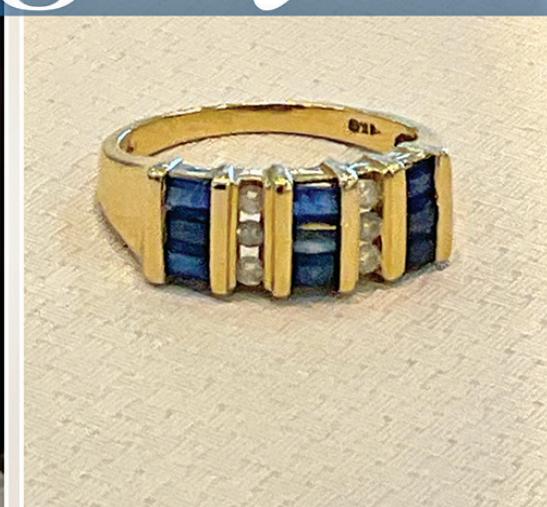
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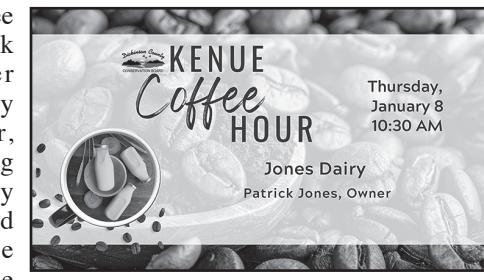
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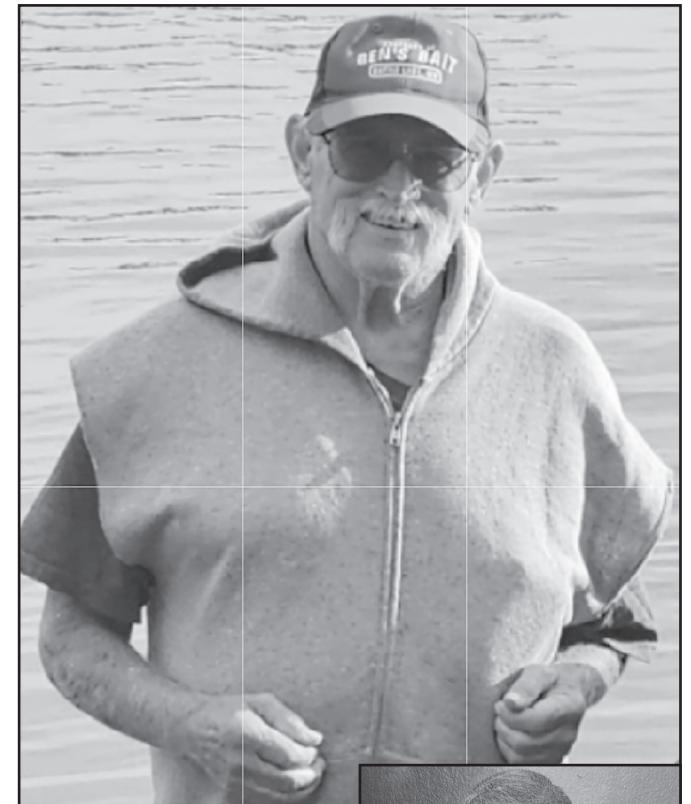
DCNC Kenu Coffee Hour

Take some cream with your coffee? Adults are invited to stop by Maser Monarch Lodge on Thursday, January 8th, at 10:30 a.m. for Kenu Coffee Hour. Patrick Jones, owner of Jones Dairy near Spencer, will be speaking about the family business and some of the sustainable practices they use on the farm.



Thursday,
January 8
10:30 AM

Jones Dairy
Patrick Jones, Owner



Kenu Coffee Hour is a free adult program hosted by the Dickinson County Nature Center on the first Thursday of the month. Attendees can look forward to a relaxed space to connect with others interested in learning about conservation and outdoor-related topics.

"Enjoy coffee on us at our coffee bar and have a great chat with a neighbor," said Amy Heibl, community relations coordinator of the Dickinson County Conservation Board.

Registration is not required to attend the event. To find other events at the Dickinson County Nature Center, visit www.dickinsoncountyconservationboard.com under the Programs/Events tab or follow on Facebook and Instagram.

80th Birthday Announcement

Jim Fliss is turning 80 on January 8, 2026. Please help family celebrate Jim by sending your cards and greeting to: 1245 215th Avenue, Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360.



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Community Table

All are Welcome to a **FREE MEAL**

2nd Thursday of each month all year

Next Dinner

Thursday, January 8

5:30-6:30

Doors open at 5:15

Located at Okoboji Bible Conference Center

This Month Hosted
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Anniversary Announcement

Bernard and Marlene Kelley will be celebrating their 75th Anniversary on Wednesday, January 14, 2026. Their family would like you to join them in celebrating their anniversary by sending a card to: Bernard and Marlene Kelley, Ruthven Community Care Center, PO Box 430, Apt. 10, Ruthven, IA 51358.

VFW BREAKFAST

Sunday, Jan. 11
8:00 am to 12:30 pm

— PUBLIC WELCOME —

SERVING:
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Eggs • Sausage • Coffee • Juice

VFW Post 3159
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WINTER HOURS: TUES. - SAT. 5PM-CLOSE

New! Dinner Date Gift Certificates

You can now purchase gift certificates for your loved ones for Dinner Date Meals at The Lakes Area Activity/Senior Center. Gift certificates are donation based, with a suggested amount of \$7-\$10 for each meal, whichever is fair and affordable. Your loved one then just needs to call for a reservation for the noon meal at least 24 hours in advance and present the gift certificate when they come in to eat.

What better gift than to share a "home cooked" meal with friends? Gift Certificates make great gifts.

Meals are available for those 60 and older (and their spouses regardless of age) with a confidential, voluntary contribution. Meals are catered by Carstensen's Meat & Grocery out of Lake Park.

Word Search Puzzle Key from page 6A

Y	J	T	F	E	C	V	E	O	K	L	P	C	M	D	A
G	I	P	T	E	S	U	R	T	M	A	W	L	D	R	R
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T	W	E	C	T	B	A	C	B	O	A	R	D	Y	S	D

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9/7/2025 - 5/24/2026

SUNDAY

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11:00 AM

FELLOWSHIP
9:30 AM

EDUCATION
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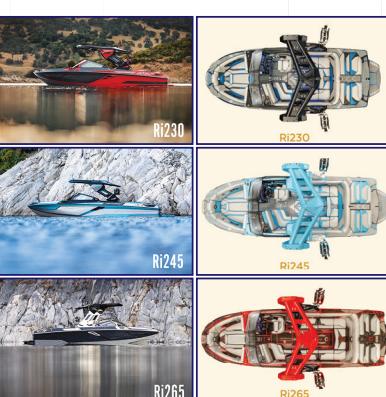
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Community Table Hosts Free Monthly Dinner to Support Local Neighbors

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 at the Okoboji Bible Conference Center located at 45 S. Hwy 71, Arnolds Park, Iowa. Doors will open to the public at 5:15 PM, with dinner served from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM.

The event is hosted and sponsored this month by Downtown Church.



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Lake Park Mobile Food Pantry

The Food Bank of Iowa Mobile Food Pantry will be open for distribution on Thursday, January 8, 2026, from 4:30 - 6:30pm, 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.



FREE FOOD

View From The Bench

by John Adams, Jr.

Ding-Dong, the Streak is Dead!

Iowa entered the ReliaQuest Bowl on December 31st with a dark cloud hanging over their program of not beating a ranked team since October 9, 2021, going 0-12 against ranked foes during that streak. The #23 Hawkeyes had a chance to end that four plus year streak on the final day of 2025 in Tampa, FL, as they took on #14 Vanderbilt. This game was tabbed as one of the better non-College Football Playoff bowl games, along with the Pop Tarts Bowl, of the Bowl Season, and it did not disappoint. Vanderbilt entered the game as the only SEC team with a 10-2 record who didn't make the CFP, with their two losses coming on the road to Alabama and Texas. Iowa entered the game at 8-4 with their four losses coming by a combined 15 points. Vanderbilt would normally be an underdog who fans would cheer for, however their quarterback, Diego Pavia had run his mouth on social media and out in New York clubs about how he deserved the Heisman, and trashing the Big 10 after finishing second in the Heisman Trophy voting to Indiana's Fernando Mendoza, and had turned much of the nation into Hawkeye fans on this New Year's Eve Day.

Iowa started the game strong, taking their first drive down the field and scoring on a Kamari Moulton four-yard run to take a 7-0 lead. Iowa was primed to go up 14-0 with a first and goal at the Vandy three-yard line but a Mark Gronowski pass ricochet off Reece Vander Zee and was intercepted by Vanderbilt in the end zone. The Hawkeye defense, however, did a fantastic job of holding Pavia and the Commodores in check, limiting them to just one field goal in the first half, while sacking Pavia four times. Iowa would take advantage of a huge special teams' error by Vanderbilt when the Commodores would have an illegal punt that gave the Hawks the ball at the Vandy 10 yard-line late in the first half. Mark Gronowski hit Reece Vander Zee on the very next play for a touchdown to give Iowa a huge momentum swing and a 14-3 halftime lead.

The Hawkeyes took what appeared to be a commanding lead on a trick play when Gronowski handed the ball off to Moulton, who gave it to Kaden Wetjen, who then pitched it back to Gronowski; the Iowa quarterback then hit DJ Vonnahme for a 21-yard touchdown to give the Hawks a 21-3 lead with 8:50 left in the third quarter. This is when the game however got very interesting. Vanderbilt would score on their very next offensive play, with Pavia hitting Tre Richardson for a 75-yard pass that gave the Commodores life and pulled them within 11. The Hawkeyes would answer with a nice drive that ended with a Drew Stevens 47-yard field goal to push the lead to 24-10. Pavia would trim that lead to 24-17 late in the third quarter with a 10-yard TD pass to Joseph McVay. Every time it appeared Vanderbilt captured momentum, Gronowski and Iowa would snatch it back with an impressive drive. This next one ended with another push-pull Gronowski one-yard TD run to "push" Iowa to a 31-17 lead. Vanderbilt, however, would not go away, as they would quickly march down the field and score two minutes later on a Pavia 11-yard TD run to cut the lead to 31-24. Another impressive Iowa drive that chewed up seven minutes ended with another Stevens field goal to make it a two-possession game with just 4:17 left. Vanderbilt would make it 34-27 with 2:57 left, but was unable to recover a pooch kick, and Iowa ran the clock out with another dominant performance by their offensive line, which was named the Joe Moore Offensive Line of the Year just the week before.

This was a very impressive win for Iowa, as Vanderbilt had most of their main players playing with just a couple of opt-outs, and both teams treated this game like a playoff game. Gronowski played his best game of the season, throwing for 212 yards with two passing touchdowns and one rushing touchdown, while showing incredible accuracy all game. Northwest Iowa's Reece Vander Zee and DJ Vonnahme were his favorite targets, combining for 11 catches for 179 yards and two touchdowns. Much like the Nebraska win, this was another "culture" win for Iowa. Several national reporters who were around the Iowa program for the first time commented on how impressed they were with Iowa's strong culture and how close everyone in the program is to each other. I hope Iowa fans appreciate what they have in Kirk Ferentz, a truly loyal coach who passed up countless opportunities when he was younger to leave for NFL jobs or "better" college jobs to remain at Iowa. The Iowa "culture" is a real thing that you should never take for granted. Ask your Cyclone football friends how much fun this last month has been for them when a coach leaves. The Hawkeyes rarely have players who opt-out of bowl games, who transfer for more NIL money, who get into trouble, or who make a mess of themselves like Pavia did after he lost out on the Heisman. Ferentz and his staff not only win football games at a high level, they are teaching their players to be incredible young men, who will be great husbands and fathers, which at the core, is truly the job of college coaches, and I don't know anyone who has done that better than Kirk Ferentz.

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BINGO in Lake Park

The Lake Park Friends of the Museum will be holding BINGO on Saturday, January 17, at the Lake Park Community Center. Doors will open at 5:30pm; bingo will begin at 6:00pm. There will be a cash payout. Funds will go to the Heritage square Reimagined Project.



Dance in Brewster

Fun Time Dance is sponsoring a dance, Saturday, January 10th, 7:00-10:30pm., at the American Legion, Brewster, MN. Music by CRS. Open to the public. Singles/couples welcome.



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

Tues., Jan. 31 - 9:30 AM-
Large coin auction in Spirit Lake, IA. Auctioneer: Toering. 712-395-0165.

Tues., Feb. 3 - 10:30 AM-
3 tract land auction in Dickinson Co., IA. Auctioneers: Zomer Company Land Management. 712-470-2526. www.zomercompany.com.

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.



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.



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DAILY SPECIALS at 11am

DAILY SPECIALS

- Wed., Jan. 7: Pan Fried Chicken Black & Bleu Burger
- Thur., Jan. 8: Bourbon Burger Meatloaf
- Fri., Jan. 9: Country Fried Steak Hawaiian Chicken
- Mon., Jan. 12: Hot Beef Taco Salad
- Tues., Jan. 13: CLOSED

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Fish Fry • 10 oz. Ribeye

Saturday Night Special

Prime Rib • Grilled Walleye

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"MAKE ME SMILE"

JULY 19
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STARRING PETER NOONE
"MRS. BROWN, YOU GOT A LOVELY DAUGHTER"
"I'M HENRY VIII, I AM"

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Super Sunday Rib Fest
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Lakes Area Activity/Senior Center Schedule

Tuesday, January 6
8:30 - Kiwanis
12:00 - Dinner Date
12:30 - Dinner Date
Speaker: Nature Center
12:30 - Bridge

Wednesday, January 7
9:00 - Exercise Class
12:00 - Dinner Date

Thursday, January 8
10:00 - Strummers

11:00 - Tai Chi

12:00 - Dinner Date

1:00 - 500 Cards

3:00 - Cribbage

4:00 - Zumba

5:30 - Singles Group

Friday, January 9
9:00 - Exercise Class

10:00 - Chair Yoga

12:00 - Dinner Date

Saturday, January 10
Reserved

Sunday, January 11
9:00 - Church/Card Room

Monday, January 12
9:00 - Exercise

12:00 - Dinner Date

1:00 - Mahjong

Tuesday, January 13
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. 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. Join us for our upcoming Breakfast Fundraiser January 18, 8:30am - noon. The Lakes Area Activity/Senior Center is located at 2101 Zenith Ave in Spirit Lake.

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SAT 1/10 1:00, 4:30 & 7:30
SUN 1/11 1:00, 4:10 & 7:30
MON-WED 1/12-14 6:40



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FIRE AND DASH
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WED-THUR 1/7-8 6:00
FRI 1/9 3:40 & 6:30
SAT 1/10 12:40, 3:30 & 6:50
SUN 1/11 12:15, 3:30 & 6:30
MON-WED 1/12-14 6:15



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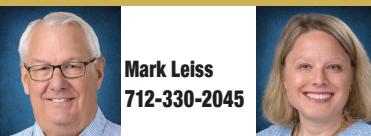
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Many Voices Choir to Start Spring Rehearsals

Many Voices Choir, the premier community chorale of Northwest Iowa, is now welcoming local vocalists for their upcoming spring season. This season's repertoire will feature a variety of show tunes, jazz, and traditional places including a special patriotic tribute. If you love to sing, now is a great time to join them!

Rehearsals will start on Monday, January 12, 7:00pm, at the ILCC Estherville Campus Choir Room. New and existing members are encouraged to attend. Music for the spring concerts will be distributed. Rehearsals will be held weekly on Monday evenings from 7:00 - 9:00pm.

For more information, contact Tim Schumacher at 712-209-0202 or visit our website at <https://sites.google.com/view/nwiowamanyvoiceschoir/home>

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.



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 water heater,
 new plumbing,
 windows, flooring

Call 712-331-1583
 if interested!

Milford Memorial Library News

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

- 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

On Monday, January 12, at 7:00 p.m., in the Milford Community Center, you are invited to an author book talk with New York Times author Nicole Baart. Nicole

will discuss her newly released book titled Where He Left Me, she will answer audience questions, and sign books. 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. This is a free event sponsored by the Friends of the Milford Memorial Library, Arnolds Park Public Library, and the SpiritLake Public Library.

MML's Young Adult (4th-12th graders) Maker Monday, will be held on Monday, January 19, from 9:30 A.M. until 4:00 p.m.

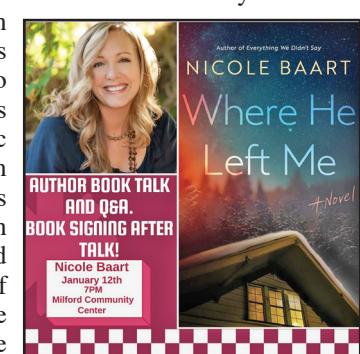
They will be creating a mini canvas snowman. This is a free come and go event. All materials will be provided by the library.

On Monday, January 19, from 11:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., join MML for All-Day Play. Discover new and exciting toys while having fun with friends. This is a come-and-go playtime. All toys are supplied by the library.

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.

Join us for MML's CRAFTER Hours on Wednesday, January 21, from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. This month we will be making a folded book gnome. We will have materials available. The cost is \$5. Register now by calling MML at 338-4643.



AUTHOR BOOK TALK AND Q&A, BOOK SIGNING AFTER TRIVIA
 Nicole Baart January 12th 7PM
 Milford Community Center

attend each meeting and may come and go as you please.

Join us for MML's CRAFTER Hours on Wednesday, January 21, from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. This month we will be making a folded book gnome. We will have materials available. The cost is \$5. Register now by calling MML at 338-4643.

Spencer Hospital Birth Center Welcomes First Baby of the New Year

Spencer Hospital's Birth Center didn't wait long to welcome the first baby of the New Year. Kyden Finley Heath arrived at 1:19 a.m. on January 1, 2026, earning him the distinction of being Spencer Hospital's first baby of 2026.

Kyden was born to Kyla Heath of Spencer. "I made a joke about him being the New Year's baby, but was shocked when it became a reality," Kyla shared.

Kyden weighed 7 pounds, 11 ounces, and measured 20.5 inches long at birth. Kyla chose Kyden's middle name, Finley, as a meaningful tribute to his great-grandfather, whose middle name was also Finley.

The delivery went smoothly, and Kyden was delivered by Dr. Amy Jochims of Avera Medical Group Spencer at the Spencer Hospital Birth Center.

Kyden is welcomed home by his mother, Kyla Heath of Spencer, his grandmother Carmen Heath, and his siblings Noah, Nevaeh, Novah, Alexandria, and Izabella.

In honor of being Spencer Hospital's first baby of 2026, Kyden received a special gift basket from Spencer Hospital Auxiliary Gift Shop volunteers. The basket included baby items such as books, toys, a baby's first holiday blanket, and more.

Spencer Hospital's Birth Center is proud to help families welcome new life and celebrate special milestones like the first baby of the New Year.

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.

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2026 CHEVROLET SILVERADO 1500 LT
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Inspiration for Our Day- "Arise, shine for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you. See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and his glory appears over you." ~ Isaiah 60:1-2

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Best Choice Fresh Large White Eggs **\$2.29**
Dozen **-2.29**
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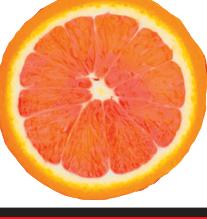
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SUNNY DEAL! 

California Cara Cara Oranges
3 lb. **\$3.98**

NEW CROP!



SUNNY DEAL! 

Texas Red Grapefruit
3 lb. **\$4.48**



SUNNY DEAL! 

New Crop California Navel Oranges
Per lb. **\$1.28**



DIGITAL DEAL! 

Best Choice Red Potatoes
5 lb. **\$3.98**
-1.00
\$2.98

DIGITAL COUPON LIMIT OF 2 COUPON USES

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SUNNY DEAL! 

Fresh Green Cabbage
Per lb. **78¢**



SUNNY DEAL! 

Best Choice Fruit Cups
4 Pk. Mandarin Oranges, Peaches or Diced Pears
2/\$5



SUNNY DEAL! 

Ripe Avocados
Each **68¢**



SUNNY DEAL! 

Cosmic Crisp Apples
Per lb. **\$1.98**



SUNNY DEAL! 

Fresh Florida Strawberries
1 lb. **\$3.98**



SUNNY DEAL! 

Crisp Green Peppers
Each **88¢**



SUNNY DEAL! 

Fresh Acorn, Spaghetti, Buttercup, or Butternut Squash
Per lb. **98¢**



SUNNY DEAL! 

Best Choice Apple Sauce Cups
6 Pk. **2/\$5**



SUNNY DEAL! 

Prairie Fresh Whole Boneless Pork Loins
Per lb. **\$2.49**



SUNNY DEAL! 

Country Style Pork Ribs Boneless, USDA Inspected, Per lb.
\$2.49



SUNNY DEAL! 

Pork Spare Ribs Bone-In, USDA Inspected, Per lb.
\$2.99



SUNNY DEAL! 

Chicken Drumsticks Grade A, Family Pack, Per lb.
\$1.29



SUNNY DEAL! 

Tyson Chicken Wings 2.5 lb. Bags **\$6.99**



SUNNY DEAL! 

Johnsonville Fresh Bratwursts
19 oz. **\$5.99**



SUNNY DEAL! 

Smokin' Boji BBQ

Smoked Pulled Pork **\$7.99**
Per lb.
Smoked Pulled Pork with Sauce **\$6.99**
Per lb.

Smoked Pork Loin Chops **\$6.99**
Per lb.
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SUNNY DEAL! 

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SUNNY DEAL! 

Beef Chuck Roasts USDA Choice, Per lb.
\$5.99



SUNNY DEAL! 

Sunshine's Own 80% Lean Ground Beef Family Pack, Per lb.
\$4.99



SUNNY DEAL! 

Farmland Sliced Bacon
1 lb. **\$5.99**



SUNNY DEAL! 

Land O' Frost Premium Mega Packs
22 oz. **\$6.99**



SUNNY DEAL! 

Tyson Cooked Chicken Nuggets, Patties or Popcorn Chicken
24-32 oz. **\$5.99**



SUNNY DEAL! 

Bob Evans Assorted Side Dishes
12-20 oz. **\$3.49**



SUNNY DEAL! 

Laughing Cow Cheese Wedges
15.4 oz. Var. **\$3.99**



SUNNY DEAL! 

Prairie Farms Premium Snack Dips
16 oz. Var. **\$1.99**



SUNNY DEAL! 

Slice Soda 12 oz. Can **5/\$10**

MUST BUY 5 or \$2.50 Each



SUNNY DEAL! 

Best Choice Sparkling Water 33.8 oz. Bottles **88¢**



SUNNY DEAL! 

Stonefire Original Mini Naan 7.05 oz. **\$2.49**



SUNNY DEAL! 

Toufayan Pita Bread 12 oz. White, Wheat, or Multigrain **\$1.99**



DIGITAL DEAL! 

Best Choice Superior Selections Granola 11 oz. Oats and Honey or Vanilla Almond **2/\$6**
-1.00
2/\$5

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SUNNY DEAL! 

Best Choice Premium Peanut Butter 16 oz. Creamy or Chunky **\$1.77**

ADDITIONAL DIGITAL COUPON ON APP!



SUNNY DEAL! 

Best Choice Premium Microwave Popcorn 3 Ct. Var. **\$1.99**



SUNNY DEAL! 

Old Dutch Crunch Kettle Chips Pre-Priced \$4.99 Var. **2/\$7**



SUNNY DEAL! 

Frito-Lay Doritos 6-10.75 oz. **2/\$7**



SUNNY DEAL! 

Nabisco Family Size Cookies or Crackers 8-19.5 oz. **\$4.88**



DIGITAL DEAL! 

Clyde's Donut Holes 12 Ct. Var. **\$2.99**
-50¢
\$2.49

DIGITAL COUPON LIMIT OF 2 COUPON USES

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SUNNY DEAL! 

Mrs. Butterworth's Syrup 24 oz. **\$3.99**



SUNNY DEAL! 

Lotta Motta Personal Pizza 9", Bellatoria Sunday Brunch Breakfast Pizza, or Sweetee-Pie 2/\$9

DIGITAL COUPON LIMIT OF 1 COUPON USE

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DIGITAL DEAL! 

Best Choice Premium Frozen Ravioli or Tortellini 19-20 oz. **4.99**
-1.00
\$3.99

DIGITAL COUPON LIMIT OF 1 COUPON USE

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SUNNY DEAL! 

Father's Table Two Slice Cheesecake 6 oz. Strawberry Swirl or NY Style **\$3.99**



SUNNY DEAL! 

Yoplait GoGurt 8 Ct. or 16 oz. **2/\$5**



SUNNY DEAL! 

Charmin Bath Tissue 8-12 Roll or Bounty Paper Towels 6 Roll **\$14.99**



DIGITAL DEAL! 

Pure Wonder by Best Choice Cat Food 3 lb. Complete or Indoor **\$4.99**
-1.00
\$3.99

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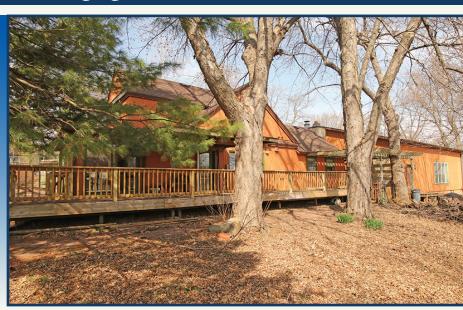
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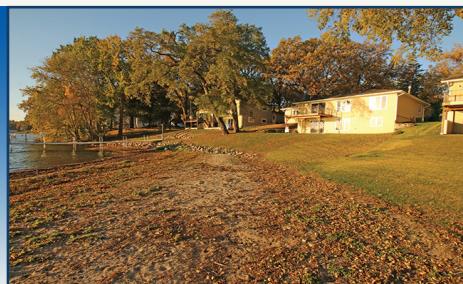
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TONY THELEN

Drifting doesn't feel dangerous, at least not at first. The water is calm. The sun is out. The shoreline looks familiar enough. When the current is gentle, drifting can even feel restful. But drift long enough, and you eventually end up somewhere you never intended to be.

The same is true in life.

Most people don't set out to live a life that feels misaligned, rushed, or unfulfilling. It happens quietly. We say yes too often. We react instead of choose. We let other people's expectations shape our calendars, our priorities, and sometimes even our sense of success. Before we know it, we're busy, but not necessarily heading anywhere that matters to us.

On the contrary, a fulfilling life rarely happens by accident. It is steered.

When I think about steering, I think about a lighthouse. A lighthouse doesn't control the water. It doesn't eliminate storms. It doesn't guarantee smooth sailing. What it does provide is direction. A steady point of reference off in the distance when visibility is low and conditions change.

Without a lighthouse, you drift. With one, you navigate.

Living intentionally doesn't require a dramatic reinvention or a perfectly detailed plan. It requires choosing a direction and being just assertive enough to keep adjusting toward it. As a new year begins, here are five simple, but critical, steps to help stop drifting and start steering.

1. Name what success really means to you.

If you don't define success for yourself, someone else will do it for you. Titles, income, and productivity are easy to measure, but they are incomplete metrics. Take time to articulate what success looks like across your life: your work, your finances, your relationships, your health, and your inner well-being. Clarity creates direction. This can be really hard to do, but it is the most important in my mind.

2. Choose one lighthouse, not ten.

Too many goals create noise. One clear direction creates momentum. A lighthouse isn't a rigid destination; it's a guiding reference. Ask yourself, What matters most right now? Focus on the one thing that, if improved, would make the rest of your life feel more aligned. Some people call these cornerstone goals – those goals that if accomplished lead to much more success. Others may call this a "north star" goal – a goal that is so worthy it will lift up the rest of your life. Whatever you call it – find something important to place on your horizon today.

3. Be assertive with your time and energy.

Drift often begins with an unguarded calendar. Every "yes" is a quiet "no" to something else. Being assertive doesn't mean being selfish – it means being intentional. Protect time for what matters. Say no without apology. Design your days instead of surrendering them to constant reaction. While you are at it, make sure you manage both your time and your energy. Without the right energy it may not matter how well you manage your time.

4. Make small course corrections often.

You don't need to overhaul your life in January. Small, consistent adjustments matter more than bold declarations. A slight turn of the wheel, applied day after day, changes the destination entirely. Progress is rarely dramatic, but it is powerful. Over time you will feel the difference.

5. Check your heading before you check your speed.

We often measure our lives by how busy we are. Speed feels productive. But speed without direction only gets you lost faster. Before asking how fast you're moving, ask where you're headed. Activity aligned with purpose creates fulfillment. Activity without it creates exhaustion. Don't lean your ladder of your life on the wrong building – make sure you know where you want to go before you take off.

The start of a new year doesn't demand perfection. It asks for intention. The river will always move. Currents will shift. Storms will come and go. But the choice to steer – to live by design rather than by default – remains ours.

You don't need to control the water. You simply need a lighthouse – and the strength, and will, to take the wheel.

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



As we celebrate the New Year, we find ourselves reflecting on the incredible journey of the last 52 years. Serving this community through The Lakes News Shopper has been such an honor, and we are so proud to be a part of your weekly routine.

We want to extend our deepest gratitude to:

Our Local Business Partners: Thank you for your steadfast support. It is through your loyalty and trust that we are able to keep our community connected and informed.

Our Loyal Readers: Thank you for reading our paper every single week. Your enthusiasm for what we do is why we are still here five decades later.

From our family to yours, we wish you a joyful holiday filled with warmth, laughter, and peace. We look forward to many more years of serving you!

Warmly,
John and Michelle, Owners
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RENTALS

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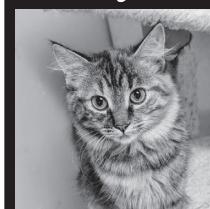
3 bedroom, 1.5 bath home with oversized, attached single garage! Located near Gilbert Park in Spirit Lake. Lots of recent updates, appliances included, move-in-ready! Contact Keith at Lakeland Realty of Iowa, 712-330-5155. **4-16C**

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

PETS

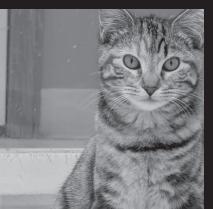
PETS

They Need A Home, Too!



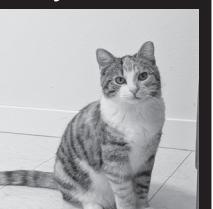
Ramona -

is a female domestic long hair.



Flora -

is a female domestic short hair.



Musa -

is a female domestic short hair.

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