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ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATIONS

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1986



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MONDAY-FRIDAY ONLY JANUARY 12-16, 2026

Pizza Ranch

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!



THROWBACK TO OUR ORIGINAL 1986 MENU!

BEVERAGES	BUFFET
Pop (glass)	5:00pm - 7:30pm
Pop (pitcher)	PIZZA
Beer (mug)	Includes Salad Bar
Beer (pitcher)	3.99 Drink Extra
Milk	
Coffee	



THE
PIZZA RANCH

PIZZA RANCH PIZZAS

Italian Sausage Black Olives Green Pepper Onion Pineapple	Canadian Bacon Green Olives Polish Sausage Beef Mushroom	Pepperoni Sauerkraut Cheese Bacon Bits
Large 10.90 • Medium 8.45 • Small 5.40 • Mini 2.20		
Each add. ing.: Lg. .90 • Med. .80 • Sm. .70 • Mini .30		

HOUSE SPECIALS

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



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PICTURE
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Thank you to all
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employees who have
helped support us for
the past 40 years!

Ray Villalobos



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Pizza Ranch

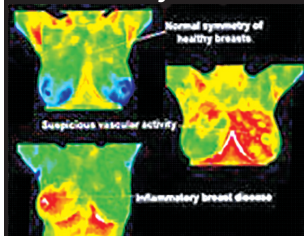
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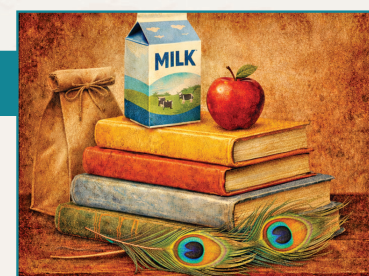
FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

FEATURING LIVE MUSIC WITH DECOY!

Doors Open at 4pm | Entertainment 8pm



CHRIS & MICAH
FROM
decoy



\$20 Cover with ALL Proceeds Donated!
Help us CLEAR Student Debt for
Spirit Lake & Okoboji Schools.

WEEKLY SPECIALS

TUES JANUARY 6

PARMESAN ENCRUSTED
WALLEYE FILLET

FRI, JANUARY 9

SHRIMP BOIL
BUILT FOR SHARING

THUR, JANUARY 8

\$2.00 OFF ANY FLATBREADS
FEATURING SAUSAGE FETA HONEY & LOADED STEAK
MUSHROOM AND RED PEPPER

SAT, JANUARY 10

PRIME RIB DINNER & FEATURED DRINKS:
PINK SQUIRREL & GRASSHOPPERS

UPCOMING EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7

BUNCO | 6PM

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16

LUNCH 4 KIDS FUNDRAISER | 8PM

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10

Jessica McClintock | 8PM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

KARAOKE W/ JASON GRINNEN | 3-6PM

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

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

Jessie Wilson | 8PM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

TEXAS HOLD EM TOURNAMENT | 10AM-2PM

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Hands Down



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RECIPE CORNER

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Pork with Artichoke Hearts

Serves 4

4 boneless pork chops, cubed

1 can artichokes, drained

Juice of 3 lemons

1/2 large yellow onion, diced

1 box chicken stock

wet seasonings: ketchup, mustard, steak sauce

dry seasonings: seasoned salt, garlic powder, onion powder & black pepper

2 cups of white rice for serving

1. Wash and cook rice your preferred method, I use a rice cooker.

2. In a large pan over medium heat, brown pork then add onions and dry seasonings.

3. After the onions are cooked, add lemon juice, chicken stock, artichoke hearts, and season to taste with ketchup, mustard and steak sauce.

4. Bring up to a boil and serve over rice.

Recipe Courtesy of: **Sidney Kiersch**



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

QR code and Facebook link



Page 2B



CELEBRATING 175 YEARS

NO PLACE 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.

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ALL Woobles
& Wall Art!**

**40% OFF
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OAK HILL

Marina

BOAT SHOW

ALL WEEKEND

AT 2188!

22

JAN



LAUGH LOAKAL

THURSDAY, JAN 22

COREY KNOX

ANNIE LEDERMAN

MIKE YOUNG

THURSDAY LAUGH LOAKAL

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

✓ \$50 LAUGH LOAKAL PASS

23

JAN



LOAKAL MUSIC

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

COREY KNOX

BRIANNA HELBLING

CASEY MUESSIGMANN

FRIDAY LOAKAL MUSIC

5 PM • BRIANNA HELBLING

8 PM • DAMON DOTSON

11 PM • CASEY MUESSIGMANN

✓ \$20 LOAKAL MUSIC PASS

24

JAN



SATURDAY 1/24

LOAKAL COMEDY BRUNCH & MUSIC

COREY KNOX

ERIK GRIFFIN

MIKE YOUNG

BRIANNA HELBLING

CASEY MUESSIGMANN

SATURDAY COMEDY BRUNCH & MUSIC

11 AM • COMEDY BRUNCH

- COREY KNOX

- MIKE YOUNG

- ERIK GRIFFIN

2-5 PM • BRIANNA HELBLING

6-9 PM • CASEY MUESSIGMANN

✓ \$50 BRUNCH & MUSIC PASS

ALL-WEEKEND LOAKALS PASS \$75

FOOD & DRINKS - EASY PARKING - LOUNGE SEATING

OAK HILL OUTDOOR - 2188 COMMERCIAL COMPLEX

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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 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

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309 Okoboji Ave., Milford south end of Milford



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Local Beef & Pork
Pickled Produce
Homemade Crafts & Quilts
Christmas Cards & Decor
Jewelry & Hand Painted Art
Health Foods & Wines
Buffalo Sticks & Jerky
Goat Soap & More

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

The graphic has a solid green background. At the top left, the word "BOGO" is written in large, bold, black capital letters. Below it, "40% OFF" is written in even larger, bold, black capital letters. Underneath that, in smaller black font, is "Minimum purchase of 4". A horizontal white line separates this from the next section. In the second section, a large black plus sign "+" is followed by "\$200 OFF" in very large, bold, black capital letters. Below that, "Your Entire Purchase" is written in bold, italicized black font. Underneath that, in smaller black font, is "Minimum purchase of 4". Another horizontal white line follows. The third section features "ENDS 3/31" in large, bold, black capital letters. On the right side of the graphic is a cartoon illustration of a man wearing a brown hat, a blue shirt, and tan pants, holding a large white window frame with multiple panes. To the right of the illustration, the word "RENEWAL" is written in large, bold, black capital letters, with "by ANDERSEN" below it in a smaller, regular weight black font. At the bottom of the graphic, the words "FULL-SERVICE WINDOW & DOOR REPLACEMENT" are written in small, all-caps, sans-serif font.



Hot Mamas: All About Hormones at rebeyou®

**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

IN MY HOT MOM ERA

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712.332.6001 | rebeyou.com | 3301 HWY. 71 Spirit Lake, IA | Dr. Ronald Kolegraff, MD, FACS • Dr. Julie Hamann, MD

Obituary

Dennis Lou Naatjes died in his sleep on New Year's Eve 2025, at the age of 79. Denny was born in Canton, South Dakota, on May 9, 1946. He was the son of Erna (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.

His first wife, Linda Bronson, and he had two children, Chad Naatjes and Ryan Naatjes. His second wife, Cindy Meyerdirk, and he had two more boys, Dennis "DJ" Naatjes and Beau Naatjes. Everyone who knew Denny would say what a great guy he was. He would help anyone out if he could. Denny's boys must have inherited that gene from him along with his love of hunting and fishing. Last summer Chad, DJ and Beau took him on an epic guided fishing trip to Chamberlain. Denny had the time of his life.

In his younger years he enjoyed playing softball, pheasant & deer hunting, loved Chevy trucks (Ford was the worst 4 letter word to him), the Cubs and Vikings and watching westerns. Denny had a sweet tooth unmatched by most. He loved all things with sugar especially ice cream. Denny was also very stubborn and lived life on his terms. He survived jaw cancer in the '80s, a stroke in the 2020s, and was a severe diabetic the last few years of his life, but that didn't stop him from enjoying his sweets. He was practically catlike for everything he survived. After he came back to the Iowa Great Lakes he was able to watch DJ and Beau's kids participate in their sporting events, which everyone enjoyed. His boys did everything they could to make his life better in Iowa the last 3 years and Denny will be missed.

Denny was preceded in death by his mom and dad; brother, Mike Naatjes, and his last love, Betts.

He is survived by his sons, Chad (Nancy Naeve) of Spencer and Ryan of Stillwater, MN, DJ (Cara) of Spirit Lake, and Beau (Alyssa) of Spirit Lake; grandchildren, Josh, Kim, Emily, Daryan, Norah, Bjorn, Cruz, Cain, Brooke and Beckett; his brother, Dave Naatjes.

The family is hosting a celebration of life on Friday, January 9th, at Sneakers Sports Bar in Downtown Spencer from 4-7. It's a casual come-and-go event with complimentary appetizers, cash bar and, as Denny would want, some of his favorite sweet treats.

Arrangements are under the care of Turner Jenness Funeral Home.



Spirit Lake Library News

New Year, New You - Part 2
by Jill Jennings

Last week, I wrote about setting goals in 2026 and using Dave Ramsey's seven areas of life in which to set those goals: 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). I gave suggestions for the first three areas. Let's look now at the other four.

The Education/Intellectual goal is pretty wide open. It really depends on what you are interested in learning about. Set your goals and we'll help you find resources!

The Health/Physical goal is a little more focused, but you will need to refine what you personally strive to improve. In my journey to become healthier, I have referenced these books from the SLPL collection: 7 Systems Plan by Dr. Pat Luse, The Power of When by Michael Breus, The Whole 30 by Melissa Hartwig, and Good Energy: the surprising connection between metabolism and limitless health by Casey Means.

In the area of family (relationships, connection), Drama Free: a guide to managing unhealthy family relationships by Nedra Glover Tawwab looks good. I have not read this book, however I subscribe to Nedra's weekly email and she always gives very real things to ponder. We have a few of Gary D. Chapman's 5 Love Languages books. It's very helpful to know your loved ones' love language, as well as your own!

Your Social goal would include your community and friendships. Supercommunicators by Duhigg and Find Your People by Allen are both on my "to be read" list!

So, now it's up to you. What goals will you set for 2026?

SLPL staff reading spotlight: Breanna is reading The Holly Knotty Christmas by Candy Marie.

Upcoming Activities:

- Monday, January 12, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Mah-Jongg
- Monday, January 12, 5:00-6:00 p.m., Library Board Meeting
- Tuesday, January 13, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Quilters
- Tuesday, January 13, 3:30-4:30 p.m., Children's Chess
- Tuesday, January 13, 4:30-5:30 p.m., Chess All-Play
- Tuesday, January 13, 7:00-8:00 p.m., Evening Edition Book Club (topic: Around the World) at The Revelry
- Wednesday, January 14, 12:30-4:00 p.m., Quilters
- Thursday, January 15, 10:00-11:30 a.m., Block Party
- Thursday, January 15, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Mah-Jongg

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

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

12 Monday	13 Tuesday	14 Wednesday	15 Thursday	16 Friday
Beef Stew Fruit Bread	Salisbury Steak Vegetable Fruit & Bread	Chicken & Rice Casserole Vegetable Fruit & Bread	Ham Loaf Vegetable Fruit & Bread	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 MEAT & GROCERY** of Lake Park. Meals are available for those 60 and older (and their spouse regardless of age)

2101 Zenith Ave. • Spirit Lake, IA • 712-336-5247

YOU CAN NOW PURCHASE GIFT CERTIFICATES FOR YOUR LOVED ONES FOR DINNER DATE MEALS AT LAKES AREA ACTIVITY/SENIOR CENTER.
Gift certificates are donation based, with a suggested amount of \$7-10 for each meal.
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?



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Lakes Area Senior/Activity Center Events

Seniors Movin' On is an exercise group that meets every Monday, Wednesday & Friday morning at 9:00 a.m. The exercise program is based on the Silver Sneakers Program.

Blood Pressure Screening is the last Tuesday of every month.

Tai Chi at 11:00am and Zumba class at 11:00am on Thursday.

MahJong - 1st and 3rd Mondays this month at 1:00pm.

Pinochle Club- 2nd and 4th Mondays this month at 1:00pm.

Chair yoga every Friday at 10:00am.

Pool and ping pong tables available.

Puzzles and books available to borrow or enjoy.

Greeting cards are available for purchase for \$.50

The center is now collecting pop tabs - collection proceeds will go to the Ronald McDonald House.

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

New Year New You

The Total Transformation

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Nutrafol Hair Restoration

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Looking for a Comprehensive Wellness Overhaul?

Vitality RESET

- Emsculpt Neo:** This is a popular "New Year" choice as it combines radiofrequency and high-intensity electromagnetic field (HIFEM) to simultaneously burn fat and build muscle in areas like the abdomen, arms, or legs.
- Emsella:** A specialized "throne" that uses electromagnetic energy to strengthen the pelvic floor, often used for improving core stability and bladder control.
- Infrared Smart Sauna with Red-Light Therapy:** Unlike traditional saunas, this uses infrared heat to penetrate deeper into tissues. It includes pre-set programs for weight loss, detoxification, and anti-aging.

Sunlighten mPulse
Unlimited Sauna Packages (Minimum 3 Month Commitment)

Single Person \$69/Month
2 Family Members \$99/Month
Family \$169/Month

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RETIREMENT QUESTIONS KEEPING YOU UP AT NIGHT?

- Am I saving enough to retire comfortably?
- How much can I spend in retirement without running out of money?
- What happens to my money if something happens to me?

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DCNC Kenue 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 Kenue 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.

Kenue 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 Heibult, 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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P R B U S E J R E V O S S O R C G U S F U
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LAY-UP
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Word Search Puzzle Key from page 6A
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Y B A S E L I N E W L J L W P L F J E E
P R B U S J R E V O S S O R C G U S F U P
V E T P E E S K J D K H W J M L Y E F
N W K V C B F V I E I V W S P P E E N V T
F W L B O K C E V O P I T K S B W A S E
F O B A Y R N R S I B H V T H M B E M V E C
U R V T P N R S I N O O E R T M J P B R
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E N B R N J E N T W O R H T E E R F J C T
E E I Y T D M O M E U C H K L A Y U P U T
R O M L K N W F E T P E D J Y Y K A C N
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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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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 Grownowski pass ricocheted 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 Grownowski 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 tush-push 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 as'es 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.

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.

Located directly across from Arnolds Park Amusement Park

THE HUTT Bar & Grill

See our website & menu: thehuttbargrill.com

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

Friday Night Special

Fish Fry • 10 oz. Ribeye

Saturday Night Special

Prime Rib • Grilled Walleye

OPEN Mon. thru Thurs. at 11:00 AM
SAT. & SUN. at 8am (Breakfast)
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Tuesday: Mini tacos and 20oz fountain drink for **\$3.99**

Wednesday: 6 wings for **\$6.00**

Thursday: 7 inch Pasquale's pizza for **\$5.99**

Friday: Buy any sandwich and get a free 20oz fountain drink

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6:30 pm Three Course Dinner with Wine Pairing
Live Auction
Entertainment by "Jazzed Up Big Band" Sextet with Rick Ayres
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JUNE 28
2:00 P.M.
7:30 P.M.

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"THE TWIST"
"DANCIN' PARTY"

JULY 5
7:30 P.M.

MICHAEL CAVANAUGH
THE MUSIC OF BILLY JOEL & ELTON JOHN
"MOVIN' OUT"
"UPTOWN GIRL"

JULY 12
7:30 P.M.

DANNY SERAPHINE & CTA
MUSIC OF CHICAGO W/ ORIGINAL DRUMMER & CO-FOUNDER
"MAKE ME SMILE"

JULY 19
7:30 P.M.

HERMAN'S HERMITS
STARRING PETER NOONE
"MRS. BROWN, YOU GOT A LOVELY DAUGHTER"
"I'M HENRY VIII, I AM"

AUG 2
7:30 P.M.

I AM HE SAID
A CELEBRATION OF NEIL DIAMOND BY MATT VEE & THE KILLER VEES
"SWEET CAROLINE"
"SOLITARY MAN"

SPECIAL SAVE \$50!

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CHILI COOK OFF

SATURDAY, JAN. 10

- Make your chili at home
- Enter by 2 pm
- FREE to Enter
- FREE to Eat!
- Judging begins at 4 pm
- Prizes for Top 3
- Trophy & bragging rights for the winner!

Sunday February 8th

Super Sunday Rib Fest

During the Big Game

Sip

SHOP

DINE!

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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(PG-13)

WED-THUR 1/7-8 6:30

FRI 1/9 4:10 & 7:30

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

(PG-13)

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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Through 5/31

EDUCATION CLASSES

Register online or call 712-332-7029

STILL LIFE THURSDAYS- FLORALS

Open Studio

Jan. 8, Feb. 5, Mar. 19, Apr. & May 21

10am-9pm, Come and Go | \$10/\$15

Each month, florist, April Junge, of 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+

NATURE COMPOSITION: MOSS WALL ART

With Samantha McCandless

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.

CLOVERLEAF BASKET WEAVING

With With Sandie Smith

Thursday, Feb. 26 | 5:30-7pm and

Saturday, Mar. 7 | 10am-3pm | \$55/\$65 | Intermediate, 18+

Join us to create a lucky handwoven treasure with this two-part intermediate basket weaving workshop. Featuring a distinctive cloverleaf design at the base, this basket is perfect for St. Patrick's Day or just because! With guidance of instructor Sandie Smith, students will work with round reeds to shape, form, and finish a unique basket that highlights both skill and creativity. Register by Feb. 18

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.

CULINARY CLASSES

Register online or call 712-332-7029

Wine Class

With Jennifer Tride-Oitzman of Okoboji Wines

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.

THE LNS

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THE LAKES NEWS Auctions

Page 2B

Join us for

BREAKFAST

Free Will Offering

Sunday, January 18th

8:30 am - Noon

Sausage Gravy over Biscuits, Sausage, Egg Bake, Caramel Rolls, Orange Juice & Coffee.

Lakes Area Activity/Senior Center

2101 Zenith Avenue • Spirit Lake (under the water tower)

American Legion OMELET FEED

Sunday, January 11

8am-12pm

Freewill Offering with all proceeds going to support our Veterans, Legion and Boy Scouts

Come Support our Veterans!

AMERICAN LEGION POST #384

Hwy. 71 • Milford, IA

Our Next Omelet Feed is Feb. 8th

THE LINEUP

WINTER GAMES

PARKS MARINA

01/22 BATTLE OF THE BARTENDERS WITH JUNK FM 6:00 PM

01/23 TRISTAN MARQUARDT 4:00 PM

THE JOHNNY HOLM BAND 8:00 PM

01/24 LAST CALL BAND 11:30 AM

THE PASTMASTERS 2:00 PM

UNDERCOVER 3:30 PM

TAYLOR SWIFT, MADONNA, STEVIE NICKS TRIBUTE 7:30 PM

01/25 SCOTT KIRKHART 1:00 PM

JANUARY 2026

22 • 23 • 24 • 25

BATTLE OF THE BARTENDERS

A HEAD-TO-HEAD

BEST DRINK COMPETITION & CHARITY FUNDRAISER!

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HEAD TO WWW.THEBAREFOOTBAR.SHOP TO REGISTER ONLINE! REGISTRATION FEES COLLECTED WILL BE DONATED TO CHARITY.

JANUARY 22 AT 6 PM

IN THE PARKS BOAT HOUSE

LIVE MUSIC WITH JUNK FM

MILFORD KIWANIS PRESENTS

FUN BINGO

Nights

2ND AND 4TH THURSDAYS OF THE MONTH

UPCOMING DATES: JANUARY 8TH & 22ND

BINGO 6-8 * Card sales begin at 5:30

MEAL PROVIDED BY VFW AUXILIARY FOR JUST \$7.00!

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BINGO profits support local scholarships and youth programs. Milford Kiwanis meets every Tuesday at 7am at the Milford Community Center.



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Nick Stauss
712-320-1230



Nick Bjornstad
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Mark Leiss
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ACCEPTED OFFER



3277 335th | Ruthven
5 bedroom, 3 bath beautiful home on 3.2 acres.

SOLD



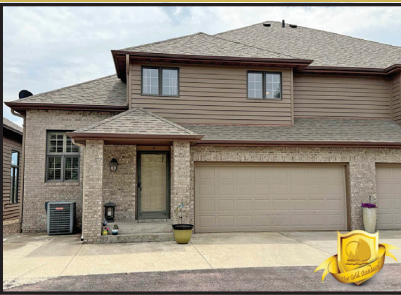
15525 Harbor Drive #3 | Spirit Lake
Move-in ready, 3 bedroom, 3 bath townhome in West Okoboji Harbor.

NEARLY NEW TOWNHOME



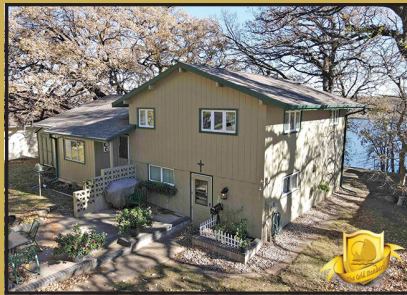
1940 35th Street B | Spirit Lake
4 bedroom, 3 bath, nearly new duplex. Offered at **\$425,000**

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West View Place - 4 bedroom, 4 bath with pool and lake access. Offered at **\$925,000**

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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/nwiowmanyvoiceschoir/home>

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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.

Baby 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.

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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.

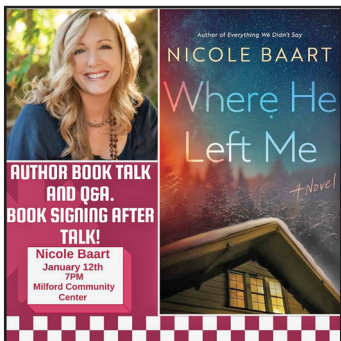
- January 12, 10:30 a.m. - Paint
- January 19, 10:30 a.m. - Quilt
- January 26, 10:30 a.m. - Rhinestones
- February 2, 10:30 a.m. - Spectacular Space
- February 9, 10:30 a.m. - Tremendous Teeth
- February 16, 10:30 a.m. - No Building Bookworms - MML closed in observance of Presidents Day
- February 23, 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 Spirit Lake 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.

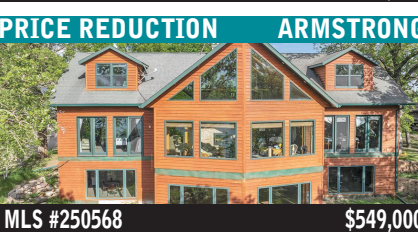


This is a come-and-go playtime. All toys are supplied by the library. Any interested individuals are welcome to join the Milford Memorial Library Book Club on Tuesday, January 20, at 1:00 p.m. This month we will be discussing *Lessons in Chemistry*. You are not required to attend each meeting and may 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.



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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 EQUINOX RS
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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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Al-Anon Meetings

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

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.

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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!

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