



THE LAKES NEWS SHOPPER™

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LAKES NEWS SHOPPER

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TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2026

VOL/53 NO/15

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

ARNOLDS PARK AMUSEMENT PARK WINTER GAMES SCHEDULE

| | | |
|------------------|--|---|
| 23 FRI | Boji Kite Festival (WEATHER PERMITTING) On The Ice | 8:30AM |
| New | Family Night (FREEWILL DONATION) The Roof Garden | 5PM - 7PM Come & Go |
| | Activities & Offerings: - DJ Spin X - Create and color your own kite (first 300 kids) - Bar open - Fun kid-friendly signature drink - Hot Chocolate - Indoor kite demonstrations - Family movie @ 7:30pm (Sponsored by Jensen Real Estate) | |
| | Boji Kite - Night (WEATHER PERMITTING) On The Ice | 5:30PM - 8PM |
| 24 SAT | Bloody Mary's & Hot Chocolate Bar The Roof Garden | 8AM - 4PM |
| | Courtyard, Firepits, & Fun! Preservation Plaza | 8AM - 6PM |
| | Boji Kite Festival (WEATHER PERMITTING) On The Ice | 8:30AM |
| | 5K Fun Run (CHECK IN: 8AM-8:45AM) Majestic Pavilion | 9AM |
| | Human Foosball Preservation Plaza | 9AM |
| | New Hard Water Golf On The Ice | 10AM - 3PM |
| | Food Truck Festival Lake Street | 10AM - 6PM |
| | Live Music with Boon & Lambert The Roof Garden | 11AM - 4PM |
| | Polar Plunge (REGISTRATION: 1:30PM) On The Ice | 3PM |
| | Boji Kite - Night (WEATHER PERMITTING) On The Ice | 5:30PM - 8PM |
| | Burning of the Greens Preservation Plaza | 6:30PM |
| | Fireworks West Lake | 6:45PM |
| | LIVE MUSIC BY THE PORK TORNADOES The Roof Garden (TICKETED EVENT) | 7:30PM |
| | <small>*No snowmobile or ATV access on Preservation Plaza or access from on or off the beach.</small> | |
| | ARNOLDSPARK.COM |   |

WINTER GAMES SPECIALS

OUR 

PORTABLE GRILLS

Are Ideal for Your
WINTER GAMES
Outdoor Activities!



YETI®

Items are Perfect for
Your Time on the Ice
& Outdoor Activities



PROPANE TANKS FILLED HERE:

- Motor Homes • Gas Grills
- Ice Shacks • All Size Tanks

3401 Bergquist Ave.
Spirit Lake • 712-336-3373

1 block off Hwy. 71, across from Ferguson's Landscape
Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Sat. 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. • Sun. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

409 Central Ave.
Estherville • 712-362-3745
Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Sat. 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. • Sun. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Fick's ACE
HARDWARE**

Hot
Mamas:

All About Hormones at 

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



Hormone Therapy

- Increase Energy • Balance Mood
• Improve Your Sleep



IN MY
HOT
MOM
ERA

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



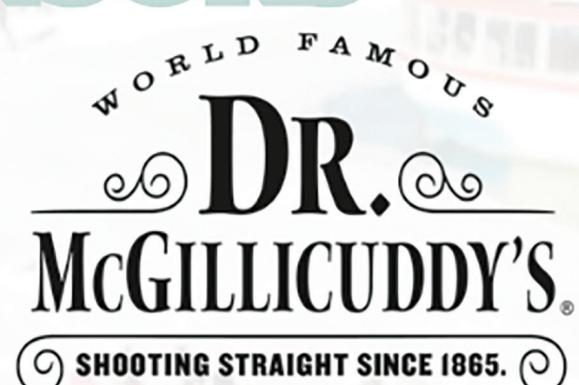
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EVENT SPONSORS





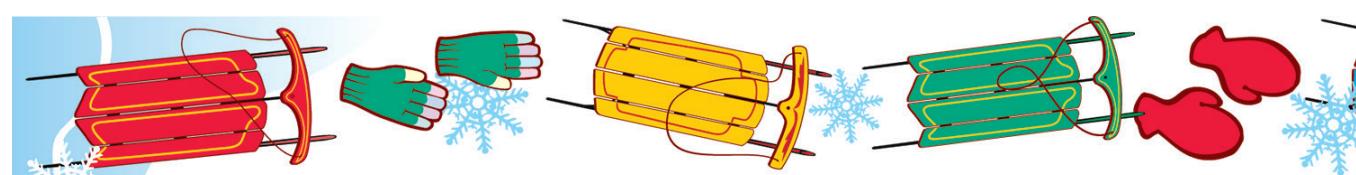

presents the
CASTING CONTEST

DURING **2016 WINTER GAMES** **OKOBONI - IA**

Look for our Flags!

Saturday, January 24th 11am to 1pm
at Parks Marina on the Ice

- We invite and **ENCOURAGE** people of **all ages and skill levels** to participate. **Kids, too!**
- **Volunteers** are there with quick lessons and tips, if needed.
- **Don't be afraid if you've never cast a fishing pole before!**
 - Participation prizes (*while supplies last*)
 - Winners entered into a drawing for **1-\$500 and 1-\$250 FFO gift certificate**
 - After you've collected your prizes, we are serving hot chocolate! (*while supplies last*)



ILUUUF Supports Spirit Lake Backpack Program

The Iowa Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship was honored to donate \$250 to the Spirit Lake Backpack program providing food to children in need each Friday. Pictured: Jen Johnson-Ross (ILUUUF), Kim Johnson (Spirit Lake Schools) and Judy Weipert. To learn more about the ILUUUF, visit www.uuokoboji.com.

Classic Cruz Cab
Safe. Secure. Reliable.
Winter Special - Lakes Area Only \$5.00
Now thru 1/25/2026
712-571-0834



 **Shop Local,**
 **Give Local,**
 **Celebrate Local**

THE BOONEDOCK'S **ARNOLDS PARK**

Locally Owned and Operated

YOUR CONVENIENCE STORE FOR EVERYTHING YOU NEED - QUICK!

This Week's Daily Specials:

| | |
|--|--|
| Monday: 2 slices of pizza and 20oz fountain drink for \$4.99 | Thursday: 7 inch Pasquale's pizza for \$5.99 |
| Tuesday: Mini tacos and 20oz fountain drink for \$3.99 | Friday: Buy any sandwich and get a free 20oz fountain drink |
| Wednesday: 6 wings for \$6.00 | |




FOOD • BEER • WINE • LIQUOR • ICE • FIREWOOD

Premium Fuel!

Your Only Lakes Renewable Fuel Stop!
ALL FUELS AVAILABLE

Unleaded • Super Unleaded • Premium • Diesel • E-15 • E-30 • E-50 • E-85

Winter Hours
6:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.
Every Day

228 NORTH HWY. 71, ARNOLDS PARK • 712-332-6062

2016 WINTER GAMES **OKOBONI - IA**

JANUARY 22-25

SCAN TO PLAN!
THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

west

PRESENTED BY: WESTO BEER

UOFOWINTERGAMES.COM

IOWA GREAT LAKES AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE












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.



YOUR AGENT!

MARILYN STRICKLAND
Broker - Associate
Hoen Realty

712-336-2790 or 712-320-7070

START YOUR SEARCH.
Turning 65 soon? It's not too early to talk about your Medicare options.

Call today!
712-332-8361
800-657-8033

KHI SOLUTIONS
Your Health Insurance Experts
66 N Hwy 71 Unit 3
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AUTHORIZED INDEPENDENT AGENTS FOR
Wellmark Iowa

WINTER CHILL, SUMMER THRILL!
CATCH THESE DEALS BEFORE THE THAW.

| | |
|-------------------------|---------|
| 2016 Yamaha, gas, EFI | \$3,350 |
| 2018 Yamaha Drive2, gas | \$3,750 |
| 2022 Club Car, gas | \$6,950 |

WeatherTech®

**GOLF CART
MATS SOLD
HERE!**



We are now a WeatherTech® golf cart mats and mud flaps dealer!

We also offer many other golf cart and auto accessories.

Call us now for your 2026 seasonal rental!

•Seasonal Rentals •Weekly and Weekend Rentals

C&R **NEW and USED GOLF CARTS**
Sales and Service
712-332-1370
crcartsauto.com

309 Okoboji Ave., Milford south end of Milford

FREEZE THE PRICE - Melt the Payments WINTER SALES EVENT ON ALL NEW INVENTORY OR CUSTOM ORDER BOATS!

ALERIA



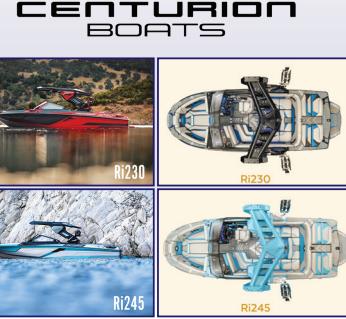
HIGHFIELD
dare to explore



REGAL



CENTURION BOATS



SUPREME



SYLVAN



Kawasaki



OAK HILL
Marina
LAKE OKOBOWJI

712-332-2701 | WWW.OAKHILLMARINA.COM | OPEN: MONDAY-FRIDAY 9AM-5PM • SATURDAY 9AM-3PM

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EXCLUSIVELY SOLD AT OAK HILL

NO PAYMENTS FOR 90 DAYS

**10% DOWN DUE AT SIGNING
WITH APPROVED FINANCING**

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

Barn Swallow

20% OFF
ALL Woobles
& Wall Art!

40% OFF
ALL Christmas!

Winter Sale!

OPEN: Monday - Sunday • 10am - 5:30pm

20% OFF
ALL Sweatshirts
& Tees!

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

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



**Step Forward with
New Floors in 2026!**

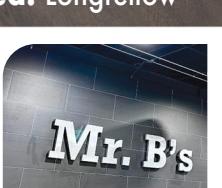
HARDWOOD • LAMINATE • TILE • VINYL PLANK • CARPET • SHOWERS • BACK SPLASHES • ONYX SHOWERS



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PREMIUM WATERPROOF FLOORS

Flooring Pictured: Longfellow

1204 4th Avenue, Spencer
Just East of Wal-Mart
712-580-4400
www.mrbflooring.com
Mon-Fri, 8:30am to 6pm,
Sat. 9am to 3pm, Closed Sun.



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

WINTER CHILL, SUMMER THRILL!
CATCH THESE DEALS BEFORE THE THAW.

| | |
|-------------------------|---------|
| 2016 Yamaha, gas, EFI | \$3,350 |
| 2018 Yamaha Drive2, gas | \$3,750 |
| 2022 Club Car, gas | \$6,950 |

WeatherTech®

**GOLF CART
MATS SOLD
HERE!**



We are now a WeatherTech® golf cart mats and mud flaps dealer!

We also offer many other golf cart and auto accessories.

Call us now for your 2026 seasonal rental!

•Seasonal Rentals •Weekly and Weekend Rentals

C&R **NEW and USED GOLF CARTS**
Sales and Service
712-332-1370
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309 Okoboji Ave., Milford south end of Milford

**MILFORD
KIWANIS
PRESENTS**

**FUN BINGO
Nights**

2ND AND 4TH
THURSDAYS OF
THE MONTH

Jan. 22ND • BINGO 6-8
Card sales begin at 5:30

**MEAL PROVIDED
BY VFW AUXILIARY
FOR JUST
\$7.00!**

Spirit Lake VFW • 914 Lake Street

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

**Discipline that Connects
with Your Child's Heart**

Learn how to show God's grace, love, and truth
in the middle of your child's most challenging
behavior. An event for any parent,
grandparent, babysitter, or friend.

Sunday, February 1st 2026
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm
Downtown Church



M
OKOBOWJI
MOM CO
fundraiser



Mom Co Fundraiser Event

Okoboji Mom Co is hosting a freewill donation fundraiser event titled "Discipline that Connects with Your Child's Heart" on Sunday, February 1, 2026. The presentation features speaker Chad Hayenga from the organization Connected Families and is scheduled to take place from 4:00 to 6:00pm at Downtown Church. The session is designed for parents, grandparents, babysitters, and friends to learn methods for applying grace, love, and truth when navigating a child's most challenging behaviors.

**OPEN
for Winter**



**ROTARY
CAR
DROP**

**YOU COULD
WIN \$1000**

**What will be the minute when the
Rotary car drops through the ice?**

**Choose the correct time
and WIN \$1000!!**

**Contact a Rotary Member to purchase
what may be the WINNING TICKET!**

\$10 Per Ticket

Funds support local Rotary outreach projects

SHOP, DINE, & ENJOY

GREAT LAKES MALL

GREAT STYLES FRIENDLY SMILES

PAYING CASH!
OLD JEWELRY IS EASY MONEY!



WE ARE BUYING GOLD & DIAMONDS

SPIRIT LAKE SILVER & GOLD
Wouldn't you rather say it came from Spirit Lake Silver & Gold?

• 10k, 14k & 18k Gold • Class Rings
• Broken Chains • Divorce Diamonds
• "Old Boyfriend" Jewelry
• Single (lost) Earrings
• Scrap Gold • Dental Gold

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Spirit Lake • 712-336-5405
www.spiritlakesilverandgold.com

WINTER SIDEWALK SALE
UP TO 50% OFF

SELECT FALL & WINTER CLOTHING JACKETS BOOTS & SHOES

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SIZES PETITE-PLUS FOLLOW US:  

GREAT LAKES MALL | 712-336-3824 | OPEN MON-SAT 9-5PM



Join Us In The Mall This Weekend

Sidewalk SALE 

Featuring Our Famous **75% OFF Tables**

Carolyn's **Hallmark** Shop
Great Lakes Mall • Spirit Lake
Monday-Saturday 9-5:30; Sunday Noon-4 

- Cali Nails
- Carolyn's Hallmark
- El Mariachi Bar & Grill
- Faust Institute of Cosmetology
- Fashion Formula
- Hy-Vee Wine & Spirits
- Interiors
- Lakes Auto Care
- The Look Fashions
- MediaCom
- Spirit Lake Silver & Gold
- Spirit Spa
- Valvoline
- Wild Child

WINTER SALE
Thursday, Friday, Saturday
January 15, 16 & 17

Select Shoes 50% off

Select Fall & Winter Clothing up to 50% off



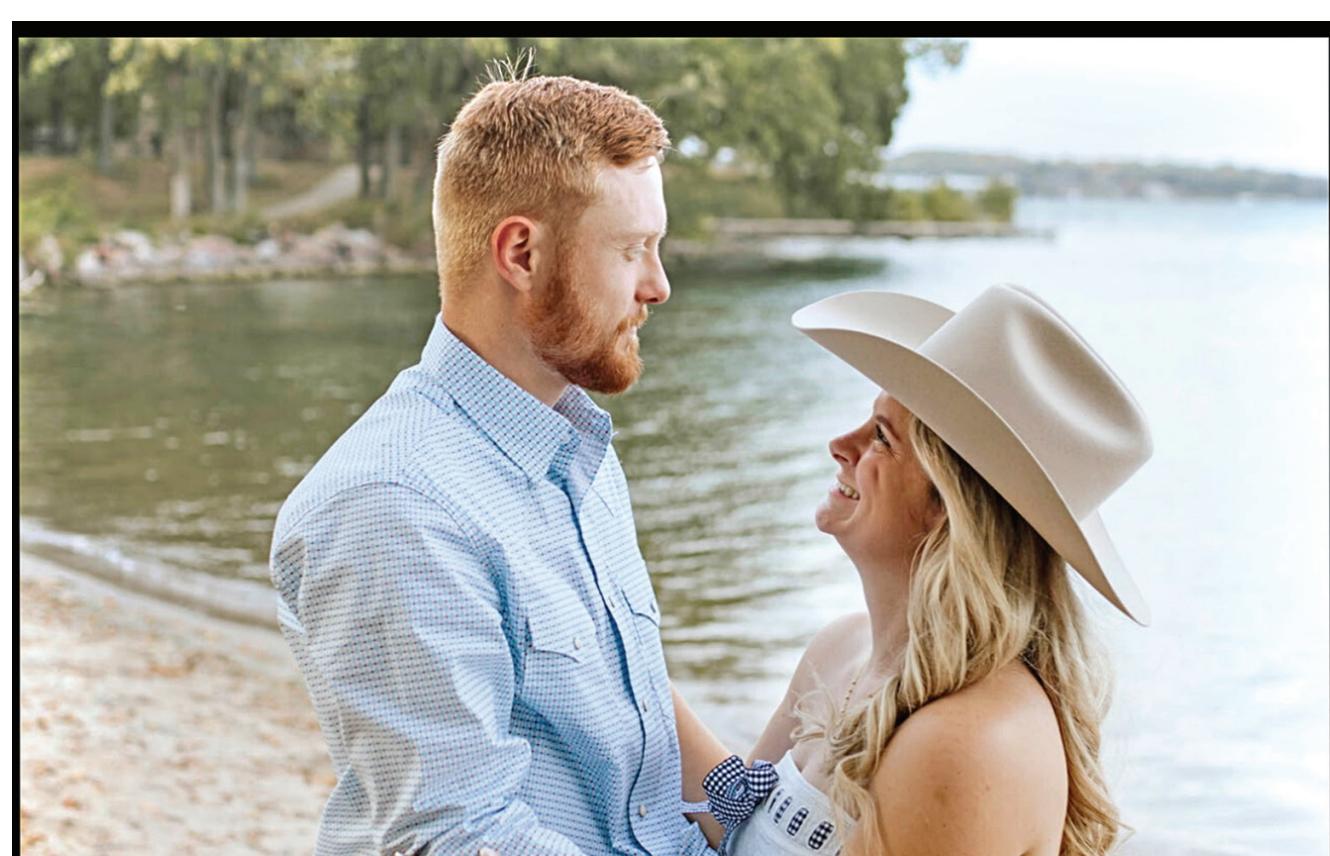
the LOOK FASHIONS
GREAT LAKES MALL, SPIRIT LAKE
OPEN MON-SAT 10-5:30
FOLLOW US:  

SIDEWALK SALE

Thursday, Friday & Saturday
January 15, 16, & 17

20-50% OFF Select Clothing, PJs, Robes & More!

Wild Child
infant • toddler • tween
OPEN Monday-Saturday 10AM-5:30PM
Melissa & Doug Toys
Like Us On Facebook

JANUARY SIDEWALK SALE...
FIND GREAT BUYS ON HOME DECOR, WINTER & CHRISTMAS ITEMS, FURNITURE AND MORE!

STARTS NOW

SELECTED FURNITURE 1/2 OFF



INTERIORS
FURNITURE & HOME

LIGHTING • WALL ART • FLORALS
EVERYDAY & SEASONAL DECOR
BATH • BEDDING • KITCHEN

Great Lakes Mall • Spirit Lake • 712.336.1000 • Mon.-Sat. 10am-5pm • www.interiorsiowa.com 

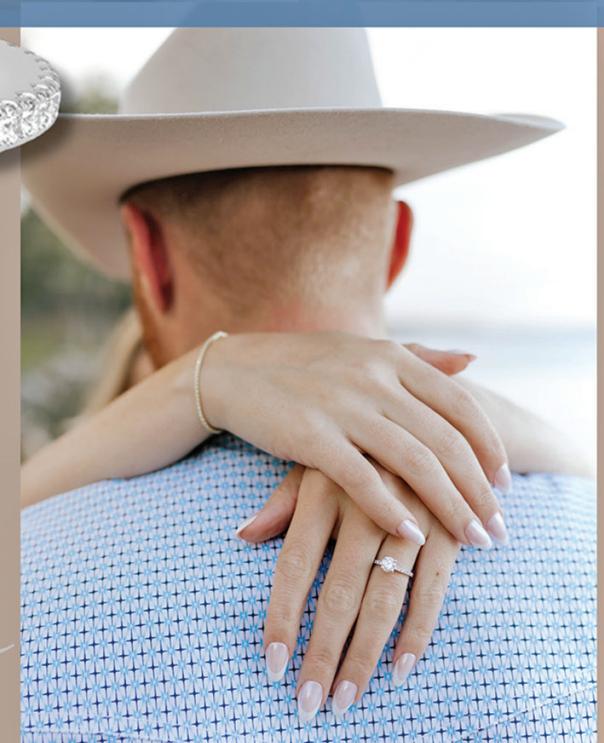
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Capture the excitement of your love story with a custom-designed diamond engagement ring or explore our wide selection. Visit us today and find the one that makes her say yes.



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12 MONTH INTEREST FREE FINANCING AVAILABLE
OPEN MON-SAT 9-5:30
FOLLOW US:  

GREAT LAKES MALL | 712-336-5405 | SPIRITLAKESILVERANDGOLD.COM



No School Day Camp K-8th

When school is out, nature is in at the Dickinson County Nature Center. Families are invited to sign up their children in kindergarten through eighth-grade for No School Day Camp - 'School's Out, Nature's In' occurring on Monday, January 19, from 9:00am to 3:00pm.

Campers will spend the day exploring winter through hands-on activities, outdoor play, and creative projects led by Miss Danika and Miss Ashley. Participants will be divided into two age groups so each child can enjoy age-appropriate experiences.

Younger campers will experiment with snow painting, create their own bird feeders, make snowflakes, and explore patterns in tree bark. They will also head outside for snowshoeing or a winter hike and work together finding natural items to create a collage.

Older campers will enjoy snowshoeing or hiking, marshmallow games, and close encounters with live animals. They will explore how to make a snowstorm in a jar, go on a nature observation walk, and express creativity through nature art and rock painting.

The camp is open to students in kindergarten through eighth grade. The cost is \$15 per child, which includes 2 snacks. Campers are required to bring a sack lunch and a water bottle.

Space is limited and advance registration is required to attend. To register, visit www.dickinsoncountyconservationboard.com and click the Program/Events tab to find the event list. Registration deadline is 5 PM on January 15th. Find other monthly events online for all ages to enjoy!



U of O Winter Games Chocolate Classic & Galleria - Applications Being Accepted

One of the most popular events on campus during the University of Okoboji Winter Games weekend is the Chocolate Classic & Galleria! The INGVALL REAL ESTATE TEAM will again sponsor this delicious and decadent annual experience to help cure those winter blues from 1-3 PM at the Dickinson County Expo Building.

Chocolate Classic vendors are asked to bring 500 or more sweet sample-sized treats available for the attendees to enjoy at the event or to take home. Chocolate Classic vendors will be compensated 50-cents per \$1 ticket redeemed. The taste-testing crowd will then vote for their favorite sweet treat, and winners will be announced following the event as well as during the Burning of the Greens and Fireworks Extravaganza at 6:30 PM on Saturday, January 24th.

Vendors are encouraged to decorate their serving areas and use this opportunity to promote their nonprofit, catering, restaurant, or other businesses to the 1,200+ people with a sweet tooth visiting this Winter Games tradition.

Shopping with Galleria vendors is another great part of this afternoon. Vendors pay their \$50 registration fee to have their cash 'n carry items at the event for groups of people looking for a little retail therapy to accompany their sweet treats.

Registration forms for both events are posted on uowofwintergames.com. For more information, please contact the Iowa Great Lakes Area Chamber: morgan@okobojichamber.com or 723-332-2107.

Enjoy a fun-filled, warm, indoor U of O Winter Games tradition and either attend or participate in the Chocolate Classic and Galleria. Winter Games 45 will be the sweetest games to date!

FREE FOOD FOR THOSE IN NEED



THIRD THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH

JANUARY 15

4:30PM - 6:30PM

DOWNTOWN CHURCH

2105 N Ave, Milford, IA

(Located near Cherished Again & The Lakes News Shopper)

FOOD PANTRY IS FREE OF CHARGE. PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE BEFORE 3:30PM

For More Information, Email: dchungerc@gmail.com

Soup + Pie Luncheon

Sunday, January 25, 2026

Soup and Pie served from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM at the Okoboji High School (use main entrance)

Music begins at 11:15

Performances by:

- OMS Jazz Band
- OHS Jazz Choir
- OHS Jazz Band

Admission:

Performance Only: \$5 / person

Performance & Meal: \$10 / adult, School Age: \$5 additional pie slices may be available for purchase

Milford Kiwanis proudly supports the youth of our community. Kiwanis meets each Tuesday morning at 7:00 AM in the community building. Join us!

SOUP TAILGATE!

with chicken noodle & chili being served

OKOBOJI VS. SPIRIT LAKE

Sponsored By 

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15TH
5:00 - 6:30 PM
Commons - Okoboji High School

PROCEEDS BENEFIT OKOBOJI AFTER PROM
FREE WILL DONATION

- Girls Varsity Game at 6:00
- Boys Varsity Game to follow

BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

JOIN US THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH!

SUNDAY, JAN. 18TH
8AM-12:30PM

Biscuits & Gravy, Scrambled Eggs, Pancakes and Bloody Mary Bar.



FREE WILL OFFERING
Occasions
104 East 4th Street, Spencer

VFW Auxiliary Kitchen

Events & Evening Specials

1ST MONDAY - Patron's Potluck | **MONDAY** - Taco Night

TUESDAY - Dance Night w/ Music & Local Entertainment Meal at 5, Dance at 6

WEDNESDAY - Wing Night Special Hot Sauces by Chuck & Full Menu

1ST & 3RD THURSDAY - Pork Tenderloin & Fries \$10⁰⁰

2ND & 4TH THURSDAY - Bingo Night Meal at 5, Bingo at 6

FRIDAY - 8 oz. Sirloin, Baked Potato, & Salad \$15⁰⁰

Taking Reservations for Parties, Funeral Luncheons, Class or Family Reunions.

Hours: Open Mon-Fri at 4pm
Kids Welcome

VFW Post 4514 Canteen
914 Lake Street • Spirit Lake



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

| 19 Monday | 20 Tuesday | 21 Wednesday | 22 Thursday | 23 Friday |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sweet & Sour Chicken Over Rice Fruit & Bread | Pork Loin Slices Vegetable Fruit & Bread | Brat Patty Bun Vegetable Fruit | Tater Tot Casserole Fruit & Bread | Cheeseburger Casserole Vegetable Fruit & Bread |

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

lakesart.org | 712.332.7029

2201 HWY 71 N | Okoboji, IA 51355

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

PEARSON LAKES ART CENTER

VISUAL ARTS


Pearson Lakes Art Center Biennial Exhibition Through 2/21


What is Disability? Mural Project Through 2/28


NEW Russian & Soviet Impressionism Collection Through 5/31

Register online or call 712-332-7029

FEBRUARY YOUTH ART CLASSES:

Mini Michelangelo's | K-2nd
Thursdays | 4:00-4:45pm
Feb. 5, 12, & 19: A Grandma Moses Winter

Art Club | 3rd-6th
Thursdays | 5-6pm
Feb. 5, 12, & 19: Reflections in the Water

Teen Art | 7-12th
Tuesdays | 4-5pm
Feb. 3, 10, & 17: Painting Water



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

EDUCATION CLASSES

FEBRUARY YOUTH ART CLASSES:

Mini Michelangelo's | K-2nd
Thursdays | 4:00-4:45pm
Feb. 5, 12, & 19: A Grandma Moses Winter

Art Club | 3rd-6th
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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

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

Chinese Stir Fry Tasting Luncheon
With Helen Alexander

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

Date Night Cooking Class
With Marisa Sildes of Rissy's Dry Rubs and Seasonings

6pm | \$160/\$170 per Couple
Must register 3 days prior to each class.

A little flour, a little wine and a lot of love, the perfect date night with Marisa!

Friday, Feb. 13: Buttery Lobster Ravioli

Friday, Mar. 13: A Night In Naples

Friday, Apr. 24: Summer Grilled Tri-Tip with Salsa Verde

Register online or call 712-332-7029



Hockey Team Food Drive Well Appreciated

The Boji Mammoth High School Hockey team would like to thank parents, players, fans and community members for their contributions to our annual food drive recently held at Lakes Ice Arena right before the holiday break. The Waterloo Warriors were in town for a weekend Midwest High School Hockey League matchup where fans brought in non-perishable food items. The players delivered over 230 pounds of food to Upper Des Moines Opportunities following the food drive. A sincere thank you for the support as our players get to experience the importance of serving others and strengthening our community.

Thrift Store
SHOP. DONATE.
Make a Difference.

cherishedagain®
Furnish Your Home, Support Ours.

High-quality, gently used household items, furniture, appliances, decor, and more! All proceeds go towards housing expenses, food, education, and more for residents of Cherish House!

We will come and pick up your larger donations and can even deliver your larger purchases for a small fee.

to learn more

1004 22nd Street, Milford, IA 51351
712.338.3334
www.cherishcenter.org
[@cherished_again_milford](https://www.facebook.com/cherishedagainmilford)

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8TH ANNUAL CHILI TASTING AND JUDGING CONTEST

SATURDAY
JANUARY 17, 2026
5 PM - 7 PM
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712.332.9421 | tweetersokoboji.com

THE LNS
Clip this recipe card to save

RECIPE CORNER
Grab all the ingredients and more for this delicious recipe at Carstensen's Meat and Grocery.

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

Sweet Chili Soup
Serves 4

2 lbs. ground beef
1 lb. ground pork
1 onion, chopped
8 oz. can tomato sauce
15.5 oz. can chili beans
28 oz. can diced tomatoes
28 oz. can pork & beans
64 oz. can tomato juice
1/2 of a green pepper, chopped
4 oz. can sliced mushrooms
1/2 lb. bacon (cooked & crumbled)
2 T. chili powder
1 T. cumin
1/2 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup honey
1 clove garlic, minced
1/2 teaspoon black pepper
1 T. seasoning salt

Brown ground beef and pork together with chopped onion. Drain. Add the rest of the ingredients and simmer for one hour. Green peppers and mushrooms are optional. The great thing about this recipe is that you don't have to use everything on the ingredient list. This is a family favorite through the years and also a Cyclone tailgate favorite!

Recipe Courtesy of: Michelle Adams

DiGiorno Pizza
14.1-29.3 oz. **\$3.99**
RISING CRUST

Nabisco Toasted Chips
7-8 oz. **\$2.99**

Best Choice Sparkling Ice
17 oz. **69¢**

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Sunday, Jan. 18
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BINGO STARTS AT 1PM!
20 BINGO GAMES - GIFT BASKET PRIZES

PLUS BLACKOUT GRAND PRIZE \$500 VISA CARD

LRH Foundation's "Grape Escape" Signature Tasting Event

This year Lakes Regional Healthcare Foundation will hold their 13th annual fundraiser called the Grape Escape to celebrate the advancements in healthcare in the Iowa Great Lakes and to raise funds toward future projects. The event will be held on Friday, February 6 at the Roof Garden Ballroom. The evening will begin with hors d'oeuvres and signature cocktail and bourbon tasting upon arrival followed by three plated courses prepared by the Hi-Lo Supper Club and Catering, paired with select wines. There will be a live auction following the meal and entertainment from Jazzed Up Big Band to close out the evening. Tickets are \$150 each and can be purchased by visiting <https://donate.averafoundation.org/event/the-grape-escape-2026/e728117> or by calling 712-336-8791. Those unable to attend the Grape Escape but interested in supporting Lakes Regional Healthcare Foundation can contact Foundation Executive Director Sonja Hamm at 712-336-8791 or sonja.hamm@lakeshealth.org.

The Grape Escape wouldn't be possible without the support of sponsors. Sponsors have the following opportunities:

\$2,500 Sponsor:

- Name/logo in newspaper ad, news release, social media spotlight
- Name/business name featured on table place card and menu
- Eight (8) tickets to the event - \$1,200 value and reserved table

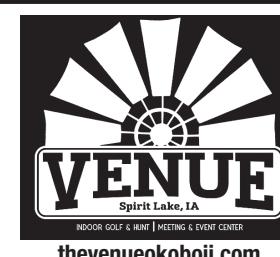
\$1,250 Sponsor:

- Name in newspaper ad, news release, social media
- Four (4) tickets to the event - \$600 value and reserved booth

\$1,000 Sponsor:

- Name in newspaper ad, news release, social media
- Two (2) tickets to the event - \$300 value

Those interested in sponsoring can contact Sonja Hamm.



Saturday, Jan. 24 • 9-11 am

- **2 Person Teams** - Compete in the Ultimate Puzzle Competition! Race against the clock to see who completes or has least amount remaining of the 500 piece puzzle in 2 hours.
- **\$100/Team** includes FREE Puzzle
- **Cash/Prize Payouts** for 1st, 2nd & 3rd Places



SIGN UP EARLY at **SPORTSMAN'S**
or by calling **712.336.0495**
*A minimum of 6 teams are needed.
Proceeds will be donated to **MentorIowa**

The mission of Mentor Iowa is to provide trained volunteer mentors to abused, neglected and delinquent children who are under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court. We will do this by working partnership with the children, their families and the community.

Hill Avenue • Spirit Lake • 712.336.0495

Sip, SHOP, DINE!

Local Talent Shines at the Annual Spencer School Exhibit

Local Talent Shines at the Annual Spencer School Exhibit

Arts on Grand is proud to announce the return of the annual Spencer School Show, a vibrant celebration of local student creativity running from January 12th through February 28th, 2026. This long-standing tradition invites the community to view and appreciate diverse artwork created by K-12 students from the Spencer Schools. The public is invited to a special Open House on Saturday, January 17th, from 10:00am to 3:00pm to meet the young artists and experience the collection firsthand at 408 Grand Ave. in Spencer, IA. For more information regarding the exhibit, residents can visit artsongrand.com or call 712-262-4307.

JANUARY IS NATIONAL RADON ACTION MONTH - GET YOUR TESTING KITS TODAY!

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OPEN
for Winter

Lakes Area Activity/Senior Center Wish List

• City of Spirit Lake green garbage bags

• Postage stamps

• Paper towels and Kleenex

• Toilet paper

• Coffee - regular, decaf, filters and Styrofoam coffee cups

Thank you for your donations!

Vascular Surgeon Dr. Patrick Kelly To Provide Care at LRH

Lakes Regional Healthcare (LRH) is pleased to announce that Dr. Patrick Kelly has started providing care to area patients within Lakes Regional Healthcare's Outpatient Center. He is one of the founding vascular surgeons at Dakota Vascular in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and will be at LRH's Outpatient Center one Monday each month.

Dr. Kelly is board certified with the American Board of Surgery, a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, a Clinical Professor at the University of South Dakota, an Adjunct Professor of Surgery at the University of Minnesota and belongs to the Society of Vascular Surgery. He attended medical school at the University of South Dakota Sanford School of Medicine in Vermillion, South Dakota. He did his residency at the Creighton University School of Medicine and his fellowship at the St. Louis University Health Science Center in St. Louis, Missouri.

"Dr. Kelly brings decades of experience and expertise," said LRH Director of Outpatient Services Bethany Zishka. "We're happy to have him on our team and caring for residents in and around Dickinson County."

Those who would like more information or who would like to schedule an appointment with Dr. Kelly can call Dakota Vascular at 605-306-6100.

CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT
thevenueokoboji.com
1609 Hill Ave. • Spirit Lake
712.336.0495

**Saturday, January 17th
10am Check-In • 11am Start**

- **\$40/Team**
Half of the proceeds go to our Fallen Heroes
1st, 2nd & 3rd Place Payout
Double Elimination
- **NFL Playoff Games will be on the Big Screens**

Contact Jadelynn Fife: 515-468-7916
or stop in the bar to enter



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

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80th Birthday Announcement

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

LAKE PARK MUSEUM BENEFIT

BINGO held at the
Lake Park Community Center

SATURDAY, JAN. 17

Cards will go on sale
at 5:30pm and

BINGO will begin at 6:00pm

A cash payout will be awarded for each game and each winner. There will be snacks, and pizza by the slice available to purchase.

All proceeds will go towards the Lake Park Museum Reimagined project.

**Fostoria Volunteer
Fire & Rescue's**

**Pancake
Breakfast**

Sunday, January 18 • 8AM-1PM
At the Fostoria Fire Station

FREE WILL DONATION • DINE IN OR CARRY OUT

Proceeds to help purchase & maintain equipment



SUNDAYS • 10:00 AM
TUESDAYS • 11:00 AM

The Reverend Carolyn Tuttle, Rector

Live Stream [f](#)
through our Facebook Page

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Website: stalbansepiscopalchurch.org

The Episcopal presence in the Iowa Great Lakes Area
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grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."
- Nehemiah 28:10



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try Chair Yoga with Sue DeBord -
Tuesdays at 10:00am

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Find us on [f](#)

Join us for "Between the Shelves", our year-long book challenge with 6 bimonthly challenges, each lasting two months. Every challenge features new prompts, so there's always something fresh to read! Complete 4 of the 6 prompts with books you read in 2026, turn your finished bookmark into the library at the end of each challenge, and pick up the next challenge. We will draw a winner at the end of each challenge. The January-February challenge will be competing for a gift card from Goose Feather Books and a travel mug! Even if you don't win an individual challenge, all participants will be entered to win a final prize at the end of the year! Earn up to 6 entries by completing each challenge. Want to plan ahead or need more than two months to complete a challenge? All 6 bookmarks are available for download at slplib.com. Current bookmarks can be picked up at the SL Library and Goose Feather Bookstore.

On Monday, January 19 at 1:00 p.m., we will be hosting Stewart Chisham, a local young adult author who just debuted his first book, Hudsonville: What Lies Beneath. This is the first in an exciting fantasy trilogy which bridges the gap between the mundane and the monstrous. Chisham grew up in Southwest Minnesota, and studied Film and Mass Communications at the University of Minnesota, Mankato, earning his BFA in 2022.

Since then, Chisham has worked within the field of journalism, earning two first-place awards in state-wide competitions within the first year. After spending a year at The Globe in Worthington, Minnesota, he now works as the news editor for the Dickinson County News in Spirit Lake.

SLPL staff reading spotlight: Diana is reading Green Pastures (The Amish of Shepherd's Hills, #1) by Patricia Johns

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:

- Monday, January 19, 10:00-11:30 a.m., No School Craft Day
- Monday, January 19, 1:00-2:00 p.m., YA author talk w/ Stewart Chisham
- Monday, January 19, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Mah-Jongg
- Tuesday, January 20, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Quilters
- Wednesday, January 21, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Page Turners Book Club (Between Shades of Gray by Ruta Sepetys)
- Wednesday, January 21, 12:30-4:00 p.m., Quilters
- Thursday, January 22, 10:30-11:15 a.m., Story Time
- Thursday, January 22, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Mah-Jongg

**Iowa Lakes Unitarian
Universalist Fellowship**

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



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Before & After the Service

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712.338.4642 • www.faithcommunitymilford.com

**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.



**Lakes Area
Benefit Breakfast**

The Lakes Area Activity Center (Spirit Lake IA) Senior Center/under the water tower) is sponsoring a breakfast on Sunday, January 18th, 8:30-12:00pm. Sausage gravy and biscuits, egg bakes, caramel and cinnamon rolls, orange juice and coffee available for a freewill donation. Open to the public.



First Lutheran Church
9/7/2025 - 5/24/2026

SUNDAY

Schedule

WORSHIP
8:30 AM &
11:00 AM

FELLOWSHIP
9:30 AM
EDUCATION
9:45 AM

1525 Three Cross Road
Milford, IA

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Spirit Lake Library News

Between The Shelves
by Breanna Cother

Join us for "Between the Shelves", our year-long book challenge with 6 bimonthly challenges, each lasting two months. Every challenge features new prompts, so there's always something fresh to read! Complete 4 of the 6 prompts with books you read in 2026, turn your finished bookmark into the library at the end of each challenge, and pick up the next challenge. We will draw a winner at the end of each challenge. The January-February challenge will be competing for a gift card from Goose Feather Books and a travel mug! Even if you don't win an individual challenge, all participants will be entered to win a final prize at the end of the year! Earn up to 6 entries by completing each challenge. Want to plan ahead or need more than two months to complete a challenge? All 6 bookmarks are available for download at slplib.com. Current bookmarks can be picked up at the SL Library and Goose Feather Bookstore.

HICKORY SMOKED FRESH DAILY BABY BACK PORK RIBS & BRISKET

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**Thursdays: Meat Raffle!
Sponsored by the Twilight Masonic Lodge
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**HOURS: Mon.-Sat. 11am-10pm
Fri. & Sat. 10pm-3am Late Night Breakfast
117 W. Broadway, Arnolds Park
712-332-5152**



THE LAKES NEWS SHOPPER

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

Page 9

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See our website & menu: thehutbarandgrill.com

DAILY SPECIALS at 11am

DAILY SPECIALS

- Wed., Jan. 14: Pan Fried Chicken Quesadillas
- Thur., Jan. 15: Loaded Potato Bowl Mushroom & Swiss Burger
- Fri., Jan. 16: Country Fried Steak Pork Tenderloin Melt
- Mon., Jan. 19: Hot Beef Taco Salad
- Tues., Jan. 20: CLOSED

Friday Night Special

Fish Fry • Coconut Shrimp

Saturday Night Special

Prime Rib • Cajun Chicken Pasta

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

Book your Birthday Party or event with us!
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THE HOUSEMAID
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MON-THUR 1/19-22 7:00

THE HOUSEMAID
CAN YOU KEEP A SECRET?
MILLY & VICTOR

SONG SUNG BLUE
FRI 1/16 7:10
SAT-SUN 1/17-18 7:10
MON-THUR 1/19-22 6:45

SONG SUNG BLUE
FRI 1/16 7:10
SAT-SUN 1/17-18 7:10
MON-THUR 1/19-22 6:45

DAVID
FRI 1/16 4:10
SAT-SUN 1/17-18 1:15 & 4:15

VENUE
Spirit Lake, IA
INDOOR GOLF & WINE | MEETING & EVENT CENTER

WINTER GAMES GOLF TOURNAMENT
thevenueokoboji.com

Thurs.-Fri.-Sat., Jan. 22-23-24

• 2 Person Best Ball • 18 Holes

• \$150/Team -

Half of the entry fee paid back to 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place Teams

• 2 Hour Tee Times

Thursday, January 22: 6 am - close

Friday, January 23: 6 am - close

Saturday, January 24: 6 am - 2 pm

SIGN UP at SPORTSMAN'S

or by calling 712.336.0495

Proceeds will be donated to Mentor Iowa

The mission of Mentor Iowa is to provide trained volunteer mentors to abused, neglected and delinquent children who are under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court. We will do this by working in partnership with the children, their families and the community.

Hill Avenue • Spirit Lake • 712.336.0495



Join us for BREAKFAST

Sunday, January 18th 8:30 am - Noon

Free Will Offering

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)

WINTER IS HERE!

If winter comes, can spring be far behind?

Lakes Area Activity/ Senior Center Winter Games Card Party

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24th

Registration: 8:30 AM

Card Playing Begins: 9:00 AM

Cards: Pinochle or 500 or Mahjong

Cards and Lunch: \$10.00

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Winter Games Cheerleaders: THE VOTES ARE IN!

After collecting nominations for all of December and holding a community-wide voting on January 5th & 6th, the Winter Games Committee has officially tallied up the votes! This year, around 1,000 ballots were counted both electronically and in person at the Iowa Great Lakes Area Chamber. We now present to you the 2026 University of Okoboji Winter Games Cheerleaders, and due to a tie, we are announcing 9 deserving individuals.

Emily Boettcher - "Emily always has a ready smile and a giving heart. You're never a stranger for long, just someone she hasn't met yet. She is a proud farmer/cattleman and loves to share her farm experience with anyone! She is active on golf and bowling leagues and participates in many fundraising events in these sports around the area. Emily is an avid hunter as well. She was a 4-H'er and continues to give back to the community volunteering at the County Fair and also with Ag in the Classroom activities through Iowa State University Extension. She loves Winter Games and can be found out and about with friends participating in various activities. Emily is the epitome of service, she is the VP of Dickinson County Farm Bureau Board, Commissioner & Treasurer of Dickinson County Soil & Water Conservation District and is active on the Dickinson County Cattlemen Board. She is one of the Iowa Farm Bureau Ag Leaders and has been a panel speaker for the State Women In Ag Conference."

Josh Carr - "Josh has worked for Camp Foster impacting lives for over 20 years. Josh has been a great community member through his volunteer work with youth programs, his church and supporting Chamber events."

Nicole Evans - "Look no further than voting for Nicole Evans as a cheerleader for the 2026 University of Okoboji Winter Games! Nicole never says "no" when asked to volunteer or serve in our community- her can-do, go-getter, positive attitude and willingness to pitch in whenever needed is inspiring! Nicole is a caring, committed, generous community leader. Nicole serves on the Good Neighbor Fund board, Spirit Lake Youth Little League Board, treasurer for the Dickinson County Relay for Life, Family Crisis Center Board, and is the past president of the Spirit Lake Elementary P.I.E. committee. Nicole works at Northwest Bank and lives in Spirit Lake with her husband Tommy and two children Davis and Charlee."

Michael Jensen - "Lifetime resident. Donates time and money to the area. Works



2026 WINTER GAMES CHEERLEADERS

tirelessly to promote preservation of the area. He gives back through the life jacket program, food drive, Halloween programs and Okoboji Wave"

Nick Plueger - "Nick is one of the gym teachers at Okoboji Middle School. He and his wife own CrossFit Okoboji. Nick is probably one of the biggest motivators and supporters for those in the community. Those who know him know he has such a huge heart. If you ask any of the kiddos at Okoboji Middle School who they want as a PE teacher, it's Mr. Plueger. Nick is nothing short of an inspiration and a role model for all ages! Nick would make the perfect Okoboji Winter Games cheerleader!"

Krista & Trevor Smith - "Trevor and Krista grew up in the Iowa Great Lakes area and returned home in the last few years to set roots and start their family. Trevor works for the Iowa Lakes Corridor and is a key supporter of the Lakes area and all it has to offer. Krista recently started working as the Executive Director of the Spirit Lake Chamber. Both Krista and Trevor are true cheerleaders of the area and are dedicated in their personal and professional lives to strengthening the community. They are involved in Special Olympics, Spencer Young Professionals, Kiwanis K-Kids, and so much more."

Andy Wolf - "Andy has served the Bedell Family YMCA for over 15 years in multiple roles. Outside of work, Andy has impacted numerous children as a volunteer coach for youth basketball, football and baseball. He currently serves as the Varsity Baseball coach for Okoboji High School."

As CEO of the Iowa Great Lakes Board of REALTORS®-Æ, she leads with

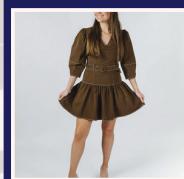
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40% WINTER DEALS



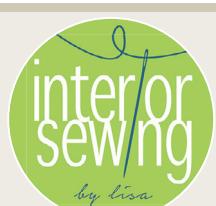
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View From The Bench

by John Adams, Jr.

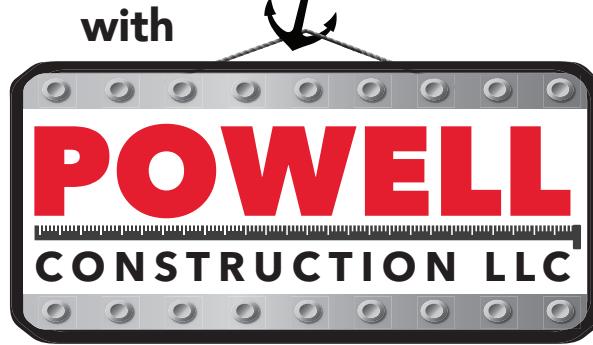
Purdy Good "System" QB

This might have been one of the best NFL Wild Card Weekends I can remember, with pretty much every game, except the Sunday night game, coming down to the final minute. On Saturday we saw the LA Rams score a touchdown with just :18 left to win a thrilling game at Carolina, 34-31. Not to be outdone, that night the Chicago Bears rallied from a 21-3 halftime deficit to beat their hated rival Green Bay Packers, 31-27, scoring late and then holding the Packers out of the end zone on the last pass of the game. Sunday started the same way, with the Buffalo Bills scoring a touchdown with 1:04 left to win at Jacksonville, 27-24. Sunday afternoon Brock Purdy and his San Francisco 49ers went in to battle the defending Super Bowl Champion Philadelphia Eagles, and came out on top with a late Purdy touchdown pass to Christian McCaffrey, and then a last-minute defensive stand to pull out the 23-19 win.

Brock Purdy has already led his 49er team to one Super Bowl and two NFC Championship games in his first four years, but this win and this 13-4 season has to be near the top of his accomplishments as an NFL quarterback. Purdy has been called a "system" quarterback during his first three years by many NFL "experts" who said he was only successful because he was surrounded by superstars and played in head coach Kyle Shanahan's brilliant offensive system. Well, this year and Sunday there was no Branden Aiuk, who has mysteriously sat out all year, no Deebo Samuel, who is now with the Washington Commanders, no George Kittle who missed part of the season and then on Sunday injured his Achilles on his first catch of the game and will miss the rest of the Playoffs and probably most of next season, and no receiver Ricky Pearsall, who missed much of the season and didn't play on Sunday due to an injury. Purdy silenced his critics by throwing for 262 yards and two touchdowns in a very windy and hostile stadium against one of the best defenses in the NFL. Included in those touchdowns was the go-ahead pass, one that was created by Purdy's scrambling ability that bought him time to find McCaffrey in the end zone.

Purdy was far from perfect on Sunday, going just 18/31 and throwing two interceptions. However, to me, the most impressive part about Purdy's performance was how he bounced back from those two interceptions, which were two poor decisions to throw balls into the wind at All-Pro defensive back Quincy Mitchell. Tom Brady, arguably the best quarterback to ever play in the NFL, mentioned this when Purdy was leading the 49ers on their game-winning drive in the fourth quarter. Brady talked about how impressed he was with Purdy's mental toughness to respond from those interceptions and be able to continue to lead his team like he did, and make the plays that he made to help them knock out the defending Super Bowl Champions. With my Vikings knocked out of the Playoff race over a month ago, I now cheer for former Cyclones in the NFL Playoffs (thank God Matt Campbell stayed long enough for none of these guys to have transferred!). I would love to see a 49ers and Texans, who have three former ISU wide-receivers, play in the Super Bowl, but realize that is a long-shot. For now, I'm just happy that I get to watch this Purdy good "system" quarterback play football at least one more week; Bang-Bang, Niner Gang!!

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Spirit Lake K of C Advance New Knights

The Knights of Columbus Iowa Great Lakes Council 5043 oversaw the exemplification for three members. The ceremony was held January 11 at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Spirit Lake.

Honored with the third degree by District Deputy Jim Miller, with State Chaplain Rev. Dan Guenther presiding, were Vance Katzley, Okoboji, Jason Dahna, Graettinger and Nicholas Poss, Ashton.

With family members in attendance, the men committed themselves to the first three degrees of the Knights of Columbus: charity, unity and fraternity.

Iowa Great Lakes Council 5043 is one of the most active in Iowa, in the past few years contributing more than \$30,000 to local community needs, including Hope Haven, Iowa Helping Hands Fund, American Wheelchair Mission, the Grotto of the Redemption, Cherish House, Guatemala Mission, Women of the Well Project, Prison Ministries, as well as to local family, community, and parish needs. Local Knights sponsor annual youth events including the Free Throw Competition, Spelling Bee, Coats for Kids, and the Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest. They also run the Tootsie Roll Drive for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities Labor Day weekend, benefiting Special Olympics and local organizations.

In 1882, Blessed Michael McGivney, a young parish priest in New Haven, Connecticut, founded the Knights of Columbus to serve the needs of a largely immigrant Catholic community. What began as a small fraternal benefit society has since grown into one of the world's leading international charitable organizations, with more than 1.9 million members in over 16,000 local councils. In the past year Knights provided 285,000 children with winter coats, brought 243 U.S. service members to Lourdes on pilgrimage, and gave more than \$325,000 to the formation of men and women pursuing a religious vocation.

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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.

Lakes Area Senior/Activity Center Events

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

Blood Pressure Screening is the last Tuesday of every month.

Tai Chi at 11:00am and Zumba class at 4:00pm 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.

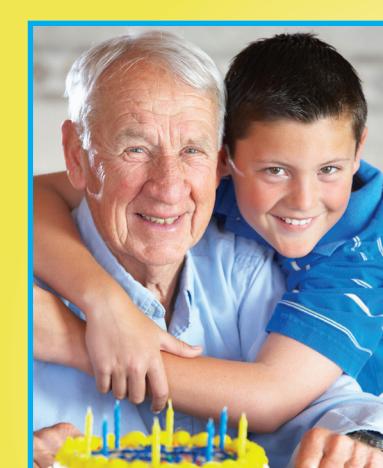
Pool and ping pong tables available.

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.



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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.

Benefit Concert to Erase \$25,000
School Lunch Debt for Local Students

On Friday, January 16, from 8:00 PM to 11:00 PM, the Peacock Lounge and Grille will host the "Lunch for Kids Fundraiser" to support students in the Okoboji and Spirit Lake school districts. The community-led event aims to eliminate a deficit of over \$25,000 in unpaid school lunch fees to ensure every local student has access to a meal.

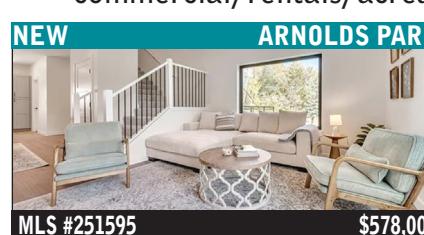
The evening will feature live entertainment by Chris & Micah from the band Decoy. Entry to the event is \$20 at the door, and all proceeds will be donated to the local schools. Organizers are accepting donations in the form of cash or checks both during and prior to the event. By joining together for this night of music and community, residents can help close the lunch gap and feed local students tomorrow.



Donate before or during the event. Cash or checks will be accepted. \$20 at the door.

Battle of the Chili Pots

Who's ready for some Chili? Some Fireman chili at that!! That's right, it's time for the Lakes Area Fire Department's "Battle of the Chili Pots". This is an annual feed where the firemen from some of the Area fire departments brew up the prize-winning spicy and mild chili recipes and offer them to the public to come and enjoy for a free will offering. Each participant will be given a small bowl to go through the line and sample all of the different chilis that are being offered. Each participant will also be given a set of judging beads. Then, when you have decided which chili is the best, you place your bead in the jar of the one you like the best. All proceeds from the feed get split equally between all the departments at the chili feed. The winner of each division will get to take home the traveling trophy and get to have bragging rights until next year's feed. This great event will be held on Saturday, January 17th, at the Spirit Lake Fire Station, at 2001 Peoria Avenue in Spirit Lake. The Chili feed starts at 5:00PM and runs through 7:00PM. Everyone is invited to come cheer on the fire departments as we decide who makes the best chili. This is a Family fun event where you get to sample some great chili, look at some cool fire trucks and visit with the local firemen that protect our communities. See you there.

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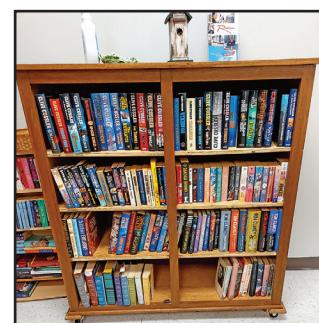
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New Year Brings Big Changes for HSNWIA

The start of 2026 is ushering in a season of meaningful change for the Humane Society of Northwest Iowa, an organization that has quietly but steadily served the region for nearly four decades.

Founded in 1987, the Humane Society of Northwest Iowa has long provided animal care, sheltering, and adoption services to communities across multiple counties in Northwest Iowa. Now, as the new year begins, the organization is rolling out a series of upgrades designed to strengthen those services and better meet growing community needs.

Many residents have already noticed one visible change: the Humane Society's newly decorated outreach van, which has been making appearances at events throughout the region. Behind the scenes, however, even more substantial improvements are underway.

According to Board President Matt Lanfear, the Board of Directors spent much of the final quarter of 2025 planning and preparing for what promises to be a transformative year.

"We've been laying the groundwork to ensure we're ready for some major improvements in 2026," Lanfear said.

One of the most notable changes is expanded public access to the shelter. Beginning January 5, 2026, the Humane Society will be open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., no appointment needed, giving community members more opportunities to visit, volunteer, and most importantly adopt a new four-legged family member.

Volunteer engagement is also getting a modern upgrade. The organization has implemented new software to better connect with its volunteers, often described as the lifeblood of the shelter. Community members are encouraged to download the "Point" for Volunteers app (available in apple and android app stores) and select the Humane Society of Northwest Iowa to view available opportunities. The platform is designed to make volunteering easier to access, clearer in expectations, and more informative for both new and returning volunteers.

In addition, the Humane Society is refreshing some of its most popular fundraising events while developing new, engaging activities aimed at becoming future community favorites. These efforts will support ongoing operations and help fund upcoming improvements.

Looking ahead, the organization is planning the launch of a new website in early spring, continuing work on a new capital project that will upgrade the shelter's appearance and functionality. These enhancements are intended to help the facility better handle increasing demand while creating a more welcoming environment for animals, volunteers, and visitors alike.

"It's going to be an exciting year, full of changes," Lanfear said. "We're looking forward to engaging with our community in 2026."

For an organization built on compassion and community support, the new year signals not just change, but renewed momentum toward an even stronger future for animals and the people who care about them.



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 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

Milford Memorial Library would like to announce the top items that were checked out during 2025. MML welcomes you to come and enjoy these beloved stories. We are looking forward to seeing what you will read in 2026.

Adult Fiction: Boyfriend by Freida McFadden

Adult Non-Fiction: Framed by John Grisham
Children's Picture Book: Little Blue Truck Makes a Friend by Alice Schertle

Children's Chapter Book: Wings of Fire by Tui T. Sutherland

Young Adult: Sunrise on the Reaping by Suzanne Collins

Any interested individuals are welcome to join MML's Book Club on Tuesday, January 20, at 1:00 p.m. The featured book, Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus, can be found in our library. It is not necessary to attend all of the meetings, and you are welcome to come and go as you please. For any questions, please contact the library by calling 712-338-4643 or by emailing milfordlibrary51351@gmail.com.



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THE LAKES NEWS Auction Calendar

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.

Sat., Jan. 24 – 9:00 AM-
Large coin auction in Windom, MN. Auctioneers: Gravley. 507-822-0403. www.auctionsogo.com.

Wed., Jan. 28 – 10:00 AM-
142.17 acres at auction in Fairmont, MN. Auctioneers: Hartungs. 507-236-7628. www.auctioneeralley.com.

Thurs., Jan. 29 – 10:00 AM-
203.83 acres at auction in Fairmont, MN. Auctioneers: Hartungs. 507-236-7628. www.auctioneeralley.com.

Sat., 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.

Thurs., Feb. 19 – 10:00 AM-
80 acres at auction in Royal, IA. Auctioneers: Midwest Land Management. 712-262-3110. www.midwestlandmanagement.com.

local nonprofits this spring. To date, they have already raised \$53,000 toward that goal, with fundraising continuing through March 31, 2026.

Students also participated in an interactive team-building activity before breaking into leadership groups, where they continue to build skills in communication, collaboration, leadership, and thoughtful grantmaking.

The meeting concluded with discussion of upcoming presentation opportunities, including speaking engagements with Rotary, Kiwanis, and school-based service organizations such as Key Club and Service in Action. These opportunities allow students to share the impact of Youth in Philanthropy while growing their confidence as ambassadors for community giving.

The next Youth in Philanthropy meeting will be held on February 4 at Iowa Lakeside Laboratory.

Youth in Philanthropy empowers high school students to raise funds, evaluate grant requests, and award grants to nonprofit organizations serving the Iowa Great Lakes region. Community support is essential to the success of this program. Donations directly increase the dollars students will be able to grant to local nonprofits this spring, investing not only in critical community needs, but



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- Final Body Scans: March 18 – March 20

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Youth in Philanthropy Students Begin 2026 with Strong Fundraising Momentum and a Call for Community Support

Youth in Philanthropy (YIP) students, a program of the Okoboji Foundation, kicked off the new year on January 7 with their January meeting held at Pearson Lakes Art Center (PLAC). As part of the program's mission to educate students about philanthropy in action, YIP meets each month at a different local nonprofit, giving students the opportunity to learn firsthand about the diverse missions that strengthen the Iowa Great Lakes region.

The January meeting began with a nonprofit spotlight on Pearson Lakes Art Center. Students heard from PLAC Director Bob Kirschbaum, who shared insights into the organization's mission and the vital role philanthropy plays in supporting arts and culture in the region. Jay Hardy, Production Manager, then led students on a behind-the-scenes tour of the Performing Arts Theatre, highlighting the center's technology, production capabilities, and visual arts software. PLAC was a recent recipient of Youth in Philanthropy grant funding, receiving \$18,500 in May 2025 to support theater updates—an example of the real, local impact students help make through the program.

Following the nonprofit highlight, students received an update on their 2025–2026 fundraising efforts. Together, YIP students have set an ambitious goal of raising \$80,000 to award in grants to

Citizens Community Credit Union Named To Newsweek's America's Best Regional Banks & Credit Unions 2026

For the third consecutive year, Citizens Community Credit Union was named as one of America's Best Regional Banks and Credit Unions for 2026. Newsweek and Plant-A Insights Group recognized the top 500 regional banks and top 500 regional credit unions in the United States that are committed to powering local economies by supporting small businesses, financing community projects and providing reliable access to everyday banking services. This year's list of honorees included just two Iowa-based credit unions.

"Being recognized for the third year in a row is a tremendous honor and a meaningful affirmation of the work our team does every day," said Dan Scott, Chief Executive Officer. "This award reflects the dedication of our entire staff, who remain deeply committed to improving the financial well-being of our members and consistently demonstrating the credit union difference. We're also proud to be a trusted partner and positive force in the communities we serve. While awards are never our motivation, we are grateful for this recognition and proudly accept this designation."

More than 8,800 regional financial institutions were considered for this award, with selection based on a number of factors, including financial relevance and the overall health and stability of the financial institution. In addition, online and social media reviews, customer surveys and third-party news media monitoring were considered as part of the selection process.

"More than financial service providers, credit unions are community partners, showing up in neighborhoods, participating in local initiatives and helping strengthen the connections that bind their members together," said Jennifer H. Cunningham, Editor-in-Chief of Newsweek.

For more information, visit us online at <https://www.citizenscu.com/americas-best-credit-unions>.

Established in 1940, Citizens Community Credit Union is a not-for-profit, member-owned financial cooperative serving more than 15,000 members in 33 counties in northwest and north central Iowa. Citizens ranks in the top 10% in the country for safety and soundness and offers a wide range of financial products and services at eight convenient locations in Fort Dodge, Algona, Belmond, Estherville, Lake Mills, Spirit Lake and Storm Lake. To learn more, visit www.citizenscu.com or call (515) 955-5524.



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Obituary

On January 5, 2026, **Helen Lucille Hand**, also known as Lucy, passed away at McKinley Hospital in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, from stage 4 ovarian cancer and other complications.

Her parents, who have already passed, were Charles and Opal Smith from Galt, Missouri. Lucy was born on June 8, 1955, in Milan, Missouri. In 1973, at the age of 18, she married Wiley C. Hand Jr. from Hope, Arkansas. Wiley was born July 14, 1955. Their marriage lasted 53 years to this day.

Lucy and Wiley lived in Peterson, Iowa, from 2021 to 2026, enjoying retirement. Lucy's work history involved working in a nursing home, helping people to cope and enjoy their last days. Lucy enjoyed her simple life, just being around her kids and grandkids. She had a passion for going to Las Vegas on her vacations, and she went 11 times.

We will all miss her as she leaves behind her two sons, Bryan and Angel; her daughters-in-law, Heidi and Cathy; and her husband, Wiley Hand. And let's not forget her grandkids: Jacob, Jeremy, Kathryn, Sandi, Salvedin, Mykuya, Alex, Keagan, Chris, Nick and Nicki.

Service pending.



Obituary

A Celebration of Life Gathering for **Noah D. Scott**, age 22 of Milford, Iowa, was held on Friday, January 9, 2026, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Milford from 4:30 PM, with a Parish Scripture Service at 6:30 PM.

Interment was at Calvary Cemetery in rural Milford.

Noah Dylan Scott, the son of Jason Scott and Tanya Meyerling, was born on January 22, 2003, in Spirit Lake, Iowa. He attended school in Okoboji and lived in Estherville, Milford, and Sioux Falls throughout his life. Noah worked at FedEx in Sioux Falls before returning to the lakes area, where he was employed at Diamond Concrete. Noah was baptized in the Catholic faith and had attended St. Joseph's Catholic Church previously.

Noah enjoyed fishing and spending time with friends and family. He worked hard and played hard, and he deeply loved his son, Oliver, often taking him on bike rides. Noah also enjoyed riding his bike and dirt bikes. He had many friends, and his Aunt Bridget fondly described him as a "good soul".

Noah passed away on December 31, 2025.

Those left to cherish his memory include his son, Oliver; his parents; step-mother, Talina; brother, Ethan; half-sister, Mallory; grandparents, Jay and Patti; cousins: Sean, Zoe, Seth, Phillip, Marcus, and Vance; half-brother, Quen and half-sister, Danica; aunts: Teri, Terri, Jackie, Bridget; uncles: Travis, Jeremy, Terry, Paul; as well as aunts, cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends.

Noah was preceded in death by his grandpa, Paul, and grandma, Shirley, as well as his grandma, Sue.

Turner Jenness Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.



Obituary

A funeral service for **Dorothy "Dottie" Burgeson**, age 95, of Spirit Lake, was held Saturday, January 10, 2026, at Harbor of Joy Lutheran Church in Milford. Burial was at Memory Gardens Cemetery. Memorials in honor of Dottie can be given to St. Jude's Children Hospital.

Dottie passed away January 4, 2026.

Dorothy Jane Stroud, the daughter of Roy and Minnie Stroud, was born on June 4, 1930, near Ocheyedan, IA. She attended rural school near Ocheyedan and graduated from Harris High School. She went on to college, graduating with a degree in education from Drake University in 1952 and began her teaching career in Ventura for a year & then at Ocheyedan. She taught typing, bookkeeping & shorthand. Dorothy married Russell Burgeson on January 1, 1953, in Fort Campbell, KY. Russell had been in a serious motorcycle accident so they were married in the hospital chapel. Russ remained in the hospital for several more months as Dorothy returned to teaching in Ocheyedan. In 1956 they moved outside of Round Lake, MN, to farm. There they were blessed with the births of their 3 children, Gayla, Bill, & Ryan. During that time they loved getting together with neighbors and friends to play cards or square dance. In 1963, they moved into a new house in Lake Park, IA. Dorothy by that time was teaching in Harris. She taught Jr. High English, typing & Home Economics. In 1965, they moved to a farm south of Harris and Dorothy's parents moved into the house in Lake Park. During that time she went back to teaching in Ocheyedan half days. She continued to teach until 1974.

After retiring from farming, Dorothy and Russell bought an RV and started traveling. In 2000, they decided to sell their acreage and become full-time RVers. They spent their winters in McAllen, TX, and camped at Celna campground in Spirit Lake, IA, for the summers. When in Iowa Dorothy & Russ enjoyed volunteering at Thee Garage Sale in Milford, golfing, and attending church. They travelled all over the US and spent many fun times with friends in Texas. In 2011 they stopped going to Texas and settled down at Courtyard Estates in Spirit Lake, IA. They were members of Harbor of Joy Lutheran Church in Milford, IA.

Dorothy moved into Keelson Harbour in 2016 and enjoyed the staff and the friends made there.

Dorothy loved sewing, needlework, playing the piano, reading and golfing. She always enjoyed watching her children & later her grandchildren's activities and sports. At the age of 42, she learned to play golf. She spent much time in golf league & playing in tournaments. She even won the Women's Lake Park Golf Tournament one year, as well as several tournaments in Twin Palms, Texas. She especially enjoyed the years of traveling, meeting people and playing cards.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her parents, Roy and Minnie Stroud, her husband, Russell, and her grandson, Wesley Burgeson. She is survived by her children, Gayla (Tim) Pleggenkuhle, William "Bill" Burgeson, Ryan (Cheryl) Burgeson; grandchildren, Jason (Lindsay) Pleggenkuhle, Kyle Pleggenkuhle, Caitlyn (Jason) Elvis, Kristen Burgeson and Faith (Josh) McDaniel; great-grandchildren, Jackson and Liam Pleggenkuhle, Addie and Macie Elvis, and Bethany and Waylon McDaniel.

Arrangements were under the care of Turner Jenness Funeral Home.



Obituary

A funeral service for **Merlyn Hennings**, officiated by Dr. Lynn Dau and Deacon Lynn Egesdahl, was held on Saturday, January 10, 2026, at the Trinity United Church of Christ in Hartley, Iowa. Burial was at the West Holman Township Cemetery in Sibley, Iowa, featuring military graveside rites conducted by the Arthur W. Kirchoff Post #288 of Hartley.

Merlyn George Hennings, one of three children of Rudy and Irene (Frick) Hennings, was born May 9, 1929, in Hartley, Iowa. He grew up on his parent's farm near Moneta, doing what most country kids do – going to school, playing and helping with farm work at a rather young age... instilling in him a passion for agriculture. He received his education at Moneta High School.

From the fall of 1951 until his honorable discharge in 1953, Merlyn served his country with the United States Army during the Korean Conflict. Following his release from the military, he returned home and resumed farming with his father.

On December 28, 1956, Merlyn was united in marriage to Anna Jean Moet in Sibley, IA. They began farming together near Hartley, IA, eventually adding three sons to their family: Larry, Loren and Lynn. Along with managing his farming operation, Merlyn had served as County Manager for Archer Oil Company based in Omaha, NE. He was also the leader of the Jolly Workers 4-H Club for several years, something he enjoyed doing while his boys were young. As a member of Trinity United Church of Christ, Merlyn was instrumental on the building committee, had acted as Sunday School Superintendent and belonged to the men's Brotherhood group. He was a proud member of the Arthur W. Kirchoff American Legion Post #288 in Hartley and had taken advantage of the opportunity to visit Washington D.C. on an Honor Flight in 2016.

In November of 1983, Anna Jean passed away after a short illness; Merlyn stayed on the farm and kept doing what he did best and loved the most. With his positive attitude and friendly demeanor, he found companionship once more with Barbara J. Peters; they were married in Hartley on July 6, 1986, and called Merlyn's farm "home" for the next ten years. With all three of his boys now successfully engaged in farming, Merlyn decided to retire. He and Barb relocated to the small community of Wahpeton, IA, near the shores of West Lake Okoboji, trading rolling waves of bean fields and tall corn for something you can throw your fishing line into...and he did! Both of them loved to travel and see new places, so several memorable trips were enjoyed together. Sadly, Barb passed away in August of 2021. Merlyn moved back to the town of Hartley to be closer to his family and familiar faces. Through mutual friends, he became acquainted with Ardith Evenson of Archer, IA; they grew very close to one another. He developed a special connection with Ardith's family as well and always looked forward to spending time with them. They often worshipped together with friends at Grace Lutheran in Primghar, IA.

On Tuesday, January 6, 2026, Merlyn also left this world, only to be joyously welcomed by loved ones who had gone before him: his wife, Anna Jean Hennings; his parents, Rudy and Irene Hennings; parents-in-law, Walter and Doris Moet; his sister, Marlys (Garland) Hohbach; infant nephew, Craig Hohbach; and his second wife, Barbara Hennings.

He is survived by special friend, Ardith Evenson of Archer, IA; his sons, Larry (Becky) Hennings of Hartley, IA; Loren Hennings of Ocheyedan, IA; Lynn (Jodie) Hennings of Hartley, IA; grandchildren, Carrie Roede Paplow, Michael (Taylor) Roede, Jameson (Bailey) Hennings, Kyle (Heather) Hennings, Stacie (Brad) Groeneweg, and Amanda (Matt) Altman; great-grandchildren, Harlow and Tatum Hennings, Cael and Hayden Roede, Braelyn, Wrenley and Kotler Hennings, Annabelle and Brant Altman; stepchildren, Pam (Jay) Moreale, Amy (Tony) Volk, Joan (Erik Larson) Peters; stepgrandchildren, Nick and Bella Moreale, Claire, Dan and Elise Volk; his brother, Merwin (Teena) Hennings; other relatives and friends.



Mary Cathleen Gengerke, age 75, of Spirit Lake, Iowa, passed away on Thursday, January 8, 2026, at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Friday, January 23, 2026, at First Lutheran Church in Milford. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service on Friday at the church. Inurnment will take place in the church's columbarium. Arrangements are under the direction of the Robinson Funeral Home in Spirit Lake. Online Condolences may be left at www.spiritlakefuneralhome.com

Mary was born on June 7, 1950, in Le Mars, Iowa, to Vincent and Martha (Paulsen) Hall. She graduated from Gehlen Catholic School and went on to earn her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from South Dakota State University. On July 31, 1971, Mary was united in marriage to Thomas Gengerke in Le Mars.

Mary held various positions throughout her professional nursing career, including roles as a charge nurse, clinical instructor, and public health nurse. Tom and Mary's careers took them to South Dakota, Kansas, New York, and Iowa. With a passion for education, she later earned her master's degree in education from Iowa State University. Mary went on to teach clinical nursing at Iowa Lakes Community College and the University of Iowa, where she made a lasting impact on countless students through her dedication, knowledge, and mentorship.

She was a faithful member of First Lutheran Church in Milford and an active member of P.E.O. In her free time, Mary enjoyed quilting, playing Mah-jongg and Bridge, fishing, and golfing. Above all else, she cherished time spent with her grandchildren, who were the joy of her life.

Mary is survived by her loving husband, Tom Gengerke, of Spirit Lake; sons, Todd (Jeanne) Gengerke of Plymouth, Minnesota, and Jason (April) Jackson of Eureka, California; grandchildren, Charlie, Nora, Lorelei, Miles, Walter Dee, Gus, and Oscar; brother Michael (Pat) Hall of Bradenton, Florida; and sister-in-law Lorraine Hall, of Camarillo, California.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her brothers, Don (Laura) Hall and Joseph Hall; and her sister, Margie (Jim) Moir.



The Dickinson County Democrats invite the public to their monthly meeting on Monday, January 19, at 7:00 PM. The meeting will be held at the Spirit Lake Senior Center, located at 2101 Zenith Avenue in Spirit Lake (under the water tower).

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to bring a friend or neighbor. This meeting is an opportunity for those with ideas, concerns, or suggestions to get involved and volunteer to help build a better America.

Attendees will help the group decide which local non-profit organization will receive the winnings from their Mall Tree donation.

The Dickinson County Democrats operate on the belief that the economy should work for everyone, health care is a right, diversity is a strength, and democracy is worth defending.

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+ Deposit

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Land Auction

February 19 • 10:00 A.M.
 Royal Community Center, Royal, Iowa

80 Acres m/l
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 Clay County, IA
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Spirit Lake Fareway Customers Raise Funds to Support Middle School Students and Faculty

During the recent Thanksgiving holiday season, shoppers at the Spirit Lake Fareway demonstrated the true spirit of giving. Through a register "round-up" campaign, customers donated a total of \$387 to benefit Spirit Lake Middle School's Partners In Education (PIE) program.

The funds raised will go directly toward enriching the educational environment for 5th through 8th-grade students. PIE plays a vital role in the school community by bridging the gap between standard budgets and enhanced learning opportunities. Specifically, these donations help sponsor:

- Educational Field Trips: Providing hands-on learning experiences outside the classroom.
- Classroom Supplies: Equipping teachers with the tools they need for daily instruction.

- Library Resources: Purchasing new books and magazine subscriptions to foster a love of reading.

- Special Projects: Supporting various initiatives designed to enhance the overall middle school experience.

"We are incredibly grateful to Fareway and their generous customers for supporting our students and instructors," said Jen Johnson-Ross, President of Spirit Lake Middle School PIE. "This contribution helps us continue our mission of providing extra resources that make our middle school such a great place to learn and grow."

The PIE organization, faculty, and students of Spirit Lake Middle School extend a heartfelt thank you to the community for their continued investment in the success of local youth.



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FAMILY NATURE NIGHT
 Be Like Bigfoot Friday, January 23 5-6 PM

Pre-register online on our programs page www.dickinsoncountynaturecenter.com

Family Nature Night: Be Like Bigfoot

Families are invited to an evening of discovery and outdoor fun at the Dickinson County Nature Center during the next Family Nature Night on Friday, January 23, from 5:00 to 6:00 pm. This free program encourages families to learn about nature and the outdoors while spending quality time together.

The evening's theme, 'Be Like Bigfoot' by leaving no trace. Families will walk through a visual timeline that shows how long different types of trash take to break down in nature. The group will then head outside to search the trails at Kenue Park for the seven Leave No Trace principles while keeping an eye out for any signs that Bigfoot might have passed through.

Back indoors, families will brainstorm ways they can leave little to no trace when visiting wild spaces. Everyone will add their ideas to a large collage that will be displayed at the Nature Center. Children will also receive a booklet to take home as a reminder to care for outdoor spaces wherever their adventures take them.

Families are required to register and sign up by visiting [www.dickinsoncountynaturecenter.com](http://dickinsoncountynaturecenter.com) under the Programs/Events tab. Registration deadline is 5 PM on January 21st. To find other events, visit the events page online or follow the Dickinson County Nature Center on Instagram and Facebook.

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2-16P

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

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FOR RENT: 3 bedroom mobile home, all appliances furnished. No smoking, no pets 712-339-0174.

TFC

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

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1-15P

The Jackson County Central High School is
LONG TERM SUB SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER

to join us for second semester (starting January 26, 2026). Position is open now and closed when filled.

You'll be part of a collaborative, supportive team at the High School. This position will teach American History, Social 9 and American History.

Long term substitute pay is \$255.43 per day. A Minnesota teaching license is required.

2-16C

PARAPROFESSIONALS NEEDED

at Riverside Elementary School and the High School. Hours are Monday - Friday from 7:30-3:45pm. Pay is \$15 per hour. Join a great team!

COACHING POSITIONS NEEDED:
Middle School FFA Advisor
Middle School Softball Coach

Visit www.jccschools.com/employment to see more information on these positions.

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 - Handle stressful situations • Make quick decisions
 - De escalation of situations • Able to communicate well with inmates
 - Work well with others & be a team player

Please Send resumes to:
DICKINSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
PO Box 214 Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360 or
email resume to
jfischer@dickinsoncountyiowa.gov

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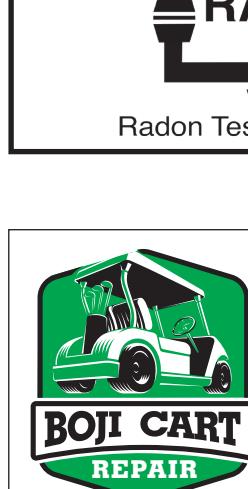
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