



23  
FRI

**Boji Kite Festival** (WEATHER PERMITTING)  
On The Ice

8:30AM

NEW

**Family Night** (FREEWILL DONATION)

5PM - 7PM

The Roof Garden

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)

5:30PM - 8PM

On The Ice

24  
SAT

**Bloody Mary's & Hot Chocolate Bar**

8AM - 4PM

The Roof Garden

**Courtyard, Firepits, & Fun!**

8AM - 6PM

Preservation Plaza

**Boji Kite Festival** (WEATHER PERMITTING)

8:30AM

On The Ice

**5K Fun Run** (CHECK IN: 8AM-8:45AM)

9AM

Majestic Pavilion

**Human Foosball**

9AM

Preservation Plaza

NEW

**Hard Water Golf**

10AM - 3PM

On The Ice

**Food Truck Festival**

10AM - 6PM

Lake Street

**Live Music with Boon & Lambert**

11AM - 4PM

The Roof Garden

**Polar Plunge** (REGISTRATION: 1:30PM)

3PM

On The Ice

**Boji Kite - Night** (WEATHER PERMITTING)

5:30PM - 8PM

On The Ice

**Burning of the Greens**

6:30PM

Preservation Plaza

**Fireworks**

6:45PM

West Lake

**LIVE MUSIC BY THE PORK TORNADOES**

The Roof Garden (TICKETED EVENT)



7:30PM

\*No snowmobile or ATV access  
on Preservation Plaza or access  
from on or off the beach.

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



# Fick's **ACE** HARDWARE

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.

# Hot Mamas:

# All About Hormones at re<sup>be</sup>

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

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

# biote

Hormone Therapy

- Increase Energy • Balance Mood
- Improve Your Sleep



# IN MY HOT MOM ERA

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

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





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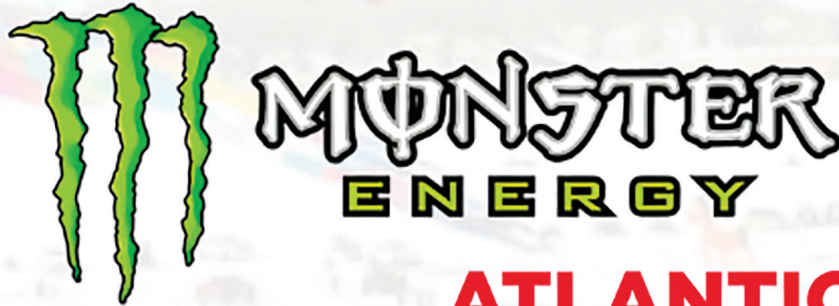


WINTER GAMES

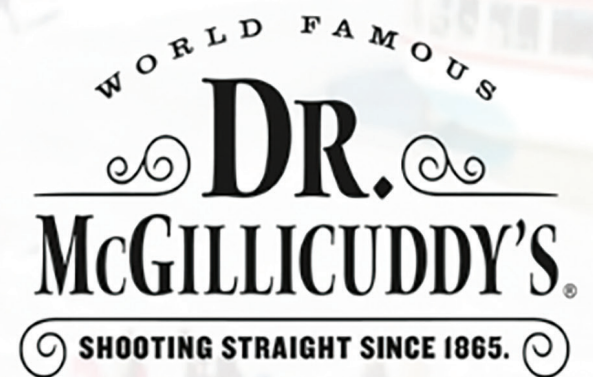
OKOBOJI • IA



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EVENT SPONSORS







presents the



# CASTING CONTEST




## DURING WINTER GAMES

OKOBOJI • IA

Look for our Flags!

**Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup> 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)



WELCOME TO SPIRIT LAKE ELEMENTARY

SL Backpack Program \$250  
Two hundred fifty dollars  
Jan 4, 2026  
ILUUF

**ILUUF 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 (ILUUF), Kim Johnson (Spirit Lake Schools) and Judy Weipert. To learn more about the ILUUF, visit [www.uuokoboji.com](http://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**



Locally Owned and Operated

**YOUR CONVENIENCE STORE FOR EVERYTHING YOU NEED - QUICK!**

ARNOLDS PARK

**This Week's Daily Specials:**

**Monday:** 2 slices of pizza and 20oz fountain drink for **\$4.99**

**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



**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**



# WINTER GAMES

OKOBOJI • IA

**JANUARY 22-25**

SCAN TO PLAN!

THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!





PRESENTED BY: WESTO BEER

**UOFOWINTERGAMES.COM**





# 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!**

Multi-Million Dollar Producer!

**MARILYN STRICKLAND**  
Broker - Associate  
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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**

Allison Mercer Sam Mercer

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Your Health Insurance Experts  
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Arnolds Park  
[www.khisolutions.com](http://www.khisolutions.com)

AUTHORIZED INDEPENDENT AGENTS FOR **Wellmark** (OWA)

Wellmark Advantage Health Plan, Inc., Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Iowa and Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield of South Dakota are independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. This is a solicitation of insurance. Enrollment and coverage in a Medicare Supplement Insurance plan is with Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield and is not connected with or endorsed by the U.S. government or the federal Medicare program.

Y0156\_CoopAdAgeln\_C FVNR 0522 W-2622002 05/22

# FREEZE THE PRICE - Melt the Payments

## WINTER SALES EVENT

ON ALL NEW INVENTORY OR CUSTOM ORDER BOATS!

**ALERA** **HIGHFIELD** **REGAL** **CENTURION BOATS** **SUPREME** **SYLVAN** **Kawasaki**

**OAK HILL Marina**  
LAKE OKOBOJI

712-332-2701 | [WWW.OAKHILLMARINA.COM](http://WWW.OAKHILLMARINA.COM) | OPEN: MONDAY-FRIDAY 9AM-5PM • SATURDAY 9AM-3PM

**BOJISURF**  
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**

**Winter Sale!**  
OPEN: Monday - Sunday • 10am - 5:30pm

**20% OFF ALL Woobles & Wall Art!**

**40% OFF ALL Christmas!**

**20% OFF ALL Sweatshirts & Tees!**

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

Hwy. 71, Okoboji, IA • 712.332.7752

**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](mailto:sreiser@milfordcable.net). Singles or couples are encouraged to participate.

**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](http://crcartsauto.com)  
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.

**DON'T MISS THIS!**

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

**Connected Families**

**CHAD HAYENGA**

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

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

**AquaProof™**  
PREMIUM WATERPROOF FLOORS

Flooring Pictured: Longfellow

**Mr. B's FLOORING**

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

**2025 WINNER PEOPLE'S CHOICE**

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

**Mr. B's**

**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**

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

Great Lakes Mall  
Spirit Lake • 712-336-5405  
www.spiritlakesilverandgold.com

## WINTER SIDEWALK SALE

### UP TO 50% OFF

SELECT  
FALL & WINTER  
CLOTHING  
JACKETS  
BOOTS & SHOES

**FASHION  
FORMULA**  
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

50% off  
Select  
Gift Items

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

Melissa & Doug  
**Toys**

OPEN Monday-Saturday 10AM-5:30PM  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.



SPIRIT LAKE  
**SILVER & GOLD**

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](http://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 [uofowintergames.com](http://uofowintergames.com). For more information, please contact the Iowa Great Lakes Area Chamber: [morgan@okobojichamber.com](mailto:morgan@okobojichamber.com) or 712-332-2107.

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!

## BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

JOIN US THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH!

SUNDAY, JAN. 18<sup>TH</sup>  
8AM-12:30PM

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



FREE WILL OFFERING  
*Occasions*  
104 East 4th Street, Spencer

# 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](mailto:dchungerc@gmail.com)**

# SOUP TAILGATE!

with chicken noodle & chili being served

## OKOBOJI VS. SPIRIT LAKE

Sponsored By

# THURSDAY, JANUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>

## 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

## Events & Evening Specials

**1<sup>ST</sup> 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

**1<sup>ST</sup> & 3<sup>RD</sup> THURSDAY** - Pork Tenderloin & Fries \$10<sup>00</sup>

**2<sup>ND</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup> THURSDAY** - Bingo Night Meal at 5, Bingo at 6

**FRIDAY** - 8 oz. Sirloin, Baked Potato, & Salad \$15<sup>00</sup>

*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

**REGULAR MENU AVAILABLE NIGHTLY!**

## 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 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?*



# 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!**

## lakesart.org | 712.332.7029

2201 HWY 71 N | Okoboji, IA 51355

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

### 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

### EDUCATION CLASSES

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

#### 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

#### Valentine Cupcake Decorating

**With Janet Steinbach of Lakes Cakes Baji 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.

#### Date Night Cooking Class

**With Marisa Sidles 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





## 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

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**THE BATTLE OF THE CHILI POTS**  
8TH ANNUAL CHILI TASTING AND JUDGING CONTEST

**SATURDAY**  
**JANUARY 17, 2026**  
**5 PM – 7 PM**

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**Sunday, Jan. 18**  
**Ryan Sather & Dave Rowley** 4-6pm  
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**RECIPE CORNER**

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**CARSTENSEN'S Meat & Grocery**

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**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**

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

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**WHO'S READY TO PLAY?**

**B I N G O**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8**  
**Dickinson County Expo Center • Spirit Lake**

**DOORS OPEN AT 11AM**  
**LUNCH • SNACKS • DRINKS**

**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](mailto: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.

**VENUE**  
thevenueokoboji.com

**WINTER GAMES PUZZLE PALOOZA**

**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 the fastest in 2 hours.
- **\$100/Team** includes FREE Puzzle
- **Cash/Prize Payouts** for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 **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 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

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](http://artsongrand.com) or call 712-262-4307.

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Lakes Area Activity/Senior Center Wish List

- City of Spirit Lake green garbage bags
  - Postage stamps
  - Paper towels and Kleenex
  - Toilet paper
  - Coffee - regular, decaf, filters and Styrofoam coffee cups
- Thank you for your donations!

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.

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**OPEN for Winter**

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1609 Hill Ave. • Spirit Lake  
712.336.0495  
**Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**10am Check-In • 11am Start**  
• **\$40/Team**  
Half of the proceeds go to our Fallen Heroes  
1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Payout  
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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.



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

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- Nehemiah 28:10

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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 slpublib.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 uuokoboji.com for dates and program schedule.

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Weekly Social Gathering

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

Hello Winter

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, 8:30-12:00p.m. Sausage gravy and biscuits, egg bakes, caramel and cinnamon rolls, orange juice and coffee available for a freewill donation. Open to the public.

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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)

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Coupon Expires: February 10, 2026



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Date Night: Friday, Feb 13  
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Cooking Class: Saturday, Feb 14  
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UNIVERSITY OF OKOBOJI  
**WINTER GAMES**

SCAN FOR MORE INFO

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FRI-SUN | 12-10 pm

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

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

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21**  
BUNCO | 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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Word Search Puzzle Key from page 8A

D	Q	S	M	W	H	T	M	U	V	O	Y	W	O	P	E	L	P	R	T
A	S	G	L	D	O	G	L	F	R	A	I	N	R	C	E	N	I	G	I
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E	S	T	E	R	A	H	L	C	A	D	L	A	S	T	I	S	T	I	
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E	G	G	W	P	G	E	M	E	R	G	E	R	L	D	E	T	F	D	

**Kiwanis Bingo Nights**

Milford Kiwanis presents Bingo Nights on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. The next Milford Kiwanis Bingo Nights will be Thursday, January 23 and February 12. 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.

**The River**  
AN EXECUTIVE COACHING BLOG  
TONY THELEN

We live in a world that is very good at talking to us. Our phones buzz. Screens glow. Opinions arrive uninvited. Even when the house is quiet, there's often a voice in our ear: news, podcasts, social media, background television, etc. keeping us company. Or distracting us. Or reassuring us that we're not missing anything.

Except, sometimes, ourselves.

Last year, I did something that felt a little strange when I first said it out loud: I went on a three-day silent retreat. No phone. No conversation. No books. No music. Just silence. And me.

If that sounds peaceful, I can assure you it wasn't at first. The first day felt restless and awkward. My mind was still sprinting, replaying conversations, reviewing to-do lists, and inventing problems that didn't yet exist. It was like shutting off a boat motor and realizing the wake doesn't disappear right away.

But then, slowly, something shifted.

As the noise faded, a quieter voice began to show up. Not loud. Not demanding. Just steady. Familiar. My own. And I realized how long it had been since I'd really listened to my own thoughts.

The hardest part wasn't the silence. The hardest part was relearning how to listen to myself.

What followed was unexpectedly grounding. I saw my life more clearly, both the parts I was proud of and the parts that needed attention. I felt a renewed clarity about what I wanted more of, and what I was ready to leave behind. And perhaps most surprising of all, I felt optimistic again. Hopeful. Not because something external had changed, but because I had finally given myself space to hear what I already knew.

Here's the humbling part: none of that wisdom came from outside of me. It was there the whole time.

We all carry an inner voice that knows what matters, what drains us, what fulfills us, and what leads to real happiness. The problem isn't that we've lost it. The problem is that we've drowned it out.

Which brings me to a small irony. If you're reading this in my weekly column, and I'm about to suggest you reduce the number of advice columns you read... well, I see the contradiction too. Let's just call this one a friendly nudge rather than advice.

If you're thinking about goals for the new year, or sensing that something in your life needs to change, here are a few small, realistic ways to begin listening to your inner voice again:

1. **Create quiet on purpose.** Even ten minutes a day without screens, noise, or input is a start. Silence doesn't arrive on its own anymore. We have to invite it.
2. **Take a walk without earbuds.** Let your thoughts wander. You may be surprised what shows up when nothing is competing for your attention.
3. **Write without an agenda.** A blank page and an honest pen can surface truths you didn't know you were holding.
4. **Notice what gives you energy (and what takes it away).** Your inner voice speaks clearly through emotion and intuition, if you're paying attention.
5. **Ask better questions, then pause.** Instead of rushing to answers, sit with the question long enough to hear what rises.
6. **Reduce the noise just a little.** Fewer headlines. Less scrolling. Less advice columns, at least enough to give you time to focus on your own thoughts.

Solitude doesn't mean withdrawing from life. It means reconnecting with the part of you that knows how you want to live it.

Some of the answers you're looking for aren't out there somewhere. They're already within you, quietly waiting for you to listen.

Tony Thelen is an executive coach and founder of The River Coaching and Consulting based in West Okoboji, Iowa. He has a new book called "Things We Desire" that is available on Amazon or any major book retailer, contact him for signed and personalized copies at [tony@therivercoach.org](mailto:tony@therivercoach.org) or check out his website at [www.therivercoach.org](http://www.therivercoach.org).

**WINTER GAMES**

SHIVER ME TIKIS!

REGISTER FOR OUR GAMES  
ALL FUNDS GO TO CHARITY!

**THE DIAGEO BUS SCHEDULE**

THURSDAY  
8:30 - 11:30 PM (FREE)

FRIDAY  
7 PM - 12 AM (WRISTBAND)

SATURDAY  
11 AM - 12 AM (WRISTBAND)

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BRIDGES BAY • ARNOLDS PARK

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**BATTLE OF THE BARTENDERS**

A HEAD-TO-HEAD

**BEST DRINK COMPETITION & CHARITY FUNDRAISER!**

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**\$122,000**

RAISED FOR CHARITY

WITH  
**\$15,000**

RAISED IN 2025 ALONE

**JANUARY 22 AT 6 PM IN THE PARKS BOAT HOUSE**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 22**

5 PM	Locals 'Pre-Games' Party w/Winter Games Cheerleaders (NO COVER)
6 - 7 PM	The Barefoot Bar's 12th Annual Charity Battle of the Bartenders presented by Martin Brothers and Parks Marina
6:30 PM	● Junk FM on the Midwest Companies Main Stage

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 23**

6 AM	KUOO Get Up & Go Show in the Parks Boat Club Complimentary continental breakfast by PFG, Sysco, Martin Brothers & Affinity
ALL DAY	● Boats on Ice Boat Show
11 AM	Snappers Turtle Bay Cafe open
NOON	Boat House bars open
4 PM	Hanging Bar Competition sponsored by Phorm Energy Drink Sazerac Shot Bell & Martin Brothers, Doll Distributing Shot Luges
4 PM	● Tristan Marquardt on the Midwest Companies Main Stage
8 PM	● Johnny Holm Band on the Midwest Companies Main Stage

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 24**

ALL DAY	● Boats on Ice Boat Show Barefoot blowout clothing sale Winter Games photo wall by Twisted Tea Hanging Bar Competition sponsored by Phorm Energy Drink Sazerac Shot Bell & McCormick, Angry Orchard Shot Luges
8 AM	Barefoot Bar & Boat House bars open
10 AM	● Flag Football on the pond sponsored by Parks Marina
11 AM	● Ice Oval Races presented by Parks Marina Snappers Turtle Bay Cafe & Trackside Bar open
11 AM	● Okoboji Beer Curling by Doll Distributing, check in at 10:30 AM ● Kid's Fun Zone, Bean Bag Toss & Tubing Hill by Parks Marina ● Inflatables sponsored by First Premier Bank ● Mini Golf Course sponsored by Liberty Bank ● Great Plains Zoomobile (Inside marina) ● Casting Contest by Pure Fishing ● DJ Aveni at Barefoot Bar
11:30 AM	● The Last Call Band on the Midwest Companies Main Stage ● Bean Bag Tournament sponsored by Parks Marina
NOON	● Smooshing Races sponsored by Okoboji Vacation Company, check in 11:30 AM
1:30 PM	● Human Dogsled Races sponsored by Parks Marina & Doll Distributing check in at 1 PM
2 PM	● The Pastmasters on the Club Room Stage
3 PM	● Stein Holding Contest sponsored by Exile Brewing Co. (Boat House)
3:30 PM	● Undercover Band on the Midwest Companies Main Stage
4 PM	● Keg Toss sponsored by Doll Distributing & Snappers (Pond)
7:30 PM	● Taylor Swift, Madonna & Stevie Nicks Tribute Band on the Midwest Companies Main Stage



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WINTER HOURS: TUES. - SAT. 5PM-CLOSE

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Dinner Night

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JANUARY 23RD

6 - 8PM

FEATURING: Mingo Music Bingo

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\$15 PER PERSON (Includes 1 Bingo Card - additional cards \$5 per card)

\$75 for a table for 6 (Includes 6 Bingo Cards - additional cards \$5 per card)



Serving: Pulled Pork Sandwiches and chips along with soft drinks and adult beverage options!

JANUARY 23

COCKTAIL HOUR: 5-6PM

BINGO GAMES: 6-8PM

Occasions

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SAT-SUN 1/17-18 1:00, 4:00 & 7:00

MON-THUR 1/19-22 7:00



SONG SUNG BLUE

FRI 1/16 7:10

SAT-SUN 1/17-18 1:00, 4:00 & 7:00

MON-THUR 1/19-22 6:45



DAVID

FRI 1/16 4:10

SAT-SUN 1/17-18 1:15 & 4:15

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thevenueokoboji.com

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• 2 Person Best Ball • 18 Holes

• \$150/Team -

Half of the entry fee paid back to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 partnership with the children, their families and the community.

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Join us for

BREAKFAST

Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>

8:30 am - Noon

Free Will Offering

Sausage Gravy over Biscuits,

Sausage, Egg Bake, Caramel Rolls,

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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 24<sup>th</sup>

Registration: 8:30 AM

Card Playing Begins: 9:00 AM

Cards: Pinochle or 500 or Mahjong

Cards and Lunch: \$10.00

Lunch is Soup/Sandwich and Dessert

Lakes Area Senior Center


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February 6, 2026

5:30 pm Signature Cocktail & Bourbon Tasting & Hors d'oeuvres


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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-Her 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 Cattleman 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 PIE 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 kids 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 Stafford** - "To know Krista is truly to love her, always up for a good time and known for sharing laughs and good company (often with a Busch Light in hand). Krista is an exceptional nominee for Okoboji Winter Cheerleader because her heart for the Iowa Great Lakes community is evident in everything she does. Krista's blend of community leadership, volunteerism, and infectious spirit makes her a true cheerleader for Okoboji in every season.

As CEO of the Iowa Great Lakes Board of REALTORS~AE, she leads with

a mission rooted in service and giving back, organizing and supporting impactful initiatives such as backpack programs, food drives, school supply drives, pet drives, and blood donation sponsorships that directly benefit local families and organizations."

**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."



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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 Week-end Playoff 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 Brandon Aiyuk, 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 Quinyon 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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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.

Knights of Columbus

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 Katzfey, 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 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 titles 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: Boy-friend 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](mailto:milfordlibrary51351@gmail.com).



**Wed., Jan. 21 – 10:00 AM**– 79.39 acres at auction in Dickinson Co., IA. Auctioneers: Midwest Land Management. 712-262-3110. [www.midwestlandmanagement.com](http://www.midwestlandmanagement.com).

**Sat., Jan. 24 –9:00 AM**– Large coin auction in Windom, MN. Auctioneers: Gravley. 507-822-0403. [www.auctionsco.com](http://www.auctionsco.com).

**Wed., Jan. 28 –10:00 AM**– 142.17 acres at auction in Fairmont, MN. Auctioneers: Hartungs. 507-236-7628. [www.auctioneerally.com](http://www.auctioneerally.com).

**Thurs., Jan. 29 –10:00 AM**– 203.83 acres at auction in Fairmont, MN. Auctioneers: Hartungs. 507-236-7628. [www.auctioneerally.com](http://www.auctioneerally.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](http://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](http://www.midwestlandmanagement.com).

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

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



also in the next generation of civic and philanthropic leaders.

To support Youth in Philanthropy, donations may be mailed to: Okoboji Foundation, PO Box 593, Okoboji, IA 51355.

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](http://www.citizenscu.com) or call (515) 955-5524.



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**Inflation:** Keeping it basic and simple. No fancy lingo. That way I understand it. What is Inflation? When there is high demand for anything, and the supply can't keep up providing the amount of the good or service. Who causes Inflation? We do. You and I. We, and a whole lot of us, want something and there just is not enough to fill the want (the need – the demand). So, when more demand than product or service is available, the prices go up. It is just that simple and basic. Good or bad. Right or wrong.



## 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 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. Kirchhoff 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. Kirchhoff 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: his wife, Anna Jean Hennings; his parents, Rudy and Irene Hennings; parents-in-law, Walter and Dora 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 Ocheyedun, 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 Kolter Hennings, Annabelle and Brant Altman; stepchildren, Pam (Jay) Morreale, Amy (Tony) Volk, Joan (Erik Larson) Peters; stepgrandchildren, Nick and Bella Morreale, Claire, Dan and Elise Volk; his brother, Merwin (Teena) Hennings; other relatives and friends.

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## 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 4-6:30 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

**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.spiritleakefuneralhome.com](http://www.spiritleakefuneralhome.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.



## Dickinson County Democrats Meeting Announcement

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.



## 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 Ocheyedun, IA. She attended rural school near Ocheyedun 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 Ocheyedun. 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 Ocheyedun. 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 Ocheyedun 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 Cenla 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 memorial service for **Clara Savage**, age 97, of Milford, will be held Monday, January 19, 2026, at 11:00 AM, at First Lutheran Church in West Okoboji. A visitation for Clara will begin at 10:00 AM. Friends and family are invited to stay for a lunch and time of fellowship following the service at the church.

Clara Marie Cunningham Savage, 97, passed into the arms of her Savior on Monday, December 1, at Lakes Regional Healthcare in Spirit Lake.

Clara was born June 10, 1928, to Ray and Lillian (Ellison) Cunningham in Guntur, state of Andhra Pradesh in southern India, where Ray and Lillian served as missionaries. She was the second of four children.

After a furlough in Omaha, Nebraska, United States, the family returned to India in 1938. During the hot months, Clara and her brothers attended Kodaikanal International School for missionary kids in the mountains.

In 1942, during World War II, the missionaries were evacuated from India. Clara rode with her family in an overloaded troop ship from Bombay to New York. Back in the States, the Cunningham family settled in Des Moines. Clara graduated from East High School, where she played cello, piano, and learned Swedish, along with her regular studies. Clara graduated from Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois, with a BS and RN in nursing which included the practicum at Trinity Nursing School.

Clara married Glenn Savage on August 20, 1955, at Grand View Lutheran Church in Des Moines, Iowa. They lovingly welcomed three children to this union, Laurian Ruth, Paul Allen and Timothy David to complete the family.

Clara served with Glenn as he served congregations across the midwest, including Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Elbow Lake and Barrett Lutheran Church in Barrett, MN; St. John Lutheran Church in Killdeer, North Dakota; Lutheran Church in Hub City, South Dakota; Trinity Lutheran (LCA) and Faith Lutheran (ALC) Churches in Sebeka, Minnesota; and as camp manager at Lakeside Lutheran Camp on East Lake Okoboji.

Clara worked as a Registered Nurse at local hospitals including Elbow Lake Hospital and the Tri-County Hospital in Wadena, Minnesota. In Wadena, she mostly worked nights in the Intensive Care Unit and Med/Surg wings. One day, Clara was scheduled to work and Minnesota had a serious snowstorm. Friends had a snowmobile and took her to the highway where she met a coworker to ride to the hospital 16 miles away. When the couple moved to the Lakes Area, Clara worked at the Dickinson County Hospital which became Lakes Regional Hospital in Spirit Lake. She retired in 1992.

In late 1985, Glenn and Clara moved to Milford where they were active in First Lutheran Church in Milford. Clara served as a Stephen's Minister for many years and worked with the quilting group who made many quilts for the Marie Sandvik Center in the Twin Cities.

Grandpa Glenn and Grandma Clara often had grandchildren at their home. The dressing dip for their veggies that Grandma gave them was the best. Some of them loved the rhubarb bars that was Grandma Clara's special recipe.

Following Glenn's passing in January 2014, Clara moved from their home to Heritage Landing Senior Housing in May 2015. In January 2021, she moved to Accura Healthcare in Milford.

Clara is survived by her son, Paul (Marcy) Savage, sister Ruth Ellis, son-in-law Rody Pederson, and numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nephews, nieces, great-nephews, and great-nieces.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Glenn of 59 years, daughter Laurian Pederson, son Tim Savage, brothers and sisters-in-law Robert and Eleanor Cunningham and Ray Jr. and Gloria Cunningham.

Arrangements are under the care of Turner Jenness Funeral Home.



## Obituary

A funeral service for **Butch Parks**, age 81, of Okoboji, will be held at 2:00 PM on Friday, January 16, 2026, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Spirit Lake. Burial will be at Lakeview Gardens Cemetery.

The Parks family invites all that knew Butch to one hell of a party on Friday, January 16th at Snappers in Okoboji. Doors open at 5:00 PM—please wear your favorite Barefoot apparel in memory of Butch.

Memorials in memory of Butch can be given to the Butch Parks Scholarship Fund through the Spirit Lake School Foundation, PO Box 46 Spirit Lake, IA 51360.

Leo Ralph Parks - better known as "Butch" - was born March 4, 1944, to Ralph Leo Parks, Sr. and Mildred Ruth (Groves) Parks. He grew up on Dixon Beach in Okoboji, and graduated from Arnolds Park High School as an original "park rat". As a teen, he worked at Fisherman's Wharf peeling potatoes, built docks and worked at The Inn. Later he attended refrigeration and air conditioning school.

Butch was previously married and had three children, Stephanie, Jenny and Brady, who were raised on a farm near Spirit Lake. They spent many years raising pigs, farrow to finish. Butch also worked as a milkman for Wells Blue Bunny and later at John Morrell in Estherville.

He had a passion for snowmobiling and speed, and it wasn't uncommon for that passion to help pay the bills. If you were at the right place on a Saturday night, you might see him betting that he had the fastest sled—or ending up in an arm-wrestling match with a side wager involved. In the summers, Butch would compete in demolition derbies at county fairs. He was also known as the first person in the Lakes area to "shoot the bridge," which, depending on who you ask, was either legendary or absolutely nuts.

His snowmobile racing led to drag and oval racing across the region. In 1976, Butch suffered a life-changing crash and endured months of surgeries and recovery. Still a hog farmer, he was humbled and grateful for friends and neighbors who helped keep the farm going. During this time, he trapped muskrats and built furniture in his shop. After some time, he made the decision to amputate his leg. This changed his world, but it did not change his heart, his grit or determination. He didn't slow down - he simply reinvented himself. Even with one leg and three kids, he planted over 1,000 trees on the farm after disease wiped out the originals - because that's what he did, he rebuilt. He would often start his day saying, "I get to go to work today".

On September 1, 1983, Butch purchased Gibson Boatworks and renamed it Parks Marina, launching the legacy that would help shape Okoboji. His father Leo Senior worked at the marina with Butch until his death, some of Butch's greatest times with his dad. He later purchased Okoboji Boat Works in 2001, and in 2002, Barefoot Bar began as a small "tiki bar" and became a destination known across the world. Butch didn't just build a marina; he built a culture. He saw Okoboji as a place that families could fall in love with and was determined to provide a place that kids would enjoy and memories could be made.

Butch married Debbie on February 20, 2010, and they were blessed with a son, Rudy. They worked together side-by-side for nearly twenty-six years growing the business that Butch began. They traveled often to Key West and were inspired by the island vibes so together they brought this back to the Barefoot in Okoboji. Butch loved sunsets—whether in Okoboji or Key West—and those moments brought him peace. He was also famous for his appearances at the Barefoot singing karaoke - not well, but confidently - "I Love Little Baby Ducks," sometimes dragging Debbie into singing as well.

Throughout the years, Butch enjoyed snowmobile trips with his children and grandchildren, duck and pheasant hunting trips with his son Brady and sharing his love for hunting and fishing with his son Rudy. He proudly taught his children and grandchildren how to fish, drive boats and snowmobiles.

At the marina, Butch worked every job—from bussing, cleaning to solving problems - many people didn't even realize he owned the place. He lived by "leave it better than you found it," (especially the bathrooms) and to this day, for many, it's hard to walk past a tangled hose without fixing it. You would often hear Butch say "If you have time to lean, you have time to clean" or "I worked a half day today, 12 hours!" and reminded his employees of the importance of the phrase, "My Pleasure". He believed in doing things right, was very generous in quiet, behind the scenes ways, never seeking recognition. He loved the underdog and was described as the silent wind in your sail - nudging you forward when you didn't think you could keep going.

Butch was most proud of his work ethic. He leaves behind a legacy built on VALUES, ENTHUSIASM, DISCIPLINE and ENDURANCE. This legacy was not just spoken but lived by Butch. The business he built gained national recognition and was a leader in the marine industry. The life he built was filled with love for his family, his community and the people that worked alongside him. Butch was proud to have made his success the "old-fashioned way" – hard work. From humble beginnings, he built a lasting legacy.

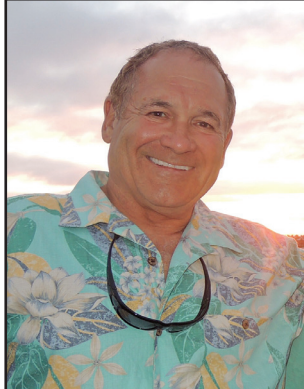
Butch passed away peacefully on January 6, 2026, at his home, surrounded by his wife and children.

He is survived by his wife Debbie Parks and their son, Rudy Parks; children, Stephanie (Dan Cranston) Parks, Jennifer (Matt) Johnson, and Brady (Lisa) Parks; grandchildren, Charlie Duncan, Emily (Seth) Feller, Allison Duncan, Joe Parks, Jack Johnson and Audrey Johnson; great-grandchildren, Bo Feller, Bella Halbur, Mae Feller and Sadie Halbur; siblings, Mary Parks Mix, John (Melanie) Parks, and Tom (Deb) Parks; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law Angie (Andy) Sipple, Nancy (Grant) Marquardt, and brother-in-law, Jim Wittrock; numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Leo and Mildred Parks; sisters, Sharon Parks Hruby and Janie Parks Wittrock; father and mother-in-law, Kenny and Anne Hansen.

Pour yourself a tall Absolut Diet Squir and raise your glass to Butch. "See you next time!"

Arrangements are under the care of Turner Jenness Funeral Home.





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WINTER GAMES  
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## WINTER GAMES SCHEDULE

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**THURSDAY, JAN 22**

ALL-WEEKEND WRISTBANDS NOW AVAILABLE AT THE STORE, 2188 - OAK HILL OUTDOOR!

\$50 THURSDAY LAUGH LOAKAL PASS OR \$75 ALL-WEEKEND LOAKALS PASS

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## COMEDY BRUNCH & MUSIC

**SATURDAY, JAN 24**

\$50 SATURDAY COMEDY & MUSIC PASS OR \$75 ALL-WEEKEND LOAKALS PASS

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<b>SUNNY DEAL!</b> <b>Red Ripe Sweet Grape Tomatoes</b> Pint <b>2/\$4</b> <small>MUST BUY 2 or \$2.48 Each</small>	<b>SUNNY DEAL!</b> <b>Crisp Green Cabbage</b> Per lb. <b>88¢</b>	<b>SUNNY DEAL!</b> <b>Organic Whole Carrots</b> 2 lb. <b>\$2.48</b>	<b>SUNNY DEAL!</b> <b>Cara Cara Pink Navel Oranges</b> 3 lb. <b>\$4.98</b>	<b>3-DAY DIGITAL DEAL!</b> <b>Little Potato Co. Little Potatoes</b> 1.5 lb. <b>\$3.98</b> <b>-1.00</b> <b>\$2.98</b> <small>3-Days ONLY!</small> <b>DIGITAL COUPON</b> <small>LIMIT OF 2 COUPON USES</small> <small>Must use digital app to get digital coupons. Limit 2 coupon uses per customer.</small>	<b>3-DAY DIGITAL DEAL!</b> <b>Best Choice Russet Potatoes</b> 5 lb. <b>\$2.98</b> <b>-1.00</b> <b>\$1.98</b> <small>3-Days ONLY!</small> <b>DIGITAL COUPON</b> <small>LIMIT OF 2 COUPON USES</small> <small>Must use digital app to get digital coupons. Limit 2 coupon uses per customer.</small>
<b>SUNNY DEAL!</b> <b>Fresh Cauliflower</b> Each <b>\$3.98</b>	<b>SUNNY DEAL!</b> <b>Crisp Green Cucumbers</b> Each <b>88¢</b>	<b>SUNNY DEAL!</b> <b>Bolthouse Salad Dressings</b> 12 oz. <b>\$3.88</b>	<b>SUNNY DEAL!</b> <b>Yo Quiero Guacamole</b> 8 oz. <b>2/\$5</b>	<b>3-DAY SUNNY DEAL!</b> <b>Fresh Lemons or Limes</b> Each <b>4/\$2</b> <small>MUST BUY 4 or 69¢ Each</small> <small>3-Days ONLY!</small>	<b>3-DAY SUNNY DEAL!</b> <b>Sweet Red Cherries</b> Per lb. <b>\$3.98</b> <small>3-Days ONLY!</small>
<b>SUNNY DEAL!</b> <b>Sunshine's Own 85% Lean Ground Beef</b> Family Pack, Per lb. <b>\$5.99</b>	<b>SUNNY DEAL!</b> <b>Beef Chuck Roasts</b> USDA Choice, Per lb. <b>\$6.99</b>	<b>SUNNY DEAL!</b> <b>Smokin' Boji BBQ</b> <div><b>Smoked Whole Chickens</b> Each <b>\$8.99</b> <b>6-Piece Cut-Up Smoked Chicken</b> Each <b>\$6.99</b></div> <div><b>Smoked Pulled Chicken</b> Per lb. <b>\$8.99</b> <b>Smoked Pulled Chicken w/ Sauce</b> Per lb. <b>\$7.99</b></div> <div><b>Smoked Chicken Dinner, 3-Piece w/ 2 Sides</b> Each <b>\$5.99</b></div> <div> <b>Okoboji Original</b> For Catering Call: <b>712-330-3998</b> Smokinbojibbq@gmail.com <small>18 to 24 hour notice required</small></div>		<b>3-DAY DIGITAL DEAL!</b> <b>Fresh 80% Lean Ground Beef</b> 10 lb. Tubes <b>\$44.99</b> <b>-5.00</b> <b>\$39.99</b> <small>ONLY \$3.99 Per lb.</small> <small>3-Days ONLY!</small> <b>DIGITAL COUPON</b> <small>LIMIT OF 2 COUPON USES</small> <small>Must use digital app to get digital coupons. Limit 2 coupon uses per customer.</small>	<b>3-DAY SUNNY DEAL!</b> <b>Pork Chops</b> Bone-In, Center Cut, Reg. Thick or Thin, USDA Inspected, Per lb. <b>\$1.99</b> <small>3-Days ONLY!</small>
<b>SUNNY DEAL!</b> <b>Oscar Mayer Basic Lunchables</b> 2.25-4.4 oz. <b>2/\$4</b>	<b>SUNNY DEAL!</b> <b>Chicken Breasts</b> Grade A, Boneless, Skinless, Tray Pack, Per lb. <b>\$2.99</b>	<b>SUNNY DEAL!</b> <b>Country Style Pork Ribs</b> Bone-In, USDA Inspected, Per lb. <b>\$2.49</b>	<b>SUNNY DEAL!</b> <b>Baby Back Pork Ribs</b> Bone-In, USDA Inspected, Per lb. <b>\$3.99</b>	<b>3-DAY SUNNY DEAL!</b> <b>Top Sirloin Steaks</b> Beef, Boneless, USDA Choice, Per lb. <b>\$7.99</b> <small>3-Days ONLY!</small>	<b>3-DAY SUNNY DEAL!</b> <b>Tyson Chicken Tenders</b> Individually, Fresh, Frozen, Boneless, 40 oz. <b>\$8.99</b> <small>3-Days ONLY!</small>
<b>SUNNY DEAL!</b> <b>Campbell's Chunky Soup</b> 18.6-19 oz. <b>\$1.88</b>	<b>SUNNY DEAL!</b> <b>Bob Evans Family Size Sides</b> 28-32 oz. <b>\$4.99</b>	<b>SUNNY DEAL!</b> <b>Yoplait Yogurt</b> 4-6 oz. <b>2/\$1</b>	<b>SUNNY DEAL!</b> <b>Silk Almond Milk</b> 64 oz. <b>\$2.99</b>	<b>SUNNY DEAL!</b> <b>International Delight Creamer</b> 32 oz. <b>2/\$7</b>	<b>DIGITAL DEAL!</b> <b>Prairie Farms Cream Cheese</b> 8 oz. Brick <b>\$2.49</b> <b>-1.00</b> <b>\$1.49</b> <small>LIMIT OF 1 COUPON USE</small> <small>Must use digital app to get digital coupons. Limit 1 coupon use per customer.</small>
<b>SUNNY DEAL!</b> <b>Calidad Tortilla Chips</b> 10-11 oz. <b>\$1.79</b>	<b>SUNNY DEAL!</b> <b>Best Choice Premium Croutons</b> 5 oz. Var. <b>2/\$3</b> <small>ADDITIONAL DIGITAL COUPON ON APP!</small>	<b>SUNNY DEAL!</b> <b>Thomas English Muffins</b> 12-13 oz. <b>\$3.49</b>	<b>DIGITAL DEAL!</b> <b>Mr. Dell's Hashbrowns</b> 24-32 oz. Var. <b>\$3.49</b> <b>-50¢</b> <b>\$2.99</b> <small>LIMIT OF 4 COUPON USES</small> <small>Must use digital app to get digital coupons. Limit 4 coupon uses per customer.</small>	<b>DIGITAL DEAL!</b> <b>Eggo Waffles</b> 10 Ct. <b>2/\$6</b> <b>-1.00</b> <b>2/\$5</b> <small>MUST BUY 2</small> <small>LIMIT OF 1 COUPON USE</small> <small>Must use digital app to get digital coupons. Limit 1 coupon use per customer.</small>	<b>SUNNY DEAL!</b> <b>Reames Frozen Noodles</b> 16 oz. <b>\$3.99</b>
<b>SUNNY DEAL!</b> <b>Coke Products</b> 12-Pack Cans, 8-Pack 12 oz. Bottles, + Deposit <b>\$6.99</b> <small>MUST BUY 3</small>	<b>SUNNY DEAL!</b> <b>Powerade 28 oz. Bottles or Body Armor 16 oz. Bottles</b> <b>4/\$5</b>	<b>SUNNY DEAL!</b> <b>Louisa Toasted Ravioli or Tortellini</b> 18-22 oz. <b>\$4.49</b>	<b>SUNNY DEAL!</b> <b>Marie Callender's Dinners or Pot Pies</b> 10.5-15 oz. <b>2/\$6</b>	<b>SUNNY DEAL!</b> <b>Hot Pocket Sandwiches</b> 4 Ct. <b>\$4.49</b>	<b>DIGITAL DEAL!</b> <b>Brew Pub Lottza Mottza Patriot Pizza or Nancy's Chicago Style Thin Crust</b> Select Var. <b>\$6.99</b> <b>-1.00</b> <b>\$5.99</b> <small>LIMIT OF 5 COUPON USES</small> <small>Must use digital app to get digital coupons. Limit 5 coupon uses per customer.</small>

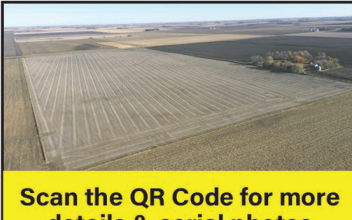


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## Land Auction

February 19 • 10:00 A.M.

Royal Community Center, Royal, Iowa

### 80 Acres m/I

Lone Tree Twp., Sec. 28  
Clay County, IA

Avg. CSR2: 94.9!



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## Land Auction

Wednesday, January 21 • 10:00 A.M.

Milford Community Center, Milford, Iowa

### 79.39 Acres

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90.5 Avg. CSR2!



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Saturday, January 24, 2026  
• 9:00 AM •

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## FARMLAND AUCTION

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

Auction will be held at the KC Hall 920 E 10th Street, Fairmont, MN



142.17 ACRES +/- OF BARE FARMLAND IN SECTIONS 15 & 22 OF FAIRMONT TOWNSHIP, MARTIN COUNTY, MN.

OWNER: CLAY FAMILY FARMS

For full flyer, informational booklet and bidding details, visit: [WWW.AUCTIONEERALLEY.COM](http://WWW.AUCTIONEERALLEY.COM)

AUCTIONEERS AND SALES STAFF:  
DUSTYN HARTUNG-507-236-7629  
LEAH HARTUNG 507-236-8786



## FARMLAND AUCTION

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

Auction will be held at the KC Hall 920 E 10th Street, Fairmont, MN



203.83 ACRES +/- OF FARMLAND IN SECTIONS 26 & 27 OF LAKE BELT TOWNSHIP, MARTIN COUNTY, MN.

OWNERS: DALE & PEGGY BREMER TRUSTS

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DUSTYN HARTUNG-507-236-7629  
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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](http://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://www.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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