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OAK HILL LAKE OKOBOJI

2188 COMMERCIAL COMPLEX

WINTER GAMES SCHEDULE

LAUGH LOAKAL COMEDY NIGHT
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

COREY KNOX ANNIE LEDERMAN MIKE YOUNG

LIVE MUSIC BY BOON & LAMBERT

LOAKAL MUSIC NIGHT
FRIDAY, JAN 23

\$20 FRIDAY LOAKAL MUSIC PASS OR \$75 ALL-WEEKEND LOAKALS PASS

DAMON DOTSON BRIANNA HELBLING CASEY MUESSIGMANN

COMEDY BRUNCH & MUSIC
SATURDAY, JAN 24

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

BRIANNA HELBLING COREY KNOX ERIK GRIFFIN MIKE YOUNG CASEY MUESSIGMANN

OAK HILL Marina BOAT SHOW ALL WEEKEND AT 2188!

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*Still have questions? Call and schedule your Complimentary Discovery Call with Dr. Meyer, Molly Avery, or Mychal Sheridan to begin your Wellness Journey

Local Student Named to Dean's List

St. Cloud State University has announced the names of the following students whose academic achievement placed them on the 2025 fall semester dean's list. To be eligible for the honor, students must have a grade point average of 3.75 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

Congratulations to Brooklyn Ferguson (Milford) and Reid Tigges (Spencer).

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.



Support Local Business

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Reinvest

Build

Thrive

THE LNS

THE LAKES NEWS SHOPPER

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!

20

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WINTER GAMES

OKOBOJI • IA

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WINTER GAMES WEEKEND

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The Tobacco Shop

WALK-IN HUMIDOR

COLD BEER • CIGARS

VAPE • LIQUOR • WINE

Wine LIQUOR Cigars

Lakes Area Activity/ Senior Center

Winter Games Card Party

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24th

Registration: 8:30 AM

Card Playing Begins: 9:00 AM

Cards: Pinochle or 500 or Mahjong

Cards and Lunch: \$10.00

Lunch is Soup/Sandwich and Dessert

Lakes Area Senior Center

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

ENJOY MELT IN YOUR MOUTH GOODNESS TO KICK START YOUR DAY

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WINTER GAMES WEEKEND

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WINTER GAMES

OKOBOJI • IA

JANUARY 22-25

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THERE'S SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

West

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Splendid Treasures
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Diggin Boji Kids Playplace

½ price kids play
Fri-Sat 10am-1pm



Drifty's Gifts and Goodies

Sales on apparel, adult drinks and more



Okoboji Trading Company

\$25 off most lake maps and AP Dioramas

10 Broadway St., Arnolds Park, IA 51331
Former Arnolds Park Middle School



NextHome At The Lakes

Hot Cocoa and Goodies
Saturday 1-3

Year Round Shopping, Space Available for Lease
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Infinite Sisters
Nostalgic Photos and Boutique

GRAND OPENING Event
Saturday 10-5

Registration Closing Soon

Winter Games fun is right around the corner! Participants are encouraged to suit up, gather their friends, and get registered for this year's events. Organizers are looking forward to another year of frozen fun.

Limited spots remain in classic tournaments like Broomball sponsored by MHR Insurance, Snow Softball sponsored by The Ritz, and Flag Football sponsored by Parks Marina. Individual events are also available, including the 5K sponsored by Kozy Heat and a new event this year, the Hard Water Open sponsored by Emerald Hills and Mulletts. The Iowa Great Lakes is also preparing to welcome back #BojiKites with a record number of flyers expected. There's truly something for everyone! The full list of events is available online, and registration must be completed before Wednesday, January 21st to join in on this year's fun.

The 46th Annual University of Okoboji Winter Games, presented by WestO Beer, will take place January 22-25, 2026. Athletes can challenge themselves individually or gather friends and family for a team event. For more information and additional updates, visit uofowintergames.com or find the University of Okoboji Winter Games on Facebook at facebook.com/UofOWinterGames.



WINTER IS HERE!
If winter comes, can spring be far behind?

SHORELINE THREADS

WINTER GAMES DEALS

SIP & SHOP
WINTER GAMES WARMING HOLE SATURDAY MORNING

gold medal
WIN BIG & SAVE BIG WITH 50% OFF

silver medal
SHINE BRIGHT & SAVE WITH 40% OFF

bronze medal
CELEBRATE & SAVE WITH 30% OFF

BOGO MENS
PAY FOR MORE EXPENSIVE & GET YOUR NEXT ITEM FREE!

winter games weekend hours
FRIDAY, JANUARY 22ND 10:00 - 6:00
SATURDAY, JANUARY 23RD 9:00 - 4:00

DOWNTOWN SPIRIT LAKE
1703 HILL AVENUE

Hot Mamas: All About Hormones at rebe

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

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



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- Increase Energy • Balance Mood
- Improve Your Sleep





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Iowa Great Lakes Pheasants Forever Annual Banquet

**WOMEN'S
RAFFLE!**

**FEBRUARY
28TH, 2026**

**DOORS OPEN
AT 4:00PM
FOOD SERVED
AT 5:30PM**

**DICKINSON
COUNTY EXPO
BUILDING**

**KIDS UNDER
8 GET IN
FREE!**



**GUNS, GUNS,
GUNS!**

**Come join us for an evening of
fun, live and silent auction,
games, and prizes!**

Pheasant Forever mission is to conserve pheasant, quail, and other wildlife through habitat improvements, public access, education and conservation advocacy.



Use QR Code for Tickets

For more information contact:
Stephen Blom 712-540-4348
ch0020@pfofficers.org
www.pheasantforever.org

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• Single (lost) Earrings

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• Divorce Diamonds

• "Old Boyfriend" Jewelry

• Single (lost) Earrings

• Scrap Gold

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ROLL THE DICE for SAVINGS ON YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE!
FRIDAY & SATURDAY (some exclusions apply)

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SELECT FALL & WINTER CLOTHING, JACKETS
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Winter Glow, Wrapped in Diamonds!



THE BIG CHILL 2

JANUARY 24TH, 9AM-5:30PM

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Winter Games Drink Special

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Brewed Coffee, Lattes, Mochas,
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Classic Cruz Cab

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THE LAKES NEWS

Auctions

Page 2B

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Round Up for OES Pioneer Parents!

Let's make a difference for the students and staff at Okoboji Elementary School. While you're stocking your fridge and pantry for Winter Games, shop at Spirit Lake Fareway anytime January 18-24 and participate in the "Round Up at the Register" initiative at checkout.

Simply ask your cashier to round your total up to the nearest dollar. Every dollar collected will directly benefit OES by helping to:

- Fund school-wide assemblies
- Support our annual, school-wide Spring STEM Festival
- Provide meals for all staff during conferences
- Give each teacher \$100 for classroom supplies

Thank you for your support on behalf of all OES students, staff, and the Pioneer Parents group.



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

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!

Battle of the Bartenders Returns For 12th Year of Charity and Thrills

OKOBOJI-- Parks Marina in Okoboji is proud to invite the public for the return of the Battle of the Bartenders Charity Event during the 46th Annual University of Okoboji Winter Games. The party begins on January 22at 6 PM in the Parks Boat House and will feature live music from Junk FM on the Midwest Companies main stage.

Attracting bars and restaurants from across the region and thousands of attendees at Parks Marina, the Battle of the Bartenders pits the area's best mixologists in a head-to-head best drink competition. This year, those involved can expect some changes to the event, now in its 12th year. These adjustments aim to better accommodate the growth that the event has seen in recent years for attendees, participants, and the dollar amount raised each year.

In 2023 the competition expanded the number of winners to top five based on the total earnings for each bar. Continuing this year, every bar not in the top five will receive \$250 toward their selected charity to ensure each chosen charity benefits from the event. This will come out of the total amount raised. The remaining funds will be split in tiers amongst the top five. The top five from last year's competition were Puff's Lounge in first, Johnny's Pub in second, Snappers in third, Indian Hills Golf Club in fourth and Mainstreet Bar & Grill in fifth.

During last year's event, an amazing \$15,571 was raised for all of the participating bars and their selected charities, putting the grand total over the entire span of the Battle at \$122,771.

Venmo will remain an option at the event but attendees are encouraged to bring cash. Venmo donations will open the week of the Battle, set for Thursday, January 22nd, and will close at 7 PM that evening. Any donations to the Venmo made without a note designating the bar or charity will be put into the general fund. Matches or donations made after 7 PM are welcome but will not be counted toward any specific bar and will be put into the general fund.

Participating bars are allowed to fundraise ahead of the event but they must let those donating know that all funds raised may not go to their chosen charity if the bar is not a top five winner.

ARNOLDS PARK AMUSEMENT PARK

WINTER GAMES SCHEDULE

23 FRI

Boji Kite Festival (WEATHER PERMITTING)
On The Ice **8:30AM**

New Family Night (FREEWILL DONATION)
The Roof Garden
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 MIGHTY DUCKS @ 7:30pm (Sponsored by Jensen Real Estate)

Boji Kite - Night (WEATHER PERMITTING)
On The Ice **5:30PM - 8PM**

24 SAT

Bloody Mary's & Hot Chocolate Bar
The Roof Garden **8AM - 4PM**

Courtyard, Firepits, & Fun!
Preservation Plaza **8AM - 6PM**

Boji Kite Festival (WEATHER PERMITTING)
On The Ice **8:30AM**

5K Fun Run (CHECK IN: 8AM-8:45AM)
Majestic Pavilion **9AM**

Human Foosball
Preservation Plaza **9AM**

New Hard Water Golf
On The Ice **10AM - 3PM**

Food Truck Festival
Lake Street **10AM - 6PM**

Live Music with Boon & Lambert
The Roof Garden **11AM - 4PM**

Polar Plunge (REGISTRATION: 1:30PM)
On The Ice **3PM**

Boji Kite - Night (WEATHER PERMITTING)
On The Ice **5:30PM - 8PM**

Burning of the Greens
Preservation Plaza **6:30PM**

Fireworks
West Lake **6:45PM**

LIVE MUSIC BY THE PORK TORNADOES **7:30PM**
The Roof Garden (TICKETED EVENT)

FOOD TRUCKS

GODFATHER'S PIZZA
WOUDSTRA MEAT
CORN DOG COMPANY
MAMA NICKY'S
KATES KOOKIES
CHICK-FIL-A

PIZZA
BBQ/SANDWICHES
CORN DOGS
TAMALES & MORE
COOKIES
CHICKEN

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

ARNOLDSPARK.COM

Fisherman's FACTORY OUTLET

Berkley

PURE FISHING

presents the

CASTING CONTEST

20 U of O 26

DURING WINTER GAMES

OKOBOJI • IA

Saturday, January 24th 11am to 1pm

at Parks Marina on the Ice

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

BULLS' & BREWS
TICKETS ON SALE



MARCH
13 AND 14

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Winter Sale!

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40% OFF
ALL Christmas!

20% OFF
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Jelly Cat • Puzzles • Books • Entire Upstairs for Kids

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WHO'S READY TO PLAY?



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

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Arrivals
Daily!



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New Year Brings Big Changes for
Humane Society of Northwest Iowa

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.



What's in it for the Landowners?

OKOBOJI PIONEERS

PROUD SPONSOR OF THE WINTER GAMES LOGO





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BRAND DEVELOPMENT • DESIGN • PHOTOGRAPHY • SOCIAL MEDIA



OST Omelet Brunch: 2026 Season Reveal at Winter Games

The Okoboji Summer Theatre Association will be holding their annual Omelet Brunch Scholarship Fundraiser at the Winter Games, Saturday, January 24, 8:00am-12:30pm at the Okoboji Bible Conference Community Center (Arnolds Park). Proceeds from the omelet brunch go towards Okoboji Summer Theatre student scholarships. At 1:00, the 2026 Okoboji Summer Theatre lineup will be revealed by Okoboji Summer Theatre staff, from Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri. The Summer Theatre will present four musicals and three plays during the 2026 season. Summer Theatre Discount Ticket books for \$160 will be available at the omelet brunch.

The Okoboji Summer Theatre Association has been supporting summer theatre in the lakes area since 1953 by encouraging attendance and providing scholarships to Stephens College students. For membership information about OSTA, contact president Doris Welle, 712-320-2850.

HICKORY SMOKED FRESH DAILY

BABY BACK PORK RIBS & BRISKET

TENDER MEATS **BOTTOMLESS**
HOMEMADE SOUPS **BOWL**
DAILY SPECIALS **OF SOUP!**

WEDNESDAY PASTA NIGHT \$12.99 your choice of
• RIBS & SPAGHETTI • RIBS & LASAGNA ROLL UPS • CHICKEN ALFREDO

Thursdays: Meat Raffle!
Sponsored by the Twilight Masonic Lodge
Key Chain CASH Drawing

HOURS: Mon.-Sat. 11am-10pm
Fri. & Sat. 10pm-3am Late Night Breakfast
117 W. Broadway, Arnolds Park
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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



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WINTER GAMES

BAREFOOT BAR
PARKS MARINA
SNAPPERS CAFE

JANUARY 2026
22 - 25

SHIVER ME TIKIS!

REGISTER FOR OUR GAMES
ALL FUNDS GO TO CHARITY!



THE CROWN ROYAL BUS SCHEDULE

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

FRIDAY
7 PM - 12 AM (WRISTBAND)

SATURDAY
11 AM - 12 AM (WRISTBAND)

STOPS: BAREFOOT/PARKS • ARROWWOOD
BRIDGES BAY • ARNOLDS PARK

WRISTBANDS

PURCHASE ONLINE & SCAN AT THE GATE TO ENTER



\$30 FRIDAY & SATURDAY • \$20 SATURDAY ONLY • \$10 KIDS

- LIVE MUSIC
- OFFICIAL GAMES
- FAMILY FRIENDLY FUN

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 *Toppling Goliath Brewing*
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 Snappers Turtle Bay Cafe open

12:30 AM Okoboji Beer Curling by *Doll Distributing*, check in at 10:30 AM

1:30 PM Kid's Fun Zone, Bean Bag Toss & Tubing Hill by *Parks Marina*

2 PM Inflatables sponsored by *First Premier Bank*

3 PM Mini Golf Course sponsored by *Liberty Bank*

4 PM Great Plains Zoomobile (inside marina)

5 PM Casting Contest by *Pure Fishing*

6 PM DJ Aveni at Barefoot Bar

7 PM The Last Call Band on the *Midwest Companies* Main Stage

8 PM Bean Bag Tournament sponsored by *Parks Marina*

9 PM Smooshing Races sponsored by *Okoboji Vacation Company*, check in 11:30 AM

10 PM Human Dogsled Races sponsored by *Parks Marina* & *Doll Distributing*, check in at 1 PM

11 PM The Pastmasters on the Club Room Stage

12 PM Stein Holding Contest sponsored by *Exile Brewing Co.* (Boat House)

1 PM Undercover Band on the *Midwest Companies* Main Stage

2 PM Keg Toss sponsored by *Doll Distributing* & *Snappers* (Pond)

3 PM Taylor Swift, Madonna & Stevie Nicks Tribute Band on the *Midwest Companies* Main Stage

TIMES & EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. STAY CONNECTED ON FACEBOOK OR PARKSMARINA.COM

BATTLE OF THE BARTENDERS

A HEAD-TO-HEAD

BEST DRINK COMPETITION & CHARITY FUNDRAISER!

OVER **\$122,000** RAISED FOR CHARITY

WITH **\$15,000** RAISED IN 2025 ALONE

JANUARY 22 AT 6 PM IN THE PARKS BOAT HOUSE

SHOP LOCAL

SOFTAIL SALOON • SUPERIOR, IA

WINTER GAMES WEEK & WEEKEND SPECIALS:

Wed.: Ham Balls, Cheesy Potatoes & Green Beans

Thurs.: Country Fried Steak w/ Mashed Potatoes & Gravy

Fri.: Open Face Hot Beef Sandwich

HOMEMADE SOUP: Loaded Baked Potato

FISH FRY Friday, January 23 • 4:30PM

Hand Breaded Pollock
Baked Potato & Coleslaw **\$14.95**

Homemade Chili
Available All Weekend!

Walking Tacos
Available All Weekend!

Bloody Mary Bar
Try our famous homemade mix!

Bloody Mary & Breakfast on Sunday
Featuring Homemade Sausage Gravy & Biscuits



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Wednesday - Sunday
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Wednesday is Brick Chicken Dinner Night

TUESDAY NIGHT	THURSDAY NIGHT
BURGER SPECIAL	PASTA NIGHT
\$5 Hamburger	Build Your Own Pasta Bar
Fresh Ground Hamburger Blend	with Salad and Bread
While supplies last	

15 Dam Road, Arnolds Park • 712-337-3238

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

50th Wedding Anniversary

Del & Diane Christoffer

will Celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on **Sunday, Feb. 1**

with an **OPEN HOUSE** from **2-4pm** at **Grandview Church** in **Estherville, IA, 3705 170th St.**

The event will be hosted by their children: Dawn, Rhonda, Tammy, Paula, and their families.

Del and Diane were married on February 6, 1976 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Winter Fun for everyone

VENUE

Spirit Lake, IA

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 1st, 2nd & 3rd Places

SIGN UP EARLY at **SPORTSMAN'S** or by calling **712.336.0495**

*A minimum of 6 teams are needed. Proceeds will be donated to 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

LOS PUEBLOS

Winter Happy Hour Special

Mon-Thur 2-6pm

HALF OFF

House Margaritas & Beers!

OPEN:

Sunday-Thursday 11am-8pm

Friday & Saturday 11am-9pm

Hwy. 71, Arnolds Park 332-7315

VENUE

Spirit Lake, IA

thevenueokoboji.com

WINTER GAMES GOLF TOURNAMENT

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

- **2 Person Best Ball • 18 Holes**
- **\$150/Team** - Half of the entry fee paid back to 1st, 2nd & 3rd Place Teams
- **2 Hour Tee Times**

Thursday, January 22: 6 am - close

Friday, January 23: 6 am - close

Saturday, January 24: 6 am - 2 pm

SIGN UP at **SPORTSMAN'S** or by calling **712.336.0495**

Proceeds will be donated to Mentor Iowa

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

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WINTER GAMES SPECIALS

- Parmesan Chicken over Ravioli
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WINTER GAMES

OKOBOJI • IA

Saturday, January 24

8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Okoboji Bible Conference - Arnolds Park (look for signs)

Omelet, cheesy hash browns, cinnamon roll, coffee, orange juice

\$12.00 ages 8 & older | \$7.00 ages 4-7 | under 4 free

Cash • Check • Venmo | To-Go Plates Available

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Join Us WINTER GAMES Weekend!

THUR, JANUARY 22

BATTLE OF THE BARTENDERS LUNCH FOR KIDS

SCAN TO DONATE!

venmo

FRI, JANUARY 23

JESSIE WILSON | 8PM

SUN, JANUARY 25

TEXAS HOLD EM TOURNAMENT | 10AM-2PM

TEXAS HOLD EM TOURNAMENT (Winners Advance to Day 2)

Max 27 Players | \$50 Buy-In

Hosted by: Docker Staebler

CALL TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT!

SAT, JANUARY 24

TEXAS HOLD EM TOURNAMENT | 10AM-2PM

FUNK-UH-FRIED | 8PM

Playing 70's & 80's Funk Hits.

You don't want to miss this!

UPCOMING EVENTS

WED, JANUARY 21

BUNCO | 6PM

SAT, JANUARY 31

COMEDIAN CARL GIANNETTO

TUES, FEBRUARY 17

FAT TUESDAY PARTY

FRI, JANUARY 30

JASON GRINNEN KARAOKE | 8PM

FRI, FEBRUARY 13

GALENTINE'S - SCHOON BROS. | 8PM

SAT, FEBRUARY 14

STEAK FOR TWO - PAPER MOON | 6PM

Make your reservations soon!

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Students Named to Dean's List

Wartburg College has recognized the following area students who were named to the 2025 Fall Term Dean's List: Cole Cantrall, Weston Johnson and Peyton Morey of Spencer.

Wartburg College is a four-year liberal arts college internationally recognized for community engagement. A college of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Wartburg is dedicated to challenging and nurturing students for lives of leadership and service as a spirited expression of their faith and learning. The college is characterized by vigorous academic expectations and community engagement within an environment of strong personal support.

SNHU Announces President's List

It is with great pleasure that Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) congratulates the following students on being named to the Fall 2025 President's List: Kacey Voelker of Lakefield, Jasmine Mixon of Estherville, Molly Peters, Justin Richardson and Isabella Davis of Spencer. The fall terms run from September to December.

Full-time undergraduate students who have earned a minimum grade-point average of 3.700 and above for the reporting term are named to the President's List. Full-time status is achieved by earning 12 credits over each 16-week term or paired 8-week terms grouped in fall, winter/spring, and summer.

Route 86 Music Announces December Student of the Month

Route 86 Music is pleased to announce the Student of the Month for December 2025: Charlotte Hengeveld. Charlotte just started taking guitar lessons this fall. She comes to each lesson ready and works hard! Congratulations, Charlotte!

Charlotte is taught by Gár Lambert who is a 2025 Iowa Rock & Roll Music Association Hall of Fame inductee and teaches guitar and drum lessons in the region. With Gár you are getting a teacher with over 30 years experience in playing and over 20 years teaching music. Gár tailors lessons to the student's needs and uses music they already love to listen to in order to encourage continued growth and practice. You can start lessons anytime of year and pay per lesson, month, or semester. For more info, visit route86records.wixsite.com/music/lessons, check out Route 86 Records on Facebook, call/text 712-330-8843, or email route86records@gmail.com to sign up for your private or group lesson today!



Discipline that Connects with Your Child's Heart

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

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

DON'T MISS THIS!

Connected Families

CHAD HAYENGA

Mom Co Fundraiser Event

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



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Family Services Resource Guide

Dickinson County's Family Resource Guide is a comprehensive free resource for local residents to utilize when trying to locate services in and around the county. With a variety of services and help providers listed, the book is a one-stop-shop to locate local resources. To access the free guide online, visit <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/dickinson/county-resource-guide>. If you have services to add to the guide, contact Sue at 712-336-3488 or boettche@iastate.edu.

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Now through January 31st

Brown's SHOE FIT CO.

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Mon. - Fri. 9-5:30, Thu. 9-7, Sat. 9-5

Soper named to Dean's List

The University of Wisconsin-Superior has named Tim Soper of Spirit Lake to the Dean's List for academic achievement during the Fall 2025 semester.

To be named to the Dean's List, students must have completed 12 degree-seeking semester credits and achieved at least a 3.50 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale).

Founded in 1893 as a teacher's college, UW-Superior offers more than 50 undergraduate majors, select graduate and online programs, Division III athletics, and community-focused research and continuing education.



St. Alban's Episcopal Church
"The Lord Be with You"

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

The Reverend Carolyn Tuttle, Rector

Live Stream 
through our Facebook Page

Email: office@stalbansepiscopalchurch.org
Website: stalbansepiscopalchurch.org

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*"Do to others whatever you would have them do to you,
for this is the law and the prophets."*
- Matthew 7:12

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Have a blessing LEAVE IT
Need a blessing TAKE IT
Above all be BLESSED

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JOYKIDS Resumes Wednesday, Feb. 4 • 3:30PM

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

SUNDAY
Schedule

WORSHIP
8:30 AM &
11:00 AM



FELLOWSHIP
9:30 AM
EDUCATION
9:45 AM

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Dickinson County Democratic Party Caucus

Please join the Dickinson County Democrats, for the Democratic Party Caucus on Monday, February 2 at 6:30 PM at the Milford Community Building (806 N Avenue, Milford). The doors open at 6:00 PM. You must be in line or signed in by 6:30 to participate.

The purpose of this year's caucus is to:

- Discuss and adopt proposed resolutions to be added to the county platform
- Elect delegates and alternates to the County Convention
- Elect Precinct Committee persons to the County Central Committee

All Democrats are encouraged to attend! The Precinct Caucus is a great way to get involved in the grassroots activities with the Iowa Democratic Party.

"Democrats believe that the economy should work for everyone, health care is a right, our diversity is our strength, and democracy is worth defending."



Anniversary Announcement


Del and Diane Christoffer will celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Sunday, February 1, 2026, with an open house at Grandview Church in Estherville, Iowa, 3705 170th Street, 2:00 - 4:00pm.

The event will be hosted by their children, Dawn, Rhonda, Tammy, and Paula and their families.

Del and Diane were married on February 6, 1976, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.


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MERCY

FRI 1/23 4:15 & 7:10
SAT-SUN 1/24-25 1:30, 4:15 & 7:10
MON-THUR 1/26-29 7:10



THE HOUSEMAID

WED-THUR 1/21-22 7:00
FRI 1/23 4:00 & 6:50
SAT-SUN 1/24-25 1:15, 4:00 & 6:50
MON-THUR 1/26-29 6:50



THE LAKES NEWS Auctions
Page 2B

Happy U of O Winter Games



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Tuesday: Kids Eat FREE!
- One FREE Kid's Meal with each Adult Entrée
Purchased at Regular Price • 4pm-Close

Wednesday: BOGO 1/2 OFF
- Buy One Entrée & 2 Drinks, Get the 2nd Entrée Half Price
Excludes Burger, Fries & Pies • 4pm-Close

Thursday: Senior Night
20% off Everything for Seniors (55 & over)!
Not valid with coupons or other discounts.
4pm-Close

SAVE 20%
20% Off Your Total Bill
UP TO TOTAL OF \$10 OFF

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



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

WELCOME TO THE 2026 U OF O WINTER GAMES!

VFW BREAKFAST

Sunday, Jan. 25
8:00 am to 12:30 pm
— PUBLIC WELCOME —

SERVING:
Pancakes • French Toast
Eggs • Sausage • Coffee • Juice

VFW Post 3159
Veterans Hall
15 East 21st St. Spencer, IA



Located directly across from Arnolds Park Amusement Park



See our website & menu: thehuttbarandgrill.com

DAILY SPECIALS at 11am

DAILY SPECIALS

- Wed., Jan. 21: Pan Fried Chicken Mushroom & Swiss Burger
- Thur., Jan. 22: Chicken Pot Pie Black & Bleu Burger
- Fri., Jan. 23: Country Fried Steak
- Mon., Jan. 26: Hot Beef Taco Salad
- Tues., Jan. 27: CLOSED

Friday Night Special
Fish Fry

Saturday Night Special
Prime Rib

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

Book your Birthday Party or event with us!
We have a special menu for your special occasion.

Hwy. 71 South • Arnolds Park, IA • 712.332.8074



80th Birthday Announcement

Reed and Denise would like to wish this former cook and lawn man a happy 80th birthday on January 29 with a card shower. Please send your greetings to Loran Anderson, 6480 220th St., Ocheyedan, IA 51354.

Spencer Chamber to Host Eggs & Issues Legislative Forums

Spencer, IA – The Spencer Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce the dates for the 2026 Eggs & Issues Legislative Forums. These forums offer residents of Northwest Iowa the opportunity to connect with local legislators in a question/answer format. Each forum will be moderated by Spencer Chamber Executive Director Sheriffa Jones.

The Eggs & Issues forums will be held on the following dates:

- Saturday, January 31, 2026 – Sponsored by Iowa Lakes Community College
- Saturday, February 21, 2026 - Sponsored by Clay County Farm Bureau
- Saturday, March 28, 2026 - Sponsored by Northwest Bank

All sessions will take place from 9:00 to 10:30 AM in the Spencer City Hall Council Chambers located at 101 W. 5th St., Spencer, IA. Breakfast will be served at 8:30 AM. First come first served, until run out)

Invited legislators include Senator Dave Rowley, Senator Lynn Evans, Representative Megan Jones, and Representative John Wills.

Each session will be live on KICD, SMU, & taped by Mediacom Cable TV, with both stations replaying the session. This session will start live at 9:00 AM.

The Spencer Chamber of Commerce invites everyone to attend this forum.

For more information or to submit a question please contact Blake at the Spencer Chamber of Commerce at programs@spenceriowachamber.org.

Arts on Grand Unveils Winter 2026 Creative Workshop Series

Arts on Grand in Spencer, Iowa, has announced its Winter 2026 lineup of creative workshops, offering a variety of hands-on opportunities for local residents to develop new artistic skills.

The season kicks off on Saturday, January 27, with an introductory bookbinding class led by instructor Ann Aalgaard. Participants in this morning session will learn the essential supplies and techniques of the craft while constructing their own small notebooks using a traditional pamphlet stitch.

As February arrives, the center will shift its focus to painting and textiles. Artist Cheri O'Hagan will lead a two-part watercolor painting workshop on February 3 and 10, guiding students through the process of layering colors to create nature-inspired works. Later that week, on Saturday, February 7, Steven Smith will host an introductory crochet session designed for beginners. The month's programming concludes with a family-friendly Pinecone Party on February 21, where attendees of all ages can craft decorative owls, bird feeders, and succulent displays.

The winter schedule culminates in an intensive, multi-week ceramics workshop titled Introduction to the Potter's Wheel. Running from March 11 through April 1, this six-session course is designed for both beginners and those looking to refine their pottery skills. The fast-paced curriculum covers the entire ceramic process, from centering clay on the wheel to final glazing. Registration for all classes is currently open through the Arts on Grand website, with discounted rates available for members.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The publisher does not necessarily share the views/opinions stated in the "Letters to the Editor" published in The Lakes News Shopper.

To the Editor:

Last week the legislative session began and on Tuesday a friend and I went to the Capitol building in Des Moines. Once again we are trying to get legislation passed to protect landowners from a private company from using eminent domain to take our land.

Summit Carbon Solutions wants to collect CO2 from ethanol plants in Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, and North and South Dakota and store it in a pore space underground in North Dakota. By doing this they would gain billions of dollars in tax credits from the federal government as part of the green new deal.

Last year we got a bill passed that would have protected us from this landgrab, but it was vetoed by Governor Reynolds, even though 80 % of Iowans are against eminent domain for this project. She stated that it had too many provisions and she wanted a clean bill. So this year legislators have come up with a bill, HF2104 which is a clean and simple bill that states "No eminent domain for CO2 pipelines in the state of Iowa!" I don't think it could be said any cleaner or simpler than that!

South Dakota passed this same bill last year and, because of this, Summit pulled their project from their state. As we all know, they can't get to North Dakota without going through South Dakota or Minnesota, and neither of those states allow eminent domain for this project. It is not for the good of the people, and it is not a utility. Iowa deserves the same protections!!!

Please contact our legislators and ask them to pass HF2104! We simply just want the right to say "no thank you"! They could still do their project, they would just have to find people who want it on their land. Iowans deserve the right to negotiate without the heavy hand of big government tipping the scales against them.

Thank you,
Jill Williamson
Ruthven, Iowa

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RECIPE CORNER

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Maple-Bourbon Banana Pudding Cake

Serves 6

- 6 Tbs. unsalted butter
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 overripe banana, mashed
- 1 large egg
- 1 cup whole milk, room temp.
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 Tbs. baking powder
- Pinch of salt
- 3/4 cup pure maple syrup
- 1/4 cup light brown sugar
- 2 Tbs. Bourbon
- 1/4 cup chopped pecans

Preheat the oven to 375°. In a deep, 2 quart baking dish, melt the butter in the microwave. Whisk in the sugar and banana, mashing until thoroughly combined. Whisk in the egg and milk. In a bowl, whisk the flour, baking powder and salt; whisk into the baking dish until combined (batter will be loose). In a microwave-safe cup, heat the maple syrup, brown sugar and 1/2 cup of hot water until hot, @ 1 minute. Add the bourbon. Drizzle the syrup mixture over the batter; it will seep to the bottom. Do not stir. Scatter the pecans on top. Set the dish on a baking sheet and bake for 40 minutes, until the cake is golden. Let cool for 5 minutes, then scoop into bowls and serve with ice cream.

Recipe Courtesy of: **Jan McDonald**

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2026 REPUBLICAN PRECINCT CAUCUSES

All twelve of Dickinson Counties Precincts will be held at the same location

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Spirit Lake High School East Gym
2701 Hill Ave., Spirit Lake, IA

Doors Open at 6:00 PM • Caucus Activity Begins & Doors Close at 7:00 PM

Park in east parking lot - enter east gym doors.

The Precinct Caucuses will perform the following functions:

- Elect 2 persons who are Republican residents of the precinct to serve on the County Central Committee.
- Elect delegates and alternate delegates to the Dickinson County Republican Convention to be held on Saturday, March 7, 2026.
- Propose and vote on platform planks to be sent to the County Convention.

Verify Your Precinct at <https://sos.iowa.gov/voters/find-my-precinctpolling-place>
Voter Registration Forms will be available to register or update your information.

Paid for by the Dickinson County Republican Central Committee.

Okoboji Foundation Invites Grant Applications for 2026

Capital projects that strengthen lake quality, arts and culture, and outdoor recreation encouraged to apply

The Okoboji Foundation has opened its 2026 grant application cycle, inviting nonprofit organizations serving the Iowa Great Lakes region to apply for funding support. Through its annual grant program, the Foundation invests in capital projects that create lasting community impact across the region.

Grant funding supports capital projects that are focused on the Foundation's primary areas of interest including Lake Quality and Environment, Arts and Culture, and Outdoor Experiences and Recreation, with an emphasis on projects that are visible, broadly accessible, and sustainable.

"Each year, we are inspired by the passion and creativity of organizations working to strengthen our communities," said Mindy Gress, President of the Okoboji Foundation. "No project is ever too small to be considered. What matters most is the vision behind it and the long-term benefit it brings to the Iowa Great Lakes region."

Eligible applicants include 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations and government entities. Organizations without nonprofit status may apply through a qualified fiscal sponsor. Grant funds are designated for capital projects and may not be used for operational expenses, marketing costs, school uniforms, or short-term programming.


In 2025, the Okoboji Foundation awarded \$378,000 in Leadership Grants to support major community projects throughout the region. When combined with Youth in Philanthropy grants, total funding distributed reached \$472,462. Since its founding in 1988, the Foundation has awarded more than \$5.8 million in discretionary grants to strengthen communities across the Iowa Great Lakes area.

Grant applications must be submitted online by March 1, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. Organizations are strongly encouraged to review the grant guidelines available on the Foundation's website prior to applying. Foundation staff are available to answer questions, discuss project ideas, and help direct applicants through the application process.

Grant guidelines and application materials are available at okobojifoundation.org/grant-application. For additional information, contact the Okoboji Foundation at 712-332-7177 or info@okobojifoundation.org.

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THE Grape Escape

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February 6, 2026


5:30 pm

Signature Cocktail & Bourbon Tasting & Hors d'oeuvres


6:30 pm

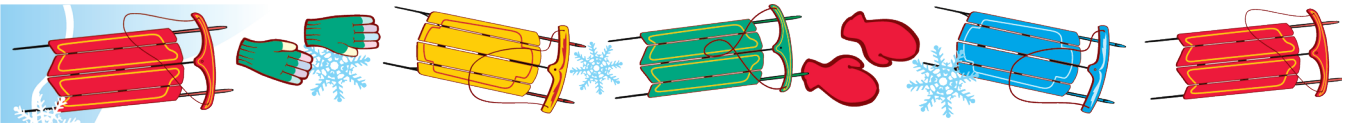
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FEBRUARY YOUTH ART CLASSES:

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.

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.

Wine Class

With Jennifer Tritle-Oitzman of Okoboji Wines

Thursdays | 6pm | \$45/\$55

Registration required 2 days before each class.

Feb. 5: Wines of Bordeaux

Mar. 5: Blind Tasting: Cool Climate vs Warm

Apr. 2: Varietal Series: Cabernet Franc

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

Create & Savor Cooking Class

With Marisa Sidles of Rissy's Dry Rubs and Seasonings

Saturdays | 6pm | \$80/\$90

Registration required 3 days before each class.

In this hands-on cooking class, Marisa will guide you in preparing a delicious decadent meal, glass of wine included!

Feb. 14: Buttery Lobster Ravioli

Mar. 14: A Night In Naples

Sourdough Bread Making

With Natasha Erikson of Rise Sourdough Company

Wednesday, Feb. 18 or Thursday, May 7

10am | \$60/\$70

In this beginner class, Natasha will lead you in a small group setting as you learn the basics of making sourdough bread. Class includes instruction, a sourdough starter, taste samples, and hands on experience mixing and kneading a mini loaf you will take home to bake and enjoy! Class is 2 - 2 1/2 hrs.

Winter Comfort Food

With Jay Norton of The Hen House

\$100/\$110 per dinner | 6pm

Registration required 2 days before each class.

Thursday, Feb. 19: Southern Cooking

Thursday, Mar. 12: Irish Country Supper.

Join Chef Jay at the kitchen counter for a small group experience of timeless favorites! A glass of wine is served with each dinner.



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

View From The Bench

by John Adams, Jr.

Don't Let Hate Win

We were out of town last week on vacation and returned late Sunday night, so this week's View From The Bench is very brief and to the point. To be completely honest, I wasn't going to write one at all, but heard several quotes late last night as I was watching TV that I wanted to share with everyone from the great Martin Luther King, Jr that is so fitting yet for America today; "we must learn to live together as brothers, or perish together as fools." and, "for let no man pull you so low, as to hate him." I could write pages about these two quotes but am going to keep it short and sweet as to me they say so much themselves and are so powerful in their own words. As our country once again is going through more protests over ICE raids, government frauds, and more divisiveness over which side is right or wrong, we are continually led by politicians who just want to play the blame and hate game instead of listen to each side, and try to find a common ground. We are seeing both sides treat each other as less than human and show so much hatred towards one another that the only thing that is truly winning is hate itself. While we can't do much to change what is going on nationally, we can be kinder to each other locally and on social media, and try to be more considerate of those who have a different point of view than us. When all of this is going on around you, I ask you to remember these quotes from MLK and please, don't let hate win!



Lakes Area Activity/Senior Center

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



WINTER GAMES CARD PARTY SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

Registration 8:30am - Card Playing at 9am

SERVED AT NOON

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Reserve your meal for next week

Low Cost: \$7-\$10 Donation

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PEARSON LAKES ART CENTER

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6/30	LINDA RONSTADT EXPERIENCE Linda Ronstadt Tribute MEMBERS ONLY PRESALE 2/24-3/2	\$40/\$50
7/7	COMMOTIONA Creedence Clearwater Revival Tribute MEMBERS ONLY PRESALE 3/3-3/9	\$40/\$50
7/14	A BROTHERS REVIVALRock & Roll MEMBERS ONLY PRESALE 3/10-3/16	\$40/\$50
7/21	THE ELECTRIC LIGHT ORCHESTRA EXPERIENCE Featuring... Evil Woman – The American ELO MEMBERS ONLY PRESALE 3/17-3/23	\$40/\$50
7/28	HEART BY HEARTwith Steve Fossen & Michael Derosier of Heart MEMBERS ONLY PRESALE 3/24-3/30	\$40/\$50
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8/11	THE PLAYERSFormer members of Chicago MEMBERS ONLY PRESALE 4/7-4/13	\$40/\$50
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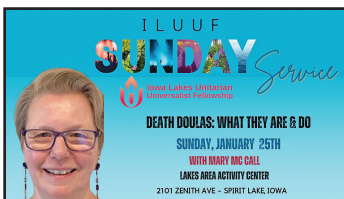
ILUUF Presents Mary McCall

The Iowa Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship invites you to attend the Sunday, January 25th program- "Death Doulas" with Mary McCall.

McCall, PhD is a gerontologist and death doula in Iowa City. She earned a bachelors' and doctorate in Human Development and Aging and taught developmental psychology and research design and data analysis for 30 years before finding her second passion in working with individuals, couples and families in the community who are navigating mid- and late-life transitions from retirement through death. She trained as a death doula with INELDA - the International End-of-Life Doula Association. She volunteers at the Iowa City Senior Center, facilitating a weekly caregiver support group and teaching classes on preparing for late life and death. She also facilitates a grief support group in the community. She specializes in dementia care, and navigating family conflict and communication.

Coffee and conversation begin at 9:30am with the program to follow at 10am at the Lakes Area Senior Center located at 2101 Zenith Ave. in Spirit Lake.

People of all ages and backgrounds share conversation, food and song at an ILUUF service. Guest speakers discuss issues affecting us both locally and globally. The ILUUF meets the 2nd & 4th Sundays of each month. Learn more at www.uuokoboji.com. All are welcome to attend this progressive



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Date: Thursday, January 29
Time: 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Location: Dickinson County Courthouse Community Room
Spirit Lake, IA

RSVP Required
Please call to RSVP in advance:
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RSVP by Friday, January 23

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RE/MAX Lakes Realty and RE/MAX Experience RE/MAX Partners with Arnolds Park for \$100K Community Boost

Arnolds Park Amusement Park (HAPI) is proud to announce a new partnership with RE/MAX Lakes Realty and RE/MAX Experience, who have committed \$100,000 in support of the park and the greater Arnolds Park and Lake Okoboji community.

“On behalf of all of our agents at RE/MAX Lakes Realty and RE/MAX Experience, Jeff and I want to state just how proud we are to invest back into Arnolds Park Amusement Park with our offices’ \$100,000 commitment,” said Jeff Carlson and Aaron Jones of RE/MAX. “Arnolds Park has been the lifeblood of our community for so many years, and this is just one of the many ways for us to express our commitment to giving back—so that our families and our clients’ families can continue to enjoy Arnolds Park and Lake Okoboji for years to come.”

As part of this investment, RE/MAX is excited to introduce a brand-new community event called the 1st Annual Tailgate at the Park, taking place on Saturday, September 12, 2026. This full day of festivities will feature the Iowa vs. Iowa State football game on the big screen, a variety of activities for guests to enjoy, and a live musical performance by Damon Dotson in the evening.

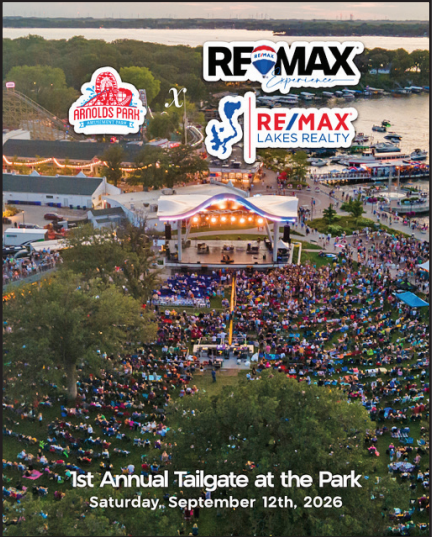
“This incredible event and investment would not be possible without the dedication of RE/MAX agents and clients who believe in giving back to the community they serve,” Carlson and Jones added. “We’re beyond excited to launch this event and look forward to seeing the community come together.”

In addition to the Tailgate at the Park, RE/MAX will serve as a major concert sponsor for Arnolds Park Amusement Park in the coming years, beginning with Hairball, live on Saturday, August 15, 2026.

Arnolds Park Amusement Park extends its sincere gratitude to RE/MAX Lakes Realty and RE/MAX Experience for their leadership, generosity, and continued commitment to the community.

“We are honored to have RE/MAX as a partner and look forward to celebrating together for years to come.”

For updates and opportunities to get involved, stay tuned to Arnolds Park Amusement Park and RE/MAX Lakes Realty & RE/MAX Experience announcements.



Winter Games Bridge Tournament

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

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

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



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The Purpose of this Year's Caucus is to:

- ★ Discuss & adopt proposed resolutions to be added to the county platform
- ★ Elect delegates & alternates to the County Convention
- ★ Elect Precinct Committee persons to the County Central Committee



The precinct caucus is a great way to get involved in grassroots activities with the Iowa Democratic Party.

All Democrats are encouraged to attend.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The publisher does not necessarily share the views/opinions stated in the "Letters to the Editor" published in The Lakes News Shopper.

To The Editor:

Brutal dictator Maduro ruined Venezuela and abused its citizens, deserving no sympathy or support. Why was it our onus to remove him?

Trump claimed; "You see these boats, they're stacked up with bags of white powder that's mostly fentanyl and other drugs, too".

Per DEA and narcotics experts, most illicit fentanyl here is Mexican produced, smuggled across southern border legal ports of entry. Venezuela isn't a known producer or major exporter of fentanyl but a transit country for Europe bound cocaine.

No evidence was given that targeted boats carried fentanyl. Military officials said the vessels contained cocaine, not fentanyl.

An executive order designated fentanyl as a "weapon of mass destruction" to justify militarized response.

The Honduran President was pardoned for trafficking 400 tons of cocaine to the U.S. after he wrote Trump a flattering letter seeking clemency.

Maduro sent savage and murderous gangs, including the bloodthirsty prison gang Tren de Aragua, to terrorize American communities nationwide."

No evidence that Maduro sent Tren de Aragua members to the U.S.

Maduro indictment doesn't mention this.

National Intelligence Council report contradicts these statements.

Venezuela "stole" U.S oil

Early 20th century Venezuela dictator allowed foreign companies almost exclusive access to the oil.

In 1975 Venezuela nationalized its oil industry.

"Trump's claim that Venezuela has stolen oil and land from the U.S. is baseless," Francisco Rodríguez, a Venezuelan economist. "The U.S. was much more interested in having Venezuela be a provider of oil — relatively cheap oil — than to have a production collapse in Venezuela." The change was "relatively uncontroversial".

Trump spoke to oil companies before the Venezuela operation claiming they're eager to revitalize the industry in Venezuela.

Oil companies, not congress, were notified before Maduro was removed.

Trump said it "won't cost us anything" to govern Venezuela because oil companies would invest in new infrastructure. "It's going to make a lot of money," he said.

USA will occupy Venezuela to protect the oil companies rebuilding and continuing operations as national energy security and protecting Americans there.

Trump said he would "run the country until such time as we can do a safe, proper and judicious transition."

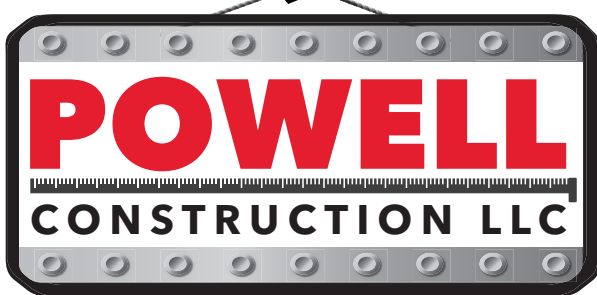
Trump indicated the U.S. was prepared for "boots on the ground" with reports of special forces involvement and significant naval buildup.

It's about making trump's rich friends richer at the expense of the American taxpayer as always.

January 6, 2021. Never forget.

Diane Smith,
Spencer, Iowa

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Yoga Class

Seniors are invited to participate in free chair yoga every Friday from 9:50 to 10:20 AM. These sessions focus on building balance and core strength to help participants stay healthy and active. The class meets at the Lakes Area Activity/Senior Center is located at 2101 Zenith Ave in Spirit Lake (behind Pizza Ranch). No special equipment or clothing is required; attendees are welcome to come as they are and give it a try.

The benefits of yoga are well-documented by the medical community. They include improved balance, flexibility, strength, coordination, and energy. As muscles gain elasticity, daily tasks can be performed with considerably more ease. Furthermore, improved balance and core strength make individuals safer and less likely to experience accidents or falls. Beyond the physical benefits, the class offers a pleasant social gathering with a friendly community.

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COLLEGE BOWL CHALLENGE

COLLEGE BOWL CHALLENGE WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Don Origer

Doug Doyle

Randy Graff

Mike Hagen

Congratulations to the following winners of this year's College Bowl Challenge! Don Origer of Milford, is our BIG winner and is the only entry with 12 correct picks! Our 2nd-4th place winners (2nd Place-Doug Doyle, Estherville-\$75; 3rd Place-Randy Graff-Spirit Lake-\$50; 4th Place-Mike Hagen, Okoboji-\$25) all had 11 correct picks and won the tiebreaker scores over 7 other entries.

Thank you to everyone for playing again this year, and a HUGE THANK YOU to our sponsors for making this promotion possible: Blink Marketing, Boji Boat Brokers, Boonedock's, C&R Golf Cart, Consumers Lumber, Farewy Meat & Grocery, Interior Sewing, Jiffy, Lakes Autosport, Lee Custom Homes, Milford Communications, Perkins, Phil's Market Place Motors, Premier Communications, Sportsman's/Venue, Sunshine Foods, The Tobacco Shop, and Weasly's Lounge and Grill.

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Seasons Center for Behavioral Health Earns COA Accreditation

Seasons Center for Behavioral Health has achieved national accreditation through COA Accreditation. Organizations pursue accreditation to demonstrate the implementation of best practice standards in the field of human services. COA Accreditation evaluated all aspects of Seasons Center’s programs, services, management, and administration.

COA Accreditation, a service of Social Current, is an objective, independent, and reliable validation of an agency’s performance. The accreditation process involves a detailed review and analysis of an organization’s administration, management, and service delivery functions against international standards of best practice. The standards driving accreditation ensure that services are well-coordinated, culturally competent, evidence-based, outcomes-oriented, and provided by a skilled and supported workforce. COA Accreditation demonstrates accountability in the management of resources, sets standardized best practice thresholds for service and administration, and increases organizational capacity and accountability by creating a framework for ongoing quality improvement.

To achieve accreditation, Seasons Center first provided over 650 pieces of written evidence of compliance with the COA Accreditation standards. Thereafter, a group of specially trained volunteer Peer Reviewers confirmed adherence to these standards during a series of on-site interviews with trustees, staff and clients. Based on their findings, COA Accreditation’s volunteer-based Accreditation Commission voted that Seasons Center had successfully met the criteria for accreditation.

“Receiving COA accreditation is a significant milestone for our agency and a powerful validation of the quality, integrity, and accountability of our work. This achievement reflects our team’s unwavering commitment to best practices and to delivering effective, ethical services that truly make a difference for the individuals and communities we serve,” said Dan Ries, President & CEO of Seasons Center. “COA accreditation recognizes the hard work, dedication, and professionalism of our staff. It affirms that our policies, programs, and services meet nationally recognized standards and reinforces our mission of guiding individuals and families towards a meaning-

ful and fulfilling life.”

COA Accreditation, a service of Social Current, is an independent, not-for-profit accreditor of the full continuum of community-based behavioral health care and social service organizations in the United States and Canada. Over 2,000 organizations — voluntary, public, and proprietary; local and statewide; large and small — have either successfully achieved accreditation or are currently engaged in the process.

For more information about services offered by Seasons Center, please visit our website at www.seasonscenter.org.



Winter Games Card Party

The Lakes Area Activity/Senior Center (Spirit Lake, Iowa - under the water tower) is sponsoring a Winter Games card party Saturday, January 24th. Registration 8:30am Card party starts 9:00am. Cards included are Pinochle, 500 and Mahjong. Cost \$10 per person and includes cards, soup/sandwich lunch and dessert. Door prizes and theme basket raffle. Open to the public.



ARNOLDS PARK LIBRARY

The Arnolds Park Library has settled into their temporary location and the construction crew has made great progress on the new building! While we are in a smaller space we still continue to get all the newest, best sellers, and must-reads for our patrons.

On Monday, January 19th, starts our Winter Blues Bingo! Participants will have until March 9th to complete their bingo. We will draw for weekly prizes and everyone who completes their bingo by March 9th will be entered into the grand prize drawing. Stop by the library and pick up your bingo card today!

The library hours for February are Monday-Friday 9am-4pm and Saturday 9am-12pm. Wednesdays will return to 9am-6pm in March.

As a reminder, we are in our temporary location at 62 N Highway 71, Unit #1 (In the strip mall behind Northwest Bank just down from Boji Spudz).

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The River
AN EXECUTIVE COACHING BLOG
TONY THELEN

Let me tell you about my friend Matt, who died last Friday. He lived in Whittemore, Iowa, a town of 497 people where everyone knows your name, your parents’ names, and usually your story. Matt’s story, however, was unlike any I had ever encountered. And even now, in its ending, it continues to teach.

Matt was just 29 years old when his life changed forever. A massive stroke struck without warning. Through an almost unbelievable twist of fate, one blood clot collided with another and knocked it loose, saving his life. But survival came at a cost. During recovery, doctors discovered his heart was functioning at just 15 percent. A heart transplant wasn’t optional - it was the only path forward.

This was during COVID, when hospitals were overwhelmed and beds were scarce. His family made call after call, 32 hospitals in total, looking for someone who would take him. No one could. Until one young doctor at the Nebraska Medical Center saw the request. He recognized the Koppen name. He’d grown up in Armstrong, Iowa. He asked one simple question: Who is this 29-year-old who had a stroke and now needs a heart transplant? Then he made room. In his words, “I’ll put Matt in the hallway if I have to.”

Matt was placed at the top of the transplant list. He received a new heart. He also emerged with a debilitating condition that confined him to a wheelchair for the rest of his life. For many, that might have been the end of the story.

For Matt, it was the beginning of a new chapter. While rebuilding his life, Matt, with the steady help of his father, David, purchased a small fishing lure company called Canyon Plastics and ran it out of his garage in Whittemore. The business had passed through multiple owners across several states before landing in Matt’s hands. From a wheelchair, he packaged lures, filled orders, talked with customers, and kept the business alive. He fished. He mowed his lawn. He served on the community fire department and early response team. He contributed fully and unapologetically to the life around him.

Along the way, Matt married the love of his life, Kendra, at one point even exchanging vows in the ICU following his heart transplant. In November 2024, they welcomed a son, Bentley, into the world. And when Matt needed help, his small Iowa community did what small communities do best: they showed up. A fundraiser raised more than \$100,000 to support him and his family.

When I first met Matt in 2023, I walked away changed. There was no bitterness in him. No resentment. No “why me?”. There was only gratitude: for life, for family, for work worth doing, and for another day to live fully.

Matt’s life, though far too short, offers lessons worth carrying forward:

First, use what you have. Matt didn’t wait for ideal conditions. He took the tools, strength, and time he had and put them to work.

Second, choose a constructive mindset. Positivity wasn’t naïveté for Matt, it was a daily decision to build rather than withdraw.

Third, accept help with humility. Matt allowed others to support him, strengthening bonds rather than weakening them.

Fourth, stay connected to purpose. Running a small business, serving his community, raising a family, Matt stayed anchored to meaning.

Finally, live in a way that lifts others. Without ever trying to be an example, Matt became one.

One life, faithfully lived, even when cut short, can ripple outward in ways we may never fully understand. Matt’s life reminds us that the measure of our days is not their number, but their depth. And if we’re paying attention, his story just might help us live our own a little better.

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 or check out his website at www.therivercoach.org



Matt Koppen (1992 – 2026)

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KATHY DETERMAN

2025

THE LAKES NEWS Auction Calendar

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

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

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

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

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

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The publisher does not necessarily share the views/opinions stated in the "Letters to the Editor" published in The Lakes News Shopper.

To The Editor:

Extensive research studies demonstrate that human communication is 90% based on body language and that only 10% of human communication is verbal. Therefore, whatever spoken words you hear from another human have, at best, only a 10% chance of ever transitioning into feasible reality.

As citizens of Dickinson County, we deserve to know.

Robert Fox,
Montgomery, Iowa

Weekly Social Gathering

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

Create your Lakes Area Retreat!
Just walking distance from all the action.



83 Rohr Street
Arnolds Park

Make memories in this 3-bed, 1-bath, 1-story home in the heart of Arnolds Park.

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Lake View \$500,000 S State Road 6.34 Acres, Up to 25 Lots	Lake View \$350,000 229 N State Road 1.10 Acres, Subdivide Up to 7 Lots	Ayrshire \$135,000 4153 380th Avenue 4.76 Acres, Shop, Room to Build
Spencer \$144,000 818 2nd Avenue SE Move-In Ready, Fenced Backyard	Spencer \$125,000 19 E 2nd Street Investor Opportunity	Spencer \$180,000 310 E 4th Street BIG Two-Story Home
Everly \$240,000 303 E 3rd Street 4-Plex, 2Bed/1Bath Each, Garages	Everly \$115,000 305 E 3rd Street Spacious Double Lot, NEW Kitchen!	Emmetsburg \$510,000 108 Lake Shore Drive 60' Lakefront & 4-Car Garage
Laurens \$59,000 407 Nelson Street 3-Stall Garage, Investment Ready	Laurens \$48,000 408 N. Harrison Street Big House, Small Price	Ida Grove \$495,000 804 Valley View Drive Cash-Flowing 5-Unit Property
Ida Grove \$425,000 802 Valley View Drive Proven Income, Prime Location	Ida Grove \$358,000 800 Valley View Drive 3-Unit Investment Property	Ida Grove \$79,999 506 Sunset St. Apts. #7 2Bed/1Bath Low Maintenance Condo

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1103 Scott Street • Ruthven, IA

Beautiful Brick Duplex! Each unit offers 2 Beds, 1 Bath with your own laundry area. Tons of updates to baths, roof & mechanicals.
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Milford Memorial Library News

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

- January 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 that Hoopla is now available at MML! Hoopla will offer our patrons digital Ebooks, audiobooks, comics, movies, TV shows, and music. Patrons will be able to browse and borrow content immediately. For more information and questions, contact Milford Memorial Library by stopping in, calling 712-338-4643, or emailing milfordlibrary51351@gmail.com.

It's back! Join us on Tuesday, January 27, at 7:00 p.m. for Paint Night at the Library! Kris will lead us through how to create an acrylic painting. Cost for registration is \$15. Contact Milford Library or Arnolds Park Library to register or register online at <https://milford-ia.whoft.com/calendar/event/5620239>

Mark your calendars for MML's Blind Date with a Book. There will be no title. You will only know the book's genre and a small description. Blind Date with a Book will be held from Monday, February 2, through Saturday, February 28.

Find printable 2025 Form 1040 and other tax information on Milford Memorial Library's website. In your web browser, you will type milford.lib.ia.us. and hit enter. Once MML's homepage is displayed, click "Tax Forms and Information" in the blue column on the left-hand side. Once this page is pulled up, links and information will be available for you to explore. You may print at home or at Milford Memorial Library. Printing your tax forms at MML will cost \$0.10 per page for blank tax forms and \$0.20 per page for filled-out forms.

On Wednesday, February 4, at 5:30 p.m., an open meeting of the Board of Trustees for the Milford Memorial Library will take place in the Milford Community Center. The agenda will be posted on MML's website and front bulletin board at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend and offer their thoughts in order

Word Search Puzzle Key from page 12A

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

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\$3,685,000
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NEW LISTING
3 bed, 1.5 bath ranch with exceptional garage storage & many updates. **MLS# 251594 \$180,000**

240 N. Pond Dr. • Jackson, MN

5 bed, 3 bath home, & 3-car garage with several recent updates. **MLS# 831002 \$565,000**

1652 Exchange St. #20 • Okoboji, IA

PENDING
2 bed and 2 bath second-floor condo in the heart of Okoboji. **MLS# 241331 \$174,995**

2212 Okoboji Ave. • Milford, IA

Exceptional investment opportunity on HWY 71 providing steady income. 10 fully occupied apartments, 7 furnished dorm style room, storage building & heated shop. **MLS# 251006 \$1,400,000**

3726 Jackson Ave. • Spirit Lake, IA

CLOSED
3 bed, 2 bath home with main level laundry. Full basement with wet bar. **MLS# 251117 \$325,000**

1605 Erie Ave. • Spirit Lake, IA

CLOSED
3 bed, 2 bath home with views of the water and spacious backyard. **MLS# 251106 \$275,000**

10 Broadway St. • Downtown Arnolds Park, IA

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OPEN HOUSE: Sat., Jan. 24, 10am-12pm



15500 Tradewind | Spirit Lake
West View Place - 4 bedroom, 4 bath
with pool and lake access. Offered at
\$925,000

OPEN HOUSE: Sat., Jan. 24, 10am-12pm



1020 Hwy. 71 #S6 | Okoboji
East Lake, 2 bedroom, 2 bath condo with
private garage and boat slip. Offered at
\$519,900

83' ON EAST LAKE



402 15th Street | Spirit Lake
3 bedroom, 2 bath with 83' of lakeshore on
East Lake. Offered at **\$745,000**

NEAR NEW TOWNHOME



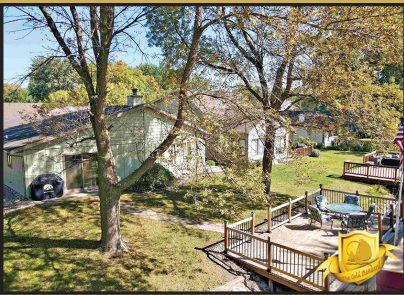
1940 35th Street B | Spirit Lake
4 bedroom, 3 bath, nearly new duplex.
Offered at **\$425,000**

SOLD



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

SOLD



1209 Jerdee | Wahpeton
4 bedroom, 2 bath home with West Lake
access.

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YOUR AGENT!



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AA Meetings

The Jackson Java open
AA meetings will resume on
Tuesdays at 7:00pm, at Jackson
Center for the Arts (309 2nd
Street, Jackson, Minnesota).
For more information, con-
tact Aili at 507-840-0639.

**THE LAKES NEWS
Auctions**



**Al-Anon
Meetings**

Milford New Hope Al-Anon
meetings will take place on Zoom.
Meeting ID is 77557290457 and
the pass code is JXEU2H.

For more information, go
online to Iowa-Al-Anon.org,
meetings tab, find a group (enter:
Milford, IA 51351 USA). Or call
712-580-4406.



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West Lake
15339 212th Ave, Spirit Lake
\$2,599,000



OPEN HOUSE
Saturday, Jan. 24, 12:30-2:00
West Lake
160 Pillsbury Point, Arnolds Park
\$2,650,000



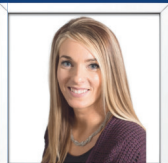
OPEN HOUSE
Saturday, Jan. 24, 10:30-Noon
East Lake
1020 Hwy. 71 S. #10, Okoboji
\$619,000



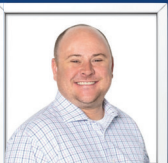
Okoboji
1002 Eloise Street, Okoboji
\$405,000



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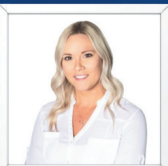
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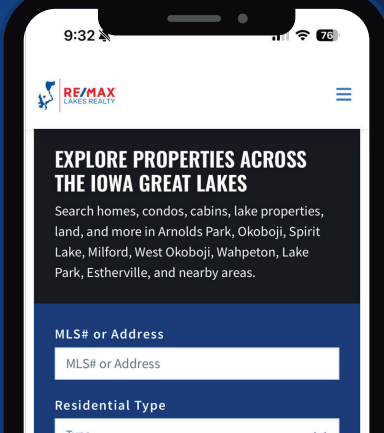


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**WINTER GAMES OPEN HOUSE
EXTRAVAGANZA!**

OPEN HOUSE SAT., JAN. 24 9:30-11AM HOSTED BY CAMERON

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- Endless Potential-
Storage, Workshop

5 remaining storage units ranging from
1,750 sq ft-3,500 sq ft near Pelican Ridge.
\$185,000-\$375,000
MLS #250484

OPEN HOUSE SAT., JAN. 24 10AM-NOON HOSTED BY BRANDON

Experience Stunning, Timeless Living on West Lake Okoboji!

15195 Weather End Dr., Spirit Lake, IA

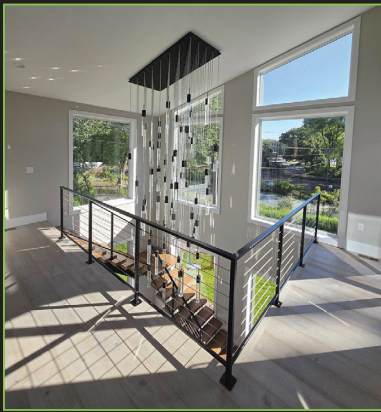
- 70' of Prime West Lake Shoreline
 - 8 Beds, 6 Baths
 - 5,600+ sq. ft.
 - Fully Furnished
- Lower Level Walkout -
Perfect for Entertaining
- Spacious Lounge & Game Room

\$3,495,000
MLS #251353



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806 28th | Milford
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LARGE LOT & BUILDING



00 335th | Ruthven
Large one acre lot with a building located
across from Lost Island Lake. Offered at
\$299,500

SOLD



5109 Lakeshore | Okoboji
West Lake Okoboji - 6 bedroom, 4 bath
luxurious home with 53 feet of lakeshore.

SOLD



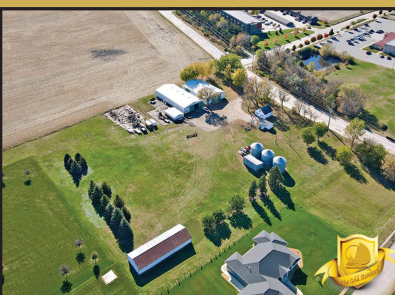
1508 Blaine's Way | Spirit Lake
3 bedroom, 2 bath fully finished end unit
with enclosed porch.

ACCEPTED OFFER



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

ACCEPTED OFFER



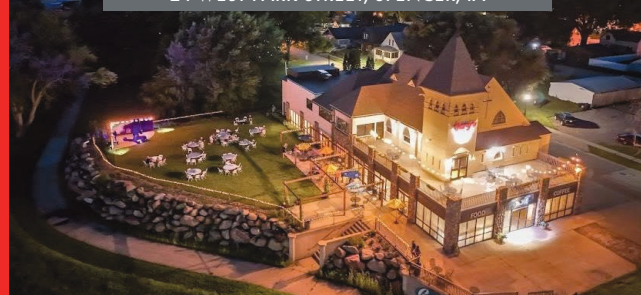
4035 Sunner Ave. | Spirit Lake
3 bedroom, 1 bath, 4.5 acreage just steps
from the YMCA and Trails.

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24 WEST PARK STREET, SPENCER, IA



MLS# 251482

\$785,000

BUILD TO SUIT!

203 10TH STREET SW, SPENCER, IA



MLS# 251425

\$174,900

LOCATION, LOCATION!

603 SOUTH GRAND AVENUE, SPENCER, IA



MLS# 251192

\$229,900

3 BED 3 BATH!

903 ELMWOOD DRIVE, SPENCER, IA



MLS# 251582

\$169,900

OVERSIZED LOT WITH DOUBLE GARAGE!

112 PINE STREET, PETERSON, IA

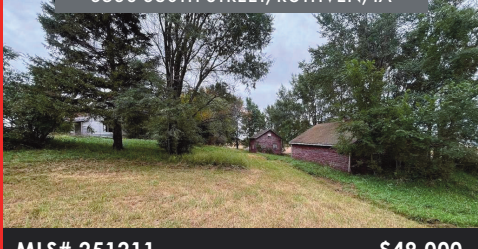


MLS# 251361

\$79,999

BUILD TO SUIT!

3538 360TH STREET, RUTHVEN, IA

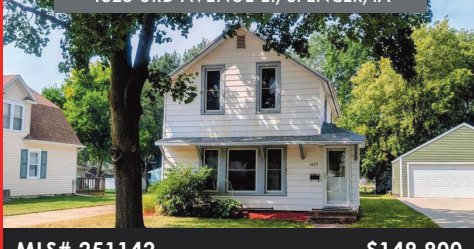


MLS# 251211

\$49,000

NICE YARD - DEEP LOT!

1625 3RD AVENUE E, SPENCER, IA



MLS# 251142

\$149,900



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Spirit Lake Indian Athletic Booster Club to Host Annual Gala

The Spirit Lake Indian Athletic Booster Club invites the community to an evening of celebration and support for student athletics at the Spirit Lake Indian Athletic Booster Club Gala, taking place Friday, February 27, at the Waterfront Grille & Event Center.

This special event raises vital funds to support Spirit Lake Middle School and High School athletics, with proceeds benefiting equipment, supplies, and uniform needs for student-athletes across all programs.

Guests will enjoy a memorable night celebrating Indian athletics, featuring a cocktail hour, presentations, an engaging program, and a silent auction filled with exciting items. The evening will also include a featured presentation from Jordan Bohannon, former Iowa Hawkeye and retired American professional basketball player, who will share insights from his athletic career and experiences at the highest levels of competition.

"The Booster Club plays a critical role in enhancing opportunities for our student-athletes," Booster Club President, Steve Scott, shared. "This gala is not only a fundraiser, but a celebration of the dedication, teamwork, and community pride that define Spirit Lake athletics."

Tickets are available online through Eventbrite or directly at <https://bit.ly/SLGala2026>. Community members, supporters, and alumni are encouraged to attend and be part of an evening that makes a lasting impact on local student-athletes.

For more information or ticket details, visit <https://bit.ly/SLGala2026>



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<p>SUNNY DEAL!</p> <p>Washington Extra Fancy Grade Cosmic Crisp Apples Per lb.</p> <p>\$1.88</p>	<p>SUNNY DEAL!</p> <p>New Crop Sweet Navel Oranges Per lb.</p> <p>\$1.48</p>	<p>SUNNY DEAL!</p> <p>Fresh Iceberg Head Lettuce Each</p> <p>\$1.88</p>	<p>SUNNY DEAL!</p> <p>Ripe Hass Avocados Each</p> <p>3/\$2</p> <p>MUST BUY 3 or 88¢ Each</p>	<p>SUNNY DEAL!</p> <p>Smokin' Boji BBQ</p> <p>Baby Back Ribs Whole Rack \$16.99 Each Half Rack \$8.99 Each</p> <p>Smokin' Boyd's BBQ For all of our Specials!</p> <p>Okoboji Original For Catering Call: 712-330-3998 Smokinbojibbq@gmail.com 18 to 24 hour notice required</p>	
<p>SUNNY DEAL!</p> <p>Slice Probiotic Soda 12 oz. Cans</p> <p>2/\$4</p> <p>MUST BUY 2 or \$2.49 Each</p>	<p>SUNNY DEAL!</p> <p>Coke Products 12 oz. Cans, 24-Pack + Deposit</p> <p>\$9.88</p> <p>NO LIMIT!</p>		<p>SUNNY DEAL!</p> <p>Beef Arm Roasts USDA Choice, Boneless Per lb.</p> <p>\$4.99</p>	<p>Baby Back Rib Dinners with 2 Sides</p> <p>\$6.99 Each</p>	<p>Smokin' Boyd's Pizzas</p> <p>2/\$20</p> <p>MUST BUY 2 or \$12.99 Each</p>
<p>SUNNY DEAL!</p> <p>Fast Fixin Breaded Chicken Strips, Nuggets, or Patties 22-24 oz.</p> <p>\$3.49</p>	<p>SUNNY DEAL!</p> <p>Prairie Fresh Bone-In Pork Butts Per lb.</p> <p>\$2.49</p>	<p>SUNNY DEAL!</p> <p>Ribeye Steaks USDA Choice, Boneless, Per lb.</p> <p>\$15.88</p>	<p>SUNNY DEAL!</p> <p>Seabest Argentine Raw Shrimp 16-20 Ct., BIG 2 lb. Party Size</p> <p>\$16.99</p>	<p>SUNNY DEAL!</p> <p>Mrs. Gerry's Salads 14-16 oz. Macaroni Salad, Potato Salad, or Coleslaw</p> <p>\$3.49</p>	<p>SUNNY DEAL!</p> <p>Hamburger Helper 4.7-8.7 oz.</p> <p>\$1.79</p>
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		<p>SUNNY DEAL!</p> <p>Best Choice Premium Yogurt 32 oz. Var.</p> <p>\$2.99</p> <p>ADDITIONAL DIGITAL COUPON ON APP!</p>	<p>SUNNY DEAL!</p> <p>Sunbelt Bakery Granola Bars 8-11 oz.</p> <p>2/\$6</p>	<p>SUNNY DEAL!</p> <p>Frito-Lay Lay's Potato Chips 4.75-8 oz.</p> <p>2/\$5</p>	<p>SUNNY DEAL!</p> <p>Chex Mix, Gardetto's, or Bugles 9-14.5 oz.</p> <p>2/\$7</p>
		<p>SUNNY DEAL!</p> <p>Pillsbury Flaky Layer Biscuits, Crescents or Cinnamon Rolls 4-12 oz.</p> <p>2/\$3</p>	<p>DIGITAL DEAL! SUNNY DIGITAL DEAL!</p> <p>Roma Original Pizzeria 11" or Bellatoria Personal Pizzas 8"</p> <p>3/\$9 AD PRICE -1.00 3/\$8</p> <p>MUST BUY 3 DIGITAL COUPON LIMIT OF 5 COUPON USES</p> <p>Must use digital app to get digital coupons. Limit 5 coupon uses per customer.</p>	<p>SUNNY DEAL!</p> <p>Michelin's Frozen Entrees 4.5-8.5 oz.</p> <p>4/\$5</p>	<p>SUNNY DEAL!</p> <p>Marie Callender's Pot Pies 10 oz. or Bowls 10.5-13 oz.</p> <p>2/\$5</p>
		<p>DIGITAL DEAL! SUNNY DIGITAL DEAL!</p> <p>Simply Orange Juice 46-52 oz.</p> <p>\$3.99 AD PRICE -1.00 \$2.99</p> <p>DIGITAL COUPON LIMIT OF 1 COUPON USE</p> <p>Must use digital app to get digital coupons. Limit 1 coupon use per customer.</p>	<p>SUNNY DEAL!</p> <p>Best Choice Hashbrown Patties 10 Ct.</p> <p>2/\$5</p>	<p>SUNNY DEAL!</p> <p>Best Choice Pancakes or Waffles 10 Ct.</p> <p>\$1.99</p>	<p>SUNNY DEAL!</p> <p>Blue Ribbon Classics Frozen Dairy Dessert 48 oz.</p> <p>\$2.99</p>

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Spirit Lake Library News

Bonus Borrows On Hoopla
by Jill Jennings

It recently came to my attention that many of our Hoopla users here at the Spirit Lake Public Library do not know about the Bonus Borrows. We do not want you to miss out on this opportunity! If you are a digital downloader, you will want to keep reading!

Hoopla is one of the two digital library collections that the SLPL provides to our residential patrons. (The other collection is called Libby.) Residential patrons would include people living in Spirit Lake, Orleans, Okoboji, West Okoboji, Wahpeton, and rural Dickinson County.

On Hoopla, users can have up to four borrows per calendar month. For some of our voracious readers, that is just not enough! To get you by until the beginning of the next month, you can take advantage of the Bonus Borrows feature. This is a curated collection that becomes available the last seven days of each month. This collection includes a little bit of everything: audio-books, ebooks, movies, televisions shows, comics, BingePasses, and music. You can borrow as many of these titles as you would like, and they do not count against your four borrows per month.

If you have any questions about Hoopla, Bonus Borrows or anything else in library land, just let us know. Stop in and see us Monday-Thursday 9-6, Friday 9-4, and Saturday 9-2. Or you can call us at (712) 336-2667. We also have a lot of information on our website slpublib.com. There's a "chat with a librarian" button on both the website and on the card catalog. You can also text us at (712) 206-4524. The chat and text services are available during open hours. We look forward to seeing or hearing from you soon!

SLPL staff reading spotlight: Donna is reading The Paradise Petition by Carolyn Brown.

Upcoming activities:

- Monday, January 26, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Mah-Jongg
- Tuesday, January 27, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Quilters
- Wednesday, January 28, 12:30-4:00 p.m., Quilters
- Thursday, January 29, 10:30-11:15 a.m., Story Time
- Thursday, January 29, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Mah-Jongg

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IGLFC Spring Fishing Seminar Set for Thursday, February 5

by Steve Weisman

One of the hottest topics in the fishing industry right now is Forward Facing Sonar (FFS). Some anglers have jumped right in and have purchased a FFS and have worked through the complexities of the unit. Others have purchased and are struggling to get a real grip on the FFS technology. Finally, there are the rest of us with lots and lots of questions.

Well, here's an answer for you no matter your level of FFS understanding.



IGLFC Spring Seminar
That's right. Mark your calendars for the IGLFC's upcoming Spring Fishing Seminar at Oak Hill Outdoor on the north end of Milford on Thursday, February 5. Doors will open at 5 p.m. with meal at 6 p.m., followed by the featured seminar presented by Tom Huynh (pictured) at 7 p.m.

According to Paul Daniels, IGLFC board member, "Our fishing club has secured Tom Huynh, a highly decorated walleye fisherman and pro angler as our speaker."

The 46-year-old Huynh has been a walleye tournament angler since 2020 and is one of the hottest anglers on the National Walleye Tour (NWT), winning back-to-back NWT Championship titles in 2024 and 2025.

Huynh shared his excitement about his upcoming fishing seminar. "First off, I want to let the audience know that there is nothing to fear about FFS. I want to

teach the ins and outs and how to apply the settings so that you don't have to re-set for the rest of the year. All you have to do is just go fishing! Even if you do not own the technology, or even never plan on it, you will definitely be surprised when I show you in real time how walleyes position themselves in the water. This alone will help you catch more fish even without FFS."

Huynh is definitely a fishing educator and is recognized as a leader in the Garmin LiveScope and other FFS technologies. He also founded a highly popular online educational platform to teach anglers advanced strategies and boat control in September of 2024. The education platform is called Tom Huynh University (THU) and offers a live virtual classroom with lectures, discussions and videos. One example is entitled "Master Forward Facing Sonar that covers installation, customized settings, practical on-the-water application, techniques and tips."

Huynh's plan for the Spring Fishing Seminar is to share key points from his online FFS online course. During his seminar, he will show actual screen recordings to teach his own process.

An Interesting Journey to Tournament Fishing

...and what a journey it is! First off, Huynh grew up near Charlotte, Arkansas, on a small cattle farm, fishing the family farm ponds for catfish, panfish and bass.

In 1999, after two years at Arkansas State, Huynh moved to the Fargo-Moorhead, North Dakota, area to study computer information systems at Minnesota State University Moorhead. During that time, to help with college costs, he took a job in a nail salon. Although he earned his degree, Huynh found he had a talent with nail art, and today he operates two Polished Nail Spa locations in Fargo and has nearly 30 nail technicians. He continues to own the spas.

In 2015, he purchased his first boat, a 17' Tracker. "I loved it, just being out on the water. We didn't have the money when I was at home to have a boat." So,

with the Tracker, Huynh took the leap into the Bassmaster Opens, but the Pandemic of 2020 changed everything, and he had to stay closer to home.

So, he turned to local walleye tournaments, more specifically the Anglers Insight Marketing (AIM), Masters Walleye Circuit (MWC) and the National Walleye Tournament (NWT). Now, he is literally one of the hottest walleye pros in the country.

Huynh believes that his late arrival into the world of walleye fishing has been a benefit. He had no preconceived ideas. "I threw myself into the sport of fishing. I learned this on my own." Most importantly, he is an observer and a learner, and as he has grown as a walleye angler, he has developed great skills as a problem solver. One of his staples is FFS.

He says, "FFS is the best educational tool you can have on your boat, but it's not all about catching fish. Let me teach you how to use it. It's all about understanding the behavior of the fish: how they react to baits, but more importantly how they don't react to bait. We're watching them now versus guessing as we have for years and years. With FFS, you can learn fish reaction, non-reaction and what baits to use, what not to use, what cadence they want and more importantly, where the fish are living. FFS is the most educational tool you can have in your boat."

Speaking of boats, Huynh is in the process of breaking in his new tournament walleye rig: a Vexus DVX 22 paired with a Suzuki 350 hp outboard. The Garmin FFS is set up front along with two Garmin down scan and side scan units at the console.

Terry Thomsen, IGLFC president, believes the evening's activities will offer something for everyone in attendance. "We think it will be both an exciting and fun evening with the excellent venue that Oak Hill Outdoor provides, along with the great food, a nice bunch of raffle and auction items, topped off with Tom Huynh's seminar that will offer us the chance to learn the ins and outs of FFS."

Lakes Area Activity/Senior Center Schedule

Tuesday, January 20
12:00 - Dinner Date
12:30 - Bridge

Wednesday, January 21
9:00 - Exercise Class
12:00 - Dinner Date

Thursday, January 22
10:00 - Strummers
11:00 - Tai Chi
12:00 - Dinner Date
1:00 - 500 Cards
3:00 - Cribbage
4:00 - Zumba
5:30 Singles Group

Friday, January 23
9:00 - Exercise Class
10:00 - Chair Yoga
12:00 - Dinner Date

Saturday, January 24
Winter Games Card Party

Sunday, January 25
9:00 - Church/Card Room

Monday, January 26
9:00 - Exercise
12:00 - Dinner Date
1:00 - Pinochle Club

Tuesday, January 27
8:30 - Kiwanis
12:00 - Dinner Date
12:30 - Bridge

Dinner Date meals are available every weekday. Call 712-336-5247 by 1:00pm on Friday to reserve a meal for the next week. The pool table and ping pong room is open every weekday. The card room closes from 12-12:30 for cleaning. The facility is available to rent most weekends. The Lakes Area Activity/Senior Center is located at 2101 Zenith Ave in Spirit Lake.

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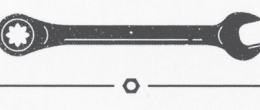


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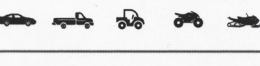
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Iowa State University Fall Graduates

Iowa State University awarded degrees to 1,751 graduates this fall. Graduate and undergraduate commencement ceremonies were held Dec. 19-20 at Hilton Coliseum. The following are graduates from our area:

Estherville - Eli William Hanson (cum laude), Kya Linn Thiel (summa cum laude), and Cael John Wodtke (magna cum laude).
Gruver - Maggie Anne Swygman.
Milford - Mason Vander Pol (magna cum laude).
Spencer - Justin Soberano-Borbonio, Autumn Kay Erdman (cum laude), Andrew Hough (magna cum laude), Otis Paul Kierscht (magna cum laude), and Leah Kathryn Sorenson (magna cum laude).
Spirit Lake - Mikayla Catherine Farmer (magna cum laude).



Buena Vista University Dean's List

Buena Vista University congratulates more than 560 students who were named to the Fall 2025 Dean's List. The Dean's List recognizes full-time students achieving a 3.5 grade point average or higher for the semester. Congratulations to the following area students:

Spencer - Jenna Bennett, Connor Cummings, Oscar Gracia, Gavin Honkomp, Hannah Honkomp, Jordan Krull, Gabriel Mc-Crea, Hailey Pippert, Jarett Rodriguez and Kennedy Warburton.
Superior - Seth Busch.
Gruver - Brianna Fix.
Spirit Lake - Jaimee Hazelett, Cadence Klein and Jayson Schneider.
Ocheyedan - Ashley Hou.
Estherville - Regina Marquez, Jaydan Nitchals, Belen Rodriguez and Alijah Skrepak.
Milford - Zachary Myer, Keyanna Rote and Mason Wickett.
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