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TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026

VOL/53 NO/16

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 **Jumbo**  
**1/2 Pepperoni**  
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**\$18.99**  
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**WINTER GAMES HOURS: OPEN FRI. & SAT. 8AM-8PM**

**Sunshine Foods**

**2025 WINTER GAMES** Fri., Jan. 23 & Sat., Jan. 24

**ALL SPECIALS ARE WHILE SUPPLIES LAST. EXTREMELY LIMITED SUPPLY!**

**DIGITAL DEAL!** Michelob Ultra 12 oz. Cans, 24-Pack + Deposit **\$23.99** **-4.00** **\$19.99**  
**DIGITAL COUPON** **LIMIT OF 3 COUPON USES**  
Must use digital app to get digital coupons. Limit 3 coupon uses per customer.

**SUNNY DEAL!** Coke Products 12 oz. Cans, 24-Pack + Deposit **\$9.88**  
**2-DAY Sale!** 

**SUNNY DEAL!** Topo Chico Sparkling Mineral Water 12-Pack **\$11.98**  
**2-DAY Sale!** 

**DIGITAL DEAL!** 80% Lean Ground Beef 10 lb. Tubes **\$49.99** **-10.00** **\$39.99**  
**DIGITAL COUPON** **LIMIT OF 3 COUPON USES**  
Must use digital app to get digital coupons. Limit 3 coupon uses per customer.

**SUNNY DEAL!** Yellowtail Wine 750 mL + Deposit **\$4.98**  
**2-DAY Sale!** 

**SUNNY DEAL!** Great Lakes Potato Chips 8 oz. **\$3.99**  
**2-DAY Sale!** 

**SUNNY DEAL!** Smokin' Boji BBQ Pork Back Ribs Full Rack **\$14.99**  
**2-DAY Sale!** 

**SUNNY DEAL!** Sunshine's OWN Homemade Popcorn **Buy 2, Get 1 FREE!**  
**2-DAY Sale!** 

**DIGITAL DEAL!** Chi-Chi's White Russian 1.75 L + Deposit **\$11.99** **-4.00** **\$7.99**  
**DIGITAL COUPON** **LIMIT OF 2 COUPON USES**  
Must use digital app to get digital coupons. Limit 2 coupon uses per customer.

**DIGITAL DEAL!** Cutwater Cocktails 4-Pack + Deposit **\$14.99** **-7.00** **\$7.99**  
**DIGITAL COUPON** **LIMIT OF 6 COUPON USES**  
Must use digital app to get digital coupons. Limit 6 coupon uses per customer.

**DIGITAL DEAL!** Pabst Blue Ribbon Regular or Light, 30-Pack + Deposit **\$20.99** **-5.00** **\$15.99**  
**DIGITAL COUPON** **LIMIT OF 5 COUPON USES**  
Must use digital app to get digital coupons. Limit 5 coupon uses per customer.

**SUNNY DEAL!** Beef Ribeyes Per lb., USDA Choice, Full Loins **\$13.88**  
**2-DAY Sale!** 

**All specials are while supplies last. No rain checks on ad specials.**  
**NORTH MILFORD • PHONE: 338-4716**

Download on the App Store  Download our app & earn rewards! Search for sunshine foods! 

**OAK HILL**  
LAKE OKOBJEE

**2188**  
COMMERCIAL COMPLEX

**WINTER GAMES SCHEDULE**

**LAUGH LOAKAL COMEDY NIGHT**  
**THURSDAY, JAN 22**

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

**COREY KNOX** **ANNIE LEDERMAN** **MIKE YOUNG**

**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!

**FOOD & DRINKS - EASY PARKING - LOUNGE SEATING**

OAK HILL OUTDOOR - 2188 COMMERCIAL COMPLEX  
INTERSECTION OF HWYS 71 & 86 - NORTH MILFORD  
[www.oakhillmarina.com](http://www.oakhillmarina.com)

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- ALLERGY TESTING AND DROPS
- IV VITAMIN C
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**OZONE THERAPY**

OKOBOJI WELLNESS CLINIC  
3305 Bergquist Ave • Spirit Lake, IA 51360  
(712) 339-6024 • [okobojowellnessclinic.com](http://okobojowellnessclinic.com)

Follow us    

\*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**

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!



# OPEN LATE FOR WINTER GAMES WEEKEND

## STOP IN & STOCK UP



612 South Hwy 71, Arnolds Park -2 blocks south of Amusement Park • 712-332-2915

### 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 24<sup>th</sup>**

Registration: 8:30 AM

Card Playing Begins: 9:00 AM

Cards: Pinochle or 500 or Mahjong

Cards and Lunch: \$10.00

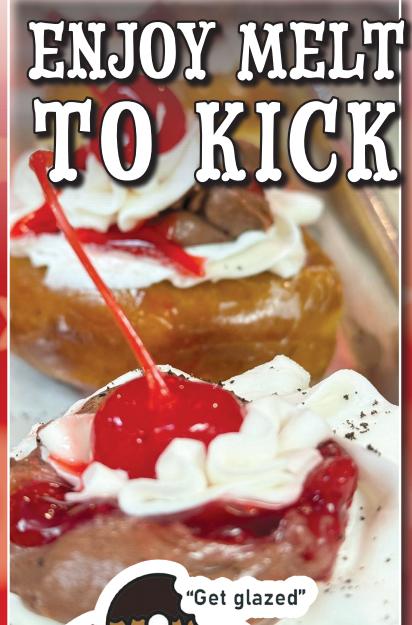
Lunch is Soup/Sandwich and Dessert

**Lakes Area Senior Center**

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



ENJOY MELT  
TO KICK



IN YOUR MOUTH GOODNESS  
START YOUR DAY



**WINTER GAMES WEEKEND  
OPEN FRI-SUN 6:30AM-11:30AM**

Arnolds Park, IA • 712.320.0580 • Across from Fillenwarth



# 2026 WINTER GAMES

OKOBONI • IA

**JANUARY 22-25**

SCAN TO PLAN!

THERE'S  
SOMETHING FOR  
EVERYONE!



PRESENTED BY: WESTO BEER

**UOFO WINTERGAMES.COM**



Invenergy

# STAY COZY

OFFICIAL BEER OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF OKOBONI  
WINTER GAMES

[okobojichamber.com](http://okobojichamber.com)

WEST O BEER IS  
PROUD TO BE THE  
PRESENTING SPONSOR  
OF THE WINTER GAMES!

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COZY™ is an easy-drinking Czech Dark Lager featuring lightly roasted notes of chocolate and coffee as well as caramel, toffee and toasted bread. Medium-bodied and full of flavor without being too heavy or cloying. The perfect beer to celebrate winter in all of its glory!

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## OLD SCHOOL MERCANTILE WINTER GAMES FUN

Splendid Treasures  
Creations and Collectibles



Various Items on sale

Old School  
Antiques



Various items on sale

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  
[facebook.com/oldschoolmercantile](http://facebook.com/oldschoolmercantile)

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 Mulllets. 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](http://uofowintergames.com) or find the University of Okoboji Winter Games on Facebook at [facebook.com/UofOWinterGames](http://facebook.com/UofOWinterGames).

## SHORELINE THREADS

### WINTER GAMES DEALS

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  
DOWNTOWN SPIRIT LAKE  
1703 HILL AVENUE  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 22ND 10:00 - 6:00  
SATURDAY, JANUARY 23RD 9:00 - 4:00

## Hot Mamas: All About Hormones at re<sup>be</sup>

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

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

IN MY  
HOT  
MOM  
ERA

**biote**

Hormone Therapy

- Increase Energy • Balance Mood
- Improve Your Sleep

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

712.332.6001 | [rebeyou.com](http://rebeyou.com) | 3301 HWY. 71 Spirit Lake, IA | Dr. Ronald Kolegraff, MD, FACS • Dr. Julie Hamann, MD



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FOREVER®**

Iowa Great Lakes

**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](mailto:ch0020@pfofficers.org)  
[www.pheasantforever.org](http://www.pheasantforever.org)

**SHOP, DINE, & ENJOY**

# GREAT LAKES MALL

**GREAT STYLES FRIENDLY SMILES**



SUPPORT  
**LOCAL** BUSINESS  
SHOP

**PAYING CASH!**  
OLD JEWELRY IS EASY MONEY!

WE ARE BUYING GOLD & DIAMONDS

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- Interiors
- Lakes Auto Care
- The Look Fashions
- MediaCom
- Spirit Lake Silver & Gold
- Spirit Spa
- Valvoline
- Wild Child

**WINTER GAMES BUNDLE UP AND SAVE!**

50% OFF SELECT WINTER GEAR!

**HOT COCOA BAR**

**the LOOK FASHIONS**  
GREAT LAKES MALL, SPIRIT LAKE  
OPEN MON-SAT 10-5:30  
FOLLOW US: [f](#) [i](#)

Welcome To Winter Games

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

• EVERYONE'S A WINNER •

**NEW ITEMS ARRIVING DAILY...**

BATH | BAR & KITCHEN ESSENTIALS  
FLORALS | WALL | DECOR | LAMPS

FURNITURE SALE STILL IN PROGRESS.  
HURRY IN...GREAT BUYS LIKE THIS WON'T LAST!

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**WINTER GAMES**  
COZY UP TO THE SAVINGS!

50% OFF  
**SKECHERS**  
EASY ON BOOTS

**FASHION FORMULA**

UP TO 50% OFF  
SELECT FALL & WINTER CLOTHING, JACKETS  
SIZES PETITE-PLUS FOLLOW US: [f](#) [i](#)

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

**Brave the Elements with**

**Nike**

Winter Games Fun... Spin the Wheel for Discounts!

**Wild Child**  
infant • toddler • tween

OPEN Monday-Saturday 10AM-5:30PM

**Winter Glow, Wrapped in Diamonds!**

**THE BIG CHILL**  
JANUARY 24TH, 9AM-5:30PM

You asked—we brought it back! Experience the thrill of melting a frozen diamond ice cube to reveal a dazzling gemstone inside. Limited quantities! Plus, enjoy 20% off select mountings.

**SPIRIT LAKE SILVER & GOLD**

CHANCE TO WIN A FREE LAB DIAMOND!  
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GREAT LAKES MALL | 712-336-5405 | SPIRITLAKESILVERANDGOLD.COM

Stay warm this weekend with our...  
**Winter Games Drink Special**  
**\$2 off 20 oz. • \$1 off 12 oz.**  
 Brewed Coffee, Lattes, Mochas, Hot Chocolate, Hot White Chocolate, 30+ Flavors of tea, & MORE  
**Goodies Handmade Candies**  
 2321 30th Street • Spirit Lake, IA  
 Open 9-9, 7 Days a week  
 Offer valid through Monday, January 26



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

**THE LAKES NEWS**  
 Auctions Page 2B

**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL**

# ROTARY CAR DROP

**YOU COULD WIN \$1000**

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

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

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

**\$10 Per Ticket**

Funds support local Rotary outreach projects

**Shop LOCAL**

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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.



**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 22 at 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.

**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!**



**ARNOLDS PARK AMUSEMENT PARK**

**WINTER GAMES SCHEDULE**

**23 FRI**

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

**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

**24 SAT**

**Bloody Mary's & Hot Chocolate Bar**  
 The Roof Garden

**Courtyard, Firepits, & Fun!**  
 Preservation Plaza

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

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

**Human Foosball**  
 Preservation Plaza

**New Hard Water Golf**  
 On The Ice

**Food Truck Festival**  
 Lake Street

**Live Music with Boon & Lambert**  
 The Roof Garden

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

**Boji Kite - Night** (WEATHER PERMITTING)  
 On The Ice

**Burning of the Greens**  
 Preservation Plaza

**Fireworks**  
 West Lake

**LIVE MUSIC BY THE PORK TORNADOES**  
 The Roof Garden (TICKETED EVENT)

**the RG BALLROOM**

**PIZZA**  
**BBQ/SANDWICHES**  
**CORN DOGS**  
**TAMALES & MORE**  
**COOKIES**  
**CHICK-FIL-A**

**FOOD TRUCKS**

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

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

**ARNOLDSPARK.COM**

**PURE FISHING**

**Fisherman's FACTORY OUTLET**

**Berkley**

**CASTING CONTEST**

**DURING**

**2026 WINTER GAMES**  
**OKOBONI • IA**

**Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup> 11am to 1pm**  
**at Parks Marina on the Ice**

• We invite and **ENCOURAGE** people of **all ages and skill levels** to participate. **Kids, too!**

• Volunteers are there with quick lessons and tips, if needed.

• **Don't be afraid if you've never cast a fishing pole before!**

• Participation prizes (while supplies last)

• Winners entered into a drawing for **1-\$500 and 1-\$250 FFO gift certificate**

• After you've collected your prizes, we are serving hot chocolate! (while supplies last)

**Look for our Flags!**



**PROUD SPONSOR OF THE WINTER GAMES LOGO**

**WINTER GAMES**

**blink** MARKETING

VISIT [BLINK26.COM](http://BLINK26.COM)

BRAND DEVELOPMENT • DESIGN • PHOTOGRAPHY • SOCIAL MEDIA



## WINTER GAMES

**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



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

## 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 CA\$H Drawing**

**HOURS: Mon.-Sat. 11am-10pm  
Fri. & Sat. 10pm-3am Late Night Breakfast  
117 W. Broadway, Arnolds Park  
712-332-5152**

## THE BOONEDOCK'S

ARNOLDS PARK

YOUR CONVENIENCE STORE FOR EVERYTHING YOU NEED - QUICK!

### This Week's Daily Specials:

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

**Tuesday:** Mini tacos and 20oz fountain drink for **\$3.99**

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



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ALL FUELS AVAILABLE**

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

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

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

## 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**

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### 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**  
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**TUESDAY NIGHT**  
BURGER SPECIAL  
**\$5 Hamburger**  
Fresh Ground Hamburger Blend  
While supplies last

**WEDNESDAY**  
Wednesday is  
Brick Chicken  
Dinner Night

**THURSDAY NIGHT**  
**PASTA NIGHT**  
Build Your Own Pasta Bar  
with Salad and Bread

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  
INDOOR GOLF & RENT | MEETING & EVENT CENTER  
thevenueokoboji.com

**WINTER GAMES PUZZLE PALOOZA**

**Saturday, Jan. 24 • 9-11 am**

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

**SIGN UP EARLY** at **SPORTSMAN'S**  
or by calling 712.336.0495  
\*A minimum of 6 teams are needed.  
Proceeds will be donated to **MentorIowa**  
The mission of Mentor Iowa is to provide trained volunteer mentors to abused, neglected and delinquent children who are under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court. We will do this by working partnership with the children, their families and the community.

Hill Avenue • Spirit Lake • 712.336.0495

**LOS PUEBLOS**  
Winter Happy Hour Special  
Mon-Thur 2-6pm  
**HALF OFF**  
House Margaritas & Beers!

OPEN:  
Sunday-Thursday  
11am-8pm  
Friday & Saturday  
11am-9pm

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Hwy. 71, Arnolds Park 332-7315

**VENUE**  
Spirit Lake, IA  
INDOOR GOLF & RENT | MEETING & EVENT CENTER  
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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Teams
- **2 Hour Tee Times**  
Thursday, January 22: 6 am - close  
Friday, January 23: 6 am - close  
Saturday, January 24: 6 am - 2 pm

**SIGN UP** at **SPORTSMAN'S**  
or by calling 712.336.0495  
Proceeds will be donated to **MentorIowa**  
The mission of Mentor Iowa is to provide trained volunteer mentors to abused, neglected and delinquent children who are under the jurisdiction of the Juvenile Court. We will do this by working partnership with the children, their families and the community.

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EST. 1962

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Friday & Saturday Nights

**WINTER GAMES SPECIALS**  
-Parmesan Chicken over Ravioli  
-Philly Cheesesteak Pizza

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712-332-8142 • www.pub19barandgrill.com

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**SEGWAY**  
FEAR NO PLACE

Hurry in and get yours set up today!

Join us Saturday, Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>, 10am-12pm at the Dealership for the Snowball Hunt!  
Starts every 30 minutes!

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**SCAN TO DONATE!**

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**Join Us WINTER GAMES Weekend!**

**THUR, JANUARY 22**  
BATTLE OF THE BARTENDERS  
LUNCH FOR KIDS  
**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!

**FRI, JANUARY 23**  
JESSIE WILSON | 8PM  
**SUN, JANUARY 25**  
TEXAS HOLD EM TOURNAMENT | 10AM-2PM  
TEXAS HOLD EM TOURNAMENT  
SATURDAY & SUNDAY (Winners Advance to Day 2)  
Max 27 Players | \$50 Buy-In  
Hosted by: Docker Staebler  
CALL TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT!

**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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HOURS: MON. - FRI. 4PM  
SAT. 11AM | SUN. 2PM

**OKOBONI SUMMER THEATRE ASSOCIATION**  
**OMELET BRUNCH** 2026 WINTER GAMES OKOBONI • 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  
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**WINTER GAMES** OKOBONI • IA

**HAVE A SAFE & HAPPY WINTER GAMES WEEKEND!**

1807 Hwy. 71 North • Okoboji, IA • 712-332-6424 • LibertyNational.Bank

## 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](http://route86records.wixsite.com/music/lessons), check out Route 86 Records on Facebook, call/text 712-330-8843, or email [route86records@gmail.com](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.



# MFA

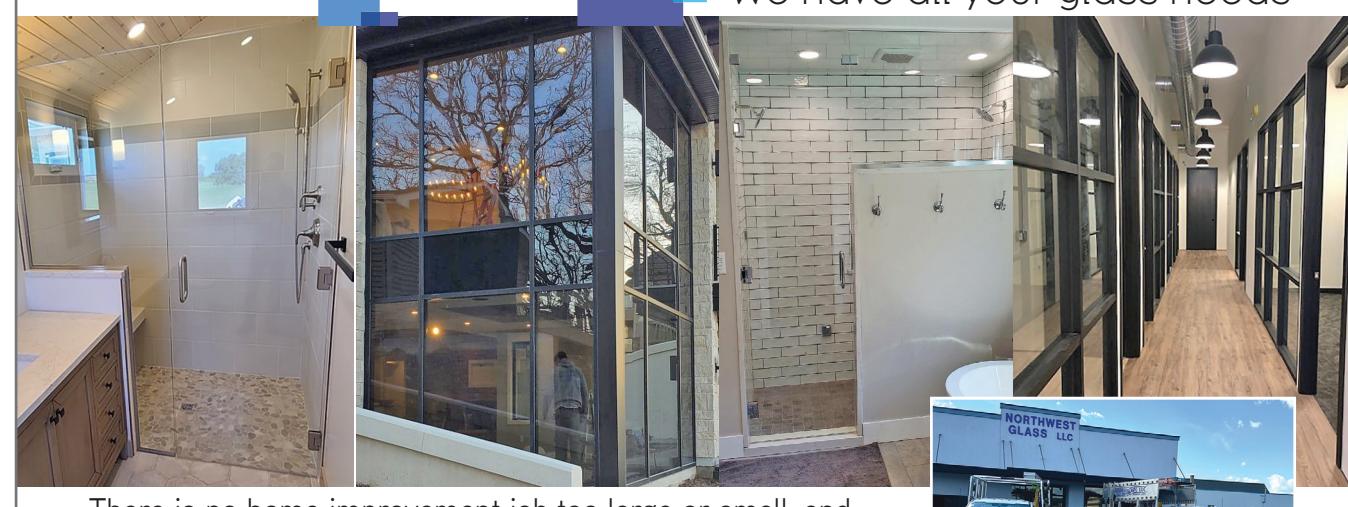
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## Family Services Resource Guide

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](mailto:boettche@iastate.edu).

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Mon.-Fri. 8:30am to 6pm,  
Sat. 9am to 3pm, Closed Sun.



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**Winter Clearance!  
All sale  
shoes:  
Buy 2, Get 1  
Free!**

Our sale racks and  
tables are full of  
shoes & ready for  
you!

Now through January 31st

415 Grand Ave., Spencer (712) 262-2857  
Mon. - Fri. 9:30-5:30, 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.



**SUNDAYS • 10:00 AM**  
**TUESDAYS • 11:00 AM**  
The Reverend Carolyn Tuttle, Rector  
Live Stream [f](#)  
through our Facebook Page  
Email: [office@stalbansepiscopalchurch.org](mailto:office@stalbansepiscopalchurch.org)  
Website: [stalbansepiscopalchurch.org](http://stalbansepiscopalchurch.org)

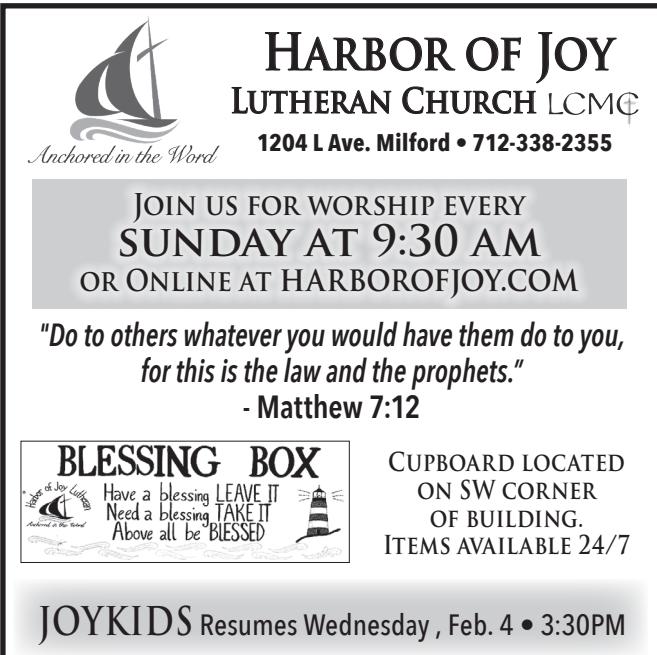
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"Do to others whatever you would have them do to you,  
for this is the law and the prophets."  
- Matthew 7:12



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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.

THE LAKES NEWS SHOPPER

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

Page 11

## Little Swan Lake Winery

**Life... Drink It In!**

We are open for walk-ins & tasting!

Winter Hours: Thursday-Sunday 11am-6pm

**Sunday, Jan. 25**  
**Adam Layman &**  
**Jacob Wittkamp** **4-6pm**  
**Bison Enchiladas**

For upcoming bands and events visit our website:  
[www.lslwinery.com](http://www.lslwinery.com)

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## Happy U of O Winter Games



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## Winter Daily Deals

### 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.

Excludes  
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Pies Trip  
Senior & Kid's  
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Bakery To-Go  
Coupon Expires: February 18, 2026

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Villages only. Perkins Restaurant & Bakery located at Big Junction, Milford, IA. One coupon per person per visit or 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. Misted, 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!**



Located directly across from Arnolds Park Amusement Park

**THE HUTT**  
Bar & Grill

See our website & menu: [thehutbarandgrill.com](http://thehutbarandgrill.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

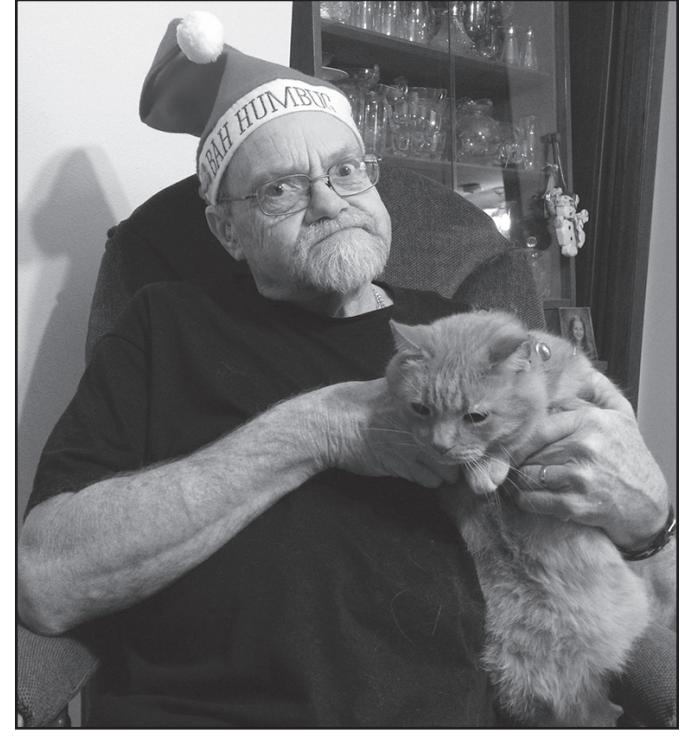
**Saturday Night Special**

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!  
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## 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 Sherilla 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 Mediacoast 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](mailto:programs@spenceriowachamber.org).

## 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.



## BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

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### Dentists



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### Dentists



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### Dentists



## 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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## New! Dinner Date Gift Certificates

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

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

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

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**Maple-Bourbon Banana Pudding Cake**

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

Serves 6

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](http://okobojifoundation.org/grant-application). For additional information, contact the Okoboji Foundation at 712-332-7177 or [info@okobojifoundation.org](mailto:info@okobojifoundation.org).

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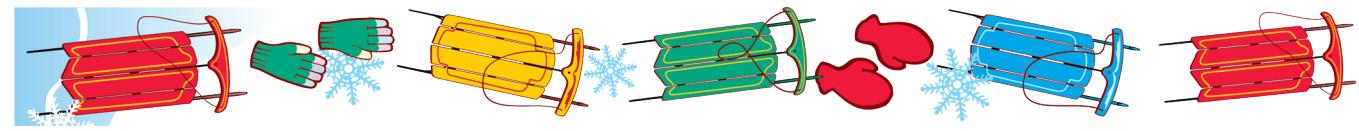
**February 6, 2026**

5:30 pm Signature Cocktail & Bourbon Tasting & Hors d'oeuvres  
6:30 pm Three Course Dinner with Wine Pairing  
Live Auction  
Entertainment by "Jazzed Up Big Band" Sextet with Rick Ayres  
Catering by Hi-Lo Supper Club

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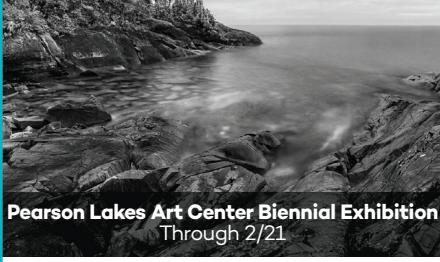




**LAKES ART CENTER**

**VISUAL ARTS**

**Pearson Lakes Art Center Biennial Exhibition** Through 2/21



**What is Disability? Mural Project** Through 2/28



**NEW Russian & Soviet Impressionism Collection** Through 5/31



**EDUCATION CLASSES**

**FEBRUARY YOUTH ART CLASSES:**

Mini Michelangelo's | K-2nd  
Thursdays | 4:00-4:45pm  
Feb. 5, 12, & 19: A Grandma Moses Winter Art Club | 3rd-6th  
Thursdays | 5-6pm  
Feb. 5, 12, & 19: Reflections in the Water  
Teen Art | 7-12th  
Tuesdays | 4-5pm  
Feb. 3, 10, & 17: Painting Water

Scan for more info and to register online by 1/28



**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**

**Valentine Cupcake Decorating**  
With Janet Steinbach of Lakes Cakes Baji Custom Cakes  
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-Citzman of Okoboji Wines  
Thursdays | 6pm | \$45/\$55  
Registration required 2 days before each class.

**Date Night Cooking Class**  
With Marisa Sides of Rissy's Dry Rubs and Seasonings  
6pm | \$160/\$170 per Couple  
Must register 3 days prior to each class.

**Register online or call 712-332-7029**

**Feb. 5:** Wines of Bordeaux  
**Mar. 5:** Blind Tasting: Cool Climate vs Warm  
**Apr. 2:** Varietal Series: Cabernet Franc

**6pm | \$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.

**Create & Savor Cooking Class**  
With Marisa Sides 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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**2ND AND 4TH THURSDAYS OF THE MONTH**

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

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**The VFW Canteen serves beverages & pizza at very reasonable prices.**

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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

### SIGN UP FOR DINNER DATE MEALS!

Reserve your meal for next week  
Low Cost: \$7-\$10 Donation

**SERVED AT NOON**

**26 Monday**

Chicken  
Cordon Bleu  
Vegetable  
Fruit & Bread

**27 Tuesday**

Smothered  
Pork Chop  
Vegetable  
Fruit & Bread

**28 Wednesday**

Scalloped  
Potatoes & Ham  
Vegetable  
Fruit & Bread

**29 Thursday**

Chicken  
Parmesan  
Vegetable  
Fruit & Bread

**30 Friday**

Chipped Beef  
over Biscuits  
Vegetable  
Fruit & Bread

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

Dinners are provided by CARSTENSEN'S of Lake Park.

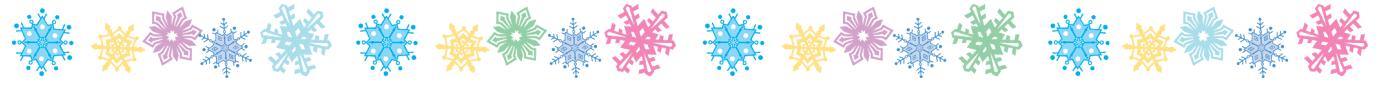
Meals are available for those 60 and older (and their spouse regardless of age)

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

YOU CAN NOW PURCHASE GIFT CERTIFICATES FOR YOUR LOVED ONES FOR DINNER DATE MEALS AT LAKES AREA ACTIVITY/SENIOR CENTER.

Gift certificates are donation based, with a suggested amount of \$7-10 for each meal.

Your loved one then just needs to call for a reservation for the noon meal at least 24 hours in advance and present the gift certificate when they come in to eat. What better gift than to share a "home cooked" meal with friends?



## PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE 2026

  
PEARSON LAKES ART CENTER

<b>Memorial-Labor Day</b>	<b>DICK BAUMAN BIG BAND</b> ..... Every Monday Night, 7-9pm	\$10 at the door
<b>6/9 6/10</b>	<b>HOTEL CALIFORNIA</b> ..... A Salute to the Eagles	\$40/\$50
<b>6/16 6/17</b>	<b>THE TEXAS TENORS</b> ..... Country/Classical	\$40/\$50
<b>6/23</b>	<b>THE PAPA'S AND MAMA'S</b> ..... Mamas and Papas Tribute	\$40/\$50
<b>6/30</b>	<b>LINDA RONSTADT EXPERIENCE</b> ..... Linda Ronstadt Tribute	\$40/\$50
<b>7/7</b>	<b>COMMOTION</b> ..... A Creedence Clearwater Revival Tribute	\$40/\$50
<b>7/14</b>	<b>A BROTHERS REVIVAL</b> ..... Rock & Roll	\$40/\$50
<b>7/21</b>	<b>THE ELECTRIC LIGHT ORCHESTRA EXPERIENCE</b> ..... Featuring... Evil Woman – The American ELO	\$40/\$50
<b>7/28</b>	<b>HEART BY HEART</b> ..... with Steve Fossen & Michael Derosier of Heart	\$40/\$50
<b>8/4</b>	<b>ABBA-MANIA</b> ..... An ABBA Tribute	\$40/\$50
<b>8/11</b>	<b>THE PLAYERS</b> ..... Former members of Chicago	\$40/\$50
<b>8/18 8/19</b>	<b>MARILYN MAYE</b> ..... Jazz/Cabaret	\$65/\$75
<b>9/24</b>	<b>MANHATTAN SHORT</b> ..... Film Festival	\$15

### Member-Only Presales:

Call 712-332-7029 or visit [lakesart.org](http://lakesart.org)

A presale code is required for online orders, check your inbox or call us and we'll be happy to help.

**Sales begin at 10am - please have credit card information ready.**



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JANUARY 23RD  
6 - 8PM

FEATURING: **Mingo Music Bingo**

Looking for an exciting way to spend your evening and a chance to win great prizes? Join us for our second Bingo Night at Occasions in Spencer and experience the thrill of winning big while having a blast with friends and family!

\$15 PER PERSON (Includes 1 Bingo Card - additional cards \$5 per card)  
\$75 for a table for 6 (Includes 6 Bingo Cards - additional cards \$5 per card)



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

**JANUARY 23**  
COCKTAIL HOUR: 5-6PM  
BINGO GAMES: 6-8PM



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Easton Kruger  
McKenzie Larsen  
Damian Reynosa  
Nataleigh Schlachter  
Max Turner  
Marshal Whiting

Class of 2028  
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Chase Franklin  
Wylie Hanson  
Myles Hicks  
Natalie Jorgensen  
Blake Knudtson  
Chloe Layman  
Kaylee Martin  
Liam Matthews  
Tristan Miller  
Kenadie Neavin  
Kaeden Schillinger  
Jerron Stoever  
Rylynn Stricker  
Carter Swancutt  
Carter Wiese  
Mira Wothuis

Class of 2027  
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Melody Collett  
Rylee Feld  
John Garcia  
Nathaniel Garland  
Marcus Guthrie  
Mya Hart  
Lane Helgeson  
Asa Jacobsen  
Jillian Jorgensen  
Ella Nicoletti  
Kade Nissen  
Nathan Rasmussen  
Abby Salmon  
Zack Stecker  
Camden Vonk  
Simon Waldeck  
Riley Worrell

Class of 2026  
Angelina Anguiano-Crouch  
Ashton Beal  
Samuel Bockman  
Rylee Dowhower  
Kiley Hicks  
Everett Jorgensen  
Natalie Kollasch  
Jayda Liechti  
Raeanne Martin  
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Brandon Johansen  
Anthony Karzin  
Adalee Leman  
Adalyne Leusink  
Daltry Lukin  
Liam Miller  
Rylee Mitchell  
Landon Mortwedd  
Cory Ness  
Lillian Newton  
Cruz Nitchals  
Slade Packebush  
Abyrm Plathe  
Luke Ramirez-Woodley  
Christopher Samuels  
James Sandahl  
Claire Sandbulte  
Aiden Schable  
Hayden Stahly  
Leigha Steelman  
Tanner Swanson  
Caden Swanson  
Braelyn Thompson  
Brody Titterington  
Vivian Van Wyhe  
Jada Vander Wolde  
Pacey Vonk  
Ava Wason  
Alexander Wilken  
Brynnly Wipf

Class of 2028  
Ava Avery  
Hudson Berning  
Cooper Boone  
Ryder Clark  
Ada Conover  
Emilia Cunningham  
Danica Derner  
Khloe Dorman-Heath  
Wesley Evans  
Braxton Foster  
Jeremiah Gravert  
Grayson Groeneweg  
Colton Johnson  
Maxwell Jongerius  
Collin Kats  
Kolton Kolasch  
Riley Kraft  
Paige Kuranda  
Elle Lippon  
Tanner Mejia  
Jordyn Mitchell  
Jacob Neuharth  
Jake Pausley  
Dexter Peters  
Lyla Petersen  
Addilyn Plathe  
Carter Poppema  
Noah Riley  
Kathryn Roos  
Olivia Simington  
Jake Stahly  
Gemma Tamisiea  
Max Titterington  
Aldon Welle  
Kaela Weston  
Lincoln Wolf  
Kedyn Wurm

Class of 2027  
Elliana Antoine  
Lane Beck  
Kimberly Bergeson  
Aliviah Bibler  
Drake Boicourt  
Collin Christians  
Alexa Christoffels  
Annie-Sarah Clements  
Celeste DeVos  
Declan Donovan  
Ella Downing  
Trey Downing  
Karna DroegeMiller  
Pedro Fagundes  
Jennesa Gates  
Jerron Heller  
Brielle Hesse  
Abree Hinshaw  
Katie Jensen  
Ella Kasperbauer  
Jack Laake  
Grace Leman  
Kylan Loken  
Kosha Menting  
Riley Meyer  
Brody Mohni  
Anna Quanbeck  
Owen Riphagen  
Noel Rodenberger  
Bella Sandbulte  
Annamaria Simone  
Alex Sorenson  
Brianna Swenson  
Josephine Van Wyhe  
Trey Vander Pol  
Miles Wasson  
Cade Worrell

Class of 2026  
Sally Anderson  
Sally Androski  
Ryker Ballis  
Kylene Block  
Nora Conover  
Honora Danbom  
Grace Davis  
Ella DeRuyter  
Scott Dorman-Heath  
Zoe Drost  
Drew Early  
Aidan Gehre  
Hailey Gravert  
Elijah Graves  
Finnigan Jack  
Raymond Kaiser  
Asher Knudtson  
Cael LaRue  
Dulce Ortega  
Brooke Osler  
Brekken Packebush  
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Emery Rubis  
Hailey Schneider  
Avery Simington  
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Charlie Van Hofwegen  
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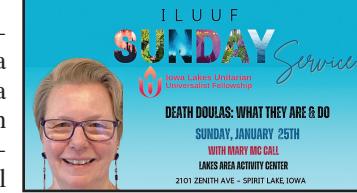
## ILUUF Presents Mary McCall

The Iowa Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship invites you to attend the Sunday, January 25th program - "Death Doula" 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](http://www.uuokoboji.com). All are welcome to attend this progressive



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Dickinson County Veterans & Spouses are cordially invited to attend a complimentary luncheon.

**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:  
**712-336-0883 #1**  
RSVP by Friday, January 23

Hosted by:  
**DICKINSON COUNTY VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
Spring Jones, County Veterans Service Officer



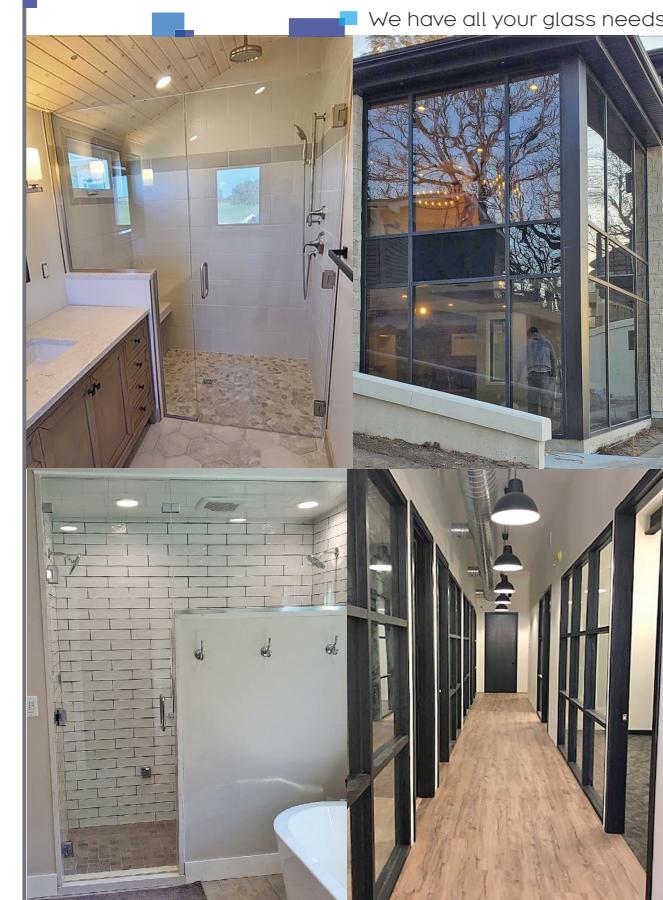
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**IOWA GREAT LAKES FISHING CLUB**







2025 WALLEYE TRAIL CHAMPION





2025 WALLEYE TRAIL CHAMPION



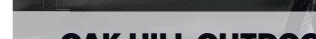


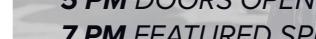
2025 WALLEYE TRAIL CHAMPION





2025 WALLEYE TRAIL CHAMPION





2025 WALLEYE TRAIL CHAMPION





2025 WALLEYE TRAIL CHAMPION





2025 WALLEYE TRAIL CHAMPION





2025 WALLEYE TRAIL CHAMPION





2025 WALLEYE TRAIL CHAMPION





2025 WALLEYE TRAIL CHAMPION



<img alt="2025 Walleye Trail Champion logo." data-b

## 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.

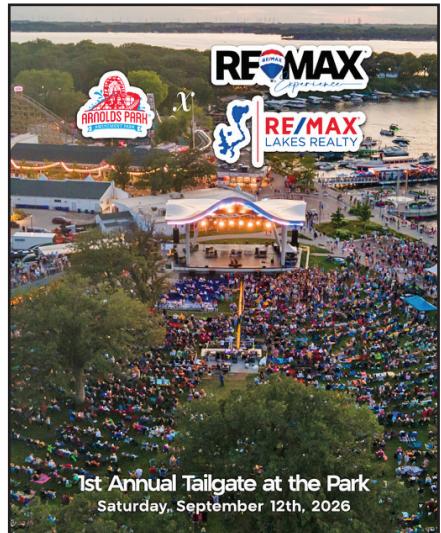
"This incredible event and investment would not be possible without the dedication of RE/MAX agents and clients who believe in giving back to the community they serve," Carlson and Jones added. "We're beyond excited to launch this event and look forward to seeing the community come together."

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.



1st Annual Tailgate at the Park  
Saturday, September 12th, 2026

## Winter Games Bridge Tournament

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

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

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

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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 WINNERS ANNOUNCED



**Don Origer**



**Doug Doyle**



**Randy Graff**



**Mike Hagen**

**COLLEGE BOWL CHALLENGE**

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, Boondock'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.

**THE LAKES NEWS SHOPPER**

Page 17

THE LAKES NEWS SHOPPER

Tuesday, January 20, 2026



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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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### 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.

SHOP LOCAL



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 Koppens 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, Bentele, 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

### 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 meaningful 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](http://www.seasonscenter.org).



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

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

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

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

Thurs., Feb. 19 - 10:00 AM-  
80 acres at auction in Royal, IA. Auctioneers: Midwest Land Management. 712-262-3110. [www.midwestlandmanagement.com](http://www.midwestlandmanagement.com).

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

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2025

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

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MLS#250966

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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**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**

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**

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**

10 Broadway St. • Downtown Arnolds Park, IA



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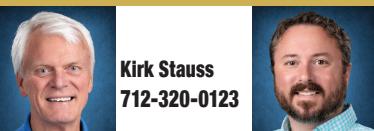
Katie Slater  
BROKER/OWNER  
712-320-0887

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



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Or: [ExploreOkobojiHomes.com](http://ExploreOkobojiHomes.com)

1003 Highway 71 S. I Okoboji, IA | 712-332-2470

Follow us on Social Media for all the new listings & area information.

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**



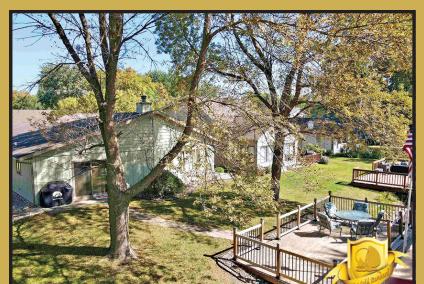
**1940 35th Street B | Spirit Lake**  
4 bedroom, 3 bath, nearly new duplex.  
Offered at **\$425,000**

**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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**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, contact Aili at 507-840-0639.

**THE LAKES NEWS  
Auctions**



**Page 2B**

**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](http://Iowa-Al-Anon.org), meetings tab, find a group (enter: Milford, IA 51351 USA). Or call 712-580-4406.



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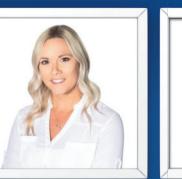
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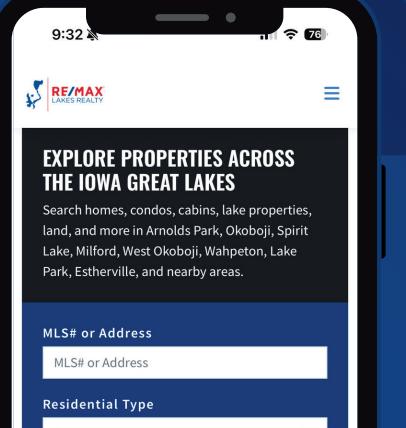


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**15339 212<sup>th</sup> Ave, Spirit Lake**  
\$2,599,000



**160 Pillsbury Point, Arnolds Park**  
\$2,650,000



**1020 Hwy. 71 S. #10, Okoboji**  
\$619,000



**1002 Eloise Street, Okoboji**  
\$405,000



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IS OUR LEGACY**



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

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5 remaining storage units ranging from 1,750 sq ft-3,500 sq ft near Pelican Ridge.

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**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**

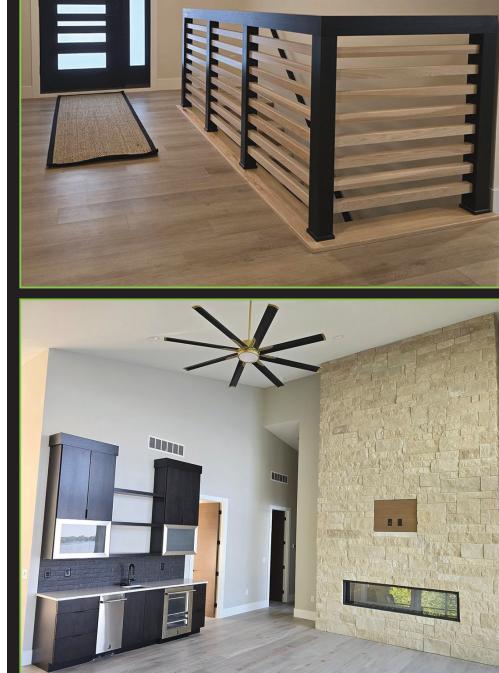
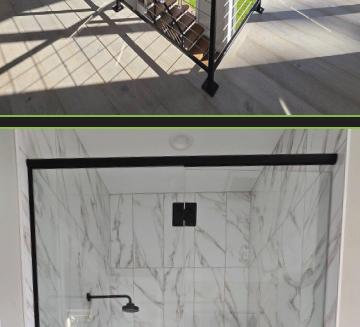
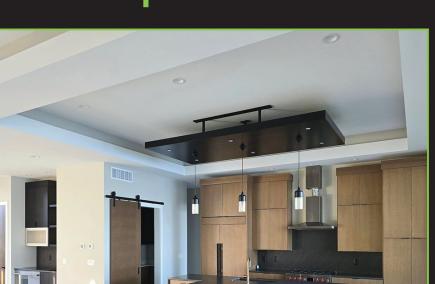
- 70' of Prime West Lake Shoreline
- 8 Beds, 6 Baths
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Offered at \$149,950

## 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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### ENDLESS OPPORTUNITIES!

24 WEST PARK STREET, SPENCER, IA



MLS# 251482

### BUILD TO SUIT!

203 10TH STREET SW, SPENCER, IA



MLS# 251425

### LOCATION, LOCATION!

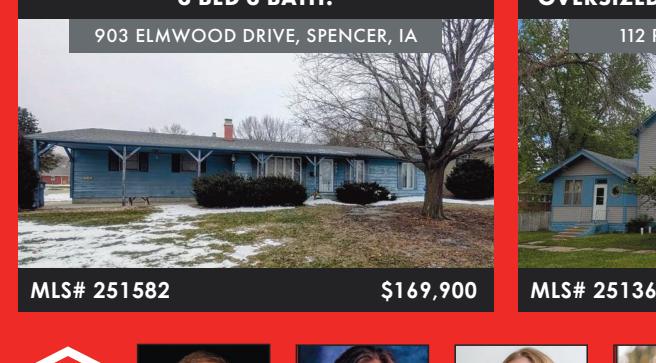
603 SOUTH GRAND AVENUE, SPENCER, IA



MLS# 251192

### 3 BED 3 BATH!

903 ELMWOOD DRIVE, SPENCER, IA



MLS# 251582

### OVERSIZED LOT WITH DOUBLE GARAGE!

112 PINE STREET, PETERSON, IA



MLS# 251361

### BUILD TO SUIT!

3538 360TH STREET, RUTHVEN, IA



MLS# 251211

### NICE YARD - DEEP LOT!

1625 3RD AVENUE E., SPENCER, IA



MLS# 251142



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Candace McGuire

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Amber Oberman

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WE ARE SPIRIT LAKE  
**IABC GALA**  
Friday, February 27th | Waterfront Event Center 2026

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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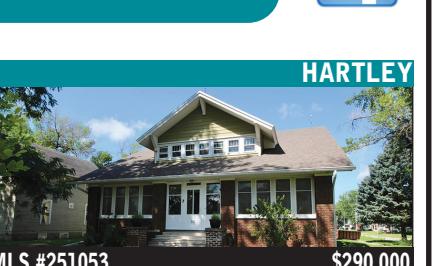
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Listings



MLS #250600 \$895,000



MLS #251560 \$299,000



MLS #251053 \$290,000



MLS #251481 \$235,000



MLS #251485 \$185,000



MLS #251432 \$169,000

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Spirit Lake, IA



**Hidden Oaks Clubhouse**  
1201 Lower Loop, Arnolds Park  
Friday, Jan 23, 9-5pm  
Sunday, Jan 25, 12-2pm



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Prairie Farms Premium White Milk Gallons, **\$3.99**  
Whole, 2%, 1%, & Skim **-1.00**  
**\$2.99**  
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WITH \$25 PURCHASE DIGITAL COUPON LIMIT OF 3 COUPON USES

Must use digital app to get digital coupons.  
Limit 3 coupon uses per customer.

**SUNNY DEAL!**

Red Ripe Florida Strawberries 1 lb. **\$2.98**



**SUNNY DEAL!**

Red Seedless Grapes Per lb. **\$2.98**



**SUNNY DEAL!**

Mann's or Taylor Farms Vegetable Medley, Cauliflower, or Broccoli 10-12 oz. Bag **2/\$5**



MUST BUY 2 or \$3.99 Each

**2-DAY SUNNY DEAL!**

**Beef Ribeyes** USDA Choice, Full Loins, Per lb. **\$13.88**

2-DAY Sale!

USDA CHOICE

**Fri & Sat ONLY!** Jan. 23 & 24



Whole Ribeyes Cut into Steaks \$15.88 per lb.

**SUNNY DEAL!**

Washington Extra Fancy Grade Cosmic Crisp Apples Per lb. **\$1.88**



**SUNNY DEAL!**

New Crop Sweet Navel Oranges Per lb. **\$1.48**



**SUNNY DEAL!**

Fresh Iceberg Head Lettuce Each **\$1.88**



**SUNNY DEAL!**

Ripe Hass Avocados Each **3/\$2**



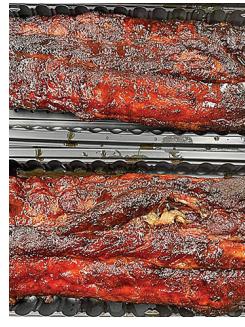
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**SUNNY DEAL!**

**Smokin' Boji BBQ**

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Baby Back Ribs Whole Rack **\$16.99** Each



Half Rack **\$8.99** Each



**Smokin' Boyd's Pizzas** **2/\$20**



MUST BUY 2 or \$12.99 Each

**SUNNY DEAL!**

Slice Probiotic Soda 12 oz. Cans **2/\$4**



MUST BUY 2 or \$2.49 Each

**SUNNY DEAL!**

Coke Products 12 oz. Cans, 24-Pack + Deposit **\$9.88**



NO LIMIT!

**SUNNY DEAL!**

Ribeye Steaks USDA Choice, Boneless, Per lb. **\$15.88**



USDA CHOICE

**SUNNY DEAL!**

Seabest Argentine Raw Shrimp 16-20 Ct., BIG 2 lb. Party Size **\$16.99**



**SUNNY DEAL!**

**Mrs. Gerry's Salads** 14-16 oz. Macaroni Salad, Potato Salad, or Coleslaw **\$3.49**



**Smokin' Boyd's Pizzas** **2/\$20**



MUST BUY 2 or \$12.99 Each

**SUNNY DEAL!**

Fast Fixin Breaded Chicken Strips, Nuggets, or Patties 22-24 oz. **\$3.49**



**SUNNY DEAL!**

Prairie Fresh Bone-In Pork Butts Per lb. **\$2.49**



**SUNNY DEAL!**

Ribeye Steaks USDA Choice, Boneless, Per lb. **\$15.88**



USDA CHOICE

**SUNNY DEAL!**

Seabest Argentine Raw Shrimp 16-20 Ct., BIG 2 lb. Party Size **\$16.99**



**SUNNY DEAL!**

**Mrs. Gerry's Salads** 14-16 oz. Macaroni Salad, Potato Salad, or Coleslaw **\$3.49**



**Hamburger Helper** 4.7-8.7 oz. **\$1.79**



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AD PRICE **-1.00** **2/\$5**

DIGITAL COUPON LIMIT OF 1 COUPON USE

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**SUNNY DEAL!**

Best Choice Deluxe American Slices BIG 3 lb. **\$9.99**



**DIGITAL DEAL!**

Dannon Oikos or Too Good Greek Yogurt 4.5-5.3 oz. **10/\$12**

AD PRICE **-2.00** **10/\$10**

DIGITAL COUPON LIMIT OF 1 COUPON USE

Must use digital app to get digital coupons. Limit 1 coupon use per customer.

**Crystal Farms Shreds, or Sliced Cheese** 7-8 oz. **\$1.99**

**Buy 3 & SAVE \$3**



**SUNNY DEAL!**

Best Choice Premium Yogurt 32 oz. Var. **\$2.99**

ADDITIONAL DIGITAL COUPON ON APP!



**SUNNY DEAL!**

Sunbelt Bakery Granola Bars 8-11 oz. **2/\$6**



**SUNNY DEAL!**

Frito-Lay Lay's Potato Chips 4.75-8 oz. **2/\$5**



**Chex Mix, Garetto's, or Bugles** 9-14.5 oz. **2/\$7**



**SUNNY DEAL!**

Pillsbury Flaky Layer Biscuits, Crescents or Cinnamon Rolls 4-12 oz. **2/\$3**



**DIGITAL DEAL!**

Roma Original Pizza or Bellatoria Personal Pizzas 8" **3/\$9**

AD PRICE **-1.00** **3/\$8**

DIGITAL COUPON LIMIT OF 5 COUPON USES

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**SUNNY DEAL!**

Michelina's Frozen Entrees 4.5-8.5 oz. **4/\$5**



**Marie Callender's Pot Pies** 10 oz. or Bowls 10.5-13 oz. **2/\$5**



**DIGITAL DEAL!**

Simply Orange Juice 46-52 oz. **\$3.99**

AD PRICE **-1.00** **\$2.99**

DIGITAL COUPON LIMIT OF 1 COUPON USE

Must use digital app to get digital coupons. Limit 1 coupon use per customer.

**SUNNY DEAL!**

Best Choice Hashbrown Patties 10 Ct. **2/\$5**



**SUNNY DEAL!**

Best Choice Pancakes or Waffles 10 Ct. **\$1.99**



**Blue Ribbon Classics Frozen Dairy Dessert** 48 oz. **\$2.99**



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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: audiobooks, ebooks, movies, television 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 [slplib.org](http://slplib.org). 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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Location: 300 S. Marquette Rd, Prairie du Chien, WI

Preview: Mon. Jan. 26th - Wed. Jan. 28th 10-4 pm daily

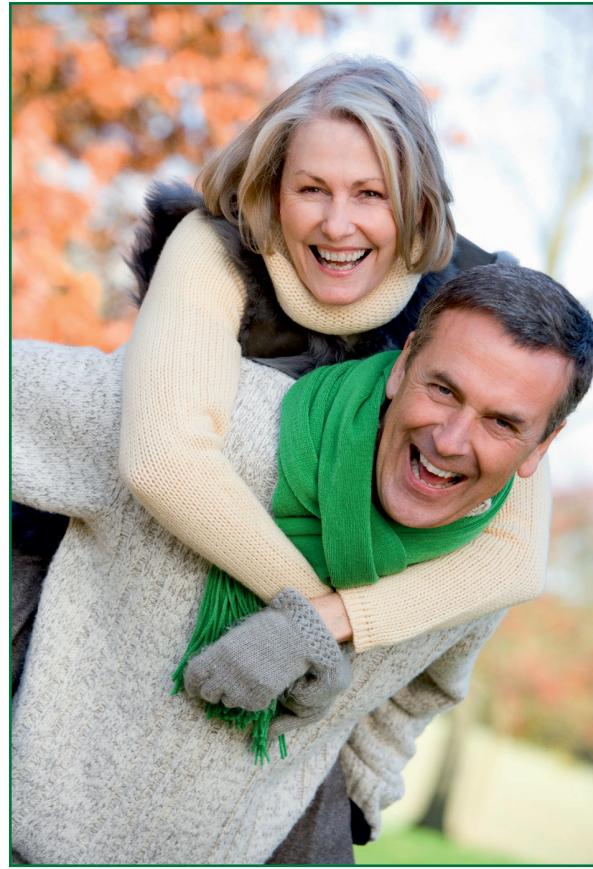
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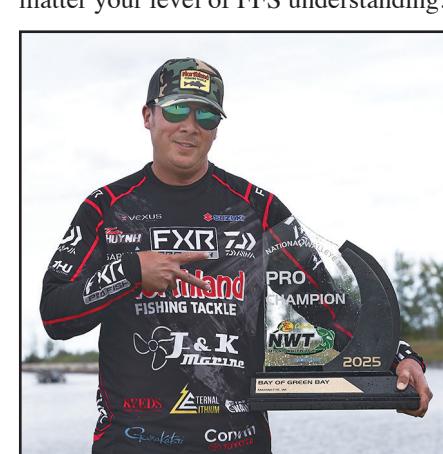
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**IGLFC Spring Fishing Seminar Set for Thursday, February 5**  
by Steve Weisman

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 for 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 -



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**Modern four season** cottage on Memorial Park on east Lake Okoboji. 1 bed, 1 bath, privacy fenced backyard with garage. \$190,000. Call 712-560-2753. 2-16P

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

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

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

## GARAGE SALE

**1408 10th St., Milford**, Fri, Jan 23 & Sat, Jan 24, 10AM - 3pm. Estate Sale. Everything priced to sell. Bedding, bedsheets full & queen, glassware, dining table / chairs, hutch, pots/pans and so much more. 1-16P

## PETS

## PETS

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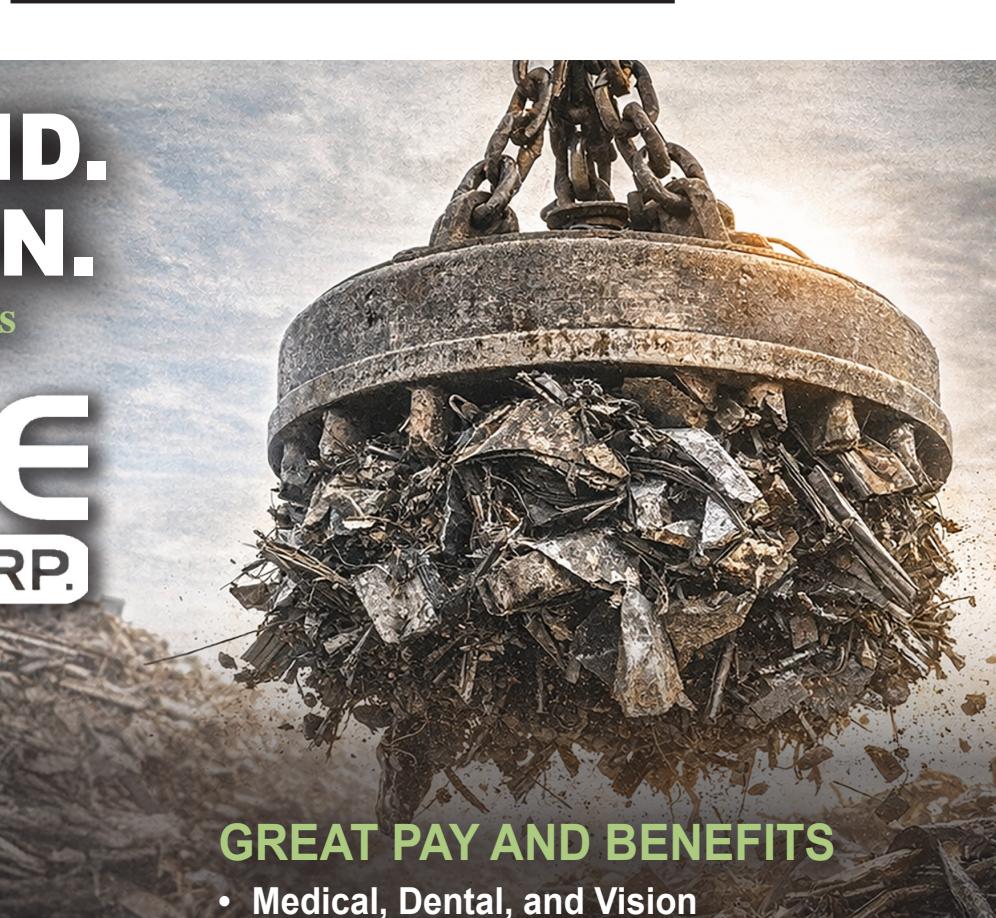
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- To effectively interpret the Cooperative's policies, rates, billing procedures and related information to our member-owners.
- To assist with other administrative and/or clerical functions as determined necessary.

Candidates must have strong communication skills, excellent interpersonal skills, and the ability to prioritize and manage tasks with unlimited interruptions. Proficiency in Microsoft Word and Excel are required. Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative utilizes a fully integrated software system and the successful candidate will be required to gain full knowledge of the system. Post high school education in accounting or business is preferred and two to three years of general office experience is helpful. Pre-employment drug test required.

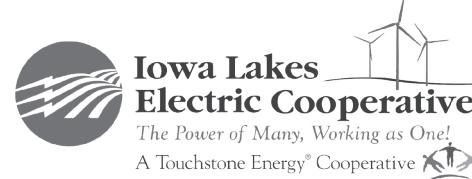
**Salary is commensurate with qualifications and experience. ILEC offers a strong benefits package including IAEC and NRECA insurance programs and NRECA 401(k) and defined benefit pension plans.**

**Qualified applicants should forward a resume and cover letter to the Manager of Human Resources, Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, 702 South 1st Street, Estherville, IA 51334 by February 9, 2026. Documents may also be submitted via e-mail addressed to hr@ilec.coop.**

Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative is an electric distribution cooperative headquartered in Estherville, Iowa. ILEC serves approximately 13,200 accounts and owns and maintains 4,800 miles of distribution line. Additional information may be found by visiting ILEC's website at [www.ilec.coop](http://www.ilec.coop).

For additional information concerning the Iowa Great Lakes and Estherville areas please visit the following websites at [www.lakescorridor.com](http://www.lakescorridor.com), [www.exploreokoboji.com](http://www.exploreokoboji.com) and [www.estherville.org](http://www.estherville.org). EOE

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Ali Reinking, Leah Reinking, Paisley Nissen, Henrik Gruys, Bennett Schmitz, Beckham Munden, Jack Groen, Norah Strouth and Claire Kruger.

## Spirit Lake K of C Crowns Youth Free Throw Champions

Area girls and boys ages 9 to 14 participated in the 2026 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship January 18, and nine earned the right to compete at the District level. Iowa Great Lakes Council 5043 in Spirit Lake sponsored the local competition at the Bedell Family YMCA, drawing a record 27 kids from Spirit Lake and Okoboji.

For the boys, the 9-year-old winner was Jack Groen, the 10-year-old winner was Beckham Munden, the 11-year-old winner was Bennett Schmitz, and the 12-year-old winner was Henrik Gruys. On the girls' side the 9-year-old winner was Leah Reinking, the 10-year-old winner was Paisley Nissen, the 12-year-old winner was Ali Reinking, the 13-year-old winner was Norah Strouth, and the 14-year-old winner was Claire Kruger.

Each contestant was allowed 15 free throw attempts for the local Council level championship.

Every participant received a recognition certificate. Each winner earned a plaque and certificate and is eligible to compete for a medal in the District competition Feb. 15, also at the Bedell Family YMCA, with an eye toward moving to the Regionals. That is followed by the State competition in Boone, and their International awards are presented. Spirit Lake's own Claire Kruger won an International Crystal Trophy two years ago by hitting 24 of 25 free throws!

Iowa Great Lakes Council 5043 is one of the most active in Iowa, in the past few years contributing more than \$30,000 to local community needs, including Hope Haven, Iowa Helping Hands Fund, American Wheelchair Mission, the Grotto of the Redemption, Cherish.

House, Guatemala Mission, Women of the Well Project, Prison Ministries, as well as to local family, community, and parish needs. Local Knights sponsor annual youth events including the Free Throw Competition, Spelling Bee, Coats for Kids, and the Keep Christ in Christmas Poster Contest. They also run the Tootsie Roll Drive for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities Labor Day weekend, benefiting Special Olympics and local organizations.

In 1882, Blessed Michael McGivney, a young parish priest in New Haven, Connecticut, founded the Knights of Columbus to serve the needs of a largely immigrant Catholic community. What began as a small fraternal benefit society has since grown into one of the world's leading international charitable organizations, with more than 1.9 million members in over 16,000 local councils.

Last year, Knights around the world donated nearly 49 million service hours and about \$200 million for worthy causes in their communities. The Knights of Columbus also offers extensive life insurance products to members and their families, reflecting Blessed McGivney's devotion to helping the widowed and the orphaned. Examples of their work include distributing 8,891 wheelchairs, supporting more than 1,200 pregnancy resource centers and maternity homes, and giving nearly 181,000 coats to help warm children in need.

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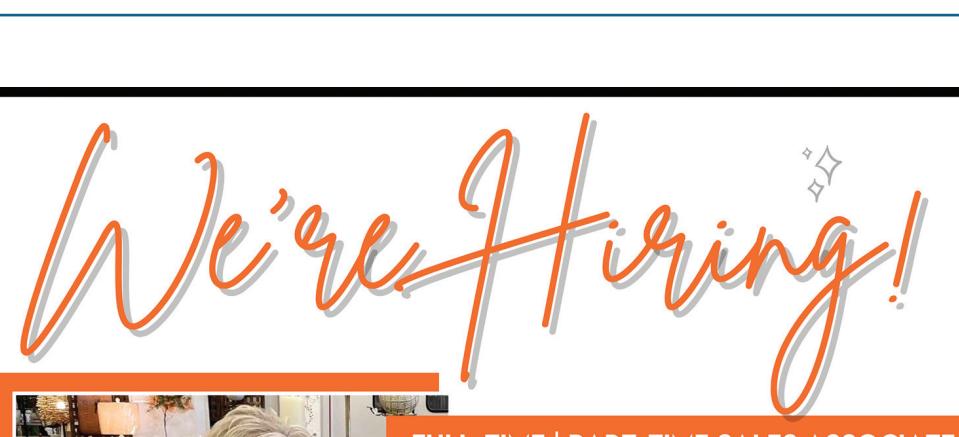
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## Clay County Fair Generated \$92 Million Economic Impact for Northwest Iowa in 2024

## Understanding Economic Impact

An economic impact study is not a report on how much money the Fair makes. Instead, it measures how Fair-related activity generates economic activity throughout the community. The study looks at:

- Direct impacts: Spending by visitors and the Fair itself
- Indirect impacts: The ripple effects as local businesses buy goods and services from one another
- Induced impacts: Spending by households using wages earned from Fair-related jobs

## 2024 Economic Impact Highlights

The study found that the Clay County Fair generated a total economic impact of \$92.0 million in 2024. This impact was driven by nearly 300,000 visitors, including approximately 96,000 out-of-town attendees, who generated an estimated 7,700 hotel room nights in the region. These visitors spend money on lodging, food, shopping, and entertainment, directly supporting local businesses.

Total direct spending related to the Fair reached \$41.7 million, which helped sustain:

- 710 ongoing jobs
- \$30.9 million in wages across industries, including hospitality, retail, food service, transportation, and event services

The Fair also contributed approximately \$2.8 million in sales tax revenue and \$153,100 in hotel tax revenue in 2024, funds that help support local schools, infrastructure, and community services.

## Year-Round Impact

The Clay County Fair & Events Center hosts events throughout the year. When

Fair and non-Fair events are combined, 2024 activity—despite the historic flood in Spencer in June that caused widespread disruption for residents, businesses, and scheduled events—resulted in:

- 327,999 total visitors
- \$99.2 million in total economic impact
- 760 jobs sustained

The Fair's impact extended well beyond the initial event, affecting travel, tourism, and economic activity across the region. As a result, these figures likely represent a conservative measure of the Fair & Events Center's year-round economic contribution.

## A Community Asset

"While many people think of the Clay County Fair as a once-a-year event, this study shows its economic impact is felt year-round," said Fair CEO Jason Brockhus. "The Fair is a community asset that supports local businesses, jobs, and tourism throughout northwest Iowa."

## Learn More

The full 2024 Economic Impact Study, including detailed methodology and data, is available on the Clay County Fair's website at <https://claycountyfair.com/history/>. This resource provides a deeper look at how the Fair and year-round events support local jobs, businesses, and tourism throughout northwest Iowa.

*Rooted in Tradition, the Clay County Fair and Events Center is a year-round facility that annually hosts more than 300 events, including its signature event, the Clay County Fair. Known as "The World's Greatest County Fair" since 1917, the Clay County Fair attracts more than 300,000 guests each September for nine days of world-class entertainment, competition, food, fun, and the largest farm machinery show at any fair in the United States. Additional information can be found at [www.claycountyfair.com](http://www.claycountyfair.com).*



## Lakes Area Senior/Activity Center Events

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

Blood Pressure Screening is the last Tuesday of every month.

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

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

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

Chair yoga every Friday at 10:00am.

Pool and ping pong tables available.

Puzzles and books available to borrow or enjoy.

Greeting cards are available for purchase for \$5.00.

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

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

**Inspiration for Our Day** - "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." ~1 Corinthians 10:31

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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 (cum laude), and Cael John Wodtke (magna cum laude).  
Gruber - 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 Kiersch (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 McCrea, Hailey Pippert, Jarrett Rodriguez and Kennedy Warburton.  
Superior - Seth Busch.  
Gruber - 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.  
Everly - Christian Voss.




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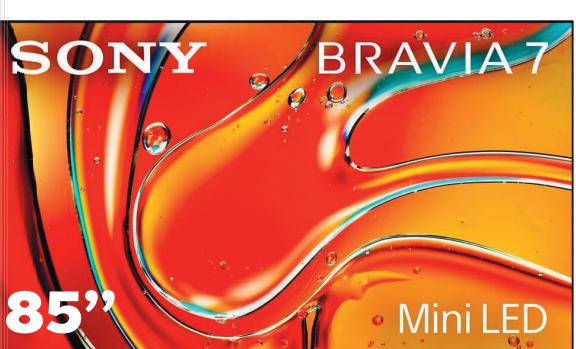
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