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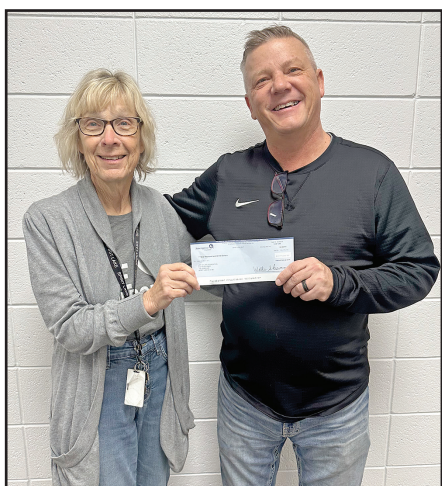
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Pictured from Left to right gathering to celebrate the Okoboji Motor Company Donation: Jackie Donkhong, Macy Trierweiler, Lon Noble, John Walz, Matt Fernelius, Key Club President Summer Stoller, Key Club Vice President Liberty Sawyer and Chris Kemna.



Kleckner Named to Dean's List

Randy Kleckner of Spencer was named to the Dean's List for the fall 2025 term at University of Maryland Global Campus. To be eligible for the honor, a student must complete at least six credits during the term, earned a grade point average of at least 3.5 for the term, and maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.5 at UMGC.



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New Specialist Joins Okobojo Physical Therapy Team

Okobojo Physical Therapy is proud to announce the addition of Dr. Emma Baker, PT, to its professional healthcare team. Dr. Baker brings a fresh perspective and specialized clinical training to the practice, expanding the clinic's capacity to serve the local community.

Dr. Baker's academic background includes undergraduate studies at the University of Sioux Falls, followed by the successful completion of her Doctor of Physical Therapy degree at Briar Cliff University in May 2024. Her arrival marks a commitment by the clinic to continue providing high-quality rehabilitative care through highly trained practitioners.

Patients looking to begin treatment with Dr. Baker can now schedule appointments through multiple channels. Bookings are being accepted via phone at 712-336-8404 or through the clinic's online request portal at hpt.biz.



DCNC Kenue Coffee Hour

Slow down, sip a warm cup of coffee, and learn something new at Kenue Coffee Hour. This free adult program, hosted by the Dickinson County Nature Center, takes place on the first Thursday of the month at 10:30 AM inside the Maser Monarch Lodge.

This month's program, on February 5th, features Ashley Tieden, Naturalist at the Dickinson County Nature Center, who will share an engaging presentation on wetland ecology. Participants will learn what wetlands are, what role they play in our regional environment, and what wildlife can be found there.

Coffee is complimentary, and the relaxed setting encourages conversation and connection while enjoying the winter season. Preregistration is not required, so stop in and join. Kenue Coffee Hour is for adults who enjoy lifelong learning, nature topics, and friendly conversation.

For more events like this, stop by the Dickinson County Nature Center or go online to www.dickinsoncountyconservationboard.com.



Marriage Retreat at Okobojo Lutheran Bible Camp

Enjoy your own Valentine's Day Getaway! On February 13-15, Ingham Okobojo Lutheran Bible Camps is hosting a Marriage Retreat. Featured speakers Eric and Pam Hulstrand will offer biblical teaching during the sessions helping couples take further steps towards a healthy, happy marriage. Optional activities include a banquet meal, evening entertainment, free couples photo shoot and more. The Marriage Retreat is a great opportunity to carve out time together, without kids, without housework, without projects, and enjoy each other's company. Everyone is invited to register and learn more by visiting www.okobojo.org/marriage-retreat or by calling 1-800-OKOBOJI.



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GRAND PRIZE DRAWING: MARCH 2ND

3 STAMPS=1 ENTRY
6 STAMPS=3 ENTRIES
9 STAMPS=5 ENTRIES
12 STAMPS=7 ENTRIES
ALL STAMPS=10 ENTRIES

Share the Love this Valentine's Day
PRIZE DRAWINGS EACH WEEK DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY!

#1 PICK UP A CARD FROM A PARTICIPATING BUSINESS
#2 VISIT & MAKE A PURCHASE AT PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES
#3 SUBMIT PRIZE ENTRIES AT PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES
#4 BONUS: SHARE TO SOCIAL MEDIA

COME IN, WE'RE OPEN

LOVE YOUR COMMUNITY

Prize entries can be submitted at participating businesses throughout the week. The Spirit Lake Chamber will collect all entries each Monday, with the weekly drawing held afterward.

Share your purchase or experience on social media for an extra entry. Be sure to tag the Spirit Lake Chamber of Commerce AND the business. (Story posts DO count).

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THE LNS **RECIE CORNER**

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

Rich Spicy Pepper Chocolate Dessert Serves 8

7 ounces dark chocolate chunks
7 ounces unsalted butter
1 teaspoon Rissy's Spicy Pepper Shake
4 eggs
5 1/2 ounces fine golden sugar
3 tablespoons almond flour
1 tablespoon flour
A pinch of sea salt

Line a round cake tin with grease proof paper and grease with butter. Melt the chocolate, butter and spicy pepper shakes in a glass or metal bowl over a pan of barely simmering water. Make sure to not burn the chocolate and the bowl must not touch the water as this will split the mixture. Remove from the heat, stir and leave for a few minutes to cool. Stir in the eggs, one by one, and then the sugar, followed by the almond flour, flour and a pinch of salt. Pour the batter into the cake tin. You may sprinkle with a bit more pepper if you would like it spicy. Bake for 20 minutes. Leave to cool, then cut into thin slices. Try drizzling with pomegranate reduction to cut the richness. Simmer pomegranate juice on low for 15 minutes until almost a syrup and set aside to cool. It will thicken as it cools. Drizzle over each cake slice. Enjoy.

Recipe Courtesy of: **Marisa Sidles**

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Birthday Announcement

Mary Ellen Inbody will celebrate her 92nd birthday on February 6, 2026. Her family would like to honor her with a card shower. Your warm wishes can reach Mary Ellen at Accura Health Care of Milford, 1600 13th Street, Room 212, Milford, Iowa 51351.

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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.



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80th Birthday Announcement

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

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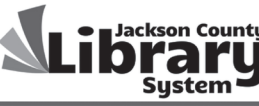


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Morningside University Recognizes Dean's List Honorees

Morningside University Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Chris Spicer announced students Kendal Niemeier of Lake Park, Margaret Bergeson of Milford and Olivia Ruden and Abby Schmidt of Spencer, were named to the Dean's List for the fall semester of the 2025-26

The Dean's List recognizes Morningside students who achieve a 3.67-grade point average or better and complete at least 12 credits of coursework with no grade below a "C-."



Lewis Thomas:
Black Pioneer and the Origins of Black History Month
The Jackson County Libraries and the Jackson County Historical Society are partnering to offer a special February program, "Lewis Thomas, Black Pioneer & the Origins of Black History Month". This program highlights local history while exploring the life and legacy of Lewis Thomas, an early Black pioneer in the region, and the origins of Black History Month.
Nick Riordan, museum director of the Jackson County Historical Society, will lead these presentations, which are free and open to the public. Community members are encouraged to attend one of the following sessions:

- Wednesday, February 11, from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the Jackson Library Meeting Room
- Thursday, February 12, from 6:00-7:00 p.m. at the Jackson County Historical Society in Lakefield
- Wednesday, February 18, from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the Heron Lake Library Meeting Room

For more information, contact the Jackson County Libraries or the Jackson County Historical Society.

Affordable Radon Test Kits Available In Dickinson County

January is National Radon Action Month, a reminder for Dickinson County residents to test their homes for radon, which is a naturally occurring radioactive gas found in the ground. It can enter homes through cracks in foundations and other openings. Radon has no smell, taste, or color, making testing the only way to know if it is present.

According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer overall and the leading cause among non-smokers, contributing to an estimated 21,000 lung cancer deaths each year in the United States. Lung cancer is also Dickinson County's fourth most common cancer diagnosis. The EPA also estimates that one in 15 homes nationwide has elevated radon levels, and homes in Iowa are considered at higher risk due to the state's geology.

To help residents take action, Dickinson County Zoning and Environmental Health (DCZEH) offers radon test kits for \$10. The cost of the kit includes postage and laboratory processing, making it an affordable option for homeowners and renters.

To ensure accurate results, DCZEH recommends starting the radon test on a Thursday, completing the test over the designated period, and mailing it on Monday so it reaches the laboratory before the test expires.

Radon testing is recommended for all homes, regardless of age, foundation type, or whether neighboring homes have tested low. Testing is especially important during the winter months when homes are closed up and radon levels may be higher.

Those with questions or interested in purchasing a radon test kit are encouraged to go to Room #2101 in the Dickinson County Courthouse or call 712-336-2770 extension 2.

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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.

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Lakes Area Senior/Activity Center Events
Seniors Movin' On is an exercise group that meets every Monday, Wednesday & Friday morning at 9:00 a.m. The exercise program is based on the Silver Sneakers Program.
Blood Pressure Screening is the last Tuesday of every month.
Tai Chi at 11:00am and Zumba class at 4:00pm on Thursday.
MahJong - 1st and 3rd Mondays this month at 1:00pm.
Pinochle Club- 2nd and 4th Mondays this month at 1:00pm.
Chair yoga every Friday at 10:00am.
Pool and ping pong tables available.
Puzzles and books available to borrow or enjoy.
Greeting cards are available for purchase for \$.50
The center is now collecting pop tabs - collection proceeds will go to the Ronald McDonald House.
The Lakes Area Activity/Senior Center is located at 2101 Zenith Ave in Spirit Lake.


2500 Firearms in Stock! Plenty of Choices!



SOUTHERN ARCHERY
712-262-7213
325 11th Street SW • Spencer
WE TAKE FIREARMS IN FOR TRADE ON BOWS & CROSSBOWS!
2026    **Bows In-Stock!**
Used Guns Are On SALE | GREAT PRICES!
Beautiful OVER & UNDER Shotguns
(NEW in Box, 5 Choke Tubes)

- Bows
- Archery Supplies
- Long Guns
- Hand Guns
- Browning Gun Sales
- X Bows

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



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CANNED GOODS WORD SEARCH

L O R I E T C L R Z G L S C I C B U E H K V N F P E A P C Z U K I G M N I F U V O V I F U N G V E V L E Z I S P R U O H Y L R E G N D U I S R K E B	T V Y N B Y A E H E I M U C A V P I B G T Z L P B T C I P A P O U I N F K G T Y E C Z H L R P R N A E R V T C B T U K U C N Y S L R O R U K U N M O I T I G Z O D K G O T D N T E N O T M N I R K N I R S N C A B G S T O S G Z I F G I M T A E P E T E Y V S B K V U Y L D R E N I A T A U S I H R E A M O V P L L C E I G T E L R S O E O E P P I C I M K S V S L A N E I C I N H I F E U C L C Z I R S Y T E Z N O N K F I N G B A K U A T E S M R M N G P G A L E V U E N V L E Z I S I P R R U O H Y L R E H K V I R I N R F E L I R E U A N E G N F Y V I B A N E L S R Y H Y F V I D U I S I L Y C S H G Z U S P K D O A S D S R K E A Y U B U V E P Y M S T O R A G E B	BRINE CAN CANISTER FERMENTATION FILLED LABEL LID LINING OPENER PACKING PASTEURIZE PICKLING PRESERVE PROCESSING REHYDRATE ROTATION SEALING SHELF STERILE STOCKPILE STORAGE SYRUP TIN VACUUM
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Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.



Dickinson County Soil & Water Conservation District
2026 TREE SALE
Order before February 27th

DECIDUOUS TREES Bundles of 25	SHRUBS Bundles of 10																		
<table><tr><td>Silver Maple</td><td>2-3 ft.</td><td>\$85/bdl.</td></tr><tr><td>Hybrid Willow (Austree)</td><td>2-3 ft.</td><td>\$95/bdl.</td></tr><tr><td>Northern Red Oak</td><td>2-3 ft.</td><td>\$100/bdl.</td></tr></table>	Silver Maple	2-3 ft.	\$85/bdl.	Hybrid Willow (Austree)	2-3 ft.	\$95/bdl.	Northern Red Oak	2-3 ft.	\$100/bdl.	<table><tr><td>Late Bloom Lilac</td><td>2-3 ft.</td><td>\$40/bdl.</td></tr><tr><td>Amur Maple</td><td>2-3 ft.</td><td>\$35/bdl.</td></tr><tr><td>*American Linden</td><td>3-4 ft.</td><td>\$110/bdl.</td></tr></table>	Late Bloom Lilac	2-3 ft.	\$40/bdl.	Amur Maple	2-3 ft.	\$35/bdl.	*American Linden	3-4 ft.	\$110/bdl.
Silver Maple	2-3 ft.	\$85/bdl.																	
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Northern Red Oak	2-3 ft.	\$100/bdl.																	
Late Bloom Lilac	2-3 ft.	\$40/bdl.																	
Amur Maple	2-3 ft.	\$35/bdl.																	
*American Linden	3-4 ft.	\$110/bdl.																	

DECIDUOUS TREES Bundles of 5	CONIFEROUS TRANSPLANTS Bundles of 25						
<table><tr><td>Autumn Blaze Maple</td><td>4-5 ft.</td><td>\$300/bdl.</td></tr></table>	Autumn Blaze Maple	4-5 ft.	\$300/bdl.	<table><tr><td>Eastern Red Cedar</td><td>9-15 in.</td><td>\$100/bdl.</td></tr></table>	Eastern Red Cedar	9-15 in.	\$100/bdl.
Autumn Blaze Maple	4-5 ft.	\$300/bdl.					
Eastern Red Cedar	9-15 in.	\$100/bdl.					

POTTED CONIFEROUS TREES	SHRUBS Bundles of 25																											
<table><tr><td>Black Hills Spruce</td><td>24-30 in.</td><td>2G Potted \$25 ea.</td></tr><tr><td>Meyer Spruce</td><td>15-18 in.</td><td>1G Potted \$25 ea.</td></tr><tr><td>Colorado Spruce</td><td>18-24 in.</td><td>2G Potted \$25 ea.</td></tr><tr><td>Techny Arborvitae</td><td>18-24 in.</td><td>2G Potted \$35 ea.</td></tr></table>	Black Hills Spruce	24-30 in.	2G Potted \$25 ea.	Meyer Spruce	15-18 in.	1G Potted \$25 ea.	Colorado Spruce	18-24 in.	2G Potted \$25 ea.	Techny Arborvitae	18-24 in.	2G Potted \$35 ea.	<table><tr><td>Redosier Dogwood</td><td>2-3 ft.</td><td>\$65/bdl.</td></tr><tr><td>American Plum</td><td>2-3 ft.</td><td>\$120/bdl.</td></tr><tr><td>Common Ninebark</td><td>12-18 in.</td><td>\$95/bdl.</td></tr><tr><td>Common Lilac</td><td>18-24 in.</td><td>\$95/bdl.</td></tr><tr><td>Cranberry Bush</td><td>12-18 in.</td><td>\$105/bdl.</td></tr></table>	Redosier Dogwood	2-3 ft.	\$65/bdl.	American Plum	2-3 ft.	\$120/bdl.	Common Ninebark	12-18 in.	\$95/bdl.	Common Lilac	18-24 in.	\$95/bdl.	Cranberry Bush	12-18 in.	\$105/bdl.
Black Hills Spruce	24-30 in.	2G Potted \$25 ea.																										
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Common Lilac	18-24 in.	\$95/bdl.																										
Cranberry Bush	12-18 in.	\$105/bdl.																										

HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR NEED A SPECIES NOT LISTED?
Visit the SWCD office at 3302 18th Street (Hwy. 9), Spirit Lake, or call 712-336-3782, ext. 3.

100% OF PAYMENT IS DUE AT THE TIME OF YOUR ORDER.
Trees will be available for pickup mid-April. Notices to be sent later.

***SPECIAL ORDER**
Please order early for best selection and avoid shortages. No survival guarantee on stock sold at these prices. Sizes are estimated and subject to nursery availability.

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.



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

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

The Reverend Carolyn Tuttle, Rector

Live Stream  through our Facebook Page

Email: office@stalbanseiscopalchurch.org
Website: stalbanseiscopalchurch.org

The Episcopal presence in the Iowa Great Lakes Area
23rd & Zenith Ave. • Spirit Lake • 712-336-1117



**Iowa Lakes Unitarian
Universalist Fellowship**

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



**FAITH
COMMUNITY
CHURCH**

WORSHIP WITH US!
SUNDAY • 10:30 AM
Coffee & Fellowship
Before & After the Service

Rev. Dr. Jennifer Hesebeck, Pastor
805 Okoboji Avenue • Milford, IA
712.338.4642 • www.faithcommunitymilford.com



**HARBOR OF JOY
LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMC**

1204 L Ave. Milford • 712-338-2355

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP EVERY
SUNDAY AT 9:30 AM
OR ONLINE AT HARBOROFJOY.COM

"So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen,
since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."
- Corinthians 4:18

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

CUPBOARD LOCATED
ON SW CORNER
OF BUILDING.
ITEMS AVAILABLE 24/7

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



**Excelsior United
Methodist Church**
Deep Roots Strong Faith

We Invite You to Join Us for
Worship & Fellowship
Sunday at 9:00 am

Rev. Dr. Jennifer Hesebeck
2005 150th Ave, Milford • 712.330.7149 

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

SUNDAY

Schedule

WORSHIP
8:30 AM &
11:00 AM

FELLOWSHIP
9:30 AM

EDUCATION
9:45 AM

1525 Three Cross Road
Milford, IA

office@3cross.org  712-338-4514  www.3cross.org

Okoboji Foundation Invites
Grant Applications for 2026

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Join Us...

**TWO WORSHIP SERVICES
TO CHOOSE FROM**

Saturdays at 6:00pm
Sundays at 9:00am

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

calvarylovesall.com

**CALVARY**
United Methodist Church
Sharing God's Love with ALL

679 W. Okoboji Grove Rd.,
Arnolds Park
712-332-2447
Find us on 

THE
LAKES NEWS
Auction Calendar

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

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

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

Sun., Feb. 1 – 10:30 AM–
Household auction in Spirit Lake,
IA. Clerking: Nattress. 712-330-
1904. www.nattressauctions.com.

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

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

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, baby-sitters, and friends to learn methods for applying grace, love, and truth when navigating a child's most challenging behaviors.

Mobile Food Pantry Returns

The mobile food pantry from the Food Bank of Iowa is returning again. The free distribution will take place from 4-6 p.m. Thursday, February 5, at the Good News Estherville Church. The food will be distributed inside the church. Recipients are asked to bring bags, laundry baskets or boxes to carry the food. At the January Food Bank, 527 individuals (191 families) received 7,169 pounds of food. The Food Bank of Iowa partners with 700 agencies in 55 counties to distribute 2.5 million pounds of food each month, so that no one goes hungry in Iowa. If you have questions, call the Good News Estherville Church at 712-362-4984.

Located directly across from Arnolds Park Amusement Park

**THE HUTT
Bar & Grill**

See our website & menu: thehuttbarandgrill.com

DAILY SPECIALS at 11am

DAILY SPECIALS

- Wed., Jan. 28: Pan Fried Chicken Quesadillas
- Thur., Jan. 29: Hamburger Steak Hawaiian Chicken
- Fri., Jan. 30: Country Fried Steak Bourbon Burger
- Mon., Feb. 2: Hot Beef Taco Salad
- Tues., Feb. 3: CLOSED

Friday Night Special
Fish Fry • 10 oz. Ribeye

Saturday Night Special
Prime Rib • Coconut Shrimp

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

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

Hwy. 71 South • Arnolds Park, IA • 712.332.8074



**Little Swan Lake
Winery**

Life... Drink It In!

We are open for walk-ins & tasting!

Winter Hours: Thursday-Sunday 11am-6pm

Sunday, Feb. 1
South 71
Trio 4-6pm
Bison Meal!

For upcoming bands and events visit our website:
www.lslwinery.com

Bed & Breakfast Open Year Round!
1 1/2 miles north of Superior on N16
Reservations recommended, Call 712-858-4592 or 712-380-3455

HICKORY SMOKED FRESH DAILY
BABY BACK PORK RIBS & BRISKET

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

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

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

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



**PUB 19
BAR & GRILL**
AT OKOBOJI VIEW

**PRIME RIB
Friday &
Saturday Nights**

**WEEKLY
SPECIAL**

**BUFFALO
CHICKEN PIZZA**
Chicken, Mama Lil's
Peppers, Green Onions,
Provolone & Mozzarella
Cheese on a Buffalo
Sauce Base

**PUB 19
WINTER HOURS**
Closed Mon.-Wed.
Thurs.: 11am-7:45pm
Fri. & Sat.: 11am-8:45pm
Sun.: 11am-7:45pm

Hwy. 86 • West Lake Okoboji
712-332-8142 • www.pub19barandgrill.com

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To The Editor:

On behalf of the Iowa Great Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce, we would like to thank you so much for making our 46th Annual University of Okoboji Winter Games another success for our business community.

Events of this scale are not possible without an army of volunteers and the continual support from our entire community. It truly takes a village to make something like this happen and we would like to take a second to thank some key leaders for this year's event.

Thank you to our sponsors for making so much of this possible. Our Presenting Sponsor WestO Beer. A huge shout out to our Platinum Level Sponsors City of Arnolds Park, Smart Powersports of Okoboji, Atlantic Bottling Co./Monster, WalMart Spirit Lake, and BLINK Marketing. Gold level sponsors include Hy-Vee, Pure Fishing, Rosenboom, and Dr. McGillicuddy's, and our Silver sponsors include Alliant Energy, Invenergy, Boji Powersports, and Black Hills Energy.

Thank you to our individual event sponsors Okoboji Motor Company for the Polar Plunge, Tony Thelen with The River Coaching and Consulting for the Food Truck Festival, Bank Midwest for the Burning of the Greens, Consumers Lumber for the Fireworks, Snappers Turtle Bay Cafe for the Bean Bag Toss Tournament, The Ritz for Snowball Softball, Ingvall Real Estate Team for the Chocolate Classic, Hinn Real Estate for the Chili Cook-off, Kozy Heat for the 5K Fun Run, West O Beer for the Stump Tournament, Fareway for Cribbage, MHR Insurance for the Broomball Tournament, and Parks Marina for Flag Football. We also would like to thank Emerald Hills and Mulletts Okoboji for sponsoring our new event this year, the Hard Water Open, and O'Farrell Sisters and No Streaking for Human Foosball.

We would also like to thank Regional Transit Authority for providing transportation for our cheerleaders and media, ShoreStation for providing a trailer stage for Burning of the Greens and Diamond Concrete for providing the storage containers for the collection of trees.

We appreciate the leadership of this year's Chair Mickey Harrington, Co-chair Jordan Butler, and our 9 wonderful Winter Games Cheerleaders. A huge thank you to Rocky Thompson Photography for providing us with amazing footage of the games all weekend long. Thank you to our hundreds of volunteers, event chairs, Arnolds Park Amusement Park's hard-working staff, KUOO, the Dickinson County News, the Lakes News Shopper, MC22, and all other news outlets for their non-stop coverage.

Thank you to County and City governments for working with us, the courageous Law enforcement of the Lakes Region, the Iowa DNR, Arnolds Park/Okoboji Fire & Rescue for keeping us safe, and all of the Chamber businesses that hosted events that lead to a memorable weekend for our tens of thousands of visitors. Each and every business and their hardworking staff deserves a round of applause for welcoming individuals from near and far and making this weekend happen each and every year. It takes a very special community to unite & support an event that brings joy to our locals and visitors alike with an economic boost for our Chamber Members. Thank you to each and every one of you.

Blain Andera — CEO/President
Morgan Strauss — Director of Marketing and Events
Michaela Arneson – Marketing and Communications Coordinator
Iowa Great Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce
2026 Winter Games Results can be found at uofwintergames.com/



MILFORD
712-338-4060
SUN. - THURS. 6am-9pm
NOW OPEN FRI. & SAT. 6am-10pm

**ONLINE ORDERING
NOW AVAILABLE AT
PERKINSRESTAURANT.COM**

THE HOMEWORK IS DONE; DINNER IS, TOO!
With activities and homework, the last thing you need
is a kitchen full of dirty dishes.
Let Perkins handle the "What's for Dinner?" drama with our
stress-free **Family Meals To-Go**

- 1 CLASSIC POT ROAST FAMILY MEAL (SHOWN BELOW)
- 2 HOMESTYLE MEATLOAF FAMILY MEAL
- 3 CRISPY CHICKEN STRIPS FAMILY MEAL
- 4 GRILLED CHICKEN FAMILY MEAL
- 5 BREAKFAST ALL DAY FAMILY MEAL



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 entrees, drinks, side items, and desserts). *
Not valid with any other special or discount programs.

Excludes
Burger, Fries &
Pies Trio

**Perkins**
AMERICAN FOOD CO.

Coupon Expires: February 25, 2026

Valid only at Perkins Restaurant & Bakery located at Big Junction, Milford, IA. One coupon per person per visit at participating Perkins Restaurant and Bakery locations. Not valid with any other discount or offer. Coupon void if purchased, sold or bartered for cash. Only original coupons accepted. Must be paid by customer. Please present coupon when ordering.

Beach Club

Kazarelli's

Italian & American Cuisine

from our made from Scratch Kitchen!

TUESDAY NIGHT

BURGER SPECIAL

\$5 Hamburger

Fresh Ground Hamburger Blend

While supplies last

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

Wednesday is

Brick Chicken

Dinner Night

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SOCIAL MEDIA!

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LakesNewsShopper.com

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THEATRE

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Milford • 515-207-2306

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NOW PLAYING JAN. 28-FEB. 4

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CHECK OUR WEBSITE

FOR SHOW TIMES & TO

RESERVE TICKETS!

IRON LUNG

WED-THUR 1/28-29 7:10

FRI-WED 1/30-2/4 CHECK WEBSITE FOR TIMES

Okoboji

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Retreat

February 13-15

Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp

Enjoy your own

Valentine's Day Getaway!

• Great Sessions

• Free Couples Photo Shoot

• Banquet Dinner and more

Sign Up Today!

www.okoboji.org or

call us at 1-800-OKOBOJI

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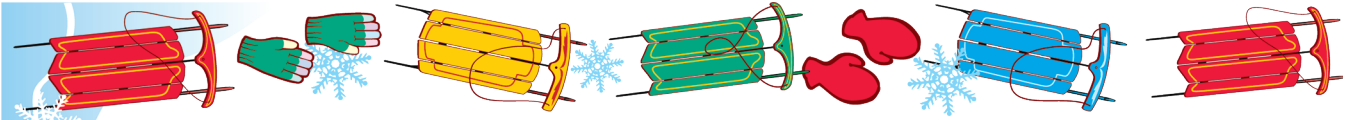
Eric and Pam

Hulstrand

Ingham

Okoboji

Lutheran Bible Camp



THE

BOONEDOCK'S

ARNOLDS PARK

Locally Owned and Operated

YOUR CONVENIENCE STORE FOR EVERYTHING YOU NEED - QUICK!

Visit Us This Weekend During the Vintage Snowmobile Races!

Your One-Stop-Shop!

This Week's Daily Specials:

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

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

Wednesday: 6 wings for \$6.00

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

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

FOOD • BEER • WINE • LIQUOR • ICE • FIREWOOD

Premium Fuel!

Your Only Lakes Renewable Fuel Stop!

ALL FUELS AVAILABLE

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

Winter Hours

6:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.

Every Day

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

MERCY

WED-THUR 1/28-29 7:10

FRI-WED 1/30-2/4 CHECK WEBSITE FOR TIMES

THE HOUSEMAID

WED-THUR 1/28-29 6:50

FRI-WED 1/30-2/4 CHECK WEBSITE FOR TIMES

SHOP

LOCAL

Dance 4 Fun

There will be no dance held in Every during the month of February. Regular dances are scheduled to resume on March 7th, featuring live music from the band Riata.

Organizers look forward to welcoming dancers back to the floor to enjoy a full evening of music and movement.

LOS PUEBLOS

Winter Happy Hour Special

Mon-Thur 2-6pm

HALF OFF

House Margaritas & Beers!

OPEN:

Sunday-Thursday

11am-8pm

Friday & Saturday

11am-9pm

Hwy. 71, Arnolds Park

332-7315

Lakes Area Activity/Senior Center

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

SCHEDULED PRESENTATIONS/EVENTS:

Tuesday, February 3, 12:30 PM — "Nature Center": Danika's theme this week will be "Animal Courtship"

Tuesday, February 10, 12:30 PM — DeNeitt — RSVP Coordinator

Tuesday, February 24 12:00 PM — Dickinson County Public Health will be providing free blood pressure checks

Thursdays - 11:00 AM - TaiChi

Fridays - 9:50 AM - Chair Yoga

UPCOMING BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

Sunday, Feb. 15 • 8:30 AM-Noon

SIGN UP FOR DINNER DATE MEALS!

Reserve your meal for next week

Low Cost: \$7-\$10 Donation

2 Monday

Ham Slices

Vegetable

Fruit & Bread

3 Tuesday

Sloppy Joes

Bun

Vegetable

Fruit & Bread

4 Wednesday

Mrs. Ribs

Bun

Vegetable

Fruit

5 Thursday

Spaghetti

Garlic Bread

Vegetable

Fruit

6 Friday

Chicken

Alfredo

Vegetable

Fruit & Bread

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

Dinners are provided by CARSTENSEN'S MEAT & GROCERY of Lake Park.

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

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

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

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

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

the

RG

BALLROOM

CAPITAL CALL

VINTNERS

ARNOLDS PARK

AMUSEMENT PARK

Lake Okoboji

BOOMERS

AND

CROONERS

With a Twist

ROOF GARDEN BALLROOM | ARNOLDS PARK, IOWA

JUNE 28

2:00 P.M.

7:30 P.M.

CHUBBY CHECKER

CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF THE TWIST

"THE TWIST"

"DANCIN' PARTY"

JULY 5

7:30 P.M.

MICHAEL CAVANAUGH

THE MUSIC OF BILLY JOEL & ELTON JOHN

"MOVIN' OUT"

"UPTOWN GIRL"

JULY 12

7:30 P.M.

DANNY SERAPHINE & CTA

MUSIC OF CHICAGO W/ ORIGINAL

DRUMMER & CO-FOUNDER

"MAKE ME SMILE"

JULY 19

7:30 P.M.

HERMAN'S HERMITS

STARRING PETER NOONE

"MRS. BROWN, YOU GOT A LOVELY DAUGHTER"

"I'M HENRY VIII, I AM"

AUG 2

7:30 P.M.

I AM HE SAID

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ARNOLDS PARK

AMUSEMENT PARK

Lake Okoboji

TRAILS TALK

Erin Reed, Executive Director, DCTB

IOWA GREAT LAKES TRAILS

Dickinson County Recreational Trails

www.dickinsoncountylakes.com

Future location of Clay County Phase II

2026 Trail Development Plans

The Dickinson County Trails Board (DCTB) has another year of exciting plans to continue trail development throughout the summer and fall of 2026. Through a combination of foundation, state, and federal grants, along with partnerships and donations to the DCTB Development Fund, the board is working toward adding two miles of new trail and making significant improvements to key trailheads in Milford and Wahpeton.

Clay County Connection: The trail connection with Clay County remains a top priority. Construction in 2026 will extend the Spine Trail another two miles as it travels south to connect with Clay County's trail system. This two-mile segment is funded in part by State Recreational Trails, Iowa DNR REAP, Okoboji Foundation, and Iowa Economic Development CAT grants, totaling \$930,000.

The third phase of the Clay County Connection is scheduled for construction in late 2026 to early 2027. The final mile needed to fully connect Clay and Dickinson Counties has been awarded \$567,000 through Region 3 TAP and State Recreational Trails programs. The DCTB looks forward to expanding trail connections to additional communities in partnership with our neighbors to the south.

Trailhead Improvements: The DCTB is collaborating with private donors and the cities of Milford and Wahpeton to provide new amenities and upgrades for two key trailheads.

The Wahpeton trailhead will receive a bike repair station and water fountain that are much needed amenities for the West Okoboji Trail.

The Milford trailhead will be revamped with trail realignment, new parking configuration, ornamental plantings and improved signage. A new information kiosk, picnic tables and benches are also included in the improvements.

A Mission To Run: Providing Safe, Clean Water For All

Mike Stein is a native Iowan who understands the importance of clean, safe water and advocates passionately for access to it worldwide. As Mike often says, "Water is life!" A pharmacist by trade, Mike is also an avid runner and bicyclist in his free time.

Mike began informally "running for water" in 2021, connecting his miles to water projects both locally and internationally. In 2024, he formalized his fundraising efforts by founding the Prairie Fire Foundation. The foundation supports water projects that help provide clean, safe water for all people, regardless of geographic location, with a primary focus on Tanzania, Honduras, and Guatemala.

Since 2021, Mike has raised approximately \$43,000 and he knows that is possible. Mike encourages runners, bikers, and walkers to join him on this mission. Participants can create their own individual or team fundraiser by visiting his website www.prairiefirefoundation.org and clicking on Create Your Own Fundraiser. Mike looks forward to welcoming you to Run for Water, Walk for Water, or Bike for Water - because every mile can make a difference.

As always, Happy Trails to You and Yours.

Erin Reed, Executive Director

Baby Biologist: Eco-Baby

Looking for an interactive time centered around nature for your little one? Baby Biologist is a free program for children under 2 years old accompanied by an adult. This month's session, Eco-Baby, will be held at the Dickinson County Nature Center on Tuesday, February 3, from 10:30 to 11:00 AM. This free program introduces simple and safe ways for little ones to interact with their natural environment.



The session will start with a short story time together, followed by a time of movement activities and using recycled materials. Children will also be introduced to early sorting skills by exploring shapes made from recyclable items.

There is no cost to attend, but registration is required by 5 PM on February 1. Baby Biologist will be held semi-monthly, and more events can be found online by visiting www.dickinsoncountynaturecenter.org or call the Nature Center (712) 336-6352.

View From The Bench

by John Adams, Jr.

What Could Have Been for Vikings?

As Minnesota Vikings fans watched Seattle quarterback Sam Darnold lead his Seattle Seahawks to Super Bowl XL on Sunday night, I couldn't help but wonder what could have been for the Vikings this season had they re-signed the veteran quarterback after his stellar 2024 season. The Vikings had signed Darnold in 2024 to battle with then rookie quarterback JJ McCarthy for the starting job; that all changed when McCarthy hurt his knee in the first exhibition game of the season and was out for the season, making the well-traveled Darnold the starter. All Darnold did was guide the Vikings to a 14-3 regular season while throwing for 4,319 yards, 35 touchdowns and just 12 interceptions. The problem was Darnold's last two games, the biggest of the year against the Detroit Lions for the NFC North title and the #1 Seed in the NFC and then the First Round NFL Playoff Games were both duds, with the Vikings losing both games by a combined 58-18 score as Darnold struggled mightily in both games.

We all know what happened in the offseason, Minnesota did not want to offer Darnold the long-term contract that he deserved and believed that McCarthy was their quarterback of the future. Seattle jumped at the opportunity to land Darnold, believing he was the missing piece to a team that was set for greatness and gave him a three-year contract worth \$100.5 million. Darnold did not disappoint this season, leading Seattle to the #1 overall seed. In a very similar situation, Seattle had to win their last game of the season on the road vs a conference rival in the San Francisco 49ers to earn the #1 seed or lose and be the #5 seed and go on the road for the first round. This time Darnold and his team stepped up to the challenge, knocking off the 49ers 17-13 in a hard-fought game where Darnold was not great but did enough to lead his team to the victory. Darnold was solid as the Seahawks dismantled the 49ers in the Second Round of the Playoffs as their defense dominated a depleted San Francisco team enroute to a 41-9 victory to send Seattle to the NFC Championship game.

This was Darnold's biggest game of his career and everyone was watching to see how he would respond. I was very happy for him, as I obviously pulled for him last year when he was playing so well for the Vikings, and I think it's a great story of redemption how this former #3 pick in the 2018 NFL Draft had bounced around and six years later has finally found success. Darnold did not disappoint on Sunday night, playing his best game of the season as he threw for 346 yards with three touchdowns and, most important, zero interceptions. Darnold went toe for toe with Matthew Stafford, one of the best quarterbacks in the NFL, and led his team to a thrilling 31-27 victory. Darnold and his Seahawks now head to Super Bowl XL and will face the New England Patriots, where Seattle is an early 4.5-point favorite. Vikings' fans will once again be left home watching another Super Bowl while playing the "What if" game that we are so good at; but this year's game hurts just a little bit more because of just how close that "What if" was!

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.

An Open Letter to Iowa's State Representatives and Senators,

I am writing as President of the Dickinson County Taxpayers Association regarding ongoing discussions about property tax reform in Iowa. The Dickinson County Taxpayers Association has served local taxpayers since 1982. Our mission is to advocate for transparent government, fiscal responsibility, and the wise use of taxpayer dollars.

Across Iowa, property taxpayers are increasingly frustrated by rising tax bills driven by continued growth in city, county, and school district spending, coupled with limited transparency and accountability. From our perspective, the core problem in the property tax system is not assessments, levy rates, or complex formulas—it is spending.

If the Iowa Legislature wishes to enact meaningful and lasting property tax reform, it must directly address the growth of local government operating expenses. While our preference is always for the State to remain out of local affairs, many local boards and committees have failed to demonstrate sufficient fiscal restraint. As a result, we reluctantly accept that the State must step in to impose reasonable and enforceable limits.

If the Legislature proceeds, we strongly recommend the following reforms:

1. Spending Limits
Limit the annual growth of property tax revenue to 2 percent for all local taxing entities. Allow local governments to exceed the cap only with voter approval, ensuring transparency and accountability.
2. Property Tax Structure Simplification
Simplify the system so taxpayers can clearly understand how their taxes are calculated. Any changes to the rollback system must ensure that homeowners are protected from sudden and dramatic tax increases, and that levy rates accurately reflect any changes in taxable value.
3. Reserve Balance Limits
Limit aggregate reserve balances to no more than 30% of prior-year operating expenses, excluding capital and bonded projects.

4. Use of Excess Reserves
Require excess reserves to be either:
a) Returned directly to taxpayers, or
b) Used to reduce levy rates.
5. Voter Approval for Major Projects
Require voter approval for any capital improvement project or allied projects exceeding 20% of annual operating expenses. This would ensure taxpayer consent for large-scale expenditures.
6. Taxpayer Voice
Expand voter approval requirements for major decisions, including bonds, shared-service arrangements, and emergency tax increases.

7. Shared Services & Efficiency
Allow counties under 50,000 residents to voluntarily share services between counties, cities, and school districts to reduce duplication and costs.
8. Independent Efficiency Audits
Require third-party efficiency audits to improve transparency, eliminate waste, and ensure taxpayer dollars are being spent effectively.

9. Property Tax Fairness Review
Conduct a comprehensive review of all property tax exemptions and credits—residential, commercial, industrial, and agricultural—to ensure fairness and prevent tax shifting.

We also urge the Legislature to pay close attention to definitions, as the success of any reform depends on clear and consistent language. In particular, definitions must address:

- * Population growth measurements
- * CPI index selection
- * Exemptions and deductions (seniors, first responders, military, etc.)
- * Reserves
- * Capital projects and improvements
- * Bonded projects
- * Operating expenses
- * Treatment of grants, subsidies, and outside funding

Without firm definitions, spending limits can be bypassed, and the burden will continue to fall on property taxpayers.

Thank you for your service and for your attention to this critical issue. Iowa taxpayers deserve reform that restrains spending, increases transparency, and restores accountability to local government budgets.

Respectfully,
Mark Sullivan
President, Dickinson County Taxpayers Association

** A portion of this letter was paid for by the author.*

Caregivers Support Group

Lakes Area Caregivers Support Group is available for help dealing with the stress of being a caregiver to someone with Alzheimers or other dementia disorders.

This community caregivers group meets at 10:00 every Wednesday morning at First Presbyterian Church in Spirit Lake. This is an opportunity to discuss with other caregivers stories and concerns in a comfortable and confidential manner.

A typical meeting might include a presentation on topics such as handling of legal issues, stress reduction, care facilities, positive coping language, and sharing personal methods of handling challenges faced every day by other caregivers.

For more information, call 712-336-1649 or 712-330-1270.



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95th Birthday Announcement

Joan Spangler will be turning 95 on Wednesday, February 4, 2026. Greetings may be sent to: 2319 Lakeside Ave, Milford, IA 51351.



Page 2B

YOUR AGENT!



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Honor Band Success for Okoboji Middle School

Okoboji Middle School sixth grade band was honored to have 9 students selected to participate in the Strong Foundations Honor Band in Sioux City. This year's festival was held on January 19th. The day featured two bands of equal ability, with guest directors Mrs. Pat Toben and Dr. Christopher Brandt. Selected students were (back row): Zach Titterington-Trombone, Sydney Graves-Clarinet, Xander Schable-Alto Saxophone, Olivia Breuer-Percussion, Aria Derner-Flute. Front Row: Carter Johnson-Flute, Kylee Baschke-Bass Clarinet, Austin Loerts-Bari Saxophone and Jovie Erickson-Tenor Saxophone. The Middle School Instrumental Director is Jody Ingwersen.

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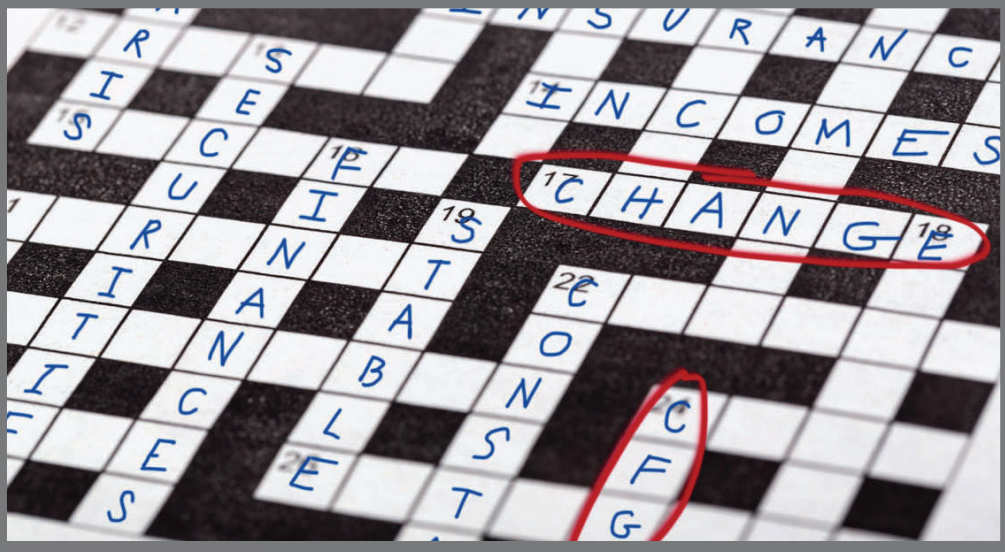
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Weekly Social Gathering

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



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TOUR BEGINS + ENDS AT HISTORIC ARNOLDS PARK AMUSEMENT PARK MUSEUM

Spirit Okoboji

LAKES AREA MUSEUM ALLIANCE

The LAMA Express - a FUN New Way to Experience Dickinson County History!

Sunday, February 15 the LAMA Express is taking off for an afternoon of fun enjoying special exhibits, programs, guided tours, and snacks at area museums: the Winchester Store Museum, Steve's Depot at the Dickinson County Museum, and the Historic Arnolds Park Amusement Park and Maritime Museums.

Thanks to the sponsorship of Bus Party Okoboji, guests will enjoy an exceptional experience journeying to the museums together while diving into area historical trivia.

The Winchester Store Museum is a hidden gem of history in the region - showcasing the 6400 franchised hardware stores around the country in the 1920s. Enjoy a guided tour of the recreated Winchester Store that existed on Hill Ave. in Spirit Lake. This is the only museum of its kind in the nation! Visit www.thewinchestorestore.com to learn more.

Steve's Depot at the Dickinson County Museum features professionally created interactive exhibits highlighting the importance of railroading to early Dickinson County and the very beginnings of the county. Prepare to be immersed in local history!

Historic Arnolds Park Amusement Park and Maritime Museums will close out the LAMA Express adventure by highlighting vintage amusement park rides, mechanical models of those rides by the Okoboji No Boundaries students, future plans for the Roof Garden and the No Boundaries students, pinball games, and a guest appearance in the Maritime Museum by Jim Koenig who will share stories of his finding and raising of the historic 30 boat on display at the museum.

The LAMA Express will leave from Historic Arnolds Park at 2:00 and the event will conclude by 5:30. Only 18 tickets are available for purchase at \$35 per person. Please indicate your interest or ask questions via email to marybdreier@gmail.com. Reservations are not confirmed until payment is received by check or cash to: LAMA Express PO Box 532, Spirit Lake, IA 51360. Reservations and payment must be made by February 10.

Word Search Puzzle Key from page 6A

L T F F T T F B H L S E V H N S U U B K O V
O R N A Y N O B Y A E T L E I P B T C I P E P
I E L H N S K E I O U A E R V F K G T Y U I G
T C L C H N Y S D R G O R U N K U N M O T T M I G
C R Z G Z N O D R L K G O T C A B G E Y V S B K V U
R L R K N G I M T A E T A U L S C I N K H I F I N E V
S Y L L C C E E I S L A N E Z N G P G A L L E G
C C I M K S I E V S L A N E Z N G P G A L L E G
C L C Z I A T E S M R R R U O H Y I F I N E V
B A A K U A T E S M R R R U O H Y I F I N E V
U E N V L E I S L A N E Z N G P G A L L E G
F Y I L Y C S H G Z U S P K D O A S D S I R
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Obituary

Linda Cheryl Rush Flippen, age 80, of Coon Rapids, Minnesota, passed away peacefully on Monday, December 29, 2025, after a long battle with dementia.

Linda's life was rooted in family, community, and connection. She had a strong work ethic and a genuine love for people that showed up everywhere she went. A longtime employee of Target, Linda worked in a variety of roles over the years, including as an executive assistant and a pharmacy technician. She also worked at Lindee's Bar, where she especially loved getting to know the customers and visiting with the regulars who became friends. Giving back was important to her, and she volunteered her time at the Coon Rapids Senior Center, where her warmth and kindness were always appreciated.

Linda was an amazing cook, baker, and jam maker, well known for her homemade pies—which were truly her specialty. She took pride in sharing (and sometimes selling) her baked goods and jams with friends, family, and many happy customers over the years. Her kitchen was a place of comfort, laughter, and something delicious always waiting to be served.

In her quieter moments, Linda loved to read and relax. She treasured her trips to Mexico and Okoboji, especially time spent at the Barefoot Bar, soaking in the sunshine and good company. She also took great joy in her Camaro, which perfectly reflected her spirited personality.

She is survived by her children: Angela Klapperick (Terry) of Coon Rapids, Minnesota; Gretchen Hoosline of Ham Lake, Minnesota; Jason Flippen (Stacey) of Eden Prairie, Minnesota; and Craig Flippen (Amy) of Andover, Minnesota. She also leaves behind her cherished grandchildren: Ryan Snook (Raelynn), Jessica Williams (Elliot), Abbie Hoosline, Addie Fields, Brandon Flippen, Amber Flippen, Alyssa Flippen, Aubrey Flippen, Tyler Flippen, and Carter Flippen, along with six great-grandchildren who brought her pride and joy.

Linda is further survived by her sisters: Lana Borland of Sioux City, Iowa; La Dean Untiedt (Wayne) of Lake Park, Iowa; Leah Voehl (Darcy) of Prior Lake, Minnesota; and Lora Jacob (Gregory) of Sioux Falls, South Dakota; as well as many nieces and nephews who held a special place in her heart.

She was preceded in death by her father, Leslie (Les) Rush and her mother, Lucille (Habben) Rush.

A celebration of life has not been scheduled at this time.

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#29609

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#29508

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#29577

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Respectfully,
Mark Sullivan

President, Dickinson County Taxpayers Association

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Minimum Qualifications: Ability to work most Saturdays from 9:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Wednesday evenings from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Friday evenings 12:45 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Additional hours may be available. Ability to effectively communicate orally and in writing. Ability to provide quality customer service for library patrons of all ages. Experience with computer systems (word processing, database, spreadsheets, Internet). Ability to use a copy machine, computer and other office equipment and electronic devices.

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1009 9th St., Milford, IA 51351.
Applications are available at
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- Administrative tax support

QUALIFICATIONS

- 5+ years experience in administration, bookkeeping, or paralegal work
- Proficiency in QuickBooks and Excel
- Excellent organizational skills and attention to detail
- Ability to work independently and meet deadlines

HOW TO APPLY
Please email your resume and a brief cover letter to debbie@kcmtax.com

2-17c

IOWA LAKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

is accepting applications for a

COMMUNICATIONS/SPEECH INSTRUCTOR

on the Estherville Campus.

Primary responsibility is to teach a full-time assignment of classes defined by the College which includes classes taught face to face or over other virtual modalities. Must evaluate and report student performances and progress in courses in accordance with College and division policies and procedures. Will require travel between campuses. Master's Degree in Communications or Speech from a regionally accredited institution or a Master's Degree in related discipline with at least 12 graduate hours in communications or speech, in addition to, or within the degree. Prior teaching experience at the College level preferred. Salary commensurate with education and related experience for a 169-day contract. Paid sick and personal leave. Employee health, dental, and vision insurance. Partially funded family insurance available. Employee life and disability insurance. Retirement package. Review of applications will begin February 23, 2026.

View complete job description and application at www.iowalakes.edu/employment.

Contact Lynn Miller at lmiller@iowalakes.edu or 712-362-0409.

IOWA LAKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Human Resources, 19 South 7th Street, Estherville, IA 51334

EEO/AA Employer

3-19c

SHOP Local

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Tops Meetings

Tops Chapter #369, Spirit Lake, meets Friday mornings at 10:00am at the Spirit Lake United Methodist Church, 1812 Gary Avenue, Spirit Lake (use east door). If you are one that needs help with motivation and food planning to lose weight, this may be the support group for you. Visitors are welcome to attend their first TOPS meeting free of charge without obligation. For more information, call Betty Sangel at 712-320-4458.

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.

Al-Anon Meetings

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

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

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.

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.

Lakes Area Activity/Senior Center Schedule

Tuesday, January 27
12:00 - Dinner Date
12:00 Blood Pressure Checks
12:30 - Bridge
Wednesday, January 28
9:00 - Exercise Class
12:00 - Dinner Date
Thursday, January 29
10:00 - Strummers
11:00 - Tai Chi
12:00 - Dinner Date
1:00 - 500 Cards
3:00 - Cribbage
4:00 - Zumba
Friday, January 30
9:00 - Exercise Class
10:00 - Chair Yoga
12:00 - Dinner Date
Saturday, January 31
Facility Available For Rent
Sunday, February 1
Facility Available For Rent
Monday, February 2
9:00 - Exercise
12:00 - Dinner Date
1:00 - Mahjong
Tuesday, February 3
8:30 - Kiwanis
12:00 - Dinner Date
12:30 - Bridge
Dinner Date meals are available every weekday. Call 712-336-5247 by 1:00pm on Friday to reserve a meal for the next week. The pool table and ping pong room is open every weekday. The card room closes from 12-12:30 for cleaning. The facility is available to rent most weekends. The Lakes Area Activity/Senior Center is located at 2101 Zenith Ave in Spirit Lake.

Okoboji After Prom Fundraiser

Okoboji After Prom is selling the World's Best Dishcloths as a fundraiser to support a safe and fun After Prom event for Okoboji High School students. Bundles of six dishcloths are available for \$20.

Dishcloths can be purchased online (<https://square.link/uk5mZqDwC>) picked up at home basketball games, or by emailing afterpromokoboji@gmail.com for more information.

Thank you for supporting Okoboji After Prom and our local students.

Lake Park Mobile Food Pantry

The Food Bank of Iowa Mobile Food Pantry will be open for distribution on Thursday, February 5, 2026, from 4:30 - 6:30 pm at the Lake Park Methodist Church located at 1471 135th Ave, Lake Park. Registration will be inside the church beginning at 3:30 pm, you must be present to register. You may pick up groceries for someone that is not able to make it. Please do not line up at the front door (southeast corner of the church) before 3:30 pm. Please bring boxes, bags or containers for your groceries. Distribution will begin at 4:30 pm. Volunteers will help bring your groceries to your vehicle. Questions? Call the Lake Park Methodist Church at 712-832-3361 or Jerilyn Marra 712-348-0475.

Spirit Lake Library News

Children's Authors And Illustrators Week
by Jill Jennings

The first week of February is recognized as Children's Authors and Illustrators Week. I thought it might not have known were children's authors.

First up are a couple actors/singers who have written books for children. Julie Andrews, famous for her lovely voice and many movies, has written The Very Fairy Princess, among others. And Chris Colfer has written several juvenile fiction series such as The Land Stories, Roswell Johnson, and A Tale of Magic. He also has several stand-alone juvenile books.

Two athletes-turned-authors are John Cena who wrote Elbow Grease, and Kristi Yamaguchi, who wrote Dream Big, Little Pig. Cena is a WWE wrestler, and Yamaguchi is a gold medal-winning Olympic figure skater.

The Brand New Kid was written by Katie Couric, who is a well-known journalist.

Jamie Lee Curtis and Henry Winkler have several titles to their credit. Curtis has written many easy reader books, such as Big Words for Little People, Just One More Sleep, and Today I Feel Silly. Winkler, on the other hand, has written some juvenile fiction series. These include Alien Superstar, Detective Duck, and Here's Hank. They are both actors/producers, by the way.

Spike Lee is also an actor/producer ... and a director, too. He wrote Please, Puppy, Please.

Last, but not least, we have some comedians who have written children's books. Jeff Foxworthy of 'You might be a redneck ...' fame, wrote Dirt on My Shirt. Carl Reiner, who was also an actor/director/producer, wrote Tell Me Another Scary Story. And David Walliams, who is a British comedian and actor, wrote Grandpa's Great Escape, and The World's Worst Children.

This is just a handful of famous children's authors. There are more out there! We have all of these books at the SLPL either as a hardcopy book, or in a digital format. Explore some children's books during Children's Authors and Illustrators Week!

SLPL staff reading spotlight: Jill is reading With This Pledge (Carnton, #1) by Tamera Alexander.

Upcoming Activities:

- Monday, February 2, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Mah-Jongg
- Tuesday, February 3, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Quilters
- Wednesday, February 4, 12:30-4:00 p.m., Quilters
- Thursday, February 5, 10:00-11:30 a.m., Block Party
- Thursday, February 5, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Mah-Jongg

Milford Memorial Library News

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

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

Starting Monday, February 2, through Saturday, February 28, MML's Blind Date with a book is back! It could be funny or sad. You might be glad with the title you picked it or maybe not. A bookmark is located in each book. Return the completed bookmark to the library to be placed into a drawing. Drawing prizes are sponsored by the Friends of the Milford Library. Blind Date books are available for all age groups.

Young Adults (4th-12th Graders) are invited to MML's Y.A. Make Monday on Monday, February 9, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This month, you will be sewing a felt earbud case.

Don't know how to sew, that is ok. Instructions and help will be available. This is a free come-and-go event. For any questions, please contact the library by calling 712-338-4643 or by emailing milfordlibrary51351@gmail.com.

Join Milford Memorial Library on Monday, February 9, from 11:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., for All-Day Play. Discover new and exciting toys while having fun with friends. This is a come-and-go playtime. All toys are supplied by the library. For any questions, please contact the library by calling 712-338-4643 or by emailing milfordlibrary51351@gmail.com.

On Thursday, February 12, Milford Memorial Library is having After-School Adventures at 3:30 p.m. This month, we will be playing Valentine's Day Bingo. A small snack will be provided during this free event. For any questions, please contact the library by calling 712-338-4643 or by emailing milfordlibrary51351@gmail.com.

The Milford Memorial Library Book Club will be discussing Once There Were Wolves by Charlotte McConaghy on Tuesday, February 17, at 1:00 p.m. Any interested individuals are welcome to join and may find a copy of the book at MML. It is not necessary to attend all of the meetings, and you are welcome to come and go as you please.

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TOM HUYNH

THE IOWA GREAT LAKES FISHING CLUB'S
2026 SPRING FISHING SEMINAR



THURSDAY FEBRUARY 5, 2026

OAK HILL OUTDOOR | MILFORD
5 PM DOORS OPEN | 6 PM DINNER SERVICE
7 PM FEATURED SPEAKER

FREE MEAL FOR ALL MEMBERS AND FAMILY FOLLOWED BY SEMINAR.
NON-MEMBERS ARE ALSO WELCOME WITH \$10 MEAL CHARGE.
MEMBERSHIPS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR \$35 (SAME COST FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES).

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- Emsella:** A specialized "throne" that uses electromagnetic energy to strengthen the pelvic floor, often used for improving core stability and bladder control.
- Infrared Smart Sauna with Red-Light Therapy:** Unlike traditional saunas, this uses infrared heat to penetrate deeper into tissues. It includes pre-set programs for weight loss, detoxification, and anti-aging.



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2201 HWY 71 N | Okoboji, IA 51355

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

VISUAL ARTS



Pearson Lakes Art Center Biennial Exhibition
Through 2/21



What is Disability? Mural Project
Through 2/28



NEW Russian & Soviet Impressionism Collection
Through 5/31

PERFORMING ARTS

6/9 & 6/10 | Hotel California
A Salute to the Eagles | 7:30 PM | \$40/\$50
MEMBERS ONLY PRESALE 2/3-2/9

6/16 & 6/17 | The Texas Tenors
Country/Classical | 7:30 PM | \$40/\$50
MEMBERS ONLY PRESALE 2/10-2/16

6/23 | The Papa's And Mama's
Mamas and Papas Tribute | 7:30 PM | \$40/\$50
MEMBERS ONLY PRESALE 2/17-2/23

Call 712-332-7029 or visit lakesart.org to purchase presale tickets.

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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EDUCATION CLASSES

Register online or call 712-332-7029

NATURE COMPOSITION: MOSS WALL ART
With Samantha McCandless
Thursday, Feb. 12, 6-8pm OR
Saturday, Apr. 11, 10am-12pm | \$55/\$65 | All Levels, 21+

Design and assemble a beautiful square wall art piece using a mix of preserved moss, live air plants, and realistic faux succulents. Discussion of layout and composition will help you arrange natural textures and colors to create a low maintenance long-lasting work of art. All materials provided. Must register 1 week prior to class. Complimentary adult beverage supplied with each class.

CLOVERLEAF BASKET WEAVING
With Sandie Smith
Thursday, Feb. 26 | 5:30-7pm and
Saturday, Mar. 7 | 10am-3pm | \$55/\$65 | Intermediate, 18+

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


CULINARY CLASSES

Register online or call 712-332-7029

Valentine Cupcake Decorating
With Janet Steinbach of Lakes Cakes Biji Custom Cakery
Tuesday, Feb. 3 | 4pm-5:15pm
\$40/\$50 per Group, add additional child for \$10
Register by Jan. 29
Designed for kids ages 7-12 years and an adult to work together as a group. Decorate your own adorable animal inspired Valentine Cupcakes! Take away your 6 cupcakes in a bakery box to share with family and friends.


Create & Savor Cooking Class
With Marisa Sidles of Rissy's Dry Rubs and Seasonings
Saturdays | 6pm | \$80/\$90
Registration required 3 days before each class.
In this hands-on cooking class, Marisa will guide you in preparing a delicious decadent meal, glass of wine included!
Feb. 14: Buttery Lobster Ravioli
Mar. 14: A Night In Naples

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.



THE LAKES NEWS SHOPPER

Client TESTIMONIAL




I have been advertising with The Lakes News Shopper for my entire time at Sunshine Foods in Milford the past 10 years. I can honestly say that they are my most powerful tool in my advertising toolbox. John and the entire staff at The LNS are always easy to work with, approachable, and quick to reply when we are planning our ads. Their creativity is out of this world with the design and layout of our weekly ads.

My favorite benefit of advertising in The Lakes News Shopper is when I am too busy to spend a ton of time planning an ad, I can always rely on them to be the creative side of my advertising, and they always deliver on their promises!

We also see fantastic results from our ads in The Lakes News Shopper. Our front page ad in October was a home run! We were 4th of July busy at 8AM and crushed sales all day long, selling out of many items by noon with record sales for the day, thanks in large part to the ad in The LNS!

The grocery business is a nonstop business and very intense at times. Having The Lakes News Shopper ease the stresses of advertising is always something that I appreciate and fully recommend.



Travis Kennedy
Sunshine Foods
Milford, Iowa

