



THE LAKES NEWS SHOPPER™

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- Lana

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Customer's #1 Choice for Luxury Comfort, Cooling & Quality at an Affordable Price

Select Inventory In Stock & Ready to Deliver!

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Specializing in a great night's sleep

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Sat. 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. • Sun. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

THE LNS

LOVE LOCAL

this Valentine's Day

Love Local Contest Details

To Enter the Drawing, LNS Readers & Online Followers Must:

1. Follow the participating businesses under the "LNS Love Local" header(s) on their social media business pages.
2. Comment on The LNS Facebook Page by Thurs., Feb. 12th at 5pm your top choice for a gift certificate from a participating business for a chance to win!
3. Tag a friend!

A random drawing will be held on Feb. 13th to determine winners of next weeks gift certificates.

Fall in Love with Something New!

Shop Local at

Kari's

fine clothing for women

513 Grand Ave Spencer • 262-8058
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Give Her the Gift of the Hal Effect:

Luxe Nails & Lashes

Services Include:

- Spa or Gel Manicure
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- Classic, Hybrid, Volume

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2230 33rd Street Spirit Lake

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The GLAM ROOM by Hal

Valentine's Day SPECIAL OFFERS

Celebrate with your Valentine at El Mariachi Bar & Grill

Located inside the Great Lakes Mall

Fajita El Mariachi for Two.....\$20.99

Grande Appetizer Platter.....\$11.99

Medium Maragarita (Any Flavor)...\$7.00

28 oz. Draft Beer.....\$6.00

Carry Out Orders Call (712) 339-9669

El Mariachi Bar & Grill

1511 18th St. Spirit Lake, IA

Hours: Mon-Sat 11am-9pm
Sun 11am-8pm

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Hours: Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri. 10-5; Thurs. 10-6; Sat. 10-4; Sun 12-4

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\$1 OFF DRINKS

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LOVE LOCAL

this Valentine's Day

THE LNS

Simply Pristine Laundry

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WASH AND FOLD \$2.50 PER POUND

TWIN/FULL \$15 QUEEN/KING \$15

TWIN/FULL \$15 QUEEN/KING \$22

\$12

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COMFORTER

BATH MATS

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REGULAR SHIRT

REGULAR DRESS

BLOUSE

BLOUSE WITH STARCH

CHILD SHIRT

JERSEY

MENS DRESS SHIRT

DRESS PANTS

CHINOS/DENIM/CORDUOYS

NO ANIMAL BEDDING OR ITEMS/ NO FORMALS

PICK-UP AND DELIVERY MONDAY AND THURSDAY 8AM-12PM

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Simply Pristine Clean & Laundry

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Residential & Commercial Cleaning

PSALM 51:10 CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART, O GOD

1207 P. Ave., Milford

Follow us on

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at Simply Pristine Clean

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3. Tag a friend!

A random drawing will be held on Feb. 13th to determine winners of next weeks gift certificates.

SUPERIOR, IOWA

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Superior

GRILLE

& SOFTAIL SALOON

Happy Valentine's Day

Saturday, February 14

Prime Rib Dinner

Choice of Potato and Bringing Back our Salad Bar with homemade salads!

Daily Lunch and Evening Specials

Next Fish Fry

Friday, Feb. 20

4:30pm

Open: Wednesday - Sunday at 10am

Hwy. 9 - Superior, IA • 712.858.4500

Let the Good Times ROLL!

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

All-You-Can-Eat Wings & Bowling \$20

SERVING HOMEMADE PIZZA!

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Cosmic Bowling

Great Food & Great Drinks!

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LUNCH at 11am with Lunch Specials

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Sunshine Foods carries a massive variety of specialty items that the big guys—and even the dollar stores—simply don't touch. We aren't just another stop on your errand run; we're a local original!

DIFFERENT than the corporate giants

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Good Coffee, Great Donuts!

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CALL TODAY FOR YOUR VALENTINE'S DAY ORDER

HOODIES, T-SHIRTS & GIFT CARDS AVAILABLE

ENJOY 2 FOR \$6

Unique Sweet Treats For Your Valentine!

HOURS: THURSDAY - SATURDAY: 6:30 AM - 1 PM

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LOUNGE AND GRILLE

Celebrate Galentine's & Valentine's at The Peacock!

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13

GALENTINE'S GIVEAWAYS • GAMES

Special on Galentine's Day Cocktails

Schoon Bros. | 7:30-11PM

Design Your Own Hat!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

VALENTINE'S DAY

Paper Moon | 6PM

Steak for 2

Make Your Reservations Today!

UPCOMING EVENTS

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

FAT TUESDAY PARTY

ENJOY A TASTE OF NEW ORLEANS!

- LOBSTER BISQUE - JAMBALAYA - CORN FRITTER IN REMOULADE SAUCE

- SHRIMP BOIL PACKETS - OYSTERS BLENNVILLE - SOUTHERN FRIED CATFISH NUGGETS

- W/ ZESTY CAJUN TARTAR - BREAD PUDDING W/ JACK DANIELS CREAM SAUCE

- SPECIALTY COCKTAILS: SAZERAC (OLD FASHIONED) & HURRICANE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

BUNCO | 6PM

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20

SCOTT KIRKHART | 8PM

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

POKER TOURNAMENT | 11AM

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK FOR EVERYTHING FUN AT THE PEACOCK

575 HWY 71 • Arnolds Park, IA

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HOURS: MON. - FRI. 4PM

SAT. 11AM | SUN. 2PM

VALENTINE'S DAY FLOWERS

Delivered to You!

Fresh Flowers, Plants, Gifts, Wedding, Sympathy & Much More!

Valentine's Day this Saturday Feb. 14th

ORDER TODAY

HOMETOWN FLORALS

Visit our NEW Location!

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125 N. Market St.

Lake, Park, IA

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FULL BAR | DINE IN | CARRY OUT | MENU ONLINE

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20% OFF SWEATSHIRTS

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100s TO CHOOSE FROM

Huge Shipment of NEW Baby Clothes & Swaddles

Last Year's Designs
30-50% OFF

ALL Pictures 20% OFF

MAKING SPACE FOR NEW!

Jelly Cat • Puzzles • Books • Entire Upstairs for Kids

Sip, SHOP, DINE!



RECIPE CORNER

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

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

Peanut Butter Bars

Serves 12-15

BARS:
1 1/2 cup oleo
1/2 cup white sugar
1/2 cup brown sugar
1 egg
1/3 cup peanut butter
1 tsp. vanilla
1/4 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. soda
1 cup flour
1 cup oatmeal

FROSTING:
1 cup powdered sugar
1/4 cup peanut butter
1 tsp. vanilla
1 tsp. butter
2 Tbs. or little more milk

In a large bowl, cream together the oleo and both sugars until light and fluffy. Incorporate the egg, peanut butter, and vanilla, mixing well. Fold in the sifted dry ingredients. Spread the batter into a 9x13 pan and top with chocolate chips. Bake at 350°F for 15-20 minutes. Let the bars cool for about 5 minutes. While they rest, whisk the frosting ingredients together until smooth (adding milk a teaspoon at a time until it's spreadable).

Recipe Courtesy of: **Jantina Carney & Judy Soisma**



CARSTENSEN'S Meat & Grocery

712-832-3620
201 Market Street
Lake Park

Fresh Asparagus
\$2.99 Per lb.

Certified Angus Beef Ribeye Steak
\$15.99 Per lb.

Fully Cooked St. Louis Ribs
\$9.99 Per lb.

Beef Butt Tenderloins
\$18.99 Per lb.

LOVE YOUR COMMUNITY

FEBRUARY 1ST-28TH

WE'RE GIVING SHOP LOCAL-MOTIVE A REFRESH!
LOVE YOUR COMMUNITY IS A GREAT WAY TO SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES & CELEBRATE ALL THE THINGS THAT MAKE OUR SPIRIT LAKE COMMUNITY SPECIAL.

PARTICIPATING BUSINESSES:
Allure & Co • Bedell Family YMCA • Bird Haven • Black Earth Java (Spirit Lake) • Boji Powersports • Burger & Company / The Revelry
Carpet One • Custom Creations • Consignment Corner • Dixon Family Chiropractic • Drip Okoboji • Essential Float • Fareway
Ferguson's Garden Center • Fisherman's Factory Outlet • Godfather's Pizza • Holland House • Interior Sewing by Lisa
Jennings Tow & Repair • Jimmy John's (Spirit Lake) • Kurio Kastle • Lagniappe Tea Room • Lakes Laser
Natural Family Chiropractic • Pizza Ranch • Pub 19 • Rooted Boutique • Scooter's Coffee • Shoreline Threads
Spirit Lake Silver & Gold • Sportsman's / The Venue • The Look Fashions • The Well • Timeless Consignments • Toast on Hill • Twetten's Interiors

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**

Visit the businesses listed on the card and enjoy a meal, beverage, shopping, or other experience. With any purchase, have your card stamped for a chance to win Chamber Bucks or Gift Cards from participating businesses!

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).

PRESENTING SPONSOR:  **WEEKLY SPONSORS:**      

Hansen Named to Deans' List

Bailey Hansen of Spencer has been named to the Deans' List at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for the fall semester of the 2025-26 academic year.
Hansen, a junior majoring in biochemistry, was named to the Dean's List for the College of Arts and Sciences.
For the full Deans' List, visit <https://go.unl.edu/deanslist-fall25>.

SHORELINE THREADS

WINTER OLYMPIC DEALS

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gold medal
SAVE 50% OFF

silver medal
SAVE 40% OFF

bronze medal
SAVE 30% OFF

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

SHOP IN-STORE & SCAN FOR ONLINE

UPDATES & DEALS POSTED DAILY!

GET YOUR GOLF CART NOW-CHECK OUT THESE DEALS!

NEW GOLF CARTS

2026 Yamaha Drive2 EFI QuieTech, gas, black touring seat, black top..... **\$11,100**
2025 Evolution D5 Ranger 2+2, sky blue..**\$6,500**
2025 Evolution D5 Ranger 2+2, black..... **\$6,500**

USED GOLF CARTS

2023 Icon Golf Cart, custom wheels, radio & cooler **\$5,750**
2022 Club Car, electric, custom wheels **\$5,950**
2020 Yamaha Drive2, headlights, taillights, rear seat **\$5,450**
2019 Yamaha Drive2, electric..... **\$3,350**
2019 Yamaha Drive2, electric..... **\$3,350**
2018 Yamaha Drive2, gas **\$3,750**
2018 Yamaha Drive2, gas **\$3,750**
2018 Yamaha Drive2, gas, headlights, taillights, rear seat **\$4,750**
2017 Club Car Precedent, lift kit, custom wheels, radio..... **\$3,950**
2016 Yamaha G29 EFI, gas **\$3,350**
2014 E-Z-GO, electric **\$2,450**
2008 E-Z-GO, electric **\$1,650**
2006 E-Z-GO, electric **\$1,950**

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•Seasonal Rentals •Weekly and Weekend Rentals

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Sales and Service
712-332-1370
crcartsauto.com
309 Okoboji Ave., Milford south end of Milford

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

44th Annual Iowa Great Lakes Walleye Weekend: Registration Open!

Calling all fishermen and women: get ready to kick off the 2026 walleye season in the Iowa Great Lakes during the 44th Annual Walleye Weekend on May 2nd and 3rd. Online registration is now open! The fun weekend forming memories with friends and families is reason alone to get excited, but there is one other aspect that you can't forget: the \$44,000 GRAND PRIZE!

The cost of the tournament is \$30 for entrants aged 16 and older, and \$15 for those aged 15 and younger. The Extended Contest is only an additional \$20 and allows you to continue to fish for one of the tagged walleye through August 31st. The first walleye caught during the extended contest heads home with 20% of the proceeds generated from the contest, the second receives 15%, and the third receives 10%. Don't miss out on this great opportunity to catch a fish worth thousands this summer!

In addition to the tagged walleye, there are also fantastic prizes for the heaviest stringer of 3 walleye, heaviest northern pike, heaviest stringer of 5 panfish, and heaviest stringer of 10 bullhead. Well over \$3,500 in prizes for the largest fish contests will be available.

The Biggest Walleye Tournament returns on the FishDonkey app. Download the app today and pay \$20 to be entered into this additional aspect of Iowa Great Lakes Walleye Weekend! The top three largest walleyes will be awarded a portion of registration fees. Cast your chance at some CASH!

Walleye Weekend officially begins at 12:01 AM on Saturday, May 2nd and concludes at noon on Sunday, May 3rd. For more information regarding the 43rd Annual Walleye Weekend, please visit www.okobojichamber.com or call 712-332-2107.

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& ENJOY

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GREAT STYLES
FRIENDLY SMILES

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- "Old Boyfriend" Jewelry
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- Scrap Gold
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www.spiritlakesilverandgold.com

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OPEN Monday-Saturday 10AM-5:30PM

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OPEN MON-SAT 10-5:30
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 - The Look Fashions
 - MediaCom
 - Spirit Lake Silver & Gold
 - Spirit Spa
 - Valvoline
 - Wild Child



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MULTIPLES







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

Celebrate Love This Valentine's Day!





LOVE YOUR COMMUNITY

Celebrate Love Your Community event all month long—shop, collect stamps, and earn exciting rewards. Swing by in-store for all the details!

SPIRIT LAKE SILVER & GOLD

Follow us!  

GREAT LAKES MALL | 712-336-5405 | SPIRITLAKESILVERANDGOLD.COM | OPEN MON-SAT 9AM-5:30 PM

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

Family Nature Night

Looking for a free family game night outing? Bring the whole family to Family Nature Night: Love What’s Left at the Dickinson County Nature Center on Friday, February 27th, from 5:00-6:00 p.m.

The night will start off with a story about endangered animals, and the group will discuss what endangered animals are and some of the species that are listed in Iowa. Teams will be designated for a Jeopardy-style game to challenge players’ nature knowledge.

To wrap up the night, families will meet Teddy, the Nature Center’s ornate box turtle, and create a turtle inspired craft to take home as a reminder of the animals they learned about and the role we all play in caring for Iowa’s wildlife.

“Test your animal trivia knowledge with a game night outing”, said Community Relations Coordinator Amy Heibult. “The Nature Center’s ornate box turtle, Teddy, will make a debut to meet families up close.”

Registration is required to attend prior to 5:00 PM on February 25 by visiting the Event List on www.dickinsoncountynaturecenter.com. Like and follow the Dickinson County Nature Center on Facebook and Instagram for the latest updates and event announcements.



Freedom Trivia Night

The Dickinson County Republican Women cordially invite you to Freedom Trivia Night on Thursday, February 19, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Lost Oar and Paddlefish Bar in Arnolds Park. Gather your friends to test your political knowledge in a fun, high-energy environment featuring music, patriotic prizes, and a true spirit of freedom. Guests are encouraged to arrive early to guarantee a spot; you may bring a pre-arranged team of four or easily join a team upon your arrival. Your generous free-will offering will help the organization strengthen and grow as it works to make a meaningful impact in our community, state, and country. If you have any questions, please call or text Sandy at 712-320-5517.



Okoboji FFA Grilling

The Okoboji FFA will be celebrating National FFA Week and will be hosting their annual grilling with the students on Sunday, February 22nd. They will be serving hamburgers, chips, cookies and drink for \$8.

The grilling will take place at the Okoboji High School Lunchroom from 11:00 to 1:00. Everyone is welcome. The Okoboji FFA hopes to see you there!



Sip, SHOP, DINE!

LAKES REGIONAL HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION

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THE Grape Escape

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\$1,250 SPONSORS:

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\$1,000 SPONSORS:

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AUGUST 17TH, 2026 | 6:00PM
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Iowa Lakes Corridor to Host Conversational Management workshop


The Iowa Lakes Corridor Development Corporation (Corridor) is hosting their next Corridor Connections workshop: Conversational Management with Tim Cosby on February 18.

Conversational Management will introduce an “always-on” coaching model that leverages real-time conversations on the job – on the shop floor, in the office, over the phone, or traveling to visit a client – to build bench strength continuously. Drawing from research and real-world coaching experience, Tim Crosby will show attendees how a majority of leadership development actually happens on the job through everyday interactions. Attendees will also learn how Conversational Management will distribute development across leadership team building ability, engagement, and retention.

Tim Cosby is the Co-Founder and President of Culture Impact, a division of Empowerment Coaching Network, Int'l, Inc. based in Grand Rapids, MI. He leads transformational coaching programs that redefine managerial paradigms. With 15 years of experience as a professional executive coach, he has served a notable roster of clients including Holland Freight, Wolverine Worldwide, and Samaritas.

“We look forward to hosting Tim for our next Corridor Connections event,” said Corridor President & CEO Curt Strouth. “He brings a wealth of experience in empowering managers to engage with employees in an innovative way, and we hope attendees will walk away with new strategies to build a culture of leadership in their organizations.”

The Corridor Connections event will be held on Wednesday, February 18th from 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. at the Northwest Bank Corporate office in Spencer. This event is free for Corridor investors to attend, but space is limited. Reserve your spot at lakescorridor.com/connect.



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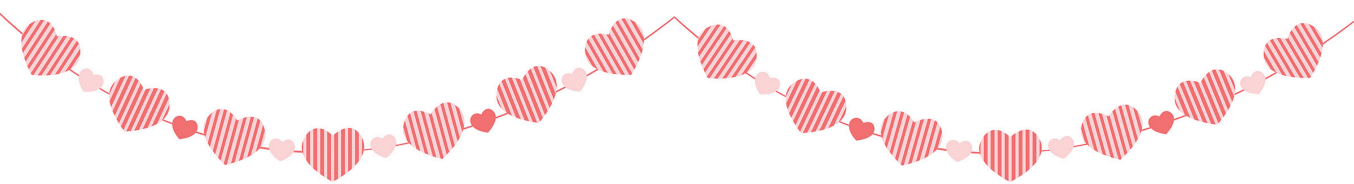


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90th Birthday Announcement

You're invited to help this great lady celebrate her 90th birthday. There will be an open house on February 21, from 2:00 - 4:00pm, at the Milford Community Center Milford, Iowa. Coffee, punch and cake will be provided.

If you are unable to attend and would like to send her your birthday wishes, please mail to Mary Ellen Sonius, 1307 Maywood Avenue, Milford, Iowa 51351.



Steffens Named to Dean's List

Congratulations to Zachariah Steffens, of Spirit Lake, who was named to the 2025 fall semester Dean's List at Saint Mary's University. The list includes undergraduate students who earned a grade point average of 3.60 or better on a 4.0 scale.

Local Students Named to President's and Deans' Lists at Drake University

The following local students have been named to the Deans' and President's Lists at Drake University.

To be eligible for the Deans' List, students must have earned a GPA of 3.5 or higher during the Fall 2025 semester at Drake.

To be eligible for the President's List, students must have earned a perfect 4.0 GPA during the Fall 2025 semester at Drake.

The following students were named to the Dean's List: Lucy Hemann, Addison Hoben, Kirsten Small, and Josie Thompson all of Spencer.

The following students were named to the President's List: Paityne Gehring and Teegan Jones of Spirit Lake.

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.



Community and Connection Flourish at Occasions in Spencer

Occasions in Spencer continues to fulfill its mission of enriching lives through a robust calendar of social and educational opportunities. Located at 104 East 4th Street, the center serves as a vibrant hub for local residents, offering a diverse array of daily activities designed to foster community connection. From the strategic challenge of Mah-Jongg, Bridge, and Snooker to the physical wellness found in Tai Chi and chair exercise classes, the facility provides something for everyone. Morning coffee hours and competitive card games like 500 and Ponytail Canasta ensure that the atmosphere remains lively throughout the week.

The center is particularly excited to highlight several upcoming special events, including the popular monthly Breakfast Fundraiser on Sunday, February 15. From 8:00am to 12:30pm, guests can enjoy a menu of biscuits and gravy, scrambled eggs, and pancakes, complemented by a Bloody Mary bar, all available via a free-will offering. The educational component of the center's mission takes center stage on Wednesday, February 18, following the weekly Dig In Luncheon. City Manager Kevin Robinson will serve as the guest speaker, providing insights into local governance and community developments.

Looking further ahead, Occasions invites the public to save the date for the high-energy Mingo Music Bingo event on Friday, March 20, 2026. The evening kicks off with a cocktail hour at 5:00pm, followed by games starting at 6:00pm. Occasions in Spencer maintains regular operating hours from 9:00am to 4:00pm Monday through Thursday, and 9:00am to 2:00pm on Fridays. Whether through a shared meal or a friendly round of bingo, the center remains dedicated to providing a welcoming space where individuals can connect and grow.



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15th Annual Family Fest Returns to Clay County Regional Events Center

Families across Northwest Iowa are invited to attend the 15th Annual Family Fest on Saturday, February 28, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Clay County Regional Events Center. The event is free to attend and offers a morning packed with hands-on activities, learning opportunities, and family fun for all ages.

Family Fest has become a beloved community tradition over the past 15 years, bringing families together to play, explore, and connect with local organizations. The event features interactive exhibits, imaginative play spaces, and educational experiences designed to engage children while encouraging quality family time.

Family Fest offers a variety of hands-on activities and interactive exhibits from local organizations, including the Spencer Family YMCA, Spencer Hospital, and other community partners. Children will also have the opportunity to meet local first responders at Safety City, sponsored by Spencer Municipal Utilities, with representatives from the Clay County Sheriff's Office, Spencer Fire Department, and Spencer Police Department on site.

Families can also enjoy Tiny Town, sponsored by Community State Bank, an imaginative play space for young children; a Reading Nook hosted by Spencer Public Library and Spencer Reads; a Kids Zone with engaging activities; and booths from local nonprofits and vendors highlighting community resources.

A limited number of vendor booth spaces are still available for businesses and organizations interested in participating in Family Fest. Those interested can contact Stacey Meyer, Event Services Director, at 712-580-3000 or events@claycountyfair.com for more information.

Sponsorship opportunities are also available. Sponsors receive recognition and on-site acknowledgments, along with the opportunity to host a 10'x10' booth at the event. Customized sponsorship packages may be available. To learn more, contact Brent Burns, Partnership Director, at 712-580-3000 or brent@claycountyfair.com.

For families looking for a free, engaging way to spend a winter Saturday together, Family Fest offers something for everyone.



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Barbara Clayton Announces Candidacy for Dickinson County Supervisor District 2

Barbara Clayton, a 30-year resident of Dickinson County, announced her candidacy for County Supervisor District 2 at the February 2 Republican Caucus in Spirit Lake.

“I’ve called this place home for three decades. Joe and I have raised our family here, and watched our community grow,” Clayton said. “I’m running to protect our rights, our environment, and our way of life in this unique county.”

District 2 encompasses Big Spirit Lake, along with the north and west parts of the City of Spirit Lake, including Center Lake.

Clayton has been actively involved in local issues, particularly by advocating against large-scale wind projects proposed by outside interests (e.g., from Chicago), attending nearly every related meeting and hearing, and pushing to strengthen the county's wind ordinance.

Why She's Running

- Promote fiscal responsibility: to end the cycle of heavy property taxation and excessive county reserves. Your money should stay in your pocket, not the county's vault.

- Increase transparency: You deserve to know exactly where every tax dollar goes — no more surprises like a \$7M off budget project, decided in 3 meetings, with no public input, and in the board's words “no idea how to pay for it”.

- Protect and preserve Dickinson County's quality of life: Our lakes, our recreation, and our way of life are under constant pressure — I will stand up and protect what makes this county special instead of letting it be chipped away by outside corporate interests.

- Support local families, farmers, and businesses, I'll work to keep life affordable so you can thrive where we live, work, and play.

- Provide common-sense leadership that listens and delivers practical solutions.

“I’ve been attending the County Supervisor meetings for 5 years and am committed to being a strong knowledgeable voice for the people of Dickinson County.” Clayton added. “We’ve got a great county—let’s be thankful and respect it.”

Clayton will file for the June 2nd primary election. She looks forward to meeting voters at community events and hearing their concerns.

For more information, to get involved, or to arrange an interview: Contact Barbara Clayton Phone: 712-330-1288 Email: barb@claytoncompany.net Facebook: Vote Barb Clayton

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Seasons Center for Behavioral Health Receives High Marks in ACT Fidelity Report

The University of Iowa Health Care Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health recently conducted a fidelity review of Seasons Center's Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) program. Seasons achieved a score of 113 out of 140 possible points, placing the program in the highest implementation bracket as defined by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) is an evidence-based, 24/7 team-based care model for individuals with severe, persistent mental illness who struggle with traditional outpatient services. The multidisciplinary team provides comprehensive, personalized, community-based services to reduce hospitalizations, improve housing stability, and foster independence. The fidelity evaluation reviewed how closely Seasons Center's ACT program follows the evidence-based ACT model of care and scored the program based on data collected from chart reviews, interviews with clinicians, administrative staff, clients, observation, and any additional documents provided by the agency. Key areas of review included human resources, organizational boundaries, and nature of services.

The fidelity review report was completed by Nancy Williams MD, Center of Excellence for Behavioral Health; University of Iowa Healthcare. In the report, Dr. Williams stated, “Spencer is fortunate to have access to a mental health center that is dedicated to evidence-based care and supported by a high-functioning ACT team. The team is thoughtful and strategic in planning for rural service delivery, including travel considerations, scheduling, and coordination to ensure consistent access and continuity of care. Despite geographic challenges, the team adapts its approach to meet client needs while maintaining the core principles of the ACT model.”

“The ACT team's strong fidelity rating is a testament to their dedication, collaboration, and daily work in the community,” said Dr. Rebecca McCrackin, VP of Clinical Services at Seasons Center. “It highlights the team's clinical excellence, strong team culture, and unwavering commitment to serve clients in the best way they need.”

“Our team works as a unit and glides through the muddy waters together,” said Amber Utesch, ACT Team Lead at Seasons Center. “Without this team-based approach, we would not have been as successful in the fidelity review or in making the ACT program work as it should to take care of clients.”

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Dance in Brewster

Steve Lang and Bobby will be providing music for the dance on Saturday, February 14th, at the Brewster Legion, 7-10:30. Great music and dancing so come and enjoy the evening.



Family Services Resource Guide

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

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DAILY SPECIALS at 11am

DAILY SPECIALS

- Wed., Feb. 11: Pan Fried Chicken Pork Tenderloin Melt
- Thur., Feb. 12: Scalloped Potatoes Chicken Philly
- Fri., Feb. 13: Country Fried Steak
- Mon., Feb. 16: Hot Beef Taco Salad
- Tues., Feb. 17: CLOSED

Friday Night Special
Fish Fry • 10 oz. Ribeye
Saturday Night Special
Prime Rib • Grilled Walleye

Menu
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.

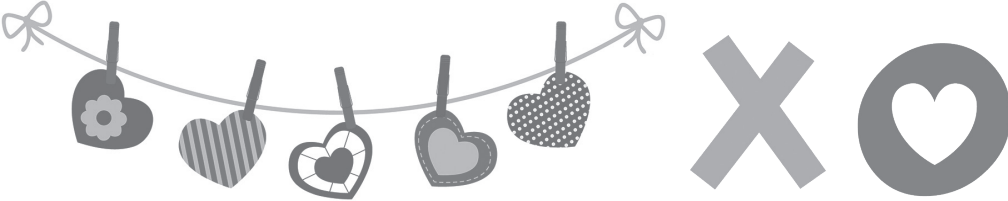
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ChanhassenDT.com



arts ON GRAND

CALLING ALL ARTISTS

Work is now being accepted for the
1st Biannual JURIED SHOW
ENTRY FEE IS \$20 OR STUDENT FEE OF \$10

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

| | |
|------------------|--|
| March 17 | APPLICATIONS DUE |
| April 17 | NOTIFICATIONS SENT OUT |
| April 21-May 2 | DELIVERY OF ARTWORK WITH SIGNED CONTRACT |
| May 11-June 30 | EXHIBITION |
| June 13 | OPENING RECEPTION 11-2 |
| July 1 and after | ARTIST PICK UP |

WINNER OF THE JURIED SHOW RECEIVES THEIR OWN EXHIBIT 2027! HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WILL BE EXHIBITED ON OUR EMERGING ARTIST WALL

SCAN FOR APPLICATION 

Little Swan Lake Winery
Life... Drink It In!
We are open for walk-ins & tasting!
Winter Hours: Thursday-Sunday 11am-6pm

Let's Make a Date! Saturday, February 14
Valentine's Event with Meal and Music!
Bison Tenderloin Meal \$55/person
Music by Mark Lair 6-8pm

Sunday, Feb. 15
Ryan Sather & Dave Rowley
Bison Linguini! 4-6pm

Saturday, February 21
CERAMICS & WINE
1-4pm
CERAMIC PAINTING!
Enjoy Wine and Free Munchies while you paint!

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
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VALENTINE'S WORD SEARCH

WORDS

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

ADMIRER
ADORATION
AFFECTION
BOUQUET
CANDLELIGHT
CARD
CHERISH
CHOCOLATE
CUPID
DEVOTION
EMBRACE
FLIRT
HEART
KEEPSAKE
LETTERS
LOVE
PASSION
PROPOSAL
ROMANCE
ROSES
SENTIMENT
SOULMATE
SWEETHEART
VELVET

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

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PUBLIC WELCOME

Stones Throw Gift Shop

Hours: Saturday & Sunday 10am - 4pm

Men's & Ladies' Clothing, Okoboji Sportswear & Souvenirs, Ladies' Accessories, Swimsuits, Home Décor, Nautical & Gifts

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WEST LAKE OKOBOJI

West Side of West Lake Okoboji on Hwy. 86 712-337-3223



HUNTING/FISHING SPOTLIGHT





SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!
SEND US AN EMAIL AT MICHELLE@LNSPRINT.COM

BE SURE TO INCLUDE ANY OR ALL THE FOLLOWING!

| | |
|--|--|
| HUNTER FIRST NAME* | HUNT LOCATION* (STATE HUNT TOOK PLACE) |
| HUNTER LAST NAME* | SPECIES* |
| NAME OF PERSON SUBMITTING (IF OTHER THAN HUNTER) | WEAPON |
| PHONE | UNIT/AREA |
| EMAIL | YEAR HARVESTED* |
| | SIZE/SCORE |

THE LNS



Dickinson County Honored at Northwest Iowa Extension Awards Ceremony

Dickinson County proudly stood out at the recent Northwest Iowa Awards Ceremony hosted by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, receiving one of the six top awards. Sue Boettcher was recognized with the Spirit of Cy Award.

Sue Boettcher brings energy, creativity, and the true Cyclone spirit to everything she does. With more than 25 years of dedicated service to ISU Extension and Outreach, Sue exemplifies the Spirit of Cy through her leadership, mentorship, and unwavering positivity. She has fostered a collaborative and supportive environment that empowers colleagues, celebrates successes, and inspires innovation. Sue’s passion for Extension’s mission and her contagious enthusiasm have left a lasting impact on staff, volunteers, and communities across Iowa.

Congratulations to Sue for this well-deserved recognition! Her dedication continues to strengthen the youth, families, and communities of Dickinson County.



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SUNDAY AT 9:30 AM
OR ONLINE AT HARBOROFJOY.COM

*"Create in me a pure heart, O God,
and renew a steadfast spirit within me."
- Psalm 51:10*



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ON SW CORNER
OF BUILDING.
ITEMS AVAILABLE 24/7

JOYKIDS Every Wednesday at 3:30PM



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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 

Community Table
All are Welcome to a **FREE MEAL**
2nd Thursday of each month all year

Next Dinner
Thursday, February 12
5:30-6:30
Doors open at 5:15
Located at Okoboji Bible Conference Center
45 S. Hwy 71, Arnolds Park, IA

This Month Hosted
and Sponsored by

Spirit Life Fellowship
Church of the Good News

Join us for
BREAKFAST
Sunday, February 15th
8:30 am - Noon



Free Will Offering

**Sausage Gravy over Biscuits,
Ham & Cheese Egg Bake, Sausage
& Vegetable Egg Bake, French Toast Bake,
Cinnamon Rolls, Caramel Rolls,
Orange Juice and Coffee.**

Lakes Area Activity/Senior Center
2101 Zenith Avenue • Spirit Lake
(under the water tower)



**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 uukoboji.com for dates and program schedule.
We are a progressive, liberal welcoming congregation



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

Feb. 17: Shrove Tuesday - 11 am service
Pancakes 12 noon at Jarvis Grill, Lake St., Spirit Lake
Feb. 18: Ash Wednesday - 5 pm service
Email: office@stalbanseiscopalchurch.org
Website: stalbanseiscopalchurch.org
The Episcopal presence in the Iowa Great Lakes Area
23rd & Zenith Ave. • Spirit Lake • 712-336-1117

SHROVE TUESDAY
PANCAKE DINNER
FEB. 17 @ 5-7PM

Immanuel Luth. Church
Hwy. 71 & 27th Street
1 Block South of
Lakes Regional Hospital

All-You-Can-Eat
Pancakes, Sausages, &
Beverages

Free Will Donation

Proceeds support
Immanuel's Youth
Ministry



Worship at the Rock – A Fresh Beginning
"And on this rock I will build my church." – Matthew 16:18


You're invited to experience Worship at the Rock,
a reimagined contemporary worship gathering at
Spirit Lake United Methodist Church.

Thoughtfully designed to be engaging, welcoming, and meaningful,
this new worship experience stays grounded in who we are—
loving God and neighbor, connecting with one another,
serving our community, and growing in faith.

Whether you're searching, returning, or simply curious, **Worship at the Rock**
offers a space to connect hearts to God and to each other, encounter Christ in fresh ways,
and discover a community where you truly belong.

Grand Re-Opening:
Sunday, February 15th at 10:30am
Spirit Lake United Methodist Church

Come As You Are. Come Be Connected.
Find Your Place at the Rock.



Spirit Lake United Methodist Church
1812 Gary Ave. Spirit Lake, IA
712-336-3115 | spiritleakumc.org



MILFORD KIWANIS PRESENTS

FUN BINGO
Nights

2ND AND 4TH
THURSDAYS OF
THE MONTH

Feb. 12TH • BINGO 6-8
Card sales begin at 5:30

MEAL PROVIDED BY VFW AUXILIARY FOR JUST \$7.00!

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

Spirit Lake VFW • 914 Lake Street

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

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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Milford, IA

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

Always Something Happening at 
104 East 4th Street, Spencer

Mondays: 1pm- Mahjong, Snooker Bingo/Bridge
Tuesdays: 7am- Coffee with Randy
10:30am- Chair Exercise
1pm- 500, Snooker
Wednesdays: 10:30am- Tai Chi
11:45am- Dig-In Luncheon
Speaker 3rd Wed. of Every Month
1pm- Ponytail Canasta, Snooker
Thursdays: 10:30am- Chair Exercise
1pm- Bingo, 500/Pinochle, Snooker
Fridays: 9am- Coffee 'Klatch'
12:30pm- Movie Every Other Week (1st & 3rd Weeks)
1pm- Snooker

February 18th Dig-In Speaker
City Manager • Kevin Robinson

BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER
JOIN US THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH!
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15TH
8am-12:30pm
Biscuits & Gravy, Scrambled Eggs, Pancakes and Bloody Mary Bar.

FREE WILL OFFERING

- SAVE THE DATE! -
MINGO • Music Bingo
Friday, March 20th

You Are Not Alone!



Celebrate God's Heavenly Valentine With Us!
Free Community Meal
Fun, Food & Fellowship
When: Sunday, Feb.15th – 6:00-7:30 PM
Where: Founder's Hall – Okoboji Bible Conference Grounds
7 S. Highway 71, Arnolds Park

life360 AG
OKOBOJI

"Surely I am with you always even to the very end of the age" (Mt. 28:20).

Valentine's Night at the Legion

Fun Time Dance invites you to a lively evening of music and movement on Saturday, February 14th. Held at the American Legion in Brewster, Minnesota, the event runs from 7:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. and features live performances by Steve Lang and Bobby. This dance is open to the general public, and both singles and couples are warmly encouraged to attend.



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AT PARKS MARINA

Valentine's Day Dinner

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\$75 per Couple



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Italian & American Cuisine
from our made from Scratch Kitchen!

Thursday is Pasta Night!

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 14
VALENTINE'S DAY SPECIALS**

- ♥ Special Valentine's Menu
- ♥ Dinner & Drink Features - while supplies last
- ♥ Make Your Reservations Now!

TUESDAY: \$5 Hamburgers!

15 Dam Road, Arnolds Park • 712-337-3238
WINTER HOURS: TUES. - SAT. 5PM-CLOSE



BULLS & BREWS
TICKETS ON SALE



MARCH 13 AND 14

RESERVED SEATING
VIP TABLE OPTIONS

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Community Breakfast Fundraiser

The Lakes Area Activity/Senior Center invites the public to a community breakfast on Sunday, February 15, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Guests can enjoy a delicious spread featuring sausage gravy and biscuits, egg bakes, French toast bake, and fresh caramel and cinnamon rolls, served alongside orange juice and coffee. While the event is open to everyone, a freewill donation is encouraged to support the center. The breakfast will be held at 2101 Zenith Ave in Spirit Lake, under the water tower.



You'll Love Our Valentine's Special

Good February 13-14



ONLY \$49.99*

Steak & Shrimp for 2

USDA Choice 6 oz. grilled sirloin steak topped with garlic butter, served with four butterfly shrimp per dinner, your choice of two sides and cocktail sauce. Each dinner is served with a slice of pie*

Offer good February 13-14
*not valid with any other coupons or discounts

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.



Coupon Expires: March 10, 2026

Valid only at Perkins® Restaurant & Bakery located at Boji 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. Mutilated, tampered, forged, or photocopied coupons are not accepted. Sales tax, if applicable, must be paid by customer. Please present coupon when ordering.

Lakes Area Activity/Senior Center
Stop in and see what we have to offer!!!

SCHEDULED PRESENTATIONS/EVENTS:

- Tuesday, February 10, 12:30 PM — DeNeitt — RSVP Coordinator
- Tuesday, February 17, 12:30 PM — Mary Prentice — Topic: Medicare Updates
- 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 FEBRUARY DINNER DATE MEALS!

Reserve your meal for next week
Low Cost: \$7-\$10 Donation
A Gift Certificate for Dinner Date Meals is the Perfect Gift!

| 16 Monday | 17 Tuesday | 18 Wednesday | 19 Thursday | 20 Friday |
|--|--|------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Shake-n-Bake Chicken Vegetable Fruit & Bread | Ham & Swiss Sliders Vegetable Fruit | Meatball Sub Vegetable Fruit | Grilled Pork Chop Vegetable Fruit & Bread | Sausage Skillet 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



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Dr. Mark Milleman Joins Northwest Iowa Urologists, PC


Spencer, Iowa — Northwest Iowa Urologists, PC and Dr. Charlotte Caligiuri, DO are pleased to welcome Dr. Mark Milleman, MD to their practice and the Spencer medical community. Dr. Milleman brings extensive experience in the diagnosis and treatment of a wide range of urological conditions and is now seeing patients.

Dr. Milleman joins the practice after relocating from Wisconsin and is board certified in Urology. He earned his bachelor's degree from Cornell University in New York before completing his medical degree at The University of Iowa College of Medicine. His advanced training includes a fellowship at Charité Medical School in Berlin, Germany, and a residency at The Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee.

Dr. Milleman is known for his patient-centered approach to care, guided by a philosophy he summarizes as: "I practice medicine and treat patients how I would like to be treated — ethically, empathetically, and timely. Placing them and their desires first and foremost."

Outside of the clinic, Dr. Milleman enjoys spending time with his family, attending his sons' tennis matches and activities, hunting, fishing, and enjoying the outdoors. He and his wife are proud parents of two sons.

Patients interested in scheduling an appointment with Dr. Milleman may contact Northwest Iowa Urologists, PC, located within Spencer Hospital, at 712-262-6214.



View From The Bench

by John Adams, Jr.

Stirtz Stirs the Hawks

Bennett Stirtz once again showed that he is one of the best guards in the nation on Sunday, rescuing Iowa from what would have been a very bad loss at Carver Hawkeye Arena against a 10-13 Northwestern team, scoring a career-high 36 points while playing all 40 minutes in Iowa's 76-70 win over the Wildcats. Stirtz, as is usually the case, was very efficient in this game, picking his spots as to when to take over, going 12/20 from the field, including 4/6 from the 3-point line, while also making all eight of his free throw attempts; any time Iowa needed a bucket to answer a Wildcat run, Stirtz was there with either a driving layup or his patented step-back three-pointer. The win is Iowa's sixth straight BIG victory and moves the Hawkeyes to a very impressive 18-5 overall record with an 8-4 conference mark. Iowa was just out of the AP Top 25 last week, but I would imagine this week they would be ranked anywhere from #22-24, which is something no one would have predicted in head coach Ben McCollum's first season in Iowa City.

The thing that I love about Stirtz, and his game is that you cannot tell if he is having the best game or the worst game of his career as his facial expressions and body language never changes. He plays the game with such a calmness that resonates with the rest of his younger Hawkeye teammates and has been such a huge factor to their success this season. I'm not going to lie, I questioned whether Stirtz's game would translate from Drake to the BIG, and after struggling in December games at Michigan State and vs. Iowa State, I thought the night in and night out wear and tear of playing against high-end defenders at that level might be too much for him. It also appeared that Stirtz might be wearing down during Iowa's three-game BIG losing streak, as he went just 6/27 from the three-point line in those losses. Stirtz, however, has found another gear during this winning streak and helped propel Iowa squarely into the NCAA Tournament, now fighting for seeding instead of just to get in the tournament. Stirtz averaged 27 points per game in Iowa's sweep of their West Coast trip last week in games at Oregon and Washington, which were two big wins for a team that was at the time on the NCAA bubble.

The BIG and the Big 12 are definitely the top two conferences in the nation this year, with both dominating the Top 10. Iowa currently sits in sixth place in the BIG and has a particularly good chance to finish in the Top 5 of the conference, which would be an amazing accomplishment for this team, and one that would be largely due to McCollum's coaching and Stirtz's play. These two are obviously perfect for each other, having won wherever they have coached and played together, whether that is at the DII level, the mid-major level and now the Power 5 level. How far Iowa advances in the NCAA Tournament will no doubt depend on where they end up being seeded and of course what kind of matchup they receive. We all know that one thing that drove Iowa fans crazy about Fran McCaffery was his inability to reach the Sweet 16, as Iowa has not been there since 1999, and Hawkeye fans are hoping that McCollum can put an end to that drought. One thing I know, if any one player can help McCollum accomplish that daunting task, it's definitely Stirtz!

LEARN TO SHOOT TRAP!

.....

Spring League Registration NOW OPEN for The Okoboji Trap Team!

Home Club: Twin Forks Trap & Skeet Club

- Shoot at "Home" on Sunday Afternoons
- 15 Iowa Teams Competing
- Minimal Travel

The Leagues Priorities are **SAFETY FUN MARKSMANSHIP**

Welcoming New Shooters Boys & Girls, Grades 6-12 All Dickinson County Athletes able to join our League!

OKOBOJI TRAP TEAM
2026

No Experience Needed • Loaner Guns Available
WE WANT YOU!

1st Practice Sunday, March 29
1 Day State Shoot Saturday, May 30

Text or Call Rick Kalsow at 712-330-7775 to learn more about how to get registered or answer any questions you may have.





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Monday-Friday 9 am - 5 pm;
Saturday 9 am - 4 pm; Thursday 'til 7 pm

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AND DROP YOUR NEEDLE!

vinyl seminar

Everything you need to know about records (but were afraid to ask)

FREE Ultra Sonic Record Cleaning (one per customer)

SAT., FEB. 14TH! 1 PM

VINTAGE VINYL 20% OFF USED • 10% OFF NEW



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Just for fun, we'll fire up the big McIntosh/Klipsh Reference System & listen to music. Hear your favorite song on a premier reference system!

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Lakes Area Activity/Senior Center Schedule

Tuesday, February 10
12:00 - Dinner Date
12:30 - Dinner Date
Speaker: DeNeitt—RSVP Coordinator
12:30 - Bridge

Wednesday, February 11
9:00 - Exercise Class
12:00 - Dinner Date

Thursday, February 12
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, February 13
9:00 - Exercise Class
9:50 - Chair Yoga
12:00 - Dinner Date

Saturday, February 14
Facility is available for rent

Sunday, February 15
8:30 - Breakfast Fundraiser

Monday, February 16
9:00 - Exercise
12:00 - Dinner Date
1:00 - Mahjong

Tuesday, February 17
8:30 - Kiwanis
12:00 - Dinner Date
12:30 - Speaker - TBD
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. Books are available to borrow or read. Puzzle table ready for you to put a puzzle together. Pop Tabs are being collected for Ronald McDonald House. The facility is available to rent most weekends. Join us for our upcoming Breakfast Fundraiser February 15, 8:30am - noon. The Lakes Area Activity/Senior Center is located at 2101 Zenith Ave in Spirit Lake.

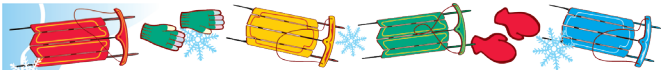
YOUR AGENT!

MARILYN STRICKLAND
Broker - Associate
Hoien Realty

712-336-2790 or 712-320-7070

THE LAKES NEWS Auctions

Page 2B



Nature Night Out

Couples! Do you need some time to reconnect in nature away from the kids for a bit? The Dickinson County Nature Center is hosting a free special event, Nature Night Out, on Friday, February 13th, from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

During the evening at Maser Monarch Lodge, couples will learn about Dutch oven cooking equipment and techniques, then make some sweet treats. Couples will also enjoy a quiet time together, outside gathering natural materials to later create a heart home decoration.

Need someone to watch the kids? Childcare will be provided for children three years or older, and they must be fully potty-trained. Youth will spend time at the Nature Center in Pollinator Paradise, meet some of the nature center's live animals, and make Valentine's Day cards.

This event is designed for adults (18+) who are looking for a free and fun date night together in a distraction-free, natural setting. Adults and children must be registered to attend, and separate links can be found online under Programs/Events at www.dickinsoncountyconservationboard.com. Registration is open until 5:00 p.m. on February 11th, so don't wait to reserve your spot.

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.

DNR to Recap Hunting Seasons, Discuss Possible Rule Changes

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is hosting a series of town hall-style meetings where local staff provide updates on recently completed hunting seasons, discuss possible changes to hunting rules and regulations, and address other topics as requested.

Locally, the Iowa DNR will be at Maser Monarch Lodge, 22785 Nature Center Road, in Okoboji, on March 4. The meeting begins at 6 p.m.

"We want people to come out, listen to the hunting seasons reviews, ask questions and hear directly from our staff," said Todd Bishop, chief of the Iowa DNR's Wildlife Bureau. "Part of the meeting will be devoted to discussing potential rule changes and collecting feedback as we work through the rules process."

The meetings are open to the public. Comments collected from these public meetings will be considered along with other related comments received by the Iowa DNR prior to proposing changes to hunting rules and regulations. Proposed rules will be presented to the Natural Resource Commission during a regular public meeting for consideration and additional public comment.

Comments received during previous listening sessions have resulted in regulation changes, including modifying and removing areas closed to Canada goose hunting, establishing later goose season dates and increased bag limit, expanding the raccoon hunting and trapping season on private land, modifying Iowa's antlerless deer quotas in north central and western Iowa, and extending the regular trapping season through the end of February.

Any person attending the public meeting and has special requirements, such as those related to mobility or hearing impairments, should contact the Iowa DNR or ADA Coordinator at 515-725-8200, Relay Iowa TTY Service 800-735-7942, or Webmaster@dnr.iowa.gov, and advise of specific needs.



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Marriage Retreat at Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp

Enjoy your own Valentine's Day Getaway! On February 13-15, Ingham Okoboji 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.okoboji.org/marriage-retreat or by calling 1-800-OKOBOJI.

Word Search Puzzle Key from page 9A

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Spirit Lake Library News

New Test Prep Courses Available From Mometrix by Jill Jennings

For some of our library patrons, a standardized test is the next obstacle to overcome in reaching career or educational goals. Mometrix's mission is to help people pass the exam standing between them and the next step in their career. Online test prep resource Mometrix eLibrary recently launched a variety of new study courses, study guides, flashcards, including K-12 study guides and workbooks. The new offerings join more than 4,500 other test prep materials in the Mometrix database. It covers subjects from foundational education to specialized trades and advanced academic fields. This online resource is available to all Iowa residents and authorized users and is funded by an appropriation from the Iowa Legislature.

You can find Mometrix on our website slpublib.com under "Digital Services." You will have to create an account for yourself with an email and password. When you arrive at the Mometrix eLibrary home page, you will see that it is very user friendly. There's even a short "How to use the Mometrix eLibrary" video that you can watch to get started navigating the site. Click on the "Employment Resources" button to get even more help applying to a college or for a job. If you have any questions, please contact the Spirit Lake Public Library at (712) 336-2667.

Other ways that the SLPL might be able to help are printing out your resume from our public computers, setting up a job interview via Zoom in our Proctor Room or just having a quiet place to research college applications or employment opportunities.

SLPL staff reading spotlight: Nancy is reading Cottage by the Sea by Debbie Macomber on Libby, The Long Night by Christian White, Fake I.D. by Lamar Giles, and A Fever in the Heartland by Timothy Egan.

- Upcoming Activities:**
- Monday, February 16, 10:00-11:45 a.m., Movie Matinee
 - Monday, February 16, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Mah-Jongg
 - Tuesday, February 17, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Quilters
 - Tuesday, February 17, 7:00-8:00 p.m., Evening Edition Book Club at The Revelry (Theme: Romance books)
 - Wednesday, February 18, 10:30-11:30 a.m., Page Turners Book Club (Intermezzo by Sally Rooney)
 - Wednesday, February 18, 12:30-4:00 p.m., Quilters
 - Thursday, February 19, 10:00-11:30 a.m., Block Party
 - Thursday, February 19, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Mah-Jongg

\$2,500 Donation Boosts Northwest Iowa Habitat for Humanity

Northwest Iowa Corridor Habitat for Humanity has received a \$2,500 donation from Northwest Bank, made possible through a contribution from Elan Financial Services as part of the bank's valued partnership with Elan. Donation presentation includes Northwest Bank Iowa Corridor Habitat for Humanity board member Shelby Schmidt, Northwest Bank representatives, Angie Peterson & Jed Jensen, board members, Sara Frerichs, Jerry Welter, Jan Bowles, Valerie Watters and Joe Bjornstad-Executive Director.

The donation will support Habitat for Humanity's ongoing work of building strength, stability, and self-reliance through affordable homeownership.

This contribution reflects the shared commitment between Elan Financial Services and Northwest Bank to investing in organizations that strengthen local communities and make a positive lasting impact. Partnering with companies that share a similar vision and focus on community investment allows Northwest Bank to extend its impact beyond banking services and into meaningful local initiatives. Habitat for Humanity partners with families in need to help them build, rehabilitate, and repair homes, empowering individuals and families with a safe, and affordable place to live.

"We are honored to provide Northwest Iowa Corridor Habitat for Humanity this donation to support the meaningful work they do in our communities," said Jed Jensen, Bank President of Northwest Bank in Spirit Lake. "Access to safe, affordable housing is foundational to strong communities, and we are honored to help support an organization dedicated to making homeownership possible for local families."

Northwest Iowa Corridor Habitat for Humanity representatives expressed appreciation for the donation, noting that community partnerships play a vital role in advancing their mission and expanding their impact.

Northwest Bank is a \$2.9 billion community-focused financial institution providing a comprehensive range of services, including business, agricultural, mortgage, consumer deposit and lending solutions, as well as wealth management services. With locations across Iowa—Afton, Algona, Ames, Ankeny, Arnolds Park, Creston, Estherville, Fort Dodge, Humboldt, Le Mars, Milford, Shenandoah, Sioux Center, Sioux City, Spencer, Spirit Lake, and West Des Moines—and in Nebraska—Omaha and La Vista—Northwest Bank is dedicated to serving its communities. Member FDIC.

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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.

For additional Lakes Area Listings go to Hoiien.com

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Valentine's day

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.

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.

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Obituary

A funeral service for **Byron Sampson**, age 91, of Sioux Center, formerly of Primghar and the Lakes Area, was held Monday, February 9, 2026, at Turner Jenness Funeral Home in Spirit Lake.

Byron passed away on February 5, 2026, at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Byron E. Sampson was born on January 23, 1935, the son of Robert and Mildred (Hirt) Sampson. He was raised on a farm near Primghar, Iowa, received his education in the Hartley and Primghar school systems and graduated from high school in 1953. Byron enlisted in the United States Army in 1953 and proudly served his country until his honorable discharge in 1957, attaining the rank of First Sergeant.

Byron met the love of his life, Dorothy Pierce, at a dance in Spencer, Iowa. The couple was united in marriage on August 17, 1958. Their marriage of 65 years was blessed with five beautiful daughters.

A lifelong farmer, Byron took great pride in the land and the life he built for his family. He cherished time spent with his daughters, their spouses, his grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Byron also had a passion for golf and proudly recorded eight holes-in-one over the years.

After retiring, Byron and Dorothy enjoyed dancing and traveling together, spending time in Florida, Texas, and Mississippi, making many treasured memories along the way.

He will be lovingly remembered by his five daughters, Jan Schimmer, Julie Pape, Jennifer Meyer, Karen Raymond and Karmen Staples; twelve grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren; sisters, Marilyn Tesch, Elsin Petersen and Shirley Ney.

He was preceded in death by his beloved wife of sixty-five years, Dorothy Sampson; his parents, Robert and Mildred Sampson; his brothers, Milton Sampson and Kenneth Sampson.

Arrangements were under the care of Turner Jenness Funeral Home.

Obituary

Kirk Joseph Eilers was born November 8, 1972, and passed December 15, 2025, in Venice Beach, California.

Kirk Joseph Eilers lived a life of quiet purpose and determination. Born to Robert Francis Eilers and Kathleen Ruth Eilers (Zwiebahrer), he joined his older brother Chris as the second of four siblings, later welcoming Kent and Kimberly.

Kirk took pride in his academics and was part of many athletics and activities during his school years. From trips with Science Club, weekend long wrestling tournaments, show choir competitions, speech and debate tournaments and weekends watching Twin Peaks with the crew at mom and dad's house. He was active in Boy Scouts which instilled his passion for the outdoors. He earned the highest rank, Eagle Scout. As a proud graduate of Okoboji High School Class of 1991, he furthered his education at South Dakota State University. He later earned his degree in Political Science from the University of Iowa.

His career in political research and campaign strategy took him across the United States. He lived in Montana, Washington DC, Florida, North Carolina and found his home in California. Kirk worked on numerous campaigns and research projects, most recently with the RAND Corporation, where he analyzed charitable donor data. Kirk was a man of simple pleasures. He enjoyed building and creating; from homemade banjos to complex bicycles. He loved spending time cycling with Venice Electric Light Parade or wandering down Abbott Kenny on Food Truck Fridays, which made his foodie heart happy!

Kirk adored his family and the time he spent with them. He loved watching football with the boys. He shared his passion for movies, gaming and cooking with his nieces and nephews, siblings and parents.

He was preceded in death by his father, Robert Eilers. Kirk is survived by his mother, Kathleen Eilers (Des Moines, IA); his siblings, Christopher Eilers (Des Moines, IA), Kent & Kami Eilers (Milford, IA), and Kimberly & Joseph Jackson (Kansas City, MO); and his cherished nieces and nephews.

Kirk lived boldly, never being afraid of new chapters and adventures.

Graveside services will be held Saturday, February 14, 2026, at 1:30 PM at Calvary Cemetery, 225th St, Milford, Iowa. Please join us immediately after for memories and fellowship at Florence Park Shelter House 901 H Ave Milford, Iowa.

Arrangements are under the care of Turner Jenness Funeral Home.

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THE LAKES NEWS
Auction Calendar

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Spirit Lake K of C Recognizes Dennis Kurth

Dennis Kurth was honored for his 40 years of service to the community and his church on Feb. 2. He received an honorary plaque and hearty congratulations from his Brother Knights at the monthly meeting of the Knights of Columbus Iowa Great Lakes Council 5043 at St. Mary Parish in Spirit Lake.

Deputy Grand Knight Johnny Klaschen presented Kurth with the well-deserved recognition for 40 years of membership and unwavering dedication to the council and to the values it stands for, including charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism. In fact, Kurth was a Fourth Degree Knight and represented the Knights during numerous Honor Guard Ceremonies. His commitment to showing up, serving faithfully and setting the example has made a lasting impact.

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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Clay County Fair Charitable Trust Announces Segway Side-by-Side Raffle

The Clay County Fair Charitable Trust is announcing its Segway Side-by-Side Raffle, giving supporters the opportunity to win a 2025 Segway UT10 P Side by Side sport vehicle while helping support the future of the Clay County Fair.

The vehicle is generously provided by Smart Powersports of Okoboji, and raffle proceeds will benefit the Clay County Fair Charitable Trust.

Raffle tickets are available online only, with one chance to win for \$25 or five chances to win for \$100. Participants must be 18 years of age or older to enter. The raffle is open to anyone.

Ticket sales will close on Sunday, September 20, 2026, at 5:00 p.m., with the winning ticket drawn and announced later that day at the Clay County Fair. The winner does not need to be present to win.

Applicable sales tax, license, and registration fees will be paid by the winner.

Established in 1993, the Clay County Fair Charitable Trust is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring a blue-ribbon future for "The World's Greatest County Fair." Funds raised through the Trust help support new facility construction, renovations to existing buildings, and long-term improvements that preserve the Fair's rich heritage and traditions for future generations.

Raffle tickets can be purchased online at <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/clay-county-fair-charitable-trust-segway-side-by-side-affle--2026>

For questions regarding donations or the Clay County Fair Charitable Trust, please email brent@claycountyfair.com.

Thank you to Smart Powersports of Okoboji for their support.

Founded in 1993, the Clay County Fair Charitable Trust is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to ensuring a blue-ribbon future for "The World's Greatest County Fair." The Trust supports capital improvements, facility upgrades, preservation efforts, and donor-driven programs that enhance both fair-time and year-round use of the Fairgrounds.

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.

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MSRP \$49,644 / **Okoboji Best Price \$46,409**
1.99%¹ APR / 72 months
Lease Special \$466* - 3 year/10,000 miles



NEW

2026 TOYOTA TACOMA SR5
MSRP \$44,274 / **Okoboji Best Price \$41,739**
1.99%¹ APR / 72 months
Lease Special \$430* - 3 year/10,000 miles



NEW

2025 TOYOTA TACOMA SR5
MSRP \$46,094 / **Okoboji Best Price \$43,381**
1.99%¹ APR / 72 months
Lease Special \$399* - 3 year/10,000 miles



NEW

2026 TOYOTA TACOMA TRD OFF-ROAD
MSRP \$47,668 / **Okoboji Best Price \$44,875**
1.99%¹ APR / 72 months
Lease Special \$515* - 3 year/10,000 miles



NEW

2026 TOYOTA TACOMA TRD OFF-ROAD
MSRP \$50,999 / **Okoboji Best Price \$47,735**
1.99%¹ APR / 72 months
Lease Special \$550* - 3 year/10,000 miles



NEW

2026 TOYOTA TUNDRA SR5
MSRP \$55,008 / **Okoboji Best Price \$48,678**
2.99%¹ APR / 72 months
Lease Special \$599* - 3 year/10,000 miles



NEW

2026 TOYOTA SEQUOIA PLATINUM
MSRP \$85,113 / **Okoboji Best Price \$78,227**
Lease Special \$815* - 3 year/10,000 miles



NEW

2026 TOYOTA COROLLA LE
MSRP \$25,723 / **Okoboji Best Price \$24,221**
Lease Special \$330* - 3 year/10,000 miles





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The Okoboji Store is seeking a Front of House Manager to lead our service team and help create memorable guest experiences. This role combines leadership, hospitality, and hands-on management in a fun, fast-paced lakeside environment.

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WOMEN'S RAFFLE!

Iowa Great Lakes Pheasants Forever Annual Banquet

FEBRUARY 28TH, 2026

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

DICKINSON COUNTY EXPO BUILDING

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Use QR Code for Tickets

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

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| <div>SUNNY DEAL!</div> <div>Red Ripe Strawberries</div> <div>1 lb.</div> <div>\$2.98</div> <div></div> | <div>SUNNY DEAL!</div> <div>Valentine's Day Roses</div> <div>Dozen</div> <div>\$19.98</div> <div></div> | <div>SUNNY DEAL!</div> <div>Fresh Raspberries</div> <div>6 oz.</div> <div>\$2.98</div> <div></div> | <div>SUNNY DEAL!</div> <div>Dole Hearts of Romaine, Italian, or American Blend Salad</div> <div>9-11 oz.</div> <div>\$2.98</div> <div></div> | <div>SUNNY DEAL!</div> <div>Crisp Green Cabbage</div> <div>Per lb.</div> <div>68¢</div> <div><div>National Cabbage Day Feb. 17th!</div></div> | |
| <div>SUNNY DEAL!</div> <div>California Navel Oranges</div> <div>4 lb.</div> <div>\$4.98</div> <div></div> | <div>SUNNY DEAL!</div> <div>Fresh Lemons or Limes</div> <div>Each</div> <div>4/\$2</div> <div></div> <div>MUST BUY 4 or 69¢ Each</div> | <div>SUNNY DEAL!</div> <div>Red Seedless Grapes</div> <div>Per lb.</div> <div>\$2.98</div> <div></div> | <div>SUNNY DEAL!</div> <div>Del Monte Red Grapefruit Chunks</div> <div>52 oz.</div> <div>\$9.98</div> <div></div> | <div>SUNNY DEAL!</div> <div>Best Choice Red Potatoes</div> <div>5 lb.</div> <div>\$2.98</div> <div></div> | <div>SUNNY DEAL!</div> <div>Mini Sweet Peppers</div> <div>1 lb. Bag</div> <div>\$2.98</div> <div></div> |
| <div>SUNNY DEAL!</div> <div>New York Strip Steaks</div> <div>USDA Choice, Beef, Boneless, 10 oz. Each</div> <div>\$7.99</div> <div></div> | <div>SUNNY DEAL!</div> <div>Beef Arm Roasts</div> <div>USDA Choice, Boneless, Per lb.</div> <div>\$5.99</div> <div></div> | <div>SUNNY DEAL!</div> <div>Sunshine's Own Butcher Fresh 85% Lean Ground Beef</div> <div>Family Pack, Per lb.</div> <div>\$5.99</div> <div></div> | <div>SUNNY DEAL!</div> <div>Chicken Breast</div> <div>Grade A, Boneless, Skinless, Tray Pack, Per lb.</div> <div>\$2.99</div> <div></div> | <div>SUNNY DEAL!</div> <div>Smokin' Boji BBQ</div> <div><div><div>FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK</div><div>Smokin Boji BBQ</div><div>For all of our Specials!</div></div><div><div>Smoked Chicken 2 Hindquarters \$4.89 Per lb.</div><div>Smoked Whole Chickens \$7.99 Each</div><div>Pulled Chicken \$9.99 Per lb.</div><div>Pulled Chicken with Sauce \$8.99 Per lb.</div></div><div><div>Smoked Chicken Dinner 3 pc. with 2 Sides \$5.99 Each</div><div>All Pizzas 2/\$20</div><div>Okoboji Original</div><div>For Catering Call: 712-330-3998</div><div>Smokinbojibbq@gmail.com</div><div>18 to 24 hour notice required</div></div></div> | |
| <div>SUNNY DEAL!</div> <div>Pork Chops</div> <div>USDA Inspected, Bone-In Center Cut, Per lb.</div> <div>\$2.99</div> <div></div> | <div>SUNNY DEAL!</div> <div>Prairie Fresh Marinated Pork Loin Fillets</div> <div>18.4-27.2 oz.</div> <div>\$4.99</div> <div></div> | <div>SUNNY DEAL!</div> <div>Premium Coldwater Lobster Tails</div> <div>4 oz.</div> <div>\$7.99</div> <div></div> | <div>SUNNY DEAL!</div> <div>Alaskan Pollock Fillets</div> <div>Per lb.</div> <div>\$3.99</div> <div></div> | <div>SUNNY DEAL!</div> <div>Sea Best Salmon Fillets</div> <div>1 lb.</div> <div>\$7.99</div> <div></div> | <div>SUNNY DEAL!</div> <div>Best Choice Fully Cooked Shrimp</div> <div>41/50 Ct., 1 lb.</div> <div>\$8.99</div> <div></div> |
| <div>DIGITAL DEAL!</div> <div>Knorr Rice or Pasta Sides</div> <div>4-5.8 oz.</div> <div>4/\$5 AD PRICE</div> <div>-1.00</div> <div>4/\$4</div> <div></div> <div>MUST BUY 4 DIGITAL COUPON LIMIT OF 1 COUPON USE</div> <div>Must use digital app to get digital coupons. Limit 1 coupon use per customer.</div> | <div>SUNNY DEAL!</div> <div>Hunt's Pasta Sauce</div> <div>24 oz. Cans Traditional, Garlic/Herb, or Meat</div> <div>99¢</div> <div></div> | <div>SUNNY DEAL!</div> <div>Hormel Black Label Sliced Bacon</div> <div>1 lb.</div> <div>\$4.99</div> <div></div> | <div>SUNNY DEAL!</div> <div>Bar S Franks</div> <div>Jumbo or Bun Length, 1 lb.</div> <div>3/\$5</div> <div></div> | <div>SUNNY DEAL!</div> <div>Land O' Frost Deli Fresh Lunchmeats</div> <div>9 oz.</div> <div>2/\$5</div> <div></div> | <div>SUNNY DEAL!</div> <div>Best Choice Fish Portions or Sticks</div> <div>11.4-12 oz.</div> <div>\$3.99</div> <div></div> |
| <div>SUNNY DEAL!</div> <div>Kraft Macaroni and Cheese, Premiums or Shapes</div> <div>5.5-7.25 oz.</div> <div>4/\$5</div> <div></div> | <div>SUNNY DEAL!</div> <div>Frito-Lay Cheetos</div> <div>6.5-10 oz.</div> <div>\$3.99</div> <div></div> | <div>SUNNY DEAL!</div> <div>Frito-Lay Ruffles</div> <div>5.5-10.25 oz.</div> <div>2/\$7</div> <div></div> | <div>SUNNY DEAL!</div> <div>Best Choice Potato Chips</div> <div>7.5-8 oz. Var.</div> <div>\$1.88</div> <div></div> | <div>SUNNY DEAL!</div> <div>Zesta Saltine Crackers</div> <div>7.5-16 oz.</div> <div>\$2.88</div> <div></div> | <div>SUNNY DEAL!</div> <div>Starkist Tuna Pouches</div> <div>2.6-4.5 oz.</div> <div>\$1.99</div> <div></div> |
| <div>SUNNY DEAL!</div> <div>Chips Ahoy or BelVita Cookies</div> <div>5-13 oz.</div> <div>\$3.99</div> <div></div> | <div>DIGITAL DEAL!</div> <div>Dannon Oikos, Too Good or Light and Fit Yogurt</div> <div>4.5-5.3 oz.</div> <div>10/\$12 AD PRICE</div> <div>-2.00</div> <div>10/\$10</div> <div></div> <div>MUST BUY 10 DIGITAL COUPON LIMIT OF 1 COUPON USE</div> <div>Must use digital app to get digital coupons. Limit 1 coupon use per customer.</div> | <div>SUNNY DEAL!</div> <div>Kellogg's Pop-Tarts</div> <div>8 Ct.</div> <div>\$1.99</div> <div></div> | <div>SUNNY DEAL!</div> <div>Best Choice Honey Bear</div> <div>12 oz.</div> <div>\$3.99</div> <div></div> | <div>SUNNY DEAL!</div> <div>Hunt's Ketchup</div> <div>20 oz.</div> <div>\$1.19</div> <div></div> | <div>SUNNY DEAL!</div> <div>Swanson Broth or Stock</div> <div>32 oz. Chicken or Beef</div> <div>2/\$5</div> <div></div> |
| <div>SUNNY DEAL!</div> <div>Best Choice Premium Ice Cream</div> <div>48 oz. Flavors</div> <div>\$2.88</div> <div></div> | <div>SUNNY DEAL!</div> <div>Kemp's Crafted Collections Premium Ice Cream</div> <div>48 oz. or 12 Ct. Ice Cream Cups</div> <div>\$4.79</div> <div></div> | <div>DIGITAL DEAL!</div> <div>Roma Original Pizza</div> <div>11" and Bellatoria Personal Pizza 8"</div> <div>3/\$9 AD PRICE</div> <div>-1.00</div> <div>3/\$8</div> <div></div> <div>MUST BUY 3 DIGITAL COUPON LIMIT OF 5 COUPON USES</div> <div>Must use digital app to get digital coupons. Limit 5 coupon uses per customer.</div> | <div>SUNNY DEAL!</div> <div>Coke Products</div> <div>12-Pack Cans or 8-Pack 12 oz. Bottles</div> <div>\$5.99</div> <div></div> <div>MUST BUY 3</div> <div>Diet Coke</div> | <div>SUNNY DEAL!</div> <div>Powerade Body Armor</div> <div>8-Pack 20 oz. or 6-Pack 16 oz.</div> <div>\$5.99</div> <div></div> | <div>DIGITAL DEAL!</div> <div>Fiora Bath Tissue</div> <div>12 Roll</div> <div>\$4.99 AD PRICE</div> <div>-1.00</div> <div>\$3.99</div> <div></div> <div>DIGITAL COUPON LIMIT OF 1 COUPON USE</div> <div>Must use digital app to get digital coupons. Limit 1 coupon use per customer.</div> |

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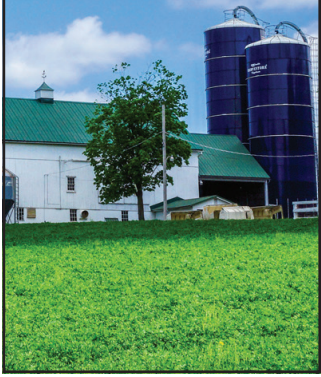
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Lakes Area Activity/Senior Center Wish List

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

Thank you for your donations!



Iowa Lakes Corridor Releases 2025 Annual Report

The Iowa Lakes Corridor Development Corporation (Corridor) unveiled their 2025 Annual Report of Activities at their recent Business Recognition Luncheon.

The Corridor's 2025 Annual Report outlines many accomplishments and developments in the region over the last year including new programs like the Homegrown Talent Initiative, Big IDEA Challenge, and Corridor Conversations Podcast. It also reports on other ongoing programmatic areas including business retention and expansion, business succession, business recruitment, entrepreneurship, legislative advocacy, workforce, housing, and childcare.

The Homegrown Talent Initiative is a program supported by an annual golf tournament hosted by the Corridor each year. In 2025, the first two grant recipients were chosen to receive a \$6,000 grant paid over four years to individuals who graduated from the region, went off to college or training program, and recently returned back to the region to live and work. These grant funds are paid for student loans, mortgage, or childcare expenses.

To assist entrepreneurs looking to start or expand their businesses, the Big IDEA Challenge brought five local business owners in to a pitch competition to compete for monetary awards. The Corridor Conversations Podcast launched in October 2025 with seven episodes in the first season talking to a variety of guests from the Homegrown Talent Initiative grantees, to local city leadership.

"Our Annual Report offers a snapshot of the momentum building across the region," said Corridor President & CEO Curt Strouth. "The accomplishments highlighted reflect strong collaboration between our team, partners, counties, and communities, and demonstrate a shared commitment to growing opportunity and investment throughout the Corridor."

The Corridor's full annual report can be viewed on their website at www.lakescorridor.com/report, by picking one up at the office or contacting the Corridor at 712-264-3474.



Milford Memorial Library News

Milford Memorial Library will be closed on Monday, February 16, in observance of Presidents' Day. We look forward to seeing everyone on Tuesday, February 17, when we reopen at 9:30 a.m.

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.



- February 16, 10:30 a.m. – No Building Bookworms- MML closed in observance of Presidents' Day
- February 23, 10:30 a.m. – Underwear

There is still time to register for MML's CrAFTER Hours on Wednesday, February 18, for French Pastry 101. From 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. we will be creating few different types of pastries. Cost is \$5.00 and you can register by calling Milford Memorial Library at (712)338-4643 or online.

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

No awkward or forced conversions during Milford Memorial Library's Blind Date with a Book. All wrapped books will have just a few describing words and the genre. It could be your new favorite or a dud. You won't know until you check it out. A bookmark is in each book. Return the completed bookmark to MML 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 until Saturday, February 28.

BIG NEWS! MML officially has Hoopla. Patrons asked and we have answered. Hoopla has audiobooks, eBooks, movies, music, series, and more. The best part is that it is all available now. That's right, no need to wait months to read the book. Register now at https://www.hoopladigital.com/register?page=REGISTRATION_WELCOME.



DNR to Recap Hunting Seasons, Discuss Possible Rule Changes

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is hosting a series of town hall-style meetings where local staff provide updates on recently completed hunting seasons, discuss possible changes to hunting rules and regulations, and address other topics as requested.

Locally, the Iowa DNR will be at Maser Monarch Lodge, 22785 Nature Center Road, in Okoboji, on March 4. The meeting begins at 6 p.m.

"We want people to come out, listen to the hunting seasons reviews, ask questions and hear directly from our staff," said Todd Bishop, chief of the Iowa DNR's Wildlife Bureau. "Part of the meeting will be devoted to discussing potential rule changes and collecting feedback as we work through the rules process."

The meetings are open to the public. Comments collected from these public meetings will be considered along with other related comments received by the Iowa DNR prior to proposing changes to hunting rules and regulations. Proposed rules will be presented to the Natural Resource Commission during a regular public meeting for consideration and additional public comment.

Comments received during previous listening sessions have resulted in regulation changes, including modifying and removing areas closed to Canada goose hunting, establishing later goose season dates and increased bag limit, expanding the raccoon hunting and trapping season on private land, modifying Iowa's antlerless deer quotas in north central and western Iowa, and extending the regular trapping season through the end of February.

Any person attending the public meeting and has special requirements, such as those related to mobility or hearing impairments, should contact the Iowa DNR or ADA Coordinator at 515-725-8200, Relay Iowa TTY Service 800-735-7942, or Webmaster@dnr.iowa.gov, and advise of specific needs.



Spencer Chamber to Host Eggs & Issues Legislative Forums

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

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

- Saturday, February 21, 2026 - Sponsored by Clay County Farm Bureau
- Saturday, March 28, 2026 - Sponsored by Northwest Bank

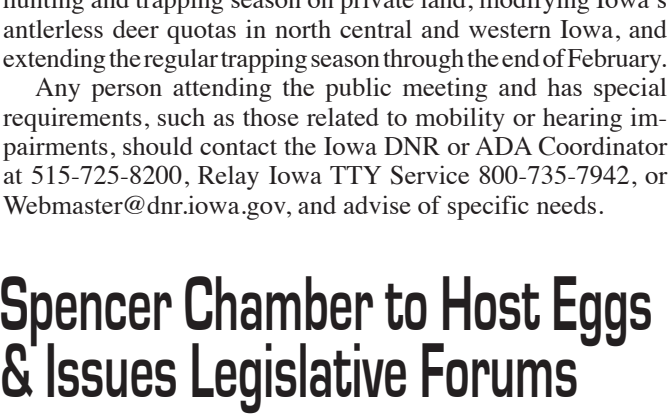
All sessions will take place from 9:00 to 10:30 AM in the Spencer City Hall Council Chambers located at 101 W. 5th St., Spencer, IA. Breakfast will be served at 8:30 AM. First come first served, until run out)

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

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

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

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



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Clay County Extension Council Honored at Northwest Iowa Extension Awards Ceremony

Clay County proudly stood out at the recent Northwest Iowa Awards Ceremony hosted by Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, receiving one of the six top awards. The Clay County Extension Council was recognized with the Council Distinguished Service Award. Pictured Clay County Council Members are Dustin Biedenfeld, Jarret Smith, Renee Juza, Dirk Benson, Gary Johnson, Adam Batschelet, Liz Biedenfeld, Clint Hoermann.

This award honors exceptional leadership and commitment to Extension governance. The Clay County Extension Council exemplifies visionary leadership and unwavering dedication to ISU Extension and Outreach's mission. Their efforts led to the construction of a 5,088-square-foot facility that has transformed educational programming and community engagement, creating a hub for innovation and lifelong learning. Through strategic fundraising and careful stewardship of resources, the Council raised \$691,000 from 123 donors, setting a benchmark for excellence across Iowa.

This recognition celebrates the Council's lasting impact on youth, families, and communities in Clay County.

<https://www.extension.iastate.edu/clay/about-us>



NORTHWEST IOWA AG OUTLOOK

SPENCER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

UPCOMING EVENT

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TUES | FEB. 17 | 8AM - 4PM

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RENTALS

All real estate advertised in The Lakes News Shopper is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex or national origin or any intention to make any such preference limitation or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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Donate your car, truck, boat, RV and more to support our veterans! Schedule a FAST, FREE vehicle pickup and receive a top tax deduction! Call Veteran Car Donations at 1-888-429-2331 today! (mcn)
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CITY OF MILFORD: BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT MEMBERS NEEDED
The City of Milford has two openings to serve on the Board of Adjustment (5-year term 7/1/2024-6/30/2029 and 7/1/25-6/30/2030). The Board of Adjustment is not a policy making board, but rather a quasi-judicial board responsible for the following: (1) Administrative review where it is alleged that there is error in any order, requirement, decision, or determination made by the Zoning Administrator; (2) Hear and decide special exception use applications; and (3) Authorize in specific cases a variance from the terms of the Zoning Ordinance when the variance is not contrary to the public interest and, due to special conditions, a literal enforcement would result in unnecessary hardship, and so that the spirit of the ordinance is observed and substantial justice is done. A small stipend is also paid to board members. Position will remain open until filled.
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Our sincere thanks to our family and friends for the lovely cards, flowers, gifts, and most of all, for attending. You made our 50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration a day we will remember forever.
To our daughters, Dawn, Rhonda, Tammy, Paula, and their families who made it happen - we say a 'Big Thank You.'
God bless all of you, Del and Diane Christoffer

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EMPLOYMENT



Water Operator

Spencer Municipal Utilities ("SMU") is a secure, well-financed municipally owned utility provider that has proudly met the electric and water needs of local Spencer, Iowa residents since 1942. Telecommunication service offerings were added to the service mix in 1997, and today SMU provides the residential and business community with a full range of voice, video, and data services.

SMU is actively seeking applicants for a full-time Water Operator. Reporting directly to the Water Manager, this position has complete responsibility for assisting the water utility operations in maintaining water treatment, processing, and testing equipment in a water treatment facility to treat water to meet permit and operational requirements. Perform routine and preventative operations and maintenance related items as assigned. Position requires a good relationship with the public and responds to customer questions and concerns regarding operational issues. Candidates must be able to plan and execute water main or treatment plant projects; basic water laboratory experience; safety training (confined space, respirators, fall protection, trenching and shoring, etc.) and good mechanical aptitude skills.

Our Requirements:

- High School Diploma or GED, or equivalent,
- Strong preference for candidates with:
- One (1) to Two (2) years of technical or vocational training in water/environmental technology post high school.
- Previous experience working in a water treatment plant along with water systems operations.
- Underground water main and service excavation experience.
- Prefer candidates who currently possess Grade II water treatment and Grade II distribution certification as required by Iowa DNR or the ability to obtain within a specified timeframe.
- A strong set of communications and interpersonal skills that are equally effective with staff, management, and the Board of Trustees.
- Intermediate experience with Microsoft Office products including Word, Outlook, Excel, Teams, PowerPoint, is desired.
- Required to possess and maintain a valid Class "A" Commercial Driver's License (CDL) combination with air brakes and meet SMU insurability requirements within 18 months of hire or sooner.
- Residency requirement to reside within a 30-minute response time to the office.
- Position requires on-call responsibilities including an on-call rotation schedule with department employees.

What this Position Offers You:

- A great career opportunity in an organization that believes in providing superior customer service.
- A lifestyle that offers great amenities and a terrific family environment, in a very desirable Iowa community.
- The opportunity to work in a progressive community minded utility.

To apply candidates must complete an SMU application. Applications can be found on our website at www.smunet.net (click on careers in the 'About Us' tab). Applicants will have the opportunity to upload their cover letter, resume and salary requirements if desired. Please keep in mind that the submission of a resume in lieu of work history on your application or answering the supplemental questions is not sufficient.

SMU is an equal opportunity employer, offers a comprehensive wage and benefit package that includes health/dental/vision/short-long term disability/group life insurance, IPERS, 457(b) retirement plan, employee assistance plan along with paid time off for vacations and holidays. Successful completion of a pre-employment background check, physical examination (if applicable) and a post offer drug screen are required prior to employment with SMU.

Applications accepted through 2/20/2026. This recruitment will be open until filled.





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EMPLOYMENT

WATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR 3

The City of Spirit Lake is seeking to fill an open position for Water Treatment Plant Operator 3.

Primary duties include operating and monitoring equipment in the water plant, water testing and readings, and involvement in all aspects of plant operations, supervision in coordination with the Water Superintendent of Water Treatment Plant Operations, involvement with water treatment plant projects and other duties as required. **Must possess** a State Water Plant Operator certificate and Water Distribution certificates up to and including Grade 2 at a minimum and Grade 3 Water to be obtained within one year if not already so certified. CDL preferred. Pay is dependent upon qualifications and experience. Complete job description and additional information is available at Spirit Lake City Hall, (712) 336-1871 as set forth below.

Address any communications to Gregg L. Owens, City Administrator, Spirit Lake City Hall, 1803 Hill Avenue, Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360, by noon on February 18, 2026. Application forms are available at City Hall. If emailed, email to gregg.owens@cityofspiritleake.org

**City of Spirit Lake**

The City of Spirit Lake, Iowa is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Females, minorities, veterans and members of other protected classes are encouraged to apply.

Posted 1/29/2026





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

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Most of us spend our lives searching for something we believe we are missing.

More confidence.

More discipline.

More clarity.

More courage.

We assume that once we finally get those things, life will fall into place. But what if the truth is simpler, and far more encouraging? What if everything you need to live a successful, fulfilling life is already within you?

There was a plastic surgeon named Maxwell Maltz in the 1950s who noticed something curious. Patients who had dramatic cosmetic improvements often felt no happier afterward. Meanwhile, others with modest changes experienced profound shifts in confidence, joy, and purpose. The difference wasn't the surgery. It was the self-image.

The Silent Operating System

Each of us carries an internal picture of who we are. Not who we wish we were. Not who others see. But who we quietly believe ourselves to be.

That self-image operates like a thermostat. It regulates our behavior, our expectations, and even our happiness. We tend to act in ways that stay consistent with it, often without realizing it.

If you see yourself as capable, resilient, and worthy, you naturally make choices that reinforce those traits. If you see yourself as inadequate or "not the kind of person who succeeds," your mind will quietly steer you back to familiar ground, even when opportunity appears.

The encouraging news? **That image is learned. And anything learned can be changed.**

How to Strengthen the Self-Image

Improving your self-image doesn't require hype, affirmations shouted into the mirror, or pretending life is perfect. It requires intention and repetition, small, human steps practiced consistently.

Here are a few that matter:

- 1. Stop rehearsing failure.**
Your mind doesn't know the difference between a real event and one vividly imagined. When you repeatedly replay past mistakes or worry about future failure, you are training your nervous system to expect defeat. Replace rumination with rehearsal. Quietly picture yourself handling situations well. Vision yourself as calm, prepared, capable.
- 2. Detach your worth from outcomes.**
You are not your last performance, your last mistake, or your worst day. When self-worth rises and falls with results, confidence becomes fragile. Measure success by effort, integrity, and learning—not perfection. Fall in love with the process, and the outcomes will take care of themselves. Every highly successful sports coach does this for their team – John Wooden, Nick Saban, Geno Auriemma, etc.
- 3. Act "as if."**
You don't wait to feel confident before taking action. You act first, and confidence follows. Speak up. Try. Volunteer. Begin. Each small act becomes evidence that reshapes how you see yourself. New things are naturally awkward at first, but it's a process, and over time you improve. Don't wait to get started in taking baby steps toward a new confidence.
- 4. Practice rational optimism.**
This isn't blind positivity. It's the quiet belief that you can handle what comes next, even if it's difficult. That belief alone changes how the brain responds to stress, setbacks, and uncertainty. Human nature protects us by focusing on the worst case scenarios, so the advice is to consciously focus on the best case outcomes to balance this out.

Happiness Is a Skill

One of the most liberating ideas is that **happiness is not something you chase, it's something you practice.**

Peace comes from releasing the impossible demand to control everything. Fulfillment grows when we focus on the present task rather than constantly measuring ourselves against an imagined future. Calm emerges when we stop fighting yesterday and tomorrow at the same time.

Happiness, in other words, is not a reward for perfection. It's a byproduct of self-acceptance, purposeful action, and realistic expectations.

The Quiet Truth

You don't need to become someone else to live a richer life. You need to see yourself more clearly.

When you upgrade the image you hold of yourself: patiently, gently, deliberately, your behavior follows. Your habits improve. Your courage expands. Your life begins to align not with who you fear you are, but with who you are becoming.

And perhaps the most hopeful thought of all: your mind is not your enemy. It is your most powerful ally, once you learn how to work with it.

Bonus pro-tip: always remember everyone else is struggling with the same issues of self-image. So for those people you care about in life, be the light in their life: spouse, parents, children, co-workers, or just anybody you run into that seems to be down on their luck.

You may be the one person that changes everything.

Tony Thelen is an executive coach, writer, and founder of *The River Coaching & Consulting, LLC*, based in West Okoboji, Iowa. With more than three decades of leadership experience, Tony works with individuals and organizations to help them live and lead with greater clarity, purpose, and fulfillment. He is the author of *Things We Desire – The Desiderata Turns 100*, and writes the weekly column *The River*, focused on personal growth, leadership, and the pursuit of a meaningful life. He can be contacted at Tony@therivercoach.org or check out his website at www.thrivercoach.org

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You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown - Cast Announced

Iowa Lakes Community College Students and Community Members Featured

The cast has been announced for Iowa Lakes Community College's upcoming production of *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*, a beloved musical based on the classic Peanuts comic strip.

"We're excited to announce our cast," said Lincoln Larsen, Director of Music and Performing Arts and co-director of the musical. "It's such a fun show with great songs, and we're proud to bring together students and community members in an intergenerational setting."

"The cast is a wonderful mix of seasoned performers and new talent stepping onto our stage for the first time," added Carol Ayres Stueven, co-director of the musical. "We had many talented singers and actors audition, which made casting this show both exciting and challenging."

Ethan Hexamer of Estherville has been cast as Charlie Brown. Hexamer brings strong comedic timing and a thoughtful understanding of the character, delivering a performance that captures both Charlie Brown's charm and heart.

Cole Danner, an Electrical Technology major from Estherville, takes on the role of Snoopy. Danner's energetic and playful performance shines, particularly in Snoopy's signature musical number.

Lucy is portrayed by Mindy Truong, who brings confidence and boldness to the role while also revealing Lucy's softer side. Her affection for Schroeder—played by Aiden Holdorf—is central to several scenes. Holdorf, a Biology major from Spirit Lake, delivers a lively performance as the Beethoven-loving pianist, highlighted in "Beethoven Day!"

Lorie Irwin of Estherville plays Sally, bringing humor and enthusiasm to the role, especially in her performance of "My New Philosophy."

Linus is played by Dakota Kropf, an Aviation major from Sloan. True to the character, Linus never strays far from his blanket, which takes center stage in his featured song, "My Blanket."

Rounding out the Peanuts gang are Charlie Brown's friends—each convinced they are better at just about everything than he is:

Shermy – Karston Trask, Spirit Lake, Business Administration
Lila – Kristen Kuiper, Spirit Lake, alumnus
Peppermint Patty – Emma Chapin, Graettinger, Surgical Technology
Violet Gray – Serena Lynch-Hein, Estherville, alumnus
Jose Oz Luna - Estherville, AA and AS Degree
Little Red-Headed Girl – Shainee Henely, Spencer, Culinary & Hospitality Management
Harold Koen Zotz - Armstrong, Massage Therapy Diploma
Rerun – Ethan Truong, Spirit Lake Community School
Pig-Pen – Jeff Irwin, Estherville
Lydia – Isabelle Truong, Spirit Lake, AA Degree
Eudora – Mary Schumacher, Estherville
Charlotte – Shawna Wahl, Spirit Lake
Floyd – Anthony Trigger, Estherville, Music Education

The production will also feature a full pit orchestra comprised of Iowa Lakes Community College students and community musicians.

You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown will be performed April 16, 17, and 18, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. in the Janice K. Lund Performing Arts Center on the Iowa Lakes Community College Estherville campus.

You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown
Based on the comic strip *Peanuts* by Charles M. Schulz
Book, Music, and Lyrics by Clark Gesner
Additional Dialogue by Michael Mayer
Additional Music and Lyrics by Andrew Lippa

You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Tams-Witmark LLC.www.concordtheatricals.com

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Dean's List at St. Olaf Announced

Brynn Finley, of Estherville and Trigg Heimdal, of Milford, made the Fall 2025 Dean's List at St. Olaf College. The Dean's List is a scholarly award for students who demonstrate academic excellence and have earned a GPA of 3.75 or above and completed at least three credits for that semester.

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, February 12 and 26. 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.



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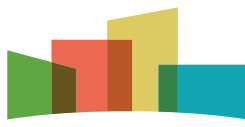
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PEARSON LAKES ART CENTER

lakesart.org | 712.332.7029

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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

6/16 & 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

6/30 | Linda Ronstadt Experience
Linda Ronstadt Tribute | 7:30 PM | \$40/\$50
MEMBERS ONLY PRESALE 2/24-3/2

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.

SWING DANCE CLASS
With Midwest Swing Dance Co.

Friday, Mar. 13 & Saturday, Mar. 14

7-9pm | \$80/\$90 | All Levels, 21+

We work from the ground up so that anyone at any ability level can learn how to dance. This class is not only for couples, but for singles too! Hors d'oeuvres will be served and cash bar available. Register by Mar. 6.

EDUCATION CLASSES

Register online or call 712-332-7029

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

MARCH YOUTH ART CLASSES:

Mini Michelangelo's | K-2nd

Thursdays | 4:00-4:45pm

Mar. 5, 12, 19: Wiggle Glaze! Bowl, Plate, & Cup Set

Art Club | 3rd-6th

Thursdays | 5-6pm

Mar. 5, 12, 19: Patterned Slab Vessels

Teen Art | 7-12th

Tuesdays | 4-5pm

Mar. 3, 10, 17: Mugs, Cups, & Containers!

Scan for more info and to register online by 2/24



CULINARY CLASSES

Register online or call 712-332-7029

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.

Wine Class

With Jennifer Tittle-Oltzman of Okoboji Wines

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

Registration required 2 days before each class.

Mar. 5: Blind Tasting: Cool Climate vs Warm

Apr. 2: Varietal Series: Cabernet Franc

A Vegetarian Voyage

With Sarah Page w/ So Good By Sarah Custom Catering

Wednesday, Mar. 18 | 12pm
\$50/\$60 | Register by Mar. 12

Struggling to incorporate more healthy vegetables into your daily diet or tired of delegating vegetables as just side dishes? Sarah is eager to demonstrate tasty vegetarian main dishes to build your confidence in exploring the wide world of plant-based cuisine! Enjoy several samplings and a glass of wine.