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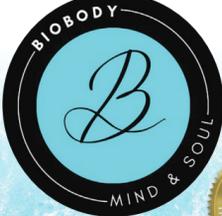


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THE LNS RECIPE CORNER

Grab all the ingredients and more for this delicious recipe at **CARSTENSEN'S Meat & Grocery**.
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Chicken Piccata Serves 2

2 chicken breasts, in small slices
salt & black pepper
all-purpose flour for dredging
6 TBS unsalted butter
1/2 cup fresh lemon juice
1 cup chicken stock
1/4 cup brined capers, drained
2 cups of white rice for serving

Wash and cook rice your preferred method, I use a rice cooker. Season chicken on both sides with salt and pepper, then dredge in flour and shake off the excess. In a large skillet over medium heat, melt 2 tablespoons of butter. When it starts to sizzle, add first round of chicken and cook for 3 minutes on each side until browned. Remove and transfer to a clean plate. Melt 2 more tablespoons of butter and do the same for second round of chicken. Add lemon juice, chicken stock and capers to the empty pan and bring to a boil, scraping up the brown bits stuck to the pan. Add last 2 tablespoons of butter to the pan and whisk everything together to make a sauce. Add chicken back to the pan to warm up in the sauce and serve over rice.

Recipe Courtesy of: **Sidney Kiersch**

CARSTENSEN'S Meat & Grocery 10 for \$10 Sale

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Arts on Grand Announces Diverse Lineup of Creative Classes for March

Arts on Grand has officially announced its diverse lineup of creative workshops for March 2026 at its Spencer, IA, location. The month kicks off on March 11 with an introductory pottery wheel course led by Ron Netten, followed by a series of spring break sessions on March 17 and 18 that include morning space art for children and afternoon watercolor classes for teens and adults. The programming concludes on March 21 with specialized Saturday sessions featuring a crochet workshop hosted by Steve Smith and a dedicated class on fly tying for bass and bluegill. Community members interested in these hands-on opportunities can find full registration details and times at artsongrand.org or by visiting the gallery at 408 Grand Avenue in Spencer.




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2022 Club Car Onward, electric, silver, headlights, taillights, custom wheels, cooler, local trade ..	\$5,950
2020 Yamaha Drive2 Quietech, green, headlights, taillights, rear seat	\$5,950
2019 Yamaha Drive2, electric, silver	\$3,500
2019 Yamaha Drive2, electric, silver	\$3,500
2018 Yamaha Drive2, gas, tan	\$3,950
2018 Yamaha Drive2, gas, tan	\$3,950
2018 Yamaha Drive2, gas, tan, headlights, taillights, rear seat	\$4,850
2017 Club Car Precedent, electric, tan, lift kit, tires, custom wheels, radio	\$3,950
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Shoreline Restoration to Begin on the North Shore of East Okoboji

by Steve Weisman

The north shore of East Okoboji Lake has always been a popular fishing spot and recreation area. The shoreline is made up of the five-acre Isthmus Park, managed by the City of Spirit Lake, along with the Spirit Lake Fish Hatchery Grounds. This area has a small gravel boat ramp, bathroom facilities, bike trails, the spillway, public docks and piers, and almost over 2,700 ft of public shoreline. Much of this shoreline has some severe erosion issues caused by excessive tree and brush growth. This growth also makes accessing large portions of the shoreline very difficult. The good news? A shoreline restoration project is on the way!

Restoring the shoreline

This project has been on hold for several years, but its design was completed in late 2025. Project funding is coming from Iowa's Marine Fuel Tax Fund. The project includes tree and brush cutting, stump grinding and shoreline improvements, including rip rap, boat ramp improvements, prairie restoration, and grading and turf grass seeding in the park. Work will begin in early March, and the renovation is to be completed in 2026.

About the trees

For the project's success, the huge cottonwood trees need to be removed. According to Mike Hawkins, Iowa DNR Fisheries Regional Biologist, "These big cottonwood trees are causing so many issues along the shoreline. The goal is to replace them with native hardwood trees that historically grew along our shorelines. After the construction work is completed, we are working with a couple of organizations to plant more beneficial trees."

Most certainly, when a lot of people see those huge cottonwood trees, they question why they should be cut down. However, they have so many drawbacks. First off, the white cotton seeds in the spring, the constant dropping of leaves and twigs, along with their soft wood that makes them prone to branches snapping in high winds.

Hawkins says, "Cottonwood trees are not good for shorelines. Their shallow roots are often undercut by erosion and when they fall or begin to lean, they can tear up huge chunks of shoreline." He adds that many of these trees have been identified as hazardous due to their age and size of their dead limbs.

Isthmus Park is a great community spot for fishing, hiking, biking picnicking... As John Smeltzer with the Spirit Lake Protective Association notes, "Hopefully opening the area up a little and making the shoreline more stable will only help the kids fishing days there in the future!"

If you have questions about the project, Hawkins encourages people to call (712-336-1840) or stop in at the Spirit Lake Hatchery.



(photo by Iowa DNR) An example of a huge cottonwood tree with structural issues. Shallow roots are often undercut by erosion and when they fall or begin to lean, they can tear up huge chunks of shoreline.

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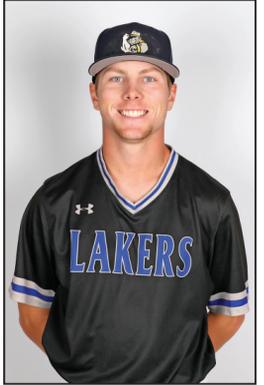


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Iowa Lakes Establishes Carter "Tater" Johnson Memorial Scholarship

Iowa Lakes Community College Foundation has established the Carter "Tater" Johnson Memorial Scholarship to honor the life, legacy, and lasting impact of Carter Johnson, a beloved member of the Iowa Lakes family. The fund was established following the recent tragedy involving members of the Iowa Lakes baseball team.



Known affectionately as "Tater," Carter was more than a student-athlete. He was a teammate, a friend, and a young man whose faith, character, and unwavering spirit deeply touched those around him. His presence on campus and within the baseball program left a meaningful imprint that will not be forgotten.

The memorial scholarship has been created to ensure that Carter's legacy continues to make a difference in the lives of future Iowa Lakes students. Contributions to the fund will support the establishment and growth of a scholarship awarded in his memory.

"This scholarship fund provides a meaningful way for our community to honor Carter's life and the impact he made at Iowa Lakes," said Dan Lutat, Executive Director of Foundations and Governmental Affairs. "The outpouring of support we have seen speaks to the kind of young man he was. Through this fund, his legacy will continue to support students for years to come."

Community members, alumni, friends, and supporters are invited to contribute to the Carter "Tater" Johnson Memorial Scholarship Fund. Gifts of any size are welcome and will help build a lasting tribute that reflects the strength, perseverance, and heart Carter brought to Iowa Lakes.

To make a donation, please visit: <https://foundation.iowalakes.edu/give-carter-tater-johnson-memorial-scholarship/>

Additional details regarding scholarship criteria and awarding will be announced as the scholarship is established.

During this difficult time, the Iowa Lakes community remains united in honoring Carter's life and supporting one another.

Bingo Night for Heritage Square

The Lake Park Friends of the Museum will be holding Bingo on February 28, at the Lake Park Community Center. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m.; bingo will begin at 6:00 p.m. There will be a cash payout and meal available. Funds will go to the Heritage Square Re-imagined Project.

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Space & Copy Deadline: March 20th

Publication Date: March 24th

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Milford Kiwanis meets every Tues. at 7am at the Milford Community Center.

Birthday Announcement

Let's celebrate Vernice Wahl on her 85th birthday on Friday, February 20, 2026. Cards can be sent to 1344 310th Avenue, Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360.

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Lakes Area Activity/Senior Center

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

Tuesday, March 3, 12:30 PM - Nature Center - Topic: Animal Myth Busters

Thursdays - 11:00 AM - TaiChi
Fridays - 9:50 AM - Chair Yoga

SAVE THE DATE!
SUNDAY, MARCH 15
10:30am-12:30pm
HAM DINNER \$15.00 Tickets available at the Senior Center

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Reserve your meal for next week *A Gift Certificate for Dinner Date*
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Hot Cocoa





BINGO WINNERS ANNOUNCED!

We have winners! Congratulations to Tammy Johnson (Lake Park), Tracy Alger (Hartley) and Merle Hendricksen (Lakefield, MN). Tammy was the first one to submit a BINGO card obtaining the letter "X", and is the winner of \$100. Tracy was the first one to submit a BINGO card obtaining the letter "L", and is the winner of \$100. Merle was the second one to submit a BINGO card obtaining the letter "L", and is the winner of \$50.

A special thanks to our sponsors: Lakes Auto Care/Milford Auto Care, Natural Family Chiropractic, Farmers Savings Bank, Interior Sewing by Lisa, Iron Horse Land Company, Katy Lynn Boutique, Keelson Harbour, Los Pueblos, Milford/Premier Communications, Milford Kiwanis, Shoreline Threads and The Tobacco Shop.

There are still many more chances to win. The promotion will run until April 14th, 2026, or until all prizes are claimed. Prizes will total over \$1,000. The complete set of rules are published on our website: LakesNews-Shopper.com.

JOHN MULLANEY

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August 14 2026

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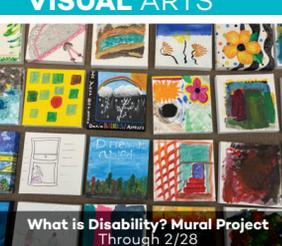
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MEMBERS ONLY PRESALE 3/3-3/9

7/14 | A Brothers Revival
Allman Brothers Tribute | 7:30 PM | \$40/\$50
MEMBERS ONLY PRESALE 3/10-3/16

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.

Register online or call 712-332-7029

EDUCATION CLASSES

STILL LIFE THURSDAYS- FLORALS
Open Studio
Mar. 19, Apr. 9 & May 21
10am-9pm, Come and Go | \$10/\$15

Each month, florist, April Junge, of Hometown Florals, will curate a unique arrangement featuring distinctive blooms and unusual vases—perfect for artists of all styles. Bring your own supplies and work in any medium you choose. Drop-ins welcome. This is an open studio, self lead class. All Levels, 16+

HELLO STITCHES! With Sandie Smith
Saturday, March 28 | 9:30am-4pm | \$45/\$55
Intermediate, 18+ | Register by 3/21

In this session, you'll complete two practical kitchen projects including a Casserole Carrier and Hanging Kitchen Hand Towel. Whether you're brand new to sewing or want a refresher, this workshop will build your confidence and leave you with two useful items. Participants can bring their own sewing machine or reserve one of our limited sewing machines- first come, first serve. All fabric provided, we ask that you bring an iron, ironing pad, fabric scissors or rotary cutter.

CULINARY CLASSES Register online or call 712-332-7029

Create & Savor Cooking Class
With Marisa Sides of Rissy's Dry Rubs and Seasonings

Saturdays | 6pm | \$80/\$90
Register by Mar. 11

In this hands-on cooking class, Marisa will guide you in preparing a delicious decadent meal, glass of wine included!
Mar. 14: A Night In Naples

Date Night Cooking Class
With Marisa Sides of Rissy's Dry Rubs and Seasonings

6pm | \$160/\$170 per Couple
Must register 3 days prior to each class.

A little flour, a little wine and a lot of love, the perfect date night with Marisa!
Friday, Mar. 13: A Night In Naples
Friday, Apr. 24: Summer Grilled Tri-Tip with Salsa Verde

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.

the **RG** BALLROOM

NEW SHOW

MAR 13

FOOL HOUSE

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Iowa Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
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 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

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.

Dickinson County Republican County Convention
 The Dickinson County Republican County Convention will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2026, at 9:00 AM at the Iowa Lakes Community College campus, 800 21st St., Spirit Lake. Registration begins at 8:30 AM.
 Delegates, alternates, and junior delegates elected at the February 2nd Dickinson County Republican caucus will gather to vote on District and State delegates and alternates, elect District Convention Committee members, and create the Dickinson County Republican platform.
 For more information, please contact: Ben Parsons (Chair) at 712-334-0578 or Kris Rowley (Co-chair): at 712-330-4148.

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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	EDUCATION 9:45 AM

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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

To the Editor,
 On behalf of Diane's Gold Standard Cleaning, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the community for the incredible success of our first annual "Shop For Your Sibling" event held in December 2025. This event perfectly embodied the spirit of Christmas and the joy of giving.
 The generosity of our donors and the dedication of over 30 volunteers allowed us to serve over 170 children and at least 9 families. Because of this collective effort, we were able to reach families in Lake Park, Spirit Lake, Milford, Spencer, Estherville, and beyond. We are truly awed by the support we received.
 We would like to publicly recognize the many organizations and individuals who made this possible. The following partners provided essential contributions:
Local Businesses: Barn Swallow, Boji Junction, Boji Spudz, Bomgaars, Bosses Pizza, Coca Cola, Crave Bakery (JoAnn Thorne), Drifty's, Fisherman Outlet Stores, Golden Buys Outlet, Hallmark, Javis Grill, Dominos, Kwik Star, Lagniappe Tearoom, Los Pueblos, Mary's Gift Shop, McDonalds, McKeens, Papa Murphys, Pizza Ranch, Port Side Pizzeria (Greg & Christy Thompson), Spirit Lake Silver & Gold, Spudnuts, Subway, Taco Johns, Tri-State Litho, and Waterfront.
Media & Real Estate: KITV News 4, The Lakes News Shopper, Okoboji Broadcasting (Jeff), Hinn Real Estate (Rob & Jimmy), Peggy Bergh-Kuker with Keller Williams Okoboji, and Erica Schulte with Next Home Realty.
Community Leaders & Public Servants: Mayor Kevin Bice, Landry McKinney (Miss Iowa Pre-Teen Queen), Santa Claus (Rob Catlin), Spirit Lake Fire Department (Mike), Spirit Lake Police Department, and the Spirit Lake Senior Center.
Individuals & Families: Robert & Diane Esch, Robert & Martha Esch, Margie Lynch, The Schaefer Family, Curt & Susan Willette, and many more independent and private donors.
 Our mission is to ensure every child has a positive experience with giving and receiving. Thanks to these contributions, we now have resources available throughout the year to provide gifts for birthday parties and housewares for those in need.
 We are already starting preparations to make this an annual event for 2026. If you would like to donate items or contribute to our cause, please contact Diane at 515-708-9400 or Deb at 507-236-2973.
 Thank you for helping us help the community.
 Sincerely,
Diane Esch and Deb Holz
 Diane's Gold Standard Cleaning

Word Search Puzzle Key from page 8A

X	S	Y	O	F	N	S	S	E	N	L	U	F	D	N	I	M	U	N	F
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Crispy Cod Sandwich

The Lake Park Friends of the Museum will be holding **BINGO** at the Lake Park Community Center **SATURDAY, Feb. 28**

Doors will open at 5:30pm and **BINGO will begin at 6:00pm**



There will be a cash payout and meal available.

All proceeds will go towards the Heritage Square Reimagined project.

Sip, SHOP, DINE!

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IGL Marsh Marigolds to Host Mardi Gras Party & Conservation Fundraiser on March 7

Get ready to trade the marsh for the masquerade as the IGL Marsh Marigolds, a chapter of Ladies Ducks Unlimited, prepares to host a festive Mardi Gras Party on March 7 at Oak Hill Outdoor in Milford. This vibrant evening blends celebration with conservation, offering a full schedule of entertainment that includes raffles, interactive games, and both live and silent auctions. All proceeds from the event directly support Ducks Unlimited's mission of habitat preservation, ensuring that every bid and ticket purchase contributes to the protection of vital wetlands. The festivities kick off with a social hour at 5:00 PM, followed by a delicious meal served at 6:30 PM.

There are several ways to participate through various ticket and sponsorship packages designed for every level of support. Individual attendees can purchase a Single Ticket for \$50, which includes dinner and a DU membership, while a Couples Package is available for \$60. For younger conservationists under 18, a Greenwing Ticket is offered for \$20 and includes a membership along with eligibility for special prizes. Those looking to make a larger impact can become a Sponsor for \$300, receiving two dinner tickets, a DU membership, \$100 in raffle packages, and an entry into a sponsor-only drawing. For the ultimate level of support, the \$1,000 Premier Sponsor package includes two memberships, two dinner tickets, \$200 in raffle packages, a sponsor drawing entry, and the choice of a firearm from the gun board.

Event organizers describe the evening as a fantastic opportunity for the community to come together, enjoy a great meal, and have fun while supporting essential environmental work. Because space is limited, early registration is highly encouraged to ensure a spot at the party. To secure tickets or discuss sponsorship, interested guests can contact Dani at 712-339-5126, Lucy at 712-260-5712, or Becky at 712-330-3372. Additionally, digital registration options are available by scanning the QR code found on the official event flyers.

The IGL Marsh Marigolds is a local chapter of Ducks Unlimited focused on engaging women in the mission of wetlands and waterfowl conservation through community events and fundraising.

DCNC Summer Camp Registration Opens on March 2nd

Registration for summer camps at the Dickinson County Nature Center will open on Monday, March 2, at 8:00 AM, offering a wide variety of outdoor environmental education camps for children ages 4 (pre-kindergarten) through 8th grade.

This year's camp theme, "From Online to Outdoors," encourages kids to unplug and discover outdoor adventures that spark curiosity and creativity. Camps will take place in Kenue Park, Horseshoe Bend, and with local partnering organizations.

Families should register their children for the grade they will enter in the fall. Some camps will offer two identical sessions, providing additional opportunities to participate in popular youth camps.

"Our summer camps offer so many engaging outdoor experiences that keep minds active and off the screens," said Amy Heibult, community relations coordinator of the Dickinson County Conservation Board.

All camp registration will take place online at www.dickinsoncountynaturecenter.com under the Programs/Events tab and Event List. More details can be found in the description of each event.

Families are encouraged to register soon after registration opens, as camps tend to fill quickly. For questions, please call the Nature Center at 712-336-6352.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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

To the Editor:

Please watch videos from the Munich Security Conference held February 13th to the 15th.

At the conference, Secretary of State Marco Rubio looked connected and statesmanlike as he discussed the cultural ties between the United States and Europe. He emphasized shared histories, dangers, solutions, and futures. As a Cuban American he discussed his family ties to Spain and Sardinia.

Mr. Rubio made a strong case for an expected run as the next Republican candidate for President. Munich did not work out well for the Democrats who chose to speak. As Donald Trump pointed out, the Democrats were "not a good look for the United States".

Hillary Clinton who initially addressed the mistakes of the West for allowing mass immigration, then proceeded into an anti-Trump rant. Czech Foreign Minister Petr Mianka responded "I don't think that you like him" and despite repeated interruptions from an obviously peeved, Hillary, Mr. Mianka went on to say that Trump is the response of "regular" people to the Democratic policies of "cancel culture", "woke" policies, the "gender revolution", and "climate activism".

Unfortunately for the Democrats Hillary was the highest scoring performance. AOC decided to explain to a European audience the necessity of Marxist policies, ignoring the fact that half of her audience had only recently been delivered from the horrors of Marxism inflicted on them by the USSR.

It's time for the Democrats to come up with better solutions than just hatred of Donald Trump and one more trip into the failures of Communism.

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Deadline for payments without penalty is Tues., March 31, 2026
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Service fees may apply. Cheaper than a postage stamp - echecks are only 30 cents.
A payment dropbox is located at the west door of the courthouse. Go paperless! Sign up for eNotices at eNoticesOnline.com
Kris Rowley
Dickinson County Treasurer

Lakes Area Activity/Senior Center Wish List

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

Thank you for your donations!

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NEUROPLASTICITY
PERCEPTION
PROBLEM SOLVING
PROCESSING
REACTION
RESERVE
RESILIENCE
SLEEP
STRESS
SYNAPSES

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

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 26 and March 12. Card sales begin at 5:30 and Bingo is from 6:00-8:00. A meal will be provided by the VFW Auxiliary for just \$7.00. The Spirit Lake VFW is located at 914 Lake Street. Bingo profits support Milford youth needs, programs, and scholarships.



96th Birthday Announcement

At 96, Lillian's still at the top of her game with a pinochle game that puts others to shame, a sharp witted pro who plays cards with such flair, she's the 500 queen that no opponent can snare! Lillian will be celebrating her 96th birthday on Thursday, February 26, 2026. Family and friends would like to honor her with a card shower. Your warm wishes can be sent to her at Courtyard Gardens, 1920 23rd Street #12, Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360.

Anniversary Announcement

Jackie and Roger Mann are celebrating 60 years of marriage on Thursday, February 26, 2026. Family would like to honor them with a card shower. Please include a written memory to: Roger and Jackie Mann, 815 W. 7th Street, Spencer, Iowa, 51301.

Annual Swing Show Performance

The high school music department of Harris-Lake Park School District will be performing their annual Swing Show Concert on Friday, February 27, 7:00 p.m. in the H-LP High School Auditorium, located in the city of Lake Park. General admission tickets for all seats will be \$5 at the door, cash or check only. No passes or credit cards will be accepted for this event.

Selections to be performed include a variety of music genres from movie, Broadway, pop, rock and country! The Concert Band of 7-12 grades and Concert Choir of 9-12 grades as well as solo and small ensemble acts will be featured. H-LP music directors are Mr. Maxwell Hodapp, band, and Mrs. Sally Jo Ites, choir.



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DAILY SPECIALS at 11am

DAILY SPECIALS

- Wed., Feb. 25: Pan Fried Chicken Mushroom & Swiss Burger
- Thur., Feb. 26: Hot Pork Cuban
- Fri., Feb. 27: Country Fried Steak
- Mon., March 2: Hot Beef Taco Salad
- Tues., March 3: CLOSED

Friday Night Special
Fish Fry • Fish Tacos

Saturday Night Special
Prime Rib • BBQ Ribs

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

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

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Mondays: 1pm- Mahjong, Snooker Bingo/Bridge

Tuesdays: 7am- Coffee with Randy
10:30am- Chair Exercise
1pm- 500, Snooker

Wednesdays: 10:30am- Tai Chi
12:00pm- lunch provided by area churches
No Speakers until April 8 Due to Lent
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

BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER
JOIN US THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH!
SUNDAY, MARCH 15TH
8am-12:30pm

Biscuits & Gravy, Scrambled Eggs, French Toast and Bloody Mary Bar.

FREE WILL OFFERING

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

Yoga Class

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

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

Lakes Area Activity/Senior Center

Ham Dinner

Sunday, March 15
10:30am-12:30pm

\$15.00
Tickets Available from any Senior Center Board Member or at the Senior Center.

- Ham
- Cheesy Hash Browns
- Green Beans
- Dinner Roll
- Jello Cake

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

WINTER FUN for everyone

Parks Marina's Battle of the Bartenders Blasts Past \$150,000 Raised in 12 Years

Third Annual Boji Burger Battle | YOU Be The Judge

BOJI BURGER BATTLE

February 1st-28th, 2026

Presented by:
Dickinson County Farm Bureau

Taste & rate several delicious burgers uniquely created for the Boji Burger Battle!

MORE INFO

BIG COUNTRY KICD-FM 107.7

LAKES MARKETING AND PRINT

more 104.9

THE LAKES NEWS SHOPPER

IOWA GREAT LAKES AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

With each passing year, the legend of Winter Games grows stronger, and 2026 brought with it lifelong memories. At this year's 46th annual Games, the Battle of the Bartenders kickoff charity event, held Jan. 22, raised \$14,303 in one hour alone. Now in its 12th season, the event has raised over \$150,000 for selected charities since its beginning.

Attracting over 20 bars and restaurants and thousands of attendees at Parks Marina, the Battle of the Bartenders pitted the area's best mixologists in a head-to-head best drink competition. "The Battle is one of our favorite nights of the year, an amazing way to kick off the entire weekend," Debbie Parks, Owner and President of Parks Marina, said. "Seeing so many people come together to support such amazing charities is truly heartwarming."

In honor of company founder Butch Parks, who passed away in January at the age of 81, Debbie Parks and the Parks Marina family matched the earnings from this year's Battle, bringing the night's total to \$28,606, and a grand total raised in 12 years to \$151,377.

This year, all charities were guaranteed \$500 after the match, with the top five splitting the remaining amount. The winners included Puff's Lounge in first place, Mother Natures in second, The Outback in third, The Still Bar & Grill in fourth and The Refuge Bar & Grill in fifth. The proceeds were split 40-30-15-10-5 to the University of Iowa Children's Hospital in memory of Carson Chase, Gavin Franker (Battling Brain Cancer), Rick Hartwig (Battling ALS), Angelic Mission, and the Lakes Regional Healthcare Diabetes Fund, respectively.

"I know that Butch is looking down on all of us with a sense of pride, being there for the community is what it's all about," Parks said.

Other Winter Games fundraising activities at Parks Marina were just as impactful. Combined participation in the "Okoboji Beer Curling", Men's and Women's Keg Toss, the Human Dogsled Races and the "Smooshing" Races raised over \$3,000 for various charities and organizations. Proceeds from these events were matched by Doll Distributing.

Parks Marina continues to not only be dedicated to the service and care of its customers, but also to the Iowa Great Lakes Region and its surrounding communities.

For more information go to www.parksmarina.com, look for Parks Marina on Facebook and Instagram or contact Marketing at marketing@parksmarina.com.

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Spirit Lake Indian Athletic Booster Club to Host Annual Gala

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



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

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

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

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

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



Iowa Lakes Community College Announces Fall 2025 Honors

Iowa Lakes Community College has released its Honors Lists for the Fall 2025 semester, recognizing 421 students for their academic performance.

To qualify for the President's List, students must earn a perfect 4.0 GPA while completing at least 12 graded credit hours. The Dean's List requires a GPA of 3.25 or higher with a minimum of 12 graded credit hours.

"These students have demonstrated exceptional commitment to their academic goals," said Kyle Norris, Vice President of Academic Affairs. "We are proud to celebrate their hard work and dedication to excellence."

President's List (4.0 GPA)

Arnolds Park, IA: Adam Miller. **Estherville, IA:** Aracely Astello, Luke Heinrichs, Osvaldo Jimenez Luna, Braxton Johnson, Grace Lutat, Gedi Martin-Felipe, Conner Matheson, Nolan Merriam, Mallory Nelson, Haley Nissen, Hannah Nitchals, Emerson Shakes, Suri Shatto, and Carter Spies. **Lake Park, IA:** Bowden Barnhart and Carter Radig. **Milford, IA:** Mason Dahms, Kris Hanson, McKenna Hesse, Dante Menting, and Rylenn Postma. **Spencer, IA:** Dena Birchard, Kiera Brown, Mattie Frederick, Kennedy Graettinger, Hannah Hibbs, Jivahny Lovan, Mahee Montenegro, Ana Ortega Rivera, Dayton Peters, Emily Schmidt, Addison Sutherland, Lloyd Throop, and Isabelle Young. **Spirit Lake, IA:** Elizabeth Bolluyt, Alaina Hinders, Cadence Johnson, Benjamin Kelly, Riley Sorenson, Sarah Thompson, Karston Trask, and Aliza Vander Leest.

Dean's List (3.25+ GPA)

Estherville, IA: Brizeida Alvarado, Alexis Castillo, Jess Christensen, Aidan Cilliers, Michael Enderson, Blake Evans, Emily Eveleth, Claire Funston, Madison Hobmeier, Jocelyn Hovinga, Carter Ingvald, Toby Jensen, Asher Molacek, Zoe Olesen, Delanie Rezac, Kenryu Seimori, Kirsten Smith, Tessa Sokolofsky, and Willow Stewart. **Lake Park, IA:** Ava Bondhus and Daniel Prevot. **Milford, IA:** Leila Dirks, Breanna Furman, Jocelyn Heller, Merek McCaffery, Tyler Netsch, Preston Sires, Benjamin Stacey, Melanie Taylor, Eric Wallrich, and Kinzlee Zweibahmer. **Spencer, IA:** Melissa Agustin-Sebastian, Renee Bourque, Tristan Decker, Scarlett Dupic, Ryonna Faulkender, Sydney Faulkender, Parker Frasher, Isabella Hagedorn, Shainee Henely, Aneli Hicks, Micah Jedema, Ryan Kalsow, Leilana Kollasch, Isaac McCormick, Jenny Mitchell, Isabel Moran, Turner Mortensen, Bailey Mower, Zachary Nolin, Sylvia Ruden, Lewis Vulk, Rowan Wachholz, and Cadence Zernehel-Steece. **Spirit Lake, IA:** Addison Boon, Aidan Bramblett, Abigail Brann, Aiden Holdorf, Elizabeth Land, Rianne Pederson, John Reekers, Michaela Rider, Gavin Strouth, and Wilhelmina Wipperfurth. **Superior, IA:** Makinzi Swalve. **Terril, IA:** Hailie Riordan, Alex Rouse, and Kali Zeisneiss.



A teacher once divided a classroom in half and gave every student a simple challenge.

They were handed a sheet of paper with 3 words on it told to rearrange the letters of the first word to create a new word. On the first word, half the room raised their hands almost immediately. The other half stared at their desks, puzzled. Time expired. Many never finished.

They were then asked to do the same with the second word. Same result. One side finished quickly. The other side didn't finish at all.

By the third word, something interesting happened. Everyone on the "successful" side once again completed the task. But this time, a few students from the struggling side raised their hands too - slowly, tentatively, almost surprised by their own success.

Then the teacher revealed the twist.

During the first two rounds, the room had been given *different* words. One group received words that were easy to rearrange. The other group received words that were **impossible** to rearrange, guaranteeing failure, no matter how hard they tried. On the third round, everyone was given the same solvable word.

In less than five minutes, the class experienced a powerful psychological phenomenon: **learned helplessness**. When interviewed later, the "failed" side of the class felt stress, self-doubt, and lack of confidence.

What Is Learned Helplessness?

Learned helplessness occurs when repeated exposure to failure - especially failure outside our control - teaches us a quiet, dangerous lesson: "Why try?"

Even when circumstances change...

Even when success becomes possible...

Even when the door is finally unlocked...

We hesitate. We doubt. We stop raising our hand. Not because we lack ability - but because we've learned, through experience, that *effort doesn't matter*.

Common Symptoms of Learned Helplessness

Learned helplessness doesn't usually announce itself loudly. It shows up subtly, often disguised as realism or self-protection:

- Low motivation or passivity
- Avoidance of challenges or new opportunities
- Quick surrender when obstacles appear
- Self-doubt and negative self-talk
- A belief that outcomes are fixed and uncontrollable

Over time, it erodes confidence, energy, creativity, and hope. In careers, it sounds like: "That won't work here." In relationships: "This is just how it is." In life: "What's the point?"

What Creates Learned Helplessness?

The conditions that create learned helplessness are surprisingly common:

- Repeated failure without clear explanation
- Systems where effort is disconnected from outcomes
- Inconsistent rules or shifting expectations
- Authority figures who control results but don't empower choice
- Environments that punish initiative

When people do the "right things" and still lose, again and again, they don't just lose confidence. They lose agency. And **agency** is everything.

The Cost of Carrying It Forward

The primary problem for us is learned helplessness doesn't stay neatly in the past.

We carry it forward into new jobs, new relationships, new seasons of life. Just like the students who stopped trying on the third word, even when success was finally possible, we allow old experiences to write new stories that no longer apply.

Past conditions shape future behavior unless we consciously *interrupt the pattern*.

Moving Toward Learned Hopefulness

The antidote to learned helplessness isn't blind optimism. It's learned hopefulness, or the practiced belief that effort, choice, and learning matter again.

Here are common ways people begin that shift:

- 1. Name the pattern**
Awareness breaks the spell. Ask: *Is this truly impossible?*
- 2. Reconnect effort to outcome**
Start with small, winnable challenges where effort clearly leads to progress.
- 3. Change the story you tell yourself**
Replace "I can't" with "I haven't yet" or "I'm learning."
- 4. Control what you can control**
Focus on preparation, response, attitude, and consistency.
- 5. Borrow belief**
Spend time with people who see possibility before you do. Hope is contagious.
- 6. Practice raising your hand again**
Tentatively at first. Then with confidence. Re-learning hope is a skill.

The Quiet Invitation

The most important insight from that classroom isn't about words. It's about life.

We are all shaped by experiences beyond our control. But we are not condemned to repeat them.

At some point, the word changes. The conditions shift. The test becomes solvable. The only question is whether we're willing to raise our hand again.

Learned helplessness is powerful, yes, *but learned hopefulness is stronger*.

Tony Thelen is the founder of *The River Coaching & Consulting, LLC*, where he works with CEOs and senior leaders to help them live and lead with clarity, purpose, and intention. "The River" is a weekly column focused on practical wisdom for a fulfilling life and successful career. Learn more at www.rivercoaching.com or contact him at Tony@rivercoach.org



Milford Memorial Library News

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

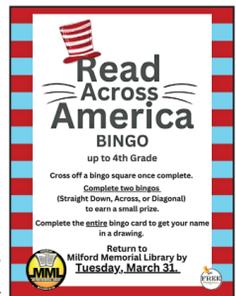
- March 2, 10:30 a.m. - Vegetables
- March 9, 10:30 a.m. - Whales
- March 16, 10:30 a.m. - Xylophone
- March 23, 10:30 a.m. - Zoo

During the month of March, kids in 4th grade and younger may take part in Read Across America Bingo. At MML's front desk, pick up your special bingo card with 25 interactive reading options. Four Bingos in a row equals a small prize, and a completed bingo card equals a prize drawing entry. Read Across America Bingo will be available from Monday, March 2, through Tuesday, March 31.

Saturday, February 28, is the last day of MML's Blind Date with a Book. Please return completed bookmarks to MML to be placed into a prize drawing. The prize is basket full of goodies. One basket for adults and one for children. Thank you to the Friends of the Milford Library for sponsoring Blind Date with a Book prizes.

Join us in welcoming Classic Guitarist Peter Fletcher, on Monday, March 16, at 6:30 p.m., at Milford Memorial Library. Peter will be performing music from his new album, *In Concert*, along with music from Russian composer, Nikita Koshkin, Spanish composer Isaac Albeniz, and more. In 2027, Peter will return to Carnegie Hall. This free program is sponsored by the Friends of the Milford Library, Arnolds Park Public Library, and the Spirit Lake Public Library.

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



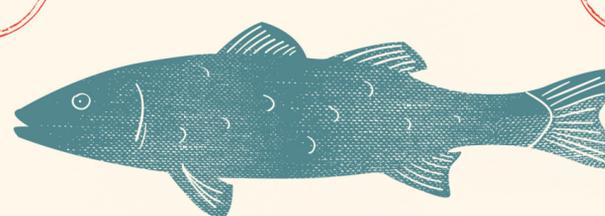
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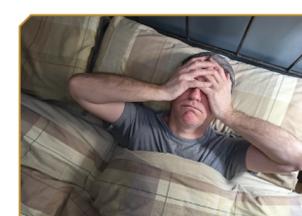
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5 PM - 7 PM

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Obituary

Mass of Christian Burial for **Dr. Maurice Kirlin, MD**, age 97, of Okoboji, was held on Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Spirit Lake. Visitation took place on Monday, February 23, 2026, at the Turner Jenness Funeral Home in Spirit Lake. Inurnment was at Lakeview Gardens Cemetery in Okoboji.



In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorials be directed to the Lakes Regional Healthcare Foundation at PO Box AB Spirit Lake, IA 51360.

Dr. Kirlin passed on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at Lakes Regional Healthcare in Spirit Lake.

Dr. Maurice Walter Kirlin, known to most as "Maury", was born December 2, 1928, to Maurice M. Kirlin and Verda Emeline (Walter) Kirlin in Omaha, Nebraska. He was an only child and grew up in Missouri Valley, Iowa, where he developed a lifelong love of language, music and service to others.

Maury was a talented musician, playing organ for his church at age 12. In high school he won first place in state for solo clarinet and solo piano.

Maury graduated from Missouri Valley High School in 1947. In May of that year, shortly after graduation, he enlisted in the United States Army. He was stationed in Berlin, Germany, where he proudly served with the 298th Army Band as first chair clarinet. He used his time in the military to learn German and travel around Europe.

In 1949, following his two years of military service, Maury enrolled as a pre-med student at the University of Iowa. After his graduation in 1952, Maury continued his education at the University of Iowa Medical School, earning his medical degree in 1956.

Following a year of internship, beginning in 1956 at Cincinnati General Hospital, he spent four years specializing in surgery and internal medicine at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts, and the Veteran's Hospital in Iowa City.

After his medical training was complete, Maury was a Dominican Novitiate in Winona, Minnesota, from the fall of 1961 to the fall of 1962.

In 1962, Dr. Kirlin began his medical practice at Spirit Lake Medical Center in Spirit Lake, Iowa, where he faithfully served his patients and community for 37 years. Known for his steady presence, thoughtful care, and deep commitment to his profession, he touched countless lives before retiring in 1999.

In May of 1970, Maurice married Ruth Neustrom, a widow with three young children. This was a huge step for a bachelor but Maury rose to the challenge. Together they added two more children to their family and built a life rooted in faith, family, and shared values. Maurice was a devoted husband, father and grandfather.

Maury appreciated the beauty of living in the Okoboji area. His family enjoyed all the activities of living on a lake. A highlight for Maury was spending time with his sons on hunting trips. Over the years his children and grandchildren have loved visiting Okoboji and spending time at Grandma and Grandpa's house.

Throughout his life, Maury maintained a deep appreciation for classical music and was an accomplished pianist. He also had a strong interest in Latin and religious studies. A member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Spirit Lake, his faith was central to his life. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus and served on many committees with the Dickinson County Republican Party.

Maurice is survived by his beloved wife, Ruth (Faulkender) Kirlin, and children, Mark Neustrom, Kirk (Tina) Neustrom, Penny (Mike) Kilen, Ryan (Krissy) Kirlin, and Kevin (Anna) Kirlin. He is also survived by his cherished grandchildren, Brody Coffman, Bennett (Ally) Coffman, Jocelyn Coffman (Zach Knudson), Kyle Neustrom, Kara (Ryan) Erenson, Brett Neustrom, Danny Neustrom, Aidan Kirlin, Suzie Kirlin, Oliver Kirlin and Charlie Kirlin, and several nieces and nephews.

Maury will be remembered for his dedication to medicine, his love of music and learning, his steady faith, and his deep devotion to his family. His life was one of service, intellect, and quiet strength. He leaves behind a lasting legacy in the hearts of all who knew him. Turner Jenness Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

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Obituary

A Mass of Christian Burial for John Long, age 74, of Milford, was held Saturday, February 21, 2026, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Milford. Interment was at Lakeview Gardens Cemetery in Okoboji.



John Joel Long was born on December 18, 1951, in Le Mars, Iowa, to Arthur and Lois "Minnie" Long. He grew up in Hartley, Iowa, alongside his two older brothers, Gary and Tom. John took great pride in watching over his brother Tom, who was four years older, being both a protector and his best buddy.

John graduated from Hartley High School and married Nancy Negus in 1973. They made their home in Hartley, where John was a proud member of the Hartley Fire Department. He knew just about everyone in town, and Hartley always held a special place in his heart.

In 1978, John and Nancy welcomed their one and only daughter, Jennifer Marie—the apple of his eye. The family later moved to Spencer, Iowa, where John enjoyed bowling and working in the gas business. When Jennifer was young and starting school, the family moved to Okoboji, a place John quickly made his own.

In Okoboji, John served on the Okoboji City Council, held a permanent seat at Tweeter's, and made lifelong friendships. He worked his way to Vice President of Dyno Oil, retiring after many years in the industry.

John lived life fully. He loved boating on the lake, hosting friends and family for deck time filled with laughter, and making annual trips to Brainerd, Minnesota, for drag races—something he enjoyed for over 20 years. He also served on the Board of Directors for Oil Jobbers, turning road trips into another part of the adventure.

He could often be found washing and detailing cars—beer in hand—making sure the rims were shining just right. Known affectionately as "Big John," he wore a huge smile and had an even bigger heart.

John proudly guided Jennifer into the field of education—because, as dads know best, he was always right. In 2011, John became a grandfather to Porter, who quickly became one of his greatest joys. During retirement, John loved cruising around, "driving and vibin'," and sharing boy-and-toy adventures with Porter.

John treasured many memorable trips with his best buddy, Gary, visiting Gary's family—who became like family to all of us—in Florida and Arizona. Those trips were full of laughter, stories, and cherished guy time.

John was a man of strong faith. He was preceded in death by his parents, Arthur and Lois Long; his brothers, Gary and Tom; his parents-in-law, Mary and Darrell Negus; and his brother-in-law, Tom Rieck.

John is survived by his loving wife, Nancy Long of Milford, Iowa; his daughter and son-in-law, Jennifer and Heath Prentice; and his cherished grandson, Porter. He treated Heath as the son he never had. He is also survived by his sister-in-law, Kathy Rieck, and many dear friends who were truly family.

John's legacy lives on in laughter on the deck, joy on the open road, a spotless set of rims, and the countless people lucky enough to call him friend, husband, dad, grandpa—or simply, Big John.

Arrangements are under the care of Turner Jenness Funeral Home.

THE LAKES NEWS Auction Calendar

Fri., March 6 – 10:00 AM—77.9 acres at auction in Clay Co., IA. Auctioneers: Brock Auction Company, INC.. 712-548-4634. www.brockauction.com.

Sat., March 14 – 9:00 AM—Large coin auction in Spirit Lake, IA. Auctioneers: Howells. 712-260-9690. www.howellrealestateandauktion.com.

Thurs., April 2 – 10:00 AM—127 acres at auction in Terril, IA. Auctioneers: Midwest Land Management. 712-262-3110. www.midwestlandmanagement.com.

Lakes Area Senior/Activity Center Presentations

Please call 712-336-5247 to let the Lakes Area Senior/Activity Center know you will be attending.

- Tuesday, February 24 12:30PM—TBD
- Tuesday, February 24 12:00PM—Dickinson County Public Health will be providing free blood pressure checks
- Thursday's—11:00am—Tai Chi
- Friday's—9:50am—Chair Yoga

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

Obituary

A Memorial Service for Bruce Johnson, age 92, of Spirit Lake, will be held on Saturday, February 28, 2026, at 11:00am at the Turner Jenness Funeral Home in Spirit Lake. Visitation will take place prior to the service from 9:30-11:00am at the funeral home.



Bruce Leon Johnson was born May 19, 1933, to Everett and Mary Johnson in his parents' home in Emmet County, IA. His family moved to the home farm in Spirit Lake, IA, in 1940 where he lived with his five siblings. He purchased the farm from his dad and lived the rest of his life there. Bruce passed away suddenly at home on Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at age 92 with his son Keith by his side.

Bruce attended country school until the eighth grade. In high school he played football and was in the Letterman's Club. He was a member of FFA for 4 years and was on the staff for the annual his senior year. He was considered "the poetic member of the class" and was well liked. Bruce will always be remembered as the guy ready to entertain with his off-the-cuff humor, his laughter will never be forgotten. He graduated from Spirit Lake High School in 1951. His first full time job was delivering propane gas for Lakes Gas company.

Bruce enlisted in the United States Navy during the Korean Conflict and served from 1952-1956 and was honorably discharged. He was a member of the Spirit Lake John W. Kidd VFW Post #4514 and served as the commander from 1972-1973 and the chaplain for 13 years. He was a member of the Spirit Lake American Legion Post #23 and served as commander from 1996-1998 and as the chaplain in 1995. Bruce served as the Grand Marshall for the Spirit Lake Memorial Day parade in 2007 and 2022. He enjoyed shooting pool at the VFW with other veterans.

On June 17, 1961, Bruce married the love of his life, Janice (Jan) Michels at Grace Lutheran Church in Spirit Lake, IA. This union was blessed with three children: Kathy (Rick) Kleen, Brian (Linda) Johnson and Keith Johnson. Together, Bruce and Jan raised their children on the family farm, instilling in them life values such as hard work, integrity, unconditional love and lots of laughter. He never expected more from anyone else that he did not also expect from himself. If it was time to pick rocks, you picked rocks, but he was always at our side picking rock with us. Walking beans, baling hay, butchering chickens - he was there working just as hard as anyone else, if not more.

Giving back to the community was important to Bruce. Both he and Jan spent many years making salad for the VFW Friday fish fries. Every Good Friday Bruce would be serving breakfast at the VFW alongside his brothers Cleo and Jeff. He called bingo at the nursing home and the American Legion. He and his brothers gave presentations on the folding of the American flag. Bruce also served as a 4-H leader from 1983-1988. Brian remembers fondly the pie auctions where Bruce and his brothers would try to outbid everyone for the pies, ultimately raising lots of money for the local 4-H kids. He coached Kathy's softball team and since the team didn't have caps, he purchased caps for the entire team! It was just a testament to who they were.

Bruce loved conversation and coffee. Whether it was at HyVee, Kepler's Kitchen, the nursing home or in a friend's kitchen. Bruce was always able to crack a joke and have a good laugh.

When asked what's your best advice for your grandchildren Bruce said that they get an education, keep your life in order, work hard, treat people like they want to be treated, and always hold onto your family and your faith.

Bruce was preceded in death by his parents, Everett and Mary Johnson; his wife Jan; Cleo Johnson (brother), Phyllis Johnson (sister-in-law), Everett (Jeff) Johnson (brother), Phyllis Johnson (sister-in-law), Genevieve Waldron (sister), John (Jack) Waldron (brother-in-law), Frances Fronk (sister), Mervin Fronk (brother-in-law), Perry Bradshaw (brother-in-law), and nephews, Rick Waldron and Kyle Johnson.

Left to cherish his memory are his children, Kathy (Rick) Kleen, Spirit Lake, IA; Brian (Linda) Johnson, Odebolt, IA; and Keith Johnson Spirit Lake, IA; four grandchildren, Matt (Whitney) Johnson Omaha, NE; Kaylene (Matt) Riedell, Odebolt, IA; Taylor (Cole) Schultz, Odebolt, IA and Emily (Ben) Larsen Esterville, IA; eight great grandchildren, Alyssa, Addison, "baby" Johnson, Beckett Riedell, Kyleigh and Karson Schultz, Mya and Kendall Larsen; sister, Rudy Bradshaw, Des Moines, IA; and many nieces, nephews, friends and neighbors.

In lieu of flowers, please give to one of your own cherished causes in Bruce's name or send a donation to an organization that Bruce and Jan faithfully supported, Midwest Christian Services, 4509 20th Avenue, Peterson, IA 51047.

Turner Jenness Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Obituary

Doris Leona Ashland, age 91, passed away peacefully at her home in Spirit Lake on February 18, 2026. She was born on May 18, 1934, in Iowa City, Iowa, to Harm and Margaret Davids. Doris grew up in Sheffield, Iowa, and was the youngest of eight children.



After graduating from Sheffield High School, she worked in the parts department at Allis-Chalmers in Mason City, Iowa. On July 14, 1956, she married Kenneth Ashland in Clear Lake, Iowa. In 1962, Kenneth and Doris relocated to Spirit Lake, where they made their home for the next 64 years.

Doris worked at the Dickinson County Farm Bureau and Dickinson County Memorial Hospital for several years. She was an active member of Grace Lutheran Church in Spirit Lake, where she served as a Sunday school teacher, president of the Altar Guild, and a deaconess. In addition, she was a member of the VFW Auxiliary Post 4514, serving on the Color Guard and as a trustee.

In her free time, Doris enjoyed being with her family, sewing, gardening, and traveling throughout the United States with Kenneth.

She is survived by her children: Wendy Ashland of St. Michael, Minnesota; Jeff Ashland (Penny) of Spirit Lake; and Peggy Adam (Ken) of Chanhassen, Minnesota; her grandchildren: Christopher (Jennifer) Ashland of Otsego, Minnesota; Caitlin (Nate) Ashland of St. Michael, Minnesota; Joshua Ashland of Otsego, Minnesota; Ben (Mackenzie) Ashland of Spirit Lake; Sami (Karl) Keller of Owatonna, Minnesota; Andy Ashland of Spirit Lake; Angela Adam of Cannon Ball, North Dakota; Katy (Nick) Metz of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania; and Tyler Adam of Chanhassen, Minnesota; her great-grandchildren: Aiden, Jack, Jordan, Bowden, Ava, Boone, and Michael; a sister-in-law; many nieces and nephews; and her beloved pet beagle, Barney.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Kenneth; her parents; three brothers and four sisters; five brothers-in-law; two sisters-in-law; three nieces; and three nephews.

Above all, Doris was a loving and devoted mother. She lived a long life marked by love for her family, quiet strength, and steady devotion to those she held dear. She will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her.

Visitation will take place at Grace Lutheran Church on Friday, February 27, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., followed by the funeral service at 11:00 a.m. Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Turner Jenness Family Funeral Home in Spirit Lake.

Turning Point Crisis Center: A Milestone of Service

Plains Area Mental Health Center (PAMHC) reached a significant milestone on February 1st, 2016, with the opening of the Turning Point Crisis Home.



Initially launching with a dedicated team of only seven staff members, the facility focused on providing residential crisis stabilization services around the clock, every day of the year. Since those early days, Plains Area has successfully expanded its reach to include a 24/7 Crisis Line, two Mobile Crisis Response Teams (MCAT), and various community-based crisis stabilization services. This growth is supported by 19 hardworking staff members whose efforts have been essential to the organization's success.

Since first opening its doors in 2016, the center has served a total of 857 individuals. PAMHC extends its deepest gratitude to the community and the supporters who have played a vital role in this journey. This ongoing support has been the foundation that allows the organization to offer the residents of Northwest Iowa the high-quality care and specialized services they deserve.

The organization's comprehensive services remain available 24/7/365 and can be accessed by contacting 888-546-0730. The 24-hour Crisis Line provides free, confidential support for those in need of a listening ear. Additionally, the Mobile Crisis Assessment Team (MCAT) serves both children and adults by dispatching response staff directly to homes, schools, or other public locations to provide immediate intervention during a mental health crisis.

Further stabilization options include the Turning Point program and the Community-Based Program. Turning Point offers a relaxing, therapeutic, and home-like environment where adults aged 18 and older can receive voluntary support. For those who require assistance in their natural surroundings, the Community-Based Program provides voluntary services for anyone aged five and older, delivering care where the individual lives, works, or recreates.

SHOP Local

Mobile Food Pantry Returns

The mobile food pantry from the Food Bank of Iowa is returning again. The free distribution will take place from 4-6 p.m. Thursday, March 5, at the Good News Esterville Church. The food will be distributed inside the church. Recipients are asked to bring bags, laundry baskets or boxes to carry the food. At the February Food Bank, 515 individuals (192 families) received 8,802 pounds of food. The Food Bank of Iowa partners with 700 agencies in 55 counties to distribute 2.5 million pounds of food each month, so that no one goes hungry in Iowa. If you have questions, call the Good News Esterville Church at 712-362-4984.



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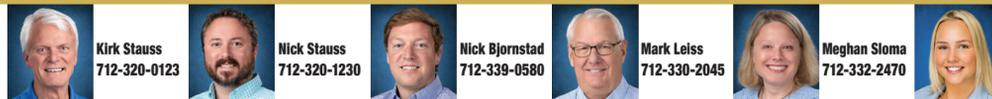
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Spirit Lake Library News

Two Weeks For The Price Of One
by Jill Jennings

There are two things going on the first week of March that I would like to draw your attention to: Return Borrowed Books Week & Read an eBook Week. It's not random as to why I'm connecting these two observances!

During the week of March 1 - 7, gather up all the books that are due (or overdue!), that you have borrowed, and return them to the library. At the Spirit Lake Public Library, we have an auto-renewal system for physical items checked out. At the end of the two week check-out period, your items will automatically renew if no one else has put them on hold and is waiting for them. You have up to two auto-renewals, for a total of six weeks to keep those materials. But, why wait? If you're done with them, go ahead and bring them back so that others can enjoy them!

After you deposit those books in the book drop, you can move onto the second task: read an eBook. I certainly don't want to tell anyone how to read books. We all have our preferences: physical books, audiobooks downloaded to a phone, books on audio CD ... there are all kinds of options. My challenge to you is to just TRY an eBook. Learning how to do new things is good for your brain!

I'm one of the "audiobook on my iPhone" people. But I do read an eBook on my iPad on occasion. Usually, it's because that's the only way I can get the book, but it works just fine!

We have two digital collections available to our Residential Patrons at the SLPL. I've talked about Libby and Hoopla before. If you need help with either of those, grab your device and come into the library. We will be happy to help you figure it out!

So, return those physical books and check out an eBook during the first week of March!

SLPL staff reading spotlight: Diana is reading Track of Courage (Call of the Wild, #1) by Susan May Warren.

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

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TRAILS TALK

Erin Reed, Executive Director, DCTB

Dickinson County Recreational Trails
www.dickinsoncountyrails.com

2025 Year In Review

At the beginning of each year, the Dickinson County Trails Board visits our partner cities to provide updates on the previous year's trail activities and accomplishments. We are fortunate to be part of an incredibly supportive community of donors, local foundations, cities, and county partners who make our success possible.

Below are highlights and key figures from the Dickinson County Trails Board 2025 Annual Report that we have been sharing with our local partners:

- 2.5 Miles** – Three new trail segments totaling 2.5 miles were added to the trails system, including the Lakes Art Center Loop, the West Okoboji Trail Connection, and the first phase of the Clay County Connection. These additions created placemaking spaces, filled street route gaps, and advanced our ongoing mission to connect more communities to the Iowa Great Lakes Trails.
- 5.3 Miles** – Tree clearing and minor grading were completed along the rail corridor going east from Orleans to Highway 71 in preparation for future trail construction. While full development is still a couple years away, this project already allows for trail use by mountain bikers, fat tire cyclists, walkers, and joggers.
- 420,806 Trail Counts** – The number of user counts tracked through 10 counters placed around the trails system in 2025.
- 2,553 Daily Counts** – Average daily count of trail users from Memorial Day through Labor Day.
- 19 Trail Benches** – New benches placed throughout the trail system in honor of loved ones and friends, providing both meaningful tributes and welcoming places to rest.
- 2 Bridges** – Brayden Yungbluth of Milford Boy Scout Troop #170, assisted by fellow scouts, earned his Eagle Scout Award by completing much-needed bridge improvements on the Lower Gar and Emerson Bay trails.
- \$1,270,000** – Grant funding secured through Region 3 TAP, Okoboji Foundation, Iowa Economic Development and State Recreational Trails program.
- 20,000+** – The number of cyclists that descended upon the Iowa Great Lakes for RAGBRAI LII, with Milford serving as the first overnight stop of the ride. The route made history by briefly entering Minnesota for the first time.

We also extend our gratitude to our partners at the Dickinson County Conservation Board. Brian Cuperus and Clay Pavelko, along with their team, manage general trail maintenance, including mowing and tree trimming, across more than 50 miles of trail routes. Their dedicated work keeps our trail system safe, beautiful, and in excellent condition year-round.

Overall, 2025 was a year of significant progress and development for the Iowa Great Lakes Trails. With new development, maintenance efforts and community engagement, the trail system continues to thrive and serve as a vital recreational asset for residents and visitors alike. The partnerships with local governments, donors, foundations, and organizations like the Dickinson County Conservation Board are instrumental in ensuring the success and sustainability of the trails. As we move forward, we remain committed to enhancing and expanding the trail network, further enriching quality of life throughout our community.

As always, Happy Trails to You and Yours.
 Erin Reed, DCTB Executive Director

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Client TESTIMONIAL

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

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

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

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

Travis Kennedy
Sunshine Foods
Milford, Iowa

Sunshine Foods

View From The Bench
by John Adams, Jr.

Hockey Gold!

I'm guessing that you're a bit surprised by my title and article today, probably thinking I would be writing about basketball again from this past week, especially with Iowa State beating #2 Houston, but then laying an effort egg in their road loss to #23 BYU on Saturday night, and Iowa taking down Nebraska on Tuesday to claim their first ranked win in over two years. However, I figured that I've got several weeks to write about college hoops, but when something like the USA claiming their first Gold Medal in Men's Hockey since 1980, and the women's hockey team also beating the Canadians to earn Gold, those two events could supersede our Cyclones and Hawkeyes for the week!

I'm old enough to remember when the "Miracle on Ice" happened in 1980, with the USA Men's Hockey team shocking the world by defeating the mighty Soviet Union, 4-3 in the Medal Round of the Olympics at Lake Placid, NY. Back in 1980 much of the Olympics wasn't even broadcast live, so this match that started at 4PM CST was aired on ESPN tape-delayed at 7PM CST. Back then you obviously didn't have the internet and could watch the game not knowing who had won, which is what I did in the basement of 1605 M Avenue in Milford with a group of childhood friends. We were only nine years old at the time, and had very minimal interest in hockey, but for some reason we could feel the magic of that USA-USSR matchup, and all cheered loudly as Al Michaels coined his famous "Do you believe in miracles?" phrase as the clock struck 0:00 and the biggest hockey upset in the Olympics occurred. The USA would then beat Finland 4-2 on Sunday to complete their Medal Round competition and earn the Gold Medal. My parents didn't let me skip church or Sunday School that day despite my best efforts of begging, but I remember racing home to catch the final period of the game as the USA again rallied from a 2-1 deficit to claim the gold medal.

While this year's Men's team, now filled with NHL players, didn't need any miracles to claim their gold medal, they did have to knock out the favorite and long-time rival Canada 2-1 in sudden-death overtime on Sunday. Goalie Connor Hellebuyck was amazing, stopping 41 of 42 Canadian shots, and Jack Hughes ended the game with his 3 on 3 goal in sudden death, giving the USA bragging rights in a sport invented and recently dominated by Team Canada. The USA finished the Olympics with a perfect 6-0 record, including two overtime thrillers, the other one being a 2-1 win over Sweden in the Quarterfinals. The USA Women's team did not have as much of a challenge until their Gold Medal game, also vs Canada. The Americans dominated their Preliminary and first two Medal Round games, winning those five games by a total of 31-1. Canada took a 1-0 lead in the second quarter of the Gold Medal match, but the USA would rally behind stellar goaltending by Aerin Frankel and a late goal by Hillary Knight with just 2:04 left in the game. Megan Keller would give the Americans the Gold Medal with her 3 on 3 goal 4:07 into overtime. The Women's team does have an Iowa State Cyclone connection, with Taylor Heise who had the assist on the game-winning goal and also scored two Olympic goals, being the sister of ISU senior forward Nate Heise. It was a huge week for the Heise family, with Taylor winning the Gold Medal and Nate hitting the game-winning shot vs #2 Houston on Monday night.

With the Olympics now over, and the USA having a record-breaking showing with 12-Gold Medals and 33 overall, their highest Medal total since 2010 when they earned 37 total medals, we can fully shift our attention to college basketball and what lies ahead with some exciting March Madness. Before doing so, let's take a moment to savor these two Gold Medal victories as well as the other amazing efforts by American athletes at the 2026 Games. Wasn't it nice to not have to worry about what political party each athlete belonged to, or which way the hockey teams leaned politically, and instead just cheer for the red, white and blue as Americans? Go USA!!

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 \$5.00

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

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

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This Property is zoned C-1 General Commercial, which is ideal for many uses being next to the Clay County Regional Event Center and the Fair.

\$630,000

Also, located on the property are 2 billboards, 4 sides. The average traffic count on W. 18th street is approximately 5,800 cars per day, with this street being second only to Hwy 71/18. Don't miss out on this rare opportunity!!

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Co-Listed by **Doug Small** 712-260-4776

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All three property tax reform proposals – House, Senate, and Governor – include a 2% annual cap on property tax revenue growth for cities and counties. This is the single most important reform to slow the relentless rise in property tax bills. And here's the key: **Over 70% of Iowans support this 2% limit.** Yet, some local government advocates claim a 2% cap is "unworkable" and would threaten essential services. The facts say otherwise:

- In 2025 alone, 39 counties and 116 cities successfully operated within or below a 2% revenue growth limit – proving it can be done while continuing to provide essential services responsibly.
- Every proposal includes a critical "growth exception." Revenue from new construction, major improvements, and boundary expansions is excluded from the 2% cap. Communities that grow can still expand their tax base accordingly.
- Many local governments also maintain substantial surplus reserve balances – unspent funds that carry over year to year – specifically intended to provide a safety net for emergencies, unexpected expenses, or economic downturns.

In other words, local governments already have financial cushions in place.

Claiming a reasonable 2% growth limit would automatically threaten essential services ignores the reality of existing reserves and responsible budgeting tools already available. This isn't about cutting services. It's about stopping chronic, runaway revenue growth and restoring predictability and fairness for Iowa homeowners. The Dickinson County Taxpayers Association believes the 2% cap is the cornerstone of meaningful property tax reform.

DCTA
DICKINSON COUNTY TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

Contact your elected officials today and tell them to protect the 2% property tax revenue limit. Iowa taxpayers are counting on it.

Paid for by the Dickinson County Taxpayers Association • To Join, go to: dctxpayers.org

The River Coaching and Consulting is Proud to Sponsor Local Professional Fishermen

Chris Miller & Shane Akin



Chris Miller
Local Angler & Owner of
Frame2Finish, LLC

Chris will be competing in the Bass Master Classic on March 13-15, 2026



Shane Akin
Local Angler & Owner of
Great Lakes Guide Service

Shane will be pursuing a World Championship in Musky Fishing on Lake of the Woods, Ontario, Canada in September 2026

The River Coaching and Consulting is a Proud Annual Sponsor of:
Iowa Great Lakes Fishing Club and The Iowa Great Lakes Area Walleye Weekend Event



The River Coaching and Consulting, LLC - Tony D. Thelen Founder and Principal Executive Coach

SAVE THE DATE - Iowa Great Lakes Chamber Let's Do Lunch & Learn Series Featuring Tony Thelen Wed., June 24 at Pearson Lakes Art Center. Limited Spots available, scan to reserve your spot:



www.therivercoach.org

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Friday, February 27th at 5:30pm
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- Cash Bar Benefitting the Booster Club
- Casual Attire - Wear Your Sneakers & Spirit Lake Gear
- Silent Auction
- Guest Speaker - Jordan Bohannon

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Public Update:
Comprehensive Long-Term Land Use Plan Progress



The Comprehensive Land Use Plan Steering Committee — comprised of key leaders from the Dickinson County Board of Supervisors, the Iowa Great Lakes Sanitary District, Zoning Administration, and representatives from the county's municipalities — is actively evaluating professional planning firms with demonstrated expertise in long-term land use planning for local governments.

The Committee anticipates issuing formal Requests for Proposals (RFPs) to leading firms early next month, with the goal of selecting a qualified planning partner by April.

The Dickinson County Taxpayers Association (DCTA) believes this effort is long overdue.

An updated Comprehensive Long-Term Land Use Plan is foundational to responsible future development and sound zoning decisions. Simply put, it is the roadmap that will guide how and where our county grows over the next 10-20 years.

A well-crafted Comprehensive Plan benefits residents in practical and meaningful ways:

- **Protecting Property Values:** Thoughtful land use planning helps ensure compatible development, reduces conflicts between residential, commercial, agricultural, and recreational uses, and preserves the qualities that make Dickinson County a desirable place to live and invest.
- **Balancing Growth with Environmental Stewardship:** Dickinson County's lakes, open spaces, and agricultural lands are central to our identity and economy. A comprehensive plan helps manage growth while protecting water quality, natural resources, and farmland for future generations.
- **Controlling Long-Term Costs to Taxpayers:** Strategic planning can reduce unnecessary infrastructure expenses by guiding development to areas where roads, utilities, and public services can be efficiently provided. Poorly planned growth often results in higher long-term costs.
- **Providing Predictability and Fairness:** Clear long-term planning gives landowners, developers, and residents a better understanding of expectations, reducing uncertainty and helping ensure consistent zoning decisions.
- **Improving Coordination Through "Edge-Matching":** Growth does not stop at city limits. A comprehensive plan helps align county land use with bordering cities and neighboring jurisdictions, ensuring that development patterns, infrastructure planning, and zoning classifications are compatible where boundaries meet. This "edge-matching" reduces conflicts, improves service delivery, and promotes a unified regional vision.
- **Positioning the County to Secure State and Infrastructure Funding:** Many state and infrastructure funding programs prioritize or require alignment with an adopted comprehensive plan. An updated plan strengthens Dickinson County's ability to compete for state and grant funding for critical infrastructure needs such as sanitation systems, sewer expansion, roadway improvements, and other essential public services.
- **Encouraging Community Input:** A modern Comprehensive Plan reflects the shared vision of the community. It is not simply a regulatory document — it is a statement of collective priorities about what Dickinson County should look like for future generations.

Once a firm is selected, the planning study is expected to take approximately one to one-and-a-half years. This timeline will allow for meaningful public engagement, including opportunities for residents, property owners, and stakeholders to provide input throughout the process.

DCTA looks forward to keeping the public informed as this important work progresses. Additional updates will follow.



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\$2.98



DIGITAL DEAL!

Dole Classic Garden Salad
12 oz.
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-1.00
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SUNNY DEAL!

Cosmic Crisp Apples
Per lb.
\$1.88



SUNNY DEAL!

McCormick Chili Seasoning
1-1.25 oz.
10/\$10



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SUNNY DEAL!

Best Choice Seasoning Packets
Taco, Gravy, Spaghetti, Beef Stew, or Chili
10/\$10



MUST BUY 10

SUNNY DEAL!

Best Choice Assorted Spices
.25-1.5 oz.
10/\$10



MUST BUY 10

SUNNY DEAL!

Best Choice Canned Fruit 14.5-15.25 oz. Peaches, Pears, or Mixed Fruit
2/\$4



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Sold Exclusively at Sunshine Foods!

Smoked Pulled Pork..... \$7.99 Per lb.
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New York Style Crust Pizzas..... **2/\$20**
MUST BUY 2 or 412" Each

Smoked Pulled Chicken..... \$8.99 Per lb.
with Sauce..... \$7.99 Per lb.

Smoked Ribs..... \$14.99 Each
Full Rack..... \$7.99 Each
Half Rack..... \$7.99 Each

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Banquet Fruit or Pot Pies
7 oz.
10/\$10



MUST BUY 10

SUNNY DEAL!

Best Choice Mac & Cheese Cups
2.05-2.39 oz.
10/\$10



MUST BUY 10

SUNNY DEAL!

Best Choice Soup
10.5-11.25 oz., Cream of Chicken, Cream of Mushroom, or Vegetable Beef
10/\$10



MUST BUY 10

SUNNY DEAL!

Best Choice Cottage Cheese
24 oz. Var.
2/\$4.88



SUNNY DEAL!

Whole Top Sirloins
USDA Choice, Boneless, 12-15 Avg., Per lb.
\$6.99



USDA CHOICE
Top Sirloin Steaks \$8.99 Per lb.

SUNNY DEAL!

Farmland Sliced Bacon
16 oz.
\$5.99



SUNNY DEAL!

Best Choice Rice
16 oz., Long Grain, Medium Grain, or Brown
10/\$10



MUST BUY 10

SUNNY DEAL!

Best Choice Pasta
16 oz. Var.
10/\$10



MUST BUY 10

SUNNY DEAL!

Red Gold Tomatoes or Sauce
164.5-15 oz.
10/\$10



MUST BUY 10

DIGITAL DEAL!

Best Choice Cheese Chunks or Shreds
7-8 oz.
AD PRICE 2/\$4
-1.00
2/\$3



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DIGITAL DEAL!

Better Butter Gourmet Butter
3-3.7 oz.
AD PRICE \$2.99
-50¢
\$2.49



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SUNNY DEAL!

Dunkin' Donuts Ground Coffee
11-12 oz.
\$9.99



SUNNY DEAL!

Bolthouse Baby Carrots
1 lb.
10/\$10



MUST BUY 10

SUNNY DEAL!

Best Choice Kidney, Chili or Pinto Beans
15 oz., Kidney, Chili, or Pinto Beans
10/\$10



MUST BUY 10

SUNNY DEAL!

Best Choice Canned Vegetables
14.5-15.25 oz., Beans, Corn, or Peas
10/\$10



MUST BUY 10

SUNNY DEAL!

Core Power
12-Pack, 14 oz. Bottles
\$34.99



Chocolate, Vanilla, or Strawberry

DIGITAL DEAL!

Prairie Farms Premium White Milk
Gallons, Whole, 2%, 1%, Skim
AD PRICE \$3.99
-1.00
\$2.99



DIGITAL COUPON LIMIT OF 3 COUPON USES
Must use digital app to get digital coupons. Limit 3 coupon uses per customer.

SUNNY DEAL!

Best Choice Soda
2 L Var.
10/\$10



MUST BUY 10

SUNNY DEAL!

Chobani Yogurt
5.3 oz.
10/\$10



MUST BUY 10

SUNNY DEAL!

Buddig Wafer Sliced Lunchmeats 2 oz.
10/\$10



MUST BUY 10

SUNNY DEAL!

Powerade
8-Pack, 20 oz.
\$5.99



SUNNY DEAL!

BodyArmor
6-Pack, 16 oz.
\$5.99



SUNNY DEAL!

Coke Products
24-Pack Cans + Deposit
\$12.99



SUNNY DEAL!

Chicken of the Sea
5 oz.
10/\$10



MUST BUY 10

SUNNY DEAL!

Amour Vienna Sausages
4.6 oz.
10/\$10



MUST BUY 10

SUNNY DEAL!

Bar-S Meat Franks or Bologna 12 oz.
10/\$10



MUST BUY 10

DIGITAL DEAL!

Best Choice Peanut Butter Filled Pretzels
24 oz.
AD PRICE \$5.99
-1.00
\$4.99



DIGITAL COUPON LIMIT OF 1 COUPON USE
Must use digital app to get digital coupons. Limit 1 coupon use per customer.

DIGITAL DEAL!

Jack's Pizza
13.8-15.8 oz.
3/\$9.99
-1.00
3/\$8.99



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SUNNY DEAL!

Frito Lay Doritos 6-10.75 oz. or Ruffles 5.5-10.25 oz.
2/\$8



SUNNY DEAL!

Best Choice Cake Mix
15.25 oz.
10/\$10



MUST BUY 10

SUNNY DEAL!

JJ's Fruit Pies
4 oz. Var.
10/\$10



MUST BUY 10

SUNNY DEAL!

Best Choice Mini Marshmallows
10 oz.
10/\$10



MUST BUY 10

DIGITAL DEAL!

Clyde's Glazed Donuts
12 Ct.
AD PRICE \$4.99
-1.00
\$3.99



DIGITAL COUPON LIMIT OF 2 COUPON USES
Must use digital app to get digital coupons. Limit 2 coupon uses per customer.

DIGITAL DEAL!

Brew Pub Lottza Mottza Patriot, or Nancy's Chicago Style Thin Crust Pizza
Select Var.
AD PRICE \$6.99
-1.00
\$5.99



DIGITAL COUPON LIMIT OF 5 COUPON USES
Must use digital app to get digital coupons. Limit 5 coupon uses per customer.

DIGITAL DEAL!

Best Choice Premium Frozen Hashbrowns
28-32 oz.
AD PRICE \$2.99
-1.00
\$1.99



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Online Bidding @ BrockAuction.com & Click on **HiBid**
Friday, March 6th, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

Sale to be held at Clay County Event Center - 800 W 18th St, Spencer, IA 51301

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: W½ of the SE¼, Section 23, Township 97 North, Range 37 West of the 5th P.M. Clay County, Iowa. Approximately 77.9 Acres m/L

LAND LOCATION: From Spencer: Go North 3 miles on Highway 71, then go West 1½ miles on 310th St. From Milford: Go South 9 miles on Highway 71, then go West 1½ miles on 310th St. From Hartley: Go East 14 miles on Highway 18, North 1 mile on 200th Ave., then go East ½ mile on 310th St.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Brock Auction Company is honored to help the Rubis Family Land Trust in marketing their Clay County farmland. This nice laying farm has been in the Rubis Family for generations. That is a testament to the land itself and its ability to perform over the years and produce a good crop, year in and year out. The location is ideal, just 1½ miles West of Highway 71 on 310th St. and 1½ miles Northwest of Highway 18 and 71 intersection. WOW, how is that for easy access and easy farming with straight rows throughout?

The Clay County FSA office shows 76.85 cropland acres with a 38.4-acre corn base with a 154 bu. PLC Yield Index and a 38.4-acre soybean base with a 44 bu. PLC Yield Index. The Farm is enrolled in the ARC County program. The NRCS and Assessors office shows the main soil types to be Biscay, Cylinder, Everly and Wadena with smaller amounts of Talcot, Wilmonton, Afton and Letri. The farm carries a weighted average CSR II of 58.8.

It has always taken foresighted, forward-thinking people to take control of their own future. Clay County has always been a great county known for just that type of thinking. From one of the most progressive County Fairs any where in the U.S. showcasing the power of the modern agricultural world and the values that are rooted in our farmland. The modern ethanol plants and numerous ag-related businesses that are all around this farm with livestock and modern row crop operations put it in a prime location. All that being said, doesn't even speak to the fact that it is only minutes South of the "Iowa Great Lakes" just off the main corridor between Spencer and Milford. For those of you wanting a quality investment that will stand the test of time and want to experience the pride of Iowa farmland ownership, this will be a super chance. All the best from all of us at Brock Auction Company.

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Lakes Area Activity/Senior Center Schedule

Tuesday, February 24
12:00 - Dinner Date
12:00 Blood Pressure Checks
12:30 - Speaker: TBD
12:30 - Bridge

Wednesday, February 25
9:00 - Exercise Class
12:00 - Dinner Date

Thursday, February 26
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 27
9:00 - Exercise Class
10:00 - Chair Yoga
12:00 - Dinner Date

Saturday, February 28
Facility Reserved

Sunday, March 1
Facility Available For Rent

Monday, March 2
9:00 - Exercise
12:00 - Dinner Date
1:00 - Mahjong

Tuesday, March 3
12:00 - Dinner Date
12:30 - Bridge

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

Lakes Area Activity/Senior Center Event Space

The Lakes Area Activity/Senior Center has rooms to rent for your special event. Do you have a special weekend event in the future? A Family Get-together, Anniversary, Graduation, Birthday?

Their card/party room seats 40, has a small kitchenette and rents for \$75.00 per day.

There is also a small meeting room with tables/seating for 10 plus extra chairs for additional seating. \$40.00 per day.

Check out their building updates.

Consider renting their large dining room which seats 100 if extra tables are set up. Without kitchen: \$125.00 per day. With kitchen: \$160.00 per day.

They have a beautiful, clean facility with most weekends available.

Call and visit with someone at the office for details. 712-336-5247.

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Comedian Tommy Ryman to Close Estherville Performing Arts Series at Iowa Lakes

Nationally acclaimed comedian Tommy Ryman will perform at the Janice K. Lund Performing Arts Center on Thursday, March 5, at 7 p.m., concluding the 2025-2026 Estherville Performing Arts Series at Iowa Lakes Community College.

A semifinalist on NBC's Last Comic Standing, Ryman has been praised for his absurdist yet endearing style of stand-up. His comedy album Party Troll debuted at No. 1 on the iTunes comedy charts, and his act has been featured on SiriusXM, Paste Magazine, and Nickelodeon's Nick-Mom Night Out.

Ryman has performed nationwide at top comedy clubs and festivals, sharing the stage with Nick Swarson, Hannibal Buress, Maria Bamford, and Louie Anderson. Known for his clever, original humor delivered with an innocent charm, Ryman offers a performance unlike any other.

Tickets on sale now: Tommy Ryman Performance - \$15 for adults (free admission for Iowa Lakes students and all children). Online at: <https://www.ticketleap.com/tickets/iowa-lakes/tommy-ryman> or call 712-362-7918.

For more information contact: Jessi Strom, Performing Arts Center Promotions and Operations, Iowa Lakes Community College, 712-362-6977 or jstrom@iowalakes.edu.



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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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NOTICES

CITY OF MILFORD: BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT MEMBER 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.
If interested please contact: City Clerk's Office @ 712-338-2741 or, visit www.milford.ia.us for a board member application.



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View complete job description and application process at www.iowalakes.edu/employment.
Contact Lynn Miller at lmiller@iowalakes.edu or 712-362-0409.

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View complete job description and application process at www.iowalakes.edu/employment.
Contact Lynn Miller at lmiller@iowalakes.edu or 712-362-0409.

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**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.

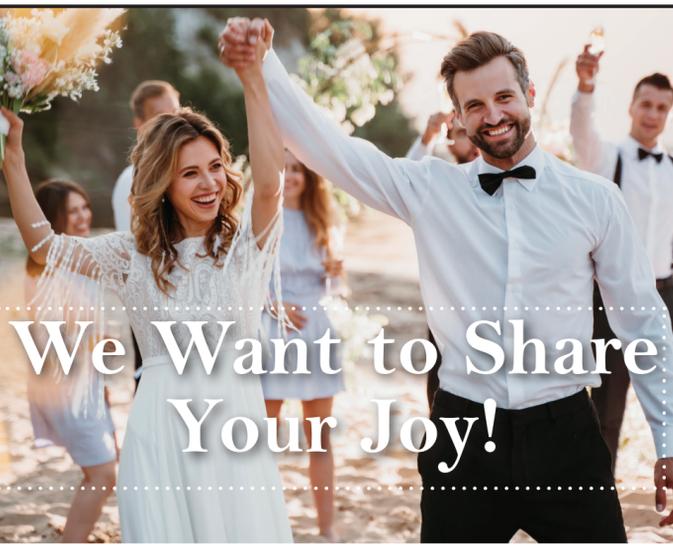
Locally, the Iowa DNR will be at Maser Monarch Lodge, 22785 Nature Center Road, in Okoboji, on March 4. The meeting begins at 6 p.m.

"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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**Weary Ramblers Win Grand Prize
International Acoustic Music Award**

Weary Ramblers racked up two more awards this week in a growing list of accomplishments. The duo's song, "Kentucky Never Seemed So Blue," has been awarded the Overall Grand Prize winner and Best Country Bluegrass Song of the 2026 International Acoustic Music Awards.

"It is an absolute honor to be awarded this prestigious recognition. Artists like Charlie Parr and Dom Flemons have won the Overall Grand Prize in the past. It's exciting to now be in a club with those kinds of artists," Weary Ramblers member Kathryn Severing Fox said.

Weary Ramblers is an Iowa-based duo featuring Severing Fox and Chad Elliott. They began performing together in 2022 and released their first album in 2024. Since then, the duo has collected a long list of achievements that has gathered recent steam.

"It's been a surreal year, and this past month has been incredible. Each recognition is so meaningful, and it's an honor to be recognized in the country, bluegrass, acoustic and blues music worlds. We love being artists that stay out of a box, so being recognized in multiple genres has affirmed our unique path," Severing Fox said.

The award-winning song, "Kentucky Never Seemed So Blue," is from Weary Ramblers second album, "Driftwood," which was released in late 2025. The song features influential, bluegrass vanguard Sam Bush on mandolin. It was co-written by Elliott and Severing Fox while they were on tour.

"We were touring through the Southeast. We both caught pneumonia on tour, but it didn't stop us from writing. It was late at night as we crossed the Ohio River into Kentucky. We saw a sign that read "Bluegrass Highway," and a full moon hung on the horizon. We just knew a song needed to be written. With lots of time behind the wheel, we worked out the harmonies as we coughed between verses," Elliott said.

In addition to the Overall Grand Prize win and Best Country Bluegrass Song award of the International Acoustic Music Awards, Weary Ramblers have recently garnered several other big achievements. They won the Josie Music Award for Song of the Year in the Americana Duo/Group/Collab category. They were awarded a Silver Medal in the 2026 Global Music Awards for both the Americana and Duo categories. They also won the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, TN in the Solo/Duo category. In addition, Elliott was awarded Best Guitarist at the International Blues Challenge.

"These recent accolades are opening many new doors for us. We are going on the Legendary Blues Cruise, the Durango Blues Train and we have tours in different regions starting to line up. We are very excited about everything that's coming. It feels like our hard work of continuous writing and performing is really beginning to pay off," Elliott said.

Learn more about Weary Ramblers by visiting www.wearyramblers.com.



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