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Beef Italian Sausage Pepperoni Canadian Bacon Bacon pieces

NEW! CHICKEN TENDERS

2 BEVERAGES FREE (with \$25+ online orders)

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PRESCHOOL & NEW FAMILY OPEN HOUSE



OKOBOJI
ELEMENTARY
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NEW FAMILIES in grades 1-4:
Don't miss the open enrollment
deadline of March 1st!

Preschool

All children that will be 4 on or before 9/15/26 are eligible for Preschool

We have full and half day options available for families!

New Families KG-4th Grade

All children that will be 5 on or before 9/15/26 are eligible for Kindergarten

All families that will be new to OES are welcome to attend!

WHY YOU SHOULD COME:

- Register your child for next year!
- Meet our PK and KG teachers and see our classrooms!
- Attend an optional presentation on our school, district, and PK program!
- Ask questions and get personalized answers for your family!
- A chance for us to meet your child and plan proper classroom placement!
- Learn what makes Okoboji a special place for your child's life journey!

WE HAVE A BRAND NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL OPENING IN THE FALL OF 2027



EVENT DATE:

MARCH 10, 2026

AT OKOBOJI ELEMENTARY, 1205 7TH ST, MILFORD, IA 51351

www.okobojischools.org

712-338-2458

OPEN HOUSE FROM 5:00-6:30

ALL NEW FAMILIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND THE OPTIONAL INFORMATIONAL PRESENTATION FROM 5:30-6:00 IN THE LUNCHROOM

The Iowa Rock 'n Roll Music Association Announces New Director To The Board of Directors

Brian Kohlwes was elected from Dubuque in the N.E. Iowa Region

The Iowa Rock 'n Roll Music Association has recently voted to add Brian Kohlwes to its Board of Directors. Brian is married to his wife Morgan, and they currently reside in Dubuque, Iowa

Brian and Morgan enjoy their motorcycle and their weekend home on East Lake Okoboji, Iowa, and spending much of the time boating and enjoying the Iowa Great Lakes. In 2015 he relocated to Dubuque, Iowa, for a career opportunity with Hirschbach Motor Lines. Hirschbach is the second largest refrigerated truckload carrier in the US and has approximately 2500 trucks. Brian serves as Hirschbach's General Counsel & Chief Risk Officer where he is responsible for the following departments: legal, claims, safety, DOT compliance, insurance and risk. Brian holds a small minority share of ownership in the company as well. Brian also sits on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of the Iowa Motor Truck Association (IMTA) which represents trucking interests. Brian is slated to be Chairman of the Board in 2026-2027 of IMTA.



Brian is also a musician and got his musical start in high school. His passion is playing bass guitar and making music. Brian joined The Sons of Gladys Kravitz in 2002 which was made up of veteran members of the Central Iowa music scene. Sons of Gladys Kravitz were admitted into the Iowa Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Class of 2025, with Brian inducted as a member of the group.

Brian stated: "What an honor and a privilege it is to represent Dubuque and Eastern Iowa in joining this board. I truly look forward to working alongside this wonderful team filled with individuals of diverse backgrounds to advance the associations' values of honoring achievements, educating youth and inspiring artists."

Ted Poulsen, the President of the association stated, "I am glad to see the addition of Brian Kohlwes to our Board of Directors. Brian brings significant skills and vision to helping build on the mission at the Iowa Rock 'n Roll Music Association."

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 11:00am - 12:30 PM - "Nature Center": Danika's theme this week will be "Animal Myth Busters"
- Tuesday, March 10, 12:30PM - Kelsey Kindall and Allie Fletcher will discuss "Stay In Home Care"
- Tuesday, March 17, 12:30 PM - Dianna DonkerSloot - Where did I Park My Car, AGAIN??
- Tuesday, March 24 12:30PM - Sue Boettcher
- Tuesday, March 31 12:00PM - Dickinson County Public Health will be providing free blood pressure checks
- Thursdays - 11:00am - Tai Chi
- Fridays - 10:50am - Chair Yoga

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

shoreline END OF SEASON sale

50% off

• WOMENS CLOTHING
• GAMEDAY SOCIAL
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ALL MENS CLOTHING

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CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE BEVELL BARRACUDA SWIMMERS WHO QUALIFIED FOR THE YMCA STATE MEET WHICH WILL BE HELD IN MARSHALLTOWN MARCH 7 AND 8, 2026: Eli Begeman, Bo Brownlee, Keaton Cook, Emma Cunningham, Theresa Cunningham, Cooper Daggett, Isla Daggett, Trice Edwards, Brielle Eick, Jovie Erickson, Lola Erickson, Josephine Haulard, Merritt Haulard, Carsen Heinrichs, Hartley Heithold, Jade Henson, Magnolia Hibma, Deagan Hurtig, Gabriella Hurtig, Matthew Gravert, Ray Kaiser, Abigail Mensing, Jackson Mensing, Noah Mensing, Aubrey Paterson, Bristol Paterson, Carson Profit, Nellie Rohling, Nori Rohling, Zayla Ruisenor, Buddy Wahpepah, Lanaeh Wahpepah, Kaela Weston, Alex Wilken, Emerson Wittrock and Lindy Wittrock. Missing from the picture: Elias Mendenhall-Borus, Oliver Miller, Ethan Weston and Mason Yost.

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March 2nd - March 15th

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Hours: Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri. 10-5; Thurs. 10-6; Sat. 10-4
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DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS

March 8, 2026

The River

AN EXECUTIVE COACHING BLOG
TONY THELEN

Other children decided very early that he was different - and once that decision was made, the cruelty was relentless. At a very young age he knew what it felt like to be alone in a crowded room. Other children noticed it before adults had words for it. He moved differently. He spoke awkwardly. He didn't seem to understand the unspoken rules that governed playgrounds and classrooms. The bullying began early and followed him relentlessly. Being different made him a target, and cruelty has a way of focusing on what it doesn't understand.

At home, his parents worried. They would sometimes find him alone, rocking, even hitting his head. Behaviors that frightened them. No one knew why he did it. There were no diagnoses then, no explanations, only concern and uncertainty about what kind of future their son might face.

School was no refuge. Reading was excruciating. Letters refused to stay in order. Words on the page seemed to scramble themselves just to mock him. He was eventually diagnosed as dyslexic, and later understood to be mildly autistic. Teachers struggled to reach him. Classmates ridiculed him. The message was unmistakable: *you don't belong.*

What few people noticed was that while relationships confused him, patterns did not.

The farm made sense. Machines made sense. Nature followed rules, and rules could be learned. By the age of five, he was already driving a tractor, hauling hay bales across his family's fields. Out there, away from judgment and noise, he was capable. Focused. Calm.

As he grew older, he began to understand something profound about himself.

The very traits that isolated him socially - the ability to concentrate deeply, to block out distractions, to obsess over detail - were not weaknesses at all. They were strengths waiting for the right outlet.

Like many innovative farmers of the 1950s, his father had begun experimenting with seed genetics to improve crop yields. Most people saw rows of corn and soybeans. This young man saw data. He saw relationships buried inside numbers. In the basement of their home, he began analyzing yield results with an intensity few others could sustain. Patterns emerged that others missed.

He saw opportunities to improve soybean genetics far beyond what experts believed possible. But Iowa farming had a built-in limitation: one crop per year. Innovation moved at the speed of seasons.

So he changed the equation.

He purchased land in South America, where crops could be grown every ninety days. Four growing cycles per year. Four times the learning. Four times the improvement. While others waited on weather, he compressed time itself. The results were extraordinary.

Yields increased dramatically. His seed genetics, his germplasm, became invaluable. Major seed companies around the world took notice. Partnerships followed. His innovations quietly spread across global agriculture, improving productivity and food security on multiple continents.

Without seeking attention, he became immensely wealthy.

Yet his habits never changed much. He still rises around 3 a.m., reviewing overnight crop data from South America, scanning for trends others might overlook. He can tell you - down to the exact day in early May - the optimal time to search for more mushrooms. Which trees matter. Which temperatures matter. Which moisture patterns unlock the best yields. Sixty years of data live quietly in his mind, cross-indexed and precise.

Everything in his life comes back to the same gift: the ability to recognize patterns others miss, and the discipline to act on them.

That boy - bullied, dyslexic, mildly autistic, misunderstood - was **Harry Stine**.

He is Iowa's richest person. Iowa's only billionaire. Its largest private landowner, with more than 15,000 acres of prime farmland. He is also deeply, privately charitable - supporting causes that genuinely improve lives without fanfare or publicity. But his wealth is not his legacy.

His legacy is proof that the things that wound us early can, if understood and harnessed, become the very source of our contribution to the world. That being different can be painful - but it can also be powerful. And that humility, even at the highest levels of success, remains a virtue worth protecting.

Harry Stine took what God gave him - every part of it - and used it to help feed millions.

The question left for each of us is simple.

How are we using what God gave us to create a better world?

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@therivercoach.org.

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 2ND AND 4TH THURSDAYS OF THE MONTH

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

MEAL PROVIDED BY VFW AUXILIARY FOR JUST \$7.00!
 The VFW Canteen serves beverages & pizza at very reasonable prices.

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

the RG BALLROOM
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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

Al-Anon Meeting Schedule

The new Okoboji Al-Anon Group meets every Thursday at 5:30 p.m. at Calvary United Methodist Church, located at 679 W. Okoboji Grove Rd. in Arnolds Park; for additional details, you may call 312-280-8732.

Meanwhile, the Milford New Hope Al-Anon group holds its meetings virtually via Zoom using Meeting ID 775 5729 0457 and passcode JXEU2H.

For further information or to find other local groups, please visit *Iowa-Al-Anon.org*, navigate to the "Meetings" tab, and search for Milford, IA 51351. You may also contact the area information line at 712-580-4406.



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STARTERS

FRIES	7
TOTS	8
CHEESE BALLS WITH RANCH	12
PRETZEL BALLS WITH BEER CHEESE	12
SWEET CORN NUGGETS WITH SPICY HONEY	14
CHICKEN STRIPS WITH RANCH	14
MINI CORN DOGS WITH MUSTARD	14
MINI TACOS WITH SALSA & SOUR CREAM	14
CREAM CHEESE JALAPENO POPPERS WITH RANCH	14
LOADED TOTS BEER CHEESE/BACON/JALAPENO SLICES/GREEN ONION	14
CHISLIC WITH BBQ SAUCE	15
TEMPURA SHRIMP WITH COCKTAIL SAUCE	15
SMOKED BRISKET BURNT ENDS WITH BBQ SAUCE	15

WINGS

SERVED WITH RANCH OR BLUE CHEESE

BUFFALO	
SWEET CHILI	
SPICY HONEY	
BBQ	

6 WINGS	12
12 WINGS	18
24 WINGS	32

KIDS BASKETS

SERVED WITH FRIES

MAC 'N CHEESE	9
CHICKEN STRIPS	9
CHEESEBURGER	10
FRIED SHRIMP	10

QUESADILLA

SERVED WITH SALSA & SOUR CREAM

CHEESE, ONION & GREEN PEPPERS	12
+ADD BACON	+2
CHICKEN PLAIN, BUFFALO OR BBQ	+3
BEEF GROUND OR STEAK	+4

SANDWICHES

SERVED WITH FRIES & A RANCH PICKLE SPEAR UPGRADE WITH TOTS OR PASTA SALAD ADD \$1

GRILLED OR FRIED CHICKEN SANDWICH CAPTAIN'S SECRET SAUCE ON A BRIOCHE BUN	12
PHILLY STEAK SANDWICH ONION, GREEN PEPPER & BEER CHEESE SAUCE ON A HOAGIE ROLL	14

SMASH BURGERS

SERVED WITH FRIES & A RANCH PICKLE SPEAR UPGRADE WITH TOTS OR PASTA SALAD ADD \$1

CAPTAIN'S BLEND WITH BRISKET, CHUCK, & SHORT RIB/3 OZ. HAND FORMED PATTIES SMASHED ON THE FLAT TOP GRILL TO FORM THE PERFECT CRUST/SERVED ON A BRIOCHE BUN WITH CAPTAIN'S SECRET SAUCE/TOPPED WITH AMERICAN CHEESE			
SINGLE	10	+ADD	
DOUBLE	15	GRILLED ONION	+1
TRIPLE	19	BACON	+3

BOWLS + BURRITOS

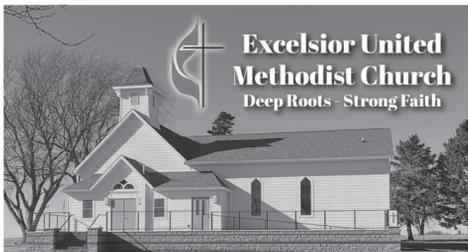
ORANGE CHICKEN	BOWL 14 BURRITO 15
STEAMED JASMINE RICE/CRUNCHY FRIED CHICKEN PIECES/ORANGE SAUCE/MANDARIN ORANGE SLICES/SNOW PEAS/PICKLED RED ONION/GREEN ONION	
PEANUT CHICKEN	BOWL 14 BURRITO 15
STEAMED JASMINE RICE/MARINATED CHICKEN/PEANUT SAUCE/SNOW PEAS/SHREDDED CARROTS/JALAPENO SLICES/PEANUTS/SPICY SRIRACHA SAUCE/LIME JUICE/GREEN ONION	
BURNT ENDS	BOWL 15 BURRITO 16
STEAMED JASMINE RICE/SMOKED BURNT ENDS/SHREDDED CARROTS/PINEAPPLE/JALAPENO SLICES/PICKLED RED ONION/BBQ SAUCE/BALSAMIC GLAZE/GREEN ONION	
TERIYAKI BEEF OR CHICKEN	BOWL 15 BURRITO 16
STEAMED JASMINE RICE/MARINATED STEAK OR CHICKEN/TERIYAKI SAUCE/SNOW PEAS/SHREDDED CARROTS/JALAPENO SLICES/GREEN ONION	
TUNA	BOWL 15 BURRITO 16
STEAMED JASMINE RICE/SUSHI GRADE TUNA STEAK/SNOW PEAS/JALAPENO SLICES/PICKLED RED ONION/WASABI MAYO/SESAME DRESSING/LIME JUICE/GREEN ONION/FRIED WONTONS	

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Spirit Lake Veterinary Clinic Returns to Local Roots Under New Ownership

The veterinary landscape in Spirit Lake has reached a significant milestone as All Pets Animal Clinic officially transitions back to private ownership. Dr. Ryan Hagan has taken the helm of the practice, moving away from corporate structures to prioritize a personalized, "local touch" for the community's animal companions. This shift marks a renewed commitment to the Lakes Area, ensuring that the clinic's operations are guided by local values and tailored medical attention.

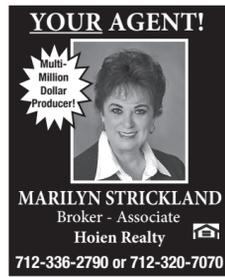
Located at 1420 Lake St., the clinic maintains its reputation for providing a comprehensive suite of veterinary services. Under Dr. Hagan's leadership, the facility continues to bridge the gap between wellness-focused preventative care and advanced surgical excellence. The team remains dedicated to supporting pets through every life stage, offering specialized protocols for both energetic puppies and senior animals requiring compassionate end-of-life care.

The clinic's medical offerings remain robust, featuring advanced diagnostics and modern dental care technology to ensure precise treatment for every patient. By focusing on long-term health and disease prevention, the practice aims to improve the quality of life for Spirit Lake's pet population. These high-level medical services are complemented by a focus on modern convenience, ensuring that the transition to private ownership does not compromise the clinic's technical capabilities.

In a move to further strengthen community ties, All Pets Animal Clinic has introduced an integrated loyalty rewards program through the PetDesk App. This initiative allows clients to earn points for every dollar spent at the clinic, which can be redeemed for various rewards during checkout. The team views the program as a way to reciprocate the loyalty shown by local pet owners, emphasizing that the "local touch" extends to the clinic's business practices and client appreciation.

All Pets Animal Clinic is currently operating with extended weekday hours from 7:30 am to 6:00 pm, and Saturday availability from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. To celebrate this new chapter, Dr. Hagan and his team are planning a grand reopening event scheduled for the end of May. Community members seeking more information can visit the clinic's website or contact the office directly to learn more about the evolving services under this new private leadership.

YOUR AGENT!



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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.

Thurs., March 12 - 10:00 AM
390.05 acres auction in Cottonwood Co., MN. Auctioneers: Hartungs. 507-236-7629. www.auctioneerat-ley.com.

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

Thurs., March 19 - 10:30 AM
136.82 acres auction in O'Brien Co., IA. Auctioneers: Vander Werffs, Hattermann, Rydberg & Mouw. 712-729-3264. www.vw72.com.

Wed., March 25 - 10:00 AM
75 acres at auction in Dickens, IA. Auctioneers: Midwest Land Management. 712-262-3110. www.midwestlandmanagement.com.

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

Sat., April 11 - 8:30 AM
Consignment auction in Ceylon, MN. Auctioneers: Howells & Winter. 712-260-9690. www.howellrealestateandauktion.com.

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SCREAM 7

WED-THUR 3/4-5 6:45
FRI 3/6 4:10 & 7:10
SAT/SUN 3/7-8 1:00, 4:00 & 7:00
MON-WED 3/9-11 7:00

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THE LAKES NEWS Auctions
Page 2B

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

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FELLOWSHIP 9:30 AM

EDUCATION 9:45 AM

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DAILY SPECIALS at 11am

DAILY SPECIALS

- Wed., March 4: Pan Fried Chicken Quesadillas
- Thur., March 5: Scalloped Potatoes Black & Bleu Burger
- Fri., March 6: Country Fried Steak
- Mon., March 9: Hot Beef Taco Salad
- Tues., March 10: CLOSED

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MICRONUTRIENTS
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PROTEIN
SATIETY
VITAMINS

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor,

The Okoboji Women's Club is starting their regular monthly meetings on March 6 at 1:00pm. Thanks to all that could go to our luncheons on January and February.

I am excited about our upcoming meeting at the Homestead on March 6. The address to the Homestead is 2351 27th Street, Spirit Lake, Iowa.

Our speaker will be Mindy Sparks, operations Manager of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. I am looking forward to hearing about the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

If anyone is interested in attending the Okoboji Women's Club meeting, please call Lyn Marksbury at 712-574-2165 to make a reservation. I am looking forward to seeing our members after our 2 month winter break. It is always fun getting back to this important community service organization with fun, fellowship and great speakers.

Lyn Marksbury,
President of the Okoboji Women's Club

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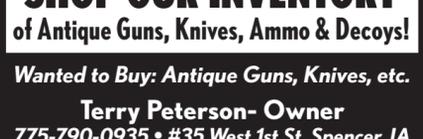



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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor,

We had a very successful Red Cross Blood Drive in Spirit Lake today and exceeded our goal by 15 products obtained. We had 9 power red procedures, 27 whole blood products, and 8 deferred donors making a total of 43.

The down side is we had a huge total of 14 no shows. That is really unacceptable. We had 4 walk-ins to pick up some of that loss.

Blood cannot be manufactured. We are able to do numerous types of transplants and medical miracles but blood cannot be humanly made. We, again, are experiencing a scary blood shortage. Thanks to all of you that donated and you can be sure you have saved a life and sometimes 2.

Thanks to my staff for their volunteer help: Sandi Gilligan, Ella Olson, Linda Erickson and Cheryl Petersen. I am thankful for willing and helpful volunteers and couldn't do this without their help and expertise. Thanks also to the Senior Center that hosts us.

The Red Cross will not return until April 27 so please consider making an appointment for that day. This will give you all time to increase that hemoglobin. Please listen to KUOO and watch the Lakes News Shopper for details. An appointment can be made on line at RedCrossBlood.org or 800-733-2767. Let's do spring with a very successful blood drive again.

Karen Dokken, Chairman



LRH Recognized As A 2026 Top 100 Rural And Community Hospital

Lakes Regional Healthcare has been named among the Top 100 Rural & Community Hospitals in the United States for the eighth year in a row by The Chartis Center for Rural Health.

The center analyzes rural hospitals through the Hospital Strength INDEX®, the industry's most comprehensive and objective assessment of rural hospital performance in the United States. Leveraging publicly available data, the INDEX is utilized nationwide by rural hospitals, health systems and rural affiliates, hospital associations and state offices of rural health across the country to measure and monitor performance across a variety of areas impacting hospital operations and finance.

Lakes Regional Healthcare President and CEO Jason Harrington said, "Healthcare is a team sport, and I am proud of the high quality, compassionate care our team provides every day to each of our patients. We do this not for the recognition, but because it's best for our patients and our community. However, it is nice to be recognized for our outstanding work."

"The delivery of care within rural communities is perhaps more complex today than at any point in recent memory. This year's Top 100 Rural & Community Hospitals have emerged as true leaders - committed to their mission through a powerful combination of resilience, dedication, and innovation," said Michael Topchik, Executive Director of The Chartis Center for Rural Health. "We're delighted to recognize this year's winners and celebrate their Top 100 status."



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Notice to Dickinson County PROPERTY OWNERS

The second half of tax payments for
•Real Estate •Mobile Homes
•Special & Drainage Assessments
are now due.

Deadline for payments without penalty is Tues., March 31, 2026

Pay online at
www.IowaTaxAndTags.org
by eCheck, credit or debit card.
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

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More dates coming soon.
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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.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS
 March 8, 2026

American Legion OMELET FEED
 Sunday, March 8
 8am-12pm

Freewill Offering with all proceeds going to support our Veterans, Legion and Boy Scouts

Come Support our Veterans!
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 Hwy. 71 • Milford, IA

Our Next Omelet Feed is April 12th

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 LIVE MUSIC • GOOD VIBES

MARCH ENTERTAINMENT

- MARCH 6 & 7 Cover to Cover
- MARCH 13 & 14 Atari
- MARCH 17 St. Patrick's Day Party Tim Horsman 5-8pm
- MARCH 20 & 21 Grunge Pop
- MARCH 27 & 28 Varsity Rejects

Enjoy Dinner with Family & Friends
 Kitchen Open 5-10pm

Starters • Wings • Rice Bowls
 Quesadillas • Sandwiches
 • Smash Burgers
 • Kids Menu & More!

Check out our current lineup of events at CaptainsGetaway.com
 OPEN DAILY at 3PM • 107 WEST BROADWAY, ARNOLDS PARK

Dickinson County All School Show
 4 schools - Over 300 works of art!

YOU'RE INVITED! ALL SCHOOL SHOW OPENING RECEPTION
 Thursday, March 5, 5-8 pm

Enjoy refreshments while being the first to view this special Youth Art Show!

Dickinson County is filled with aspiring young artists, and this multi-gallery show celebrates their work. Students from kindergarten through 12th grade, from all schools located in Dickinson County, are invited to display their best works at this annual show which has become one of the best attended exhibits of the season.

Schools represented include: Harris-Lake Park, Okoboji, Spirit Lake, and Graettinger/Terril.

This exhibition is made possible by: Pat & Gary Ray

With additional support from: The Three Sons, MHR Insurance, Scott Trautman - State Farm & Winther, Stave & Co.

On view March 5 - April 11.

lakesart.org | 712.332.7029
 2201 HWY 71 N | Okoboji, IA 51355

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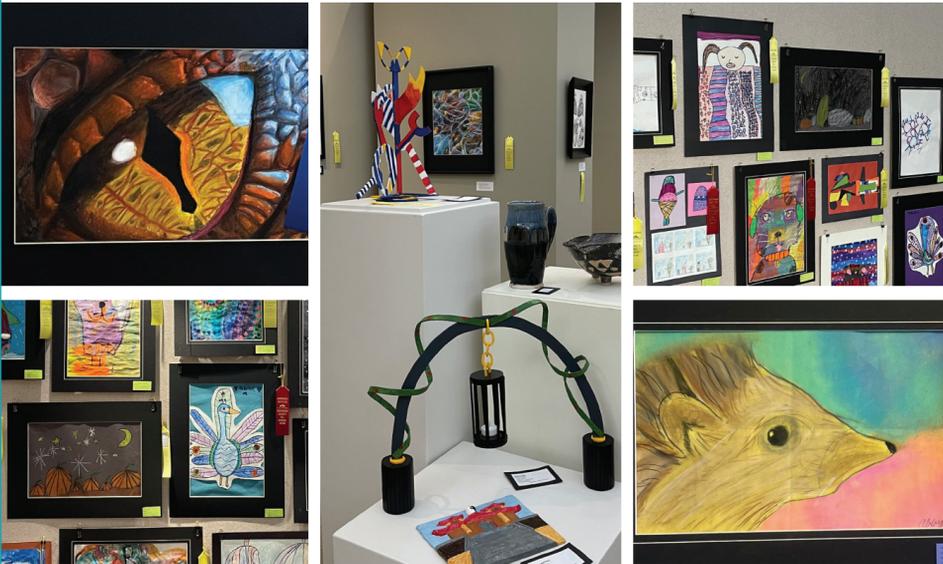
Winter Hours:
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 Thurs: 10am-9pm

VISUAL ARTS

CALL FOR ARTISTS!
 Celebrate the Arts | 4/16-6/5
 Art in The Park | 8/1
 Artisans Road Trip | Oct. 3 & 4

Dickinson County All School Show
 Opening Reception, 3/5, 5-8pm

NEW Russian & Soviet Impressionism Collection
 Through 5/31



PERFORMING ARTS

- 7/7 | Commotion**
 USA's #1 CCR Tribute | 7:30 PM | \$40/\$50
 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
- 7/21 | The Electric Light Orchestra Experience**
 Featuring... Evil Woman - The American ELO | 7:30 PM
 \$40/\$50 MEMBERS ONLY PRESALE 3/17-3/23

SWING DANCE CLASS
 With Midwest Swing Dance Co.
Friday, Mar. 13 & Saturday, Mar. 14
 7-9pm | \$80/\$90 | All Levels, 21+

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

EDUCATION CLASSES

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.

APRIL YOUTH ART CLASSES:

- Mini Michelangelo's | K-2nd**
 Thursdays | 4:00-4:45pm
 Apr. 2, 9, & 16: Printmaking Quilt
- Art Club | 3rd-6th**
 Thursdays | 5-6pm
 Apr. 2, 9, & 16: Beginner Lithography
- Teen Art | 7-12th**
 Tuesdays | 4-5pm
 Apr. 7, 14, 21: CD Intaglio Printmaking

CULINARY CLASSES

- Create & Savor Cooking Class**
 With Marisa Sidles of Rissy's Dry Rubs and Seasonings
 Saturday, March 14 | 6pm | \$80/\$90
 A Night In Naples
- Date Night Cooking Class**
 With Marisa Sidles of Rissy's Dry Rubs and Seasonings
 6pm | \$160/\$170 per Couple
 Must register 3 days prior to each class.
- Winter Comfort Food**
 With Jay Norton of The Hen House
 Thursday, Mar. 12 | \$100/\$110 | 6pm
 Irish Country Supper

Welcome to a feast of hearty traditional Irish favorites, with a glass of wine or Guinness included! This small group dining experience at the kitchen counter is like having a seat at a friendly neighborhood pub in Ireland! And, it's never too early to celebrate St.Paddy's Day! Register by March 10.

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Flagfest Parade Entries Now Open!

Parade entries are now open for the 41st Annual Flagfest Parade, and all are welcome to participate in this long-standing community tradition. Each year, approximately 4,000 spectators line Grand Avenue to enjoy one of Spencer's most celebrated events.

The 2026 Flagfest Parade will be held on Saturday, June 13, 2026. Parade line-up will begin at 9:00 AM at the Clay County Fairgrounds, with the parade starting promptly at 11:00 AM.

All Spencer Chamber Investors receive a free parade entry. Entry fees for non-investors are \$25 if registered prior to May 1, 2026, and \$50 after May 1, 2026. All payments must be made by credit card (plus processing fees).

Please note that the time of parade entry submission does not guarantee preferred placement in the parade lineup. For safety reasons, no candy or any other items may be thrown from moving vehicles along the parade route.

The Spencer Chamber encourages businesses, organizations, families, and community groups to join in celebrating Flagfest and help make the 41st annual parade another memorable event for Spencer.

For parade registration or more information, please visit www.spenceriowachamber.org/flagfest, follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/SpencerFlagfest or contact the Spencer Chamber at 712-262-5680.



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SCHEDULED PRESENTATIONS/EVENTS:
 Tuesday, March 3: 12:30 PM - Nature Center - Topic: Animal Myth Busters
 Tuesday, March 10: 12:30 PM - Stay In Home Care
 Tuesday, March 17: 12:30 PM - Dianna Donkersloot Topic: "Where did I park my car, again?"

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

SAVE THE DATE! SUNDAY, MARCH 15
 10:30am-12:30pm
HAM DINNER
 •Ham •Cheesy Hash Browns •Green Beans •Dinner Roll •Jello Cake

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

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SIGN UP FOR MARCH DINNER DATE MEALS!
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 A Gift Certificate for Dinner Date Meals is the Perfect Gift!

9 Monday Ribs Vegetable Fruit & Bread	10 Tuesday Grilled Hamburger /Bun Vegetable Fruit	11 Wednesday Tater Tot Casserole Vegetable Fruit	12 Thursday Chili Fruit Bread	13 Friday Tuna Salad /Bun Vegetable Fruit
---	---	--	---	---

PLEASE CALL 712-336-5247 BY 1:00 PM FRIDAY TO RESERVE A MEAL FOR NEXT WEEK
 Dinners are provided by **CARSTENSEN'S MEAT & GROCERY** of Lake Park. Meals are available for those 60 and older (and their spouse regardless of age)

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TUESDAY - Dance Night w/ Music & Local Entertainment Meal at 5, Dance at 6
WEDNESDAY - Wing Night Special Hot Sauces & Full Menu
2ND & 4TH THURSDAY - Bingo Night Meal at 5, Bingo at 6
FRIDAY - 8 oz. Sirloin, Baked Potato, & Salad \$15⁰⁰

Fish Fry Fridays THROUGH LENT
 Fish with your choice of Potato and a side of Coleslaw for \$15⁰⁰

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Hours: Open Mon-Fri at 4pm Kids Welcome
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View From The Bench
 by John Adams, Jr.

High Altitude, Deep Roots

In coaching, you are taught to never look too far ahead and never dwell on the last play. But when you have been 'out of the game' for twenty years, the rearview mirror becomes the most important tool in your kit. I spent eight years on the sidelines at the University of Wyoming as a men's basketball assistant coach for the Cowboys, a stretch of time that feels like a lifetime ago and yesterday all at once. Over the past weekend, Michelle and I returned to Laramie with Tyler to revisit the place of his birth and first four years of his life. Our visit also provided an opportunity to reconnect with longstanding friends. This trip wasn't about a scouting report; it was a family homecoming for a heart that never really left the game of basketball and the high plains.

Our time at Wyoming was marked by some great achievements, with consecutive Mountain West Conference Championships and a notable run in the 2002 NCAA Tournament. We advanced to the Second Round by defeating #6 Gonzaga 73-66, though our journey ended when #8 Arizona eliminated us 68-60. Our point guard for those teams was Chris McMillian, who is now an assistant coach for the Cowboys. Chris and I have stayed connected since he graduated in 2003 as he has climbed his way up in the coaching profession. We saw Wyoming defeat South Dakota State earlier this year in the Pentagon in Sioux Falls and that trip sparked Michelle and I to plan a trip out to Laramie to reconnect with such an important phase of our lives. Chris truly gave us the royal treatment, showing us around the updated athletic facilities, hosting us at individual workouts, a team practice and the shoot around on the day of them game, as well as connecting me with the current staff that was incredibly welcoming including head coach Sundance Wicks, who even had this retired coach speak to their team after their Friday practice.

We were also able to connect with some dear friends who worked in the Athletic Department when we were there and who are still in Laramie and had a great time with them at dinner on Friday and Saturday night. Saturday, we had courtside seats to watch Wyoming escape with a 66-62 win over Air Force in a thrilling game. The coaches were not thrilled with how the Cowboys played against a struggling Falcons team, but it sure made for an exciting game as they had to rally from a 3-point deficit in the final 1:30 to pull out the victory and move to 16-13 on the season.

As I watched Chris command the floor and work with this current group of Cowboys from across the court, I saw glimpses of the same grit and leadership he showed as our point guard two decades ago. It is a rare gift to see the game come full circle like this. We spent years together trying to win games, but the real 'W' was sitting right there in front of me: a former player who came back "home", who grew, and who is now the steward of the program we poured our lives into. Chris has always been an amazing person, and it is so rewarding to see just how awesome of a father and coach he has turned into. It was so much fun watching him and Tyler visit and establish a bond through the game of basketball. Reconnecting with Chris and our other friends reminded me just how important relationships are, and even though we may not see each other nearly as often as we used to, these Cowboy bonds can never be broken. I might have been away from Wyoming for twenty years, but with Chris on the bench, it feels like a part of us never left. The game goes on, the whistle still blows, and in the 307, the right hands are still on the ball.



Obituary

A Celebration of Life for **John E. Omundson** (1938–2026) will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2026, at the Henry Olson Funeral Home in Estherville, Iowa. The family will receive friends during a visitation from 9:30 AM to 11:00 AM, with the funeral service immediately following at 11:00 AM. Pastor Tim Johnson will officiate the ceremony. John will be laid to rest at the Lost Island Lutheran Cemetery in Ruthven, Iowa.



John Edward Omundson, the son of James and Velma (Perkins) Omundson, was born on November 29, 1938, in Palo Alto County, Iowa. He died on February 23, 2026, at The Garnet of Casa Grande, Arizona, at the age of 87.

He graduated from Estherville High School before marrying Myrtle "Bea" Simonsen on January 12, 1959, at the First Lutheran Church in Graettinger, Iowa.

John worked at Bradshaw Auto Dealership, Swisher Sports Supply, and NAPA Auto Parts in Estherville. He later purchased the Stardust Drive-Inn Restaurant in Jackson, Minnesota. This was a summer restaurant where locals would stop in after the Saturday night car races; carhops would bring food to the cars, reminiscent of the 1950s. He owned the restaurant for three years. John moved his family to Casa Grande, Arizona, in 1982, where he bought the Se-Tay Motel, which he owned for six years. In 2002, John bought a cabin in Spirit Lake, Iowa, and enjoyed summers on the lake for seventeen years.

John had many hobbies, including fixing and collecting classic cars, hunting pheasants, and fishing in Big Spirit Lake and at Marble Beach with his grandson. He developed a passion for baseball at a young age while playing catch with his father and remained active in local sports leagues through his 20s. He also loved a game of golf at Riverview Golf Course and enjoyed hiking in the mountains near Casa Grande with both his family and friends.

John is survived by his daughters: Debra Omundson, Casa Grande, AZ; Kimberly (Brian) Waskosky, Scottsdale, AZ; and Lisa (Marc) Mignolet, Phoenix, AZ; son-in-law, Larry Riese, Phoenix, AZ; grandson, Alexandre Mignolet, Sacramento, CA; and his siblings: Ron (Eddie) Omundson, Casa Grande, AZ; Richard (Irene) Omundson, Clinton, IN; Sharon Omundson, Emmetsburg, IA; David (Marla) Omundson, Manteno, IL; Jim (Vicky) Omundson, Bondurant, IA; and Peggy Oelkers, Fremont, NE; as well as many other extended family members and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, James and Velma Omundson; wife, Myrtle "Bea" Omundson; daughter, Diana Omundson-Riese; sisters, Susan Von-Bank and Evelyn Bradshaw; nephew, Brett Bradshaw; great-nephew, Cale Omundson; and great-niece, Breanna Omundson.

Online condolences may be left for John's family at HenryOlsonFuneral.com.



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Obituary

A funeral service for **Norma Martens**, of Spirit Lake, will be held at 11:00 AM on Thursday, March 5, 2026, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Spirit Lake. Burial will be on Thursday at 2:30 PM at Westfork Township Cemetery in Climbing Hill, Iowa.



Norma Jean Schwarz was born in Sioux City, Iowa, on January 24, 1930, to Henry A. and Ann E. (Stolley) Schwarz of Moville, Iowa. She passed away peacefully at Lakes Regional Healthcare on February 26, 2026.

She grew up on a farm near Moville and graduated from Climbing Hill High School in 1948. She was baptized and confirmed at St. John Lutheran Church in Climbing Hill. In later years, she was a member of First Lutheran Church in Kingsley, Iowa, and Immanuel Lutheran Church in Spirit Lake, Iowa. She taught Sunday School and Bible School, and she was a member of the First Lutheran Women's Circle and Immanuel's Lutheran Women's League.

Norma was united in marriage to W.D. Martens on August 11, 1948, at St. John Lutheran Church in Climbing Hill. They lived on a farm south of Moville, where they raised their family. After retirement, they moved to Spirit Lake, where they enjoyed living along the lake.

She was a hospice and hospital auxiliary volunteer, delivered Meals on Wheels, and drove cancer patients to treatments. She was a member of Lamplighters, Okoboji Women's Club, RSV, Camp Okoboji Women's Auxiliary, Spirit Lake Library, and the Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

Norma was well known and respected for her beautiful cakes for all occasions, especially weddings. In addition to her cake decorating business, she taught decorating classes and gave demonstrations for Wilton; this career spanned decades. After retiring, she was honored to be asked to judge decorated cakes at the Clay County Fair in Spencer, Iowa.

She and W.D. restored Moville Township's Lily of the Valley Country School, which they relocated to their farm. This school was later given to the Cherokee County Fairgrounds and created a living history center for children and adults to appreciate Iowa's educational heritage.

Some of Norma's pastimes included quilting, painting with watercolors and oils, reading, and fishing. She also enjoyed the winters spent at Mustang Island with W.D.

She was preceded in death by her husband, W.D.; sons, W. David, Marty, and Rick; her parents; brother, Hank Schwarz; infant sister, Marjorie; and sister, Marnis Petersen.

Survivors include her daughter, Annie (Greg) Ver Heul of Viborg, SD; daughter-in-law, Karen Martens of Seward, NE; four grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren; and her sister, Mary Wichel of Cozad, NE.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Parkinson's Foundation, the American Cancer Society, or Mission Central.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to Dr. Zach Borus and to all those who cared for her over the years. Norma will be greatly missed.

Arrangements are under the care of Turner Jenness Funeral Homes.

Word Search Puzzle Key from page 7A

X	P	N	G	S	I	S	V	L	B	D	S	C	H	E	I	E	N	N	D			
A	B	A	T	S	E	S	T	N	L	A	E	C	P	B	I	G	I	V	E	G	A	S
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S	T	N	E	I	R	T	U	N	O	R	C	A	M	I	X	B	Y	I	Y			

Obituary



Millie & Don Demers

M. Millie Demers, formerly of Storm Lake, IA; Sioux Falls, SD; Worthington, MN; and Spirit Lake, IA, passed away peacefully on Dec. 21, 2025, surrounded by family. She was born Nov. 12, 1929, to Gabe and Margaret Caffrey in Sioux Falls, SD. She enjoyed playing golf and cards, thrift store shopping, and traveling. She married Don Demers in June 1948 in Storm Lake. They had four children: Terry (deceased), Jan Johnson of Osceola, WI; Chris Demers of Westbrook, MN; and Craig Demers of Murrieta, CA. They have seven grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. She is survived by her brother, Roy Caffrey; special niece, Shelly (Demers) Koopman; and sister-in-law, Franny (Demers) Karl. She spent the last 25 years enjoying retirement in Spirit Lake.

Donald R. Demers, formerly of Storm Lake, IA; Sioux Falls, SD; Worthington, MN; and Spirit Lake, IA, passed away in July 2022, peacefully surrounded by family. He was born May 24, 1928, in Early, IA, to Fred and Elizabeth Demers. He enjoyed playing golf, cards, and traveling. He married Millie Caffrey in June 1948 in Storm Lake. They had four children. He spent his last 22 years enjoying retirement in Spirit Lake.

Funeral Services for Don & Millie Demers: Saturday, May 16, at 11:00 AM at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 300 E. 3rd St., Storm Lake. A reception will follow at the church.

Obituary

In Memory of Conrad John Sorensen (1931 - 2026)

Conrad John Sorensen (Connie) was born to Earhard and Esther Sorensen in Des Moines, Iowa, on January 24, 1931, and was welcomed into his heavenly home on February 22, 2026.

Connie's early years were filled with many great adventures in Des Moines with his older sister, Evelyn, and brothers, Edward and Arthur. He played on the "Snooseville 5" basketball team, with many memories around their family home on Wright Street. His church was very important to him, and he maintained lifelong friendships from Highland Park Lutheran Church.

Connie played on the football team at Des Moines East High School and also played at Dana College in Blair, Nebraska. He then enlisted in the U.S. Army, where he served in England. One of his highlights while there was seeing the coronation parade for Queen Elizabeth in 1953.

Connie met Jeanne at Lake Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp when they were 14 years old during a Luther League camp, and eventually they married on September 26, 1953, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Jacksonville, Iowa. They were married 63 years.

They spent their first years of marriage in Des Moines, where Connie worked for his father's company, Western Soda Fountain, fabricating and installing restaurant equipment and furniture in cafeterias and diners throughout central Iowa. Their two sons, Mark and Paul, were born in Des Moines, and in 1959 the family moved to the Jacksonville, Iowa, area and eventually settled on the family farm where Jeanne grew up.

While farming, he and Jeanne were very active in Bethlehem Lutheran Church, singing in the choir, sponsoring the Luther League youth group, and sharing their faith with family and friends, while faithfully attending their sons' many school, concert, and sporting events. They were on the board for Outreach Ministries, which launched the Mustard Seed Christian Bookstore, and Connie served on the board of Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp.

In the fall of 1976, Connie and Jeanne accepted the role as co-directors of Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp for 17 years and then served part-time for another 13 years when their son Mark was the director. Connie spent many hours sharing the vision of the camp with pastors, churches, farmers, bankers, family, and others in western Iowa who would eventually support the camp. He also led the construction and remodeling of facilities that have helped the camp become a beautiful, year-round second home for countless families and youth. Many camp counselors have expressed their appreciation for Connie and Jeanne's investment in their lives, and Ingham-Okoboji camp has been recognized for its emphasis on youth, family, and senior adult programs. His favorite pastime at the camp was drinking coffee with campers and swapping stories of faith.

In recent years, Connie enjoyed retirement in Arizona and involvement in the Fiesta Club at Community Church of Joy and, more recently, the Men of Hope and People of Prayer groups at Hope Church, where his son Paul is pastoring. For many summers, he and Jeanne traveled back to Okoboji to volunteer at the camp. Whether in Arizona or Iowa, he loved visiting with friends and family.

Connie is preceded in death by parents, Earhard and Esther; sister, Evelyn Christiansen (Bob); and brothers, Edward (Jeane) and Arthur (Joan). He is survived by his sister-in-law, Lona (late Fred "Skip") Louis; brother-in-law, David (Sandy) Nielsen; sister-in-law, Cheryl Nielsen (late Stan); children, Mark (Tonya) and Paul (Carol); grandchildren, Tedra (Luke) Jorgensen, Gavin, Briele, David (Desirae), and Nathan (Lana) Sorensen, and April (Matt) Brien; and great-grandchildren, Austin, Trista, Silas, Finnegan, and Anna Eleise Jorgensen, and Raya Jeanne and Elias Conrad Sorensen.

A Celebration of Life, followed by a reception, is being held for Connie at Hope Church Phoenix on Sunday, March 8th, at 3:00 pm: 26525 North 19th Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona.

A memorial service will also be held at Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp in Iowa on June 20th. Memorial gifts may be given to Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp, 1203 Inwan Street, Milford, Iowa 51351; www.okoboji.org; or 1-800-OKOBOJIL.

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AA Meetings

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

Tops Meetings

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

Obituary

A Memorial Service for **Shari Nordlund**, age 76, of Spirit Lake, will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2026, at 2:00 pm at the United Methodist Church in Spirit Lake. Visitation will take place prior to the service from 1:00-2:00 pm at the church.



Shari Sue Nordlund, daughter of Dale and Beverly (Tinken) Weber, was born on September 14, 1949, in Fort Dodge, Iowa. She grew up in Humboldt and earned her high school diploma.

Shari spent much of her working life in education, serving as a teacher's associate with the Gilmore City School System for 15 years. Before beginning her career in the school system, she worked as a waitress for many years. She cared deeply about her work and the people she helped, always showing patience and kindness. She retired in 2009. Shari was also an attendee of the Spirit Lake United Methodist Church.

On May 25, 1974, Shari married James Nordlund in Humboldt. Together they built a life based on love, hard work, and commitment. They lived in Humboldt for many years before moving to Spirit Lake. They shared 51 years of marriage, standing side by side through every stage of life.

Family meant everything to Shari. She loved spending time with her children and grandchildren, whether on the farm or at the lake. The farm was a special place where memories were made, stories were shared, and laughter was always present. At the lake, she enjoyed watching the kids play and simply being together. Her grandchildren were her greatest joy, and she treasured every moment with them.

Shari shared a close and lasting bond with her sister, Sandy. She also had a deep love for her nieces and nephews, welcoming them to the farm and lake and making them feel at home. She enjoyed watching them explore, play, and grow, and she was always there to encourage them.

Shari formed a special connection with her student, John, whom she taught for 15 years. She supported him well beyond the classroom, celebrating his successes and helping him through challenges. Her teaching reflected her caring heart and her desire to make a difference.

Music was an important part of Shari's life. She loved singing, playing guitar, and karaoke, sharing her joy through music. She also loved her horses, playing with baby pigs, and caring for her many dogs and cats over the years. She took pride in farm work like baling hay, though she was known to joke about how much she disliked walking beans. In later years, she enjoyed riding her bike on the trails.

Shari lived a life centered on love—for her family, her students, her music, and the farm she cherished. She gave freely of herself, and her laughter, songs, and loving presence will be deeply missed.

Shari Sue Nordlund passed away on February 27, 2026, surrounded by her family.

Those left to cherish her memory include her husband, Jim Nordlund of Spirit Lake; daughter, Shelly Allison of Des Moines; sons, Ryan Nordlund of Des Moines and Shon Nordlund of Humboldt; grandchildren: Amber Stille, Garret Allison, Conner Allison, Jordyn Nordlund, Priya Nordlund, and Avery Nordlund; sister, Sandy Becker; as well as nieces, nephews, and friends.

Shari was preceded in death by her parents, Dale and Beverly Weber.

Turner Jenness Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Obituary

A Memorial Service for **Mitch Watters**, age 68, of Milford was held on Saturday, February 28, 2026, at 2:00 p.m. at First Lutheran Church in West Okoboji.



In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be given directly to the Watters family. Funds received will be used toward a future memorial at City Hall in Arnolds Park to honor Mitch.

Mitchell "Mitch" Watters, age 68, passed away on February 21, 2026. He was born on September 3, 1957, in Hartley, Iowa, to Lowell and LaVonne (Bonnie Meyer) Watters. Mitch grew up in Hartley, where he learned the value of hard work while helping on the family farm. After graduating from high school, he and his family moved to the Lakes Area in the 1970s.

Mitch attended Northwest Iowa Community College in Sheldon, earning a degree in auto mechanics. In the fall of 1978, he met Valerie Alexander, beginning a union that would last for more than four decades. In October 1980, Mitch moved to Schleswig, Iowa, to serve as a Crawford County Sheriff's Deputy. That Christmas, he proposed to Val, and they were married on June 6, 1981, at the United Church of Christ in Hartley.

In February of 1983, Mitch and Val moved to Ocheyedan, Iowa, where Mitch continued his law enforcement career as an Osceola County Sheriff's Deputy, later he was elected Sheriff and served from 1992-1996. The couple were blessed with two children: Alex, born May 5, 1986, and Breanna, born May 22, 1989. In the summer of 1999, the family made their home in Arnolds Park when he accepted a position with the Okoboji Police Department. Dedicated to his community, he served over 30 years on the Arnolds Park and Ocheyedan City Councils, was Board President for The Cherish House, and served a total of 39 years as a law enforcement officer.

Mitch had a deep passion for fishing and especially treasured time spent on the lake with his best friend, Don Tracy. He loved cooking and grilling, often dedicating hours to finding and trying new recipes and making them his own. Though he enjoyed taking scenic trips around the country, he took great pride in creating a warm, welcoming home. Mitch poured his heart into building a comfortable backyard oasis where friends and family could gather and feel at home. After retiring, some of his favorite moments were spent enjoying coffee and conversation with friends.

Those left to cherish his memory are his wife, Val Watters; his children, Alex Watters and Breanna Watters; his brother, Terry (Jean) Watters; his nieces, Kristen (Beau) Bolsenga and Angela (Jeremy) Simington, and their children; along with many cousins and extended family members.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Lowell and Bonnie Watters, and an infant brother, Lowell Lynn.

Mitch will be remembered for his devotion to family, his love of the outdoors, his welcoming spirit, and the many meaningful connections he built throughout his life.

Turner Jenness Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.



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\$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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BINGO WINNERS ANNOUNCED!

We have winners! Congratulations to Lisa Spieker (Spencer), Tracy Wilkerson (Spencer) and CJ Walker (Spencer). Lisa was the first one to submit a BINGO card obtaining the letter "N", and is the winner of \$100. Tracy was the second one to submit a BINGO card obtaining the letter "N", and is the winner of \$50. CJ was the third one to submit a BINGO card obtaining the letter "L", and is the winner of a gift card. 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: LakesNewsShopper.com.

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Dance 4 Fun in Everly

The Everly dance, sponsored by Dance 4 Fun, will be held on Saturday, March 7th, at the Hap Ketelsen Community Center in Everly Iowa. The doors are open at 6:15, the dance is from 7:00pm - 10:30 pm. The band is the Riata Band.

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The Lakes Area Dementia and Caregiver Cafe Starts the 2026 Year

The Tired, Retired Band will be the entertainment for the first Cafe meeting this year. The members, who play various instruments, are all retired band directors, some from right here in the Lakes area that are well known to many. This is a free event especially for caregivers and the person they care for. Meeting and talking to others is a part of the session along with refreshments. First Presbyterian Church in Spirit Lake hosts the cafe from 10 am to 11:30am on March 17th. For more information call the church at 712-336-1649.

THE LAKES NEWS Auctions Page 2B

Creed National Golf Club Names Okoboji Native Kyle Martin as New Course Superintendent

Creed National Golf Club is pleased to announce the appointment of Kyle Martin as its new Golf Course Superintendent. A graduate of Iowa State University with a degree in Horticulture and Turfgrass Management, Martin brings elite-level experience and a deep connection to the Iowa Great Lakes region.

Raised in Okoboji, Martin began his career on the grounds crew at Emerald Hills. His return to the area represents a "full-circle" moment for both the professional and the community.

"There are so many things to be excited about with this opportunity," said Martin. "Top of the list is the chance to create an amazing golf experience for our members and collaborate with a talented new team. Most importantly, it's a homecoming for me—getting back to the area I grew up in and love calling home."

Martin's resume includes prestigious internships at Pinehurst No. 2 in North Carolina—the recent home of the 2024 U.S. Open—and the exclusive Stock Farm Club in Hamilton, Montana. Most recently, he served as the Superintendent of an 18-hole facility in Worthington, Minnesota, where he spent three years building a reputation for maintaining exceptional course conditions and fostering strong rapport with memberships.

"We are thrilled to introduce Kyle as our new Superintendent," the club stated. "His experience at world-class facilities combined with his local roots makes him the perfect leader for our grounds team."

Martin returns to the Lakes area alongside his wife, Emma, and their red lab, Wes. Creed National invites the community and club members to welcome Kyle as they prepare for a premier upcoming season under his leadership.

Located in Estherville, Iowa, Creed National Golf Club offers a premier golfing experience, featuring high-caliber course maintenance and the onsite Lucky Hole Pub & Eatery.

Mobile Food Pantry in Lake Park

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



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Milford Memorial Library News

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

- 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. – Yak
- March 30, 10:30 a.m. – Zoo

On Thursday, March 12, MML's After-School Adventures is taking to the sky. Join us from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., to create a bunny flying a paper airplane. A small snack will be served during this free activity. For questions, please contact the Milford Memorial Library by calling 712-338-4643 or emailing milfordlibrary51351@gmail.com.

On Monday, March 16, at 6:30 p.m., join us in welcoming Classical Guitarist Peter Fletcher in the Milford Community Center. He 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 be returning 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.

Create Your Own Button during MML's Y.A. Maker Monday, on Monday, March 16! From 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., fourth through twelfth graders can design and put together their own buttons. This is a free come-and-go activity. For questions please contact MML by calling 712-338-4643 or emailing milfordlibrary51351@gmail.com.

After MML's Building Bookworms Storytime on Monday, March 16, join us for our All-Day Play time! From 11:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., discover new and exciting toys while having fun with friends. This is a come-and-go playtime. All toys are supplied by the library. For questions, please contact the library by calling 712-338-4643 or emailing milfordlibrary51351@gmail.com.

Fourth graders and younger kids are invited to join MML's Read Across America Bingo. Stop by the Milford Memorial Library to pick up a special bingo card with 25 interactive reading activities. Two full Bingos in a row gets a small prize, and a completed bingo card equals a large prize drawing entry. Read Across America Bingo will be available until Tuesday, March 31.



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SUNNY DEAL!

Red Ripe Strawberries 2 lb. **\$5.48**

BIG 2 POUND PACK!

SUNNY DEAL!

Sweet Mandarin Oranges 5 lb. **\$6.98**

BIG 5 POUND PACK!

SUNNY DEAL!

Red Ripe Roma Tomatoes Per lb. **\$1.48**

SUNNY DEAL!

Dole Chopped Salads 9.1-12.7 oz. **\$2.98**

SUNNY DEAL!

Ripe Hass Avocados Each **88¢**

SUNNY DEAL!

Smokin' Boji BBQ & Smokin' Boyd's Pizza
Sold Exclusively at Sunshine Foods!

Smoked Baby Back Ribs **\$14.99** Each
Half Rack **\$7.99** Each

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SUNNY DEAL!

Sweet Mini Peppers 1 lb. Bag **\$3.88**

SUNNY DEAL!

Sugar Snap Peas 8 oz. **\$3.48**

SUNNY DEAL!

European Seedless Cucumbers Bunch **88¢**

SUNNY DEAL!

Fresh Cilantro Bunch **48¢**

SUNNY DEAL!

Pork Loins USDA Inspected, Whole, Boneless, 6-8 lb. Avg., Per lb. **\$1.99**

SUNNY DEAL!

Pork Chops USDA Inspected, Boneless, Center Cut, Per lb. **\$2.99**

SUNNY DEAL!

Chuck Roast USDA Choice, Beef, Boneless, Per lb. **\$6.99**

SUNNY DEAL!

Sunshine's Own 80% Lean Ground Beef Family Pack, Per lb. **\$5.99**

SUNNY DEAL!

Chicken Breasts Grade A, Boneless, Skinless, Per lb. **\$2.99**

SUNNY DEAL!

Suja Shots 2 oz. **2/\$5**

DIGITAL DEAL! **SUNNY DIGITAL DEAL!**

Dannon Oikos, Light and Fit, or Too Good Yogurt 4.5-5.3 oz. **10/\$12** AD PRICE **-2.00**

10/\$10

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DIGITAL DEAL! **SUNNY DIGITAL DEAL!**

Best Choice Premium Cottage Cheese 24 oz. **2/\$5** AD PRICE **-1.00**

2/\$4

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SUNNY DEAL!

Bob Evans Farms Assorted Dishes 12-24 oz. **\$3.99**

SUNNY DEAL!

Best Choice Premium Chunky Soups 18.6-18.8 oz. COMPARE TO CAMPBELL'S CHUNKY **2/\$4**

SUNNY DEAL!

Alaskan Pollock Fillets Per lb. **\$3.99**

SUNNY DEAL!

Best Choice All Natural Chicken Wing Sections BIG 2.5 lb. Bag **\$6.99**

SUNNY DEAL!

Best Choice Deluxe American Slices 16 oz. COMPARE TO KRAFT! **\$3.49**

SUNNY DEAL!

Best Choice String Cheese 10 oz. COMPARE TO KRAFT! **\$2.99**

SUNNY DEAL!

Coffeemate Coffee Creamer 32 oz. Var. **\$3.49**

SUNNY DEAL!

International Delight Iced Coffee, Silk, or Dunkin' Donuts Creamer 32-64 oz. **\$4.49**

SUNNY DEAL!

Best Choice Pancake or Waffle Mix 28-32 oz. **\$2.99**

SUNNY DEAL!

Best Choice Syrup 24 oz. **\$2.99**

SUNNY DEAL!

Monster, Nos, or Full Throttle Energy Drinks 15.5-16 oz. Cans **2/\$5**

MUST BUY 2

SUNNY DEAL!

Dr. Pepper or 7UP Products 24-Pack Cans + Deposit **\$11.88**

SUNNY DEAL!

Best Choice Purified Drinking Water 24 Ct., 16.9 oz. Bottles **2/\$7**

SUNNY DEAL!

Prairie Farms Chocolate Milk Half Gallons **\$2.99**

SUNNY DEAL!

Best Choice Toaster Pastries 8 Ct. Var. **\$1.99**

SUNNY DEAL!

Jimmy Dean Breakfast Variety Sandwiches, Snack Items, or Hashbrowns 15-22.8 oz. **\$5.99**

SUNNY DEAL!

Great Lakes Potato Chips 8 oz. **\$3.99**

SUNNY DEAL!

Old Dutch Restaurant Tortilla Chips Pre-Priced \$4.99 Var. **2/\$7**

SUNNY DEAL!

Sunshine's Own Homemade Popcorn **BUY 2 BAGS & GET 1 BAG FREE**

SUNNY DEAL!

Little Debbie Family Size Pack Snacks 10.6-16.2 oz. **2/\$5**

DIGITAL DEAL! **SUNNY DIGITAL DEAL!**

DiGiorno Pizza 14.1-29.3 oz. **2/\$9.99** AD PRICE **-1.00**

2/\$8.99

MUST BUY 2 **DIGITAL COUPON** LIMIT OF 1 COUPON USE

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

SUNNY DEAL!

Bellatoria Thin Crust Pizza 12" Thin Crust Var. or Garlic Bread **\$4.99**

SUNNY DEAL!

Best Choice Garlic Bread, Texas Toast, Breadsticks, or Dinner Rolls 6-8 Ct. or 16 oz. **2/\$4**

SUNNY DEAL!

Pillsbury Grands Biscuits, Crescents, or Cinnamon Rolls 4-12 oz. **\$1.99**

DIGITAL DEAL! **SUNNY DIGITAL DEAL!**

Best Choice Storage Bags 10-24 Ct. Var. **2/\$4** AD PRICE **-1.00**

2/\$3

MUST BUY 2 **DIGITAL COUPON** LIMIT OF 1 COUPON USE

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

DIGITAL DEAL! **SUNNY DIGITAL DEAL!**

Fiora Bath Tissue 12 Mega Rolls or Paper Towels 6 Rolls **\$7.99** AD PRICE **-1.00**

\$6.99

MUST BUY 2 **DIGITAL COUPON** LIMIT OF 1 COUPON USE

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THE LAKES NEWS SHOPPER AUCTIONS

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DUSTYN HARTUNG-507-236-7629
LEAH HARTUNG 507-236-8786

Land Auction

April 2 • 10:00 A.M.
Terril Library, Terril, Iowa

127 Acres m/l

Lloyd Twp., Sec. 30
Dickinson County, IA

Avg. CSR2: 82

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77.9 Acres M/L of Farmland in Clay County, IA
Section 23 of Summit Township, Clay County, IA

(Per Original Government Survey)
PUBLIC AUCTION - LIVE AND ONLINE BIDDING
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: W 1/2 of the SE 1/4, 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 1 1/2 miles on 310th St. From Milford: Go South 9 miles on Highway 71, then go West 1 1/2 miles on 310th St. From Hartley: Go East 14 miles on Highway 18, North 1 mile on 200th Ave., then go East 1/2 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 1 1/2 miles West of Highway 71 on 310th St. and 1 1/2 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, Evely and Wadena with smaller amounts of Talcot, Wilmonton, Afton and Letri. The farm carries a weighted average CSR II of 58.8.

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For Complete Details, Photos & Video go to www.BrockAuction.com

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

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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 Estherville Church. The food will be distributed inside the church. Recipients are asked to bring bags, laundry baskets or boxes to carry the food. At the 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 Estherville Church at 712-362-4984.

FREE FOOD

Lakes Area Senior/Activity Center Events

The Lakes Area Activity/Senior Center is preparing for an active month of community events this March at their Spirit Lake location. The festivities kick off on Sunday, March 15, with a Ham Dinner Fundraiser held from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., offering local residents a chance to support the center while enjoying a seasonal meal. The momentum continues two weeks later on Sunday, March 29, 2026, when the center hosts a social dance featuring the musical talents of Bill and Jackie. The event runs from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., with a community potluck lunch scheduled for 3:00 p.m. Admission for the afternoon of music and dining is set at \$8.00 for individuals or \$15.00 per couple. All events will take place at the center's facility located at 2101 Zenith Ave.

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Sanford Museum Archaeologist to Speak at Kenue Coffee Hour

The Dickinson County Nature Center invites adults to enjoy a hot cup of coffee at Kenue Coffee Hour to listen to Mark Anderson, an archeologist at the Sanford Museum. The event will take place at the Maser Monarch Lodge on March 5th, at 10:30 a.m. Anderson's presentation "Archaeology is All Around You: A Culture History of Dickinson County, Iowa," will explore what an archeologist is and the important work that uncovered stone tools, arrowheads, pottery shards and other artifacts from the last 14,000 years of human history in Iowa. Kenue Coffee Hour is a monthly program held on the first Thursday of the month where a speaker presents on a conservation- or nature-related topic. Pull up a chair and enjoy conversations around a table. No registration is required to attend, and more Kenue Coffee Hour topics can be found at dickinsoncountyconservationboard.com under the Programs/Events tab.

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High School diploma or willingness to obtain equivalency required. Experience as a custodian or housekeeper preferred. Primary duties are to perform routine custodial/housekeeping duties. \$16.20/hr. plus \$.35 differential after 5 p.m. Paid sick leave, vacation, and holidays. Employee retirement package. Review of applications will begin March 9, 2026.

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

IOWA LAKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Human Resources, 19 South 7th Street, Estherville, IA 51334
EEO/AA Employer

SMU
Spencer Municipal Utilities

Electric Line Repairer Apprentice

Spencer Municipal Utilities (SMU) is a municipal utility, serving the city of Spencer, Iowa since 1942. Spencer Municipal Utilities (SMU) is known for high proficiency in reliability, safety, workforce development, and system improvement. Today we serve approximately 6,300 electric customers.

SMU is seeking applicants for a full-time **Electric Line Repairer Apprentice**. The ideal candidate would be a self-motivated individual responsible for care & maintenance of the electric system and service to residential and business customers in the city of Spencer, Iowa.

The **Electric Line Repairer Apprentice** performs advanced and skilled electrical work in the maintenance, repair and construction of mostly underground and some overhead transmission and distribution lines and equipment. Frequently works with energized high voltage lines, sometimes under unfavorable weather conditions.

The following typical tasks and responsibilities are representative of this position. They are descriptive, not limiting.

Duties/Responsibilities:

Applicants are to be familiar working with the different types of machinery involved in this line of work such as: Aerial Lift Device (Bucket Truck), Digger Derrick Truck, Mini Excavator, Trencher, Skidsteer, & Hydro Vac. Knowledge of how underground & overhead systems operate and how to safely work on them is key in this line of work. Applicants can expect to work on new construction projects as well as upgrading current work sites. Applicants will be asked to assist in the setting & removal of transformers, electrical cabinets, & meters. Installing & terminating underground cable is also an essential part of the job. Will be required to be on a standby scheduling rotation for trouble calls outside of normal working hours. Must be available to respond immediately following storm events and other emergencies impacting the electric system. Position supports other utility departments as needed.

Our Requirements:

Qualified candidates must be 18 years of age and have a High School Diploma or GED. Must be a graduate of an accredited power line technical school. This is an entry level position requiring enrollment into the IAMU Electric Line Repairer Apprenticeship Program which is approximately three to four years in length. Required to meet FMSCA driver qualification requirements including the possession of a valid Iowa Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Class "A" with Air Brakes and meet SMU's insurability requirements. This position will be subject to SMU and Department of Transportation Drug and Alcohol testing. Residency requirement of 30 minutes response time to Spencer Municipal Utilities.

Note: Must successfully complete each step of the outlined apprentice training program in order to advance through each level of the apprenticeship to attain Journeyman Lineworker status. Must satisfy the Department of Labor requirements for on-the-job training (OJT) hours and must meet the required hours for formal classroom training.

To apply candidates must complete an SMU application. Applications can be found on our website at www.smunet.net (click on careers in the 'About' tab) or applicants may complete an online application utilizing SMU's computer by appointment located in our lobby during regular business hours at 520 2nd Avenue East, Suite 1, Spencer, IA. Please keep in mind that submission of a resume in lieu of work history on your application or answering the supplemental questions is not sufficient.

SMU is an equal opportunity employer, offers a comprehensive wage and benefit package that includes health/dental/vision/long term disability/group life insurance, IPERS, 457(b) retirement plan, clothing allowance along with paid time off for vacations and holidays. Pre-employment background check and post-offer drug screening is required. Applications accepted through 3/20/2026. This recruitment will be open until filled.

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Weekly Social Gathering

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

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.



Spirit Lake Library News

Potpourri
by Jill Jennings

Tax season is here, and so are tax forms! The library has a few pre-printed forms that are free to the public: 1040, 1040SR and Schedule 1-A are available in English and Spanish. We also have the corresponding instruction booklet in English only. All of these can be found in the magazine area. Any other forms we can print out for you at just \$0.10 per page.

If you are in need of a typewriter, we have one here at the Spirit Lake Public Library that is available to use in the Proctor Room.

We still have microfilm and a reader at the SLPL if you would like to look back at old Dickinson County newspapers. Since the microfilm machine lives in the Proctor Room, you will need to reserve the room to have access. Just stop in or call us at (712) 336-2667.

Another fun resource that you might be interested in is the Spirit Lake High School yearbooks on CD. These are available for check out and include the years 1950-2013 on six individual discs.

It might only be March, but the staff is hard at work preparing for the Summer Reading Program! The theme this year is "Plant a Seed, Read." We are very excited about all the programs and activities we are putting together for this summer.

Finally, we have changed our website address. If you are looking for us online, please go to spiritlake.lib.ia.us.

SLPL staff reading spotlight: Donna is reading This Book Made Me Think of You by Libby Page.

Upcoming Activities:

- Monday, March 9, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Mah-Jongg
- Monday, March 9, 5:00-6:00 p.m., Library Board Meeting
- Tuesday, March 10, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Quilters
- Tuesday, March 10, 3:30-4:30 p.m., Children's Chess
- Tuesday, March 10, 4:30-5:30 p.m., Chess All-Play
- Wednesday, March 11, 12:30-4:00 p.m., Quilters
- Thursday, March 12, 10:30-11:15 a.m., Dance Party Story Time
- Thursday, March 12, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Mah-Jongg
- Friday, March 13, 10:00 a.m., Movie Matinee (PG)

Lakes Area Activity/Senior Center Schedule

- Tuesday, March 3**
12:00 - Dinner Date
12:30 - Dinner Date
Speaker: Nature Center
12:30 - Bridge
- Wednesday, March 4**
9:00 - Exercise Class
12:00 - Dinner Date
- Thursday, March 5**
10:00 - Strummers
11:00 - Tai Chi
12:00 - Dinner Date
1:00 - 500 Cards
3:00 - Cribbage
4:00 - Zumba
6:00 - Line Dancing

- Friday, March 6**
9:00 - Exercise Class
9:50 - Chair Yoga
12:00 - Dinner Date
- Saturday, March 7**
Available For Rent
- Sunday, March 8**
9:00 - Church/Card Room
- Monday, March 9**
9:00 - Exercise
12:00 - Dinner Date
1:00 - Pinochle Club
- Tuesday, March 10**
12:00 - Dinner Date
12:30 - Dinner Date Speaker:
Stay In Home Care
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. Greeting Card Special - 5 cards for 50 Cents. 10 for \$1.00. Pop Tabs are being collected for Ronald McDonald House. The facility is available to rent most weekends. Join us for our upcoming Ham Dinner Fundraiser March 15, 10:30-12:30. The Lakes Area Activity/Senior Center is located at 2101 Zenith Ave in Spirit Lake.

Iowa DNR to Begin Spring Burning

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will be conducting prescribed burns this spring on wildlife management areas managed by the Iowa DNR's Great Lakes Wildlife Unit in Dickinson, O'Brien and Lyon counties.

Areas scheduled for prescribed burns are Spring Run, Cayler Prairie, Christopherson Slough, Diamond Lake, Dugout Creek, Hales Slough, Garlock Slough, Kettleston Hogsback, Okoboji View, Silver Lake, and Welch Lake in Dickinson County; Waterman Prairie, in O'Brien County; and the Big Sioux River, in Lyon County.

Prescribed burns are used to improve wildlife habitat, control invasive plant species, restore and maintain native plant communities, and reduce wildfire potential. Prescribed burns vary in size from a few acres to several hundred acres.

Prescribed burns typically begin mid to late morning and are completed by late afternoon or early evening. Prescribed burns usually occur between mid-March and mid-May, and will be conducted when burn plan objectives are met and weather conditions allow. Any prescribed burn not completed this spring may be conducted in the fall.

Contact Iowa DNR wildlife biologist Chris La Rue at 712-330-4543 or 712-336-1485 with any questions or concerns.

ILUUF Welcomes Allan Saugstad for "Sustaining Our Resistance" Program

The Iowa Lakes Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (ILUUF) is pleased to announce a special program featuring guest speaker Allan Saugstad on Sunday, March 8th, at 10 a.m. Saugstad, representing All Souls Unitarian Universalist in Sioux Falls, will lead a presentation titled "Sustaining Our Resistance." Known for its progressive and forward-thinking values, the fellowship provides a unique platform for exploring how diverse belief systems can collaborate to foster a more equitable and just world.

The event will take place in person at the Lakes Area Activity Center, located at 2101 Zenith Avenue in Spirit Lake, Iowa. For those unable to attend in person, a virtual option is available via Zoom, with access links provided on the fellowship's website at www.UUOkoboji.com. This gathering is designed to offer a blend of soulful music and deep dives into contemporary social issues, all within an environment that encourages engaging conversation and meaningful connection.

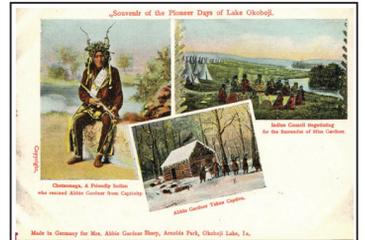
ILUUF maintains a "come as you are" philosophy and extends an open invitation to the entire community. Whether individuals identify as religious, secular, or are simply seeking inclusive fellowship, they are welcome to join this diverse group of people from all walks of life. The program aims to inspire and uplift attendees through a shared commitment to reflection and social action.

Commemorating History: The 1857 Spirit Lake Massacre

March 8, 2026, marks the 169th anniversary of the 1857 Spirit Lake Massacre. In observance of this date, the Dickinson County Museum's Way Back Wednesday program on March 4 will feature stories detailing the events leading up to the massacre, the events of March 8, the eventual rescue of Abbie Gardner, and the aftermath of the tragedy.

Way Back Wednesday is a lively conversation group led by Frank Christenson that focuses on the historical "Way Back When" of Dickinson County. During these sessions, Frank researches a specific topic and briefly presents his findings, allowing the shared interests and community knowledge of the attendees to take over. The conversations are informal and often filled with laughter. All are welcome to attend without a reservation, and the coffee pot is always kept on for guests.

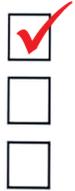
These gatherings take place every Wednesday morning from 10:00 am to 11:00 am in the Exhibit Hall at the Dickinson County Museum. Visitors are invited to join the group to learn about local legends and share their own historical knowledge.



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Inspiration for Our Day- "However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace." ~ Acts 20:24

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CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE BEVELL BARRACUDA SWIMMERS WHO QUALIFIED FOR THE YMCA STATE MEET WHICH WILL BE HELD IN MARSHALLTOWN MARCH 7 AND 8, 2026: Eli Begeman, Bo Brownlee, Keaton Cook, Emma Cunningham, Theresa Cunningham, Cooper Daggett, Isla Daggett, Trice Edwards, Brielle Eick, Jovie Erickson, Lola Erickson, Josephine Haulard, Merritt Haulard, Carsen Heinrichs, Hartley Heithold, Jade Henson, Magnolia Hibma, Deagan Hurtig, Gabriella Hurtig, Matthew Gravert, Ray Kaiser, Abigail Mensing, Jackson Mensing, Noah Mensing, Aubrey Paterson, Bristol Paterson, Carson Profit, Nellie Rohling, Nori Rohling, Zayla Ruisenor, Buddy Wahpepah, Lanaeh Wahpepah, Kaela Weston, Alex Wilken, Emerson Wittrock and Lindy Wittrock. Missing from the picture: Elias Mendenhall-Borus, Oliver Miller, Ethan Weston and Mason Yost.



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Shop Springtime

RECIPE CORNER

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Easy Ham, Cabbage, Potato Skillet Serves 2

3 Tbs. butter
2 cups cubed cooked ham
2 large potatoes, cooked & diced
1 small onion, chopped
1 lb. cabbage, shredded (6 C.)
1/2 tsp. salt
1/8 tsp. pepper

Heat butter in skillet. Add ham, potatoes and onion. Cook about 10 minutes or til slightly browned, stirring often.
Add cabbage, salt and pepper. Cover and cook 15 minutes or more til tender. Stir, add water if dry.

Recipe Courtesy of: Jan McDonald

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