



kolobojian

MAY 30, 2024



5

ROCKIN' RETRO
Reflections at
the Roof Garden



7

OST BOOTCAMP
Boji Bantam Broadway
Bootcamp gearing up



14

HISTORY TALES
A biographical dive into
B.F. and Stephen Stevens

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Friday (5.31)
Hicktown Mafia 7pm

Saturday (6.1)
Mighty Nish Band 2:30pm
Hicktown Mafia 7pm

Sunday (6.2)
Boon & Lambert 2pm

Thursday (6.6)
Big Nacho Karaoke 7pm

Friday (6.7)
Past our Prime 7pm

Saturday (6.8)
Itty Bitty Boji Band 2:30pm
Jake McVey 7pm

Sunday (6.9)
Itty Bitty Boji Band 2pm

The GARDENS
* Lake Okoboji *

Thursday (5.30)
Ryan Sather 5pm

Friday (5.31)
Ryan Sather 5pm
Wrecked Becky 9pm

Saturday (6.1)
Hope Rasmussen 5pm
Wrecked Becky 9pm

Sunday (6.2)
Neil Anders 5pm

Monday (6.3)
Jason Mayer 5pm

Tuesday (6.4)
Jason Mayer 5pm

Wednesday (6.5)
Tristan Marquardt 5pm

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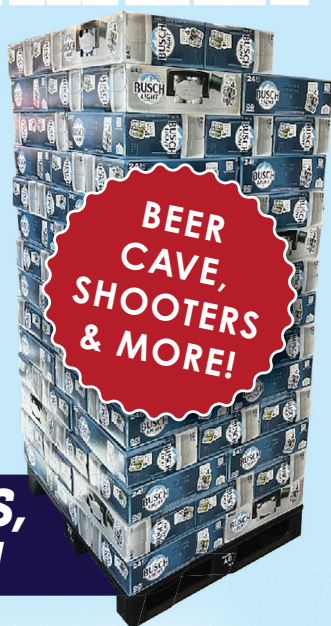


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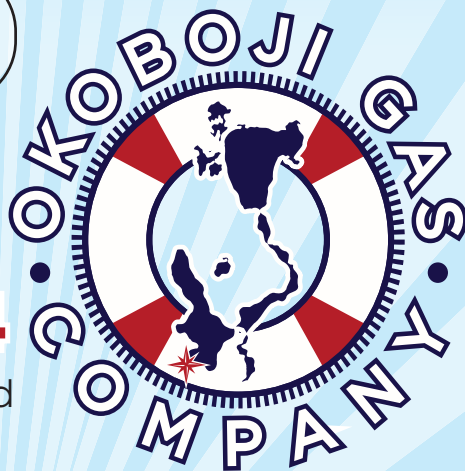


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B.F. and Stephen Stevens

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The Okoboijan is published weekly from the end of May to beginning to September
An Enterprise Media Publication • P.O. Box AE, Spirit Lake, IA 51360 • (USPS 302-580) • Email: dcn@dickinsoncountynews.com



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REMEMBERING THE REFLECTIONS AT THE ROOF GARDEN

Tom Tourville
Okoboian Contributor

When you arrived at the Roof Garden Ballroom on July 17, 1965, to see Bobby Goldsboro and the "Fun A-Go-Go" show, you were in for a surprise. That was the inclusion of Detroit, Michigan's Reflections on this show. Both Goldsboro and the Reflections were backed up by the Grooves out of New York City.

The Reflections had already hit the national charts with their smash hit, "Just Like Romeo & Juliet/Can't You Tell By The Look In My Eyes" (Golden World 8) in March of 1964. They arrived in Okoboian a full 16 months after the Reflections had their first chart hit.

The story of the Reflections begins in Detroit in 1963 when friends Tony Micale — lead vocals, Phil Castrodale — first tenor, Dan Bennie — second tenor, Ray Steinberg — baritone and bass singer John Dean all enjoyed singing with each other. It was not long before they were heard by Ed Wingate, the owner of Golden World Records, who signed the group to Golden World based upon all the successful live shows they were having around Detroit.

They brought in Freddie Gorman to produce the session as he was also a producer at Motown Records. Gorman was the one who got the mix for the Reflections that was half-way between doo-wop and "blue eyed soul" that was so well captured on "Just Like Romeo and Juliet." They recorded their legendary vocal tracks at RCA's Studios in Chicago. The instrumental tracks were recorded in Detroit. They used many of Motown's session musicians to play on the record.

Just as they were getting the record released, they learned there was another band from Winipeg, Canada call Chad Allen & The Reflections that had a new record and LP about to come out, called "Shakin All Over." The Canadian group did not challenge Detroit's Reflections name, but instead, changed their name to the Guess Who!

"Just Like Romeo & Juliet" was a smash chart success for the Reflections. The song debuted on "Billboard's Hot 100" survey in April of 1964 and charted at No. 86. By the end of May of '64 the song was at No. 6 on the Billboard charts. Because of the success of the song, the Reflections were touring across the U.S. It was one of those tours that brought

them to Okoboian. In 1966 Tony Micale would leave the group and was replaced by new lead vocalist, Frank Amodeo.

Next up they released "Like Columbus Did/Lonely Girl" for Golden World Records (12). That was followed up with: "Talkin' About My Girl/Oowee Now Now" (GW 15), "Don't Do That To Me/I'm Just A Guy" (GW 16), "Poor Man's Son/Comin' At You" (GW 20) and "Deborah Ann/Wheelin' & Dealin'" (Golden World 22). The group never saw the chart success with any of their other releases as compared to "Just Like Romeo & Juliet."

"Just Like Romeo & Juliet" has been covered

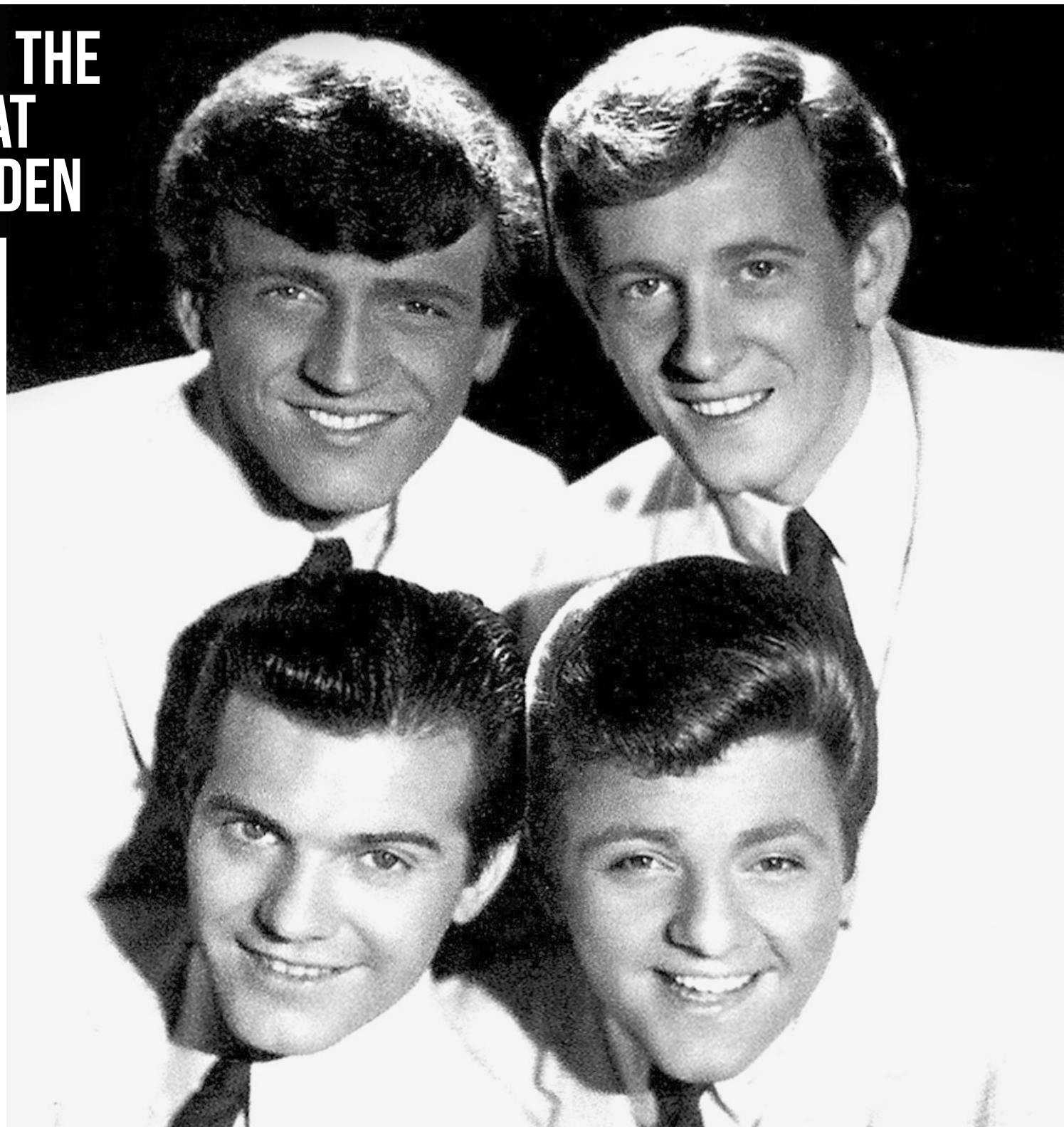
by such artists as: Sha Na Na, Ultimate Spinach, Fallen Angels, the Outsiders, Stephen Bishop, Jim Stringer, Little Caesar & The Consuls and also by Australia's Mental As Anything. Winona, Minnesota's Michael & The Messengers released "Just Like Romeo & Juliet" for Chicago's USA Records that saw significant chart success in 1967.

The group can be described as a "One Hit Wonder," but what a hit it was. Today original member Tony Micale still leads the Reflections along with Gary Banovetz, Sal Prado and Joey Finazzo. Sadly Dan Bennie, John Dean and Frank Amodeo have all passed away.

During the '60s they appeared on American Bandstand and such TV shows as: Shindig, Shivery, Shaboom and Hulabaloo. They toured with Dick Clark's Caravan of Stars and appeared in the movie, "Winter A Go-Go."

Some of those "one hit wonders" had amazing successful careers in music and many still stand tall today for what they accomplished. I know many of you went to the Roof Garden to see Bobby Goldsboro, but you got a real music surprise when Detroit's Reflections took the stage as well.

Until Next Week
Take Care & Remember The Music



NORTHWEST IOWA

FISHING REPORT

**EAST LAKE OKOBOJI**

Lake level is 5 inches above crest. The walleye season is open. Black crappie — fair. Bluegill — fair. Largemouth bass — fair: Fish are starting to be in and around docks. Yellow perch — fair: Sorting will most likely be needed.

INGHAM LAKE

Walleye — fair: Anglers have been successful morning and afternoon.

SILVER LAKE (DICKINSON)

Walleye — good: Bite has been hit-or-miss, but has been very good when the bite is on.

SPIRIT LAKE

Lake level is a couple inches over crest. The walleye season is open. Black crappie — good: Anglers are finding quality-size fish; they are biting on almost anything. Bluegill — fair. Walleye — good: Anglers are catching quality-size fish. Yellow perch — good: Sorting may be needed.

WEST LAKE OKOBOJI

The lake level is 5 inches above crest. The walleye season is open. Black crappie — fair. Bluegill — good. Pumpkinseed — good. Walleye — fair. Yellow perch — fair: Sorting may be needed.

Area water temperatures are slowly rising to the upper 50s to lower 60s. Most area lakes are above crest. Courtesy docks are in place.

• For current conditions, call the Spirit Lake District Office at 712-336-1840.



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OST ADDS 'BROADWAY BOOTCAMP' TO SUMMER 2024

Doris Welle
Staff Writer

The first ever Boji Bantam Broadway Bootcamp will be held July 8-13 on the campus of the Okoboji Summer Theatre in Okoboji. It is a new musical theater weeklong intensive for young people.

The five-day intensive will include daily classes focused on acting, voice and movement. Students will spend each morning on movement, voice work and acting technique. The afternoons will focus on creating a culminating showcase that the students will perform on July 13.

"We are excited for this intensive. The classes will be a great way for students to learn musical theater basics from OST staff and working professionals. It will be a rigorous week but also very supportive and inspiring," said Madison Dodd, director of the Boji Bantam Children's Theatre and will also direct the Bootcamp.

"This is something new for us here at OST and we are so pumped about offering this opportunity to young people," Ruth Ann Burke, OST Executive Director stated.

Classes will meet July 8-12 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with the Saturday showcase performance at 10 a.m. on July 13. The "Bootcamp" is designed for ages 12 and older. Tuition is \$375. For more info or to register visit okobojisummertheatre.org.

OST is the training ground for theatrical students enrolled at Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri. The college staff is joined by theatrical professionals from all over the United States who come here to teach and perform. The summer semester at Okoboji provides area residents and viewers with the opportunity to enjoy seven live theatrical productions in seven weeks. Plus, the Boji Bantam Children's Theatre portion of the campus will be presenting "The Emperor's New Clothes" at 10:30 a.m. July 3-6.

The OST box office opens at 10 a.m. on June 17. However, tickets may also be purchased by email at boxoffice@okobojisummertheatre.org.



Boji Bantam Broadway Bootcamp



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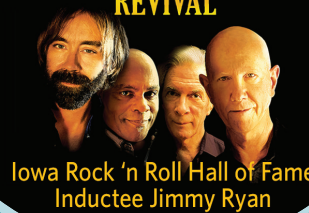
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MAY 30 — OUTDOOR EVENT

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Baby Sitter Training
Dickinson Co. Fairgrounds, Spirit Lake

MAY 30 — OUTDOOR EVENT

5-6:15 p.m. Siesta Cruise
The Gardens

MAY 30 — LIVE MUSIC

5 p.m. Ryan Sather
The Gardens

MAY 30 — SPECIAL EVENT

7-9 p.m. Trivia Night
West O (The Loft)

MAY 30-31 — LIVE MUSIC

9 p.m. to Midnight. Tim Sigler's Tribute
to Eric Church
Captain's Getaway

MAY 31 — LIVE MUSIC

5 p.m. Ryan Sather
9 p.m. Wrecked Betty
The Gardens

MAY 31 — LIVE MUSIC

5 p.m. Tim Horsman
Lakeview Deck on
Preservation Plaza

MAY 31 — LIVE MUSIC

5 p.m. Matthew Griswold
Captain's Getaway

MAY 31 — LIVE MUSIC

6 p.m. Murphy's Law
The Ritz

MAY 31 — LIVE MUSIC

7 p.m. Hicktown Mafia
Barefoot Bar

MAY 31 — LIVE MUSIC

8 p.m. Decoy
Okoboji Store

JUNE 1 — GOLF TOURNAMENT

8" Big Cup Scramble
Brooks Golf Club

JUNE 1 — OUTDOOR EVENT

7:30 a.m. to Noon. Farmers Market
Dickinson So. Fairgrounds

JUNE 1 — OUTDOOR EVENT

8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Farmers Market in the Park
Live Music-Boon & Lambert
Arnolds Park Amusement Park

JUNE 1 — OUTDOOR EVENT

1-5 p.m. Shake the Lake
Okoboji Boat Works

JUNE 1 — OUTDOOR EVENT

2-5 p.m. Barefoot Dock Hop
Barefoot Bar

JUNE 1 — OUTDOOR EVENT

2:30-5:30 p.m. Millers Bay Yacht Party
Okoboji Boat Works

JUNE 1 — LIVE MUSIC

2:30-6:30 p.m. Mighty Nish Band
7 p.m. Hicktown Mafia
Barefoot Bar

JUNE 1 — OUTDOOR EVENT

3-6 p.m. Barefoot Dock Hop
Barefoot Bar

JUNE 1 — LIVE MUSIC

4-6 p.m. Matthew Griswold
Captain's Getaway

JUNE 1 — LIVE MUSIC

5 p.m. Hope Rasmussen
9 p.m. Wrecked Betty
The Gardens

JUNE 1 — LIVE MUSIC

6-8 p.m. Lonesome Dan Kage
Round Lake Vineyards & Winery

JUNE 1 — LIVE MUSIC

6-8 p.m. Itty Bitty Boji Band
Little Swan Lake Winery

JUNE 1 — LIVE MUSIC

6 p.m. Murphy's Law
The Ritz

JUNE 1 — LIVE MUSIC

7-10 p.m. Live at the Lake-Smash Mouth
Preservation Plaza
Bring lawn chairs

JUNE 2 — GOLF TOURNAMENT

Two Man Best Shot Tournament
Emerald Hills

JUNE 2 — LIVE MUSIC

2-6 p.m. Boon & Lambert
Barefoot Bar

JUNE 2 — LIVE MUSIC

2-6 p.m. Gabriel Fueston
Round Lake Vineyards & Winery

JUNE 2 — LIVE MUSIC

4 p.m. Murphy's Law
The Ritz

JUNE 2 — LIVE MUSIC

4 p.m. Glenn & Father Kelly
St. Joe's Art Council
St. Joseph Catholic Church

JUNE 2 — LIVE MUSIC

4-6 p.m. Mark Lair
Little Swan Lake Winery

JUNE 2 — LIVE MUSIC

5 p.m. Neil Anders
The Gardens

JUNE 2 — OUTDOOR EVENT

5-6:15 p.m. Siesta Cruise
The Gardens

JUNE 3 — OUTDOOR EVENT

7-9 a.m. Birding on the Green
Brooks Golf Club

JUNE 3 & 4 — SPECIAL EVENT

9 a.m. to Noon.
Pre-K: Pollinator Playmates
Dickinson Co. Nature Center

JUNE 3 — OUTDOOR EVENT

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fish Camp-Cyclone Summer
Iowa Lakeside Lab, Highway 86

JUNE 3 & 4 — SPECIAL EVENT

10-11a.m. Summer Cezannes 1st-3rd Grade
Pearson Lakes Art Center

JUNE 3-5 — OUTDOOR EVENT

9 a.m. to Noon. Little Puffs
1-4 p.m. Big Gusts
Okoboji Sailing Center

JUNE 3 — OUTDOOR EVENT

5-6:15 p.m. Siesta Cruise
The Gardens

JUNE 3 — LIVE MUSIC

5 p.m. Jason Mayer
The Gardens

JUNE 3 — LIVE MUSIC

7-9 p.m. Dick Bauman Big Band
Pomerantz Hall
Pearson Lakes Art Center

JUNE 4 — SPECIAL EVENT

9 a.m. to Noon. Junior Chef Camp
ISU Extension, 1600 15th St., Spirit Lake

JUNE 4 — INDOOR EVENT

10:30 a.m. to Noon. Story Time
Arnolds Park Library

JUNE 4 — INDOOR EVENT

2-3 p.m. Wiggly Worms
Family Story Time
Lake Park Library

JUNE 4 — OUTDOOR EVENT

5-6:15 p.m. Siesta Cruise
The Gardens

JUNE 4 — LIVE MUSIC

5 p.m. Jason Mayer
The Gardens

JUNE 4 — LIVE MUSIC

6-8 p.m. Terry Klein
Spirit Lake VFW

JUNE 4 — LIVE MUSIC

7-9 p.m. Jazzed Up Big Band
Roof Garden Ballroom

JUNE 5 — OUTDOOR EVENT

7:30 a.m. to Noon. Farmers Market
Dickinson Co. Fairgrounds

JUNE 5 — OUTDOOR EVENT

9 a.m. to Noon. Tots & Tomatoes
Dickinson Co. Fairgrounds

JUNE 5 — SPECIAL EVENT

10-11 a.m. Preschool Picassos Ages 3-5
Pearson Lakes Art Center

JUNE 5 — OUTDOOR EVENT

5-6:15 p.m. Siesta Cruise
The Gardens

JUNE 5 — LIVE MUSIC

5 p.m. Tristan Marquardt
The Gardens

JUNE 5 — LIVE MUSIC

6 p.m. Sweet Trouble
The Ritz

JUNE 5 — LIVE MUSIC

7-9 p.m. Wild Prairie Winds
Little Swan Lake Winery

JUNE 6 — SPECIAL EVENT

9 a.m. to Noon & 1-4 p.m. Pre-K/K Mermaid Camp
Expo Bldg. Dickinson Co. Fairgrounds

JUNE 6 & 7 — OUTDOOR EVENT

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Adventure Sailing
— What Trees are These
Okoboji Sailing Center

JUNE 6 & 7 — SPECIAL EVENT

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. 1st-2nd: Camping Companions
Maser Monarch Lodge (Day1)

Nature Center Basement (Day 2)

JUNE 6 & 7 — OUTDOOR EVENT

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. 4th-6th: Partnership Summer Camp
Schmerse Wildlife Camp (Day 1)
Horseshoe Bend (Day 2)

JUNE 6 — SPECIAL EVENT

10:30 a.m. Kenue Coffee Hour
Little Swan Lake Winery

JUNE 6 — LIVE MUSIC

2-6 p.m. Link West
Round Lake Vineyards & Winery

JUNE 6 — OUTDOOR EVENT

5-8 p.m. Makers Market
Hill Avenue. Spirit Lake

JUNE 6 — LIVE MUSIC

5 p.m. Charlie Leissler
The Gardens

JUNE 6 — LIVE MUSIC

5-9 p.m. DC Drifters
Rock the Roof
Majestic Pavilion

JUNE 6 — OUTDOOR EVENT

5-6:15 p.m. Siesta Cruise
The Gardens

JUNE 6 — LIVE MUSIC

6 p.m. Sweet Trouble
The Ritz

JUNE 6 — LIVE MUSIC

6-8 p.m. Sounds Fishy
Little Swan Lake Winery

JUNE 6 — SPECIAL EVENT

7-9 p.m. Trivia Night
West O (The Loft)

JUNE 7 — GOLF TOURNAMENT

11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Briefcase Open
Okoboji View, Highway 86

JUNE 7 — LIVE MUSIC

5-8 p.m. Two Ol' FishHeads
Captain's Getaway

JUNE 7 — LIVE MUSIC

5 p.m. Georgia Loophole
9 p.m. Fishheads
The Gardens

JUNE 7 — OUTDOOR EVENT

5-6:15 p.m. Siesta Cruise
The Gardens

JUNE 7 — OUTDOOR EVENT

5-8 p.m. Neighbor Night
& Summer Kickoff
Lake Okoboji United Methodist Camp

JUNE 7 — LIVE MUSIC

6-8 p.m. Dave Anderson &
The Invisible String Band
Round Lake Vineyards & Winery

JUNE 7 — OUTDOOR EVENT

6-9 p.m. Barefoot Dock Hop
Barefoot Bar

JUNE 7 — LIVE MUSIC

7-11 p.m. Past Our Prime
Barefoot Bar

JUNE 7 — LIVE MUSIC

9 p.m. to Midnight. Grungepop
Captain's Getaway

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IRRMA FILLS TOP TWO POSITIONS WITH LOCALS



MINDY SPINKS



JASON GRINNEN

The Iowa Rock 'n Roll Music Association is pleased to welcome two new individuals to the staff of the nonprofit state organization.

The operations manager of the museum located in Arnolds Park is Mindy Spinks. Spinks brings a strong background in providing educational opportunities to young people. As a former teacher and director of curriculum, instruction and assessments, she will be responsible for expanding the programming available at the IRRMA Hall of Fame & Museum for all ages along with managing the day-to-day operations. Spinks, who lives in Spirit Lake, will be the main point of contact for the Iowa Rock 'n Roll Music Association Hall of Fame & Museum.

Spinks said, "Inspired by my love for the Lakes Area, my husband and I moved to Spirit Lake in 2023. Now I'm thrilled to assume my role at the Iowa Rock n Roll Music Association Hall of Fame & Museum, where I'll be welcoming visitors, engaging in community events, and spearheading educational initiatives across Iowa. With three decades of experience in education, I'm eager to inspire youth, reminding them of their importance and showcasing how music can shape their narratives. As the summer season blooms in Arnolds Park, it's

an exciting time to embark on this new journey."

Jason Grinnen will hold the new position of Rock the Roof entertainment director and stage manager. He is a well-respected area realtor and owner of B&J Karaoke, and lives in Spirit Lake. Rock The

Roof concerts are held on Thursday evenings throughout the summer.

"I can remember back to when John Senn asked me to perform on Elvis Night for the first time and I have been in love with IRRMA and all that it does ever since. This is such a good shoo-in for me to do the things I love to do," Grinnen said.

Ralph Kluseman, president of the Iowa Rock 'n Roll Association board of directors stated, "I'm excited to have these two talented people join our team and on behalf of the board of directors, thank them both for helping us fulfill our mission."

Both Spinks and Grinnen will join the Iowa Rock 'n Roll Music Association in June.

The Iowa Rock 'n Roll Music Association exists to preserve the legacy of rock and roll music in Iowa by honoring achievements, educating youth and inspiring artists. Established in 1997, as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit statewide organization.



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June 15, 2024 1:00 PM
People for Pets – 4-Person Best Shot

June 18, 2024 9:00 AM
Two Gal – Triple Treat

June 22, 2024 9:00 AM
Jasen Petersen Memorial

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West Okoboji Road – Arnolds Park

Pastor: Christ St. Clair

• Saturday Worship: 6 p.m.

• Sunday Lakeshore Worship – 7:30 a.m. at Clair
Wilson Park between East and West Lake Okoboji

• Sunday Worship – 9 a.m.

Sunday service live-streamed through church
website at calvarylovesall.com and on Facebook
712-332-2447

CAMP OKOBOJI –LCMS

1531 Edgewood Drive – Milford

(Highway 86, turn at Crescent Beach sign)

• Sunday worship – 9 a.m.

Memorial Day through Labor Day weekends

Omelet Brunch served first Sunday of each month
starting first Sunday in June from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Guest pastor each week.

712-337-3325

Email: camp@campokoboji.org

www.campokoboji.org

CROSSWINDS CHURCH (EFCA)

2805 Erie Ave. – Spirit Lake

(One block east of Spirit Lake Schools)

Labor Day through Memorial Day –

Worship: 8:15 and 11 a.m. services

Sunday School: 9:45-10:45 a.m.

Nursery Available

712-336-3537 | Crosswinds.tv

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1525 Three Cross Road – Milford

Senior Pastor: Perry Aalgard

Associate Pastor: Brian Jack

• Sunday Outdoor Worship 8:30 a.m.

• Sunday Indoor Worship 9:30 a.m.

712-338-4514 | www.3cross.org

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

801 Hill Ave. – Spirit Lake

Pastor: Jami Goetz

At this time services may be heard/viewed:

10 a.m. Sunday: In-person and live on Facebook

Messages may be heard at our website:

gracelutheranspiritlake.org

712-336-2446

Email: pastorjami@gracespiritlake.org

HARBOR OF JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)

1204 L Ave. – Milford

Pastor: Tim Voth

Worship: Sunday – 9:30 a.m.

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712-338-4031

www.harborjoy.com

HARRIS & LAKE PARK METHODIST CHURCH

HARRIS – 208 N. Main

LAKE PARK – 171 135th Ave.

Pastor: Sedar Shako

Worship Times:

Harris – 9 a.m. | Lake Park – 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School:

Harris – 10:15 a.m. | Lake Park – 9:30 a.m.

712-832-3361

Email: hlpumc@evertek.net

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

2300 27th St. – Spirit Lake

(South of Lakes Regional Healthcare)

Rev. Paul Dare

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712-336-1010

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Sunday Worship 11 a.m.

Sunday Evening Worship 6 p.m.

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Email: fndrogers@gmail.com

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712-337-3306 | www.okoboji.org

SPIRIT LAKE UNITED METHODIST

1812 Gary Ave. – Spirit Lake

Facebook: SpiritLakeUnitedMethodistChurch

Pastor: Rev. Cindy Finn.

• Traditional service – 8:30 a.m.

• Contemporary service – 10:30 a.m.

Both services live-streamed via Facebook at

www.facebook.com/SpiritLakeUnitedMethodistChurch

www.spiritlakeumc.org

712-336-3115

Email: office@spiritlakeumc.org

SPIRIT LIFE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH OF THE OPEN BIBLE

2504 Enterprise Ave. – Spirit Lake

Pastor: Eric Holdeman

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Contemporary Worship & Word 10 a.m.

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712-336-0114

www.spiritlifefellowship.org

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23rd and Zenith Avenue – Spirit Lake

East of Lakes Regional Healthcare

• Sunday in-person Worship

and Holy Eucharist – 10 a.m.

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712-336-1117

www.stalbansepiscopalchurch.org

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

1305 Okoboji Ave. – Milford

Pastor: Brian Hughes

Mass Times:

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Sunday: 7, 9 and 11 a.m.

712-338-2274

www.stjosephmilford.org

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JOSHUA 24:15

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CAMPUS HOTLINE

Doris Welle | Staff Writer

Iowa Rock 'n Roll Music Association has announced a pair of local residents will be running the statewide association and music museum that is located in Arnolds Park. **Jason Grinnen**, well-known area real estate agent, entertainer and owner of B&J Karaoke has accepted the position as Rock the Roof entertainment director and state manager. **Mindy Spinks** from Spirit Lake will be Operations Manager for the association and museum. I look forward to all the innovative programs she will implement through the educational aspects of the museum. Rock the Roof starts on June 6 and continues each Thursday

night through Labor Day weekend. Welcome aboard Jason and Mindy!

Connie Valens of Spirit Lake has welcomed her granddaughter to Iowa. **Jasmine** was raised in California and now attends the University of Southern Florida. She decided she would like to spend her summer break with her grandma in Iowa. Needless to say, Connie is elated. She knows this is a great opportunity for Jasmine to live and work in a place that is welcoming and friendly as well as interesting and varied in adventures. Happy summer Jasmine!

Thank you to **Clary Lake Service** and the underwater diving crew who rescued the Queen

II after winds broke mooring ropes, sending it sideways between the docks in that nasty storm the other day. They were able to get her back where she belongs with no damage. The Queen II started its regular schedule of cruises on time over Memorial Day weekend.

The Amusement Park has everything else in full swing as well. The Farmers Market on Saturdays is very popular. From 8:30 a.m. until noon each week Lake Street is filled with vendors, lots of browsing by the crowds and live music to go along with the festive atmosphere. At the end of the day there is a concert on Preservation Plaza. People need to bring their lawn

chairs if they don't want to sit on the ground. This week **Smash Mouth** comes to the Lakes Area to perform on the Plaza Stage.

Congratulations to **The Ritz**. Memorial Day marked a milestone anniversary for the popular bar and grill on East Lake Okoboji. People have been dining on delicious food, drinking their favorite beverages and enjoying live entertainment there for 35 years! Best wishes to Taylor, Coyote and their entire staff for many more successful years of operation.

If you have a reunion, family party or special event coming up, let me know. Email doris@dickinsoncountynews.com or call 712-320-2850.

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SPIRIT LAKE'S STEVENS BLOCK

They came, they saw, they invested: That is the story of B.F. Stevens, of St. Louis, Missouri, and his brother, Stephen Stevens.

Described as a “St. Louis millionaire,” Benjamin F. Stevens was a substantial stockholder and one time president of Liggett & Myers Tobacco Company of St. Louis. St. Louis, by 1885

it was the largest producer of plug chewing tobacco in the U.S. — chewing tobacco then being far more common than smoking.

First noted in newspapers here in an 1886 property sale, B.F. Stevens was probably made aware of the Iowa Great Lakes by a cousin, Frank Hopkins, an early steamship operator with a landing at the foot of Lake

Stevens quickly built a substantial cottage — still standing — but soon bought the Kingman farm in 1891, intending to make it the most advanced dairy farm in America.

A tall cooling tower was built at the Kingman place, extending above the oak trees. It served as a popular observation point for Big Spirit until becoming unsafe and was torn down in 1948.

Steve Stevens (as he was known locally), spent more time at The Lakes than his brother but was still financially well-connected.

The Stevens brothers spared no expense bringing the best horses, ponies, and livestock to the area — and distance was no object. Steve Stevens also served as a city councilman, but resigned in 1895.

The Stevens Block

In the 1880s, the site of the Stevens Block was part business, part eyesore. Ramshackle wooden structures built in the 1870s or earlier were showing their age, including the Beacon Block, where the Spirit Lake Beacon office

were, and the 1858 Marcus Snyder building, one of the oldest downtown.

Ideally, though, the site was on the main street between the rail station and the Hopkins’ East Okoboji steamship landing — a desirable location.

In early 1893, Steve Stevens negotiated with property owners to develop the corner of Hill Avenue and Lake Street. Rumor of a substantial two-story brick building for the site became news by March, with dedicated spaces for the First National Bank, barbershop, and meeting spaces for the Masonic Lodge and Knights of Pythias — best of all, a 400-seat opera house!

Construction took over a year, with tenants moving in in 1894 and the first show in the opera house in April. Sold-out performances were the norm. The opera house space was the location for lectures, high school gatherings, and even basketball!

Stevens also bought neighboring property to the north and installed a steam and power plant for his building, other Spirit Lake businesses and residences.

B.F. Stevens’ tobacco business took him to Virginia in the late 1890s, and the final investment in our area was for a refrigeration plant for butter and other perishables. Located on the block of the present Methodist Church and city hall, it was donated

to the city in 1900. Steve Stevens managed this for several years before health issues — said to be rheumatism — found him spending more time away at hot springs in the South and West.

The Stevens Block passed to local merchant H.A. Miller at one point. In a subzero day at the end of 1927, a fire in the rear of the Doudna Drug store severely damaged the building, gutting the opera house, meeting spaces, the

The brick and stone work on the Stevens block is nearly finished. As the plans are wrought out the substantial and symmetrical features of the structure are more and more apparent. The brick and mason work are most excellent in character. The stone trimmings are in proportion in workmanship and material in keeping with the plans. The street fronts already present a very fine appearance. The stores, the opera house, the halls, and the offices are excellently proportioned and will exceed all local expectation. The block has really the character of a city structure.

B. F. Stevens has purchased the painting representing a scene to the northeast of his cottage embracing portions of the East Okoboji and Spirit Lake, the Hotel Orleans, etc., drawn during the summer by Prof. Cummings, of Cornell College.

AROUND 1898



1902



TODAY



drug store, Peterson hardware store, and post office. The building was saved, but much original character was lost in repair and updating.

Numerous owners and tenants have occupied the building in decades since. It is currently under careful renovation with a hope to restore its importance to Spirit Lake business.

And the brothers?

Both Stevens men were Civil War veterans, having enlisted in the 15th Iowa Infantry. B.F. Stevens died at age 75 in Martinsville, Virginia, in 1916 and is buried there. His brother Steve continued to seek help at veterans sanitariums with little effect. He died in 1923 in California, but was so disconnected from the Iowa Great Lakes by then that his passing wasn’t noted until 1925.

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JULY
14

SUNDAY, JULY 14TH | 7:30PM

THE LETTERMEN

AUG
4

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4TH | 7:30PM

HERMAN'S HERMITS

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