



kokobojian

JULY 1, 2022



10 CARVING A NICHE
Nonprofit OkoboTree project begins



11 ROCKIN' RETRO
Doctors treated audiences to healthy dose of rock 'n' roll



12 FRESH FACE
OST welcomes Morooney for summer's first performance



LIVE MUSIC



Thursday (6.30)
Karaoke 6pm

Friday (7.1)
Brad Morgan 7pm

Saturday (7.2)
A Hard Days Night 2:30pm
Brad Morgan 7pm

Sunday (7.3)
Jeremy DeWall Band 2:30pm
*** Hitchville 7pm ***

Monday (7.4)
Acoustic Mayhem 12:30pm
Jeremy DeWall Band 5pm

Thursday (7.7)
Big Nacho Karaoke 6pm

Friday (7.8)
Nebraska Showdown 7pm

EAST LAKE OKOBOJI
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Tuesday (6.28)
Tim Horsman 5pm

Wednesday (6.29)
Ryan Sather 5pm

Thursday (6.30)
Tristan Marquardt 5pm

Friday (7.1)
Eli Alger 5pm
DJ Nate T 9pm

Saturday (7.2)
Eli Alger 5pm
Fishheads 9pm

Sunday (7.3)
Sounds Fishy 5pm
Fishheads 9pm

Monday (7.4)
Ryan Sather 5pm
Fishheads 9pm

DAILY LIVE MUSIC @ 5PM
LAKE LEVEL OF THE CENTRAL EMPORIUM



4th of July Cruises

Friday (7.1)
Barefoot Dock Hop 6pm

Sunday (7.3)
Barefoot Dock Hop 2pm

Monday (7.4)
Freedom Cruise 8pm

Friday (7.1)
OBW Dock Hop 7pm

Sunday (7.3)
Miller's Bay Yacht Party 2:30pm

Tuesday (7.5)
OBW Dock Hop 1pm

Saturday (7.2)
Fish Shack Cruise 1pm

Sunday (7.3)
OBW Dock Hop 1pm

Wednesday (7.6)
OBW Dock Hop 1pm

Saturday (7.2)
Miller's Bay Yacht Party 2:30pm

Monday (7.4)
OBW Dock Hop 1pm

Thursday (7.7)
OBW Dock Hop 1pm

Saturday (7.2)
Barefoot Dock Hop 3pm

Book Now!

Friday (7.8)
OBW Dock Hop 1pm

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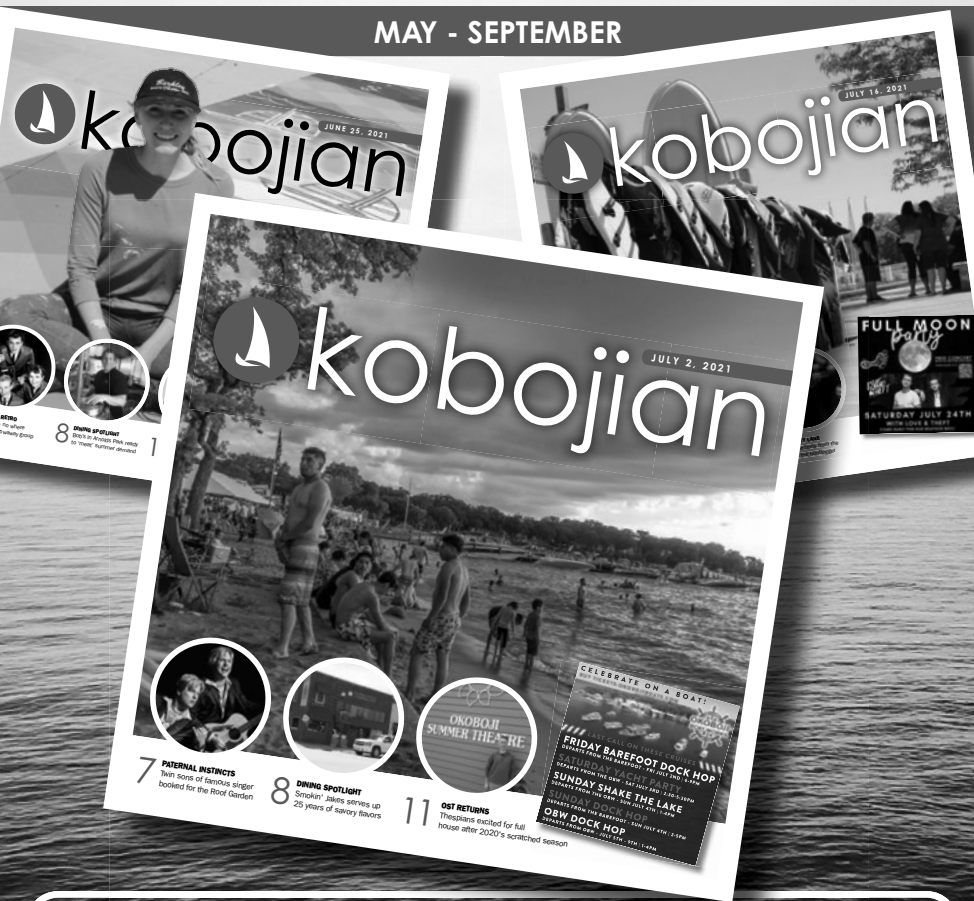


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ABOUT THE COVER: Photo taken by Seth Boyes

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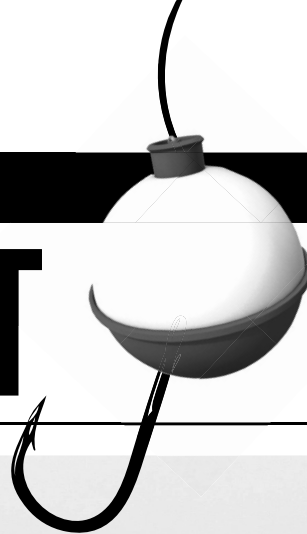
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NORTHWEST IOWA

FISHING REPORT



This weekly fishing report is compiled from information gathered from local bait shops, angler creel surveys and county and state parks staff. The report below is from June 23, the latest report available at the time of publication. For current conditions, call the Spirit Lake District Office at 712-336-1840. Most area lake temperatures have warmed into the 70s and 80s with the warm weather. Forecast weather should continue to raise water temperatures. Water clarity is fairly good on most area lakes. Bass and panfishing is great on most lakes closer to shore and along weed lines. Many fish species will start to move to deeper water as their spawning season ends.

EAST LAKE OKOBOJI

The water level is about 3 inches over crest. Fish are moving shallower, making for great shoreline fishing. Trolling has been working very well. Find crappie and yellow bass in 10-16 feet of water. Black Crappie — Good. Bluegill — Good. Walleye — Fair: Try spinners, crankbaits and long and shallow shad raps in the main basins. Best bite is an hour before and after sunset. Yellow Bass — Good.

LOST ISLAND LAKE

Many anglers have been successful; some sorting may be needed depending on which species they are targeting. Black Crappie — Good. Walleye — Fair: try trolling crankbaits or with lindy rigs off weed lines. Best bite is an hour before and after sunset. Yellow Perch — Fair.

LAKE MINNEWASHTA

Bluegill and crappie fishing has been good; some sorting may be needed. Black Crappie — Good. Bluegill — Good.

SILVER LAKE (DICKINSON)

The late afternoon bite has been good. Many anglers are targeting fish schools during the day. Walleye — Fair: try spinners, crankbaits and long and shallow shad raps.

SPIRIT LAKE

The lake is about 7 inches below crest. The walleye season is open. Black Bullhead — Good: try fishing the northern grade of Spirit Lake. Black Crappie — Fair: use a tube jig and bobber. Bluegill — Fair. Walleye — Fair: try spinners, crankbaits and long and shallow shad raps. Yellow Perch — Fair.

WEST LAKE OKOBOJI

The water level is about 3 inches over crest. The panfish bite has been good around docks and hoists; many species of fish are starting to move deeper as the spawning season ends. The walleye season is open. Black Crappie — Fair. Bluegill — Fair. Largemouth Bass — Fair. Smallmouth Bass — Fair: try fishing off points with surface baits or jerk baits. Walleye — Fair: try fishing off points by trolling crankbaits.



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CAMPUS HOTLINE

Doris Welle | Staff Writer

As we all gear up for a fun-filled Fourth of July weekend, I hope you have stockpiled plenty of liquids since the weather promises to be hot and humid. Hydration and patience in long lines are a must for this holiday.

I received an interesting photo from Marilyn Roe who lives over on the west side of West Lake Okoboji during the summer months. As you can see, the photo is not the easiest to see but, after all, it was taken in 1935. Her father, Roy Tillman was the conductor of the Harmony Club Orchestra in Sheldon. Since many Sioux County residents spend their summers and/or weekends here in the Lakes Area, I decided to include this photo in case one or more of your relatives are in the picture. Tillman is on the far left. Then, left to right, you will see Bud Holland, Frank Welch, Duke Albright, Pete Sauer, Milt Pitts, Ronald Langley, Dorance Bacon and Don Adams. Apparently Tillman left the band and went to California in 1937 to work in a nightclub in Long Beach. Six months later, he sent for Marilyn's mom and they were married out there. So Marilyn is a California native, still hanging out most of the year in the Long Beach area but summering here. I found the photo interesting. Perhaps it will bring back memories of family or friends to some of you as well.

I received a notice from Ruth Ann Burke, executive director of the Okoboji Summer Theatre, and Judy Weipert yesterday. Judy is the director of the national award-winning Spirit of Harmony Chorus based out of Spirit Lake. This Sweet Adeline chorus meets to practice once a week with some members traveling quite a distance to do so. Members come from Spirit Lake, Milford, Emmetsburg, Estherville, Wallingford, Battle Creek, Lake Park, Spencer and Marshall, Minnesota. They have accepted Burke's invitation to provide pre-show entertainment at the OST performance of "An Inspector Calls" on July 15. They will be singing from 7:30 until 8 p.m. when the play begins. Sounds like fun! Also, heartiest congratulations to Spirit of Harmony on their recent national competition honors. They took first place overall championship and first place small chorus at the International Region 6 contest this spring. Stop by and listen to them on July 15.

I had the opportunity to visit briefly with Tom Andes of Columbia, Missouri, this week.



I knew he had retired from teaching music at the University of Missouri, but he still teaches some jazz classes. He has been the musical director at Okoboji Summer Theatre for many years. I was afraid when he retired, we wouldn't see him anymore. However I should have realized he and his puppy could not get through a summer without the Lakes Region. He is doing next week's musical and also doing "Bright Star: A New Musical" which runs July 26-31. It is a relatively new production written by Steve Martin and Edie Brickell. He told me he is really excited about that one and it is a lot of fun. Welcome back Tom. Glad you didn't totally retire.

Residents and visitors alike will have the opportunity to see three nights of fireworks this weekend. Lake Park shoots off on Saturday, Spirit Lake on Sunday and the West Lake Okoboji traditional event on Monday. I want to thank in advance all the law enforcement (land and water), volunteer fire-fighters and first responders for what is a very busy and hectic weekend trying to keep us all safe. Bless you all and thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

If you have a reunion, family party or special event coming up this summer, let me know. You can email the information to doris@dickinsoncountynews.com or give me a call at 712-320-2850. Have a safe week!

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE GREAT EVENTS

July 1 — OUTDOOR EVENT

1-4 p.m. Barefoot Dock Hop
Okoboji Boat Works

July 1 — LIVE MUSIC

5-9 p.m. Funset Sunset with Eli Alger
9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Candy Shop
The Gardens

July 1 — OUTDOOR EVENT

6-9 p.m. OBW Dock Hop
Okoboji Boat Works

July 1 — LIVE MUSIC

6 p.m. Lockhearts
The Ritz

July 1 — LIVE MUSIC

7-11 p.m. Brad Morgan
Barefoot Bar

July 1 — LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

8 p.m. Ken Ludwig's Comedy of Tenors
Okoboji Summer Theatre

July 1 — LIVE MUSIC

7:30 p.m. Sir Mix-A-Lot
Roof Garden Ballroom

July 1 — LIVE MUSIC

9 p.m. Skitzo Fonik
Captain's Getaway

July 2 — OUTDOOR EVENT

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

July 2 — LIVE MUSIC

8 a.m. to Noon. Okoboji Music Makers
Arnolds Park Amusement Park

July 2 — OUTDOOR EVENT

8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Farmers
Market in the Park
Arnolds Park Amusement Park

July 2 — OUTDOOR ENTERTAINMENT

9-10 a.m. The Studio Yoga and Barre
Arnolds Park Amusement Park

July 2 — OUTDOOR EVENT

2-5 p.m. Barefoot Dock Hop
3-6 p.m. Barefoot Dock Hop
Barefoot Bar

July 2 — LIVE MUSIC

2-6 p.m. Trevor Rau
Round Lake Vineyards

July 2 — LIVE MUSIC

2:30 p.m. Tiger Pants
7-11 p.m. Brad Morgan
Barefoot Bar

July 2 — OUTDOOR EVENT

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

July 2 — LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

4:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.
Ken Ludwig's Comedy of Tenors
Okoboji Summer Theatre

July 2 — LIVE MUSIC

5-9 p.m. Funset Sunset with Eli Alger
9 p.m. to 1 a.m. FishHeads
The Gardens

July 2 — LIVE MUSIC

6 p.m. Lockhearts
The Ritz

July 2 — LIVE MUSIC

6-8 p.m. Mark Lair
Little Swan Lake Winery

July 2 — LIVE MUSIC

6-8 p.m. Mark Lair
Little Swan Lake Winery

July 2 — LIVE MUSIC

7:30 p.m. The Rolling Stoners
Preservation Plaza

July 2 — LIVE MUSIC

9 p.m. Skitzo Fonik
Captain's Getaway

July 3 — LIVE MUSIC

10 a.m. — 2 p.m. Tanner Petersen
Oak Hill Outdoor

July 3 — LIVE MUSIC

11:30 a.m. 8-track Band Singers
3 p.m. Janice Hill and Dan Sullivan
Iowa Rock 'n roll Music Museum Patio

July 3 — OUTDOOR EVENT

1-4 p.m. OBW Dock Hop
Okoboji Boat Works

July 3 — OUTDOOR EVENT

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

July 3 — LIVE MUSIC

2-6 p.m. Gabe Fueston
Round Lake Vineyards

July 3 — LIVE MUSIC

2:30 p.m. Tiger Pants
Barefoot Bar

July 3 — OUTDOOR EVENT

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

July 3 — LIVE MUSIC

4 p.m. Lockhearts
The Ritz

July 3 — LIVE MUSIC

5-9 p.m. Funset Sunset with Sounds Fishy
9 p.m. to 1 a.m. FishHeads
The Gardens

July 3 — LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

6 p.m. Ken Ludwig's Comedy of Tenors
Okoboji Summer Theatre

July 3 — LIVE MUSIC

7:30 p.m. Rock A La Carte
Preservation Plaza

July 3 — LIVE MUSIC

8:30 p.m. Niko Moon
9 p.m. Skitzo Fonik
Captain's Getaway

July 3 — OUTDOOR EVENT

10-10:30 p.m. Big Spirit Fireworks
Ainsworth-Orleans Beach

July 4 — LIVE MUSIC

All Day Candy Shop
12:30 p.m. Acoustic Mayhem
Barefoot Bar

July 4 — OUTDOOR EVENT

Noon to 4 p.m. OBW Dock Hop
Okoboji Boat Works

July 4 — LIVE MUSIC

12:30 p.m. Acoustic Mayhem
Barefoot Bar

July 4 — LIVE MUSIC

4 p.m. Lockhearts
The Ritz

July 4 — LIVE MUSIC

5-9 p.m. Funset Sunset with Ryan Sather
9 p.m. to 1 a.m. FishHeads
The Gardens

July 4 — OUTDOOR EVENT

5-6:15 p.m. Siesta Cruise — Family Friendly

July 4 — LIVE MUSIC

7:30 p.m. The Trip
Preservation Plaza

July 4 — OUTDOOR EVENT

8-11 p.m. July 4 Freedom Cruise
Okoboji Boat Works

July 4 — LIVE MUSIC

9 p.m. Skitzo Fonik
Captain's Getaway

July 4 — OUTDOOR EVENT

10:07 p.m. Fourth of July Fireworks
Arnolds Park Amusement Park

July 5 — OUTDOOR EVENT

Noon to 4 p.m. OBW Dock Hop

Okoboji Boat Works

July 5 — LIVE MUSIC

5-9 p.m. Funset Sunset with Charlie Leissler
The Gardens

July 5 — LIVE MUSIC

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

July 5 — LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

8 p.m. Pump Boys and Dinettes (musical)
Okoboji Summer Theatre

July 6 — LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

10-11 a.m. The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs
Boji Bantam Children's Theatre
Okoboji Summer Theater

July 6 — OUTDOOR EVENT

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wild Wednesday: Wild
Foraging
Iowa Lakeside Laboratory

July 6 — OUTDOOR EVENT

Noon to 4 p.m. OBW Dock Hop
Okoboji Boat Works

July 6 — LIVE MUSIC

5-9 p.m. Funset Sunset with Christopher Jon
The Gardens

July 6 — LIVE MUSIC

6 p.m. She's With Us
The Ritz

July 6 — LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

8 p.m. Pump Boys and Dinettes (musical)
Okoboji Summer Theatre

July 6 — LIVE MUSIC

9 p.m. Shirts and Skins
Captain's Getaway

July 7 — LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

10-11 a.m. The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs
Boji Bantam Children's Theatre
Okoboji Summer Theater

July 7 — OUTDOOR EVENT

10:30-11:30 a.m. Kenue Coffee Hour
Dickinson County Nature Center

July 7 — OUTDOOR EVENT

Noon to 4 p.m. OBW Dock Hop
Okoboji Boat Works

July 7 — LIVE MUSIC

5-9 p.m. Funset Sunset with
Boon and Lambert
The Gardens

July 7 — LIVE MUSIC

6-8 p.m. Rock the Roof with
Interstate Cruisers
Roof Garden Ballroom

July 7 — LIVE MUSIC

6 p.m. Vinyl Nights
The Ritz

July 7 — LIVE MUSIC

6-8 p.m. Six Feet Over
Round Lake Vineyards

July 7 — LIVE MUSIC

6-8 p.m. Jeremy DeWall
Little Swan Lake Winery

July 7 — LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

8 p.m. Pump Boys and Dinettes (musical)
Okoboji Summer Theatre

July 7 — LIVE MUSIC

8:30 p.m. Morgan Evans
Captain's Getaway

July 8 — LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

10-11 a.m. The True Story
of the 3 Little Pigs
Boji Bantam Children's Theatre
Okoboji Summer Theater

July 8 — LIVE MUSIC

5-9 p.m. Funset Sunset with Charlie Leissler
Nick Hickman — all day
The Gardens

July 8 — OUTDOOR EVENT

Noon to 4 p.m. OBW Dock Hop
Okoboji Boat Works

July 8 — OUTDOOR EVENT

5-6:15 p.m. Siesta Cruise — Family Friendly

July 8 — OUTDOOR EVENT

6-9 p.m. Barefoot Dock Hop
Okoboji Boat Works

July 8 — LIVE MUSIC

6 p.m. Murphy's Law
The Ritz

July 8 — OUTDOOR EVENT

7-10 p.m. OBW Dock Hop
Okoboji Boat Works

July 8 — LIVE MUSIC

7 p.m. Nebraska Showdown
Barefoot Bar

July 8 — LIVE MUSIC

7:30 p.m. Night Ranger
Roof Garden Ballroom

July 8 — LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

8 p.m. Pump Boys and Dinettes (musical)
Okoboji Summer Theatre

July 8 — LIVE MUSIC

9 p.m. The White Keys
Captain's Getaway

OKOBOJI SUMMER THEATRE STARTS SEASON WITH LAUGHTER

The 64th season at Okoboji Summer Theatre began this week with a comedy that brought chuckle after chuckle from the opening night audience.

“Ken Ludwig’s A Comedy of Tenors” is filled with strong Italian accents, shouting and tussles leading to mayhem.

The scene is a hotel suite in Paris, France, complete with an antique radio and gramophone. The door to the suite opened and the audience burst into applause as Rob Doyen appeared. Doyen has been an actor/teacher at OST for many years and is a favorite of the audience. He plays Henry Saunders, a heartless and desperate agent whose main objective is the financial bottom line. Doyen played the part very well.

Jose Ruiz-Gonzalez plays Max: son-in-law, expectant father, student of music and second in command to Saunders. His portrayal of the frustrated, sometimes miserable young tenor was extremely well done.

Kudos to Ben Stasny! He plays two men — Tito and Beppo. I was exhausted watching him in both characters knowing that he is running back and forth backstage all the while adding gray or removing it from his hair. He was a delight to watch and very funny.

Jesse Graham Galas drew the role of Tito’s wife Maria. She is pretty, her clothes are gorgeous but sitting in the back part of the theater, I had trouble hearing her at times.

Tito’s daughter Mimi was played by Kaitlyn G. Smith. She was precious and very believable

in her role as well as graceful. You couldn’t help but like her.

Mimi’s love interest is another tenor who is good looking with a beautiful voice. Joe Verga filled this role perfectly.

I enjoyed Rachel Perez as Racon. She gave her character just enough pazzazz and spunky attitude to give us many chuckles.

William Draper in the role of Jacques was not on stage often, but we enjoyed him never the less.

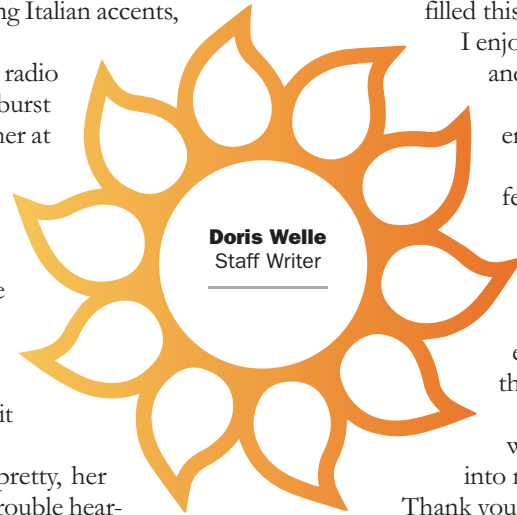
I salute director Stephen Brotebeck for putting together a cast of professionals, interns and students to give us an evening of laughter in our crazy world. He was able to bring a unity to the cast that brought out quality acting performances.

Those going to see this comedy need to pay close attention because the accents are heavy and they do talk fast when the characters get excited or upset. The body language helps keep the audience on track with the story, and they all excel in body language performance.

I wanted to compliment a couple of the actors on a surprise but I don’t want to spoil it for those who have not yet seen the show. When you run into me out and about, we can chat about it.

Thank you to the entire staff and crew at OST for getting us off to a fun start of the 2022 season. I can hardly wait for next week’s musical “Pump Boys and Dinettes.”

This week’s comedy runs through Sunday evening with two shows on Saturday.



Doris Welle
Staff Writer

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Doris Welle
Staff Writer

Operating in its 26th year, Smokin' Jakes provides tasty selections, smoked to perfection, and a setting that brings back memories to diners. "The secret to our success is definitely my smoker," owner Linda Geske said. "We smoke beef, pork, chicken and turkey every day."

The only meat on the menu that's not smoked is the hamburgers.

To compliment all the meat choices, the menu also included homemade soups and pies, cookies and bars.

Located on the corner of West Broadway and Iowa streets in Arnolds Park, customers find themselves right in the middle of all that is happening in the area. Geske has a staff of 20 friendly, reliable employees to assist people perusing the menu. She is looking for more staff as well. Lunch specials include: Monday — hot meatloaf sandwich; Tuesday — hot pork sandwich; Wednesday — hot beef sandwich; Thursday — hot chicken sandwich; Friday — hot turkey sandwich. "We have pulled pork every day," Geske said. "We also offer a bottomless bowl of soup for only \$8.99."

There are always at least five soup choices each day. The evening dinner specials feature: Monday — ribs morsels; Tuesday — smoked brisket; Wednesday — spaghetti and ribs; Thursday — beef tips; Friday — smoked chicken.

"We have also added pretzel bites with queso or nacho cheese, and that has become very popular," Geske said. "Our smoked prime rib is the favorite of many who eat here."

An unique fully-stocked bar extends along the east side of the restaurant.

Thursday evenings are often standing



room only at Smokin' Jakes. The weekly meat raffle and key chain cash drawing bring people in by midafternoon to eat and wait for the prizes. Geske works in conjunction with Twilight Masonic Lodge for the meat drawings.

"We start drawing for the meat prizes at 5 p.m.," the owner said. "At 6 o'clock we do the keychain drawing. You must be present to win."

A person can pick up a keychain anytime by stopping by the restaurant, and the keychains are free.

"We start out the first week with \$116 as the prize. If the person who owns the keychain is not there, we increase it the second week to \$216 and add another hundred bucks for the third and fourth weeks," Geske said. "Then on the fifth week, if no one has won, we split the \$516 four ways, \$129 to each winner."

Geske converted the northeast corner of her building into a unique, helpful dining experience.

"Granny's Corner" allows customers to walk up the street to the window

and order a 2-pound turkey leg, half-pound hot dog, nachos and cheese or pizza. These tasty morsels can be eaten in the car or strolling along West Broadway a block or so to the shores of West Lake Okoboji. Granny's Corner is open from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. Friday and Saturday night.

Smokin' Jakes is open year-round from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Wednesday; and 11 a.m. to 3 a.m. Thursday through Saturday. The restaurant is closed on Sundays.

The staff is always busy with catering jobs as well. Geske advises booking those well in advance.

"Some weeks we have as many as seven or more catering jobs, and my staff is spread pretty thin," she said.

Smokin' Jakes is still smoking and serving delicious food, tasty beverages and fun for all ages. Geske thanks everyone for their continued support and their business.

"This is a great community in which to work and be involved," she said.

food & fun

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AND ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE



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Thursday - Saturday
11 a.m. - 3 a.m.

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CARVING OF FIRST OKOBOTREE SCULPTURES GETS UNDERWAY



The nonprofit Spirit of Okoboji recently began a project to transform deceased trees in the Lakes Area into outdoor sculptures for the public. The nonprofit's OkoboTree project got underway this week as Gary Keenan, a chain saw carver from Des Moines, began work on the first three trees included in the plan. Keenan started on Monday with a tree located at Isthmus Park in Spirit Lake.

The project received funding from the

Mountain Outdoor Grants program. The soda-pop company awarded 40 grants, each in the amount of \$5,000, to nonprofit organizations which champion the great American outdoors. OkoboTree was a recipient of the grant funds, which went toward the creation of the first three tree sculptures.

In addition to the tree in Isthmus Park, Keenan used his skills to sculpt a tree near the stone entrance at Lakeside Laboratories and a tree located along the spine trail east of Big Spirit.



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THESE GUYS HAD YOUR RX FOR ROCK 'N' ROLL

DOCTORS

Tom Tourville
Okoboian Contributor

This week we're going back to 1985 to remember one of the hottest acts on the regional rock music scene, the Doctors. I've already made an error in introducing the group, as they never used the word "the" before their name, it was just Doctors!

The band got its start in 1982 when a group of musicians from northern Iowa, who were all alumni of the Clay County Band, decided to form a new group after the Clay County Band breakup in early 1982. It was time to start a new music venture.

The band was created by Brad Tuttle of Spencer. He was joined by Dave Bremer from Lake Park on bass and Greg Hedin from Paulina on drums. They were then joined by John Cazan from Phoenix, Arizona. Both Bremer and Hedin were living in Phoenix and playing with Cazan when Doctors was started.

Their first job was at the Log Cabin Ballroom in Sioux Valley, Minnesota. The guys in the band knew the owners of the Log Cabin, so they were able to practice there for most of the summer of 1982 to create and fine-tune the band.

After they started their rock and roll road trip, one of the best business moves they could have made was to visit Excelsior Talent in Minneapolis. They were quickly signed by the agency and handed off to the same marketing firm Prince used. They created the very distinctive Doctors logo, photos and poster designs.

Now it was time to tighten up the band. In addition to the usual straight-ahead guitar sound and work, Tuttle would also play keyboards and sax. This was in addition to the groups tight, four-part harmonies.

Ballrooms were a constant for the band. They played Log Cabin in Sioux Valley, Holyhock Ballroom in Hatfield, and Fox Lake Ballroom in Sherburn — all in Minnesota; Ritz Ballroom in Beresford, South Dakota;

Roof Garden Ballroom in Okoboji; Showboat Ballroom in Lake Benton, Minnesota; Danceland Ballroom in Hartley and the Paradise Ballroom in Waconia, Minnesota. You get the idea. Doctors could really draw a crowd, and the Midwest ballroom circuit was a big part of the business for the band. For the sake of history, the band played well north of 700 live shows at ballrooms alone. Doctors in 1985 through 1986 played at the Roof Garden Ballroom three times.

Playing clubs was a big deal for the band as well. In fact, for the summer of 1983, they had their own club at Arnolds Park Amusement Park called The Clinic. Because of Excelsior Talent they would also travel to Nebraska, New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Wyoming, North and South Dakota and Montana.

I asked the guys in the band where their true home territory was. They told me to go to I-90 at roughly at Sherburn, Minnesota (Fox Lake Ballroom), and draw an 80-mile radius — Doctors were making house calls.

They were very popular at the Pomp Room in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. It was always a good venue for the group.

The band did not release any records as Doctors, but Tuttle in the summer of 1985 released a great regional record titled "Okoboji Summers." Members of Doctors helped back Tuttle on the 45.

In 1985 Tuttle left the band to move from the Midwest. The three remaining band members would play around the Midwest for another couple of years before moving to Phoenix, Arizona, where they continued on as Doctors all the way into 1989.

Today Cazan lives in Arizona, Hedin in Boise, Idaho, Tuttle lives in Texas and sadly Dave Bremer passed away in 2021 in his hometown of Lake Park. I had the good fortune to see this amazing band more times than I can count. I always expected a staggering show, and Doctors always delivered the current prescription.

UNTIL NEXT WEEK
TAKE CARE & REMEMBER THE MUSIC

FIRST TIME DIRECTOR FINDS OST AMAZING

Doris Welle
Staff Writer

Directing the first musical production of the Okoboji Summer Theatre season has Alison Morooney in awe — for several reasons. An East Coast native, Morooney arrived in the Iowa Great Lakes Region for the first time last week.

“Look around you, this is amazing,” she said. “This space here at OST is where everyone is working together to put on a fine theatrical production for all to enjoy.”

Morooney was born in Pennsylvania. She has a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in musical theatre from Penn State University. After touring around the world with various musical companies for about 10 years, she returned home to obtain her Master of Fine Arts in musical direction at Penn State. She met OST’s artistic director Stephen Brotebeck while in college.

“He called me last winter and asked if I would like to come here to Okoboji to direct the musical ‘Pump Boys and Dinettes,’ and it worked well in my schedule, so I said yes,” Morooney said.

The OST campus appeals to the director.

“The campus with its cottages and amenities for everyone is so great,” she said. “I really enjoy the green space around here too!”

The Dickinson County Recreational Trail borders the east side of the OST campus, allowing easy access for Morooney to take walks — an amenity she takes advantage of often.

“Its just beautiful around here,” she said.

Music is a very special part of the director’s life.

“I started out dancing — that’s where my love for music began and grew,” she said. “Music tells us things that words can’t necessarily say. Music brings character to what we think and feel. One measure of music says more than a whole sentence of words. It reaches all sorts of different people — music opens doors that don’t alienate us.”



Morooney is directing a cast of two men and three women in the play.

“They are so dedicated and talented, it is a joy to work on this musical,” she said.

Assisting her is musical director Tom Andes. He is using five area musicians to do this show.

“They will all be on stage with the performers for this show, so that will be added fun,” Morooney said.

“Pump Boys and Dinettes” is set in 1979.

“It has a sort of vintage feel,” Morooney said. “Anyone who likes country western and folk music will feel right at home.”

The show opens on Tuesday, July 5, and runs through Sunday, July 10, with two shows on Saturday.

When the curtain falls, the director will pack her bags and head for New England, where she is doing a couple of shows on Cape Cod in July.

“I have been to 48 of the 50 states, as well as around the world, and am headed back home,” Morooney said.

She will become a professor of music at Wilkes University in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, this fall. She believes she will return to the Lakes Region in the future.



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PICKLES

R. Aubrey La Foy
Okobojian Contributor

The title of this article would suggest that it would be about dill, watermelon, sweet or chunk pickles, but it has nothing to do with any of the above; so read on.

Our grandson asked me one day, “Grandpa what did you do when you were a kid? You didn’t have TV, computers, wireless phones, and I read in the paper that you didn’t travel very much. What did you do?”

I don’t really know, but I think he thought we just sat around and looked at each other, but you know that was not the case. We played basketball in an empty hayloft, football and baseball on vacant lots, played in the band, hunted and took part in plays and operettas. In high school, we were very busy along with our classes and study. Many of us also had daily newspaper routes, worked in grocery stores, gas stations, on the farm, in restaurants and local newspaper shops before we were 15-years-old.

In the small town where I grew up, we were very fortunate to have some very outstanding and devoted teachers. Our school was noted for having good musical talent. The vocal and instrumental departments excelled in contests and performances.

One year our vocal musical director decided to put on a musical operetta entitled “Pickles.” I don’t recall the exact plot of the show but it involved a gypsy camp and naturally had a hero and a heroine. Why the operetta was named “Pickles” escaped us all. No pickles were in the plot, either eaten or displayed, so it was a mystery.

Several things stand out in my memory about the operetta. One was when my best buddy and another young man had a scene where they were scouting the area near the gypsy camp so they were crawling around all over the stage. One scene had them crawling backwards not realizing their other co-conspirator was also doing the identical same thing. The climax of the scene was when the two backed into each other, turned around, let out a screech and proceeded to back off the stage the way they had



entered. It took great timing, and the entire cast and audience had a great laugh.

Another recollection had to do with the gypsy prince. This presented a challenge for the music director because how do you customize a blue eyed, light-colored haired, light complexion into a dark eyed, dark hair and dark complicated gypsy? She tried to accomplish this task by dark shadowing around the eyes, wearing a kerchief on his head, bellowing shirt sleeves and wrap around belt with dagger, knickers, black socks and earrings. Not just little earrings but huge ones to emphasize the look. In several scenes of the operetta the gypsy prince was engaged in several sword fights and in general quite active, and the earrings had to stay in place.

Acquiring earrings that size in a small town was impossible so the director improvised by locating some brass curtain rings, attaching a string on each and literally tying the rings on the actor’s ears. Luckily this solved the problem as they stayed on for each performance, but the gypsy prince had sore ears for several days. How do I know so much about this portion of the play? I was cast as the Gypsy Prince.

The cast and the director thought the operetta “Pickles” was a huge success. We had a great deal of fun at the practices, and the audiences

seemed to like our attempts. The cast was ever grateful for all the efforts of our music director and her assistant, the English teacher. Culture to a small town is probably pretty simple compared with Broadway in New York City, but it was well-worth the efforts.

Each year, the junior and senior classes at our school produced plays and every so often a series of one-act plays were also done. I suppose I could go on and on about our activities when I was a kid, but a grandson’s attention span doesn’t last for ever. He was interested in our bands and sports so I elaborated on each. He told me their band practices were held during the school day. We didn’t have that option at our high school, so we had to have band practice in the evening.

Tuesday night was band practice time from 7-9 p.m. During the fall, when we were going to marching band contests, we did come to the school an hour before classes to drill and play in the school yard. We had a small band with only 25 instruments, five flag twirlers and a drum major.

Our grandson is in a marching band, and the maneuvers and formations they do are a far cry from the ones we performed years ago. They also have to practice many, many more hours than we did. I do know that our grand-

son does a great deal more homework than we did years ago, but he also has a computer. As I recall I did most of my homework in the study hall periods. I asked him about study halls, and all I got was a blank expression so I assume from that look the kids today don’t have classes devoted to study.

When I told him about going out to the edge of town to go hunting, he really didn’t know what I meant. He has lived in metropolitan areas all of his life so cornfields and woods are not in his immediate vicinity. I recall going only about four or five blocks from our home in Mason City and shooting pheasants in the fall of the year. If we really wanted to hunt a journey of only 4 miles took us to our friend’s farm where hunting was excellent. Many times, several of us would bicycle out to the river and hunt and nobody bothered us; whereas I know my grandson would really get in trouble if he took a rifle and went hunting near his home.

Times change, and I do know the kids today are structured a great deal more than we were in our youth. In a small town everybody knows you, so you have more than one baby sitter; so you watch your p’s and q’s. Give me the “Good Old Days” and our freedoms anytime. My grandson even remarked about that too.



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