



Kooojian

AUGUST 12, 2022



CENTRAL EMPORIUM
144 Lakeshore Drive

CRAZY DAYS SALE

AUG 10-14 • 20+ STORES • CRAZY DEALS

10 AND FUN WAS HAD BY ALL
Lake Park celebrates Farmers Appreciation Days

12 A PERFECT PAIR
Artist creates companion piece for Pearson Lakes Art Center

13 ROCKIN' RETRO
The many names of Donnie Brooks

LIVE MUSIC



THE GARDENS ON THE SHORES OF WEST LAKE OKOBOJI

Thursday (8.11)

Big Nacho Karaoke 6pm
Full Moon - Free and Easy 7pm

Friday (8.12)

Rock Ala Carte 7pm

Saturday (8.13)

Parrot Party - Pirates & Guitars 2:30pm
Rock Ala Carte Queen Trib 7pm

Sunday (8.14)

Christopher John 2pm

Thursday (8.18)

Big Nacho Karaoke 6pm

Friday (8.19)

Salty View 7pm

Saturday (8.20)

Jake Gill Band 2:30pm
Good for Gary 7pm

Sunday (8.21)

Jake Gill 2pm

Thursday (8.11)

Tristan Marquardt 5pm

Friday (8.12)

Michael Hope 5pm
Waves Collide 9pm

Saturday (8.13)

Ryan Sather 5pm
Waves Collide 9pm

Sunday (8.14)

Charlie Leissler 5pm
Karaoke 8pm

Monday (8.15)

Boji Bill 5pm

Tuesday (8.16)

Tim Horsman 5pm

Wednesday (8.17)

Christopher John 5pm

Thursday (8.18)

Byron Kuehler 5pm

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See the
Okobojian
weekly

MAY - SEPTEMBER



- Drop Points in -
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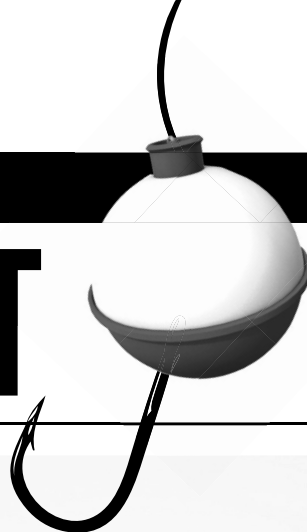
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NORTHWEST IOWA

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 August 4, 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 are in the mid-70s to 80s. Forecasts call for continued temperatures in the 80s and 90s. Bass and panfishing has been great on most lakes out along weed lines in 15-plus feet of water. Most bigger fish have been caught out in deeper water as temperatures have increased.

EAST LAKE OKOBOJI — The water level is at crest. Fish are out deeper during warm water temperatures. Trolling has been working very well. Find crappie and yellow bass in 12-17 feet of water. Try fishing weed lines where there is new vegetation growth. Black Crappie — Good: Best bite is in 10-15 feet of water along weed lines. 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 — Fishing/trolling is getting more difficult as aquatic vegetation reaches the surface in many places. There has been a decent-sized algae bloom lately. Black Crappie — Fair. Walleye — Slow: 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. Black Crappie — Good. Bluegill — Good.

SILVER LAKE — The late afternoon bite has been fair. Many anglers are targeting fish schools during the day. Vegetation growth and a large algae bloom is making fishing more difficult in many areas. Many large schools of young of the year bullhead are swimming around the lake. Walleye — Fair: Try spinners, crankbaits and long and shallow shad raps.

SPIRIT LAKE — The lake level is approximately 3 inches below crest. The walleye season is open. Most species are out deeper in 17-plus feet of water. Black Bullhead — Fair: Try fishing the northern grade of Spirit Lake. Black Crappie — Fair: Use a tube jig and bobber. Bluegill — Fair. Walleye — Fair: Use spinners, crankbaits and long and shallow shad raps; try to find weed lines. Yellow Perch — Good: Many perch can be caught but may need to be sorted for size.

WEST LAKE OKOBOJI — The water level is at crest. Most fish are out deeper in 15-plus feet of water. Rocky points and areas with new vegetation growth have seen the most success. Black Crappie — Good: Use crankbaits or shad raps. Bluegill — Good: Try small shad raps. 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 or with lindy rigs. Best bite is an hour before and after sunset. Some fish have been caught while trolling for crappie.



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CAMPUS HOTLINE

Doris Welle
Staff Writer

The Friday night of Labor Day weekend promises to be filled with Hall of Fame caliber music. A concert in the Roof Garden will feature the Fabulous Flippers who were inducted into the Iowa Rock 'n Roll Music Hall of Fame in 1998. They were inducted into the South Dakota Rock and Rollers Hall of Fame in 2010. I am so glad they are coming back to Iowa to perform in this the 25th year of Iowa Hall of Fame induction ceremonies. Also very exciting is the opening act for that concert. The Seven Sons were inducted into the Iowa Hall in 2002 and South Dakota in 2013. This band was comprised of guys who, while attending Morningside College, performed as a way to support themselves during school. What a lot

of people don't realize is that there are two members of that band who are locals. Doug Dingel of Terril and Dr. Larry Dixon of Spirit Lake were musicians in that group. It will be fun to see them performing on stage again. Two multi-state hall of fame bands in one show — it doesn't get much better than that. The Pearson Lakes Art Center is bringing in some big names in the next couple of weeks. The Buckingham's will harmonize their way through a show on Wednesday, Aug. 17. That will give all of us a chance to sing along. Then on Tuesday and Wednesday, Aug. 30-31 Hotel California is coming back to the art center. That group returns by popular demand and, since the tickets went so fast, they have agreed to two nights of shows. We say farewell this week to the staff and students at the Okoboji Summer Theatre. At the conclusion of Sunday night's perfor-

mance of "Legally Blond," they will all pack their bags and head home. The students from Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri, only have about two weeks before they are back in class. I talked with Rob Doyen at a party Saturday night. He retired from teaching at Stephens a year ago but came here for the summer to perform in three shows. He told me, "I told them when I retired from teaching that I would not retire from the stage." We are so glad he made that decision. His performance in "Painting Churches" deserved a Tony award! He left for Missouri on Tuesday, after the final musical's opening night. Rob has three grandkids of elementary school age whom he was anxious to go back and spend time with before they too head back to school. But he assured me he will be back next summer. I want to give a shout of praise to Roger Shinkle. This Hartley native has a cottage on

Big Spirit Lake. Each evening as the sun goes down, he walks out to the end of his dock and plays taps. Shinkle is a U.S. Navy veteran of the Vietnam War. He told me he plays it to salute his comrades, some of whom did not come home. "I especially play to honor all those in the WWII military who sacrificed so much for us," he said. "I am trying to promote patriotism." I say hurrah to Roger for what he is doing! He has no plans to quit doing it, and for that we are all grateful. Thank you to all who have served and those continuing to do so today! We owe you all a huge debt of gratitude. If you have a reunion, family party or special event coming up before summer is over, 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

Aug. 12 — OUTDOOR EVENT

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

Aug. 12 — LIVE MUSIC

5-9 p.m. Funset Sunset-Michael Hope
9 p.m. Waves Collide
The Gardens

Aug. 12 — LIVE MUSIC

6 p.m. Sweet Trouble
The Ritz

Aug. 12 — LIVE MUSIC

6-10 p.m. Anthony Koester
Oak Hill Outdoor

Aug. 12 — OUTDOOR EVENT

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

Aug. 12 — LIVE MUSIC

7-11 p.m. Rock ala Carte
Barefoot Bar

Aug. 12 — LIVE EVENT

8 p.m. Legally Blond (musical)
Okoboji Summer Theatre

Aug. 12 — LIVE MUSIC

8 p.m. Damon Dotson
Okoboji Store

Aug. 12 — LIVE MUSIC

9 p.m. Devon Worley Band
Captain's Getaway

Aug. 12 — LIVE MUSIC

9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Waves Collide
The Gardens

Aug. 13 — OUTDOOR EVENT

7:30 a.m. — noon Farmers Market
Dickinson County Fairgrounds

Aug. 13 — GOLF TOURNAMENT

Emerald Hills Club Championship Weekend
Emerald Hills Golf Course

Aug. 13 — OUTDOOR EVENT

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

Aug. 13 — OUTDOOR ENTERTAINMENT

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

Aug. 13 — LIVE MUSIC

9 a.m. to Noon. Lincoln Larson
Arnolds Park Amusement Park

Aug. 13 — LIVE EVENT

10:30-11 a.m. Saturday Morning Stories
Dickinson County Nature Center

Aug. 13 — LIVE MUSIC

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Rock the Patio
with Terry Klein
Iowa RockNRoll Music Museum Patio

Aug. 13 — LIVE MUSIC

1 p.m. Anthony Koester Band
8 p.m. Damon Dotson
Okoboji Store

Aug. 13 — OUTDOOR EVENT

2-5 p.m. Barefoot Dock Hop
Okoboji Boat Works

Aug. 13 — LIVE MUSIC

2-6 p.m. Sean Benz
Round Lake Vineyards

Aug. 13 — LIVE MUSIC

2:30-6:30 p.m. Parrot Head Party
Pirates, Guitars and Beach Front Bars
7-11 p.m. Rock ala Carte-Queen Tribute
Barefoot Bar

Aug. 13 — OUTDOOR EVENT

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

Aug. 13 — OUTDOOR EVENT

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

Aug. 13 — LIVE EVENT

4:30 and 8 p.m. Legally Blond (musical)
Okoboji Summer Theatre

Aug. 13 — LIVE MUSIC

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

Aug. 13 — LIVE MUSIC

6 p.m. Sweet Trouble
The Ritz

Aug. 13 — LIVE MUSIC

6-8 p.m. Duo Republic
Little Swan Lake Winery

Aug. 13 — LIVE MUSIC

Okoboji Blue Water Festival
6:30 p.m. The Firm
7:30 p.m. The Nadas
9 p.m. Melissa Etheridge
Preservation Plaza — bring lawn chairs
Fireworks at show's end

Aug. 13 — LIVE MUSIC

9 p.m. Devon Worley Band
Captain's Getaway

Aug. 14 — GOLF TOURNAMENT

Emerald Hills Club Championship Weekend
Emerald Hills Golf Course

Aug. 14 — OUTDOOR EVENT

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

Aug. 14 — LIVE MUSIC

1 p.m. Anthony Koester Band
Okoboji Store

Aug. 14 — LIVE MUSIC

2-6 p.m. Christopher John
Barefoot Bar

Aug. 14 — LIVE MUSIC

2-6 p.m. Dave Rowley
Round Lake Vineyards

Aug. 14 — LIVE MUSIC

4 p.m. Sweet Trouble
The Ritz

Aug. 14 — LIVE MUSIC

4-6 p.m. Jeff Paul Jazz Trio
Little Swan Lake Winery

Aug. 14 — LIVE MUSIC

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

Aug. 14 — LIVE EVENT

6 p.m. Legally Blond (musical)
Okoboji Summer Theatre

Aug. 14 — LIVE MUSIC

7:30 p.m. Herman's Hermits
starring Peter Noone
Roof Garden Ballroom

Aug. 15 — LIVE MUSIC

5-9 p.m. Funset Sunset with Boji Bill
The Gardens

Aug. 15 — LIVE MUSIC

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

Aug. 16 — LIVE MUSIC

5-9 p.m. Funset Sunset with Tim Horsman
The Gardens

Aug. 16 — LIVE MUSIC

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

Aug. 17 — OUTDOOR EVENT

10:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. Nature Explorers
Sand, Silt, Clay
Dickinson County Nature Center

Aug. 17 — OUTDOOR EVENT

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

Aug. 17 — OUTDOOR EVENT

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

Aug. 17 — LIVE MUSIC

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

Aug. 17 — LIVE MUSIC

6-8 p.m. The Senders
Spirit Lake VFW

Aug. 17 — LIVE MUSIC

7:30-10 p.m. The Buckinghams
Pearson Lakes Art Center

Aug. 18 — LIVE MUSIC

5-9 p.m. Funset Sunset with David Watson
The Gardens

Aug. 18 — LIVE MUSIC

6-8 p.m. Dave Anderson
Round Lake Vineyards

Aug. 18 — LIVE MUSIC

6-8 p.m. Alex Trevino
Little Swan Lake Winery

Aug. 18 — LIVE MUSIC

6-8 p.m. Galaxy
Rock the Roof
Roof Garden Ballroom

Aug. 18 — LIVE MUSIC

8 p.m. Ryan the Pianoman
Okoboji Store

Aug. 18 — LIVE MUSIC

9 p.m. Redemption Road
Captain's Getaway

Aug. 19 — GOLF TOURNAMENT

Morningside College Alumni
Emerald Hills Golf Course

Aug. 19 — LIVE MUSIC

5-9 p.m. Funset Sunset with David Watson
9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Them Pesky Kids
The Gardens

Aug. 19 — OUTDOOR EVENT

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

Aug. 19 — OUTDOOR EVENT

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

Aug. 19 — LIVE MUSIC

7-11 p.m. Salty View
Barefoot Bar

Aug. 19 — LIVE MUSIC

8 p.m. Decoy Duo
Okoboji Store

Aug. 19 — LIVE MUSIC

9 p.m. Redemption Road
Captain's Getaway

UPCOMING EVENTS



ROCK THE PATIO, AUG 13
TERRY KLEIN

11:30 @ MUSEUM PATIO - FREE EVENT! BAR OPEN!

SONGWRITERS SHOWCASE, AUG 17

DAVID G. SMITH SONGWRITERS WORKSHOP @ 4:00 PM

7:30 PM @ OKOBOJI BARN \$5-\$10 SUGGESTED DONATION

ROCK THE ROOF, AUG 18

GALAXY LINDA'S NIGHT!
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6:00 PM @ ROOF GARDEN BALLROOM - \$10 TICKETS AT DOOR & ONLINE

ROCK THE PATIO, AUG 20

BILL CARPENTER

11:30 @ MUSEUM PATIO - FREE EVENT! BAR OPEN!

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BLOCK-BUSTER MUSICAL CLOSSES OUT OST SEASON

Doris Welle
Staff Writer

The staff and students at Okoboji Summer Theatre said a fond farewell to the 2022 summer season with a block-buster musical that had it all.

The cast of 24 professionals and students — plus two adorable puppies — in colorful costumes applied fantastic choreography on a cleverly designed set to make “Legally Blonde” a show that no one would want to miss.

The set had to be simple yet versatile; going from college classroom to beauty spa to courtroom in about one minute. The on and off movement of props went so smoothly. Kudos to set designer Brandon PT Davis.

Costume designers Cami Huebert, Joseph Musgrove and Kaisley Williams had a mega amount of costumes to select and/or create for such a large cast, with some of them needing more than one costume. Their work was perfect and added so much to the show.

I tip my hat to director/choreographer Amy Fritsche. The dancers had a rather small stage on which to work, especially with so many of them on stage at the same time. Her dance moves were designed perfectly to showcase the talented cast with space limitations. She undoubtedly had a very talented group to work with, but no egos were displayed and not grandstanding took place. She had them working so well together to put on a great show.

There is no way that I can talk about each of the 24 cast members, so I will have to limit myself to mentioning a few.

The star of the show is Raegan Grisolano as Elle Woods. She is wonderful in this role. She sings, dances and delivers humorous lines like a real pro, even though she is still a student. Two interns drew the roles of Elle's ex-love interest and her current one. Joe Verga as Warner Huntington III and William Draper as Emmett Forrest were superb.

Rachael Perez, Colleen O'Gara and Judea Lowe were cast as Elle's 'kindred spirits' Margot, Serena and Pilar. They were delightful to

watch and worked so well together.

It was great to see long-time OST pro Kyle Groff return to play the pompous jerk Professor Callahan. He gave the role just the right amount of ugh to make us really dislike him. Bravo!

Two interns gave us many laughs. Brady Raboin as the UPS man Kyle was so funny! I don't see how such a big guy like Kyle can be so quick, graceful and hilarious at the same time. But Kyle can.

Nate Walsh had us in stitches when he was on the stand during the trial scene as the gay pool maintenance man. We chuckled and chuckled at him. He is a really good dancer too.

The star of “Bright Star” came back in another juicy role. Betty Merkle portrayed the spa owner Paulette and gave another outstanding performance in both song and acting. Kudos Betty!

Kaitlyn G. Smith, Bella Cadena, Alley Mathis, Holly Echsner, Ava Whitaker, Anna Rimar, Sutton Dycus, Emmalee Bass, Lindsey Oberle, Emma Schell, Alice Crist, Jose Ruiz-Gonzalez, Nasir Panjwani, Hunter Semrau and Evan Moore round out the incredible cast. Everyone did their job right — sang, danced and/or jumped rope as one tight-knit group.

Hats off to the band hidden backstage. They worked their way through some really tough sheet music and wowed us all. The very talented musicians were Jamie Reed, piano; Greg Forney, drums; Tim Schumacher, guitar; Dalton Petersen, bass; and James Kunz on sax/reeds.

“Legally Blonde” was fun, comical, packed with talent and highly entertaining from beginning to the final curtain call.

The show runs through Sunday night with two shows on Saturday. Opening night was sold out, and I am not sure how many tickets might be left for this amazing show. The box office can be reached by phone at 712-332-7773 or online at boxoffice@okobojisummertheatre.org.

The OST staff wanted us to leave the theatre wanting more, and they certainly succeeded. We hope they all winter well, and we look forward to seeing them next summer for the 65th season of summer stock at Okoboji Summer Theatre. Thanks for the memories!



REGISTRATION OPEN FOR 31ST ANNUAL U OF O OKTOBERFEST



This fall marks the 31st year of the University of Okoboji Oktoberfest. This year's event will be held Saturday, Sept. 24 on Preservation Plaza. The Iowa Great Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce invites the public to join the fun and register today. Early-bird registration is \$30 per person and ends Sept. 13. The discounted rate will guarantee entrants a commemorative T-shirt.

Participants can start their morning off with a scenic 20-plus-mile bike ride around West Lake Okoboji. The ride begins at 10 a.m., taking off from Preservation Plaza in Arnolds Park and fol-

lowing the beautiful trails around Lake Minnewashta and West Lake Okoboji.

The fun continues at Preservation Plaza with live music from Shirts and Skins, inflatables for attendees of all ages, beer, delicious food, games, competitions and more.

The University of Okoboji Oktoberfest is presented by the city of Arnolds Park in partnership with the Iowa Great Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce. Visit www.ufooktoberfest.com for more information and to register. Businesses interested in sponsorship opportunities may contact kiley@okobojichamber.com or call 712-332-2107.



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Photo by Tom Gustafson



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■ **CALVARY UNITED METHODIST**

West Okoboji Road — Arnolds Park
 Pastor: Chris 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 livestreamed through church website at www.calvarylovesall.com and on Facebook
 712-332-2447
 Accepting all with the unconditional love of God.

■ **CAMP OKOBOJI — LCMS**

1531 Edgewood Drive — Milford
 (Highway 86, turn at Crescent Beach sign)
 • Sunday worship — 9 a.m.
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 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)**

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 (one block east of Spirit Lake Schools)
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 Worship: 8:15 and 10 a.m. services
 712-336-3537
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■ **FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH**

805 Okoboji Ave., Highway 71 South — Milford
 Pastor: Jennifer Hesebeck
 WORSHIP SCHEDULE:
 Sunday Worship Celebration — 10:30 a.m. Nursery available, handicapped accessible
 712-338-4642
www.faithcommunitymilford.com Email: fcc@milfordcomm.net All are welcome!

■ **FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH — WEST OKOBOJI**

1525 Three Cross Road — Milford
 Senior Pastor: Perry Aalgaard
 Associate Pastor: Brian Jack
 712-338-4514
 • Saturday Indoor Worship 5:30 p.m.
 • Sunday Outdoor Worship 8:30 a.m.
 • Sunday Indoor Worship 9:30 a.m.

■ **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

801 Hill Ave. – Spirit Lake
 Pastor: Dr. Martin Lucin
 At this time services may be hear/viewed:
 4 p.m. Saturday: In-person
 10 a.m. Sunday: In-person and live on Facebook
 Messages may be heard at our website:
gracelutheranspiritlake.org
 Email: gracelc05@yahoo.com
 712-336-2446

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 Email: gracelc05@yahoo.com
 712-336-2446

■ **HARBOR OF JOY LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC)
 1204 L Ave. - Milford
 Pastor: Tim Voth
 Worship: 9:30 a.m. Sunday
 Coffee and Fellowship Before and After Services
 712-338-4031
www.harborjoy.com

■ **OKOBOJI LUTHERAN BIBLE CAMP**

Summer Outdoor Worship
 1203 Inwan St., Milford, IA
 9:30 am Outdoor Worship
 10:30-11:45 a.m. Brunch (Brunch is a free will offering)
 Every Sunday Memorial Day-Labor Day
 712-337-3306 / www.okoboji.org

■ **SPIRIT LAKE UNITED METHODIST**

1812 Gary Ave. — Spirit Lake
 Pastor: Vicki Fisher
 SUNDAY WORSHIP:
 • Traditional service — 8:30 a.m.
 • Contemporary service — 10:30 a.m.
 Both services livestreamed via Facebook at www.facebook.com/SpiritLakeUnitedMethodistChurch
 Email: office@spiritlakeumc.org
 712-336-3115

■ **SPIRIT LIFE FELLOWSHIP
CHURCH OF THE OPEN BIBLE**

2504 Enterprise Ave. - Spirit Lake
 Pastor: Eric Holderman
 SUNDAY SERVICES INCLUDE:
 Sunday school for all ages at 9 .m.
 Contemporary Worship & Word 10 a.m.
 Nursery available - Handicapped accessible
 We welcome you to join us!
 712-336-0114
www.spiritlifefellowship.org

■ **ST. ALBAN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

23rd and Zenith Avenue — Spirit Lake
 (one block east of Lakes Regional Healthcare)
 Pastor: Tom Early — Rector
 • Sunday in-person Worship and Holy Eucharist — 10 a.m.
 Service livestreamed on website at www.sasl.church/chapel
 712-336-1117

■ **ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH**

1305 Okoboji Ave – Milford
 Pastor: Brian Hughes
 Mass times:
 Saturday: 4 p.m.
 Sunday: 7, 9 and 11 a.m.
 712-338-2274
www.stjosephmilford.org

VISGIRDA CREATES COMPANION PIECE FOR PLAC

Seth Boyes
News Editor

It may have been about eight years in the making, but two concrete pillars at the Pearson Lakes Art Center now bear images created by ceramic artist Rimas VisGirda.

Signe Kim Lauridsen-Jones, a supporter of the art center, is credited with initially pitching VisGirda the idea of sprucing up the concrete several years ago. At that time, there was only one pillar supporting the building's second-story gift shop, but an expansion on that floor about four years ago called for another pillar to be installed — and Lauridsen-Jones knew the perfect person to create a companion piece. VisGirda was glad to return.

"I like this place. I've done many workshops over the years and had two shows here," VisGirda said. "It's a great place. I wish more people knew about it in town."

VisGirda worked over the course of about two-and-a-half weeks to complete his second outdoor painting for the art center, finishing in late July. The Pearson Lakes' Executive Director Bob Kirschbaum said it was a pleasure to have VisGirda and his wife at the art center, and he added the project wouldn't have been possible without Lauridsen-Jones.

The artist said, while he created large-scale works when he was young and had something to prove, he now favors smaller, more intimate pieces.

However, he indicated a previous residency at the Mission Clay Arts/Industry Program in Phoenix, Arizona, helped him rework some of his techniques for large-scale art.

The Mission Clay program invited many artists to apply their creativity to large terra cotta sewer tiles — not unlike the ceramic drainage tiles used in northwest Iowa's agricultural fields — but the properties of terra cotta weren't quite the same as the ceramics VisGirda was used to working on.

"In my studio work, I developed a system of achieving the look that I want — it sometimes takes six, sometimes 12, individual firings on the same piece," he said.

He said he planned to do the same with the terra cotta pipes, until he learned they would



Ceramic artist Rimas VisGirda and Pearson Lakes Art Center supporter Signe Kim Lauridsen-Jones stood near the pillar which VisGirda recently finished painting for the art center. The artist had painted a nearby pillar several years prior and returned last week to paint an additional pillar which was added as part of an expansion to the building. (Photo by Seth Boyes)

surely crack if they were fired in a kiln a second time. He said he eventually showed some photos of his work to Lauridsen-Jones while he was leading a workshop at the local art center.

That conversation ultimately resulted in the painting of the first pillar.

The first pillar's image was based on a vase VisGirda previously created, which was itself inspired by his travels to London during the 1970s — specifically people coming and going near the underground tube stations.

"During rush hour, as one side of the escalator is going up, the other side is going down, so if you look over you'd see a never ending parade of profiles, and I thought that a round surface would be a perfect place to depict that," VisGirda said.

The resulting piece features several overlapping female figures — VisGirda said he felt the completed work was a seminal piece in his career as he transitioned from one influence to another.

"I remember I thought that society was get-

ting very hard — was getting very black and white, and hard-edged," he said, noting angles were becoming more common than curves. "So I developed a method of making women sharp — hard in a way."

He said the painted pillar's figures are actually softer than those on the original vase. And while working on the art center's concrete pillar, he was able to again adapt some of his techniques to fit the new material. A number of divots and imperfections in the concrete were painted black, and he was able to replicate some of the energy clay's natural texture can provide to his drawn lines.

"I like to put things into it that cause flaws and bleed-out," VisGirda said. "The analogy might be that I'm working on some handmade rice paper that has some seeds and stuff in it that become part of the drawing."

And by the time the art center's expansion led to a new concrete canvas, VisGirda had expanded from focusing mainly on faces to depictions of other parts of the human figure.

The painting which now covers the building's second pillar shows several pairs of legs with varying shoes, while maintaining the concept of rotation around the pillar.

But there was an added element to the vase VisGirda was referencing the second time around. He had applied a patterned decal to the vase in order to better define the foreground and background — a technique which couldn't be duplicated to scale on the concrete.

Instead, the artist painted in the colors of the floral pattern and then adapted a ceramic technique called slip trailing. VisGirda used a small bottle fitted with a needle of a spout to create very thin, curving lines and replicate the decal's pattern.

Lauridsen-Jones said the same technique was used on portions of the other pillar, and she was impressed with how it was applied for a different purpose during last month's process.

"I think that's his genius," she said, adding she feels the two painted pillars compliment one another well.

REMEMBERING DONNIE BROOKS



Tom Tourville
Okoboian Contributor

I have thought about writing this story a long time. I wasn't sure what direction to take it. I knew it was time to share the story of the late Donnie Brooks. While most remember him as a "one hit wonder," he was so much more than that. He would finish his music career as one of the most successful and well-known rock show and tour producers ever — a might fascinating story. Let's take a look at Donnie Brooks.

Donnie was born John Dee Abohosh in 1936 in Dallas, Texas. At a young age his broken family moved to Venture, California, where he was adopted by his stepfather and took on another new name, John D. Faircloth. At a young age John decided he had something special, he was a very skilled singer.

Faircloth maintained a trait that he would use often, using different names each time to release a record. Names such as Johnny Jordan, Dick Bush and Johnny Faire were just a few he used. It was not uncommon in the record business to change names as you recorded, but Faircloth changed his name with adapted skill.

To hopefully get ahead in this record business, Faircloth took on a manager in the form of Linda Stewart. It was time for another name

change. This time Donnie Brooks was chosen, and it would stick for his career. Stewart took the new Donnie Brooks and started to get him booked on all the big shows in and around Los Angeles; not as a headline artist but as some new kid looking for a break. Brooks was already close friends with the Burnette Brothers, Dorsey and Johnny.

With the help of the Burnette Brothers, Brooks was introduced to Era Records. In 1959, he released "Lil' Sweetheart" with little chart movement. He followed that up with "White Orchid," again for Era, which saw the sale of almost 50,000 copies. Now Era had a sure interest in Brooks.

In March of 1960, Brooks entered the charts on the Era label (No. 3018) with a song titled, "Mission Bell/Do It For Me." For many surprised music "insiders" the record rocketed to No. 7 on Billboard's Hot 100 chart. When it was all said and done, "Mission Bell" had sold over 8 million copies.

His follow up single for Era was "Doll House/Round Robin," Era No. 3028. This single went all the way to No. 31 on the charts. In time it also sold over one million copies. I guess you could say Donnie Brooks was having a very respectable year. Both of these songs earned Donnie gold records.

Soon Donnie was a regular on American

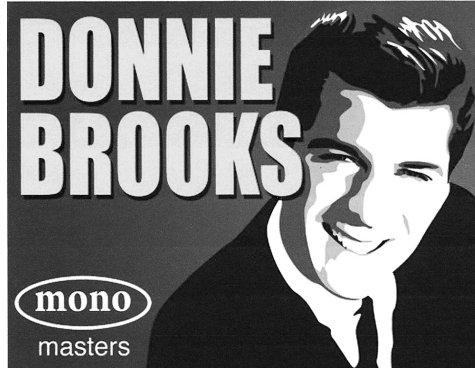
Bandstand, and it wasn't long before he was also on the big screen in "Swingin' Summer," "Get Yourself A College Girl" and "The Love-ins." Sammy Davis Jr. and Frank Sinatra hired Donnie to open for them for their Vegas and Tahoe shows.

Soon the '70s turned into the '80s, and Donnie was looking on how to extend a long-gone recording career.

Over these many years, he had befriended and gotten to know so many different artists, he had a lot of music business friends. He came up with the idea to ask many of his friends to do rock and roll package shows with his singing as well as emceeing. He was a close friend of music producer Ron Kurtz. Brooks and Kurtz formed a partnership to produce the show now titled "30 Years Of Rock and Roll."

There were not a lot of people who held much hope for this new venture, but they all missed the mark — that was except for Brooks and Kurtz. What they did was create one of the most successful package rock and roll shows of the late '80s and all the way into the late '90s. They would put 10-15 artists on their tour across the U.S., backed by a house band. A buyer could spend up to \$8,000-\$10,000 and get all that entertainment. It was a monster success. It was especially popular here in the Midwest,

MISSION BELL
ROUND ROBIN / HOW LONG / THAT'S WHY



where they played dozens of venues.

After the '90s, the tours stopped and Brooks started doing some voice over work. Brooks died of a heart attack in 2007. He was 71.

Here was a true "one hit wonder" who became part owner of one of the most successful rock tours of the '90s. Donnie only appeared at the Roof Garden once. He was added to the Fall R&R Harvest Dance show on Aug. 30, 1960.

I'm one who will always remember Donnie Brooks.

UNTIL NEXT WEEK
TAKE CARE & REMEMBER THE MUSIC

OLDER THAN DIRT

R. Aubrey La Foy
Okobojian Contributor

It is the little things or ordinary objects that make up our society. Items that were common when I was a youth, and really mattered, are long forgotten or discarded. Where is my old slingshot that I prized as a youth? Slingshots were not purchased but made by lads like me. I have seen paintings of a youngster walking along with a slingshot dangling from his hip pocket. A good slingshot was a labor of love to a lad in America. One needed a forked branch from a tree, so an exploration transpired searching trees and branches for the ideal tree fork. After it was located and sawed off with a hand saw the bark was peeled off. The lower or hand hold was cut to the perfect length and the two forked just so. The two upper branches were notched near the top to fashion the rubber strips on. After the two rubber tube strips were secure, the pouch to hold the rocks was tied.

We spent a great deal of time inspecting the garbage cans and dumps behind service stations and repair shops for who knows what treasures one might find. Rubber inner tubes were the prize, as they could be incorporated into a variety of products. With a good pair of scissors, the rubber inner tube was fashioned into strips for our slingshot, and the pouch to hold the rocks was the tongue of an old pair of shoes. We were now ready to go hunting after we filled a Bull Duram tobacco sack with stones. Our targets were trees, signs, rabbits, squirrels and birds, but they needn't be concerned as they were seldom hit.

Another of our ventures was the construction of a rubber gun. Old rubber inner tubes came into use. We secured a wooden peach box that had at each end the material for a rubber gun. It took a bit of drawing with a pencil, square and a saw but the barrel and hand grip were cut out with a saw. A notch at the end of the barrel would hold the rubber bullets. The inner tube was cut into strips three-quarters of an inch wide and knotted in the center. On the end of the gun, we put a snap clothes pin. It was a great trigger, so by pressing the clothes pin at the bottom it released the rubber bullet, and away it went. Seldom did it go far and did minimal damage, but it was fun pretending. With tongue in cheek one could say it prepared us for military in World War II.

I grew up in the Milford area: Mill Creek, Little Sioux River, sand pits south of town, West Lake Okoboji and Lower Gar Lake. These areas were our playgrounds. That was our world, and adults seldom interfered, but we knew that if we got out of line dad would hear. The razor strap was on the back of the bathroom door. Oh I'm sorry; many of you don't know what a razor strap is. Men used to shave with a straight edge razor, and they sharpened it on the leather strap by pulling the razor up and down the strap. That single blade razor was a great weapon used by unruly thugs.

Several days ago, I ventured on a piece about "Older Than



Dirt." Whether it is good or bad, I can recognize most of the things mentioned, but I am only 97 years old.

Party Telephone Lines — In 1946, when Connie and I started dating at Iowa State Teacher College, she lived on a farm east of Wallingford and I in Milford. They had party line telephones, one from Estherville and one from Wallingford. I recall calling on the Estherville line and hearing the clicks of people picking up the phone to "rubber in." It cut our conversation down somewhat. Maybe our world would be better if our smart phones were on party lines.

When I was in military basic training, we were marched over to the barber shop and given a "GI" haircut meaning it was cut really short. I envied the fellows whose hair grew out straight. Mine laid flat and even with "Butch Wax" on it my hair stayed flat.

We had a great friend who was the last of those who wore a Butch haircut style. Our friend was president of a large insurance company. He was interviewing a potential employee. The young man had great credentials, but he also had a beard and our friend didn't like the new style. Our friend told the young man that he could work at his office. The young man was delighted but asked our friend if he objected to his beard? The reply was, "No! Just don't wear it to work." The young man said you mean if I don't shave off the beard I can't work for you? Our friend replied, "That is correct." Personally I think men should shave each day but that was the way I was taught, plus military rules and teaching school.

I recall that early in my teaching career (1950) men teachers



wore a suit, white shirt, necktie, socks and polished shoes. No written rule or dress code, but that was what was expected. Many of my fellow teachers had served in the military, and we sort of objected to the old dress code and collectively decided to wear sport shirts. We did that, but our principal was "old school." However, he didn't say anything until one day when I had an occasion to attend and put on my suit, white shirt and necktie. I came into the office and my principal looked at me and said, "Now that is the way teachers should dress." I got the message and from then on usually taught wearing nice pants, a shirt and necktie.

There are scads of things I recall that are no longer used or available. We are amazed and surprised touring antique stores to see items for sale Connie and I still have and use. Today I am distressed and worried that some of our fundamental American values are eroding or will be discarded. God Bless America!

IOWA BREWERY RUNNING SERIES ANNOUNCES RUN AT WEST O BEER



The Iowa Brewery Running Series invites the public to participate in a 5K-ish fun run/jog/walk Sunday which will start and end at West O Beer. Attendees are encouraged to weave through the surrounding area at any pace and come back for a great local beer. The event's \$30-\$45 registration fee includes a craft beer, a choice of a collector's swag item, raffle entry and an array of giveaways and goodies from community partners.

A portion of proceeds from this event will go to the Okoboji Foundation. The Okoboji Foundation's mission is to be the center point of community giving, providing leadership and building beneficial partnerships to make a lasting positive impact in the Iowa Great Lakes area.

Events will be held rain or shine. If conditions become unsafe, organizers plan to still hang out and drink beer.

For more information or to register, check out www.breweryrunningseries.com/iowa.

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